

SUMMER READING BOOK TRAILERS & AUTHOR INFORMATION 2018

6th INTO 7th GRADE

Keep in mind that links can change - Last checked May, 2018.

REALISTIC FICTION

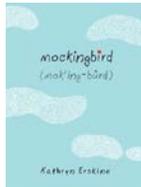


Draper, Sharon

Out of my Mind 700 Lexile 224 pages

Considered by many to have a cognitive disability, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy is trapped inside her body, determined to make a mark in the world in spite of her physical limitations.

[Trailer](#) [author](#)

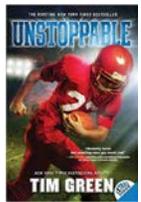


Erskine, Kathryn

Mockingbird 630L 224 pages

In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white—the world is full of colors—messy and beautiful.

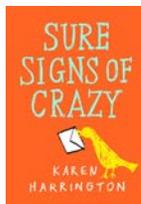
[Trailer](#) [author](#)



Green, Tim

Unstoppable 730L 345 pages

Winners *never* give up. If anyone understands the phrase "tough luck," it's Harrison. As a foster kid in a cruel home, he knows his dream of one day playing for the NFL is a long shot. Then Harrison's luck seems to change. He is brought into a new home with kind, loving parents—his new dad is even a football coach. Harrison's big build and his incredible determination quickly make him a star running back on the junior high school team. In no time, he's practically unstoppable. But Harrison's good luck can't last forever. [Author interview](#) [author site](#)



Harrington, Karen

Sure Signs of Crazy 750L 282 pages

Twelve-year-old Sarah writes letters to her hero, *To Kill a Mockingbird's* Atticus Finch, for help understanding her mentally ill mother, her first real crush, and life in her small Texan town, all in the course of one momentous summer. [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)



Lord, Cynthia

Rules 780L 208 pages

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

[book trailer](#) [.author site](#)

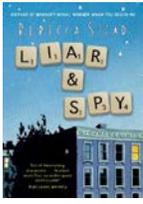


Schmidt, Gary D.

The Wednesday Wars 990L 272 pages

Seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood, stuck in Mrs. Baker's classroom during the 1967 school year while his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, learns much of value about the world in which he lives from the study of the plays of William Shakespeare.

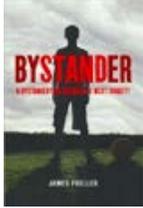
[Trailer](#) [author](#)



Stead, Rebecca

Liar & Spy 670L 180 pages

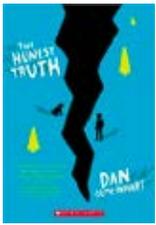
Seventh-grader Georges moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer's first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder: How far is too far to go for your only friend? [Trailer](#) [author site](#)



Preller, James

Bystander 256 pages Grades 6-9

Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with—and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn't right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back. There might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: He's a liar, a bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander to the bully's next victim. [author site](#)



Gemeinhart, Dan

The Honest Truth 240 pages 550L

In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day. But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from. So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan. A plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier. Even if it's the last thing he ever does. [Trailer](#)



Reynolds, Jason

Ghost 730L 180 pages

Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down. Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. [Trailer](#)

HISTORICAL FICTION



Levine, Kristin

The Lions of Little Rock 630L 320 pages

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism. [Book trailer](#)



Hopkinson, Deborah

The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel 660L 272 pages

Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spread through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854.

[Book trailer](#)

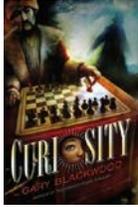


Avi

City of Orphans HL(high/low)570L 368 pages

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works.

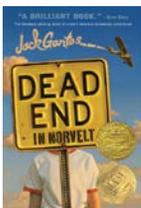
[author site](#)



Blackwood, Gary L.

Curiosity Age range 9-11 320 pages

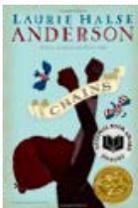
In 1835, when his father is put in a Philadelphia debtor's prison, twelve-year-old chess prodigy Rufus Goodspeed is relieved to be recruited to secretly operate a chess-playing automaton named The Turk, but soon questions the fate of his predecessors and his own safety. A thrilling look at the 19th-century age of automata—a time of curiosity-seekers—and the riveting story of a likable Philadelphia boy whose life of the mind helps him transcend his extraordinary, oft-cruel circumstances. [Trailer](#)



Gantos, Jack

Dead End in Norvelt 920L 352 pages

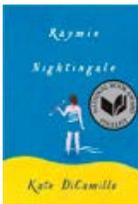
In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. [Trailer](#) [author site](#)



Anderson, Laurie Halse

Chains 7 80L 316 pages

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom. [Trailer](#)



