Paperboy by Vince Vawter (J FIC VAWTER)
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.

See You in the Cosmos by Jack Cheng (J FIC CHENG)
Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space.

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper (J FIC DRAPER)
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.

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick (J FIC SELZNICK)
Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben’s story is told in words; Rose’s in pictures.

Absolutely almost by Lisa Graff (J FIC GRAFF)
Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

Glory Be by Augusta Scattergood (J FIC SCATTERGOOD)
In the summer of 1964 as she is about to turn twelve, Glory’s town of Hanging Moss, Mississippi, is beset by racial tension when town leaders close her beloved public pool rather than desegregating it.

One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (J FIC HUNT)
When 12-year-old Carley Conners is put into foster care, she is angry and distrustful of the picture-perfect Murphy family. Mrs. Murphy works hard to gain Carley’s trust, and Carley comes to love her foster mother deeply.

The Lions of Little Rock by Kristen Levine (J FIC LEVINE)
In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks (J FIC WEEKS)
Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems—but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (J FIC ERSKINE)
Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger’s Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (J FIC SPINELLI)
In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

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

Fish in a tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (J FIC HUNT)
Ally’s greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn’t know how to read.

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan (J FIC SLOAN)
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.

Rules by Cynthia Lord (J FIC LORD)
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 an young paraplegic.

Summer of the Gypsy Moths by Sarah Pennypacker (J FIC PENNYPACKER)
A foster child named Angel and twelve-year-old Stella, who are living with Stella’s great-aunt Louise at the Linger Longer Cottage Colony on Cape Cod, secretly assume responsibility for the vacation rentals when Louise unexpectedly dies and the girls are afraid of being returned to the foster care system.

Freaky Fast Frankie Joe by Lutricia Clifton (J FIC CLIFTON)
Twelve-year-old Frankie Joe Huckaby, forced to live with the father he never knew, a stepmother, and four half-brothers in Illinois, starts a delivery service to finance his escape back to his mother in Texas, not realizing he is making a better life for himself than he ever had with her.

True… Sort of by Katherine Hannigan (J FIC HANNIGAN)
For most of her eleven years, Delly has been in trouble without knowing why, until her little brother, R.B., and a strange, silent new friend, Ferris, help her find a way to be good—and happy—again.