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BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER by Barbara Robinson

Although the town thinks that the Herdman kids are the dirtiest, nastiest children around, when they become part of the Christmas pageant, a kind of miracle begins to happen.

RL:3 IL:3-7 BS/ROB (Teacher Guide Available)

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA by Katherine Paterson

Jesse learns to cope with life because of his friend, Leslie.

RL:5 IL:5-8 BS/PAT (Teacher Guide Available)

CAM JANSEN AND THE MYSTERY OF THE STOLEN DIAMONDS by David A. Adler

Cam's photographic memory assists her in solving a crime.

RL:3.8 IL:3-6 BS/ADL

CAY (THE) by Theodore Taylor

After the freighter on which Phillip and his mother are traveling from wartime Curacao to the U.S. is torpedoed, the boy finds himself dependent on an old West Indian for survival.

RL:5 IL:4-8 BS/TAY (Teacher Guide Available)

CHARLEY SKEDADDLE BY Patricia Beatty

During the Civil War, a twelve-year-old Bowery Boy from New York City joins the Union Army as a drummer, deserts during a battle in Virginia, and encounters a hostile old mountain woman.

RL:6 IL:5-8 BS/BEA (Teacher Guide Available)

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY by Roald Dahl

Charlie wins a tour of the Willie Wonka Chocolate Factory and witnesses marvelous creations.

RL:5 IL:4-6 BS/DAH (Teacher Guide Available)

CHARLOTTE'S WEB by E. B. White

A ten-year-old girl named Fern has a pig, Wilbur, whose life is saved by Charlotte, a spider who talks and writes.

RL:5 IL:3-6 BS/WHI (Teacher Guide Available)

CHOCOLATE TOUCH by Patrick S. Catling

Everything John Midas touches turns to chocolate.

RL:3 IL:3-6 BS/CAT

CLASS PRESIDENT by Johanna Hurwitz

Julio works to get his friend elected class president but discovers that he's the one with leadership abilities.

RL:4 IL:3-6 BS/HUR

DEAR MR. HENSHAW by Beverly Cleary

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

RL:4 IL:4-7 BS/CLE (Teacher Guide Available)

<p><u>DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC</u> by Jane Yolen Hannah resents the traditions of her Jewish heritage until time travel places her in the middle of a small Jewish village in Nazi-occupied Poland.</p> <p>RL:6 IL:5-9 BS/YOL</p>
<p><u>DOG CALLED KITTY</u> by Bill Wallace Afraid of dogs since he was attacked by a mad one, Ricky resists taking in a homeless pup that shows up at the farm.</p> <p>RL:5.3 IL:3-6 BS/WAL</p>
<p><u>ENDER'S GAME</u> by Orson Scott Card Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.</p> <p>YA BS/CAR</p>
<p><u>FRECKLE JUICE</u> by Judy Blume Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents.</p> <p>RL:3.6 IL:3-6 BS/BLU (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>GREAT KAPOK TREE</u> BY Lynne Cherry The many different animals that live in a great kapok tree in the Brazilian rain forest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home.</p> <p>RL:4.4 IL:3-6 BS/CHE</p>
<p><u>HATCHET</u> by Gary Paulsen After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, initially learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and also learns to survive his parents' divorce.</p> <p>RL:6.3 IL:5-8 BS/PAU (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>HENRY AND MUDGE AND THE BEST DAY OF ALL</u> by Cynthia Rylant Henry and his big dog Mudge celebrate Henry's birthday with a piñata, a lively birthday party, and a cake shaped like a fish tank, making May 1st the best day ever.</p> <p>RL:3.1 IL:K-3 BS/RYL</p>
<p><u>HOLES</u> by Louis Sachar Stanley Yelnat's family has a history of bad luck, so he isn't too surprised when a miscarriage of justice sends him to a boys' juvenile detention center, Camp Green Lake, where despite grueling punishment, he finds his first real friend, a treasure and a sense of himself.</p> <p>RL:6.5 IL:5-8 BS/SAC (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>HOUSE OF DIES DREAR</u> by Virginia Hamilton A African-American family tries to unravel the secrets of their new home which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.</p> <p>RL:6 IL:5-9 BS/HAM</p>
<p><u>HOW TO LOSE ALL YOUR FRIENDS</u> by Nancy Carlson "If you don't want to have any friends, follow these simple instructions"—so begins this catalogue of crankiness, brattiness, and all-around bad behavior!</p> <p>RL:2.5 IL:K-3 BS/CAR</p>
<p><u>INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD</u> by Lynne Reid Banks A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.</p> <p>RL:6 IL:4-7 BS/BAN</p>

