

The Kosher Book List

OK and QUESTIONABLE Books

An Assessment of Children's Books for Parents and Teachers

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This list may be copied, in whole or in part, as long as it is not revised and includes this cover page

This list is usually changed every 1-2 years

Please Note: Some comments are specific and detailed.

They are intended for adults to use to determine acceptability of books.

This list contains only OK and Questionable Books. For a complete list, please go to:

Internet: chinuch.org (search 'secular book list')

E-mail: kosherbooks@juno.com

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Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #01 - The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet	2-4	OK	2 boys and a girl help save a magical world that they accidentally find when they clean up the boy's basement.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #02 Journey to the Volcano Palace	2-4	OK?	Children go into a secret volcano to steal back a magical jewel. Lies to his mother to protect magical land. Language-weird, stinky, dumb, creepy.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #03 - The Mysterious Island	2-4	OK	Children help save magical world.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #04 - City in the Clouds	2-4	OK?	Children visit an invisible flying city and help prevent the bad guy from gaining power. The Guardians of the magical city are dinosaurs - no mention of years.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #05 - The Great Ice Battle	2-4	OK	Children help save the city from an ice curse.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #06 - The Sleeping Giant of Goll	2-4	OK?	Children prevent the bad guy from getting more power. An innocent hi-five between boys and girl.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #07 - Into the Land of the Lost	2-4	OK	Children go to a ghost land to save their friend.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #08 The Golden Wasp	2-4	OK	Children accidentally bring something from the magic world into their world, thereby upsetting the balance between the worlds
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #09 The Tower of the Elf King	2-4	OK?	Unimportant mentions of children mixed swimming.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #10 - Quest for the Queen	2-4	OK	Children help save the queen.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #11 The Hawk Bandits of Tarkoom	2-4	OK?	Children help destroy an evil city that reappears from the past. Girl is happy to see her friends (boys) so she hugs them- not romantic. Language- weird, creeps.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #12 - Under the Serpent	2-4	OK?	Picture of a sea serpent/lady in low cut outfit on cover - somewhat cartoonish.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #13: The Mask of Maliban	2-4	OK?	Children try to prevent bad guys from getting a magical mask. One of the children discovers that he has magical powers. Non-religious mention of Halloween. Minor language: doofus.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #14 - Voyage of the Jaffa Wind	2-4	OK	Children help rescue their friends
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #18 - Search for the Dragon Ship	2-4	OK	Children rescue world from evil princess.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #19: The Coiled Viper	2-4	OK	Children chase bad guys who came into their world from the magic world.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #22 - The Isle of Mists	2-4	OK	Kids help prevent evil man from taking over the world.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #24 - The Race to Doobesh	2-4	OK?	Children prevent beasts from creating powerful armor. Unimportant mention of children seeing a movie in a theater.

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	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #25: The Riddle of Zorfendorf Castel	2-4	OK	Children try to stop bad guys from using a portal to their world.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #26: The Moon Dragon	2-4	OK	Children join townspeople in battle with the bad guys. A bit more violence than the other books in this series, but still pretty tame.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #27 - The Chariot of Queen Zara	2-4	OK	Children rescue world from evil genie.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #28 In The Shadow of Goll	2-4	OK	Kids unsuccessfully try to rescue their friend from being transformed into a villain. Sad. Language- creepy.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #29 - Pirates of the Purple Dawn	2-4	OK	Children prevent bad guys from the past from building an evil city.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #30 - Escape from Tabar-Loo	2-4	OK	Children help rescue the king and queen.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #31 - Queen of Shadow Thorn	2-4	OK	Children are not sure if they should trust a queen from the future. Book ends very uncertainly - are the children OK or not?
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #32 - The Treasure of the Orkins	2-4	OK	Children help recover a stolen treasure
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #33: Flight of the Blue Serpent	2-4	OK?	Children battle bad guys and give a dying serpent back his scale. Girl holds hand of boy she thinks is dead and cries. Somewhat scary.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon #36 Knights of the Ruby Wand	2-4	OK?	Kids try to find a magical wand to rescue their friends. A bit convoluted for younger readers. Non romantic negiah. Language- weird, dudes
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon Special Edition #7 The Genie King	2-4	OK??	Children try to find a medallion in a city that is in a bottle. Very subtle boy/girl, some children might miss it. One accidental hug (p66 chapter. 5) some blushing, goodbye hug (pg. 167 chapter.12) language- dummy, dumb, minor bathroom humor. Subtly alludes to Santa Claus but never mentioned by name.
	Abbott, Tony	The Secrets of Droon Special Edition #8 The Final	2-4	OK??	Conclusion to series, children save the magical world. Language- creepy. Non-religious xmas, non romantic negiah.
	Abbott, Tony	Time Surfers #1 Space Bingo	2-4	OK??	Note on series: Children travel to the future and try to save the world. A lot of juvenile slang. In each book preview of the next book in the back. In this book middos among classmates and siblings. A few brief references to a meteor crashing into earth sixty five million years ago and killing all the dinosaurs.Brief mention of rock band.Nonromantic negiah. Language:nerd, weird,
	Abbott, Tony	Time Surfers #2 Orbit Wipeout	2-4	OK?	Comic book hero and villains.Brief mentions of enjoying eating snacks while watching TV.Language:gross, stinko, stupid,creepy,weird,stinky.
	Abbott, Tony	Time Surfers #3 Mondo Meltdown	2-4	OK?	Mention of watching TV, reading comic books, Language- freak,weird, stinky,stupid,nerd, dorky, gross.

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	Adam, Paul	Max Cassidy - Escape from Shadow Island	5-8	OK??	14-year-old boy escape-artist tries to solve mystery of his mother who was framed for his father's supposed murder. In absence of his parents, he is cared for by his father's performance assistant, a beautiful young woman (30-ish?) - totally innocent. She hugs him several times out of motherly concern; once, a man says "don't I get a hug too?" (she shakes his hand). Description of her beauty and how young men wait to see her after act. When attacked by bully, boy hits him in groin. Some language: stupid, pee, creep, crap, (once each), J--- used as exclamation (once). Hell - p. 170, 242, 278. damn - p. 245. First in series - later books should be checked.
	Aden, William	The Three Investigators: Mystery of the Shrinking House	5-7	OK	Boys solve a case involving art forgers. Other books in this series listed under Arthur, Robert.
new	Adler, David	Cam Jansen and the Millionaire Mystery	2-4	OK?	Children figure out who stole a rich woman's necklace at a benefit party. Man kisses woman on the cheek to thank her. Man shakes girl's hand.
	Adler, David	Cam Jansen and the Spaghetti Max Mystery	2-4	OK?	Children help find a lost little girl. A few mentions of boy and girl being BFFs (best friends forever) and doing everything together. Totally innocent.
	Adler, David	Cam Jansen The Graduation Day Mystery	2-4	OK	Children find missing graduation present. Brief mention that girl and boy are best friends.
new	Adler, David	Young Cam Jansen and the Magic Bird Mystery	1-2	OK	Children help magician find his missing bird
new	Adler, David	Young Cam Jansen and the Spotted Cat Mystery	1-2	OK	Children find the owner of a cat that appears in their classroom
	Adler, David A	It's a Baby, Andy Russell	3-5	OK?	When a boy's parents go to the hospital to have a baby his very clean aunt comes to care for him. He misunderstands her and thinks she will take away his pets. Children don't speak very nicely about her and to her. Mention of TV cartoons. Language-gross
	Adler, David A	Parachuting Hamsters and Andy Russell	3-5	OK?	Boy and girl spend the weekend with the girl's fancy aunt and uncle and confront a spoiled boy who is playing mean tricks. Boy practices being polite by pretending to kiss female's hands. Mild juvenile bathroom humor. Language- stupid
	Adler, David A.	Andy Russell, Not Wanted by the Police	3-5	OK	Children suspect that a robber is living in neighbor's empty house. Minor mention of daydreaming in school while pretending to listen.
	Adler, David A.	Bones and the Birthday Mystery #5	2-3	OK?	Simple, easy to read mystery. Boy finds his grandfather's lost birthday present. Cartoonish picture of boy's grandfather with one arm on boy's shoulder and other arm on elderly "girlfriend's" shoulder. Kids this age probably won't get it.
	Adler, David A.	Bones and the Dog Gone Mystery #2	2-3	OK	Simple, easy to read mystery - a boy finds his dog and magnifying glass.
	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen and the Barking Treasure Mystery	2-4	OK	black & white picture of ladies water-skiing in bathing suits

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	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen and the Chocolate Fudge Mystery	2-4	OK	Children catch a bank robber.
	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Dinosaur Bones	2-4	OK?	Kids solve mystery of who is stealing dinosaur bones at the museum. Doesn't go into evolution at all. Does talk about different types of dinosaurs.
	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Monster Movie	2-4	OK?	Children find thief of a movie reel. Fine except that entire setting is a movie theater.
	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen and the Triceratops Pops Mystery	2-4	OK?	Children help catch a thief in a store that sells music tapes and CDs. Minor mentions of rock bands.
	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen and the Valentine Baby Mystery	2-4	OK?	Cam's mother has twins on Valentine's day - mentioned a few times as being a nice day to have a baby - no religion.
new	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen- The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds	2-4	OK	Children figure out who robbed a jewelry store. A bit scary when girl is briefly captured by criminals.
	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen: The Ghostly Mystery	2-4	OK?	Children catch robbers while they are in line to buy tickets to a rock band called "Triceratops Pops", who wear dinosaur costumes while performing. A few humorous descriptions of unusual people who are waiting in line, e.g. a woman with green and purple hair.
new	Adler, David A.	Cam Jansen- The Joke House Mystery	2-4	OK?	Aunt competes in a competition to be the funniest comedian- prize is appearance on a tv show (and a gold dish)
	Adler, David A.	The Many Troubles of Andy Russell	3-5	OK?	Cute story of well meaning fourth grade boy who gets into trouble. Tries to convince parents to let his black female friend (not romantic) move in while her parents recover from an accident. When they agree he hugs her (not romantic).
	Adler,David	Cam Jansen The Basketball Mystery	2-4	OK	Children help find valuable basketball stolen at a high school basketball game.
	Adler,David	Cam Jansen The First Day of School Mystery	2-4	OK?	Children figure out who stole their teachers car. Gym teacher tells fifth graders to hold hands on line- boy and girl hold hands and comment that they feel like they are in kindergarten- completely innocent. Class clown makes jokes to annoy teacher.
	Adler,David	Cam Jansen The Mystery of the Circus Clown	2-4	OK	Children help find pickpockets dressed up like clowns.
	Adler,David	Cam Jansen The School Play Mystery	2-4	OK	Children figure out who stole the admission money to their play that they were collecting for charity.
	Adler,David	Young Cam Jansen and the Dinosaur Game	1-2	OK	Children discover who cheated at a game where they guessed how many plastic dinosaurs are in a jar. Other than the fact the toys are dinosaur shaped nothing objectionable.
	Adler,David	Young Cam Jansen and the Lion Lunch Mystery	1-2	OK	Children help find their friend's lunch.

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	Ahlberg, Allan	The Children who Smelled a Rat	2-4	OK	Children are suspicious of changes in teacher and find out she's her evil twin. Fun read - short text and illustrations will appeal to younger readers, but funny enough for older ones.
	Aiken, Joan	A Necklace of Raindrops and other stories	4-6	OK	Collection of short stories. One brief mention of X-mas trees.
	Aiken, Joan	Arabel and Mortimer	3-6	OK?	Continuation of Arabel series. Comical black and white illustration of a lady in a backless gown. Language: drat.
	Aiken, Joan	Arabel's Raven	3-6	OK?	Cute adventures of a girl and her mischievous pet raven. Language: drat, nincompoop
	Aiken, Joan	Black Hearts in Battersea	4-6	OK??	Continuation of story of peasant boy in "Wolves of Willoughby Chase". He goes to town to attend art school and finds himself caught up in a band of rebels against royalty. Finds out he is royalty himself. Brief unimportant incident of a man tickling a girl against her will to get her to go out with him (p. 59-60). Language: a lot of hackney slang that kids probably won't get; dammit (p. 119).
	Aiken, Joan	Night-Birds on Nantucket	5-7	OK?	Continuation of story of girl who was shipwrecked in "Black Hearts in Battersea". She is rescued by a whaling ship and helps capture a band of rebels. The language and dialects are getting increasingly difficult as this series goes on. Story is engaging but children may not have patience to figure out the dialogue. Girls are chutzpadik to a cruel woman who is posing as her aunt - she seemingly deserves to be treated this way but it is a poor show of middos.
	Aiken, Joan	The Cuckoo Tree	5-8	OK?	Continuation of "The Stolen Lake". Girl helps save the king's life. Lots of magic and witchcraft. Setting is St. Paul's Cathedral but only religion is invoking saints' names, eg: "Why not in the name of St. Pancras?" (p 243). Difficult dialect.
	Aiken, Joan	The Stolen Lake	5-8	OK?	Continuation of "Night Birds on Nantucket". On her way back to England, girl ends up on an island and helps defeat an evil queen. Lots of strange magic. Many references to King Arthur. The island people worship a god named Sol and give him human sacrifices. Relatively tame romance leads to marriage many years later. Non-romantic negiah. Difficult dialect.
	Aiken, Joan	The Witch of Clattering Shaws	5-8	OK??	Continuation of series. A girl helps find an heir to the throne since her friend, the current king of England, isn't happy in the job. Minor magic, magical creatures, a witch. Minor religion - mostly tongue in cheek references to saints and their last words before they die. Language: hell hag (meaning witch), piss. Lots of difficult dialect like the other books in the series.
	Aiken, Joan	The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	4-6	OK	Two girls outsmart wicked governess with help of a peasant boy. Describes some very cruel adults who eventually get punished, but also some very kind adults. Girls dress like boys to save themselves.

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	Alberts, Nancy	Teeth Week	2-3	OK?	Second grader worries that she will be the only one in her class not to lose a tooth. She is confused about a classmate who is often mean and a tease, but occasionally does nice things as well. Brief mention of bobbing for apples at a Halloween party. Language- darn, drat, dumb.
	Alcock, Vivien	Stranger at the Window	6-7	OK??	Children of social activist mother secretly hide illegal alien child in house. When mother discovers her & wants to report her, children are chutzpadik and criticize her for being a hypocrite. "Brotherly" kiss between friends
	Alcock, Vivien	The Trial of Anna Cotman	5-8	OK?	Girl joins secret society; when she breaks the rules, finds she is in danger. Turns out leader was on drugs; is caught in end. Somewhat disturbing; everything comes out OK in the end.
	Alexander, Lloyd	The Black Cauldron	4-7	OK?	Medieval-style mission to find evil magical cauldron. Some knight-type violence
	Alexander, Lloyd	The High King	7-9	OK?	a fantasy - lots of magic. A mild running romance - a few hugs - end up marrying. Can easily be crossed out. Some difficult old-fashioned language
	Alexander, Lloyd	The Illyrian Adventure	5-7	OK	Girl and guardian go to an island to see if the legend in the book The Iliad is true. Minor non affectionate negiah. girl is a rebel and wears "pantaloons"
	Alexander, Lloyd	the Philadelphia Adventure	5-7	OK?	Girl, guardian and friends rescue kidnapped children and save the lives of the president of the US and the emperor of Brazil. General kisses girl's hand "with a flourish, that in former days, would have brought on palpitations in every female heart and vexation in every male. Girl "embraces" male friend when she is happy to see him. Language- maniac, idiot.
	Alexander, Lloyd	Time Cat	4-6	OK?	A cat takes a boy back in time. Talk of Egyptian gods, minor liking of girl mentioned in passing, story of St. Patrick but not clearly spelled out who he is.
	Alexander, Nina	Magic Attic Club Megan & Borealis Butterfly	2-4	OK	A girl helps save rare butterfly and gains courage to go to father/daughter day in school with her aunt, since parents are divorced.
	Alexander, William	Ghoulish Song	5-8	OK?	Strange story of a girl whose shadow separates from her thereby causing everyone, including her family to be convinced that she is dead and is now a ghoul, even though she is very much alive. Middos between siblings. Calls brother "snotfish". Sings chutzpadik song about her mother, but really loves her. Language-idiot.
	Aller, Susan Bivin	Sitting Bull	2-5	OK?	Biography of Indian Chief who led his people in a fight against the US army. A lot of Indian religious beliefs- needs adult guidance.
	Alter, Stephen	Ghost Letters	5-8	OK?	Boy and girl deal with ghosts, genie, and magic, to fix mistakes of the past. Friends - no romance.
	American Girl	Addy - An Addy Mystery - Shadows on Society Hill	3-5	OK?	A former slave girl helps a spy and solves a mystery. Mild descriptions of discrimination. In back history section colored picture of black soldiers returning from Civil War hugging women - doesn't specify if women are relatives or girlfriends.

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	American Girl	Addy - High Hopes for Addy	3-5	OK	Short story. Girl gets the opportunity to go to high school but worries she can't afford it. Comes to understand the real meaning of family.
	American Girl	Addy - Meet Addy	3-5	OK?	A slave girl and her mother escape from their master after her brother and father are sold. Cruel descriptions of how slaves were treated. Girl is chutzpadik to parents but immediately feels bad. History section in back - talks about the spirituals the slaves sang - mentions one called "Steal away to J-" (p 66)
	American Girl	Addy- Addy Learns a Lesson	3-5	OK	A former slave girl goes to school and learns to read along with learning the meaning of true friendship.
	American Girl	Addy- Addy Saves the Day	3-5	OK?	Addy wins over a mean girl with kindness; children help with a church fundraiser - no religion. History section in back - picture of old fashioned woman's swim suit - explains that it was thought to be improper for men and women to swim together and women wore bulky dresses as swimsuits - written in a way to make separate swimming seem old fashioned - can be easily crossed out.
	American Girl	Addy- Beforever- A New Beginning- My Journey With Addy	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses own ending. Brief mentions of TV, cell phone, video games, computer. Escaped slaves are housed in a church and helped by the reverend. Reader is encouraged to go to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios.
new	American Girl	Addy- Beforever- Shadows on Society Hill- An Addy Mystery	3-5	OK	Girl figures out a white woman's secret and helps a black spy. Family experiences a lot of racism. One word xmas. Non romantic negiah. Family goes to church, no description.
	American Girl	Addy- Changes for Addy	3-5	OK?	Girl searches for her missing family. Friend has to leave school so she can work and help her family earn money to survive. Many mentions of church and xmas, no serious religion.
	American Girl	Addy- Happy Birthday, Addy	3-5	OK	A blind lady helps a black girl cope with discrimination.
	American Girl	Caroline- A Caroline Mystery- The Traveler's Tricks	3-5	OK??	Girl goes by stagecoach to conduct important business for her father and captures a criminal. Girl's friend likes to imagine that everyone has "sweethearts" ever since she heard details of a cousin's engagement and courtship. Her friend thinks she "is a bit too interested in who might be courting whom".
	American Girl	Caroline- Beforever- Captain of the Ship	3-5	OK?	Redo of first 3 Caroline books. Girl helps her mother run the family's shipyard when her father is captured by the British. Xmas- xmas dinner, read the xmas story from the bible (no details) calls it a "comforting" story, brief mention of a traveling minister giving a service.

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	American Girl	Caroline- Beforever- Catch the Wind- My Journey with Caroline	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses her own ending. Modern girl receives a compass that allows her to travel in time. Her adventures during the war of 1812 help her deal with her mother's imminent departure to the Navy. When girl is upset she is chutzpadik to parents- later apologizes. Watching movies on DVD, TV, parents go out to movies on "date night". Book refers reader to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios. Language- stupid, idiot, weird, blasted, dumb, freaking out.
	American Girl	Caroline- Beforever- Facing the Enemy	3-5	OK??	Redo of last 3 Caroline books. Two girls and a boy prevent a British warship from capturing an American supply boat, and girl finds her father nearly dead and saves him. Innocent description of boy and girl who are friends wading together. Girl "throws her arms" around male friend when he is leaving- no romantic implications. Husband and wife "cling to each other" Language- blasted (twice)
	American Girl	Caroline- Beforever- The Smuggler's Secrets- A Caroline Mystery	3-5	OK	Girl helps figure out who is smuggling supplies to the British enemy in order to prove her uncle's innocence. Language- blast them (once)
	American Girl	Caroline- Caroline Takes A Chance	3-5	OK??	Two girls and a boy prevent a British warship from capturing an American supply boat, and girl finds her father nearly dead and saves him. Innocent description of boy and girl who are friends wading together. Girl "throws her arms" around male friend when he is leaving- no romantic implications. Husband and wife "cling to each other" Language- blasted.
	American Girl	Caroline- Caroline's Battle	3-5	OK?	Girl helps defend her family's shipyard against the British. Illustration of father with his arms around mother and daughter's shoulders- mother is wearing a lowcut gown. In back history section illustration of lady in low cut gown. Language- blast
	American Girl	Caroline- Changes for Caroline	3-5	OK	Girl goes to help uncle on farm and learns meaning of poverty and charity.
	American Girl	Caroline- Meet Caroline	3-5	OK?	Girl helps her mother run the family's shipyard when her father is captured by the British.
	American Girl	Caroline- A Caroline Mystery- Traitor in the Shipyard	3-5	OK?	Girls help capture British spies. Minor romance between a man and woman- they walk arm in arm, he gives her a necklace- girl comments that he is "smitten" with her. Girl notices that her father's fingers "linger" on her mothers after mealtime prayers. A bit scary. Language- blast/ blasted (used as a curse), stupid.
	American Girl	Caroline- Caroline's Secret Message	3-5	OK?	Girl goes with her mother to try to convince the British to release her father. Some bad middos between children- eventually work it out. In back history section picture of wife clinging to her husband as he goes off to battle. Preview of A Surprise for Caroline- mention of xmas gifts.

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	American Girl	Cecile- Cecile's Gift	3-5	OK??	Girl recites a poem on stage to benefit the orphans whose parents were killed in an epidemic. Many French terms used throughout the book. Orphanage is called the "Holy Trinity" orphanage. Mention of going to mass at a cathedral and singing hymns. No detailed description. One word mention of xmas. A lot of sadness about the many who died in the epidemic. At the end in history section there is a photo of a parade, a woman is dressed in very skimpy dress
	American Girl	Cecile- The Cameo Necklace	3-5	OK??	A free black girl tries to find the necklace she took without her aunt's permission and then lost. A few sentences mentioning praying at mass in a cathedral- no real descriptions. Girl "takes boys hand" in gratitude. A woman can read palms and predict the future. A boy is "smitten" with a girl and secretly paints her portrait. When she leaves she gives him "a gentle kiss on the cheek". Language- shut your mouth (once)
	American Girl	Cecile- Troubles for Cecile	3-5	OK?	Girl copes with her brother's near death by yellow fever. Frequent mentions of the many deaths caused by the yellow fever and the many children orphaned. Girl sings song that she knows from mass "ave maria". Physical description of cathedral. Girl thinks that someone who died is now an angel. Mention of kneeling in prayer. Each bead of a rosary "is a prayer". In back history section, disturbing pictures of the sick and dying being cared for by nuns in full habit.
	American Girl	Felicity - A Felicity Mystery - Peril at King's Creek	3-5	OK?	A girl helps catch a British spy. A lot of rehashing about if she should have helped an abused horse escape his owner or not (as told in previous books) and if she should have lied to her parents or not. Answer left unclear - eg. P. 66-69
	American Girl	Felicity - Changes for Felicity	3-5	OK?	Colonial girl's grandfather dies when he gets sick after freeing a man from prison. Very sad. Girl is "angry at G-d"; Mother helps her feel better. Girl reads "The Lord is my Shepherd"
	American Girl	Felicity - Happy Birthday, Felicity	3-5	OK	Colonial girl tries to save the colonist's gunpowder by sneaking out of her room after being punished. In the end she admits to doing something wrong by disobeying and she is forgiven.
	American Girl	Felicity - Meet Felicity	3-5	OK?	Girl helps horse escape from abusive owner - viewed as "not stealing" since she didn't keep it.
new	American Girl	Felicity- A Felicity Mystery- Lady Margaret's Ghost	3-5	OK??	Colonial girl is afraid that a ghost is haunting her house, but in the end uncovers the true culprit- an orphaned girl whose guardians mistreat her and force her to steal. Girl asks the minister of the church if he believes in ghosts- he tells her he is "openminded" about it and finds it "reasonable" to think that maybe ghosts are "restless spirits who are disturbed about something that happened to them in life or worried about the people they cared about". Description of minister's dress.

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	American Girl	Felicity- A Felicity Mystery- Traitor in Williamsburg	3-5	OK?	Girl uncovers traitor while trying to prove her father's loyalty to the Loyalist cause. Father kisses mother's forehead and calls her "my love". Girl wonders why man is so attentive to her mother- discovers he had wanted to marry her, but she refused him. He kisses her hand. Minor mentions of church- no religion.
	American Girl	Felicity- Felicity Saves the Day	3-5	OK?	Colonial girl convinces her father's apprentice to return, when he runs away to join General Washington's army. History section shows slaves wearing extremely low-cut gowns, but only noticeable if examined closely.
new	American Girl	Girls of Many Lands- Spring Pearl- The Last Flower	4-6	OK??	An orphaned Cantonese girl finds her place when she helps protect the family who took her in when the British attack Canton. A servant boy befriends her, but not overtly romantic. Non romantic negiah. Boy is briefly chutzpadik to his mother. Rich girls display poor middos. Chinese religion including belief in kitchen god, alter, temples, festivals, etc. Language- idiot. stinking, blasted, freak, stupid.
new	American Girl	Grace	4-6	OK??	Girl goes to France with her mother to help her aunt who is on bedrest, and learns to function despite difficulties with the language and culture. Communicates with her friends in US via travel blog on the computer. Stepsister is sad because mother and grandmother died. Wife squeezes husband's hand. One sentence mention that girl's friends say her older brother is "really cute", but she doesn't see it. In a cathedral she looks at flickering candles and smells sweet incense. Visit a stone church. Girl watches movie on airplane. Uncle kisses neice on both cheeks in welcome. A few sentences extolling the delicious taste of grilled cheese with ham. Mention of book "Hunchback of Notre Dame". Couples hang locks on bridge in Paris "as a symbol of their love". A lot of coed singing. Language- weird, creepy, stupid
new	American Girl	Grace- Grace Makes It Great	4-6	OK??	Girl figures out how to save her grandparents bakery business. Granfather puts arm around grandmother's shoulder and pulls her closer. Children dress up as robots and parade around the school on Halloween, a different class decorates their classroom for Halloween. House has a TV room. Girl video chats with her cousin in France. Brief xmas. Language-heck
new	American Girl	Grace- Grace Stirs It Up	4-6	OK??	Girl tries to start a baking business with her friends and discovers what it means to work together. Technology- girl keeps a travel blog, shopping on line, creating labels on computer, etc. Language- stupid
	American Girl	Innerstar University- A Girl's Best Friend	3-5	OK??	Reader chooses the endings- a girl decides what to do about a dog she believes is not being kept safely by it's owners. In most of the scenarios she decides to keep the dog, even though the family is frantically looking for it. In most scenarios she learns her lesson, though it's not entirely clear in all of them. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story. Language- freaking me out.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Innerstar University- A Winning Goal	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses endings- a girl tries to balance having fun when playing soccer and winning as she tries to coach a friend who is just learning the game. A lot of detailed soccer plays. TV. Illustration of a poster advertising a dance recital- cartoonish girl in a leotard.Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story.
	American Girl	Innerstar University- Bound For Snow	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses endings- a girl decides which winter sport she should participate in- mostly involving a very energetic dog.Mild snowboarding/ skiing/ dogsledding culture. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story.
	American Girl	Innerstar University- Braving the Lake	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses endings- a girl tries to overcome her fear of the lake to attend her friend's birthday party. Some of the endings include her lying- she regrets doing it in all of them. Cartoonish, non provocative pictures of girls in bathing suits throughout. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story.Something reminds girl of "a movie played in slow motion." Middos issues somewhat resolved. Language (once each)- freaks me out, weird, dumb.
	American Girl	Innerstar University- Dive Right In	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses endings- a girl deals with feelings of jealousy when her friend joins the diving team and shows great talent. Many cartoonish, non-provocative pictures of girls in bathing suits, leotards. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story.Middos issues eventually resolved. Language- bummed (once).
	American Girl	Innerstar University- Fork In The Trail	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses endings- a girl decides if she should lead a group on a nature hike and learns what it takes to be a leader. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story
	American Girl	Innerstar University- Quick Change	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses the endings- girl tries various business schemes to earn enough money to buy a genie costume for a costume party. There are a number of illustrations of girls dressed in non snius outfits but they are all cartoonish and non provocative. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story. Girl wears an angel costume with a halo. Girl is wearing gold pants as a seventies costume and does disco moves (not explained).Middos between girls- eventually resolve. Language- dumb (once)
	American Girl	Innerstar University-Taking The Reins	3-5	OK?	Reader chooses the endings- a girl decides if she should compete in a horse show despite her fears. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story. Some middos between friends. Language- freaked out (once)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Innerstar University-The New Girl	3-5	OK??	Reader chooses the endings- a girl tries to overcome her jealousy of a new girl. A lot of middos issues but with a purpose.Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story Many non provocative illustrations of girls in t shirts and shorts. Small cartoonish illustrations of dancer wearing a sleeveless dress and a trapeze artist wearing a leotard and tights. Girls go to see a movie.
	American Girl	Ivy - Good Luck Ivy	3-5	OK?	A Chinese-American girl struggles to decide if she should go to compete in a gymnastics meet or go to a family reunion. Lots of Chinese culture and gymnastics culture, including Kung Fu and Bruce Lee. Brief mentions of TV shows. Illustrations of gymnasts and ice skaters in leotards. Mention of the Olympics. Girls' best friend moves away when her parents divorce.
	American Girl	Jess	3-5	OK??	A girl goes to an archaeological dig with her parents.Full color illustrations of ten year old girl wearing shorts and a tank top.Girl is embarrassed when lady nurses her baby with her blouse open, but then realizes that no one else is uncomfortable so she tries not to be as well.Girls parents "lean into one another holding hands". Language-weird,stupid,creepy,darned (once p 117).
	American Girl	Josefina - Meet Josefina	3-5	OK??	A girl in New Mexico struggles to deal with her mother's death when her aunt comes to visit. A short description of a dance with an illustration of men and women dancing together but not touching. A few mentions of Catholic religion including praying at an altar. History section in back has photos of religious painting and statue and another picture of men and women dancing but not touching.
new	American Girl	Josefina- Beforever- Song of the Mockingbird	3-5	OK??	Reader chooses own ending.Reader is encouraged to go to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios. Lots of religion described, but mostly not explained- church, church bells, praying at the family altar, saints, sewing a fancy altar cloth, xmas, sign of the cross. Mention of play Annie. Movies, TV. Plays song on flute "When the saints go marching in". Coed dance. Older sister is "whisked away" to dance with a "handsome young man", later on she "floats past with a handsome boy, glancing up at him through her eyelashes." Language- freaking out
	American Girl	Josefina- Josefina Learns a Lesson	3-5	OK?	In back of book, history section has paragraph about Catholicism with picture of an altar.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Julie- Beforever- Soaring High	3-5	OK??	A redo of Julie and the Eagles, Julie's Journey, and Changes for Julie. Girl helps raise money to save injured eagles, goes for a ride on a wagon train celebrating the bicentennial of America, and runs for student body president along with a deaf girl. A lot of Earth day. TV, being on the TV news, girl has "crush" on TV character. Girls go to a coed square dance- but they dance with each other. One word Easter. Brief mention that blue jeans are more comfortable for horseback riding than dresses. Mean girls make fun of deaf girl- eventually learn lesson. Brief mention that parents got divorced. Nonromantic negiah. Mention of Little House books and TV show. Language- weird, dumb, stupid.
new	American Girl	Julie- Beforever- The Puzzle of the Paper Daughter- A Julie Mystery	3-5	OK??	Girl helps reunite her friend's grandmother with her old friend and finds a valuable doll. A lot of discussion of a "Valentine Disco" run by the older sister's high school. Description of disco- boys and girls are dancing and learning disco moves- nothing romantic. One sentence mention that sister hopes she will get a date to the disco. Mention of xmas present and xmas card. Chinese grandparents burn incense "for luck". Language- dang (once)
	American Girl	Julie- A Julie Mystery- Lost In The City	3-5	OK??	Girl helps find a missing parrot. Many mentions of divorce, both that of her parents and a recent divorce of a male classmate's parents and its negative effect on him. Girl listens to disco on the radio. Girl plays poker with her father with shells instead of money. Non romantic negiah. Language- darn (p67)
new	American Girl	Kanani- Aloha, Kanani	3-5	OK??	Hawaiin girl tries to make her cousin from New York feel welcome, but she is too sad about her parents' divorce and her mother's' remarriage. Full color two page spread of girls watching hula dancers. Girl blushes when good looking boy greets her. Coed surfing. One word xmas. Language- weird, stupid
new	American Girl	Kanani- Good Job Kanani	3-5	OK??	Hawaiin girl tries to earn money to save endangered seals while at the same time coming to terms with the fact that her best friend has different interests than she does. A lot of coed swimming and surfing-very matter of fact and part of their daily life. Full color illustrations of girls in shorts and tank tops, sleeveless dresses etc. Teenage girls hang around surfboard rental stand run by a teenage boy who is "tall and tanned, his wavy brown hair was flecked with blond". TV, computer, digital photo frame, email. Pet rooster runs away to be with a neighbor's pet chicken- girl says they are "in love". Language- booger, dumb. In back of book stories of real girls who have helped people- photos of girls wearing sleeveless and low cut.
	American Girl	Kaya - A Kaya Mystery - The Silent Stranger	3-5	OK??	Indian girl tries to befriend a mysterious silent woman who wanders into their camp, and discovers her tragic secret. Same worship of spirits as in other books. Sad.
	American Girl	Kaya - Changes for Kaya	3-5	OK??	Indian girl rescues home from forest fire. Lots of Indian religion - needs guidance.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Kaya- Beforever- Smoke on the Wind	3-5	OK??	Redo of "Changes for Kaya". Indian girl rescues home from forest fire. Lots of Indian religion- needs guidance. Indian marriage customs. Father holds older adopted daughter after a long separation.
new	American Girl	Kaya- Beforever- The Ghost Wind Stallion	3-5	OK?	Girl helps her blind sister fulfill her dream of riding on a stallion while at the same time trying to appease a demanding aunt who has come to live with them. A lot of discussion about belief in spirits that can help or harm people. Sad story about how a woman's husband died through carelessness on a deer hunt.
	American Girl	Kaya- Beforever- The Roar of the Falls- My Journey With Kaya	3-5	OK??	Reader chooses own ending.Reader is encouraged to go to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios. Lots of Indian religion including belief in a creator who made everything as well as belief in spirits. One paragraph description of courtship dance- girls make a circle and boys make a circle around them and try to dance near the girl they like (pg. 163)
	American Girl	Kaya- Beforever- The Silent Stranger- A Kaya Mystery	3-5	OK??	Redo of "The Silent Stranger". Native American religious beliefs- a lot of description about belief in spirits. In back of book even more detailed and clear description of beliefs.
	American Girl	Kaya- Kaya and the Lone Dog: A Friendship Story	3-5	OK?	An Indian girl befriends a dog. Lots of descriptions of Indian religious beliefs.
	American Girl	Kaya- Kaya and the River Girl	3-5	OK	An native American girl overcomes her jealousy of her sister's friend when they work together to save the life of an old woman.
	American Girl	Kaya- Kaya Shows the Way	3-5	OK?	Indian family spends summer fishing and searching for missing sister. Lots of Indian religion - needs guidance. Indian pre-marriage customs described.
	American Girl	Kaya- Kaya's Escape	3-5	OK?	An Indian girl and her blind sister are captured by an enemy tribe. She eventually escapes with a boy who is also a captive, but is forced to leave her sister there. Native American religion and customs.
	American Girl	Kirsten - A Kirsten Mystery - The Runaway Friend	3-5	OK?	Girl tries to locate missing neighbor. Minor description of co-ed dance (pg. 18-19). Adults decide it's OK to open someone else's mail without permission if it will help them locate the missing neighbor.
	American Girl	Kirsten - Happy Birthday, Kirsten	3-5	OK?	Swedish pioneer girl celebrates her birthday and the birth of a new sibling. One full color picture of a mixed dance - looks more fun than romantic.
	American Girl	Kirsten - Kirsten Learns a Lesson	3-5	OK	A Swedish pioneer girl copes with an American school; befriends an Indian girl.
	American Girl	Kirsten - Meet Kirsten	3-5	OK?	Swedish girl immigrates to America. Very sad when her best friend dies. One sentence mention that boy hates to get dressed up even for church.
	American Girl	Kirsten and the New Girl	3-5	OK?	Short story about a girl overcoming her jealousy caused by the arrival of a new girl. Middos with a purpose. Girl wears a cross around her neck. In back history section small black and white photo of girls with dresses that start off the shoulder. Mentions that at parties women and girls gathered to sew a quilt and in the evening the young men arrived for supper, dancing and kissing games.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Kirsten- Kirsten On The Trail	3-5	OK	Parents forbid girl from playing with her Indian friend until she finds their lost little boy.
	American Girl	Kirsten- Kirsten: Changes for Kirsten	3-5	OK?	Family moves in with relatives when log cabin burns down. When they find an old trapper dead in his cabin they decide that since he has no family it is OK for them to sell his things to buy a new house. In history section in back of book one small photo of farm dance with men and women dancing together but not touching.
	American Girl	Kirsten-Kirsten's Short Story Collection	3-5	OK?	Short stories, each with its own history section. In history section of "Kirsten and the New Girl", small photo of girls in low cut gowns. Mentions that after quilting bees, "the young men arrived for supper, dancing, and sometimes kissing games". In "Kirsten's Promise", small illustration of a grave with a wooden cross as a marker. In "Kirsten Snow Bound", history section details how many people died in a blizzard - a bit scary.
	American Girl	Kit - A Kit Mystery - A Thief in the Theater	3-5	OK?	A Shakespeare theater company struggles to stay open during the Depression. Children help locate a thief who stole money from the box office. In history section a small black and white photo of the scantily clad cast of the movie Tarzan. Lots of theater culture
	American Girl	Kit - A Kit Mystery - Danger at the Zoo	3-5	OK?	Children solve the mystery of who is trying to steal a baby monkey. A lot of intergender handshaking- completely nonromantic. Minor Language - darn (once).
	American Girl	Kit - Changes for Kit	3-5	OK?	Kit tries to help children in a soup kitchen. History section has 2 photos of starlets in bathing suits with the NRA eagle suntanned on their backs - can be torn out.
	American Girl	Kit - Happy Birthday Kit	3-5	OK	In back of book, history section discusses making decision to have fewer children during Depression, and father abandoning family.
	American Girl	Kit- A Kit Mystery- Intruders at Rivermead Manor	3-5	OK??	Girl discovers homeless and parentless children hiding out in an old lady's home and at the same time uncovers a romance between the old lady and her elderly next door neighbor. The romance is relatively mild. The two neighbors wanted to marry when they were young, but her parents forbade them. They used to "sneak" through a secret passageway to see each other. Girl is amazed that they still "like each other". Children found scraps of " mushy love letters". The only negiah is a "light punch on the arm" and a brief hand holding. Brief mention of fictional story of time traveler who went back to time of dinosaurs. In back history section, photo of orphans with their hands together praying at a table at Thanksgiving.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Kit- A Kit Mystery- Midnight in Lonesome Hollow	3-5	OK??	Girl goes to Kentucky and gets to know the poor but proud people who live in a small mountain village. Figures out who is causing damage. Very mild description of a boy courting a girl- they have an "understanding".One sentence- they hold hands. Girl sings "an old love song"- eventually sings on the radio. Language- idiot
	American Girl	Kit- A Kit Mystery- Missing Grace	3-5	OK?	Two girls and a boy try to find a missing dog and uncover a criminal scheme. Woman touches her fiance's shoulder in sympathy. middos between children. coed singing. Language- stupid, stinkers.
new	American Girl	Kit- Beforever- Intruders At Rivermead Manor- A Kit Mystery	3-5	OK??	Redo of book by same title. Girl discovers homeless and parentless children hiding out in an old lady's home and at the same time uncovers a romance between the old lady and her elderly next door neighbor. The romance is relatively mild. The two neighbors wanted to marry when they were young, but her parents forbade them. They used to "sneak" through a secret passageway to see each other. Girl is amazed that they still "like each other". Children found scraps of " mushy love letters". The only negiah is a "light punch on the arm", he offers his arm to help her walk, and a brief hand holding. Brief mention of fictional story of time traveler who went back to time of dinosaurs.
	American Girl	Kit- Beforever- Read All About It	3-5	OK??	Redone first 3 Kit books. Girl learns to make do during the depression when her father loses his job. Boy shakes lady's hand (good manners).Middos between classmates. Children curious about border's boyfriend- imagine them going on a "romantic date" where he asks her to marry him. Boy teases girl that she has a boyfriend (who is really her boarder) and he lives with her because she will marry him (she gets really mad) A lot of xmas, no religion. Girls go to the movies- girl is enchanted by glamorous movie star Language- stupid
	American Girl	Kit- Beforever- The Jazzman's Trumpet	3-5	OK??	Redo of last 3 Kit books.Girl helps find a stolen trumpet and reunite a jazz singer with his daughter. Book explains that the father chose music over his family and that's why he left. A lot of jazz culture. Says leader of band looks like a rock star - girl says "he sounds dreamy". Boy gives girl "a playful nudge". Language- darn it/ darn (pg. 20,97, 99), dumb
	American Girl	Kit- Beforever- Turning Things Around	3-5	OK??	Redone last 3 Kit books. Girl's thrifty aunt comes to stay with her family and helps them learn to make-do during the depression- at first girl is embarrassed by her but eventually comes to appreciate her. Girl clips picture of Robin Hood style birthday party given for movie star's child. Aunt offers to make girl bloomers out of flour sack-girl responds "I couldn't wear underwear made out of a flour sack!" Aunt quotes a lot of Shakespeare.Sad and slightly scary description of hobo's lives. Discussion if one is allowed to steal if he is hungry. Language- stupid, dumb.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Kit- Kit Learns a Lesson	3-5	OK??	Girl's aunt comes to live with family and teaches them how to save money, but girl is embarrassed of her in front of her friends. Eventually comes to appreciate aunt. Kids tease girl that a boarder in her house is her boyfriend (he isn't). Brief part where kids in class show bad midos to each other.
	American Girl	Kit- Meet Kit	3-5	OK?	A girl's father loses his business in the depression and her mother turns their house into a boarding house in order to pay the mortgage. Mention of "Beauty and the Beast". Some minor middos.Language- stupid.
	American Girl	Kit-Really Truly Ruthie	3-5	OK?	Kit's best friend tries to save Kit's family from eviction during the depression. Setting is the day after X-mas; a few enticing descriptions but no religion.
	American Girl	Lanie	3-5	OK?	Girl who wishes she was a wildlife biologist finds adventures in her own backyard.A lot of emailing. Full color, full page illustration of woman and fourth grade girl in sleeveless tops.Discussion about soil coming from glaciers that use to cover the land melting. No mention of millions of years. Use laptop computer, girl emails friend. Mild middos between siblings. Language- stupid, weird. In back letters from real girls about concern for animals and the environment. Brief discussion about what happens to xmas trees after the holiday, and about asking for donations to animal conservation as an xmas present- no religion.
new	American Girl	Lanie's Real Adventures	3-5	OK??	A girl tries to convince her neighbor not to use pesticides since it will hurt butterflies and get on her vegetable garden. She also makes a garden festival in the community garden to raise money for endangered chimpanzees. Full color picture of girl in sleeveless top, woman in shorts and open neck shirt. Girl is interviewed for TV news. Language- butt, darn (once), gross. weird, stinks. In the back of the book there are photos of real children who have done things to save the environment- one is wearing a sleeveless shirt.
new	American Girl	Lea and Camila	3-5	OK??	Girl is excited when her friend from Brazil comes to visit, but then feels left out when her friend seems to prefer her best friend.Brief mention that girl's mom is black and her dad is white. Explanation of debutante ball- a ball or dance, where well to do young ladies turning 16 were formally introduced to young men.One sentence mention of a movie star by name. One word xmas. In museum sign directs you to "world's largest underpants". Father puts comforting hand on mother's arm. Girl communicates via email. Language- weird
new	American Girl	Lea Leads The Way	3-5	OK??	Girl goes to the Amazon to meet her brother's exchange student family. Learns a lot about endangered animals and the threats to the rain forest. Helps save an orphaned sloth. Two sentences -College age brother has a "crush" on a girl and stares "wistfully"at a photo of her. He falls asleep with the camera looking at a picture of the two of them wearing snorkeling gear- sister is sure he is dreaming about her. Technology- blogging, ipad, email. Language- gross, idiot, dumb

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Marie- Grace- Marie-Grace and the Orphans	3-5	OK?	A girl cares for a baby left on her father's doorstep and worries he might be the son of slaves and will be caught. A lot of fear of an epidemic causing many deaths. Baby is brought to the "Holy Trinity" orphanage which is run by nuns and priests.Upcoming wedding to take place in a cathedral which girl admires. No real religion mentioned.
	American Girl	Marie- Grace- Meet Marie-Grace	3-5	OK??	A girl who is orphaned of her mother adjusts to her new home in New Orleans. A lot of French expressions throughout all the books in this series. Middos among classmates. Detailed description of a coed children's ball, nothing romantic. Girl's uncle is courting a woman whom he will eventually marry (in a later book)-brief mention that he "takes her hand", Minor opera culture. Explanation that Mardi Gras is the last day before Lent begins, then after forty days celebrate Easter.History section in the back repeats this explanation in greater detail, and also mentions that in New Orleans after church, people went shopping and did other things that were considered unacceptable in other parts of the USA. Preview of "Meet Cecille"- one word mention of xmas, talk of finding a good costume for the ball, father kisses mother.
	American Girl	Marie- Grace-A Marie-Grace Mystery-The Hidden Gold	3-5	OK?	Girl helps an orphan find missing gold. Men play poker and smoke on a steamboat. Language- drat (p93)
	American Girl	McKenna	3-5	OK?	Girl who loves gymnastics begins to have trouble in school when she starts fourth grade.Girl lies to her friends about her tutoring sessions because she is so embarrassed- eventually learns her lesson. A lot of gymnastics culture. Teacher emails parents to request a meeting. Full color, full page illustration of fourth grade girls in short shorts and t shirts. Mention of watching TV. Brief mentions of divorce. Language- darn(once-p.38), weird.
	American Girl	McKenna, Ready to Fly	3-5	OK??	Girl prepares to compete in competitive gymnastics while trying to balance friendship and volunteering in a stable for special needs children. Cover of book is a very clear picture of fourth grade girl wearing a skimpy leotard. Similar large full color pictures of girls in leotards throughout the book.Girl's friend deals with pressure of a very competitive mother. Mention of watching a movie. Language- freaked out.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	American Girl	Melody- Beforever- No Ordinary Sound	3-5	OK??	An African American girl growing up in the sixties is inspired by Martin Luther King, and finds the courage to sing a solo in her church choir despite her fear of walking into church ever since black girls in a southern church were killed. Family sings grace before eating. A lot of coed singing. Father wants son to go to college, he doesn't want to- he wants to become a famous singer. Sneaks behind father's back- eventually father comes to terms with it. a lot of black- music culture. A lot of church and gospel music. Church windows "shine like jewels" on Sunday mornings. Girl thinks boy is "kind of cute." TV, movies. Language- weird, stupid
new	American Girl	Mia	3-5	OK??	Girl feels torn as she tries to decide if she wants to go for ice hockey which is her brother's passion, or figure skating to prove she is different from them. A lot of skating culture. Illustrations of skaters in scanty dress. Older brother dates a girl. A girl on the team shows terrible middos. Xmas- homemade presents. decorations. carols, Language-stupid, weird, brat
	American Girl	Molly - A Molly Mystery - A Spy on the Home Front	3-5	OK	Girl helps prove the innocence of her German/American friend's brother who is accused of spreading propaganda for Germany.
	American Girl	Molly - Happy Birthday Molly - A Springtime Story	3-5	OK?	A girl's family takes in an evacuee from London during WWII. History section - 1 picture of teenage girl and boy dancing together.
	American Girl	Molly - Meet Molly	3-5	OK?	brother has crush. Sister sings k-i-s-s-i-n-g song. Minor middos between siblings.
	American Girl	Molly- A Molly Mystery- The Light In The Cellar	3-5	OK?	Girls try to figure out who is stealing war rations. Children go to the movies. In back history section, discussion of wartime shortages- mentions it was difficult to purchase underwear with elastic at the waistband. Language- dumb, creepy
	American Girl	Molly- Brave Emily	3-5	OK?	A companion to the Molly series. A war refugee finds herself lying about her musical talents to fit in - eventually owns up and finds that children like her for herself. Some tame mentions of difficulties caused by war. In back History section mentions that a million Jewish children were killed in the war. Language: stink, stupid. In preview of "Meet Molly", minor middos between siblings. Minor mention of Halloween costume.
	American Girl	Molly- Molly Learns a Lesson	3-5	OK	Girl helps win contest to make something for the war effort.
	American Girl	Molly- Molly Saves the Day - A Summer Story	3-5	OK	A girl goes to summer camp and overcomes her fear of swimming underwater.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Molly-A Molly Mystery: Clues In The Shadows	3-5	OK??	A girl tries to figure out who is looking through the papers she is collecting for a wartime paper drive. Middos between children. Girl finds out that a boy's bad behavior is due to his father being missing in action. Description of women who work in war factories wearing greasy overalls and close fitting blouses. At celebration for end of war 2 sailors "kiss every young woman within reach." A lot of adults smoking. Mention of going to the movies. Girl does tap dance to entertain wounded soldiers. Veteran shows violent tendencies and a temper in reaction to his war experiences. Girl reacts to changes in her father due to his war experiences. A bit heavy for this age group. Language-stupid, shut up, dumb, darn (once). History section at back of book- photo of soldiers and girls dancing together (pg 178)
	American Girl	Nicki	3-5	OK??	Girl commits to train a service dog even though she is overwhelmed with helping her mother on bedrest, doing chores on the family pig farm and being on a school committee. Minor middos between classmates. Learns to withstand peer pressure. Minor chutzpah to parents but regrets it after. Illustration of mother in sleeveless top. Refers to her dog as a "handsome rock star" dog. Language- funky, berserk,darn it all,brat, shut up, weird, poop.
	American Girl	Nicki- Thanks To Nicki	3-5	OK??	Girl copes with her sadness when it is time to give up the dog she has been training. Deals with 2 best friends who don't like each other.A lot of discussion about the "puberty talk" given in school to fifth graders- girl is embarrassed it is coed- but description is rather neutral. Halloween- detailed trick or treating- text and full page illustration- Halloween party- no religion. Language- idiot, dumb, weird
	American Girl	Rebecca-A Rebecca Mystery- A Bundle of Trouble	3-5	OK??	A Jewish immigrant girl helps capture kidnappers. A few mentions of her dreams of becoming a movie star despite her parents intentions that she should become a teacher. Italian girl offers her ice cream from her father's ice cream parlor, girl doesn't hesitate to eat it (no mentions of kashrus). Many mentions of Italians sewing a good luck charm into their clothing to ward off the evil eye. In back of book illustration of a sukkah- hard to tell if it's kosher from picture.
	American Girl	Rebecca- Beforever- A Growing Suspicion- A Rebecca Mystery	3-5	OK??	Girl figures out who is causing damage at a Japanese botanical garden. Girl loves to imagine herself on a movie set, starring in a movie. Mother says it is a mitzvah to cheer up a Japanese couple who have lost their son.Girl explains that in the Jewish religion "we have an idea called rochmones" which is a way of "encouraging forgiveness"- Japanese woman says there is a "similar" Japanese custom and shows the girls how to wipe water on their foreheads to clean away past mistakes.Boy shakes girls hand politely. Shrine for a Japanese goddess to thank her for things that grow.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl	Saige	3-5	OK?	Girl overcomes her embarrassment to run a fundraiser for her school's arts program after her grandmother is injured and can't do it. At the same time she deals with her changing relationship with her best friend. Calls grandmother by her first name, but otherwise very respectful. Cover has large picture of fourth grader wearing sleeveless dress- as well as a 2 page full color illustration inside. Goes to a movie theater on Friday night with her friend. Non religious mentions of xmas..Language- weird, stupid, freaking out.
	American Girl	Saige-Saige Paints the Sky	3-5	OK?	Girl organizes a demonstration to encourage her school to start an art class and overcomes her shyness to speak at a press conference- ends up on TV. One word non religious mention of xmas. Language-darn (p5), butt out, stupid,
	American Girl	Samantha - A Samantha Mystery - The Curse of Ravenscourt	3-5	OK	Girls figure out who is causing trouble at a luxurious apartment building.
	American Girl	Samantha - A Samantha Mystery - The Stolen Sapphire	3-5	OK	Girls help find a stolen jewel. Minor language: blasted.
	American Girl	Samantha - Happy Birthday Samantha	3-5	OK?	A wealthy girl celebrates her birthday with her cousins from the city who introduce her to innovations that her grandmother doesn't appreciate. In the end the grandmother concedes that some innovations are desirable - namely a woman's right to vote. Cousins try to convince her to break her grandmother's rule about wearing long underwear - Tame illustration of her putting them on (p4). Girls fight with boy and call him a nincompoop. Back history section explains that when children were 8 or 9 years old they took dancing lessons - picture of young boy and girl dancing (p 61).
	American Girl	Samantha - Meet Samantha	3-5	OK?	Innocent discussion about where babies come from - does the stork bring them or the midwife?
new	American Girl	Samantha- Beforever- Danger In Paris- A Samantha Mystery	3-5	OK??	Girls try to figure out which member of their tour group tried to steal their grandfather's secret letter and hurt him. Man is "Quite smitten" with women and takes her to the opera. Glowing description of the Notre Dame Cathedral. Tour the catacombs beneath Paris and see skulls and bones. Coed ice skating. Language- blasted, stupid.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	American Girl	Samantha- Beforever- Lost and Found	3-5	OK??	A redo of a few of the old Samantha books with some things eliminated. Uncle often kisses and hugs niece (innocent). Girls are mean to boy-call him a nincompoop- he plays a practical joke in revenge. Grandfather's best friend comes to his summer home for a long vacation every summer- after he dies he keeps coming and spends summer with grandmother- he proposes to her every year- eventually she accepts. A Lot of mixed gender swimming (innocent) Sad when friend's parents die of influenza. Girl finds her dead mother's sketch book and tries to revisit the places she went with her parents before they died. Girl makes valentines for Saint Valentine's Day. Girl makes valentine for newly married grandparents and says "it's so romantic" and cuts out cupids. One word xmas. Women rally for the right to vote. In the back section discusses how women of those days were looking for more rights and raised their hemlines for comfort so they wouldn't be "hemmed in" to old fashioned clothing and attitudes. Language- stupid, dumb
new	American Girl	Samantha- Beforever- The Stolen Sapphire	3-5	OK	Girls travel by boat to Europe and figure out who stole a valuable gem in order to prove the innocence of her French tutor. A few mentions of girls being orphans. Language- blasted.
	American Girl	Samantha- Clue in the Castle Tower	3-5	OK?	Girls travel to England and with the help of two unruly boys, discover the true identity of the "ghost" haunting the castle. At a museum, they look at Greek and Roman sculptures and comment "I guess people didn't wear many clothes back then" girl wants to get a job instead of getting married. Boys play practical jokes. Language- daft, dumb
	American Girl	Samantha- Samantha Learns a Lesson	3-5	OK	Rich girl finds out truth about child labor. Helps servant girl.
	American Girl	Samantha- Samantha Saves the Day	3-5	OK?	Rich girl discovers the island where she spent time with parents before they died. Side story of a man who is said to propose to her grandmother each year and she says no - he kisses her hand.
	American Girl	Samantha-Samantha's Winter Party	3-5	OK??	Girls make a poor girl a party after a rich girl insults her. Many mentions of X-Mas: vacation, pageant, carols, songs, etc. but no religion. Minor language: nincompoop. History section in back - 2 illustrations of men and women skating hand in hand,
	American Girl	Felicity-A Felicity Mystery: Lady Margaret's Ghost	3-5	OK??	Colonial girl tries to manage the household while her mother is away and find out if a ghost is haunting it. Girl's go to church to ask minister about ghosts- he asks if they are talking about the father, the son and the holy ghost. They say no and ask if ghosts are real. Discussion on pg 131-132 chapter 12.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl History Mysteries	Betrayal at Cross Creek	4-6	OK??	During early Revolutionary War, girl's family leans towards Loyalist & tries to find out who is betraying them to Patriots; turns out it was her own grandmother, to scare her grandfather into not going to war. Coed dances where older boys and girls dance, her male cousins "had no trouble finding girls to dance with". Male cousin swings female cousin off the ground in greeting, "drapes hand over her shoulder" when he comes to walk her home. War and death. Go to church on Sunday. Language- stupid
	American Girl History Mysteries	Ghost Light on Graveyard Shoal	4-6	OK??	Girl helps capture a man who is trying to lure ships to a dangerous area so they will wreck. Very sad storyline about the girl's friend who is very sick and might die- in the end she seems better. Gory ghost story told. Mother warns daughter to stay away from men who sit in the back of the general store talking because of their "scandalous language" - girl eavesdrops anyway and hears them say h-ll. Language-dumb,goldurnit(once).
	American Girl History Mysteries	Hoofbeats of Danger	4-6	OK?	A girl figures out who harmed a pony express pony.Girl wishes her mother would let her wear pants. Girl squeezes boy's wrist to thank him for his help. Language-darn (once), dumb.
	American Girl History Mysteries	Mystery on Skull Island	4-6	OK?	Girl suspects her father's fiancee of betraying him. She is forbidden from meeting with friends because they are working class, but she goes behind her father's back- in the end she is justified. Mentions of going to church for Sunday services. Non romantic negiah between men and women as befits that time period (men take women by the arm to escort them, kiss their hand, etc.) Minor violence. Language- berserk.
	American Girl History Mysteries	Secrets on 26th Street	4-6	OK??	Girl tries to locate her missing mother while at the same time uncovering the secret of her mysterious border. A lot of suffragists fights to get women the right to vote. Girl who likes to watch "romantic" movies thinks border's secret is a "love affair" Name of old time actress mentioned. Mention of "Hell's Kitchen"- a geographic location in New York City. Language-dumb,
	American Girl History Mysteries	Shadows in the Glasshouse	4-6	OK	Girl is kidnapped to be indentured servant in early American colonies. Solves mystery in glass-making factory.
	American Girl History Mysteries	The Night Flyers	4-6	OK?	Girl tries to figure out who is stealing her homing pigeons during World War I. Middos between classmates. Brief mention of going to church. It's "Christian duty to help out those less fortunate than us" one word xmas. Girl is frustrated because "grownups expect you to be honest , except when being honest was rude". Language- dang, stupid

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	American Girl History Mysteries	The Strange Case of Baby H	4-6	OK??	In the midst of the great San Francisco earthquake a mysterious disguised baby is left at the doorstep of a family who then become entangled with kidnappers. Detailed and scary descriptions of the earthquake and its aftermath. Detailed and sad descriptions of loss of a boy in a boating accident and it's horrible effect on the family- especially on the relationship between the two parents.Eventually their relationship improves- daughter is happy to see father touch mother "it's been a long time since her parents had touched each other" . Girl likes going to the park and watching young men "courting their lady friends out in the rowboats" - Language- hell, brat, stupid. damnation, Mention of opera singer Caruso in story and in back history section (with photo)
new	American Girl History Mysteries	Trouble at Fort LaPointe	4-6	OK??	Girl who is half Indian half French figures out who is framing her father for stealing furs. Many Indian beliefs including belief in a great spirit. Girl says her father who is French "believes in just one spirit, G-d, to protect him. Carries a silver crucifix. Father gives daughter a crucifix and it is one of her "most cherished possessions".Father puts hand around mother's waist. Father grabs wife's hands and dances a jig with her. Celebration includes a coed dance. Father hugs mother. Scary when girls become trapped in smugglers' cave. Language- shut up, imbecile. In back section small color picture of a coed dance.
	American Girl History Mysteries	Voices at Whisper Bend	4-6	OK??	Children try to capture the person who stole the scrap metal they collected for the war effort.Middos among classmates.Soldier brother writes to his little sister and tells her not to grow up too fast and not to start inviting "fellas" over so he can inspect her "admirers". Classmate warns girl to stay away from a boy or else people will think she has "a crush" on him. Father says blessing before they eat. Sisters at the convent give orphans clothing. When mother dies children "pray over her" and wrap a rosary around her hand so they should know she is a Catholic then leave her on church steps.Sad descriptions of poverty and loss. Non-romantic negiah. In back history section mentions that women "traded dresses for overalls" when they went to work in factories to help the war effort. Language- dumb, goofball,darn/darn it (frequent), stinkers, creepy, stinkin'.
	American Girl History Mysteries	Watcher in the Piney Woods	4-6	OK??	Southern girl living during the civil war is frightened of a deserter hiding in the woods near her house. The family receives news that her brother was killed in the war- a lot of detailed sadness and mourning throughout most of the book, although at the end he turns out to be alive- between the sadness and the scary deserter this book may be too heavy for sensitive readers. Middos between siblings. Father picks up mother and swings her around. Language- stinking, blast, stupid, dang it all/dang, durn

