

ENTERING 3-6th GRADE GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE TITLES

(Any book over 100 pages set in a country within the continent, or relating its folklore or history would qualify, as would a travel guide or biography of a famous resident or explorer -- titles below are ideas to get you started)

North America

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery (CANADA) 7.3: Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm, and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.

The Color of My Words by Lynn Joseph (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC) 5.1: When life gets difficult for Ana Rosa, a twelve-year-old would-be writer living in a small village in the Dominican Republic, she can depend on her older brother to make her feel better--until the life-changing events on her thirteenth birthday.

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Curtis (CANADA) 5.4: In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah, the first freeborn child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the American South, uses his wits to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan (MEXICO/ UNITED STATES) 5.3: Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to work in the labor camps of Southern California on the eve of the Great Depression.

Freckles by Gene Stratton Porter (UNITED STATES) 6.3: Orphaned and maimed, Freckles' bitterness about his fate is lessened when he is hired to guard a stretch of lumber in the wild Limberlost and, after meeting the beautiful "Swamp Angel," he determines to find out about his past.

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) 4.6: In 1943, 11-year-old Dewey is going to live with her father in Los Alamos, New Mexico. He is working on a top-secret government program with other eminent scientists. No one knows how the gadget is about to change the world.

The Highlander by Zoe Saadia: (MEXICO) 5.7: Two boys, Kuini, a Highlander and Coyotl, who is from the lowlands are both something of free spirits and meet by chance as children. Their friendship endures through secret meetings and notes and the main action of the story takes place when they are fifteen and political tensions within the region are at a crisis point.

Ice Drift by Theodore Taylor (GREENLAND) 5.7: Two Inuit brothers must fend for themselves while stranded on an ice floe that is adrift in the Greenland Strait.

Little Britches: Father and I were Ranchers by Ralph Moody (UNITED STATES) 5.3: This book begins the story of Ralph Moody, who was eight years old in 1906 when his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Experience the pleasures and perils of ranching in the early twentieth century.

The Watsons go to Birmingham by Christopher Curtis (UNITED STATES) 5.0: The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they visit Grandma Sands in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Little Britches: Father and I were Ranchers by Ralph Moody (UNITED STATES) 5.3: This book begins the story of Ralph Moody, who was eight years old in 1906 when his family moved from New Hampshire to a Colorado ranch. Experience the pleasures and perils of ranching in the early twentieth century.

Rover by Jaquie French (GREENLAND)4.6: Captured by Vikings, young Hekja is taken as a slave to Greenland by the daughter of Erik the Red, accompanied by no one from her homeland but her loyal dog, and shares adventures with her new mistress, who is determined to make a name for herself.

The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth Speare (UNITED STATES) 4.9: A boy in Maine, rescued by an Indian chief and his grandson, must decide whether to spend the winter alone in the woods waiting for his family or move on to a new life with his new friends.

Travels with Gannon and Wyatt: Greenland by Patti Wheeler (GREENLAND) 6.0: Upon arriving in Ilulissat, Greenland, Gannon and Wyatt prepare for the adventure of a lifetime--a dogsled expedition in the Arctic! But before the explorers even crack a whip, they receive a desperate mayday call from an Inuit family that is stranded in the far north. Suddenly, Gannon and Wyatt's expedition to study climate change and Greenlandic culture turns into something far more dangerous--a mission to save lives. As they rush north to rescue the family, led by Inuit guides, the brothers must steer clear of deadly hidden crevasses, hungry polar bears, and bitter cold as they race into an Arctic super-storm, putting even more lives in jeopardy--their own.

The Well of Sacrifice Chris Eboch (GUATEMALA) 6.3: When a Mayan girl in ninth-century Guatemala suspects that the High Priest sacrifices anyone who stands in the way of his power, she proves herself a hero.

South America

Addison Cooke and the Treasure of the Incas by Jonathan W. Stokes (BOLIVIA) 5.2: 12 year-old Addison Cooke's uncle unearths ancient Incan secrets in Bolivia, he is kidnapped by a shadowy organization intent on stealing the treasure unless Addison and his friends can decipher the clues first.

