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**Readers, Books & Dr. Bob: Ideas for Great Summer Reading**

**A Presentation for the San Louis BOCES**

**Adams State University**

**May 4, 2018**

**By Dr. Bob Seney**

**Professor Emeritus/Gifted Studies**

**Mississippi University for Women**

[**rwseney@muw.edu**](mailto:rwseney@muw.edu)

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Many, if not most, of our gifted kids are avid readers, but as you are well aware, there is strong and growing competition for their reading time: music/dance/martial arts lessons, gaming, television, etc. So, our task is to lead our readers into positive reading experiences. Basic to my approach is what I call my “mantra” – Kn*ow the Student; Know their Interests; Know Appropriate Literature; and Make the Match!* What is really important here is to allow students to select their own reading material as much as possible that matches their interests, but at the same time make sure that it is appropriate and challenging.

**My** **Talking Points Today**

* Meeting Dr. Bob: The Book Guy – A Life Time of Reading
* What students are telling me: A Call to Action!
* The Importance of Literature
* Sharing some of my favorite and current young adult literature.

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**Talking Point 1: Introducing Myself: A Life-long Reader**

**Talking Point 2: What I am hearing from students:**

**In conversations with gifted readers, I am hearing:**

* The books that we are assigned to read do not match my interests;
* The books that we read do not relate to me or my life;
* The books that we read are not challenging;
* I have read the books before, sometimes several years ago;
* Nobody seems to know what the new and good books are to read;
* I don’t know where to go to find out about new books.

***I see this as a call to action!***

**Talking Point 3: The Importance of Literature**

1. A reading from *Belzhar* by Meg Wolitzer: Pages 255-256.
2. Why do we expose learners to quality literature?

* The primary reason is for its aesthetic value;
* A secondary benefit is its influence on student writing;
* *By reading literature often and widely, students more readily learn to write…Reading and writing are similar process of composing meaning; practice with one contributes to the success of the other*. (Olness, 2005)
* Reading/literature is the primary way in which we maintain, record, and develop our cultural heritage.

1. With this in mind, ***Ten Principles for the Study of Literature*** have been identified:
2. Literary study must include the genres of the novel, the short story, drama in text and production, film, television, and expository prose.
3. Literature must be studied in context of personal experience.
4. Literature is dynamic not static.
5. Teaching literary facts is not teaching literature.
6. Literature is not a set of answers, but a process of seeking answers, knowing that there may not be any!
7. The end result of literary study is not a single interpretation, but an awareness of many possible interpretations.
8. Literature must be taught in depth.
9. Writing is a natural and necessary outgrowth of literary study.
10. The essence of literary study is discourse.
11. The study of literature flourishes best when the entire community of scholars is involved.

Dr. Alex Grunberg

Gruenberg, Alex T. (1986). Report from the Institute: Notes on the Teaching of Literature. *English Journal*, (75: 6 pp 30-32 Oct 1986)

**Talking Point 4: Sharing some of my favorite and current young adult literature.**

* **First: What are the criteria that I use in recommending books for gifted and advanced readers?**
* **The Halsted List of Characteristics of Books Most Suited for the Gifted:**

* Books that use a high level of language and vocabulary;
* Books that have pronunciation guides, maps, and glossaries (“notes” at the end);
* Books that utilize the full array of literary devices;
* Books that use descriptive words that stimulate strong visual images;
* Books that are written by authors who delight in the use of language and the expression of nuances;
* Books that provide language patterns and vocabularies from other times and places;
* Books whose structure puts the mind to work;
* Books whose settings evoke an experience of other lifestyles;
* Books that present unresolved problems and the reader must make some conclusions.

Judith Halsted (2009)

***In short, gifted and advanced readers want to read who they are!***

**Our Goal for Gifted Readers:** *I think that we can agree that our goal is to help every single reader, especially gifted readers, become skilled, passionate, habitual, critical and creative readers.*

* **Sharing some of my current favorites:**

**See Appendix 1: Books to be Reviewed Today**

**See Appendix 2: *What’s New in Young Adult Literature: 2017 Edition***

**See Appendix 3: A Special Book List**

**Appendix 1: Books To Be Reviewed Today**

**The Underlined Books are candidates for my Top Personal Read in the year they were read – multiple years shown.**

Wolitzer, Meg *Belzhar* (hs)#\* 2014

**2014 Printz Honor** [A first novel – Works of Sylvia Plath]

Daugherty, Jill *Courage and Other Demons* (hs/ms\*) 2013

Daugherty, Jill *Abandoned Courage* (Book 2) (hs/ms) 2013

*Defining Courage* (Book 3) (hs/ms) 2014

Lincoln, Jenna *The Protector Project* (ms) 2015

**Colorado Author, First Novel**. The mix of sci-fi and fantasy that I love. A bit of the *Hunger Game* genre but less violence and more subtle in political comment. Exciting Adventure. *Author’s Note* lists influences and inspirations for the book.