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Anckarsvard, Karin	The Mysterious Schoolmaster	4-6	OK?	side plot of a boy/girl party - totally juvenile and unromantic
	Anderson, Laurie Halse	Chains	7-10	OK??	Slave girl tries to win freedom. Some violence. A lot of racism and mistreatment of slaves. Description of X-mas – brief mention that it celebrates the birth of baby J____. Lots of talk of ghosts and other black slave superstitions. Mild description of church service. Sleeping girl feels a man pulling a blanket off her and is afraid he "meant me harm" - turns out he was cold and wanted the blanket. Girl feels boy's head to see if he has fever. Church is called house of G-d. Mild description of church service. Beseech the trinity but no explanation. One word mention of Easter. Language-blast/blasted (used as expletive), hellfire, idiot, stupid, brat, dolt.
	Anderson, M.T.	The Game of Sunken Places	7-8	OK?	Boys unwittingly become players in supernatural game. Scary. Minor non-romantic negiah between cousins.
	Angell, Judie	A Home is to Share and Share and Share	3-5	OK	detached description of dog's pregnancy, eg.-babies moving inside
	Archer, Chris	Pyrates #3: Dead Man's Chest	3-6	OK?	Kids continue dangerous mission to find pirate treasure. Side story of boy who lives "underground" because he & mother ran away from abusive father & mother died.
	Armstrong, Jennifer	Too Many Pets	3-5	OK	Girl is overwhelmed with her pet business. Befriends lonely old lady.
	Armstrong, William H.	Souder	6-8	OK	Son of a black sharecropper deals with father's prison sentence (who stole to feed family), and heart wrenching devotion of father's dog. Lots of biblical quotes and thoughts but nothing too objectionable. Sad.
	Armstrong, William H.	Sour Land	5-7	OK?	Sequel to Souder. A noble black man tries to make his way in segregationist south. Religious quotes, but all from "old testament". One mention of Judas tree "legend that J---'s cross had been made of its wood". Beautiful and important book. Only about 100 pages but subject matter is appropriate for older readers.
	Arnold, Louise	Golden and Grey: A Good Day for Haunting	3-6	OK	Boy who can see mischievous ghosts, traps evil ghosts from past. Fun read.
	Arnold, Louise	Golden and Grey: An Unremarkable Boy and a Rather Remarkable Ghost	4-7	OK??	Boy who can see mischievous ghosts, foils plot of man who tries to take advantage of him. Language: hell (P. 236, 242).
	Arnold, Louise	Golden and Grey: The Nightmares that Ghosts Have	4-7	OK	Boy and ghost friends find out why ghosts are going missing. Brief reference to dinosaurs
	Aronson, Marc and HP Newquist	For Boys Only: the Biggest Baddest Book Ever	5-8	OK?	Despite the title, just a book of interesting facts, records, and statistics - for boys AND girls. P. 151- ref. to dinosaurs/ billions of years.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Arthur, Robert	The Three Investigators: The Mystery of the Green Ghost	5-7	OK	Boys solve mystery of ghost and missing heiress. Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.
	Arthur, Robert	The Three Investigators: The Mystery of the Missing Mummy	5-7	OK	Boys discover who is making mummy whisper. and catch a criminal. Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.
	Arthur, Robert	The Three Investigators: The Mystery of the Talking Skull	5-7	OK	Boys discover why skull talks, and find stolen money . Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.
	Arthur, Robert	The Three Investigators: The Secret of Skeleton Island	5-7	OK	Boys discover who is haunting island, and find pirate treasure. Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.
	Auch, Mary Anne	I Was a Third Grade Spy	3-4	OK??	Boys use their talking dog to spy on female classmates to find out what they are doing for the school talent show. Boy teases his friend that girl has a crush on him (once-page 21). Bathroom humor. Brief mention of "Miss Teen Scene" beauty pageant on TV. Minor chutzpah. Language- stupid, weird, dumb
	Auch, Mary Jane	Cry Uncle	4-6	OK??	Boy's great uncle comes to live with them after losing his brother and his farm. Uncle sometimes reverts to thinking he is child and boy is his brother. Ends up marrying widowed woman; when they get engaged, they kiss on mouth in public.
	Auch, Mary Jane	Glass Slippers Give You Blisters	4-6	OK?	Girl discovers her own artistic talent when she does lighting for a play. Becomes platonic friends with boy. Lies to go to prepare for play, because mother would not approve. Artistic grandmother left family to be actress for 6 months when mother (her daughter) was 8 - returned and said she was wrong.
	Auch, Mary Jane	One Handed Catch	4-8	OK?	Boy learns to compensate after losing hand in accident. Very well done. X-mas - gifts - no religion.
	Auch, Mary Jane	Out of Step	4-6	OK	Boy deals with father's remarriage and father favoring athletic stepsister
	Avi	Ereth's Birthday	3-5	OK?	Continuation of "Poppy" . Grouchy porcupine thinks everyone forgot his birthday and goes off to look for his own present. He ends up becoming a foster "mother" to orphaned foxes. Lots of humorous grouchy slang, minor language: goldarn, stupid, jerk (once each).
	Avi	Finding Providence - The Story of Roger Williams	2-4	OK?	An early chapter book about the man who worked to create a separation of church and state. Mentions of church and Christianity and preaching, but no religion detailed.
	Avi	Iron Thunder	5-7	OK?	Boy serves first in iron warship. Language: Hell (formal).
	Avi	Man from the Sky	4-6	OK??	A learning disabled boy sees a criminal parachuting from a plane and saves his neighbor from him. Language: damn (p. 107).
	Avi	Midnight Magic	4-6	OK?	A magician's servant boy gets involved in palace intrigue and eventually saves the day. Fun.A lot of talk about the church finding magic to be evil and the characters are often praying and crossing themselves..
	Avi	Murder at Midnight	4-7	OK?	Boy servant of illusionist in superstitious Middle Ages, works to prove his boss innocent of plotting against the king. One hug from girl whose life he saved: innocent.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Avi	Night Journeys	4-5	OK?	Boy in Colonial America helps indentured servants escape. Non-romantic negiah.
	Avi	Poppy	3-5	OK?	A mouse sets out to avenge death of her boyfriend by defying a tyrannical owl. P 73- describes picture of Rogers and Astaire (famous dancers) dancing, and mouse's ambition to also dance in arms of handsome mouse. Minor language.
	Avi	Strange Happenings	4-6	OK?	A collection of strange short stories - some scary. Language: butt (p. 77). Boy who is bored with life thinks that only on TV things are interesting (p. 4)
	Avi	The Barn	5-8	OK??	Sad story about a pioneer boy who has to leave school after father suffers an attack and becomes a virtual vegetable. Boy convinces himself that if they build the barn the father dreamed of, it will cure him. Detailed description of caring for his father including cleaning his "privates". Relatively neutral Christian prayer written out (p. 4). Older sister wants to marry a boy who kisses her - she blushes - (p. 78). Reviews of many books in back, some of which may be inappropriate - can be torn out.
	Avi	The End of the Beginning	4+	OK	Very unusual story. On surface seems to be about adventures of an ant and a snail. On deeper level lots of puns and tongue in cheek.
	Avi	The Fighting Ground	4-6	OK?	Historical fiction. A boy joins War of Independence and finds out war isn't as glorious as he imagined. Description of burial of man and wife, some dirt goes into woman's mouth - some kids might find it frightening.
	Avi	The Good Dog	4-6	OK?	A dog comes to grips with conflict between being owned by humans and call of wolves to run wild. One instance of dog "negiah" with "girlfriend" (p 118-119) - some children won't get it but some will.
	Avi	The Traitor's Gate	5-8	OK?	Set in 19th century England, boy solves mystery of father's arrest for debt. J-- used as exclamation twice. Passing reference to mother's "copious bosom heaving with emotion". Friendly hug from female adult servant to boy. Boy and girl sleep back to back - totally innocent. At end of book boy says he will "not be a traitor" to girl who was his friend - mild reference to his liking her, but no romance.
	Avi	Who Stole the Wizard of Oz	4-6	OK?	Children figure out who stole books from a library aisle and find a treasure. Minor language: stupid. A lot about the plots of classics: The Wizard of Oz, The Wind in the Willows, Through the Looking Glass, Treasure Island.
	Avi	Who was that Masked Man Anyway?	4-6	OK??	Entire plot revolves around boy's love for radio adventure program. Devises plot whereby brother and teacher will fall in love and marry. Some minor inappropriate references.
	Avi	Wind Catcher	5-7	OK?	A boy spies a couple searching for a shipwreck and ends up in big trouble. First he is marooned on an island, then he is captured by the couple. Mildly scary. Minor language: stupid, idiot. Unimportant mentions of watching TV,

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Avi	True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle	4-6	OK?	A well-bred girl sails to America and becomes involved in crew's rebellion, eventually she "throws away her dress" for pants and the life of a sailor. Minor rough language. Disobeys parents to become a sailor - viewed as positive.
	Babbit, Natalie	Goody Hall	5-8	OK??	A boy is raised in luxury by his mother, after his father is reported dead, but the the boy suspects that he is alive. With the help of a friendly tutor, the boy solves the mystery of his family. Well written, unusual story. Language: Gates of Hell; man rides horse "hell for leather". Mentions of Hercules (tutor's namesake) and his "Twelve Labors" from Greek mythology. At end of book. tutor kisses dour housekeeper on the forehead - not out of feelings for her, but out of happiness about the turn of events.
	Babbit, Natalie	The Moon Over High Street	5-7	OK??	An orphaned boy who lives with his grandmother resists being adopted by a wealthy man in order to pursued his dreams of becoming a scientist. Throughout alludes to boy/girl but never says it straight out- boy thinks girl is beautiful, he gets red in the face when he thinks about her. But in terms of behavior, they act like regular friends. Dog has a "crush" on a poodle, sneaks out to "visit" her. Mention of watching TV, movies. Language-dumb.
	Babbit, Natalie	Tuck Everlasting	5-7	OK?	A family who drank from eternal spring can never die. A little girl discovers their secret but doesn't choose their way of life. Lots of philosophical discussion of immortality. Several mentions of girl looking at "beautiful boy"; sometimes she blushes. Eternally teenaged boy tries to convince young girl to drink from spring when she's older and become immortal and marry him. All family members, including teenage boy who likes her, give girl a hug when they leave. Rich classroom discussion potential.
new	Bachmann, Stefan	A Drop of Night	9-11	OK??	Cynical teenage girl joins 4 other teens (boys and girls) who are supposedly invited to explore newly discovered underground palace of noble family from France Revolution; end up trapped and chased by strange attackers who want their blood for immortal ancestors. Very well written but very strange and somewhat gory/violent. Girl is cynical and somewhat gritty - turns out her parents adopted her at age 4, then rejected her when they had a baby 2 years later; she took the baby and ran away, they were in an accident and baby was disfigured. Some language: freaking, damned, Hell (the place), hellhole, virgin. Some affectionate/supportive negiah between man and woman he is saving; although they seem to have feelings for each other, the focus is on saving her life, not romance. Also non-romantic negiah between teens. Passing mention of Youtube. Overall may be acceptable for older child who needs books on a higher grade level.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Bachmann, Stefan	The Peculiar	5-10	OK?	In a world inhabited by humans and faeries, a half-faery boy tries to save his sister and prevent the faeries from destroying his world. Language: hell (the place). Magic, some violence, some scary imagery.
new	Bachmann, Stefan	The Whatnot	5-10	OK?	Sequel to The Peculiar. 2 boys try to save boy's sister from faeries. Non-romantic negiah. Magic, some violence, some scary imagery. Faery dance described.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark - Lamb in the Laundry	3-5	OK	Kids help new neighbor with sheep birthing and new baby.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark - Mare in the Meadow	3-5	OK	Kids help girl with Cerebral Palsy re-connect to horse after losing hers to illness.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark - Pony in a Package	3-5	OK??	Girl receives miniature horse as compensation for pony that she can't have because parents got divorced and mother's new home is too small. Parents got divorced because father traveled on business a lot and parents "grew apart". Girl is angry at father and blames him for divorce. At end sees him & is reconciled. Many passing mentions of x-mas gifts, tree etc. Boy blushes when someone gives him a look to indicate he is more than friends with a girl (he isn't)
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark - Pony on the Porch	3-5	OK?	When girl suspects that other girl's horse is allergic to hay, she steals him away from race to save him. Girl who is having trouble adjusting to a move displays bad middos but improves by end of book. Kids are somewhat chutzpadik to an older woman with a difficult personality - also resolves itself at the end of the book, though they never apologize. Girls best friend is a boy - someone asks if he's her boyfriend - she says no, just a friend. Many mentions of girl's mom being famous actress on TV. Brief mention of girl being adopted after parents killed in an accident. Non-religious mention of church and pastor. Language - stupid, idiot. In back of book, review of Puppies in the Pantry - mention famous TV soap opera actress non-religious mention of Easter.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Beagle in a Backpack	3-5	OK??	note on series- Most of the books in this series involve a boy and a girl who are best friends (boy is a year younger than the girl) who have animal adventures. Girl's adoptive parents are veterinarians (occasional mention that her birth parents were killed in an accident, but she never thinks about them since she loves her adoptive parents). The relationship between the two friends is completely innocent, but they often have sleepovers and go on vacations with their families, etc. Very pro animal rights. Girl is a vegetarian because she is an animal lover. Many of the books revolve around, or at least mention holidays like xmas, halloween, and easter, but little or no religion. The "Hauntings" series involve ghosts of animals- not scary ghosts. The "pets" series is easy readers. In this book children help rescue a runaway girl who stole a puppy to keep it from being put to sleep. A bit scarier than most books in this series. Leaves reader with the question if it is OK to steal an animal if its life is in danger (same question arises in other books in this series). Many mentions of Halloween, no religion. One word mention of xmas. Language- darn (once). Boy flings his arms around girl when she is rescued, then is embarrassed.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Cats at the Campground	3-5	OK?	Children help rescue stray cat who is afraid of humans and her kittens. Affectionate but nonromantic negiah. One word mention of TV, Easter. Language- idiot
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Cub in the Cupboard	3-5	OK??	Children rescue a mother fox and her baby from a hunter's trap. Woman says "We are all G-d's creatures, we have no right to kill animals" A few mentions of ringing church bells and church bazaar. Woman plays hymn "Rock of Ages" no details. Language- weird.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Dalmation in the Daisies	3-5	OK?	Children rescue a pregnant dalmation and after she dies, find homes for her pups, and save an endangered bird. Internet. Brief TV. One word xmas. Brief mentions of Easter decorations, Easter eggs- no religion.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Dog at the Door	3-5	OK??	Children help locate the owner of a pregnant dog. Book begins with Halloween and trick or treating- no religion. Non romantic negiah.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Foals in the Field	3-5	OK??	Children help a man keep his horse farm. Scary when barn almost collapses on a girl, sad when horse dies. Brief mention of girl's biological parents dying. Girl lies to try to help farmer and then justifies it as not real lying. Children try to prevent prospective buyers from reaching horse farm by giving them wrong directions and delaying them in any way they can. Entire town helps them. One word mention of church. Language- stupid

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Goose on the Loose	3-5	OK??	Children promise to care for a little girls pet goose, but it is accidentally given as a contest prize to a mean animal hating man. Children try to rescue (steal) it from him (Is stealing an animal OK to protect it?). In the end, he gives it up willingly and adopts a puppy. Many mentions of church, and vicar, and ringing church bells, but no religion. Brief mention that girl was adopted after her parents were killed in a car crash.Language- stupid
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Guinea Pig in the Garage	3-5	OK?	Children help girl who wants to have a pet. One word xmas.Brief mention that girl was adopted after parents were killed in a car crash. Language- stupid
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Hamster in a Handbasket	3-5	OK??	Children look after the school hamster and get involved with a group of teenagers camping near their homes.Black and white illustrations of girl in shorts and t shirts. Brother and sister twins display very bad middos- very mean to a girl, cause property damage, etc. Somewhat punished at the end. One word Easter. Language- idiot.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Hauntings - Hound on the Heath	3-5	OK??	On a camping trip, kids help a ghostly boy reunite with his ghostly dog. Boy and girl who are friends sleep in tent together- completely innocent. Language- idiot, crackpot.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Hauntings- Cats in the Castle	3-5	OK?	Children help ghostly cats and boy bring a family of real cats to live in a restored castle.Mention of a movie set. There is a chapel described but no religion. Language-creepy.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Hauntings- Deer in the Darkness	3-5	OK?	Children help prevent a road from being built through an old forest. The ghost of a deer helps them. Brief mention of a passageway used to hide priests from persecutors. Language- weird.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Hauntings- Foal in the Fog	3-5	OK??	Ghost horse helps lead children to rescue an injured horse. Details about girl who is mourning the loss of her horse which died when she distracted her father when he was driving.Legend of a shepherd's wife who ran off with a young nobleman and a god turned him to stone. Speculation that ancient circle of stones was used to worship the sun. Language- weird, stupid
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Hedgehogs in the Hall	3-5	OK	Children help injured hedgehog and her babies while helping a lonely girl cheer up.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Horse in the House	3-5	OK??	Children help an elderly man keep his horse after his wife dies and he is forced to sell off his farm. Brief unimportant mention of actress on a soap opera on TV. Brief mention that girl's parents were killed when she was a baby and she was adopted. Language- creepy. In back of book review of "Pony in a Package"- mention of xmas.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Husky in a Hut	3-5	OK??	Girl goes on vacation with her family and help care for a sled dog who is accidentally injured when people try to illegally hunt Indian legend of ghosts.Unimportant brief mention of coed dancing. Language- weird, dumb, stupid. In back of book preview of Hamster in the Holly- a lot of xmas.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Labrador on the Lawn	3-5	OK??	Girls help return injured lost dog to its owners and help them rescue injured otters. Parents have the room with the double bed. Girl opens door to wake boy while he is sleeping- totally innocent. One word mention of a church. Otter is depressed because his mate was killed, so they introduce him to a new female otter in the hope he will take her for a mate and start a family- they clearly like each other and groom each other etc.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Mare in the Meadow	3-5	OK??	Children help a handicapped girl come to grips with the loss of her horse and agree to ride again. Handicapped girl is somewhat chutzpadik to her mother. Boy uses internet to find information for school project. Girl tries to hug boy from happiness- he dodges away. Girl high fives man.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Owl in the Office	3-5	OK??	Kids make a pet show to raise funds to keep an animal sanctuary open. Brief mention that girl's parents were killed in an accident when she was a baby and she was raised by loving adoptive parents. Brief mention that grandfather is a bell ringer in the church. Vicar offers his garden as place to hold the pet show in return for a donation for the church roof fund, Non romantic negiah. Leader of a rock band agrees to be the MC at the pet show- gives a middle aged woman who wins a prize a kiss (not romantic).
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Pets - Gerbil Genius	2-4	OK	Children rescue a gerbil and adopt it as a class pet. Mention of church bells ringing. No religion.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Pets- Hamste Hotel	2-4	OK??	Children help care for a hamster. Brief mention that grandfather rings the church bell, and that priest has a cat, and might let them put a notice on the church bulletin board. Grandmother runs a rummage sale to benefit the church. Someone is chairman of the church council. No religion. Man takes his wife to the movies. Grandmother gives grandfather a hug.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Pets- Puppy Puzzle	2-4	OK?	Girl helps boy take care of a new puppy. Minor middos exhibited by a classmate, eventually she becomes nicer.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark Pets- Rabbit Race	2-4	OK	Girl helps boy get over his sadness over his pet that died.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Polar Bears on the Path	3-5	OK??	Girl goes to a small town in the arctic to watch polar bears. Helps save a mother polar bear and her cubs. Many mentions of Halloween- trick or treating, carving a pumpkin, costumes, decorations. No religion. One word mention of xmas. Brief mention that musk ox survived from the ice age. Non Romantic negiah.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Pony on the Porch	3-5	OK??	Girl steals a pony to stop its owner from jumping in a race and hurting it. At the end her actions are praised since she saved the pony's life. New girl exhibits bad middos since she is sad that her mother is rarely home since she is a famous TV actress. Girl is teased that her male friend is her boyfriend. Brief mention that girl was adopted after parents were killed in a car accident. Non romantic negiah. Girl is provoked by older woman and answers in chutzpadik fashion. Many mentions of the church as a geographic location. Language- idiot.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Poodle in the Pansies	3-5	OK??	Children help locate a dog's owner. A lot of sentimental warm and fuzzy Easter-bunnies, egg hunts, lambs being born, etc. but no religion. Detailed, sad, and somewhat frightening description of lamb giving birth to stillborn twins. Also a bit scary when farmer faints from pneumonia and girl is alone with him and doesn't know what to do. Non romantic negiah. Girl is interviewed on radio show- detailed description of radio station.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Pup at the Palace	3-5	OK?	Children take a trip to London and help find escaped puppies. Boastful woman exhibits bad middos, but in the end she is helpful. Non romantic negiah. Brief mention of church service- no description. Language- idiot, stupid.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Racehorse in the Rain	3-5	OK??	Children help figure out what made a horse lose a race. Xmas- party, lights, cards, fair, etc. Go to church on xmas, no description. TV Language- dumb, blast, stupid
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Shetland in the Shed	3-5	OK??	Children help girl get over her fear of horses that was caused by her mother being killed when the horse she was riding had a heart attack. Town has a medieval pageant to raise money to fix the church roof. Many mentions of church- no blatant religion- bell ringing Easter vacation. Someone's yard looks like a Hollywood movie studio. Language- idiot, stupid
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Siamese in the Sun	3-5	OK	Children help a shy boy and enter a cat in a show. Passing one word mention of a church.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- Tabby in the Tub	3-5	OK?	Children help a stray cat have kittens who then fosters kittens of an injured mother cat. Girl sticks flower blossoms down a boy's back as a joke- brief mention.
	Baglio, Ben M.	Animal Ark- The Kitten That Won First Prize and Other Animal Stories	3-5	OK??	Short stories about animals. Girl gives boy a hug- "to his horror" and tells him he is a hero. Brief mention that male and female bunnies must be separated or will have a lot of babies. Boy and girl "best friends" sleepover at house to discover what is making scary noises- totally innocent- illustration of them in sleeping bags next to each other. Boy is interviewed on TV. One word mention of xmas. Language- stupid, berserk, weird.
	Bagnold, Enid	National Velvet	6+	OK?	A girl wins a horse in a raffle and wins the Grand National race by pretending to be a male jockey. Somewhat difficult language. Throughout the book many mentions of mating animals but no description. Minor Language: Blasted, stinkin, darn, shut up. One scene of boys and girls meeting at night without parental permission (p 30). Descriptions of jockeys changing room, their being "naked" and girl's shocked reaction (p. 198-199) - can be torn out.
	Baker, Barbara	Oh, Emma	2-4	OK?	A young girl struggles with poverty and being the oldest. A few illustrations of girls in cutoffs and shorts.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Baker, Barbara	The William Problem	2-4	OK??	Girl learns to deal with being in a different class from her best friend and with a boy she hates. Bad midos, catty/mean/obnoxious. Lots of talk of girls wearing t-shirts and jeans.
	Baker, Rachel	The First Woman Doctor	5-8	OK?	Biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, who became a doctor in 1840. Various mentions of women's libbers and how much she disliked them for trying to be like men (she was feminine). A few mild religious references, one mention of JC (chap. 2 p. 18) - easy to cross out. A few neutral mentions of men who tried to court her but she refused - she never married because she was too busy trying to be a doctor, but she did adopt an orphaned little girl.
	Balaban, Bob	McGraw! It's a Dog-Eat-Dog World	3-5	OK?	A bionic dog and his master track down two villains. Running story line of dog liking female dog. When she has puppies everyone knows "proud father" is dog detective (p 166). No mention of marriage (but they are just dogs after all!). Minor language - p. 16 "goldarned minute". Mention of x-mas presents in passing.
	Balliett, Blue	Chasing Vermeer	6-8	OK??	A convoluted and strange mystery/puzzle book where children try to locate a stolen work of art. P 33 - juvenile rhyme about boy and girl stuck in closet together. A few mentions in passing of art in museum being paintings of ladies in "too tight dresses" or "naked people" - easy to cross out. Talk of supernatural and if coincidences are real. Some kids will love the book and some won't get it.
	Balliett, Blue	The Wright 3	6-8	OK??	Children try to save a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Same genre as "Chasing Vermeer" - mystery, supernatural, art, and math all strung together in a convoluted way. Promote book "The Invisible Man" (which may or may not be appropriate) and the movie "Rear Window". Children break into house to save it. Girl climbs up ladder last so that boys won't look at "the seat of her pants". Children tell parents they are going to a movie so they can break into the house (which they have been forbidden to go near)
	Banks, Kate	Lenny's Space	4-5	OK?	Socially-challenged boy learns about himself, relationships, and loss, by meeting with understanding counselor. Friend dies - sad.
	Banks, Lynne Reid	The Farthest-Away Mountain	5-7	OK?	Girl conquers an evil witch. Lots of fantasy and magic. Fairy tale type of instant falling in love. One kiss, not described. Language: idiot.
	Banks, Lynne Reid	The Indian in the Cupboard	4-6	OK?	A boy receives magic cupboard and discovers it can bring plastic cowboy and Indian models to life. Some minor rough language. Great story
	Banks, Lynne Reid	The Return of the Indian	4-6	OK?	Boy brings Indian to life and gets involved in French and Indian War. Some rough language and violence. Boy discovers how hard it is to be responsible for human lives.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Baratz-Logsted, Lauren	The Sisters 8 - Book 1 - Annie's Adventures	3-6	OK??	Octuplets parents suddenly disappear and they have to manage on their own and find their hidden powers. Young children figure out how to go shopping, cook, drive, pay the bills, etc. Mentions of Xmas and New Year's celebrations and gifts, no religion. Father's job is being a model - no description. Minor middos between siblings. Children explain why their parents didn't give them Xmas presents (after they disappeared) by lying and saying they are Jewish children. Need to pretend parents are home because don't want to be placed in foster care. Minor language: stupid, lousy, blasted, idiots.
	Barnett, Mac	The Brixton Brothers: The Case of The Case of Mistaken Identity	3-6	OK??	Tongue-in-cheek story of boy who discovers he is a real 'detective' and is on the run from powerful 'librarians'. Minor language: jerk, sucks, heck. Boy's single mother has boyfriend who comes to dinner; boy doesn't like him.
	Barrett, Tracy	The Sherlock Files: The 100-Year-Old Secret	3-5	OK	Children solve mystery of missing portrait.
	Barron, T. A.	Merlin's Dragon	7+	OK??	A lizard like creature trying to discover his identity journeys around a magical world trying to save Merlin the Wizard. Very deep and philosophical. A lot of descriptions of how the magical world of Avalon came to be (obviously no mention of G-d in this creation). Many mentions of angels and gods who bestow gifts including the ability to create. Detailed description of wedding with one sentence about the kiss. Minor language: stupid, moron, idiot
	Barrows, Anne and Sophie Blackall	Ivy + Bean #2 - And the Ghost that Had to Go	2-4	OK?	Girls think there is a ghost in the school bathroom and they create a scare in school. When a teacher forbids them talking about it, they create a ceremony to expel it with magic. Some middos issues between siblings.
	Barry, Dave	Never A Land Book - Escape from the Carnivale	5-7	OK?	Prequel to Peter Pan by a different author. Children rescue a mermaid from a circus ship. A few black and white illustrations of girl in bikini and grass skirt, man in loincloth, and unclothed mermaid - not provocative but noticeable. Non romantic negiah.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Barry, Dave and Pearson Ridley	Science Fair	6-9	OK??	Boy stops terrorist plot of backwards country that takes control of U.S. electrical grid. Irreverent, but overall a pretty clean fun read. Beginning of book has unrefined references: passing reference to Halle Berry in Catwoman suit, boy's ears turn red when pretty girl talks to him, refers to girls as 'hot', teacher referred to as having large wet spots under each arm, obnoxious kids are chutzpadik to teacher, boy puts his enchilada into bully's pants, assistant principal nicknamed "Armpit" by kids, passing reference to Britney Spears, parent worries her son is in trouble with pot or crack (he isn't), parents are Star Wars enthusiasts, boy's mother wears Princess Leia bikini costume in one chapter, invention of 'hotness box' that digitally changes faces to look 'hot' (at hottest, looks like girl who 'invented' it). Rivalry and bad middos between obnoxious upper-class kids, and the regular kids. Girl touches boy's hand for a second and they both blush. Parents and some teachers portrayed in non-respectable light. Boy takes something from his parents' valuable collection and sells it to buy himself a computer; regrets it and later pays it back. Language: jerk, moron, butt.
	Bauer, Marion Dane	A Bear Named Trouble	3-5	OK	Based on true story. Lonely bear tries to dig into zoo, zookeeper's son has conflicting feelings.
	Baum, L. Frank	Ozma of Oz	4-6	OK?	Continuing adventures of Dorothy, who saves a royal family. A lot of magic. Picture of princess with low cut gown - not provocative. Mentions king who looks like Santa Claus - no explanation. Minor language: stupid.
	Baum, L. Frank	The Magic of Oz	4-6	OK	The Oz characters want to get the fairy ruler a birthday present. Get into all sorts of trouble.
	Baum, L. Frank	The Marvelous Land of Oz	4-6	OK	The Oz characters try to reconquer the Land of Oz from an army of girls who would rather rule a land than do domestic chores.
	Baum, L. Frank	The Wizard of Oz	4-6	OK	A girl gets swept up by cyclone and finds herself in a magical land.
	Beatty, Patricia	Charley Skedaddle	4-6	OK	Historical Fiction - civil war. Brief mention of liking a girl.
	Beaty, Andrea	Cicada Summer	5-7	OK??	Girl feels responsible for brother's death by carbon monoxide poisoning, so pretends she is mute. Meets girl who is running from criminal father's partner. Well written but a little heavy.
new	Bell, Hilari	Crown of Earth: The Shield, Sword and Crown, Book 3	6-9	OK??	Final book of series, told from perspective of prince. Violence. Boy and girl sleep together on blanket for warmth; totally innocent. Language: screw up. Boy has visions and premonitions granted by 'gods'. Description of king who offered himself as human sacrifice. Boy puts arm around girl to comfort her. Implied that previous king was son of his mother and not of his 'father'. Girl's bandit mother is killed to prevent rebellion; she is grief-stricken but overcomes it.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Bell, Hilari	Shield of Stars: The Shield, Sword and Crown, Book 1	6-9	OK??	Boy tries to save mentor who is rebelling against king, with help of girl. Girl's mother is leader of rebels; girl and mother wear men's clothing (apparently for ease of movement). People believe in various gods. Tell fortunes with arcanara cards. Girl kicks attacker in groin. Man touches girl's' breast; she breaks his finger. Non-romantic negiah. Language: bastard, damn, piss. Violence. Boy is a pickpocket.
new	Bell, Hilari	Sword of Waters: The Shield, Sword and Crown, Book 2	6-9	OK??	Girl is now lady in prince's court; adventures trying to save kingdom and find legendary sword. Girl and prince wrestle for fun; court officers suspect they are having improper relationship; indirect references to what they are suspected of doing: "rutting in the straw", "coupling" "producing illegits", "If you produced a child...". Drawing of woman with halter-type top and bare shoulders and stomach, cover page for chapter 17. Continued references to gods, arcanara cards. Similar language to book 1. Violence.
	Bellairs, John	Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost	6-8	OK?	Call priest to excise ghost w/ cross; locate "urim vetumim's" stones - description totally off - many kids will probably ignore it
	Bellairs, John	The House with a Clock in Its Walls	6-7	OK?	spooky witchcraft; spirits return to life
	Bellairs, John	The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn	6-7	OK?	boy discovers treasure of eccentric millionaire with help of friendly librarian. Drinking saloon called cigar store "to be polite". Long description of lost "Kruvim" from Bais Hamikdash. Not very inaccurate as far as I can tell - may want Rabbinic Guidance.
new	Bentley, Sue	Magic Kitten- A Summer Spell	3-5	OK?	See note on series. Girl is miserable when she has to spend summer vacation with her aunt while her parents are away. She is somewhat chutzpadik in showing her unhappiness until she discovers a magic kitten that cheers her up. She befriends a gypsy boy and together they help capture deer poachers. Girl is amazed that her aunt doesn't have a TV, and is happy when her aunt finally unearths an old one. Nonromantic negiah. Language- gross, weird
	Bentley, Sue	Magic Kitten-A Circus Wish	3-5	OK?	Note on series- Magic Kitten and Magic Puppy books are about a tiger disguised as a kitten and a wolf disguised as a puppy who attempt to hide in the human world until they get strong enough to defeat their enemies. In each book they end up helping a child with a problem, often social. Although these books seem written for younger children the types of problems they deal with are really geared towards middle grade children. In this book a girl learns to do circus tricks. Circus culture. Middos between classmates and friends. Girl's father is allergic to cats so she sneaks cat into room- eventually father finds out and lets her keep it. Language- creepy, shut up, weird, stupid, idiot.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Bentley, Sue	Magic Kitten-Moonlight Mischief	3-5	OK?	See note on series. A girl helps her family take care of an animal kennel for a week and deals with an unfriendly older girl. Mention of renting a movie, going to the movies, TV. Girl gives father a "playful shove". Brief non-religious xmas. Language- dumb, stupid.
	Bentley, Sue	Magic Kitten-Sparkling Steps	3-5	OK??	See note on series. Girl in ballet school deals with a jealous classmate with very poor middos. A lot of ballet culture and aspiring to be a famous ballerina. Brief mention of watching TV and videos. Language- weird, dumb.
new	Bentley, Sue	Magic Ponies- Pony Camp	3-5	OK??	See note on series. A girl goes to pony camp and deals with a bunkmate with very bad middos. At one point a magic pony makes the bunkmate get covered in muck- the girl finds that very funny. Girls watch movie. Language- dummy, poo, gross
	Bentley, Sue	Magic Puppy- A Forest Charm	3-5	OK??	See note on series. A girl goes on a wilderness team building trip with her parents and deals with an overachieving girl and her father with very poor middos. In the end, she improves. Father calls his coworker "a Know it all". Language- stupid, freaky, brat
	Bentley, Sue	Magic Puppy-Muddy Paws	3-5	OK?	See note on series. Girl spends the summer on her uncle's farm and learns to get along with her difficult cousin. Middos between cousins. Brief mention of watching TV. Language- stupid, idiot
	Bentley, Sue	Magic Puppy-Party Dreams	3-5	OK??	See note on series. Girl's mother is in the hospital on bedrest so girl goes to stay with her step grandmother who likes to be called by her first name. Middos between friends, annoying brother, watching movies on TV, mother likes celebrity gossip magazines. Language- creepy, weird, stupid, flipping, heck (once pg. 87)
	Bentley, Sue	Magic Puppy-Twirling Tails	3-5	OK?	See note on series. Girl deals with her best friend's budding friendship with a girl she doesn't like. Middos between classmates. Language- stupid, weird, heck (once)
	Benton, Jim	Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #1 Lunch Walks Among Us	2-3	OK??	A girl who likes to be a mad scientist pretends to be a normal girl to make friends until she needs to rescue her teacher from a monster. Somewhat unrefined. Many mentions of boy wetting his pants when he is scared including an illustration of him with a stain on the front of his pants. Monster has a jack o lantern head- illustration. Language- weird, stinky, creep, darn (last page).
	Benton, Jim	Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #4- The Fran That Time Forgot	2-3	OK??	A girl with an embarrassing middle name goes back in time to change her birth certificate. She encounters herself as a teen and doesn't like what she sees. Somewhat unrefined bathroom humor. Mention of encountering a giant cupid. Mom called dad "kisseypie" when they were dating. Language- dumb, stupid.
	Benton, Jim	Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #6- The Fran With Four Brains	2-3	OK?	A girl with an overpacked extracurricular schedule creates robots to take over some of her activities. Unimportant mention of dinosaurs. Stupid (once)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Berends, Polly Berrien	The Case of the Elevator Duck	2-3	OK??	Boy solves problem of lost duck in housing project. Somewhat prominent mention of a couple "hugging" for a long time in the stairway until a housing policeman says "break it up". Bunny is named "Easter" because he was an Easter present no religion. Language- weird, dumb, stinking.
	Berenstain, Stan and Jan	The Berenstain Bear Scouts & the Humongous Pumpkin	2-4	OK?	Chapter book. Papa Bear tries to win contest for biggest pumpkin. Bears uncover plot. Minor mention of Halloween. Papa portrayed as naïve and easily misled but not as bad as in some other Berenstain Bear books.
	Berenstain, Stan and Jan	The Berenstain Bears' Seashore Treasure	1-2	OK	I Can Read book. Bears search for treasure.
	Berger, Lara	Sophie the Awesome	3-5	OK??	A third grade girl keeps trying to prove she is awesome, with disastrous results. Finally she saves a kindergartener from running into the street. Girl hates boy who used to be her best friend. Minor juvenile bad middos between children. Minor mention of fifth grade sister who follows around a boy she likes. Juvenile joke about body odor.
	Berger, Melvin & Gilda	Where Did Your Family Come From? A Book About Immigrants	2-3	OK	examples of modern immigrant children to teach about process of immigration - no obvious Jews.
	Berk, Professor Ari	The Secret History of Giants	5+	OK?	A fantasy / alternative history disguised in the format of a real history book, with short factual sounding entries describing giants - their lives, religion, and contributions - including the creation of earth. Strange (inaccurate) explanation of who Gog and Magog are. Mention of thousands of years, fossils, and spirits. One section about biblical giants - relatively innocuous. Obviously only for child who can distinguish between fantasy and reality.
	Berlin, Eric	The Puzzling World of Winston Breen	5-7	OK?	Boy solves puzzles to solve mystery. Lots of puzzles for reader to solve. Boy mentions that woman is beautiful. Minor language
	Berlin, Eric	The Puzzling World of Winston Breen - The Potato Chip Puzzles	5-7	OK??	A boy and his friends try to win a puzzle contest for their school and try to catch cheaters. Many puzzles woven into the story for the reader to solve (answers are given). Language: heck, goofballs, kick your butt, damn. Some teachers not good role models - cheat and lie. Children have better middos than the teachers. Very minor flirting.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss	Book Scavenger	4-6	OK??	Girl and boy decode puzzles to solve mystery, as part of a game based on hiding and recovering books. [Author of this book created a real-life similar game, which is accessed online]. References to Halloween. Brother idolizes rock band and makes music video to their music- wants to be a rock star. Minor language: fart, screw up. Kids use internet to look up information and play a game. Blog. References to Edgar Allan Poe stories, including Gold Bug and Black Cat; The Westing Game; The Maltese Falcon- books referenced often- may make reader want to read the originals, some of which are not reviewed for acceptability. Girl lies and does not return book to man she believes is its owner; turns out he is a bad guy, so her action seems justified. Father and mother dance, touching. Man wonders if a "Love triangle" caused a rivalry between two authors. Some violence. Some non-romantic negiah. Middos between classmates. Many mentions of Halloween, no religion. View is like the set of a movie. TV. Language- doofus, weird, stupid, dumb, cockamamie, pain-in-the-butt, fart, idiot, shut up, creepy, freakin' out.
new	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Mysteries #3 Penny and Pepper	2-3	OK?	Children follow clues to find missing pony. Mention of "pony plop" as evidence of pony's trail. Full color illustration of youngish girl with arms over the shoulders of her friends- one is a boy.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #01 - I want a Pony	3-5	OK?	A girl is unhappy staying with her grandmother while her father is away. She helps an injured pony and arranges to lease him. Forms a pony riding club with her friends. Minor language - jerk. Mention of x-mas songs; no religion.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #02 - A Pony For Keeps	3-5	OK	A girl with a learning disability is devastated when her parents threaten to take away her pony if she doesn't do better in school. She cuts school to spend time with her pony and a woman with a reputation as a witch (she isn't) helps her
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #03 - A Pony In Trouble	3-5	OK	Girls try to find out what is making a pony sick, and they enter a horse show.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #04 - Give Me Back My Pony	3-5	OK?	Girl has to return her pony to a snobby older girl. On cover, picture of one girl in a sleeveless dress and one in shorts. Girl's mother died when she was 4but she's not so sad about not having a mom because she is very close with her dad. Mentions song Jingle Bells - no religion. 14 year old girl wears make-up. Non-romantic negiah.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #05 - Pony to the Rescue	3-5	OK	Girls help find a lost little girl.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #06 - Too Many Ponies	3-5	OK	A girl takes a job training ponies and tries to balance working with having fun
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #07 - Runaway Pony	3-5	OK	A girl blames herself when her pony runs away

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #08- Good- bye Pony	3-5	OK??	Girls deal with the death of a beloved pony. May be difficult reading for a highly emotional child. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was young. Brief mention of a "dance" that the whole town attends. No description.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #09- The Wild Pony	3-5	OK	Girls try to save an abandoned pony from being killed. Girls get into a fight- eventually resolve it. Brief mention of girl not having a mother. Language- stupid, weird.
new	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #10- DOn't Hurt My Pony	3-5	OK??	Children figure out who is setting dangerous traps. Boys display bad middos. Turns out one of the boys is troubled because his parents got divorced and his father left. Language- jerks, shut up, dumb, stupid
new	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #14- Pony-Sitters	3-5	OK	Girls try to teach a young girl to be safe with her new pony. Girls look for "pony plop" to locate missing pony.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #17 - Detective Pony	3-5	OK	Girls adopt a lost cat and save animals from a fire in the animal clinic
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #18 The Saddest Pony	3-5	OK?	Girls care for an elderly pony and watch it die from old age. Very sad, especially for a highly sensitive child. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was little. Language-poop.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #19- Moving Pony	3-5	OK?	Girls help a girl who doesn't want to move, learn to make new friends. Brief mentions that girl's mother died. Mention of TV watching.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #27- The Pony and the Missing Dog	3-5	OK?	Girls search for missing dog. Boy who is usually mean to them actually helps them. Language- poop, stupid
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #31 - Ponies from the Past	3-5	OK	Girls find a letter from the past and connect with the elderly author in a nursing home. Very minor mention of ghosts.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #32 - He's My Pony	3-5	OK	A girl deals with feelings of jealousy when a visitor proves to be a better artist than her and loves her pony as well.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals #36- The Pony and the Haunted Barn	3-5	OK??	Girls find a barn they are convinced is haunted. Book ends with the feeling that maybe there really are ghosts. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was young. Sad story of man who was grief stricken after he lost his wife and 4 year old daughter. Boys tease girls, though girl notices that when one of them is alone he is "nice". Language-weird.
	Betancourt, Jeanne	Pony Pals Super Special #1: The Baby Pony	3-5	OK	Girls take care of an orphaned baby pony.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Biney, Betty G.	Trouble According to Humphrey	3-5	OK?	A classroom hamster finds the courage to help a classmate even though it means losing his freedom to leave his cage. Boy plays video games, family eats dinner in front of the TV, a lot of middos between siblings, some between classmates. Adult daughter is somewhat chutzpadik to her mother who lives with them. Mother offers children a prize of going to the movies. Description of family where kids are very chutzpadik, parents bicker, and everyone is very sad. It turns out it is because dad lost his job and mom is forced to work the night shift- resolves itself in the end. Language- stupid, weird, dumb, poo, dogone.
new	Black, Peter Jay	Urban Outlaws: Blackout	5-8	OK?	Group of boys and girls who are professional hackers. Break into other people's homes, businesses, and computers, for a good cause. Some violence. Non-romantic negiah. Minor language: freaking, butt. Characters "curse" and "swear" when under pressure, but no actual words printed. Once character starts saying "sh---" (not finishing the word), and other character replaces it with another word. Uses a lot of technical computer terminology that a lot of kids won't understand, but a fun read nevertheless.
	Blackwood, Gary	Second Sight	5-8	OK?	A boy living in Washington DC during the Civil War, becomes an entertainer who pretends to read people's minds. He befriends a gypsy girl with real fortune-telling and mind-reading abilities, and together they save President Lincoln's life. Brief mention in passing of brothels and women of the night, but no explanation. Non-religious mention of X-mas, minor mention of evolution, minor non-romantic negiah, man tries to kiss a woman and she slaps him (p. 230).
	Blackwood, Gary	The Just-So Woman	1-2	OK	A woman who wants everything to be perfect, learns from a neighboring man that sometimes you need to accept things as they are.
	Blackwood, Gary	The Shakespeare Stealer	5-8	OK	Historical fiction set in time of Shakespeare. Poor apprentice sent to secretly transcribe Hamlet. Ends up joining theater. One of boy actors turns out to be girl in disguise.
	Blade, Adam	Beast Quest - Cypher the Mountain Giant	3-5	OK?	Series about a boy and girl who undertake a quest to free huge beasts from enchantment by a villain who is trying to conquer the kingdom. Some magical violence. Children encounter great danger to free a giant. Non-romantic negiah.
	Blade, Adam	Beast Quest - Epos The Winged Flame	3-5	OK?	Children fight a beast that causes a volcano to erupt. Non-romantic negiah.
	Blade, Adam	Beast Quest - Ferno the Fire Dragon	3-5	OK?	Children encounter great danger to free a dragon. Some non-romantic friendly negiah e.g. when they conquer the beast they hug to celebrate.
	Blade, Adam	Beast Quest - Soltra The Stone Charmer	3-5	OK	Children rescue the village from a creature that turns people to stone.
	Blade, Adam	Beast Quest - Zepha The Monster Squid	3-5	OK??	Children retrieve a piece of armor guarded by a dangerous squid. Girl asks boy to dance, he says he doesn't know how. Children decide it's OK to take a boat without permission since it's for a good cause. Non-romantic negiah.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Blair, Gwenda	Laura Ingalls Wilder	2-4	OK?	Biography of author of Little House series. A few minor mentions of x-mas, one picture of x-mas tree with gifts under it. Agrees to marry fiancée if won't have to include a promise to "obey" him in wedding ceremony - p. 52
	Blegved	The Sound of Leaves	3-4	OK?	pictures of young girl at beach
	Blume, Judy	Freckle Juice	2-4	OK	Girl gives boy recipe for getting freckles
	Blume, Judy	Iggie's House	5-7	OK??	When a black family moves into her best friend's former house, a girl tries to cope with the prejudice of her neighbors and family. She wishes she could be "curvy" like her mother. Very uncharitable, chutzpadik (albeit well deserved) thoughts about nosey, prejudiced neighbor. Spies on neighbors from tree house - one who sunbathes in only a towel and another who mows the lawn in a bathing suit (p. 59). Some minor name calling and fighting among children, tomboy dreads wearing a dress to school every day. In back of book reviews of books by the author, at least one of which is highly inappropriate - can be torn out.
	Blume, Judy	Tale of a fourth grade nothing	3-5	OK?	minor rough language
	Blume, Judy	The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo	2-3	OK	A second grader wants to prove himself and to his family that he is special so gets an important part in the school play.
	Blume, Lesley M. M.	Tennyson	6-8	OK??	Set in Depression Era. When their artsy writer mother deserts the family, poor girls are sent to live with Aunt who is trying to revive Southern family dynasty. Language: damned (proper usage)
	Bode, N.E	The Somebodies	5-7	OK??	Children battle an evil queen in a magical underground city. Vague references to characters in books which may or may not be appropriate, including other books in this series. Non-religious mentions of churches, synagogues, a mosque, and Halloween. Mean teacher comes back from bathroom with her skirt tucked into her underpants; comical (but inappropriate) description (p34 chapt 2). Affectionate negiah between step brother and sister. Language- weird, idiot, freakish.
	Boling, Katherine	January 1905	5-7	OK??	Historical fiction. Twin sisters in mill town before child labor laws. Bodily functions: pee. Somewhat detailed description of childbirth: woman cries out in pain, nightdress up over her thighs, midwife looks between her legs.
	Bond, Ann Sharpless	Adam and Noah and the Cops	3-5	OK?	Boys keep getting into funny trouble. A few mentions of juvenile liking girls so they follow them and scare them - p. 29 and 75 - very minor.
	Bond, Michael	Paddington Goes to Town	4-7	OK	Bear gets in unintentional mischief. Goes to town to see X-mas lights, also talk of X-mas presents; nothing religious
	Bond, Michael	Paddington Takes the Test	4-7	OK	Bear accidentally takes (and fails) a driving test, and accidentally gets into other mischief. Brief mention of Xmas. Family goes to theater to see a "pantomime".
	Bonsall, Crosby	Dumb Bells	2-3	OK	I Can Read Book. Boys accidentally hook up phone wires to door bells.
	Bonsall, Crosby	The Case of the Cat's Meow	2-3	OK	Boys find lost cat.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Bosch, Pseudonymous	The Name of this Book is Secret	5-8	OK??	An eccentric boy and a girl try to find a missing magician and get involved with people searching for immortality who have kidnapped their classmate. Girl sometimes calls her mother by her first name. Girl is a bad liar but since she needs to lie to her parents to be allowed to go out to investigate a crime, she practices with small lies until she perfects it. Mentions of watching TV, movies. Boy's parents are divorced but they think they should both bring up their son so they divide their house in half and pretend the other doesn't exist. Very confusing for him. Some Egyptian religion and culture. Non-romantic negiah. Language- darn, stupid, weird, creepy, dumb, butt, fart, idiot, shut up, sucker. Minor bathroom humor.
	Bradbury, Bianca	Two on an Island	3-5	OK	Bother and sister trapped on an island. Learn to get along and appreciate each other
	Bradbury, Ray	Fahrenheit 451	9+	OK??	Set in future where they burn books and try to keep everyone artificially happy and not thinking deeply. One man rebels. Language: damn, hell (as a curse), JC (as a curse). Book has some deep concepts which need adult discussion - I wouldn't give it to a teenager as independent reading.
	Bradford, Chris	Young Samurai: The Way of the Warrior (book 1)	6-8	OK??	English boy is stranded in Japan in 1600's, when ship is attacked. Adopted by samurai lord and learns art of samurai. Friends with beautiful girl - no romance (yet). Martial arts violence. Mention of JC - p. 85. Language: hell - p. 187. Japanese mythology, philosophy, passing mentions of gods. Later book in series slightly more problematic.
	Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker	The President's Daughter	3-6	OK?	Historical fiction. 10 year old daughter of Theodore Roosevelt. Older sister smokes and drives car, against her parents' wishes. Passing mention of x-mas.,
	Brady, Esther Wod	Toliver's Secret	4-7	OK?	Historical fiction. Girl learns to confront her fears when she's sent to deliver a secret message that will help the Patriots defeat the British. A bully displays bad midos. Girl enjoys the freedom of wearing a boy's breeches. Non romantic negiah. Language- idiot, drat.
	Bragg, Georgia	Matisse on the Loose	4-7	OK?	Boy tries to get out of trouble after he trades his copy of a masterpiece for the real thing. Language: butt (2x), screw up. When he was younger he "proposed" to girl, then "broke it off" and she hates him; become friends again. Very tame. Mild chutzpah of son to father.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Brand, Christianna	Nancy McPhee - The Collected Tales of Nurse Matilda	4-6	OK??	3 books in one and pictures from a movie, about a nurse who transforms extremely naughty children into well behaved children by using magic to cause them to continue their mischief even when they want to stop, until they beg her to let them stop being naughty. Although mischief is described in great detail it is so horrible that is unlikely a regular child will be influenced for the bad (see Mrs. Piggie Wiggle books), but parents should make an individual decision. Minor language used in a British sense: ass, drat, prig, dang. Sunday school described but no religion except "turn the other cheek". A co-ed beach where women wear modest swimsuits and don't swim near men.
	Breen, M. E.	Darkwood	6-9	OK	Fantasy. Girl fights wolves and villains and discovers her powers and her past. Violence: animal vs. men and men vs. men.
	Brennan, Herbie and Neal Layton	Zartog's Remote	2-5	OK?	Silly tongue in cheek book about an alien and a girl who accidentally switch remote controls - he takes her TV remote and she takes his that can change people into other things. She uses his remote to scare bullies who have been bothering her. Some silly slang. Minor language: darned. Alien disobeys his parents and gets into trouble.
	Brenner, Barbara	If You Were There in 1776	3-5	OK?	Non-fiction. Describes life in 1776 using descriptions, quotes and illustrations. Mention of prostitutes coming to colonies - no definition or hint to meaning (P. 11). Minor language - stupid (referring to the British). One sentence (p. 85) about young couples crossing the "Kissing Bridge, which is well-named" - can be crossed out. Relatively neutral description of religious life - one mention of JC (P. 85) - can be crossed out. Back of book jacket - illustration of young women wearing very low-cut gowns, playing blind man's bluff with young men.
	Brett, Simon	The Three Detectives and the Knight in armor	3-5	OK	lots of talk about ridiculous TV show - very anti TV
	Brink, Carol Ryrie	Baby Island	3-5	OK	2 girls shipwrecked on tropical island with babies. Befriend a hermit. Mild religion, very minor language
	Brink, Carol Ryrie	Caddie Woodlawn	4-6	OK??	Historical fiction, tomboy girl in pioneer days, discovers what it is to be a real American. Very innocent boy/girl side-story: Brother likes girl in class (page 60,90,260); buys her best Valentine in store (102, 177). Visiting preacher, praying on knees, mentions burning in hell, mention of xmas, when Saturday's sun goes down the "Sabbath" begins, etc. Mother cries, father kisses her. Girl tells her she is lucky to be going to England where "all the handsome noblemen simply languishing for dances with you"
	Brink, Carol Ryrie	Caddie Woodlawn's Family	4-6	OK?	Previously published as "Magical Melons". Sequel to Caddie Woodlawn. Mild old fashioned boy/girl courting.
	Brink, Carol Ryrie	Family Grandstand	3-5	OK	Sweet story about mid-1900's family

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Brink, Carol Ryrie	Magical Melons	4-6	OK?	Sequel to Caddie Woodlawn. Mild old fashioned boy/girl courting
	Broach, Elise	Masterpiece	5-7	OK?	Beetle draws beautiful art, adults think boy did it; together they solve mystery of stolen art. Non-romantic negiah between adults. Passing mention of naked statue: "The female body is a beautiful thing" (p. 111). Some discussion of divorce.
	Bronin, Andrew	Gus and Buster Work Things Out	2-3	OK	easy reader. Mention of watching TV
	Brooke, William J.	A Brush with Magic	3-6	OK?	Delightful Chinese fairy tale. Main character does "fall in love", but main focus is on magic.
	Brooks, Walter R	Freddy the Pied Piper	3-5	OK??	Animals help a bankrupt circus owner restart his circus. A few brief non religious mentions of xmas. A song about a duck who went "a courting" and took 2 female ducks "on his knee" and asked them to marry him. Sends them a valentine on st. valentines day. Discussion if superstitions really bring bad luck or not. A circus performer tells fortunes which almost never come true. Brief mention of going to movies. Frequent language- darn, shut up, stupid, dumb
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy and Mr. Camphor	3-5	OK	Intelligent pig and his friends have adventures.
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy and the Bean Home News	3-5	OK?	P 169 - description of who danced with who at a fancy ball. No romance at all.
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy and the Ignoramous	3-5	OK?	minor language, eg: shut up
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy and the Perilous Adventure	3-5	OK?	Pig tries to clear his name when he is accused of stealing a hot air balloon. Side story of the reappearance duck who was spirited away since he was unfairly strict with his nieces and constantly bragging about how great he is. In his absence his nieces became more self confident and tell him he can only stay if he listens to them (chutzpah?). He agrees to their terms. Mean man hits his son. Language-dumb.
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy and the Space Ship	3-5	OK?	More animal adventures.
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy Goes Camping	3-5	OK?	More animal adventures.
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy Goes to Florida	3-5	OK?	More animal adventures.
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy Plays Football	3-5	OK?	More animal adventures.
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy the Detective	3-5	OK?	More animal adventures. Minor language: darn, shut up, brat.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Brooks, Walter R.	Freddy's Cousin Weedy	3-5	OK?	Animals try to prevent farmer's aunt from stealing his teapot. Minor language: consarn it, darn, I'll be darned, shut up.
new	Brown, Dinah	Who Is Malala Yousafzai?	3-5	OK??	Biography of a girl in Pakistan who stood up the Taliban because she wanted the right to get an education. She was shot for her efforts, but not intimidated. Legend about a girl in Afghanistan who encouraged soldiers to fight the British by taking off her veil and waving it and singing. She was shot and killed and considered a hero. Girl likes to read the "Twilight" series which is not appropriate. Likes songs sung by rock star "Justin Bieber". Many mentions of watching TV (text and illustration). Movies. Quotes from an Afghani poet- "I want to sing like the birds sing, not worrying about who hears or what they think". Brief bio of Mother Teresa.
	Brown, Irene Bennet	Skitterbrain	4-6	OK?	Girl on Kansas prairie frantically tries to find lost cow to save baby's life. Encounters rough and unpleasant cowboys and befriends them. One incident - encounters cowboys bathing and turns away because won't talk to "no naked cowboys". Can be crossed out.
	Brown, Jeff	Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures	2-3	OK?	Flat boy goes to Japan to meet his favorite movie actor and finds out that he doesn't match the image he projects in his movies. Picture of scantily clothed very fat male sumo wrestlers.
	Brown, Jeff	Invisible Stanley	2-3	OK?	Sequel to Flat Stanley. One scene where helps a shy couple get engaged and they kiss. Easy to tear out page.
	Brown, Jeff	Stanley in Space	2-3	OK	Stanley saves alien planet
	Brown, Jeff	Stanley, Flat Again	2-3	OK	Sequel to Flat Stanley. One scene where girl kisses Stanley to thank him for saving her.
	Brown, Laurie Krasny	Rex and Lilly School Time	1-2	OK?	Cute school stories. At show and tell boy shows his new zoo underwear - very juvenile (and typical of this age).
	Brown, Marc	Arthur Accused (Chapter book 5)	2-3	OK	Boy is accused of stealing money. His friend plays detective to prove his innocence. Minor language: stupid (once).
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Best Coach Ever (Arthur Good Sports Chapter books)	2-3	OK	Arthur's friend's father becomes the new coach but he doesn't know much about coaching. He and the team learn together.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Big Blowup (Chapter book 20)	2-4	OK?	2 members of soccer team learn to patch up differences so team can win. Side story of little sister writing a letter to Santa; no religion
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Comet Crisis (Chapter book 27)	2-4	OK	Boys panic when they think a comet is going to hit Earth - turns out they didn't assemble the telescope correctly. One boy believes in UFOs and aliens.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Cootie Catcher (chapter book 25)	2-3	OK??	A girl receives a paper fortune teller as a birthday present and the kids think they have to listen to its predictions. When one of them tries to disprove it his bike gets run over and he starts to believe in the "curse" also. At the end they ask the fortune teller if they should stop listening to it - it says "yes" so they do. A few mentions of watching TV
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Crunch Cereal Contest	2-4	OK?	Arthur desperately wants to win a TV jingle writing contest. So he uses lyrics he heard his sister singing - eventually feels guilty and gives her credit.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Double Dare	2-4	OK	Kids dare each other to skip school, then chicken out but neglect to tell one of the group.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the No Brainer (Chapter books 26)	2-4	OK	Boys help their brilliant friend cope with getting an answer wrong for the first time in his life.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Pen Pal Playoff (chapter book 6)	2-4	OK	Arthur exaggerates his basketball prowess to his pen pal but learns his lesson when he meets him in person
	Brown, Marc	Arthur and the Race to Read (Chapter Book 1)	2-4	OK	Children try different strategies to win a running race.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur Chapter Book 2 Arthur and the Scare-Your- Pants- Off Club	2-4	OK?	Children are upset when a parent group bans their favorite series because it is too scary and "weird". In the end it turns out the girl's nightmares are caused by sneaking too much ice cream, not from reading the series. Mention of TV news.Children go to movie theater. Language- weird, creepy.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur Chapter Book 31 Arthur Loses His Marbles	2-4	OK	When boy's grandmother becomes a contestant in a marble tournament, he is worried she will win him, so he pretends to lose on purpose to save embarrassment.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur Chapter Book 6 Locked In The Library	2-4	OK?	Boy unthinkingly insults girl- she resolves never to talk to him again, but they are assigned to work on a project together. End up being locked in the library after closing time and learn to work together.Middos with a lesson. Watch TV. Mention of girl putting arm over boy's shoulder-completely unromantic.Language-creepy.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur Chapter Book 8 The Mystery of the Stolen Bike	2-4	OK?	Girl is embarrassed of her old bike. When it is accidentally picked up by the garbage collectors she lies to her father and friends about what happened to it. Eventually learns her lesson. TV watching.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur Good Sports : Arthur and the Goalie Ghost (Chapter Book 5)	2-4	OK	Buster tries to be like a famous hockey player and starts to see his ghost everywhere. Eventually learns to play using his own style.
	Brown, Marc	Arthur's Mystery Envelope (Chapter Book 1)	2-4	OK	Arthur's principal hands him an envelope for his mother and Arthur is nervous he is in trouble. He is tempted to make it disappear but eventually feels too guilty and gives it to her.
	Brown, Marc	Binky Rules (Chapter book 24)	2-4	OK?	Kids try to figure out who is graffitiing their friend's name all over school. Turns out is publicity for a rockband. Lots of talk of Nancy Drew vs. Hardy Boys. Last page shows boy and girl dancing to the rock music - very juvenile

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Brown, Marc	Buster Baxter, Cat Saver (chapter book 19)	2-4	OK	Buster learns what It means to be a real hero, as friends try to keep him from bragging.
	Brown, Marc	Buster's New Friend (Chapter Book 23)	2-4	OK	Arthur is jealous when his best friend starts spending time with a new friend who turns out to be an assigned big brother from the community center.
	Brown, Margaret Wise	The Golden Sleeping Book	2-3	OK	Anthology of short stories and poems about animals
	Bruchac, Joseph	Code Talker	8+	OK??	A novel written as a first hand account of the fascinating story of Navajo Indians who transmitted code during WWII in their native tongue. A lot of vivid discrimination against Indians. A lot of very detailed war gore, violence, and death. A mishmash of Catholicism and Indian religion described in detail. Mention of JC (p53 chap 8) occasional language- stupid, dumb, heck, hell, darn, damned, kicking butt, danged. A lot of "blankety blank: written instead of curses.
	Bruchac, Joseph	The Arrow Over the Door	4-6	OK?	A Quaker boy tries to understand his family's pacifist beliefs in the face of the independence war, while an Indian boy deals with his anger at the white man for killing his mother and brother. Description of Quaker religious beliefs e.g.. Spirit of G-d dwells within each person. Mostly neutral. In the back of the book a more detailed description of their beliefs. Language- stupid
	Bruchac, Joseph	The Warriors	4-6	OK?	Indian boy joins lacrosse team. Some Indian religion - lacrosse was given by Creator, use of game to heal the sick.
	Bruel, Nick	Happy Birthday, Bad Kitty	3-5	OK?	A silly book with minimal text and many illustrations interspersed with interesting facts about cats. Cat's owner tries to throw him a birthday party but cat misbehaves since he misses his mother. Language: heck, darn, weirdo, berserk, freak out (each used once).
	Buchanan, Jane	Hank's Story	4-6	OK?	Sequel to Gratefully Yours. Orphan train boy deals with family that abuses him. Woman who befriends him speaks of father who abused her family; asks why her mother put up with it, but doesn't continue discussion.
new	Buckley Jr. , James	Who Was Roberto Clemente	4-6	OK??	Biography of a famous baseball player from Puerto Rico who experienced segregation in America. Two sentence mention that his sister was burned in a kitchen accident and died. Says that he met a young woman in a drug store and quickly "fell in love". She was just polite to him. He "pursued her with the same passion that he showed on the baseball field" and asked her out again and again and wrote her letters until she agreed to date him after obtaining her parents' permission. Eventually they married. He is interviewed on TV. Sad, when he dies at the age of 38 in a plane crash.
	Buckley-Archer, Linda	The Time Thief - Book two in the Gideon Trilogy (Also may be published as The Tar Man)	6-9	OK??	Children try to remedy changes made in the first book, through time travel. Language: damn: p. 11, 131, 242 , 255, 479. Mild boy/girl: 224,313, 330,441

