

Book Resources with Gifted Connections

- 1** | **Author:** Abeel, S.
- Title:** **My Thirteenth Winter**
- 2003, Scholastic
Pp. 180
ISBN: 9780439339049
- Lexile:** 1050
- Themes:** Isolation, estrangement, perseverance, peer relations, mental/emotional health
- Note that the themes above and the gifted connections below are virtually identical. "My Thirteenth Winter" is a non-fiction account of Samantha Abeel's heroic battle to discover and deal with the fact that she is highly gifted and suffers from profound dyscalculia. A nationally known author in 9th grade, Sam can't count change or tell time, let alone understand algebra. This entire memoir is a moving, textbook example of the twice-exceptional experience including parental, school, college and work place examples.
- Gifted Connections:** Asynchronous development, isolation, estrangement, perseverance, peer relations, creativity, and writing ability.
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- 2** | **Author:** Alexie, S.
- Title:** **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**
- 2007, Little, Brown and Company
Pp. 288
ISBN: 9780316013697
- Lexile:** 600
- Themes:** Perseverance, loss, family, belonging
- A National Book Award winner in 2007, Alexie's novel blends humor, tragedy and empathy as well as any book I have ever read. Arnold Spirit ("Junior") tells the story about leaving his reservation school to attend Reardon High School during his freshman year. Junior continues to live on the reservation where he is treated as a deserter while he tries to fit in as the sole Indian at Reardon. Humor and tragedy ensue throughout this semi-autobiographical gem.
- Gifted Connections:** Fitting in, peer resentment, alienation, intensities, multi-potentialities
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3	<p>Author: Anderson, J. D.</p> <p>Title: <i>Ms. Bixby's Last Day</i></p> <p>2016, Walden Pond Press Pp. 366 ISBN13: 9780062338181</p> <p>Lexile: 800</p> <p>Themes: Loyalty, perseverance, loss, friendship, resilience</p> <p>This book is both very poignant and very funny. Three best friends alternate telling their story about their favorite teacher, Ms. Bixby, and how they spent one whole day trying to thank her for all she had done for them (and every other student she'd ever had). Flashbacks help us understand all three boys and their wonderful teacher. The author is married to a teacher, and his love for the profession is evident throughout the book.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Almost too many to mention, but include: finding friends, artistic ability, academic ability, perfectionism, creativity and (unrealistic) parental expectations</p>
4	<p>Author: Anderson, L. H.</p> <p>Title: <i>Catalyst</i></p> <p>2011, Penguin Pp. 240 ISBN: 9780670035663</p> <p>Lexile: HL 585</p> <p>Themes: Peer relations, abuse, poverty, loss</p> <p>Narrator Kate Malone is a very smart high school senior with pronounced OCD tendencies. Her story runs parallel and eventually intersects with that of her classmate, Teri, who has endured multiple tragedies in her life. Students who are anxious about grades, scholarships, and getting into the "right" college will relate to Kate's narrative, while all readers will be intrigued by the revelations we discover about Teri as the story progresses.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: 2E, academic excellence, perfectionism</p>
5	<p>Author: Benjamin, A.</p> <p>Title: <i>The Thing About Jellyfish</i></p> <p>2015, Little, Brown and Company Pp. 352 ISBN13: 9780316380867</p> <p>Lexile: 740</p> <p>Themes: Loss, identity, family, friendship, perseverance</p> <p>"The Thing About Jellyfish" was a deserving 2015 <i>National Book Award finalist</i>, as the author has blended several compelling themes to create the wonderful story of Suzy Swanson's complicated journey through elementary school (told via flashback) to her eventful middle school years. Students mystified by age peers, in love with learning, and</p>

	<p>who are compelled to solve problems will respond to Suzy, even more so if the readers love science!</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Science, problem solving, intensities, peer relationships, asynchrony, autonomous learning.</p>
6	<p>Author: Brooks, B.</p> <p>Title: Midnight Hour Encores</p> <p>Pp. 272 1986, Harper Keynote ISBN13: 9780064470216</p> <p>Lexile: 820</p> <p>Themes: Family, music, abandonment, reconciliation</p> <p>Sibilance Spooner is a world-class cellist living with her father, as her mother left both of them the day Sib was born. Much of the book deals with issues around the family, but Sib's devotion to her music should draw students into her story.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Music, intelligence, over-excitabilities</p>
7	<p>Author: Bruchac, J.</p> <p>Title: Code Talker</p> <p>2005, Penguin Pp. 240 ISBN13: 9780142405963</p> <p>Lexile: 910</p> <p>Themes: Courage, service, American Indian (Navajo) Conflict (WW II) family, friendship, history</p> <p>"Code Talker" is an historical account of the Navajos' invaluable contribution to America's war effort as well as the irony of devoting lives to a war of liberation while simultaneously experiencing ignorance and prejudice at home. The story is told as a flashback from a grandfather to his grandchildren as Kii Ya'hzi' tells the story of the medal he and all Navajo code talkers were awarded after WWII.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Language, perseverance, intensities, intellect, and academics</p>