DiCamillo, Kate

Raymie Nightingale 550L 272 pages

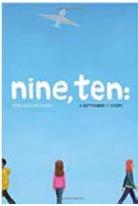
Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the wispy, frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery, stubborn Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship — an challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways. [Trailer](#) [Author book talk](#)



Nielsen, Jennifer

A Night Divided 810L 336 pages

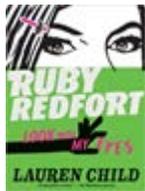
With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. [Author book talk](#)



Raleigh Baskin, Nora
Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story

Ask anyone: September 11, 2001, was serene and lovely, a perfect day—until a plane struck the World Trade Center. But right now it is a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. Sergio, who lives in Brooklyn, is struggling to come to terms with the absentee father he hates and the grandmother he loves. Will's father is gone, too, killed in a car accident that has left the family reeling. Naheed has never before felt uncomfortable about being Muslim, but at her new school she's getting funny looks because of the headscarf she wears. Aimee is starting a new school in a new city and missing her mom, who has to fly to New York on business. These four don't know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined. (Publisher) [Book trailer](#) [Author site](#)

ADVENTURE / SCIENCE FICTION / MYSTERY



Child, Lauren
Ruby Redfort Look into My Eyes 800L 400 pages

Ruby Redfort is a genius code-cracker, a daring detective, and a gadget-laden special agent who just happens to be a 13-year-old girl. She and her slick side-kick butler, Hitch, foil crimes and get into loads of scrapes with evil villains, but they're always ice-cool in a crisis. [Book trailer](#)



Chainani, Soman
The School For Good and Evil 830L 488 pages

Best friends Sophie and Agatha discover what it is to be a student at the fabled School for Good and Evil where ordinary boys and girls are trained to be fairy tale heroes and villains. When the two girls are swept into the Endless Woods they find their destinies reversed.

[Trailer](#) [author site](#)



Cody, Matthew
Powerless 800L 288 pages

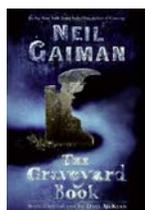
Daniel Corrigan and his parents have just moved to Noble's Green, Pennsylvania, when Daniel (who's a big fan of Sherlock Holmes and therefore a careful observer) notices something odd about his neighbor Mollie and her friends. While they may look like ordinary kids, all of them have superhuman abilities that they use to keep the town safe.

[Trailer](#) [author site](#)



Columbus, Chris
House of Secrets 690L 490 pages

Cordelia, Brendan, and Eleanor Walker, aged fifteen to eight, must rely on a mysterious book to face the Wind Witch and her father, the Storm King, who have kidnapped Dr. and Mrs. Walker and brought them to a strange world of magic. [Trailer](#)



Gaiman, Neil
The Graveyard Book 820L 320 pages

Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard. The threat of the evasive Jack hunting for Nobody adds to the suspense of the story. [Trailer](#) [Author](#)

[reads chapter 1 \(all chapters available\)](#)



Riordan, Rick

The Heroes of Olympus (any from the series)

The Lost Hero - Book 1 660L 576 pages

Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for "bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. [Trailer](#) [author site](#)



Auxier, Jonathan

The Night Gardener 690L 350 pages

The Night Gardener follows two abandoned Irish siblings who travel to work as servants at a creepy, crumbling English manor house. But the house and its family are not quite what they seem. Soon the children are confronted by a mysterious spectre and an ancient curse that threatens their very lives. With Auxier's exquisite command of language, *The Night Gardener* is a mesmerizing read and a classic in the making. [Trailer](#)



Pennypacker, Sara

Pax 760L 288 pages

Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strike out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. [Trailer](#)



Black, Holly

Doll Bones 840L 274 pages

Zach, Poppy, and Alice have been friends forever. And for almost as long, they've been playing one continuous, ever-changing game of pirates and thieves, mermaids and warriors. Ruling over all is the Great Queen, a bone-china doll cursing those who displease her. But they are in middle school now. Zach's father pushes him to give up make-believe, and Zach quits the game. Their friendship might be over, until Poppy declares she's been having dreams about the Queen—and the ghost of a girl who will not rest until the bone-China doll is buried in her empty grave. Zach and Alice and Poppy set off on one last adventure to lay the Queen's ghost to rest. But nothing goes according to plan, and as their adventure turns into an epic journey, creepy things begin to happen. Is the doll just a doll or something more sinister? And if there really is a ghost, will it let them go now that it has them in its clutches? [Trailer](#)



