

San Diego Unified School District
Instructional Media Center May 2007
Recommended List for Grades 6-12

These titles have been recommended by San Diego Unified School District book reviewers. Questions may be directed to Deborah Ford at (858) 496-8442.

TITLE	AUTHOR	DEWEY	INTEREST LEVEL	PUBLISHER	ISBN	C.	ANNOTATION
American Heroes	Delano, Marfe Ferguson	920.073	5-8	National Geographic	978-0-7922-7208-3	2006	Presents three hundred full-color photographs and archival illustrations that profiles fifty Americans in history including Pocahontas and Sacajawea, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and many more.
Angel Experiment, The	Patterson, James	FIC	5-8	Little, Brown	978-0-316-15556-4	2006	After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.
Ask Me No Questions	Budhos, Marina Tamar	FIC	YA	Atheneum Books for Young Readers	978-1-41690-351-2	2006	Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.
Bessie Smith and the Night Riders	Stauffacher, Sue	E	3-6	Putnams	978-0-399-24237-3	2006	African-American blues singer Bessie Smith single-handedly scares off Ku Klux Klan members who are trying to disrupt her show one hot July night in Concord, North Carolina.
Boy in the Striped Pajamas: a Fable, The	Boyne, John	FIC	YA	David Fickling Books	978-0-385-75106-3	2006	Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.
Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life, A	Reinhardt, Dana	FIC	YA	Wendy Lamb Books	978-0-385-74698-4	2006	Sixteen-year-old atheist Simone Turner-Bloom's life changes in unexpected ways when her parents convince her to make contact with her biological mother, an agnostic from a Jewish family who is losing her battle with cancer.
Cat with the Yellow Star: Coming of Age in Terezin, The	Rubin, Susan Goldman	940.53	3-6	Holiday House	978-0-8234-1831-2	2006	Contains the author's first-hand account of her childhood experiences in the Terezin concentration camp during World War II.

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Clay	Almond, David	FIC	YA	Delacorte Press	978-0-385-73171-3	2006	The developing relationship between teenager Davie and a mysterious new boy in town morphs into something darker and more sinister when Davie learns firsthand of the boy's supernatural powers.
Corby Flood	Stewart, Paul	FIC	3-6	D. Fickling Books	978-0-385-75091-2	2006	While traveling with her family aboard the S.S. "Euphonia," eight-year-old Corby Flood accidentally attracts the murderous attentions of five men, clad in bowler hats, called the Brotherhood of the Clowns, as she investigates the mysterious singing coming from the ship's hold.
Counting on Grace	Winthrop, Elizabeth	FIC	3-6	Wendy Lamb Books	978-0-385-74644-1	2006	Twelve-year-old Grace Forcier and her friend Arthur, taken out of school and put to work in a Vermont textile mill in 1910, are championed by their teacher who urges them to write the National Child Labor Committee, an action only Grace seems to realize will have serious repercussions.
Cowgirl Aunt of Harriet Bean, The	McCall Smith, Alexander	FIC	3-6	Bloomsbury Children's Books	978-1-58234-977-0	2006	When she joins Aunt Japonica and Aunt Thessalonika on a trip to America, nine-year-old Harriet meets yet another relative--Aunt Formica, a cowgirl who is having trouble with some clever and mysterious cattle rustlers.
Crossing Bok Chitto: a Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom	Tingle, Tim	FIC	3-6	Cinco Puntos Press	978-0-938317-77-7	2006	In the 1800s, a Choctaw girl becomes friends with a slave boy from a plantation across the great river, and when she learns that his family is in trouble, she helps them cross to freedom.
Cyrano	McCaughrean, Geraldine	FIC	YA	Harcourt	978-0-15-205805-0	2006	Ashamed of his ugliness, long-nosed Cyrano de Bergerac, a brilliant seventeenth-century poet and expert swordsman in the French army, helps a rival woo and win Roxane, the beautiful cousin Cyrano loves in silence.
Dairy Queen: a Novel	Murdock, Catherine Gilbert	FIC	YA	Houghton Mifflin	978-0-618-68307-9	2006	After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

