

Before Entering Kindergarten

(suggested reading: not required. No AR tests required)

Books from this list are worth half a point.

Aylesworth: *Naughty Little Monkeys* c2003 *alphabet books*

Twenty-six monkeys get into mischief when their parents go out for the evening in this rhyming alphabet book

Bang: *When Sophie Gets Angry - Really, Really Angry...* c1999 *character*

Sophie expresses her anger when she must surrender a toy to her sister.

Crews: *The Neighborhood Mother Goose* c2004 *nursery rhymes, diversity*

This collection of nursery rhymes features the familiar and unfamiliar, all set in the city

DePaola: *Stagestruck* c2005 *school story*

When Tommy is disappointed that he doesn't land the lead in the kindergarten play, he tries to steal the show anyway

Drachman: *A Frog Thing* c2005 *humor*

Frank the frog learns self-acceptance

Ehlert: *Pie in the Sky* c2004 *family fiction*

As a father and his child view the cherry tree in their back yard, they refer to it as a pie tree. Includes a recipe

Ehlert: *Mole's Hill: A Woodland Tale* c1994 *folklore*

In this Native American folk tale, Mole looks for a way to save her underground home when Fox tells her she has to move

Ernst: *The Gingerbread Girl* c2006 *fairy tale*

The gingerbread girl outsmarts that doggone fox and triumphs

Kimmel: *The Gingerbread Man* c1993 *fairy tale*

This familiar fairy tale features a gingerbread man who runs away from the woman who bakes him and meets other animals along the way, including a clever fox

Penn: *The Kissing Hand* c1993 *family story*

Chester Raccoon is afraid to attend kindergarten until his mother shows him a special way to take her love along

Pfister: *Rainbow Fish stories* *animal stories*

The most beautiful fish in the ocean with the shimmering silver scales discovers the beauty of sharing

Prelutsky: *Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young* c1986 *poetry*

This collection of 200 short poems is designed for young children and includes illustrations that correlate with the poems

Shannon: *David Goes to School* c.1999 *humor*

David's school behavior needs to be improved

Sierra: *Counting Crocodiles* c1997 *counting, rhyming*

A monkey outsmarts ten crocodiles that stand between her and a banana tree by using her ability to count

Sierra: *Wild About Books* c2004 *animals, humor*

A librarian accidentally drives her bookmobile to the zoo and subsequently reads a Dr. Seuss book to the animals

Taback: *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* c1999 *diversity*

Joseph starts out with an overcoat and ends with a button

Thompson: *Little Quack* c2003 *animal story*

Mama Duck encourages her four ducklings to leave the nest. The youngest and smallest, Little Quack, proves to be the most reluctant.

Williams: *'More More More' said the Baby: 3 Love Stories* c1990 *family fiction*

Father, Mother and Grandmother playfully and lovingly toss three babies in the air

Wood: *Alphabet Adventure* c2001 *alphabet book*

The letters of the alphabet join the search to help "i" find her dot in order to continue their journey in this colorful alphabet book

Wood: *The Napping House* c1984 *sleep, fiction*

While a number of creatures sleep, a flea causes a commotion among them with just one bite

Before Entering First Grade

(Suggested reading list: not required. Students required to read and test 5 points or approximately 10 picture books)

Books from this list are worth half a point.

Asher: *Too Many Frogs* c2005 *animals, humor*

Each night Froggie interrupts Rabbit's cozy home for a read-aloud story

Bailey: *Stanley's Party* c2003 *dogs, humor*

When a dog's owners leave for the evening, he gets into a lot of mischief

Bloom: *A Splendid Friend Indeed* c2005 *friendship*

A polar bear and a goose learn to get along and be friends

Brett: *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* c1987 *fairy tale*

This favorite fairy tale features a young girl who enters the home of three bears who are not at home

Bruel: *Bad Kitty* c2005 *alphabet book*

Finding that there is no food in the house, a kitty chooses to be very bad

Carle: *Mister Seahorse* c2004 *animals, fiction*

Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs, after which Mr. Seahorse carries the eggs through the sea, greeting other fish fathers

Cronin: *Dooby, Dooby, Moo* c2004 *animal humor*

Duck organizes the farm animals for a talent show at the county fair. The first prize is a trampoline

Cronin: *Diary of a Fly* c2005 *insect, humor*

While keeping a diary, the young fly records how hard it is to be an insect

Fleming: *The First Day of Winter* c2005 *counting, rhyming, diversity*

In the first ten days of winter a child brings a snowman to life in a style similar to The Twelve Days of Christmas

Hoffman: *Amazing Grace* c1991 *ethnic diversity*

Grace is told by a fellow classmate that she can't play Peter Pan in the school play because of her black skin color, but she learns she can do anything she tries to do.

