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.


*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 Blooding.* 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.* Wiliam 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.

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.
We're never too old for a fairy tale—especially the way these tales are told. Enrich your traditional literature unit with these enriched tales; you're sure to find some magical transformations both in the tales and your students' responses to traditional literature!


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*.


*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*. Phyllis 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.


*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*. Phyllis 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
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.


_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.


_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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