Ambushed in Jaguar Swamp by Dave Jackson (PARAGUAY) 5.7: Thirteen-year-old Kyemap wants to accept the Christian teachings of Mr. Grubb, a missionary to the Lengua Indians of Paraguay during the 1980s, but he fears the reaction of the witch doctors. The coauthor is Neta Jackson.

Bringing the Boy Home by N.A. Nelson (AMAZON BASIN) 4.4: As two Takunami youths approach their thirteenth birthdays, Luka reaches the end of his training for the tribe's manhood test while Tirio, raised in Miami, is called to begin preparations to prove himself during his upcoming visit to the Amazon.

Death on the Amazon by Paul Zindel (PERU) 5.2: P.C.'s archaeologist dad invites P.C. and Mackenzie on a business trip to Peru, and they find themselves trapped on a slow boat down the Amazon. Along for the ride: a cursed mummy, superstitious crew members, and a vicious killer.

Death on the River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Amazon Adventure by Samantha Seiple (BRAZIL) 7.3 : In October 1913, Theodore Roosevelt arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on a tour of South America. The thrill-seeking adventurer had no idea that he would soon receive an offer he couldn't refuse: the chance to lead an expedition deep into the Amazon jungle to chart an unmapped river with his son Kermit and renowned Brazilian explorer Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon. Through it all, the indomitable Teddy Roosevelt remained determined to complete their mission and rewrite the map of the world. Or die trying.

The Disappeared by Gloria Whelan (ARGENTINA) 5.3: Teenaged Silvia tries to save her brother, Eduardo, after he is captured by the military government in 1970s Argentina.

The Fate of the Yellow Woodbee by Dave Jackson (ECUADOR) 5.3: A fictionalized account of the five missionaries who carried God's word to the fierce Aucus, or Huaorani, of Ecuador. The coauthor is Neta Jackson.

Fear the Condor by David Nelson Blair (BOLIVIA) 5.3: The story of an Aymara Indian of Bolivia who finds the strength within herself to learn to read and write despite the landowner's effort to instill fear against new ways in her people.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin (CHILE) 4.9: When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic, sadistic government, Celeste is sent to America for her safety, and her parents must go into hiding before they "disappear."

Island of Thieves by Josh Lacey (PERU) 4.2: Tom goes with his uncle Harvey to Peru, where they narrowly escape imprisonment and death as they hunt for buried treasure after tracking down a journal written by John Drake, a young relative of Sir Francis Drake, on a voyage to Lima in 1577

Jack's Run by Roland Smith (ARGENTINA) 4.8: Kidnapped by drug czar Alonzo Asnar and held hostage in Argentina, Jack and his sister Joanne attempt a daring escape while their parents, aided by some old friends, set out to rescue them.

Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson (BRAZIL) 5.6: Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.

Land of the Wild Llama: A Story of the Patagonian Andes by Audrey M. Fraggalosch: (CHILE) 4.2: Among the windy mountain peaks in the grasslands at the base of snow-capped mountains in Chile, a wild llama raises her baby.

The Mystery Across the Secret Bridge by Harper Paris (PERU) 3.8: While in Machu Picchu, Peru, with their parents, eight-year-old twins Ethan and Ella cross a secret bridge and discover a mysterious stone sculpture.

The Mystery at Machu Picchu: Lost City of the Incas by Carol Marsh (PERU) 4.8: Christina and Grant get the chance of a lifetime to visit Peru and the incredible Incan ruins at Machu Picchu. Along the way, they meet two Peruvian kids looking for their lost llama and soon step into a mystery filled with baffling artifacts.

Rio de Janeiro! by Giada de Laurentiis (BRAZIL) 4.6: Zia's secret ingredient takes Alfie and Emilia to Rio de Janeiro, a city famous for its delicious food, sandy beaches, and vibrant music. The coauthor is Brandi Dougherty

Secret of the Andes by Ann Nolan Clark (PERU) 4.7: An Indian boy who tends llamas in a hidden valley in Peru learns the traditions and secrets of his Inca ancestors.

Tales from Silver Lands by Charles J. Finger (SOUTH AMERICA) 6.2: This book is a collection of nineteen folk tales collected and retold by the author from his travels throughout Central and South America.