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Did a Dinosaur Drink This Water?	Wells, Robert E.	551.48	3-6	Whitman	978-0-8075-8839-0	2006	Explains the water cycle, discusses how water can be used to produce energy, and gives conservation tips.
Dog for Life, A	Matthews, L.S.	FIC	5-8	Delacorte Press	978-0-385-90381-3	2006	John, finds that his dog, Mouse, is scheduled to go to the pound and decides to run away and find his uncle, who may be able to help him.
Dogboy	Russell, Christopher	FIC	5-8	Greenwillow Books	978-0-06-084117-1	2006	In 1346, twelve-year-old Brind, an orphaned kennel boy raised with hunting dogs at an English manor, accompanies his master, along with half of the manor's prized mastiffs, to France, where he must fend for himself when both his master and the dogs are lost at the decisive battle of Crecy.
Drita, my Homegirl	Lombard, Jenny	FIC	5-8	G. P. Putnam's Sons	978-0-399-24380-6	2006	When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond.
Drowned Maiden's Hair: a Melodrama, A	Schlitz, Laura Amy	FIC	5-8	Candlewick Press	978-0-7636-2930-4	2006	In the early twentieth century, young orphan Maud Flynn hopes to finally be loved when she is adopted by the elderly Hawthorne sisters, but she is instead roped into the family's crooked seance business.
Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!	Truss, Lynne	428.2	3-6	Putnam's	978-0-399-24491-9	2006	Humorous comparative illustrations show that the meaning of a sentence can depend upon the placement of a comma.
Eggs	Spinelli, Jerry	FIC	3-6	Little, Brown	978-0-316-16646-1	2007	Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky thirteen-year old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

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Endymion Spring	Skelton, Matthew	FIC	5-8	Delacorte Press	978-0-385-90397-4	2006	Having reluctantly accompanied his academic mother and pesky younger sister to Oxford, twelve-year-old Blake Winters is at loose ends until he stumbles across an ancient and magical book, secretly brought to England in 1453 by Gutenberg's mute apprentice to save it from evil forces, and which now draws Blake into a dangerous and life-threatening quest.
Evangeline Mudd and the Great Mink Escapade	Elliott, David	FIC	3-6	Candlewick Press	978-0-7636-2295-4	2006	Keeping a promise to her friends in the Pals United for Furry Friends organization, ten-year-old Evangeline returns to Mudd Manor to try to rescue a group of minks before they are turned into ballet costumes.
Evil Star	Horowitz, Anthony	FIC	5-8	Scholastic Press	978-0-439-67996-1	2006	Having locked the Raven's gate, fourteen-year-old Matt travels to Peru where he meets the second of the five gatekeepers and works with him to try to stop the opening of a second gate somehow related to the Nazca Lines.
Fairest	Levine, Gail Carson	FIC	5-8	HarperCollins	978-0-06-073408-4	2006	In the Kingdom of Ayortha, Aza, an unattractive woman with a magical voice, learns to balance her appearance with her talent, meanwhile, her singing attracts both Prince Ijori, who cannot resist it, and Queen Ivi, who plots to use it to benefit herself.
Fergus Crane	Stewart, Paul	FIC	3-6	David Fickling Books	978-0-385-75089-9	2006	Nine-year-old Fergus Crane's life is filled with classes on the school ship Betty Jeanne, interesting neighbors, and helping with his mother's work until a mysterious box flies into his window and leads him toward adventure.
Framed	Cottrell Boyce, Frank	FIC	3-6	HarperCollins	978-0-06-073403-9	2006	Dylan and his sisters have some ideas about how to make Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel into a more profitable business, but it is not until some strange men arrive in their small town of Manod, Wales with valuable paintings, and their father disappears, that they consider turning to crime.
Green Glass Sea, The	Klages, Ellen	FIC	5-8	Viking	978-0-670-06134-1	2006	While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

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Harriet Bean and the League of Cheats	McCall Smith, Alexander	FIC	3-6	Bloomsbury Children's Books	978-1-58234-976-3	2006	Harriet helps her detective aunts, Thessalonika and Japonica, investigate cheating at the racetrack by disguising herself as a jockey.
Here Be Monsters!: an Adventure Involving Magic, Trolls, and Other Creatures	Snow, Alan	FIC	5-8	Atheneum Books for Young Readers	978-0-689-87047-7	2006	While gathering food to bring to his grandfather, young Arthur becomes trapped in the city of Ratbridge, where he and some new friends try to stop a plot to shrink the monsters of Arthur's home, the Underworld, for a nefarious purpose.
How to Save Your Tail: if You Are a Rat Nabbed by Cats Who Really Like Stories About Magic Spoons, Wolves With Snout-Warts, Big Hairy Chimney Trolls-- and Cookies Too	Hanson, Mary Elizabeth	FIC	3-6	Schwartz & Wade Books	978-0-375-93755-2	2006	Bob the rat is captured by two of the queen's cats and survives by sharing fresh-baked cookies and stories of his ancestors, whose escapades are similar to those of fairy-tale heroes.
Incantation	Hoffman, Alice	FIC	YA	Little, Brown	978-0-316-01019-1	2006	During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true Jewish identity, and when their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.
Invention of Hugo Cabret: a Novel in Words and Pictures	Selznick, Brian	FIC	3-6	Scholastic	978-0-439-81378-5	2007	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.
Jazz	Myers, Walter Dean	811	3-6	Holiday House	978-0-8234-1545-8	2006	A collection of illustrated poems that celebrate the roots and various styles of jazz music, such as ragtime, bebop, and swing.
Judy Moody: Around the World in 8 1/2 Days	McDonald, Megan	FIC	3-6	Candlewick Press	978-0-7636-2832-1	2006	Judy Moody's new friendship with Amy Namey causes problems with her old friends and the school project they are working on together.

