

New Fiction for Easy Readers

December 2008

Title	Author	Annotation
Crypt: Keeping it Real		
Poetry in Motion: High School Musical 2	Alfonsi, Alice	In one week, every student in Ms. Barrington's English class must recite an original poem in front of a special school assembly. Chad, Jason, & Zeke are afraid they'll be laughingstocks, but Troy is determined to help his friends succeed. Enlisting Gabriella's help, Troy helps his basketball buddies understand that there's more than one way to bust a rhyme.
Always There (Heartland Series)	Brooke, Lauren	College is weeks away, but Amy dreads having to leave her home & her work at the stable - the work she took over after her mother's death. It doesn't help that Lou, Joni, & Ty, her boyfriend, are already making decisions without her, anticipating life after she is away at school. When a new horse arrives for treatment, everyone seems wary of telling Amy his story. As she starts to treat him, his fear seems a mystery.
Everything Changes (Heartland Series)	Brooke, Lauren	A new horse has arrived at Heartland. He has a beautiful, independent spirit. Amy understands how to work with strong-willed horses. She has always had a sense of how to approach each one. But this horse is different. He isn't angry or misunderstood. He is proud. When Amy watches him gaze out over the paddock fence, she wonders if he was meant to be wild and free.
Holding Fast (Heartland Series)	Brooke, Lauren	Life is back to normal for Amy. While things seem to be back in place for Amy, those around her are anticipating change. With so many emotional distractions, Amy dedicates herself to Venture-a police horse with a back injury. But Amy really needs to be devoting the same dedication she has for the horses to her family & friends.
Love is a Gift (Heartland Series)	Brooke, Lauren	When Amy journeys to Australia with her sister Lou to visit their father on his horse ranch, she doesn't feel like part of his new family. So Amy delves into the stable work, certain that the horses will at least welcome her.

A Summer to Remember	Brooke, Lauren	Amy's summer is just underway when Alfredo Escobar, a member of a world-famous polo legacy, contacts her to help with a troubled horse at a luxurious estate in the Hamptons. If Alfredo and his pony, Impala, can't learn to work together, they'll both be in trouble.
A Winter's Gift (Heartland Series)	Brooke, Lauren	Since breaking up with Ty and throwing herself into her college work, Amy is more independent and confident than ever. But when she returns to Heartland for her winter break she learns that a lot of things have changed. A pregnant mare will need both Amy and Ty's help to save her. But will the two of them be able to work together again? Amy never realized that coming home for the holidays would be so complicated.
Scarlet Thunder	Brouwer, Sigmund	Trenton suspects that someone is sabotaging the documentary about stock-car racing that he is helping his uncle film
Dragon's Keep	Carey, Janet Lee	In 1145 AD, as foretold by Merlin, fourteen-year-old Rosalind, who will be the 21st Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island, has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny
Aliens Ate my Homework	Coville, Bruce	Rod is surprised when a miniature spaceship lands in his school science project and reveals five tiny aliens, who ask his help in apprehending an interstellar criminal.
Bruce Coville's Book of Magic: Tales to Cast a Spell on You	Coville, Bruce	Contents: Introduction: Cloudy, with a chance of magic/Bruce Coville - Wizard's boy/Bruce Coville - Phoenix farm/Jane Yolen - Horsing around/Lawrence Watt-Evans - Windwood rose/Janni Lee Simner - Bear at the gate/Jessica Amanda Salmonson - The Fourth wish/Nina Kiriki Hoffman - Byrd song/Nancy Springer - Watch out!/Bruce Coville - The Wonderworm/Laura Simms - Questing magic/Mark A. Garland and Lawrence Schimel - Visions/Sherwood Smith.
Bruce Coville's Book of Monsters: More Tales to Give you the Creeps	Coville, Bruce	Contents: Introduction: We're ba-a-ack!/Bruce Coville - Little monsters (Part 1 of "The Monsters of Morley Manor)/Bruce Coville - The First excuse/Nina Kiriki Hoffman - Sea dragon of fife/Jane Yolen - George Pinderton and the bloodsucking fiend of Brokentree Swamp/Lawrence Watt-