Australia/Oceania

The Boy Who Returned from the Sea by Morgan Clay (NEW ZEALAND)3.6: Jack is reunited with his beloved sheepdog, Moxie, on the island where they first met, but the dangerous Blackburn Jukes is there, too, searching for valuable amber that is hidden in the island's bogs.

The Boy Who Spoke Dog by Morgan Clay (NEW ZEALAND)4.2: After being marooned on an island near New Zealand, Jack, an orphaned cabin boy from San Francisco, becomes allied with a group of dogs who protect the local sheep from wild dogs.

Bob, by Wendy Maas (AUSTRALIA)3.9: While visiting her grandmother in Australia, ten-year-old Livy is reminded of the promise she made five years earlier to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is. The coauthor is Rebecca Stead.

The Champion by Maurice Gee (NEW ZEALAND)3.9: In 1943, twelve-year-old Rex sees his quiet New Zealand village dramatically changed by the arrival of a black American soldier on leave from the war.

Danger Down Under by Carolyn Keene (AUSTRALIA) 5.3: When tribal artifacts disappear in Australia, Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys are called in.

Escape to Murray River by Robert Elmer (AUSTRALIA) 4.7: In 1868, after their father is wrongfully convicted and deported on the last prison ship to Australia, Patrick and his family are determined to stay together and follow their father to the far-off continent.

Hazel Green by Odo Hirsch (AUSTRALIA)4.7: Enterprising Hazel Green tries to convince the city to allow children to march in the annual Frogg Day parade.

Jonathan Down Under by Patricia Beatty (AUSTRALIA)5.0: Thirteen-year-old Jonathan accompanies his luckless miner father to the gold fields of Australia, where he learns to be his own man amidst the rough-and-ready society of nineteenth-century Victoria.

The Last Gold Diggers Being as It Were, An Account of A Small Dog's Adventures, Down Under by Harry Horse (AUSTRALIA) 5.4: A series of letters from Grandfather reveal his adventures in Australia with the remarkable little dog, Roo, as he seeks his long-lost older brother, Uncle Vincent, who went there to find gold when he was seventeen.

The Magic Pudding by Norman Lindsay (AUSTRALIA) 5.6: "The Magic Pudding" describes the adventures of a koala bear, named Bunyip Bluegum - the kind of koala who wears a high collar and spats - who falls in with a crazy cowboy sort of fellow named Bill Barnacle and a penguin named Sam Sawnoff. Bill and Sam are possessed of a magic pudding (named Albert, if you can believe this), who regenerates every time you take a bite of him and changes into whatever flavor you like. Albert the pudding is much coveted by two evil villains who are constantly tricking our Heroes into giving up the Pudding, whereupon they must go and re-rescue it. The characters and style are very reminiscent of "Alice in Wonderland"

Moonrunner by Mark Thomason (AUSTRALIA) 4.1: In the 1890s, twelve-year-old Casey has just moved to Australia. He misses his home and his friends in Montana, but most of all, he misses the wild mustangs. When Casey discovers a herd of wild brumbies, he develops a bond with a stallion, Moonrunner.

The Race to Kangaroo Cliff by McCall Smith, Alexander (AUSTRALIA) 5.7: Ben and Fee MacTavish and the rest of the school ship *Tobermory* crew head to Australia to take part in a tall ships race. But after a good start, the *Tobermory* unexpectedly changes course to rescue a local boy, Will, who is stranded on the rocks. When the ship's dog, Henry, disappears, Will helps Ben, Fee, and their friends find him, but as the trail leads them deeper into the Outback, they begin to realize that a missing dog is the least of their problems.

The Unforgettable What's His Name by Paul Jennings (AUSTRALIA) 4.3: The boy (readers don't learn his name until the end of the book) is so used to being ignored and being called "What's His Name" that his mother has invited another child, Horrible Gertag, over for the weekend to help ease the boy's sadness and loneliness. However, Gertag is definitely not the solution the boy desires, and he immediately tries to escape her company. During the next two days, very strange things begin to happen, including his blending into his surroundings and actually physically transforming into copies of objects around him. Complete with a madcap cast of characters including a motorcycle gang ("bikies") and a pack of monkeys, this illustrated adventure story packages a message about social anxiety in a unique early middle grade format.

