Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!
by Laura Amy Schlitz
JF Schlitz
2008. Journey to an English village in 1255 where a cast of characters—from millers to maidens—are introduced through colorful portraits and personal stories.

The Tale of Despereaux
by Kate DiCamillo
JF DiCamillo
2004. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

The Higher Power of Lucky
by Susan Patron
JF Patron
2007. Fearing her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, Lucky decides to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead
by Avi
JF Avi
2003. Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

A Single Shard
by Linda Sue Park
JF Park
2002. Tree-ear, a 13-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters’ village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

A Year Down Yonder
by Richard Peck
JF Peck
2001. In 1937, during the Depression, 15-year-old Mary Alice leaves Chicago to spend a year with her fearsome, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois.

Kira-Kira
by Cynthia Kadohata
JF Kadohata
2005. Chronicles the close friendship between two Japanese-American sisters growing up in rural Georgia during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and the despair when one sister becomes terminally ill.
New Kid
by Jerry Craft
JGN Craft
2020. Enrolled in a private school where he is one of only a few students of color, Jordan finds himself torn between the worlds of his Washington Heights apartment home and the upscale circles of Riverdale Academy.

Merci Suárez Changes Gears
by Meg Medina
JF Medina
2019. Alienated from her more privileged classmates at a Florida private school, scholarship student Merci Suarez is targeted by a competitive rival at the same time her beloved grandfather begins to develop memory problems.

Hello Universe
by Erin Entrada Kelly
JF Kelly
2018. Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully’s prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon
by Kelly Regan Barnhill
JF Barnhill
2017. Luna was raised in the forest by a witch, a swamp monster and a dragon, but when a young man from the Protectorate is determined to kill the witch, Luna must use her magic to protect her family.

Last Stop on Market Street
by Matt De la Peña
JP De la Peña
2016. A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.

The Crossover
by Kwame Alexander
JF Alexander
2015. A middle-grade novel in verse follows the experiences of twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan, who struggle with challenges on and off the court while their father ignores his declining health.

Flora & Ulysses
by Kate DiCamillo
JF DiCamillo
2014. Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

The One and Only Ivan
by Katherine Applegate
JF Applegate
2013. When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant who has been added to the mall, he decides he must find her a better life.

Dead End in Norvelt
by Jack Gantos
JF Gantos
2012. In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, 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.

Moon over Manifest
by Clare Vanderpool
JF Vanderpool
2011. Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

When You Reach Me
by Rebecca Stead
JF Stead
2010. In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

The Graveyard Book
by Neil Gaiman
JF Gaiman
2009. After the grisly murder of his entire family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where the ghosts and other supernatural residents agree to raise him as one of their own.