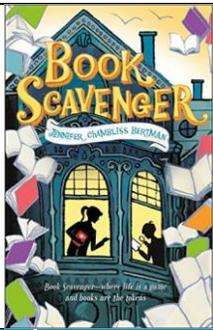
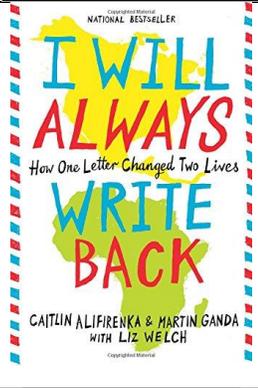
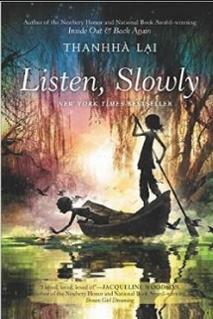
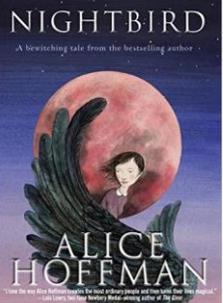
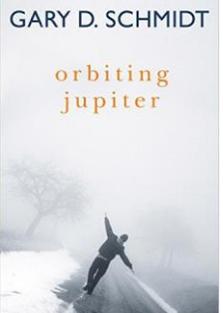
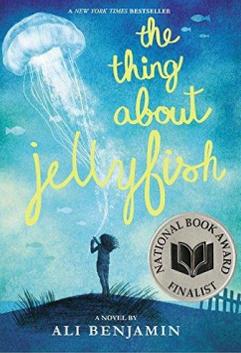


**2016-17 Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominees for grades 6-9**  
**(RL=Reading Level by grade. IL=Interest Level by grade. YA=Young Adult.)**

	<p><b>Book Scavenger by Jennifer Bertman Chambliss</b></p> <p>For twelve-year-old Emily, the best thing about moving to San Francisco is that it's the home city of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, book publisher and creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger (a game where books are hidden in cities all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles). Upon her arrival, however, Emily learns that Griswold has been attacked and is now in a coma, and no one knows anything about the epic new game he had been poised to launch. Then Emily and her new friend James discover an odd book, which they come to believe is from Griswold himself, and might contain the only copy of his mysterious new game. <b>RL=5.5 IL=5-8</b></p>
	<p><b>House Arrest by K.A. Holt</b></p> <p>Timothy is on probation. It's a strange word—something that happens to other kids, to delinquents, not to kids like him. And yet, he is under house arrest for the next year. He must check in weekly with a probation officer and a therapist, and keep a journal for an entire year. And mostly, he has to stay out of trouble. But when he must take drastic measures to help his struggling family, staying out of trouble proves more difficult than Timothy ever thought it would be. By turns touching and funny, and always original, <i>House Arrest</i> is a middle grade novel in verse about one boy's path to redemption as he navigates life with a sick brother, a grieving mother, and one tough probation officer. <b>RL=4.7 IL=5-8</b></p>
	<p><b>I Am Princess X by Cherie Priest</b></p> <p>Once, two best friends created a princess together. Libby drew the pictures, May wrote the tales, and their heroine, Princess X, slayed the dragons and scaled the mountains from their imaginations. A few years later, Libby was in the car with her mom. When the car went over the side of a bridge, Libby passed away, and Princess X died with her. Now, May is 16 and lonely, wandering the streets of Seattle, when she sees a sticker slapped in a corner window. Princess X? When May looks around, she sees the Princess everywhere: Stickers. Patches. Graffiti. There's an entire underground culture, focused around a web comic at IAmPrincessX.com. The more May explores the web comic, the more she sees disturbing similarities between Libby's story and Princess X online. And that means that only one person could have started this phenomenon---her best friend, who lives. <b>RL=5.2 IL=YA</b></p>
	<p><b>I Will Always Write Back by C. Alifirenka and M. Ganda</b></p> <p><i>The true story of an American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed their lives forever.</i> It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only 10 letters, and 50 kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and their lives. In this dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends --and better people--through their long-distance exchange. Their story will inspire you to look beyond your own life and wonder about the world at large and your place in it. <b>RL=5.6 IL=YA</b></p>
	<p><b>Listen, Slowly by Thanhha Lai</b></p> <p><i>Listen, Slowly</i> is a <i>New York Times Book Review</i> Notable Book and a <i>Publishers Weekly</i> Best Book of the Year! California-raised Mai can't wait for her beach vacation. Instead, she travels to Vietnam with her grandmother, who is going back to find out what really happened to her husband during the war. Mai's parents think this trip will be a great opportunity for their out-of-touch daughter to learn more about her culture. But to Mai, those are <i>their</i> roots, not hers. Vietnam is the last place she wants to be. Besides barely speaking the language, she doesn't know the geography, the local customs, or even her distant relatives. To survive her trip, Mai must balance two different worlds. <b>RL=5.3 IL=5-8</b></p>

