

Worlds of Words 2020

Grades 4-5 Additional Recommended Global Fiction

Title and author	Level Info	Global Context	Themes/Plot	Possible Pairings
<i>A Handful of Time</i> , Kit Pearson	760L (U) 186 pp	Canada	Patricia discovers an old watch and is taken back to the summer when her mother was twelve and experienced many restrictions due to gender.	<i>Tofu Quilt</i> , Ching Yeong Russell
<i>A Grain of Rice</i> , Helena Pittman	780 L, RL 6 100 pp	China	A farmer's son wins the hand of a treasured Chinese princess by outwitting her father, the Emperor.	
<i>After the Ashes</i> , Sara Joiner	590 L 278 pp	Indonesia 1883 (Java)	A girl whose passion is science must survive when Krakatoa erupts, and a tsunami sweeps away family.	<i>Lalani of the Distant Sea</i> , Erin Entrada Kelly
<i>Akissi, Tales of Mischief</i> Marguerite Aboutet	183 pp GN	Ivory Coast French Tr	Comic strips of the antics of Akissi and her friends around town in the Ivory Coast. Slapstick humor.	See also: <i>Akissi, More Tales of Mischief</i>
<i>Anya and the Dragon</i> , Sofiya, Pasternack	720 L (Y) RL 5.7 394 pp	Russia 10 th century	A Jewish girl meets dragons. In an alternate 10 th century, Anya tries to protect the dragon that saved her life, putting her family at risk. Mixture of Russian and Jewish traditions. Historical fantasy. Series	
<i>Arcady's Goal</i> , Eugene Yelchin	630L 234 pp	Soviet Union 1945	For Arcady, soccer is more than just a game after his parents are declared enemies of the state, it is a means of survival and it may also be his way out.	<i>Breaking Stalin's Nose</i> , Eugene Yelchin
<i>Beyond the Door</i> , Maureen McQuerry	740L 375 pp	Celtic mythology	When mythical creatures appear, Timothy, Sarah, and Jessica must defeat the powers of the Darkness.	
<i>Binny for Short</i> , Hilary McKay	680L 291 pp	England	Binny struggles to cope with the loss of her father and dog, while she adjusts to a new home.	

<i>Forever Rose</i> , Hilary McKay	870L 291 pp		Rose is not happy when she realizes her sisters and brother are growing up and leaving her behind.	
<i>Saffy's Angel</i> , Hilary McKay	630L 152 pp		Saffy learns that she was adopted and her family helps her return to Italy to visit where she was born.	
<i>The Skylark's War</i> , Hilary McKay	800 L, RL 5.2, 324 pp	WW 1	Characters from Binny's world during WWI where Clarry longs for an education and life of her own.	
<i>The Blackthorn Key</i> , Kevin Sands	630 L 371 pp	England, 1600s	An orphaned boy, an apothecary's apprentice, must solve puzzles and decipher codes to solve a secret that could destroy the world. Series.	
<i>The Bookwanders</i> , Anna James	870 L RL 6.4 283 pp	UK	Tilly Pages finds comfort in her grandparent's bookshop after her mother disappears, realizing that she can bookwander in any story. Series.	
<i>Boat of Dreams</i> , Rogero Coelho	Wordless 80 pp	Brazil Tr	An old man on an island communicates with a boy and his cat in an empty city, who sends a flying boat.	
<i>The Boy with the Butterfly Mind</i> , Victoria Williamson	RL 6.1 253 pp.	UK	Jamie Lee and Ellie want to be "normal," but their lives are in chaos, dealing with ADHD and divorce.	
<i>Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan</i> , Mary Williams	670L (T) 38 pp	Sudan	Orphaned by a civil war, Garang treks across hundreds of miles with other boys seeking safety in Ethiopia and Kenya.	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i> , Linda Sue Park
<i>Brown (My Alter Ego is a Superhero)</i> , Hakon Ovreas	530 L 124 pp	Norway Tr	Rusty and his friends dress as superheroes to stop bullies, guided by his grandfather's ghost. Trilogy	
<i>Captain Rosalie</i> , Timothee de Fambelle	RL 4.7 64 pp	France Tr WWI	The consequences of war for a young girl is gradually revealed through her father's letters.	

