

# **Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Books**

**The Crossover** by Kwame Alexander, 420 pgs. AR BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 2.0.

This is the story of a set of twins, middle school basketball stars who are coached by their dad, a former NBA player. When a new girlfriend begins to split them apart, feelings of anger and jealousy develop. The novel, written in verse, emphasizes brotherhood and family bonds and has an unexpected ending that will shock the reader.

**The Dirt Diary (The Dirt Diary #1)** by Anna Staniszewski, 256 pgs. AR MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 7.0

Desperate to replace the money she secretly took from her college fund, thirteen-year old Rachel grudgingly goes to work for her mother's new cleaning business, which, to her embarrassment, includes the homes of kids she goes to school with.

**The Fourteenth Goldfish** by Jennifer Holm, 208 pgs. AR BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 4.0.

Eternal youth is not as glamorous as it may seem. Eleven-year old Ellie discovers this first-hand when her scientist grandfather moves into the house with her and her mother... in a thirteen-year old body. The very last thing Ellie needs when she's already dealing with a distant friend and parents whose interests seem so different from her own is her grandfather attending the same middle school.

**I Kill the Mockingbird** by Paul Acampora, 166 pgs. AR BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 5.0

Main character Lucy has just witnessed her favorite teacher's death and is struggling to accept her mother's cancer remission. Needing to busy herself over the summer, she develops a plot to share her deceased teacher's favorite summer reading selection *To Kill a Mockingbird* with as many people as possible. The story is full of tech savvy teens, humor and real life scenarios including relationships and social media.

**Loot: How to Steal a Fortune** by Jude Watson, 272 pgs. AR BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 8.0

March McQuinn and his father live a life most kids can only dream about, summer in Milan, winter in Spain, but there are problems too. March is often alone, waiting for his father to complete his latest heist. When the unthinkable happens, March is left with no one and ends up being taken back to America with a twin sister he has never met to live in a group home.

**The Night Gardener** by Jonathan Auxier, 368 pgs. AR BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 12.0.

Two Irish orphans make their way to work at a dilapidated manor house that the locals avoid at all costs. They soon realize the house holds a terrible secret that could be far worse than living on the streets.

**The One Safe Place** by Tania Unsworth, 670 pgs. AR BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 9.0.

When Devin is forced to venture away from one of the few remaining safe places in a dystopian world, he is given what appears to be the chance of a lifetime, an invitation to the Gabriel H. Penn Home for Childhood. The Home seems like a paradise, but Devin senses that something isn't right.

**The Perfect Place** by Teresa E. Harris, 272 pgs. *No AR information*

Treasure's dad has left, again. He promised like always that he'd be back soon, but it's been three months now. Before they can be evicted, Mom decides to pack up Treasure and her sister to stay with Great Aunt Grace (GAG, as the girls call her) while she searches for him. These two weeks will be horrible. What will the girls do with crotchety, grouchy old GAG?

**Rain Reign** by Ann M. Martin, 240 pgs. AR BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 5.0

Rose's father neither understands nor wants to understand her special needs, the result of her autism. Her father does not communicate well or have patience with her. Instead, it is Rose's Uncle Weldon who teaches her to relate to "regular" life. When Rose's newly found pet, a dog called Rain, is lost, it is Uncle Weldon who searches the area with her. This is a touching expose on the autistic world seen through the eyes of a young girl.

**Saving Lucas Biggs** by Marisa de los Santos and David Teague, 288 pgs. AR BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 9.0

When Margaret O'Malley's father is framed for murder and sentenced to death, she is prepared to do anything to prove his innocence. Thanks to her family inheritance, the ability to time travel, she feels certain she can discover and then change the beginning of the problem. However, she is more than a little surprised to find that in order to save her father, she must first save Lucas Biggs, the judge who sentenced him to death.

**Surrounded by Sharks** by Michael Northrop, 224 pgs. BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 6.0

Tired of being crammed into a tiny hotel room with his mom, dad and brother, Davey escapes early one morning to a secluded beach. Disregarding the "No Swimming" sign, he decides to step into the water. Follow as this story unfolds and consider... what would you do if you were alone in the ocean, and you are surrounded by sharks?

**Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere** by Julie T. Lamana, 320 pgs. BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 11.0

Armani lives with her family in a New Orleans community where she enjoys visiting the local donut shop. Her main thoughts swirl around her upcoming birthday party, but then the party is interrupted by the worst hurricane to ever make landfall in history, Hurricane Katrina. Is there any hope that her life will be the same again?

**All incoming students should read one of the required books for their grade and one personal choice book from this list.**