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Buckley-Archer, Linda	The Time Travelers - Book one in the Gideon Trilogy (Also published as: Gideon the Cutpurse)	6-9	OK??	Boy and girl accidentally travel to 18th century. Language: damn, hell (the place). Very mild boy/girl. Short description of theory of evolution (presented as fact). Girl says they should sleep back-to-back for warmth - boy refuses.
	Buckley-Archer, Linda	Time Quake- Book three in the Gideon Trilogy	6-9	OK??	Children chase villains to retrieve time machine and reverse damage to Time and history. Language: damn, hell. Non-romantic negiah: girl needs to hold on to boy's hand in order to avoid "fast forwarding" through time - very tame. One friendly comforting hug. Passing reference to theories of Darwin - not specified.
	Bulla, Clyde Robert	Last Look	2-4	OK	A girl tries to befriend new girl who turns out not to be so nice. In end learns not to be in a clique and to be nice to others..
	Bulla, Clyde Robert	Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims	2-4	OK	Biography of an Indian boy who travels to England and then back to America to help settlers. Innocent mention of church bells making "wonderful music" - P. 11 - easy to cross out.
	Bulla, Clyde Robert	The Chalk Box Kid	2-4	OK	Sweet story of boy who moves and has trouble adjusting to new school
	Bulla, Clyde Robert	The Paint Brush kid	2-4	OK	Continuation of The Chalkbox Kid. Boy helps old man save house from being knocked down for thruway.
	Bulla, Clyde Robert	White Bird	2-4	OK	Boy is raised by bachelor orphan during pioneer days. Runs away when bird is stolen. Eventually returns and comes to appreciate guardian.
	Buller, Jon	Space Rock	2-3	OK	Step-Into-Reading book. Boy helps return space rock to space ship.
new	Burgan, Michael	Who Was Theodore Roosevelt?	4-6	OK??	Biography. Married his "college sweetheart". His wife and mother died on the same day- Valentines Day. Book says that he knew his second wife his whole life and even used to take her out in a rowboat and named the rowboat for her but they only began a "serious relationship" after first wife died. One word xmas. Roosevelt scolded a policeman for "flirting with a young woman" while on duty. Description of battlefield with illustration- many dead.. Detailed description of his love of hunting.
	Burnett, Frances Hodgson	A Little Princess	5-8	OK	Beautiful classic about a little rich girl in a boarding school. When her father dies she is treated as a servant until she is discovered by father's old friend.
	Burnett, Frances Hodgson	Little Lord Fauntleroy	5-8	OK?	A little boy raised in a simple way by his American mother, suddenly finds out he is a lord and must go to England to live with his rich, crotchety grandfather. Innocent comments about liking to look at girls (p. 102 chapter 6). Description of church service - kneeling and folding hands in prayer - no heavy religion (p. 134-135, chap. 7). Drawn out description of a beautiful woman who all the men fawn over, seen through a young boy's eyes (p. 176-177 ch. 10; p 234 chap 15)
	Burnett, Frances Hodgson	The Secret Garden	5-7	OK?	A lonely unsociable child is sent to live with hunchback uncle. Magical religious hymn about father, son & holy ghost, other minor religion
	Butterworth, Oliver	The Enormous Egg	4-6	OK?	Dinosaurs: mention of evolution: millions of years, Mesozoic age. Needs parental guidance.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Buzbee, Lewis	Steinbeck's Ghost	6-8	OK?	Boy tries to save library from closing, as characters from John Steinbeck's books appear in town. Juvenile language: sucks, butt. Passing mention of talking to girls. Father threatens daughter not to kiss boyfriend; she doesn't. Book encourages reader to want to read Steinbeck's books. Although language level is 6-8th grade, book is more intellectual than the average reader of that age.
	Byars, Betsy	Dead Letter - A Herculeah Jones Mystery	5-6	OK?	Boy and girl solve murder. Mention of boy missing his father who left (abandoned?) family but not so clear. Minor reference to boys calling girls for a date.
	Byars, Betsy	Keeper of the Doves	7+	OK?	Although reading level is for younger than seventh grade, subject is for a more mature child. When their dog dies, children suspect that a recluse living on their property killed him. One of the girls who is more sensitive disagrees. The book delves into her feelings about this as well as her fear that her mother and her new baby might die, as well as her dad's disappointment that she was a girl, not a boy. Neutral prayers said at graveside.
	Byars, Betsy	King of Murder - A Herculeah Jones Mystery	4-6	OK?	Girl solves mystery of murder novel writer who appears to be murderer. Boy who is her friend is forced by his mother to take visiting girl out on a "date".
	Byars, Betsy	Me Tarzan	3-4	OK?	boy teases girl so she won't think he likes her; brief women's lib
	Byars, Betsy	The Summer of the Swans	4-6	OK?	Adolescent girl is upset about life until retarded brother is lost and found, and she gains a new perspective on life. Side mention of a boy who asks her to a party, and sister's boyfriend.
	Byars, Betsy	The Winged Colt of Casa Mia	3-6	OK	Boy visits uncle and finds winged horse. Learn lessons of love and family
	Byng, Georgia	Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism	5-8	OK?	Orphan girl discovers book that teaches her how to hypnotize people. Minor language. Later books in series are problematic.
	Calhoun, Mary	Katie John	3-5	OK?	Girl comes to love big old house. Talk of aunt who never married - girl decides aunt made right choice.
	Callen, Larry	The Deadly Mandrake	5-7	OK?	Town beset by bad luck. Children try to uproot deadly plant that is causing it. Very detailed description of dead body (not gory, just detailed). Lots of superstition. Strange book.
	Calvert, Patricia	Bigger	5-7	OK	Historical fiction - post civil war. Slave boy beaten because he wanted to "empty bowels".
	Calvert, Patricia	Sooner	5-7	OK	Historical fiction - post civil war. Sequel to Bigger. Comes to terms with mom's remarriage by leaving home - with her permission. Minor violence.
	Cameron, Ann	Julian, Secret Agent	2-3	OK	Boy and friends solve mysteries and fight crime.
	Cameron, Ann	Julian's Glorious Summer	2-3	OK	boy learns that it is better not to lie, when doesn't admit fear of riding bike to his friends.
	Cameron, Ann	Stories Julian Tells	2-4	OK	Short stories about a young boy. Calls teeth "Cave boy teeth" - a few references to cave men. He says he is uncomfortable befriending a girl because "people find out and tease you", but she becomes his best friend anyway.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Cameron, Eleanor	Mr. Bass's Planetoid	5-7	OK?	Continuation of Mushroom Planet series. Lots of scientific discussion. Minor language: heck.
	Cameron, Eleanor	Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet	4-6	OK?	Continuation of series. Language - darned, stupid, heck, An unimportant reference to the Age of Reptiles
	Cameron, Eleanor	The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet	4-6	OK	Story of 2 boys who go to a strange planet on a spaceship. Very cute.
	Cameron, Eleanor	Time and Mr. Bass	5-7	OK?	Continuation of Mushroom Planet series. Lots of historical/sociological discussion - will go over most kids' heads. Minor talk of millions of years ago.
	Canfield, Jack	Chicken Soup for the Child's Soul	1-5	OK?	Character building stories, meant to be read to kids ages 5-8. Could also be read-alone for ages 8+. 2-3 stories on divorce; parents need to use discretion for choosing stories to read aloud, or allowing older children to read themselves.
	Caple, Kathy	Duck and Company	1-2	OK?	Strange story of 2 animals who run a book store. Tongue in cheek humor most kids won't get. Minor middos issues.
	Carey, Janet Lee	The Double Life of Zoe Flynn	5-7	OK?	Girl deals with family's move to mobile home. Passing mention of crushes. Passing discussion of heaven/ reincarnation in different religions. Ref to Xmas
	Carey, Peter	The Big Bazoohey	3-6	OK?	9-year old boy staying in hotel with parents - on the move because father gambles away money. Boy is accidentally entered into snobby high-class kids competition, with outrageous results. Boy/girl dancing is part of contest, but is not romantic & adds to hilarity. New friend, who is a girl, squeezes his hand at the end. Very tame.
	Carlson, Nancy	Loudmouth Geoge and the New Neighbors	1-2	OK	A rabbit overcomes prejudice and befriends new neighbors. Cartoonish picture of animals in bathing suits.
	Carman, Patrick	Floors	4-7	OK?	A boy whose father is the janitor in a wacky hotel follow confusing and amusing clues to try to save the hotel in the absence of its eccentric owner. Boy comes to grips with his mother's death. Extremely subtle hint at a possible future romance between his widowed father and his friend's mother whose dad is "not in the picture" and is a "no show". Little girl exhibits bad middos much to older children's dismay. Language-butts, weird, pee, crummy, shut up.
	Carman, Patrick	The 39 Clues book 5 - The Black Circle	5-8	OK??	Children compete with other family members in a deadly race to find clues as they try to find out what happened to their parents. Brief mention of dinosaurs. A lot of minor language and slang - butt, heck, nitwit, geek, stupid, moron, jerk, sucker, idiot, freak out,dumb,maniacs, dork, gross, nerd, weird . Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest. Other books from this series listed under The 39 Clues
	Carman, Patrick	The Land of Elyon: Into the Mist	4-7	OK	Prequel to Land of Elyon series: young Roland and Thomas come to Land of Elyon

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Carman, Patrick	Trackers - Book 1	6-9	OK??	Boy computer genius hacks into internet on instructions of mysterious man and young female accomplice, who claim to be government agents. Boy works with friends: 2 boys and a girl - totally innocent. Book has actual internet addresses to view videos supposedly created by boy; transcripts are included at back of book (actual videos were not reviewed - may or may not be appropriate). Language: butt (once), "freaky smart" (once). Friend jokes "skating keeps me trim for the ladies" (but he has no contact with girls). Young female accomplice of mystery man is described several times as beautiful and "hot" - no relationship between her and boys (yet).
	Carman, Patrick	Trackers - Book 2: Shantorian	6-9	OK?	Boy genius reveals elaborate plan to trap dangerous hacker. Book has actual internet addresses to view videos supposedly created by boy; transcripts are included at back of book (some actual videos reviewed - those reviewed were consistent with transcripts and were appropriate).
	Carter, Dorothy	Grandma's General Store: The Ark	3-5	OK?	Children in segregationist South deal with father's loss of job. Passing mention of men & women dancing. Lots of religion but not overtly recognizable as Christian (mostly quotes from Old Testament or other general quotes; one mention of Lucifer).
	Casonova, Mary	Wolf Shadows	3-4	OK?	minor refs. to boys being popular with girls
	Catling, Patrick Skene	The Chocolate Touch	3-5	OK	Boy who eats too much chocolate learns not to be so greedy, when everything he touches turns to chocolate.
	Chew, Ruth	Magic in the Park	3-4	OK	Strange story of magical tree
	Chew, Ruth	Royal Magic	3-5	OK?	some African religion
	Chew, Ruth	Secondhand magic	3-5	OK	children meet a strange man who owns a bird kite that is real.
	Chew, Ruth	The Secret Tree House	3-5	OK	Children find a magical pear tree. Language- stupid (once)
	Chew, Ruth	The Witch's Buttons	3-5	OK	A magic button turns out to be a witch.
	Chew, Ruth	The Witch's Garden	3-5	OK	children discover neighbor is a witch, and do magical things in her garden
	Chew, Ruth	The Would Be Witch	3-5	OK	children help an old lady who wants to be a witch
	Chew, Ruth	What the Witch Left	3-5	OK	girls have adventures with magical things left in a drawer
	Chew, Ruth	Witch's Broom	3-5	OK	girls have adventures on an enchanted broom
	Child, Lauren	Ruby Redfort - Catch your Death	4-8	OK?	Girl is secret agent. Solves mystery of missing jewels and escaped rare animals. Has friend who is a boy. Minor conversation in which 2 boys discuss whether a girl is 'too pretty' to date a certain boy. Wife kisses husband on the nose. Language: "duh brain", dork, dumb Girl lies to get boy out of class to solve mystery, then forges an assignment for and sneaks it into the teacher's pile. Girl "borrows" secret agent device from employer.
	Choi, Sook Nyul	The Best Older Sister	2-3	OK	a Korean girl deals with jealousy over new baby brother. Lots of Korean culture - nothing overtly religious

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Christian, Mary Blount	Merger on the Orient Expressway	3-5	OK	Boy detective figures out who is hurting mom's business.
	Christian, Mary Blount	Sebastian [Supersleuth] and the Baffling Bigfoot	3-5	OK	Dog detective solves mystery of who is pretending to be Bigfoot to scare away hotel patrons. One instance of word "jerk"
	Christian, Mary Blount	Sebastian [Supersleuth] and the Copycat Crimes	3-5	OK	Dog helps discover who is stealing author's manuscripts.
	Christian, Mary Blount	Sebastian [Supersleuth] and the Stars-in-His-Eyes Mystery	3-5	OK?	dog detective helps solve mystery of who is sabotaging a movie. Movie terms and movie set, but otherwise innocent.
	Christian, Mary Blount	The Maltese Feline	3-5	OK?	Children help rescue a wealthy woman being held captive. Minor language - dumb, jerk, nerd
	Christian, Mary Blount	The Mysterious Case Case	3-5	OK	Children become owners of a briefcase full of money; catch bank robber.
	Christian, Mary Blount	The Phantom of the Operetta	3-5	OK?	Children solve mystery of who is haunting an opera house. Minor language - nerd
	Christie, Agatha	Murder on the Orient Express	7+	OK?	A detective solves a murder. A few references children probably won't get - p 119- a woman opens wrong door in train compartment - male occupant says "she's too old". P 122 - woman claims to have heard woman's voice in man's compartment, but "it isn't nice to speak about". P 217 - doctor "unblushingly recalling his thoughts from certain pornographic details" All of these can be easily crossed out. Only other possible objection is justification for people taking justice into their own hands by killing vicious murderer.
	Christopher, John	The City of Gold and Lead - The Tripods #2	6-8	OK	Set in future time when human city is controlled by aliens. Boy joins group of rebels. Mild mention of liking girl, but not dwelled on at all.
	Christopher, John	The Pool of Fire - The Tripods #3	6-8	OK	Humans defeat aliens. Deal with questions of new "free will" leading to challenges.
	Christopher, John	The White Mountains - The Tripods #1	6-8	OK	Boy joins troupe of rebels against aliens who take over Earth.
	Christopher, John	When the Tripods Came	6-8	OK	Prequel to Tripod series - how the aliens took over Earth through mind-control.
	Christopher, Matt	Double play at short	4-6	OK	a boy shortstop wonders why other team's girl shortstop is so much like him. Discover they are adopted twins
	Christopher, Matt	Earthquake	3-5	OK	a boy runs away from camp - survives earthquake and learns lesson about running away.
	Christopher, Matt	Fairway Phenom	4-6	OK?	Black boy resists ridicule of friends to get involved in golf. Hip slang. As example of perseverance, boy remembers when he asked a girl on a date 5 times and she finally went out with him; turned out he didn't like her.
	Christopher, Matt	Hockey Machine	4-5	OK?	Strange; kid kidnapped by rich boy for hockey team
	Christopher, Matt	Inline Skater	3-5	OK?	Boy who is into "aggro" skating joins hockey team. Becomes friends with girl on team - non-romantic. Juvenile language: jerk, wuss, dweeb.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Christopher, Matt	Mountain Bike Mania	3-5	OK	Boy takes up biking to fill time when mom goes to work. Discovers who is a true friend and who is a bad influence.
	Christopher, Matt	Olympic Dream	4-6	OK	Overweight boy is inspired to take up cycling and get into shape
	Christopher, Matt	Run for it	4-6	OK	Brief mention - boy works out to attract girls' attention
	Christopher, Matt	Supercharged Infield	4-6	OK?	secret crush. Talk of boys asking girls to movies
	Christopher, Matt	The Basket counts	4-6	OK	Black boy experiences mild prejudice in new neighborhood. Lots of sports action
	Christopher, Matt	The Submarine Pitch	4-6	OK	sad ending
	Christopher, Matt	Wingman on Ice	4-6	OK	Boy gets a new hockey stick but won't use it until his game improves.
	Christopher, Matt	Ice magic	3-5	OK?	hockey toy predicts real games. "magic"
	Christopher, Matt	Tough to tackle	3-5	OK	boy tries not to quit football and encourages brother in army.
	Ciencin, Scott	Jurrasic Park Adventures: Flyers	3-5	OK?	Pterodactyls invade Universal Studios Park. Based on movie. Reference to woman noticing man's muscles when he removes his shirt.
	Clark, Clara Gillow	Hattie on Her Way	4-6	OK?	Sequel to Hill Hawk Hattie. 19th century girl confronts mystery of grandfather's disappearance. Describes grandfather's descent into madness; irrational discussion with him might confuse children. Mother also was delusional. Mention that mother and father danced before marriage. Seance in which mother's spirit speaks to her; medium explains that most of her work is fake, but this was clearly understood to be real. Some old-fashioned language - arse, etc.
	Clark, Margaret G.	Barney and the UFO	3-5	OK	an adopted boy refuses offer of alien to go to his planet, because he comes to appreciate adopted parents. Very minor reference of liking a girl
	Clark, Margaret G.	Barney on Mars	3-5	OK	Boy helps get back a dog taken by an alien, and visits Mars in the process
new	Clark, Margaret G.	Freedom Crossing	5-7	OK??	A girl overcomes her prejudice to help an escaped slave boy reach safety. Girl is happy to meet a boy who was her old playmate- subtle potential romantic interest but never stated outright, though at the end they pretend to be "sweethearts" to escape slave catchers and he puts his hand "tightly" over her shoulder. Man calls girl a "good looker". Girl sees stepmother giving father a "quick kiss". Boy says he feels like Lazarus from the bible who was "raised" by yoshka. Mentions of slave hiding in the Presbyterian church.
	Clark, Margaret G.	The Latchkey Mystery	3-5	OK	A group of latchkey kids form a neighborhood watch and capture robber. Boy and girl come to like each other but totally platonic.
	Clarke, J	Teddy B Zoot	2-3	OK	Cute. Bear goes to school at night to find his owner's math homework.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Clarke, Susanna	Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell	11+	OK??	Two British magicians revive the use of magic in 18th century England. This is a well-written, very long (800+), adult-level book, which is for the most part "clean" (considering age level). Some language: hell, damn, "whoreson". One drawing of woman in low-cut gown (p. 418). Some very minor passing references to: kissing, female anatomy, mistresses, illegitimate children, Christian ritual, woman who left her husband for another man who later dumped her, man who seduced his sister. Some violence.
	Clayton, Emma	The Roar	6-8	OK?	In futuristic world, all people live behind a wall on 1/3 of the world, supposedly to protect them from animals with violent plague. Children are recruited for army that will take back rest of world. Minor language: butt, pee, freakin', shut up. Made-up curse words: frag, fraggin, perp, "Oh my odd!". Passing mention of pre-historic humans, 35,000 years ago; millions of years. Non-romantic negiah. Boy and girl are friends - boy thinks she is pretty, and one mention he "loves" her, but mostly seem to be good friends - could get stronger in later books. Father and mother cuddle/kiss.
	Cleary, Beverly	Dear Mr. Henshaw	4-6	OK?	a boy writes to an author about parents' divorce and trucker father who often forgets about him. Talk of "whooping it up" at rest stop with waitresses - doesn't explain. Parent should decide if this book is for their child.
	Cleary, Beverly	Ellen Tebbits	2-4	OK?	Girl deals with challenges of grade school life. Boy teases her. Pictures of girls in ballet outfits. Lots of juvenile mentions of long underwear, summer underwear, and underwear slipping. Language: shut up.
	Cleary, Beverly	Emily's Runaway Imagination	3-5	OK??	A girl's imagination gets her into funny trouble until she is instrumental in getting a branch of the public library to open in her small town. Mentions of book "Black Beauty". A few non religious, brief mentions of xmas, church bells, church sometimes is "boring", mention of story of JC feeding the multitudes (p193 chap 7), singing of hymn-"bringing in the sheaves" (p195). Mom doesn't believe in G-d. Father tells her she deserves a spanking but she is getting to big. Girl makes valentines for female cousins. When mom was young all the young men wanted to dance with her. Language-"gol-dinged".
	Cleary, Beverly	Henry and Ribsy	3-5	OK	Henry tries to keep dog out of trouble so can go on fishing trip - cute.
	Cleary, Beverly	Henry and the Paper Route	3-5	OK	Henry earns a kitten and a paper route.
	Cleary, Beverly	Muggie Maggie	3-4	OK?	Girl's teacher gets her to learn cursive by writing notes to another teacher in cursive. (Will kids get message that it's OK to read adult's notes?)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Cleary, Beverly	Ottis Spofford	3-5	OK??	A companion book to "Ellen Tebbits" written from perspective of the boy who chases her and makes her life miserable. He loves to "liven things up" and constantly gets into trouble. A lot of middos issues in a somewhat well meaning juvenile way. Eventually gets his "comeuppance" when the girls he teases turn against him with the help of his friends. But the lesson is only partially learned-if at all. Parents need to make a decision about this book on an individual basis. Illustration of boys and girls dancing together – not romantic.
	Cleary, Beverly	Ralph S Mouse	4-6	OK	Sequel to The Mouse and the Motorcycle. Minor angry language
	Cleary, Beverly	Ramona and Her Mother	3-5	OK??	A second grader deals with her mother working full time, her father's dislike of his new job, and her changing relationship with her parents. Her parents quarrel when they are exhausted and she and her sister are afraid they will divorce. Mother explains that everyone quarrels sometimes and it's OK. Occasional minor chutzpah and minor bad middos. Nonreligious brief mentions of xmas and Santa and Easter. Second grade boy and girl get full of blue liquid so the babysitter strips them down to their underwear- they are very embarrassed. Many brief mentions of watching TV. Language-shut up, twerp.
chg	Cleary, Beverly	Ramona Forever	3-5	OK??	Third grade girl deals with birth of a new baby. Girl's aunt marries a man she doesn't like. Pareve description of church wedding, A few mentions of church and church pews, and minister but no religion. Minor mention of kiss at end. Brief mention that high school girls thought boy was "cute". Uncle teases nephew that girl he is friendly with is his "girl friend"- boy and girl turn red and feel "ahamed".- says it a few times. Boy gets mad at uncle for teasing him and says "shut up" to him. Junior high aged girls talk about if a boy looked at a girl or not. Girls asks if man proposed since she is "eager for romance".Wife kisses husband on forehead. Husband puts arms around wife. Uncle kisses new niece. A few mentions of TV soap operas. Sad when cat dies- children bury him and make a funeral- change the prayer "now I lay me down to sleep" to fit cat. Middos between siblings- call each other mean names- eventually apologize. One word xmas. Father says "bad word" (not specified) when he realizes the shower is cold. Language- stupid, shut up, dumb
	Cleary, Beverly	Ramona Quimby Age 8	3-5	OK?	Ramona is in 3rd grade. Father has job as "Santa's little helper" in a frozen food warehouse (term never explained). 8th grade sister worried about dancing at boy/girl party - page 145 - chap. 8 - easy to cross out.
	Cleary, Beverly	Ramona the Brave	2-4	OK?	Chapter 1 - many references to boys calling "Beezus J---"; Ramona tells them not to take the lord's name in vain. Chap 8 (p 155) ref to 3 wise men and baby J---.
	Cleary, Beverly	Ramona the pest	2-4	OK?	likes to chase a boy and kiss him - very 5 year old juvenile

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Cleary, Beverly	Ramona's World	2-4	OK??	Beezus gets ears pierced without permission - no consequences. Beezus goes to dance where boys are invited but don't show up. Ramona notes that a boy she calls "Yard Ape" likes her (after trying to get his attention)
	Cleary, Beverly	Ribsy	3-5	OK	Dog gets lost and tries to find his way home. Cute. Note: Harper/Trophy edition contains appealing summaries of all the author's books - including inappropriate ones. Easy to tear out.
	Cleary, Beverly	The Mouse & the Motorcycle	3-5	OK	Cute. Mouse lives in a motel and is given a motorcycle by a guest. Mouse disobeys parents but in end learns his lesson
	Clements, Andrew	A Week in the Woods	4-6	OK?	A rich boy works hard to change teacher's bad impression of him but only succeeds after taking the blame for a friend on a class trip and running away in the woods. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.
	Clements, Andrew	Frindle	3-5	OK?	Boy tests out rules of language by coining a new word. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.
	Clements, Andrew	Jake Drake Bully Buster	3-5	OK??	A fourth grader describes encounters with bullies - detailed descriptions of bully's terrible middos. At one point boy is provoked so much he punches bully and is sent to principal. Eventually discovers nicer side to bully and that the bully has bullying siblings - older sister with 6 earrings and pink hair and terrible middos. Boy suspects teacher wears same pants every day and secretly makes a mark on them with permanent marker to prove it. Kids watch TV after school. Non-religious Xmas and Halloween - brief.
	Clements, Andrew	Jake Drake Know-It-All	3-5	OK?	Boy tries to win science fair but discovers having fun is more important than winning. Subtle criticism of competitive school system. Language - jerk. Subtle chutzpah - boy thinks badly of father, but doesn't verbalize. P 33- p 35. Eventually realized father not so bad.
	Clements, Andrew	Jake Drake, Class Clown	3-5	OK?	Boy becomes class clown when a mean student teacher takes over. Eventually real teacher speaks to him and he stops the antics - somewhat learns a lesson. A few examples of somewhat bad behavior in class eg: burping, making jokes; no outright chutzpah. Preview of "Jake Drake, Bully Buster" in back of book. Children want to see if teacher owns only one pair of pants so they make a mark on them with permanent marker.
	Clements, Andrew	Jake Drake, Teacher's Pet	3-5	OK	A boy unwittingly becomes a teacher's pet and tries to misbehave to change his reputation. Eventually discusses the problem with the principal who helps him. Although there are some descriptions of bad behavior in school he is eventually punished for them.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Clements, Andrew	Lunch Money	4-6	OK??	A boy who is interested in getting rich devises a scheme to publish comic books to sell in school. Chief competitor is a girl who he ends up partnering with. A teacher helps them defend themselves against a principal who hates comic books. Minor language: I hate your guts. Teacher tells boy that girl fights with him because she really likes him (P. 95). Teasing about liking girl (p. 114). Boy realizes he likes girl and she is cute (P. 147). One awkward attempt at holding hands (P. 221). Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.
	Clements, Andrew	Room One	3-5	OK??	Boy tries to help family living in abandoned house who are hiding from mother's scary boyfriend. "he tried to move in with us cuz he thinks he loves my mom" (p. 62). Although mother is clearly dysfunctional, not described in an inappropriate way. Passing mention of X-mas - no religion.
	Clements, Andrew	The Jacket	3-5	OK	A white boy comes to grips with prejudice against blacks when he accuses his cleaning lady's grandson of stealing his jacket. Minor language ie: punk. References to internet use (look up name) and movies.
	Clements, Andrew	The Janitor's Boy	3-5	OK?	Boy has to overcome embarrassment of father being janitor; learns to appreciate his father. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.
	Clements, Andrew	The Report Card	4-6	OK?	Genius 5th-grade girl hides her intelligence and tries to revolutionize school testing system. Best friend is a boy - mentions that this is not a problem. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.
	Clements, Andrew	The School Story	3-5	OK?	Girl writes a book under pen name and secretly has it published by mother who works as editor.
	Clifford, Eth	Harvey's Marvelous Monkey Mystery	3-5	OK	2 cousins return a lost monkey to a paralyzed girl, and capture kidnapper
	Clifford, Eth	Harvey's Wacky Parrot Adventure	3-5	OK?	Minor rough language. Description of teenage sister w/ "hair chopped off & sticking up"
	Clifford, Eth	Harvey's Horrible Snake Disaster	3-5	OK	Two cousins try to hide a snake - get into trouble. Minor subplot of sister who reads poetry to boyfriend.
	Clifford, Eth	Harvey's Mystifying Raccoon Mixup	3-5	OK	Children chase away counterfeiters with help of smart raccoon. Brief mention of sister's boyfriend.
	Clifford, Eth	Help I'm a Prisoner in the Library	3-5	OK	Girls get trapped in a spooky library and help injured librarian. Sibling rivalry.
	Clifford, Eth	I Hate your Guts Ben Brooster	3-5	OK?	harmless except for title
	Clifford, Eth	The Dastardly Murder of Dirty Pete	3-5	OK	takes place on a movie set
	Clymer, Eleanor	The Trolley car family	4-6	OK	Cute story of family living in trolley car, who befriend their grouchy neighbor.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Clymer, Susan	Scrawny the Classroom Duck	3-5	OK?	A young boy gets attached to classroom duck and realizes he can make friends even if it's with a girl - totally not romantic friendship. Mentions he is named Elijah for Jewish grandmother and John for French Catholic grandfather - can cross it out.
	Clymer, Susan	There's a Tarantula in My Homework	2-4	OK	boy discovers he can best make friends by being himself.
	Coerr, Eleanor	Chang's Paper Pony	2-3	OK	I can read book. Boy resists urge to steal gold dust to buy a pony. In end, honesty pays off.
chg	Coerr, Eleanor	Sadak and the Thousand Paper Cranes	3-5	OK?	Japanese girl fights leukemia caused by radiation from a-bomb. Sad but beautifully done. Short reference to "the gods will make you better."
	Coerr, Eleanor	The Big Balloon Race	2-3	OK	I can read book. Girl stows away on mom's balloon and helps her win race.
	Cohen, Miriam	Second Grade - Friends Again	2-3	OK	A boy feels bad for teasing overweight friend
	Cole, Henry	A Nest for Celeste	3-5	OK	Mouse befriends artist's apprentice, and learns about survival and making friends.
	Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl	6-8	OK?	Rich boy genius takes on fairies. Great fun. Minor bad language and bathroom humor.
	Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl - The Arctic Incident	6-8	OK?	Boy genius teams up with fairies to save father. Minor bad language eg. "bimbo". Minor negiah eg. strokes cheek. Juvenile bathroom humor related to dwarf who eats dirt and expels it through the back flap of his pants. Pretty minor stuff for older child.
	Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl - The Eternity Code	6-8	OK?	Boy genius teams up with fairies to save bodyguard's life and retrieve fairy technology. Minor bad language eg "morons" or "b---" (leaves it to reader to fill in the blank). Same bathroom humor as other books. Very minor negiah.
	Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl - The Opal Deception	6-8	OK??	Dwarf saves friends by passing gas & odor knocks out ; the bad guys-they see his "naked and very hairy behind". Victims are sprayed with troll pheromones that will make them smell like "female trolls in heat" - victims note that trolls are performing "mating ritual - they like us". These could possibly be crossed out, but would make holes in plot. Lots of references to "passing wind". Some friendly non-romantic negiah. Minor language.
	Colfer, Eoin	Benny and Omar	7-8	OK??	Irish boy is relocated with family to Africa. Befriends local boy who communicates in phrases learned from TV shows; they get into assorted mischief together. Learns important lessons of life and family. Vague references to fact that he will eventually like girls. Girl befriends him & they go swimming together - but all very platonic. Non-romantic negiah. J-- used as swear - page 36.
	Colfer, Eoin	The Artemis Fowl Files	7-8	OK	2 Short stories and background information about series.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Collier, James L. and Christopher	Jump Ship to Freedom	6-8	OK	Historical fiction. Post Revolutionary War. A black slave boy is determined to buy freedom for himself and his mother. Gets involved in the Constitutional Convention.
	Collins, Suzanne	Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods - Book 3 in the Underland Chronicles	5-7	OK??	Children try to find the cure to a plague in the underland. Many mentions of fulfilling prophecies of the man who discovered the underland. Family teases boy who spends time in bathroom secretly reading a prophecy, that he is trying to look good to impress girls in school. Juvenile description of potty training little sister to "pee". Lots of non-romantic negiah. Lots of violence.
	Collins, Suzanne	Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane - Book 2 in the Underland Chronicles	5-7	OK??	The saga continues as boy returns to the underland to save his sister and is sent on a dangerous mission. A lot of blood and gore- good guy vs. bad guy type violence. Constant mentions of anticipating a wonderful xmas- tree, presents, stockings, xmas spirit, etc. but no religion. Girl gives boy a hand to stand up, girl cousin comforts boy cousin by putting her arms around him. Brief mention of movies and TV. Language- freaked out, stupidity/ stupid, idiots, shut up, weird, dumb, butt, hell (once)
	Collins, Suzanne	Gregor The Overlander- Book 1	5-7	OK??	Note on series: This series gets more problematic as children get older. Parent should decide if they want their child to begin this series. Boy and his little sister accidentally end up in a land under New York City and get involved in a war with the rats and save his father. A lot of talk about fulfilling prophecies of the man who discovered the underland. Sad description of senile grandmother. Boy hugs girl goodbye- not romantic. Many mentions of father disappearing and people suspecting he ran off with another women (he didn't) Brief humorous mention of cave men, the ice age and saber toothed tigers. Brief mentions of TV and movies. Neighbor tells fortunes with tarot cards. Good guy vs. bad guy violence. Many brief mentions of xmas- no religion. Language- idiot. weird, freaks/freaky, stupid, shut up, gross. At the end, interview with author. Mention of Alice in Wonderland. Preview of book 2.
	Collodi, C.	The Adventures of Pinocchio	4-6	OK	Novel about mischievous marionette's adventures. Younger kids may find it somewhat scary.
	Cone, Molly	Mishmash	3-5	OK?	Boy and dog have funny troubles. Minor middos between boy and his girl neighbor. One word mention of xmas. Boy leaves dog in box for reverend of church since he wouldn't turn anyone away. Mention of church steeple. No religion.
	Cone, Molly	Mishmash and the Big Fat Problem	3-5	OK	Boy gives dog to teacher but dog keeps getting into trouble - tries to help him lose weight.
	Cone, Molly	Mishmash and the Venus Fly Trap	3-5	OK	Dog is jealous of owner's venus fly trap, so tries to get rid of it.
	Conford, Ellen	A Case for Jenny Archer	2-4	OK	Girl suspects new neighbors are art thieves - ends up being wrong, but does catch criminals

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Conford, Ellen	A Job for Jenny Archer	2-4	OK	Girl tries different ways to earn money.
	Conford, Ellen	Annabel the Actress Starring in Gorilla My Dreams	2-4	OK	A girl who dreams of being an actress is hired to be a gorilla at a children's birthday party. Outsmarts a bully to get back her gorilla mask.
	Conford, Ellen	Can Do Jenny Archer	2-4	OK	Girl tries to win a can collecting contest.
	Conford, Ellen	Get the Picture, Jenny Archer?	2-4	OK	Girl takes pictures of unwilling subjects and suspects them of crimes, but they are really innocent. One incident of lady bending down and slacks split. Girl learns not to suspect innocent people.
	Conford, Ellen	Jenny Archer to the Rescue	2-4	OK	Girl tries to be a heroine.
	Conford, Ellen	Jenny Archer, Author	2-4	OK?	Girl writes fanciful "autobiography". Some TV references.
	Conford, Ellen	Nibble Nibble Jenny Archer	2-4	OK?	A girl is on TV commercial. Lots of talk about how well it pays; otherwise not presented so favorably.
	Conford, Ellen	What's Cooking Jenny Archer	2-4	OK?	Girl goes into business preparing creative lunches for her classmates and discover that running a business isn't as easy as she thought. Girl learns to cook from a TV shows. Food she prepares is clearly not kosher.
	Conly, Jane Leslie	Racso and the Rats of Nimh	5-6	OK?	Rat brings city values to more wholesome environment - TV, disco, commercials, flashy headband. Learns good values
	Conly, Jane Leslie	R-T, Margaret and the Rats of NIMH	5-6	OK?	Rats rescue 2 human children lost in woods. Girl's best friend is a boy, but not romantic. Talk of TV, break dancing. But also lots of good values.
	Conrad, Pam	Stonewords	5-7	OK??	Girl has friendship with another girl from the past; she goes back in past to save her from early death. One scene where "past" girl (who cannot be seen by anyone else) dances naked outdoors. Some spooky/gory scenes where "past" girl appears to be dead and decomposing. Scary.
	Cooper, Susan	King of Shadows	5-8	OK??	Young Shakespearean actor is transported to past to act in original Shakespeare play. Some minor language. Non-romantic negiah, one romantic hand-holding by peripheral characters. Mention in passing that girl "lives with" guy. Father committed suicide after death of mother; boy recalls finding father in pools of blood.
	Corbett, Scott	The Case of the Burgled Blessing Box	4-6	OK?	mild religious references about an evangelical group
	Corbett, Scott	The Mysterious Zetabet	2-3	OK	Boy finds himself in a land where one can only call things with the last letters of the alphabet
	Corbett, Scott	The Red Room Riddle - A Ghost Story	4-6	OK?	On Halloween, 2 boys go to a strange boy's house to meet ghosts. Scary, but boy explains it away as hypnosis. Also go to a deserted house to see if it's haunted (breaking and entering?). No religion, minor language (darn)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Corbett, Sue	Free Baseball	4-6	OK?	Boy living in Florida with mother, follows dream to work for baseball team. Father was famous ball player in Cuba. Boy finds out that when father found out it would be impossible for him to escape Cuba and join family, he divorced wife and remarried. Mild language: jerk, screwed up. Boy says prayer and crosses himself. References to women office managers of team falling in love with players and quitting to get married.
	Corder, Zizou	Lion Boy	6-8	OK?	Strange story of boy who can talk to cats. Story set in future; boy trying to save scientist parents who were kidnapped. Some bodily functions. Brief ref. to adult boyfriend/girlfriend. First in series.
	Couloumbis, Audrey	Getting Near to Baby	7-9	OK??	Sisters & mother deal with baby's death. Parts are very sad (after baby dies, mother does not tell anyone right away but just holds her for a while); beautifully done but heavy.
	Couloumbis, Audrey	The Misadventures of Maude March	6-8	OK?	2 orphaned sisters travel west to look for their uncle when the elder accidentally gets the reputation of an outlaw. Girls discuss if David of the Bible is real or made up-inconclusive. One word xmas. A minister's family adopt the girls but they feel like they are working them like slaves. They steal the minister's horses and run away. They try to justify the stealing but are never completely comfortable with it. Language-stupid, butt, goldanged, shut up, blasted.
	Coven, Wanda	Heidi Heckelbeck and the Secret Admirer	2-3	OK??	Second grade girl tries to figure out who her secret admirer is- keeps giving her gifts and poems- eg. you're as sweet as a sugar beet.. Best friend is a boy. Second grade boy and girl "pound fists" for good luck (text and illustration), hug when they win science fair (illustration of them with arms over each others shoulders). Middos between classmates. Girl calls another a "stinkbug", "ding -dong". Unimportant mention of St. Patricks Day and Easter. Language- weirdo, gross. On back cover readers are encouraged to go onto a blog about the book.
	Coville, Bruce	Alien Visitors	3-5	OK?	Sci-fi stories for kids. 2 illustrations of scantily clad women in modernistic costumes.
	Coville, Bruce	Aliens Stole My Body	5-7	OK?	a boy tries to get body back from a mean alien. Minor bathroom talk.
	Coville, Bruce	My Teacher Flunked the Planet	5-7	OK?	brief mention of women's' anatomy. Confusing mention of earth's age and evolution
	Coville, Bruce	The Unicorn Chronicles: Book 1- Into The Land Of Unicorns	6-8	OK?	a girl becomes a protector of unicorns even though it means going against her family's traditions. Focus on her sadness that her parents abandoned her. Language- shake butt. Later books in this series are more problematic.
	Creech, Sharon	Love that Dog	4+	OK?	Written in the form of poems and free verse from a boy to his teacher. Many of the poems are about his beloved dog who was killed by a hit and run car. Some children may find the book fascinating and some may find it upsetting since the dog's death is depicted very clearly.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Creech, Sharon	The Unfinished Angel	4-7	OK?	An angel and an unusual girl try to help some refugee children and their town. Fine except for the 'angel' concept. No religion. Minor language: shut up, etc
	Cresswell, Helen	The Little Sea Pony	2-3	OK	A girl wants to keep a sea pony as a pet; eventually lets it go.
	Cresswell, Helen	Up the Pier	5-7	OK	Strange story of girl who helps magical family return to their own time. A little scary.
	Crilley, Mark	Akiko and the Alpha Centauri 5000	3-5	OK	Girl is taken to alien space ship and tries to help them win race.
	Cronin, Doreen	The Legend of Diamond Lil	2-4	OK?	A funny/strange book about a search and rescue dog who tries to protect the family's chickens, and ends up figuring out the mystery of a new dog in the neighborhood. Many mentions of "dog pee" and "rabbit pee". One word mention of Easter. Language-jerk
	Cronin, Doreen	The Trouble with Chickens - A JJ Tully Mystery	2-4	OK?	A funny/strange book about a search and rescue dog who walks into a trap when he goes to free some chickens. Dog uses "tough detective talk" Like "in my face", "get lost", "sing like a bird", etc. Minor language: stink, dumb. 2 word mention of Easter. A few mentions of watching TV as a reward, and game shows.
	Crowne, Alyssa	Perfectly Princess- Purple Princess Wins the Prize	2-4	OK	A girl tries to win a prize to keep up with her brothers. Deals with feelings of jealousy and sibling rivalry. Middos between siblings and classmates which resolve at the end. Language- weird, gross.
	Crowne, Alyssa	Perfectly Princess: Blue Princess Takes The Stage	2-3	OK?	A girl doesn't get the part she hoped for in her drama school play. She deals with feelings of jealousy. Play is coed- boys and girls sing and dance together-totally innocent. Language-dumb.
	Crowne, Alyssa	Perfectly Princess: Green Princess Saves The Day	2-3	OK?	A girl tries to save her favorite park from being turned into a shopping center. Girls want to be singing stars when they grow up. Mention of watching the news on TV, watching a movie. In bio of author mentions she dressed up as snow white for Halloween.
	Crowne, Alyssa	Perfectly Princess-Yellow Princess Gets A Pet	2-4	OK?	A girl gets a kitten and copes with feelings of disappointment when it turns out her mother is allergic to cats. Her best friends are a girl and a boy. She says she really likes the boy- no implications this is a romantic feeling. Mention of going to the movies and eating popcorn. Brief non religious mention of Easter.
	Cussler, Clive	The Adventures of Vin Fiz	3-4	OK	After receiving a machine that turns toys into magical life-size objects, 2 children fly a plane across the country, saving people from bad guys along the way.
	D'Lacey Chris	The Dragons Of Wayward Crescent-Gruffen	2-3	OK?	A girl is scared of a monster in her bedroom so her mother makes a clay guard dragon that comes to life. Girl sticks out her tongue at neighbor behind his back-picture and text description- (p51 chapt.5). Girl talks to dragon about marrying a female bat, he blushes.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey City Monsters #2 Howling at the Hartleys	3-4	OK	Strange Story - Kids get involved with monster family on the block and werewolf relative.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Aliens Don't Wear Braces #07	2-4	OK?	Is new art teacher an alien trying to steal people's colors? Teacher's hair is the color of a jack-o-lantern. Non-romantic negiah. Troublemaker boy displays usual bad middos. Girl briefly comments that she saw the principal's underwear sticking out of his pants. Language: creepy, weird, stink, nerds, moron (once).
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Bogeymen Don't Play Football #27	2-4	OK??	Is new student teacher the bogeyman who gets kids who don't do their homework? Girl worries that when she goes into a football locker room all the players will be "naked""- they aren't. Illustration of cheerleaders with short skirts.Minor language: weird, snot, freaky, creepy, stinky, booger. Middos issue - boy makes trouble for student teacher and shows bad middos with friends.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Dracula Doesn't Drink Lemonade #16	2-4	OK?	Is the new Guidance Counselor really Dracula? Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Dragons Don't Cook Pizza #24	2-4	OK?	Is the Pizza Chef really a sad dragon? Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Dragons Don't Throw Snowballs #51	2-4	OK??	Kids are marooned in school due to a blizzard and think a mad scientist brought a dragon snow sculpture to life. Sneak outside against school rules. A girl who "likes" a third grade boy (who hates her) "bats her eyelashes" at him and says it's "romantic" to be stranded in school together - he looks like he will "be sick any minute". Full illustration of boy laughing so hard that milk squirts out of his nose(p. 57) . Non-romantic negiah. Language: puke, weird.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Frankenstein Doesn't Slam Hockey Pucks #34	2-4	OK??	Children think the hockey coach is Frankenstein who escaped from his creator so they sneak into his private office to prove it. A girl "likes" a boy (who hates her) - she "bats her eyelashes at him" - very juvenile. Boy teases girl making a phone call that she is calling "dial a date". Minor middos between friends - trade insults. Unimportant mentions of Santa and his elves and of watching the History Channel. Language: gross, weird.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Frankenstein Doesn't Plant Petunias #6	2-4	OK?	Is museum assistant Frankenstein? Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Genies Don't Ride Bicycles #08	2-4	OK?	Is the new neighbor a genie who grants wishes? Minor mention of x-mas lights - no religion. Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Ghosts Don't Eat Potato Chips #05	2-4	OK??	Children suspect a ghost is haunting a great aunt's attic. Boy refers to her as an "old bat" and a "crazy aunt". Children insult each other, e.g. "smarty pants" , "your head is full of rice crispies". Aunt calls kids "little snots" and teaches them to play poker. Language - stink, stupid, dumb.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Gremlins Don't Chew Bubble Gum #13	2-4	OK?	s the temporary secretary a gremlin who ruins everything she touches?Usual middos issues with troublemaker boy- makes fun of girl who misses the ball,trades insults with friends, etc.Children get rid of her using good luck charms. Juvenile joke about boy's "lucky underwear". Language- berserk
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Hercules Doesn't Pull Teeth #30	2-4	OK??	Kids think dentist is Hercules trying to take over their town. A lot of Greek mythology – mostly Hercules and Zeus- kids this age will probably find it confusing. Boy says that having no TV would be the most horrible thing he can think of. Language- weird, dumb, stupid.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Pirates Don't Wear Pink Sunglasses	2-4	OK?	Children try to find buried treasure to save a camp.Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Robots Don't Catch Chicken Pox #42	2-4	OK?	Children try to prove drama teacher is a robot, by pouring a bucket of water over her. Lack of derech erez, but it's so silly, it's unrealistic
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Sea Monsters Don't Ride Motorcycles #40	2-4	OK??	Children suspect that motorcycle racer is really a sea monster who wants to fight with her cousin and destroy the seaside town. Cover illustration of a lady in a tight sleeveless jumpsuit with a big sea monster tattoo on her arm. Illustrations of young boys and girls on the ocean and at the beach wearing non-provocative bathing suits. Illustration of woman in bathing suit - fitted but not terribly provocative. Kids talk about becoming famous movie producers. Xmas - mentioned once. Non-romantic negiah.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Sea Serpents Don't Juggle Water Balloons #46	2-4	OK?	Is math tutor really a sea serpent who hates noise? Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Skeletons Don't Play Tubas #11	2-4	OK?	Is band teacher's model skeleton able to play tuba. One mention of coffin & graveyard. Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Super Special #4 Mrs. Jeepers In Outer Space	2-4	OK?	Children go to space camp and suspect that their teacher, whom they think is a vampire, wants to take over outer space. Troublemaker boy displays worse middos than usual. Friends trade insults. Language: stupid, weird, wimps.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - The Abominable Snowman Doesn't Roast Marshmallows #50	2-4	OK?	Kids think stranger in town is the abominable snowman. Minor language: nutcase. Non-religions mention of church as shelter for homeless. Excerpts in back of book about a new series by these authors - Ghostville Elementary - although excerpts seem fine, still needs full review.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids Trolls Don't Ride Roller Coasters #35	2-4	OK?	Children suspect that the lady in the amusement park is a mean troll so they try to get her to do a good deed. Troublemaker boy displays minor bad middos. Woman is wearing a t shirt so short can see her belly button. Language- weird

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots #1	2-4	OK??	Kids think their new teacher is a vampire. Old teacher left because kids played such mean tricks on her (last trick described in detail). Minor middos between kids. Unimportant mention of watching television. Unimportant mention of parents being divorced. Kids sneak into teacher's house (breaking and entering) to prove she is a vampire. Boy wears cross to scare off vampires. Language: wimp, weird, dumb, freaky, stupid.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Werewolves Don't Go to Summer Camp #02	2-4	OK??	Children think camp director is a werewolf and sneak into his private cabin to prove it. Troublemaker boy displays usual bad middos. Unimportant mention of the "Late Show" and movies. Brief non-religious Xmas and mistletoe. Boy comments that head counselor can't have a steady girlfriend if he keeps turning into a werewolf. Language: shut up, moron, stupid, puke, berserk, nut, creepy.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Werewolves Don't Run for President #49	2-4	OK	Kids suspect that a presidential candidate of being a werewolf who is trying to turn them all into werewolves. They are eventually instrumental in his defeat. A lot of info about democracy and US history.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Witches Don't Do Back Flips #10	2-4	OK?	Is the gymnastics teacher a witch who casts rhyming spells? Cartoonish illustrations of teacher in sleeveless leotard and tight shorts. Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Wizards Don't Need Computers #20	2-4	OK??	Children suspect that the library staff are King Arthur's court, come to transform their city into Camelot. Language: weird, idiot, boy calls friend "noodle nose". Mention of TV cameras. Illustration of man and woman sitting on a bench holding hands - text explains that children suspect they are King Arthur and his wife - never proven.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Bailey School Kids - Zombies Don't Play Soccer #15	2-4	OK?	Same issues as others in this series.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Keyholders#1 This Side Of Magic	3-5	OK??	Series about 2 girls and a boy and their magical companions who are appointed guardians of the world who keep evil magic creatures from infiltrating the real world. Throughout, mild juvenile bathroom humor, mild middos between friends. In this book brief mention of sixth grade girls standing in schoolyard talking about boys, girl calls man an "old geezer", girl's grandmother has a crush on their elderly neighbor, mention of watching TV, one word xmas. Language-creepy, weird, jerk, stupid, boogers, snot.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Keyholders#2 The Other Side Of Magic	3-5	OK??	The saga continues, same bathroom humor and middos as first book. Language-stupid, gross, stinky, weird.
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Keyholders#3 Inside the Magic	3-5	OK??	The saga continues- same issues as first two books. Language-stupid, butt, booger, creepy. Non romantic negiah. Preview of book 4- internet use (see book 4).

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones	Keyholders#4 The Wrong Side of Magic	3-5	OK??	The saga continues- same issues as other books in this series. Children use internet to find info for science project, girl finds info on her phone that has a wireless internet connection, mp3 player. Teachers are taken over by changelings and become more mean than before. Description and silly illustration of teachers dancing in teacher's room singing about giving those "jerks" (the students) more and more homework. Grandmother has a crush on elderly neighbor. Brief mention of a scary movie. Teenage sister teases her brother that the girls are his girlfriends and sings "first comes love, then comes marriage..." Language-stink, boogers, stupid, gross.
	Dagger, J.T.	Quicksand and Grizzlies	4-6	OK	Survival guide to true - but mostly unlikely - dangerous situations.
	Dahl, Roald	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	5-7	OK?	Poor boy is selected to go on fantastic chocolate factory tour. Minor language. Mr. Wonka is insulting to other adults. Very tongue in cheek.
	Dahl, Roald	Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator	5-7	OK?	Continuation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Some rough language, some bathroom talk, e.g. girl who had too many laxatives. Very tongue in cheek.
	Dahl, Roald	James and the Giant Peach	5-7	OK??	A very tongue in cheek book, about a boy whose parents were eaten by a rhinoceros, so he goes to live with his cruel aunts who treat him terribly until one day a magical peach kills his aunts and takes him on adventures with enormous bugs. Aunts are described as evil and scary and call the boy things like "disgusting beast" and "miserable creature". Language: shut up, twerp, ass, darned, idiot, nincompoop, blunderhead.
	Dahl, Roald	The BFG	4-7	OK	Girl and Big Friendly Giant carry out plan to get rid of bad, child-eating giants. Mild humorous references to bodily functions.
	Dahl, Roald	The Enormous Crocodile	3-5	OK?	A crocodile makes sneaky plans to eat children which are foiled by various animals. Language-creepy, stupid, horrid.
	Dahl, Roald	The Giraffe and The Pelly and Me	3-5	OK??	3 animals and a boy team up to make a window washing business. Language-damnation (once), idiot.
	Dahl, Roald	The Magic Finger	3-5	OK??	A girl teaches a lesson to a family that likes to hunt by temporarily turning them into the prey. A problematic incident between girl and her teacher- the teacher calls her stupid, she turns her teacher into a cat.
	Dalgiesh, Alice	The Bears on Hemlok Mountain	2-3	OK	Boy goes over mountain and encounters bears, even though mother told him there aren't any bears. Father rescues him.
	Dalgiesh, Alice	The Courage Of Sarah Noble	2-4	OK??	A Newbery Honor book about a girl who overcomes her fears and goes to Indian territory with her father to claim their new home. He leaves her in the care of Indians when he goes back to get the rest of the family. At one point reads the Bible to the Indians- brief summary of biblical story- relatively accurate -p24 chapt. 5. Description and illustration of her kneeling to say prayers. Indian father explains to his children that she is praying to her "great spirit". Illustration and description of Indians wearing nothing more than a small piece of cloth.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dana Barbara	Zucchini	3-4	OK	A shy boy befriends a ferret. Story written from ferret's point of view.
	Dank, Milton & Gloria	The Computer Caper	4-6	OK?	one mention of boy who doesn't want to fulfill father's ambition of being rabbi
	Dank, Milton and Gloria	A UFO Has Landed	4-6	OK?	Children discover UFO is really a company dumping toxic waste. One instance of overnight stakeout where girl puts head on boy's shoulder to sleep - not overtly romantic.
	Danziger, Paula	Amber Brown Is Not A Crayon	2-4	OK??	Third grade girl has trouble coming to grips with her best friend (a boy) moving away. Some middos between classmates- name calling- eg. tuna head, rat rear, etc. A few mentions of divorce- not at all glorified. Boy is referred to as girl's boyfriend but nothing in the story to suggest it is romantic. Language-stupid, doofus, goofball, gross, barf, jerk.
	Danziger, Paula	Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown	2-3	OK?	Easy Chapter book about girl beginning second grade. None of the problems found in the regular Amber Brown series (which is for older readers), but why introduce kids to a series they won't be able to read?
	Danziger, Paula	Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown	2-3	OK?	Book begins with fact that girl's parents didn't yell at each other this morning the way they usually do. Talk about the tooth fairy as real. Juvenile humor - nose picking. See comment on "Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown".
	Dashner, James	The 13th Reality: The Journal of Curious Letters	5-8	OK	Children are selected to save the world from evil ruler in parallel universe. Non-romantic negiah.
	David, Peter	Mascot to the Rescue	4-7	OK??	Boy believes his life is connected to life of comic book character. Language: Crap (one time). Boy convinces friend to go on internet against parents' permission. Father of girl is upset about her visiting boy and being alone with him in room. Adults who might be getting married, have arms around each other. Description of comic book picture of characters representing boy and his (girl) friend, passionately kissing. All very innocent - may be worth allowing at parent's discretion.
	Davidson, Margaret	Helen Keller	3-5	OK?	Mention of x-mas and Santa Claus - no religion
	Davis, Jim	Garfields and the Mysterious Mummy	2-3	OK	Chapter book based on cartoon characters.
	De Clements, Barthe	The Bite of the Gold Bug- The Story of the Alaskan Gold Rush-Once Upon America	4-6	OK?	Boy goes to Alaska with his father and uncle to pan for gold. Uncle gambles away gold in saloons. Language- stupid, pee.
	De Jong, Meindert	The Wheel on the School	3-6	OK?	Dutch children in a fishing town begin a project to attract storks to the barren town, and in the process make many friends including a bitter handicapped man. Mention of Santa Claus - no religion (p. 125). Villagers go to church to pray but not described beyond sitting on benches. One incident of child answering back to his father (p. 208). Minor language: blasted (p. 244).

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	De Los Santos, Marisa and David Teague	Saving Lucas Biggs	5-8	OK??	Girl goes back in time to prevent a murder and save her father. Some violence. Girl has best friend who is a boy; although there is no romance, there is some non-romantic friendly negiah, girl blushes when reading a passage referring to 'love', hold hands at very end. Mention of G-d banishing people to the desert when he gets 'mad'. Language: butt, heck, freak . Minimal description of Quaker religion.
	Dear America	Dear America - My America: Our Strange New Land - Elizabeth's Diary, Jamestown, Virginia 1609	3-5	OK?	Historical fiction. First year of Jamestown settlement. One mention boy touching girl's hand. Girl questions how G-d could let children die. Childbirth - long, painful and dangerous.
	Dear America	Dear America - So Far from Home - The Diary of Mary Driscoll, An Irish Mill Girl, Lowell Mass. 1847	4-7	OK??	An Irish girl comes to America to earn money to send to her family in Ireland. Many Catholic expressions - sweet J-, Holy Mother of __, Merciful son of ____, blessed virgin. Language - hell (once). Mention of church, organs, Xmas - not detailed. Women paint their cheeks to catch the attention of men. Girl wonders if she will ever marry or if she even wants to.
	Dear America	Dear America - The Journal of Augustus Pelletier - The Lewis and Clark Expedition	4-7	OK	Historical fiction - boy joins Lewis & Clark expedition
	Dear America	Dear America - When Will This Cruel War be Over? The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson - Gordonsville, Virginia 1864	4-7	OK??	The Civil War from a Southern girl's point of view. Detailed Xmas - decorations, tree, fancy meal, sleigh ride, hymns, but the only explicit religion is frequent mentions of the L-rd not forsaking those who trust in Him, having faith in the L-rd, etc. Old fashioned boy/girl leading to eventual marriage - girls flirt, blush, and write boys letters. A cousin who later has a nervous breakdown is very anti marriage and says can't trust men - has frequent tirades about this. A photo of dead soldiers lying on the ground.
	Dear America	My Name is America - The Journal of William Thomas Emerson - A Revolutionary War Patriot - Boston, Massachusetts 1774.	5-7	OK??	Boy is involved in the struggle against the British. Boy questions a clergyman's advice - to deal with his parents' death by believing "the ways of the L-rd are mysterious" and throw himself on "His Mercy". Boy comments that the advice didn't make sense to him then (as a young boy) or now (as an older boy) p. 5 and 6 - can be crossed out.
	DeClements, Barthe	Once Upon America- The Bite of the Gold Bug- A Story of the Alaskan Gold Rush	4-6	OK??	Boy goes to Alaska with his father and uncle to pan for gold. Uncle gambles away gold in saloons. Language- stupid, pee.
	Defelice, Cynthia	The Ghost of Fossil Glen	3-5	OK??	Girl sees mother's boyfriend kiss her; thinks disgusting

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Del Rio, Tania	Warren the 13th	3-5	OK??	Unusually formatted book. A boy who is in line to inherit his family's run down hotel tries to find a treasure that will save the hotel before his new aunt, an evil witch, finds it. Aunt punishes boy in very cruel way. Aunt pretends to be very loving to her new husband, though she really doesn't care about him- tickles him under the chin- he blushes, etc. Boy and girl are trying to solve the mystery, uncle comments "young romance blooms"- children deny it. Language- stinky dung, stupid, weird, shut up, brat, idiot, dummy
	Delton, Judy	A Birthday Cake For Brimhall	2-3	OK	A bear finds the courage to learn how to ride his bike.
	Delton, Judy	Brimhall Turns Detective	2-3	OK	Easy reader. Two bears discover who is making tracks in the snow.
	Delton, Judy	Pee Wee Scouts Send in the Clowns	2-3	OK?	girl decides which boy she will marry but very innocent
	Delton, Judy	The Mystery of the Haunted Cabin	2-3 G	OK?	illustration of trimming holiday tree in bathing suits - minor x-mas
new	Demuth, Patricia Brennan	What Was Pearl Harbor?	4-6	OK?	Description of bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese which led to America's entry into WWII. Some discussion about subsequent poor treatment of Japanese Americans. A lot of descriptions and photographs of bombing, injury and death- may be difficult reading for a sensitive child. Language- stupid (once)
	Denenberg, Barry	Nelson Mandela: No Easy Walk to Freedom	5-8	OK??	Biography of Nelson Mandela (written before end of Apartheid). Reference to group of black men falsely accused of rape; not detailed.
	Devillers, Julia	Liberty Porter, First Daughter	3-6	OK??	A girl whose father is elected president gets into funny scrapes as she tries to be a good first daughter. Description of White House movie theater where they can see movies with real movie stars before they are released .Mention of going on TV shows. The president's favorite dance is "the bump" and he does it with his wife. Cartoonish illustration of them dancing- women in the picture are wearing evening gowns (p162 chapt 17). Language- butt, peed, dumb, gross, weird, freak out.
	Dexter, Catherine	Safe Return	4-6	OK??	An orphaned girl who is sad that her mother died tries to keep hope that her aunt is alive when her ship doesn't return after a big storm. A bit heavy for a younger child. The setting is a small Swedish island whose residents are very superstitious. Many mentions of xmas as a festive time. Mild description of church service. Boy questions if there is a G-d. Throughout, adults explain that even bad things can be G-d's will. A lot of relatively neutral talk about G-d. Minor middos between children. Married couple hugs and clasp hands. Language- stupid, shut up.
	Di Camillo, Kate	Because of Winn-Dixie	5-6	OK??	Beautiful story of lonely girl in small town, who finds a dog and ends up befriendng several people and finding herself. Her mother ran away when she was 3; later find out her mother drank. Mention of J-- p. 153, chap 22

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Di Camillo, Kate	The Magician's Elephant	5-8	OK?	Strange story of an orphaned boy being raised by a senile soldier, a magician who accidentally conjures an elephant, and a fortune teller who helps him find his sister whom he thought was dead. Sister lives in orphanage run by nuns - no religion.
	Di Camillo, Kate	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Toulane	3-5	OK??	A stuffed rabbit is lost and found and learns the meaning of love. Suspicious looking picture of rabbit nailed to crossed pieces of wood, as a scarecrow - otherwise innocuous. A few sad instances, the saddest being when a little girl gets progressively sicker (described in detail) and finally dies. Father seems somewhat dysfunctional. Father and son yell at each other in grief, son runs away. Language-dang, shut up, what the heck.
	Di Camillo, Kate	The Tale of Desperaux	4-7	OK?	A mouse falls in love with a human princess and saves her from a cruel rat and a mistreated servant girl. This falling in love is very innocent and based on stories he has heard of knights who fall in love with maidens and rescue them. Minor language: cripes, shut up. This book presents some serious, upsetting situations in a light, humorous, non-scary fashion that is a bit strange, eg: the queen dies suddenly, the servant girl's father sold her for a blanket to a man who mistreated her, the mouse's father renounces him for breaking the rules and his brother willingly escorts him to the dungeon to his supposed death.
	Di Camillo, Kate and Alison McGhee	Bink & Gollie	2-4	OK	Graphic novel. Two very different friends learn to compromise to spend time together.
	Di Terlizzi, Tony	Kenny and the Dragon	4-6	OK?	A boy rabbit tries to save a friendly dragon from a scared mob of townspeople. One sentence mention of fair maiden giving elderly knight a peck on the cheek (p. 122) and when boy sees this his ears grow warm (easily crossed out).
	Dicks, Terrance	Enter T.R.	2-5	OK	Cute story about a talking toy bear who helps owner's father get book published
	Dicks, Terrance	T.R.'s Day Out	2-5	OK?	Boy captures art robber with the help of his stuffed animals. Language- heck (once)
	Dicks, Terrance	The Case of the Blackmail Boys	5-7	OK	3 boys and a girl find bank robbers.
	Dicks, Terrance	The Case of the Cinema Swindle	5-7	OK?	fine if delete 3 words: P 6 - 2 words describing cinema. P 75 - message on greeting card.
	Dicks, Terrance	The Case of the Ghost Grabbers	4-6	OK	Children solve mystery of who is haunting a stately house.
	Dicks, Terrance	The Case of the Missing Masterpiece	4-6	OK?	Children figure out who stole masterpiece. Minor violence and rough language.
	Disalvo, Dyanne	The Sloppy Copy Slipup	3-5	OK?	Boy tries to make excuses for missed writing assignment; discovers that he actually has a knack for writing. Calls mother by first name.
	Disney-Club	Penguin Star Reporter Pick Your Path	3-5	OK	A penguin wants to be a reporter for a newspaper. Reader chooses endings.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	DiTerlizzi, Tony and Holly Black	The Spiderwick Chronicles books 1-5	4-7	OK??	Family moves into great-aunt's old house after their father leaves them. Find out house and area are inhabited by elves, dwarves, etc - most of them mean. Experience numerous dangerous adventures, while mom thinks pranks are done by one son as acting out over father leaving. Some language - crap, etc. Book 4 - Discussion of boy whom girl likes. Some violence.
	Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee	Girls of Many Lands: India: Neela - Victory Song	5-7	OK?	Girl from India experiences sister's wedding. Father joins beginning rebellion against British. Questions raised about unfairness to girls, especially in marriage.
	Divan, Karuni, Chitra Banerjee	The Conch Bearer	6-8	OK??	A boy and girl try to return a magical shell to its proper owners while being chased by the bad guys. Neighbor suspects the missing father abandoned the family for a younger, prettier woman. A lot of history of the world including gods. Lots of Hindu type avodah zarah. Lots of magic. Language (once each): darned, damn. Non-romantic negiah.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #001 The Tower Treasure	4-6	OK?	Note on series: Two teenage boys solve mysteries. A lot of good guy vs. bad guy violence in which the good guys are guaranteed to win at the end. Boys "like" specific girls who appear in minor roles in almost all of the books- there is no serious romance- mostly mentions of liking them, dating them, going to parties with them and dancing with them. Occasional minor negiah like boy takes girl's hand to help her, etc. Rather minor by modern standards, but is present. Boys and their friends are clean cut, respectful, law abiding, and go to church every Sunday. In this book boys figure out where criminal hid booty. Two sentences about teenage boy thinking girl is nicest in town and dates her regularly - p. 11 and p.25 - easily crossed out.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #002 The House on the Cliff	4-6	OK?	Boys discover smugglers' hideout. Mention of girl being boy's favorite in class (p. 50). One paragraph about high school boy having a date (p. 25) - easy to cross out. An older volume that substitutes that paragraph by saying one girl "was an object of special enthusiasm " with one of the boys "who was apt to cast an appreciative eye upon the other sex" and the other "was all right as a girl" in the other brothers "reluctant" opinion. Language- shut up (twice)
chg	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #003 The Secret of the Old Mill	4-6	OK??	Boys uncover smuggling ring. A lot of good natured kidding among friends. Boy notices his "favorite date" with "pleasure". Go on picnic with dates. Brief mention of looking for prehistoric fossil.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #004 The Missing Chums	4-6	OK??	Boys rescue their friends who were kidnapped by criminals. Go to coed costume party with girls "they like best".