Beatty, Robert

Serafina and the Black Cloak 850L 304 pages

A brave and unusual girl named Serafina lives secretly in the basement of the grand Biltmore Estate amidst the splendor of the Gilded Age. Serafina's pa, the estate's maintenance man, has warned her to keep herself hidden from the fancy folk who live on the floors above, but when children at the estate start disappearing, Serafina and her friend Braeden Vanderbilt must work together to solve a dark and dangerous mystery. [Trailer](#)



Oppel, Kenneth

The Nest 640L 256 pages

For some kids summer is a sun-soaked season of fun. But for Steve, it’s just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother who is fighting to survive, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the wasp’s nest looming ominously from the eaves. So when a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to “fix” the baby, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. All he has to do is say “Yes.” But “yes” is a powerful word. It is also a dangerous one. And once it is uttered, can it be taken back? [Trailer](#)

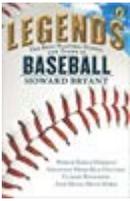
NONFICTION



Morgan, Alex

Breakaway 960L 320 pages

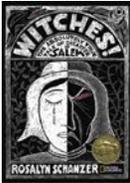
As a talented and successful female athlete, Alex Morgan is a role model to thousands of girls who want to be their best, not just in soccer, but in other sports and in life. The story of her path to success, from playing in the 2011 Women’s World Cup, to winning gold in the 2012 London Olympics, to ranking as one of the National Team’s top scorers, will inspire everyone who reads it. [Interview with Alex Morgan](#)



Bryant, Howard

Legends: The Best Players, Games, and Teams in Baseball (or football version) 1100L 240 pages

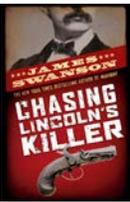
This is no traditional almanac of mundane statistics, but rather a storyteller's journey through baseball's storied game. Told in fun, accessible chapters and accompanied by iconic photos, a slew of Top Ten lists for kids to chew on and debate, and a Timeline of the 40 Most Important Moments in Baseball History. This is the perfect book for young fans eager to learn more about the sport that will stay with them for a lifetime.



Schanzer, Rosalyn

Witches: The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem NC(non-conforming)1190L 144 pages

The riveting, true story of the victims, accused witches, crooked officials, and mass hysteria that turned a mysterious illness affecting two children into a witch hunt that took over a dozen people’s lives and ruined hundreds more unfolds in chilling detail. [trailer](#)



Swanson, James

Chasing Lincoln’s Killer 980L 208 pages

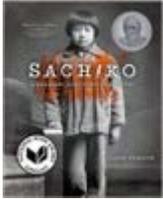
Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him. [Trailer](#)



Turner, Pamela

Samurai Rising 950L 256 pages

When Yoshitsune was just a baby, his father went to war with a rival samurai family—and lost. His father was killed, his mother captured, and his surviving half-brother banished. Yoshitsune was sent away to live in a monastery. Skinny, small, and unskilled in the warrior arts, he nevertheless escaped and learned the ways of the samurai. When the time came for the Minamoto clan to rise up against their enemies, Yoshitsune answered the call. His daring feats and impossible bravery earned him immortality. [Trailer](#)



Stelson, Caren

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story

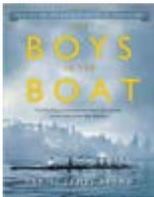
This striking work of narrative nonfiction tells the true story of six-year-old Sachiko Yasui's survival of the Nagasaki atomic bomb on August 9, 1945, and the heartbreaking and lifelong aftermath. Having conducted extensive interviews with Sachiko Yasui, Caren Stelson chronicles Sachiko's trauma and loss as well as her long journey to find peace. This book offers readers a remarkable new perspective on the final moments of World War II and their aftermath. [Trailer](#)



Thompson, Ben

Guts and Glory 1570L 336 pages

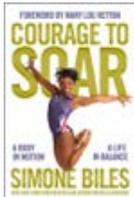
History buff and popular blogger Ben Thompson's extensive research and irresistible storytelling make history come alive.



Brown, Daniel

The Boys in the Boat 1000L 240 pages

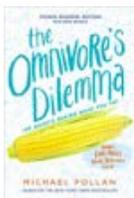
For readers of *Unbroken*, out of the depths of the Great Depression comes the astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler. [Trailer](#)



Biles, Simone

Courage to Soar 990L 250 pages

Simone Biles' entrance into the world of gymnastics may have started on a daycare field trip in her hometown of Spring, Texas, but her God-given talent, passion, and perseverance have made her one of the top gymnasts in the world, as well as a four-time winner of Olympic gold in Rio de Janeiro. But there is more to Simone than the nineteen medals—fourteen of them gold—and the Olympic successes. Through years of hard work and determination, she has relied on her faith and family to stay focused and positive, while having fun competing at the highest level and doing what she loves. Simone takes you through the events, challenges, and trials that carried her from an early childhood in foster care to a coveted spot on the 2016 Olympic team. [Trailer](#)



