

"Skinny" List



Denotes new titles recently added to the list

Are you in the market for a book not thicker than your thumb? Do you need a quick reading, page turning adventure? If this fits your requirements, than look no further. This list is for you!

Adventure

Casanova, Mary
Moose Tracks

Twelve-year-old Seth, the son of a game warden, tries to save an orphaned moose calf from poachers.



Kehret, Peg
Earthquake Terror

When an earthquake hits the isolated island where his family is camping, twelve-year-old Jonathan must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed sister and their dog alive until help arrives.



Stealing Thunder

Libby visits her neighbor's spirited horse Thunder every day, grooming and riding him, and when Mr. Porter starts to abuse Thunder she decides to steal him away to safety, with the help of her new friend Griff.

Peterson, P.J.
White Water

Gripping father-son adventure story about a river-rafting trip in which the son courageously saves his father's life.



Gardiner, John
Stone Fox

Little Willie hopes to pay back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters.



Thomas, Jane Rush
Blind Mountain

Unsure of himself and annoyed at having to spend day climbing a Montana mountain with his bossy father, twelve-year-old Sam must become the guide on their perilous journey down when his carelessness temporarily blinds his father.



Kraske, Robert
Marooned : The Strange but True Adventure of Alexander Selkirk, The Real Robinson Crusoe

In 1704, Alexander Selkirk was voyaging across the South Pacific when, after arguing with the ship's captain, he was put ashore--alone--on an uninhabited island. Equipped with little more than a musket and his wits, Selkirk not only survived in complete solitude for more than four years, but came to be quite comfortable and happy. After being rescued by a British privateer in 1709, he took a leading role

Fantasy

Coville, Bruce
The Monster's Ring

A timid boy, eager to frighten the school bully on Halloween, acquires a magic ring and the power to change himself into a monster.





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Levine, Gail Carson
Cinderellis and the Glass Hill

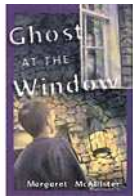
A lonely young farm boy uses his inventive talent to pass an impossible task and win the hand of the neighborhood princess.



(Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2010).

Duey, Kathleen
Janey G. Blue Pearl Harbor, 1941

In Hawaii in 1941, sixth grader Janey G. Blue experiences the terror of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.



McAllister, Margaret
Ghost At The Window

Ewan and his parents love the isolated Scottish house they have moved to, but it slips in and out of different times, and

Ewan finds he must help a young girl trapped by these time shifts and stuck between life and death.

Ehrlich, Gretel
A Blizzard Year

For one year, thirteen-year-old Timmy records in her journal the changes she sees in the natural world and her family's activities on their Wyoming ranch as they fight to save it from financial ruin.



Napoli, Donna Jo
The Magic Circle

A witch's unwilling descent into evil and her ultimate redemption when Hansel and Gretel visit her candy-bedecked house.

Fleischman, Paul
Bull Run

Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.



Tomlinson, Theresa
Child of the May

Fifteen-year-old Magda helps Robin Hood's men rescue Lady Matilda and her daughter Isabelle from the clutches of the Sheriff of Nottingham's evil henchman.



Gifford, Clive
The Water Puppets: A Story from the War in Vietnam

The place is Vietnam, the time is 1967, and the farmers of Noy Thien village are caught in the midst of war. American troops have entered the village, and for thirteen-year-old Xuan and his family, the world is about to turn upside down. Neighbors are fighting neighbors and no one seems to know who the real enemy is.

Historical

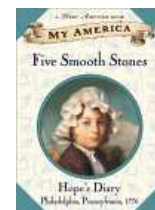
Combres, Elizabeth
Broken Memory

Five-year-old Emma witnesses the brutal murder of her mother during the 1994 genocide massacres in Rwanda and seeks shelter with an aging Hutu woman; but years later when war ends, Emma's fears continue to haunt her as she finds the courage to begin her healing.



Gregory, Kristiana
Five Smooth Stones: Hope's Diary

In her diary, a girl writes about her life and the events surrounding the beginning of





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American Revolution in Philadelphia in 1776.



Hermes, Patricia
Our Strange New Land:
Elizabeth's Diary

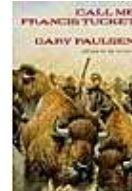
Nine-year-old Elizabeth keeps a journal of her experiences in the New World as she encounters

Indians, suffers hunger and the death of friends, and helps her father build their first home.

1999 conflict in her native Kosovo, she remembers her father's admonition to not let her heart become filled with hate.

Paulsen, Gary
Call Me Francis Tucket

A boy becomes a man on the Oregon Trail during an 1845 wilderness trek across the American west.