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #005 Hunting for Hidden Gold	4-6	OK??	Boys find lost gold in a mine. Good guys vs. bad guys violence. Minor mention of liking specific girl (p. 42). One incident where children trap a policeman they dislike in a snowball fight. Disrespectful to him in a humorous way - makes reader feel it was justified (p. 43-46 - can be torn out). Typical violence. Language: stupid, brat, shut up, cock and bull story, punks Older edition- brief mention of dance saloons, calls blacks "negros", says one brother is an "ardent admirer" of a girl, and a girl is the only one who had ever "won an approving glance" from the other brother.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #006 The Shore Road Mystery	4-6	OK??	Boys solve a complicated mystery involving car thieves. Usual violence. Mention that boy is bashful around girls and is used to being teased about his "attachment" to a specific girl he likes. Boys go swimming with their girlfriends, one of whom "looks pretty" in her bathing suit. Illustration of boy diving to rescue her when she gets tangled in a net (p75-79). Mention of watching television newscast. Brief mention in passing of attending church. Language-punks,creeps,suckers.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #007 The Secret of the Caves	4-6	OK??	Boys capture enemy saboteurs. A boy whistles at a pretty girl, mention of a girl being a boy's "particular favorite", girl is the one boy often dated, boy and girl dance, teenagers "gyrate to the latest steps", subtle flirting, boy blushes when girl calls him. Language; shut up, fool, maniac, .
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #008 The Mystery of Cabin Island	4-6	OK?	Boys find missing boy and stolen medals. Spend xmas vacation on island. xmas dinner, presents, Language- jerks, creep, punks
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #009 The Great Airport Mystery	4-6	OK?	Boys find hidden airport used by criminals and capture gang. Usual violence. One sentence mention of girl being boy's favorite date and boy liking girl very much. Language- punks, idiot, shut up.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #010 What Happened at Midnight	4-6	OK?	Boys guard a secret invention. Boys take their regular dates to a dance. Girl touches boy's arm to get his attention. Usual violence. Minor language: stupid, idiot, shut up.
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #011 While the Clock Ticked	4-6	OK?	Boys figure out how messages got in a secret room and capture criminals. At a coed party boys take girl friends outside to explain they have to leave- friends tease boys that they took their girls out in the moonlight because they are "going romantic". Lady drives to church. - shut up.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #012 Footprints Under the Window	4-6	OK?	Boys help rebels resist tyrannical rule in Africa. One sentence mention of girls being boy's favorite dates. Language- shut up
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #013 The Mark on the Door	4-6	OK	Boys go to Mexico to find a missing man, locate a submarine and capture criminals. Unimportant mention of plans to attend church on Sunday.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #014 The Hidden Harbor Mystery	4-6	OK?	Boys help resolve a family feud and find a hidden treasure. Usual violence. A few mentions of a prehistoric monster/dinosaur which turns out to be a costume. Boy goes to the movies. Minor language: punk

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #015 The Sinister Signpost	4-6	OK	Boys find out who is trying to steal a secret project. Rich boy displays bad middos. One sentence about attending church service on Sunday. Language- shut up, idiot, stupid
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #016 A Figure In Hiding	4-6	OK??	Boys uncover a criminal hiding out in a health farm. Boy says his sister wants to see a "creepy love picture" at the movies. Mentions boys have favorite dates and "like" specific girls. Boys go to co-ed beach party with girlfriends and other boys and their dates, and then "frolicked" in the water. Minor language: punks, blasted, stupid, doggone. A lot of talk of an idol of an Indian god and all the beliefs that surround it. Mentions going to church on Sunday, no description. Usual violence.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #017 The Secret Warning	4-6	OK?	Boys locate a valuable Egyptian statue. Brief mention of watching TV. One sentence about girl being boy's favorite date and boy liking girl "very much". Minor language: drat, shut up, brats, creep.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #018 The Twisted Claw	4-6	OK?	boys uncover a criminal society who steal things from museums. One sentence mention of preglacial period. Language- shut up
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #019 The Disappearing Floor	4-6	OK?	Boys capture thieves and locate hidden jewels . Mention of boy finding a girl "very attractive". Usual violence. Language: weird, punk, shut up.
chg	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #021 The Clue of the Broken Blade	4-6	OK??	Boys locate a piece of sword with a will carved into it. Brief mention that girl is boy's steady date and brother considers girl his "best girl". Boys boat is damaged and they swim to shore- end up in a girl's camp and talk to girls sunbathing in bathing suits- eat picnic with them Mild flirtation. Boys act in a movie- a lot of description and movie culture. Language- shut up, idiot, weird, jerk.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #023 The Melted Coins	4-6	OK?	Boys find missing Indian mask. A lot of Indian beliefs- spirits, masks, etc.. Boys kid around with friend that he shouldn't let any "gorgeous secretaries turn his head". Usual violence. Minor language: punks, jerk, rat fink, shut up (once each)
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #024 The Short-Wave Mystery	4-6	OK??	Boys catch a gang of criminals using their short wave radio. Mention of a boy thinking a girl is the prettiest one in town and another having a "favorite date". A (tame) boy-girl party described - it says there was dancing but no details. Girl links her arm through her boyfriend's arm to lead him to a chair after he was kidnapped. One sentence mention of going to church on Sunday
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #025 The Secret Panel	4-6	OK??	Boys figure out secret of a deserted house. Usual violence. Father investigates television burglars. Brief mentions that girl is boy's favorite date, frequent date. Boy calls "his girl" for a date. Girls and boys go on "triple date" to the movies. A few mentions of being happy to see their "favorite dates" and girls they date frequently, some brief minor flirting. Watch news on TV. Language- stupid, moron, dummy,

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #026 The Phantom Freighter	4-6	OK?	Boys capture freighter used by smugglers. Office girl keeps flirting with teenage boy and commenting on his muscles. Boy is very embarrassed.
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #027 The Secret of Skull Mountain	4-6	OK?	Boys figure out who is causing a water shortage and why. Usual violence. Mention that millions of years ago a river had been blocked by debris deposited by a glacier, another mention of "Prehistoric tunnel". Girl helps boys with detecting- she asks if she did a good job- boy responds "You were a doll". Unimportant mention of boy going to a movie. Language- dumb, blasted, shut up, stupid
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #028 The Sign of the Crooked Arrow	4-6	OK?	Boys uncover a gang of criminals. Brief mention of girl being boy's favorite date. Language: shut up, blasted.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #029 The Secret Of The Lost Tunnel	4-6	OK??	Boys solve a Civil War mystery. Usual Violence. Two pages describing the boys being surprised by their girlfriends for an evening of dancing to dance records and refreshments. Girls described as a "special friend" and a "favorite date" who is "slender and good looking" (p22-23). Black man referred to as a Negro.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #030 The Wailing Siren Mystery	4-6	OK??	Boys uncover a ring of criminals. Usual violence. Boys take girls on a date to a baseball game. Boy thinks girl is the nicest girl in his high school. Girl touches boy on the arm to reassure him. More boy/girl than usual but rather tame by modern standards. Language: nebbly, shut up.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #032 The Crisscross Shadow	4-6	OK?	Boys help Indian tribe find the deed to their land. Usual violence. Brief mention of boys taking girls to the school dance. Mention Xmas vacation - no religion. Language: shut up.
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #033 The Yellow Feather Mystery	4-6	OK??	Boys help find missing will and capture an imposter at a boarding school. Brief mention that boys always date specific girls for school dances. Boys and girls go on a sleigh ride together and then eat and dance to the latest records. As a prank someone runs a pair of pants up a flagpole. Language- idiot, dumb
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #034 The Hooded Hawk Mystery	4-6	OK?	Boys use a bird of prey to uncover a smuggling ring. One sentence- girl was "boy's date on many occasions." Another sentence about a different girl who "particularly appealed" to the other brother and loved tease him. Language- idiots.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #035 The Clue in the Embers	4-6	OK??	Boys travel to Guatemala and discover a lost palace. Mention girls being boys' usual date. A group of boys and girls have a cook out together - nothing romantic other than a boy putting his hand on a girl's shoulder to calm her down. Indian belief in gods. Language - stupid, dumb
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #036 The Secret of Pirates Hill	4-6	OK??	Boys go on a dangerous hunt to find a lost cannon and a sunken treasure. Mention of boys dating specific girls frequently. Full page black and white illustration of a girl wearing a bikini running to help a hurt boy - not provocative, but definitely a bikini. Use church spire as a landmark. Language - stupid

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #037 The Ghost At Skeleton Rock	4-6	OK?	Boys capture a criminal gang using clues in a ventriloquist dummy. Brief mention of "pretty girls with sparkling eyes" who often double date the boys. Boys basically ignore them. One sentence mention of watching TV. Language- dratted, shut up.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #039 The Mystery of the Chinese Junk	4-6	OK??	Boys uncover the mystery in a Chinese boat. Usual violence. Mention of going to church on Sunday morning - no religion. Mention of boys having favorite dates and double dating. Girl kisses boy on the cheek and says he is wonderful. Boys carry unconscious girlfriends to safety. Boys and girls sing to song on radio. Minor mentions of Chinese religious beliefs - e.g. Buddha, spirits, etc. Unimportant brief TV, movie. Language: shut up, jerk, dumb.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #040 Mystery of the Desert Giant	4-6	OK	Boys find a missing man and crack a counterfeiting ring. Usual violence. Boys watch movie being made. Language- shut up
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #041 The Clue of the Screeching Owl	4-6	OK?	Boys rescue their father's friend from a gang of criminals. Brief mention of a girl being a boy's date and favorite girl.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #042 The Viking Symbol Mystery	4-6	OK	Boys find stolen Viking stone and a treasure. One sentence mention of ice age. Language- blast
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #043 The Mystery of the Aztec Warrior	4-6	OK	Boys locate missing archaeologist and sword
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #044 The Haunted Fort	4-6	OK??	Boys find historical treasure in an old fort and capture art thieves. Brief mention of girl being boy's "special friend" and boy often dating a specific girl. Brief, unimportant mention of going to a "quaint little church" on Sunday. Man is angry at art critic for making fun of his school, so he gets revenge by scaring him with a fake sea monster. Everyone thinks this was a wonderful trick. Boy displays bad middos. Language- weird, blast it, dumb, fatso, punks, shut up, stupid, twerp.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #045 The Mystery of the Spiral Bridge	4-6	OK??	Boys break up a ring of criminals. One mention of boy having a "best girl" and "best date". Boy says girl is "cute." When boy sees girlfriend's car "his face lit up"z Girls invite boys to a dance but they very regretfully say they will be away. Boy says girl is "cute". Language: dumb, dummy, shut up, punks.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #046 The Secret Agent on Flight 101	4-6	OK?	Boys help capture a crooked magician and his gang. One sentence mention of going to church. Boy flirts with stewardess - very tame and brief. Minor language: weird, idiot, shut up.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #047 Mystery Of The Whale Tattoo	4-6	OK??	Boys find a stolen idol. A lot of carnival performers and their lower class culture. Usual violence, brief mention of girl being regular date and favorite partner. Girls "clutch" boys for "protection" on a scary roller coaster, boys tease friend that he wants to flirt with a pretty girl, man kisses women cousin on the cheek, brief unimportant mention of the ice age, brief unimportant mention of seeing movie stars in Hollywood. TV news. Language- weirdo, freak, stupid, punks, jerks, brats, shut up, moron, idiot.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #048 The Arctic Patrol Mystery	4-6	OK??	Boys travel to Iceland to solve a mystery. Usual violence. Mention that boys have girlfriends and special dates. They have a get-together with other boys and their "dates". The boys play ping pong and their "dates" cheer them on. It says they put on dance records but no description of the dancing. Girl loops her arm through boy's arm when she says goodbye to him. Boy mentions that stewardess is good-looking - later meet her at the pool (nothing romantic mentioned). TV news. Minor language: dummy, dirty bums, stupid, jerk, fink.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #049 The Bombay Boomerang	4-6	OK??	Boys uncover a plot to cause terrible damage to America. Usual violence. Mention of church service - no description. Mention of boy's favorite date and co-ed cookout. A radio jockey is involved in the crime - he plays a "groovy beat". A worshipper of the Hindu god Krishna tries to kill the boys because he feels they desecrated his statue. Descriptions of Hindu beliefs. Language - shut up, weird, dimwits.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #050 - Danger on Vampire Trail	4-6	OK?	Boys capture forgers and smugglers. Brief mention of boy having girl as "special friend" whom he dated often. She hooks her arm through his - p. 10
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #051 The Masked Monkey	4-6	OK	Boys find missing boy. Typical violence and scary moments. Language (once each)-weirdos, dumb
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #052 The Shattered Helmet	4-6	OK??	Boys help find a valuable helmet that had been used as a prop in a movie. A lot of film culture and history of motion pictures and movie making. Boy dates a girl who "likes" him. After a date he is "starry eyed" and says she is "wonderful" and "sweet" He leaves town when she says she wants to marry him. Non romantic negiah. Boys and girls who are in a college class together get together in the evening to sing around the piano. TV. violence. Language- stupid, shut up.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #053 The Clue of the Hissing Serpent	4-6	OK??	Boys find a stolen life-size chess piece and uncover criminals. A lot about a curse on the chess piece. Description of Chinese burial practices. A scared boy crosses himself. Unimportant mention of watching TV. Mentions boy often dates specific girl. Some "pretty, young nurses" sign a boy's cast. 2 criminals lay trap by pretending to have a "lover's quarrel". Description of couples dancing at a boy/girl party - but not romantic. Girls take boys "by the hand" and lead them to the refreshments. Minor language: idiot.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #054 The Mysterious Caravan	4-6	OK??	Boys uncover mystery of an ancient mask that washes up on the beach where they are vacationing (with friends on their own, no adults). Mention of boys dating their "favorite" girls. Co-ed skating party- skate "arm in arm". Brief mentions of Halloween, detective movie and rock music. Non-romantic negiah. Boys tease friend about his weight- not always so nice. Watch TV in hotel lobby. Minor language: shut up (once)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #056 The Jungle Pyramid	4-6	OK??	Boys travel to Switzerland and Mexico to locate stolen gold. Mentions of listening to country music on the radio. Discussion of prehistoric people's gold and artifacts, millions of years, animals evolving. Mayan religious beliefs. Boys go skiing with "attractive teenage girls" and pair off with them on the lift up the mountain. Minor language: freak, dumb, punk, idiot
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #057 The Firebird Rocket	4-6	OK??	Boys travel to Australia to find missing scientist. Usual violence. Boys and girls squeeze into small car "practically sitting on each others laps" - boy manages to squeeze into place next to the girl "he usually dates when they go to parties or dances". Boys go to a dance and ask "attractive" girls to dance with them, then sit together and have an "animated conversation". Boy "eyes girl appreciatively". Not described romantically, but quite a bit of it. TV. Minor language: creep, stupid, punk, shut up.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #061 The Pentagon Spy	4-6	OK?	Boys capture a gang that kidnapped a navy scientist. Boy tries to shoot arrow at the target perfectly because his "pretty, vivacious date" was sitting on the grass watching him. Pennsylvania Dutch belief in hexes and witchcraft. Non romantic negiah. Language: weirdo, punks, shut up. Usual violence.
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #063 The Mummy Case	4-6	OK?	Boys travel to Egypt to recover stolen artifacts and protect a mummy being shipped to a museum. Egyptian beliefs. A lot of good natured teasing of overweight friend. TV. Usual violence. Language- stupid, berserk, weirdo
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #065 The Stone Idol	4-6	OK?	Boys figure out who stole a stone idol- an Eastern Island god figure. A lot of island religious beliefs including many gods, spirits that haunt and bring bad luck if you don't obey them, wizards, etc.. Scientists figure out that the antarctic is "many millions of years" old. Usual violence. Language- stupid (once)
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #069 The Four Headed Dragon	4-6	OK	Boys capture criminals who want to destroy the Alaskan pipeline. A tad less violence than usual. Nonromantic negiah. One word Halloween. One sentence TV. Language- dumb, weird, creeps
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #073 The Billion Dollar Ransom	4-6	OK	Boys foil kidnapping of the President...
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #074 Tic Tac Terror	4-6	OK?	Boys help terrorist to defect. Girlfriend tickles boy's feet with a stalk of grass. Boys and girls have a picnic and go swimming together - no description.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #161 Training for Trouble	4-6	OK??	Boys find out who is hurting people at new sports center. Violence, minor negiah. Many mentions of boys having girlfriends, a lot of comfortable kidding around with them. Boy helps girlfriend get up when she gets hurt, smooths out her hair. Usual bad guy vs. good guy violence, plus some additional macho violence where 2 people "settle things" by seeing who could beat the other up. Language- freaky, stinks, idiot, stupid, creepy, jerk, punk.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #162 The End of the Trail	4-6	OK?	Boys are stuck in a small town and discover that the entire town is involved in a crime.. A lot of good natured kidding and insults among friends, especially about a heavy friend's weight. Brief non-religious mention of Easter Bunny. Brief reference to TV show about Vietnam war. Minor language - stupid, idiot.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #168 The Castle Conundrum	4-6	OK?	Boys go to a camp where they help rebuild a medieval European village and catch a saboteur. Camp is co-ed but nothing romantic other than 1 subtle sentence that implies that there is a reason a girl chose a boy to be on her team. Mention of church - no religion. Non-romantic negiah. Foreign children interested in American TV shows, pop groups, movies stars - no details. One sentence - boy notices girl's perfume - thinks it smells nice - wants to ask her where she bought it so he can bring some home. Language - weird, idiot, dumb.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #169 Ghost of a Chance	4-6	OK?	boys work as animal wranglers on movie set. Solve mystery of who is sabotaging equipment. Some violence
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #176 In Plane Sight	4-6	OK??	Boys capture criminals who are stealing planes. Boy says he is sorry they won't meet many girls at airshow. Boys say they are "spoken for" and are surprised since he is dating someone. He replies " we date, but we're not tied to each other".TV. A woman is a "dot com innovator".Quite a bit of "macho man" brawling and threatening. Language- jerk, heck, butt out.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #178 The Mystery of the Black Rhino	4-6	OK??	Boys capture poachers in Africa. Usual violence. Boys say goodbye to girlfriends when leaving for Africa - girls are crying. When return girls hug them (brief happy hug). Boy watches the same movie on the plane that he took a girl to see in a movie theater on a date. A lot of animal rights propaganda. One of the good guys gets killed - quite sad. Discussion of prehistory and homo erectus who evolved into humans. Minor language: punks, creep
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #179 Passport To Danger	4-6	OK?	Boys solve a dangerous mystery. Many mentions of TV news, internet, and other technology. A few mentions in passing of dancers who dance to rock music to entertain at a soccer match. Usual violence. No mention at all of girlfriends. Language- weird, maniac, punks
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #181 Double Jeopardy	4-6	OK?	Boys figure out who is trying to hurt race car drivers at the Grand Prix. Usual violence. A lot of race car culture. Boy calls girl "cute". Mention of rock music at a party. Dinosaur exhibit at a museum described but doesn't talk about millions of years, etc. Minor language: weird, dumb.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #182 The Secret of the Soldier's Gold	4-6	OK??	Boys try to help a poor Holocaust survivor find her family's gold in Portugal. A high school girl invites boys to her birthday party - friendly, not romantic but boys wonder how to explain the invitation to their girlfriends so they won't get jealous. Their aunt complains that men were flirting with her in the park - the boys think she really enjoyed the attention. Girl has ambition to become a movie star so she works as an extra in movies and works in a TV studio. Language: dumb.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #184 The Dangerous Transmission	4-6	OK?	Boys visit England and catch a criminal. Usual violence. Non-descriptive mention of boy going to a night club. Go to a crypt in a church - no religion. Boy pretends to buy a present for his girlfriend. Minor language: weird, nutcase, stupid, freaks.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #186 Hidden Mountain	4-6	OK?	Boys rescue family on witness protection plan. One sentence (p. 1) boys dating specific girls from "time to time though not in a serious relationship". Minor language: dumb, weird, shut up, idiot, Brief mention of watching detectives on TV.
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #187 No Way Out	4-6	OK?	Boys help locate a kidnapped maze master at a medieval festival. Technology- internet, web sites, hackers, email, cell phones, TV. Usual violence. Language- creep, jerk, weird
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys #190 Motocross Madness	4-6	OK?	Boys enter a motorcycle contest to benefit a girl who was injured and catch saboteurs. Boys shake hands with girl. BOys are invited to a party- consider whether to bring their "girlfriends" or not. A lot of motorcycle racing culture. Language -darn (once), maniac
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys Detective Handbook	4+	OK??	A few stories and a lot of information about detecting including how to take fingerprints, trail a suspect, do surveillance, etc. Also a very detailed (too detailed) list of criminal slang and each word's meaning as well as a very detailed list of narcotics, their appearance, slang name, method of use, etc. Includes an introduction about how dangerous they are. Parents should decide if they want their children to have this information. Language (other than list of criminal slang) stupid, idiot.
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys Ghost Stories	4-6	OK	boys encounter ghosts, witches, talking scarecrow
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys Undercover Brothers- Lost Brother- Book Two in the Lost Mystery Trilogy.	5-7	OK??	Saga continues. Brother is annoyed that girls always "go for" his brother. Girl looks at boy in a way that usually made him "blush and stammer". Girlfriend tucks arm through boyfriend's arm. Language- weird, freaking out, creepy, stupid, idiots, scum, shut up
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys Undercover Brothers- The Children of the Lost- Book One in the Lost Mystery Trilogy.	5-7	OK??	Boys investigate mystery of young children who disappeared while camping out with their families. Reader will feel the need to read all three books of the trilogy. In this book Teenage boy finds it "challenging" to talk to girls- when he sees a girl looking at him with "big pretty eyes and a flirty smile" he "clams up". Brothers go on a "double date". Discuss TV "specials". Boys parents "split up" after his disappearance- mother remarries and father has a girl friend. References to movie "Ghostbusters". Language- heck (frequent), freaked

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dixon, Franklin W.	Hardy Boys Undercover Brothers#19 Foul Play	4-6	OK??	Boys investigate college football team to see who is fixing the game. Minor middos between brothers, mention of watching football on TV. Language- weirdo, dork, lunkheads, idiots, shut up, secker, jerk, dumb, idiot, stupid, weird, kissing butt, wimp, bummed, moron, wussing out.
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	The Hardy Boys Case Files #55 Beyond the Law	5-7	OK??	Boys help prove the innocence of the police chief. Police chief has a terrible temper. Politicians are more interested in looking good on TV than helping. Teenage boy has girlfriend. TV, movies, Older boy goes back to high school to get his diploma and marries his teacher. Language- dumb, moron, stupid, creep, shut up, idiot, butt, maniac
new	Dixon, Franklin W.	The Hardy Boys Case Files #59 Open Season	5-7	OK?	Boys try to solve mystery of a murdered scientist who was tracking animals in the wilderness. One word xmas. Boy wants to go to movie theater to see movie. Language- dumb
	Doder, Joshua	A Dog Called Grk	4-7	OK?	Boy has adventures as he returns lost dog to owners who have been arrested in far-away land. Boy runs away from parents and puts himself in danger to solve mystery.
	Doder, Joshua	Grk and the Hot Dog Trail	4-7	OK?	Boy and his dog solve mystery of missing art. Boy runs away from parents and puts himself in danger to solve mystery.
	Doherty, Berlie	Street Child	5-7	OK	Historical fiction - London 1800's. Boy tries to find home after mom dies and is abused until finds a caring minister who helps street children.
chg	Dorman, Brandon	The Wednesday Tales No.1 The Palace Of Laughter	5-7	OK??	A boy who escapes from a cruel orphanage teams up with a girl who is an angel to stop a villain from stealing the world's laughter. A lot of description of the angel's world in heaven and the hierarchy of there (no mention of G-d) and how a song sung by angels is at the heart of everything. Nonreligious mention of church. Orphaned and unwanted children form their own ganglike societies. Non romantic negiah. Language- stink, dumb, Hell, pee, stupid, dratted, freaky, friggin', shut up.
	Dowell, Frances O'Roark	Phineas L. MacGuire Blasts Off	3-6	OK??	Boy scientist experiments with dog drool. Cute book. Passing reference to PG-13 movies, and adults kissing in movies.
	Dowell, Frances O'Roark	Where I'd Like to Be	4-6	OK?	Foster child in group home. Sweet. Some stories of abandonment and neglect of other kids.
	Dower, Laura	Palace Puppies- Sunny and the Royal Party	3-5	OK?	Royal puppies get in the way as their owners try to please their unhappy cousin with a birthday party. Dog likes when her owner dances with her and flicks the lights on and off like it is a nightclub. Boy exhibits very bad middos. One word xmas. Language- dumb, stinks, freak out, brat.
	Dower, Laura	Palace Puppies- Sunny and the Secret Passage #4	3-5	OK?	Royal puppies find a map showing secret passages in the castle. Two one sentence mention of movies (in general, no specifics). Language- funky, stinky.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Dower, Laura	Palace Puppies- Sunny and the Snowy Surprise #3	3-5	OK?	Royal puppies rescue lost husky puppies, and have a number of confrontations with an unpleasant royal cat. Brief mention that outdoors looked like a movie set. Language- weird.
	Dower, Laura	Palace Puppies- Sunny to the Rescue #2	3-5	OK?	Royal puppy helps locate his missing brother at a crowded beach. Setting is a coed beach. Relatively tame black and white illustrations of people sunbathing on the beach. Brief mention of dog having dream of being a movie star. Language- (once each) grossed out, drat, weird.
	Downer, Ann	Hatching Magic	5-8	OK?	Girl helps to save dragon transported from 13th century. Fun read. Passing mention of bra.
	Doyle, Arthur Conan	Adventures & Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes	7+	OK?	Description of opium & casual cocaine use, "aversion to women"
	Doyle, Debra and James MacDonald	Circle of Magic #3 - The Wizard's Statue	4-6	OK?	Wizard deals with statue with evil power. Lots of witchcraft and spells.
	Doyle, Roddy	The Meanwhile Adventures	4-6	OK?	Family has silly adventures. Minor language: poo, wee, shut up. Woman eats beans - many mentions of "farts". Passing mention of cultural icons: Eminem, Beyonce, the Hulk. Dog goes to beach where there are "canine beach babes" who "swoon".
	Drake, Salamandra	Dragonsdale	4-6	OK?	A girl secretly flies the dragon she loves, against her overprotective father's wishes (he is afraid she will be killed like her mother was). In the end father allows it. Lots of talk about smelly dragon droppings and the like. Some violence when she loses her temper but she is remorseful later. Minor non-romantic negiah.
	Drake, Salamandra	Dragonsdale - Riding the Storm	4-6	OK?	A girl and her best friend become dragon riding rivals, and a mean girl tries to fan the flames of their rivalry in a sneaky way. Many people speak badly of her - although she is deserving of it, seems like poor role modeling for lashon horah. Refer to someone as a boyfriend - he isn't
	Draper, Sharon M.	Out of My Mind	6-8	OK??	Girl with cerebral palsy cannot speak but is brilliant. Uses speech machine to talk and participates in contest. Heartwarming book; bittersweet ending. Some Minor language: fart, hell (the place), puke, sucks, crap, barf. Reference to Mom telling dirty jokes sometimes when father isn't listening (not specified). Girl wonders if a boy will ever like her (one sentence at end).
	Draper, Sharon M.	Ziggy #5 and The Black Dinosaurs - the Backyard Animal Show	3-5	OK	A group of boys save an orphaned fawn. Some black slang, e.g. call people "mon", otherwise wholesome.
	Duey, K. And K. A. Bale	Survival! Death Valley	4-6	OK?	A brother and sister are forced to hike through Death Valley in search of help when their pioneer family is stranded and father is seriously injured. Graphic descriptions of danger, especially thirst. Eventually turns out OK. Language: damnation, dang it.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Duey, K. and K.A. Bale	Survival! Blizzard	4-6	OK?	A girl goes to rescue her unpleasant cousin when he gets lost in the wilderness. Boy apologizes for bad middos at the end. Man plays mean trick on boy. One word mentions of xmas. Language- dang, stupid,
	Duey, Kathleen	American Diaries - Anoisett Lundberg, California 1851	4-6	OK??	A girl who helps her mother cook for gold miners finds a gold nugget and helps her family escape from a criminal who wants the gold. Many mentions of her being sad about her father's death. A wagon driver good-naturedly curses people as he passes by, e.g. "watch out you godforsaken...offspring of sway backed devils" etc. Mother sings song about a woman who went off with her "love". Brief mention of flirting (p. 76). Language: stupid, damn, hell (twice each)
	Duey, Kathleen	American Diaries - Maddie Retta Lauren	4-6	OK	brief non-romantic negiah at end.
new	Duey, Kathleen	American Diaries- Agnes May Gleason	4-6	OK??	A girl organizes her siblings to run the family's dairy farm when her father is injured. Many mentions and examples of the father's harsh and overcritical personality. Girl wonders if brother left home to escape father's criticism. Some brief chutzpah. Brief middos between siblings. Girl says ten year old sister is prettier than her and boys "look at her more than me". Mention of wearing church donations, secrets whispered at church, one word xmas- no religion. One word mention of movie. Language (once each)- dumb, heck (pg 114) , stupid, idiot.
	Duey, Kathleen	Heartbeats: Katie and the Mustang - books 1-4	4-6	OK?	Sad but hopeful story of orphan girl who is mistreated by adoptive family and goes west, along with wild mustang. First book contains some underlying anti-male sentiment: husband decides to go west against wife's will, wife tells child to never allow herself to be dependant on any man. Fourth book has references to mustang siring foals by 2 mares - not detailed.
	Duey, Kathleen	The Faeries' Promise #3 Wishes and Wings	2-4	OK?	A fairy family journeys back to their home against the law of a cruel human ruler. Many pictures of scantily clad fairies. Non romantic negiah between fairy girl and human boy who are "like brother and sister".
	Duffey, Betsy	Hey, New Kid	2-4	OK??	A boy moves to a new town and decides to reinvent himself by lying about his talents and family. Eventually tells the truth and makes friends. Some very juvenile issues: mom asks him if his fly is zipped, child brings underwear for show and tell in kindergarten, boy accidentally skates into girls' bathroom so girls wrap him in toilet paper, non romantic negiah.
	Duffey, Betsy	Lucky on the Loose	2-3	OK	boy ingeniously finds his lost dog. A few thwarted attempts to escape sleepaway camp.
	Dukowski, Cathy East	So Weird #1 - Family Reunion	4-6	OK?	Kids on tour with rock-and-roll mother. Find ghost and solve mystery. Mild asides to boy/girl occurrences. Front cover photo of the mother with 2 teenage kids, plus family friend (teenage boy) who is leaning against the daughter.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Duncan, Lois	Hotel for Dogs	3-5	OK??	Children start a "hotel" for dogs in an empty house. Somewhat justifies stealing dog because it's abused, but there are consequences. Brief mentions of xmas and going to church on Sundays. Bully shows terrible middos. Children play mean trick on him to teach him a lesson. Brief mention of movies, TV, movie stars, Shakespeare, Ladies Home Journal, Language (once each)- weirdo, shut up, heck , creep, dweeb, idiot
	DuPrau, Jeanne	The City of Ember	5-8	OK?	Great story set in underground society with no knowledge of outside world. Implications of world being destroyed by war but never stated outright (may be scary to some kids). Minor non-romantic negiah. Brief mention of liking a boy (p 146 ch 11). Very well written. Some of the other books in this series more problematic, but this book can stand alone.
	DuPrau, Jeanne	The Diamond of Darkhold	5-8	OK??	Book 4 of The City of Ember series. Children return to Ember to help their community get through a hard winter, and get captured by a family that has settled in Ember; finds a secret left by the Builders. A girl tries to get the boy's attention unsuccessfully, eventually finds a different boyfriend. Kids suspect that the boy and girl who went to Ember really wanted to "be together" because they like each other in a "special way" - not spelled out but an astute child will get it (chap 15 p 170-171). Non-romantic negiah.
	DuPrau, Jeanne	The People of Sparks	5-8	OK	Sequel to The City of Ember. People of Ember have to adjust to life above ground in Post-Disaster world.
	Dussling, Jennifer	Eek! Stories to Make You Shriek - A Very Strange Dollhouse	2-3	OK?	Strange and scary story about a girl who shrinks her parents into dollhouse people and tries to shrink her classmate. Nightmare inducing for target age group.
	Dyer, Heather	Ibby's Magic Weekend	3-4	OK?	Cousins find magic kit that works real magic. Magically restore uncle who magically disappeared years before. Fine as long as child can distinguish between fantasy and reality.
	Dyer, Heather	The Fish In Room II	3-5	OK??	An orphaned boy who is made into a servant boy in a hotel befriends a mermaid family. Cover illustration of a cartoonish bare armed mermaid with long hair covering most of her front. Mention of TV. Non romantic negiah. Language- creepy, shut up, drat, I'll be darned, freaks.
	Eager, Edward	Half Magic	3-5	OK?	Children find amulet that grants half wishes. Description of movie where men try to kiss lady and she pushes them away. When couple decides to marry he takes her hand.
	Eager, Edward	Knight's Castle	3-5	OK??	Children have adventures with magic castle, mostly in line with plot of movie "Ivanhoe". Lots of chivalrous rescuing of maidens and trying to win their love in "important love scenes"
	Eager, Edward	Magic or Not	3-5	OK?	Children move to a house with magic wishing well and try to do good deeds. An elderly man kisses elderly lady's hand. Minor language: darned.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Eager, Edward	Seven Day Magic	3-5	OK?	Children find magic book that takes them into plots of books. Most books are tame, eg Treasure Island, Wizard of Oz and Half Magic (by same author). p 97 - man proposes with arms around woman - easily crossed out.
	Earhart, Kristin	Big Apple Barn - #01 Happy Go Lucky	2-3	OK	A young pony is sent to live at a riding school and adjusts to the new place. Written from pony's point of view.
	Earhart, Kristin	Big Apple Barn - #02 Happy's Big Plan	2-3	OK	The pony finds a rider who understands him.
	Earhart, Kristin	Big Apple Barn - #03 A Sassy Surprise	2-3	OK	A new pony comes to the riding school. Pony deals with feelings of jealousy.
	Earhart, Kristin	Big Apple Barn - #04 Saddle Up Happy	2-3	OK	Pony goes to a horse show and realizes it's more important to have fun than to compete.
	Earhart, Kristin	Big Apple Barn - Roscoe and the Pony Parade #6	2-3	OK	Ponies try to find their missing mouse friend who is causing mayhem at the spring festival.
new	Edwards, Roberta	Who Is Barack Obama?	4-6	OK??	A biography of the president. Describes how his parents fell in love and got married- the only "unusual" thing about that is that she was white, he was black. They later "split up". Father wants to make sure son "could stand up for himself" when an older boy picked on him so father taught him how to box. Boy felt like a "freak" in his new school. He stopped calling himself Barry and started calling himself Barak since "a beautiful, older girl told him it was a great name." Boy goes to pay respects to grandparents graves and kneels down and cries- illustration and text. Barack wants to date girl from the law office where he works- she says no because it is "tacky" to date someone at the law firm. Illustration of man and woman shaking hands.
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #01 Return to Foreverware	4-6	OK	Intro to series: series is strange, about weird things that happen in a normal town, but only 2 boys notice. Mostly harmless. In this story a few mentions of X-mas, disco dancing, and Saturday Night Fever, but very minor.
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #02 Bureau of Lost	4-6	OK?	OK unless a deep thinker b/c raises questions about whole premise of book: freezing people forever
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #03 The Eerie Triangle	4-6	OK	Boys discover that their town was really created by the government as a place to settle aliens from outer space.
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #04 Simon & Marshall's Excellent Adventure	4-6	OK	Boys catch boy from the future stealing things to sell.
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #06 Fountain of Weird	4-6	OK?	minor mention of liking a girl
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #07 Attack of the 2 Ton Tomatoes	4-6	OK	Boys foil plot to turn residents of town into giant vegetables.
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #08 Who Framed Alice Prophet?	4-6	OK	An evil artist tries to take over the town by painting people into pictures.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #11 The Dollhouse Time Forgot	4-6	OK?	Cover and inside cover illustration not tzanua. Magic dollhouse is keeping a girl alive who should have died long ago; boys help her to "go to where she belongs"
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #12 They Say	4-6	OK	A piece of crystal from a meteor causes "weirdness"
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #13 Switching Channels	4-6	OK?	setting is TV but portrayal is negative. Minor mention of teenage sister who has lots of dates.
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #15 Hollowierd	4-6	OK?	setting is Halloween but it's not major
	Eerie Indiana series	Eerie Indiana #16 Eerie in the mirror	4-6	OK	minor violence.
	Eige, Lillian	Dangling	5-8	OK??	Strange story billed as "psychological thriller". Boy's friend disappears in river and is assumed dead; turns out he ran away because he is foster child and is afraid of being returned to group home. Calls parents & senile grandmother by first names.
	Eliot, George	Brother Jacob	9+	OK?	A short story about a boy who steals money from his mother so that he can establish himself as a rich man, but his retarded brother gets in his way. Eventually he takes a false name and becomes engaged to a rich man's daughter until his retarded brother destroys his disguise. This story depicts a man who will stoop very low to get what he wants but his past ultimately catches up to him.
	Eliot, George	The Lifted Veil	9+	OK??	A short story about a dying man who reminisces about his sad life primarily dwelling on his courtship and relationship with his estranged wife. It began when his brother was courting her but she sent him subtle messages thereby confusing and fascinating him. Man fears his servants won't come when he calls them because they are "lovers". Minor romantic negiah. Can magically see people's true intentions.
	Ellis, Deborah	Mud City	8+	OK?	The saga continues. A girl tries to escape a refugee camp and ends up in jail. She is eventually rescued by wealthy foreigners. Ultimately, she makes peace with her refugee status and helps others. Vivid descriptions of poverty, suffering, and begging. Chutzpah when under pressure. Language-shut up, stupid, piss.
	Ellis, Deborah	Parvana's Journey	8+	OK??	Continuation of "The Breadwinner". This book is appropriate only for a very mature and emotionally strong reader. After her father's death, girl walks through war torn Afghanistan to find her mother. Very vivid descriptions of death and suffering. Girl adopts a baby she finds beside its mother's dead body. She also adopts a crippled boy who exhibits terrible middos mostly because he is scared and hurt, and an orphaned girl who lives in a minefield. Non romantic negiah. Language- idiot, shut up, stupid.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Ellis, Deborah	The Breadwinner	7+	OK?	A girl helps her family survive in war torn Afghanistan by pretending to be a boy. Detailed description of the Taliban's persecution of women and all who don't obey their strict rules. Unimportant mention of television. Occasional mild middos between siblings, but generally very loving toward each other. At one point, they are so desperate for money the girl digs up graves to sell the bones. Girl is concerned her shape is changing and she won't be able to pretend to be a boy.
	Ellsworth, Mary Ellen	Gertrude Chandler Warner and the Boxcar Children	3+	OK?	Biography of the author of "The Boxcar Children". Brief mention of moving picture shows, dramas, minstrel shows, and a Broadway show. She played pipe organ and cello in church, wrote church skits, wrote a book about a missionary, did lettering in the bibles presented to Sunday school children. One quote of a neutral sounding verse that may be from New Testament, but not cited or explained (p58).
	Embry, Margaret	Mr. Blue	2-3	OK	A class adopts a strange cat that can talk
	Emerson, Scott	The Adventures of Samuel Blackthorne: Book One The Case of the Cat with the Missing Ear	4-7	OK?	Sherlock Holmes -type book (down to the classic first meeting between Holmes and Watson), but with dogs as the characters. Detective solves mystery of man who was kidnapped. Some mentions of beautiful, modest woman, whom the detective is attentive to.
	Ende, Michael	The Neverending Story	5-8	OK?	Creative fantasy in which boy reading book ends up as part of the story. Brief reference to JC on page 86 - can be crossed out.
	English, Karen	Francie	5-8	OK?	A black girl experiences discrimination as she waits for her father to send for their family to start a better life in Chicago. Mentions that some men who work far from home have 2 families. Mother beats girl with a switch when she is bad, but not in abusive way. Mention of boy whose mother died and father abandoned the family. Black girl takes clever revenge on white girl who was mean to her. Minor language: butt.
	English, Karen	Nikki & Deja	3-5	OK??	Two African American girls form a club to exclude a new neighbor they don't like. In the end somewhat learn their lesson, but it is not very strong. Along the way there are bad middos exhibited between classmates. TV watching. Language- stupid (frequent), dumb.
	English, Karen	Nikki & Deja Birthday Blues	3-5	OK?	Girl's mean classmate decides to throw a "just because" party to compete with her birthday party. Girl hopes her father will come, but he lives "far away" and she never sees him- she is being raised by her aunt. Girl wonders why her aunt always seems "flustered and gushy" and suspects it has to do with the owner who is behind the register. TV. Language- stupid.
	English, Karen	Nikki & Deja Substitute Trouble	3-5	OK??	Girls are troubled by their classmate's bad behavior with a substitute. Detailed descriptions of bad behavior, but not put in a positive light. TV, aunt does yoga with dvd on TV. Language- stupid, weird.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	English, Karen	Nikki & Deja The Newsy News Newsletter	3-5	OK??	Girls publish a newsletter about their block but don't check for accuracy before they publish. Even though the girls are good friends the middos they exhibit and the way they treat each other may be considered acceptable in the outside world, but is really poor role modeling e.g. neighbor gives a girl a brownie and instead of eating it right away she saves it to make her friend jealous. When the friend begs for some she gives her a minuscule piece. Juvenile bad lunchroom behavior described in detail. Girls decide that a girl they don't like is absent from school because her parents separated; really she has pneumonia
	Enright, Elizabeth	Gone Away Lake	5-7	OK??	A Newbery Honor book. Boy and girl cousins discover a forgotten community and befriend its elderly residents. Question arises if anyone owns houses abandoned 50 years ago and if it is OK to break into them and take things from them for personal use- decide yes. Girl is thrilled to wear her comfortable summer clothing- jeans, a t shirt, no socks-instead of dresses for school. Mention of finding fossil fishes, brief mention of dinosaurs. Minor middos between children. Mention of book "Wuthering Heights". Non religious xmas, church and Santa Claus. Description of concert where women sang for a coed audience. Mention of coed balls- no description. Brief mention of the zodiac. Illustration and description of partially clothed female statue- not provocative. Language-dopey, shut up, heck (often), idiotic, doggone it, dumb, darn it (once).
	Enright, Elizabeth	Return To Gone Away Lake	5-7	OK??	Children help their parents renovate an old house and have adventures. Non-romantic negiah. A few mentions of the "comfortable fragrance of pipe smoke" and description of how a pipe is lit. Brief non-religious xmas, broken rosary beads. Illustration of same half clothed statue as last book. Girls read a horoscope that tells them they will "concern themselves with the handsomest members of the opposite sex"-they aren't interested. Translation of Latin hymn of praise from Saint Francis of Assisi-relatively neutral p197 chapt 15.
	Enright, Elizabeth	Then There Were Five	4-6	OK?	Continuation of "The Four Story Mistake". Family befriends an abused orphan and eventually adopts him. Innocent non-romantic negiah, innocent mixed swimming, minor language - heck. Story of a boy who snuck away from Church and went swimming on Sunday (forbidden) and got a whipping - found out later father really not angry at him (p 106-112); quote: "and on seventh day thou shalt rest"
	Erdrich, Louise	The Birchbark House	4-6	OK??	Realistic description of Native Americans. Smallpox epidemic and death discussed very matter of factly. Lots of emphasis on Indian beliefs - needs adult guidance

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Erskine, Kathryn	Mockingbird	6-8	OK??	Girl with Asperger's syndrome (form of autism) helps her father to deal with death of her brother in school shooting. Book can be helpful to children both dealing with death and understanding other children with Asperger's. Brother was cremated. Many mentions of the movie To Kill a Mockingbird.TV, computer, animated videos by name. Middos between classmates.One word Halloween. Language- stupid, weird/ weirdo, freak, shut up, idiot, puke, poop, fart
	Estes, Eleanor	Ginger Pye	4-6	OK??	Children try to figure out who stole their puppy.Many mentions of church.Illustration of inside of church. Children are paid to clean the pews. While they are cleaning girl goes up to minister's pulpit and gives an amusing sermon.Santa Claus.One word mention of Xmas, Easter. Sunday school.Easter eggs. Story of how mother met father-they literally bumped into each other as he was going up a down escalator and it was "love at first sight". Different child's parents met at the high school prom. Books mentioned by title which may or may not be appropriate.
	Estes, Eleanor	Miranda the Great	4- 6	OK?	A brave cat rescues motherless kittens as the city of Rome is burned by barbarians, and settles the kittens in the colosseum. Brief description of games held in the colosseum held for the entertainment of the emperor and the Roman people (no mention of Jews)
	Estes, Eleanor	Pinky Pie	4-6	OK	Family goes to Fire Island for summer and adopts a new cat.
	Estes, Eleanor	Rufus M	4-6	OK	Moffats series. Cute adventures of youngest boy. A few one sentence mentions of x-mas; boy cleans pews in church, no religion.
	Estes, Eleanor	The Alley	4-6	OK?	Sequel to "The Tunnel of Hugsey Goode". Girl and boy who are best friends try to capture burglars as well as policemen whom they suspect stole jewelry when they respond to the crime. Mention of x-mas; no religion. Mention of children mixed swimming - no description. Some unimportant dwelling on women wearing slacks. Minor language: gol-darned p 265.
	Estes, Eleanor	The Curious Adventures of Jimmy McGee	3-5	OK	A magical little man has strange adventures.
	Estes, Eleanor	The Hundred Dresses	2-4	OK?	Girls feel bad that they made fun of a poor classmate who bragged she owned a hundred dresses. A few minor mentions of x-mas; no religion
new	Estes, Eleanor	The Lost Umbrella of Kim Chu	3-4	OK?	Old fashioned story about a girl who forgets her father's special umbrella at the library and has adventures while finding it. She goes on a train and a ferry by herself and without adult permission with no consequences. Talks to a stranger because she laughs a lot and looks harmless. Doesn't want to duck under turnstile because she might get stuck (no mention that it is dishonest). Mention of watching scary "moving pictures" at a movie house. Language- stupid, dumbell.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Estes, Eleanor	The Middle Moffat	4-6	OK??	Moffat series. Boy writes letter to Santa Claus - whole chapter of this and making X-mas presents for mother. Mention of angels and newborn king - easily crossed out - p. 179. Mention of 16 year old sister getting love letters from a sailor - p. 80 (one paragraph).
	Estes, Eleanor	The Moffat Museum	4-6	OK??	Moffat series. Oldest daughter marries a minister. Church wedding described - no religion. Kisses bride (P. 135). 16 year old boy thinks about girl he likes but never spoke to (p 213-214) - can be crossed out.
	Estes, Eleanor	The Moffats	4-6	OK?	First book in series about old fashioned family with cute adventures. Children study Sunday school lessons for catechism class - nothing really objectionable (P. 82-83). On Halloween, children scare mean neighbor - revenge justified? Carve pumpkin.
	Estes, Eleanor	The Tunnel of Hugsey Goode	4-6	OK?	2 boys discover a hidden tunnel. Lots of juvenile boy vs. girl, e.g. call girls contaminated. Not great Middos but nothing really objectionable.
	Evans, Douglas	MVP	4-7	OK?	Boy enters race to get around world in 40 days. Passing mentions of man and girlfriend, tattoos. Boy deceives mother (who thinks he is in camp) and train ticket agent (claims parents are divorced and he "gets tossed back and forth when one of the parents gets fed up"). Non romantic negiah. Pretty woman makes him blush. Minor language: snot, calls man named "Sheepsbottom", "Sheepsbutt". "takes a leak" over side of boat.
	Evans, Douglas	The Elevator Family	2-4	OK?	A vacationing eccentric family can't find a room in a hotel so they take up residence in the hotel's elevator and have cute adventures. Very mild and innocent love story between the bellhop and the girl selling flowers in the lobby.
new	Fairlie, Emily	The Lost Treasure of Tuckernuck	3-6	OK?	Boy and girl decode puzzles to solve mystery and save their school. Minor language: sucker, heck, suck-up, stinkin', butt. Non-romantic negiah. Mild romantic implications between widowed father and single teacher; she puts her hand on his arm, he invites her to dinner.
	Farbeck, Matt	Dragons Revealed Revelations Part 2	5+	OK??	Children save their city from attacking demons. Many mentions of church-confusing description of beliefs-saints, eternal damnation, priests. Violence between men and magical beasts. Occasional language-blast it, shut up, creep.
	Farber,E.S.	Fish Finelli	4-6	OK??	Boys accept a dare to find Captain Kidd's treasure in 2 weeks. Somewhat unrefined. A lot of juvenile bathroom humor and descriptions. Older sister writes love letters to a lacrosse player- "every girl at Marine Middle has a crush on him". Middos between rivals. Uncle brings home girlfriend and puts an arm around her- boy says when he does the "arm thing" it means he is serious about her. She is an astrologer and talks about horoscopes and auras.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Fardell, John	The 7 Professors of the Far North	5-8	OK?	Children save their friends and the world, from a mad scientist who has created a genetic super-race. Non-main character girlfriend and boyfriend greet with a (non-romantic) kiss (p. 161). Passing mention of "governments have sterilized thousands of imperfect women before they could even conceive imperfect children".
	Fardell, John	The Flight of the Silver Turtle	5-8	OK?	Sequel to The 7 Professors of the Far North. Children and inventive scientists find secret invention and save the world. Passing references to evolution.
	Farley, Walter	The Black Stallion and Island Stallion Series	6-8	OK?	Both series focus primarily on race horses. Relatively well-written exciting stories for those who like detailed horse racing action and horse information. Of the 8 books I've read, all seem to have similar minor issues. There is a tremendous focus on breeding horses and how to decide which horses to mate together - almost never graphically described except in one book where it is slightly graphic: The Black Stallion's Ghost - Chap 10 p. 99-103 - parents should decide on appropriateness according to child's understanding. In other books most graphic line is "horse snorts with desire" or issues a "love call" when it sees a mare. Occasionally Arabs say "May Allah be with you". Name a horse "Satan" like the devil. Occasional minor violence. A few mentions of J.C. as reference to a period of time (The Black Stallion Mystery p 33 and The Black Stallion's Ghost p 57). Mention of wearing a cross and kneeling to a cross (The Black Stallion Mystery p. 50)
	Feder, Paula Kurzband	Did You Lose The Car Again?-	1-3	OK??	Girls try to locate where their father parked the car and end up running from a lady they think is a witch who is really trying to return the girl's watch to her. May be a little bit scary for younger set. Mother tells girl not to take a book to read in the car but she sneaks it in pocket. Language-stupid dumb.
	Fendler, Don (as told to Josheph B. Egan)	Lost on a Mountain In Maine	5-7	OK?	A boy's first person account of being lost while mountain climbing and his eventual rescue 9 days later. Many mentions of getting on his knees to pray and feeling his prayers were answered. Belief in guardian angels. A photo of him wearing only underpants and bandages on feet.
	Field, Rachel	Hitty, Her First Hundred Years	4-6	OK?	A doll changes ownership and experiences changes in American history. Minor religion. Minor romantic negiah. One line about how young man took doll on his lap "and pretended to make love to me" p. 216 - easily crossed out.
	Fields, Bryan	Lunchbox and the Aliens	4-6	OK?	Strange story of a dog who is given intelligence by aliens who use him to build a machine to transform human garbage into alien food. Somewhat unrefined. Language: chump, jerk, stupid, weirdo, shut-up, doo-doo, you stink, idiot, punk. Some violence and bad middos between aliens - slightly serious, slightly silly.
	Fields, Terri	The Day the Fifth Grade Disappeared	4-6	OK	Boy and girl figure out why class keeps appearing and disappearing. Non-romantic hug

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Finch, Kate	Pet Hotel- A Big Surprise	2-3	OK?	Children help a pregnant cat at the pet hotel. A bird named Elvis constantly says "You ain't nothing but a hound dog"- no explanation. Name kittens for famous musicians- Duke Ellington, Judy Holliday, etc.- no further explanation.
	Finch, Kate	Pet Hotel- A Nose For Trouble	2-3	OK?	Children figure out what is making a mysterious sound in the pet hotel. Girl comments that she feels like a movie star.
	Finch, Kate	Pet Hotel- Calling All Pets	2-3	OK?	Children turn their great aunt's hotel into a hotel for animals. Boy mentions that hotel's name sounds like somewhere movie stars would stay.
	Flat Stanley	Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #1 The Mount Rushmore Calamity	2-4	OK??	Flat boy visits Mount Rushmore with his family and has adventures. Minor very juvenile boy/girl. Language- gol durned.
	Flat Stanley	Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #2 The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery	2-4	OK??	Flat boy travels to Egypt and accidentally gets involved with criminals. Girl gives boy hero a hug- he blushes and wonders why he didn't notice how pretty she was. In back preview of #3- mention of movie star.
	Flat Stanley	Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #3 The Japanese Ninja Surprise	2-4	OK??	Flat boy goes to Japan to visit his favorite movie star/karate master and discovers that his karate skills are faked for the movies. A lot of information about ninjas. Movie star exhibits bad middos but eventually apologizes.
	Flat Stanley	Stanley in Space	2-3	OK?	Family rescues tiny people who live on another planet. Joke about boy who accidentally is on TV in his underwear, nonreligious mention of churches with spires. Language-drat, darn you.
	Fleischman, Sid	By the Great Horn Spoon	3-5	OK	Cute story about boy and his butler who go west to strike it rich. Eventually butler marries boy's mother.
	Fleischman, Sid	Chancy and the Grand Rascal	3-5	OK	Boy and uncle travel down river in raft in a quest to find his siblings. Uncle tells lots of funny tall tales.
	Fleischman, Sid	Here Comes McBroom	2-4	OK	A tall tale about an amazing farm on the prairie.
	Fleischman, Sid	McBroom and the Big Wind	2-4	OK	More McBroom tall tales.
	Fleischman, Sid	Mr. Mysterious & Company	3-5	OK	A family travels through the wild west putting on magic shows.
	Fleischman, Sid	The 13th floor - A Ghost Story	3-5	OK??	Boy and girl join ancestors on private ship and at witch trial. Big deal made about colonial law forbidding kissing wife on Sabbath. Minor boy-girl, nothing really horrible, just overall tone.
	Fleischman, Sid	The Midnight Horse	3-5	OK	A boy helps to foil his wicked uncle's plans with the help of a ghostly magician.
	Fleischman, Sid	The Whipping Boy	3-5	OK	A spoiled prince and his street smart whipping boy run away from the castle and come to trust each other.
	Fleischman, Sid	The White Elephant	2-3	OK?	A poor boy is given a white elephant as a punishment since it is considered sacred he can't use it to earn a living, yet he must feed it and follow its every whim. Illustration of bare chested man. Language-stupid, idiot, pest, brat.
	Fleming, Candace	The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School	3-5	OK??	Strange stories of fourth grade class - "Wayside School"-style. Very mild language. Mild romance between school librarian and teacher.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Fleming, Susan	Trapped on the Golden Flyer	3-5	OK	Orphaned boy goes by train to live with uncle. Train gets stuck in snow. Difficult ordeal teaches him to give new life a chance.
	Flemming, Ian	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang	3-5	OK?	Story about a family and their magical car. At one point children are kidnapped but it turns out fine. Brief non religious mention of xmas, father xmas, and Easter. Language idiot.
	Forbes, Esther	Johnny Tremain	6-9	OK??	Historical fiction. Set in Boston, Revolutionary War. An orphan gets involved with the Patriots. Ongoing subtle love story runs throughout the novel but not integral focus.
	Forrester, Sandra	Sound the Jubilee	5-7	OK??	A slave girl escapes with her family during the Civil war. Descriptions of prejudice and brutality towards slaves. Detailed Xmas, brief summary of JC's birth (p. 40), when mother is scared says "sweet J--" (p. 47, 119). Relatively neutral mentions of church and minister and preaching. Mentions that laws didn't allow slaves to marry so they would "jump over a broom and declare themselves husband and wife". Relatively tame description of long courtship leading to marriage. One co-ed dance not described romantically. Once when he returns from danger (before married) she was "swept up into his arms " (p 69)
	Foxley, Janet	Mungle Trogg. Small Giant-Big Adventure	4-6	OK??	A giant who is much smaller than his peers ends up saving his community from humans who would attack them. Middos between siblings and school mates. The king's birthday celebration features a "burps and farts" competition. Boy wonders if a human is a male or female then decides it must be a woman because she had a "bosom" and other mild anatomical descriptions. One friendly hug. Language-stupid, pee.
	Francis, Pauline (originally by Daniel Defoe)	Robinson Crusoe - Fast Track Classics Edition	3-5	OK?	Abridged version of classic story of man shipwrecked on desert island. Clear description of cannibals eating people. Some violence. Some religion (P. 15, 18,20) - easily crossed out
	Frazier, Angie	The Midnight Tunnel: A Suzanna Snow Mystery	4-6	OK?	Girl whose family owns a hotel, solves mystery of missing daughter of hotel patron. Some vague references to girls looking at good-looking boys - old-fashioned and innocent.
	Frederick, Heather Vogel	The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed	4-7	OK	The Daughter of a whaling captain comes to grips with the death of her mother as she has adventures on a whaling ship. Minor language - called "cuss words" eg: blast, thunder and lightning, etc. Very detailed and gory description of butchering a whale. Xmas - no religion. A few matter of fact mentions of "the privy"
	Freedman, Russell	Out Of Darkness	3-5	OK?	Biography of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille alphabet which allows blind people to read and write. A few mentions of the kind village priest who helped him, his playing the church organ, xmas, etc. but no detailed religion