8	<p>Author: Bruchac, J.</p> <p>Title: Talking Leaves</p> <p>2016, Dial Pp. 256 ISBN: 9780803735088</p> <p>Lexile: 750</p> <p>Themes: Prejudice, superstition, incredible persistence and bravery, public service, isolation</p> <p>“Talking Leaves” refers to what the Cherokee called books, and is the fictionalized account of the heroic struggle of Sequoyah – the creator of the Cherokee written language – to both invent the alphabet and overcome intense resistance (including a trial for “witchcraft,” which could have resulted in Sequoyah’s execution) to convince his people of the power of written language. At the time, “literacy” meant learning English, and this may have eventually led to the extinction of Cherokee language. Thanks to the genius and bravery on Sequoyah, Cherokee language, heritage and history are now preserved.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Creativity (resulting in rejection and exclusion), problem solving, intensities, perfectionism</p>
9	<p>Author: Buvea, R.</p> <p>Title: Because of Mr. Terupt</p> <p>2010, Yearling Pp. 310 ISBN 9780375858246</p> <p>Lexile: 560</p> <p>Themes: Friendship, maturation, guilt, forgiveness, courage</p> <p>Mr. Terupt, a gifted first year teacher, helps seven 5th graders learn about themselves and one another in a story told alternately from the point of view of Peter, Amy, Luke, Alexia, Jeffrey, Danielle, and Anna, four of whom are gifted themselves. The author continues their stories so we follow the students into 6th and 7th grade.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Being “the brain,” introversion, peer relations, intensities, and the portrayal of a gifted teacher.</p>
10	<p>Author: Callard-Szulgit, R. Illustrated by Michael P. Schnall</p> <p>Title: Oliver K. Brand...A Very Kind and Intelligent Little Boy</p> <p>2013, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform Pp. 26 ISBN: 978-1483915258</p> <p>Lexile: Not available, but if directed by adults, would be appropriate for K– Grade 3.</p> <p>Themes: Beginning school, fitting in, peer relations, friendship</p> <p>Oliver enters school ahead of his age peers in virtually every way. His enthusiasm for</p>

	<p>learning and overly eager attempts to help his peers result in his feeling alienated and isolated, until help from his teacher, parents, and a new neighbor make things much better. The author, an adjunct professor who teaches in a gifted certification program, has captured the difficulties of tracking students by age, and also the joy and security that can result from having a best friend.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Asynchrony, peer relationships, very high intelligence, friendship with interest and ability peers.</p>
11	<p>Author: Cohen, B. Illustrator: Wil Clay</p> <p>Title: 213 Valentines</p> <p>1991, Henry Holt and Company Pp. 56 ISBN: 9780805026276</p> <p>Lexile: 630</p> <p>Themes: Fitting in, moving (to a new school), maturation, living in two worlds</p> <p>Wade has been recruited to attend a Gifted and Talented section in fourth grade, necessitating a bus trip to nearby Kennedy school. His preconceptions as well as those of his new classmates (all but one of whom is white) create considerable initial discomfort, as students try to overcome various stereotypes as Valentine's day approaches. This very accessible book could be used as a vehicle to begin looking at the assumptions we make about one another, often with poor information.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: An entire gifted class, asynchrony, creativity, problem solving, peer relations</p>
12	<p>Author: Creech, Sharon</p> <p>Title: Walk Two Moons</p> <p>1994, HarperCollins Pp. 288 ISBN13: 9780064405171</p> <p>Lexile: 770L</p> <p>Themes: Loss, resilience, persistence</p> <p>Salamanca Tree Hiddle, a precocious and imaginative thirteen-year-old, entertains her grandparents with an amazing and complicated story as they drive west together on an urgent mission. <i>Walk Two Moons</i> is a Newbery Award winner.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Language, imagination, empathy, humor</p>

13	<p>Author: Curtis, P.C.</p> <p>Title: The Mighty Miss Malone</p> <p>2012, Random House Pp. 309 ISBN13: 9780440422143</p> <p>Lexile: 750</p> <p>Themes: Family, poverty, persistence, courage, injustice, endurance, humor</p> <p>“The Mighty Miss Malone” is a sequel, of sorts, to “Bud, Not Buddy”, which won both the Newbery (Curtis was the first African-American male to receive this award) and the Coretta Scott King award in 2000. “The Mighty Miss Malone” is an equal to any of the Newbery award winners I have read. The book is set in the depression where then, as now, suffering and poverty are unequally distributed and also relative. The Malone family faces extreme poverty, which is compounded by several events in the book. The family’s courage and humor are truly inspiring, and the book provides dramatic evidence of the impact opportunity has on the development of talent.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Musical, verbal giftedness, intelligence, critical and creative thinking, problem solving, autonomous learning, mentoring.</p>
14	<p>Author: Dairman, T</p> <p>Title: All Four Stars</p> <p>2014, Puffin Books Pp. 273 ISBN: 9780399162527</p> <p>Lexile: 950</p> <p>Themes: Intrepid protagonist, friendship, persistence, peer relationships, problem solving</p> <p>“All Four Stars” refers to the ranking system some food critics use to rate restaurants. In this delightful book, our Ratatouille-like hero, Gladys, has an almost preternatural affinity for creating delicious food concoctions, despite her parents love of junk food, inability to cook, and opposition to Gladys’s passion for cooking. The tension between Gladys pursuing her culinary creations and her parents wanting her to be a “normal sixth grader” are at the center of this wonderful novel.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Passion, excellence, natural aptitude, creativity, excitabilities, isolation, peer relations</p>