Lincoln, Jenna *The People’s Champion* (hs/ms) 2017

*Book 2: The Protector* *Project* [2016 List]. Mara and Dalin have ended the war

and exposed it as an evil experiment. They set out now to bring down the evil

queen’s rule. Buy at what costs? Author’s End Notes are very good. She has

conquered the weak second book in a series problem.

*Thomas, Angie The Hate U Give (hs/ms)# 2017*

A first novel, made the Long List for National Book Award. Amazing! I expect more awards. Starr lives in two worlds: the black community in which she grew up and the fancy prep school where she attends high school. Her worlds collide when her best

friend, Khalil, dies in her arms, shot by a policeman. Khalil was unarmed.

THUG LIFE: Read the book to find out what this means. “Real” language here, but an important message.

Yoon, Nicola *Everything, Everything* (hs/ms) #\* but mild] 2015

**A First Novel.** A bubble girl, the boy next door, and first love. Wow! What a story with a very surprising end. If readers have not read *The Little Prince* – they will want to! This is an author for whom I will be watching!

*The Sun Is Also a Star* (hs/ms) #\* but mild] 2016

**2016 National Book Award Finalist**. **2017 Printz Honor Book.** **Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award**: A teenage poet and a teenage scientist – how do we explain love – by the heart or by science? An unexpected romance grows between a Jamaican girl, who is to be deported, and an American Korean boy controlled by his traditional father. Cultural conflicts, relationship issues, and more. Wow! Not a heavy read, but definitely a serious read.

Alexander, Kwame *The Crossover* (ms/e) 2014

**2015 Newbery Medal, 2015 NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor (ALA)**

Alexander, Kwame *Booked* (ms) 2016

I may have found a new favorite author. *The Crossover* was a heavy contender for my *2015 Top Ten Reads*. The underline indicates that *Booked* is under consideration for this year. This time Alexander uses soccer for the vehicle of his story and again uses the poetical form to reel out a remarkable story of coming of age, dealing with bullying, first love, and the break-up of his parents’ marriage. Pages 216-233 are a perfect example of the power of bibliotherapy. **Great Read!**

*Solo#* (ms/hs) 2017

The Rules of Life this time are found in titles and lyrics of rock and roll music. Blade Morrison is the talented son of a fading rock and roll star, but the family is dysfunctional and there are secrets. When Blade discovers what they are, he is nearly destroyed until he sets out on a quest. Many layered themes and subthemes and again told in poetical form.

*The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot and Score in This Game Called Life* (ms) 2017 Basketball provides the basis for rules of life. Alexander lists the Rulesof Life in succinct, precise statements. Using his own personal story, he develops the novel by relating stories of real people, mostly, athletes, who have demonstrated the important Rules of Life and have scoredsuccess. I was reminded of *365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Brown’s Book of Precepts* from Palacio’s *Wonder* series.

Woodson, Jacqueline *Brown Girl Dreaming* (e/ms) 2014

**2014 National Book Award, 2015 Newbery Honor, 2015 Robert F. Sibert Honor,** **Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award** 

***Selected as my 2015 “Tom Hebert Memorial Novel”***

Erskine, Kathryn The *Incredible Magic of Being* (e/ms) 2017

**O Wow and Double Wow!** Julian is my new favorite protagonist. Diagnosed as highly emotional gifted (speaking Dabrowski here) and obviously intellectually gifted as well, he has some issues. A move to Maine with his two Moms and his Sister, who “has

exploded into being a teenager;” a cantankerous next-door neighbor, Mr. X; and the task of helping his family and the world to see the real magic that exists in the universe. What a fantastic read!