The Shackelton Sabotage by Dee Garretson (AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND) 4.8: The Aldens continue their mission to return lost artifacts around the world, following clues through Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica. The coauthor is JM Lee. Series created by Gertrude Chandler Warner.

Storm Boy by Colin Thiele (AUSTRALIA) 4.1: Set along the rugged beauty of the South Australian coast, Storm Boy cares for an injured pelican and finds a friend that shows him the power of loyalty and love.

The Switherby Pilgrims: A Tale of the Australian Bush, by Eleanor Spence (AUSTRALIA) 5.6: In 1825, concerned for the future of her ten orphan charges in the grim factory towns of their native England, Miss Arabella Braithewaite, known to the children as Missabella, decides to take a land grant in Australia and makes the long, daunting journey with her wards to the austere bush country of New South Wales.

Voyage of the Exiles by Patricia Hickman(AUSTRALIA) 5.7: This is the story of the voyage of the first British transports to a penal colony in Australia, and the trials of the Prentice family, victims of the British legal system.

Walkabout by James Marshall (AUSTRALIA)5.9: Mary and her brother Peter are the only survivors an airplane crash in the middle of the Australian desert. Facing death from exhaustion and starvation, they meet an aboriginal boy who helps them to survive, and guides them along their long journey.

Asia

The Bamboo Sword by Margi Preus (JAPAN) 5.7: In Japan in 1853, at the time of U.S. Commodore Perry's visit to Japan, Yoshi, a young Japanese boy who dreams of becoming a samurai one day, learns about America from Manjiro and has adventures with Jack, a young cabin boy aboard one of the U.S. ships.

Chained by Lynne Kelly (INDIA) 4.7: To work off a family debt, ten-year-old Hastin leaves his desert village in India to work as a circus elephant keeper, but many challenges await him, including trying to keep Nandita, a sweet elephant, safe from the cruel circus owner.

Daughter of the Mountains by Louise Rankin (TIBET/INDIA): 6.1: Momo undertakes a dangerous journey from the mountains of Tibet to the city of Calcutta in search of her stolen dog, Pempa.

Children of the Dragon: Selected Tales from Vietnam by Sherry Garland (VIETNAM) 6.2: This book provides a collection of six Vietnamese folktales with explanatory notes following each story.

Chinese Cinderella and the Secret Dragon Society by Adeline Yen Mah (CHINA) 5.4: During the Japanese occupation of parts of China, twelve-year-old Ye Xian is thrown out of her father and stepmother's home, joins a martial arts group, and tries to help her aunt and the Americans in their struggle against the Japanese invaders.

Dragon Keeper by Carol Wilkinson (CHINA) 5.4: In ancient China during the Han Dynasty, a nameless orphan is hopeless and lonely until she comes to the aid of an aging dragon, and together they journey to protect a mysterious stone.

The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig (RUSSIA/ SIBERIA): 6.3: During World War II, when she was eleven years old, the author and her family were arrested in Poland by the Russians as political enemies and exiled to Siberia. She recounts here the trials of the following five years spent on the harsh Asian steppe.

Flight of the Fugitives by Dave Jackson (CHINA) 5.7: After coming to China to work as a missionary in the early 1930s, Gladys Aylward adopts several orphans and tries to save nearly a hundred more during the war between China and Japan. The coauthor is Neta Jackson

The Happiness of Kati by Jane Vejjajiva (THAILAND) 6.2: With the impending death of her mother, Kati, a young Thai girl, completes the puzzle of her past and discovers the reason that her mother gave her up as a baby.

The Hidden Jewel by Dave Jackson (INDIA) 5.2: While traveling in the south of India, fourteen-year-old John and his mother encounter the Irish missionary Amy Carmichael and find themselves drawn into helping the work of the Dohnavur Fellowship.

Jahanara: Princess of Princesses by Kathryn Lasky (INDIA) 6.0: Beginning in 1627, Princess Jahanara, first daughter of Shah Jahan of India's Moghul Dynasty, writes in her diary about political intrigues, weddings, battles, and other experiences of her life.