15	<p>Author: Dairman, T</p> <p>Title: The Stars of Summer</p> <p>2015, Puffin Books Pp. 336 ISBN: 9780399170690</p> <p>Lexile: 880</p> <p>Themes: Intrepid protagonist, friendship, persistence, peer relationships, problem solving</p> <p>In the second installment of the “Stars” series (“Star so Sweet” will be next) we follow Gladys through the summer of her sixth grade, which is spent at camp while she continues as a food critic for the “New York Standard” newspaper under the alias “G. Gatsby.” There are several subplots in “The Stars of Summer,” but the major narrative remains: how will Gladys continue with her cooking passion while secretly reviewing restaurants in New York without her parents – or editors – discovering her secret? This is an enjoyable sequel, which also features a gifted writer.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Passion, excellence, natural aptitude, creativity, excitabilities, isolation, peer relations</p>
16	<p>Author: Draper, S. M.</p> <p>Title: Out of My Mind</p> <p>2010, Simon and Schuster Pp. 224 ISBN13: 9781416980452</p> <p>Lexile: 700</p> <p>Themes: Loneliness, alienation, perseverance, courage</p> <p>Melody Brooks is eleven years old and does not speak, due to cerebral palsy, a condition that allows several people, including a doctor, to assume she is “severely brain-damaged and profoundly retarded.” However, due to loving parents, a wonderful neighbor, her dog Butter Scotch and eventually assistive technology, Melody’s intelligence, humor, courage and personality emerge, as she enters an academic competition with her “classmates.” The author, Sharon Draper, beautifully renders the many complications of being twice-exceptional.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Mentoring, peer resentment, intelligence, language facility, academic excellence, academic competition, several intensities</p>

17	<p>Author: Edwardson, Debby</p> <p>Title: My Name is Not Easy</p> <p>2011, Skyscape Pp. 248 SBN13: 9780761459804</p> <p>Lexile: 830L</p> <p>Themes: Loss, resilience, persistence, courage, justice</p> <p>This fictionalized account of boarding school life in Alaska in the 1960's is told by several of the young residents who have been unwillingly relocated to Sacred Heart School. The bonds these students form help them survive the "re-education" and indoctrination they endure, as dictated by school authorities. Since all of the historic events related actually happened, this novel can serve as valuable historical fiction for the children and grandchildren of boarding school survivors, for whom the book was written.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Imaginational and emotional intensities</p>
18	<p>Author: Erskine, K.</p> <p>Title: Mockingbird</p> <p>2010, Puffin Books Pp. 256 ISBN13: 9781409541684</p> <p>Lexile: 760</p> <p>Themes: Loss, isolation, peer relations, recovery, courage</p> <p>In this National Book Award winner, author Erskine has provided the best depiction of Asperger's I have ever read. The book is written in part as a mystery, so the only thing I will add is that it has heart, humor, and authentic insight into the world of a twice-exceptional student, narrator 10-year-old Caitlin. This book is simply stunning.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Dual exceptionalities, extreme and multiple intensities, peer and school relations, profound reading and artistic precocity</p>
19	<p>Author: Evangelista, B.</p> <p>Title: Gifted</p> <p>Pp. 180 ISBN13: 978-0-8027-9644-8</p> <p>Lexile: NA</p> <p>Themes: Bullying, isolation, peer relations, fitting in, maturation</p> <p>George, the gifted son of the middle school principal, is arrogant, condescending, and frightened. He is about to spend a week at a camp with his classmates, and he would rather do just about anything else. As George is departing, his father says, "Mark my words George. When I see you again on Friday, you will not be the same boy that left. Even <i>you</i> might learn a thing or two." Those words are foreshadowing, understated, and ironic,</p>

	<p>and what George learns makes for a great story. This is one of the few books in this study in which the gifted character is not very likeable for most of the book.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Intelligence, lack of (emotional) intelligence, peer relations, coping</p>
20	<p>Author: Fenner, Carol</p> <p>Title: Yolonda’s Genius</p> <p>1995, Simon & Shuster Pp. 208 ISBN13: 9780590988599</p> <p>Lexile: 710</p> <p>Themes: Alienation, perseverance, family, siblings</p> <p>A Newbery Honor Book, this first person account is told by Yolonda, a 6th grader uprooted from Chicago due to her mother’s concerns about violence and drugs. The title has a double meaning, as Yolonda is a major league problem solver and straight-A student (and then some), whose ability is tested as she tries to make adults aware of her 6-year-old brother’s prodigious musical talent.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Creative problem solving, language facility, 2E, music, intensities</p>
21	<p>Author: Gansworth, Eric</p> <p>Title: If I Ever Get Out Of Here</p> <p>2013, Scholastic Pp. 368 ISBN13: 978-0-545-41731-0</p> <p>Lexile: 870L</p> <p>Themes: Courage, belonging, loneliness, alienation, poverty, cultural conflict and identity</p> <p>This beautiful novel begins when Lewis Blake, a Tuscarora Indian living on the reservation, is placed in his junior high school’s “brainiacs” section with 22 white students he doesn’t know. Lewis provides a first person view of the ensuing year, featuring his growing friendship with and understanding of George, an “army brat,” as the two of them negotiate their different cultures and several injustices to become best friends.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Intellectual and emotional intensities, problem solving, sense of humor and irony</p>