<i>The Case of Windy Lake</i> , Michael Hutchinson	670 L (V) RL 6.5 146 pp	Canada Indigenous	The Mighty Muskrats, a group of cousins, take on a mystery involving a mine on tribal land. Series set on Windy Lake, a fictional First Nations peoples.	
<i>Castle Diary</i> , Richard Platt	1010 L (W) 123 pp	England 1200s	Written in a journal format by a page, Tobias records what it is like to live in a castle.	<i>Cici's Journal</i>
<i>Cici's Journal: The Adventures of a Writer-in-Training</i> . Joris Chamblain	GN 148 pp	France Tr	Cici dreams of being a novelist and so watches and takes notes to figure out what secrets are hiding inside them, leading her to mysteries to solve.	<i>Castle Diary</i>
<i>Escape in Time</i> , Ronit Lowenstein-Malz	RL 5.5 171 pp	Hungary WWII	The story of the Eneman family during WWII as they escape the Munkacs ghetto and flee to Budapest.	<i>An Elephant in the Garden</i> , Michael Morpugo
<i>Fly on the Wall</i> , Remy Lai	336 pp	Australia Singapore	Diary-style novel about a Chinese boy who goes on a forbidden solo adventure to prove his independence to his overprotective family.	
<i>Gon, the Little Fox</i> , Nankichi Niimi	780L 35 pp	Japan	Folktale of a fox called Gon who plays a trick that leads to his death.	
<i>The Good Son</i> , Pierre-Jacques Ober	32 pp	France WWI 1914	A young soldier's unauthorized visit home has tragic consequences. Illustrated in miniature tableaux.	
<i>Handbook for Dragon Slayers</i> , Merrie Haskell	770L 324 pp	Europe Medieval	Considered cursed due to her lame foot, Princess Matilda escapes an evil cousin to set off on an adventure with old friends to hunt dragons.	<i>Igraine the Brave</i> , Cornelia Funke <i>The War that Saved My Life</i> , Kimberly B. Bradley
<i>Hero on a Bicycle</i> , Shirley Hughes	880L 213 pp	Italy WWII	Paolo must figure out if he has what it takes to be a hero during the Nazi occupation of Florence.	<i>War Games</i> , Audrey Coulombis
<i>Heroes of the Night Sky</i> , Tom Kindley	22 pp	Greece	Short stories of the ancient Greek myths behind 12 constellations of the night sky.	

<i>Hitler's Canary</i> , Sandi Toksvig	810L 186 pp	Denmark WWII	Bamse and his Jewish friend, Anton, participate in the Danish Resistance in World War II.	<i>When My Name was Keoko</i> , Linda Sue Park
<i>Hunger: A Tale of Courage</i> , Donna Napoli	550 L 259 pp	Ireland 1846	A family struggles to survive during the Irish potato famine as they experience oppression, poverty, and starvation. A slice of history.	<i>Nory Ryan's Song</i> , Patricia Reilly Giff <i>Black Potatoes</i> , by Susan Bartoletti
<i>Iqbal: A Novel</i> , Francesco D'Adamo	730L (X) 120 pp	Pakistan Tr. French	A fictionalized account of a Pakistani child who led children in a protest of child labor in carpet mills.	
<i>It Rained Warm Bread</i> Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet	550 L 148 pp	Poland WWII	The experiences of a Polish Jew, Moishe, whose family try to survive in a ghetto and labor camp.	
<i>Lifeboat 12</i> , Susan Hood	NV, 314 pp RL 4.8	England, WWII, 1940	A group of British children going to Canada must survive in a lifeboat when their ship is torpedoed.	<i>Torpedoed</i> , by Deborah Heiligman
<i>Lily the Thief</i> , Janne Kukkonen	400 L GN 279 pp	Finland Tr	A female thief tries to enter a secret male society and discovers a plot that threatens the world.	
<i>Mary Anning's Curiosity</i> , Monica Kulling	115 pp 840 L	UK Early 1800s	Imaginative re-creation of Mary Anning's childhood and her curiosity that led to her first big fossil find.	
<i>Me, Frida and the Secret of the Peacock Ring</i> . Angela Cervantes	220 pp 710 L RL 5.3	Mexico	Paloma helps her cousins search for a ring belonging to Frida Kahlo that was stolen from her home in Mexico City.	
<i>Mission Mumba</i> , Mahtab Narsimhan	700L 261 pp	India	Dylan is visiting Mubai with his friend, but knows nothing of Indian culture and makes mistakes.	
<i>Nine Open Arms</i> , Benny Lindelauf	660 L 256 pp	Netherlands	Fing narrates the story of her family's arrival at a new home and the history of the mysterious house.	
<i>Fing's War</i> , Benny Lindelauf	411 pp RL 6.4	1944	Continues Fing's story with the changes that WWII brings to their town on the border with Germany.	

