

# 2014-2015 Oregon Battle of the Books

## Grades 6-8 Annotated Booklist

Annotated Booklist developed by Sonja Somerville, Teen Services Librarian at Salem Public Library

***Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon***

**by Steve Sheinkin (2012)**

**Non-Fiction**

**920L, 266 pages**

A discovery by a German chemist in 1938 showed the world how to split uranium, launching a scientific race that spanned three continents and pit politicians, scientists, and spies against one another as nations fought to be the first to create an atomic bomb.

***Code Talker: A Novel about the Navajo Marines of World War Two*** by Joseph Bruchac (2006)

**Historical Fiction**

**NA, 240 pages**

Navajo men played a unique role in saving American lives in World War II, sending messages to and from the front lines in an unbreakable code based on their native language. Sixteen-year-old Ned Begay joins the code talkers, braving some of the heaviest fighting of the war as part of this crucial team.

***Endangered*** by Eliot Schrefer (2012)

**Adventure**

**900L, 272 pages**

During a summer visit to the Congo, 14-year-old Sophie develops a deep attachment to Otto, a young ape living on her mother's bonobo sanctuary. When a civil war breaks out around them and the sanctuary is attacked, Sophie is forced to go on the run and survive solo in the jungle in order to save herself and Otto.

***The False Prince*** by Jennifer A. Nielsen (2012)

**Fantasy**

**710L, 342 pages**

Carthyan nobleman Conner has collected four orphans to train in the ways of royalty as part of a plot to take over the throne by impersonating the country's missing (and presumed dead) Prince Jaron. Sage, clever and unruly, charming and annoying, stands out among the orphans while threatening to become a foil to Conner's wicked plan.

***Freak the Mighty*** by Rodman Philbrick (1993)

**Realistic Fiction**

**1000L, 169 pages**

Two boys—a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces—forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.

***Into the Wild*** by Erin Hunter (2003)

**Fantasy**

**790L, 288 pages**

For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. Now, the warrior code is threatened by mysterious deaths. The ThunderClan cats are in grave danger while the sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. A housecat named Rusty may turn out to be the bravest warrior of all.

***Legend* by Marie Lu (2011)**

**Dystopian Fiction      HL710L, 305 pages**

June is a prodigy being groomed for the Republic's highest military circles. Day is the country's most wanted and creative criminal. When June's brother is killed and Day becomes the prime suspect, the pair is thrust together unexpectedly as they uncover the sinister truth about the Republic.

***The Lions of Little Rock* by Kristin Levine (2012)**      **Historical Fiction      630L, 298 pages**

Against the backdrop of the tumultuous integration of Little Rock schools in 1958, awkward 12-year-old Marlee finally finds a friend in bold new girl, Liz. Then Liz disappears from school and rumors fly that she was a Negro passing as white. Determined to remain friends, the girls must face the danger their friendship could mean for both families.

***The Lost Hero* by Rick Riordan (2010)**      **Fantasy      660L, 576 pages**

Jason, Piper, and Leo have been at the Wilderness School, a boarding school for "bad kids." As if that weren't misfortune enough, a freak storm hits during a trip on a school bus. Strange creatures whisk the trio to Camp Half-Blood, where they learn they are demigods and called to a quest to free Hera, who is being held prisoner by Mother Earth.

***One for the Murphys* by Linda Mullaly Hunt (2012)** **Realistic Fiction      520L, 228 pages**

Carley has learned to be tough and street-smart as part of her chaotic life with her mother in Las Vegas. When a shocking betrayal lands her in foster care, she is blindsided by the cheerful, stable Murphy family who show her the kind of family life she never thought existed. When her mother wants her back, Carley has to decide where and how to live.

***Poison* by Bridget Zinn (2013)**      **Fantasy      760L, 276 pages**

Kyra is a Master Potioneer and a deadly assassin who has only missed once. Unfortunately, that was when she attempted to assassinate her best friend, the future queen of Mohr. Now, the entire King's Guard is after her and her only remaining allies are one awfully cute little pig and one distractingly handsome traveler named Fred who keeps wandering into her path.

***The Ruins of Gorlan* by John Flanagan (2004)**      **Fantasy      920L, 256 pages**

Orphaned Will, raised in the castle by a kindly Baron, is desperate to be chosen to apprentice to the Battleschool. When Choosing Day has come and gone, Will is crushed to find himself apprenticed to the dour and mysterious Ranger Halt. Little does he suspect that his placement with the Ranger force will lead him to adventures beyond his wildest dreams.

***Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Senzai (2010)**      **Historical Fiction      800L, 272 pages**

In the chaos of escaping from Afghanistan, 12-year-old Fadi and his parents become tragically separated from his sister, Miriam. Struggling to adjust to life in the United States and grief-stricken about his sister, Fadi learns of a photography competition with a grand prize of a trip to India. He sees a chance to return to Afghanistan and one last hope of finding Miriam.

***True Legend* by Mike Lupica (2012)**

**Sports Fiction**

**850L, 292 pages**

Fifteen-year-old Drew "True" Robinson is a basketball phenom with amazing talents on the court and what looks like a bright future with the NBA. True's mother gets worried when he starts to believe his own hype and develops a new talent for attracting trouble, until he learns about the consequences of fame through a washed-up former legend who takes True under his wing.

***Ungifted* by Gordon Korman (2012)**

**Humor**

**730L, 280 pages**

Middle school prankster Donovan Curtis escapes certain doom for his latest escapade through an administrative mix-up, finding himself instead sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction for gifted and talented students. While he is a disaster at math, science, and everything academic, Donovan connects with the students and their efforts to win a robotics competition in a most unexpected way.

***Wonder* by R.J. Palacio (2012)**

**Realistic Fiction**

**790L, 316 pages**

Born with extreme facial abnormalities, 10-year-old Auggie Pullman survived against the odds. Now, he is making the transition from home-schooling to fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan. Taunted by classmates who can't get past his appearance, Auggie struggles to be treated as an ordinary kid.