Dear Students and Parents,

This summer all rising 5th graders must read *Gregor the Overlander*, plus at least two other books of their choice. Students must complete the Summer Reading Record (Part 1 and 2) in this packet and turn it in on the first Friday after the beginning of school.

**Required Reading: Collins, Suzanne; Gregor the Overlander**
The required novel provides an opportunity for fifth graders to share a common reading experience and serves as a jumping off point for classroom activities at the beginning of the school year. A discussion guide is included in this packet.

**Additional Reading: At Least Two Other Books**
Summer is a wonderful time to read for pleasure and enrichment. A suggested title list is included in this packet as one possible source of reading guidance in choosing additional books to explore beyond the required novel. Award-winning and “too good to miss” titles are included to appeal to the broad range of interests, maturity levels, and reading abilities of our students, with suggestions coming from students, teachers, and librarians.

After each title, the reading level is indicated using the Accelerated Reader “Book Level” which is a grade level equivalent (e.g., AR BL 5.2 would be grade 5 and 2 months). Please note that the reading level is not an indicator of the interest or maturity level of a book but is given as a general gauge for the difficulty level of the title. Although all of the titles are considered “Middle Grade” in terms of interest level, we encourage parents to oversee what is appropriate for your particular child given that the list is inclusive of some titles geared more to older students.

**Summer Reading Record:** Students are asked to record their summer reading on the “Summer Reading Record” which is included. A completed record, including a parent signature, should be returned to the reading teacher at the start of the new school year.

We hope that books from the summer reading list bring students many hours of enjoyment and encourage the life-long love of reading. So pack an extra book wherever you travel this summer and enjoy your summer READING!

Happy Reading,

Your Reading Teachers and Librarians
Woodward Academy 2015
Summer Reading Record-
Part 1

Name: ____________________________

Complete this reading record and log, have a parent sign it, and bring it to your reading class in August!

Required Novel:

Title – Gregor the Overlander

Rating: ★★★★★

Date Completed- ________________

Choice Novels:

1) Title - ________________________________

Author - ____________________________

Date Completed- __________

Rating: ★★★★★

2) Title - ________________________________

Author - ____________________________

Date Completed- __________

Rating: ★★★★★

Parent Signature ____________________________ Date ________
Record additional titles you read just for fun this summer on this reading log:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Rating:</th>
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Parent Signature __________________________ Date ________

Have a great summer........

Happy READING !
Study Guide for *Gregor the Overlander*
Required Reading for all Rising 5th Graders

Complete the following study guide as you read *Gregor the Overlander*. Be sure to bring this completed Study Guide back to school with you in August along with your "Reading Record".

**Story Map:**

**Author**- Who wrote the novel?________________________________

**Setting:**

**Time** - When does the story take place? ______________

**Place** - Where does the story take place? ______________

**Point of view** - Who is telling the story? ______________

**Protagonist**- Who is the main character?__________________________

**Antagonist** - Who are the bad guys? ______________________________

_____________________________________________________________
### Characters—Write a brief description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boots</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lizzie</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Father</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandmother</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Cromaci</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luxa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aurora</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ares</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vikus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solovet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shed and Fangor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dulcet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mareth and Perdita</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narissa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>King Gorger</td>
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<td>Temp</td>
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<td>Tick</td>
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<td>Ripred</td>
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<td>Treflex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Wevox</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Comprehension – Answer the following questions.

Part One:

1. How long must Luxa wait before she can rule?

2. How many known gateways to the Underland exist?

3. What allowed Boots and Gregor to arrive safely in the Underland?

4. What is the name of the Underlanders’ City?

5. Who originally led the Underlanders to their current location?

6. What did Vikus show Gregor that made his heart stop?

7. Why do the Underlanders have pale skin and violet eyes?

8. What did Dulcet give Gregor that elated him?

9. Why was Gregor elated with the gift?

10. How was Gregor planning to escape Regalia?

11. Why was it important for Boots and Gregor to be bathed and given fresh clothes?

12. What is meant by “bonding” to a bat?
Part Two:

1. Why do the rats hate the Overlanders so deeply?

2. Who is the king of the rats?

3. Who is the queen of the bats?

4. Why did Luxa cut her hair?

5. What has happened to both Luxa and Henry to cause them to be less kind than they were as children?

6. Who was the only other human the crawlers had performed the dance for?

7. Who is the queen of the spinners?

8. Why did the crawlers use their bodies to form a barricade between the rats and the humans?

9. Why do Vikus and Solovet go back to Regalia?

10. What is the common name for each of the Underland creatures?

   spinners_________________   fliers_________________

   crawlers_________________   gnawers_________________

11. What four items did Gregor choose to take with him on the quest?
12. Why does Vikus think the rats have allowed Gregor’s dad to survive so long?