	<p><b>Nightbird by Alice Hoffman</b> Bestselling author Alice Hoffman’s bewitching <i>Nightbird</i> is perfect for ages 10-13: love and friendship empower a lonely girl to embrace her uniqueness and discover her strengths.</p> <p>Twig lives in Sidwell, where people whisper that fairy tales are real. After all, her town is rumored to hide a monster. And two hundred years ago, a witch placed a curse on Twig’s family that was meant to last forever. But this summer, everything will change when the red moon rises. It’s time to break the spell. <b>RL=5.8 IL=5-8</b></p>
	<p><b>No Summit Out of Sight: The True Story of the Youngest Person to Climb the Seven Summits by Jordan Romero and Linda LeBlanc</b> Jordan Romero climbed Mount Everest at age thirteen—and he didn’t stop there. In this inspiring young adult memoir that includes color photos, he tells how he achieved such great heights. On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. At fifteen, he became the youngest person to reach the summits of the tallest mountains on each of the seven continents. In this energizing memoir for young adults, Jordan, recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine and, many years of training and hard work later, turned into a dream come true. <b>RL=5.6 IL=YA</b></p>
	<p><b>Orbiting Jupiter by Gary D. Schmidt</b> The two-time Newbery Honor winner Gary D. Schmidt delivers the shattering story of Joseph, a father at thirteen, who has never seen his daughter, Jupiter. After spending time in a juvenile facility, he’s placed with a foster family on a farm in rural Maine. Here Joseph, damaged and withdrawn, meets twelve-year-old Jack, who narrates the account of the troubled, passionate teen who wants to find his baby at any cost. In this riveting novel, two boys discover the true meaning of family and the sacrifices it requires. <b>RL=6.5 IL=YA</b></p>
	<p><b>The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin</b> This stunning debut novel about grief and wonder was an instant <i>New York Times</i> bestseller and captured widespread critical acclaim, including selection as a 2015 National Book Award finalist!</p> <p>After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting—things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory—even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door. <b>RL=4.3 IL=3.6</b></p>
	<p><b>When by Victoria Laurie</b> Maddie Fynn is a shy high school junior, cursed with an eerie intuitive ability: she sees a series of unique digits hovering above the foreheads of each person she encounters. Her earliest memories are marked by these numbers, but it takes her father's premature death for Maddie and her family to realize that these mysterious digits are actually deathdates, and just like birthdays, everyone has one.</p> <p>Forced by her alcoholic mother to use her ability to make extra money, Maddie identifies the quickly approaching deathdate of one client's young son, but because her ability only allows her to see the <i>when</i> and not the <i>how</i>, she's unable to offer any more insight. When the boy goes missing on that exact date, law enforcement turns to Maddie. <b>RL=6.4 IL=YA</b></p>

Compiled by Jeff Flynn, Franklin Middle School, with summaries from Amazon and reading levels from Follett.