<i>No Ordinary Day</i> , Deborah Ellis	580L (W) 159 pp	India	Valli finds out that she has leprosy and rejects help, beginning an uncertain life on the streets.	<i>Nory Ryan's Song</i> , Patricia Reilly Giff
<i>Nory Ryan's Song</i> , Patricia Reilly Giff	600L (T) 148 pp	Ireland 1845	The blight on Ireland's potato crop, creates a dire situation of hunger for Nory and her family. Sequels	<i>No Ordinary Day</i> , Deborah Ellis and <i>Black Potatoes</i> by Susan Bartoletti.
<i>A Slip of a Girl</i> , Patricia Reilly Giff	RL 4.0 234 pp NV	Ireland 1879-1882	Anna must protect her special needs sister when the family is evicted from their farm during the Irish Land Wars after the Great Famine.	
<i>One Dog and His Boy</i> , Eva Ibbotson	910L 282 pp	England	When lonely Hal learns that his new dog is a rental, he and the dog go on a cross-country trek.	
<i>One Half from the East</i> , Nadia Hashimi	RL 3.8 256 pp	Afghanistan	Obayda dresses as a boy, a bacha posh, to help her family and enjoys her newfound freedoms.	<i>The Breadwinner</i> , Deborah Ellis
<i>One Shadow on the Wall</i> , Leah Henderson	760 L, 6.3 438 pp	Senegal	An orphaned boy is tempted to join a gang to keep his sisters safe, breaking a promise to his father.	<i>The Bridge Home</i> , Padma Venkatraman
<i>Our Castle by the Sea</i> Lucy Strange	820 L RL4.7 319 pp	England 1939 WWII	Lucy's life on a lighthouse is torn apart by war and the imprisonment of her German mother.	
<i>Outside In</i> , Jennifer Bradbury	730 L RL 5.1 278 pp	India	In the jungle, a street child discovers a hidden rock garden and befriends the creator, Nek, working to save it from destruction. Based on a true story.	<i>A Single Chard</i> , Linda Sue Park
<i>Pandas on the Eastside</i> , Gabrielle Predergast	730 L, RL 5.5, 172 pp	Canada 1973	Children in Vancouver come to the aid of two stranded pandas, sent as gifts from China to the US.	
<i>Pie in the Sky</i> , Remy Lai	720 L RL 5.6 380 pp	Australia Singapore	A Chinese boy from Singapore moves to Australia after his father's death, facing loneliness and grief.	