13. Why does Vikus tell Gregor that the rest of the Underlanders are expendable?

14. What did Gregor use to save Luxa?

15. Why does Vikus think Boots is a natural ambassador?

Part Three:
1. Who joined the quest as a guide?

2. Who took over the responsibility of the meals?

3. Why did Ripred take the questers through the tunnel dripping with liquid?

4. What unusual ability do the rats of the Underland have?

5. What ability do the rats wish they had?

6. What did Gregor’s dad make that showed the questers which way to travel to Regalia?

7. How did Gregor save Ares?

8. In the Prophecy of Gray, who are the hopeless?

9. Why does Henry betray the group?

10. Why does Ripred agree to join the quest?

11. Name two traitors in the story.
Woodward Academy
2015 Summer Reading
Suggested Titles For
Rising 4th-6th Graders

This list of suggested titles is organized alphabetically by genre. Please note that the Accelerated Reader Book Level is provided as a general gauge for difficulty level of the text (e.g. AR BL 5.2 would be grade 5 and 2 months), rather than an indicator of the interest or maturity level of a title. Although all of the titles are considered "Middle Grade" in terms of interest level, we encourage parents to ascertain what is appropriate for your particular child given that the list is inclusive of some titles that are geared more to older students.

Contemporary/Realistic Fiction

Abbott, Tony; Firegirl AR BL 4.1
When burn victim Jessica Feeney becomes the new girl at school, everyone avoids her except for fellow seventh grader, social outcast Tom Bender.

Alexander, Kwame; The Crossover AR BL 4.3 Newbery Medal
Twelve-year-old narrator Josh Bell uses the rhythms of a poetry jam to emulate the “moving & grooving/popping and rocking” of life on the basketball court with his twin brother J.B. The boys wrestle with the highs and lows of middle school life as their beloved dad’s health declines.

Birdsall, Jeanne; The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy AR BL 4.7
While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. (Series: The Penderwicks)

Bunting, Eve; Nasty, Stinky Sneakers AR BL 3.3
Will ten-year-old Colin find his missing stinky sneakers in time to enter The Stinkiest Sneakers in the World contest?

Cleary, Beverly; Dear Mr. Henshaw AR BL 4.9 Newbery Medal
In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his personal problems in coping with his parents’ divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Creech, Sharon; Ruby Holler AR BL 4.3
Thirteen-year-old twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage, but their lives change forever when an older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in a place called Ruby Holler.

Davies, Jacqueline; The Lemonade War AR BL 4.1
Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn $100. (Series: The Lemonade War)

Draper, Sharon; Out of My Mind AR BL 4.3
Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Ellis, Deborah; No Ordinary Day AR BL 4.0
"The best day of my life was the day I found out I was alone in the world." Life in Jharia, India was hard for Valli who spent her days picking coal and fighting with her cousins. When she leaves and travels to Kolkata, life brings more adventure and more hardship but, eventually, hope.
Frost, Helen;  **Diamond Willow**  AR BL 4.3
In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.

Gantos, Jack;  **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key**  AR BL 4.9
Joey has problems--big problems. He cannot seem to get along with his classmates. This story is written from a boy’s point of view as he tries to get a grip on his life.  *(Series: Joey Pigza)*

Henkes, Kevin;  **The Year of Billy Miller**  AR BL 4.2  Newbery Honor
Billy Miller starts the school year with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and has learned many important lessons.

Herlong, M.H.;  **Buddy**  AR BL 3.9
Twelve-year-old Li'l T and his family face great losses caused by Hurricane Katrina, including leaving Buddy, their very special, three-legged dog, behind when they must evacuate.

Jacobson, Jennifer Richard;  **Small as an Elephant**  AR BL 5.3
Abandoned by his mother in an Acadia National Park campground, Jack tries to make his way back to Boston before anyone figures out what is going on, with only a small toy elephant for company.

Lord, Cynthia;  **Rules**  AR BL 3.9  Newbery Honor
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.

Lupica, Mike;  **Heat**  AR BL 5.3
Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds;  **Shiloh**  AR BL 4.4  Newbery Medal
When he finds a lost beagle near his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog’s real owner, a mean-spirited man known to mistreat his dogs.  *(Series)*

Paterson, Katherine;  **Bridge to Terabithia**  AR BL 4.6  Newbery Medal
Ten-year-old Jess Aarons, who has lived all his life on a farm in Virginia, becomes friends with Leslie Burke, a "city girl" who moves into the farmhouse down the road. The two become inseparable, until tragedy strikes.