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Freeman, Martha	Who Stole Grandma's Million-Dollar Pumpkin Pie?	3-6	OK??	Boy and friend (who is a girl) solve mystery of missing pie recipe. Minor language: heck, snot. Several references to possible budding "romances" between grandparent-age people (including k-i-s-s-i-n-g song) - pretty tame.
	Freeman, Martha	Who Stole Uncle Sam?	3-5	OK?	Boy and girl solve mystery of missing baseball coach. Recurring theme of local woman (boy's friend's mother) who was boy's father's "first love". Boy is teased by giggly girls, about his relationship with girl who is his (platonic) friend.
	French, S. Terrell	Operation Redwood	6-8	OK??	After being sent by flighty artistic mother, to live temporarily with stern aunt and uncle, boy works to save Redwood forest destined to be logged by uncle's company. Two boys and 2 girls are friends and sleep in different rooms of tree house; totally innocent. Boy disobeys aunt and uncle, runs away to house of girl he met via e-mail, lies. In end aunt and uncle are vilified and boy is hero. Language: hell (the place): p. 43; pee, stupid, butt, freakin'. Passing references to dinosaurs, millions of years. Passing mention of girl with "inch of bare skin showing above her jeans"; pierced belly button.
	Friedman, Laurie	Happy Birthday, Mallory	3-5	OK??	A fourth grade girl copes with disappointment when her birthday month doesn't go as planned. A big part of the story is that her best female friend's mother (divorced) dates her best male friend's father (widowed), and she is worried they will fall in love and marry and she will be left out. Illustration of their imagined wedding- the bride and groom are holding hands. Mention of watching TV. Middos between siblings. Language- dumb, stupid, weird.
	Friedman, Laurie	Mallory Goes Green	3-5	OK??	Girl is chosen to be class representative for her school's green (eco) fair, and learns what it means to listen to other people's ideas. Matter of fact mentions that "earth has been around 4.5 billion years". One paragraph mention of cute boy who is bestfriend's boyfriend. Illustration of male friend with arm around female friend's shoulder (not romantic).TV watching.Middos between siblings. Language- stupid, freak
	Friedman, Laurie	Mallory vs. Max	3-5	OK??	Girl overcomes her jealousy when her brother gets a pet. Middos between siblings.TV. Language- poop, stupid, pee, dumb, gross, weird, stinky, weirdo.
	Funke, Cornelia	Dragon Rider	5-8	OK?	A boy, a rat, a magical brownie and a dragon team up to defeat a vicious monster. Minor language: idiot, drat it, darn it, stupid, dratted. Minor hashkafa issues. One important setting is a monastery where monks are always praying at altars and shrines. Discuss belief that after death people come back as another person. Talk that heroes are fulfilling an ancient prophecy.
	Funke, Cornelia	Ghosthunters and the Gruesome Invincible Lightening Ghost	3-5	OK??	Boy helps catch a ghost that is haunting a hotel. Nonromantic negiah. A lot of minor language - stinky, stupid, idiot, dumb, dumbo.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Funke, Cornelia	Ghosthunters and the Incredibly Revolting Ghosts	3-5	OK??	First in series. A boy teams up with an old lady and a tame ghost to catch bad ghosts. Very unrefined. A lot of minor language - stupid, weird, revolting, weirdo, idiot. A lot of middos between siblings. Bathroom humor. A few mentions of watching TV. Go to a graveyard to collect dirt to throw at a ghost. Boy threatens annoying big sister that he will tell a boy in class that she has a crush on him. Detailed descriptions of different types of ghosts.
	Funke, Cornelia	Ghosthunters and the Muddy Monsters of Doom!	3-5	OK??	Boy needs to catch a ghost to receive his ghost hunters diploma. Lots of descriptions of different kinds of ghosts, paganism, and ghostly violence. More silly than scary. One ghost described as five or ten thousand years old. One ghost was created by people doing "barbaric rituals" such as animal sacrifices. Book warns reader that if they have an unfair teacher it might be that the teacher is really a ghost.
	Funke, Cornelia	Ghosthunters and the Totally Moldy Baroness	3-5	OK??	Boys help catch a mean ghost in a haunted castle. Language - idiot, stupid, stinking, dimwit, weird. Ghost has a crush on another ghost - friends tease him that he is turning "romantic" and that he is "in love", and that when the 2 ghosts will press their icy fingers together it will be "hot stuff". Nothing comes of the relationship.
	Funke, Cornelia	Igraine the Brave	4-5	OK?	Girl who wants to become a knight, saves her magical family and kingdom from wicked baron. Unquestioned assumption that it is OK for girl to aspire to be a knight. Language: drat it (once), shut up. Ladies kiss knight's cheek - totally innocent.
	Funke, Cornelia	The Thief Lord	6-8	OK??	Orphan brothers join street gang with fantastical results. Minor language - hell, darn, idiot. Lots of minor street crime. Raises question: can children run from adult (their aunt) who wants to care for them, but they think she is mean. Also, is stealing OK to survive.
	Gackenbach, Dick	Hooray for Hattie Rabbit	1-2	OK	I can read book. Cute stories about a rabbit girl.
	Gaiman, Neil	Caraline	4-6	OK?	Strange spooky story of a girl who frees her parents from a monster masquerading as her mother. This story was made into a movie. Some vague acting culture-mention of plays, men sending flowers to actresses dressing room, etc. Mention of watching videos, TV. Language-weird.
	Gannett, Ruth Stiles	Elmer and the Dragon	2-3	OK	a boy and a dragon help canaries solve a mystery.
	Gannett, Ruth Stiles	My Father's Dragon	2-3	OK	Boy rescues dragon who is being mistreated.
	Garden, Nancy	Mystery of the Night Raiders #1	4-6	OK	Strange story; children scheme to catch vampire who is killing cows.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Gardner, J.J.	Men In Black	3-7	OK?	Novelization of movie. Secret agents deal with alien visitors to Earth. 1 word (crap). In effort to cover up for missing husband who was killed by aliens, agents tell wife he ran off with his girlfriend.
	Gardner, Sally	Magical Kids - The Smallest Girl Ever and the Boy Who Could Fly	5-7	OK??	2 books in one - flip the book over for the other story. The girl story is about a girl whose magical parents die and she is sent to a magic school despite the fact that she has no apparent magical abilities. She is subsequently kidnapped, rescued, kidnapped again, etc. until it is discovered that she is indeed magical. Many mean adults - a few kind ones. Unimportant mention of ladies underpants hanging on the line. In the Boy story a boy who concerned about his parents' deteriorating marriage is granted a wish to learn how to fly and he helps his father discover his fun side and helps his parents be happy again, Language - stupid. Running joke about a fat fairy who "belches" Since book details parents' constant arguments, parents should decide if book is appropriate.
	Gates, Doris	Blue Willow	4-6	OK?	Daughter of poor itinerant workers tries to gain sense of permanence. Brief telling of myth where 2 "lovers" run away over objection of father (p 26); minor religious and bible talk
	Gavin, Rohan	Knightly and Son	6-8	OK??	Son and father fight against mysterious group with supernatural source. Mother left father because she thought he was crazy. Remarried man who has a daughter; boy and girl work together but (currently) no romance. Some language: damn, oddball, satanic beast, idiot, bloody hell, damnation. Villain kicks father in groin. Passing mention of Santa Claus, xmas presents. Woman lives at father's house and is housekeeper/assistant - no romance. Passing mention of Virgin Mary.
	George, Jean Craighead	Case of the missing cutthroats	4-6	OK?	Cousins solve ecological mystery - why fish are disappearing from stream. Lots of detail about miraculous water bugs and fish as if nature developed them - I think from child with translate this to Hashem. Innocent negiah between cousins.
	George, Jean Craighead	Julie's Wolf Pack	3-5	OK?	Continuation of Julie of the Wolves - fascinating description on "society" of wolf pack. A lot of talk of mating but no description. End of story - kiss between humans - appears they are married already.
	George, Jean Craighead	My Side of the Mountain	6-8	OK	A boy runs away (with his parents permission) to live in the wilderness. Very detailed descriptions of hunting, etc. Mention of holidays, no religion.
	George, Jean Craighead	On the Far Side of the Mountain	6-8	OK?	Continuation of My Side of the Mountain. Boy's younger sister comes to live with him and tries to catch a bird of prey. Very minor meeting with a girl who is "pretty" - he blushes (p 120-121) - non essential to story. Mention of JC as an historical figure.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	George, Jean Craighead	The Cats of Roxville Station	5-7	OK??	An abused cat befriends an orphan who lives with a foster mother who doesn't understand his love for animals. Extremely detailed cat info (to the point of tedium). Mention of Halloween cat - no religion. Minor language: drat, weird. Exterminator kills cats with poison. Mating leading to pregnancy. Mentions Egyptians treated cats as goddesses in 2000 BC. Mention of watching animal shows on TV
	George, Jean Craighead	The Firebug Connection	4-6	OK	Children of scientists figure out why fire bugs aren't maturing. Vague references to evolution and nature solving its own problems - not blatant at all.
	George, Jean Craighead	The Missing Gator of Gumbo Limbo	4-6	OK?	girl and mom live in wilderness to escape abusive father. Girl protects alligator who is important to ecology. References to abuse but not detailed.
	George, Jean Craighead	There's an owl in the Shower	4-6	OK	A lumberman loses his job because of spotted owl preservationists. His angry son inadvertently rescues one. Very pro-conservation.
	George, Jean Craighead	Vulpes, The Red Fox	3-6	OK	Story of fox's life in the wild
new	Gibbs, Stuart	Space Case	5-8	OK??	Boy living on moon colony solves murder mystery. Language:screws, sucks, butt, feces, urine, poop, pee, heck,dang it sucker, darn it, jerkwad, dork. Notes that computers talk in sexy female voice, and this is uncomfortable for a 12 year old boy when his pants are around his ankles (in the bathroom). Boy plays virtual reality game in which avatars representing female players, look like professional swimsuit models. Boy mentions that he hacks into security cameras to watch attractive girl getting ready for shower. Description of man's tattoos. Adult asks for boy's help to find murderer, and tells him to keep it a secret from his parents. When boy becomes friends with a girl, another girl says "you like her! Are you gonna kiss her?" Girl figures out that boy has crush on her, but she doesn't like him. Passing mention of cavemen 17,000 years ago. Non-romantic negiah. Children go against rules and put their life in danger. Annoyed man tells another man "why don't you remove that stick from your rear end".
	Giblin, James Cross	The Boy Who Saved Cleveland	3-5	OK?	Historical fiction. Boy supplies town with food when inhabitants are struck with illness. Passing mention of sister complaining that there are no boys to dance with, and by the time any come she'll be an old maid.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Eleven	5-6	OK	Learning disabled orphaned boy tries to solve mystery of his past with help of a new friend.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Lazy Lions, Lucky Lambs	2-3	OK	Boy with learning problems writes a story.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Lily's Crossing	4-6	OK??	Girl comes to grips with father being away at war and friend's brother being lost in action. Sneaks into movie without paying, lies, angry with grandma but eventually appreciates her. 2 pages of church services, holy water, rosary beads. Innocent non-romantic negiah.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Love From the Fifth Grade Celebrity	4-5	OK?	brief ref. to "talk about boys"
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Maggie's Door	6-8	OK??	An Irish girl struggles to emigrate during the potato famine and reach her sister in America. Subtle and gentle love story, which is more implied than stated outright, between the girl and her sister's husband's brother. She has memories of him asking her to dance at their sibling's wedding but not described in any detail. When he suffers a bad burn she nurses him to health. 2 instances of affectionate but not overtly romantic negiah - when she sees him crying she puts her hand on top of his to comfort him, when they arrive in America he takes her hand in his and points at the house.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Pictures of Hollis Woods	5-8	OK?	Touching story of foster child who finally finds family. Beautifully done. Some non-romantic negiah between girl and prospective "brother". X-mas - decorations, gifts, but no religion. Cover photo of girl from waist down, wearing shorts.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Polk Street School #9 Purple Climbing Days	2-3	OK?	Boy overcomes fear of climbing a rope. Old female Gym teacher in shorts - description and illustration
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Say "Cheese"	2-3	OK	Lonely girl looks for best friend. Drawings of young girls in shorts and sleeveless.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Snaggle Doodles	2-3	OK	Kids work on inventions.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	The Candy Corn Contest	2-3	OK?	A boy deals with 2 problems. First, he snuck 3 candy corns from the "guess how many" bottle on his teacher's desk and feels guilty, and secondly, he is having a slumber party and no one wants to come because a friend who wets his bed is coming. Some bad middos especially regarding the boy who smells, but the situation is eventually resolved.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	The Gift Of The Pirate Queen	6-8	OK??	A girl tries to deal with the death of her mother and her sister's diabetes with the help of an old woman from Ireland. Although possibly intended for younger children, this story is somewhat heavy for them. Story centers around xmas and the fact that she accidentally broke her teacher's xmas bell. Lots of xmas but no religion. Middos between classmates. Brief mention of watching TV. Language-freak, brat.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	The Powder Puff Puzzle	2-3	OK	Girl finds her cat using logic

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	The Trial of the Screaming Teenager	3-5	OK?	Girl finds teenager's lost necklace. Lots of beach scenes but totally innocent. Illustrations of teenagers in bathing suits on co-ed beach.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	The Winter Worm Business	3-5	OK?	Boy learns to deal with cousin he doesn't like. Bad middos but ends OK.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Wild Girl	5-7	OK?	A Brazilian girl joins her father and brother in America where her father runs a stable for race horses. She is challenged by the fact that her family treats her as the little girl she was when they last saw her, and by the overwhelming feelings of missing of her mother who died. The girl doesn't know English so she has an accident in school because she can't ask for the bathroom. She is so embarrassed she runs away from school. One word xmas.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Willow Run	5-7	OK?	Companion to Lily's Crossing. During WWII, family moves to factory town to help in war effort, and brother is reported MIA. Recurring memories of brother going out with his girlfriend, thinking she's pretty. One minor language ("Hitler is a jerk"). Passing mention of Mass and picture of St. Francis.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Women of our Time: Laura Ingalls Wilder	3-4	OK?	Life of Laura Ingalls. Kiss goodnight when Almonzo asks her to marry him - p. 34.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Zigzag Zoom	2-3	OK	Young girl who is part of an afterschool program (coed, but completely innocent) is afraid to run in a race since she is a slow runner.
	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Fourth Grade Celebrity	3-5	OK?	Very mild language. Last page - decides obnoxious boy is "most good looking in class".
	Gifford, Peggy	Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Practicing the Piano	3-5	OK?	An unusual book written in very short humorous chapters about a girl who gets stage fright at her piano recital. Brief, unimportant sentence about a rock star performing in the same place as the recital (p. 4). Refers to another book in the series "Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little". Brief unimportant mention of a bird living 60 million years ago (p. 131).
	Gifford, Peggy	Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little	3-5	OK?	Girl keeps pushing off reading a book for summer homework. Book illustrated with photographs supposedly taken by the girl's twin brother some of which are slightly inappropriate-e.g. photo of mom's rear end as she works in garden. A six year old boy has a crush on an older girl that he doesn't really understand. It manifests itself in that he will do whatever she tells him to, no matter how difficult (p18-19). Unimportant mention of TV. Preview of "Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank You Notes". A girl whose father works in the movie industry invites her to come to Hollywood for a big New Year's Eve bash with the stars. Many mentions of xmas presents. Description of strapless evening gown that her mother made her return, plus a rear view photo of her wearing it.
	Gilson, Jamie	Bug in a Rug	3-5	OK?	A boy gets a pair of pants that don't fit from eccentric relatives, and comes to appreciate them. Lots of juvenile incidents of pants falling down and everyone seeing his underwear. Silly.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Gipson, Fred	Old Yeller	5-8	OK?	Newbery Honor book. A pioneer boy adopts a stray dog who saves his family's lives - then he is forced to kill the dog. Very detailed descriptions about hunting and killing animals. Boy "sort of likes" an 11 year old girl who has "right pretty eyes" and made him feel "sort of jumpy". Dog fathers pups with a "bitch".
	Girion, Barbara	Indian Summer	3-5	OK?	A white girl lives on an Indian reservation for a month and experiences reverse discrimination until all come to an understanding of each other. Minor references to boy/girl, thinking boy is cute. One tame boy/girl party. Some non-romantic negiah.
	Go Girl	Go Girl - Back to School	3-5	OK??	A girl looks forward to school beginning but it doesn't turn out the way she expects: her teacher is mean and she is separated from some of her best friends; eventually comes to terms with it. One sentence about kids pretending they are on TV. A few minor displays of bad middos. Minor language: weird, dumb, stupid. Others in series are not OK.
	Go Girl	Go Girl - The Secret Club	3-5	OK??	A girl moves and makes new friends. A lot of fairly benign talk of celebrities and singers. Girl mentions that she is in a bad mood a lot because her parents are "splitting up". Language: stupid.
	Goldin, Barbara Diamond	Red Means Good Fortune - A Story of San Francisco's Chinatown	4-6	OK?	Once Upon America Series. A Chinese boy helps rescue a Chinese slave girl. A few brief mentions of Chinese kitchen god.
	Goodman, Allegra	The Other Side of the Island	5-8	OK?	After flood wipes out most dry land on Earth, remaining islands are governed by very controlling government. Girl and her non-conformist parents try to start rebellion. After rescuing mother, father kisses mother on lips.
	Goodman, Susan E.	Brave Kids - Cora Frear	2-3	OK	A pioneer girl who assists her doctor father, survives a prairie fire. Scary
	Gordon, Roderick and Brian Williams	Tunnels	7-8	OK?	Boys discover hidden underground society. Mild language. Passing mention of boys putting dirty lyrics into religious songs - not detailed. Later books more problematic.
	Gormley, Beatrice	More Fifth Grade Magic	4-5	OK	A girl tries to convince mother not to send her to modeling camp by using magic. Mention of parents' divorce.
	Govan, Christine	The Curious Clubhouse	4-6	OK??	Children's parents keep getting upset at their messy rooms and their collections so children find a house that they think is abandoned and turn it into a clubhouse. A lot of telling stories and halftruths to keep clubhouse a secret from their parents. Kids collect movie magazines. Brief mentions of TV and movies. Child's nickname is "Awful". One word Halloween. Parents joke that soon son will be interested in girls and then will wash his neck and ears without being told. Language- crud/cruddy (frequent), weird, stupid, shuddup, stinking, bloomin', dumb.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Grabenstein, Chris	The Hanging Hill	6-8	OK??	Sequel to "The Crossroads". Boy who sees ghosts, prevents magician from raising demons to life. Magic, "gods". Language: hell/damn (formal meanings). Friends with girl - one hug at end when he saves her life. Somewhat scary/gory.
	Graff, Lisa	The Thing About Georgie	4-6	OK?	A 4th grade boy who is a dwarf (medically) learns about friends, family, and himself. Boy wishes pretty 7th grader would pay attention to him - reasonably innocent. Description of X-mas services; no religion.
	Graff, Lisa	Umbrella Summer	3-6	OK?	A girl and her family deal with brother's death. Has 2 friends who are boys - totally innocent. Very well done - could be very helpful for child dealing with loss. Language: pee, butt
	Grahame, Kenneth	The Wind in the Willows	6+	OK??	Animals unsuccessfully try to keep their wealthy friend toad out of trouble. Eventually he learns to be less self-centered, but until that point he is an example of very poor midos. Language: "silly ass" (a few times). Mice sing Xmas carol – written out – mentions story of Joseph but not very clear (p. 91-92 chap 5), A confusing chapter about an "august presence" and feeling "awe" - seems like they had a religious experience with some animal-like creature but very vague (chap 7 p 126-127 and 132).
	Gratz, Alan	The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings	5-8	OK??	Nine generations of baseball-playing boys and girls, each confronting the conflicts of the particular era. Very well written. In first generation, boy's (non-frum) Jewish family converts to Christianity out of convenience; subsequent generations do not realize they are Jewish. One boy is teased that he does not know who his father is. Language: hell/damn, 2-3 times; dork, screw up. In V-day celebration, man kisses girl. Grandfather advises boy to attack bully with a knee to the groin. References to Star Wars movies.
	Gray, Kes	Nelly The Monster Sitter	3-6	OK??	A girl has adventures while babysitting for monsters. A lot of sibling rivalry between twins- unusually bad midos. A lot of incidental TV watching. Language-freaks, weirdo, scummy, creeps. In back of book ad for book called "Sir Farts A lot".
	Greenburg, Dan	The Zack Files - Never Trust a Cat who Wears Earrings	2-3	OK?	Strange story of boy who is scratched by a cat in a museum and begins to turn into ancient Egyptian cat goddess. Lots of info about Egyptian religion.
	Greenburg, J. C.	Andrew Lost #1 On The Dog	2-4	OK	Boy and girl and robot accidentally shrink and experience scientific adventures as they try to get back to original size. Very detailed descriptions of inside of nose including yucky parts. Goal of this series is to get kids interested in science.
	Greenburg, J. C.	Andrew Lost #2 In the Bathroom	2-4	OK	Shrunken children are on a dog that is getting a bath. Scientific descriptions of bubbles, sponges, ants.
	Greenwald, Sheila	Alvin Webster's Surefire Plan for Success (and how it failed)	3-5	OK	A smart boy learns his priorities are wrong from an average student he is tutoring.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Greenwald, Sheila	Give us a Great Big Smile, Rosy Cole	2-3	OK?	Girl with no musical talent is subject of book by uncle. Drawings of girl in leotard. Adults hold hands: p 58
	Greenwald, Sheila	Rosy Cole Discovers America	2-3	OK?	A girl (who seems Jewish, though never stated explicitly) attends a private school with rich WASP girls. Comes to grips with her own poor immigrant heritage. Lots of talk of debutante balls and high society.
	Greenwald, Sheila	The Secret Museum	3-5	OK	Girls turn abandoned playhouse into a museum. Rationalize that it's OK to use someone else's property to make money. Mother forces them to ask permission from owners.
	Greer, Gery and Bob Ruddick	Let Me Off This Spaceship	2-3	OK	Boys are accidentally brought into an alien spaceship and make a lot of funny and silly trouble so the commander will decide he is fed up with them and will allow them to return to Earth. Language: twerp
	Gregory, Kristiana	The Stowaway	4-6	OK?	Historical fiction. Boy accidentally stows away on pirate ship. Violence
	Griffin, Adele	Witch Twins	3-5	OK??	Witch twins try to ruin divorced father's wedding. Learn lesson in end.
	Grimes, Lee	Fortune Cookie Castle	3-5	OK?	boy and girl visit enchanted castle. Forced to help wizard find stolen crystal ball. Minor sidestory of romance between knight and princess. Minor negiah.
	Gripe, Maria	The Glassblower's Children	4-6	OK	Strange story of 2 children who are kidnapped by an odd wealthy couple and are saved by a witch. Somewhat scary, pretty pointless.
new	Grove, S. E.	The Glass Sentence (Book 1 in The Mapmakers Trilogy)	7-10	OK??	World in which a 'disruption' has caused different areas to be broken into different historical Ages. Young girl tries to find her uncle and solve mystery of the Disruption. Befriends boy who is older than her; in this book the relationship is not romantic, but at end he puts his arm around her shoulder. Believe in dispassionate Fates that control the destiny of humans. Language: damn (twice) . Friendly non-romantic negiah. Boy steals and lies for survival; girl is upset at first, then learns to lie when necessary. Some violence. Scary description of faceless people who go around screaming because they have lost their memories. Next in series has some flirting.
	Gruelle, Johnny	The Magical Land of Noom	2-4	OK	An old fashioned style fantasy about children who fly in a soapbox to the moon and have adventures.
	Guest, Elissa Haden	Iris and Walter and the Birthday Party	1-2	OK	A boy's horse gives birth to a foal at his birthday party.
	Haas, Dorothy	Burton's Zoom, Zoom Va-room Machine	3-5	OK	Absent-minded boy inventor invents a flying skateboard and comes to appreciate teacher.
	Haas, Dorothy	Peanut Butter & Jelly Forever #2	2-3	OK?	1 sentence about liking boys. Illustration of girl in bathrobe and rock star on wall

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Haas, Dorothy	The Bears Upstairs	3-5	OK?	a girl befriends bears trying to escape captivity and helps them escape to another planet. Side-story of mother who spends time with man daughter hates - afraid she will marry him. Mom explains it's just platonic because grownups need friends too.
	Haas, Dorothy	Tink in a Tangle	3-5	OK??	a girl keeps getting into scrapes until she learns to think things through. Mom a beautician; a lot of that culture mentioned. Girl wants boy to like her but he never does; relatively innocent.
	Haas, Jessie	Beware the Mare	2-4	OK	Cute story. A girl figures out why her pony has such a scary name.
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Among the Barons	6-8	OK??	Continuation of Among the Hidden. A third child meets his alias' real family and tries to sort out friends and enemies. P. 52 - boy tells about finding servants kissing in a garage - easy to cross out.
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Among the Brave	6-8	OK?	Continuation of Among the Hidden. Third children infiltrate the population police. Boy accuses brother of sneaking out to visit his girlfriend. P. 24 - boy marvels at pretty woman who has "curves" - he blushes. Language- idiot, stupid, dumb, shut up.
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Among the Hidden	6-8	OK?	Series is set in future where having more than 2 children is punishable by death. A boy who is a third child meets a girl who is one also and has to decide if he wants to remain hidden or try to live a normal life. Lots of vague mentions of child being unexpected, about government forcing abortions, about doctors "fixing it" so won't have more children, mother wanted to name kids Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John but not explained. Page 77- girl tells boy bra is an uncomfortable item of clothing- he blushes and says his brothers talk about bras "when they are being dirty". Non-romantic negiah. This series may raise questions about birth control in child's mind. Non romantic negiah. Middos among siblings.TV, computers, chat room,. Language- idiot, stupid, drat, heck, moron
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Among the Imposters	6-8	OK??	Continuation of Among the Hidden. Boy gets a new identity and goes to boarding school. Joins a group of other third children (boys and girls) and uncovers and infiltrator. One sentence about boys sitting in class drawing pictures of naked girls instead of taking notes p54 - can be torn out. Middos among classmates. Language- stupid, dumb, freak out, moron
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Because of Anya	5-7	OK?	A young girl with alopecia areata - a non-dangerous disease that causes hair to fall out - copes by wearing a wig to school. Class speculates that she has cancer and is dying. May be frightening for a very sensitive child. Her parents discuss if should or shouldn't have another baby.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Dexter the Tough	3-5	OK?	Illness of parent: A boy stays with his grandmother while his father is having chemo treatments. Deals with anger by hurting another child but later regrets it. Teacher helps him come to grips with feelings by encouraging him to write about it. May be frightening for a child who hasn't experienced parent's serious illness, but excellent for one who has.
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Running Out of Time	6-8	OK?	A girl grows up in an historical restoration village and thinks it's reality, until she needs to go out into the real world to save her sister's life. Very original plot. A few minor mentions of older sister being in love. Girl changes into modern jeans and comments about how much freer she feels. 2 drunk boys accost the girl.
	Hall, Lynn	Wild Mustang (orig. title: A Horse Called Dragon)	4-6	OK	Written from horse's point of view. Wild horse is captured and sold
	Hallowel, Tommy	Alden All Stars - Last Chance Quarterback	4-6	OK	Sports book of Matt Christopher type
	Hallquist, Britt G.	Bettina's Secret	3-5	OK	a girl is lonely in hospital with broken leg until a mysterious nurse visits her at night.
	Hamilton, Richard	Cal and the Amazing Anti-Gravity Machine	3-5	OK??	Boy helps eccentric neighbor with inventions and learns that gravity is important. Strange story, somewhat humorous. Boy's mom upset with noisy neighbor early in the morning - calls him a "horrible, inconsiderate, idiotic, old caveman". Minor language: idiotic, stupid.
	Hamilton, Virginia	The House of Dies Drear	6-8	OK	Black family moves into house used for underground railroad. Discussion of prejudice
	Hardinge, Frances	The Lost Conspiracy	6-9	OK??	Fantasy. Girl tries to save her sister, who is rumored to be a prophetess. Legendary story of "husband" and "wife" volcanoes, wife is "with" another volcano. Ancestor and nature worship. Friendly non-romantic negiah. Language: hell, damn. Some violence. Passing mention of boy 'in love' with older woman - used as comic relief as he tries to offend people so that they will harm him, so that he can take revenge and join her group of avengers.
	Harper, Charise Mericle	Fashion Kitty is the Fashion Queen	3-5	OK??	Girl cat superhero confronts a girl cat who tries to dictate how others dress. One girl is so desperate to be in fashion she steals money from mother's wallet to buy a hat - the superhero confronts her and explains why she is wrong. Parental discretion needed - although there is a lot focus on fashion, it has moral and may be helpful for reluctant readers
	Harper, Suzanne	The Unseen World of Poppy Malone: A Gust of Ghosts	3-5	OK?	Siblings find ghosts and accidentally invite them to their home. Minor language: darn (once). Drawing of woman in spaghetti-strap shirt in corner of front cover.
	Harrell, Beatrice O.	Long Walker's Journey	4-6	OK?	Historical fiction; Indians forced walk to Indian Territory, death & sickness, talk of Christian religion vs. Indian religion (most kids will probably skip it)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Ice Diamond #10	2-3	OK?	Note on Series- young princesses form a group to rescue animals in trouble. Often use magical jewels. Love using "ninja moves" so they can sneak around and no one will see them. A lot of sneaking out without permission, but always for good cause. Many illustrations of very young princesses wearing sleeveless gowns- not provocative. Many mentions of coed balls and banquets, but very innocent. In this book Young princesses stop construction in a wildlife zone and rescue a snow leopard cub. Illustrations of princesses wearing leggings and t shirts. Language- creepy.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Lost Gold #7	2-3	OK?	Young princesses save a baby monkey and stop treasure hunters from cutting down trees in the rainforest. Illustrations of princesses in sleeveless gowns and tshirts and leggings.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Magic Rings #6	2-3	OK??	Young princesses take over their older sisters' club to rescue animals in danger. Main setting of the story is a dance festival- very juvenile mixed dancing, suggestion that princes and princesses create a dance and hold hands as they dance together (they refuse), juvenile performance of dances before mixed audience. Girls make up a "hip hop" dance. Mentions of jazz, boogie, pop music, etc. Cartoonish illustrations of princesses in sleeveless gowns.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Moonlight Mystery #3	2-3	OK?	Princesses locate stolen lion cubs. As other books in this series black and white illustrations of young girls wearing sleeveless. Princesses parents want her to be nice to a visiting prince. She finds him "annoying" though eventually thinks he is "nice". No romance at all.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Rainbow Opal #11	2-3	OK?	Princesses use a magic jewel to heal a sick koala cub. TV.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Secret Promise #1	2-3	OK??	First book in series. Princesses form a club to rescue animals in danger. Illustrations of them wearing sleeveless gowns. Princesses arrive at a ball where they will be presented to the royalty. At ball prince asks princess to dance. She says no. Princes challenge princesses to a race. Relatively innocent. Change from gowns to pants because they are easier to climb in.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Shimmering Stone #8	2-3	OK?	Young Princesses rescue tiger cubs whose mother was wounded. One sentence mention that groom danced with bride at wedding.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Silver Locket #9	2-3	OK?	Young princesses rescue a kidnapped dog and capture a burglar. One sentence mention of dancing at a ball- no description.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Snow Jewel #5	2-3	OK?	Princesses help find an escaped kitten. This takes place during the "winter holidays" which are never mentioned by name. Table is decorated with sprigs of holly. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was a baby.
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Stolen Crystals # 10	2-3	OK?	Young Princesses prevent the theft of magical crystals and preserve the panda's homes. Illustrations of princesses in sleeveless dresses.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Harrison, Paula	The Rescue Princesses- The Wishing Pearl #2	2-3	OK??	Princesses rescue an injured dolphin and find a treasure. One word mention of a ball, brief mention that kings and queens dance after dinner. Girls sneak away so they don't have to help. Brief mention that they are friendly with boys (no romance). Black and white cartoonish illustrations of young girl in nonprovocative bathing suit and sleeveless gowns..
	Hart, Allison	Rescue - a Police Story	3-4	OK	real-life police action; threats, minor violence
	Hart, Sharon M.	Animal Rescue Farm - Animal Orphans	2-4	OK?	Children help grandparents care for wild animals. Occasional mention of nature as its own force but very minor and will probably go over children's heads.
	Haven, Paul	The Seven Keys of Balabad	4-7	OK??	American boy whose father is assigned as reporter in poor Arab country. With 2 friends, a wealthy Arab and a beautiful girl, they disobey parents and put themselves in danger, to save national treasure from dishonest archaeologist. Passing mentions of boys noticing girl's looks, perfume, non-romantic hand on arm - but seem to be just friends.
	Haven, Paul	Two Hot Dogs With Everything	3-6	OK??	Boy brings good luck to baseball team. Juvenile language: butt, jerk, hell. Passing mention of older brother's date.
	Hawes, Louise	Tales from the Cafeteria - Spaghetti & Spooks	4-6	OK??	Ghosts appear at school. Children help them to relive original Thanksgiving. Boy/girl innuendos between ghosts & children. Some chutzpah - refer to principal as "gabby Greg" because he likes to talk a lot. Even teachers make fun of him.
	Haydon, Elizabeth	The Floating Island	6-8	OK?	A boy helps avert evil that is attacking an inn owned by a kind couple. Lots of magic. Strange story of how the Creator made the world. Language: freak, stupid, pig headed, fanny, heck, brat. Very minor crush boy has on cook - calls her "kitchen goddess"
	Haywood, Carolyn	B is for Betsy	2-3	OK	Betsy starts first grade. Mention that Thanksgiving is when pilgrims thanked G-d.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Betsy and Billy	2-3	OK??	Betsy starts second grade. Dressing up for Halloween party in school. Description of Santa Claus collecting money in a kettle and asking children what they want for X-mas in a store. P. 57 (Chapter 5) - 6 lines of Silent Night - talks about Virgin Mother and child. Can cross it out.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Betsy and the Boys	2-3	OK??	Betsy wants to join the boys football team, but when she does she quickly changes to new interests. One whole chapter about x-mas party and play and one chapter about giving valentines, but no heavy religion in either.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Betsy and the Circus	2-3	OK?	Betsy befriends a circus child and learns it's OK to have more than 1 friend. Easter eggs but no religious discussion
	Haywood, Carolyn	Betsy's Little Star	2-3	OK?	Star wants to go to kindergarten and can't wait till she's old enough. Description of X-mas pageant but not overdone.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Danny's Green thumb	2-3	OK	Children learn about gardening and hard work and make a stand to sell home-grown vegetables.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Haywood, Carolyn	Eddie's Friend Boodles	2-4	OK	Boys try to train dog to do circus tricks. Discuss the difference between a lie and a "funzie" that is a made up story that is OK to tell since both parties know it's not true.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Eddie's Happenings	2-4	OK	Eddie befriends a boy who likes to make up stories. Helps him realize he shouldn't lie. Minor name calling. Holiday shopping but no religious discussion.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Eddie's Valuable Property	2-4	OK	Eddie moves and has adventures with his new friends.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Happy birthday from Carolyn Haywood	2-3	OK?	Each chapter about a different child's birthday. One is Easter but not detailed. One is sad when boy's dog dies on his birthday.
	Haywood, Carolyn	Hello Star	2-3	OK?	Star goes to grandparents' farm and befriends swans and raccoons. Mention of reason named Star - because born on Xmas
	Heide, Florence P.	Banana Twist	4-6	OK?	Strange story about a boy who wants to get accepted to a boarding school where he will be allowed to nosh, since his parents don't let him. Nothing really bad - it's mostly silly but explicitly states that he wants to get away from his parents' rules. He lies a lot - but of the tall tale variety.
	Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne	Brillstone Break-in	3-5	OK	Boy and girl solve mystery of a robbery
	Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne	Fear at Brillstone	3-5	OK?	Boy and girl uncover mystery of who is robbing a fancy store. Mention of her being his girlfriend but nothing romantic.
	Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne	Growing Anyway up	5-7	OK?	very strange coming of age story. Girl does strange rituals, mom dates and remarries
	Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne	Mystery of the Mummy's Mask	3-5	OK	Children solve mystery of valuable mummy's mask and uncover a smuggling ring.
	Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne	Mystery at Southport Cinema	3-5	OK?	girl dresses up as teenager with slacks, heels, jewelry and makeup
	Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne	Mystery of the Lonely Lantern	3-6	OK?	mention of Halloween but no religious discussion
	Helgerson, Joseph	Horns and Wrinkles	5-7	OK	Strange fantasy about a small town where trolls cause havoc and fairies help humans. Lots of good guy vs. bad guy violence. Bully gets what he deserves. Genuine acts of kindness reverse bad spells.
	Henry, Marguerite	Brown Sunshine of Sawdust Valley	3-5	OK?	Girl gets horse who unexpectedly gives birth to mule, who is her favorite pet. Some speculation as to who 'father' was. Could cause some confusion - probably would be overlooked.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Henry, Marguerite	King of the Wind	4-6	OK??	The story of a horse from Morocco that ends up siring prize winning horses in England. Biggest issue is the dwelling on horses mating and which horse is the father of a colt. The process is not described but the idea might get kids thinking e.g. p152-155 and pg 164. Some minor Muslim religion, mention of Allah is great etc. Unsourced quote from the Bible-p112. Name of earl's estate is called GogMagog- no explanation. Detailed description of mistreatment of animals and of a poor boy.
	Henry, Marguerite	Stormy, Misty's Foal	4-6	OK?	Children raise a famous movie star pony on island devastated by storm. 1 hymn about J--- calling him savior - most kids will skip it. Horse birth announcement said - "baby out of Misty" (mother) "by Wings" (father)
	Herman, Charlotte	My Chocolate Year	5-7	OK?	A Jewish American girl during WWII awaits her cousin who survived the Holocaust, while trying to win a cooking contest in her public school. Jewish content relatively accurate but includes a clear portrayal of chillul shabbos (typical for that era). Nazi crimes mentioned but not super detailed. a few mentions of movies and idolizing movie stars. Aunt gets ready for a date, asks if dress makes her "tush" stick out". Parents tell kids they met at a party. Description of a holiday party at school where sing jingle bells. At wedding girl dances with boy cousin.
	Herman, Charlotte	The House on Walenska Street	2-4	OK	Jewish family in pre-war Poland. Nicely done.
	Herman, Gail	Apollo 13 Space Race	2-3	OK	Non-fiction. Describes space race between Russia and US. A bit scary - describes Apollo 13 difficult and dangerous mission.
	Herman, Gail	Disney Fairies - Fira and the Full Moon	2-3	OK?	A fairy has to keep tabs on mischievous triplet fairies while at the same time organizing replacements for sick lightening bugs. Illustrations of fairies in sleeveless dresses.
	Herman, Spring	Seeing Lessons	3-6	OK?	Based on true story of first American school for the blind. Students read from Gospel of Saint John - no quotation of verse. Quote from J--- "Blessed are those who have not seen, yet they have believed. Newborn brother dies - sad. Language: damnable.
	Hesse, Karen	Just Juice	4-6	OK?	a dyslexic girl tries to help family save their house from being taken by government because didn't pay taxes. Helps mom deliver baby and saves her life by figuring out sugar monitor. Graphic description of childbirth. Beautiful story. Parents need to decide if this is appropriate for their child, especially boys.
	Hesse, Karen	Sable	2-4	OK	a girl tries to get dog to behave so parents will let her keep it
	Hicks, Clifford	Alvin Fernald, TV Reporter	3-5	OK?	brief mention of boy/girl

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Higgins, F.E.	The Bone Magician	6-8	OK??	Boy in low-class, turn-of-century town, tries to solve mystery of his uncle's death and father's disappearance; meets mysterious characters. Somewhat creepy. Language: damned (p. 102)
	Higgins, F.E.	The Eyeball Collector	6-9	OK??	Boy plans to avenge death of father; in end realizes he would be lowering himself to level of plotters. Creepy/gory at times. Language: hell (the place) - p. 95, 176, 211.
	Hildick, E.W.	The Case of the Absent Author	4-6	OK??	Children help locate a missing author of mystery novels. Mention of turning a book into a movie, TV series, computer games. Lady kisses boy on the cheek to thank him. A lot of Edgar Allan Poe- including a few nonobjectionable excerpts from his writings. Brief mention of magazines including TV Guide and Playboy (no description of contents) Language- jerk, jackass, darned right (twice), dumb, stupid, nature freak, weird.
	Hildick, E.W.	The Case of the Fantastic Footprints	4-6	OK??	Children figure out who is vandalizing property with footprints. TV. Language- dummy/ dumb, stupid, jerk, creep, weird, darned (pg.53, 85), butt, freakish, psycho
	Hildick, E.W.	The Case of the Slingshot Sniper	4-6	OK??	Children figure out who keeps breaking the windows in an old lady's house. Lady hires a teenager who claims to be psychic to figure out if it is spirits doing the damage. Mention priest can exorcise evil spirits. Brief mention of horror movie shown on Halloween. Man flatters a woman to get her to go along with his criminal plot. She thinks he is "wonderful",. Cartoonish picture of woman in low cut peasant dress. Language- dumb/dummy, jerk(frequent), weird, stupid
	Hildick, E.W.	The Case of the Wandering Weathervanes	4-6	OK	Kids solve mystery of who is stealing weather vanes and uncover a secret spy plot.
	Hildick, E.W.	The Case of the Weeping Witch- A McGurk Fantasy	4-6	OK??	Children go back in time and help save a girl who is accused of being a witch. Boy helps save her from drowning, eventually marry. One word TV, Preacher reads from Bible "thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" Language- jerk, weird, creepy, all hell broke loose (pg. 60), darn/ darned (pg. 23, 88, 142), dummy
	Hildick, E.W.	The Case of the Wiggling Wig	4-6	OK??	Children try to solve the mystery of a man disguised as an invalid woman. Brief mention of movies. TV, one word church, boy pretends phone number on his cast belongs to his girlfriend (he doesn't have one). Language- dummy, jerk, brat, creeps, darned (pg.24), weird, freak
	Hildick, E.W.	The Purloined Corn Popper	5-7	OK?	Children locate person who stole money with help of a detective librarian. Minor language - jerk. P. 112- refer to old man as "old fossil" - can be easily crossed out.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Hildick, E.W.	The Serial Sneak Thief	5-7	OK??	Kids and librarian capture a thief in the library. One word mention of Halloween, Easter, Yuletide, church- no religion. BOY's parents are divorcing and having a custody fight over him. Lady was a model and then became a TV star. Movie rights to a novel were bought. ONE page excerpt from book Oliver Twist and mention that it is also a movie. Language- jerk, dumb, brat, heck (twice), jerk, creep, weird, fink, darned (once), shut up
	Hill, Kay	Glooscap Stories	4+	OK??	Native American legends. Many have a moral message. Some are creation stories (which obviously conflict with Torah version). Mention of spirits, relationship with nature, and other Indian beliefs. May need parental guidance. Pg.100- man is advised that if the girl he wants to marry won't come he should give her a kiss or two to persuade her. Pg. 112-man can ask for anything and he asks for the love of many women. Language-stupid.
	Hiller, B.B.	Rent a Third Grader	2-4	OK	A class tries to save a police horse from being made into pet food
	Hilmmelman, John	Simpson's Snail Sings	1-2	OK	Short stories about a snail. One includes a gypsy telling his fortune - most kids won't get it.
	Hilton, James	Goodbye Mr. Chips	9+	OK	An elderly British school teacher remembers his younger days.
	Hinkle, Thomas C.	Shag	3-5	OK	A dog is misunderstood by owner. Mistreated by humans. At end people come to appreciate it.
	Hinton, SE	The Puppy Sister	2-4	OK	boy innocently kisses adopted sister
	Hldick, E.W.	The Case of the Purloined Parrot	4-6	OK?	Children locate stolen missing animals and help apprehend animal thieves. Girl suggests that missing cat may have gone off to "pay visits to girl cats", but boy says that is not possible because he has been "fixed". One word xmas. Discussion about radio show. Language- shut up, jerks, dumb
	Ho, Mingfong	The Clay Marble	3-6	OK?	Girl and family trying to start new life from Cambodian refugee camp. Some female anatomy. Some mildly affectionate negiah between boy & girl planning to marry.
	Hoban, Lillian	A Bargain for Francis	1-2	OK??	A friend tricks Francis into buying her tea set. Francis tricks her back to teach her a lesson. Parents should decide if this is appropriate.
	Hoban, Lillian	Arthur's Back to School Day	2-3	OK	Arthur's lunch box gets stolen on first day of school.
	Hoban, Lillian	Arthur's pen pal	2-3	OK	Arthur discovers pen pal is really a girl. Very innocent.
	Hoban, Lillian and Phoebe	The Laziest Robot in Zone 1	2-3	OK	A robot learns his lesson - not to be lazy.
	Hobbs, Valerie	Sheep	3-5	OK	Sheep dog learns lessons of life as he tries to find his calling. Sweet.
	Hobbs, Will	Far North	5-7	OK?	Boys marooned in wilderness survive. Come to believe in spirits of animals and trees as taught to them by old man - kids may see as truth, probably not.
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #02 Our Hero	2-4	OK	Mouse is scared of playing dodge ball but she scores the winning shot

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #03 - Beach Babe	2-4	OK?	Mice spend summer at the beach. She considers her little brother a "pain" but when he runs away she comes to appreciate him. On cover, cartoonish illustration of mouse in loose 2 piece bathing suit. Other similar ones throughout the book; Not provocative.
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #07 Skater Girl	2-4	OK?	Mouse dreams of winning a gold medal as a figure skater, until she finds out how much work is involved. Very cartoonish illustration of animal children in skating outfits. Language: stupid.
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #08 Puppy Love	2-4	OK	Mouse wants a pet
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #12 Burns Rubber	2-4	OK?	Mouse wants to enter a soap box derby but doesn't know how to build a car, so she convinces her friend to build it for her (against the rules). In the end she does the right thing and lets him drive it in the race. End of book - 2 page illustration of mouse hold a trophy standing next to a female mouse in a bikini - not provocative but very noticeable. Language- stupid.
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #13 Cupcake Tycoon	2-4	OK??	Mouse tries to be the highest seller in a school fundraiser. As in other books in this series mean girl displays bad middos. Tongue in cheek joke about the "old testament" that most children will not notice. Watches TV, interviewed by TV news team. Brief parody of an old movie that children will only catch if they are familiar with the movie. Brief mention of online. A few unexplained references to Greek mythology. Language- stupid.
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #14 Mad Scientist	2-4	OK??	Mouse enters science fair and does a science project about amoebas- discovers one that likes cupcakes. Bully is very mean to her in teacher's presence- no reprimand. Brief parody of Star Trek- children unfamiliar with it won't get it. Language- dumb
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #16 Baby Mouse for President	2-4	OK?	Mouse runs for G. O. president and discovers she needs to be true to herself. A classmate has poor middos. Language (once each)- stupid, gross, blasted.
new	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #18 Happy Birthday	2-4	OK?	Mouse is disappointed when all of her friends and classmates go to a different birthday party that is much fancier. Brief amusing mention of a dance ball. Language- stupid, dumb.
new	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Baby Mouse #19 Bad Babysitter	2-4	OK?	Mouse tries to earn money by babysitting with awful, but funny results. Language- stupid
	Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm	Camp Baby Mouse #06	2-4	OK	Mouse goes to camp and tries to help her bunk win points, but she keeps making mistakes.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Holmes, Sara Lewis	Operation Yes	6-9	OK?	Class with children of military families, learn from unique teacher. Minor language. When teacher's shirt becomes untucked children see tattoo on her hip and belly button ring - mentioned in passing.
	Honeycut, Natalie	The all new Jonah Twist	2-4	OK?	parents divorce
	Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas	And Now, a Word From Our Sponsor: A Story of a Roaring Twenties Girl	3-5	OK?	Lots of old fashioned "women can do anything men can do" attitude, including voting and being a scientist. Wearing makeup is radical. Lots of talk of becoming a "flapper" and a "dancer". Children make up radio show where man grabs woman's arm, she pushes him away. Later actor "sweeps her into his arms".
	Hooker, Ruth & Carole Smith	The Kidnapping of Anna	2-4	OK	Kids discover that housekeeper is an impostor
	Hope, Laura Lee	The Bobbsey Twins Adventure In Washington	3-5	OK?	Children go on a school trip to Washington and help capture criminals and find missing china. Bully displays bad middos. Brief mention of TV and movies. Language- stupid
	Hope, Laura Lee	The Bobbsey Twins in the Great West	3-5	OK	Children go on a trip to a lumber farm and a cow ranch and help unite brothers with their estranged father.
	Hope, Laura Lee	The Bobbsey Twins Mystery at School	3-5	OK??	Children figure out who stole a valuable statue (of the Greek snake goddess) from the school museum. Boy has a fistfight with bully. Children think about how to "get back at him" for the mean tricks he plays on them.
	Hope, Laura Lee	The Bobbsey Twins Mystery on the Deep Blue Sea	3-5	OK??	Children travel to Jamaica and help capture criminals and locate a pirate treasure. Girl looks at snapshot of boy "dreamily" and says "he is very good looking"- nothing at all comes of it. Mixed swimming- text and black and white illustration- non provocative. One word mention of Halloween and of going to church- no religion.
	Hope, Laura Lee	The Bobbsey Twins on a Houseboat	3-5	OK??	Children help an abused, orphan boy locate his kind uncle. Description of his stepfather beating him- may be difficult for a sensitive child. Legend of the son of an Indian chief who didn't want to marry the girl that his father picked out and instead wanted to marry a girl he "was in love" with. In the end they ran away together. Boy gets into fist fights (described in detail) with bully who plays mean tricks. Siblings play good natured practical jokes on each other. One word mention of xmas and one sentence mention of going to church- no religion. Mixed swimming.
	Hope, Laura Lee	The Bobbsey Twins on Blueberry Island	3-5	OK?	Children help capture a team of pickpockets while on a camping trip with their family. One word xmas- no religion. Bully shows terrible middos. After being repeatedly provoked the "good" boy punches him in the chest. Language- creep (once)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Hope, Laura Lee	The Bobbsey Twins- The Secret at the Seashore	3-5	OK?	Children and their friends (boys and girls) help capture a bank robber and locate a shipwrecked man. Very innocent and juvenile descriptions and illustrations of mixed swimming. Black and white illustration of women in sleeveless fairy costume. Good natured practical jokes. Little girl calls her father "Daddy Pete" (Pete is his first name). Brief, unimportant mentions of Santa Claus and going to church on Sunday morning-no religion.
	Hopkinson, Deborah	Into The Firestorm	5-7	OK?	Historical fiction-1906-the great San Francisco earthquake and fire. An orphaned boy finds friends and responsibility in the aftermath of a natural disaster. A bit scary and sad. Mention of Shakespeare, book "Call of The Wild", opera "Carmen". Boy's father abandoned family because he couldn't handle poverty. Brief mention of discrimination against Chinese Americans.. non romantic negiah. Language-dang, stupid.
	Hornik, Laurie Miller	The Secrets of Ms. Snickle's Class	3-5	OK?	A silly book that kids love, about a teacher who transforms the classroom into her living room at night. Some minor bathroom humor. One sentence mention of Santa Claus and elves.
	Horowitz, Anthony	The Switch	4-7	OK?	Rich boy switches bodies with lower class boy. Discovers father is in charge of company that tests beauty products on homeless children, instead of animals.
	Horvath, Polly	Everything on a Waffle	3-6	OK??	Girl learns about life and relationships, as she waits for her parents to return from being lost at sea. Delightful. Language: hell (as in the actual place), crap, stinker, J-- used as exclamation.
	Horvath, Polly	Pepins and Their Problems	4-6	OK??	A story about a wacky family which encourages the readers to help think of crazy answers to silly problems. Somewhat tongue in cheek. The mother entertains male neighbor with a Portuguese scarf dance (not suggestive). Brief unimportant mention of actor Fred Astaire. Family does a "rain dance" in their underwear (silly). Nonreligious mention of xmas tree. Near-sighted neighbor falls in love with a barber shop pole and eventually with a real woman. Illustration of man helping girlfriend put on her coat. Grateful neighbor calls man a "saint". Children throw candy at the movie screen during the "yucky love part". Language-I'll be darned, freakish, drat, to heck with them, shut up, darn it.
	Hostetter, Joyce Mayer	Blue	7-9	OK?	Historical fiction. Girl's father goes to fight in WWII and she and brother are struck with polio; brother dies. Passing mention of JC; Lord's prayer. Minor language: pee. Although Comfort is a sequel, this works as a stand-alone book.
	Howarth, Lesley	Weather Eye	7+	OK??	As increasingly severe weather hits worldwide, girl tries to make a difference. Girl has Near-Death Experience (going through tunnel to tree in meadow), which leaves her with some extra-sensory powers; learns not to meddle in things she does not understand. Strange. Strong ecological message. Younger brother teases her about liking boy (whom she actually hates). Non-romantic kiss.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Howe, Deborah and James	Bunnacula	3-5	OK?	Cute story about a dog and cat who think bunny is a vampire. P 47 - dog remembers wife biting husband on neck; kids won't get it.
	Howe, Deborah and James	The Celery Stalks at Midnight	3-5	OK	Dog and cat try to save town from suspicious vampire bunny and end up getting into trouble. Cute.
	Howe, James	Nighty-Nightmare	3-5	OK	Horror spoof; not as scary as the title suggests
	Howe, James	Pinky and Rex and the School Play	2-3	OK	A boy overcomes his jealousy when his best friend (a girl) gets the part he wanted in the school play.
	Howe, Peter	Waggit's Tale	3-5	OK	Lost dog joins pack of ownerless dogs, then is adopted by new owner.
	Hughes, Dean	Nutty Knows All	4-6	OK??	A boy tries to produce a spectacular science fair project and ends up with problems. Minor language e.g. jerk. Some negiah when he is acting strangely, eg puts arms around girls and says he loves them. Later on when back to normal he is disgusted by his own behavior.
	Hunter, Erin	Warriors - The New Prophecy Book 1: Midnight	6-8	OK?	A group of cats go on a journey to save their clan. Story told by a cat. Quite a bit of cat "religion" - beliefs in higher cat beings and prophecies. Very fantasy-like.
	Hurd, Edith Thacher	Johnny Lion's Book	1-2	OK?	A little lion has to stay home and read while his parents go hunting. The story he is reading may be too scary for an imaginative child, though it turns out OK.
	Hurmence, Belinda	A Girl Called Boy	5-7	OK	Girl goes back in time and learns firsthand what it was like to be a slave. Use word "crapper" for outhouse.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Aldo Applesauce	2-4	OK?	Boy moves to new town and has trouble making friends. Lots of talk about why he is a vegetarian - may influence a sensitive child but will probably be considered strange by a typical child. Once sentence mention of teenage sister's interest in boys and rock music (P. 64). Discussion of girl being sad over parents' divorce.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Aldo Peanut Butter	2-4	OK?	Kids watch scary movie - lists details of movie; kids are frightened because of it. Buy lobsters to eat them, but end up setting them free.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Baseball Fever	3-5	OK	Boy who loves baseball, and father who loves chess and reading, eventually come to an understanding.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Birthday Surprises - 10 Great Stories To Unwrap	3-5	OK??	10 famous authors use same basic plot outline to write different stories. Creative idea. One story very sad - about a mother dying in the hospital. One story a man tells a paralyzed boy about first time he fell in love - made boy "blush inside". One minor mention of hanging out in mall to see a boy the girl "sort of likes".
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Class Clown	3-5	OK	A boy learns that being a good student is even more fulfilling than being a class clown.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	E is for Elisa	2-3	OK	Little sister wishes she was as big as brother. Learns can't fool tooth fairy and that if you jump off furniture you break your arm.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Elisa in the Middle	2-3	OK	Girl gets into all sorts of funny trouble. Learns to deal with new baby.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Ever Clever Elisa	2-3	OK?	Girl gets into lots of mischief - gives teacher mom's engagement ring as present, sneaks to see her birthday present, etc. Learns lesson but moral not as explicit as mischief.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Faraway Summer	3-5	OK??	Orphaned Jewish girl from Lower East Side goes to visit farm family on Fresh Air Fund program. Adjusts to differences in country life and learns to make friends with girls in family despite their differences. The only elements of religion that her family has retained are not eating pork and not eating milk with meat; she continues these at the farm. Running theme of Christian family & Jewish girl getting along & realizing are not so different.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Much Ado about Aldo	2-4	OK?	Passing mention of sister liking boys. Passing mention of dinosaurs. Boy becomes vegetarian out of concern for animals.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	New neighbors for Nora	3-5	OK?	illustration of mother checking brother's bottom for chicken pox- this age group may study it in detail.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Oh, no, Noah!	2-4	OK?	Boy tries to make friends in his neighborhood by succumbing to peer pressure to make a "funeral" for a moosehead given to his parents as a housewarming present from his dad's boss. Boy goes along with it even through knows it is wrong. In the end, owns up to his actions. Lesson is pretty subtle, I'm not sure what messages kids this age will get from this book - might not be positive ones. Minor religion - at "funeral", brief prayers and brief discussion if animals have souls (p. 49).
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Ozzie on his Own	3-5	OK??	A boy turns a chicken coop into a clubhouse and makes new friends. Wakes up in middle of night to father being rushed to hospital with a heart attack. Very worried about death. May be scary to this age group.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Rip Roaring Russel	2-3	OK	Boy goes to nursery school and makes a new friend.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Roz and Ozzie	2-4	OK?	Girl deals with relationship with uncle, who is younger than her. Page 21 - Girl asks friend if likes a boy in class; very minor to story.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Russel Rides Again	2-3	OK	Boy goes to kindergarten and learns to ride a 2 wheeler.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Russel Sprouts	2-3	OK?	Boy learns it takes time to grow up. One scene where dresses up in Halloween costume but no religion.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	School Spirit	3-4	OK?	Kids work to prevent their school from being closed. Side mentions of kissing on grandmother's soap operas. Side mention of brother who turns 16 and is starting to date.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	School's Out	3-5	OK??	Teenage au pair teaches boys to dance. Gives an affectionate kiss at end.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Spring Break	3-5	OK?	Girl breaks her leg and deals with disappointment at missing a trip to Washington. Some juvenile behavior described - e.g. boy "belched" three times while girl read her report, girl put pepper in frosting of boy's cupcake, etc. Minor language - darn. Reference to book "3 Musketeers".

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Teacher's Pet	3-5	OK?	A fourth grade girl comes to terms with the fact that she is no longer the teacher's pet with the arrival of a new girl. Mention of watching TV. Non religious mention of Halloween and jack o lantern. Older sister is very into "freeing our language of sexist references" egg. Instead of mankind she says humankind. Girl writes a book report about book "Dear Mr. Henshaw" and describes it enough to make reader want to read it. Language-weird, stupid
	Hurwitz, Johanna	The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein	3-4	OK?	Imaginative boy gets into funny trouble. Thinks man stole earring from lady by kissing her - turns out they are married.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	The Up and Down Spring	4-6	OK	Boy overcomes fear of flying to visit female best friend; innocent friendship
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Two Times the Fun	2-4	OK??	Twins with unique personalities, have fun together. Minor mention of X-mas tree with large illustration of children around tree (p. 28). Children feed dog biscuit to cat, even though mom said cat won't eat it. When cat did eat it, kids very excited to prove mother wrong (p. 44-49). Brief mention of Easter Bunny - no religion - p. 58.
	Hurwitz, Johanna	Yellow Blue Jay	2-4	OK	A boy vacations in Vermont and discovers new strengths within himself
	Ibbotson, Eva	Beast Of Clawstone Castle	5-7	OK??	Children go to their elderly relatives' castle for the summer and help save their rare cows from the bad guys with the help of ghosts. Brief mention that old lady's skirt took on the "outlines of her behind, but not at all unpleasantly because she was a thin lady and her behind was small". Brief mention of TV. Boy's father killed by drunken driver. Ghost from India has a jewel in her belly button and she worships cows. Brief Indian religion and description of souls going to heaven on backs of cows. One sentence mention of actress keeping ketchup in her bra to look like blood. Children worry that ghost won't be allowed to go into a church because she broke a promise to marry a man, but decided that breaking a promise is so common it isn't really a sin. Brief description of flag made from long red underpants. On word xmas and Easter. Language=stupid, hell(once), blasted, idiot.
	Ibbotson, Eva	The Great Ghost Rescue	4-6	OK??	A boy convinces the prime minister to create a sanctuary for ghosts. Mild bathroom humor of the smelly feet variety. Some lovey-doveyness between ghost mother and father eg."she got into bed beside her husband and laid her hideous head against his gaping wound" etc. Mention of woman who was killed wearing her long woolen underpants. One word Halloween and xmas. Children lie to their headmistress and others in order to save the ghosts. Boy fights against a mean man who doesn't like people who are different then himself- includes dislike of Jews. Witches can't use their Christian names and ghosts don't like churches, and clergymen conduct exorcisms. Brief mention of TV. Man dreams of beautiful girls- no elaboration. Language-stinking, weird, idiotic, blasted, creepy, stupid, heck, blast you.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Ibbotson, Eva	The Star of Kazan	6-8	OK?	An orphan is found by her mother after inheriting a fortune; turns out the "mother" was an impostor after her money. Xmas, Easter: dinner and church, no religion. 2 mentions of J--, Holy mother of god, one description of Good Friday as mourning death of Ch--. Passing mention of girl wanting to talk about boyfriends, but she doesn't have any. Girl has 2 friends who are boys - totally innocent. 2-3 instances of brief friendly non-romantic negiah. Mention of 3 saints who died for their beliefs. When "mother" concocts story, claims that she was married for one week, then husband disappeared, she assumed he died, married current husband. Boy steals horse because he is afraid the horse will be mistreated; later finds out the horse had been bequeathed to him by its owner.
	Impey, Rose	No Name Dog	2-3	OK	Family has trouble deciding dog's name. Very mild rough language
new	Infinity Ring (each book by a different author)	Infinity Ring Book Five Cave of Wonders	4-7	OK??	See Note on series. Children go to Ancient Baghdad to change history to prevent a cataclysm. Boy hugs girl to comfort her. Language- weird, gross, shut up, dumb, idiot
new	Infinity Ring (each book by a different author)	Infinity Ring Book One A Mutiny In Time	4-7	OK??	Note on series: Brilliant boy and girl who are best friends go back in time to save the present. A third boy comes along by accident. Quite a bit of middos between the two boys, though in later books they become more tolerant of each other. Reader is encouraged to go to unreviewed web site. A lot of good guy vs. bad guy violence. Technology, some of it futuristic, some familiar. In this book children try to prevent a mutiny on Christopher Columbus' ship. Non romantic negiah. Mention that boy and girl are teased with "when're you gonna get married" jokes and "sittin in a tree" songs. Body odor jokes. Boys frequently insult each other. TV. . Language- dorky, stupid, jerk, heck, brat, dumb, moron, idiot, shut up, blasted, weirdo.
new	Infinity Ring (each book by a different author)	Infinity Ring Book Seven The Iron Empire	4-7	OK??	See Note on series. Children go to ancient Greece to change history and meet with Aristotle to prevent a cataclysm. Boy says he thinks boy and girl who are best friends will some day get married- they laugh hysterically and tell him he has a lot to learn about life. Greek gods as mythological figures. Girl gives man a hug to comfort him. Boy sees his parents in the middle of a battlefield lying on the ground "clasped in each other's arms". Children send bad guys to age of the dinosaurs. Frequent language- jerk, idiot, heck, weird, dumb, puke, darn, weirdo, brats, dang
	Jacobson, Jennifer Richard	Andy Shane and the Very Bossy Dolores Starbuckle	2-3	OK?	Boy doesn't like school because of a "know it all" classmate until his grandmother visits his class and helps him. Classmates behavior improves. Matter of fact mention that he needed someone to care for him at birth and his "granny" needed someone to share fun with. And he is living with her ever since. No mention of his parents.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Jacques, Brian	A Tale Of Redwall- Eulalia!	6-8	OK??	The saga continues.Same type of violence and behavior as other books in this series.Mild, gentle love story where nothing really happens beyond two animals seeming to commit to each other and enjoy each others company, she sings for him, and mild very brief negiah eg.she "clasped his paw", etc. Also brief, humorous side story of hare who pretends he can read palms (paws) and tells an owl he will meet a pretty owl who will lay eggs for him, also one sentence mention of young females fluttering their eyelashes at young males. Language-stupid, shurrup (shut up), bums (backside), blinkin',flippin', bloomin', berserk, idjit (idiot), hellgates, dumb,
	Jacques, Brian	A Tale Of Redwall- Loamhedge	6-8	OK??	Ditto
	Jacques, Brian	A Tale Of Redwall- Salamandastron	6-8	OK??	Similar issues to other books in this series. A lot of talk of the spirit of a dead warrior living on and entering living creatures to protect the abbey when it is in danger. Some name calling eg. fathead, snotnose, etc. Language- hell (frequent), shut up, stupid, idiot, brat, darn (once).
	Jacques, Brian	A Tale Of Redwall-Doomwyte	6-8	OK??	Animals defeat dangerous band of birds and reptiles while seeking precious gems that were the eyes of an idol.There doesn't seem to be any problem with the fact that these gems were stolen many years ago from the bad guys- it is assumed that the good guys have a right to them.Very mild boy/girl (animals) leading to "marriage".Animals sing a song to help them keep time paddling about coming to "woo" a girl and being warned that its ok to dance with her but don't try to kiss her because her brothers are watching.(Many children skip the words in the songs). Female sings in front of males.Two animals have a battle of insults- mostly humorous slang, but still mean. Language- idiot, stupid, bloomin', blinkin', hellgates, berserk, scummy, shurrup (shut up), snotty, bum, stinky,
	Jacques, Brian	A Tale Of Redwall-Mossflower	6-8	OK??	Ditto.
	Jacques, Brian	A Tale Of Redwall-Taggerung	6-8	OK??	Ditto.
	Jacques, Brian	A Tale Of Redwall-Triss	6-8	OK??	Escaped slaves defeat their former captors.A greedy hare never seems to learn his lesson not to be a glutton- provides comic relief.Teenaged animals run away from home with their parent's unstated permission. Young animals cause an unusual amount of mischief-adults have a hard time disciplining them instead of laughing at them. One of the bad guys is unusually vicious. A brief, mild, love story where they mostly just stare into each others eyes eventually leading to marriage. Similar issues to other books in this series. Language-flippin',stupid, flamin', idiot, shuddup, hellgates, bloomin', scum, blinkin', 'ellish.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Jacques, Brian	Redwall	6-8	OK??	Notes on the series: Long novels featuring animal characters fighting vs. evil. Cute series that hides great sophistication and humor, though not every child will appreciate it. Appropriate for child who is a good reader and can follow a few story lines at a time as well as extensive, often difficult dialogue. Animals live in an abbey. There are mentions of the abbey bell, and cloisters, and the abbot being in charge, but beyond that, no blatant Christianity. Occasionally one of the characters has a "prophecy" about something that will happen in the future. Good guy vs. bad guy violence despite the fact that the good guys are "peace loving", as well as a lot of internal violence among the bad guys. Bad guys call each other insulting names. There is even death, sometimes even the good guys die. Throughout this series, some of the characters use a difficult but amusing dialect that takes a few seconds to translate. Although there is problematic language, there is so much detailed dialogue on every page that it might be overlooked, depending on the child's reading style. In this book mild male/female leading to marriage- e.g. he notices she is pretty and has long eyelashes. Mild romantic negiah- e.g. she dozes off against his shoulder, she wipes his tears with her pinafore. Husband squirrel "smothers his wife with kisses". A church is an important setting, but no obvious religion. .Language-hell (frequent), stupid, idiotic, berserk, shut your trap, moron (once), idiot, snotty, brat, dumb, shut up, damn (once), ass (once).
	Jacques, Brian	The Angel's Command	6-8	OK??	A boy and a dog with eternal childhood have adventures with pirates and villains. Occasional reference to angel that blessed them and to a priest who gives them a cross to protect them from evil. Boy holds girl's hand when proposing marriage.
	Jacques, Brian-	Tale From Redwall -High Rulain	6-8	OK?	Continuation of the Redwall series. Some of the characters use the same difficult dialect as in previous books. Good guy vs. bad guy violence and death. Sometimes good guys die too. Bad guy father encourages his sons to be mean to each other and calls them names. Language-stupid, shut up, blinkin'fool, hellgates, flippin', blood n'guts, idiot, brat, creepy, scum.
	James, Mary	Shoebag	4-6	OK?	some TV and commercial talk
	James, Mary	Shoebag Returns	4-6	OK?	A roach ends up in girl's school with only one boy student. Some minor plugs for TV. TV star who used to be a roach. Minor non-romantic negiah.
	Jenkins, Emily	Toys go Out	3-5	OK	Adventures of toys owned by young girl. Sweet.
	Jennings, Patrick	Putnam & Pennyroyal	3-5	OK?	Girl goes fishing with uncle who tells her exciting stories. Some tying in of family problems - uncle and father don't get along but very minor. Calls uncle by first name.
	Jensen, Dorothea	The Riddle of Penncroft Farm	4-6	OK??	Minor bad and bathroom language. Description of husking bee - person who finds red corn gets kissed. Ghost.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Jobling, Brenda	Goose on the Loose	3-5	OK	A boy rescues injured goose. Minor mention of divorce.
	Johnson, Elizabeth	Break a Magic Circle	3-4	OK?	magic
new	Johnston-Shelton, Nils	The Invisible Tower: Otherworld	4-6	OK??	Boy finds out he is King Arthur in modern times. Goes to King Arthur's time through a video game. Brother and sister call father by first name. Mother apparently abandoned family because she was disturbed when boy magically appeared in their home as a baby. Children have magical abilities that are invisible to their father, and they have fun fooling him. Language: butt, hell pit, freaking, jerk. Wizard has tattoos. Later books in series have boy/girl issues.
	Jonell, Lynne	Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat	5-7	OK?	Girl defeats mean nanny with help of rats with magical powers.. Language: shut up, etc. Passing mention of x-mas and church - no religion. When nanny is given "lie detection" potion, she emits smelly "farts" whenever she lies.
	Jones, Diana Wynne	Archer's Goon	6-8	OK??	Family faces group of wizards who want to take over the world. Lots of twists and surprises in plot - kids may not get all of it, but fun anyway. Subplot family babysitter falls in love with villain - no details and mostly humorous. Boy's little sister is extremely chutzpadik to all adults and pick fights with her peers- overall bad middos. The family nickname for her is "awful". Parents fights minutely detailed- a lot of verbal sparring and accusations. Mention of a cathedral and choir, no religion. Non religious xmas, unimportant mention of Saxons who burned Yoshka. Non romantic negiah. Frequent language-shut up, stupid, idiotic, stinky, daft, maniac, moron (once), damn (twice).
	Jones, Diana Wynne	Dogsbody	6-8	OK??	Star is sentenced to live life on Earth as a dog, until he resolves mystery. 2 occurrences of word damn. Uses "bitch" to refer to female dogs. Several references to dogs spending time together, resulting in pups that look like the father. Male dogs are irresistibly drawn to sit outside fence of female dog - one dog explains it's because she's in heat and could have pups.
	Jones, Kimberly K.	The Genie Scheme	4-7	OK??	Girl gets services of genie, and finds out having it all is not what she thought it would be. Genie gives mussar: Things don't make people happy; the more you get the more you want. At end use wishes to bring happiness to others. Girl has friend who is a boy. Everyone (including children) calls friend's father by his last name. Language: ass, nerd, butt, poop, moron, wimp. Children magically visit dressing room of movie star whom girl thinks is "cute": when he tries out his signature facial expressions in the mirror, girl "sighs" and "nearly drools". Mention 2 (fictitious) movies the star was in, which both have the word "love". Children wear shorts and t-shirts; at one point genie magically gives them bathing suits and they protest that they don't want a bikini and Speedos.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Jones, Miranda	Little Genie Makes a Wish	3-5	OK??	A girl buys an old lava lamp at a garage sale and a girl/hippie genie emerges and grants her 3 wishes. Black and white illustration of a 9 year old in a tank top and shorts lying on a hammock. A few mentions of favorite rock band called "Boy Frenzy". Minor language: weird, darn. Girl imagines how her grandmother looked with her boyfriend at age 17 - with "black eye makeup, miniskirt, and big hair"
	Jones, Rebecca C.	Germy Blew It	3-5	OK	A boy sets up a bubble gum contest and ends up in a mess.
	Joose, Barbara M.	Dead Guys Talk	2-3	OK	Kids solve mystery and prevent cemetery from being sold.
	Jules, Jacqueline	Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Makes A Splash	2-3	OK??	Boy confronts a bully. Brief mention of watching TV. Mixed swimming. Language- poop.
	Jules, Jacqueline	Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Springs Into Action	2-3	OK?	Boy saves man stranded on the roof. Brief mention of father and grandfather dying- language used is "losing them" Language- poop (once)
	Jules, Jacqueline	Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Stomps the Snow	2-3	OK?	Boy helps capture a purse snatcher. Mentions of watching TV. One word mention of xmas. Brief mention of boy's father being war hero (he died).
	Jules, Jacqueline	Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Takes Off	2-3	OK?	Note on Series: Boy receives sneakers as a present and discovers they make him run as fast as a superhero. In most books, brief, matter of fact mention that boy's father died as a hero in the army. Occasional Spanish phrases used. In this book (First book in series), boy uses internet to keep boy from bullying him. Little boy tries to write puppy- writes "poopey"- kids think someone is writing a bathroom word. Language- weird.
	Jules, Jacqueline	Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Zooms to the Rescue	2-3	OK??	Boy helps a purple squirrel and rescues his mother's train. A lot of focus on TV reporters trying to get a story and children trying to get on TV.
	Kalnay, Francis	Chicaro, Wild Pony of the Pampa	3-5	OK?	Boy finds wild pony and keeps it, but ranch owner's spoiled son tries to get it for himself. One mention of picture of C--
	Kay, Elizabeth	Jinx on the Divide	5-7	OK?	Book 3 of Divide Trilogy. When truant schoolmate is captured by a genie, boy goes back to the magical world to save him. Mentions of truant boy's mother drinking and smoking, and how she would not care if he disappeared.
	Kay, Elizabeth	Return to the Divide	6-8	OK??	Book 2 of Divide trilogy. Boy returns to magical world to save parents who have been turned to stone. Second in trilogy. Kisses queen to break sleeping spell. Language: hell (2).
	Kay, Elizabeth	The Divide	6-8	OK??	Boy crosses into magical world where our myths are real and our reality is their myth. Very nicely done. First in series. Language - hell (2). Non-romantic negiah. Exclamation of surprise: "Sweet Mary, mother of god".