Hesse, Karen

Just Juice

Realizing that her father's lack of work has endangered her family, nine-year-old Juice decides that she must return to school and learn to read in order to help their chances of surviving and keeping their house.



The Legend of Bass Reeves:
Being the true and fictional
account of the most valiant
marshal in the West

Bass Reeves was a black man born into slavery who later became the most successful United States Marshal of the Wild West. Paulsen begins this true and fictional account of Reeves by looking at what makes him a "true hero" when compared to Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp, and other western legends. Reeves never drew his gun first, he brought many fugitives to justice, and although he was shot at numerous times, he was never hit. (Summary from Mackin online, 2008)



Lerangis, Peter
Smiler's Bones

Explorer Robert Peary brings six Eskimos to a New York City museum to be a living exhibit. Qisuk, known as "Smiler," and

his son Minik are part of the exhibit. Four of the Eskimos die, including Smiler, and one Eskimo returns to Greenland. Minik spends twelve years at the museum amid lies and deception, in search of the truth and a way to survive.



Nightjohn

Sarny is a slave who wants to read and write, and Nightjohn is a slave who returned from freedom in the north to educate his friends.

Mazer, Harry

Boy at War

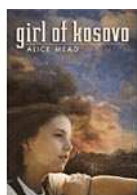
While fishing with his friends off Honolulu on December 7, 1941, Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Spillebeen, Geert

Kipling's Choice

In 1915, mortally wounded in Loos, France, eighteen-year-old John Kipling, son of writer Rudyard Kipling, remembers his boyhood and the events leading to what is to be his first and last World War I battle.



Mead, Alice
Girl of Kosovo

Although Zana, an eleven-year-old Albanian girl experiences the turmoil and violence of the



Van Steenwyk, Elizabeth
A Traitor Among Us

In occupied Holland in 1944, Peter becomes increasingly involved in the



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work of the Dutch Resistance even though he knows the risk of being discovered by the Nazi informer.

Whelan, Gloria

Fruitlands

Fictional diary entries recount the true-life efforts of Louisa May Alcott's family to establish a utopian community known as Fruitlands in Massachusetts in 1843.



Yee, Paul

Dead Man's Gold and Other Stories

The characters in these stories are men and women, rich and poor, greedy and good, young and old -- all Chinese

immigrants struggling to make new lives for themselves in North America

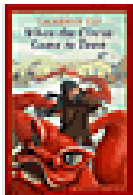


Yep, Lawrence

Earth Dragon Awakens

Eight-year-old Henry and nine-year-old Chin love to read about heroes in popular "penny dreadful" novels, until they both witness real

courage while trying to survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.



When the Circus Came to Town

An Asian cook and a Chinese New Year celebration help a girl at a Montana stage coach station to regain her confidence

after smallpox scars her face.

Humor

Kinney, Jeff

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings



amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

Mystery

Bruchac, Joseph

Skeleton Man

After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great-uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her safety.

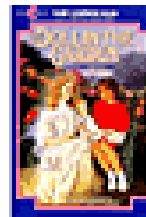


Hahn, Mary Downing

The Doll in the Garden

After Ashley and Kristi find an antique doll buried in old Miss Cooper's garden, they discover that they can enter a ghostly turn-of-the-century

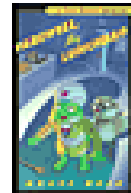
world by going through a hole in the hedge..



Hale, Bruce

Farewell, My Lunchbag: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye

When fourth-grade private eye Chet Gecko is called to catch someone who is stealing food from the school cafeteria, he finds himself framed for the crime.



Realistic Fiction

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Fight for Life

Maggie works at the Wild at Heart Animal Clinic. She gives so much of her time and effort to the clinic, even her grades suffer. However, she is

compelled to help rescue the puppies who've been abused and neglected at the puppy mill.





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Clements, Andrew

The Janitor's Boy

Fifth grader Jack becomes the target of ridicule when it becomes known that his father is a janitor, and he turns his anger onto his father.



from an unlikely "knight in shining armor." (Summary from Hennepin County Library, January 2008)

Gavalda, Anna

95 Pounds of Hope

From the first day, school had always been torture for Gregory, but his expulsion from school in sixth grade allows him to find his own path and deal with his parents' fights and his beloved grandfather's illness. (Summary from Library of Congress, April 2004.)



Creech, Sharon

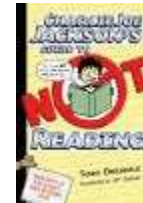
Pleasing the Ghost

Nine-year-old Dennis, whose father and uncle died within a year of each other, is visited by the ghost of his uncle, and together they settle some unfinished business.

