



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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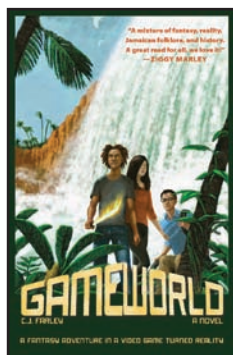
Explore New Worlds

Grab Some Books!

Nothing beats the luxury of curling up with a good book while winter winds howl outside. The Mini Page offers suggestions for some action-packed winter reading.

C.J. Farley was born in Jamaica. He is an editor for The Wall Street Journal and was a music critic for a magazine. This is his first book for young people.

In "Game World," three Jamaican sixth-graders and the sister of one of the sixth-grade boys are pulled into a video game where they must battle the forces of evil.



Jacket art © 2014 by Yongjin Im, published by Akashic books

Lauren Tarshis is the editor of Storyworks magazine and has written several books for kids.



Jacket art © 2014, published by Scholastic Press

"I Survived: Five Epic Disasters" tells the true stories of kids who survived disasters such as a tsunami in Japan, a blizzard on the American prairie and the sinking of the Titanic.

Alma Flor Ada has written several books for young people. She and her son, Gabriel Zubizarreta, have worked on one other book together.

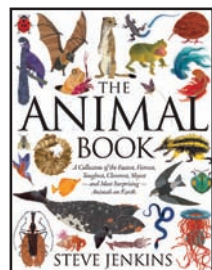


Jacket art © 2013, published by Atheneum

In "Dancing Home," a Mexican girl who has been growing up in America is embarrassed by her cousin from Mexico. But slowly the two girls become friends.

Steve Jenkins has written and illustrated about 30 books for kids.

"The Animal Book: A Collection of the Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest and Most Surprising Animals on Earth" tells of animal record-breakers.



Jacket art © 2013 by Steve Jenkins, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Leon Leyson was a starving boy of 15 when Oskar Schindler saved his life from the Nazis.



Jacket art © 2013 published by Atheneum

"The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible on Schindler's List" is the true story of the youngest person saved from the Nazis by Oskar Schindler.

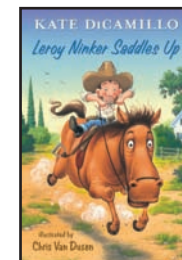
Sonya Hartnett, an Australian author, has written several books for young people.



Jacket art © 2014 by Andrea Offermann, published by Candlewick Press

In "The Children of the King," Cecily and Jeremy are sent to their uncle's country home during the bombing of London in World War II. Cecily and another refugee girl find two mysterious boys hiding in nearby ruins.

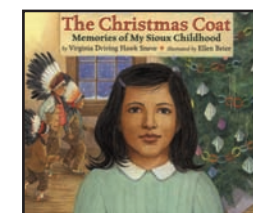
Kate DiCamillo has written several books for kids, including two Newbery Medal winners.



Jacket art © 2014 by Chris Van Dusen, published by Candlewick Press

In "Leroy Ninker Saddles Up," a young man and his beloved horse get separated in a thunderstorm.

Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve has written several books for kids about Native Americans.

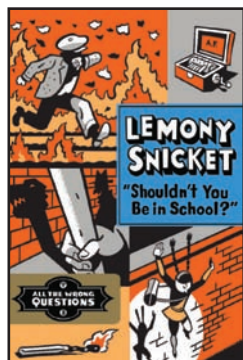


Jacket art © 2011 by Ellen Bealer, published by Holiday House

"The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood" is the true story of a girl needing warm clothing for a South Dakota winter.

More Winter Suggestions

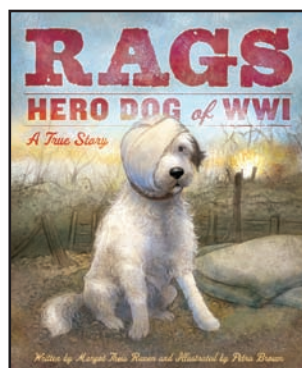
Daniel Handler, known as Lemony Snicket, is best known for his “A Series of Unfortunate Events” books.



jacket art © 2014 by Seth, published by Little, Brown and Company

In “Shouldn’t You Be in School?” the young Lemony Snicket investigates a case of arson. But he soon discovers an even bigger threat to the town’s schoolchildren.

Margot Theis Raven is a journalist and children’s book author.



jacket art © 2014 by Petra Brown, published by Sleeping Bear Press

“Rags: Hero Dog of WWI” is the true story of a dog rescued by a U.S. Army private in Paris. Rags carried messages to troops on the battlefield.