Lester: *Hooway for Wodney Wat* c1999 *fantasy, abilities awareness*

Students in Rodney's class make fun of him, because he can't pronounce his name properly; but it is his speech problem that helps to punish the class bully.

McKinley: *One Smile* c2002 *kindness*

While walking through the park with her mother, a child smiles at a discouraged stranger and sets off a chain of events that spreads kindness and comes full circle

Numeroff: *Beatrice Doesn't Want To* c2004 *realistic fiction, humor*

Beatrice Doesn't Like to Read, but a librarian changes her attitude during a story session in this humorous, well illustrated book

Prelutsky: *Me I Am* c2007 *poetry*

A book of poem for children celebrating being an individual

Rathmann: *Officer Buckle and Gloria* c1995 *safety, fiction*

When Officer Buckle delivers safety speeches at a local elementary school, the students don't listen until his police dog Gloria accompanies him

Scotton: *Russell the Sheep* c2005 *animals, fiction*

Russell experiments with many different ways to fall asleep

Seuss: *The Cat in the Hat* c1957 *classic*

On a rainy day, two children are visited by a cat who shows them games and tricks

Shannon: *A Bad Case of Stripes* c1998 *individuality, fiction*

A girl who is always concerned about what others think of her wakes up one day to discover she is covered with stripes

Silverman: *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: School Days* c2007 (series chapter book) *fiction*

Kate wants to go to school, but her horse wants to go too

Before Entering Second Grade

(Suggested reading list: not required. Students required to read and test 5 points or approximately 10 picture books)

Cannon: *Crickwing* c2000 *insects, fiction*

Crickwing the cockroach saves the day for the leaf-cutter ants when their forest enemies attack them (.5 pts)

Crews: *Below* c2006 *fiction*

When Jack drops his action figure into a mysterious hole, he has to devise a rescue (.5 pts)

Ernst: *Sylvia Jean, Drama Queen* c2005 *fantasy animals, humor*

Although Sylvia Jean owns plenty of costumes, she struggles to come up with a costume for the big party (.5 pts)

Hoberman: *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together* c2001 *rhyming stories*

This collection of short, rhythmic stories and cheerful art is designed to be read out loud by both child and adult (.5 pts)

James: *Dear Mr. Blueberry* c1991 *letter writing*

A teacher and his young student correspond with each other concerning an imaginary whale in the little girl's pond (.5 pts)

Lobel: Frog and Toad stories *classics*

Each of the frog and toad stories include several short tales about two very good friends (.5 pts)

Mayer: Little Critter stories *fantasy, animals*

Little Critter is a small creature who is amazingly like a young human boy. His adventures take place with different members of his family who expose him to daily life experiences (.5 pts)

McKissack: Flossie and the Fox c1986 *folklore, ethnic diversity*

In this African American folk tale, a fox who is known for stealing eggs encounters a young girl who continues to deny that he is a fox without a lot of proof. (.5 pts)

McNaughton: Once Upon an Ordinary School Day c2004 *school story*

Mr. Gee, the new teacher, changes "ordinary" when he challenges all the children to use their imaginations (.5 pts)

Numeroff: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie and sequels c1985 *cumulative tales*

When a mouse requests a cookie, a cycle of events occurs that brings the reader full circle (.5 pts)

Pallotta: Dory Story c2000 *sea story, fiction*

Danny's ocean adventures are completely enchanting, even if they take place in the bathtub (.5 pts)

Parish: Amelia Bedelia stories *classics, fiction*

Amelia Bedelia, who is a housekeeper, is very literal minded when others give her directions; the results are hilarious. (.5 pts)

Pearson: Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed c2002 *kindness, fiction*