Greenwald, Tommy

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading

Middle schooler Charlie Joe is proud of his success at avoiding reading, but eventually his schemes go too far. (Summary from Follett Destiny, November 2011)



DeFelice, Cynthia

Devil's Bridge

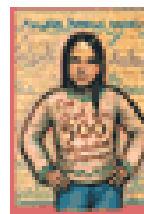
Twelve-year-old Ben must copy with the loss of his father, who died the year before, and his mother's over-protectiveness when he enters the annual striped bass derby on Martha's Vineyard.



Ewing, Lynne

Drive-by

Twelve-year-old Tito, while helping to care for his little sister, struggles to find his way during the aftermath of his brother's death in a gang-related shooting.



Haddix, Margaret Peterson

The Girl with 500 Middle Names

When Janie switches schools, she feels out of place with the richer children there, until she realizes there are more important things than money.

Flake, Sharon

The Broken Bike Boy & the Queen on 33rd Street

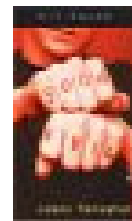
Ten-year-old Queen, a spoiled and conceited African American girl who is disliked by most of her classmates, learns a lesson about friendship



Heneghan, James

Hit Squad

Birgit Neilsen, gorgeous and popular, is tired of the long-standing status quo at Grandview High School. She organizes a group of like-minded students to combat the bullying and terrorism that



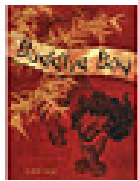


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exists, but their good intentions soon result in tragedy and the death of a fellow student. (Summary from Amazon.com, Oct. 2004)

Johnson, Angela **Looking for Red**

A thirteen-year-old girl struggles to cope with the loss of her beloved older brother, who disappeared four months earlier off the coast of Cape Cod.

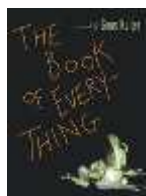
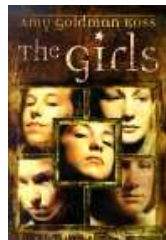


Koja, Kathe **Buddha Boy**

Justin spends time with Jinsen, the unusual artistic new student whom the school bullies torment and call Buddha Boy, and ends up making choices that impact Jinsen, himself, and the entire school.

Koss, Amy Goldman **The Girls**

Each of the girls in a middle-school clique reveals the strong, manipulative hold one of the group is exerting on them.



Kuijer, Guus **Book of Everything**

Nine-year-old Thomas receives encouragement from many sources, including candid talks with Jesus, to help him tolerate the strict family life dictated by his deeply-religious father.



MacLachlan, Patricia **Edward's Eyes**

Edward is one of a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other, and when he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes go to a perfect recipient.

Marsden, John

Checkers

Speaking from a mental hospital, a teenage girl recounts the tremendous media pressure that preceded the breaking scandal of her father's unethical business dealings.



Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds **Achingly Alice**

Thirteen-year-old Alice sets long- and short-term priorities for her life as she experiences the complexities of young love.

Park, Barbara **Mick Harte was Here**

Phoebe recalls her younger brother Mick and his death in a bicycle accident



Park, Barbara **The Graduation of Jake Moon**



Fourteen-year-old Jake recalls how he has spent the last four years of his life watching his grandfather descend slowly but surely into the horrors of Alzheimer's disease.



Schraff, Anne **Lost & Found**

Darcey Willis does not know where to turn for help when a series of frightening incidents culminate with the disappearance of her sister Jamee. (Summary from Follett Destiny, October 2009)



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Siebold, Jan

Doing Time Online

After he is involved in a prank that led to an elderly woman's injury, twelve-year-old Mitchell must make amends by participating in a police program in which he chats online with a nursing home resident



Weeks, Sara

Regular Guy

Because he is so different from his eccentric parents, twelve-year-old Guy is convinced he has been switched at birth with a classmate whose parents seem more normal.



Strasser, Todd

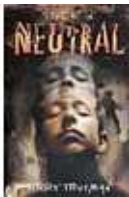
Close Call

A group of fifth and sixth graders find ways to deal with personal problems, family problems and rock throwing high school boys.

Talbert, Marc

The Trap

Avenging her cat's death, Ellie learns the hard lesson between life, death, and nature's way



Trueman, Terry

Stuck in Neutral

Fourteen-year old Shawn McDaniel thinks his father may be planning to kill him.

Walters, Eric

Juice

High school student Michael is torn when he is told to use steroids during his football season. He thinks it is cheating but is told he should use the steroids in order to compete against other teams whose players use the "juice" too.



Overdrive

When two kids get into a horrible traffic accident, they realize that serious events, such as high speed collisions, change life forever.

Unless otherwise noted, summaries are from Hennepin County Library at hclib.org.