

## CFPL Youth Book Discussion Kits

- Angleberger, Tom**                      **Darth Paper Strikes Back: An Origami Yoda Book**                      **15**
- Harvey is upset when his Darth Paper finger puppet brings humiliation, gets Dwight suspended, but Origami Yoda asks Tommy and Kellan, now in seventh grade, to make a new case file to persuade the School Board to reinstate Dwight.                      *Youth. Grades 3-7*
- Angleberger, Tom**                      **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**                      **15**
- Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. The book includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.                      *Youth. Grades 3-7*
- Birdsall, Jeanne**                      **The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy**                      **25**
- This enjoyable tale of four sisters, a new friend, and his snooty mother is rollicking fun. The girls' father is a gentle, widowed botany professor who gives his daughters free reign but is always there to support or comfort them. Problems are solved and lessons learned in this wonderful, humorous book that features characters whom readers will immediately love.                      *Youth. Grades 4-6*
- Buyea, Rob**                      **Because of Mr. Terupt**                      **15**
- Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by their rookie teacher, Mr. Terupt, who makes the classroom a fun place, until one snowy winter day when an accident changes them all.                      *Youth. Grades 4-7*
- Choldenko, Gennifer**                      **Al Capone Does My Shirts**                      **13**
- A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.                      *Youth. Grades 5-9*
- Clements, Andrew**                      **Frindle**                      **12**
- When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.                      *Youth. Grades 4-7*
- Clements, Andrew**                      **Things Not Seen**                      **20**
- When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, he and his parents and his new blind friend Alicia try to find out what caused his condition and how to reverse it.                      *Youth. Grades 4-7*
- Colfer, Eoin**                      **Artemis Fowl**                      **14**

When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a most ingenious criminal mastermind, and heir to the Fowl family empire, a centuries-old clan of underworld figures and famous con artists. When Artemis kidnaps Holly Short, one of the Fairy People, to help him on his quest for gold, he takes on a Fairy world determined to rescue Holly. *Youth. Grades 5-7*

**Collins, Suzanne**                      **Gregor the Overlander**                      **23**

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy. *Youth. Grades 5-9*

**Coville, Bruce**                      **Jennifer Murdley's Toad**                      **12**

As is this series' pattern, a child who is having a problem runs away and finds herself in the magic shop with Mr. Elives. Jennifer believes she is ugly and has trouble making friends. Wanting a pet, she buys Bufo, a toad hatched years before from the mouth of a witch who spewed out frogs, snakes, and other nasty items. Naturally, he helps Jennifer see her in her self. In the process, she, her brother, and a school enemy are all turned into toads. *Youth. Grades 3-6*

**Creech, Sharon**                      **Walk Two Moons**                      **16**

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left. *Youth. Grades 6-9*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul**                      **Bud, Not Buddy**                      **27**

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. *Youth. Grades 3-7*

**Curtis, Christopher Paul**                      **The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963**                      **10**

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963. *Youth. Grades 4-8*

**Dahl, Roald**                      **James and the Giant Peach**                      **15**

A young boy escapes from two wicked aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with six giant insects he meets inside a giant peach. *Youth. Grades 4-7*

**Dahl, Roald**                      **The Witches**                      **24**

There's nothing that hates children more than a real witch, so there's plenty of peril in this story of a boy and his grandmother who try to foil the powerful Grand High Witch's plot to turn all of England's children into mice. *Youth. Grades 3-5*

**Dickens, Charles**                      **Oliver Twist**                                      **15**

Oliver, a poor orphan, escapes the miserable workhouse where he was born only to fall into the clutches of a band of pickpockets led by the odious Fagin. Yet no amount of cruelty can destroy his purity...and through his goodness, he finds salvation. *Youth/Young Adult. Grades 5-10*

**DuPrau, Jeanne**                      **The City of Ember**                                      **17**

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her beloved but decaying city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. *Youth. Grades 4-8*

**Foley, Lizzie K.**                      **Remarkable**                                      **30**

Ten-year-old Jane Doe, the only student average enough to be excluded from the town of Remarkable's School for the Remarkably Gifted, is joined at her public school by the trouble-making Grimlet twins, who lead her on a series of adventures involving an out-of-control science fair project, a pirate captain on the run from a mutinous crew, a lonely dentist, and a newly constructed bell tower that endangers Remarkable's most beloved inhabitant--a skittish lake monster named Lucky. *Youth. Grades 3-6*

**Funke, Cornelia**                      **Inkheart**                                      **12**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service. *Youth. Grades 4-7*

**Gaiman, Neil**                      **Coraline**                                      **15**

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others. *Youth. Grades 4-7*

**Gaiman, Neil**                      **Fortunately, the Milk**                                      **25**

While picking up milk for his children's cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild adventure through time and space.