When young Mary secretly leaves berries on a lady's porch, the kindness is multiplied many times over by others. (.5 pts)

Peterson: Don't Forget Winona c2004 *historical fiction*

In the 1930s during the days of the dust bowl in Oklahoma and the Great Depression, a young girl tells about her family's experiences on Route 66 heading toward California. (.5pts)

Polacco: Aunt Chip and the Triple Creek Dam Affair c1996 *TV, reading, fiction*

Since the invasion of television, no one can remember how to read (.5 pts)

Rylant: Henry and Mudge stories *family, dogs, humor*

A young boy named Henry and his dog Mudge share many adventures with Henry's parents and other important people in his life (.5 pts)

Schachner: *Skippyjon Jones* c2003 *humor*

This Siamese kitten spends his "time-out" imagining himself as "El-Skippito" who comes to the rescue of some Chihuahuas (.5 pts)

Stevens: *And the Dish Ran Away With the Spoon* c2001 *nursery rhymes*

From the Mother Goose nursery rhyme, Dish and Spoon run away. Concerned about the fate of the rhyme, Cat, Cow and Dog set out to find them. (.5 pts)

Waber: *The House On East 88th Street* c1962 *crocodiles, classic*

When Lyle the Crocodile appears in the bathtub of the Primm family, the family is very upset; but Lyle soon wins their hearts (.5 pts)

Woodson: *The Other Side* c2001 *friendship, ethnic diversity*

A fence divides a town where two girls - one white and one black - sit and gradually become acquainted (.5 pts)

Before Entering Third Grade

(Suggested Reading List: not required. Students required to read and test at least 10 points)

Banks: *Max's Words* c2006 *fiction*

Max wants to start a collection since his brothers collect coins and stamps. Max decides to collect words and discovers the importance of how words are put together to create stories (.5 pts)

Bridges: *Ruby's Wish* c2002 *historical fiction, ethnic diversity*

During the 1800s in China, when few girls learn to read and write, Ruby fervently desires to attend university with all the males in her family (.5 pts)

Bunting: *One Green Apple* c2006 *historical fiction, ethnic diversity*

Farah is new to the U.S. and her class. She feels alone until she goes on a field trip and realizes things are alike everywhere (.5 pts)

Christelow: *Where's the Big Bad Wolf* c2002 *folk and fairy tale*

Every time the three pigs get in trouble the big bad wolf is nowhere to be found (.5 pts)

Cox: *Butterfly Buddies* c2001 *friendship, school story*

In this transition to chapter book story, two students working together on a project study the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly and learn how important it is to feel accepted. (1 pt)

Demi: *One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale* c1997 *folklore, math*

A clever village girl outsmarts a selfish raja as one grain of rice doubles each day and becomes millions of grains of rice (.5 pts)

DiCamillo: *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* c2005 *animal, fantasy, humor*

Cute little pig Mercy is happy until the lights turn off at night, and she decides to join her owners in their bed. (.5 pts)

Goble: *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* c1978 *folklore, ethnic diversity*

In this folk tale, a Native-American girl prefers to live with the wild horses with which she feels happy and free, even though she loves her people (.5 pts)

Grindley: *Dear Max* c2004 *fiction*

Max begins writing letters to his favorite author, D. J. Lucas. Together they share the problems of being a 9-year-old who is being bullied and a famous author who is having trouble with her next book (2 pts)

Holm: *Babymouse* c2005 *graphic fiction, friendship, imagination*

A little mouse with a big imagination learns about true friendship and popularity (.5 pts)

Johnson: *Just Like Josh Gibson* c2007 *sports fiction, historical fiction*

A grandmother recounts the story of the day she was allowed to play in a baseball game, even though she was a girl (.5 pts)

Kerrin: *Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff!* c2005 *fiction*

Martin means well, but his ideas don't always turn out as expected. In three stand-alone chapters, Martin deals with issues at home and school (1 pt)

Pinkney: *The Ugly Duckling* c1999 *fairy tale*

This adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen classic portrays an unhappy year for an ugly duckling who eventually grows up and transforms into a beautiful swan. (.5 pts)

Preller: *Jigsaw Jones series* *mystery*

Jigsaw Jones and his friend Mila put together pieces of information to solve various mysteries (1 pt)

