

Titles for Boys:

For boys who enjoy the twists and turns of mysteries and mythology, consider these:

The Battle of the Labyrinth: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book Four by Rick Riordan; The Penderwicks on Gardam Street by Jeanne Birdsall; Gregor and the Marks of Secret: The Underland Chronicles, Book Four by Suzanne Collins; The Calder Game by Blue Balliett

For boys interested in realistic fiction involving families and catastrophes, look at these:

Dark Water Rising by Marian Hale (Seth's move to Galveston and a storm warning...)
Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate (Kek from Africa braves a new life in Minnesota during the winter)
The Fire-Eaters by David Almond (A miracle in light of a mysterious illness and war) and Kit's Wilderness by David Almond (An old mining town visited by ghosts of the past)
Flush by Carl Hiaasen (Solving a mystery about raw sewage in the harbor)
Heat by Mike Lupica (On the struggles of achieving a Little League World Series dream)
Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz (Outsmarting those involved in a top-secret mission)
Williwaw! by Tom Bodett (Handling a skiff during a storm at sea)
The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick (A dangerous trip at sea while fishing for tuna)
First Boy by Gary D. Schmidt (A 14-year old dairy farmer who stands up for himself)
Inventing Elliot by Graham Gardner (A new boy, targeted by bullies, who "reinvents" himself)
Philip Ardagh's The Eddie Dickens Trilogy: A House Called Awful End; Dreadful Acts; Terrible Times

For boys who want a mix of humor, dilemmas, and lessons, especially around a school setting:

Andrew Clements's The Janitor's Boy; The Landry News; The Last Holiday Concert; Lunch Money; The Report Card; Things Not Seen; A Week in the Woods
Christopher Paul Curtis's Bud, Not Buddy; Bucking the Sarge; Mr. Chickee's Funny Money; Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission; Elijah of Buxton
Jack Gantos's Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key; Joey Pigza Loses Control; What Would Joey Do?

For boys who like a mix of fantasy, science fiction, and suspense, read these:

Grimpow: The Invisible Road by Rafael Abalos
The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp by Rick Yance (An extraordinary solution to a get-rich scheme)
The Navigator by Eoin McNamee (The world shifts, his family disappears, and Owen must set Time right)
Jenny Nimmo's The Children of the Red King Series: Midnight for Charlie Bone; Charlie Bone and the Time Twister; Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy; Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors; Charlie Bone and the Hidden King

For boys with a "non-fictional" and a historical fictional bent, especially on explorers in American history

Who Was First? Discovering the Americas by Russell Freedman
Stowaway by Karen Hesse
Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata
Fair Weather by Richard Peck
Jerry Spinelli's Milkweed (A change of mind about living on Warsaw's streets, war, and tall, shiny jackboots)
Janet Tashjian's The Gospel According to Larry; Vote for Larry

For boys who experiences friendship and other life's lessons:

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne (An allegorical tale set during the Holocaust and characters encountered)

The Broken Bike Boy and the Queen of 33rd Street by Sharon Flake (Neighbors, words, and friendship matter...)

Henry Winkler's and Lin Oliver's The Hank Zipzer Series: Nigara Falls, Or

For boys who love magic, sports, and animals:

Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher by Bruce Coville (On following strange instructions and the results)

The Kid Who Only Hit Homers by Matt Christopher (The "how" of a sudden homerun talent...)

Travel Team by Mike Lupica (A basketball team cut and a victory by other castoffs)

Seek by Paul Fleischman (Robert writes an autobiography of his life through a portrait of "sounds"

Under the Baseball Moon by John H. Ritter (Andy, a skateboarding trumpeter, who tries to make it big in music)

Jeff Stone's The Five Ancestors Series: Tiger; Monkey; Snake; Crane

You also mentioned the "Twilight" series, from which there is currently a wild movie draw at the theaters. I **do not** recommend the Twilight series although the books and movie are extremely popular right now. I believe that the content of the books and movie are not appropriate, provocative, and too suggestive for 5th grade girls. The boy-girl relationships are not desirable because of their physical involvement, which is probably too adult-oriented for my taste. I also think that there are close to "R" rated behaviors and language in both media. As an adult reader, I would not take an interest in the vampire story-line either.

