

Fablehaven by Brandon Mull (JF MUL)

Thirteen-year-old Kendra and her eleven year old brother Seth, are left in their Grandpa Sorenson's care. When they learn of Fablehaven, a secret preserve for magical creatures, they must face challenges such as defeating an evil witch and a powerful demon, defending the preserve from an evil society, stopping a plague that changes creatures of light into creatures of darkness, and ultimately, protecting the world from a horde of imprisoned demons.

Mark of Thief Trilogy by Jennifer Nielsen (SAILS)

When Nic, a slave in the mines outside of Rome, is forced to enter a sealed cavern containing the lost treasures of Julius Caesar, he finds much more than gold and gemstones: He discovers an ancient bulla, an amulet that belonged to the great Caesar and is filled with a magic once reserved for the Gods, magic some Romans would kill for.

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor (YA FAN OKO)

Sunny, who recently moved from Nigeria to the US, is struggling to fit in. Her albino skin makes her "other" in her new community. Then she makes a discovery that makes her even more of an outcast – she has magical powers. Little by little, she makes friends who also have magic and who help her find the best within herself.

The Gauntlet (series) by Karuna Riazi (SAILS)

A trio of friends from New York City find themselves trapped inside a mechanical board game that they must dismantle in order to save themselves and generations of other children in this action-packed debut that's a steampunk Jumanji with a Middle Eastern flair.

Mortal Engines (Hungry City Chronicles) by Phillip Reeve (YA SF REE)

Emerging from its hiding place in the hills, the great Traction City of London chases one terrified little town across the wastelands. In the attack, Tom Natsworthy, Apprentice Historian to the London Museum, is flung from its speeding superstructure into the barren wasteland of Out-Country. Can he get back to London in time?

Addison Cooke by Jonathan Stokes (SAILS)

Twelve-year-old Addison Cooke just wishes something exciting would happen to him. His aunt and uncle, both world-famous researchers, travel to the ends of the earth searching for hidden treasure, dodging dangerous robbers along the way, while Addison is stuck in school all day.

Cronus Chronicles Trilogy by Anne Ursu (YA SF URS)

After her cousin Zee arrives from England, thirteen-year-old Charlotte and he must set out to save humankind from denizens of the underworld, Nightmares, Death, Pain, and a really nasty guy named Phil.

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Amanda Meyer
Children's Librarian
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Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander (JF ALE)

This series, based on Welsh mythology, tells the story of Taran, the assistant pig-keeper and his quest to become a hero.

Loki's Wolves by K.A. Armstrong (SAILS)

Matt is a direct descendant of the order-keeping god Thor, and his classmates Fen and Laurie are descended from the trickster god Loki. When Ragnarok (the apocalypse) threatens, the human descendants of the gods must fight monsters to stop the end of the world.

Will Wilder (series) by Raymond Arroyo (SAILS)

Will Wilder didn't mean to unlock his otherworldly gift. But that is exactly what happens when Will "borrows" a sacred relic believed to protect the town of Perilous Falls for nearly a century. His intentions are good, but the impulsive twelve-year-old unwittingly awakens an ancient evil endangering all of Perilous Falls.

Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste (JF BAP)

This book, based in Caribbean folklore, tells the story of Corinne La Mer, a brave 11-year-old growing up on a Caribbean island. On All Hallow's Eve, when a pair of troublemaking brothers tie her deceased mother's prized necklace to a wild animal, Corinne chases the animal into the forest to retrieve it.

Atlantis Saga (series) by T.A. Barron (SAILS)

Read about the secret, untold story of the creation of Atlantis; where you will discover exactly how Atlantis was created, what people — young heroes, greedy masterminds, and all sorts of bizarre, surprising creatures — fought to make it happen, and how this magical place gained such power.

Jinx (series) by Sage Blackwood (JF BLA)

Set in a sentient primeval forest called The Urwald, the novel follows the adventures of a boy named Jinx who is abandoned in the forest and rescued by the wizard Simon Magus.

Storm Runner by Jennifer Cervantes (JF CER)

A lonely boy in New Mexico has a physical disability that makes middle school feel even more like everyone is watching him. But as he learns, his physical differences are merely the first clue to a family history that connects him to the Maya gods.