***Selected as my 2017 “Tom Hebert Memorial Novel”***

Pennypacker, Sara *Pax* (e/ms) 2016

Wow! Poignant and yet very subtle anti-war story: the relationship between

Peter and his pet fox, Pax.

MacLachlan, Patricia *The Poet’s Dog* (e/ms) 2016

Teddy, an Irish wolfhound, is the companion of Sylvan, poet, writer, professor. This is Teddy’s delightful, wonderful story – based on the idea: “Dogs speak words, but only poets and children – Hear.” Teddy saves two children, Nickel and Flora, from a blizzard and their unique love story begins. This would be a great Read-Aloud.

Lewis, John with *March Book Three* (ms/hs) 2016

Andrew Aydin and **2016 National Book Award, 2017 Printz Award, Seibert Informational**

Nate Powell, Ilus. **Book Award and YALSA Award for Excellence (And others!)**

A Graphic novel that is well done (not my favorite genre) but Lewis’ narrative

of his ordeals in the Civil Rights Movement carries the book.

Flanagan, John *The Ranger’s Apprentice Series*

**Appendix 2:** ***What’s New in Young Adult Literature: 2017 Edition***

What’s New in Young Adult Literature: 2017 Edition

Dr. Bob Seney

Lakewood, Colorado

[rwseney@muw.edu](mailto:rwseney@muw.edu)

This is the final list of the books read and selected for my 2017 NAGC presentation. The **Underlined Books** are my personal *Top Ten Reads of 2017.* [This year 18 novels were candidates. Five Candidates for **The** *Top Read*. [High Lighted]All books listed meet Halsted’s (and my) criteria for books most appropriate for gifted readers. **The List on the NAGC Conference Web site is not complete since it was submitted early to meet deadlines. This List will be available at my NAGC Presentation. NAGC is the “traditional” closing time for my annual List.**

Alexander, Kwame *Booked* (ms) 2016

I may have found a new favorite author. *The Crossover* was a

heavy contender for my *2015 Top Ten Reads*. The underline indicates that *Booked* is under consideration for this year. This time Alexander uses soccer for the vehicle of his story and again uses the poetical form to reel out a remarkable story of coming of age, dealing with bullying, first love, and the break-up of his parents’ marriage. Pages 216-233 are a perfect example of the power of bibliotherapy. **Great Read!**

*The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot and Score in This Game*

*Called Life* (ms) 2017

Basketball provides the basis for rules of life. Alexander lists the Rules

of Life in succinct, precise statements. Using his own personal story, he

develops the novel by relating stories of real people, mostly, athletes,

who have demonstrated the important Rules of Life and have scored

success. I was reminded of *365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Brown’s Book of*

*Precepts* from Palacio’s *Wonder* series.

*Solo#* (ms/hs) 2017

The Rules of Life this time are found in titles and lyrics of rock and roll

music. Blade Morrison is the talented son of a fading rock and roll star,

but the family is dysfunctional and there are secrets. When Blade

discovers what they are, he is nearly destroyed until he sets out on a

quest. Many layered themes and subthemes and again told in poetical form.

Arden, Katherine *The Bear and the Nightingale* (ms) 2017

**A First Novel** – Very Promising. A Russian Folk/Fairy Tale set in

Medieval Rus’. Vaysa, a young girl with gifts must save her family

and village – even when they don’t trust her and see her as a

Witch. I have pre-ordered the companion, *The Girl in the*

*Tower* (Dec. 2017).

Aveyard, Victoria *Red Queen* (hs/ms) TR 2015

Post nuclear apocalypse not dystopia, but society has developed

in an alarming way. Mutations have caused a race of silver bloods

with strange powers, who have “enslaved” the red blooded normal.

folk. But then comes Mare: *Red and Silver, and stronger than both*.

*Queen Song* (ms/hs) A Prequel Novella 2015

Provides background for the Red Queen with the death of Queen

Coriane and the evilness of Queen Elara.

*Steel Scars* (ms/hs) A Prequel Novella 2016

Sets the scene for *Red Queen*.

Barnhill, Kelly *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* (e) 2016

**2017 Newbery Medal.** Not sure that I would have given it the

Medal. Slow start and various story lines were not tightly tied

together until the very end. Some very good philosophical

thoughts and great characters. Fantasy and magic.

