Stargirl
by Jerry Spinelli

At first the students at Arizona's Mica High School are captivated by Stargirl Caraway's unusual, carefree behavior; however, she is soon shunned for everything that makes her unique in this story that pits individuality against conformity.

Nothing But The Truth
by Avi

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Counting by 7s
by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Tragedy changes Willow's quirky but comfortable life, and as she adapts, she changes the lives of those around her.

The Giver
by Lois Lowry

A young boy chosen to be the Receiver of Memories realizes that his utopian society is not as perfect as it appears.

The Hunger Games
by Suzanne Collins

Katniss Everdeen is forced by the Capitol to compete in the Hunger Games, a ruthless fight to the death. First book in a trilogy.

The Red Pyramid
by Rick Riordan

Carter and Sadie find themselves thrust into ancient Egyptian lore when their father unleashes five Egyptian gods. First in a series.
**Smile**
by Raina Telgemeier

In this graphic novel, Raina survives middle school after getting her front teeth knocked out in an accident.

**Stormbreaker**
by Anthony Horowitz

Fourteen-year-old Alex becomes a spy in order to prove that his uncle’s death was not an accident. First book in the Alex Rider series.

**Wonder**
by R. J. Palacio

August Pullman, a fifth-grader born with a facial deformity, is about to start mainstream school for the first time in this touching, funny book.

**Moon Over Manifest**
by Clare Vanderpool

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

**Mockingbird**
by Kathryn Erskine

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

**The Great Gatsby**
by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The tragic story of the wealthy Jay Gatsby and his attempt to win back the love of Daisy Buchanan.

**Of Mice & Men**
By John Steinbeck

Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California.

**Bridge to Terabithia**
by Katherine Paterson

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.
Esperanza Rising
by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

If I Ever Get Out of Here
by Eric Gansworth

Seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake from the Tuscarora Reservation has a new friend, George Haddonfield from the local Air Force base, but in 1975 upstate New York there is a lot of tension and hatred between Native Americans and Whites--and Lewis is not sure that he can rely on friendship.

Waiting for Normal
by Leslie Connor

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

The Wednesday Wars
by Gary D. Schmidt

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

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.

Holes
by Louis Sachar

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Uglies
by Scott Westerfeld

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.