Pollan, Michael

The Omnivore's Dilemma Young Reader's Edition 930L 400 pages

"What's for dinner?" seemed like a simple question—until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes. From fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers' adaptation of Pollan's famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices. In a smart, compelling format with updated facts, plenty of photos, graphs, and visuals, as well as a new afterword and back matter, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* serves up a bold message to the generation that needs it most: It's time to take charge of our national eating habits—and it starts with you. No Trailer Found

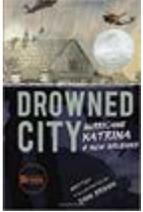
GRAPHIC NOVELS



Kibuishi, Kazu

Amulet: The Stonekeeper 192 pages

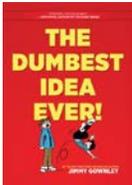
After the tragic death of their father, Emily and Navin move with their mother to the home of her deceased great-grandfather, but the strange house proves to be dangerous. Before long, a sinister creature lures the kids' mom through a door in the basement. Em and Navin, desperate not to lose her, follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals. Eventually, they enlist the help of a small mechanical rabbit named Miskit. Together with Miskit, they face the most terrifying monster of all and Em finally has the chance to save someone she loves. [trailer](#)



Brown, Don

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans GN920L 96 pages

Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Property damage topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality. The kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history. [Information](#)

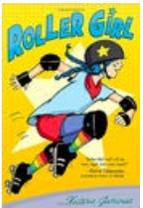


Gownley, Jimmy

The Dumbest Idea Ever! 330L 240 pages

What if the dumbest idea ever turned your life upside down? At thirteen, Jimmy was popular, at the top of his class, and the leading scorer on his basketball team. But all that changed when chicken pox forced him to miss the championship game. Things went from bad to worse when he got pneumonia and missed even more school. Before Jimmy knew it, his grades were sinking and nothing seemed to be going right. How did Jimmy turn things around, get back on top at school, and land a date with the cutest girl in class?

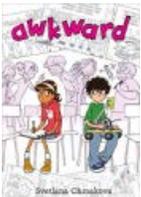
[Trailer](#)



Jamieson, Victoria

Roller Girl 440L 240 pages

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she *is* strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school, strong enough to be a roller girl. [Trailer](#)



Chmakova, Svetlana

Awkward 280L 210 pages

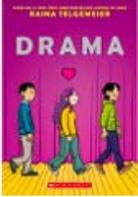
Cardinal rule #1 for surviving school: Don't get noticed by the mean kids. Cardinal rule #2 for surviving school: Seek out groups with similar interests and join them. On her first day at her new school, Penelope--Peppi--Torres reminds herself of these basics. But when she trips into a quiet boy in the hall, Jaime Thompson, she's already broken the first rule, and the mean kids start calling her the "nerder girlfriend." How does she handle this crisis? By shoving poor Jaime and running away! Falling back on rule two and surrounding herself with new friends in the art club, Peppi still can't help feeling ashamed about the way she treated Jaime. Things are already awkward enough between the two, but to make matters worse, he's a member of her own club's archrivals--the science club! And when the two clubs go to war, Peppi realizes that sometimes you have to break the rules to survive middle school! [Trailer](#)



Riordan, Rick

The Lightning Thief 470L 128 pages

Mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking out of the pages of twelve-year-old Percy Jackson's textbooks and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect. Now, he and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. [Trailer](#)

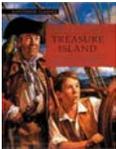


Telgemeier, Raina

Drama 440L 240 pages

Callie loves theater. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of *Moon over Mississippi*, she can't really sing. Instead she's the set designer for the drama department's stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen. And when two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even crazier! [Trailer](#)

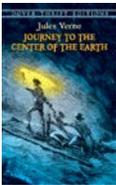
CLASSICS



Robert Lewis Stevenson

Treasure Island 760L 258 pages

[trailer](#)



Jules Verne

Journey to the Center of the Earth 960L 256 pages

[trailer](#)



Johann David Wyss

The Swiss Family Robinson 830L 346 pages

[trailer](#)



L'Engle, Madeleine

A Wrinkle in Time 740L 256 pages

[trailer](#)

OTHER BOOK AND AUTHOR SUGGESTIONS

Trailers not available at this time.

Trapped by Michael Northrup

Surrounded by Sharks by Michael Northrup

Refugee by Alan Gratz

In the Shadow of the Sun by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff

I am Drums by Mike Grosso

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

The Old Man in the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Restart by Gordon Korman

All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg

Scar Island by Dan Gemeinhart

Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer

Texting the Underworld by Ellen Booraem