Bartol, Amy *Secondborn: The Revolution is Born* (hs/ms) 2017

A future society in which second born children serve the First

Born. Until Roselle St. Sismode comes of age. Her mother,

Othala St. Sismode, Clarity of the Fate of Swords, one of the

most powerful rulers of the Republic, seeks to kill her daughter

to insure the rule of her Firstborn Son. Adventure, moves fast,

and a most interesting society and culture.

Campbell, Chelsea *Dragon Bound*\* (ms) SR. 2016

This is so middle school! Good female protagonist who is funny! Not a hard read but think girls will love it. A very different take on dragons. Unfortunately, maybe a bit too much on the lovey, dovey stuff.

DiCamillo, Kate Raymie Nightingale (e) 2016

**2016 National Book Award Finalist.** A book about three girls, baton twirling lessons, and the Miss Central Florida Tire contest. No it’s a

Book about friendship. No, it’s philosophical. No, it’s…wonderful. This is truly one for the serious reader – it carries a bit of challenge.

Erskine, Kathryn The *Incredible Magic of Being* (e/ms) 2017

**O Wow and Double Wow!** Julian is my new favorite protagonist.

Diagnosed as highly emotional gifted (speaking Dabrowski here)

and obviously intellectually gifted as well, he has some issues.

A move to Maine with his two Moms and his Sister, who “has

exploded into being a teenager;” a cantankerous next-door neighbor,

Mr. X; and the task of helping his family and the world to see the real

magic that exists in the universe. What a fantastic read!

***Selected as my “Tom Hebert Memorial Novel”***

Flanagan, John *Ranger’s Apprentice: The Early Years – The Battle of 2016*

*Hackham Heath* (ms). Remains my favorite series.

Garber, Stephanie *Caraval: Remember It’s Only a Game* (ms/hs) 2017

A game, an abusive father, a head-strong sister - all leading to

an amazing adventure of suspense and many strange characters.

Gaiman, Neil *The Sleeper and the* *Spindle* (ms/hs) 2015

Wow! Begins with the book jacket, then the book cover and an

amazing retelling and intertwining of *The Sleeping Princess* and

*Snowwhite* stories. Beautifully illustrated by Chris Riddell, whose

illustrations play an important role in telling the story.

Klingele, Lindsey *The Marked Girl* (ms) 2016

**A First Novel:** Set in contemporary Los Angles. A strange tattoo,

a portal to another dimension, a monumental battle between

the wraiths and three teens from the other dimension.

Really fun! I am looking forward to Book Two of Three.

Lewis, John with *March Book Three* (ms/hs) 2016

Andrew Aydin and **2016 National Book Award, 2017 Printz Award, Seibert Informational**

Nate Powell, Ilus. **Book Award and YALSA Award for Excellence (And others!)**

A Graphic novel that is well done (not my favorite genre) but Lewis’

narrative of his ordeals in the Civil Rights Movement carries the book.

Lincoln, Jenna *The People’s Champion* (hs/ms) 2017 *Book 2: The Protector* *Project* [2016 List]. Mara and Dalin have ended

the war and exposed it as an evil experiment. They set out now to bring

down the evil queen’s rule. Buy at what costs? Author’s End Notes are

very good. She has conquered the weak second book in a series problem.

MacLachlan, Patricia *The Poet’s Dog* (e/ms) 2016

Teddy, an Irish wolfhound, is the companion of Sylvan, poet,

writer, professor. This is Teddy’s delightful, wonderful story – based

on the idea: “Dogs speak words, but only poets and children – Hear.”

Teddy saves two children, Nickel and Flora, from a blizzard and their

unique love story begins. This would be a great Read-Aloud.

Messud, Claire *The Burning Girl*# (ms/hs) 2017

Not your usual story of the breakup of a close relationship between

two girls – best friends since preschool. Intense. I expect to see this

one on award lists.

Newman, Lslea *October Mourning* (hs/ms) 2012

**Whoops! 2013 Stonewall Honor Book**. A book of poetry inspired

by the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay man in Wyoming.

Very moving.

O’Connor, Barbara Wish (e/ms) 2016

Using every wish trick in the book, Charlie makes a daily wish.

Her family is broken and she now lives with an Aunt & Uncle she

has never met. Then she discovers that: “I’d been so busy making

my wish that I hadn’t seen things the way they really are.” A great

mix of *Ruby Holler* by Creech (2003 List) and *Pax* by Pennypacker

(2016 List). Wow!