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King of Attolia, The	Turner, Megan Whalen	FIC	5-8	Greenwillow Books	978-0-06-083578-1	2006	Eugenides, still known as a Thief of Eddis, faces palace intrigue and assassins as he strives to prove himself both to the people of Attolia and to his new bride, their queen.
La Linea	Jaramillo, Ann	FIC	YA	Roaring Brook Press	978-1-59643-154-6	2006	When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.
Larklight, or, The Revenge of the White Spiders!, or, To Saturn's Rings and Back!	Reeve, Philip	FIC	5-8	Bloomsbury Children's Books	978-1-59990-020-9	2006	In an alternate Victorian England, young Arthur and his sister Myrtle, residents of Larklight, a floating house in one of Her Majesty's outer space territories, uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system.
Legend of Bass Reeves, The: Being the True Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West	Paulsen, Gary	FIC	5-8	Wendy Lamb Books	978-0-385-74661-8	2006	The story of Bass Reeves who was born a slave and later became one of the most respected federal marshals in Oklahoma and Texas.
Legend of Hong Kil Dong, the Robin Hood of Korea, The	O'Brien, Anne Sibley	741.5	3-6	Charlesbridge	978-1-58089-302-2	2006	A graphic novel retelling of the seventeenth-century Korean story of Hong Kil Dong, a boy who, denied his birthright because his mother is a commoner, trains himself to be strong and wise and sets out to right the injustices shown to peasants before claiming his rightful role as a leader.
Loud Silence of Francine Green, The	Cushman, Karen	FIC	5-8	Clarion Books	978-0-618-50455-8	2006	In 1949, thirteen-year-old Francine goes to Catholic school in Los Angeles where she becomes best friends with a girl who questions authority and is frequently punished by the nuns, causing Francine to question her own values.
Lucy Rose: Busy Like You Can't Believe	Kelly, Katy	FIC	3-6	Delacorte Press	978-0-385-90338-7	2006	Now in fourth grade, palindrome-enthusiast Lucy Rose learns about the perils of eavesdropping while also confiding in her diary her worries that her recently divorced mother is beginning to date.
Lugalbanda: the Boy Who Got Caught Up in a War	Henderson, Kathy	398.2	3-6	Candlewick Press	978-0-7636-2782-9	2006	Presents a retelling of the ancient Sumerian tale about the youngest of eight brothers, Lugalbanda, who is caught up in an ill-advised war and uses his wits and courage and eventually becomes king.

