Fiction

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. DOES MY HEAD LOOK BIG IN THIS? 16-year-old Ama, an Australian-born Muslim Palestinian, decides she is ready to wear the hijab, or head covering, as a sign of her deep faith. Ama copes with misconceptions and discrimination in a humorous way as she defends her decision to herself and others.

Anderson, Laurie Halse SPEAK. When Melinda Sordino's friends discover she called the police to quiet a party, they ostracize her, turning her into an outcast -- even among kids she barely knows. But even worse than the harsh conformity of high-school cliques is a secret that you have to hide.

Bruchac, Joseph. CODE TALKERS: A NOVEL ABOUT THE NAVAJO MARINES OF WORLD WAR TWO. After being taught in a boarding school run by whites that Navajo is a useless language, Ned Begay is recruited by the Marines to become a Code Talker, sending urgent messages during World War II in his native tongue.

Choat, Beth. SOCCERLAND. The cover says it all! Flora is such a good soccer player that she has been invited to the International Sports Academy to compete for a chance to play for the U.S. Girls' Soccer Team. It’s her first time away from home, but she works hard to make new friends as well as trying to become the best soccer player that she can be.

Colfer, Eoin. ARTEMIS FOWL. When a twelve-year-old genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. The first in the Artemis Fowl series.

Condie, Ally. MATCHED. Torn between loving her best friend Xander who was chosen by Society as her “match,” or defying the government and opening her heart to Ky Markem, Cassia Reyes is forced to make the hardest decisions of her life – believe in the government’s system or follow her heart. The first book in the Matched Trilogy.

Dasher, James. THE MAZE RUNNER. Fighting against a mysterious group named WICKED, Thomas and the other boys in the Glade must crack the secret code and find a way out of the moving maze before it’s too late. The first book in the Maze Runner trilogy.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. FOUND. Thirteen years after a plane mysteriously lands in an airport with thirty-six baby passengers and no adults on board, the children from the flight begin to receive strange, unexplained letters. Jonah and Chip must work quickly to uncover the secrets of their past. The first in the series, The Missing.

! – I want to read this
X – Not for me
Mikaelsen, Ben TOUCHING SPIRIT BEAR. Within Cole Matthews lie anger, rage, and hate. Cole has been stealing and fighting for years. This time he caught Peter Driscal in the parking lot and smashed his head against the sidewalk. Now, Peter may have permanent brain damage – and Cole is in the biggest trouble of his life. As the book unfolds, Cole is banished to a wild, Alaskan island as his punishment. If you liked Hatchet, you'll really like this book.

Myers, Walter Dean. MONSTER. Steve is a 16 year old, African-American boy on trial for murder. The story eventually reveals whether or not he is guilty, but along the way the reader sees what it is like for Steve to live in a juvenile detention center. The book is written as a screen play so reading it feels like reading a television show!

Petrucha, Stephen. RIPPER. You thought you knew him. You were dead wrong.
Carver Young dreams of becoming a detective, despite growing up in an orphanage with only crime novels to encourage him. But when he is adopted by Detective Hawking of the world famous Pinkerton Agency, Carver is given not only the chance to find his biological father, he finds himself smack in the middle of a real life investigation: tracking down a vicious serial killer who has thrown New York City into utter panic. When the case begins to unfold, however, it's worse than he could have ever imagined, and his loyalty to Mr. Hawking and the Pinkertons comes into question. As the body count rises and the investigation becomes dire, Carver must decide where his true loyalty lies.

**Non-Fiction**

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE K.K.K.: THE BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN TERRORIST GROUP. Examine how the Ku Klux Klan formed and grew out of the ashes of the Civil War. The selected stories of people on all sides of the violent conflicts provide a larger understanding of the conditions that promoted the Klan’s terrorism. The story examines how the freed people and their sympathizers suffered and how the legacy of that fear, racism, and brutality runs through our own time.

Mah, Adeline Yen. CHINESE CINDERELLA: THE TRUE STORY OF AN UNWANTED DAUGHTER. Chinese Cinderella is the perfect title for Adeline Yen Mah’s memoir of her childhood growing up in China during the 1940s as she endures life ruled by a cruel stepmother.

Martin, Russell. THE MYSTERIES OF BEETHOVEN’S HAIR. A lock of the famous composer’s hair was saved from 1827, at the time of his death, and handed down to the current owners today. This is the story of how it was preserved and who the safekeepers were, as well as the results of the forensic tests that were performed to unravel the mystery of Beethoven’s ill health.

Walker, Sally M. BLIZZARD OF GLASS: THE HALIFAX EXPLOSION OF 1917. On December 6, 1917, two ships collided in Halifax Harbor. With one ship loaded with munitions and one with medical supplies, the resulting blast flattened two towns and killed nearly 2,000 people. With a blizzard hitting the very next day, relief efforts were almost paralyzed. This book contains many illustrations, firsthand accounts, and other primary sources from this unbelievable tragedy.

! – I want to read this
X – Not for me