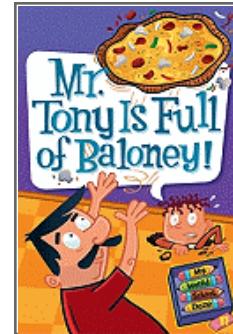
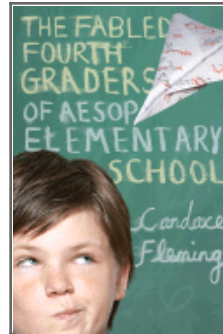
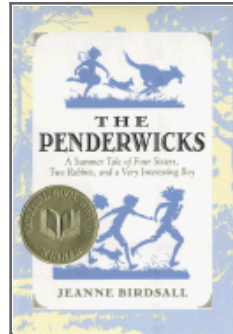
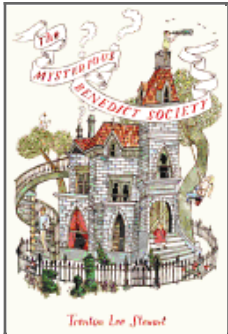




10 in Ten Recommendations - Youth1



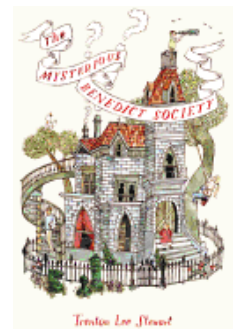
Mysterious Benedict Society (First book in the Mysterious Benedict Society series)

by Trenton Lee Stewart
Published 2007
ISBN: 9780316057776

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

A first-time novelist takes readers on a dazzling adventure that puts friends, family, and foe to the test, as four children go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children can complete. Illustrations. Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children—two boys and two girls—succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. So, if you're gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse Code, they could probably use your help.



Read or Write a Comment ►

Publishers Weekly 12/18/2006

Stewart's ("Flood Summer", for adults) first book for young people begins with a bang. Gifted 11-year-old orphan Reynie Muldoon is sharing the newspaper with his tutor when she excitedly points out an ad: "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" She encourages him to take the series of tests cited in the ad, and the entire process resembles the otherworldly experience of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", with puzzles within puzzles and tests within tests—some mental, some ethical, some physical. Ultimately three children pass the first test and go on to the next: Reynie, Sticky (born George) Washington and Kate Wetherall—all of them essentially orphans. A fourth, the "very, very small" Constance Contraire, joins them later, and Mr. Benedict describes why he has brought them together. Initially, readers like the four children may be unsure of what to think about this mysterious gent: Is he hero or villain? Mr. Benedict has recruited them to foil an evil plan, devised by a mysterious "Sender," to brainwash the population via secret messages delivered by children embedded in television and radio programs. The plot-driven novel follows many adventures among the four, whose unique talents all come into play; readers will likely warm to each of them. A couple of concluding twists involving Kate and Connie may throw readers a bit, but these do not detract from the book's entertainment value or from the author's sound overall structure. Though the book is lengthy, readers will likely enjoy getting lost in this fully imagined realm. Ages 8-12. "(Mar.)" Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy

by Jeanne Birdsall

Published 2005

ISBN: 9780375831430

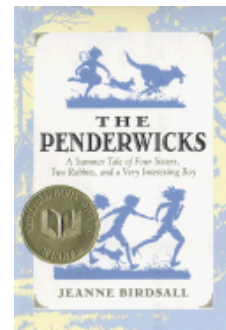
[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

The icy-hearted Mrs. Tifton is not as pleased with the Penderwicks as Jeffrey is, though, and warns the new friends to stay out of trouble. Which, of course, they will-- won't they? One thing's for sure: it will be a summer the Penderwicks will never forget.