<i>Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein</i> , Jennifer Roy and Ali Fadhil	560 L RL 5.4 165 pp	Iraq 1991	Fictionalized account of how Ali and his family struggled to survive during the bombing of Iraq by the U.S. Child's perspective of war	
<i>Promise the Night: A Novel</i> , Michaela MacColl	RL 5.0 262 pp	Kenya	The early life of Beryl Markham in Kenya, who later became the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west.	
<i>Razia's Ray of Hope</i> , Elizabeth Suneby	680 L 32 pp	Afghanistan	Razia wants to attend a girls' school, but first she must get her father and brother's permission.	
<i>Revolution is Not a Dinner Party</i> , Ying Chang Compestine	740L (W) 248 pp	China 1972	Ling struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution and the impact on her family and her own desire to excel in school.	<i>Red Scarf Girl</i> , Ji-li Jiang <i>The Red Piano</i> , Andre Leblanc
<i>Serafina's Promise</i> , Ann E. Burg	590L 299 pp	Haiti	Serafina lives in poverty and struggles to keep her dream of being a doctor alive after the earthquake.	<i>The Red Pencil</i> , Andrea Pinkney
<i>Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings</i> , Elizabeth Laird	RL 4.2 129 pp	Iran	A collection of ancient short stories and myths, written as an epic poem. Classic of Persian literature	
<i>Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad</i> , James Rumford	830L 32 pp	Iraq	As bombs and missiles fall, a boy uses calligraphy to distance himself from the horrors of war.	
<i>Sky Chasers</i> , Emma Carroll	640L RL 4.8, 278 pp	France 1783	Maggie, a master thief, gets involved with a family determined to be the first to fly in a hot air balloon.	
<i>Small Things</i> , Mel Tregonning	Wordless GN, 37 pp	Australia	A young boy struggles with isolation and anxiety, shown as tiny creatures that eat away at him.	<i>Me and My Fear</i> , Francesca Sanna
<i>Stolen Girl</i> , Marsha G. Skrypuch	680 L RL 5.9 194 pp	Canada WWII, 1950	A Ukrainian girl kidnapped as a child and raised by a Nazi family is troubled by memories in her new life in Canada, unsure of her identity. Lida's sister.	

<i>Making Bombs for Hitler</i>	760 L 230 pp	Germany WWII	Lida, a Ukrainian girl, is sent to a labor camp in Germany where she is forced to make bombs.	
<i>Straw into Gold: Fairy Tales Re-Spun</i> , Hilary McKay	720 L RL 6.5 283 pp	Europe	Traditional fairytales are retold by recasting the characters in later events, giving glimpses into ever afters, both happy and not so happy.	
<i>The Ballad of a Broken Nose</i> , Arne Svingen	560L 214 pp	Norway Tr.	Bart has a hard life and must cope with bullies, but gains a friend who appreciate his love of opera.	
<i>The Color of My Words:</i> Lynn Joseph	840L 138 pp	Dominican Republic	Ana Rosa has always depended on her brother and her ability to write, but faces a crisis in her world.	<i>The Shadows of Ghadames</i> , Joelle Stolz
<i>The Day My Father Became a Bush</i> , Joke Van Leeuwen	RL 4.2 104 pp	Netherlands	When Toda's father goes away to fight in the war, she must journey to find her mother and safety.	
<i>The Dogs of Winter</i> , Bobbie Pyron	610L 311 pp	Russia 1990s	A young homeless boy is forced to steal to survive on the streets of Moscow, until he finds comfort and a home with a pack of dogs.	
<i>The Elephant Thief</i> , Jane Kerr	RL 4.4 308 pp	Scotland, UK 1872	Based on the true story of a homeless boy who rides an elephant across England as a publicity stunt.	
<i>The End of the Line</i> , Sharon E McKay	RL 5.9 119 pp	Netherlands WWII	Two engineers on a tram rescue a young Jewish girl from the Nazis after her mother is taken by force.	<i>The Sound of Freedom</i> , Kathy Kacer
<i>The Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey</i> , Demi	920L 34 pp	Turkey	After being forced to change to a fancy new coat for a party, a fool tries to feed his dinner to the coat.	
<i>The Legend of Hong Kil Dong, the Robin Hood of Korea</i> , Ann S. O'Brien	680 L RL 4.7 48 pp GN	Korea 1600s	Graphic novel retelling of a boy who is denied his birthright and sets out to right injustices and to claim his destiny as a leader.	

