

2017-2018 Oregon Battle of the Books

Grades 6-8 Annotated Booklist

***Fallout* by Gwenda Bond (2015)**

Fantasy

HL750L, 303 pages

Although she is the new girl at East Metropolis High, Lois Lane has a strong inclination to ask questions. Her curiosity brings her and her online friend, Smallville Guy, unwanted attention from some video gaming bullies called the Warheads and into a close encounter with a dangerous virtual reality experiment.

***Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (2008)**

Science Fiction

750L, 314 pages

Jonah and Chip, both 13 and both adopted, discover they have even more in common when a series of anonymous letters leads them to a mystery involving a baby-filled airplane that appeared out of nowhere, the FBI, smugglers, and the very real possibility of time travel.

***Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen (2002)**

Realistic Fiction

760L, 292 pages

The pancakes at the growing chain, Mother Paula's, are delicious and well-loved. But when building a new Mother Paula's restaurant would mean the end of a colony of cute but endangered owls, who will stand up for the owls? Can the awkward new kid, Roy, and his feral friends find a way to fight big business and win the day?

***I Am Princess X* by Cherie Priest (2015)**

Mystery/Thriller

790L, 227 pages

Best friends Libby and May invented red-Chuck-wearing superhero Princess X when they were in fifth grade. Then Libby died when her car drove off a bridge. But three years later, May starts seeing Princess X on stickers, graffiti, and finally a webcomic that eerily mimics Libby's life. Who could be behind it all except for Libby? But if Libby is alive, where is she? And what really happened that night on the bridge?

***Kalahari* by Jessica Khoury (2015)**

Adventure

HL790L, 354 pages

When an educational safari goes wrong, five teens are stranded in the Kalahari Desert without a guide and struggling to survive. The situation goes from bad to worse when they are attacked by a mutated lion who leads them to a Corpus lab hiding a deadly and dangerous secret.

***The Lightning Queen* by Laura Resau (2015)**

Historical Fiction

790L, 323 pages

On the Hill of Dust, in the remote mountains of 1950s Mexico, an 11-year-old Mixtec boy called Teo lives with his family and their animals that he has healed. One day a Romany caravan rolls into town bringing new excitement and a girl who calls herself Esma, the Gypsy Queen of Lightning. It is the beginning of a life-long friendship that will change both their lives.

***Lost in the Sun* by Lisa Graff (2016)**

Realistic Fiction 700L, 289 pages

Struggling with guilt and sadness after an accident on a fifth-grade trip that left a classmate dead, Trent Zimmerman befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on.

***The Mark of the Dragonfly* by Jaleigh Johnson (2015)**

Fantasy 820L, 388 pages

In an impoverished, remote village, resourceful orphan Piper rescues an odd girl from the wreckage of a caravan following a meteor shower. The only other survivor of the accident is a sinister man who sends the girls fleeing for their lives, stowed away on the only train out of town, hoping to find protections in the capitol of the Dragonfly Territories.

***Popular: A Memoir* by Maya Van Wagenen (2014)**

Memoir 730L, 259 pages

Paperback title: ***Popular: How a Geek in Pearls Discovered the Secret to Confidence***

Hardcover title: ***Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek***

As an 8th grader, Maya Van Wagenen takes on a unique social experiment, following the advice in a 1950s popularity guide written by former teen model Betty Cornell. But wearing gloves, pearls, and a girdle to a modern urban middle school leads Maya in directions she doesn't expect. The tale of her very real quest for popularity is painful, funny, and surprising.

***Rebel Mechanics* by Shanna Swendson (2015)**

Fantasy 880L, 310 pages

In an alternate New York City in 1888, the British have prevented the Revolution using magic to hold Americans in check. Newly arrived governess Verity Newtown discovers a rising rebellion, fueled by non-magical steam engine power. Drawn in by her attraction to a dashing young man, Verity becomes a spy, assisting those hoping to finally gain freedom from British rule.

***The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen (2011)**

Realistic Fiction HL650L; 336 pages

When a school bus accident leaves 16-year-old track star Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb. Frustrated and overwhelmed by the impact of her injury, she longs to run again, but finds the path to recovery devastating difficult.

***Schooled* by Gordon Korman (2007)**

Humorous Fiction 740L; 208 pages

Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie, but when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced into the eye-opening chaos of attending public middle school.

***The Seventh Most Important Thing* by Shelley Pearsall (2015)**

Realistic Fiction 760L; 278 pages

In 1963, 13-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be more important than he suspects. Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton.

***The Thief* by Megan Whalen Turner (1996) Fantasy 920L; 219 pages**

The king's scholar stumbles onto the secret of where to find an ancient treasure. To get it, he will need a skillful thief. He plucks the boastful thief Gen from prison and sends him off to a remote temple of the gods to attempt the daring theft of a precious stone.

***The Turn of the Tide* by Rosanne Parry (2016) Realistic Fiction 720L; 294 pages**

After barely surviving a devastating tsunami in Japan, Kai is sent to spend the summer with his uncle in Astoria, Oregon. There he gets drawn into the ambitions of his cousin, Jet, a daring and high-spirited sailor at 13, with ambitions of first winning the annual Young's Bay Treasure Island Race and, later, becoming the second female bar pilot in the history of the Columbia River Bar.

***The War that Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (2016)**

Historical Fiction 580L; 316 pages

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.