

Worlds of Words 2020

Grade 6-8 Fiction Books: Paired Common Core and Global Texts

CC Title/Author	Level Info	Themes/Plot	Global Pairs	Level Info	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<i>Little Women</i> , Louisa May Alcott	750 L (Z) 544 pp	The joys and sorrows of four sisters growing up in 1800s New England. Passage of childhood to adulthood	<i>My Family for the War</i> , Anne Voorhoeve	900 L 402 pp	Germany, England Tr.	A girl taken on the Kindertransport from Germany to England during WWII develops a close bond with her foster mother. Deals with family, faith, guilt, and loyalty.
			<i>Catherine Called Birdy</i> , Karen Cushman	1170L (X) 169 pp.	England, Middle Ages	The daughter of an English knight keeps a journal to record the events of her life, longing for adventure beyond the usual role of women and trying to avoid being married off.
			<i>A Faraway Island</i> , Annika Thor	680 L (Y) 247 pp.	Sweden, WWII. Tr.	Two Jewish sisters are evacuated from Vienna to a remote Swedish island where they live with Christian foster families, struggling with identity and family. 4 book series.
			<i>Beneath My Mother's Feet</i> , Amjed Qamar	770 L 198 pp.	Pakistan	When her father is injured, Nazia and her mother become servants in a wealthy home. Nazia faces limited life choices as a female but has great inner strength.
			<i>Wanting Mor</i> , Rukhsana Khan	540 L (Y) 190 pp	Afghani- stan	Jamella's life changes when her mother dies and her father abandons her after a new marriage. Her faith sustains her in the orphanage as she makes a family of her own.
<i>My Brigadista Year</i> , Katherine Paterson	RL 6.1 196 pp	Cuba 1961	A young teen volunteers for Fidel Castro's national literacy campaign in the countryside, coming of age as she teaches others to read.			

			<i>Pashmina</i> , Nidhi Chanani	161 pp GN	India	Pri has many questions about her mother. A mysterious pashmina takes her to the India of movies, not the real India. Gender restrictions.
			<i>The Turnaway Girls</i> , Hayley Chewins	258 pp	South Africa	Fantasy in a land where music belongs only to the Masters and girls are to be silent and turn the music into gold, a girl dares to sing.
			<i>Amal Unbound</i> , Aisha Saeed	600 L RL 6.9 226 pp	Pakistan	Amal holds onto her dreams even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt.
			<i>Girl of the Southern Sea</i> , Michelle Kadarusman	620 L 219 pp	Indonesia	A girl in the Jakarta slums who dreams of becoming a writer finds the courage to tell her story when she learns of her father's plans.
<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> , Mark Twain	970 L (Z) 272 pp	Humorous story of a Mississippi childhood in the 1800s with tales of Tom's troubles and adventures and a critique of society	<i>The Glass Collector</i> , Anna Perera	990 L 304 pp	Egypt	A boy collects glass to survive in Cairo, facing overwhelming hardship and finding beauty and happiness in unexpected places.
			<i>Hurricane Dancers</i> , Margarita Engle	1170 L 145 pp. NV	Caribbean 1500s	Verse novel that spins 3 intertwined tales around a shipwrecked pirate ship and an island of Indigenous peoples with a focus on a slave boy who finds a new life for himself.
			<i>Endangered</i> , Eliot Schrefer	900 L 264 pp	Congo	Sophie visits her mother's animal sanctuary in the Congo. A dangerous conflict forces her to flee with a baby bonobo to safety.
			<i>Threatened</i> , Eliot Schrefer	910 L 278 pp	Gabon	Luc, an orphan, becomes a chimp observer, and is thrust into an adventure when his mentor disappears, and he must survive.

