

## Page-Turning Reads for Tweens

Looking for a book you just can't put down? These action-packed chapter books are great picks for kids ages 9 to 12.



de Lint, Charles. [Seven Wild Sisters](#).

Sara Jane Dillard has six sisters (two sets of twins and two singletons) and they all have red hair, unique talents, and very, very strong personalities. When Sarah saves a fairy man from certain death, she starts a chain of startling events that can only be resolved in the fairy world. A captivating choice for lovers of fantasy and adventure.



Gibbs, Stuart. [FunJungle Series](#).

Readers tag along as middle-schooler Teddy, who lives with his scientist parents at the nation's largest animal theme park, cracks crimes and solves mysteries that threaten the zoo's inhabitants. Humor, suspense, danger, and fascinating animal facts add up to fast-paced fun. Start with the first book in the series, [Belly Up](#), or jump in anywhere!



Giles, Lamar. [The Last Last-Day-of-Summer](#).

Cousins and already legendary sleuths Otto and Sheed Alston are reluctant to say goodbye to a fantastic summer and looking for just one more adventure. Their wish comes true when a mysterious man shows up with a vintage camera that literally stops time and freezes the town's residents in place. It will take all their skills—and help from some very oddball characters—to save the day.



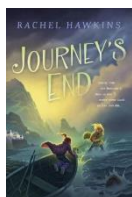
Guterson, Ben. [Winterhouse](#).

Elizabeth is sent by her aunt and uncle to stay at a luxurious hotel for Christmas break, all by herself. After discovering a magical book of puzzles in the hotel's library, she begins to unlock secrets surrounding Winterhouse, some of which involve her own past. This first book in a trilogy soars with suspense, magic, and gripping ghostly elements.



Hannigan, Kate. [The Detective's Assistant](#).

Eleven-year-old Nell finds herself suddenly orphaned and ends up on the doorstep of unwelcoming Aunt Kate, who also happens to be the first-ever female Pinkerton's detective. Danger awaits the pair, as they are forced to work together to solve perplexing mysteries, including one involving Abraham Lincoln.



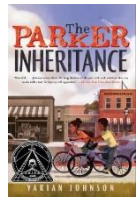
Hawkins, Rachel. [Journey's End](#).

Nolie makes some new friends while on her trip to Scotland to visit her scientist father, and one of them happens to be a boy who vanished 100 years ago inside the same deadly fog her father has been studying. How did Albert survive and why is he still young? Why is the fog suddenly creeping toward shore and the town of Journey's End? This thrilling ghost story will please lovers of the supernatural.



Houts, Michelle. [Winterfrost](#).

Bettina, 12, is left in charge of her baby sister and the farm when her parents are called away by an emergency. Her grandfather's stories about remarkable little people who are hidden but still a part of the human world become all too real for Bettina when her sister disappears. The book's characters, pace, magical elements, and frosty wonderland setting add up to an enchanting read. (Teen)



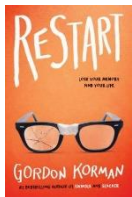
Johnson, Varian. [The Parker Inheritance](#).

Candice, 12, and her mother are spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, in the home of Candice's now-deceased grandmother. Candice expects to be bored to tears, until she finds an old letter hidden in the attic that mentions treasure and presents a puzzle. With the help of new friend Brandon, she must unravel a mystery involving Lambert's history, which is full of racism and injustice, and secrets of her own family.



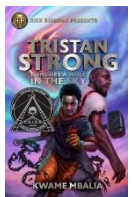
Kelly, Erin Entrada. [Hello, Universe](#).

A bully's prank lands Virgil at the bottom of a very deep well and in dire need of rescue. Friendships are forged and inner heroes revealed as the lives of four misfit kids intersect. Each chapter will delight readers as they uncover a story with so many pieces that fit together beautifully at the end.



Korman, Gordon. [Restart](#).

What would it be like to wake up and have no memory of who you are? Even worse, what if you discover that you don't like the person that everyone describes you as—a bully? Suffering from amnesia after a fall off his roof, Chase has a chance to reinvent himself—if he can convince new friends (once his victims) that he has changed. A funny, thought-provoking read with a just a bit of mystery.



Mbalia, Kwame. [Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky](#).

When a small-sized, wise-cracking creature makes off with the journal of his best friend Eddie, who recently died in an accident, seventh-grader Tristan gives chase, and they tumble into the mysterious world of MidPass. Here, Tristan makes new friends and meets heroes from African and African American folklore, as he works to defeat a frightening enemy and save the day.



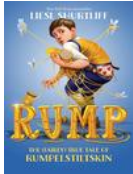
Older, Daniel José. [Dactyl Hill Squad](#).

This action-packed historical fantasy is set in New York City in 1863, as the Civil War rages between armies that are—amazingly—mounted on dinosaurs. When the Colored Orphan Asylum is burned down, Magdalys Roja and her friends find refuge in Brooklyn's Dactyl Hill community, where they join the resistance to fight against racism and oppression, and Magdalys reveals a secret talent: the ability to communicate telepathically with dinosaurs.



Rundell, Katherine. [The Good Thieves](#).

Vita and three new friends— orphan-turned-pickpocket Silk, aspiring trapeze artist Samuel, and animal-whisperer Arkady—must brave the dangers of New York City in the 1920s to save her grandfather's mansion from the grip of a ruthless mobster. This exhilarating novel will tempt kids to stay up all night reading just to see how these four courageous kids pull off the impossible.



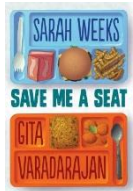
Shurtliff, Liesl. [Rump: The Fairly True Tale of Rumpelstiltskin](#).

Who wouldn't tease a kid called Rump? Between his name, his short stature, and his lack of parents, Rump's life isn't easy. When he discovers he can spin straw into gold, he thinks all his trouble are over, but they have just begun. Read this book to discover Rumps' amazing escapades.



Stroud, Jonathan. [The Screaming Staircase](#).

What do you do when you encounter a ghost? Wield your ghost hunting sword, of course! But don't forget your iron chains or you might end up like Lockwood and his co-worker, Lucy, who jump from a window to save themselves from an awful apparition. These teens are professional ghost hunters in a world suffering an epidemic of hauntings and only kids can conquer them. Ghoul lovers will want to read the whole [series](#)!



Weeks, Sarah & Gita Varadarajan. [Save Me a Seat](#).

Two boys bullied by the same guy, plus two sets of hovering parents, plus the first week of school equals chaos, frustration, self-discovery and some new friends. The story would not be complete without a jar of leeches that saves the day. This thoroughly satisfying tale about the perils, pains, and joys of school should not be missed.



Zhao, Katie. [The Dragon Warrior](#).

When Faryn Liu, 12, is unexpectedly chosen as the Heaven Breaker, the one destined to lead the Jade Emperor's armies against the demons threatening Earth, she must first prove her worth—and restore her family's honor—by competing a daring quest, all before Lunar New Year. Blending a modern-day vibe with gods and demons from ancient traditions, this fast-paced fantasy will appeal to fans of Rick Riordan.