Paolini, Christopher A. *From This to That* (ms/hs) 2012

*Heart and Home* (ms/hs) 2014

Two connected novellas, which I missed. Pure sci-fi. I was

reminded of the movie *Avatar*. Space travel via the mind.

Rossi, Veronica *Under the Never Sky* \* (ms/hs) SR 2012

First in a series that was recommended to me. It was hard to

put down. A dystopia novel with Pod Dwellers and Outsiders.

Great characters. Really enjoyed, but of course, a Rossi!

Rowley, J. K. *Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them* (e) 2001

**Whoops!** I did not read this earlier since a friend said he did

not like it. I don’t see why! It is funny! Set up as Harry Potter’s

copy of the text by Newt Scamander with Harry’s notes in the

margin. The alphabetical list can be a bit tedious but the intro

notes, etc. are fun!

Sullivan, Mark *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* (hs/ms) 2017

Historical Fiction based on the true story of Pino Pella, a young

Italian in Nazi Occupied Italy who helped many Jews escape and

served as a spy for the Resistance while in the German Army.

An exciting adventure. Good possibility for reluctant male readers,

especially if they have an interest in mountain climbing, skiing, and WWII.

*Thomas, Angie The Hate U Give (hs/ms)# 2017*

A first novel, made the Long List for National Book Award.

Amazing! I expect more awards. Starr lives in two worlds: the

black community in which she grew up and the fancy prep school

where she attends high school. Her worlds collide when her best

friend, Khalil, dies in her arms, shot by a policeman. Khalil was unarmed.

THUG LIFE: Read the book to find out what this means. “Real”

language here, but an important message.

**2018 Printz Honor Book** [Note Added in 2018]

Wheeler, Jeff *The Queen’s Poisoner* (ms) 2016

A great fantasy in the ilk of Robin Hobb. A “what-if” retelling

of the Richard III saga but in the fantasy genre. Hard for me to

put down. Author’s Notes at end are very important.

Wiesner, David & Donna Jo *Fish Girl* (e) A graphic novel – the first for both authors. 2017

Napoli Weisner’s usual striking illustrations but a story with a true

moral. A young, captive mermaid who finds a friend and

freedom. (Napoli of *Zel* fame and other rewritten fairy tales.)

Yoon, Nicola *Everything, Everything* (hs/ms) #\* but mild] 2015

**A First Novel.** A bubble girl, the boy next door, and first love.

Wow! What a story with a very surprising end. If readers have

not read *The Little Prince* – they will want to! This is an author

for whom I will be watching!

*The Sun Is Also a Star* (hs/ms) #\* but mild] 2016

**2016 National Book Award Finalist**. **2017 Printz Honor Book.** **Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award**: A teenage poet and

a teenage scientist – how do we explain love – by the heart or by science?

An unexpected romance grows between a Jamaican girl, who is to be deported, and an American Korean boy controlled by his traditional father. Cultural conflicts, relationship issues, and more. Wow! Not a heavy read, but definitely a serious read.

**A Special List**

*I have created this special list of books published several years ago. It started because of Woodson’s Brown Girl Dreaming (2014) – my Top Read of 2015, I began to look back at Woodson’s Books that I missed.*

Woodson, Jacqueline *Locomotion* (e/ms) 2003

**National Book Award Finalist**

Wow! Don’t read this book unless you are ready to have a real

emotional ride! Lonnie, aka Locomotion, has a poet’s heart and

in poetic form, he tells the story of his life, full of tragedy, but yet

full of hope. It also has some great lessons on writing poetry.

*Peace Locomotion (e/ms) 2009*

In this sequel, Woodson in just 136 pages has written a story

that is at once, about family, friendship, love, responsibility, and

peace. It is also about how teachers can build up and tear down a

student by their attitudes and comments. Set as a series of letters

to his sister, Lili, Locomotion writes of their heartbreak at the loss

of their parents; their separation to two different foster homes; and

how he and his older foster brothers, one of which is just back from

the war and has lost a leg, together rebuild trust, love and family.

“Pray man,” he said. “Pray for Peace.”” …the way I see it, “he added.

You pray for peace, all the rest of the stuff comes…Peace covers everything, Little Brother. Everything” [Pages 40-41: Rodney to Locomotion.]

