

# 2017-2018 Oregon Battle of the Books

## Grades 9-12 Annotated Booklist

***The Amulet of Samarkand* by Jonathan Stroud (2003)**

**Fantasy**

**800L; 462 pages**

Nathaniel, a mistreated magician's apprentice, vows to get revenge after being betrayed by his master. After years of secret study, he summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

***Girl of Fire and Thorns* by Rae Carson (2011)**

**Fantasy**

**730L; 423 pages**

Princess Elisa is supposed to be the Chosen One, but feels pretty unremarkable and can't imagine what kind of heroic destiny awaits her. Things start to fall into place, however, after she is secretly married to the king of a neighboring country, then kidnapped by rebels who believe she might be the key to a larger purpose.

***The Indigo Notebook* by Laura Resau (2010)**

**Realistic Fiction**

**780L; 324 pages**

At 15, Zeeta is desperate to settle down after years of following her flighty mother as she moves from country to country. She meets Wendell, an American adopted from Ecuador as a child. They set out to find his birth father, but what they uncover leads them into terrible danger.

***Ink and Bone* by Rachel Caine (2015)**

**Fantasy**

**HL750L; 355 pages**

In a world where knowledge is controlled by the Great Library and personal ownership of books is forbidden, Jess Brightwell's family takes risks daily to trade books on the black market. When Jess becomes an apprentice in the Great Library as a spy, he discovers that those who control the system place little value on human life and all value on maintaining control.

***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson (2014)**

**Memoir**

**1130L; 336 pages**

As a young lawyer, Bryan Stevenson dedicated himself to defending those who were most desperate and in need. One of his first cases involved Walter McMillan, a man facing a death sentence for a murder he insisted he did not commit. In unknitting the case, Bryan learned lesson about the twists and turns of conspiracy, political motivations that completely changed his views about mercy and justice.

***Outrun the Moon* by Stacey Lee (2016)**

**Historical Fiction**

**HL780L; 391 pages**

Mercy Wong, daughter of Chinese immigrants, has maneuvered her way into the prestigious St. Clare's School in turn-of-the-century San Francisco. She thinks the terrible behavior of the spoiled heiresses who surround her is the worst thing she'll face, until the great earthquake of 1906 rips the city apart.

***The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly* by Stephanie Oakes (2015)**

**Mystery/Thriller      HL790L; 396 pages**

The Kevinian cult where Minnow Bly was raised has controlled her life for 12 years, ruined her family, and left her without hands. After their Prophet is murdered and the camp burned down, Minnow is held in juvenile detention by authorities who suspect she knows more than she is saying.

***Spare Parts* by Joshua Davis (2014)**

**Non-Fiction      930L; 224 pages**

Four undocumented Mexican students in Arizona find new purpose when they take on creating an underwater robot. Limited by budget to creatively using scavenged parts and lacking the time, support, and even access to water enjoyed by other teams, this group managed to win the National Underwater Robotics Competition at UC Santa Barbara.

***The Steep and Thorny Way* by Cat Winters (2016)**

**Historical Fiction      880L; 352 pages**

A 16-year-old biracial girl in rural Oregon in the 1920s faces down the Ku Klux Klan and deep suspicions about her new stepfather in the wake of her father's untimely and violent death. Her allies in her search for the truth are her father's ghost and a young man desperate to hide a reputation-shattering secret.

***Uncaged* by John Sandford and Michele Cook (2014)**

**Mystery/Thriller      870L; 407 pages**

Shay Remby is alarmed. Her brother, Odin, is a loose cannon, missing after a raid on a Eugene, Oregon animal research lab goes horribly wrong. The only people looking harder for Odin than Shay are the menacing security team from Singular Corp. who will stop at nothing to keep the secrets that Odin uncovered.

***When I Was the Greatest* by Jason Reynolds (2014)**

**Realistic Fiction      740L; 231 pages**

Growing up in Bed-Stuy, a Brooklyn neighborhood known for guns and drugs, Ali works hard at keeping busy with school and boxing and staying out of trouble. But his best friend Noodles has a real talent for finding trouble and leaving Ali to clean up the messes he leaves behind. One night, though, in the wrong place at the wrong party, the trouble gets bigger than all of them.

***The Wrath & the Dawn* by Renée Ahdieh (2016)**

**Fantasy      HL690L; 395 pages**

Murderous boy-king Khalid takes a new bride each night, then strangles her in the morning. He meets his match in Shahrzad. After Khalid weds and murders her best friend, she is determined to find a way to survive and end his reign of terror. As she enchants him with stories night after night, she is shocked by what she learns about the king and his tormented heart.