**Louisiana Young Readers’ Choice 2017**

**6-8th Grade**

**Annotated Title List**

1. **The Crossover** by Kwame Alexander, 420 pgs.

This is the story of a set of twins, middle school basketball stars who are coached by their dad, a former NBA player. The boys are equally talented and work well together, but when a new girlfriend begins to split them apart, feelings of anger and jealousy develop. The novel, written in verse, emphasizes brotherhood and family bonds and has an unexpected ending that will shock the reader.

IL: MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 2.0. [Basketball, twins, told in verse, father and sibling relationships, African American interest, 2015 Coretta Scott King Honor, 2015 Newbery Medal winner, ALSC 2015 Notable Book]

Hardcover. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. 9780544107717. $16.99

Paperback. Andersen Press, 2015. 9781783443673. TBD.

Audio and Ebook available.

1. **The Dirt Diary (The Dirt Diary #1)** by Anna Staniszewski, 256 pgs.

Desperate to replace the money she secretly took from her college fund, thirteen-year old Rachel, an aspiring baker, grudgingly goes to work for her mother’s new cleaning business, which, to her embarrassment, includes the homes of kids she goes to school with, both friend and foe, making for some very awkward situations and some unexpected surprises.

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 7.0 [Chick lit, divorce, housecleaning, gossip, bullies, school relationships, humor]

Paperback. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2014. 9781402286360. $6.99

Ebook available.

1. **The Fourteenth Goldfish** by Jennifer Holm, 208 pgs.

Eternal youth is not as glamorous as it may seem. Eleven-year old Ellie discovers this first-hand when her scientist grandfather moves into the house with her and her mother… in a thirteen-year old body. The very last thing Ellie needs when she’s already dealing with a distant friend and parents whose interests seem so different from her own is her grandfather attending the same middle school. Nonetheless, she must add this to her list of worries in this story that is ultimately one of humor, family, friendship, and finding one’s passion.

IL: MG - BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 4.0. [Realistic fantasy, family, science, humor]

Hardcover. Random House, 2014. 9780375870644. $16.99

Paperback. Yearling, 2016. 9780375871146. $7.99

Audio and Ebook available.

1. **I Kill the Mockingbird** by Paul Acampora, 166 pgs.

Main character Lucy has just witnessed her favorite teacher’s death and is struggling to accept her mother’s cancer remission. Needing to busy herself over the summer, she develops a plot to share her deceased teacher’s favorite summer reading selection *To Kill a Mockingbird* with as many people as possible. The story is full of tech savvy teens, humor and real life scenarios including relationships and social media.

IL: MG - BL: 4.1 - AR Pts: 5.0. [Summer reading, social media, friendship, coping with cancer and remission, plot to bring Harper Lee’s classic to popularity among their peers]

Hardcover. Roaring Book Press, 2014. 9781596437425. $16.99

Ebook available.

1. **Loot: How to Steal a Fortune** by Jude Watson, 272 pgs.

March McQuinn and his father live a life most kids can only dream about, summer in Milan, winter in Spain, but there are problems too. March is often alone, waiting for his father to complete his latest heist. When the unthinkable happens, March is left with no one and ends up being taken back to America with a twin sister he has never met to live in a group home. When the twins begin to examine their father’s mysterious past, they find themselves on a bigger high stakes adventure than either has experienced before.

IL: MG - BL: 4.2 - AR Pts: 8.0 [Starred reviews, twins, action, adventure, mystery, jewelry heists]

Hardcover. Scholastic, 2014. 9780545468022. $16.99

Paperback. Scholastic, 2015. 9780545468039. $6.99

Audio and Ebook available.

1. **The Night Gardener** by Jonathan Auxier, 368 pgs.

Two Irish orphans make their way to work at a dilapidated manor house that the locals avoid at all costs. They soon realize the house holds a terrible secret that could be far worse than living on the streets. The siblings must unravel the dark and terrifying mystery before it’s too late to escape the reach of the Night Gardener.

IL: MG - BL: 4.9 - AR Pts: 12.0. [Historical fiction: Irish potato famine, sibling relationships, ghost story, ALSC 2015 Notable Book]

Hardcover. Abrams, 2014. 9781419711442. $16.95

Paperback. Abrams, 2015. 9780143189978. $8.95

Audio and Ebook available.