Stilton: *The Geronimo Stilton series* *mice, fantasy, mystery*

Geronimo Stilton is a mouse newspaper editor and journalist who travels the world to chase important interviews but winds up in the middle of adventures that involve solving intriguing mysteries. (1 pt)

Tunnell: *Mailing May* c1997 *historical fiction*

Five-year-old May wishes to visit her grandmother, but the train is too expensive. May's father and cousin concoct a clever means of sending the child after all. (.5 pts)

Warner: *Only Emma* c2005 *fiction*

Emma's mother loses her job, so Emma becomes the new kid in the school and neighborhood. An only child, Emma's life changes when a four year old comes for a visit. (2 points)

Willey: *Clever Beatrice* c2001 *folklore*

In this folk tale, a clever young girl matches her wits against a rich giant and wins all his gold, saving her family from poverty (.5 pts)

Wyeth: *Something Beautiful* c2002 *fiction*

A young girl finds just how many different forms beauty can take when she searches her urban neighborhood. (.5 pts)

Before Entering Fourth Grade

(Suggested Reading List: not required. Students required to read and test at least 10 points)

Birney: *The World According to Humphrey* c2005 *fiction, humor*

Humphrey, a classroom hamster, surveys his surroundings and finds ways to help the children in the class (4 pts)

Birney: *The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs* c2005 *fiction*

Set in 1923, a 12 year old boy is inspired to find wonders in his small town after reading about the Seven Wonders of the World (5 pts)

Clements: *Lunch Money* c1994 *school, humor*

Hart is a popular boy who sometimes "goofs off". When he hits the music teacher with a rubber band, he is put in charge of the holiday concert. Both Hart and his teacher learn lessons (6 pts)

Curtis: *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* c2005 *mystery, ethnic diversity*

Is the quadrillion dollar bill with a picture of soul singer James Brown that Steven Carter receives as a gift from his elderly blind neighbor real money? Steven, his friend Russell, and Russell's dog Zoopy decide to investigate (5 pts)

Duffey: *Hey, New Kid!* c1996 *school story*

Jeremy worries about attending a new school, but he decides to make the best of it by reinventing himself in order to impress other students in his class. (1 pt)

Feelings: *Soul Looks Back in Wonder* c1993 *poetry, ethnic diversity*

Thirteen African American poets celebrate their heritage in their words and colorful illustrations created by Tom Feelings (.5 pts)

Fleming: *The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School* c2007 *fiction, school*

Mr. Jupiter becomes the 4th grade teacher of an unruly class with surprising results (4 pts)

Grimes: *Talkin' About Bessie* c2002 *biography, ethnic diversity*

How Bessie Coleman became the first African-American woman to become a licensed pilot as told by her family and friends (1 pt)

Howe: *It Came From Beneath the Bed* c2002 *humor, fantasy*

Uncle Harold, who wrote books about Bunnacula, helps Howie, his dachshund nephew to write a story in which he saves the world from a science experiment gone wrong. (1 pt)

Hurwitz: *Fourth Grade Fuss* c2004 *school story*

Julio and his friends enjoy their fourth grade activities - the yard sale, ice skating, and a surprise party; but the students get serious when they have to study for end-of-the-year statewide tests (3 pts)

Kehret: *Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays* c1999 *animals, non-fiction*

Tells the story of 8 dogs who were saved from the animal shelter and went on to better lives (3 pts)

MacDonald: *No More Nasty* c2001 *humor, school story*

An unruly fifth grade class receives a new perspective on learning from a substitute teacher who just happens to be Simon's Great Aunt Matilda (5 pts)

McDonald: *Judy Moody* c2000 *humor, school story*

On the first day of school, third grader Judy snaps out of her bad mood when she receives an assignment to create a collage all about herself (2 pts)

Noble: *The Last Brother* (Tales of Young America series) c2006 *historical fiction*

Gabe becomes a bugler in the Civil War to protect his only surviving brother (.5 pts)

Pennypacker: *Clementine* c2006 *fiction, series*

Clementine is a funny, energetic, third grader with a talent for getting in trouble and a heart of gold (2 pts)

Roy: *A to Z Mysteries* *series, mystery stories*

Elementary schoolers Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose work together to solve mysteries

San Souci: *The Dangerous Snake and Reptile Club* c2004 *friendship, fiction*

Brothers Bobby, Danny, and Mike decide to display the treasures they find on vacation and start a club with their friends (.5 pts)

Strickland: *When Mack Came Back* c2000 *family, historical fiction*

During World War II in rural Georgia, Maury's older brother Ben enlists in the army, leaving Maury to care for Ben's injured puppy and deal with their angry father. (3 pts)

Various authors: *My America series* *historical fiction*

These fiction stories are written in diary format and depict everyday children living

during various time in American history.