Deliciously nostalgic and quaintly witty, this is a story as breezy and carefree as a summer day.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 07/25/2005

This timeless tale from a first-time author introduces the thoroughly likable Penderwicks, on vacation in a rental cottage on Arundel, a sprawling Massachusetts estate. Their spirited family dynamics and repartee call to mind those in Hilary McKay's novels, and the sisters' delightfully diverse personalities propel the plot. For instance, when they pull up to the estate's mansion, 10-year-old Jane feels certain she has spied a "lonely boy" in a window and promptly begins a novel about him once they reach their cottage. Skye, 11, elated to have her own room with two beds (she plans to use both), immediately "wrote the bed schedule next to her favorite word problem about trains traveling in different directions." Batty, a shy four-year-old, faithfully wears her butterfly wings and is devoted to her dog, Hound (who "insisted on licking faces in the middle of the night"). The girls' loving, amusingly distracted father is a botany professor with a fondness for spouting Latin phrases. Rosalind, the oldest at 12, has looked after the others since their mother's death (shortly after Batty's birth), and when she meets gentle Cagney, the estate's teenage gardener, he captures her heart. The "lonely boy" turns out to be sensitive, sincere Jeffrey, a talented musician. Tension arises when Jeffrey's pretentious mother and her fianc decide to send the boy to military school. Certain to be as sorry as the sisters are when it's time to leave Arundel, readers will hope for a return visit from this memorable cast. Ages 8-12. (June) Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.

Publisher's Marketing Text:

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Deliciously nostalgic and quaintly witty, this is a story as breezy and carefree as a summer day.

Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School

by Candace Fleming

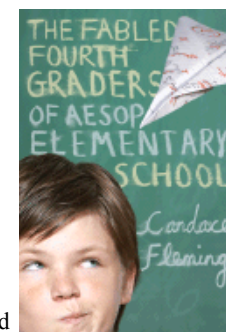
Published 2007

ISBN: 9780375836725

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

Here's a chapter book of contemporary fables about a rambunctious group of fourth graders and their amazing teacher--the globe-trotting, Mayan-ceremonial-robe-wearing Mr. Jupiter--that is sure to delight students and teachers alike. There's Calvin Tallywong, who wants to go back to kindergarten. But when he actually gets the chance, he's forced to do the squirrel dance and wear a school bus name tag. The moral of his story? "Be careful what you wish for." Then there's Amisha Spelwadi, who can spell "wildebeest," "no problem. When Mr. Jupiter asks the class to spell "cat," all Amisha can come up with is "kat." The moral: "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." Kids will laugh out loud as they learn tried-and-true lessons in this funny, fast-paced book.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 08/13/2007

A rowdy group of students and their eccentric teacher star in Fleming's ("Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!") collection of determinedly loopy vignettes, each of which ends with an Aesop-like moral. On the day before school opens, the frantic principal still has not found a teacher for the notoriously unruly fourth graders. In walks Mr. Jupiter, whose credentials include working as a translator for Bigfoot, discovering the lost city

of Atlantis and studying at the Coochie-Coochie Institute for Misbehaved Monkeys; he is hired on the spot. When he refuses to react to his students' misbehavior, they think up pranks guaranteed to rile him, but no one dares to pull them off (moral: It is one thing to talk about it, another to do it). In another tale, a boy who is struggling with math wishes he were back in kindergarten, where tasks were easier, but then is forced to participate in humiliating activities when he goes to help out with the younger class (Be careful what you wish for it might come true). Packed with puns of varying cleverness, the fables range from pithy to protracted, the morals from spot-on to strained. Even with the inconsistencies, there's plenty to laugh at and even to ponder. Ages 7-11. "(Aug.)" Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.

Publisher's Marketing Text:

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My Weird School Daze #11:: Mr. Tony Is Full of Baloney!

by Dan Gutman

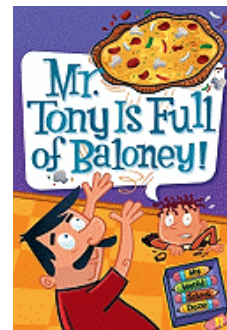
Published 2010

ISBN: 9780061703997

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

The weirdness never stops! Oh no! A.J.'s mom just got a job, so he has to go to After School Kids' Kare. And Mr. Tony, the guy who runs it, is crazy. He wants to get into the "Guinness Book of World Records" by making the world's largest pizza! Will A.J. and the gang be able to tunnel out of the child-care room and escape to freedom? Run for your lives!



