

Science Fiction and Fantasy

Fantasy and science fiction allow us to step beyond our own world to discover more about this world. As we meet characters who might not ever exist and stand in lands forged in someone's imagination, we also confront the realities of this real world: the fight of good and evil, the search for identity, the courage common folks can summon, the sustaining joy of family and friends. This list offers readers that chance to wander away and return not only entertained, but enriched.

The Amber Spyglass. Phillip Pullman. Random House, 2000. 518 pp. In the third part of *His Dark Materials* trilogy, Lyra and Will find themselves in the midst of a battle between good and evil.

Among the Hidden. Margaret Peterson Haddix. Simon & Schuster, 1998. 153 pp. In a future world, famine is such a problem that the government has set strict regulations—only 2 children per family. Luke, a third child, spends his days hidden. No school. No playing outside. Just sitting in an attic room, looking out his window vents. Follow with the sequel *Among the Imposters*.

An Acquaintance with Darkness. Ann Rinaldi. Harcourt Brace, 1997. 294 pp. When Emily's mother dies, she has nowhere to go but her uncle's, who she suspects is a grave robber.

Blood and Chocolate. Annette Curtis Klause. Delacorte, 1997. 264 pp. Vivian, a beautiful 16-year-old werewolf breaks the cardinal rule of her kind. She falls in love with a human. This title contains some sexual content; best for older middle school students.

The Bleeding. Patricia Windsor. Scholastic, 1996. 281 pp. When Maris takes a job as a mother's helper in England, she has no idea what she is getting herself into. Maris is strangely attracted to the father. When his wife commits suicide, Maris learns he is a werewolf, and he asks her to join him.

Boxes. William Sleator. Dutton, 1998. 196 pp. One instruction only is she given by her Uncle Marco: Do not open the boxes. Do not even think about opening the boxes. Annie doesn't think this will be a problem. But once he leaves, all she wants to do is open them. Just to have *one little peak*. . . .

Companions of the Night. Vivian Vande Velde. Harcourt Brace, 1995. 212 pp. Ethan is being hunted as a vampire. Kerry does all she can to save him. But is he really innocent?

Copper Elephant. Adam Rapp. Front Street, 1999. 247 pp. In a future world, where acid rain is a constant and children under 12 are used as slave labor, 11-year-old Whensday saves herself from the horrendous fate of the other children her age.

Dancing with an Alien. Mary Logue. HarperCollins, 2000. 134 pp. Branko is sent to Earth when all of the females on his planet die.

He is to find a human female to come back and reproduce for them. Only . . . he doesn't plan on falling in *love* with the female he chooses.

Daughter of the Forest. Juliet Mariellier. Tor, 2000. 400 pp. Sorcha is the beloved sister of six brothers. When her father marries an evil sorceress, a spell is placed on her brothers that only Sorcha can lift.

Dealing with Dragons. Patricia Wrede. Harcourt Brace, 1990. 212 pp. Princess Cimorene is convinced that life as a princess is a bore. But running away and joining the dragons would be a *much* more interesting life, wouldn't it? Sequels include *Calling on Dragons* and *Searching for Dragons*.

Demon in My View. Amelia Atwater-Rhodes. Delacorte, 2000. 176 pp. In this sequel to *In the Forests of the Night*, this 17-year-old author again has a vampiric page-turner.

Downsiders. Neal Shusterman. Simon & Schuster, 1999. 246 pp. Underneath the tunnels of New York City, there is an entire culture of people that lives, unknown to us. Generations ago, they receded from mainstream society, establishing an entire culture around the waste of the American people. Tolan, a member of this group, knows of our society only in mythological legends.

Ella Enchanted. Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins, 1997. 232 pp. Ella is given a "gift" of obedience by her fairy godmother that forces her to do everything she is told. This gift turns curse as she grows up.