Lady of Ch'iao Kuo: Warrior of the South by Laurence Yep (CHINA) 5.3: In 531 A.D., a fifteen-year-old princess of the Hsien tribe in southern China keeps a diary which describes her role as liaison between her own people and the local Chinese colonists, in times of both peace and war.

A Million Shades of Gray by Cynthia Kadohata (VIETNAM) 4.9: In 1975 after American troops pull out of Vietnam, a thirteen-year-old boy and his beloved elephant escape into the jungle when the Viet Cong attack his village.

Noodle Pie by Ruth Starke (VIETNAM) 4.9: Andy experiences extreme culture shock when he travels to Vietnam with his father, a former refugee who is returning to his home country for the first time.

One Half From the East by Nadia Hashimi (AFGHAHNISTAN) 4.3: Obayda's family is in need of some good fortune, and her aunt proposes an idea to bring the family luck by dressing Obayda, the youngest of four sisters, as a boy, a bacha posh.

Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom by Katherine Paterson (CHINA) 6.0: Abducted from his home by bandits, fifteen-year-old Wang Lee is rescued from slavery by a mysterious girl who introduces him to the Taiping Tienkuo, a secret society partly based on Christian principles and dedicated to the overthrow of the Manchu government.

A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park (KOREA) 6.3: Tree-ear, an orphan in Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village and longs to learn how to throw the celadon pottery himself.

The Turtle of Oman by Naomii Nye (OMAN) 4.6: When Aref, a third-grader who lives in Oman, refuses to pack his suitcase for his family's move to Michigan, his mother asks for help from his grandfather, who takes Aref around the country to create memories he can carry with him to a new home.

Europe

Angel and the Flying Stallions (SPAIN) 5.7: Issie returns to El Caballo Danza Magnifico, this time determined to bring her colt Storm back home. But first she must master haut école moves on stallion Angel to prove herself to the best riders in Spain. Meanwhile, devious Miguel Vega is involved when mares go missing.

Angel on the Square by Gloria Whelan (RUSSIA) 5.6: In 1913 Russia, twelve-year-old Katya eagerly anticipates leaving her St. Petersburg home to join her mother, a lady-in-waiting in the household of Tsar Nicholas II. The ensuing years bring world war, revolution, and undreamed of changes to her life.

Breaking Stalin's Nose by Eugene Yelchin (RUSSIA) 4.6 : In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

Burying the Sun by Gloria Whelan (RUSSIA) 5.6: In Leningrad in 1941, when Russia and Germany are at war, fourteen-year-old Georgi vows to help his family and his city during the terrible siege.

Candy Bombers by Robert Elmer (GERMANY)4.7: In 1948 Berlin, Germany, while trying to survive the Russian blockade of the city and also grieving for his father and sister who were killed in the war, thirteen-year-old Erich is befriended by a United States airman.

The Family Under the Bridge by Natalie Carlson (FRANCE)4.7 : An old tramp, adopted by three fatherless children when their mother hides them under a bridge on the Seine, finds a home for the mother and the children and a job for himself.

A Faraway Island by Annika Thor (SWEDEN) 4.4: In 1939 Sweden, two Jewish sisters wait for their parents to flee the Nazis in Austria. Eight-year-old Nellie settles in quickly, but 12-year-old Stephie feels stranded with a foster mother who is as cold & unforgiving.

Finn Family Moomintroll by Tove Jansson (FINLAND)5.5: It is spring in the valley and the Moomins are ready for adventure! Moomintroll and his friends Snufkin and Sniff find the Hobgoblin's top hat, all shiny and new and just waiting to be taken home. They soon realize that his is no ordinary hat; it can turn anything—or anyone—into something else!

Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge (THE NETHERLANDS)8.2 : Hans and Gretel's dream of competing for the silver skates seems as remote as a cure for their invalid father, until a new friend comes into their lives.

Heidi by Johanna Syri (SWITZERLAND)8.2: Heidi, an orphan, builds a strong bond with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps. When she is sent into town to attend school and be a friend to a wealthy man's invalid daughter, Heidi becomes homesick for her Grandfather and home in the mountains.