Sachar, Louis;  **Holes**  AR BL 4.6  Newbery Medal
As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which may be because of a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg;  **Counting by 7s**  AR BL 5.6
Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Sonnenblick, Jordan;  **Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie**  AR BL 5.9
The life of thirteen-year-old Steven Alper, already complicated by his friendship with two girls and a talent for drumming, is turned upside down when his five-year-old brother Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia.  *(Sequel: After Ever After  AR BL 5.2)*

**Fantasy/Science Fiction**

Appelt, Kathi;  **The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp**  AR BL 5.4
Twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J'miah try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs Clydine and Buzzie, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch.
Black, Holly; *Doll Bones* AR BL 5.4 Newbery Honor
Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl.

Dahl, Roald; *The BFG* AR BL 4.8
Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling 'cannybull' giants. This selection is best enjoyed as a read-aloud.

DiCamillo, Kate; *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* AR BL 4.3 Newbery Medal
A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.

Eager, Edward; *Half Magic* AR BL 5.0
Four children looking forward to an ordinary summer enjoy a series of fantastic adventures by double-wishing on an ancient coin. (Series)

Jinks, Catherine; *How to Catch a Bogle* AR BL 5.2
In 1870s London, a young orphan girl becomes the apprentice to a man who traps monsters for a living. (Series: How to Catch a Bogle Trilogy)

Kirby, Matthew J.; *The Clockwork Three* AR BL 4.5
As mysterious circumstances bring Giuseppe, Frederick, and Hannah together, their lives soon interlock like the turning gears in a clock and they realize that each one holds a key to solving the others' mysteries.

Law, Ingrid; *Savvy* AR BL 6.0 Newbery Honor
Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. (Sequel: *Scumble* AR BL 5.6)

Lowry, Lois; *The Giver* AR 5.7 Newbery Medal
An exceptional boy in a "perfect" community is to be responsible for receiving and keeping all the memories of the past. What will he do with his special knowledge? Will he discover the terrible truth about the society he lives in? (Series: Giver Quartet)

Norton, Mary; *The Borrowers* AR BL 5.3
Miniature people who live in an old country house and survive by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock. (Series)

Schlitz, Laura Amy; *Splendors and Glooms* AR BL 5.1 Newbery Honor
When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

Scieszka, Jon; *Summer Reading is Killing Me!* AR BL 3.9
At the beginning of summer vacation Joe, Sam, and Fred find themselves trapped inside their summer reading list, involved in a battle between good and evil characters from well-known children's books. (Series: The Time Warp Trio)

Sewell, Anna; *Black Beauty* (unabridged) AR BL 7.7
A horse in nineteenth-century England recounts his experiences with both good and bad masters.

Stead, Rebecca; *When You Reach Me* AR BL 4.5 Newbery Medal
As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The $20,000 Pyramid," sixth grader Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy the laws of time and space.
Stephens, John; *The Emerald Atlas* AR BL 4.9
Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them, but now they learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy. *(Series: The Books of Beginning)*

Stewart, Trenton Lee; *The Mysterious Benedict Society* AR BL 5.6
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. *(Series: The Mysterious Benedict Society)*

**Historical Fiction**

*Avi; Crispin: The Cross of Lead* AR BL 5.0
Set in medieval England, a young boy on the run from his miserable past and accused of murder comes to discover not only his true identity, but his sense of self-worth. *(Series)*

*Curtis, Christopher Paul; Elijah of Buxton* AR BL 5.4
Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada—a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859—uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. *(Companion: The Madman of Piney Woods AR BL 5.7)*

*Cushman, Karen; Alchemy and Meggy Swann* AR BL 5.6
In 1573, the crippled, scorned, and destitute Meggy Swann goes to London, along with her goose Louise, to stay with her father who does not really want her. As he pursues his dream of transforming base metal into gold, she gets caught up in the intrigue and transforms herself.

*Gantos, Jack; Dead End in Norvelt* AR BL 5.7
In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. *(Sequel: From Norvelt to Nowhere AR BL 6.0)*

*Giff, Patricia; Lily's Crossing* AR BL 4.6
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee from World War II causes her to see the war and the world differently.

*Kelly, Jacqueline; The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* AR BL 5.3
In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, leading them to an important scientific discovery.

