

Booklist (Grades 4-6)

Avi. *Crispin: At the Edge of the World: At the Edge of the World*. Hyperion. 2008.

Travel back in time with Crispin and Bear to the 14th Century lifestyle as traveling minstrels and jugglers. This second book of the trilogy is packed with twists and turns in the plot encompassing themes such as religion, war and the meaning of family. Buckle in for the adventure ride through medieval Europe!

Brown, P. *The Curious Gardener*. Little, Brown Young Readers. 2008.

Pick up this book to follow one boy's quest for a greener world...one garden at a time. Liam is thinking about the future of our Earth and transforms a gray city into a lush, green world. Books can truly be "windows on the world".

Ellis, D. *The Breadwinner*. Groundwood Books. 2000.

Books can open our eyes to the reality of the lives of children around the world as a way for readers to connect themselves to a world other than their own. Follow the journey of Parvana, an 11-year-old Afghan girl, whose life has been completely changed since the Taliban took over. Bringing the real stories of refugees to children of the Western world evokes dialogue for change and compassion to those living in the harsh realities of war torn countries.

Gaiman, N. *The Graveyard Book*. 2008.

Open your eyes to the unconventional world of Nobody Owens. Bod is endangered by the mysteries of the magical and captive by the strange and unusual setting of living in a graveyard. Nothing is normal in this normal boy's life. Escape to the graveyard with Bod!

MacLachlan, P. *Edward's Eyes*. Simon and Schuster/Atheneum. 2007.

Creating empathy for one another in the development of life sheds light on the future of the world. Read about the inspiring life of one little boy who's spirit lives on in his telling story. This small, poetic story sings of baseball, family, loss, and life. As Milo Ventimiglia portrays Jake reflecting on his brother with the extraordinary eyes, his voice is full of the amazement and awe Jake feels in contemplating the miracle that was Edward's life.

Martin, A. *A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray*. Scholastic. 2007.

Point of view can really change the way from which we view the world. In *A Dog's Life*, a dog narrates her ten year life story as a stray. When readers can view the world from another's perspective we can feel how things may have been for someone else. A great read for all animal lovers!

McDonnell, P. *South*. Little, Brown Young Readers. 2008.

"Books are windows on the world." Follow a little bird as he finds himself all alone and discovers the best possible gift anyone could hope for – a real friend. Explore how the world is waiting to be discovered only to be best discovered together with a friend.

Mortenson, G. *Three Cups of Tea Young Readers Edition*. Puffin. 2009.

This popular adult book has been rewritten for a younger audience to create discussion among children and adults alike to bring compassion and global understanding of different cultures. The story begins with a failed dream to climb K2 and a promise to return to the village and build them a school in gratitude for nursing Mortenson to health. In keeping that promise, Mortenson's team helps the impoverished children in Pakistan and Afghanistan with an education.

Myron, V. *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*. Grand Central Publishing. 2008.

This book is a tribute to cats and librarians! Dewey Readmore, a ginger kitten, is anthropomorphized in this clever tale set in small town Spencer, Iowa who has several interactions with many of the local citizens. Sit back and enjoy the recount of the challenges and trials of this creative tale of a cat who truly 'touched the world'.

Oppel, K. *Starclimber*. Harper Trophy Canada. 2008

Bestselling author Kenneth Oppel writes the riveting tale of Matt and Kate's journey to outer space. Join these youngsters as they travel to the moon –not without a few political bumps along the way to reach space. Learn how the French and Canadians battle their way to be the first country to travel beyond the only world known to humans.

Paulsen, G. *Tracker. Aladdin. 2007.*

Through Paulsen's descriptive tale of a boy on a deer hunt, readers are taken to a new world into the depths of the forest. Grow alongside the main character, John, and his eventful life growing up on a farm and the challenges he faces as the son of a dairy farmer.

Schlitz, L. *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a Medieval Village. Candlewick. 2008.*

21st Century children can engage in twenty-two monologues from a 13th Century English village. This gem of a resource is equipped with a range of old-English vocabulary and terms from the days of Kings and Queens and village villains.

Sperry, A. *Call It Courage. Aladdin. 2003.*

This book is a classic story opening the reader's eyes to the past and a different culture. Students can explore issues that arise from the struggles Mafatu experiences in the south pacific.

Strauss, R. & Woods, R. *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth. Kids Can Press. 2007.*

This richly illustrated picture book is suitable for all ages to shed light on our planet's most precious resource: water. *One Well* is filled with facts on water's importance on Earth to all living creatures. Readers can feel empowered to take steps to protect the Earth's water supply.

Tan, S. *The Arrival. Arthur A. Levine Books. 2007.*

What better way to state that "books are windows on the world" than through one of Shaun Tan's wordless graphic novel. Open your eyes to the world of one immigrant man and experience the feeling new immigrants feel when entering a new culture and environment. The 'strangeness' of this text is enhanced through the only words in this book, an invented alphabet, that remain foreign to new comers.