The 1980s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls. The months turn into years, but eventually the day comes when Conor must find the courage to trust his revolutionary ideas and take to the skies.

Carroll, Autumn. *CARPE DIEM*. Square Fish. 16-year-old Vassar Spore’s detailed plans for the next twenty years of her life (PhD. and Pulitzer Prize) are derailed when her bohemian grandmother insists that she join her OSI-exiles in Southeast Asia for the summer. On her journey, Vassar sweats, falls in love, hone her outdoor survival skills—and uncovers a family secret that turns her whole world upside-down. Vassar Spore can plan on one thing: she’ll never be the same again.

Green, John. *PAPER TOWNS*. Dutton Books. Quentin Jacobsen has spent a lifetime loving the magnificently adventurous Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs back into his life, dressed like a ninja and summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge, he is just a girl when her village is attacked by Arthur’s ragtag war band. Discovered by Myrddin, she agrees to bind herself to his service in exchange for protection. In the course of their travels, Myrddin transforms Gwynna into the mysterious Lady of the Lake, a boy warrior, and a spy in his efforts to transform Arthur from ruffian into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time. Myrddin transforms Gwynna into the mysterious Lady of the Lake, a boy warrior, and a spy in his efforts to transform Arthur from ruffian into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time.

Reeve, Philip. *HERE LIES ARTHUR*. Scholastic. Gwynna is just a girl when her village is attacked by Arthur’s ragtag war band. Discovered by Myrddin, she agrees to bind herself to his service in exchange for protection. In the course of their travels, Myrddin transforms Gwynna into the mysterious Lady of the Lake, a boy warrior, and a spy in his efforts to transform Arthur from ruffian into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time.

Smithson, Ryan. *GHOSTS OF WAR: THE TRUE STORY OF A 19-YEAR-OLD GI*. Collins. Ryan Smithson joined the Army Reserve when he was seventeen. Two years later, he was deployed to Iraq as an Army engineer. In this extraordinary and harrowing memoir, readers march along one GI’s tour of duty. “A tough but powerful look at one man’s experience.”

This list was created by members of the Vermont School Library Association and published as a public service by the Vermont-National Education Association, 10 Wheelock St., Montpelier, VT 05602.
Campbell, Sarah C. **Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator**. Boyds Mills Press. This true tale of horror begins in the leaf litter. Slowly, a slimy foot emerges from the shell, then a hideous head: the wolfsnail is on the prowl. Big, strong, and fast (for a snail), the wolfsnail has a taste for meat. Stunning photos and simple text make this an engaging easy reader.

Emberley, Rebecca. **Chicken Little**. Roaring Brook Press. One day an acorn fell and hit Chicken Little in the head. Bonk! Eep! “Oh my goodness! Oh my gracious!” Chicken Little exclaimed. “The sky is falling! The sky is falling!” You may think you know Chicken Little, but think again. This is a new retelling you don’t want to miss!

Grindley, Sally. **Poppy and Max and the Big Wave**. Hodder & Stoughton. Max is a dog who doesn’t like being cold, wearing clothes, taking long walks, or surfing, but his long list of dislikes never stops him from having interesting adventures with Poppy, his pigtailed best friend. At the beach Poppy can’t wait to surf the big waves, but Max isn’t so sure. He thinks he will be much safer chasing crabs on the sand. But then one crab gets very close to the water. . . splash! A brilliant match for fans of Henry and Mudge.

Howe, James. **Houndsley and Catina Plink and Plunk**. Candlewick. Houndsley loves to canoe. Catina loves to ride bikes. But when Houndsley takes Catina out canoeing, she chatters the whole time, drowning out the sounds he loves: the call of birds or the plink and plunk of the paddles. And when Catina wants to go biking, Houndsley balks at going. What is wrong with Catina? And what is wrong with Houndsley? Luckily, they discover that the things you’re afraid of are easier to do with a good friend or two at your side.

Hughes, Ted. **My Brother Bert**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Illustrations and rhyming text portray a hobby gone awry, with a good friend or two at your side.

Prosek, James. **Bird, Butterfly, and Eel**. Simon & Schuster. Change is all around us. From the first buds of springtime to the first autumn frost, nature shows us that change is all around us and that the world has its own way of beginning anew. Bird, Butterfly, and Eel spend their summers on the same coastal farm, but in the fall they go to very distant and different places. Their migrations to the far reaches of land and sea make them remarkable creatures.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **Duck! Rabbit!** Chronicle Books. A clever take on the age-old optical illusion: is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it. This smart, simple story will make readers of all ages eager to take a side. Duck! Rabbit! makes it easy to agree on at least one thing: reading it again!