Isabel: Jewel of Castilla by Carolyn Meyers (SPAIN)6.6: While waiting anxiously for others to choose a husband for her, Isabel, the future Queen of Spain, keeps a diary account of her life as a member of the royal family.

Mary Poppins by P.L. Travers (UNITED KINGDOM)6.1: The wind brings four English children a new nanny who slides up the banister and introduces them to some delightful people and experiences.

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren (SWEDEN)5.2 : This is the story of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey--but without any parents--at the edge of a Swedish village is involved in many escapades.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke (ITALY)4.8: Prosper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself the "Thief Lord."

West of the Moon by Preus, Margi (NORWAY) 5.2: After being separated from her sister and sold to a cruel goat farmer, Astri makes a daring escape. With a mysterious companion in tow and the malevolent "goatman" in pursuit, the girls head over the Norwegian mountains, through field and forest, and in and out of folktales and dreams as they steadily make their way east of the sun and west of the moon.

The Wheel on the School Meindert de Jong (THE NETHERLANDS)4.7: The residents of a small town in Holland try to bring storks to nest in their village

Africa

The Cat of Bubastes: An Ancient Egyptian Tale by G.A. Henty (EGYPT)6.7: The story of a young prince who becomes a slave when the Egyptians conquer his people, then is made a fugitive when his master accidentally kills a sacred cat.

Desert Danger by J. Burchett (NAMIBIA)4.2: Ben and Zoe travel to the Kalahari Desert in Namibia to rescue a lion cub that has fallen down a well, but a sandstorm threatens to overwhelm them before they can get the cub back to its pride. The coauthor is S. Vogler.

A Girl Called Problem by Katie Quirk (TANZANIA)5.0: In Tanzania in 1967, when President Nyerere urges his people to work together as one extended family, the people of Litongo move to a new village, where thirteen-year-old Shida and her female cousins are allowed to attend school.

The Golden Goblet by Eloise McGraw (EGYPT) 6.3: A young boy seeks to reveal a hideous crime and reveal his own destiny.

Journey to Jo'burg: A South African Story by Beverly Naidoo (SOUTH AFRICA)4.6: Separated from their mother by the harsh social and economic conditions prevalent among blacks in South Africa, thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother make a journey over 300 kilometers to find her in Johannesburg.

A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story, by Linda Sue Park (SUDAN)5.5: Eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family when the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, and he must walk with other Dinka tribe members in search of a safe haven.

Mara, Daughter of the Nile by Eloise McGraw (EGYPT)6.7: This book is the adventures of an ingenious Egyptian slave girl who undertakes a dangerous assignment as a spy in the royal palace of Thebes, in the days when Queen Hatshepsut rules.

Orphan of the Sun by Gill Harvey (EGYPT)5.3: Meryt-Re, a thirteen-year-old orphan living in Egypt during the building of the pharaohs' tombs, tries to come to terms with her ability to see the truth in dreams while also attempting to determine who is trying to overthrow the village foreman.

The No. 1 Car Spotter by Atinuke (NIGERIA)3.3: No. 1 and his friend Coca-Cola gather nuts and keep the soft drinks cool in the river. But when the cart breaks down and the villagers can't get their goods to market, No. 1 comes up with the solution.

Precious and the Monkeys. Alexander McCall Smith (BOTSWANA)5.5: Well before Precious Ramotswa founded her Number One Ladies Detective Agency, as an eight-year-old girl she was already solving mysteries. Here we find out just who has been stealing her schoolfriend's snacks and how the young Precious became the crafty and intuitive private investigator we all know and love.

The Return by Sonia Levitin (ETHIOPIA)4.5: This is a touching novel about two Ethiopian Jews who escape persecution to find freedom in Israel.

Sahwira: An African Friendship by Carolyn Marsden (ZIMBABWE/ZAMBIA)4.6: The strong friendship between two boys, one black and one white, who live on a mission in Rhodesia, begins to unravel as protests against white colonial rule intensify in 1964. The coauthor is Philip Merlin Matzigkeit.