Before Entering Fifth Grade (Suggested Reading List: not required. Students required to read and test at least 10 points)

Barry: *Peter and the Starcatchers* c2004 contemporary fantasy

Peter and a group of fellow orphans assist Molly, a Starcatcher, in guarding a trunk of “mysterious star substance” that has the ability to keep people young and let fly. (13 pts)

Collins: *Gregor the Overlander* c2003 fantasy fiction

Gregor and his two-year sister fall down a shaft in the basement and find a world of giant insects and rats. They become part of a huge battle (8 pts)

DiCamillo: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* c2006 fantasy

Edward Tulane is a selfish, thoughtless toy rabbit until he loses the little girl who loves him (2 pts)

Foreman: *Summer of the Skunks* c2002 historical fiction

Ten-year-old Jill lives with her family on a southern farm in the late 1940s (6 pts)

Gorman: *Dork in Disguise* c1999 school story

When highly intelligent Jerry moves to a new town, he sets out to change his image from “dork” to “cool.” (4 pts)

Gutman: *Baseball Card Adventure* sports, historical fiction

A series of books where Joe travels back in time and meets famous players

Hannigan: *Ida B: --and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World* c2004 realistic fiction, school story

Happy fourth grader Ida, who is home-schooled, enjoys playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother is diagnosed with breast cancer and the financially strapped family must sell part of the orchard and enroll Ida in public school (5 pts)

Hunter: *Into the Wild* c2003 animal fiction

Four clans of wild cats share a forest. One clan decides to change “hunting rites” and their peace is challenged (10 pts)

Lasky: *The Capture (Guardians of Ga'Hoole series)* c2003 fantasy

Soren, a barn owl, is knocked from his nest by his older brother and taken to St. Aggie's, a school for orphaned owls. He befriends Gylfie, an elf owl, and the two set out to save all owls from the perils of the school (7 pts)

Martin: Main Street series *realistic fiction*

A series about two young girls orphaned when their parents die in a car accident. They go to live with their grandmother in Camden Falls, Mass., a small town filled with a variety of characters

Norman: *My Feet Are Laughing* c2006 *poetry*

16 poems told by a young girl about her Harlem neighborhood (.5 pts)

Seidler: *Toes* c2004 *animals, fiction*

Ridiculed because of his seven toes on each paw, this kitten runs away and finds a struggling musician who needs him. (4 pts)

Smith: *Bone* c2004 *graphic novel*

Three cousins leave their home of Boneville. On their journey they meet royalty, dragons, and monsters as they try to return home

Soto: *Baseball in April and Other Stories* c1990 *ethnic diversity*

These short stories focus on young Hispanics growing up in California (4 pts)

Strasser: *Help!* series *fantasy, humor*

Jake Sherman switches bodies with various people and creatures, including his gym teacher, principal, the family dog and even the first day of summer camp! (3 pts)

Stewart: *The Mysterious Benedict Society* c2007 *fiction, adventure*

Four children are secretly spies as students in the Learning Institute for the Enlightened. They have to avoid being brainwashed by Mr. Curtain, one of the owners of the school. This is a mystery you will be eager to see unfold (18 pts)

Wright: *The Wish Master* c2000 *realistic fiction*

Corby and his mother travel to Wisconsin for the summer to take care of his sick grandmother; then, he meets a local boy who takes him to the Wish Master. (3 pts)

Various authors: *Dear America* series *historical fiction (various points)*

Skurzynski: *Mysteries in Our National Parks* series *mystery, adventure (various points)*

Before Entering Sixth Grade

(Must read and take the AR test on at least 15 points from this list)