Gerstein, Mordicai. **A Book**. Roaring Brook Press. Once upon a time there was a family who lived in a book. All but the youngest had stories they belonged to—fighting fires, exploring space, entertaining in the circus—but she didn’t have one yet. A funny and touching celebration of books, stories, and finding yourself.

Markey, Kevin. **Slumbuster**. HarperCollins. 11-year-old slugger Banjo “The Great Wallaper” Bishbash is overcome by a nasty hitting slump as he tries to lead the Rambletown Rounders to the division baseball championship.

Sturm, James. **Adventures in Cartooning**. First Second Books. Once upon a time . . . a princess tried to make a comic. And with the help of a magical cartooning elf, she learns how—well enough to draw her way out of an encounter with a dangerous dragon, near-death by drowning, and into her very own adventure! In this action-packed cartooning adventure, kids will have as much fun making comics as reading them.

Bell, Ted. **Nick of Time**. St Martin’s Griffin. Cliffhangers, gadgets and weapons galore, spying, and pure adventure mark this time travel story. Nick stumbles on an ancient sea chest desperately wanted by dread pirate Captain Blood, then discovers his dad’s a spy on the lookout for experimental German subs. Guaranteed to be a page-turner.

Fleishman, Sid. **The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West**. Greenwillow Books. Broadsides advertising Twain’s early speeches read, “Doors open at 7. The trouble begins at 8.” This is the spirit in which Fleishman writes about Twain, talking about him as an author, of course, but also as steamboat pilot, a journalist, a prospector, and a lecturer—in other words, as an adventurer who didn’t mind a little trouble.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Scat**. Knopf. Mrs. Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, was last seen during a field trip to Black Vine Swamp. The school’s headmaster and the police seem to have accepted the sketchy, unsigned note explaining that her absence is due to a “family emergency.” There’s no real evidence of foul play. But still, Nick and Marta don’t buy it. Something weird is definitely going on.

Hurley, Tonya. **Ghostgirl**. Little, Brown. “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. And if I should die before I wake, I pray the popular attend my wake.” Charlotte Usher feels practically invisible at school, and then one day she really is invisible. Even worse: she’s dead, choked on a gummy bear. But being dead doesn’t stop Charlotte from wanting to be popular; it just makes her more creative about achieving her goal.

Kelley, Jacqueline. **The Evolution of Calpurnia**. Henry Holt. In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, studies the natural world with her cantankerous grandfather, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century.

Levine, Gail Carson. **Ever**. HarperCollins. Falling in love is never easy, but falling in love with an immortal god while your days on earth are numbered is almost more than a girl can bear. Attempting to thwart her fate, Kezi and her love, Olus—god of wind and loneliness—embark on a series of dangerous and seemingly impossible quests in this spellbinding tale of flawed gods, unbreakable vows, and ancient omens.


Riordan, Rick. **The Last Olympian**. Disney Hyperion. All year the half-bloods have been preparing for battle against the Titans. While the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster Typhon, evil Titan Kronos begins his advance on New York City, where Mount Olympus stands virtually unguarded. Now it’s up to Percy Jackson and an army of young demigods to stop the Lord of Time. The eagerly-awaited conclusion to Percy Jackson & the Olympians series.

Stone, Tanya Lee. **Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream**. Candlewick Press. What does it take to be an astronaut? Excellence at flying, courage, intelligence, resistance to stress, top physical shape—any checklist would include these. But when America created NASA in 1958, there was another unspoken rule: you had to be a man. Here is the tale of thirteen women who proved that they were not only as tough as the toughest man but also brave enough to change the rules.

Stroud, Jonathan. **Heroes of the Valley**. Disney Hyperion Books. Bored with everyday chores, Halli can’t help himself from playing practical jokes. But when he goes too far, he sets in motion a chain of events that will forever alter his destiny. Along the way, he will encounter hurricane robbers, terrifying monsters, and a girl who may finally be his match. In the end, he will discover the truth about the legends, his family, and himself.

Grindley, Sally. **Poppy and Max and the Big Wave**. HarperCollins. 11-year-old slugger Banjo “The Great Wallaper” Bishbash is overcome by a nasty hitting slump as he tries to lead the Rambletown Rounders to the division baseball championship.