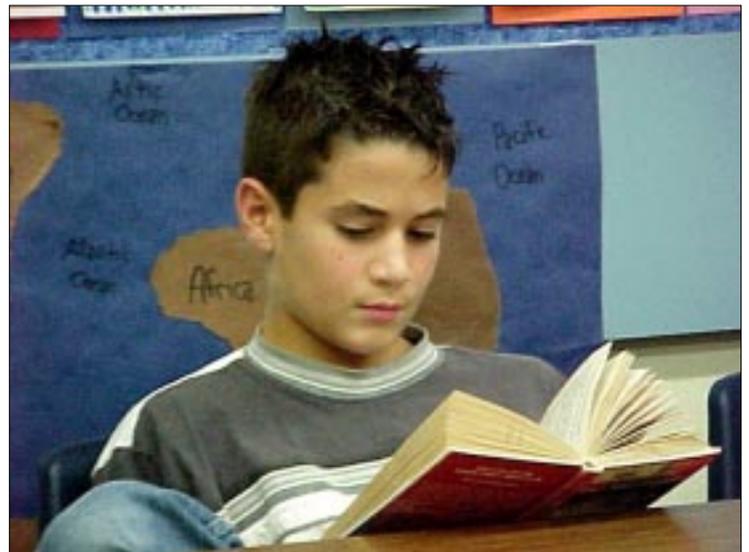
Ender's Game. Orson Scott Card. T. Doherty, 1985. 357 pp. In this award-winning book, readers meet Andrew Wiggins, called "Ender" because he was an authorized third child in a society that limits couples to two children. A genius at age 5, Ender is taken to Battle School where he and other children learn to fight the war that will hopefully save this world.

Ender's Shadow. Orson Scott Card. T. Doherty, 1999. 379 pp. In this parallel novel to *Ender's Game*, Bean, another boy-genius training to fight alien invaders, tells the same story from a different point of view. Follow Bean's continuing story in *Shadow of the Giant* and *Shadow of the Hegamon*.

Eva. Peter Dickinson. Delacorte, 1989. 219 pp. The last thing Eva remembers is picnicking with her family and their chimps. But when she wakes up in the hospital, and can't move, and no one will give her a mirror, Eva knows something is terribly wrong. What she doesn't know is that she has been transplanted into the body of a chimp!

Gathering Blue. Lois Lowry. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. 215 pp. In a companion novel to *The Giver*, recently orphaned Kira is chosen for a very important job. She will embroider the history of her civilization. While at her task, she slowly realizes all is not well in her world.

The Giver. Lois Lowry. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. 180 pp. Jonas is chosen to be the bearer of memories for his society—the one who remembers all truths. What he finds out sets him and his society on a different path.



The Golden Compass. Phillip Pullman. Random House, 1996. 399 pp. Set in another world, where humans' souls take animal form and are their constant companion, a young girl sets off to stop gruesome experiments in which children are being separated from their souls. The adventures continue in *Subtle Knife*.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. J. K. Rowling. A. A. Levine, 1998. 309 pp. Harry's adventures as the world's most famous boy wizard begin in this book. They continue in *Chamber of Secrets*, *Prisoner of Azkaban*, and *The Goblet of Fire*.

I Am Mordred: A Tale of Camelot. Nancy Springer. Philomel, 1998. 184 pp. The Arthurian legend told from the perspective of Mordred, the son who is to kill King Arthur.

In the Forests of the Night. Amelia Atwater-Rhodes. Delacorte, 1999. 147 pp. This vampire novel will appeal to any teen when they learn that the author was only 14 years old.

Jade Green. Phylliss Reynolds Naylor. Atheneum, 1999. 168 pp. Whatever you do, do not bring anything green into the house. These were the only instructions Judith was given when going to live with her uncle. She didn't think the green picture frame that was her mother's last gift would matter to anyone but her. But she was learning to regret not heeding those carefully spoken words.

Kit's Wilderness. David Almond. Delacorte, 2000. 229 pp. In this eerie, complex novel, Kit finds the world of his grandfather while playing "Death" in an abandoned mine tunnel.

The Lost Years of Merlin. T. A. Barron. Philomel, 1996. 326 pp. This five-book epic about the life of a young wizard who grows up to be Merlin begins with *The Lost Years of Merlin*. Other must-reads in the epic include *The Seven Songs of Merlin*, *The Fires of Merlin*, *The Mirror of Merlin*, and *The Wings of Merlin*. This collection isn't just for Merlin fans, but for anyone who wants to read about discovering personal destiny and overcoming life's toughest challenges.