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Kaye, M. M.	The Ordinary Princess	4-6	OK??	A fairy tale type book about a princess who, unlike her sisters, is very ordinary. She runs away to work and accidentally meets a young king who falls in love with her, they marry and live happily ever after. Author's foreword - brief unimportant mention of Father Xmas and Halloween. In story a lot of talk and description of baby Christening party but no description of the ceremony. Negiah - hand holding - illustration (p. 98); holding on to each other to keep from falling, a few brief textual mentions of a kiss after marriage (p. 99)
	Kaye, Marilyn	Replica - the Beginning	5-7	OK??	A girl-clone goes to place of origin on a class trip and is captured by an organization that wants to use clones for world domination. Minor non-romantic negiah. Lots of talk of babies being made in test tubes. Lots of speculation if tour guide is mom's old boyfriend.
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew #03 The Bungalow Mystery	4-6	OK?	Girls expose orphan's guardians as frauds. A boy asks a girl to go to a party with him, since she had previously gone to the spring prom with him. Girl relaxes on a co-ed beach in a bathing suit.
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew #06 The Secret of Red Gate Farm	4-6	OK?	Girl uncovers a cult that is really a cover for a gang of counterfeiters. Non-romantic negiah. Non-religious mention of Halloween. Implies a boy likes a girl - he "has his eye on her" and she blushes. Minor Language: weird, stupid.
new	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew #18 Mystery of The Moss-Covered Mansion	4-6	OK??	Girls figure out who is trying to sabotage a space launch. One sentence mentions of going to church on Sunday. Girl dates a college football player "exclusively". Her friends have boys who are their "favorite dates". Her boyfriend's parents invite her and her two friends and their boyfriends to a "house party", where presumably they all sleep over (separate gender rooms) and have fun together. Girls agree that the astronauts are "handsome" and "remarkably brave and intelligent". TV. Language-weirdo, stupid
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew #23 The Mystery of the Tolling Bell	4-6	OK??	Girls capture a gang of criminals. Mention of people wearing "scanty" beach clothes, go to movies, girl has a boyfriend - not much happens between them other than spending time together. Mentions they dance but no description. Brief mention of church bells and attending church - no description. Minor language - doggonit.
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew #25 The Ghost of Blackwood Hall	4-6	OK??	Girls capture a gang that is involved in the occult - seances, spirits, etc. - turns out to be a fraud. Black and white illustration of a teenage girl in sleeveless dress. Girl spends time with boy friend solving mysteries. They go for a moonlit boat ride - just when it seems like it's about to get romantic they see someone drowning and save her. Non-romantic negiah. Minor language: stupid.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew and The Clue Crew #07 The Circus Scare	2-4	OK??	Third grade detective solves the mystery of who is stealing circus costumes. On cover, cartoonish picture of girl in tank top. A spoiled girl gets everything she wants, her classmates gossip about her unkindly. Girl says boy is "kind of cute". Parents should decide if want children leading these books if they don't want them reading the older Nancy Drew books. Language- weird.
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #08 The Best Detective	2-3	OK?	Note on series- this series is relatively innocent but it features the characters who grow up to be the characters in the Nancy Drew series which is more problematic. Parents should decide if they want to expose their child to this series. In this book girl detective finds her missing notebook. Entire plot revolves around tickets to a movie premier given to the girls by their teacher. One word mention of Halloween. Mention of watching videos. Language- gross, maniac
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #09 Thanksgiving Surprise	2-3	OK?	see comment on the series
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #14 Funny Face Fight	2-3	OK?	see comment on the series
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #18 Stolen Unicorn	2-3	OK?	see comment on the series
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #20 Hannah's Secret	2-3	OK?	see comment on the series
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #30 It's no Joke	2-3	OK?	see comment on the series
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #33 Gumdrop Ghost	2-3	OK?	see comment on the series
	Keene, Carolyn	Nancy Drew Notebooks #60 The Lighthouse Mystery	2-3	OK?	Girls solve a mystery in a lighthouse. See comment on the series
	Kehret, Peg	Danger at the Fair	5-7	OK??	Girl gets message from spirits that brother is in danger - rescues him from criminals. Lots of belief in occult.
	Kehret, Peg	Earthquake Terror	3-6	OK?	a brother helps his handicapped sister survive an earthquake and flooding when they are left alone on an island. Scary. Brief mentions that boy likes to listen to sports on radio and watch games on TV. One sentence mention of Santa.
	Kehret, Peg	Escaping the Giant Wave	3-5	OK	Kids escape from tsunami.
	Kehret, Peg	Night of Fear	5-6	OK?	Boy held hostage by arsonist - scary. Beautiful lesson of acceptance of grandmother who has Alzheimer's.
	Kehret, Peg	Runaway Twin	4-6	OK?	Girl runs away from kind foster mother, to find twin sister. Tells lies in order to not get caught. Girl contemplates kicking bully in the groin (p. 69), but doesn't. Minor language: jerk (p. 186). Passing mention of going to movie.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Keller, Holly	Angela's Top Secret Computer Club	2-3	OK?	Children discover who is hacking into school's computer system and ruining report cards and school schedules by using e-mail. Short examples of sibling rivalry with typical but bad midos. Girl writes on her computer that her teacher has a long nose because she knows teacher can't read it without the password - p. 17 can be crossed out.
	Kelly, Eric P.	The Trumpeter of Krakow	7-9	OK??	A medieval Polish boy comes to a city when his farm is burned down by people trying to find a precious crystal his family guarded for the king. The plot involves an alchemist, a hypnotist, and his father's job as a trumpeter to play a hymn on the church tower and to keep watch. A few mentions of Jews who lived in hovels until the king built them a town. Religion and churches mentioned constantly but mostly as background. Poland portrayed in a very positive light. Boy thinks girl who will become his adopted sister is pretty. She kisses him on cheek when he saves her. Later, they marry.
	Kenah, Katharine	The Best Seat in Second Grade	1-2	OK	Boy sneaks class hamster on trip to science museum but learns his lesson.
	Kennedy, Emma	Tender Foot #1 The Case Of the Frozen Hearts	4-7	OK??	Series about a girl who is raised in a horrible orphanage who is sent to work for an awful lady but dreams of becoming an apprentice to a famous detective. A mixture of realism, suspense, violence, with a small touch of fantasy and a large dose of bathroom humor. Villains are so bad they are comical and death is treated in the same humorous vein. Side story of a man who likes a woman and tries to impress her but she is oblivious. Another woman flirts with all men she meets. Man leaves his wife because he is tired of her being so busy "fluttering her glamorous eyelashes at everyone" that she had no time to look at her husband. Non romantic negiah. One word xmas and nuns. Language-stupid, shut up, idiot.
	Kennedy, Emma	Tender Foot #2 The Case Of the Putrid Poison	4-7	OK??	Girl helps a detective capture a killer in a vaudeville theater. Some theater culture. A lot of grisly deaths. A lot of bathroom humor. Girl thinks a theater costume is "racy", actress gossips that an actor is a "lovesick puppy" about an actress- he puts his arm around her, she mostly ignores him.
new	Kennedy, Marlane	Disaster Strikes- Blizzard Night	3-5	OK??	Foster child gets stuck in a blizzard with his new foster siblings trying to get help for their father who was hurt when their car rolled down a hill. Scary but ends well. Kids argue if they should listen to country music and pop music. Girls wants to go for help, father says no, girl says "you can't stop me" eventually he relents and lets her go. Kids think it's funny that their friends can "burp nursery rhymes" and "belch". Language-dumb, heck (once)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Kerr, Judith	When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	6-8	OK??	A young girl from assimilated Jewish family deals with transformation into a poor refugee. A few mentions of Jewish family celebrating X-mas w/ gifts. In school boys show girls they "love" them by throwing things at them. P 94 - young man gives girlfriend "passionate farewell embrace". Mixed dancing at French cafes - p 145.
	Kessler, Leonard	Last One In Is A Rotten Egg	1-2	OK?	A boy learns to swim in deep water. One scary incident of big kids pushing him in - he almost drowns. All the illustrations are of lower elementary school kids mixed swimming; girls wear bikinis but not provocative.
	Key, Alexander	Escape to Witch Mountain	4-6	OK	2 children with shadowy past discover they are refugees from alien spaceship
	Key, Alexander	Return from Witch Mountain	4-6	OK	Sequel to Escape to Witch Mountain (from Disney screenplay) - evil villain tries to use children for his own purposes.
	Key, Alexander	The Forgotten Door	5-6	OK?	A family tries to help a boy from another world who has accidentally fallen in to this world, despite suspicious neighbors and curious media. Girl jokingly asks her father for payment and says "fork over, don't be a stingy puss"(p23) A few mentions of going to church-no description. Discussion of life on other planets (p52), kids go to the movies. Language-stupid, idiots.
	Kibuishi, Kazu	Amulet Book One - The Stonekeeper	6-8	OK??	Graphic novel (comic-book style). Starts with scary car accident where father is stuck in car and falls off cliff. Mother & kids move to old house which is inhabited by monsters, and children try to save mother. Very scary. Language: butt
	Kimball, Kim	The Star Spangled Secret	4-6	OK??	mention women could get raped by soldiers
	Kimpton, Diana	Pony- Crazy Princess- Princess Ellie to the Rescue #1	2-4	OK?	A princess who loves horses saves a horse who falls into a ditch. A lot of changing out of gowns into riding clothes (pants). One word mention of TV. Language- stupid.
	Kimpton, Diana	Pony- Crazy Princess- Princess Ellie's Camping Trip	2-4	OK?	Princess who loves horses is determined to go camping so she can have adventures like the children in the books she reads. She discovers that reality is different from fantasy. Girls laugh about where to go to the bathroom when camping.
	Kimpton, Diana	Pony -Crazy Princess- Princess Ellie's Mystery #3	2-4	OK?	Princess needs to entertain a bored prince. When they discover they both love ponies, she invites him to help her figure out if the woods are haunted.King takes arm of female guest and queen leads male guest to dinner. Text and illustration of boy "putting on innocent expression" as he begs his mother for something. Girl wishes she could learn to do that- "it would be really useful when she was in trouble". Find information on the internet. Language- weird, stupid.
	Kimpton, Diana	Pony- Crazy Princess- Princess Ellie's Secret #2	2-4	OK?	Princess tries to save her beloved pony from being sold by secretly teaching him to pull a cart. Brief TV.Princess wears jeans, her great aunt comments that in her day girls didn't wear pants. Language- gross.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Kingfisher, Rupert	Madame Pample Mouse and Her Incredible Edibles	3-5	OK	A girl is sent by her mean uncle to find out a secret recipe and ends up becoming a famous chef. A bit odd.
	King-Smith, Dick	A Mouse Called Wolf	2-4	OK	A mouse who can sing and an elderly woman become friends. Mentions of classical music and composers. Minor middos between mouse siblings. Language-stupid.
	King-Smith, Dick	Babe, the Gallant Pig	3-5	OK	An intelligent pig wins a sheep dog contest. Cute. Uses word 'bitch' to describe female dog
	King-Smith, Dick	Funny Frank	2-3	OK?	chicken gets 'girlfriend'
	King-Smith, Dick	Martin's Mice	3-4	OK?	A kitten decides to keep mice as pets instead of eating them. Minor language: stupid. A mouse tries to explain the facts of life to him - done very vaguely - she tells the kitten he should find a male mouse for her so she can have babies, without a male she can't (p. 49-50, chap 7; p. 61 chap 9)
	King-Smith, Dick	Pigs Might Fly	3-5	OK?	A pig born with misshapen feet learns to swim and saves his farm during a bad flood. Language: the farmer often says drat, dang, and blast, with "yer" added to each word (eg: "drat yer")
	King-Smith, Dick	Sophie's Snail	2-4	OK?	Girl has strange pets. She is slightly chutzpadik and breaks another girl's toy because the girl stepped on one of her bug-pets. Bad middos of the Junie B. Jones variety.
	King-Smith, Dick	The Cuckoo Child	3-5	OK	A boy steals an ostrich egg from the zoo and raises it. Eventually confesses to crime, and everything works out. One boy calls another "a big lump of lard" (p. 28).
	King-Smith, Dick	The School Mouse	2-3	OK??	Mouse living in school learns to read. A lot of mouse boyfriend/girlfriend (thinks he's handsome, etc.). A lot of talk about mouse 'couples' having babies: Kids in intended age range would probably gloss over it; older kids may read too much into it.
	Kipling, Rudyard	Courageous-Illustrated Classic Editions	4-6	OK??	Adapted version of a classic for younger readers about a spoiled rich boy who falls overboard and ends up learning about the value of hard work on a fishing vessel. A few religious mentions- sailor suggests that boy should burn candles in church for the virgin, man says get on knees and thank the L-rd. description of funeral at sea where body is slid into the water. The boy buys the dead man's knife at an auction, later accidentally pulls up the body with a fishing rod and is sure the dead man came to get him for buying his knife. Boy names boat for a girl he "lost his heart to" and he secretly cut off a lock of her hair to keep. Sailor talks about "pretty girls". Husband takes wife in his arms. Boy somewhat chutzpadik to father. Language-dumb, fool.
	Kipling, Rudyard	The Jungle Book	6-8	OK	A boy is raised by wolves and other animal stories. Difficult language.
	Kjelgaard, Jim	Irish Red	5-8	OK??	Boy trains dog with love. Language: Through hell and high water (p. 6), bitch (for female dog - p. 27), damn (p. 49); gosh-darnit, goshamighty, etc.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Klimo, Kate	Dog Diaries- Buddy	4-7	OK	Written very realistically from a dog's point of view. A dog trains to become the first seeing eye dog. Non romantic negiah. In the back of the book factual information about seeing eye dogs. Preview of book "Dog Diaries-Barry".
	Klimo, Kate	Dog Diaries- Ginger	4-7	OK??	Written very realistically from a dog's point of view. A dog is adopted and abandoned by a number of owners. Very graphic and unpleasant (but seemingly accurate) descriptions of "puppy mills" and the dog's trials and tribulations at the hands of human owners. Vivid but matter of fact descriptions of the dog's bodily functions using words like piddle, puke, poop. Dog is given to boy as xmas present- non religious descriptions of tree etc. Brief explanation of spaying. 9 year old boy and girl camp out in tent in backyard- completely innocent. Illustration of them in bathing suits jumping into lake. Brief mention of "movie dance team"- Rogers and Astaire.
	Klimo, Kate	The Dragon in the Library	3-5	OK??	Children rescue their friend from an evil woman's castle. Running joke about dogs kicking each other's "butts" and some other bathroom humor. Minor middos. Non-romantic negiah. Important storyline about a woman trying to find her "consort, lover, etc." Somewhat vague if they ever married though they lived together in the castle. Minor language: darn tootin, creepy, pee, poop, dork, dumb, stupid, sucker, heck, weird.
	Klimo, Kate	The Dragon in the Sock Drawer	3-5	OK??	Children raise a baby dragon and try to protect it from a man who wants to kill it. Fantasy set in a realistic modern setting. Easter vacation - no religion. Minor language: darned, heck, stupid, darn it. Mention of Narnia series (by C. S. Lewis)
	Kline, Suzy	Herbie Jones	2-4	OK?	Boy has many mishaps as he tries to improve in school. Girl is scared of a ghost in the bathroom so he goes in (after knocking) and pulls her out by the hand (illustration). When teacher is nice he suddenly notices how pretty she is. Sister cleans up house for boy to come study with her.
	Kline, Suzy	Herbie Jones and the Birthday Showdown	2-4	OK?	use bra underwire for school project; subtle
new	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry and the Stolen Cookie	2-3	OK??	Class holds a sale as a fundraiser for charities, but boy plans to take half the profits to buy his grandmother a new oven. His friend convinces him that it is stealing and he should give all the money to the charity in question. Boy gives girl a hug to thank her- text and illustration- totally not romantic. Language- creepy
	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry and the Dungeon	2-3	OK	Harry gets himself sent to detention to check out the scary-looking new detention teacher.
new	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry and the Hallway Bully	2-3	OK?	Boy tries to be good so he can be appointed as a safety patrol cadet. Instead a girl is appointed who abuses her power. TV. One word Halloween. Middos among classmates. Language- creep , gross

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry and the Purple People	2-3	OK	Second grade adventures.
	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry and the Secret Treasure	2-3	OK	Boy creates a mystery for his friends to solve. Brief mentions of oldtime TV detective. Language-gross.
	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry Goes to Sea	2-3	OK	Class goes on a boat ride. Some matter-of-fact talk about where they went to the bathroom on the Mayflower - was it on the "poop deck".
	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry in Room 2B	2-3	OK?	Horrible Harry's antics. Tickles boy and makes him scream "I love girls". Juvenile language: jerk
	Kline, Suzy	Horrible Harry's Secret	2-3	OK?	Harry and girl keep passing notes. Student describes parents' divorce: "My father left us".
	Koller, Jackie French	Dragons and Kings - The Dragonling Series #6	2-5	OK?	Fantasy. Children help make peace with an evil king and free parents from jail. Non-romantic negiah. Boy wonders whose baby a dragon is, because his dragon is too young to mate.
	Koller, Jackie French	The Keepers Book 1: A Wizard Named Nell	4-6	OK??	A princess tries to become a wizard's apprentice - subtle women's lib throughout. Story of woman who fell in love with a boy as a child, when grew up got married (p. 115). Boy gives love potion to teacher and she was "all over" another teacher... "planting big wet smackers" (p. 133) - easy to cross out.
	Koller, Jackie French	The Keepers Book 2: The Wizard's Apprentice	4-6	OK??	A girl goes to rescue her newly discovered twin brother from hands of a wicked ruler. Lots of magic and fantasy. Quite a lot of subtle women's lib - i.e., why should boy be ruler and not a girl?, etc. Girl comments that pants much more comfortable for dragon riding than a gown. Minor bathroom language. Unimportant conversations between 2 villains: "womens'll be fallin all over us tonight" (p. 130)
	Koller, Jackie French	The Keepers Book 3: The Wizard's Scepter	4-6	OK??	Prince and princess siblings try to rescue their kingdom and learn that only together are they strong. Princess mentions slacks more comfy for dragon flying than gown. Lots of minor women's lib. Minor chutzpah of girl to elderly wizard who ignores her desire to learn from him because she is female (P. 28). Man is magically turned into a woman - seduces his captor so he can escape - not clearly spelled out, but older children will get it (p. 104-105) - can be crossed out.
	Komaiko, Leah	Annie Bananie Best Friends To The End	2-4	OK?	Girl tries to get new girl to be her best friend. She is embarrassed of grandmother and wishes she had a new one (but isn't outright chutzpadik). At end learns to appreciate her a little better.
	Konigsburg, E.L.	From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler	5-7	OK??	Children run away from home and stay in Metropolitan Museum. P. 54: describe paintings of "billowy, bosomy naked ladies". Chap. 5 (p. 84) drawing of fountain - vague picture of naked kids and statues. Please note: many other books by this author are inappropriate.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Korman, Gordon	Dive - Books 1-3	5-7	OK??	Kids on diving internship find out their supervisors are actually looking for sunken treasure. Some violence. Book 1: Occasional comments about boys noticing pretty female supervisor; girl says they're "hot on her". Book 3: Man finds it difficult to talk to pretty woman - distracted by looks.
	Korman, Gordon	Framed	5-7	OK??	Boy is accused of stealing valuable super bowl ring and is sent to a school for delinquents and put under house arrest until he is proven innocent. Middos among classmates. Parents hold hands. Boy accuses friend of being "in love" with girl- he denies it. TV, computer, internet. One word xmas and Easter. Language- barf, dumb, idiot, stupid, freak, moron, psycho, jerk, idiot, gross.
new	Korman, Gordon	Hideout- A Swindle Mystery	5-7	OK??	Kids (girls and boys) from the book "Swindle" try to save girl's dog from mean man who obtained a court order to get the dog. The kids smuggle the dog to summer camp with hilarious results. Book justifies stealing for good intentions- in the end it turns out that the man lied to get the court order and they were rightfully entitled to the dog. TV, cellphones, internet, texting. Poor middos between camp mates. Boy wears a t shirt with "a kissing bride and groom inside a heart". Counselor tells ghost story about a prehistoric fish that never evolved. Boy goes to drama camp- wants to be famous actor. Meets famous moviestar whose movies are still on TV. A lot of acting culture. Boy lies to criminals that he hasn't seen the dog. Girl marvels at how well he lies. He responds "that wasn't lying that was acting." Frequent language- dumb, stupid, moron, you stink, freaking out, sleazy, creep, calls boy a "slimebucket", jerk, idiot,
	Korman, Gordon	Island - books 1-3	4-7	OK??	Kids (4 boys & 2 girls) survive shipwreck on island. The trip was a program meant to give problem kids a chance to straighten out. Some violence (shooting, find dead man). Pictures on back cover of all books & front of book 2 show girls in sleeveless shirts and shorts. Boy addicted to TV knows a lot of information about survival from TV shows. Boy who is child of famous movie actor misses his social calendar, being surrounded by "chicks" and having gossip columnists call and ask about his latest escapade. Non romantic negiah. One word Easter. Language- stupid, pain in the butt, shut up, dumb, damned (p135, book 2).
	Korman, Gordon	Kidnapped - Book 1 - The Abduction	5-7	OK?	Series is sequel to On the Run series. Meg is kidnapped for ransom and FBI tries to save her. Lots of improbable escapades by kids. Brief mention of TV and movies. A lot of computer and internet. Blogger helps them with rescue effort. Language- jerk, stupid, idiot, freak, heck (once), shut up.
	Korman, Gordon	Kidnapped - Book 2- The Search	5-7	OK?	Continuation of rescue effort to find kidnapped girl. Mention of TV. A lot of computer and internet. Blogger plays prominent role in story. one word mention of xmas. Language- stupid, sucker, freaked out,

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Korman, Gordon	Kidnapped - Book 3 - The Rescue	5-7	OK?	Meg is rescued and parents are totally vindicated. Girl is forced to sit on ATV pressed up against her kidnapper (because there is not enough room) she is thoroughly disgusted. Some violence. Computer and internet. Blog. Language- idiot, stupid, jerk, brat, heck (once), shut up.
	Korman, Gordon	Masterminds	6-8	OK??	First of series. Children in secluded community find out they are clones of criminals, as part of a scientific study. Some mention of being cloned as cells in test tubes, and put into their 'host mothers'. Children rebel against their 'parents'. One boy is a bully of his best friend; friend accepts bullying. Teacher says she met husband on vacation in Cancun - child imagines people swimming on beach. Child calls father by first name. Boys and girls are friends but no romance. Some friendly/reassuring negiah. Some language: butt, doofus, dummy, screw up, stupid, ticked off. Boy's pants get stuck on gate, and he takes them off while girl turns her back. Passing reference to girl who thinks her friend has a crush on a boy. References to internet usage.
	Korman, Gordon	Nose Pickers from Outer Space	3-5	OK?	unrefined
	Korman, Gordon	On the Run - Books 1,2,3,4,5,6	5-8	OK?	Brother and sister run away to try to clear parents who are framed for spying; escape from many impossible situations. Some violence. Book 1: Minor language: "wuss". Boy from rehab center was sentenced for manslaughter - he shoved stepfather who beat him, stepfather fell down steps and died.
	Korman, Gordon	Swindle	5-7	OK??	A boy tries to steal back a baseball card he was cheated out of. Book justifies stealing to correct injustice. A list of "helpful hints" as to how to sneak out at night without your parents knowing. A few mentions of having difficulty going an entire night without watching TV. Boy auditions for TV commercials, wants to "make it" in Hollywood. References to Star Trek. Some middos between children. Language-shut up, gross, sleazy, dumb, idiot, jerk, freaked out, nerd.
	Korman, Gordon	The 39 Clues book 2- One False Note	5-8	OK??	Orphaned children race to find clues to a treasure while competing against other branches of the family who are vicious and will stop at nothing to beat them. Justify breaking and entering and stealing if it will help them win. Some violence. The competing families exhibit terrible middos in their treatment of their cousins (adults and children alike). Lots of TV and internet usage. A lot of music culture. A church and a crypt are settings for some of the action. Brief mention of girl finding her male cousin good looking. (In later books becomes more romantic). Language- stupid, dumb, weird, gross, stinks, butts, doofus, maniac, idiots, berserk, dweeb. Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest. Others in series are more problematic.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Korman, Gordon	The Zucchini Warriors	5-6	OK??	A girl disguised as a boy helps junior high football team win its first championship. At one point boy dresses up like a cheerleader. Boys and girls frequently sneak over to each others dorms, but nothing romantic ever mentioned. Middos among classmates. Boy reveals personal information about his classmates, including "who is in love with who". They give him the nickname "blabbermouth". Brilliant boy spends his time trying to figure out how to get a nearly extinct animal to reproduce (mentioned many times, but no inappropriate details). An education official who comes to investigate the school succumbs to a football addiction and neglects his job in order to coach the team. His boss fires him and his wife yells at him, but he is offered a college coaching job and everything ends happily. Many mentions of watching TV, and desiring a widescreen TV. Language-shut up (frequent), stink, sleazeball, idiot, freak out, stupid (frequent), bums, weird, blast.
	Korman, Gordon	Titanic- Book Three- SOS	5-8	OK??	Scary description of Titanic sinking- lots of death. Definitely not appropriate for the sensitive child. Scary encounters with Jack the Ripper. One word mentions of xmas. Language- idiot
	Korman, Gordon	Zoobreak	4-6	OK?	Same series as "Swindle". Kids steal back monkey that was stolen from them, then steal animals that are being mistreated by zoo owner; and are let off with a warning. Same moral dilemma: Is it OK to steal if you feel you're morally correct? Minor middos. Minor mention of TV and acting in TV commercials. Minor language: berserk, dumb, bummed, idiot, creep, freak out, stupid, jerk, weird, brat.
	Kozak, Warren	The Rabbi of 84th Street - the Extraordinary Life of Haskel Besser	8+	OK?	A gadol book written by a secular author! Accurate and positive. P. 7 - Talmud has "important discussions about sex. It's all about life and everything it involves"
	Krantz, Hazel	100 Pounds of Popcorn	3-5	OK?	Kids find bag of raw popcorn and go into popcorn business. One illustration of girls dancing in leotards, and one verbal description of them marching in parade in leotards.
	Krensky, Stephen	Lionel and Louise	2-3	OK?	A typical brother/sister relationship. Illustration of girl in bathing suit (probably about 8 years old).
	Krensky, Stephen	Lionel at Large	2-3	OK	A boy has cute experiences
	Krensky, Stephen	Lionel's Birthday	2-3	OK	A boy can't wait for his birthday.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Krieger, Evelyn	One Is Not A Lonely Number	6-8	OK??	An Orthodox Jewish girl living in an out of town community copes with being an only child. A lot of Jewish concepts woven throughout the story. Life out of town involves saying things like Shabbat (not Shabbos), and being in co-ed classes till fourth grade. A few references to boys in the parallel boy's school. Say an embarrassed good shabbos to each other in shul. At boy's bar mitzvah Kiddush, girl looks at boy's baby picture and says he was so cute; friend teases her: "was?". Boy's family sends girl flowers to congratulate her on winning a contest –friends tease her that boy sent the flowers to her, etc. Her parents try to match up two shabbos guests. Throughout the story girl expresses her distress at her parent's open door policy of having many guests each week. Her distaste for this mitzvah is enumerated and explained many times and might seem very plausible to the reader. It is not until the very end that she comes to understand her parents possible motivation at doing this mitzvah with such enthusiasm. Girl and her friends gossip about one of the houseguests. At the end, girl realizes that everyone is entitled to their privacy. Girls use technology, eg: wii, the internet, dance machine, etc. Mention of going to a Broadway show. Some ballet culture. Girls show relatively good but realistic middos in working out interpersonal problems. Language-weird, stupid, darn (twice), dumb, funky, heck (once), shut up, weirdo.
	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #09 Any Way You Slice It	3-5	OK??	Girl magically switches with the owner of a pizza store and saves the store from closing. Entire book is fine except for 2 sentences about a 3rd grade girl having a crush on a 3rd grade boy - can be crossed out (p 13, 16)
	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #10 Quiet On the Set	3-5	OK??	A girl trades places with a famous movie actress and discovers that it is very hard work and sometimes unpleasant. Teacher is starstruck and treats the girl differently then her classmates which causes the children to be mean to her- poor middos. Some movie culture and movie terminology. Language-weird, stupid.
	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #19 Gotcha! Gotcha Back!	3-5	OK??	Children try to liven up class with practical jokes - bad middos. Typical juvenile bathroom humor eg - whoopee cushion.
	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #20 Be Nice to Mice	3-5	OK??	Girl magically switches with a girl using mice for a science fair project, despite Katie's protests that it is cruel to use them without the mice's agreement. She learns not to judge a situation without knowing all the facts. Lots of juvenile language: stinks, gross, jerk, shut up, poop
	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #29 Major League Mess-up	3-5	OK	Girl magically switches places with an aging baseball player and helps him get a coaching job. Non-romantic negiah. Minor mostly non-objectionable slang eg: psyched, weird.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #37 Red, White and –Achoo!	3-5	OK??	Girl switches places with an actor playing the role of President Fillmore and comes to appreciate the little known president's accomplishments. Minor bathroom humor, minor middos between kids, boy calls teacher whose name is Mrs. Derkman, Mrs. Jerkman. Fourth grade girl has a crush on a boy, but it isn't mutual (p41 chap 7). Language-weird. Preview of new series-George Brown Class Clown-reviews mischief boy did in Katie Kazoo series. Similar language and humor.
	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo Anyone But Me #1	3-5	OK??	A girl trades places with her classroom hamster after having a bad day. A lot of middos especially the way a bully treats her. She eventually befriends the bully and discovers he isn't so bad. Girls want to hang upside down on the jungle gym- girl is wearing a skirt- the other girl asks her how she can hang in a skirt- she "yanks her skirt up to her belly button" to show she is wearing shorts. Boy calls teacher Mrs. Derkman "Mrs. Jerkman". Girl is embarrassed for burping out loud in class. Language-weird, wimp.
	Krumgold, Joseph	Onion John	4-6	OK	Boy befriends eccentric but harmless man
	Kwitz, Mary De Ball	The Bell Tolls at Mousehaven Manor	2-4	OK	mice keep vampire from stealing water from fountain of youth. Pointless story.
new	Lafevers, R.L.	Nathaniel Fludd Beastologist Book Four- The Unicorn's Tale	4-6	OK??	Boy helps his aunt care for a rare pregnant unicorn while battling a villain who wants to kill her and who may know where his missing parents are. Mention of wooly mammoth who live in the Ice Age. Bickering between boy and aunt's pet. One word xmas. Language- idiots, stupid/ stupidity dumb
new	Lafevers, R.L.	Nathaniel Fludd Beastologist Book One- Flight of the Phoenix	4-6	OK?	A boy whose parents have gone missing, travels with his aunt who deals with mythical animal. Helps a phoenix be reborn when his aunt is captured by Bedouins. Language- dolt, idiot, stupid
new	Lafevers, R.L.	Nathaniel Fludd Beastologist Book Three- The Wyvern's Treasure	4-6	OK??	The saga continues as boy helps his aunt help the dragons as he tries to find a clue to his parent's whereabouts. A lot of bickering between the aunt's pet dodo bird and the boy's pet. A dragon turned mean because his mate "fell in love with a passing zeppelin" and left him. Language- idiot, stupid, dumb
new	Lafevers, R.L.	Nathaniel Fludd Beastologist Book Two- The Basilisk's Lair	4-6	OK?	The saga continues as boy goes to Africa with his aunt to help find a dangerous escaped animal. Language- stupid, dumb, creepy.
	Lai, Thanhha	Inside Out and Back Again	5-8	OK?	Girl writes of experience as immigrant from Vietnam. Based on author's own experience; written in free-verse. Beautifully done. Girl sees woman give man a friendly kiss; girl thinks to herself that such things are only done by husband and wife, in private. Language: doo-doo face. Vietnamese culture: chanting, incense, New Year celebration.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Lake, A.J	Darkest Age-Book 1 The Coming Of Dragons	6-8	OK??	A boy and girl survive a shipwreck and become involved in a magical quest to save the world from an evil man and a vicious dragon. Some of the characters worship many gods and sacrifice to them in shrines and some are followers of Christianity which is also described. The third category of gods were supposedly the first rulers on earth. Language-hell, stupid.
	Landon, Lucinda	Meg Mackintosh Solves Seven American History Mysteries	5+	OK	Children travel through America returning lost historical objects. Not much in the way of a storyline, mostly just historical facts couched as a mystery.
	Langton, Jane	The Fledgeling	4-6	OK	A girl is taught to fly by a goose. Minor mention of boy thinking girl looks nice.
	Langton, Jane	The Time Bike	4-6	OK?	Boy uses bike to travel through time. Minor mention of girl having crush on boys
	Lansky, Bruce	Newfangled Fairy Tales - Book 1	2-4	OK?	Modern twists on classic fairy tales. Parodies on standard fairytale romance.
	Lanthier, Jennifer	The Mystery of the Martello Tower	5-7	OK?	Children solve mystery of father's disappearance and art thefts. At end of book children learn that father was driving when their mother and aunt were killed in car accident; although it was not his fault, father felt responsible and hid his past.
	Larson, Kirby	The Friendship Doll	4-7	OK?	Newberry Honor. Japanese doll "Ambassador of Friendship" meets various girls and women and transforms their lives. One girl dies - sad. One mention of "vulgar" dancer at World Fair: "people say she is naked... under those feathers". Girl questions why father died - "Preacher says he was taken to spare him suffering... but what about our suffering?"
	Lasky	Grace the Pirate	2-3	OK	Theme of independent woman
new	Lasky, Katherine	Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 1- The Capture	4-7	OK??	Baby owls are stolen from their parents and brought to an orphanage where they are treated very cruelly and trained to go against their nature in order to help violently takeover the owl kingdom. Two friends escape (a male and female) and look for legendary kingdom of owls who perform good deeds. Along the way there is a lot of violence, cruelty and death. Older brother owl displays bad middos and pushes younger brother out of the nest. A lot of detail about owl digestive system. Owl can hardly believe his ears when his friend says "racdrops"- "racdrops short for raccoon droppings, was one of the most daring, dirtiest, worst words an owlet could say." Evil owls sing violent song which includes "I'm gonna punch you in the gut, then you're gonna wind up on your butt...I'm gonna send you straight to hell" Language- stupid, weird, idiot, blast
	Lasky, Katherine	Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 2 - The Journey	4-7	OK?	Four orphaned owls find their way to a legendary owl kingdom and join them in performing good deeds. One chapter description of 2 "loveey dovey" owl "mates" who constantly preen each other and use "goeey names". Young owls wonder what it would be like to have a mate. Not discussed in detail. Minor mention of owl who wrote a memoir of her love life P. 135. Minor bathroom humor, ie owls make "wet dung" jokes about birds.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Lasky, Katherine	Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 3- The Rescue	4-7	OK??	Young owls sneak away to rescue their teacher from evil owls. Teacher likes to tell "dirty jokes" (not specified) student is "appalled" and says he is "crude" and "coarse"- teacher tells her to "give it a blow"- which is explained as meaning "shut up". Bad owl language that is nonsense language to us eg. "she frinks me off" means "supremely irritated". Owl bathroom humor. A lot of discussion of dead owls who can't go to their version of heaven because they have unfinished business and they can appear to living owls as spirits. Owls get drunk at a festival- a dignified female starts "sashaying about with a rose in her beak and wiggling her tail feathers in a most unseemly fashion." Male and female owls dance. Girl owl asks boy owl to dance- he is wondering if she is flirting with him. An owl curses in front of young owls (mostly but not all nonsense language to us that is bad language for owls) and owls are amazed. Owl becomes a "turncoat" for the enemy on the condition that another owl's mate be given to him as his mate. Female snake says the only good part of being drafted to the army is that there were handsome male snakes. Violence. Language- scum,daft, stupid, idiot, stinkin', poop, darned, scummy, berserk, weird, "shut your beak"
	Lasky, Katherine	Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 4: the Seige	4-7	OK??	Owls infiltrate evil owl academy. Lots of owl violence and cruelty described. Owl says worst owl curse (sprink) to teacher and says "I'm happy I did it". Other owl chutzpah to teachers. Minor language - darn. One owl kills another to steal his mate.
	Lasky, Katherine	Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 5 - The Shattering	4-7	OK?	Owls rescue an owl who was lured into being a spy for the enemy. More "wet poop" jokes, a few "swear" words in owl languages, eg sprink, frink
	Lasky, Katherine	Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 6 - The Burning	4-7	OK??	Owls fly to Northern Kingdom to recruit allies in fight against evil owls. Owl language same as other books - very bad for owls, nonsense words for people.(e.g. Pg. 96). Some of the understandable language is mildly problematic (e.g.. shut up, idiot, stinking, scum, butt). Minor incident of owl flirting.
	Latham, Irene	Leaving Gee's Bend	4-8	OK?	Historical fiction. Black girl in poor southern village, leaves village for the first time to find a doctor to help her mother. Several mentions of lord, J--. Not very explicit description of childbirth.
	Lawlor, Laurie	Addie Across The Prairie	3-6	OK?	Pioneer girl moves to the prairie with her family and survives a huge brush fire. A lot of sibling rivalry that ends with an apology. Full rendition of a song (hymn?) called Beulah Land- seems pretty neutral on the surface. A few neutral mentions of church. One unimportant sentence that father kissed mother when he returned home. .Language- dumb

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Lawlor, Laurie	Addie's Forever Friend	3-6	OK??	Girl overcomes her fear of water and saves her friend. Typical middos between siblings. Children go mixed swimming (in their clothing) text and illustration. Young girls wonder at store clerks strange behavior- he asks about the girls sister and blushes- girl says he is "sweet" on her sister, though she can't understand why. Language- stupid, puke, blasted.
	Lawlor, Laurie	American Sisters Adventure on Wilderness Road 1775	5-7	OK??	Pioneer children go west with their family. A girl learns to appreciate her younger sister. Minor middos between siblings. Father cheers on kids when they fight or tease each other. Language - stupid, shut up, dammit (once). A dance described but not romantically. Non-religious mention of Xmas. When in danger father curses - a man tells him " don't curse, pray" - father responds "I have no time to pray". Unimportant mention of girls having "sweethearts". In back, preview of "American Sisters - Pacific Odyssey to California 1705. Korean girls surprised to see a woman "twirling around with a man" because a "proper" woman wouldn't be seen dancing in public.
	Lawlor, Laurie	George on His Own	5-7	OK?	Boy gets tired of farming and runs away to join troupe of dishonest actors. Eventually realizes home is best and dishonesty bothers him. Some rough language, chutzpah.
	Lawlor, Laurie	The School at Crooked Creek	3-6	OK??	Boy overcomes his fear of going to school. Typical middos between siblings. Big boys bully smaller boy in school. Very subtle boy liking girl- asks to walk her home (she refuses) and blushes when he says goodbye- will go over most kids' heads. Language- stupid
	Lawlor, Laurie	The Worst Kid Who Ever Lived on Eighth Avenue	2-3	OK??	Children suspect that there is a crime being committed on their block. They find out that they are completely wrong. Kids scare each other that a bad boy on their block might have escaped jail and is coming. Boys and girls have a sleepover in a tent- completely innocent. Brief mention of TV.
	Lawrence, Iain	The Giant-Slayer	5-9	OK?	Girl visits friend in polio ward and tells fantasy story. Minor language. Graphic descriptions of polio illness and treatments.
	Lawrence, Mildred	Peach Tree Island	3-5	OK??	An orphaned girl goes to live with her uncle and begins to feel at home as she helps him with his peach orchard. One chapter about X-mas trees, decorations and presents - makes xmas seem very pleasant - no religion. Can't tear out because crucial to plot.
	Lawson, Robert	Mr. Revere and I	5-7	OK?	Historical fiction - American revolution. Written from a horse's point of view. 2 page mention of x-mas celebration - no religion.
	Lawson, Robert	Rabbit Hill	3-5	OK?	Cute story told from animals' perspective. Old fashioned style. Mention of St. Francis Assisi, "Patron Saint of animals" - can tear out.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Lee, Stan, Stuart Moore, Andie Tong	The Zodiac Legacy: Convergence	7-9	OK??	Zodiac powers, based on the Chinese "years", are unleashed into the world onto 12 individuals. Some teens join forces to defeat evil mastermind who wants all the powers for himself. Boys and girls work together. One pair apparently have an emotional 'connection', not overtly romantic, may become more so in future books. Some supportive/friendly negiah (including 2 hugs when someone is saved), one peck on cheek. Some language: hell, freaking, crap, jerk, screwed up, heck, etc. Violence.
new	LeGuin, Ursula K.	Catwings Return	2-3	OK	A short novel about 2 cats with wings who fly to the city to find their mother. Fly past church roof .
	Lemna, Don	When the Sergeant Came Marching Home	3-6	OK??	When father returns after WWII, family moves to a farm, where boy has funny adventures. Language: damn, hell (p. 134 - boys use words on purpose to be "bad"), crap (for manure) p. 162. X-mas - focus on gifts and meal, no religion. Mention of going to church. Mention of man who likes teacher -eventually becomes engaged, but breaks off when he is transferred. Boy has juvenile crush on teacher and older girl - innocent.
	Lennon, Joan	There's a Kangaroo in My Soup!	3-5	OK?	A boy teams up with a kangaroo comedian who escaped from the circus to catch a criminal. Cute, especially for kids who like corny jokes. A few silly juvenile mentions of inventing a machine that will put on people's underpants the right way around.
	Lerangis, Peter	Spy X - Proof Positive #3	5-7	OK	2 kids on improbable mission to find mother who has disappeared because of involvement in secret organization. Their father believes she has gone to the bad side, and is working against them. Children are conflicted which parent to support.
	Lerangis, Peter	Spy X - The Code #1	5-7	OK?	Children's mother, who works for secret government organization, disappears, and they unravel clues to find her. Briefly speculate if she ran away with another man - p. 69.
	Lerangis, Peter	Spy X - Tunnel Vision #4	5-7	OK	Children find mother, run away with her, leaving stepfather who believes her organization is the bad guys. Subtle implication that since father turns out to really be stepfather, they do not have to rely on his judgement anymore. Book ends on an incomplete note, but there do not seem to be any more volumes forthcoming.
	Lerangis, Peter	The 39 Clues - book 3 - The Sword Thief	6-8	OK??	Books of this series are written by different authors; reviews also appear under author name "The 39 clues". Orphaned children race to find clues to a treasure while competing against other branches of the family who are vicious and will stop at nothing to beat them. Ongoing love/hate relationship between 2 cousins which leads to mild romantic negiah (p. 123, chap 14). Minor language: heck, moron, stupid, dang.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Lerangis, Peter	Watchers #01 - Last Stop	5-7	OK	Series is Twilight Zone style: strange stories, with twist at the end. Each book is a stand-alone story, with the premise being that there are Watchers who oversee happenings and sometimes control them. Mildly scary. This book: Boy tries to find missing father and follows him to parallel world.
	Lerangis, Peter	Watchers #03 - ID	5-7	OK	See comment on series. Girl finds out she is a clone and races to find cure for her genetic condition.
	Levine, Ellen	If You Lived In The Time of The San Francisco Earthquake	3-5	OK	scary, easy reading
	Levine, Gail Carson	Tale of Two Castles	5-7	OK?	A girl leaves home to become an actress (called a mansioner) but ends up becoming an assistant to a clever dragon and helps solve a crime. Light use of old fashioned language. Wife leans into husband's shoulder, he encircles her with his arm. A king has terrible middos-his servants call him "Greedy Gremmy" behind his back. A woman takes the hand of the man she is engaged to. Girl blushes in the presence of a handsome man, but nothing happens. Girl directs soldiers to act in a play where they pretend to love her and want to marry her. Language-idiot.
	Levine, Gail Carson	The Fairy's Return (Princess Tales series)	4+	OK??	A spoof on the story "The Golden Goose" Fairy tale type of romance: kisses her hand when he proposes. Language: damn, moron, darn
	Levine, Gail Carson	The Princess Test (Princess Tales series)	4+	OK?	A spoof on the story "The Princess and the Pea". Fairy Tale type of romance - nothing very objectionable except distorted idea of "being in love"
	Levinson, Marilyn	The Fourth Grade Four	3-5	OK	Boy adjusts to needing glasses and worries his friends will leave him.
	Levinson, Robin K	Gali Girls Jewish History Series - Miriam's Journey Discovering A New World	4-6	OK?	Note on series: this is a copy of the American Girls type books, intended to instill pride in Jewish identity. Seems to be fairly accurate historically. Problems occur when books attempt to draw comparisons to other religions, point out positive aspects of other religions as they compare to traditional Judaism, and imply moral equivalence between religions. A Russian Jewish girl travel to America to join her father but when they come they find out her father has died and they may be forced to return to Russia. Remarkably, uncle who came some time before them still has beard and long coat. Brief description of a pogrom.
	Lewis, Thomas P.	Hill of Fire	1-2	OK	I-can-read-book. A volcano destroys a village. Scary
	Lewis, Thomas P.	Mr. Sniff and the Motel Mystery	1-2	OK	I-Can-Read-Book. Dog detective solves mysteries.
	Lewis, Zoe	Magic Attic Club - Keisha Discovers Harlem	3-5	OK?	Historical fiction. Keisha goes to Harlem of 1920 and discovers swing culture. Picture on cover and inside of girl wearing flapper dress - short and sleeveless.
	Lexau, Joan	Miss Happ in the Dog Food Caper	1-2	OK	Strange story of a witch who helps a boy figure out who is scattering dog food around the house.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Lexau, Joan	Striped Ice Cream	2-4	OK?	Very fine story of black family struggling to get along on low income. Father could not get job & disappeared so family could go on welfare - this could be difficult for young readers to understand.
	Lin, Grace	Dumpling Days	4-7	OK??	(Note that other books by author have worse rating). Girl goes to visit Taiwan, where parents grew up. Interesting view into other culture. Emphasis on (treif) cultural foods. Mentions of Taiwanese religion, ancestors, superstitions/beliefs. Description and stick-figure illustration demonstrating how to use Taiwan-style toilet (squat over hole in floor) - mother says it's more sanitary because you don't have to worry about other people's "butts".
	Lindbergh, Anne	The Prisoner of Pineapple Place		OK?	Sequel to "The People of Pineapple Place". Boy lives on street that is magically transported from place to place; occupants do not age and are invisible to "real world". Boy becomes friends with girl in "real world" who can see and hear him.
	Lindgren, Astrid	Pippi Longstocking	2-4	OK	A girl without parents lives on her own with strange manners and ideas. Some chutzpah but book makes it clear it's because no one taught her how to behave. She has a heart of gold. Funny.
	Lindgren, Astrid	Pippi Goes on Board	2-4	OK	Ditto
	Lindgren, Astrid	Pippi in the South Seas	2-4	OK?	Cartoonish illustration of girl in grass skirt, mention of shedding clothes and wearing a loin cloth but very minor
new	Lindsay, Elizabeth	Magic Pony- A Dream Come True	2-4	OK	A girl buys a magic poster with a picture of a pony who comes to life. One sentence- parents watch news on TV.
new	Lindsay, Elizabeth	Magic Pony- Ghost in the House	2-4	OK??	Girl gets back at girls who tease her with the help of her magic pony- by pretending the house is haunted. Girls exhibit very bad middos. One sentence mention that parents room has a "gigantic" bed. A lot of TV and movies. Language- freaky, stupid
	Lisle, Janet Taylor	Forest	4-6	OK??	A girl runs off to a forest so she can think in peace, and ends up in a war between the squirrels and the townspeople. Children talk negatively about their father - call him a "creep" (he is). Minor language: stupid. Unimportant brief discussion about "bad pictures" of women - can be crossed out - p. 68.
	Lisle, Janet Taylor	The Lampfish of Twill	6-8	OK?	An orphan boy in a fishing village forms a relationship with an eccentric old man who takes him down to the world under the sea. Magical theory of how world evolved from under whirlpool.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Little, Jean	Different Dragons	4-6	OK??	A boy visits his aunt while his family is away and with the help of the girl next door, overcomes his fear of many things, including dogs. Boy is astonished that his aunt doesn't have a TV and can't imagine life without television and is glad his aunt at least has a computer. Comics. Aunt makes sandwiches to send over to the church. Boy sneaks into closet without permission and ends up in dangerous position and needs to be rescued- aunt laughs and remembers when she did that when she was young. Mention of books by title which may or may not be appropriate. Language- dumb/ dummy, idiot, big dope
	Little, Jean	Mine For Keeps	5-7	OK	Beautiful story of a handicapped girl learning to manage in a mainstream environment
	Lively, Penelope	The Revenge of Samuel Stokes	5-7	OK?	A town is built on former estate of a gardener who comes back as a ghost determined to destroy the town. Talk of naked statues, no pictures. Ghost seems real.
	Lively, Penelope	Uninvited Guests	3-4	OK	ghost starves. Fine as long as can distinguish between fantasy & reality
	Lobel, Arnold	Days with Frog and Toad	1-2	OK?	A frog and toad who are friends have adventures. Minor language: drat (once). Frog tells a slightly scary story about a ghost - ends ok.
	Lobel, Arnold	Mouse Soup	1-2	OK	I Can Read Book. A mouse tricks a weasel who wants to eat him.
	Lofting, Hugh	Doctor Doolittle Tales	3-5	OK	Same as "Voyages of Doctor Doolittle and other Tales"
	Lofting, Hugh	Dr. Doolittle's Zoo	3-5	OK	The animals are in charge at Dr. Doolittle's zoo. Cute.
	Lofting, Hugh	The Voyages of Doctor Doolittle	5-7	OK?	An almost complete version of the Doctor Doolittle Tales meant for older readers. He wants to learn to talk to shellfish who are thousands of years old, so he can learn what the world was like "ages ago" in "glacial days". Minor language: stupid, oh lord. Xmas - no religion.
	Lofting, Hugh	The Voyages of Dr. Doolittle and other Tales	3-5	OK	Excerpts from 2 Dr. Doolittle books - how he became an animal doctor and his voyage to a tropical island.
	Loizeaux, William	Wings	3-6	OK??	Boy raises baby bird. Catholic friend baptizes bird so it won't be stuck in "limbo" after death. Single female teachers talk about single male teachers. Light touch on hand between courting adults.
	London, Jack	The Call of the Wild	7-HS	OK?	Dog reverts back to wild ancestry. References to images of prehistoric man - walks stooped over, swings through trees. Subtle.
	Look, Lenore	Ruby Lu, Brave and True	3-5	OK?	A Chinese American girl has cute adventures. Sprinkling of Chinese phrases and culture throughout the book. Very minor mention of trick or treat costumes. Mention of father saying 'four letter words' when angry.
	Lord, Bette Bao	In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson	3-5	OK??	Chinese girl moves to US and becomes fan of a famous baseball player. Good except for one incident - kids sneak into father's study to see "naked people" in his anatomy books (really skeletons).