***I really think this is a must read for everyone.***

*Miracle’s Boys* (ms) 2000

**Winner of 2001 Coretta Scot King Award**

After the death of both parents and through poverty and gang violence, three brothers

find each other. Told from the point-of-view of the youngest brother, Lafe, this is a

powerful story. Woodson at her best.

Codes:

# Language Alert SR = Student Recommended

\* Situation Alert TR = Teacher Recommended

e = elementary school SR Student Recommended

ms = middle school/junior high Whoops Books! = Books that got by me that are really great!

hs = high school

**Appendix 3**:

**A Special Book List**

**Created by Dr. Bob Seney**

**Professor Emeritus/Gifted Studies**

**rwseney@muw.edu**

I decided to make a special list of some of my favorites to share with you. They are mostly current works, but we must remember: *A Book that hasn’t been read is new!* I did not add books from the *2017 What’s New List.*

***Don’t forget: Know the Reader (his/her interests) – Know the Literature – And Make the Match!***

**Primary Grades [Second and Third Graders who are reading novels (“chapter books”)]**

Applegate, Katherine *The One and Only Ivan* (e/) 2012

**2013** **Newberry Award**

Buckley, Michael *N.E.R.D.S. – National Espionage, Rescue and Defense Society* (e) 2009

Joyce, William *Nicholas St. North and the Battle of the Nightmare King: Book One* (e) 2011

*E. Aster Bunnymund and the Warrior Eggs at the Earth’s Core!:*

*Book Two (e)* 2012

*Toothiana, Queen of the Tooth Fairy Armies: Book Three (e)* 2012

[This series is introduced by Joyce’s 2011 picture book: *The Man*

*In the Moon: The Guardians of Childhood –* Highly recommended]

Turnage, Sheila *Three Times Lucky* (e) 2012

**2013 Newbery Honor** [Not a challenging read, but great vocabulary,

well written and very funny!]

**Elementary Grades**

Applegate, Katherine Crenshaw (e) 2015

Wow! Homeless theme and the importance of imaginary friends.

Bell, Cece *El Deafo* (e) 2014

**2015 Newbery Honor, 2015 NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor.** Yes, a graphic

novel (not my favorite genre) has made it to my list, but this theme and

content is so appropriately presented via the graphic novel format.

*Author’s End Note is most important*. This is a significant novel.

Buyea, Rob *Because of Mr. Terupt* (e/ms) TR 2010

Every teacher should read! Deals with it all!

Same impact as the *Wonder Stories*!

DiCamillo, Kate *Flora & Ulysses* (e) 2013

**2014 Newbery Medal Book**: Holy Bagumba!

Thematically, more than Philosophy 101!

Fitzgerald, Laura M. *Under the Egg* (e) 2014

(Two books Tie-in: *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Balliet and *From the Mixed-up*

*Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*: **1968 Newbery** by E.L. Konigsburg

Great time re-reading *Mixed Up Files!* I read 35th Anniversary Edition

with new Afterward by Konigsberg.)

Frost, Helen *Applesauce Weather* (e/ms) 2016

A beautiful love story, told in verse. Faith, Peter & Uncle Arthur

Grabenstein, Chris *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library* (e/ms) 2013

Kelly, Jacqueline *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* (e) 2009

**2010 Newbery Honor Book**

Palacio, R.J. *Wonder (e/ms) 2012*

*The Julian Chapter: A Wonder Story* (e/ms) 2014

*365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Brown’s Book of Precepts* (e/ms*)* 2014

*Pluto* (e/ms) 2015

*Shingaling: A Wonder Story* (e/ms) 2015

“Every person’s story weaves in and out of someone else’s story.”

Also a different take on middle school bullying – a must read.

Pennypacker, Sara *Pax* (e/ms) 2016

Wow! Poignant and yet very subtle anti-war story: the relationship between

Peter and his pet fox, Pax.

Wood, Maryrose *The Incorrigible Children of Ashton Place: The Mysterious Howling -* 2010

*Book 1.* (e)Fun – a bit in the style of Lemony Snicket

*The Incorrigible Children:* *The Hidden Gallery – Book 2 (e)* 2011

“Instructions” at first of each chapter are great!