<p><u>ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS</u> by Scott O'Dell The courage and self-reliance of a ten-year-old girl are tested as she lives alone for 18 years on an isolated island off the coast of California after her tribe emigrates and she is left behind.</p> <p>RL:5.5 IL:5-8 BS/ODE</p>
<p><u>JOHNNY TREMAIN</u> by Esther Forbes In 1773 Johnny Tremain is a gifted fourteen-year-old who is apprenticed to a silversmith. When an accident leaves him with a badly burned hand, he is forced to take a different job which puts him in the middle of the events of the Boston Tea Party and Battle of Lexington.</p> <p>RL:5 IL:4-9 BS/FOR</p>
<p><u>JUNIE B. JONES HAS A MONSTER UNDER HER BED</u> by Barbara Park After hearing one day from a kindergarten classmate that people have monsters under their beds, Junie B. Jones is afraid to go to sleep that night.</p> <p>RL:2.2 IL:K-3 BS/PAR</p>
<p><u>LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE</u> by C. S. Lewis Four children from the English countryside find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic kingdom of Narnia, where they assist Aslan, the golden lion, in triumphing over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.</p> <p>RL:5.5 IL:5-8 BS/WHI</p>
<p><u>LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS</u> by Laura Ingalls Wilder The Ingalls family is snug in their Wisconsin house despite blizzards, wolves, and the lonely forest.</p> <p>RL:4 IL:3-6 BS/WIL</p>
<p><u>LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE</u> by Laura Ingalls Wilder A family travels from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie where they build a house, meet neighboring Indians, build a well and fight a prairie fire.</p> <p>RL:4 IL:3-6 BS/WIL</p>
<p><u>M. C. HIGGINS, THE GREAT</u> by Virginia Hamilton A black boy tries to save his home in Appalachia from strip miners and, in the process, comes to terms with his family heritage and identity.</p> <p>RL:4 IL:4-7 BS/HAM (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>MANIAC MAGEE</u> by Jerry Spinelli After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee becomes a legend, accomplishing feats which awe his contemporaries.</p> <p>RL:5 IL:3-6 BS/SPI (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>MARVIN REDPOST KIDNAPPED AT BIRTH?</u> By Louis Sachar Red-haired Marvin is convinced that the reason he looks different from the rest of the family is that he is really the lost prince of Shampoo.</p> <p>RL:3 IL:3-6 BS/SAC</p>
<p><u>MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE</u> by Beverly Cleary Ralph, a mouse, and a boy become fast friends after Ralph learns to ride the boy's toy motorcycle, taking many wild rides through the hotel corridors where he lives.</p> <p>RL:6 IL:3-6 BS/CLE</p>
<p><u>MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS</u> by Richard Atwater Life changed for the Popper family when Mr. Popper, a mild-mannered house painter and decorator with a taste for books about the polar regions, was presented with a penguin whom he named Captain Cook.</p> <p>RL:6 IL:3-6 BS/ATW</p>

<p><u>MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH</u> by Robert C. O'Brien With nowhere else to turn, a field mouse asks the clever escaped lab rats living under the rosebush to help save her son who lies in the path of a farmer's tractor and is too ill to be moved.</p> <p>RL:5.8 IL:3-6 BS/OBR</p>
<p><u>MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD</u> by James Lincoln Collier In this story, based partially on fact, a young man is torn between his brother's patriotism and his father's Tory sympathies.</p> <p>RL:6 IL:6-12 BS/COL</p>
<p><u>NIGHT OF THE TWISTERS</u> by Ivy Ruckman In this fictional account, an eleven-year-old boy, his family and friends experience deadly and devastating tornadoes that hit the town of Grand Island, Nebraska.</p> <p>RL:6 IL:3-6 BS/RUC (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>NUMBER THE STARS</u> by Lois Lowry In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.</p> <p>RL:4.9 IL:5-8 BS/LOW (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>RAMONA AND HER FATHER</u> by Beverly Cleary The family routine is upset during Ramona's year in second grade when her father unexpectedly loses his job.</p> <p>RL:5 IL:3-6 BS/CLE (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>SARAH PLAIN AND TALL</u> by Patricia MacLachlan When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope she will stay.</p> <p>RL:4 IL:3-6 BS/MAC (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>SHADES OF GRAY</u> by Carolyn Reeder At the end of the Civil War, twelve-year-old Will, having lost all his immediate family, reluctantly leaves his city home to go live in the Virginia countryside with his aunt and the uncle he considers a traitor because he refused to take part in the war.</p> <p>RL:5.5 IL:3-6 BS/REE</p>
<p><u>SHILOH</u> by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and mistreat his dogs.</p> <p>RL:5.5 IL:3-6 BS/NAY (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>SIGN OF THE BEAVER</u> by Elizabeth George Speare Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.</p> <p>RL:5.7 IL:5-8 BS/SPE (Teacher Guide Available)</p>
<p><u>SNOT STEW</u> by Bill Wallace Brother and sister cats are taken in by a family and learn the pleasures and dangers of living alongside humans.</p> <p>RL:4 IL:3-6 BS/WAL</p>
<p><u>STONE FOX</u> by John R. Gardner A boy named Little Willy hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm by winning the purse in a dog sled race.</p> <p>RL:4.7 IL:3-6 BS/GAR</p>
<p><u>SUMMER OF THE SWANS</u> by Betsy Byars Fourteen-year-old Sara—moody, unpredictable and on the brink of womanhood—gains maturity when her mentally retarded brother is lost and she hunts for him in the woods.</p> <p>RL:5.6 IL:5-8 BS/BYA (Teacher Guide Available)</p>

TROUBLE RIVER by Betsy Byars

When he builds his raft, a twelve-year-old boy never dreams that it will serve as the sole means of escape for him and his grandmother when hostile Indians threaten their prairie cabin.

RL:5.8 IL:3-6 BS/BYA

TUCK EVERLASTING by Natalie Babbitt

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

RL:5.9 IL:5-8 BS/BAB

WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM by Christopher P. Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African-American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

RL:5 IL:5-8 BS/CUR (Teacher Guide Available)

WESTING GAME by Ellen Raskin

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

RL:7 IL:5-8 BS/RAS (Teacher Guide Available)

WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS by Wilson Rawls

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

RL:6.4 IL:5-8 BS/RAW (Teacher Guide Available)

WHIPPING BOY by Sid Fleischman

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

RL:4.8 IL: 3-6 BS/FLE

YEAR DOWN YONDER Richard Peck

During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

RL:5 IL:5-8 BS/PEC