		Evans - A Recipe for trouble/Lawrence Schimel - The Spook man/Al Sarrantonio - The Wizard of chaos/Michael Markiewicz - First kiss/Patrick Bone - Optical illusion/Mack Reynolds - Trouble afoot/Mary Downing Hahn - Vend U./Nancy Springer.
Bruce Coville's Book of Monsters : Tales to Give you the Creeps	Coville, Bruce	Contents: Introduction: Welcome to the wild rumpus - My little brother is a monster/Bruce Coville - Momster in the closet/Jane Yolen - Merlin's knight school/Michael Markiewicz - Uncle Joshua and the grooglemen/Debra Doyle and James D. Macdonald - Friendly persuasion/Bruce Coville - Kokolimalayas, the bone man/Laura Sims - The Thing that goes burp in the night/Sharon Webb - Personality problem/Joe R. Lansdale - Duffy's jacket/Bruce Coville - The Bogeyman/Jack Prelutsky - Bloody Mary/Patrick Bone - The Beast with a thousand teeth/Terry Jones - Timor and the furnace troll/Jon Barnes.
Battle of the Bands: High School Musical 1	Grace, N.B.	East High is putting on its first-ever Battle of the Bands Troy and his basketball buddies are looking forward to living out their rock-star fantasies, and Sharpay has formed her very own girl group. But while Troy and Sharpay prepare to step into the spotlight, Gabriella and Ryan are left in the shadows
Wildcat Spirit: High School Musical 3	Hapka, Catherine	It's Spirit Week at East High with costume days, a pep rally for the basketball game, and finally, the crowning of the Spirit King and Queen. But the most exciting part of the week is the Sadie Hawkins dance. Troy is fending off invitations left and right, and wondering why Gabriella hasn't asked him yet. But when Gabriella overhears something her mom says on the phone, she is too devastated to even think about the dance. Could it be that they're moving again?
Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher	Poulsen, David A.	When 12-year-old Jeremy Thatcher visits a magic shop he buys what he thinks is a marble but in reality is a dragon's egg. When Jeremy successfully hatches a dragon, who he names Tiamat, he discovers that only he, and his nemesis Mary Lou, can see the creature.

Cowboy Cool	Poulsen, David A.	Computer nerd Alex Lyndon and bullrider Kelly Parker are about as different from one another as two people can be. Yet they somehow manage to become both friends and business partners. But the bonds of friendship become strained when Alex learns of Kelly's connection with The Devil's Platoon, a gang with a bad reputation.
Dead in the Water	Stevenson, Robin	Simon gets a crash course in foul weather sailing, teamwork and environmental protection.
Impossible Things	Stevenson, Robin	Cassidy Silver is not having a good year. Her engineer father is in the Middle East, her artist mother is too busy to listen to the painful details of her daughter's grade seven life, her genius younger brother is being bullied, and her best friend Chiaki has abandoned her to hang out with the meanest girls in school. Then Cassidy meets Victoria, who is telekinetic: she can move objects with her mind. Cassidy, desperate to not be the only ordinary person in her family, thinks learning telekinesis could be the answer to all her problems. But is Victoria telling the truth? And is telekinesis really the solution?
Out of Order	Stevenson, Robin	Starting a new life in Victoria, British Columbia, fifteen-year-old Sophie finds herself drawn to the troubled Zelia, whose self-destructive behavior forces Sophie to question their friendship and her own sense of self, until she meets Max.

More Fiction

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The White Tiger	Adiag, Aravind	Shortlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize Belram Halwai is an uneducated and violent denizen of India's bottom caste who manages to scrap & crawl his way to success as a chauffer, even if it means killing some of his elitist employers along the way.
The Old Devils	Amis, Kingsley	Winner of the 1986 Man Booker Prize Malcolm, Peter & Charlie & their Soave-sodden wives have one ambition left in life: to drink Wales dry. But their routine is both shaken & stirred when professional Welshman, Alun Weaver (CBE) & his wife, Rhiannon, join them.
The Secret Scripture	Barry, Sebastian	As a young woman, Roseanne McNulty was one of the most beautiful & beguiling girls in County Sligo, Ireland. Now, as her hundredth year draws near, she is a patient at Roscommon Regional Mental Hospital, & she decides to record the events of her life. As Roseanne revisits her past, hiding the manuscript beneath the floorboards in her bedroom, she learns that Roscommon Hospital will be closed in a few months & that her caregiver, Dr. Grene, has been asked to evaluate the patients & decide if they can return to society. Roseanne is of particular interest to Dr. Grene, & as he researches her case he discovers a document written by a local priest that tells a very different story of Roseanne's life than what she recalls. As doctor & patient attempt to understand each other, they begin to uncover long-buried secrets about themselves.
Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard	Desai, Kiran	In this wryly hilarious yet poignant story of life, love, & family relationships, a young man climbs into a guava tree & becomes unintentionally famous as a holy man.
The Inheritance of Loss	Desai, Kiran	In a crumbling house in the remote northeastern Himalayas, an embittered, elderly judge finds his peaceful retirement turned upside down by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter, Sai, but their world--and Sai's romance with her handsome Nepali tutor--is threatened by a Nepalese insurgency.

