

## List of Recommended Read-Alouds

Anderson, Laurie Halse. 1999. *Speak*. New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux.

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. 1995. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963*. New York: Delacorte.

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Fleischman, Paul. 1999. *Mind's Eye*. New York: Henry Holt.

A novel in play form in which 16-year-old Courtney, paralyzed in an accident, learns about the power of the mind from an elderly blind woman who takes Courtney on an imaginary journey to Italy using a 1910 guidebook.

Fleischman, Paul. 1997. *Seedfolks*. New York: HarperCollins.

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash-filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.

Hinton, S. E. 1995. *The Outsiders*. New York: Puffin.

Ponyboy is 14, tough and confused, yet sensitive beneath his bold front. Since his parents' death, his loyalties have been to his brothers and his gang, the boys from the wrong side of the tracks. When his best friend kills a member of a rival gang, a nightmare of violence begins.

Lowry, Lois. 1993. *The Giver*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and

discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Mack, Tracy. 2000. *Drawing Lessons*. New York: Scholastic.

Like her father, Aurora is an artist. The great thing about art, Rory thinks, is you can bring back something you've lost and keep it forever. But when her father leaves the family, it's Rory who is lost.

MacLachlan, Patricia. 1991. *Journey*. New York: Delacorte.

When their mother goes off, leaving her two children with their grandparents, they feel as if their past has been erased until Grandfather finds a way to restore it to them.

Paulsen, Gary. 1993. *Harris and Me*. New York: Harcourt Brace.

Sent to live with relatives on their farm because of his unhappy home life, an 11-year-old city boy meets his distant cousin Harris and is given an introduction to a whole new world.

Philbrick, Rodman. 1993. *Freak the Mighty*. New York: Scholastic.

Max thought he had never had a brain. All his life he'd been called stupid. Dumb. Slow. It didn't help that his body seemed to be growing faster than his mind. It didn't help that people were afraid of him. So Max learned how to be alone, until Freak came along. Freak had a little body and a really big brain. Together, Max and Freak were unstoppable.

Sachar, Louis. 1998. *Holes*. New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux.

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

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