			<p><i>Orphaned</i>, Eliot Schrefer</p> <p>940 L 205 pp NV</p> <p>Great Rift Valley, Africa</p> <p>An imagined encounter 600,000 years ago between a child and a gorilla family. Free verse in the voice of a young female gorilla.</p>
			<p><i>Music for Tigers</i>, Michelle Kadarusman</p> <p>739 L 189 pp</p> <p>Tasmania Australia</p> <p>Louise, a violinist, is sent to live with her Australian relatives and learns that her family protects hidden “extinct” Tasmanian tigers.</p>
			<p><i>Village of Scoundrels</i>, Margi Preus</p> <p>RL 6.6 (Y) 305 pp</p> <p>France WWII 1940s</p> <p>An entire French village works together and takes great risks to shelter Jewish refugees and smuggle them to safety.</p>
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , Madeleine L’Engle	740 L (W) 236 pp	Meg, Charles and Calvin embark on a journey through time and space to find Meg’s father in an ultimate battle of good and evil.	<p><i>Larklight</i>, Philip Reeve</p> <p>1180 250 pp</p> <p>England</p> <p>This space fantasy adventure occurs in an alternative Victorian England where Arthur and his sister uncover a spidery plot to destroy the solar system. Trilogy.</p> <p><i>The White Darkness</i>, Geraldine McCaughrean</p> <p>850 L 373 pp.</p> <p>Antarctica</p> <p>A British girl, taken to Antarctica by her uncle, realizes he is dangerously obsessed with finding an entrance to a legendary underground world. Coming of age survival.</p> <p><i>The Blackhope Enigma</i>, Teresa Flavin</p> <p>690 L 280 pp</p> <p>Italy</p> <p>3 children visiting the Blackhope Tower disappear into a 14th century painting that contains worlds within worlds created by a master painter. Sequel- <i>Crimson Shard</i>.</p> <p><i>Fly by Night</i>, Frances Hardinge</p> <p>392 pp 1010 L RL 7.1</p> <p>UK</p> <p>Fantasy world where books are marked as dangerous. Orphan travels with a conman driven by her love of language to find a better life. Sequel – <i>Fly Trap</i></p>

			<i>The Casket of Time</i> , Andri Snaer Magnason	RL 6.4 259 pp	Iceland Tr	Dystopia where people hibernate in time boxes due to the world's problems. Signun's opens too early and she emerges to chaos.
			<i>Ye</i> , Guilherme Petreca	GN 172 pp	Portugal Tr	Ye can make only one sound and travels to find a witch to help him defeat the Colorless King, the source of the world's sorrows.
<i>Dragonwings</i> , Laurence Yep	870 L (W) 248 pp	A young Chinese boy travels to San Francisco to help his father build a flying machine in the early 1900s. Issues of immigration and prejudice	<i>The Bamboo Sword</i> , Margi Preus	820 L 335 pp	Japan 1853	A Japanese boy, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns about the U.S. from a cabin boy when Commodore Perry visits Japan, a fiercely isolationist country. See also <i>Heart of a Samurai</i> , a companion book.
			<i>A Time of Miracles</i> , Anne-Laure Bondoux	700 L 180 pp	Republic of Georgia. France, Tr	A boy with a mysterious past and a woman flee their war-torn country as refugees in 1990, encountering other refugees searching for safety and a better life.
			<i>The Other Side of Truth</i> , Beverley Naidoo	710 L 252 pp	Nigeria, London	Two children are smuggled out of Nigeria by their father when their mother is killed. They feel lost and alone, unsure of truth. Sequel is <i>Web of Lies</i> about their struggles as refugees.
			<i>Nowhere Boy</i> , Katherine Marah	810 L 362 pp	Belgium	In Brussels, a Syrian refugee and an American boy, both unwanted, learn from each other what it means to be brave and have hope.
			<i>The Night Diary</i> , Veera Hiranandani	700 L 264 pp	1947 India Pakistan	Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the partition of India, writes letters to her deceased Muslim mother. Search for home and identity. Award winner.

			<i>Refugee</i> , Alan Gratz	338 pp 800 L RL 6.1	Germany 1930, Cuba 1994 Syria 2015	Parallel stories of 3 refugees from 3 countries and time periods are intertwined to share their journeys in search of refuge.
			<i>Beast Rider</i> , Tony Johnston	181 pp (z)	Mexico	Miguel rides the dangerous train, the Beast, through Mexico to find his brother in LA.
			<i>Illegal</i> , Eoin Colfer & Giovanni Rigano	GN 122 pp	Ghana	Ebo leaves his village in search of his brother, enduring a harrowing journey of loss and hope across the desert and sea
			<i>Jimena Perez puede volar/Jimena Perez Can Fly</i> , Jorge Argueta	32 pp NV Bilingual	El Salvador	In this narrative poem, a Salvadoran girl and her mother flee from gangs. When they reach the U.S. border, she is imprisoned with other children, and separated from her mother.
			<i>Under the Broken Sky</i> , Mariko Nagai	870 L 293 pp NV	Manchuria China Japan, WWII	A Japanese family living in occupied Manchuria become refugees, searching for safety from the Soviet army and angry Chinese villagers. Oppression and survival.
			<i>When Stars are Scattered</i> , Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed	GN 256 pp	Kenya Somalia	Somalian Omar and his nonverbal brother live in a refugee camp in a Kenya. Omar gets an opportunity to attend school but has no one to watch after his brother.
<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> , Mildred Taylor	920 L (W) 276 PP	In Mississippi during the Depression, a family struggles to maintain their pride and	<i>The Vine Basket</i> , Josanne La Valley	740 L (Z) 252 pp	China	A girl with a gift for weaving baskets is Uyghur, an Indigenous group in northwest China who suffer marginalization and injustice.
			<i>Burn My Heart</i> , Beverley Naidoo	740 L 209 pp	Kenya 1950s	The Mau Mau rebel against British rule and injustice, creating danger and tension for two boys whose friendship cuts across racial lines.

