

Louisiana Young Readers' Choice 2016
6-8th grade
Annotated Title List

1. **Athlete vs. Mathlete** by W.C. Mack, 208 pgs.
Twin brothers Owen and Russell may share the same genes, but that's where their similarities end. Owen loves sports and is a star of the school basketball team while Russell is the academically-minded captain of the math team. The two have always gotten along together without overlapping interests, but when their father and a new coach encourage Russell to join the basketball team, tension arises. The sequel is Athlete vs. Mathlete: Double Dribble. IL: MG – BL: 3.9 – AR Pts: 5.0. [Basketball, twins, realistic fiction, humorous]
Hardcover. Bloomsbury. 2013. 9781599909158. \$16.99
Paperback. Bloomsbury. 2013. 9781599908588. \$7.99
EBook available.

2. **The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's List** by Leon Leyson, 231 pgs.
Holocaust survivor Leon Leyson was only ten-years-old when World War II reached his home in Poland. In this memoir he straightforwardly recounts his memories of his life before, during, and after the war. He attributes his survival to the brave efforts of Oskar Schindler, a Nazi who recognized the value of his life and the lives of other Jews working in his factory. IL: MG - BL: 7.0 - AR Pts: 7.0 [Autobiography, memoir, Schindler's list, Kirkus Starred Review]
Hardcover. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2013. 9781442497818. \$17.99
Paperback. Simon & Schuster Childrens Books. 2014. 9781471119682. \$9.99
EBook and audio CD available.

3. **Counting by 7s** by Holly Goldberg Sloan, 384 pgs.
Willow Chance has always known she doesn't quite fit in with others her age; she's hyper-intelligent and has unconventional hobbies and interests, but she has always had an accepting and loving home to support her. When her adoptive parents are killed in an accident her perfect world is shaken. This event leads her to form a new, unique home community for herself consisting of high school student Mai Nguyen and her family, a taxi driver and a school counselor. IL: MG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 10.0 [Multicultural, African American interest, coping with loss]
Hardcover. Dial. 2013. 9780803738553. \$16.99
Paperback. Puffin. 2014. 9780142422861. \$8.99
EBook and audio CD available.

4. **The Darkest Path** by Jeff Hirsch, 336 pgs.
In this futuristic dystopia, a militant cult called the Glorious Path has begun a rebellion in the southern states that is threatening to overthrow the US government completely. Using violence and brainwashing, the organization is constantly recruiting new members against their will. Callum and his brother James have survived for years in this environment, but Cal finally seizes an opportunity to escape, attempting a dangerous mission to return home with a stray dog as a companion. IL: MG+ - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts: 13.0 [Guy interest, dystopia, action adventure]
Hardcover. Scholastic Press. 2013. 9780545512237. \$17.99
EBook available.

5. **Dogs of War** by Sheila Keenen, illustrated by Nathan Fox, 208 pgs.
 Incorporating the history of three different wars and showing dogs in a variety of situations, this graphic novel tells the tale of soldiers and their service dogs through short stories. It highlights the heroic, life-saving acts of these soldier and dog teams as well as the importance of companionship, particularly in the midst of war. IL: MG - BL: 3.3 - AR Pts: 2.0 [Graphic novel, historical fiction, service dogs, three short stories]
 Hardcover. GRAPHIX. 2013. 9780545128872. \$22.99
 Paperback. GRAPHIX. 2013. 9780545128889. \$12.99

6. **The Heartbreak Messenger** by Alexander Vance, 288 pgs.
 Quentin wants nothing to do with dating; he's only in middle school after all, and he's already seen the trouble it can cause. That doesn't mean he can't be involved as an impartial third party in the relationships of other people though, right? When a one-time opportunity to deliver a message to end the relationship of a high school guy who doesn't know how to break-up with his girlfriend in person turns into a profitable business, Quentin becomes the Heartbreak Messenger. He encounters tears, anger, and even some good advice in a series of hilarious break-ups for hire. IL: MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 7.0 [Realistic fiction, humorous]
 Hardcover. Feiwel & Friends. 2013. 9781250029690. \$16.99
 Paperback. Square Fish. 2014. 9781250044167. \$7.99
 Ebook available.