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Man Who Named the Clouds, The	Hannah, Julie	551.5	3-6	A. Whitman	978-0-8075-4974-2	2006	Presents a brief biography of Luke Howard, the French meteorologist who studied and named the different types of clouds, and includes a sample weather journal.
Marco? Polo!	Scieszka, Jon	FIC	3-6	Viking	978-0-670-06104-4	2006	Joe, Sam, and Fred travel to thirteenth-century China, where they disguise themselves as astrologers and meet Marco Polo.
Much Ado About Grubstake	Ferris, Jean	FIC	5-8	Harcourt	978-0-15-205706-0	2006	When two city folks arrive in the depressed mining town of Grubstake, Colorado in 1888, sixteen-year-old orphaned Arley tries to discover why they want to buy the supposedly worthless mines in the area.
My Childhood Under Fire: a Sarajevo Diary	Halilbegovich, Nadja	949.723	5-8	Kids Can Press	978-1-55337-797-9	2006	The true story of twelve-year-old Nadja Halilbegovich as she relates how she and her family survived the constant bombings, attacks, and lack of basic supplies during the siege of Sarajevo in the late 1990s.
My name is Sally Little Song	Woods, Brenda	FIC	3-6	G.P. Putnam's Sons	978-0-399-24312-7	2006	When their owner plans to sell one of them in 1802, twelve-year-old Sally and her family run away from their Georgia plantation to look for both freedom from slavery and a home in Florida with the Seminole Indians.
Mysterious Benedict Society, The	Stewart, Trenton Lee	FIC	3-6	Little, Brown	978-0-316-05777-6	2007	After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.
On Christmas Eve	Martin, Ann M.	FIC	3-6	Scholastic Press	978-0-439-74588-8	2006	Eight-year-old Tess is convinced that if she believes and stays aware of the magic around her, she will meet Santa Claus on Christmas Eve of 1958, when she will thank him for his gifts and ask him to use his magic to cure her best friend's father of cancer.
On the Wings of Heroes	Peck, Richard	FIC	5-8	Dial Books	978-0-8037-3081-6	2007	A boy in Illinois remembers the homefront years of World War II, especially his two heroes--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

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Out of Patience	Meehl, Brian	FIC	3-6	Delacorte Press	978-0-385-90320-2	2006	Twelve-year-old Jake Waters cannot wait to escape the small town of Patience, Kansas, until the arrival of a cursed toilet plunger causes him to reevaluate his feelings toward his family and its history.
Peter Pan in Scarlet	McCaughrean, Geraldine	FIC	3-6	Margaret K. McElderry Books	978-1-41691-808-0	2006	Wendy and the Lost Boys begin having nightmares and realize they must return to Neverland to figure out the cause of them, and when they get there, they embark on an adventure with Peter Pan to find a buried treasure on Neverpeak.
Physik	Sage, Angie	FIC	3-6	Katherine Tegen Books	978-0-06-057737-7	2006	Pulled through a glass that brings him back in time, Septimus Heap becomes the apprentice of an alchemist.
Regarding the Bathrooms: a Privy to the Past	Klise, Kate	FIC	5-8	Harcourt	978-0-15-205164-8	2006	In this novel told through letters, newspaper articles, and police reports, a middle school principal's bathroom renovation project leads to the discovery of stolen Roman antiquities.
River Secrets	Hale, Shannon	FIC	5-8	Bloomsbury	978-1-58234-901-5	2006	Young Razo travels from Bayern to Tira at war's end as part of a diplomatic corps, but mysterious events in the Tiran capital fuel simmering suspicions and anger, and Razo must spy out who is responsible before it is too late and he becomes trapped in an enemy land.
Roxie and the Hooligans	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	FIC	3-6	Atheneum Books for Young Readers	978-1-41690-243-0	2006	Roxie Warbler, the niece of a famous explorer, follows Uncle Dangerfoot's advice on how to survive any crisis when she becomes stranded on an island with a gang of school bullies and a pair of murderous bank robbers.
Rules	Lord, Cynthia	FIC	3-6	Scholastic Press	978-0-439-44382-1	2006	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.
Runaway	Van Draanen, Wendelin	FIC	5-8	Knopf	978-0-375-83522-3	2006	After running away from her fifth foster home, Holly, a twelve-year-old orphan, travels across the country, keeping a journal of her experiences and struggle to survive.

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Saint Iggy	Going, K. L. (Kelly L.)	FIC	YA	Harcourt	978-0-15-205795-4	2006	Iggy Corso, who lives in city public housing, is caught physically and spiritually between good and bad when he is kicked out of high school, goes searching for his missing mother, and causes his friend to get involved with the same dangerous drug dealer who deals to his parents.
Samurai Shortstop	Gratz, Alan	FIC	YA	Dial Books	978-0-8037-3075-5	2006	While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.
Satch & Me: a Baseball Card Adventure	Gutman, Dan	FIC	5-8	HarperCollins	978-0-06-059492-3	2006	With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever.
School's Out-- Forever	Patterson, James	FIC	5-8	Little, Brown	978-0-316-15559-5	2006	After a short stay with an FBI agent who gives them a chance to attend school and live a normal life, the six genetically-altered, winged youths head toward Florida and Max's ultimate destiny--to save the world, whether she wants to or not.
Sloppy Copy Slipup, The	DiSalvo, DyAnne	FIC	3-6	Holiday House	978-0-8234-1947-0	2006	Fourth-grader Brian Higman worries about how his teacher Miss Fromme--nicknamed The General--will react when he fails to hand in a writing assignment, but he ends up being able to tell his story, after all.
Sold	McCormick, Patricia	FIC	YA	Hyperion Books	978-0-7868-5171-3	2006	A novel in vignettes, in which Lakshmi, a thirteen-year-old girl from Nepal, is sold into prostitution in India.
Spirit Walker	Paver, Michelle	FIC	5-8	Katherine Tegen Books	978-0-06-072828-1	2006	When a deadly illness begins to afflict the clans, twelve-year-old Torak, with help from Renn and Wolf, embarks on a journey to find a cure.
Squampkin Patch: a Nasselrogt Adventure, The	Petty, J. T.	FIC	5-8	Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers	978-1-41690-274-4	2006	After escaping from the Urchin House Orphanage, eleven-year-old Milton Nasselrogt and Chloe, his eight-year-old sister, settle into the empty house of a candymaker where they encounter a very sinister pumpkin patch.