22	<p>Author: Gourley, C.</p> <p>Title: Who Was Maria Tallchief?</p> <p>2013, Penguin Pp. 103 ISBN: 9780613453301</p> <p>Lexile: 740</p> <p>Themes: Persistence, multi-culturalism, competition, athleticism, dance</p> <p>This biography of an amazing talent is considerably more accessible than Tallchief's autobiography (written with Larry Kaplan). Author Gourley provides illustrations and a time line to help readers understand the difficulties and contributions that defined Maria Tallchief's life (her given name was Tall Chief, but she combined the two works in the hope of minimizing the racism she encountered) as a Prima Ballerina.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Athletic and artistic talent, intensities, asynchronous development</p>
23	<p>Author: Greene, B.</p> <p>Title: Phillip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe</p> <p>1974, Dell Pp. 144 ISBN13: 9780440457558</p> <p>Lexile: 900</p> <p>Themes: Competition, self-acceptance, friendship</p> <p>Philip Hall is the cutest, smartest boy in the class, and Beth Lambert loves him. The fact that he beats her in classwork, conniving, and just about everything else doesn't particularly bother Beth at first. Then she realizes that Philip might be best in everything because she's letting him beat her. And coming out on top is just too natural a thing for Beth to hold back for very long.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Competition, peer relations</p>
24	<p>Author: Haddon, M.</p> <p>Title: The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night-time</p> <p>2003, Vintage Books Pp. 240 ISBN13: 9781417622085</p> <p>Lexile: 1180L *Some profanity</p> <p>Themes: Persistence, courage, problem-solving, isolation, family problems</p> <p>This first person account by 15-year-old John Francis Boone Christopher is a captivating mystery, but also a brilliant rendering of the experience of a gifted autistic student as he tries to navigate some very murky and confusing family history while managing his discomfort with crowds, age-peers, loud noises, the color yellow and foods that touch.</p>

	<p>Gifted Connections: Twice-exceptional, very high intelligence, problem solving, math and science ability, intensities</p>
25	<p>Author: Halpin, B.</p> <p>Title: Forever Changes</p> <p>Pp. 192 2008, 2016, Open Road Integrated Media ISBN13: 9780374324360</p> <p>Lexile: 890L *Some profanity Themes: Friendship, family, loss, (coping with) illness</p> <p>Brianna is a highly gifted math student who struggles with cystic fibrosis. While perhaps not a typical 2E protagonist, Bri's struggles do typify the way in which a handicapping condition can both complicate and enhance giftedness. This is a beautifully written book, and would have special appeal to students who struggle with medical issues.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Math precocity, intensities, peer relations, twice-exceptional</p>
26	<p>Author: Hamilton, V.</p> <p>Title: The Planet of Junior Brown</p> <p>Pp. 240 1971, Dell ISBN13: 9780020435402</p> <p>Lexile: 730 Themes: poverty, homelessness, friendship, mental challenges</p> <p>Junior Brown is prodigious: in girth, musical ability, and degree of mental instability. His talents are not being realized and very few people are interested in or capable of understanding him. He does receive help, however, from two unlikely sources: a street-wise classmate and the school's custodian.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Twice-exceptional, music, over-excitabilities</p>
27	<p>Author: Hunt, L.M.</p> <p>Title: Fish in a Tree</p> <p>2015, Penguin Pp. 288 ISBN13: 9780142426425</p> <p>Lexile: 550 Themes: Courage, persistence, grit, friendship, bullying</p> <p>"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, It will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." This quote is often attributed to Einstein, but there is no evidence he actually said this. It is, however, the perfect quote for this book, as evidenced by the title. Ally Nickerson is a fiercely intelligent 6th grader who is miserable at</p>

	<p>school due to her virtual inability to read or write. Her intelligence and near photographic memory have helped her camouflage her handicap, until her new and wonderful teacher – Mr. Daniels – establishes the trust and provides the support that enable Ally to reveal and then begin to address her dyslexia. Author Lynda Hunt is a former teacher, which is evident by the way she portrays students, and especially Mr. Daniels, a depiction that is among the best I have ever read of a fictional, but incredibly realistic and admirable, teacher.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Language and artistic abilities, intelligence and intellectualism, twice-exceptional, passion, and persistence.</p>
28	<p>Author: Hurwitz, J.</p> <p>Title: Class Clown</p> <p>1987, Scholastic Pp. 112 ISBN13: 9780590418218</p> <p>Lexile: 670</p> <p>Themes: Friendship, maturing, self-discovery</p> <p>“Class Clown” is the first in a series dealing with Lucas, Cricket, Zoe, and Julio as they progress from third through fifth grade. The titles foreshadow the conflicts and major plot points. All the books are easy to read and can serve as catalysts for discussions about underachievement, perfectionism, and leadership skills respectively (see annotations that follow). Lucas is the “class clown” and is very intelligent and perhaps twice-exceptional.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Underachievement, twice-exceptional</p>
29	<p>Author: Hurwitz, J.</p> <p>Title: Class President</p> <p>1990 Murrow Junior Books Pp. 96 ISBN13: 9780590440646</p> <p>Lexile 650</p> <p>Themes: Friendship, self-understanding, leadership</p> <p>This is the story of Julio Sanchez and his campaign to defeat former teacher's pet Cricket Kaufman for fifth grade president. This book neatly ties the characters together while highlighting Julio's growing understanding that he can provide better leadership than either candidate despite their superior academic ability. The three Hurwitz titles work well together, but can also be enjoyed separately.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Peer relations, leadership, intra and interpersonal gifts.</p>