		independence in the face of racism and injustice	<p><i>The Lightning Dreamer</i>, Margarita Engle</p> <p><i>Lion Island</i>, Margarita Engle</p> <p><i>A Single Stone</i>, Megan McKinlay</p> <p><i>Refugee 87</i>, Ele Fountain</p> <p><i>White Bird: A Wonder Story</i>, R. J. Palacio</p> <p><i>A Ceiling Made of Eggshells</i>, Gail Carson Levine</p> <p><i>Bone Talk</i>, Candy Gourlay</p>	<p>1070 L 182 pp NV</p> <p>RL 6.8 163 pp NV</p> <p>660 L 267 pp</p> <p>247 pp</p> <p>GN 220 pp</p> <p>371 pp</p> <p>256 pp</p>	<p>Cuba 1800s</p> <p>Cuba 1870s</p> <p>Australia</p> <p>Enitrea</p> <p>France U.S.</p> <p>Spain 1483-1492</p> <p>Philippines 1899</p>	<p>A novel in verse in the voice of a book-loving writer, feminist and abolitionist who fought injustice and the oppression of slavery.</p> <p>Verse novel about a Chinese-African-Cuban boy who became a translator and champion for the civil rights of Chinese laborers in Cuba.</p> <p>Fantasy of a matriarchal society in which girls are starved to be thin enough to mine. Identity tied to the land and to dark secrets.</p> <p>Shif and his friend flee when soldiers enter his village to take boys as soldiers but is caught and taken to prison in a remote desert.</p> <p>Tells the story of the survival of Julian's grandmother during WWII as a Jewish girl, hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied village.</p> <p>Life for Jews in Spain was precarious. Lorna travels with her grandfather to try and keep Jews safe but finally must flee the country.</p> <p>Samkad loves his life and wants to become a warrior but then strangers arrive bringing war and death. U.S. invasion of Philippines.</p>
<i>The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks</i> , Katherine Paterson and Leo and Diane Dillon	930 L 40 pp	Picturebook retelling of a Japanese tale about a caged duck freed by	<i>The Magic Horse of Han Gan</i> , Jiang Hong Chen	890 L 37 pp	China	A master artist paints a horse that comes alive to help an ancient Chinese warrior. Tired of death, the horse leaps to another painting.

		a maid, who is then sentenced to death.	<i>Hope is a Girl Selling Fruit</i> , Amrita Das	RL 5.6 32 pp	India	A woman on a train notices a poor girl and wonders where she is going and her future.
			<i>The Cats in Krasinski Square</i> , Karen Hesse and Wendy Watson	990 L (V) 32 pp	Poland. WWII	Two Jewish sisters escape from the Warsaw ghetto and design a plan to smuggle food for starving people behind the wall.
<i>Black Ships Before Troy</i> , Rosemary Sutcliff	1300 L (Y) 151 pp	A retelling of the Trojan War and the flight of Helen from Greek mythology and the Illiad.	<i>Ithaka</i> , Adele Geras	740 L (Z) 360 pp	Greek mythology	A retelling from Greek mythology of Penelope who waits patiently for the return of Odysseus from the Trojan War.
			<i>The Savage Fortress</i> , Sarwat Chadda	660 L 292 pp	Indian mythology	A fantasy quest based on events from the Ramayana in which a boy is drawn into a life-and-death adventure involving Indian gods.
			<i>Baba Yaga's Assistant</i> , Marika McCoola	125 pp NV	Russian mythology	Baba Yaga from Russian folklore mentors a lonely teen who longs for adventure and answers an ad for the witch's assistant.
			<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Michael Morpurgo	1050 L 174 pp	English legends	The quest of Sir Gawain for the Green Knight who teaches him a lesson in pride and honor. King Arthur legend.
			<i>Reckless</i> , Cornelia Funke	840 L RL 6.8 352 pp	Germany Tr	Jacob secretly enters Mirrorworld, putting his younger brother in danger. Series in which each book is a different global folktale world.
			<i>Changing Woman and Her Sisters</i> , Katrin Tchana	890 L (V) 80 pp	Global	Ten goddesses from different cultures, including Navajo, Celtic, Inuit, Buddhist, Mayan, and Shinto.
			<i>Percy Jackson's Greek Gods</i> , Rick Riordan, John Rocco	790 L 404 pp	Greece	Introduction to the 12 major gods and goddesses of Greek mythology with engaging retellings of their stories