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

CAM Jansen: The Mystery of the U.F.O. #2 (Second book in the Cam Jansen series)

by David A Adler

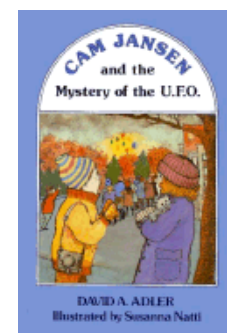
Published 1980

ISBN: 9780670200412

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

Ten-year-old Cam, possessor of a photographic memory, and her friend Eric investigate what seems to be a brief appearance of U.F.O.s. Cam Jansen is a crack detective with a photographic memory. Together with her friend Eric, she solves every mystery that comes her way.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Once Upon a Marigold

by Jean Ferris

Published 2002

ISBN: 9780152167912

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

In this witty spoof of fairy tales, Christian, who lives in a cave with a troll for a dad, is clueless about how amazing--and stupefying--love can be. But now that Christian's fallen for Princess Marigold, it's up to him to untwist an odd love triangle and foil a scheming queen who wants to take over the kingdom, even if it means bumping off her own daughter. Who knew love could be so amazing--and stupefying? Not Christian. He was clueless when he started spying on the royal family through his telescope. He lives in a cave with a troll for a dad, after all. If his dad had only warned him about all that mind-boggling love stuff, maybe things wouldn't be such a mess. But then, maybe, Princess Marigold would be dead.



But Christian" wasn't "warned. And now that he's fallen for the princess, it's up to him to untwist an odd love triangle--er, "rectangle"--and foil

a scheming queen who wants to take over the kingdom, even if it means bumping off her own daughter.

With echoes of William Goldman's modern classic "The Princess Bride," Jean Ferris's hilarious parody of "Once upon a time . . ." overflows with oddball characters and sage observations--and ends with a slapstick happily-ever-after that's full of surprises.

[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 10/28/2002

In a gratifying fantasy that contains elements of classic fairy tales, Ferris (Love Among the Walnuts) breathes new life into archetypal characters by adding unexpected and often humorous dimensions to their personalities. The protagonist, Christian, has been raised in the forest by a troll named Edric. As he nears manhood, Christian decides it is time to see the world--or at least the section across the river, where the lovely Princess Marigold resides. Having spent many hours gazing at Marigold through a telescope and corresponding with her by "p-mail" (letters sent by carrier pigeon), he has already felt the sting of Cupid's arrow by the time he lands a job in court. Marigold readily returns his affections, but unfortunately, she is about to become betrothed to Sir Magnus. Meanwhile, Marigold's evil mother, Queen Olympia, is plotting to murder both Marigold and her kindly, doting father, King Swithbert. Readers swept into the lighthearted spirit of this novel will likely not be bothered by the predictability of outcomes. As in fairy tales of old, jabs are made at social values and norms, and concepts of nobility and ignobility are painted in very broad strokes. Nonetheless, heroes and heroines emerge as convincing, well-rounded characters embodying flaws as well as virtues. Their foibles--Edric's tendency to mix up adages, Christian's stubborn streak and Marigold's penchant for "awful" jokes--make the good guys all the more endearing. Ages 10-up. (Oct.) Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information.

Pepins and Their Problems

by Polly Horvath

Published 2004

ISBN: 9780374358174

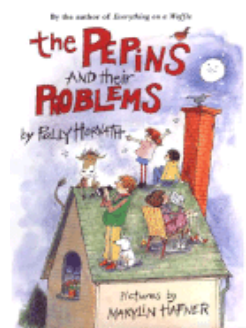
[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

Horvath invites readers to guide the plight of a problem-prone family

Whether it's waking up to find toads in their shoes, becoming trapped on the roof, or searching for cheese when their cow makes only lemonade, the Pepin family always seem to get into the most bizarre scrapes. Lucky for them, they have an author with large psychic antennae and great problem-solving readers who can join the Pepins on their hilarious adventures. And they need all the help they can get!