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Love, D. Anne	The Puppeteer's Apprentice	6-8	OK?	A mistreated orphan girl runs away and becomes a puppeteer's apprentice. Set in medieval England. Violence described as well as mistreatment of the girl. Minor language: drat. Unimportant mention of "she squatted to relieve herself. Brief funeral service - priest says "ashes to ashes" and some Latin - not translated. Mentions of Xmas and All Hallows Eve. Mentions story of Jason casting water on a sacred stone - no further explanation.
	Lowry, Lois	All About Sam	3-6	OK?	Growing up, from the perspective of a baby. Language: heck. Sister makes a secret code using boys' names and when she writes "I despise so-and-so" it means "I love so-and-so". Very juvenile.
	Lowry, Lois	Attaboy, Sam	3-6	OK?	mention bra in store; picture child sleeping between parents in bed
	Lowry, Lois	See You Around, Sam	3-4	OK?	reference to sister's boyfriend; Santa
	Lowry, Lois	Stay: Keeper's Story	3-5	OK?	Vague anatomy (of dogs)
	Lubar, David	Punished	2-4	OK	Boy who is loud in library is "punished" by having to speak in puns.
	Lubar, David	The Psycho Zone: Kidzilla and other Tales	5-6	OK?	Collection of strange and scary short stories of the "twilight zone" variety. Some where kids get killed or eaten. May scare some kids. Last story - vampire - use cross to fight him.
	Lucas, D. J.	Dear Max	3-5	OK	Boy's correspondence with author.
	Lunn, Janet	Double Spell	5-7	OK?	Twin girls are fascinated by antique doll which starts giving them strange memories of olden times. Spirits, ghosts, magic, although story written in a style to appear more realistic than fantasy.
new	Maberry Jonathan	The Nightsiders: The Orphan Army	4-8	OK??	In world conquered by insect aliens, boy fights against evil human mutant with help of magical creatures. Violence and death. Language: freaking, dipwad, heck, snot, poop, sucks. Non-romantic negiah, including 2 kisses on cheek as thanks to boy who saved girl. Boy asks if a girl is cute.
	MacBride, Roger Lea	Little House The Rocky Ridge Years #1 Little House on Rocky Ridge	3-5	OK??	Continuation of L.E. Wilder's Little House series. Family moves to the Ozark Mountains to escape a drought. Description of man and woman square dancing (p66). Sunday is day of rest. Mother reads relatively innocuous passages from bible(p96-97). Innocent mixed swimming. Discussion about which church to join (p167), one word mention xmas,. Detailed description of mother doing her hair, getting dressed (p186-187). Father gives mother a hug- she blushes. Later gives her "a great hug and a long kiss that made her gasp" (p239)Language- shut up.
	MacBride, Roger Lea	Little House The Rocky Ridge Years- #2 Little Farm In The Ozarks	3-5	OK??	Girl adjusts to life on a farm and to new school. Mention of going to church on Sundays.On Decoration Day church members have a picnic and tidy the graveyard. One word mention of xmas.Description of a frolic- "folks" dance, "big boys" fight over "some girl". Girl gets scared when parents fight- eventually resolved. Girl thinks her teacher is "stupid" and "dirty". Language-durn, blasted (after father says this mother tells him not to cuss), stupid, dumb.
	MacDonald	Secondhand Star	2-3	OK	ref. To nun, saint

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	MacDonald, Betty	Mrs. Piggle Wiggle (series)	3-6	OK	Magical cures fix children's bad habits like being a slowpoke or bully. Bad middos clearly described but so is cure. Cute.
	Macguire, Gregory	The Good Liar	3-5	OK?	During WWII, two French boys befriend German soldier without knowing mother is hiding Jews. Very simple, innocent treatment of war. Humanizes German soldier.
	Mackellan, William	The Ghost of Grannoch Moor	4-6	OK	Boy comes to love puppy that was given to him as a consolation for dog's death. Solves mystery of which dog is killing sheep.
	MacLachlan, Patricia	Grandfather's Dance	4-6	OK?	Last book in Sarah, Plain and Tall series. Anna gets married, grandfather dies. Sad. Boy and girl who grew up together "whisper by the barn". Girl wonders why people would want to marry anyone other than their dog - fantasizes about her wedding: "dog husband licks cheek and whispers - you've never been more beautiful - more beautiful than pot roast". Minor language: Drat (p. 16)
	MacLachlan, Patricia	Caleb's Story	4-6	OK	Continuation of Sarah, Plain and Tall. Long-missing grandfather returns after he deserted family; grandson discovers that the reason he never wrote letters to them is that he could not read.
	MacLachlan, Patricia	More Perfect Than the Moon	4-6	OK?	Girl deals with mom having baby. P 35-37: watches boy and girl kiss - later get engaged. Can be crossed out.
new	MacLachlan, Patricia	Sarah Plain and Tall	3-5	OK??	Orphaned children anticipate getting a new mother when their father invites a "mail order bride" to come to visit to see if she wants to join their family. Very sweet and sensitive. Discussions about nice memories are dead mother are sad. Boy worries that new mother will find him "loud and pesky" and she won't want to stay. Some mild romantic negiah (before they are married)- father "puts his arm around her and leaned over to rest his chin in her hair", before she left (temporarily) she kissed everyone including father "who looked surprised".
	MacLachlan, Patricia	Skylark	4-6	OK?	Family confronts drought and scary fires. A happy marriage depicted very warmly, including physical affection between husband and wife - holding hands, kissing, hugging, dancing together, all described in a sweet and very gentle way. Parents need to decide if this is appropriate for their child.
	MacLachlan, Patricia	The Boxcar Children Beginning	3-5	OK?	A prequel to the famous Gertrude Chandler Warner series which tries to depict the life of the children before their parents died. Illustration and text of husband and wife dancing to lively tunes, wife kisses husband- he blushes.
	Magic School Bus	Magic School Bus Chapter Book #03 - The Wild Whale Watch	2-4	OK?	Kids go under ocean to see whales. Brief comparison of whale's size to dinosaur (P. 3).
	Magic School Bus	Magic School Bus Chapter Book #05 - Twister Trouble	2-4	OK	Kids experience a tornado.
	Magic School Bus	Magic School Bus Chapter Book #07 - The Great Shark Escape	2-4	OK	Class goes underwater to learn about sharks. Mildly scary.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Magic School Bus	Magic School Bus Chapter Book #10 Expedition Down Under	2-4	OK?	Tour guide is woman wearing shorts and tank top. P. 68 - Dingoes brought by sailors 15,000 years ago.
	Magic School Bus	Magic School Bus Chapter Book #18 The Fishy Field Trip	2-4	OK	Class goes to visit coral reef in Australia.
	Magic School Bus	The Magic School Bus Gets Eaten	1-3	OK?	Picture book. Bus takes kids inside human body. Ms. Frizzle wears strap-sleeve sundress
	Manes, Stephen	Be A Perfect Person In Just Three Days	3-5	OK?	Boy finds a book about being perfect but in following the silly instructions he comes to realize that perfection is boring. Some middos between siblings and classmates. Boy dreams that when he is perfect he will be able to correct his teachers in front of the class and he will be able to laugh at his family's mistakes. Brief mention of watching TV. Frequent use of the words stupid and dumb.
	Manes, Stephen	Make Four Million Dollars By Next Thursday	3-5	OK	Boy finds book about getting rich and follows wacky instructions. Realizes wealth is not everything.
	Marsden, Carolyn	When Heaven Fell	4-7	OK??	Vietnamese family has visit from Americanized half-Vietnamese grown daughter. Very nicely done insight into Vietnamese society (and hopefully hakoras hatov for American lifestyle). Mention of mother who "had child with" American soldier who then left - kids would assume married? Children watch American movie of teenage girls who swim in bikinis, go out with boy and kiss - very peripheral. Vietnamese family has separate house for dead ancestors; go there to "pray" and leave offerings of food for ancestors.
	Martin, Ann	Yours Turly, Shirley	3-5	OK??	Very nice story about learning-disabled girl. Short non-religious summary of story of JC. Compares Chanukah to X-mas - both get gifts.
	Martin, Ann M	Babysitters Little Sister #9 Karen's Sleepover	3-5	OK??	Same issues as other books in this series. Girl invites her friends to a sleepover, but when her best friend's invitation doesn't arrive they get into an ugly fight. They only make up when a new, haughty girl starts to ruin the party. Minor middos between classmates and between siblings. Girl "likes" a boy, he says he wants to come to the sleepover to see girls in their underwear. Movie The Wizard of Oz described in great detail. Language- weirdo, gross, jerks, dweeps, wimp, dumbbell.
	Martin, Ann M.	The Kids in Ms. Colman's Class - Teacher's Pet #1	2-4	OK?	Second graders choose a pet, girl tries to find a new best friend. Minor bad middos of the typical grade school variety - check later books to see if still minor. Minor language: school stinks, Ms. Colman stinks, barf.
	Martin, Ann M.	Everything for a Dog	3-6	OK?	Boy finds stray dog; another boy deals with death of his brother and his dog. X-mas gifts, meal, parade - no religion.
	Martin, Ann M. and Laura Godwin	The Doll People	4-6	OK?	A doll house family rescues their missing aunt . A few mentions of Nancy Drew books. Minor language: darn (P. 195)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Martin, Ann M. and Laura Godwin and Brian Selznick	The Runaway Dolls	4-6	OK??	The third "Doll People Story". The doll children run away with their newly discovered baby sister and end up being put up for sale in a department store. A few mentions of watching TV and reading the magazine TV Guide.. Girls plan to make up fake boy friends for fun (pg 311), Movie The Wizard of Oz.Dolls that can be plugged into a computer and used on line. Some scary moments that might be scary for younger readers. Language-weird, creepy
	Mason, Simon	The Quigleys in a Spin	2-4	OK	Delightful funny stories about British family.
	Mass, Wendy	11 Birthdays	4-7	OK??	Girl relives the day of her 11th birthday until she makes up with friend (who is a boy) and breaks the spell. Fun read. Minor side story of older sister who is trying to get popular boy to like her; he likes other girl and puts his arm around her.
	Massie, Elizabeth	Daughters of Liberty - Patsy's Discovery	4-6	OK?	Girl wishes she could wear trousers like a boy instead of uncomfortable colonial clothing. Otherwise nice historical fiction
	Mastermon-Smith, Virginia	The Treasure Trap	3-5	OK?	Boy and girl search for treasure and get trapped in tunnel. Take revenge against mean lady; book makes it seem justified.
	Matlin, Marlee	Deaf Child Crossing	3-5	OK??	9-year-old deaf girl learns about friendship. Several mentions of other girl wanting to see/talk about boys.
	Matlin, Marlee and Doug Cooney	Nobody's Perfect	3-5	OK	Deaf girl learns to deal with new friend whose brother is autistic.
	Mayerson, Evelyn Wilde	The Cat Who Escaped from Steerage	4-6	OK?	A Jewish girl and her deaf friend are emigrating to America from Europe with their families. Try to find escaped cat in forbidden area of the ship. Almost no religion except when passengers are scared some take out rosary beads and crosses and some put on prayer shawls. Also mentions that captain christened baby on board.
	Mazer, Anne	Amazing Days of Abby Hayes #03 Reach for the Stars	3-5	OK??	Girl wants to be the star of her class play. One minor reference to a girl with a crush on a boy (P. 38 chap 5) - can be crossed out.
	Mazer, Anne	Amazing Days of Abby Hayes #07 - Two Heads are Better Than One	3-5	OK?	5th grader becomes friends with boy while working on science project. Is teased about "boyfriend". Although they really remain "just friends", a lot of emphasis on "what's wrong with being friends with a boy, anyway?"
	Mazer, Harry	My Brother Abe	3-7	OK??	Historical fiction. Sister of Abraham Lincoln. Father is verbally abusive to children. Mother dies. Passing mention of Devil and Second Coming p. 91.
	McAllister, M. I.	The Mistmantle Chronicles book 1: Urchin of the Riding Stars	5-8	OK?	An ongoing story about an animal kingdom on a magical island and an orphaned squirrel who saves the kingdom from a greedy advisor to the king. Minor language: stupid (once). References to a "greater power" that controls everything, called "the heart" which is "compassionate", that understands more than the animals do, and has reasons for what it does. There are priests who pray to the heart. Some "falling in love" and getting married - quite tame.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	McAllister, M. I.	The Mistmantle Chronicles book 2: Urchin and the Heartstone	5-8	OK??	Squirrel is kidnapped and prevents neighboring island from invading his home. A lot of minor language: shut up, idiot, freak (constantly used), stupid. A lot of praying to the "great heart" but no further description. An evil sorcerer kills animals to use their bodies for evil magic. Some good guy vs. bad guy violence. Priest gets prophecies. One sentence mention of flirting, falling in love, and marrying (no description of flirting). One sentence mention of a "handsome officer" who wants a romantic place to impress his girlfriends (p. 198).
	McAllister, M. I.	The Mistmantle Chronicles book 3: The Heir of Mistmantle	5-8	OK?	Continuing saga. The island is confronted with drought, disease, flooding, and the kidnapping of the baby princess. When one of the heroes finds out his father was a villain, he contemplates suicide (in the end comes to terms with it). There are some sad moments with when one hero dies saving another. Same issues about religious beliefs as previous books. Non-romantic negiah. Unimportant mention of a male having a quiet conversation with his girlfriend. Story told about a villain who married and had a child but when he became interested in another, he tried to kill his wife and child. (p. 136-139). Brief unimportant mention of king and queen who lay in each other's arms (p. 276).
	McAllister, M. I.	The Mistmantle Chronicles book 4: Urchin and the Raven War	5-8	OK?	Continuing saga. Animals go to war against evil ravens and almost lose their island. Ends happily. Many mentions of priests and praying but very neutral - more talk of the "heart" they pray to. Minor language: stupid (twice). A lot of bad guy vs. good guy violence. Brief mention of married squirrels holding forepaws.
	McAllister, M. I.	The Mistmantle Chronicles book 5: Urchin and the Rage Tide	5-8	OK?	Continuing saga. Animals prepare for a rage tide that will devastate their island at the same time as an insane animal tries to destroy them. More detailed worshipping of the "heart", priest has prophecies that come true, kneels to pray, etc. but still pretty innocuous. Very sad and moving moments when king sacrifices his life to save an ill girl. Sweet and tame romance leading to marriage- when she is dying, he holds her hand, reaches out to rescue her from being swept away.
	McCaughrean, Geraldine	Smile!	3-6	OK?	Photographer is stranded in jungle village, and uses 10 remaining instant photos on his camera to record village life. Short book, yet sophisticated and fun; appropriate for wide range of ages. Passing indirect reference to hand-holding. Drawings of tribal women in sleeveless dresses.
	McCloskey, Robert	Centerburg Tales	4-6	OK??	An elderly man tells humorous tall tales in a small town where everyone minds each other's business. Mentions of the movies. Mention of stories by Mark Twain. Tall tale of man who could hop unbelievably high but wasn't wearing clothes- humorous illustration. A lot of dialogue that includes humorous but somewhat problematic language- durned tootin', dadgommit, I'll be durned, dadblamed,doggonit,screwball,weird,shucks.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	McCloskey, Robert	Homer Price	5-8	OK?	Funny old fashioned stories about a boy living in a small town where everyone minds each others' business. Minor language: derved, heck, goll darnit. A comical 2-page illustration of an old time barber shop with a calendar on the wall of a side view of a girl in a bathing suit; a picture of a woman kissing a man on the head - more comical than romantic but kids will notice it.
	McDonald, Megan	Judy Moody Saves The World!	2-4	OK??	Girl tries various ecological schemes to save the world. Same problems as other books in this series. Middos between siblings and between kids in school. Language-weird, fink, gross, pee, freak.
new	McDonough, Yona Zeldis	Who Was Rosa Parks?	2-4	OK??	Biography of woman who challenged the Jim Crow laws by refusing to get up for a white person on a bus. Detailed descriptions of unfair discrimination and segregation. Her parents "separated" and she went to live with her grandparents. A fifteen year old girl also refused to give up her seat for white passengers, but the civil rights movement decided not to use her as a "role model" since she was 15 and pregnant and was accused of cursing at the policeman who beat her. Brief description of how church brought her "joy" and was the center of her life.
	McGinley, Phyllis	The Most Wonderful Doll in the World	2-3	OK	A girl learns her lesson to be satisfied with what she has, when she loses her doll and finds it again.
	McGovern, Ann	The Secret Soldier	3-5	OK?	Biography of a woman who dressed up like a man and then signed up to be a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Begins on a sad note when her father dies and her mother is forced to give away her child. When she gets older she decides to be a soldier because it was the only way she could travel and have adventures. She tied a cloth around her chest "so she would look flat chested like a boy" Men proposed marriage to her - she said no because she wanted adventure, not marriage - though she did marry much later on.
	McGraw, Eloise	The Moor Child	6-8	OK??	A child who is half fairy and half human unsuccessfully tries to fit into a superstitious human village. Frequent minor language - shut up, freaking odd. Some talk of priests, christening, holy water. Description of how fairies keep taking different mates and have children, then forget about them. Description of a fairy luring a human into fairyland and having a baby with him. Celebration of saints day. Girl eventually runs away with a boy who accepts her as she is (not clear if it's romantic).
	McKay, Hilary	Amber Cat	5-7	OK?	Girl turns out to be ghost from another time. Fascinating interplay between main story and story told by mother about her childhood.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	McKay, Hilary	Dog Friday	5-7	OK??	A boy whose father died helps his mother struggle to maintain a bed and breakfast. He struggles to overcome his fear of dogs after a dog attacked him (described in detail). Brief non religious easter and xmas. Mothers in this story are relatively decent, but "jokingly" call children names like "a howling idiot" or "a nightmare". Middos between classmates. Language-shut up, idiot, stupid, hell's bells.
	McKay, Hilary	Dolphin Luck	5-7	OK?	Interplay between reality and supernatural.
	Mckay, Hilary	Lulu and the Cat in the Bag	2-4	OK?	Someone leaves a cat in a bag on girl's doorstep; she tries to find a home for it.Parrot likes to watch TV. Grandmother is very strict that male rabbits and female rabbits go in separate hutches- no explanation why. One word mention of xmas. Girl says boy is "bonkers". Language- poo.
	McKay, Hilary	Lulu and the Dog From the Sea	2-4	OK?	Girl befriends stray dog while on a family vacation at the beach. One large black and white illustration of mother and girls at the beach wearing bathing suits.
	McKay, Hilary	Lulu and the Duck In The Park	2-4	OK??	A girl who love animals rescues a duck egg.Some minor bad behavior in class- very juvenile.Teacher reads kids Harry Potter- kids give her a hard time since the book is different than the movie version. One word mention of xmas. One sentence mention of googling things on the internet.One word mention of church. Language- poop
	McKay, Hilary	Lulu and the Rabbit Next Door	2-4	OK??	Girl tries to help boy appreciate his pet rabbit. At the beginning boy is unfriendly and exhibits bad middos, later she wins him over and he improves. Minor arguments between friends. One word mention of xmas. Boy and girl are miserable because their teacher forces them to be partners for square dancing in school. Very juvenile. Language- stupid (once).
	McKay, Hilary	Wishing for Tomorrow: The Sequel to A Little Princess	4-6	OK?	What happened after Sara left the Boarding School. Juvenile boy/girl - some girls try to get attention of boy next door. Passing mention of evolution - no definition or detail.
	McMahon, P. J.	The Freaky Joe Club - Secret File #1 The Case of the Swimming Gorilla	3-5	OK?	Boy creates club to solve mysteries. Mention of boy that has 2 beautiful sisters; several mentions of them. Minor language - title.
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayer's Academy #01 - The New Kid at School	3-5	OK?	Silly book about boy who joins school to learn to slay dragons. Adults portrayed as silly and immature. Juvenile bathroom humor.
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayer's Academy #02 - Revenge of the Dragon Lady	3-5	OK?	Boy kills a dragon but the mean mother dragon comes to take revenge. Same silly bathroom humor as other books in series.
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayers Academy #10 - Help It's Parents' Day at DSA	3-5	OK?	Children put on a play for their parents. One boy worries he will be kicked out because he hasn't paid tuition. A girl who pretends to be a boy tries to convince her parents to let her stay in school. The parents and teachers are very juvenile. The king tells a joke about his "bum" being frozen.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayers Academy #12 - The Ghost of Sir Herbert Dungeonstone	3-5	OK?	Children try to save their school from a greedy ghost. As in all the books in this series, teachers are portrayed as silly and bumbling; the headmaster is moneyhungry. Same bathroom humor as others.
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayers Academy #13 - Beware! It's Friday the 13th	3-5	OK?	Children prepare to defend their school and a monk from a ferocious dragon until they find out that the dragon only wants the monk to cook peanut brittle for him. Headmaster is extremely immature and superstitious because it is Friday the 13th, which he considers unlucky.
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayers Academy #14 - Pig Latin - Not Just for Pigs	3-5	OK?	Children go to visit their classmate's royal palace. A talking pig cures the sick king. The king is portrayed as a fool. His daughter says "my parents are so weird"; kids respond "don't worry, everybody's are".
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayers Academy #16 Worlds' Oldest Living Dragon	3-5	OK?	Kids try to save their school from a dragon by enlisting the help of old retired knights. Man kisses woman's hand when she thanks him - can be crossed out.
	McMullan, Kate	Dragon Slayers Academy #17 Hail! Hail! Camp Dragonika	3-5	OK?	Kids go to camp where head of camp tries to trick them into digging up dragon gold. Typical juvenile bathroom humor - belching, snot, toilets, etc. Talking pig has a crush on a boar. In the end decides he's boring.
	McNamee, Eoin	City of Time	6-8	OK??	Book 2 of The Navigator Trilogy. Boy aids in battle to defeat enemies who want to freeze Time. Language: hell (p. 158). Several characters have parents who die or are presumed dead.
	McNamee, Eoin	The Navigator	6-8	OK??	Book 1 of The Navigator Trilogy. Boy finds out he has inherited father's position of The Navigator who can save the world from enemies who turn Time backward. Non-romantic negiah - 333. Language: hell, damn: 215, 244,246, 263, 274, 287, 300, 319
	McSwigon, Marie	Snow Treasure	4-6	OK?	Norwegian children help smuggle gold out of their country to prevent the Nazis from taking it. Nazis portrayed as bad guys who do a few minor bad things but nothing mentioned about Jews or killing, other than the threat of death as a punishment for disobeying. Slightly scary book for a sensitive child. Boys and girl play together and fight together - nothing romantic. Mention of the priest on the altar at mass - no further description. Minor language - stupid
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - A Fairy Ballet	1-3	OK?	Easy reader. Fairies present a ballet. Same problematic type illustrations as regular series, but these are all full color.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Pet Parade	1-3	OK?	Easy reader. Fairies can't decide which pet to give to the king and queen.Problematic full color illustrations.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Autumn The Falling Leaves Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note about entire series: Each book is part of a seven-book grouping in which girls help fairies to do one of seven things until mission is complete. Books can be read separately but kids will probably want to read all 7 in the grouping. Exception are the special editions which are self contained, as well as the easy readers. Throughout this series are illustrations of scantily clad, high fashion, young-ish fairies; not very provocative but definitely not snius. Covers are full color illustrations of scantily clad fairies. Although this book is way below a fourth grade reading level, children at this age still enjoy them. In this book, Girls help fairy find magical objects that help the Fall season arrive and have a good harvest. References to nature being magical (as if it is a force of its own). Problematic illustrations. Language-weird. Preview of Keira the Movie Star Fairy. Takes place on a movie set. Male actor offers female actress his arm.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Belle The Birthday Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls help recover magical birthday items. Comical illustration of girls dancing with male goblins. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Brianna The Tooth Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls help fairy retrieve stolen magical objects that they use to collect children's teeth when they fall out. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Cara The Camp Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls help fairy retrieve magical objects that make summer camp fun. Illustrations slightly worse than usual since there is a large illustration of girls and counselor in (non provocative) bathing suits. language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Flora the Dress-Up Fairy	2-4	OK??	Note on series: Each Special Edition fairy book features a stand alone 3 part story of girls helping fairies retrieve magical objects and/ or fairies helping girls with their magical objects. Always involve goblins who are humorous "bad guys". Throughout this series, illustrations of scantily clad young-ish fairies; not very provocative but definitely not tznius. Covers are full color illustrations. The fairy books which are not Special Edition are part of a 7 book series. In this book fairy helps girls to keep goblins from ruining their aunt and uncle's masquerade ball. Illustrations are slightly worse than usual (fairy on cover and in book wearing a mermaid costume, girls wear angel costumes with harps). Language: greedy-guts. Mentions dancing at the ball - no description.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Florence The Friendship Fairy	2-4	OK??	Girls help fairies magically help friendships. A few illustrations of co-ed dancing nothing romantic at all- mostly looks like kids having fun. Usual problematic illustrations. Many references to fairies in previous books. Mild bodily function humor eg. stinky feet, etc. Language-weird. Preview of Lindsay The Luck Fairy- mention of St. Patricks day.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Joy the Summer Vacation Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls team up with fairy to stop a villain from ruining people's vacations. On the cover a full color cartoonish illustration of a youngish fairy wearing a tank top and short skirt. Inside many illustrations of similarly clad youngish girls. Mentions girls changing into bathing suits to go swimming on the beach, but no explicit mentions of it being co-ed. A bit scarier than usual.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Kylie the Carnival Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Girls help stop goblins from ruining a carnival. Language - weird (once). One of the rides is a "tunnel of love" - a train ride that goes through the scenery of the 4 seasons - an illustration shows a boy with his arm around a girl - no verbal explanation. The "disco fairy" (from a previous book) invites the girls to dance. Language- pesky, weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Mia The Bridesmaid Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Girls help fairy recover stolen objects so that their cousin's wedding won't be ruined. Setting is outside a church. Church bells. Illustration of female pastor. A lot of talk of tradition - "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue", to bring luck. Mentions going on honeymoon.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Olympia The Games Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls help fairy find magical objects that help people in races. Problematic illustrations. One word mention of church as a geographic landmark. Mentions of characters in previous books. Review in back of Selena The Sleepover Fairy.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Selena The Sleepover Fairy	2-4	OK??	Girls go to a big charity sleepover at a museum and help retrieve magical items that make sleepovers fun. (It is co-ed, but never mentioned). Illustrations a bit better than usual, though still not tsnius. One word xmas. Mention of dinosaurs but not millions of years. Language-shut up, gross, weird, dumb.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Shanon the Ocean Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Begins with girls dancing at a luau together with the "Disco Fairy" - no detailed description.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Dance Fairies #4 - Tasha the Tap Dance Fairy	2-4	OK?	Preview of "Jessica the Jazz Fairy" - Mentions Broadway musicals.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Dance Fairies #7 - Isabelle the Ice Dance Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Mentions of ice dancing. Mentions fairy tale characters - Sleeping Beauty, Red Riding Hood, Cinderella - plot not given. Girls think ice dancing with a partner would be great - no mention of gender of partner or illustrations. Cartoonish illustration of male goblins getting dressed - some half dressed - no detailed anatomy. Preview of Poppy the Piano Fairy-mention of pop singing group and their new single.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fairies' Birthday Surprise	1-3	OK?	Easy reader. Fairies make a birthday cake from scratch. Problematic full color illustrations.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #2 Claudia the Accessories Fairy	2-4	OK??	Note on Fashion series- girls help find magical objects that help "take care of fashion". Mild fashion world culture- parent needs to decide if they want their child exposed to this. Throughout this series girls talk about designing outfits for a fashion contest- one girl is decorating her old jeans. Problematic illustrations. Language- weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #3-Tyra The Designer Fairy	2-4	OK??	Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #4- Alexa The Fashion Reporter Fairy	2-4	OK??	Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #5- Jennifer the Hairstylist Fairy	2-4	OK??	Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #6- Brooke The Photographer Fairy	2-4	OK??	Girls are modeling clothes (not snius) for a fashion shoot and are anticipating a fashion show.(which happens in the next book which is previewed at the end of this book) Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #1 - Megan the Monday Fairy	2-4	OK?	Fun Day series: Children help find magical items that will allow their friends to have fun. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #2 - Tara the Tuesday Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #3 - Willow the Wednesday Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #4 - Thea the Thursday Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Mentions that male seahorses have babies instead of females - and that the females fight over the males "with the biggest bellies" - said in a very matter of fact way.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #5 - Felicity the Friday Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #6 Sienna The Saturday Fairy	2-4	OK??	Girls are in a fashion show in the mall. Detailed descriptions and illustrations of trendy clothing (typical of fashions in this series) and modeling them on a runway but very innocent.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #7 Sarah The Sunday Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Stella The Star Fairy"-about xmas-can be torn out.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #1 - India the Moonstone Fairy	2-4	OK?	Jewel series: Girls help find precious stones that give magical powers like seeing future or flying. Problematic illustrations. One non-religious mention of Halloween.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #2 - Scarlett the Garnet Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language: stupid (once)
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #3 - Emily the Emerald Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Chloe the Topaz Fairy" - Costumes for Halloween party.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #5 - Amy the Amethyst Fairy	2-4	OK?	Illustrations slightly better than others.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #6 - Sophie the Sapphire Fairy	2-4	OK?	Illustration issues including one of a mermaid with long hair covering her chest. A lot of talk that wishes really do come true.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #7 - Lucy the Diamond Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. A bit scary.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #1 Ashley The Dragon Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Magical Animals series- Girls help locate magical animals while spending a week at an outdoor adventure camp. In this book problematic illustrations. Language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #2 Lara The Black Cat Fairy	2-4	OK?	Mild superstitions about bad and good luck- eg. black cat, four leaf clover, walking under a ladder.Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #3 Erin The Phoenix Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #4 Rihanna The Seahorse Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #5 Sophia The Snow Swan Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #6 Leona The Unicorn Fairy	2-4	OK?	Mention of Shakespeare's play- A Midsummer's Night's Dream. Mention of watching a movie on TV.Problematic illustrations.Language- weird, gross.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #7 Caitlin The Ice Bear Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.Unimportant one sentence mention of twinkling xmas lights. Language-weird.
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Magical Crafts Fairies #1 Kayla The Pottery Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Magical Craft series- girls help retrieve stolen objects that help people with arts and crafts. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #3 - Fiona the Flute Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Girls help fairy locate her magic flute that was stolen by the goblins who want to enter a TV talent show. Juvenile joke about "stinky feet".

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #4 - Danni the Drum Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Girls are excited to appear in a music video with a famous pop star - numerous (but tame) references to music culture. Language: funky.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #5 Maya The Harp Fairy	2-4	OK?	Mention of a rose garden with Greek gods all around- no details. Preview of "Victoria The Violin Fairy"-girls download music from the internet. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #6 - Victoria the Violin Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Text and illustration about downloading music from the internet.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #7 Sadie The Saxophone Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls prevent goblins from winning a TV talent contest. Mentions that the winner will get a recording contract with a record company. Brief mention of different kinds of music eg. Jazz, rock, etc. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #1 Ava The Sunset Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Night series: Girls help fairies find stolen bags of magical dust that help things go well at night. Setting is a camp girls go to with their parents that has an observatory. Problematic illustrations. In this series girls become friends with 2 boys- seems completely innocent. Some nonromantic negiah- eg. when girl falls boy helps her up. In this book language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #2 Lexi The Firefly Fairy	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Problematic illustrations. Brief mention that tree lit up by fireflies looks like an xmas tree.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #3 Zara The Starlight Fairy	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #4 Morgan The Midnight Fairy	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #5 Nia The Night Owl Fairy	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #6 Anna the Moonbeam Fairy	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Problematic illustrations. Language-weird. Preview of Sabrina the Sweet Dreams Fairy- coed sleepover- totally innocent.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #7 Sabrina The Sweet Dreams Fairy	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Co ed sleepover described with illustrations but completely innocent and juvenile.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #1 Ally The Dolphin Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Ocean series- Girls help fairies find pieces of a magical conch shell that "brings peace and order to the oceans". Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #2 Amelie The Seal Fairy	2-4	OK?	Illustrations slightly less problematic than usual.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #3 Pia The Penguin Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #4 Tess The Sea Turtle Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #5 Stephanie The Starfish Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #6 Whitney The Whale Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #7 Courtney The Clownfish Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. One sentence mention and small illustration of older couple relaxing on beach chairs "arm in arm".
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #1 - Cherry the Cake Fairy	2-4	OK?	Party series: girls prevent parties from being ruined. Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Melodie the Music Fairy" - unimportant mentions of Xmas lights.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #2 - Melodie the Music Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Brief mention of twinkling Xmas lights - no religion.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #3 - Grace the Glitter Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Brief unimportant mention of Xmas decorations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #4 - Honey the Candy Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #5 - Pooey the Part Fun Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #6 - Phoebe The Fashion Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #7 - Jasmine the Present Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #1 - Katie the Kitten Fairy	2-4	OK?	Pet series: girls rescue fairy animals and human animals. Cover has scantily clad fairy. Illustrations of fairies and children in various outfits ranging from more to less tznius. End of book has excerpt from "Bella the Bunny Fairy" about Easter - easy to tear out.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #3 - Georgia the Guinea Pig Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #4 - Lauren the Puppy Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #5 - Harriet the Hamster Fairy	2-4	OK?	Mention of TV and illustration of a TV turned off. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #6 - Molly the Goldfish Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #7 - Penny the Pony Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #1 - Tia The Tulip Fairy	2-4	OK?	Petal series: children find magical flower petals that help flowers bloom. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #2 - Pippa the Poppy Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #3 - Louise the Lily Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language: dumb
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #4 - Charlotte the Sunflower Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #5 - Olivia the Orchid Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. At one point the girls put themselves in real danger to get the petal - somewhat scary (and foolhardy). Language: stupid (once)
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #6 - Danielle the Daisy Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #7 - Ella the Rose Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Goblin tells girls they are wearing "yucky pink" and "pink stinks".
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #1 Hope The Happiness Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Princess series- Girls help fairies find magical tiaras while they spend their spring vacation at a royal sleepover camp in a restored palace. Problematic illustrations. Many characters from previous books mentioned. Mention of a ball, no details. Illustration of a hedge cut into the shape of a prince and princess dancing.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #2 Cassidy The Costume Fairy	2-4	OK?	Mention of a ball but no illustrations of ball or mention of mixed dancing.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #3 Anya The Cuddly Creatures Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #4 Elisa The Royal Adventure Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #5 Lizzie The Sweet Treats Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #6 Maddie the Fun and Games Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language-shut your mouth.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #7 Eva The Enchanted Ball Fairy	2-4	OK??	Setting is preparing for a ball and attending it. Humorous illustration of boys and girls trying to learn to waltz but having difficulty. Otherwise, no mention or illustrations of coed dancing.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #1 Ruby The Red Fairy	2-4	OK?	.Note on Rainbow series: Girls rescue fairies that make colors. Problematic illustrations
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #2 - Amber the Orange Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #2 Amber The Orange Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations- girls in bathing suits at the beach
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #3 - Saffron the Yellow Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #4 - Fern the Green Fairy	2-4	OK?	Illustrations slightly less problematic than others in series.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #5 - Sky the Blue Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Slightly scary but ends fine. Preview of "Inky the Indigo Fairy" - The Nutcracker, Xmas, Xmas tree - no religion.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #6 - Inky the Indigo Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Mention of going to the nutcracker ballet at Xmas, a picture of an Xmas tree in a book - no religion.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #7 - Heather the Violet Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #1 - Helena the Horse-Riding Fairy	2-4	OK?	Sports series: girls rescue fairies' magical sports items. Problematic illustrations. Mention of Olympic Games.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #2 - Stacy the Soccer Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Mention of Olympic Games and other sports culture.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #3 - Zoe the Skating Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #4 Brittany The Basketball Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #5 - Samantha the Swimming Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Illustrations of girls in 2 piece bathing suits - not provocative. Cover of fairy in bathing suit - not provocative.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #6 - Alice the Tennis Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Gemma the Gymnastics Fairy" - Easter eggs, Easter presents, no religion.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #7 - Gemma the Gymnastics Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Olympic games. Mention of Easter eggs and presents - no religion. Mention of goblin who likes to sing rock and roll and Elvis songs.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #2 Adele The Voice Fairy	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Problematic illustrations. Mention of previous book- rockstar fairy. Preview of Vanessa The Choreography Fairy- similar issues as this book.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #3 Vanessa The Choreography Fairy	2-4	OK??	A lot of mild rock culture as in previous book including boy bands, latest hits, dance videos, etc.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #4 Miley The Stylist Fairy	2-4	OK??	See note on series- same issues
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #7 Cassie The Concert Fairy	2-4	OK??	Same issues as other books in this series. Girls pretend to film a TV show. Illustration of girls singing on stage with rock stars- males and females with arms over each other's shoulders (not romantic). Preview of Miranda the Beauty Fairy- girls excited to meet a "supermodel" at the grand opening of a mall.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #1 - Crystal the Snow Fairy	2-4	OK?	Weather series: girls help retrieve magical feathers that control the weather. Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #2 - Abigail the Breeze Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. 2 unimportant mentions of church bells blowing in the wind. Goblin eats dog food then "burps" and has "stinky breath".
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #3 - Pearl the Cloud Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Brief mention of people coming out of a movie theater after watching a funny movie.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #4 - Goldie the Sunshine Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #5 - Evie the Mist Fairy	2-4	OK?	Unimportant mention of Xmas tree (p. 12). Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #6 - Storm the Lightning Fairy	2-4	OK?	Illustrations slightly better than usual.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #7 - Hayley The Rain Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- Special Edition- Bailey the Babysitter Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls help recover magical items that help people care for babies. Mention of story Cinderella. One sentence mention of toy dinosaurs. Humor- goblin burps, blows raspberry Language- yucky, gross, stinky, pesky

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- Special Edition- Blossom The Flower Girl Fairy	2-4	OK??	Girls help a wedding planner make a wedding go smoothly and help a fairy recover her magical objects that help weddings and relationships run well. One helps "prevent misunderstandings between couples", one "controls harmony" and one makes "love stay strong in good times and bad like it says in the wedding vows". Fiance gives a baseball mit so they can play catch together- girls think it is romantic. One sentence that groom kisses bride- illustration of them holding hands. It looks like bride is Asian and groom is African American. Language- drat (once)
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- Special Edition- Carly the School Fairy	2-4	OK??	Girls help fairy retrieve magical objects at an interschool contest. Brief mention of TV. Mention of Jade the Disco Fairy at a dance. Fairy king puts his arm around the girls to thank them. Illustration of male (goblin) band presumably playing rock music while scantily clad female fairies dance. Back of book- preview of Angelica the Angel fairy- one word xmas (in this preview- probably more in the actual book).
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- Special Edition- Chelsea the Congratulations Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls help fairy retrieve magical objects that help them celebrate special milestones like graduations. Brief mention of watching baseball on TV. Illustration of girl shaking male baseball player's hand. Problematic illustrations. Language- pesky
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- Special Edition- Lila and Myla the Twins Fairies	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations. Girls help fairy twins recover their magical objects. Illustration of coed dancing- boys and girls dancing at the same time, but not touching.
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Baby Animal Rescue Fairies # 3- Mara The Meerkat Fairy	2-4	OK?	<i>Problematic illustrations. One sentence mention of girl watching a TV show about meekrats.</i>
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Baby Animal Rescue Fairies #1- Mae the Panda Fairy	2-4	OK??	<i>Note on Baby Animal series- Girls help fairies retrieve magical objects that help take care of animals. Problematic illustrations. One sentence mention of xmas eve and santa- no religion. Goblin makes fun of fairies "nanny, nanny boo- boo, stinks to be you"</i>
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Baby Animal Rescue Fairies #2- Kitty The Tiger Fairy	2-4	OK?	<i>Problematic illustrations</i>
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Baby Animal Rescue Fairies #4- Rosie the Honey Bear Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language- pesky
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Baby Animal Rescue Fairies #5	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #1- Nicole The Beach Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Earth series- Girls ask fairies for help cleaning the environment, and help locate stolen wands. Very pro conservationist. Problematic illustrations

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #2- Isabella the Air Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Earth series- Girls ask fairies for help cleaning the environment, and help locate stolen wands. Very pro conservationist. In this book, girls want to see a movie in a movie theater. In this book illustrations slightly less problematic.
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #3- Edie The Garden Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Litter includes old TV sets. Language- pesky
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #4- Coral The Reef Fairy	2-4	OK??	Problematic illustrations- people coed dancing on the beach, usual problematic outfits.
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #5- Lily The Rain Forest Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Girl thinks of plan to stop goblins that she saw in a movie (one sentence). Language- weird
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #5- Lily The Rain Forest Fairy	2-4	OK?	Unimportant mention of seeing a movie. Language- weird
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #6- Milly The River Fairy	2-4	OK?	Typical problematic illustrations
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #7- Carrie the Snow Cap Fairy	2-4	OK?	In back of book preview of an xmas fairy book- girls baking for xmas- no religion
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Magical Crafts Fairies # 4 Josie the Jewelry Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language- weird
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Magical Crafts Fairies # 6 Libby the Writing Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Magical Crafts Fairies #2 Annabelle the Drawing Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language- pesky
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Magical Crafts Fairies #3 Zadie the Sewing Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language- pesky
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Magical Crafts Fairies #5 Violet the Painting Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language - pesky
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Magical Crafts Fairies #7 Roxie the Baking Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #2 - Esme the Ice Cream Fairy	2-4	OK?	Girls briefly meet up with male classmates- text and illustration- friendly but not at all romantic. Usual problematic illustrations.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #3- Coco the Cupcake Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #5- Madeline the Cookie Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #6- Layla THE Cotton Candy Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #7- Nina the Birthday Cake Fairy	2-4	OK?	Problematic illustrations
new	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The Superstar Fairies #1- Jessie the Lyrics Fairy	2-4	OK??	Note on Superstar series-Girls help retrieve magical clefs that help pop stars give good performances.In this book a lot of mild pop culture- e.g. "boy band", "getting autographs", "hit songs", "dance videos" etc. In this book one word xmas. Mention of "rock star fairy" from previous book.
	Meadows, Daisy	Rainbow Magic- The sugar and Spice Fairies #1- Lisa the Lolipop Fairy	2-4	OK?	Note on Sugar and Spice Series- Girls help retrieve stolen magical items that make treats taste good. Language- gross
	Meigs, Cornelia	The Covered Bridge	3-5	OK	A sweet, old fashioned story about a girl spending the winter on a farm in Vermont. Neutral quotes from the Bible.
	Meltzer, Milton	Mary McLeod Bethune: Voice of Black Hope	3-4	OK?	True story of black woman who opens girls school & is civil rights hero. New Testament quotation on p. 12-13 - can be crossed out.
	Merrill, Jean	The Pushcart War	5-8	OK	Funny story disguised as historical account of a battle between pushcarts and big trucks.
new	Miles, Ellen	Kitty Corner - Otis	2-4	OK?	Family fosters cats. Name cat for famous singer Otis Redding, the King of Soul. Language- freak out.
	Miles, Ellen	Taylor-Made Tales - The Pirate's Plot	3-5	OK	A teacher helps a boy deal with his frustration with boring drills at soccer practice, by telling the class a tale of a stowaway. Minor mention of going to church and having special Sunday dinner - no religion.
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place - Buddy	2-4	OK?	Children foster a mother dog and her puppies.Father puts arm around mother's shoulders. Language- dumb
	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place - Lucky	2-4	OK?	Boy befriends a very shy boy and returns a lost puppy to its owners. One sentence mention of Xmas present - no religion. Language - dratted, pee (once). At one point seems as if puppy might die - ends OK.
	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place - Princess	2-4	OK	Boys help a spoiled puppy find a home. Setting is a beauty parlor - minor beauty parlor culture. Language: brat (once).
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Bella	2-4	OK??	Children foster a newborn pup.Girl is afraid pup will die because it is so weak. Father describes his sadness at death of his childhood pet turtle. May be upsetting for a sensitive child. Mentions of puppy "peeing" and problems training her. Woman is thinking of adopting a baby and becoming a "single mom". Language- gross.weird

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Chewy and Chica	2-4	OK?	Children foster two pups at once. A lot of information about "puppy mills" which raise puppies in bad conditions for profit. Children organize a protest outside a pet store that sells puppy from puppy mills. A lot of discussion about puppies "peeing" where they shouldn't and training them not to. Mother and father shake hands on a bet. Boy reads book written by dog trainer who is on TV. Nonromantic hand shakes. Language- idiot (once), weird (once), stupid (once)
	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Cocoa	2-4	OK??	Children foster an energetic dog who accidentally caused his elderly owner to get hurt.High school dating (mentioned repeatedly but in a very matter of fact way). Repetitive joke about a little boy whose class was singing "deck the halls" for the winter festival, but he kept getting the words wrong, letter to santa,dressing like reindeers- no religion Language- butt, gross
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Cody	2-4	OK??	Children foster a dalmatian puppy and find him a home at their local firehouse. Book begins with a discussion about good Halloween costumes- a few mentions of the holiday and its accoutrements- no religion. A few mentions of the Wizard of Oz. Boy teases girl. She yells "shut up" and punches his arm. Language- pesky
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Flash	2-4	OK?	Children find owner for a puppy mistakenly given to them. Thanksgiving. Uncle does work on a computer. Girl misses high speed internet in the country. Watch a video-discussion about plot- seems innocent, but video is unreviewed. Boy thinks sister is a "know it all". Language- pee
	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Gizmo	2-4	OK?	A boy takes a foster puppy to agility class and learns the power of encouragement also applies to him when he learns to play basketball. Language (once each)-maniac, jerk, stink, stupid, butt.
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Goldie	2-4	OK?	Children help a puppy find a "forever home". Mild middos between siblings. Language-poo.
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Gus	2-4	OK	Children help a famous puppy find a home.
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Mocha	2-4	OK?	Children go to cousins for Thanksgiving and help find a home for a puppy found running around on a highway. TV.Language- dumb
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Moose	2-4	OK?	Boy helps a huge puppy overcome his fears. Boy's aunt and uncle play "a friendly game of poker" Listens to Beatles CD. Language- freaking out,
	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Oscar	2-4	OK??	Girls family fosters hard to place puppies. She takes in a puppy who has trouble dealing with other dogs and in the course of training him confronts the death of an elderly dog she loves. Sad. At the dog's "funeral" they all hold hands (coed) and have a moment of reflection.
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Patches	2-4	OK?	Children help find a new home for a neglected puppy. House looks like a haunted house in a "scary movie".Children go on dog owner's property and play with dog without permission- this is justified by the fact that puppy seems neglected and sad. Language- weird, butt

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Rocky	2-4	OK??	Children help a puppy find a home. Girl lies to her pen pal since she thinks her life is boring. Eventually learns her lesson when her teacher makes her hang her letter up on the bulletin board. THinks about telling pen pal that a famous movie star is moving to her town. Girl notices mother does work instead of watching TV in the evenings as usual. Language- dumb.
new	Miles, Ellen	The Puppy Place- Ziggy	2-4	OK?	Children search for their foster puppy who ran away. One word church, Halloween- no religion. Mother tells boy to take her cellphone when he is biking a long distance. Language- stupid, pee (once) freaked out (once), dumb (once)
	Milford, Kate	Greenglass House	6-10	OK?	At an inn where smugglers are known to stay, boy and girl solve mystery of thefts and mysterious guests. Girl turns out to be a ghost of a girl who died years before. Setting revolves around Xmas - no religion. Some language: "come hell or high water", crap, shut up. 2 women who love the same man, follow him to the inn, man loves one of them - no overt romance, hold hands once.
	Mills, Claudia	How Oliver Olson Changed The World	2-4	OK??	A third grade boy with very overprotective parents learns to be a bit more independent. This book reads somewhat like a criticism on his parents even though it clearly states they were very well meaning. A few mentions of TV show and movies. A few mentions of planets being named from characters in Greek mythology with brief explanations of who the gods are. In back of book interview with the author. She mentions her favorite books and characters by name. brief non religious Halloween, Easter, valentines day. Language stupid.
	Milne, A.A	The World of Christopher Robin	3+	OK?	A book of poetry reflecting lives of British children. A few mildly problematic poems - easily torn out. P. 117: about boy praying on knees. P. 125-130: X-mas; no religion. P. 143: Very young boy and girl holding hands. P. 188-193: Mention of Easter eggs - no religion. P. 198-200 Girl wonders how G-d began - no one would answer her.
	Milne, A.A.	The House at Pooh Corner	3-5	OK	A sequel to the first Winnie the Pooh novel
	Milne, A.A.	When We Were Very Young	3+	OK	A book of poetry reflecting the life of British children
	Milne, A.A.	Winnie the Pooh	3-5	OK	A novel about a cute bear.
	Milton, Hilary	Blind Flight	5-7	OK	A blind girl tries to land a plane. Scary.
	Milton, Hilary	Emergency 10-33 on Channell 11	4-6	OK	2 boys try to rescue a family in an overturned camper. Lots of CB radio slang but nothing bad.
	Milton, Hilary	May Day! May Day!	4-6	OK?	2 teenagers try to get help for families in plane crash. Scary and graphic - wild dogs, bloody parents, non-romantic negiah.
	Milton, Hilary	November's Wheel	5-7	OK	Historical fiction. A boy during Depression works hard to win bike. In end becomes much more sensitive to suffering of those around him.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Minarik, Else Holmelund	Father Bear Comes Home	1-2	OK?	I can read book. Cute stories about bear's adventures. Last story - he dreams of a mermaid - illustrations of her scantily clad (but not as bad as Disney mermaids)
	Mohr, Nocholasa	The Magic Shell	2-4	OK	A boy moves from island of Jamaica and adjusts to NY with the help of a magic shell.
	Montes, Marisa	Get Ready for Gabi #4 - Please Don't Go	2-3	OK?	Series incorporates Spanish words. Spanish American girl tries to get grandmother to stay and live with them Mention opossums lived 70 million years ago.
	Montgomery R.A.	Choose Your Own Adventure- The Mystery of Ura Senke	4-6	OK?	Boy tries to recover stolen valuable tea bowl in Japan. Reader chooses outcome.A fortune teller talks about spirits and guardians. Brief mention of a movie. Language- moron (once)
	Montgomery, R.A.	Choose Your Own Adventure- House of Danger	4-6	OK??	Children answer a distress call in a mysterious house that stands on the grounds of a Civil War prison. Use "psychic" powers. Computer use.Ghosts. Language- weird, heck (once), creepy , darn (once)
	Montgomery, R.A.	Choose Your Own Adventure- Killer Virus	4-6	OK?	A girl helps her uncle research Ebola virus outbreak. Reader chooses outcome. Lots of violence.
	Montgomery, R.A.	Choose Your Own Adventure- Return to Atlantis	4-6	OK	Marine biologists try to return to underwater Atlantis.Some violence.Reader chooses outcome. Language-stupid.
	Montgomery, R.A.	Choose Your Own Adventure- Trouble on Planet Earth	4-6	OK?	Brothers try to figure out why the earth's oil reserved have disappeared.One sentence about praising allah.Use "psychic" power. Reader chooses outcome. Violence. Language- idiot, stupid, creeps,
	Morey, Walt	Gentle Ben	6-8	OK?	An Alaskan boy forms a special bond with a brown bear. There are some sad moments and some genuinely frightening ones. The boy's brother died of TB and his parents worry that he may die as well. Brief mention of the Ice Age and millions of years ago.
	Morpurgo, Michael	Kensuke's Kingdom	3-5	OK?	Boy is stranded on island where Japanese man has been stranded for many years. Detailed description of parent's fight- ends up fine. Father puts arms around mother. 2 page xmas- carols, presents, pudding.
	Morpurgo, Michael	The Sandman and the Turtles	3-5	OK?	Boy and his young cousin help a mythical creature. One word mentions of xmas. Minor middos between siblings. Girl calls brother "dumbo" and "pegleg" (he broke his leg). Language- daft.
	Morrow, Honore	Seven Alone	5-7	OK?	Historical fiction 1844: pioneer days. A family of orphaned children decide to continue on their own to claim a homestead. Experience much hardship. P 156 side mention of "Blessed Virgin" - kids won't get it. Lots of Bible reading and praying but pretty unobjectionable.
	Moss, Marissa	Rose's Journal	3-6	OK?	Journal of girl growing up on farm during the Depression. Drawing of back of naked man - for political reasons.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Moss, Olivia	Butterfly Meadow - Joy's Close Call	2-3	OK	Butterflies make a new friend who accidentally angers scary hornets. Learns not to show off.
	Moss, Olivia	Butterfly Meadow - Twink Dives In #2	2-3	OK?	A butterfly who is obsessed with her looks accidentally gets her wings wet and is almost eaten by a bug. A bit scary. In the end she learns that character is more important than looks. Illustrations of butterflies are girls with wings wearing bathing suit type clothing - not provocative.
	Moss, Olivia	Butterfly Meadow - Zippy's Tall Tale	2-3	OK?	Butterfly tells tall tales and makes herself out to be a hero, when he really is a coward. He doesn't learn a lesson but the butterflies around him do.
	Murphy, Elspeth Campbell	The Mystery of the Sock Monkeys	2-4	OK??	Children figure out who is making cute sock monkeys. Book is cute and clean but published by Christian publishing house to teach proverbs from the bible - the proverb is written only on the first page - could be torn out. Others from this series should be checked carefully.
	Murphy, Jill	The Worst Witch at Sea	3-5	OK?	A girl in witch academy keeps getting into funny trouble . She tries to smuggle her cat on the class trip and ends up accidentally saving the strictest teacher in school and also finds a treasure. One of the girls displays very bad middos but no one likes her because of it.
	Murphy, Jim	The Great Fire	4-8	OK?	Non-fiction account of the Great Chicago Fire. Some mentions of "half-naked" or "half dressed" women running away from the fire.
	My America	My America - My Brother's Keeper - Virginia's Diary - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 1863	3-5	OK??	Girl witnesses the Battle of Gettysburg - lots of gory war and injury descriptions. Girl helps teacher get engaged to her brother - relatively tame - when get engaged hold hands. Mentions girls watched soldiers march by and blew kisses to them and seemed to "fall in love" with every soldier that passed by. Some questions about why G-d doesn't answer prayers right away that her father and brother should come home safely. Eventually they do.
	My America	My America - Season of Promise - Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary	3-5	OK??	A girl sees her colony prosper while under the rule of a very strict governor, and deals with her father's remarriage after the death of her mother. Very tame discussions about women loving men and marrying them. Girl notices that Indian braves don't wear much and that makes her blush. Description of a church service as "very long and boring" but the new church "is enough to make one's spirit soar to G-d". When she thinks her father and stepmother will have a new baby, she blushes. Mention that father shares a bed with his new wife.
	My America	My America - Message in the Sky- Corey's Underground Railroad Diary	2-4	OK??	Historical Fiction. Slaves escape to Canada. Stay in a church- described. Brief mention of preaching, baptism. Boy is excited to have xmas as a free person- mention of gifts, special food, singing hymns in church including "silent night" but no explicit religion described in detail. Language- stupid.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	My America	My America - As Far As I Can See - Meg's Prairie Diary	2-4	OK??	Historical Fiction. Children go to Kansas to escape cholera epidemic and help underground railroad. Two mentions of girls taking off skirts (no men are around) and wearing "just pantaloons" because of new style started by Amelia Bloomer (P. 59, 87). Brief mention of boy who liked having girl as dance partner (P. 64) easy to cross out
	Myers, Anna	Spy!	5-7	OK?	Historical fiction. Nathan Hale as schoolteacher and spy, through eyes of young student. Hale considers marriage with various young women, always comparing them by which was prettier.
	Myers, Anna	The Keeping Room	5-7	OK?	Historical fiction - revolutionary war. A boy deals with British taking over his house and father's imprisonment. Comes to terms with thinking differently from father about slavery and women's education. One mention of J--- (P. 5, chapter 1). Talk of teacher's bride being "comely", but wouldn't verbalize it because it wouldn't be "seemly". Soldier implies bride would be "real warm on a cold evening" - kids won't get it. Some talk about Quakers' religious belief about slavery and war.
	Myers, Laurie	Garage Sale Fever	2-3	OK?	Kids have garage sale. Boy accidentally sells something and tries to break into house to get it back - unsuccessful and regrets it later.
	Myers, Laurie	Surviving Brick Johnson	3-5	OK	Boy mistakenly thinks boy is bully; learns important lessons about respect and not judging others.
	Myron, Vicki with Brett Witter	Dewey the Library Cat - A True Story	5-7	OK??	A true story of a cat that was abandoned in a library book slot, who became famous, Very detailed, including cat's sickness and death. A full detailed chapter of Xmas - no religion beyond mention of a manger display. Brief mention of: watching movies on TV, being divorced. Minor language: darn (once), stupid (once)
	Nabb, Magdalen	Josie Smith at School	2-3	OK	A well intentioned little girl gets into all sorts of scrapes that come out fine in the end.
	Namioka, Lensey	Yang the Eldest and His Odd Jobs	3-5	OK?	A Chinese family adjusts to America. Side story of sister's "not boyfriend" and "not dates"
	Namioka, Lensey	Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear	3-5	OK	A boy copes with being tone deaf in a very musical family.
	Napoli, Donna Jo	Jimmy, the Pickpocket of the Palace	4-6	OK?	Sequel to the Prince of the Pond. Frog searching for magic ring is turned into a boy by a hag. Finds father, who has also been turned into a man, and has decided to stay that way & marry princess. Somewhat disturbing that father/frog is thereby deserting his wife/frog & frog children.
	Napoli, Donna Jo	Mogo, the Third Warthog	4-5	OK?	3 warthog brothers try to make their own way in the jungle. Vague references to mating but nothing explicit. Description of giraffe giving birth (baby falls out without mother noticing)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Napoli, Donna Jo and Robert Furrow	Sly the Sleuth and the Food Mysteries	2-4	OK??	Girl solves mysteries. Some allusions to girls and boys liking each other but very vague, except for paragraph where boys invite girl to valentine's party (p. 127)
	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Saving Shiloh	5-6	OK?	Former owner of dog repents from past bad behavior and saves dog from drowning. Author points out that dogs and humans are the same.
	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Shiloh (first of trilogy)	5-6	OK??	references to J--- that need to be blacked out: pages 42, 56-57 (a lot), 58, 90, 100, 124, 138
	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Shiloh Season	5-6	OK?	Lots of discussion about dangers of drinking and drunken behavior. Juvenile two year old shows her underpants - boy comments "girls are strange"
	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	The Girls' Revenge	4-6	OK?	Family of girls and family of boys try to outdo each other in practical jokes. Middos issues but done in friendly manner.
	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	The Girls Take over	4-6	OK?	Story of 2 families - one with all boys, one with girls - who stir up mischief in small town. Middos issues but done in friendly manner.
	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	The Haunted Hotel	3-4	OK?	Ghost haunts house until appeased.
	Nesbet, Anned	The Cabinet of Earths	5-8	OK??	Girl visits Paris and finds she is part of a family with magical powers. Very mild warm feelings towards boy; 2 instances of affectionate negiah.
	Nesbit, E	The Railway Children	4-6	OK?	Children move to the country with their mother after father is framed and sent to jail. Have many old fashioned adventures. P. 180 - girl holds injured boy's hand as they wait in a dark tunnel to be rescued "even though, like most boys his age, he hated all material tokens of affection such as kissing and holding of hands. He called them 'pawing' and detested them", yet he is surprised that the experience is not so bad" - can be crossed out. Brief mention of occasionally questioning G-d and trying to believe in Him even when it's hard (pg 199) can be crossed out.
	Nesbit, E.	Wet Magic	4-6	OK?	Children have adventures in an underwater world and get involved in a battle between underwater kingdoms and eventually make peace between them. Minor language: shut up, weird, drat, stupid. Many books are mentioned by title and their characters by name (which may or may not be appropriate reading). Children sneak about circumventing adult rules but by modern standards it's very tame. Boy kisses mermaid's hand - no provocative description or illustration of mermaids. Passing mention of Xmas tree. Man touches woman's hand when he asks her to marry him.
	Nesbit,E	The Magic City	4-6	OK??	Stepbrother and sister go on a quest in a magic city. Orphaned boy has a hard time dealing with his sister's marriage, since his sister brought him up, so he exhibits bad middos to his new step sister. When they are in danger step sister asks him to kiss her (pg 166 chapt 9). Mean nurse treats boy very badly-in the magic city she is the villain.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Newman, Robert	The Case of the Indian Curse	4-6	OK	Boy and girl detectives discover who is frightening the owner of an antique store; leads to arrest of violent gang from India. Some minor violence
	Newman, Robert	The Case of the Somerville Secret	4-6	OK	Children discover murderer, and rich man hiding his son who is retarded and deformed. Some minor violence
	Nicholson, William	The Wind Singer Book One in the Wind On Fire Trilogy	6-8	OK??	A family rebels against their society which is constantly testing and assessing its citizens. Their twins, a boy and a girl reluctantly team up with a castoff child and go on a quest to find an item that will magically change things. Husband puts arms around wife and kisses her neck when he is intoxicated. Children and teachers alike display bad middos, especially to castoff classmate. Teacher insults girl by making up an arithmetic problem about her giving him "slobbery kisses". Even children who team up with him occasionally are mean to him, though they come to appreciate him at the end. Many made up "curse words" like sagahog and pocksicker. Language (frequent)- shut up, stupid, you stink, scum, damn (once p211). At the end of this edition is a reading group guide- It lists books by title and author which may or may not be appropriate, and describes the next two volumes of the trilogy which may not be appropriate since the children "grow into thoughtful teens with romantic interests." An exercise suggests that children try saying aloud the "made up swear words" in the book and then make up some of their own. The reader should also think about why swear words "need to be rude to be satisfying".
	Nickerson, Sara	How to Disappear Completely & Never be Found	9+	OK??	Unusual book - children solve mystery with aid of cartoons left by mysterious stranger. Disturbing imagery. Children discover that uncle accidentally caused father's drowning
	Nielsen, Jennifer A.	The False Prince	6-9	OK??	Nobleman chooses 3 boys to train to impersonate missing prince; turns out one of them actually is the prince. Language: "pea-sized bladder", dance lesson for boys with middle-aged women, 2 kisses on cheek - not romantic. Some violence, including some fatal stabbings. Short description of king falling in love with common woman and marrying her. Man and boy sleep in same inn room as girl by necessity; short conversation about whether she was "safe" or should be "worried". Later books have increasing loving feelings between prince and girl, but this book works as a stand-alone.
	Nimmo, Jenny	Charlie and the Time Twister #2	4-7	OK?	Boy with magical talents goes to magical school and disappears. Same issues as other books in this series.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Nimmo, Jenny	Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors #4	4-7	OK?	Boy tries to rescue friend from cruel adoptive parents. Many references to uncle admiring a woman as in previous books. Some of the adults in the story are kind and good as are their protégés, some are evil and exhibit terrible middos along with the children who admire them. Girl who wants to be a movie star auditions for a part in a movie. Boy is excited because he thinks he will be getting his own TV. Language-freak, idiot, darn, weird, stupid, what the heck, shove it, shut up, berserk. Unimportant mention of watching TV, finding information on the internet.
	Nimmo, Jenny	Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy #3	4-7	OK?	Children use magical talents to rescue invisible boy. Villains try to kill uncle's girlfriend - uncle gives her "the kiss of life" - will kids understand this is artificial respiration?
	Nimmo, Jenny	Midnight for Charlie Bone #1	4-7	OK?	Boy discovers he has magical talents and uses them to reunite abducted child with his aunt. Running side story of eccentric uncle courting a woman but when he got excited by how "stunning she looked" he was "bowled over" by her "neck as white as a swan". Nothing terribly explicit.
	Nimmo, Jenny	The Snow Spider (The Magician Trilogy Book One)	4-7	OK??	Strange story of a boy who discovers he has magic abilities and uses them to bring back his missing sister. When he is mad at his parents he calls his father a "mean old man" and his mother a "foolish woman". Father mourns his missing daughter making him somewhat dysfunctional. Mention of All Hallows Day and xmas but no religion. Middos between schoolmates. Nonromantic negiah. Brief unimportant mention of TV.
	Nix, Garth	The Seventh Tower - Above the Veil	4-7	OK?	Continuing saga. Children try to return home and encounter same type of violence as in other books. One sentence where boy alludes to what he would like to do with pretty girl - but so vague most kids will miss it.
	Nix, Garth	The Seventh Tower - Aenir	4-7	OK	Continuing saga. Boy and girl fight to get magical stone. Lots of violence, but mostly with magical fantasy creatures.
	Nix, Garth	The Seventh Tower - Into Battle	4-7	OK	Continuing saga.
	Nix, Garth	The Seventh Tower - The Violet Keystone	4-7	OK	End of saga. Friendly but non romantic negiah.
	Nix, Garth	The Seventh Tower -The Fall	4-7	OK	Creative science-fiction account of boy growing up in a society totally different from Earth's. Story is left hanging at end - need to read continuation in later books.
	Nixon, Jean Lowery	Laugh Till You Cry	5-7	OK??	A boy adjusts to a new school and to living near his bullying cousin, with the help of a friendly police officer. A lot of descriptive talk about Shakespeare's "Hamlet". Mentions that boy is sad after losing his father. Minor language: dumb, weird, stupid, pee. A lot of bad middos. In the end the cousin somewhat learns his lesson about bullying.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Casebusters #6 - Secret of the Time Castle	3-5	OK	Time capsule of town is stolen - boys solve mystery
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Mystery of the Secret Stowaway	3-5	OK	Boy accidentally stows away on a cruise ship. Befriends a singer and a hopeful movie star. Minor innocent negiah - not romantic
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Adventures - A Dangerous Promise	4-6	OK?	A boy runs away to become a drummer boy during the Civil War. Experiences the horrors of war (described in gory detail) including the death of a friend. May be too much for a very sensitive child.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Adventures - A Family Apart	4-6	OK?	A family of children is sent west to be adopted. Some rough/sad street scenes, occasional references to girl liking male chaperon. Oldest girl dresses up like a boy so family can stay together.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Adventures - A Place to Belong	4-6	OK??	2 children adopted by kind family. After foster mother dies, try to convince real mother to come west to marry foster father. Lots of talk if love is necessary to make a happy marriage. Page 8 - unimportant mention of boy looking "admiringly" at actresses who pass by. Some violence between pro- and anti-slavery believers. Mention of x-mas pageant and angel and church by no religion detailed.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Adventures - Caught in the Act	4-6	OK?	Boy is sent west to prevent him from being imprisoned after stealing pennies to feed his family. He is adopted by a farmer with a violent temper and a jealous son. Learns the meaning of honesty and responsibility. Vivid description of whipping.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Adventures - In the Face of Danger	4-6	OK?	A girl is adopted by a kind couple and experiences danger on the prairie, including a rattlesnake killing her dog, and an escaped murderer who throws her pregnant adoptive mother against a wall and causes her to go into early labor. Somewhat scary. She experiences prejudice because she is Irish. A few mentions of Xmas as special meal, going to Church (p. 125 chap 12) and receiving presents - no detailed religion.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Adventures - Keeping Secrets	4-6	OK?	Girl tries to uncover civil war spy. Brother dies - sad. One mention of women's anatomy.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Children - David's Search	4-6	OK	A boy is adopted by a strict but fair couple and confronts the Ku Klux Klan.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Children - Lucy's wish	4-6	OK	An orphan hopes for a loving family and cute little sister but ends up with non-demonstrative mother and mentally disabled older sister.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Orphan Train Children - Will's Choice	4-6	OK?	A boy's father who works in circus is immature and critical of son. Sends him on orphan train to be adopted. Wants son to call him by first name.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Search for the Shadowman	5-7	OK?	While doing research for a school genealogy report, boy tries to uncover what really happened to ancestor who was accused of stealing the family's money. One sentence mention of eating fudge on X-mas. One sentence mention of petticoats being underwear. A few extremely tame quotes from "love letters" from man to girlfriend he hopes to marry.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	The Name of the Game was Murder	6-8	OK	Girl solves mystery of man who writes acquaintances' secrets in novel, and is murdered.
	Nixon, Joan Lowery	Young Americans - Colonial Williamsburg: Will's Story 1771	5-7	OK	A jailer's son comes to grips with the morality of slavery in colonial Williamsburg
	Norton, Mary	Bedknob and Broomstick	3-6	OK?	Children have adventures on a magical bed. Fun story. At very end, warlock kisses witch on cheek and says "my own true love". Kids will probably think they are already married.
	Norton, Mary	The Borrowers	3-6	OK	Tiny family survives by "borrowing" things from humans. Book clearly says borrowing is not stealing (but they don't ask permission) - parent may want to discuss this point. Cute book.
	Norton, Mary	The Borrowers Afield	3-6	OK	Ditto
	Norton, Mary	The Borrowers Afloat	3-6	OK	A bit scary when gypsy tries to catch the tiny people with a fishing hook, but ends up OK. Picture of tiny girl dressed in flowers, not clothing.
	Norton, Mary	The Borrowers Aloft	3-6	OK?	Continuation of series. Tiny people are captured and devise an escape plan. Mild romantic undertones - somewhat tachlis oriented - between girl who is almost 17 and boy (no age) - p.152-153. Mention of choir boys with hymn books and cassocks on steps of model church - no religion. Black and white cartoonish picture of back of woman trying on girdle(p. 217).
	Obed, Ellen Bryan	Twelve Kinds of Ice	3-5	OK??	A short book describing a family that loves to ice skate who turn their garden into an ice skating rink every winter. Small black and white illustrations of girls in skating costumes. Coed skating- nothing romantic. Boys throw hockey pucks into rink to bother girls who are figure skating. Father puts pie in grandfathers face- book states this matter of factly as if it was perfectly acceptable. One word TV.
	O'Brian, Robert C.	Mrs. Frisby & the Rats of NIMH	5-6	OK	Lovely story of super-intelligent rats who escape from a lab and form their own society. Lots of opportunity for moral discussions
	O'Connel, Jean S.	The Dollhouse Caper	3-5	OK?	Dollhouse people try to warn humans of impending robbery. Minor x-mas mentioned
	O'Connor, Jane	Fancy Nancy Pajama Day	1-2	OK?	A girl is jealous when her best friend comes to school matching someone else. She wears a nightgown on pajama day and is worried she can't hang upside down or everyone would see her underpants.
	O'connor, Jim and Jane	Fancy Nancy Poison Ivy Expert	1-2	OK?	A girl accidentally brings her teacher a bouquet of poison ivy. A the end the little boys and girls dance to a rock and roll song called " poison ivy" - very innocent.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	O'Connor, Jim and Jane	The Ghost in Tent 19	2-4	OK	Kids in camp discover a grave in their tent, and help a ghost reunite with his ghost father.
	O'Dell, Scott	Island of the Blue Dolphins	6-8	OK?	A girl survives alone on an island for many years. Lots of talk of her Indian religious beliefs but will probably appear extremely foreign and unbelievable to children reading it.
	O'Dell, Scott	Zia	6-8	OK	Sequel to Island of the Blue Dolphins. Karana's niece tries to find her.
	O'Dell, Scott & Elizabeth Hall	Thunder Rolling in the Mountains	4-6	OK?	Indian girl tells of fate of her tribe. Violence in fighting. Speaks of "her love" - man she is supposed to marry; includes brief touch. Minor Indian religion.
	Older, Effin	Figure Eights - Randi's Missing Skates	2-3	OK?	pictures
	Older, Effin	Figure Eights #3 Best Ice Show Ever	2-4	OK?	pictures: girls in skating outfits, boy holding girl's hand for skating. Girl "borrows" brother's walkie-talkie w/out permission - viewed as positive.
	Oppel, Kenneth	Silverwing	5-7	OK?	Fascinating fictional story of bats. Reference bat "religion", complete with god, creation myth, predicted redemption. Includes concept that bats were around for "millions of years". Since the whole book is fantasy, most kids shouldn't notice
	Oppel, Kenneth	Sunwing	5-7	OK?	Continuation of Silverwing. Bats try to rescue the sun from the god of the underworld, who wants to let carnivorous bats take over. Lots of boy bat likes girl bat references but very innocent and ultimately lead to "choosing a mate" which kids will probably translate as marriage. Some minor romantic bat "negiah".
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Adaline Falling Star	3-6	OK?	Daughter of white father and American Indian mother is left with white relatives. Girl believe spirit of mother speaks to her from doll. Some mild Indian spiritual songs.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - A Crazy Day with Cobras #45	2-3	OK??	Kids go back to India to find a precious Jewel.Information about people worshipping snakes- and this belief still exists today in India. Language- weird, heck (pg.90).
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Afternoon on the Amazon #6	2-3	OK	Note on series:Each book is part of a multiple book series (usually 4 books) where children have an adventure which contributes to an end goal eg.saving someone, collecting items, etc.to complete a mission. Although each book can stand alone, the books often mention the others in the grouping, and children will likely want to read them all.The later books often include fantasy and mythology.In this book, children go to a rain forest to find a special fruit. Unimportant one line references to visiting times of the dinosaurs.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Blizzard of the Blue Moon	2-3	OK?	Children go back to New York City during the Great Depression to free a unicorn from a tapestry. Non romantic negiah. One word mention of church bells. Language-creepy, stupid, shut up, darn (once) brats.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Buffalo before Breakfast #18	2-3	OK?	minor mention of belief in animal spirits