7. **Jack Strong Takes a Stand** by Tommy Greenwald, illustrated by Melissa Mendés, 240 pgs.
 Jack Strong is expected to do everything: sports, music, foreign languages, public service, extra-curricular activities, attend school, do homework and make good grades. He barely has a moment of anything that could be considered free time. His parents just don't understand that he has too much in his schedule so he stages a peaceful protest by refusing to leave the couch. His attempt to win some personal relaxation time surprisingly gains the attention of the local media team, and the situation grows beyond his expectations. IL: MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 5.0 [Humorous, similar text and graphic style to Diary of a Wimpy Kid books]
 Hardcover. Roaring Brook. 2013. 9781596438361. \$15.99
 Paperback. Square Fish. 2015. 9781250056870. \$6.99
 Ebook available.

8. **One Came Home** by Amy Timberlake, 250 pgs.
 Neither Georgie nor Agatha is a typical girl of 1871; Georgie is a sharpshooter with no desire to marry, and her sister dreams of higher education. Agatha runs away with a group of men who are passing through the area to hunt the record-breaking gathering of passenger pigeons in the area, and the remains of her body are soon returned to the town with little explanation. Unable to accept her sister's death, Georgie goes on a mission to discover what really happened. IL: MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 9.0 [Mystery, historical fiction, counterfeiters, strong female character, SLJ star review, Newbery Honor book, winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Juvenile Novel]
 Hardcover. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 2013. 9780375869259. \$16.99
 Paperback. Yearling. 2014. 9780375873454. \$6.99
 Ebook and audio CD available.

9. **QB 1** by Mike Lupica, 272 pgs.
Jake Cullen has big shoes to fill if he wants to follow the football legacy of his father and brother, both successful quarterbacks and celebrities in their hometown. Jake enjoys football like the other men in his family, and he has the talent and leadership skills to be great. At the same time though, he's still just a high school kid. He feels that he must fight the extra pressure of living up to his family's reputation in order to be himself and make his own name. IL: MG - BL: 5.4 - AR Pts: 10.0 [Guy interest, football, loosely based on Peyton Manning]
Hardcover. Philomel. 2013. 9780399252280. \$17.99
Paperback. Puffin. 2014. 9780147511522. \$7.99
EBook and audio CD available.
10. **SYLO, The SYLO Chronicles Book 1** by D.J. MacHale, 416 pgs.
Amidst suspicious quarantine orders for a seemingly nonexistent virus, a martial takeover by an organization called SYLO, and a new drug that gives dangerous strength to the user, everyday life is suddenly turned upside down for high school football player Tucker Pierce and his entire island community. Tucker makes the risky decision to escape to the mainland state only to find that the mysterious situation is even more extensive than he imagined. The sequels are **STORM** and **STRIKE**. IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 16.0 [Apocalyptic conspiracy mystery, quarantined city, thriller]
Hardcover. Razorbill. 2013. 9781595146656. \$17.99
Paperback. Razorbill. 2014. 9781595146663. \$9.99
EBook and audio CD available.
11. **Wake Up Missing** by Kate Messner, 272 pgs.
After suffering various head injuries that leave them with unpleasant aftereffects, four strangers seek treatment at a distinguished, isolated, neurological clinic that promises to restore their lives to normal in record time. When they begin to experience strange side-effects and grow wary of the mysterious final treatment stages, they discover a misguided plot involving their brains and those of historically significant scientists. IL: MG - BL: 4.4 - AR Pts: 9.0 [Science fiction, suspense, DNA]
Hardcover. Walker & Company. 2013. 9780802723147. \$16.99
Paperback. Bloomsbury. 2014. 9780802737489. \$7.99
EBook available.
12. **Zero Tolerance** by Claudia Mills, 231 pgs.
Star student Sierra Shepard accidentally brings a paring knife to school when there is a lunch bag mix-up at home, but she knows the school policy and immediately brings it to a school official. She doesn't expect to face expulsion, but a zero tolerance rule for weapons applies to all situations, even accidents made by model members involved in every aspect of the school community. IL: MG - BL: 5.2 - AR Pts: 7.0 [Realistic fiction, middle school rules, school friends, right and wrong]
Hardcover. Farrar Straus Giroux. 2013. 9780374333126. \$16.99
Paperback. Square Fish. 2014. 9781250044228. \$6.99
EBook available.