Travels with Gannon and Wyatt: Botswana by Patti Wheeler (BOTSWANA) 6.1: When Gannon and Wyatt arrive in Botswana for an African safari, they find themselves tangled up in much more than a family vacation. After receiving word that a poacher has shot and wounded a lioness, they set off into the wild in the hopes of saving the mother and her cubs before the poacher finishes the job. While on this amazing journey, they encounter Africa's Big Five--elephants, rhinos, cape buffaloes, leopards, and lions--only to discover that the most dangerous predator in the African bush is not the king of beasts, but man himself.

The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John (SOUTH AFRICA)6.2: After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe.

Antarctica

The Adventures of A South Pole Pig A Novel of Snow and Courage by Christopher Kurtz 4.6: The day Flora spots a team of sled dogs is the day she sets her heart on becoming a sled pig. Before she knows it, she's on board a ship to Antarctica for the most exhilarating and dangerous adventure of her life.

Byrd & Igloo: A Polar Adventure by Samantha Seiple 6.7: BYRD & IGLOO is the first narrative nonfiction book to tell the daring adventures of legendary polar explorer and aviator Richard Byrd and his lovable dog explorer, Igloo. Byrd is known for being the first to fly a plane over the North and South Poles, while Igloo is famous for being the only dog to explore both the North and South Poles. The adventures of Byrd and Igloo opened the door for science and research in the Antarctic. Featuring direct quotes from letters, diaries and interviews, newspaper clippings, expedition records, maps, charts, as well as never-before-seen photos, it will give the complete story of the explorers' journey.

Can You Survive Antarctica? An Interactive Survival Adventure by Rachael Hanel 3.5: You are surrounded by the vast, unforgiving landscape of the coldest place on Earth Antarctica. Even during the summer months, bone chilling cold, raging blizzards, and treacherous ice threatens human survival. Will you, Join the race to be the first to reach the South Pole? Attempt to ski across the continent as part of an all female expedition? Study Antarctic plant and animal life as a scientist at a research station? Experience the life or death dilemmas of a place few people ever see. YOU CHOOSE what you'll do next. The choices you make will either lead you to safety or to doom.

Endurance in Antarctica by Katrina Charman 5.5: Sled dog Samson wants nothing more than to be part of Ernest Shackleton's historic voyage to Antarctica. He wants to feel the snow under his paws and the wind on his face as he races across the ice fields, and most of all he wants to help his humans find eternal glory as they chart the continent. His fellow sled dog, Bummer, just wants to get through the voyage in one piece. Why would he want to face down a dangerous, icy wasteland when he could stay inside his kennel, warm and safe?

How to Survive in Antarctica by Lucy Jane Bledsoe 6.7: Part memoir, part survival tips, part curiosities, Lucy Jane Bledsoe's book lets readers vicariously experience the author's adventures while on exploration in Antarctica.

Lost in the Antarctic The Doomed Voyage of the Endurance by Tod Olson 6.5: This book tells the story of Ernest Shackleton and his crew, who abandoned the ship "Endurance" in the Antarctic.

Polar Explorers for Kids Historic Expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctica With 21 Activities by Maxine Snowden 8.2: This book describes the travels and adventures of Arctic and Antarctic explorers throughout history, from Eric the Red in 981 or 982 to Gretel Ehrlich in 2000.

Race to the South Pole by Kate Messner 4.7: Traveling back in time to a 20th-century expedition to Antarctica, Ranger, the time-traveling golden retriever, befriends a cabin boy working for Captain Robert Falcon Scott and helps them race against rival explorers to reach the South Pole.

Science on the Ice An Antarctic Journal by Rebecca L. Johnson 7.2: This book takes you on a remarkable journey to Antarctica and joins with scientists as they conduct their research.

Who Was Ernest Shackleton? by James Buckley 5.2: This biography profiles the life of Ernest Shackleton, famous for his historic 1914 journey to the South Pole aboard the "Endurance."

The Winter Pony Iain Lawrence 5.5: This account, from the point of view of a pony, tells what it was like to be part of Captain Robert Scott's 1910 expedition to reach the South Pole before rival Roald Amundsen.