30	<p>Author: Hurwitz, J.</p> <p>Title: Teacher’s Pet</p> <p>1990 Morrow Junior Books Pp. 116 ISBN13: 9781630832179</p> <p>Lexile: 700</p> <p>Themes: Friendship, jealousy, competition</p> <p>The strongest of Hurwitz's trilogy, “Teacher's Pet” addresses perfectionism and the attendant troubles (jealousy, hyper-competiveness, peer difficulties) that may afflict gifted children. Cricket Kaufman has become so accustomed to being the unchallenged class leader that the appearance of transfer student Zoe Mitchel - whom Cricket should welcome as an ability peer - is perceived as a threat. It takes Cricket months to drop her defenses and learn to appreciate Zoe. A delightful bonus, true of all three of these books, is the portrayal of truly gifted teachers who play integral roles in their students’ lives.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Academic ability, perfectionism, hyper-competitiveness, peer relations</p>
31	<p>Author: Jacobson, S.</p> <p>Title: Carrying Jackie’s Torch: The Players Who Integrated Baseball-and America</p> <p>2009, Chicago Review Press Pp. 288 ISBN: 978-1556527913</p> <p>Lexile: N. A.</p> <p>Themes: Bigotry, courage, persistence, injustice</p> <p>This book consists of twenty mini-biographies that tell the stories of Jackie Robinson and those who followed him in integrating baseball and contributing to integration of the nation. Players like Frank Robinson relate what it was like to lead his team, the Cincinnati Reds, to the pennant and then be denied entrance to the team’s post-game party.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Transcendent athletic talent, problem solving, creativity</p>
32	<p>Author: Knowles, J.</p> <p>Title: A Separate Peace</p> <p>2003 Scribner (originally published in 1960) Pp. 208 ISBN13: 9780553280418</p> <p>Lexile: 1110</p> <p>Themes: Friendship, betrayal, (toxic) competition, jealousy</p> <p>Here is a typical description of this best-selling classic: “Gene was a lonely, introverted</p>

	<p>intellectual. Phineas was a handsome, taunting, daredevil athlete. What happened between them at school one summer during the early years of World War II is the subject of 'A Separate Peace'." I taught this book for several years, and while I agree with the description above, I have never seen the book portrayed or understood to be about giftedness, which is the lens I offered to my 8th grade Humanities Class. "A Separate Peace" is among the best, most complex books in this list, and so could also be examined as classic literature.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Introversions, academic excellence, over-excitabilities, athletic excellence, peer relations</p>
33	<p>Author: Konigsburg, E. L.</p> <p>Title: The View From Saturday</p> <p>1996, Atheneum Pp. 163 ISBN13: 9781439132012</p> <p>Lexile: 870</p> <p>Themes: Teamwork, persistence, competition, empathy, friendship</p> <p>Four gifted 6th graders team to win an Academic Bowl, defeating 7th and 8th grade competitors. The four each have a separate chapter in which they tell their respective stories, a delightful and compelling way to tell a story.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: High academic ability, intelligence, academic competition, interest and ability peers</p>
34	<p>Author: Korman, G.</p> <p>Title: Schooled</p> <p>2007, Hyperion Pp.224 ISBN13: 9780786856923</p> <p>Lexile: 740</p> <p>Themes: Alienation, bullying, peer pressure, persistence, courage, problem solving</p> <p>Capricorn ("Cap") Anderson has been home schooled alone and on a commune for thirteen years, so when circumstances place him in Claverage Middle School, confusion and befuddlement abound. Cap's giftedness is not immediately evident, but is slowly revealed as the school year progresses.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Intensities, academics, autonomy, leadership</p>

35	<p>Author: Leal, A. H.</p> <p>Title: Also Known as Harper</p> <p>2009, Square Fish Pp. 243 ISBN: 978-0-312-65934-9</p> <p>Lexile: 800</p> <p>Themes: Poverty, persistence, family relationships, homelessness</p> <p>Our narrator, Harper, was named after Harper Lee by her language and book-loving mom. After Harper’s father’s alcoholism causes her parents to separate, Harper, her brother Hem (ingway) and mom are in desperate financial circumstances. The remainder of the book details the many problems the family must confront, problems that face 2.5 million homeless children, one in every 30 American children.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Language, creative problem-solving, imaginal intensity</p>
36	<p>Author: Levinson, C. Illustrator: Newton, V.B.</p> <p>Title: The Youngest Marcher</p> <p>2017, Atheneum Pp. 40 ISBN-13: 978-1481400701</p> <p>Themes: Civil rights, civil disobedience, courage, justice, integrity, perseverance</p> <p>Audrey Faye Hendricks was nine in 1963 when she became the youngest civil rights protestor to spend a week in jail (with her parents’ permission) fighting for justice in Birmingham. Inspired by a frequent dinner guest, “Mike” (Dr. Martin Luther King), who was organizing protests with the support of Audrey’s parents, Audrey insisted on being in the first wave of protestors to be arrested in Birmingham, a strategy intended to overwhelm the jails until they could no longer contain the protestors. The fact that Audrey was nine did not prevent mistreatment in the Birmingham jail.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Asynchronous development, intensities, concern with justice</p>
37	<p>Author: Lord, C.</p> <p>Title: Half a chance</p> <p>2016, Scholastic Pp. 224 ISBN: 9780545035330</p> <p>Lexile: 690</p> <p>Themes: Friendship, fitting in, loyalty, aging, loss, nature, beauty</p> <p>Ten-year-old Lucy Emory tells the story of her first summer in the family’s new home in New Hampshire. Dan Emory, Lucy’s father, is a world famous photographer who will be judging a photo competition when he returns from a photo shoot at the end of the summer. Lucy, who is also a gifted photographer, will have to enter under a pseudonym,</p>

