Ivy + Bean* – Annie Barrows – JF BAR
When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.

Wonder – R.J. Palacio – JF PAL
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates.

Walk Two Moons – Sharon Creech – JF CRE
After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother’s route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Clementine* – Sara Pennypacker – JF PEN
While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine helps her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment.

Rules – Cynthia Lord – JF LOR
Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, tween Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E.L. Konigsburg – JF KON
Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, tween Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

The Year of Billy Miller – Kevin Henkes – JF HEN
Billy Miller starts second grade 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.

Swindle – Gordon Korman – JF KOR
Luthor the Doberman, a former attack dog, has a good home with Savannah Drysdale, but every time a certain truck passes he goes into a frenzy, while Griffin Bing is caught up in trying to beat his rival, Darren Vader, at an invention contest.

Harriet the Spy – Louise Fitzhugh – JF FIT
The discovery of Harriet's secret journal, concerning the personalities and activities of her friends and neighbors, causes pandemonium.

For more recommendations, talk to any children’s floor librarian!

Updated 5/2016
Anastasia* – Lois Lowry – JF LOW
Anastasia's 10th year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and...some bad things.

Because of Winn-Dixie – Kate DiCamillo – JF DIC
Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog.

The Penderwicks* – Jeanne Birdsall – JF BIR
While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four young sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

It’s Not the End of the World – Judy Blume – JF BLU
When her parents divorce, a sixth grader struggles to understand that sometimes people are unable to live together.

Because of Mr. Terupt – Rob Buyea – JF BUY
Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.