**Middle School**

Flanagan, John *The Ranger’s Apprentice Series: There are 12 books in this great series:*

*Book 1: The Ruins of Gorlan* (e/ms)2005

*Book 12 – The Royal Ranger* (ms) 2013

Nix, Garth *Clariel* (ms/hs) Prequel to the *Abhorsen* Series (Old Kingdom) (ms) 2014

Scott, Michael *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicolas Flamel (ms/hs) SR There are six*

*books in this series; The First is The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the*

*Immortal Nicholas Flamel* SR (ms) 2007

*The Last is The Enchantres (ms)* 2012

Vawter, Vince *Paperboy* (ms/e) Sophisticated! 2013

Wolk , Lauren *Wolf Hollow* (ms/e) 2016

**A debut novel for young readers:** Take *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, add a bit of

*Ruby* *Holler* (Creech, 2003 List) and a bit of Moon Over Manifest

(Vanderpool, 2011 List) and mix with Wolk’s own creativity and craftsmanship

and you have *Wolf Hollow*, a bit dark but an amazing read of a remarkable and

courageous young girl, Annabelle. Hard to put down!

**High School**

Bray, Libba *Beauty Queens* (hs)\*# 2011

[Unusual format for social comment, situation, and with Bray’s typical

sense of humor]

Daugherty, Jill *Courage and Other Demons* (hs/ms\*) 2013

*Abandoned Courage* (Book 2) (hs/ms) 2013

*Defining Courage* (Book 3) (hs/ms) 2014

By a Denver area teacher and set in Denver and Ireland – Irish Mythology –

a good match for readers who followed Rick Riordan.

Extence, Gavin *The Universe Versus Alex Woods* (hs) #\* 2013

Wow! For the philosopher, the scientist, and the mathematician. Deals

with assisted suicide. Sophisticated. Literary allusions to the work of Kurt Vonnegut.

Lockhart, E. *We Were Liars* (ms/hs) 2014

Reese, James *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mademoiselle Odile* [hs/ms] 2012

[“Prequel” to *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson]

Wolitzer, Meg *Belzhar* (hs)#\* 2014

**2014 Printz Honor** [A first novel – Works of Sylvia Plath]

**Codes:**

# Language Alert

\* Situation Alert

e = elementary school

ms = middle school/junior high

hs = high school

SR Student Recommended

TR Teacher Recommended

**Appendix 4:**

***My Suggestions to Parents to Nurture and Support Their Gifted Readers***

1. My first and perhaps foremost suggestion: Read yourself!
   1. Let your kids see you read;
   2. Tell them about your reading and reading habits;
   3. Talk about the book you are now reading.
2. Create an environment in which a love of books and reading is natural.
   1. Value reading;
   2. Turn off television and gaming or at least restrict time;
   3. Have a family reading time.
3. Read aloud to your kids or let them read to you and this is **not** just for the young ones.
4. Allow your readers to select their own reading material. Provide guidance when needed.
5. Make books available. The research shows that owing books is a great reading motivator.
6. Visit book stores together.
7. Check out reliable book lists such as the American Library Association (ALA) Award Lists and the National Book Awards.
8. Try to read before you recommend, if at all possible, to check language, situations, and possible situations with over-sensitivities.
9. Talk with your reader about what they are reading – best if you have read or are reading the same book together.
10. Explore genres. Don’t get stuck, but it’s okay to find your favorite genre, author, etc.
11. Take parental responsibility for the amount of television time, texting time, and gaming time in which your child is involved.

**Appendix 4: Some Motivational Ideas:**

**The Gifted Reader’s Bill of Rights**

1. The right to read at a pace and level appropriate to readiness without regard to grade placement.
2. The right to discuss interpretations, issues, and insights with intellectual peers.
3. The right to reread many books and not finish every book.
4. The right to use reading to explore new and challenging information and grow intellectually.
5. The right for time to pursue a self-selected top in depth through reading and writing.
6. The right to encounter and apply increasingly advanced vocabulary, word study, and concepts.
7. The right to guidance rather that dictation of what is good literature and how to find the best.
8. The right to read several books at the same time.
9. The right to discuss but not have to defend reading choice and taste.
10. The right to be excused from material already learned.

I’m not sure who is the original author of this “Bill of Rights,” but this format is “borrowed” from Dr. Bertie Kingore.

**Appendix 5: References**

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