	<p>and she spends the summer taking pictures in the beautiful area around New Hampshire Lake with her new friend, Nate. This is one of the few books that focuses on visual gifts, and would be affirming for visual artists, photographers, and nature lovers. There are several other touching stories within Lucy's narrative, all worth reading.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Intensities, creativity, justice, empathy, innate talent</p>
38	<p>Author: Martin, A.</p> <p>Title: A Corner of the Universe</p> <p>2002, Scholastic Pp. 208 ISBN13: 9780439388801</p> <p>Lexile: 750</p> <p>Themes: Family, friendship, loss and resilience, mental illness, isolation</p> <p>This story is told by 11-year old Hattie Owen, and details the summer of her 12th birthday year, when she meets her Uncle Adam, who until that summer she had not known existed. Adam is both strange and wonderful to Hattie, with his <i>extreme</i> mood swings, which cause his rich and straight-laced parents great discomfort. Hattie has always felt like an outsider, as she is an introvert, very mature, very smart, and has exactly one friend – until Adam appears. Together they have many adventures until the end of the summer, when events create a tragedy.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Intensities, introversion, asynchronous development</p>
39	<p>Author: Martin, A. M.</p> <p>Title: Rain Reign</p> <p>2014, Feiwel and Friends Pp. 240 ISBN13: 9780312643003</p> <p>Lexile: 720</p> <p>Themes: Neglect, family, poverty, persistence, love, problem solving</p> <p>I can't imagine a better portrayal of a child with Asperger's than the one presented here in the person of Rose Howard. The story is told through Rose's eyes and, as the title implies, she is obsessed with homonyms and is delighted that her first name is a homophone. Rose is also obsessed, although less so, with rules, order and routines. Rain Reign is a remarkably well-written story told by a very intelligent kid, and a wonderful depiction of a twice-exceptional child.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Dual exceptionalities, intelligence, problem solving, justice, and (perhaps unexpectedly) empathy</p>

40	<p>Author: Meyers, W. D.</p> <p>Title: Frederick Douglas: The Lion Who Wrote History</p> <p>2017, Harper Pp. 40 ISBN-13: 978-0060277093</p> <p>Lexile: Not available – Picture Book</p> <p>Themes: Unbounded courage, persistence, problem solving, devotion</p> <p>This sophisticated biography by multiple award-winning author Walter Dean Meyers draws on other Douglas biographies to create an accessible, yet comprehensive and inspiring story of one of our greatest Americans. Illustrations by Floyd Cooper (Coretta Scott King award winner) are invaluable. Sadly, this book was Meyer’s last contribution, as it was published posthumously.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Fierce intelligence, intensities, devotion to learning, intellectualism</p>
41	<p>Author: Moore, W.</p> <p>Title: The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates</p> <p>2010, Spiegel & Grau Pp. 251 ISBN13: 9780385528207</p> <p>Lexile: 990</p> <p>Themes: Perseverance, mentoring, nurturing, values, peer relations education</p> <p>The successful (Rhodes scholar, decorated veteran, John’s Hopkins graduate, White House fellow) Wes Moore narrates these dual auto/biographies with the help of interviews with his Baltimore “neighbor,” the “other” Wes Moore, who is serving a life sentence for his part in a robbery homicide. The coincidence of Baltimore age peers with identical names led Wes Moore to seek out and interview the imprisoned Wes Moore to see how their paths diverged so radically despite eerily similar childhood and familial circumstances. The nexus of circumstance, opportunity, second chances and individual decisions and effort are explored through the dual lives of the two Wes Moores.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Excitabilities, academic ability, (multiple) mentors, intelligence(s)</p>
42	<p>Author: Nez, C.</p> <p>Title: Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir by One of The Original Navajo Code Talker of WWII</p> <p>2011, Penguin Group Pp. 266 ISBN-13: 978-0425247853</p> <p>Lexile: 910</p> <p>Themes: Heritage, service, overcoming prejudice, conflict, persistence</p>

	<p>This memoir covers the same history as “Code Talker,” but is an authentic historical account of the Navajos’ contribution to America’s war effort as told by Chester Nez—an actual “code talker”—with help from Judith Schiess Avila. This title is less accessible, as it’s considerably longer and more complex.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Language facility, creativity</p>
43	<p>Author: Oneal, Z.</p> <p>Title: The Language of Goldfish</p> <p>1990, Puffin Pp. 192 ISBN-13: 978-0140345407</p> <p>Lexile: 580</p> <p>Themes: Anxiety, depression, perseverance, sensitivity</p> <p>This is <i>Booklist’s</i> description of this “Best Book for Young Adults”: “With a taut thread that winds ever tighter, Oneal pulls readers into the mind of 13-year-old Carrie Stokes, a sensitive artist and talented mathematician who is suffering a mental breakdown . . . A kaleidoscope of shifting emotions come tumbling out as Carrie retreats little by little into her head.” While most annotations I have read reference Carrie’s giftedness, the focus is usually on her emotional difficulties. With a dual emphasis on giftedness, “The Language of Goldfish” can be an excellent offering for students who can identify with the connections below.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Over-excitabilities, math and artistic excellence, anxiety, alienation, twice-exceptional</p>
44	<p>Author: Peck, R.</p> <p>Title: Remembering the Good Times</p> <p>1985, Dell Publishing Pp. 192 ISBN13: 9780440973393</p> <p>Lexile: 750</p> <p>Themes: friendship, loss, recovery, depression</p> <p>Narrator Buck Mendenhal, Kate Lucas, and gifted Tray Kirby have been friends since junior high and are about to start their sophomore year together. It is the second day of school when Buck and Kate are told that Tray has killed himself. Despite abundant foreshadowing, Tray’s death is shocking. The aftermath is brutal as well, with Tray’s parents and school officials trading accusations. The author intended the book to be a strong warning about suicide among (gifted) young people, and he has succeeded. Highly recommend for those dealing with the issue of suicide and the pressures that are so often involved in this most tragic of choices.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: fitting in, high expectations, pressure to succeed, alienation</p>