Blackwood: *The Shakespeare Stealer* c1998 *historical fiction, mystery*

Widge, a likeable orphan, finds himself in the middle of an adventure to steal and copy

the play HAMLET from Shakespeare. He soon discovers that life in the Globe Theatre is much better than the other places he has apprenticed (7 pts)

Broach: *Shakespeare's Secret* c2005 *mystery*

Hero moves into a new town and finds she is living in an old house with an unusual past. With the help of the police chief's son and her neighbor, Hero tries to unravel the mystery. (6 pts)

Carbone: *Stealing Freedom* c1998 *historical fiction, diversity*

This story is based on the true experiences of a young slave girl who escapes to Canada on the Underground Railroad (10 pts)

Creech: *The Wanderer* c2000 *adventure*

Told through journal writings, Sophie and her cousin, Cody, share the experiences of their journey on a sailboat, The Wanderer, from Connecticut to England with six crew members, including her uncles and cousins (6 pts)

Cushman: *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* c1996 *historical fiction*

Lucy isn't happy when her mother moves the family from New England to California for the Gold Rush (7 pts)

Di Camillo: *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup and a Spool of Thread* c2003 *fantasy*

Tale of a tiny mouse with huge ears, a princess that he loves, a servant girl who wishes to be a princess and a rat named Roscuro who yearns for soup (5 pts)

Funke: *Inkheart* c2003 *fantasy*

A girl and her father, a bookbinder who can "read" fictional characters into real life, are abducted by one of the characters, who tries to force them into his service. (23 pts)

Giff: *Nory Ryan's Song* c2000 *historical fiction*

Twelve-year-old Nory Ryan helps her family and neighbors survive during the 1845 potato famine in Ireland (5 pts)

Golding: *The Secret Within* c2002 *realistic fiction*

Carly's domineering father has a painful family secret that causes Carly to face danger and seek freedom at night. (9 pts)

Haddix: *Double Identity* c2005 *mystery*

Bethany becomes curious about her past when her parents unexpectedly disappear after leaving her with an aunt who she did not know existed. As the story unravels, the conclusion uncovers a shocking secret (8 pts)

Hesse: *Music of the Dolphins* c1996 *realistic fiction*

The thoughts of a young girl, who was raised by dolphins from 4 years old after a plane crash, are recorded by a scientist as she is reintroduced to a civilized way of life. (3 pts)

Holm: *Penny from Heaven* c2006 *historical fiction* Newbery honor winner

In New Jersey during the summer of 1953, eleven-year-old Penny, living with her mother and maternal grandparents, learns the truth about her father's death and about her upbringing after she has a serious accident. (7 pts)

Isaacs: *Torn Thread* c2000 *historical fiction*

During World War II, twelve year-old Eva, living in Poland at the time, is sent by her father to a Nazi labor camp in Czechoslovakia, where her sickly sister has been taken. (7 pts)

Kehret: *Abduction!* c2004 *adventure, contemporary realistic fiction* Thirteen-year-old

Bonnie, on a quest to find her kidnapped brother and his dog, becomes a victim of the kidnapper as well. (6 pts)

Levine: *Hana's Suitcase: A True Story* c2002 *biography*

The director of a newly opened Holocaust museum in Japan and her students become intrigued with a suitcase from a concentration camp found among the museum's artifacts. The story of a Czech girl, Hana Brady, a victim of the Holocaust, unfolds through the search for information about a suitcase. (2 pts)

Paratore: *The Wedding Planner's Daughter* c2005 *humor, romance*

A twelve-year-old girl, whose mother is a wedding planner, wishes for her mother to marry (5 pts)

Ryan: *Esperanza Rising* c2000 *historical fiction, diversity*

During the Great Depression, Esperanza and her mother are forced from their wealthy home in Mexico to Southern California where they work in harsh conditions. (6 pts)

Smith: *Peak* c2005 *adventure, coming-of-age*

Fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello's goal is to become the youngest person to reach the top of Mt. Everest (9 pts)

Selznick: *The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures* c2007 *adventure, mystery* 2008 Caldecott Medal Winner

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. (4 pts)

Whelan: *Angel on the Square* c2001 *historical fiction*

In 1913 Russia, World War I and the revolution bring unwanted changes into twelve-year-old Katya's life after she joins her mother in the household of Tsar Nicholas II.