<i>The Serpent's Secret</i> , Sayantani DasGupta	338 pp 730 L	India	Kiranmala is swept into another dimension of magic she must sort out to find her parents and save the world. Integrates Bengali folklore. Series.	Sequels – <i>Game of Stars</i> , <i>The Chaos Curse</i>
<i>The Shadows of Ghadames</i> , Joelle Stolz	920L (Y) 119 pp	Libya Late 1800s	Malika enjoys and feels constricted by the narrow world of women until a stranger disrupts tradition.	<i>The Color of My Words</i> : Lynn Joseph
<i>The Sound of Freedom</i> , Kathy Kacer	750 L 250 p RL 5.5	Poland 1936	A Jewish girl finds a way to help her family survive the Holocaust by escaping to Palestine.	<i>The End of the Line</i> , Sharon E McKay
<i>The Stamp Collector</i> , Jennifer Lanthier	480L 23 pp	China	A prisoner from the country and a prison guard form a unique friendship based on their love of stamps.	<i>Letters to a Prisoner</i> , Jacques Goldstyn
<i>The Tin Snail</i> , Cameron McAllister	830L (W) 274 pp	France WWII	A boy tries to save his father's job by inventing a special kind of car during Nazi occupation.	
<i>The Unforgotten Coat</i> , Frank C. Boyce	710 L 92 pp	UK/Mongolia	Julia is asked to welcome two Mongolian refugees into her classroom, gradually uncovering their story.	
<i>The Wolves in the Walls</i> , Neil Gaiman	500L 56 pp	England	Lucy is sure there are wolves living in the walls of her house, although others in her family disagree.	
<i>Tsunami!</i> , Kimiko Kajikawa & Ed Young	620L 32 pp	Japan	A wealthy man sets fire to his rice fields to warn villagers of an approaching tsunami.	
<i>Waiting for the Biblioburro</i> , Monica Brown	880L (M) 32 pp	Colombia	When a man brings burros loaded with books to a remote village, he inspires Ana to write a book.	
<i>War Games</i> , Audrey Coulombis	710L 232 pp	Greece WWII	When the Germans invade Greece, the games that Petros plays suddenly become life and death.	<i>Hero on a Bicycle</i> , Shirley Hughes
<i>When Spring Comes to the DMZ</i> , Ok-Pae Yi	1070 L RL 3.0 32 pp	Korea Tr	Grandfather returns each year to the demilitarized zone and the accidental nature preserve that separates N. and S. Korea.	

<i>When You Look Up</i> , Decur	GN	Argentina Tr	Lorenzo is unhappy about moving but finds a hidden book that engages his imagination and changes his perspectives.	
<i>Withering-by-Sea</i> , Judith Rossell	670L 260 pp	England 1800s	Stella gets the adventure of her dreams when she is forced to run from an evil magician. Sequel is <i>Wormwood Mire</i> on dark family secrets.	

Treasure Chest Series, Ann Hood	RL 4.7 215 pp	Global	A historical fantasy series in which twins time travel to a different place in the world in each book to meet a famous historical figure. A short biography of that person is included at the end of the book. Titles include <i>Anastasia Romanov: The Last Duchess</i> , <i>Leonardo da Vinci: Renaissance Master</i> , <i>Queen Liliuokalani: Royal Prisoner</i> . <i>Harry Houdini: Prince of Air</i> , <i>Pearl Buck: Jewel of the East</i> .	
Time Warp Trio, Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith	RL 4.0-5.7 55-70 pp	Global	Three boys time travel to different locations through a magic book that transports them to a new place in history in each book for a grand adventure. Titles include, <i>It's All Greek to Me</i> , <i>Knights of the Kitchen Table</i> , <i>See You Later Gladiator</i> , <i>Tut Tut</i> , <i>The Not-So-Jolly Roger</i> , <i>Marco? Polo!</i>	
Time Travel Guides Linda Bailey	RL 4.8 58 pp	Global	A magical travel agency allows 3 children to travel back in time to ancient civilizations. Their escapes are presented in comic-book style, while the travel guide sections provide historical information.	

			Titles include: <i>On the Run to Ancient China</i> and <i>Game on in Ancient Greece</i> .	
<i>Escape from Egypt</i> , Wendy Mass Time Jumpers series	RL 3.3 590 L 90 pp	Egypt 1921	Two children are transported to the day that King Tut's tomb is discovered and must replace a priceless artifact in the tomb.	

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

Under Levels, the letters, e.g. (O), in parentheses are Fountas and Pinnell levels

7/20/2020