The Gathering	Enright, Anne	The nine surviving children of the Hegarty clan are gathering in Dublin for the wake of their wayward brother, Liam, drowned in the sea. His sister, Veronica, collects the body and keeps the dead man company, guarding the secret she shares with him-something that happened in their grandmother's house in the winter of 1968.
Rites of Passage	Golding, William	Winner of the 1980 Man Booker Prize In the early 1800s, Edmund Talbot, a young and rather priggish Englishman, takes passage on a boat heading for Australia where he is to be an official in the colonial government. In addition to Talbot, many of the eccentric passengers--a sexually predatory sailor, the aging coquette Miss Zenobia Brocklebank, the ship's tyrannical captain--undergo profound changes in the course of the voyage, during which a naive clergyman is victimized and, finally, pushed to suicide.
The Clothes on Their Backs	Grant, Linda	In a red brick mansion block off the Marylebone Road, a sensitive, bookish girl grows up sealed off from both past and present by her timid refugee parents. Then one morning a glamorous uncle appears; however he is violently unwelcome in her parents' home. The young Vivien begins to push against the constraints of home and escapes to university. But a shocking event soon sends her back to her parents' home and to her uncle Sandy, only recently released from prison. Volunteering to help him write his life story, she learns about the concealed past and the stark choices faced by those intent on survival. As history reveals itself, so too does the simmering London of the 1970s--all punk and skinheads, all race, class and creed, bovver boots and spiked hair--and Viv comes to understand how the clothes we wear define us.
The Dragon's Lair	Haydon, Elizabeth	Barely one day after fulfilling his second mission for King Vandemere as Royal Reporter of the land of Serendair, young Charles Magnus Ven Polypheme (known as Ven) is off on another adventure. To keep them safe from the wrath of the Thief Queen, whose rage at their escape from the Gated City knows no bounds, the king sends Ven and his friends on an important mission.

Burned	Hopkins, Ellen	Told in verse, the author weaves a story about a teenage girl who is raised in a fundamentally religious yet abusive family.
Crank	Hopkins, Ellen	Written in verse, this novel is a tale based on the author's daughter's experience of flirtation with, & ultimate addiction to, methamphetamine (crystal meth or crank).
Impulse	Hopkins, Ellen	Three lives, three different paths to the same destination: Aspen Springs, a psychiatric hospital for those who have attempted the ultimate act of desperation-suicide. The author uses free verse to write her story.
The Bone People	Hulme, Keri	Set on the harsh South Island beaches of New Zealand the story focuses on three people: one Maori, one European and one of mixed blood who are locked together in animosity and love.
Sleep Softly	Hunter, Gwen	When forensic nurse Ashley Davenport Chadwick stumbles upon the body of a missing girl on her property, she, acting as both an expert & a witness on this case, becomes the target of a killer who is determined to take the life of another child.
How Late it was, How Late	Kelman, James	The story opens one Sunday morning in Glasgow, Scotland, as Sammy, an ex-convict with a penchant for shoplifting, awakens in a lane and tries to remember the two-day drinking binge that landed him there. Then, things only get worse. Sammy gets in a fight with some soldiers, lands in jail, & discovers that he is completely blind. His girlfriend disappears, the police probe him endlessly, & his stab at Disability Compensation embroils him in the Kafkaesque red tape of the welfare system.
Unaccustomed Earth	Lahiri, Jhumpa	Contents: Unaccustomed earth - Hell-heaven - A Choice of accommodations - Only goodness - Nobody's business - Once in a lifetime - Year's end - Going ashore.
Love Only Once	Lindsey, Johanna	Abducted by the vengeful Nicholas Eden when he seeks revenge for a past wrong, Regina Ashton falls in love with her captor and vows to marry him in order to protect her reputation.
Interpreter of Maladies: Stories	Lindsey, Johanna	Contents: A Temporary matter - When Mr. Pirzada came to dine - Interpreter of maladies - A Real Durwan - Sexy - Mrs. Sen's - This blessed house - The