In this joyfully absurd romp Polly Horvath is in top comedic form, and Marilyn Hafner's pictures add to the fun.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 06/28/2004

Following her National Book Award-winning dark comedy *The Canning Season*, Horvath reprises the unalloyed giddiness of *Everything on a Waffle*--and ups the ante with some outrageous, Pirandello-like flourishes. Seemingly dire problems forever loom over the Pepin family: toads lurk in their shoes, or their hot chocolate has grown too cold to drink. Their addled responses (nobody would ever think of simply reheating the chocolate) group them with the beloved fools of Harry Allard and James Marshall's *Stupids* books and of *Chelm* tales. The difference is that Horvath impishly colludes with the audience. She inserts "the author" as a character, too, a great psychic who can receive suggestions from readers: "If you put one finger on each temple and concentrate, she will be able to hear your solution and share it with the Pepins and other readers." The narrative folds in ideas from "readers" (these are invariably as ridiculous as the Pepins' own). "Wait! Yes, my antennae quiver," writes Horvath during the hot-chocolate conundrum. "One dear reader from Brookline, Massachusetts, thinks that all the Pepins need to do is find a very successful writer and have him or her blow some hot air on the cold chocolate" (the Pepins dismiss the notion, because of "all those germs"). If the end seems a bit abrupt, no matter: the sly running jokes about place names and brazenly funny developments keep the conceit and the comedy energetic all the way to the finish line. Ages 8-12. (Aug.) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

Publisher's Marketing Text:

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Utterly Me, Clarice Bean

by Lauren Child

Published 2003

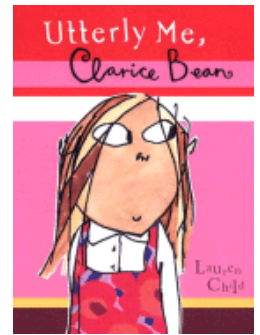
ISBN: 9780763621865

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

The quirky Clarice Bean tries on the unlikely role of super sleuth in her first utterly suspenseful, utterly hilarious full-length adventure.

It's not easy to concentrate at school when mysterious things are happening all around you. In fact, Clarice Bean is starting to feel just like her favorite heroine: Ruby Redfort, schoolgirl detective. Clarice and her utterly best friend, Betty Moody, are planning to ace their book project about Ruby and win the class prize, until Betty disappears into thin air, and horrible teacher Mrs. Wilberton teams Clarice up with the naughtiest boy in school. Will her new partner ruin everything? Will Betty ever come back? And what on earth happened to the silver trophy everyone's hoping to win? Lauren Child brings her trademark wacky wit and eccentric visual energy to a full-length, fast-paced Clarice Bean episode that will charm even the most capricious reader. The book's contemporary design comes complete with an eye-catching ribbon bookmark.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 09/15/2003

Fans of Child's (Clarice Bean, That's Me; I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato) irrepressible, impulsive picture-book heroines as well as kids who have not yet had the pleasure of making her acquaintance will devour her first chapter-book adventure. Liberally illustrated with collage art and told in a breezy, spontaneous first-person narrative that often weaves and winds around the pages, this makes an excellent first book for newly independent readers. Clarice Bean generously sprinkles her narrative with the word "utterly" as she relays the goings-on at school (she is entertainingly acerbic when dissing her intolerant teacher: and her nemesis Grace Grapello, who is "too utterly horrible") and at home (where her grandfather is taking in canine lodgers and her older brother finally pays attention to his personal hygiene when he begins courting their sister's friend). But Clarice Bean is primarily preoccupied with the book she is reading, starring Ruby Redfort, an 11-year-old "secret agent, undercover detective, and mystery solver," excerpts from which appear throughout the story. Inspired by Ruby, Clarice eagerly dives into the role of sleuth when the trophy that she hopes to win in a school competition goes missing. A spirited cast of supporting players gives the tale additional buoyancy. Once again, Clarice Bean is utterly a charmer. Ages 8-11. (Sept.) Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information.

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Clementine

by Sara Pennypacker

Published 2006

ISBN: 9780786838820

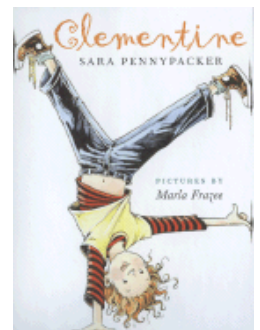
[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

The author of "Stewart's Cape" and "Stewart Goes to School" introduces a new charmingly flawed and quirky character with an altogether unforgettable voice.

