**2022-2023 Oregon Battle of the Books**

**6-8 Division Annotated Booklist**

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| **Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston** | 2021 |
| Thirteen-year-old Amari, a poor Black girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician. |
| Fantasy | 432 pages | 700L | AR 4.9 (14 Pts.) |

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| **The Barren Grounds by David A. Robertson** | 2020 |
| Morgan and Eli are Indigenous children who've been brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. After entering a portal to another reality, they find ways to connect with their culture and each other. |
| Fantasy | 256 pages | 680L | AR 4.6 (9 Pts.) |

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| **Blended by Sharon M. Draper** | 2018 |
| Piano-prodigy Isabella, eleven, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police. |
| Realistic Fiction | 320 pages | 610L | AR 4.0 (7 Pts.) |

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| **Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson** | 2014 |
| Raised in South Carolina and New York, author Jacqueline Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. Through vivid free verse, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s. |
| Memoir | 368 pages | 990L | AR 5.3 (5 Pts.) |

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| **Ghost Squad by Claribel A. Ortega** | 2020 |
| Shortly before Halloween, Lucely and her best friend, Syd, cast a spell that accidentally awakens malicious spirits, wreaking havoc throughout St. Augustine. |
| Supernatural Fiction | 272 pages | 810L | AR 5.5 (7 Pts.) |

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| **The Girl from the Sea by Molly Knox Ostertag** | 2021 |
| When fifteen-year-old Morgan falls into the sea, she is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl named Keltie. As the two become friends, they learn they both have secrets. |
| Graphic Novel | 256 pages | HL290L | AR 2.6 (1 Pts.) |

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| **Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse** | 2016 |
| In 1943 Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, teenage Hanneke, a "finder'" of black market goods, is tasked with finding a Jewish girl who a customer had been hiding and has seemingly vanished into thin air. |
| Historical Fiction | 320 pages | 720L | AR 4.9 (11 Pts.) |

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| **In the After by Demitria Lunetta** | 2013 |
| In a post-apocalyptic world in which nothing is as it seems, sixteen-year-old Amy and Baby, a child she found while scavenging, struggle to survive while vicious, predatory creatures roam Earth. |
| Science Fiction | 480 pages | HL610L | AR 4.5 (13 Pts.) |

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| **Me and Sam-Sam Handle the Apocalypse by Susan Vaught** | 2019 |
| Jesse is on the case when money goes missing from the library and her dad looks like the number one suspect. |
| Mystery | 320 pages | 750L | AR 4.8 (10 Pts.) |

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| **Slider by Pete Hautman** | 2017 |
| Hoping to win a cash prize in a pizza-eating contest after racking up a tab on his mother's credit card, David must juggle his competitive eating training with the responsibility of looking after his autistic younger brother. |
| Realistic Fiction | 288 pages | 660L | AR 4.3 (7 Pts.) |

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| **Taylor Before and After by Jennie Englund** | 2020 |
| A heartfelt coming-of-age story told in journal entries before and after a tragic accident that changes one girl's life forever. |
| Realistic Fiction | 320 pages | 690L | AR 4.5 (9 Pts.) |

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| **The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez by Adrianna Cuevas** | 2020 |
| A Cuban-American boy must use his ability to communicate with animals to save the inhabitants of his town when they are threatened by a witch that transforms into animals. |
| Fantasy | 320 pages | 740L | AR 4.7 (7 Pts.) |

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| **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia** | 2019 |
| Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky. |
| Fantasy | 528 pages | 680L | AR 4.8 (15 Pts.) |

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| **We’re Not from Here by Geoff Rodkey** | 2019 |
| After a year on Mars, Lan and Lan's family migrate to the planet Choom, but the inhabitants of Choom don't like humans. It's up to Lan's family to change the minds of Choom's inhabitants if humans hope to survive. |
| Science Fiction | 272 pages | 740L | AR 5.0 (9 Pts.) |

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| **When the Ground Is Hard by Malla Nunn** | 2019 |
| At Swaziland's Keziah Christian Academy, where the wealth and color of one's father determines one's station, once-popular Adele bonds with poor Lottie over a book and a series of disasters. |
| Historical Fiction | 288 pages | 830L | AR 5.3 (10 Pts.) |

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| **While I Was Away by Waka T. Brown** | 2021 |
| When twelve-year-old Waka's parents suspect she cannot understand the basic Japanese they speak to her, they make a drastic decision to send her to Tokyo to live for several months with her grandmother. |
| Memoir | 336 pages |  | AR 5.1 (10 Pts.) |