Misty Copeland became the third African-American female soloist to dance for the American Ballet Theatre. She is best known for her role in “The Firebird,” a ballet.



jacket art © 2014 by Christopher Myers, published by G.P. Putnam’s Sons

“Firebird” is the fictional story of a young dancer who is helped by a real ballerina, Misty Copeland.

Barbara Mariconda has written several books for young people.

In “The Emerald Shore,” the final book in the Lucy P. Simmons trilogy, Lucy is caught between two powerful magical forces.



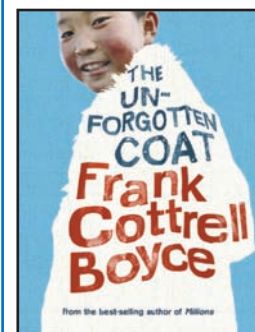
jacket art © 2014, published by HarperCollins

“The Boxcar Children: Guide to Adventure” is a how-to book for mystery solving and projects such as making invisible ink.



jacket art © 2014 by Albert Whitman & Co.

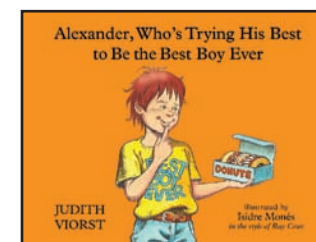
Frank Cottrell Boyce is a screenwriter who has written several books for kids. Two of his books, “Millions” and “Cosmic,” have been made into movies.



jacket art © 2011, published by Candlewick Press

In “The Unforgotten Coat,” Julie tries to guide two brothers from Mongolia through life in the sixth grade in America. At the same time, she’s trying to fit in herself. The brothers end up teaching Julie as well.

Judith Viorst’s many books for kids include “Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.”



Jacket art © 2014 by Isidre Mones, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

In “Alexander, Who’s Trying His Best to Be the Best Boy Ever,” Alexander tries to avoid the consequences of eating a whole box of donuts.

Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week’s topics.

On the Web:

- stevejenkinsbooks.com
- deborahellis.com
- gordonkorman.com

At the library:

- “BookSpeak! Poems About Books” by Laura Purdie Salas
- “Writer to Writer” by Gail Carson Levine



Basset Brown's

Try
'n'
Find

Winter Reading

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| R | S | E | L | A | T | N | O | I | T | A | C | U | D | E |

Words that remind us of things we can get from books are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: ART, EDUCATION, FUN, HELP, HEROES, HISTORY, JOKES, KNOWLEDGE, LAUGHTER, MAPS, MYSTERY, SCIENCE, STORIES, SURPRISE, TALES, TIPS, TOOLS, UNDERSTANDING, WISDOM, WONDER.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy keeps up with good books all winter long! See if you can find: owl exclamation mark
 ruler candle word MINI kite
 zebra letter E man in the moon bug
 letter B tin can number 3 ladder
 heart sock ice cream cone letter D



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Holiday Gift Cookies

You'll need:

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 (4-ounce) container applesauce
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1 (6-ounce) package semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

What to do:

1. Mix and blend well all ingredients except chocolate chips and pecans in a large bowl.
2. Gently stir in chips and pecans.
3. Place teaspoonfuls of dough 2 inches apart on an ungreased baking sheet.
4. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 14 minutes.
5. Allow to cool. Cookies will be light and cake-like. Place 10 to 12 cookies on a small decorative plate, cover with colored cellophane and tie with a bright ribbon. Makes approximately 3 dozen cookies.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Benedict Cumberbatch

photo by DreamWorks Animation, (c) 2014 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All Rights Reserved



Benedict Cumberbatch is the voice of Agent Classified in the movie "The Penguins of Madagascar." He is best known for his role as Sherlock Holmes in the BBC-TV series "Sherlock." He has acted in several movies, including "War Horse," "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" and "Star Trek Into Darkness." He is famous for playing Dr. Frankenstein and then the monster in different performances of the play "Frankenstein."

Benedict, 38, was born in London. His parents are both actors. He studied art at a British boarding school and is a painter. He often donates his paintings to charity fundraisers. He began acting at that school. After graduating, he spent a year teaching English at a Tibetan monastery in India. He then studied drama in college. He enjoys sports such as skydiving, scuba diving, skiing and hot-air ballooning. He supports charities for health research and those using the arts to help young people.