It's just **not** my choice of a book worth my time and edification. I am not sure how the story-line develops positive self-concepts for girls.

Well, these are my thoughts about the book and movie. Perhaps a parent should read the book and choose to see the movie **before** exposing it to their children, if at all. Of course, this parental engagement is recommended for **any** titles or movies in question. Research through involvement **first** before making a decision...

Titles for Girls:

If readers like ancient characters along the mythology line, these titles might work:

Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson and the Olympians; The Lightning Thief; The Sea of Monsters; The Titan's Curse.

If readers like inventive, unusual stories, this series might attract attention:

Ellen Potter's Olivia Kidney; Olivia Kidney and the Exit Academy

If readers like perceptive situations involving pre-teens and "spot-on issues," these titles might be appealing:

Kathleen O'Dell's Agnes Parker; Agnes Parker...Happy Camper?

If readers enjoy absorbing and entertaining adventures, these titles in a series are helpful:

Garth Nix's The Keys to the Kingdom: Mister Monday; Grim Tuesday; Drowned Wednesday; Sir Thursday; Lady Friday

If readers prefer family stories, this series might interest them:

Hilary McKay's Saffy's Angel; Indigo's Star; Permanent Rose;

Penny From Heaven by Jennifer L. Holm

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall (Memories of childhood and summer freedom, friends, and adventures)

The Pepins and Their Problems by Polly Horvath (Conversational style about bizarre incidents)

Keeper of the Doves by Betsy Byars (An inspiring writer grows from an inquisitive toddler into a thoughtful girl)

Bread and Roses, Too by Katherine Paterson (An 11-year old's new understanding of the American Dream)

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis (An engaging 11-year old Parvana must transform herself into boy to become the breadwinner in Kabul, ruled by the Taliban)

Chasing Redbird by Sharon Creech (A delightful and touching book about a young girl who searches for her place in the world, finding it in her own backyard)

Shiloh Season by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (A wonderful reading that shares boy/dog relationships, family responsibilities, integrity, good character development, and long-lasting values)

Silent to the Bone by E. L. Konigsburg (Branwell loses his power of speech after being wrongly accused of injuring his baby sister)

If readers like imaginative stories about dolls, these books are magical:

Ann M. Martin's and Laura Godwin's Dollhouse Adventures in The Doll People; The Meanest Doll in the World

If readers prefer experiencing transformations, these fascinating stories would interest them: Nancy Krulik's Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo, Books 3 and 4 and Katie Kazoo, Books 5 and 6

If readers are interested in the search of eternal youth, cars, and a blackmailer, read these:

Michael Hoeye's Hermux Tantamoq Adventures Time Stops for No Mouse; The Sands of Tim; No Time Like Show Time

If readers are bold and adventurous, these dramatic books will suspend them within the tale:

Will Hobbs's Adventures of Jason Hawthorn; Jason's Gold; Down the Yukon

If readers like intriguing swimming discoveries, there is magic in these tales:

Liz Kessler's Emily Windsnap; The Tail of Emily Windsnap; Emily Windsnap and the Monster from the Deep

If readers enjoy spunky writers who use language well, these books will extract great humor from you: Katy Kelly's Lucy Rose: Here's the Thing About Me; Lucy Rose: Big On Plans

If readers search for books with mystery, quests, and a fanciful energy, grab onto these titles:

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's Brotherhood of the Conch Series: The Conch Bearer; The Mirror of Fire and Dreaming

If readers want an enchanting tale with excellent teen role models, here is a fine series:

Jeanne DuPrau's The Book of Ember; The City of Ember; The People of Sparks; The Prophet of Yonwood

If readers enjoy a mystery series with a fast pace, read these books:

Julie Campbell;s Trixie Belden: The Secret of the Mansion; The Red Trailer Mystery; The Gatehouse Mystery; The Mysterious Visitor

If readers enjoy excitement and adventures that seem to vibrate, choose these titles:

Suzanne Collins's The Underland Chronicles: Gregor the Overlander; Gregor and the IProphecy of Bane; Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods

Composed by Lillian Howard