45	<p>Authors: Pett, M. & Rubinstein, G. Illustrated by: Pett, Mark</p> <p>Title: The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes</p> <p>2011, Source Books Pp. 24 ISBN13: 9781402255441</p> <p>Lexile: AD 520 L (Adult Directed) Themes: Perfectionism, anxiety</p> <p>Assuming it is never too early to start dealing with perfectionism and its concomitant, a fixed mindset, this book is a wonderful place to start. Adults should have no trouble facilitating a discussion about the dangers of perfectionism without having to be didactic, due to the skills of the author/illustrators.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Perfectionism, anxiety, unrealistic expectations.</p>
46	<p>Author: Philbrick, R.</p> <p>Title: Freak the Mighty</p> <p>2001, 2007 Scholastic Pp. 193 ISBN13: 9780746087251</p> <p>Lexile: 1000 Themes: Alienation, friendship, problem solving, loss</p> <p>“Freak the Mighty” (which has a sequel, “Max the Mighty” as well as a movie entitled “Mighty”) refers to two protagonists, Max, who is being raised by his grandparents and is considered “developmentally delayed,” and Kevin, who is brilliant. Max narrates this story, explaining how Kevin (the “freak”) and he met, and their ensuing adventures. To say much more would spoil the story, except to say it takes both Max and Kevin to become “Freak the Mighty.”</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Twice-exceptional, (multiple) intensities, (profound) intelligence, advanced vocabulary.</p>
47	<p>Author: Sachar, L.</p> <p>Title: Someday, Angeline</p> <p>1983, Avon Books Pp. 160 ISBN13: 9780380834440</p> <p>Lexile: 610 Themes: Bullying, teasing, peer relations</p> <p>I couldn’t improve on the description offered on Amazon: “Nobody understands why Angeline is so smart. She could read the first time she picked up a book, she can play the piano without ever having had a lesson, and she even knows what the weather is going to be. But being smart is causing Angeline nothing but trouble. The mean kids in school call</p>

	<p>her a freak, her teacher finds her troublesome, and even her own father doesn't know what to do with an eight-year-old girl who seems to be a genius. Angeline doesn't want to be either a genius or a freak. She just wants the chance to be herself and be happy.” Sachar, the Newbery award winning author of “Holes”, is mostly having fun here, but the difficulties Angeline is experiencing are true to life, and when viewed through the lens of giftedness, may offer insight to young readers.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Asynchronous development, multi-potentiality, (age) peer relations, parenting (gifted kids), prodigies</p>
48	<p>Author: Schmidt, G. D.</p> <p>Title: Wednesday Wars</p> <p>2007, Houghton Mifflin Pp. 272 ISBN13: 9780618724833</p> <p>Lexile: 990</p> <p>Themes: Compassion, loyalty, justice, relationships, learning</p> <p>Holling Hoodhood narrates the story of his 7th grade year, which is eventful indeed. In ways similar to Matilda, Holling receives more nurturance and support from a teacher – Mrs. Baker - than from his parents. The book is an ode to learning, and features one of the best portrayals of the teaching profession I have ever encountered.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Language, intensities, justice, the arts, Shakespeare</p>
49	<p>Author: Sloan, H. G</p> <p>Title: Counting by 7's</p> <p>2013, Puffin Pp. 384 ISBN13: 9780142422861</p> <p>Lexile: 770</p> <p>Themes: Loss, perseverance, family, recovery, belonging, growth, grit,</p> <p>Willow Chance is an adopted, orphaned polymath who is accused of cheating (by the middle school principal) because she achieved the highest test score on a state standardized test, and yet her teachers report “no evidence” of high aptitude. She is sent to the guidance counselor whose job is to discredit her. The counselor, Dell Duke, starts with word association. Here is an excerpt of the exchange:</p> <p>Dell: “Chocolate.” Willow: “Antioxidant.” Dell: Piano.” Willow: “Concerto.” Dell: “space.” Willow: “time.” Dell: “dark.” Willow: “matter.” Dell: “big” Willow: “matter” Dell: “car” Willow:” tography.”</p> <p>You get the idea. To say more would compromise this beautiful novel.</p>

	<p>Gifted Connections: Twice-exceptional, highly gifted, OCD, intensities, school boredom, love of learning</p>
50	<p>Author: Smith, Cynthia Leitich</p> <p>Title: Rain Is Not My Indian Name</p> <p>2001, HarperCollins Publishers Pp. 144 ISBN13: 978-0-688-17397-5</p> <p>Lexile: 870L</p> <p>Themes: Isolation, belonging, loss.</p> <p>Cassidy Rain is a 14-year-old mixed-blood teen with a passion for photography. The author seamlessly describes Native culture and community through the eyes of a gifted, sensitive, and resilient protagonist. Despite the 2001 publication date, references to the Internet and Web sites firmly situate this story in the present day.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Intensity</p>
51	<p>Author: Snyder, Z. H.</p> <p>Title: Libby on Wednesday</p> <p>Pp. 208 1998, Delacorte Press ISBN13: 9780440404989</p> <p>Lexile: 1070</p> <p>Themes: identity, peer relations, alienation</p> <p>Libby is an eighth grader attending public school for the first time after years of intense home schooling. Libby is shocked when she discovers her knowledge, abilities, and enthusiasm are disdained rather than appreciated by her peers. Tremendous conflicts are averted when Libby joins a writing group that meets each Wednesday. The group resembles an intellectual's "breakfast club" and it is here (on Wednesdays) that Libby can be herself.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: writing, intensities, intellectualism, intellectual and interest peers</p>