Aru Shah and the End of Time (series) by Roshani Chokshi (JF CHO)

Twelve-year-old Aru stretches the truth to fit in at her private school, but when she is dared to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she inadvertently frees an ancient demon.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (JF COL)

Follow the adventures of Artemis Fowl, a 12 year-old criminal mastermind, as he kidnaps a fairy for a large ransom of gold with the help of his bodyguard and his younger sister, to restore the Fowl family fortune.

Underland Chronicles by Suzanne Collins (JF COL)

This is the story of a boy named Gregor and his adventures in the "Underland", a subterranean world located under New York City. The Underland is inhabited by humans who traveled below hundreds of years ago, along with various giant versions of creatures like bats, cockroaches, and rats.

The Dark is Rising by Susan Cooper (JF COO)

Will Stanton, age eleven, learns on that birthday that he is an "Old One" and thus destined to wield the powers of The Light in the ancient struggle with The Dark.

The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani Dasgupta (JF DAS)

Kiranmala is a twelve-year old living her regular life in New Jersey until her parents go missing and she finds out she's a real Indian princess.

Maze Runner (series) by James Dashner (YA SF DAS)

This series, tells how the world was devastated by a series of massive solar flares and coronal mass ejections. This is the story of Thomas and his role in the Maze.

Ranger's Apprentice by John Flanagan (YA FAN FLA)

Will strives to keep the Kingdom of Araluen safe from invaders, traitors, and threats. He is joined on his adventures by his mentor Halt and his best friend Horace.

Theodosia Throckmorton (series) R.L. Fevers (JF FEV)

Theodosia, a clever and shrewd girl of sorts, has the harrowing and busy work of nullifying curses in her father's museum, where the darkest spells abound. ... Her hands are full enough when her mother returns from the tombs of Egypt, bringing countless cursed valuables and antiquities with her.

Redwall (series) by Brian Jacques (JF JAC)

Matthias, a mouse of Redwall Abbey, is in trouble, as are the rest of the Redwall creatures. When Cluny the Scourge attacks Redwall with his horde, Matthias goes on a quest to retrieve the sword of Martin the Warrior, which he believes will give victory over the evil vermin.

Children of the Lamp (series) by Phillip Kerr (JF KER)

When Philippa and John discover that they are djinn, with the power to grant wishes and do magic, their days of living as just plain children are over!

Dragon Pearl by Yoo Ha Lee (JF LEE)

Min is a teenage fox spirit whose brother is missing and thought to have deserted the Thousand Worlds Space Forces in order to find the pearl of the title, an artifact that may have the power to save their struggling space colony.

Seven Wonders (series) by Peter Lerangis (JF LER)

Follow the story of Jack McKinley, who discovers a secret organization on a hidden island, and becomes the leader of a mission to retrieve seven lost magical orbs. As Jack and his three friends realize their lives are at stake, they have no choice but to accept the quest and embark on the challenge of their lives.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin (JF LIN)

Minli is a young ten-year-old girl with a fast and eager spirit, and is constantly ready for adventure. She lives by a bare mountain, where the Jade River runs through, in a poor, mud-covered village known as the Village of Fruitless Mountain.

Tristan Strong by Kwame Mbalia (JF MBA)

This book features characters from African and African American folklore, from John Henry to Anansi to Br'er Rabbit. The novel offers the opportunity to discuss how African gods and goddesses differ from those of Greece and Rome.

Pendragon by D.J. MacHale (YA SF MAC)

This series chronicles the adventures of Bobby Pendragon, an American teenager who discovers that he must travel through time and space to prevent the destruction of the ten "territories": critical locations throughout the universe.

Gods of Manhattan (series) by Scott Mebus (SAILS)

When a magician's trick opens his eyes to Mannahatta, Rory finds an amazing spirit city coexisting alongside modern-day Manhattan. It's place where Indian sachems, warrior cockroaches, and papier-mache children live, ruled by the immortal Gods of Manhattan - including Babe Ruth, Alexander Hamilton, and Peter Stuyvesant.

Paola Santiago and the River of Tears by Tehlor Kay Mejia (soon to be published, on order)

Pao has always relied on hard science to make sense of the world, but to find her friend she will have to enter the world of her nightmares, which includes unnatural mist, mind-bending monsters, and relentless spirits controlled by a terrifying force that defies both logic and legend. This book is based on the Mexican legend of La Llorona (the Crying Woman).