		Treatment of Bibi Halдар - Third and final continent.
The Magic of You	Lindsey, Johanna	Setting her sights on an unlikely husband prospect in American ship captain Warren Anderson, who once nearly had her uncle hanged, Amy Malory defies her family's disapproval and sets out to ensnare the straight-laced captain's heart.
Twilight	Meyer, Stephenie	When seventeen-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and who she comes to realize is not wholly human.
The Wind-up Bird Chronicle	Murakami, Haruki	Toru Okada's search for his wife's missing cat leads him into an unimagined world beneath Tokyo's unruffled suburbs. Psychic prostitutes, gruesome teenagers and damaging politicians people this strange underworld, and an aging war veteran haunted by Japan's campaign in Manchuria. This highly-imaginative novel is at once a gripping detective tale and a moving look at the Second World War's hidden secrets.
The Famished Road	Okri, Ben	The narrator, Azaro, is an "abiku", a spirit child, who in the Yoruba tradition of Nigeria exists between life and death. The life he foresees for himself and the tale he tells is full of sadness and tragedy, but inexplicably he is born with a smile on his face. Nearly called back to the land of the dead, he is resurrected. But in their efforts to save their child, Azaro's loving parents are made destitute. The tension between the land of the living, with its violence and political struggles, and the temptations of the carefree kingdom of the spirits propels this latter-day Lazarus's story.
Eldest	Paolini, Christopher	After successfully evading an Urgal ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.
Eragon	Paolini, Christopher	Eragon, a young farm boy, finds a marvelous blue stone in a mystical mountain place. Before he can trade it for food to get his family through the hard winter, it hatches a beautiful sapphire-blue dragon, a race thought to be extinct. Eragon bonds with the dragon, and when his family is killed by the marauding Ra'zac, he discovers that he is the last of the Dragon Riders, fated to play a

		decisive part in the coming war between the human but hidden Varden, dwarves, elves, the diabolical Shades and their neanderthal Urgalls, all pitted against and allied with each other and the evil King Galbatorix
Brisingr, or, The Seven promises of Eragon Shadeslayer and Saphira Bjartskular	Paolini, Christopher	The further adventures of Eragon and his dragon, Saphira, as they continue to aid the Varden in the struggle against the evil king, Galbatorix.
Midnight's Children	Rushdie, Salman	Saleem Sinai was born at midnight, the midnight of India's independence, and finds himself mysteriously "handcuffed to history" by the coincidence. He is one of 1,001 children born at the midnight hour, each of them endowed with an extraordinary talent -- and whose privilege and curse it is to be both master and victims of their times. Through Saleem's gifts -- inner voices and a wildly sensitive sense of smell -- we are drawn into a fascinating family saga set against the vast, colourful background of the India of this century
Peony in Love	See, Lisa	Peony, the teenage daughter of a wealthy family in 17th-century China, is allowed to see an opera, but only if she hides behind a screen. Like many young Chinese women of the time, she becomes entranced and obsessed with the production. Peony also becomes intrigued with a handsome man she has seen at the performance, but this impropriety threatens to derail her arranged marriage.
A Fraction of the Whole	Toltz, Steve	Shortlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize Jasper Dean struggles under the shadows of his doomed father Martin and his infamous outlaw uncle Terry, a bank robber and serial killer. Though Martin is dead as the book begins--killed in a prison riot--he takes over the role of narrator at points in the book, confessing his crimes and apologizing for his hopelessly contradictory fatherly advice.
Star Wars: The Clone Wars	Travis, Karen	Anakin Skywalker is in a transitional period: he is both a Jedi Knight, training under Obi-Wan Kenobi, and a teacher in his own right, training the impertinent Ahsoka. The Jedi and their legions of clones are still battling the evil Count Dooku and the Separatists, with each party vying for intergalactic control. Crucial to this quest are the "space lanes"

		<p>belonging to the infamous Jabba the Hutt. When Jabba's child is kidnapped, Anakin and other members of the Republic see an opportunity to quash the Separatist movement. But Dooku also has his eyes on the all-important lanes, and he sets a trap for Anakin that will test the limits of his knightly honor.</p>
Sacred Hunger	Unsworth, Barry	<p>Winner of the 1992 Man Booker Prize Filled with the "sacred hunger" to expand its empire and its profits, England entered full into the slave trade and spread the trade throughout its colonies. We follow the failing fortunes of William Kemp, a merchant pinning his last chance to a slave ship; his son who needs a fortune because he is in love with an upper-class woman; and his nephew who sails on the ship as its doctor because he has lost all he has loved. The voyage meets its demise when disease spreads among the slaves and the captain's drastic response provokes a mutiny. Joining together, the sailors and the slaves set up a secret, utopian society in the wilderness of Florida, only to await the vengeance of the single-minded, young Kemp.</p>
Sophie's Secret	West, Tara	<p>After shedding 30 pounds of baby fat, chubby Sophie Sinora has grown into a pretty, but insecure, teen in bloom. To make her life more complicated, Sophie can sometimes read minds. Keeping her gift secret proves difficult, as her powers are strengthening, making her feel more and more like a freak. When Sophie falls for Jacob, she hopes he'll ask her out to the Freshman Formal. But when she's forced to cheat and lie for him, she wonders how far she'll have to go to make him like her.</p>
The Story of Edgar Sawtelle	Wroblewski, David	<p>This riveting saga of an American family captures the deep and ancient alliance between humans and dogs, and the power of fate through one boy's epic journey into the wild.</p>