



## 2017-2018 BOOK LIST

For 4TH-5TH graders reading at a 7th grade level

Chosen by the American Library Association & the Children's Book Council

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (2015)** by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer (J BIOG KAMKWAMBA)

This is the remarkable story of an African teenager who, by courage, ingenuity, and determination, defeated the odds. Born in 1987 in a drought-ravaged Malawi where hope and opportunity were hard to find, Kamkwamba read about windmills in a library book and dreamed of building one that would bring electricity to his village and improve the lives of his family. At the age of 14, Kamkwamba had to drop out of school and help his family forage for food, but he never let go of his dream. Over a period of several months, using scrap metal, tractor, and bicycle parts, the resourceful young man built a crude yet operable windmill that eventually powered four lights.

**Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"** by Michael O. Tunnell (J 943 TUN)

What started as a single pilot's car tour of bombed-out Berlin turned into an international campaign to help lighten the suffering of the children of West Berlin. The time was 1948, and the Soviet Union had closed all land access to the isolated Free World sectors of West Berlin in an attempt to starve the people into accepting Communist rule. On an impulse, a C-54 cargo pilot, Lt. Gail S. Halvorsen, shared the only two sticks of gum he had with a group of about 30 children. What started as a somewhat clandestine candy-dropping operation by Halvorsen and his buddies eventually became a USAF-sanctioned operation.

**Earthrise: My Adventures as an Apollo 14 Astronaut** by Edgar Mitchell and Ellen Mahoney (YA BIOG MITCHELL)

Only 12 human beings have walked on the moon, Edgar Mitchell, lunar module pilot of the 1971 Apollo 14 mission, is one of the fortunate few. This is Mitchell's inspiring autobiography, from his beginnings on his family's ranch in New Mexico, to a career as a navy combat pilot and astronaut, to the founding of the Institute of Noetic Sciences.

**Falling Over Sideways** by Jordan Sonnenblick (YA FIC SONNEBLICK)

Harassed at her middle school, not taken seriously at home, and with a "perfect" older brother, Matthew, to live up to, thirteen-year-old Claire has always felt like her life was cursed--then one morning, when she and her beloved father are talking at breakfast, her father suddenly falls over with a stroke, and suddenly everything changes.

**Gracefully Grayson** by Ami Polonsky (YA FIC POLONSKY)

Grayson, a transgender twelve-year-old, learns to accept her true identity and share it with the world.

**Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95** by Phillip Hoose (J598.072 HOO)

Moonbird is a nickname scientists have given to a small Eastern shorebird known for both his unusually long life and his enormously long annual migration. Hoose intertwines the story of this bird's remarkable survival with detailed accounts of the rufa red knot's physical changes through its yearlong cycle of migrating from the bottom of the world (usually Tierra del Fuego) to its Arctic breeding grounds and back again at summer's end--a round trip of some 18,000 miles.

**The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog** by Adam Gidwitz (J FIC GIDWITZ)

Crossing paths at an inn, thirteenth-century travelers impart the tales of a monastery oblate, a Jewish refugee, and a psychic peasant girl with a loyal greyhound, the three of whom join forces on a chase through France to escape persecution.

**Lincoln's Grave Robbers** by Steve Sheinkin (J973.7092 SHE)

This meticulous and tremendously suspenseful account of the attempted heist of Abraham Lincoln's body in 1876 reads like a smartly cast fictional crime thriller, with a skillful buildup of tension and sharp character portrayals.

**Complete list at**

<http://www.cbcbooks.org/reading-beyond/>