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Story of Salt, The	Kurlansky, Mark	553.6	3-6	G.P. Putnam's Sons	978-0-399-23998-4	2006	Illustrations, sidebars, and maps tell the story of the history of salt, how it shaped ancient civilizations, and its influence on the world today.
Tenth City, The	Carman, Patrick	FIC	3-6	Orchard Books	978-0-439-70095-5	2006	Alexa reveals the origin of the Land of Elyon while defending it against the evil Abaddon and his sinister forces, with not only the last Jocasta, but also the nature of the land itself, at stake.
That Girl Lucy Moon	Timberlake, Amy	FIC	3-6	Hyperion Books for Children	978-0-7868-5298-7	2006	Lucy Moon fights injustice whenever she gets the chance, and when her classmates are arrested for sledding on Wiggins Hill, she takes the opportunity to speak her mind against the charges.
Theodore Roosevelt: Champion of the American Spirit	Kraft, Betsy Harvey	973.91	5-8	Clarion Books	978-0-618-14264-4	2006	A biography of the energetic New Yorker who became the twenty-sixth president of the United States and who once exclaimed "No one has ever enjoyed life more than I have."
Wall and the Wing, The	Ruby, Laura	FIC	5-8	Eos	978-0-06-075256-9	2006	In a future New York where most people can fly and cats are a rarity, a nondescript resident of Hope House for the Homeless and Hopeless discovers that although she is shunned as a "leadfoot," she has the surprising ability to become invisible.
Water Street	Giff, Patricia Reilly	FIC	3-6	Wendy Lamb Books	978-0-385-73068-6	2006	In the shadow of the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, eighth-graders and new neighbors Bird Mallon and Thomas Neary make some decisions about what they want to do with their lives.
Weird Stuff	Tulloch, Richard	FIC	5-8	Walker	978-0-8027-8058-4	2006	Soccer player Brian Hobble borrows a pink Easyflow pen at school and suddenly finds himself possessed with writing romantic, flowery love stories, and he is about to return the pen when he discovers Cassandra Wyman is interested in his work.
What Stinks?	Singer, Marilyn	152.1	5-8	Darby Creek Pub.	978-1-58196-035-8	2006	Illustrated text and photographs describe a number of smelly plants and animals including skunks and camels, the rafflesia blossom, ginkgo trees, and animal feces and urine.

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When Santa Fell to Earth	Funke, Cornelia Caroline	FIC	3-6	Scholastic	978-0-439-78204-3	2006	When he and his caravan come crashing down to earth during a thunderstorm two weeks before Christmas, Santa is befriended by two children, Charlotte and Ben, who try to help him save the holiday from the tricks and moneymaking schemes of Gerold Geronimus Goblynch and to take off in time for his annual rounds.
Willy & Max: a Holocaust Story	Littlesugar, Amy	FIC	3-6	Philomel Books	978-0-399-23483-5	2006	In Belgium during World War II, Willy becomes friends with Max and his Jewish family, and although they become separated, they remain related by a bond of friendship and a special painting.
Yellow Star	Roy, Jennifer Rozines	FIC	5-8	Marshall Cavendish	978-0-7614-5277-5	2006	From 1939, when Sylvia is four and a half years old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz ghetto during the Nazi occupation.
Your Eyes in Stars: a Novel	Kerr, M. E.	FIC	YA	HarperCollins	978-0-06-075683-3	2006	In their small New York town, two teenaged girls become friends while helping each other make sense of their families, neighbors, and selves as they approach adulthood in the years preceding World War II.