(8 pts)

Before Entering 7th Grade

(Must read and take the AR test on at least 15 points from this list)

Anderson: *Fever, 1793* c2000 *historical fiction*

In 1793 sixteen year-old Matty, who is forced to leave her home to avoid the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, learns self-reliance and perseverance. (7 pts)

Avi: *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* c2004 *historical fiction*

Crispin is a poor, motherless child who finds that there is a price on his head. When the only person who can tell him who he really is dies, he is left to fend for himself. He does make a friend of a strange fellow who protects him and teaches him skills to make his way in the lonely world of 14th century England. (7 pts)

Bradley: *For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy* c2003 *historical fiction*

During World War II, a 13-year-old French girl finds her life changed and in danger when she becomes a spy for the French Resistance (5 pts)

Caputo: *10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War* c2005

Accounts from Vietnam soldiers and civilians, profiles of persons involved and the role of the female on the battlefield are depicted in this book, which includes a collection of photographs and maps of the war from its beginning to the fall of Saigon in 1975 (6 pts)

Carson: *Gifted Hands: The Story of Ben Carson* c1990 *autobiography*

The inspirational story of Ben Carson, an African American pediatric neurosurgeon, who achieved his life goals in spite of the many obstacles he encountered. (11 pts)

Colfer: *Airman* c2008 *adventure, survival, fantasy*

After being branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to work in the diamond mines under horrible conditions, Conor Broekhart encounters many adventures while planning a prison escape in a flying machine that he must build. (16 pts)

DuPrau: *The City of Ember* c2003 *fantasy*

Twelve-year-old Lina lives in the 241 year-old ruined, underground city of Ember where she and a friend embark on a harrowing journey to find a way out of the city and save their people before it is too late (9 pts)

Funke: *The Thief Lord* c2001 *adventure, fantasy*

The threat of being separated causes two orphaned brothers to run away to Venice where they join a group of fugitive children and a gentle undercover detective. (13 pts)

Haddix: *Among the Hidden* c1998 *science fiction, adventure*

Luke, twelve years old and an illegally born third child, has been in hiding all of his life from the Population Police who are trying to eliminate "shadow children." (5 pts)

Hiaasen: *Hoot* c2002 *mystery, environmental issue*

Roy, a middle school boy who is the target of a school bully, gets involved in a mysterious case of vandalism and a barefoot boy's commitment to save burrowing owls living on a construction site. (9 pts)

Hobbs: *Jackie's Wild Seattle* c2003 *adventure*

While spending the summer with their uncle at a wildlife rescue center, 14-year-old Shannon and her younger brother encounter life-changing experiences (8 pts)

Horowitz: *Alex Rider Adventures series* *adventure*

Read about the adventures of Alex Rider, a teenage super spy. 1st book: *Stormbreaker* (Series does not have to be read in order) (7 pts)

Lobel: *No Pretty Pictures: A Child of War* c1998 *autobiography*

Anita Lobel, a Polish Jew and an illustrator of children's books, writes of her experiences during World War II and in Sweden after the war (8 pts)

Riordan: *The Lightning Thief* c2005 *fantasy*

Percy learns that he has special powers after he makes his pre-algebra teacher disappear. Further investigation reveals that he is the son of Greek god Poseidon. To save humankind Percy embarks on an adventure to return a lightning bolt his father stole from Zeus (13 pts)

Roberts: *Undercurrents* c2002 *mystery*

Fourteen-year-old Nikki has trouble accepting her new stepmother Crystal, and the problem grows worse when they visit the Northern California house where Crystal lived as a child and experienced some horrible event that she is trying to keep secret (8 pts)

Sachar: *Holes* c1998 *adventure*

Stanley Yelnats finds true friendship, a treasure and a new beginning at Camp Greenwood, a correctional camp in Texas for juveniles, where he is sent for a crime he did not commit. (7 pts)

Smith: *Cryptid Hunters* c2005 *adventure, mystery*

Adventurous and orphaned twins, Grace and Marty, are sent to live with their mysterious uncle who is an authority on cryptids. They find themselves being dropped from a plane in the Congolese jungle, where they discover truths about themselves and their family (11 pts)