1. **The One Safe Place** by Tania Unsworth, 670 pgs.

When Devin is forced to venture away from one of the few remaining safe places in a dystopian world, he is given what appears to be the chance of a lifetime, an invitation to the Gabriel H. Penn Home for Childhood. The Home seems like a paradise, but Devin senses that something isn’t right. Will he discover what foul play is lurking there in time to escape a horrible fate?

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 9.0. [Famine, dystopia, synesthesia/photographic memory/heightened senses, science fiction]

Hardcover. Algonquin, 2014. 9781616203290. $15.95

Paperback. Algonquin, 2015. 9781616204839. $6.95

Audio and Ebook available.

1. **The Perfect Place** by Teresa E. Harris, 272 pgs.

Treasure’s dad has left, again. He promised like always that he’d be back soon, but it’s been three months now. Before they can be evicted, Mom decides to pack up Treasure and her sister to stay with Great Aunt Grace (GAG, as the girls call her) while she searches for him. These two weeks will be horrible. What will the girls do with crotchety, grouchy old GAG?

No AR yet. [African American interest, family in transition, community, some humor, family relationships, story of hope]

Hardcover. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. 9780547255194. $16.99

Ebook available.

1. **Rain Reign** by Ann M. Martin, 240 pgs.

Rose’s father neither understands nor wants to understand her special needs, the result of her autism. Her father does not communicate well or have patience with her. Instead, it is Rose’s Uncle Weldon who teaches her to relate to “regular” life. When Rose’s newly found pet, a dog called Rain, is lost, it is Uncle Weldon who searches the area with her. Ultimately he helps Rose to make the right decisions about her dog, even when the answers are not easy. This is a touching expose on the autistic world seen through the eyes of a young girl.

IL: MG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 5.0. [Autism, rescue dog, homophones, severe weather, 2015 Schneider Family Book Award winner]

Hardcover. Feiwel & Friends, 2014. 9780312643003. $16.99

Paperback. Square Fish, 2016. 9781250073976. $7.99

Audio and Ebook available.

1. **Saving Lucas Biggs** by Marisa de los Santos and David Teague, 288 pgs.

When Margaret O’Malley’s father is framed for murder and sentenced to death, she is prepared to do anything to prove his innocence. Thanks to her family inheritance, the ability to time travel, she feels certain she can discover and then change the beginning of the problem. However, she is more than a little surprised to find that in order to save her father, she must first save Lucas Biggs, the judge who sentenced him to death.

IL: MG - BL: 5.7 - AR Pts: 9.0. [Time travel, justice, story of redemption]

Hardcover. HarperCollins, 2014. 9780062274625. $16.99

Audio and Ebook available.

1. **Surrounded by Sharks** by Michael Northrop, 224 pgs.

Tired of being crammed into a tiny hotel room with his mom, dad and brother, Davey escapes early one morning to a secluded beach. He doesn’t leave a note. Davey intends to enjoy the quiet and spend some time reading. However, the water is so beautiful. Disregarding the “No Swimming” sign, he decides to step into the water and instantly his whole world changes. Follow as this story unfolds and consider… what would you do if you were alone in the ocean, no one knows where you are, and you are surrounded by sharks?

IL: MG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 6.0. [Male main character, sharks, survival, action/adventure, nature facts, ALA/YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers, ALA/YALSA Readers’ Choice List]

Hardcover. Scholastic, 2014. 9780545615457. $17.99

Ebook available.

1. **Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere** by Julie T. Lamana, 320 pgs.

Armani lives with her family in a New Orleans community where she enjoys visiting the local donut shop. Her main thoughts swirl around her upcoming birthday party, but then the party is interrupted by the worst hurricane to ever make landfall in history, Hurricane Katrina. Is there any hope that her life will be the same again?

IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 11.0. [Louisiana interest: Hurricane Katrina]

Hardcover. Chronicle, 2014. 9781452124568. $16.99

Paperback. Chronicle, 2015. 9781452128801. $7.99

Ebook available.