Owl in Love. Patrice Kindle. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. 204 pp. Owl Tycho not only has an unusual name, she has an unusual life. She is a girl by day and an owl by night. She falls desperately in love with her science teacher.

Sabriel. Garth Nix. HarperCollins, 1996. 292 pp. Sabriel must journey into the underworld to save her father who has been unjustly trapped there.

Sang Spell. Phylliss Reynolds Naylor. Atheneum, 1998. 176 pp. When Josh's mother dies in a car accident, he decides to hitchhike across the country. He gets stuck in a strange village in the Appalachian Mountains that he can't seem to escape no matter what. All roads out lead back, and all rivers flow into it.

Silver Kiss. Annette Curtis Klause. Delacorte, 1990. 198 pp. Zoe feels isolated from the world since her mother has become terminally ill—until she

OLD TALES, NEW TWISTS: TRADITIONAL LITERATURE FOR OLDER READERS

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- Aesop's Fox.* Aki Sogabe. Browndeer, 1999. 32 pp.
Beauty. Robin McKinley. HarperCollins, 1985. 247 pp.
Crazy Jack. Donna Jo Napoli. Delacorte, 1999. 144 pp.
Ella Enchanted. Gail Carson Levine. HarperCollins, 1997. 240 pp.
Fables Aesop Never Wrote but Robert Kraus Did. Robert Kraus. Puffin, 1997. 32 pp.
I Was a Rat. Phillip Pullman. Knopf, 2000. 192 pp.
Revolting Rhymes. Roald Dahl. Puffin, 1995. 49 pp.
Squids Will Be Squids. Jon Scieszka. Viking, 1998. 48 pp.
Truly Grim Tales. Priscilla Galloway. Laurel Leaf, 1995.
Zel. Donna Jo Napoli. Dutton, 1996. 240 pp.

finds Simon, a kindred spirit and friend. Little does she know that Simon is a vampire.

Sirena. Donna Jo Napoli. Scholastic, 1998. 210 pp. Sirena, a mermaid with a song that will bind any man to her and grant her immortality, is willing to spend her life without song to assure that no man falls under her spell to his own detriment. But what of a man who loves her without her song?

Skellig. David Almond. Delacorte, 1999. 182 pp. When David starts caring for a hurt and helpless man in the shed of his house, he has no idea that he is caring for an angel.

The Sterkham Handshake. Susan Price. HarperCollins, 2000. 438 pp. A tunnel is opened. The 21st century and 16th century are now connected. Andrea, a linguist, goes to study the language of the Sterkhams and gets caught between the two worlds.

The Stones Are Hatching. Geraldine MacCaughrean. HarperCollins, 2000. 230 pp. Phelim must kill the Stoor Worm, a nightmarish creature that has been sleeping for over 2000 years.

Switchers. Kate Thompson. Hyperion, 1998. 220 pp. Tess has a strange gift. She can become any

animal she wants, she has only to think of it. When she meets a boy who shares this gift, they have great adventures. But will it allow them to save the world? See the sequel *Midnight's Choice*.

Thirsty. M. T. Anderson. Candlewick, 1997. 249 pp. When Chris learns he is turning into a vampire, his battle to remain human begins.

Tomorrow When the War Began. John Marsden. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. 286 pp. Ellie and her friends have gone camping for a weekend. Little did they know that when they return, their country will have been invaded. They are forced to be guerilla fighters.

Truly Grim Tales. Patricia Galloway. Delacorte, 1995. 132 pp. Collection of fairy tales respun as sinister evil stories. Not for the easily scared.

Turnabout. Margaret Peterson Haddix. Simon & Schuster, 2000. 222 pp. Two little old ladies were testing a new drug. It reverses the aging process. Unfortunately—there is no way to stop it.

Wicked. Gregory MacGuire. Regan, 1995. 416 pp. *Wizard of Oz* fans, this is for you. A novelization of the *Wizard of Oz* told from the Wicked Witch of the West's point of view!

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