			<i>Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki</i> , Kevin Crossley-Holland	830 L 225 pp	Norway	Well-researched prose and dramatic illustrations provide powerful retellings of Norse mythology and Viking gods.
			<i>The Girl and the Ghost</i> , Hanna Alkaf	288 pp	Malaysia	Based in Malaysian culture and myths about ghosts and death, a story of family, trauma, and friendship as a girl struggles to survive.
<i>The Dark is Rising</i> , Susan Cooper	920 L (X) 244 pp.	Epic struggle of good and evil as a boy is sent on a quest to save the world. Welsh	<i>Fever Crumb</i> , Phillip Reeve	1000 L 325 pp	England	Fever Crumb is raised as an engineer in future London, where women are not considered capable of rational thought. She learns truths about her past while facing increasing danger to her world. Series.
			<i>Akata Witch</i> , Nnedi Okorafor and <i>Akata Warrior</i>	590 L (Z) 349 pp	Nigeria	An albino child of Nigerian parents learns she has magic powers that she and three friends use to catch a serial killer. Her powers in the Leopard Society continue in <i>Akata Warrior</i> .
			<i>The Golden Compass</i> , Philip Pullman	930 L (Z) 399 pp	England	Lyla journeys from Oxford to the North on a quest to save kidnapped children and rescue her father from mercenary bears. Trilogy.
			<i>La Belle Sauvage</i> , Philip Pullman	770 L 449 pp	England	New series, Book of Dust. First book focuses on Lyra's infancy, and Book 2, <i>The Secret Commonwealth</i> , takes place when Lyra is 20 so is positioned after the trilogy.
			<i>A Face Like Glass</i> , Frances Hardinge	487 pp 920 L	England	In an underground city, Neverfell's facial expressions are dangerous in a dark, distrustful world of people with blank faces.

			<p><i>The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge</i>, M. T. Anderson & Eugene Yelchin</p> <p><i>The Storm Keeper's Island</i>, Catherine Doyle</p> <p><i>Of Salt and Shore</i>, Annet Schaap</p>	<p>760 L 516 pp</p> <p>780 L RL 6.2 308 pp</p> <p>352 pp</p>	<p>Fantasy Kingdom</p> <p>Ireland</p> <p>Dutch Tr</p>	<p>Political saga of warring elf and goblin kingdoms leads to double-crosses and cultural misunderstandings with differing stories in prose and illustrations of opposing ideologies.</p> <p>Fionn, who fears the sea, spends his summer on a mysterious island where the ordinary becomes extraordinary. Irish mythology.</p> <p>A girl uncovers a terrifying secret inside a house at the edge of the sea. Elements of <i>The Secret Garden</i> and <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>.</p>
<p><i>The People Could Fly</i>, Virginia Hamilton</p>	<p>660 L (X) 178 pp</p>	<p>African American folktales of animals, supernatural and freedom.</p>	<p><i>Whiskers, Tails & Wings</i>, Judy Goldman</p> <p><i>The Tiny Boy and Other Tales</i>, Muni Bunanta</p> <p><i>Tales from India</i>, Jamila Gavin</p> <p><i>Between Worlds: Folktales of Britain and Ireland</i>, Kevin Crossley-Holland</p>	<p>930 L 58 pp</p> <p>RL 6.1 (R) 84 pp</p> <p>88 pp RL 6.5</p> <p>341 pp</p>	<p>Mexico</p> <p>Indonesia</p> <p>India</p> <p>UK Ireland</p>	<p>Traditional animal folktales of 5 Indigenous groups from Mexico. Also includes info on each culture's history, customs and traditions.</p> <p>8 Indonesian folktales of heroes and sacrifice, love, family, the value of children and nature. Vibrant images by an Indonesian artist.</p> <p>10 Hindu tales on the birth of gods, floods, romances, and battles between good and evil.</p> <p>Retellings of 48 British and Irish folktales passed down by generations. Power of imagination and language.</p>

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