1. Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan.* Grades 3-6
   When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

   Naturalist Nic Bishop provides an in-depth examination of snakes, featuring full-color images, and sharing details on the characteristics, habitats, and abilities of various species of reptiles.

3. Cheng, Andrea. *Year of the Book.* Grades 3-6
   Ten-year-old Leo's future and the fate of the extraordinary Whippet Hotel, where his father is the maintenance man, are at stake when a series of cryptic boxes leads Leo to hidden floors, strange puzzles, and unexpected alliances.

   Ace and Bub, the flying beaver brothers, are fond of extreme sports and put their skills to good use to thwart an evil plot by penguins who plan to turn their tropical Beaver Island into a frosty resort.

   Barnum Brown's (1873-1963) parents named him after the circus icon P.T. Barnum, hoping that he would do something extraordinary—and he did! As a paleontologist for the American Museum of Natural History, he discovered the first documented skeleton of the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

6. George, Jessica Day. *Tuesdays at the Castle.* Grades 3-6
   When an African American boxer has a 1938 bout with Adolph Hitler's “Master Race” German heavyweight, it becomes more than just a boxing match: the honor of the entire racially divided United States is at stake!

7. Graff, Lisa. *Double Dog Dare.* Grades 3-6
   Francine and Kansas (who's new to Auden Elementary School) are competing to be the next Media Club news anchor: whoever performs the most dares will win.

8. Hannigan, Katherine. *True (Sort Of).* Grades 4-6
   For most of her eleven years, Delly has been in trouble without knowing why, until her little brother, R.B., and a strange, silent new friend, Ferris, help her find a way to be good—and happy—again.

   When Sonia's father loses his job and she must move from her small, supportive private school to a public middle school, the half-Jewish half-Indian sixth-grader experiences culture shock as she tries to navigate the school's unfamiliar social scene, and after her father is diagnosed with clinical depression, she finds herself becoming even more confused about herself and her family.

    Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

11. Kuhlman, Evan. *Brother from a Box.* Grades 3-6
    Sixth-grader Matt Rambeau finds out what it is like to have a brother when his father, a computer genius, creates a robot kid that goes to school with Matt, shares his feelings and ideas, plays, does chores, fights for his "life" when chased by spies, and becomes a part of the family.

    In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

    A look at the career of comic book writer Bill Finger, who helped create DC Comics' superhero Batman and, for many years, wrote the Batman comic books for little payment while Bob Kane received sole credit.

14. Palacio, R.J. *Wonder.* Grades 3-6
    Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being homeschooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

    Explains the many ways that dogs are used in the military and how they are trained and cared for.

16. Spinelli, Jerry. *Jake and Lily.* Grades 3-6
    Twins Jake and Lily have a very close relationship, but when they turn eleven, their parents give them separate bedrooms and Jake begins to spend time with a group of neighborhood boys. Lily is devastated as she struggles to make friends, and Jake is faced with a bully.

17. Stead, Rebecca. *Liar & Spy.* Grades 4-6
    Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

18. Tooke, Wes. *King of the Mound: My Summer with Satchel Paige.* Grades 3-6
    Twelve-year-old Nick loves baseball so after a year in the hospital fighting polio and with a brace on one leg, Nick takes a job with the team for which his father is catcher and gets to see the great pitcher, Satchel Paige, play during the 1935 season. Includes historical notes.

    A skeptical shelter cat finally finds a home with the perfect boy, Told in senryu (a form of haiku) with expressive illustrations; this whole literary package is heartwarming and unforgettable.

20. Weiner, Ellis. *The Templeton Twins Have an Idea.* Grades 4-6
    Abigail and John, the Templeton twins, and their dog Cassie, foil a pair of inept kidnappers intent on stealing one of their father's newest inventions.