Clementine is having not so good of a week.

On Monday she's sent to the principal's office for cutting off Margaret's hair. Tuesday, Margaret's mother is mad at her. Wednesday, she's sent to the principal...again. Thursday, Margaret stops speaking to her. Friday starts with yucky eggs and gets worse. And by Saturday, even her mother is mad at her. Okay, fine. Clementine is having a DISASTROUS week.



[Read or Write a Comment ►](#)

Publishers Weekly 08/07/2006

"I have had not so good of a week," begins the irrepressible narrator of this winning caper. Pennypacker ("Stuart's Cape") then takes readers straight through that week, making clear that Clementine has an unfailing nose for trouble and a comical way with words. The eight-year-old proclaims herself lucky because "spectacular ideas are always springing up in my brain." One of these ideas concerns her fourth-grade

friend and neighbor Margaret getting glue in her hair, and Clementine's attempt to help; together they cut off nearly all of Margaret's long locks. Further strategies involve the use of permanent markers and Clementine undergoing a sympathy coif. Frazee's black-and-white illustrations of the close-cropped gals captures the mixed emotions of their shared fate. Her portraits of the heroine's three-year-old brother, "who didn't get stuck with a fruit name," and whom Clementine calls by various vegetable names, including "Spinach," "Lima Bean" and "Pea Pod," may remind readers of the charming star of Frazee's "Walk On!" Along with the humorous bits, Pennypacker seamlessly weaves into the narrative common third-grade themes, such as Clementine comparing Margaret's neatly dressed banker mother with her own overalls-clad artist mother, and envying Margaret her kitten from the litter of Clementine's own lately deceased cat, Polka Dottie. Luckily, Clementine ends her week on an up note. Fans of Judy Moody will welcome this portrait of another funny, independent third-grader. Ages 7-10. "(Sept.)" Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.

Doll People

by Ann M Martin

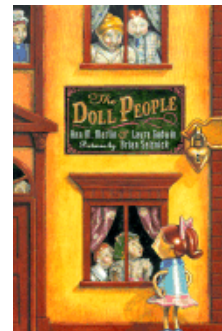
Published 2000

ISBN: 9780786803613

[Find this book in our catalog.](#)

Jacket Notes:

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for 100 years istaken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow TheDoll Code of Honor. Annabelle Doll is eight years old-she has been for more than a hundred years. Not a lot has happened to her, cooped up in the dollhouse, with the same doll family, day after day, year after year. . . until one day the Funcrafts move in.



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Publishers Weekly 07/03/2000

Passed down from one generation to the next, the Doll family has lived in the same dollhouse, located in the same room of the Palmer family's house, for 100 years. While the world outside has changed, their own lives have not--with two significant exceptions. First, Auntie Sarah Doll suddenly and mysteriously disappeared 45 years ago, when the Doll family belonged to Kate Palmer's grandmother. More recently, the modern, plastic Funcraft family has moved into Kate's little sister's room. Following the time-honored traditions of such well-loved works as Rumer Godden's *The Doll's House*, *The Mennymys* by Sylvia Waugh and Pam Conrad's and Richard Egielski's *The Tub People*, Martin and Godwin inventively spin out their own variation on the perennially popular theme of toys who secretly come to life. By focusing on Annabelle's and Tiffany Funcraft's risky mission to find Auntie Sarah, the authors provide plenty of action and suspense, yet it is their skillfully crafted details about the dolls' personalities and daily routines that prove most memorable. Selznick's pencil illustrations cleverly capture the spark of life inhabiting the dolls' seemingly inanimate bodies. The contemporary draftsmanship frees the art from nostalgia even while the layout--which presents the illustrations as standalone compositions as well as imaginatively integrated borders and vignettes--reinforces the old-fashioned mood of the doll theme. Doll lovers may well approach their imaginative play with renewed enthusiasm and a sense of wonder after reading this fun-filled adventure. Ages 7-10. (Aug.) Copyright 2000 Cahners Business Information.]