**Gantos, Jack**                      **Dead End in Norvelt**                                      **15**

In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual

chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. *Youth. Grades 3-5*

**George, Jessica Day**                      **Tuesdays at The Castle**                      **20**

Eleven-year-old Princess Celie lives with her parents, the king and queen, and her brothers and sister at Castle Glower, which adds rooms or stairways or secret passageways most every Tuesday, and when the king and queen are ambushed while travelling, it is up to Celie--the castle's favorite--with her secret knowledge of its never-ending twists and turns, to protect their home and save their kingdom. *Youth. Grades 3-6*

**Gibbs, Stuart**                              **Belly Up**                                              **20**

Twelve-year-old Teddy investigates when a popular Texas zoo's star attraction--Henry the hippopotamus--is murdered. *Youth. Grades 4-7*

**Gibbs, Stuart**                              **Spy School**

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school

**Gidwitz, Adam**                              **A Tale Dark and Grimm**                      **18**

The story follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales. *Youth. Grades 4-9*

**Gorman, Carol**                              **Dork in Disguise**                                              **14**

Starting middle school in a new town, brainy Jerry Flack changes his image from "dork" to "cool kid," only to discover that he'd rather be himself. *Youth. Grades 3-7*

**Gownley, Jimmy**                              **The Whole World's Crazy**                      **12**

New school, new friends, and a new life are all in store for nine-year-old Amelia Louise McBride. *Youth. Youth Graphic Novel. Grades 4-9*

**Grabenstein, Chris**                              **Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library**

In this cross between Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and A Night in the Museum, Agatha Award winner Chris Grabenstein uses rib-tickling humor to create a contest that takes place in a brand new town library. *Youth. Gr. 4-7*

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson**                      **Among the Hidden**                      **18**

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong. *Youth. Grades 3-7*

<b>Hesse, Karen</b>	<b><u>The Music of Dolphins</u></b>	<b>12</b>
<p>After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world. <i>Youth. Grades 4-7</i></p>		
<b>Hiassen, Carl</b>	<b><u>Flush</u></b>	<b>11</b>
<p>With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home. <i>Grades 5-7</i></p>		
<b>Hobbs, Will</b>	<b><u>Jason's Gold</u></b>	<b>25</b>
<p>When news of the discovery of gold in Canada's Yukon Territory in 1897 reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 5,000-mile journey to strike it rich. <i>Youth. Grades 4-7</i></p>		
<b>Holm, Jennifer L.</b>	<b><u>Turtle in Paradise</u></b>	<b>20</b>
<p>In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far-away Key West, Florida. <i>Youth. Grades 3-5</i></p>		
<b>Jennings, Patrick</b>	<b><u>Guinea Dog</u></b>	<b>10</b>
<p>When his mother brings home a guinea pig instead of the dog he has always wanted, fifth-grader Rufus is not happy--until the rodent starts acting exactly like a dog. <i>Youth. Grades 3-5</i></p>		
<b>Jennings, Patrick</b>	<b><u>We Can't All Be Rattlesnakes</u></b>	<b>30</b>
<p>When Crusher the snake is captured, her only thought is to escape but as time goes by and she befriends the other inmates of the "zoo," she realizes that freedom also means leaving companions behind. <i>Youth. Grades 3-6</i></p>		
<b>Kadohata, Cynthia</b>	<b><u>Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam</u></b>	<b>15</b>
<p>A young soldier in Vietnam bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog. <i>Youth. Grades 5-9</i></p>		
<b>Kelly, Jacqueline</b>	<b><u>Evolution of Calpurnia Tate</u></b>	<b>10</b>
<p>In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery. <i>Youth. Grades 6-9</i></p>		
<b>Kinney, Jeff</b>	<b><u>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</u></b>	<b>14</b>