Weeks: *So B. It* c2005 *contemporary realistic fiction, diversity*

Heidi searches to discover the background of her mentally disabled mother (6 pts)

Whelan: *Burying the Sun* c2004 *historical fiction, diversity*

While trying to survive the cold and starvation during the WW II siege of Leningrad, fourteen-year-old Georgi, his family and their neighbors try to keep hope alive by focusing on the beauty in the world. (5 pts)

Woodson: *Hush* c2002 *contemporary realistic fiction, diversity*

A twelve-year-old African American girl encounters many challenges when her family enters the Witness Protection Program (4 pts)

Before Entering Eighth Grade

(Must read and take the AR test on at least 15 points from this list)

Beals: *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High* c1994 *nonfiction*

Melba Patillo Beals, one of the nine students who integrated Central High in 1957, shares the horrific experiences she and the others encountered and how they were able to survive. (9 pts)

Cummings: *Red Kayak* c2004 *contemporary realistic fiction*

After a young boy is killed in a kayaking accident, 13-year-old Brady struggles with whether he should divulge the prank that caused the accident or keep silent to protect the pranksters. (8 pts)

Forbes: *Johnny Tremain* c1943 *historical fiction, classic*

Johnny Tremain is drawn into the Revolutionary War and becomes a patriot fighting to free the colonies from England. Along the way he learns about life and about himself. (13 pts)

Friend: *Perfect* c2004 *contemporary realistic fiction*

Developing bulimia after the death of her father, 13-year-old Isabelle is forced to attend a therapy group. There she discovers that one of the school's most popular girls is also battling the same disease (5 pts)

Giblin: *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth* c2005 *collective biography*

Both John Wilkes Booth and his elder brother Edwin made lasting impressions on American history. Find out how they were alike and how they were different. (12 pts)

Haddix: *Uprising* c2007 *historical fiction*

After 16 years, Bella Livingston finally shares the story of the fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory that killed her two best friends in 1911 and the poor working conditions. (14 pts)

Jackson: *I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up in the Holocaust* c1997 *nonfiction* Holocaust memoir of a 13 year-old girl Jewish girl (8 pts)

McWhorter: *A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968* c2004 *nonfiction*

The author writes personal and factual accounts of the modern Civil Rights movement, from *Brown v the Board of Education* through the (7 pts)

Oppel: *Airborn* c2004 *mystery*

A cabin boy and wealthy young girl on luxury airship team-up to search for mysterious creatures that a dying balloonist claimed he saw (15 pts)

Paolini: *Eragon* c2003 *fantasy*

Eragon's life is changed into a world of suspense, survival and magic after he finds a mysterious stone from which a dragon hatches (25 pts)

Park: *When My Name was Keoko* c2002 *historical fiction*

Teenage siblings describe the struggles of their Korean family to preserve its culture during WWII Japanese occupation (8 pts)

Patent: *Buffalo and the Indians: A Shared Destiny* c2006 *nonfiction*

The history of the American Indian's dependence on the bison and their relationship from prehistoric times to the present is traced. Each chapter is introduced with a legend about the buffalo from various tribes. (2 pts)

Peck: *The River Between Us* c2003 *historical fiction, diversity*

During the Civil War, two mysterious young ladies travel from New Orleans to Illinois and are taken in by a family. As the story unfolds so does the mystery of their lives. (5 pts)

Rinaldi: *A Break with Charity: A Story about the Salem Witch Trials* c1992 *historical fiction*

In 1706, the town of Salem is in an uproar due to the Salem witch trials. The story is told from the perspective of Susanna English, who is caught between her desire to join the malicious group of girls who are spreading the mischief and her fear of what they are doing (8 pts)

Spinelli: *Stargirl* c2000 *contemporary realistic fiction*

A sixteen-year-old eccentric high school girl and her boyfriend discover the ill effects of her unconventional behavior (6 pts)

Stevenson: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* classic

The classic story about a respected doctor who creates a drug that transforms him into a murderous criminal (5 pts)

White: *Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083* c2005 *adventure, science fiction*

In the year 2083, five 14-year-olds contestants in a reality TV program reenact Scott's 1910-1913 dangerous expedition to the South Pole. (11 pts)