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Goldie Goodsport's Supersport



Height: 5-11
Age: 19
Hometown: Greendale, Indiana

Lauren Hill

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

Last month, Lauren Hill stepped onto the basketball court knowing she would never overcome her greatest challenge, but she was determined to live her dream. The year before, Lauren had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and was told she had only months to live. Her dream of playing college basketball appeared impossible.

Others stepped in to help. Lauren's Division III Mount St. Joseph Lions women's basketball team asked to move up its first game by two weeks. The opposing team from Hiram College agreed, and the NCAA approved the change. On Nov. 2, 10,000 fans turned out to see Lauren suit up for her college basketball debut.

Lauren scored the game's first two points and later added the final basket in a 66-55 Lions victory. "I love basketball, and it was sad when I couldn't play," she said after the game. "But it was great to be here to support my team because they're supporting me every day."



Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

from The Mini Page © 2014 Universal Uclick

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Carlie: What do you call someone whose books are always overdue?

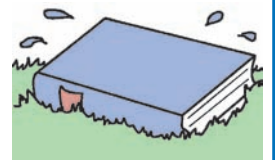
Jasper: A bookkeeper!

Ian: How is a book like Congress?

Alex: They both have pages!

Lily: Why couldn't the book sleep?

Jack: Because it lost its covers!



More Reading Adventures

Cynthia Kadohata has written several books for kids, including the Newbery Medal-winning book “Kira-Kira.”

In “Half a World Away,” Jaden’s adoptive parents say they love him, but he was abandoned by his biological mother and is filled with anger. When his folks take him with them to adopt another kid in Kazakhstan, Asia, he’s in for a surprise.



jacket art © 2014 by Lee White, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Roseanne Greenfield Thong has written many books about kids in different cultures.

“Twas Nochebuena” tells of a family celebrating a traditional Hispanic Christmas.



jacket art © 2014 by Sara Elena Palacios Gutierrez, published by Viking

Monalisa DeGross manages a family reading circle at a library and writes books and plays.

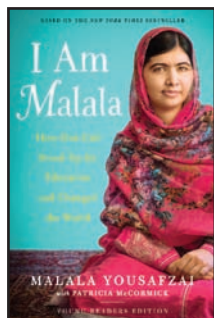


jacket art © 2007, published by HarperCollins

In “Donavan’s Double Trouble,” a fourth-grade boy is failing math. Then his uncle returns from combat as a paraplegic. As he struggles with how he feels, Donovan learns about real heroes.

Next week, The Mini Page looks at Christmas in the White House through the ages.

This year, Malala Yousafzai became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. When she was 10 years old, the Taliban took over her region in Pakistan. They made it a crime to listen to music. Girls could not go to school. When Malala spoke out, a Taliban terrorist shot her. Amazingly, she survived and continues to fight for human rights.



jacket art © 2014, published by Little, Brown and Company

“I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World: Young Readers’ Edition” is the true story of a brave girl who stood up against violence for the right to go to school.

Marisa de los Santos has written books for adults, and David Teague has written picture books for kids. This is the first novel the married couple has worked on together.

In “Saving Lucas Biggs,” a girl tries to save her father’s life by time-traveling to a year when a chain of terrible events was set in motion.



jacket art © 2014 by Neil Sweeney, published by HarperCollins

The Mini Page thanks the Association for Library Service to Children for help with this issue.

Look through your newspaper for stories that would make good books.

Marion Jensen is a designer. This is his first book.



jacket art © 2014 by Pete Oswald, published by HarperCollins

In “Almost Super,” two brothers get super-lame superpowers. Since their superpowers are not going to be much help fighting evil, they have to team up with a rival girl to fight villains.

Andrea Cheng has written several books for kids. She studies languages and teaches English.



jacket art © 2010 by Nicole Wong, published by Lee and Lowe Books

In “Only One Year,” two sisters grow closer after their parents send their 2-year-old brother to China for a visit. When he returns, he doesn’t remember them.

Deborah Ellis has written several books for kids. She donates much of her book profits to kids in trouble.

In “No Ordinary Day,” Valli learns her parents have given her to a stranger, so she runs away. While living on the streets in India, she gets leprosy and must face her fears about it.



jacket art © 2014, published by Groundwood Books

Gordon Korman has written more than 50 books for young people.



jacket art © 2013 by Tim O'Brien, published by Scholastic

In “The Hypnotists,” a 12-year-old boy can hypnotize anyone to do what he tells them. But when he joins a special school, he must save his friends and country.

The Mini Page Staff

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