<b>Mass, Wendy</b>	<b><u>Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life</u></b>	<b>10</b>
<p>Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life. <i>Youth. Grades 4-7.</i></p>		
<b>McMann, Lisa</b>	<b><u>The Unwanteds</u></b>	<b>20</b>
<p>The society of Quill annually divides its 13-year-olds into three classes that determine their futures. The ruthless and intelligent "Wanted" – go to the university and future roles in government or the military. "Necessaries" train for menial jobs. Creative, non-conformist "Unwanteds" are eliminated – thrown in a lake of boiling oil. At least that's what Unwanted Alex believes will be his fate until he finds himself instead sent to a paradise where he and other Unwanteds train in art and magic while preparing for a conflict with the land they left behind. <i>Youth. Grades 4-7</i></p>		
<b>Nielsen, Jennifer</b>	<b><u>The False Prince</u></b>	<b>25</b>
<p>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. No magic here, but political intrigue abounds. <i>Youth. Grades 5-9</i></p>		
<b>Palacio, R.J.</b>	<b><u>Wonder</u></b>	<b>15</b>
<p>Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. <i>Youth. Grades 3-7</i></p>		
<b>Ray, Delia</b>	<b><u>Here Lies Linc</u></b>	<b>27</b>
<p>While researching a rumored-to-be-haunted grave for a local history project, twelve-year-old Lincoln Crenshaw unearths some startling truths about his own family.</p>		
<b>Rex, Adam</b>	<b><u>The True Meaning of Smekday</u></b>	<b>30</b>
<p>When her mother is abducted by aliens on Christmas Eve (or "Smekday" Eve since the Boov invasion), 11-year-old Tip hops in the family car and heads south to find her and meets an alien Boov mechanic who agrees to help her and save the planet from disaster. <i>Youth/YA. Grades 5+.</i></p>		
<b>Riordan, Rick</b>	<b><u>The Lightning Thief</u></b>	<b>12</b>
<p>Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. <i>Youth. Grades 5-9</i></p>		
<b>Rocklin, Joanne</b>	<b><u>The Five Lives of Our Cat Zook</u></b>	<b>25</b>



Oona and her brother, Fred, love their cat, Zook (short for Zucchini), but Zook is sick. As they conspire to break him out of the vet's office, Oona tells the stories of his previous lives, ranging in style from fairy tale to grand epic to slice of life. Each of Zook's lives have echoes in Oona's own family life, which is going through a transition she's not yet ready to face. *Youth. Grades 3-6*

**Schlitz, Laura Amy**                      **Splendors and Glooms**                      **20**

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late. *Youth. Grades 4-7*

**Schmidt, Gary D.**                      **The Wednesday Wars**                      **15**

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in. *Youth. Grades 5-9*

**Scieszka, Jon**                      **Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka**                      **30**

Author Jon Scieszka tells stories of growing up as one of six brothers -- Catholic school, comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, explosions, broken bones, an infamous joke told at family dinner, and so much more! *Youth. Non-fiction. Grades 3-6*

**Snyder, Laurel**                      **Any Which Wall**                      **15**

In the middle of an Iowa cornfield, four children find a magic wall that enables them to travel through time and space. *Youth. Grades 3-5*

**Stauffacher, Sue**                      **Donuthead**                      **30**

Franklin Delano Donuthead, a fifth-grader obsessed with hygiene and safety, finds an unlikely friend and protector in Sarah Kervick, the tough new student who lives in a dirty trailer, bonds with his mother, and is as "irregular" as he is. *Youth. Grades 3-6*

**Stead, Rebecca**                      **When You Reach Me**                      **10**

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. *Youth. Grades 3-6*

**Stewart, Trenton Lee**                      **Mysterious Benedict Society**                      **10**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. *Youth. Grades 4-9*

- Tashjian, Janet**                      **My Life as a Book**                      **32**
- Dubbed a "reluctant reader" by his teacher, twelve-year-old Derek spends summer vacation learning important lessons even though he does not complete his summer reading list. *Youth. Grades 3-5.*
- Tolan, Stephanie**                      **Surviving the Applewhites**                      **12**
- Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had. *Youth. Grades 5+*
- Turnage, Sheila**                      **Three Times Lucky**                      **30**
- Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend, Dale, turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder. *Youth. Grades 4-8.*
- Ursu, Anne**                      **Breadcrumbs**                      **30**
- Hazel and Jack are best friends until an accident with a magical mirror and a run-in with a villainous queen find Hazel on her own, entering an enchanted wood in the hopes of saving Jack's life. *Youth. Grades 4-7.*
- Vanderpool, Clare**                      **Moon Over Manifest**                      **15**
- Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past. *Youth. Grades 5-9.*
- West, Jacqueline**                      **The Shadows**                      **12**
- When eleven-year-old Olive and her distracted parents move into an old Victorian mansion, Olive finds herself ensnared in a dark plan involving some mysterious paintings, a trapped and angry nine-year-old boy, and three talking cats. *Youth. Grades 3-5*