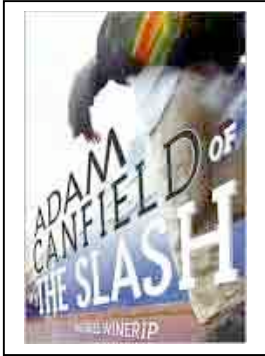


Summaries of the 2009-2010 OBOB Books



Adam Canfield of the Slash, by Michael Winerip

Realistic Fiction

830 lexile; 14 Reading Counts points

For years, Adam Canfield has been the star reporter of the student newspaper, the "Slash." But when a third-grader gives Adam and his co-editor Jennifer information about a scandalous cover-up involving their principal and some missing money, Adam must decide how important the truth really is to a newspaper reporter.



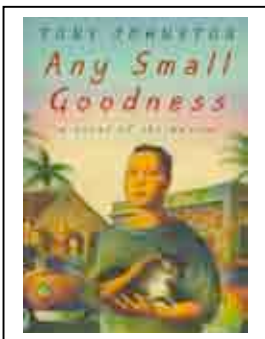
The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel,

by Michael Scott

Fantasy; Action/Adventure

890 lexile; 21 Reading Counts points

In this first book of the "Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel" series, twins Josh and Sophie learn that they are part of the prophecy written in the Codex, the ancient book of magical wisdom that is the center of a struggle between forces of good and evil. When the Codex is stolen, the twins become entangled in a war that involves werewolves, vampires, and a potion that ensures immortality.

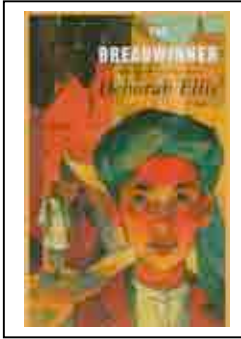


Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio, by Tony Johnston

Realistic Fiction

600 lexile; 6 Reading Counts points

Growing up in the barrio of East Los Angeles, Arturo Rodriguez struggles to make sense of the world around him. His family rich in relationships, if not in material possessions, but his community must deal with gangs and drive-by shootings. Arturo learns from the acts of "small goodness" that he sees others doing can help to overcome the bad things in life. As his father says: "If you don't find enough of the good, you must create it."

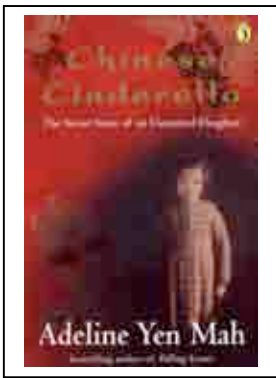


The Breadwinner: An Afghan Child, by Deborah Ellis

Realistic Fiction

630 lexile; 9 Reading Counts points

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, Parvana has rarely been outdoors. Barred from attending school, shopping at the market, or even playing in the streets of Kabul, she is trapped inside her family's one-room home. That is, until the Taliban hauls away her father to prison and Parvana realizes that it's up to her to become the "breadwinner" and disguise herself as a boy to support her mother, two sisters, and baby brother.



Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an Unwanted Daughter,

by Adeline Yen Mah

Non-Fiction; Autobiography

960 lexile; 11 Reading Counts points

Similar to the fairy tale Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah's childhood was ruled by a cruel stepmother. In this autobiography, the author describes how she was denied carfare, frequently forgotten at school at the end of the day, and whipped for daring to attend a classmate's birthday party. Even though Yen Mah is repeatedly moved up to grades ahead of her peers, it is only when she wins an international play-writing contest that her father finally takes notice and grants her wish to attend college in England. Despite her parent's heartbreaking neglect, she eventually becomes a doctor and realizes her dream of being a writer.

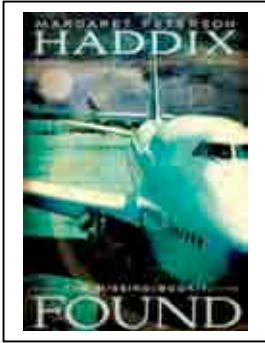


Dragon's Keep, by Janet Lee Carey

Fantasy

830 lexile; 18 Reading Counts points

This is the story of Rosalind, a twelfth-century princess who is destined for greatness by a prophecy from Merlin. The prophecy says that she will be the twenty-first queen of Wilde Island, which is plagued by dragons. But because Rosalind was born with a finger that looks exactly like a dragon's claw, she is afraid that her deformity will mark her as a witch and spell her doom. When Rosalind is kidnapped by a dragon and forced to care for its four dragon babies, she learns about the war between humans and dragons and her own destiny.



Found (*The Missing*), by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Science Fiction; Mystery & Suspense
750 lexile; 15 Reading Counts points

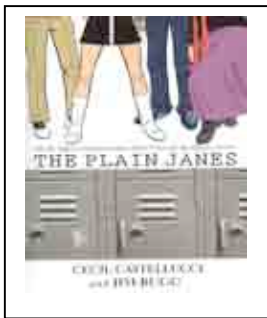
In book one of the "Missing" series, thirteen-year-old friends Jonah and Chip, both of whom are adopted, begin receiving mysterious letters. The first one says, "You are one of the missing". The second one says, "Beware! They're coming back to get you". Jonah, Chip, and Jonah's sister, Katherine, are plunged in to a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, an airplane that appeared out of nowhere...and people who seem to appear and disappear at will.



Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment, by James Patterson

Science Fiction; Action/Adventure
700 lexile; 17 Reading Counts points

Fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride is not your typical teenager. She's the leader of a group of genetically engineered children who have wings and are able to fly. They escaped from the laboratory called "School", where they were created and tortured, and are living together on their own. But their lives change forever when the youngest of the flock, Angel, is kidnapped. As they seek to rescue Angel and search for their true identities, they must fight off part-human, part-wolf predators called "Erasers". There is lots of action in this fast-moving thriller, the first book in a best selling series, which is scheduled for movie adaptation in 2010.



The Plain Janes, by Cecil Castellucci and Jim Rugg

Fiction; Graphic Novel
3.4 Reading Level; 5 Reading Counts points

In this "comic book" novel, Jane moves to the suburbs after a terrorist bomb attack in Metro City. Bored and lonely in her new town and school, she is thrilled when she meets three other girls named Jane, all of them as out of place as she is. They form a secret club, the Plain Janes, who decide to shake up the boredom in town with random "assaults" of art. Some people like their work, but most are frightened, and the local police call the Plain Janes' work "art attacks."



[The Ruins Of Gorlan \(Ranger's Apprentice\)](#), by John Flanagan

Fantasy; Action/Adventure

920 lexile; 16 Reading Counts points

In this first book of a fantasy series (Ranger's Apprentice), Will hopes to become a knight; instead, he winds up as a Ranger's apprentice, joining the secretive corps that uses secrecy, woodcraft, and courage to protect the kingdom. He lives in a world of knights and kings, evil lords, grotesque armies of telepathic monsters and hideous, and nearly invincible creatures from an ancient race of assassins. As the forces of good and evil are massing for a final showdown, Will wonders what role he can play.



[Schooled](#), by Gordon Korman

Fiction; Comedy

740 lexile; 11 Reading Counts points

Capricorn Anderson has never watched TV before. Never tasted pizza. Never even heard of a wedgie. And he never, in his wildest dreams, thought of living anywhere but on an isolated commune with his hippie grandmother, Rain. When she is hospitalized, Capricorn (Cap) is taken in by a social worker and sent to middle school. How will he adjust?

Will he be accepted? Cap's experiences in school are told from many perspectives: a social worker, a bully, a popular girl, the school principal, and a football player.



[So B. It: A Novel](#), by Sarah Weeks

Realistic Fiction

860 lexile; 11 Reading Counts points

Twelve-year-old Heidi wants to know where she came from. Her mentally disabled mother and she seemed to fall from heaven when Heidi was a baby. Now Heidi wants and needs to know the truth.

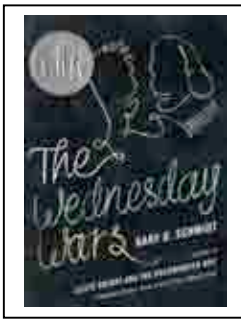
Heidi and her mother have lived in an apartment that adjoins with their neighbor, Bernadette, since the 12-year-old was probably no more than a week old. Bernadette accepted and loved them from the moment they arrived at her door but could never ask questions since Heidi's mentally challenged mother simply "didn't have the words to answer them." Then Heidi finds an old camera, which prompts her quest to learn the identity of the people in the photographs it holds and to discover her past.



Trapped Between The Lash And The Gun, by Arvella Whitmore

Historical Fiction; Time travel
630 lexile; 10 points

Twelve-year-old Jordan Scott is determined to stay in "the hood" rather than move to the suburbs with his mother and sister. Twelve-year-old Jordan is becoming dangerously involved with a street gang when he is suddenly transported through time to become a slave on the plantation of his ancestors. Forced to pick cotton with other slaves, Jordan learns first hand about the cruelty and disregard for human life that characterized life on a plantation. As he comes to know and respect the black men and women who surround him, he realizes that he has a responsibility beyond simply finding the watch and returning to the present.



The Wednesday Wars, by Gary D. Schmidt

Historical Fiction; comedy
990 lexile; 19 Reading Counts points

Holling Hoodhood is starting seventh grade in 1967. It is a time of change, not just for Holling as he begins his journey into adolescence, but for the world around him as well. The war in Vietnam is raging and the deaths of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy weigh heavy on the nation's conscience by the end of the school year. Holling, who loves baseball, camping and the joys of being a kid, is forced to spend Wednesdays with a teacher who makes him read Shakespeare outside of class. Holling is convinced that this teacher hates his guts, but he comes to learn some important lessons from her about life and dreams.



The Wild Girls, by Pat Murphy

Realistic Fiction
630 lexile; 17 Reading Counts points

Moving is difficult at any age but especially for a young girl of twelve in the 1970s. Joan is sure that she will hate California after living in Connecticut, and it is not as if her parents are getting along any better or her older brother is suddenly being nice. Things start to change when Joan meets Sarah, a girl who calls herself Fox and lives in the middle of the woods in a rundown house with her tattooed, biker father.



Zen And The Art Of Faking It, by Jordan Sonnenblick

Fiction; Comedy

840 lexile; 13 Reading Counts points

Fourteen-year-old San, an ethnic Chinese adopted by an Anglo-American couple as an infant, is as culturally American as apple pie. But as the only Asian kid in his school, he is expected to be different. Instead of trying to "fit in", San reinvents himself as a mysterious Zen Buddhist when "the thing" with his dad gets "ugly". San takes on his new identity partly to spite his father, but also to impress his new classmates, especially a pretty girl. In the end, he learns that his fake new identity will help him discover who he really is.