52	<p>Author: Steptoe, J.</p> <p>Title: Radiant Child</p> <p>Pp. 40 2016, Hachette Book Group ISBN: 9780316213882</p> <p>Lexile: 1050 (Picture book)</p> <p>Themes: Creativity, independence, persistence, loss</p> <p>In this highly honored illustrated biography (Winner of the 2017 Randolph Caldecott Medal, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, <i>Essence</i> Magazine Top Ten Books of the Year, NAACP Image Awards Nomination for Outstanding Literary Work in Children, NPR Best Books of 2016) to name a few, the life of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat is brought to life with illustrations that evoke the artist’s imaginative style. An additional narrative biography offers more details about Basquiat and his art, and briefly mentions his tragic death at 27.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Creativity, intensities, problem solving</p>
53	<p>Author: Susskind, R.</p> <p>Title: A Hope in the Unseen</p> <p>Pp. 400 1999 Broadway Books ISBN13: 9780767901260</p> <p>Lexile: 1080</p> <p>Themes: Perseverance, fitting in, peer relations</p> <p>From the <i>School Library Journal</i> review: “Cedric Jennings is the illegitimate son of an off-and-on drug dealer/ex-con and a hardworking, badly paid mother; it is her single-minded vision to have the boy escape the mean ghetto streets unscathed. Cedric has listened to her and is, as the book opens, an A student at a run-down, dispirited Washington, DC, high school, where he treads a thin line between being tagged a nerd and being beaten by gang leaders.”</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Academics, intelligence, achievement vs. affiliation</p>

54	<p>Author: Tarshis, L.</p> <p>Title: Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree</p> <p>2008, Puffin Pp. 208 ISBN13: 9780803731646</p> <p>Lexile: 830</p> <p>Themes: Isolation, bullying, peer relations, compassion, empathy, loss</p> <p>This novel was a “Golden Kite” honor book, an award given by The Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators. Emma-Jean, a middle school student, could <i>almost</i> be considered twice-exceptional, as she is <i>extremely</i> intelligent, but her “handicapping” condition is basically that she can be so literal that it causes her and her classmates difficulty. For Star Trek fans, she’s reminiscent of Data, the android, who spent much of his time aboard the <i>Enterprise</i> trying to understand his shipmates. To say more would reveal too much about this charming novel.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Intelligence, intensities, academic excellence, problem solving.</p>
55	<p>Author: Waitzkin, F.</p> <p>Title: Searching for Bobby Fisher</p> <p>1993, Penguin Books; Mti Rep edition Pp. 240 ISBN-13: 978-0140230383</p> <p>Lexile: Not available</p> <p>Themes: (toxic) competition, (over) parenting, mentoring, values, prodigies, obsession</p> <p>Fred Waitzkin, father of child chess prodigy Josh Waitzkin, tells this story that covers three years in their lives, Josh’s sixth through ninth year. There are two inter-related narratives in this book: Josh’s amazing, preternatural affinity for chess, and Fred’s concomitant obsession with promoting Josh’s skill and “career,” perhaps to both of their detriments.</p> <p>Further, the book is a textbook refutation of the “10,000” hour rule and an object lesson in the dangers of forgetting that gifted children are <i>children</i>. The movie by the same name is an accessible accompaniment to the book and, for selected students, would be a fascinating book and movie combination.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Asynchronous development, intensities, prodigies, hyper-competition.</p>

56	<p>Author: Weatherford, C. B Art: Zunon, E.</p> <p>Title: The Legendary Miss Lena Horne</p> <p>2017, Atheneum Books Pp. 40 ISBN-13: 978-1481468244</p> <p>Lexile: Not available (Picture book) Themes: Racism, courage, persistence, creativity, integrity</p> <p>Lena Horne’s career is told within the context of the racism <i>and</i> sexism she dealt with and overcame. Her incredible courage, civil rights activism, and integrity are abundant throughout the text. As a bonus, the back cover shows a young child reading with this quote: “Lena learned to read before kindergarten; books were her lifelong love.”</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Love of learning, precocity, multi-potentiality, intensities</p>
57	<p>Author: Williams-Garcia, R.</p> <p>Title: Fast Talk on a Slow Track</p> <p>Pp. 192 1991, Lodestar Books ISBN13: 9780553295948</p> <p>Lexile: 750 Themes: Cultural identity, fear of failure, fitting in, self-understanding</p> <p>The author wrote this book expressly for “. . . bright young men who are suddenly caught off guard by failure.” Class valedictorian Danzel Watson has never experienced the “humiliation” of failure until he tries to bluff his way through freshman orientation at Princeton. His immature reactions cost him dearly and force him to confront himself for the first time in his life.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Achievement vs affiliation, “big fish in a small pond” syndrome, underachievement</p>

58	<p>Author: Wolff, V.E.</p> <p>Title: The Mozart Season</p> <p>Pp. 272 1991, 2007 (re-issue) Square Fish ISBN13: 9780312367459</p> <p>Lexile: 690</p> <p>Themes: Competition, persistence, friendship</p> <p>This beautiful novel details the 6th grade summer of twelve-year-old Alegra Shapiro, who is the youngest violinist in a statewide competition to be held on Labor Day. In addition to being extremely well-written, “The Mozart Season” features a gifted child who has virtually no conflicts specifically related to her abilities, as Alegra is consistently affirmed by her parents and peers.</p> <p>Gifted Connections: Mentoring, athletic and musical excellence, asynchronous development, intensities, multiple potentialities</p>
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