*Lai, Thanhha; Inside Out & Back Again* AR BL 4.8
Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

*Peck, Richard; On the Wings of Heroes* AR BL 4.6
A boy in Illinois remembers the home front years of World War II, especially his two heroes--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

*Preus, Margi; Heart of a Samurai: Based on the True Story of Nakahama Manjiro* AR BL 5.4
In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him a castaway on a remote island, 14-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

*Schmidt, Gary D.; Okay for Now* AR BL 4.9
When Doug Swieteck's family moves from New York City to a small town in upstate New York, Doug is miserable—until he meets a great girl and learns, from a book of Audubon prints, how to draw. (Companion to: The Wednesday Wars AR BL 5.9 Newbery Honor)

Selznick, Brian; The Inventions of Hugo Cabret AR BL 5.1
When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Timberlake, Amy; One Came Home AR BL 4.8 Newbery Honor
In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

Vawter, Vince; Paperboy AR BL 5.1 Newbery Honor
When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

Williams-Garcia, Rita; One Crazy Summer AR BL 4.6 Newbery Honor
In the summer of 1968, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive in Oakland, California to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. (Sequel: P. S. Be Eleven AR BL 4.6)

Yelchin, Eugene; Breaking Stalin’s Nose AR BL 4.6 Newbery Honor
In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

Mystery

Clements, Andrew; Room One: A Mystery or Two AR BL 5.1
Ted Hammond, the only sixth grader in his small Nebraska town’s one-room schoolhouse, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family.

Dowd, Siobhan; The London Eye Mystery AR BL 4.1
When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Grabenstein, Chris; Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library AR BL 4.5
Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Hamilton, Virginia; The House of Dies Drear AR BL 4.8
An African American family moves into a house once used as a hiding place for runaway slaves and soon come to believe that their new home is possessed by the spirit of a murdered abolitionist, Dies Drear.

Konigsburg, E. L.; From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler AR BL 4.7 Newbery Medal
Eleven-year-old Claudia and her brother Jamie, who is nine, run away from home to live at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After evading the guards for a week, they discover a statue so beautiful that they must solve the mystery of its sculptor.

Turnage, Sheila; Three Times Lucky AR BL 3.9 Newbery Honor
Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. (Sequel: The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing AR BL 4.2)

Weeks, Sarah; Pie AR BL 5.6
When Alice's aunt Polly, Pie Queen of Ipswitch, passes away, she wills the secret to her world-famous pie crust recipe to her cat, Lardo, who is now in Alice's care.

**Non-Fiction**

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell; Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow**  AR BL 7.8 Newbery Honor
A photo-illustrated look at the youth organizations Adolf Hitler founded and used to meet his sociopolitical and military ends; includes profiles of individual Hitler Youth members as well as young people who opposed the Nazis, such as Hans and Sophie Scholl.

**Fritz, Jean; You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton?**  AR BL 6.4
A biography of suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, covering her childhood, her fight for the end of slavery, and her death 18 years before women were granted the right to vote.

**Hoose, Phillip; Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**  AR BL 6.8 Newbery Honor
Presents an account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African-American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks, and covers her role in a crucial civil rights case.

**Leyson, Leon; The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible-- on Schindler’s List**  AR BL 7.0
A memoir by Leon Leyson describing growing up in Poland during World War II, being forced from his home to the ghetto to concentration camps by the Nazis, and being saved by Oskar Schindler.

**Montgomery, Sy; Tarantula Scientist**  AR BL 5.8
Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird-eating tarantula. *(Series: Scientists in the Field)*

**Scieszka, Jon; Knucklehead: Growing Up Scieszka**  AR BL 4.6
How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.

**Sheinkin, Steve; Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon**  AR BL 6.9 Newbery Honor
Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

**Stone, Tanya Lee; Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream**  AR BL 7.1
The story of thirteen true pioneers of the space age. These women proved that they were not only as tough as the toughest man but also brave enough to challenge the government. Their example empowered young women to take their place in the sky, piloting jets, and commanding space capsules.

**Swanson, James L.; Chasing Lincoln’s Killer**  AR BL 7.5
Recounts the escape of John Wilkes Booth, Abraham Lincoln’s assassin, and follows the intensive twelve-day search for him and his accomplices.

**Woodson, Jacqueline; Brown Girl Dreaming.**  AR BL 5.3 Newbery Honor
Jacqueline Woodson shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up during the 60’s in the North and South.

**Wulffson, Don L.; The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle: And Other Surprising Stories About Inventions**  AR BL 7.4
Brief factual stories about how various familiar things were invented, many by accident, from animal crackers to the zipper.