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Carnival At Candlelight #33	2-3	OK??	Children go to Venice to save it from a flood. Lots of magic and mythology and the god Neptune. Non romantic negiah. Language-stupid, weird. In back of book talks about the patron saint of Venice and Greek mythology.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Civil War on Sunday #21	2-3	OK	Kids go back to Civil War and find out war is not glamorous.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Dark Day in the Deep Sea #39	2-3	OK	Children help rescue an octopus from 19th century scientists who think it's a monster.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Day of the Dragon King #14	2-3	OK?	Children go to ancient China to rescue an ancient legend. Side story of a silkweaver and a cowherd who "fall in love and embrace".
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Dinosaurs before Dark #1	2-3	OK?	Talk of dinosaur picture, needs adult guidance
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Dolphins at Daybreak #9	2-3	OK	Children solve mystery under the ocean. A bit scary when forced to abandon leaky submarine and escape shark.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree house - Dragon of the Red Dawn #37	2-3	OK?	Children go to ancient Japan to find the secret of happiness, and are helped by a famous poet named Bashro. Mention of belief in legend of the cloud dragon, that commands rain clouds.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Earthquake In The Early Morning #24	2-3	OK	Children experience the great fire in San Fransisco following a terrible earthquake. Scary. Child mistakes news reporter for a TV reporter. Back section about earthquakes.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Eve of The Emperor Penguin #40	2-3	OK??	Children go to Antarctica and pretend to be adults so they can go on a tour of a volcano to find an ancient secret. A few brief mentions of millions of years and dinosaurs. Penguin couples "dancing" on ice. Some "touch beaks" with cartoonish illustration. Language- darn, weird. In back, preview of Moonlight On the Magic Flute #41.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Ghost Town at Sundown #10	2-3	OK?	Kids meet a "real" ghost. In the back of the book are printed the words to a relatively tame country love song about a cowboy who is sad because his love left him.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Good Morning Gorillas #26	2-3	OK	Children enjoy spending time with gorillas and communicating with them
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Leprechaun in Late Winter #43	2-3	OK?	Children go to Ireland to help a famous author become "inspired" by showing her that fairies are real. Discussion of going to the theater and acting in a Shakespearean play. At end of book "facts" about fairies. Mention of looking for information on the internet.Preview of #44 A Ghost Tale For Christmas Time. Language-weird.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Lions at Lunchtime #11	2-3	OK	Children go to Africa to help wild animals.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Midnight on the Moon #8	2-3	OK	Children go to the moon to find an object to free their friend. Brief unimportant mention of dinosaurs and ice age.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Monday with a Mad Genius #38	2-3	OK?	Children spend the day with Leonardo Da Vinci. One sentence that fossils were created when "water covered the mountains millions of years ago". Very subtle implication - book says Mona Lisa wouldn't smile because she was afraid that when Leonardo finished her portrait he would forget about her. When he promises to carry her portrait forever she smiles her famous smile.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Moonlight on the Magic Flute #41	2-3	OK?	Children go to party and help a young and very spoiled Mozart with a magic flute. Non-romantic negiah. Minor middos between siblings - apologize later. Minor language - dummy, stupid, darn (p. 52, 57), weird
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Night of the New Magicians #35	2-3	OK	Children go to 1889 World's Fair and meet famous inventors.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Night of the Ninja #5	2-3	OK?	ninja philosophy: "use nature, be nature, follow nature"
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Pirates Past Noon #4	2-3	OK	a bit scary
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Polar Bears Past Bedtime #12	2-3	OK?	refer to animal spirits. Language- weird, creepy.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Revolutionary War on Wednesday #22	2-3	OK?	Children convince General Washington to attack the British in spite of bad weather. Many mentions of it happening on Xmas and wishing merry x-mas but no religion.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Season of the Sandstorms #34	2-3	OK?	Children travel to ancient Baghdad to deliver a book of Aristotle's wisdom to the caliph. Language - stupid (twice)
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Stage Fright on a Summer Night #25	2-3	OK?	Annie "frees" (steals) mistreated bear to save it.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Summer Of The Sea Serpent #31	2-3	OK?	Children go to a fantasy land to rescue a mythical sword and encounter magical beings. A few non religious mentions of xmas and Hallows Eve (which are settings for other books in this group). Boy takes girls hand- not blatantly romantic. Language-weird, gross.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Thanksgiving On Thursday #27	2-3	OK?	Children go back to the first Thanksgiving. A few sad mentions of people dying during the first winter. Brief unimportant mention of pilgrims singing a hymn. Language-idiot.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - The Knight at Dawn #2	2-3	OK?	Several mentions of dinosaur period they visited in previous book.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Tonight On The Titanic #17	2-3	OK??	Children go on board the Titanic as it is sinking and help rescue two children. May be scary for this age group. It is quite clear that a lot of people died, though its not spelled out in stark detail. The sinking is pretty detailed. Non religious mention of xmas.
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Twister On Tuesday #23	2-3	OK?	Children go to the Kansas prairie and save children and teacher from an twister. Scary. Language- shut up, weird.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Viking Ship at Sunrise #15	2-3	OK?	glorifying monks' role in keeping literature in dark ages
	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House - Winter Of The Ice Wizard #32	2-3	OK??	Children go to a magical land to rescue a friend. Non religious mentions of xmas and Hallows Eve in reference to other books in this grouping. Also mentions making xmas cookies and xmas trees sparkling in windows. Non romantic negiah. Language-weird. In back of book author writes about Norse and Greek myths and gods
new	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House- Stallion by Starlight #49	2-3	OK??	Children help the boy who will grow up to be Alexander the great learn humility. Beginning of book reviews many past books which may or may not be appropriate. Non romantic negiah. Greek gods and mythology.
	Osborne, Mary Pope and Natalie Pope Boyce	Magic Tree House Research Guide - Dolphins and Sharks	2-4	OK	passing mention that Greeks believed that dolphins were messengers from the gods.
	Osborne, Will and Mary Pope	Magic Tree House Research Guide - Pilgrims	2-4	OK?	Includes Thanksgiving. Drawings of Indian women with dresses with one shoulder bare - not very obvious.
	Osborne, Will and Mary Pope	Magic Tree House Research Guide - Rain Forests	2-4	OK?	Photo of extremely scantily clad tribal man - p. 77.
	Osborne, Will and Mary Pope	Magic Tree House Research Guide - Titanic	2-4	OK?	p. 27 - man who was in love with woman on board, her mother did not approve; he came on board & they were married a year later.
	Osborne, Will and Mary Pope	Magic Tree House Research Guide - Twisters and Other Terrible Storms	2-4	OK?	Description and picture of Greek god of wind - p, 23-24
	Osborne, Will and Mary Pope Osborne	Magic Tree House Research Guide - Knights and Castles	2-4	OK?	Non-fiction companion to The Knight at Dawn. P 56 -Picture of manor family in chapel with priest and large cross - can be crossed or torn out.
	Pace, Mildred Martin	Old Bones the Wonder Horse	3-5	OK	Story of a sorry looking horse who becomes a champion.
	Packard, Edward	Choose your Own Adventure - Fugitive	3-5	OK?	A girl is forced to be an accomplice to a jewelry theft. Reader chooses ending. Lots of violence
	Packard, Edward	Choose your Own Adventure - Mayday!	3-5	OK??	A girl is forced to pilot uncle's plane when he is knocked out. One story line is looking for a 90,000 year old Neanderthal skeleton preserved in glacial ice. Needs parental guidance.
	Packard, Mary	Ripley's Believe it or Not! - Odd-inary People	3-8	OK?	2 pictures: muscle-bound woman in bikini in end of color photo insert; woman contortionist on P. 67
	Pantell, Dora	Mrs. Pickerell and the Lost World	5-7	OK?	An eccentric woman is determined to find lost animals a home. Discovers people lumbering illegally. Talk of evolution with emphasis on 70 million years ago - may need parental discussion.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Park, Linda Sue	A Single Shard	6-8	OK?	A Newberry Medal book that is acceptable! A Korean orphan who lives under a bridge with a kind vagrant, becomes an apprentice to a master potter and is eventually adopted by him when his friend dies. A lot of Korean culture but very little religion beyond description of monks helping people and giving presents on Buddha's birthday. One word mention of King's concubines - no explanation. At end of book, excerpts of 2 books by same author - "See Saw Girl" and "The Kite Fighters".
	Park, Linda Sue	Archer's Quest	5-7	OK??	Korean king from ancient history appears in bedroom of a Korean-American boy. Boy tries to help him return to his land and time. A lot of minor language and slang - heck, pee, bummed out, weird, nerd, drat, stupid. Mention of belief in spirits, magic, Chinese zodiac. Boy thinks of his father as "King of the Nerds"
	Park, Linda Sue	The Kite Fighters	5-7	OK?	Korean brothers befriend a young king and fly his kite at a competition. A lot of Korean culture and beliefs - especially the honoring of the spirits of ancestors and the teachings of Confucius. The king asks the boys to teach him the proper way to talk to a friend - the boys teach him how to use the same humorous, friendly insults as they use with each other, e.g. pig-brain, cow dung, etc.
	Paros, Jennifer	Violet Bing and the Grand House	2-3	OK	Very shy girl finds out about herself and friendship when she visits aunt's old house.
	Paterson, Katherine	The King's Equal	2-3	OK??	A vain prince seeks a wife who is his equal and learns humility. One sentence mention that he admires the "body" of a princess with "skin of alabaster on the body of a goddess" . Illustration of prince and princess holding hands- presumably after they are married. Language- stupid
	Paton Walsh, Jill	The Green Book	4-7	OK	Great story about refugees from doomed Earth who try to set up colony on different planet
	Paulsen, Gary	Brian's Hunt	5-7	OK??	Boy returns to the wilderness. Boy looks forward to meeting his friends daughter and thinks about her a lot, but not overtly romantic. When he finally meets her he needs to save her and inform her that her parents were killed. He "holds her" as he tells her this. Mention of television. Minute details of hunting and eating animals. Language- dumb.
	Paulsen, Gary	Grizzly	5-7	OK	Boy hunts a bear who killed his favorite sheep. Some close calls and vivid descriptions.
	Paulsen, Gary	My Life in Dog Years	3-6	OK?	
	Paulsen, Gary	River	5-7	OK??	Sequel to Hatchet. Boy goes to relive experience in wilderness, with psychologist; ends up having to save him. Mention of dating girl. Vague mention of mother with other man - if didn't read Hatchet would not get it. Since it's a sequel, might make them want to read Hatchet.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Paulsen, Gary	The Winter Room	6-7	OK?	Strange story. Boy (and reader) wonder if uncle's stories are true or not. Some discussion of love.
	Paulsen, Gary	Tracker	6-7	OK?	very sad and harsh. Boy's father dying. Gory description of hunting
	Paulsen, Gary	Tucket's Travels book 1 - Mr. Tucket	5-6	OK?	Boy is kidnapped from wagon train by Indians and has adventures on the Oregon Trail. Western-style violence: human to human and human to animal.
	Paulsen, Gary	Tucket's Travels book 2 - Call Me Francis Tucket	5-6	OK?	see comment on series
	Paulsen, Gary	Tucket's Travels book 3 - Tucket's Ride	5-6	OK??	See comment on series. Boy escapes from Indians and travels west to find family. Vague references to attempted rape: "He come wanting me", "he tried to force a woman."- may go over kid's heads.
	Paulsen, Gary	Tucket's Travels book 4 - Tucket's Gold	5-6	OK?	see comment on series
	Paulsen, Gary	Tucket's Travels book 5 - Tucket's Home	5-6	OK?	See comment on series
new	Paulsen, Gary	Woods Runner	5-8	OK?	Historical fiction. Boy rescues parents who were kidnapped by British during Revolutionary War. Gory descriptions of fighting and violence. Language: Hell, Damn (once). Several mentions of "Boy J-----" by man who is not mentally stable.
	Paulsen, Gary	Woodsong	6-7	OK?	very gory detailed descriptions of hunting and nature
	Pearsall, Shelley	Crooked River	5-7	OK??	Historical fiction. Pioneer girl learns to respect Indian who is accused of killing a white trapper. Language (damn, etc) by irate judge trying to maintain order in court.
	Pearson, Susan	The Green Magician Puzzle #5 - Eagle Eye Ernie	2-3	OK	Children need to solve clues to get star part in Earth Day Play.
	Peck, Dale	Drift House - The First Voyage	6-8	OK??	Children go to live with their uncle in a house that is really a time traveling boat, and end up in an adventure involving conniving mermaids, a whale, a talking parrot, and a lot of convoluted philosophy about the true nature of time. A few descriptions of mermaids whose hair discreetly covers their chests or who wear halter tops made of clam shells. Infrequent language: crap, blast, stupid, heck. Unimportant mention of girl watching a violent movie at her friend's slumber party even though her parents don't let. Brief discussion of dinosaurs - no details.
	Peck, Richard	On the Wings of Heroes	5-8	OK?	Historical fiction - American town during WWII. Boy deals with realities of war, from rationing to brother enlisting. Very nicely done. P 117 - girl in low-cut prom dress tells enlisted boy she always had a crush on him.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Peck, Richard	The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail	3-5	OK??	A mouse discovers his identity in the secret attics of Buckingham Palace. Mouse is bullied because of his size and other middos between classmates. Male servant flirts with female servant- unties her apron string- she calls him "cheeky boy" and "flounces away". Humorous mentions of horse droppings. One sentence mention of christening "at the foot of the font in the royal chapel". Mouse finds out his royal mother married for love, not duty so her mother disowned her. Language- nincompoop
	Penner, Lucille Recht	Eating the Plates: A Pilgrim Book of Food and Manners	3-5	OK	Non-fiction: Pilgrims
	Pennypacker, Sara	Clementine	2-4	OK??	Cute Junie-B-Jones style, (without the language). One mention of seeing janitor with lunchroom lady kissing in car - can be crossed out. One mention of friend's single mother's "special friend - that's really a boyfriend for adults".
new	Perkins, Lynne Rae	Nuts to You	3-6	OK?	A squirrel escapes from a hawk, and saves his colony from loggers with the help of his friends. Passing reference to YouTube. Girl squirrel hugs boy squirrel when he is saved. Language: poop, heck. Cute.
	Perlman, Rhea	Otto Under Cover Born To Drive	3-5	OK??	A comic book style graphic novel about a boy who invents the fastest race car in the world and comes up against various bumbling goons. Somewhat unrefined. Running joke about a thug who sweats too much and smells, and another who sheds his skin in piles and smells like "barf". Language- dumb, punk, moron.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Blueberry Queen	2-4	OK??	Note on series: The second grade heroine is the antithesis of Junie B Jones and similar heroines. She is polite, friendly, optimistic, and generous. Her big brother is almost always kind to her. Her parents and extended family are loving, supportive, and understanding. She works hard to achieve her goals and is almost always successful. The most "naughty" thing about this book is that her dog's name is "Ugly Brother". The only real issue with this series is that she wishes she could be a beauty queen (never describes what this means in detail but mentioned numerous times in every book) and she frequently practices her beauty queen wave and smile and measures her behavior against what a "real" beauty queen would do eg. a beauty queen shares so I will too, a beauty queen is happy for the other team that they won, so I will be too, etc. In her mind (and soon to be in the reader's mind) a beauty queen is perfection. At the back of each book the reader is invited to use a code to enter a website which hasn't been reviewed. In this book, girl enters contest to be the "queen" of a local blueberry festival. Girl uses internet to enter contest. Grandparents sit on a porch swing holding hands "like the true sweethearts they are"- text and illustration. Father holds mother's hand as they wait to hear if she won a contest. Mention of watching "Miss America" beauty contest. One word mention of church. Girls in contest look like "movie stars". One sentence mention of country radio show. She stands in the dress shop to try on dresses in her slip because "it is classy".
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Dancing Queen	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Girl auditions to be in ballet "Swan Lake"- story briefly summarized. Girl saves the day when she offers volunteers her high school age brother to dance the male role where he needs to pick up the ballerina (who is his cousin). Ballet culture. ONE word mention of movie theater. TV. Class goes on a trip to see the ballet "Cinderella"- story briefly summarized.
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Drama Queen	2-4	OK?	See note on series. Girl competes with a mean, new girl to be a part in the class play. Play is "Alice in Wonderland"- mention that it is a movie. New girl exhibits very bad midos but she eventually wins her over with kindness. TV. Language- gross. shut up, weird.
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Football Queen	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Girl needs to choose between being in a halftime dance at a football game or cheering for her brother and being his "good luck charm". One word sentence that her high school aged brother is "sweet" on her neighbor- this is explained as meaning he would like her to be his girlfriend. Nothing further mentioned about it. A lot of football culture- entire town roots for the highschool football team- pep rallies, cheerleaders, etc. Cartoonish pictures of high school girls in skimpy clothing.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Hoop Queen	2-4	OK?	See note on series. Girl tries to win a basketball contest to raise money for an animal shelter. Mention of movie "The Pink Panther", TV watching, teenage brother listens to loud music. Family goes to church- no religion. Cartoonish illustration of basketball uniform worn by second grade girls (shorts and tank top)
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Rodeo Queen	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Girl wants to win contest in the rodeo. One sentence mention of going to church- no religion. Girl stays up late watching movie on TV. Grandmother makes her "pinkie swear" that she will work hard learning a rodeo trick- text and illustration. Language- dumb.
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Singing Queen	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Girl enters talent show and wins second place. Mention of church singers- no religion. Grandfather watches golf on TV. Language- gross.
	Peschke, Marci	Kylie Jean Spelling Queen	2-4	OK?	see note on series. Girl studies hard to win the spelling bee. Mention of going to church on Sunday.
	Peterson, John	The Littles and the Big Storm	3-5	OK?	A tiny family lives in human house and use humans' things but only take things humans won't miss. The owners of their house are away and the Littles try to fix the damage caused by a storm. Two pages describe children watching TV and discussing that soap operas are always sad (p. 48, 49)
	Peterson, John	The Littles and their Amazing New Friend	3-5	OK?	Tiny children accidentally land their hot air balloon on a hill where residents live as they had for hundreds of years. They introduce them to modern ideas, especially focusing on women being equal to men. Language - darn, darn it. Very subtle boy/girl crush - he "liked and admired her", he can't stop talking about her. One sentence about mother nature as creator: "Mother Nature takes as much care in creating her tiny masterpieces as she does with her big ones".
	Peterson, John	The Littles Have a Wedding	3-5	OK?	The Littles' cousin gets married. When introduces bride to the family, he holds her hand. Talk about girlfriends and being "romantic". Talk of getting married in church with a minister. One sentence - groom kisses bride. Very juvenile and innocent.
	Peterson, John	The Littles Take a Trip	3-5	OK?	Tiny children feel isolated and convince their family to take a dangerous trip so they can meet other tiny children. As in other books in this series, some dwelling on the fact that tiny people survive by taking things from big people without their knowledge, though in return they help them. Language - dummy.
	Peterson, John	The Littles to the Rescue	3-5	OK?	The Littles travel to the woods to rescue their aunt who has been captured. Language - stupid, dumb (once each).
	Pfeffer, Susan Beth	Kid Power	4-6	OK?	A girl starts an odd job organization to earn money for bike. Says shut-up to mother once - can be crossed out - P. 57 Chap 5
	Pfeffer, Susan Beth	Rewind to Yesterday	4-6	OK	Children discover that VCR can take them back to the past and they can change things. Story centers around TV and VCR but it's background

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Philbrick, Rodman	REM World	5-7	OK??	An overweight boy buys a machine that promises to help you lose weight, from an ad in a comic book. Many scary adventures. Constant very unrefined language, eg, friends call him Biscuit Butt, stupid, crummy, stinky, moron, doofus. Minor boy/girl - kiss on the cheek, engaged giants embrace. Confusing mention of demons and angels, cloud people. Worship the sun.
	Philbrick, Rodman	The Fire Pony	6-8	OK?	Touching story of boy and older brother who try to make it on their own on a horse ranch. Older brother has some problems with drinking and pyromania. Handled well. Sad ending.
	Philbrick, Rodman	The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg	5-7	OK??	Boy exaggerates truth in efforts to get older brother out of army during civil war. Brief mention of saints, heaven, bible, Job, parson, xmas, angels. Orphaned boy describes being raised by a mean, non caring ,selfish uncle. Other bad adults described (and some good ones.) Descriptions of drunk men. Boy steals uncle's horse to rescue his brother. A swindler convinces "naïve minister in training" to marry her, then steals his money. Some negiah including a kiss (not described). Man is "lovesick" for his "sweetheart" with a "goofy look" on his face. At a state fair there is a tent where "women danced in their underclothes and showed their bare ankles". Boy describes horrific sights he saw on a battlefield. Language- brat, shut up, stupid, stink, sucker, dumb, puke, heck.
	Pierce, Tamora	Circle of Magic: Sandry's Book	6-9	OK?	Four teens discover their powers in a world filled with magic. Mentions of gods of their culture. Friendly non-romantic negiah.
	Pike, Christopher	Spooksville: Night of the Vampire	4-6	OK?	Children try to get rid of vampires in town. Plan to kill with wooden stakes, burn some. In end kill vampire Queen, and then spell over others is ended. In one passage, they are looking for "holy water", but can't find any because local priest has been turned into a rabbi by the local witch - "now he won't eat bacon any more".
	Pinkwater, Daniel	Mrs. Noodlekugel	2-3	OK??	Children have magical adventures with their babysitter. Parents forbid them from visiting her because they know they will disobey. When kids realize, they confront their parents for being "sneaky" and "tricky". Language- weird (once)
	Pinkwater, Daniel	Mrs. Noodlekugel and Four Blind Mice	2-3	OK?	Children go with babysitter to take mice to get glasses and have adventures. Cat is angry at his father for abandoning his family and says he will bite him "to teach him a lesson". In the end finds him and they make up.
	Pinkwater, Daniel	The Artsy Smartsy Club	3-5	OK??	Children get interested in art when they find sidewalk chalk drawings of famous paintings. A lot of art culture especially paintings of saints. Children sneak to Manhattan by subway (without parental permission). When children get wet in the rain they want to paint in their underwear while their clothing dries (totally innocent) but one of their mothers says no because she doesn't want them to turn "nudist" and she doesn't want "naked children" in her basement.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Pinkwater, Daniel	The Moosepire	4-6	OK??	Tongue in cheek book about a moose who solves mystery. Helped by a conservative Rabbi who likes matza. Minor language. Very strange.
	Pinkwater, Jill	Mister Fred	4-6	OK?	Unruly 6th grade class discovers teacher is an alien and try to protect him. Lots of bad behavior with substitutes. Chutzpah, minor bad language
new	Pollack, Pam and Meg Belviso	Who Was Susan B. Anthony?	4-6	OK??	Biography of famous women who worked for women's right to vote and be treated like men. Parents need to decide if they want their children exposed to the detailed and sympathetic treatment of women's liberation movement. Book makes it sound very reasonable and makes opponents into villains. Description of Quaker religion- "believe that every person should follow the inner light of G-d inside themselves". She didn't want to get married because at that time being a married woman was like being a slave to her husband. Descriptions and illustrations of womens lib ladies wearing knee length skirts with bloomers as a statement.
	Porter, Tracey	Billy Creekmore: A Novel	6-8	OK?	Boy goes from orphanage, to coal mines, to circus. Finds father who deserted him; leaves father because he is dishonest good-for-nothing. Boy feel "spirits".
	Pratchett, Terry	Johnny and the Bomb - The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy book 3	6-8	OK??	14 year old boy and friends travel in time to save people from WWII bomb. One of friends is girl - totally innocent. Passing references to dinosaurs and 65 million years. Language: goddamnit (p 156), damn (p. 157), hell. Passing cultural references to black discrimination, female discrimination, skinheads; one friend has "weakness" for "borrowing" cars with keys in ignition.
	Pratchett, Terry	Only You Can Save the World - The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy book 1	6-8	OK??	Johnny finds that the aliens in his computer game can speak to him, and he tries to save them. Language: Butt (47, 56, 162), nerd, dweeb, pissed off (54),bra (126),crap (114), ref to J. C. (53), Satan/hell (137). Passing reference to friend who lives with brother and brother's girlfriend. Vague background references to Trying Times = boy's parents fighting & getting divorced - many kids won't get it.
	Pratchett, Terry	The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents	5-7	OK??	A cat and a group of rats who have mysteriously become intelligent after eating from a wizard's dump, team up with a boy to con towns out of money by pretending to be a rat catcher. Language - stupid, damn (once), nonsense rat swear words eg "rrkrkrk". A lot of speculation about who created animals and people - book leads to belief in an afterlife but never spelled out.
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Disappearing Dinosaur	2-3	OK	Boy has detective agency and solves friends' mysteries.
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Ghostwriter	2-3	OK	Boy tries to find out if book is really written by a ghost.
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Groaning Ghost #32	2-3	OK?	Boy solves mystery of "ghost" who haunts friends' houses. Brother says he has a hot date. Passing references to Halloween.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Marshmallow Monster	2-3	OK	mystery
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Runaway Dog	2-3	OK	p. 2 - discussion of favorite holidays: Kwanzaa, X-mas, halloween, valentine's day.
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - the Case of the Sneaker Sneak	2-3	OK	mystery
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Spoiled Rotten Spy	2-3	OK	movie actors
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - the Case of the Stinky Science Project	2-3	OK?	Teenage brother of main character has girlfriend - puts on father's aftershave, puts arm around girlfriend
	Preller, James	A Jigsaw Jones Mystery- The Case of the Race Against Time	2-3	OK?	Children locate missing pocket watch. Mention of brother's girlfriend who he thinks is a "drip". Language-weird, darn (pg.4)
	Prince, Alison	Night Landings	5-7	OK	Boy and girl help fugitive boy rescue his mother who is mixed up with mean smugglers. Some violence - all good guys vs. bad guys
	Prineas, Sarah	The Magic Thief: Book One	4-7	OK??	Boy discovers he is a wizard and tries to solve problem of missing magic. Has friend who is girl - she is slightly older. Briefly leans his head on her shoulder. Language: damn (p. 246), a few variations on the word "drat" .
	Prineas, Sarah	The Magic Thief: Lost (Book 2)	4-7	OK??	Boy wizard tries to save city from evil magic. Continuing close friendship with girl; no romance. She teaches him to dance, "fierce hug" when she finds he has been saved from danger.
	Probst, Jeff	Stranded	5-7	OK??	Step siblings of newly married parents go on a weeklong boat trip to help them bond as a family, and they are shipwrecked on a desert island. Cell phones, TV, renting movies, texting, video games, laptop, dvds, etc. The boy who often saves the day got all of his information from watching TV constantly. Innocent negiah among step siblings. Middos between step siblings. Language- gross, butt, weird, stupid
	Probst, Jeff	Stranded 2- Trial by Fire	5-7	OK??	The saga continues. Same issues as previous book. One word xmas. Girl finds human skeleton and a grave marked with a cross. Language- geeks, dumb, weird, gross, stupid, shut up.
	Probst, Jeff	Stranded 3- Survivors	5-7	OK??	The saga continues. Same issues as previous book. One word xmas. Girl finds human skeleton and a grave marked with a cross. Boy says skeleton looks like a "movie prop". Boy urinates on boy who got stung by a jelly fish. Language- gross, stupid, shut up, pee.
	Probst, Jeff	Stranded Shadow Island- Book 1 Forbidden Passage	5-7	OK??	The same children as in the original series are stranded on a new island with a tribe that won't let them reveal their location to their rescuers. Boy has an obvious "crush" on a native girl. Tries to impress her. Siblings tease him about it, but nothing comes of it in this book, though it is obvious it will escalate in future books. Some violence between competing children. Language- stupid, shut up

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Pullman, Phillip	Lyra's Oxford	5-7	OK?	Strange story about a girl who fights a witch with lots of magical creatures and events. Mentions 2 people are lovers (not detailed). One page is meant to look like a photocopy from a book with hard to read small print - a bit racy - but can be torn out in the unlikely event someone will read it (p. 31 & 32).
	Pullman, Phillip	The Firework-Maker's Daughter	3-5	OK?	A girl is determined to become a professional firework maker. Strange. Some chutzpah to father. One "shy kiss" P. 92.
	Quakenbush, Robert	Daughter of Liberty - A True Story of the American Revolution	3-5	OK	A woman retrieves important papers for General Washington under the noses of the British. Before her mission family joins hands in "prayer" - nothing objectionable.
	Ragz, M.M.	Gotcha!	4-6	OK?	School troublemaker becomes school president. Joins girls' field hockey team as a joke and ends up star of team. Some bad midos: practical jokes, revenge. Non-romantic negiah.
	Raskin, Ellen	The Tatoed Potatoe and other Clues	5-7	OK?	Girl takes job as apprentice to eccentric artist who solves mysteries. Strange and a bit confusing. Non-romantic negiah. Some violence.
	Raskin, Ellen	The Westing Game	6-8	OK?	Clever mystery - group of people in contest to discover "murderer" and win inheritance. Minor romance leading to marriage. Peripheral to plot - girl postpones marriage to get a career and find herself. Mention of ex-wives and suicide.
	Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan	The Secret River	2-3	OK	Girl tries to find a secret river to catch a fish to help her family through hard times.
	Reeder, Carolyn	Shades of Gray	5-8	OK	Historical Fiction. Post Civil War. An orphaned boy comes to live with relatives whose farm was devastated in the war. Comes to terms with uncle's refusal to take sides in the war.
	Reiche, Dietlof	I, Freddy	4-6	OK?	Cute story about intelligent hamster who figures out how to communicate via computer. Minor bathroom talk. Mention of cat being neutered - not explained (p 99). Minor language - butt.
	Reiche, Dietlof	The Haunting of Freddy: Book 4 in the Golden Hamster Saga	4-6	OK?	Hamster writes a story and his characters come to life as scary ghosts. Lots of talk of the "undead". Minor mention of hamster owner having girlfriend with "lustrous red hair and apple peach blossom perfume" but very tame. Poems are very hamster-like - not terribly suggestive. When old cat flirts with a cute young rabbit, hamster refers to him as a "geriatric come-on".
	Reiss, Kathryn	Paint by Magic	6-8	OK?	When boy's mother starts acting in old-fashioned manner and going into frightening trances, he goes back in time to find artist who has connection to her. Extremely mild boy/girl with mild negiah. Teen language: pissed (annoyed). Bodily functions.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Reyes, Gabrielle (adapted by)	Dolphin Tale: The Junior Novel Based on the Hit Movie	3-5	OK??	A sad boy helps rescue an injured dolphin and ends up finding himself. Center is photos from movie including girl in tank top and shorts. Non romantic negiah. Some intimations of boy/girl but not explicit (probably does exist in the movie). Indian legend of how dolphins were created. Boy mentions father left family and they haven't heard from him in 5 years. Mention of watching TV, using Internet. Language-brat, heck, stupid, jerk.
	Rich, Louise Dickinson	Sally (Original title: Three of a Kind)	4-6	OK?	A foster child lives on an island with a loving family and helps care for their autistic grandson. Minor language: stinkin, darned.
	Rinaldi, Ann	Keep Smiling Through	4-6	OK??	Historical Fiction: Girl living in America during WWII. Deals with self-absorbed stepmother, friend who deserts her when friend's brother dies in war, stepmother's baby dies. German grandfather meets with friend who has pro-German propaganda - girl decides the correct thing to do, is to report it. Language: crap, Blessed Virgin. Passing references to Easter. Uncle "isn't married, and lives with a woman in an apartment". Brother smokes.
	Riordian, Rick	The 39 Clues book 1 - The Maze of Bones	5-8	OK?	Books of this series are written by different authors; reviews also appear under author name "The 39 clues". First of series. Brother and sister compete against ruthless family members, to find clues that will lead to power. Some violence. Back of book includes website where readers can enter the contest.
	Roberts, Willo Davis	Hostage	5-7	OK	Girl taken hostage by robbers. Scary.
	Roberts, Willo Davis	The Kidnappers	5-7	OK?	A rich boy gets kidnapped together with a boy he is fighting with. Some violence
	Roberts, Willo Davis	The One Left Behind	4-6	OK?	Girl is accidentally left behind when family members go on vacation; meets boy who runs away with half-brother so baby-sitter's relative won't kidnap him. Language: stupid, creep, danged.
	Roberts, Willo Davis	What Could Go Wrong	4-6	OK	Children help catch criminals. Some mention of FBI agent thinking aunt is pretty; ends up marrying her.
	Robertson, Keith	Henry Reed's Big Show	4-6	OK?	Boy and girl produce a show. Girl makes audio tape criticizing cast members, to help decide on auditions. Tape is accidentally played in front of cast. Sort of learns lesson, but not so clear.
	Robertson, Mary Elsie	Jemimalee	3-5	OK	Cat who writes poetry fights mean rats.
	Robinet, Harrietta	Children of the Fire	4-6	OK?	Brief Religious references
	Robinson, Barbara	My Brother Louis Measures Worms	5-6	OK??	Humorous stories about boy and his family. Various references to pregnancy - most will go over kids' heads. Language: hell (21, 123, 128) - can be crossed out.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Robinson, Barbara	The Best School Year Ever	3-6	OK??	A girl struggles to complete an assignment to think of a complement for each classmate, since one girl seems thoroughly bad. Somewhat humorous, minute details about the bad things done by a family of children brought up in a dysfunctional home where father abandoned the family. Brief mention of watching TV, going to movies. One word Halloween. Language-dumb, shut up, gross. In back of book review of other books about this family- "The Best Halloween Ever", The Best Christmas Pageant Ever".
	Rocklin, Joanne	Jace the Ace	3-5	OK	Boy deals with moving and making new friends by imagining himself to be a junior photojournalist. Eventually comes to grips with telling the truth.
	Rocklin, Joanne	Strudel Stories	3-6	OK	Stories revolving around Jewish generational family tradition of making strudel; effectively skirts issue of religion
	Rockwell, Thomas	How to Eat Fried Worms	3-5	OK??	A boy tries to win a bet to eat 15 worms. Somewhat humorous, mostly disgusting. Recent edition has many photos from the movie (movie may or may not be appropriate). Some bad middos between the boys - they trick and cheat the boy who is winning, call each other names (mostly "fink") and eventually come to physical blows until their parents step in. 2 pages where boy imagines he will cause a commotion in church and school - described in detail - no religion. (p. 288-289). Frequent language: stupid, heck, fink, shut up.
	Rodda Emily	Fairy Realm #7 The Star Cloak	3-4	OK	Girl helps convince fairies to repair magical cloak that helps make wishes come true.Unimportant mention of what a kid in a movie might do. Language- weird, stupid.
	Rodda Emily	The Three Doors Trilogy Book 1- The Golden Door	5-7	OK??	A boy teams up with an orphaned girl and goes on a quest to find his missing brothers. Very mild romance between his older brother and a girl.One description of her head resting on his shoulder. Magic. Language- stupid.
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #1 The Forests of Silence	4-6	OK?	An eight part series about a boy, a man, and a girl who was raised in the forest, who are on a quest to find 7 missing gems that will complete a magic belt that will rescue the kingdom from an evil shadowbird. Typical good guy vs. bad guy violence and death throughout the series. The heroes are always horrified by killings and death which are nonetheless described in detail. Language: idiot, brat
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #2 The Lake of Tears	4-6	OK?	Heroes travel through the land of an evil sorceress to find a missing gem. Same violence. Non-romantic negiah.
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #3 City of the Rats	4-6	OK?	Heroes battle enemies to find a gem that will help rescue the kingdom. Good guys vs. and guys violence. Language - stupid
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #4 The Shifting Sands	4-6	OK?	Heroes survive a dangerous tournament and find another jewel in a dangerous desert. Usual violence. More blood and gore then usual. Tournament is coed, men and women fight each other- definitely not romantic. Language- weird, stupid.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #5 Dread Mountain	4-6	OK?	Heroes enter enemy territory to find a missing gem. Same violence as others. Language - stink, stupid, idiot, brat, shut your mouth.
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #6 The Maze of the Beast	4-6	OK?	Heroes tangle with pirates and other bad guys in the quest to find another magical jewel. Usual violence. Non romantic negiah.
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #7 The Valley of the Lost	4-6	OK?	Heroes find the last gem and free a nation from an evil spell. Usual violence. Non-romantic negiah. Language: fool, stupid, shut your ugly mouth.
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Quest #8 Return to Dell	4-6	OK?	Heroes complete their quest and find the heir to the throne. Non-romantic/questionably romantic negiah. Same violence as others.
	Rodda, Emily	Deltora Shadowlands #1-3 (Cavern of Fear, The Isle of Illusion, The Shadowlands)	4-6	OK??	Children search for pieces of a magical flute that can stop their enemy who has enslaved the people. Violence against magical creatures. In book #1 legend of boy and girl who are "lovers"- boy took girl "in his arms" and they lived happily ever after. Language-freak, stupid. Throughout these books, there is a subtle romance happening which at the end (of the last book) turns out to be a misunderstanding. All of the questionably romantic negiah turns out to be not romantic, though the reader doesn't know that until the end.
	Rodda, Emily	Dragons of Deltora #1 - Dragon's Nest	4-6	OK	Boy king and friend search for evil that is poisoning the land, and awaken ancient dragons.
	Rodda, Emily	Dragons of Deltora #2 Shadow Gate	4-6	OK?	The quest to destroy wickedness and awaken dragons continues. Usual cast of evil and good characters. A girl imprisons her sister and the man she loves since she is jealous of their relationship. Affectionate negiah.
	Rodda, Emily	Dragons of Deltora #3 Isle Of The Dead	4-6	OK?	The quest continues. Affectionate negiah.
	Rodda, Emily	Dragons of Deltora #4 The Sister of the South	4-6	OK?	Heroes finally conquer the last remaining dangers in the kingdom. Long anticipated marriages between heroes. Semi romantic negiah mentioned in passing, not focused on. Language- weird, stupid
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #1 The Charm Bracelet	3-4	OK?	First book in series. A girl discovers that her grandmother is the true queen of fairy land and helps her prevent enemies from penetrating the land. Lots of magic. A human fell in love with fairy princess and eventually married her.
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #10 The Rainbow Wand	3-4	OK	Girl finds missing child, and finally confronts a woman who keeps spying on her. T.V. news people come to find a story. Language- stupid, weird.
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #2 The Flower Fairies	3-4	OK	girl with 2 left feet visits a magical kingdom and discovers that she can dance if she believes in herself.
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #3 The Third Wish	3-4	OK?	Girl goes to find a wish-stone to save her home from fire. Picture on cover of scantily clad mermaid and girl in bathing suit. One black and white illustration of girl in bathing suit.
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #4 The Last Fairy Apple Tree	3-4	OK	Girl helps gnomes restore their magical trees. Language- stupid.
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #5 The Magic Key	3-4	OK	A girl helps a fairy find a lost treasure

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #6 The Unicorn	3-4	OK	Girl helps save the magical kingdom from her wicked cousin
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #8 The Water Sprites	3-4	OK?	Girl helps make peace in magical kingdom - many illustrations of her in sleeveless dress including cover, as well as magical water sprites in sleeveless outfits made of reeds. Not provocative but very stark.
	Rodda, Emily	Fairy Realm #9 The Peskie Spell	3-4	OK?	Girl rescues the kingdom from mischievous creatures. Minor language: stupid (once).
	Rodda, Emily	Raven Hill Mysteries #3 Beware The Gingerbread House	5-7	OK??	While working in the mall, teens become enmeshed in a crime. Teen culture. Girl's parents are divorced - father offers to take her but he is very self centered and irresponsible. A lot of talk of story of Hansel and Gretel. Language-shut up, stupid, gross, idiotic, idiot, weird, jerk, dimwit.
	Rodda, Emily	Raven Hill Mysteries #4 Deep Secrets	5-7	OK??	Teens are hired to do odd jobs in a remote house and solve a crime. Kids enjoy playing along with game show on TV. Girl knows a lot about film stars and TV shows. One word non religious mention of a church. Language-stupid, freak, weird, idiot, shut up.
	Rodda, Emily	Rowan and the Ice Creepers	4-7	OK	A boy receives the gift of telling the future to save his people from being frozen by a harsh winter. Some unromantic negiah as four friends help each other on a perilous journey.
	Rodda, Emily	Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal	4-7	OK?	Boy finds himself and unwilling judge among a race of fish people as he races against time to find the antidote to the poison that was killing his mother. Mother's fiance "gathers her in his arms" in an effort to wake her from the poison. Middos between rivals. Language-stupid.
	Rodda, Emily	Rowan and the Travelers	4-7	OK	Boy helps to save his village from a mysterious enemy. Non romantic negiah.
	Rodda, Emily	Rowan and the Zeback	4-7	OK	Boy and friends rescue his kidnapped sister and discover the history of his people. Language-idiot
	Rodda, Emily	Rowan of Rin	4-7	OK?	Note on Series: A boy overcomes his weakness and fearfulness to help rescue his village. One of the main characters is a witch who does magic and has "prophecies" which predict the future. In this book, a number of references to a man liking the boy's mother (a widow) and his feelings about it. People say the man thinks she is beautiful and he looks at her "admiringly". He "takes both of her hands" and promises to return safely. (In a later book they marry)
	Rodda, Emily	The Key to Rondo	5-7	OK	A boy and his girl cousin enter the magical world of a music box to rescue her dog from a wicked witch. Non-romantic negiah between cousins. One instance of calling someone "fathead".
	Rodda, Emily	The Three Doors Trilogy Book 2- The Silver Door	5-7	OK??	Children continue their quest to stop deadly animals from invading their land. Boy puts his arm around girlfriend to comfort her, holds her hand, and other minor negiah. Language- weird, shut your mouth, stupid, idiot.
	Rodda, Emily	The Time Keeper	4-6	OK	Boy and friend in parallel universe save both worlds. Entire plot centered around a game show on TV, but nothing problematic.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Rodda, Emily	The Wizard of Rondo	5-7	OK?	Sequel to Key to Rondo. Boy and girl cousin re-enter magical world and try to solve mystery and avoid witch. Passing mention of minor characters who announce engagement, holding hands.
	Rodgers, Raboo	Magnum Fault	5-8	OK?	Teenage boy and girl solve mystery of father's disappearance and discover illegal underground mining. Non-affectionate negiah.
	Rook, Sebastian	Vampire Plagues - London, 1850	5-7	OK??	Ancient Mayan god, personified in vampire bats, comes to London. Children see it descend to "hell". Book has sequel.
	Roop Peter and Connie	Give Me a Sign, Helen Keller	2-4	OK?	Story of Helen Keller. Mentions once that she learned about dinosaurs, and once that on X-mas she wrote Santa Claus a letter - easily crossed out.
	Roop, Peter & Connie	In Their Own Words: Benjamin Franklin	2-4	OK?	Biography. People used to believe that lightning "was sent by G-d.. to punish wrongdoers..he showed lightning was part of nature". He "courted" a woman he eventually married. He skipped church so he would have time to read. One word non religious mention of xmas. Black and white photos of women in low cut gowns. He is buried in a cemetery called by Yoshka's last name.
	Roop, Peter & Connie	Take a Stand, Rosa Parks!	2-4	OK	biography
	Roop, Peter and Connie	Buttons for General Washington	2-4	OK	Historical fiction - boy smuggles gold in buttons of his coat.
	Roop, Peter and Connie	Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie	2-3	OK	A girl keeps the lighthouse functioning while her father is away.
	Rosenfeld, Zvi	The Ring of Fate	5-9	OK?	Fantasy/magic. Vampire (a good one) tries to find ring that has magical powers. Minor language: darn, heck, dang, "thank the stars", "blast it". "Hell" used in proper usage. Character named "Hellray". Main character is friendly with young woman; no romance. One non-romantic thankful hug. Characters refer to both "G-d" and gods. Violence.
	Rowling, J. K.	Harry Potter 2 - Chamber of Secrets	6+	OK?	Note for series: Parents should decide if series is OK, for a child who can distinguish between fantasy and reality and know real magic is assur. Is often read by children younger than intended grade level. Mentioned in passing - boy's mom "fancies" an author, Boy's father gets in a brawl with an evil man who insulted him (p 62). Halloween as a backdrop for a few chapters - no religion. Mention of sending valentines on valentine's Day. Younger girl has crush on boy - very juvenile. Bloody battle with evil snake. Page 341 (last page) girl catches brother kissing girlfriend - easy to cross out.
	Rowling, J. K.	Harry Potter 3 - The Prisoner of Azkaban	6+	OK??	Minor language - damn (p 23) crap (p 80). Girls giggle about love potion (p 70). A mentions of older brother having girlfriend. A few mentions of X-mas and Halloween - nothing religious.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Rowling, J. K.	The Tales of the Beetle and the Bard	5+	OK?	Written as a book of fairy tales told to magical children who grew up in the times of Harry Potter. Stories have a commentary supposedly written by Harry's headmaster, with many references to Harry Potter series. Mention of Xmas and Yuletide, no religion. Mentions 2 students are boyfriend and girlfriend, no romantic details. Story of a warlock who killed a girl to cut out her heart - picture of him lying on top of her, both dead with blood flowing out of them. Silly language: mudwallower, dunglicker, scumsucker, etc.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - Mayflower Treasure Hunt	2-4	OK?	Children find a necklace from the Mayflower. A bit scary as they run away from someone trying to take away the necklace. One mention of Halloween witch. Language - heck (p. 51), "my mom is going to freak (p. 77). Father jokingly asks kids why they keep finding mysteries: "why can't you just watch TV like normal kids?"
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - Super Edition 1- Detective Camp	2-4	OK?	Children go to detective camp to uncover art forger. One black and white picture of boys and girl swimming in lake. It's a co-ed camp but totally innocent. One black and white illustration of male and female counselors dancing to a funny camp song. Goat eats TV remote. Language- weird, creepy, stupid (once each).
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Absent Author	2-4	OK?	Note on Series: Three third graders, a girl and two boys, solve mysteries. There are occasional sleepovers, but they are totally innocent. In this book they find a missing author. One child calls his friend "you dope", in a funny way - p. 3. shut up - p. 63. Woman in disguise is happy to take off her dress and get back into her jeans. In back, author writes he was inspired by the book " King Arthur and the Knights of The Round Table".
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Bold Bandit	2-4	OK?	Children capture a bank robber. A few non-religious mentions of dressing up and trick or treating for Halloween. One boy dresses up as Elvis (illustration).
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Canary Caper	2-4	OK?	Children capture animal thieves. Unimportant one-sentence mention of chimp in circus dressed like Elvis. Minor language: creep (p. 32), heck (p. 65).
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Deadly Dungeon	2-4	OK??	Children capture a parrot smuggler. In order to rescue parrots, 2 boys and girl take off jeans in deep water and use them as floats. Totally innocent. Brief mention that movie star built a castle Minor language: heck (p. 8, 62, 64)
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Empty Envelope	2-4	OK??	Children return a stolen valuable stamp to its owner. Minor language: heck (p. 19, 51), jerk (p. 58, 73), shut up (p. 73)
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Falcon's Feathers	2-4	OK?	Children figure out who stole falcons from their nest. Minor language: "That's the darndest thing" (p. 46), stupid (p. 72)
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Goose's Gold	2-4	OK?	Children prevent elderly ladies from losing their money. A few non-religious mentions of X-mas. Minor language: heck (p. 82).
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Haunted Hotel	2-4	OK?	Children figure out who is haunting the neighborhood hotel. Two unimportant one-sentence mentions of Halloween.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Invisible Island	2-4	OK	Children uncover a counterfeit ring
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Jaguar's Jewel	2-4	OK?	Children figure out who stole a precious gem. Brief mention of zodiac signs (p. 6).
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Kidnapped King	2-4	OK	Children rescue a kidnapped heir to the throne.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Lucky Lottery	2-4	OK??	Children find a stolen lottery ticket. Many non-religious one-sentence mentions of Xmas. Brief mention of watching lottery numbers chosen on TV.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Missing Mummy	2-4	OK?	Children help capture museum thieves. Minor language: heck (p. 30). Brief mention of dinosaur skeleton in museum (p. 48). Brief mention of Egyptian burial ideas. Brief mention of seeing news on TV.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Orange Outlaw	2-4	OK	Children figure out who stole an expensive painting.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Panda Puzzle	2-4	OK?	Children find a stolen baby panda. Brief mention of video of dinosaurs fighting with each other (p. 18). Brief description of children going mixed swimming, illustration of adults going mixed swimming (p. 58-59) - very innocent. Minor language: heck (p. 60). Kids hold hands to escape - totally innocent.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Quicksand Question	2-4	OK?	Children find stolen money. Boys and girl have sleepover - totally innocent. Minor language: "I'm really bummed" - p. 35, "I'll be darned" - p. 68. In back of book, brief unimportant mention of watching TV, going to movie theater, watching Tarzan movie.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Runaway Race Horse	2-4	OK?	Children figure out why a race horse lost a race. Illustration of children posing with arms around each other - p. 4 - totally innocent. In back of book, author mentions Santa and reindeer - can be crossed out.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The School Skeleton	2-4	OK?	Children figure out that their principal stole the school skeleton from the nurse's office as an April Fool's joke.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Talking T Rex	2-4	OK??	Children figure out who stole money hidden inside a fake dinosaur. Some dinosaur "facts", eg: size of T-Rex, 70 million years ago, eating habits, humans didn't live in time of dinosaurs. Minor language: darn (p. 80)
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Unwilling Umpire	2-4	OK??	Children figure out who stole autographed baseball. Minor language: darn (p. 8), heck (p. 14, 50), stupid (p. 52), dumb (p. 52). A boy steals a car to joyride but later feels bad about it.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Vampire's Vacation	2-4	OK?	Children think a movie star practicing for a role, is really a vampire. Children go to a movie theater to see the movie from a special viewing box; description and illustrations of the theater. Minor language: "I'll be darned " - p. 48.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The White Wolf	2-4	OK?	Children find stolen baby wolves. Brief unimportant mention, and illustration, of an island being the shape of a dinosaur. Illustration of 3rd grade boy shaking hands with 13 year old girl. One word mention of x-mas - p. 8.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The X'ed Out X-Ray	2-4	OK?	Children find a rock star's stolen necklace. Pictures and description of a very tame and innocent rock concert. Female rock star gives boys a kiss on the cheek to thank them for their help - illustration. Minor language: jerk (p. 8)
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Yellow Yacht	2-4	OK?	Children find a king's stolen gold. Two word unimportant mention of a movie star. In back of book, Mentions that actress Shirley Temple served as an inspiration for one of the characters, because she didn't let any boys get the best of her.
	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries - The Zombie Zone	2-4	OK?	Children catch a real-estate developer, who robs graves to scare villagers into selling their property. Says that some people believe in zombies.
new	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries Super Edition 5- The New Year Dragon Dilemma	2-4	OK?	Children travel to San Fransisco and witness a crime at a Chinese New Year parade. The boy who was hired to show them around the city and his girlfriend are the prime suspects. Girl is chosen as "Miss Chinatown" and is in the parade. Boy is studying to be an actor in Hollywood. TV, internet, cellphone, computers,laptop, email. Language-dumb, creepy/ creeping me out, heck (pg119 ch 13)
new	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries Super Edition 6- The Castle Crime	2-4	OK??	Children find stolen jewels belonging to the Queen of England. Many mentions of celebrities, movie stars by name who can be found in Madame Tussads wax museum. Brief mention of movies, TV, special effects in movies. Mentions of Jack the Ripper who murdered people. Language- heck (pg. 68), creepy, gross
new	Roy, Ron	A to Z Mysteries Super Edition 7- Operation Orca	2-4	OK??	Children help find baby orca who was taken from it's mother. Mother takes children and leaves husband because he "spent so much time making deals and money he had no time for his family. I guess his wife got sick of it." Brief mentions of TV. One sentence xmas tree- no religion. Language- heck (pg 90), stupid
	Roy, Ron	Calendar Mysteries-January Joker	2-3	OK??	Kids think that their older siblings are abducted by aliens. It turns out the older children were playing a joke on the younger children in revenge for a joke played on them. The younger children are allowed to decide the punishment- they decide that their older siblings should sit in the local diner dressed up like aliens. Little kids have coed sleepovers (totally innocent). Girl wears superhero pajamas. Brief mention of xmas presents and tree. Brief mention of TV, computer, video games. Language-shut up, weird, creepy. Preview of February Friend about Valentine's Day.
	Roy, Ron	Calendar Mysteries-June Jam	2-3	OK?	Kids try to figure out who is eating the strawberries from the garden so they can make strawberry jam for Father's day. Boy asks his father for his clothing for a scarecrow-father jokes that he wants him to cook in his underwear. Brief mentions of TV. Language-freak, creeping me out.
	Roy, Ron	Calendar Mysteries-March Mischief	2-3	OK?	Children dress up a leprechaun statue to compete in a St. Patrick's Day contest. When it is stolen they set out to find the criminal. Brief mention of watching TV. Language= weird, dumb, creepy

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Roy, Ron	Calendar Mysteries-May Magic	2-3	OK??	Boy is afraid that a hypnotist turned his mother into a duck. It turns out their mother was playing a trick on them. When they figure it out, they play a trick on her. Brief mention of Spiderman movie. Language-weird, creepy, gross.
	Roy, Ron	Capital Mysteries #01 - Who Cloned the President?	2-4	OK	Series about girl whose mother eventually marries the president. She solves mysteries in Washington, D.C with her friend who is a boy. Girl has relationship with her biological father and calls or writes to him every week. Some books focus more on mother's relationship with the president than others, so they are more problematic (especially before they marry). In this book, children save the president.
	Roy, Ron	Capital Mysteries #02 - Kidnapped at the Capital	2-4	OK?	Children rescue mother and presidential clone. Book ends with president sending mother flowers and asking her on a date.Girl wants to be TV anchor. Boy orders green and red ice cream comments looks like xmas.
	Roy, Ron	Capital Mysteries #06 - Fireworks at the FBI?	2-4	OK	Children solve mystery at the FBI
	Roy, Ron	Capital Mysteries #08 - Mystery at the Washington Monument	?	OK??	Children solve an old mystery of a stolen necklace. Boy and girl camp out on the front lawn of the white house - text and illustration - totally innocent. Language: I'll be darned.
	Roy, Ron	Capital Mysteries #09 - A Thief at the National Zoo	2-4	OK	Children figure out who stole a valuable gem.
	Roy, Ron	Capital Mysteries #12 The Ghost At Camp David	2-4	OK??	Children help capture a couple who want to steal the presidential silver at Camp David. Young boy and girl sleep in a cabin together- completely innocent- they consider it an adventure.Language-dumb, weird, heck (p 64,81), jerk.
	Roy, Ron	The Chimpanzee Kid	4-6	OK?	very heavy on feelings of upset at divorce and feelings of abandonment
	Royal Diaries	Kaiulani	5-7	OK??	Diary of a girl who is destined to become queen of Hawaii. A lot of Hawaiian culture. Ancient Hawaiian religion and belief in gods described, though she is a devout christian who religiously attends church and prays- she finds services "uplifting" mentioned many times. Many minor mentions of xmas. Girl mourns deaths of those she loves, including her mother. Many novels mentioned by title and author which may or may not be acceptable.Plays and operas also mentioned by name. Minor mentions of flirting.
	Runton, Andy	Owly Tiny Tales	2-6	OK	A novel in comic book form with almost no words at all - reader must follow storyline completely thru pictures. Adventures of a cute owl.
	Rupp, Rebecca	The Dragon Of Lonely Island	4-6	OK?	Children befriend a three headed dragon that tells them exciting stories with a moral to help them improve themselves. Short non religious xmas. One of the stories describes wicked and cruel pirates who use rough language. Unimportant mention of a book by Charles Darwin. Language-stupid (frequent), brat, shut up, blasted, drat.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Rutkoski, Marie	The Cabinet of Wonders - The Kronos Chronicles: Book 1	6-8	OK?	Girl's father is commissioned by prince to build magical clock; when prince steals the father's eyes so he can use them, girl goes to castle to get them back. Passing mention of "crushes" with no descriptive details. Non-romantic negiah between girl and platonic boy friends who help her. Lots of magic woven into distorted Renaissance history. Language: stupid, darn, sucking up. Later books have deepening feelings between girl and 2 boys.
new	Rylander, Chris	Codename Zero	5-8	OK?	Boy plays pranks in school because he is bored of small-town life. Is hired by governmental secret agency to protect son of foreign political witnesses. Boy is friends with boy and girl twins. Mention of YouTube video where teacher trips during his prank and you could see her old granny underwear. Boy wants to leave class and teacher won't let him; he intentionally urinates in his pants. Language: Heck, fart, crap, sucks, jerk, puke, poop. Passing mention of old movie "Disturbing Behavior", and Disney channel. Boy throws book at attacker, aims for groin.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Annie and Snowball and the Dress Up Birthday	1-2	OK?	Girl invites her cousins to a fancy dress up birthday party but they misunderstand and think it's a costume party. Brief mention that girl's family consists of her father and her bunny (no mention of mom). One sentence mention of watching movies on Friday night, with illustration of them watching TV. Pretend fortune telling.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Annie and Snowball and the Teacup Club	1-2	OK?	A little girl makes a club for teacup lovers. Reference in passing to fact that she is proud that her dad is a good mother, too; obviously she doesn't have a mother, but book doesn't explain or dwell on it.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and Annie's Perfect Pet	1-2	OK	Boy buys his cousin a pet rabbit
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover	1-2	OK?	Children have a sleepover and watch monster movies on TV (illustration)
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea	1-2	OK?	Boy and dog go to the beach. One very unclear illustration of co-ed beach.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and the Funny Lunch	1-2	OK	Boy and father prepare a Mother's Day lunch for his mom.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night	1-2	OK?	Family goes camping. At night, "Henry's Father and Mother snuggled", Father sings "sappy love songs". Very innocent.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and the Tumbling Trip	1-2	OK?	Boy goes with family on trip to the west. Two illustrations of boy's mom - one with a sleeveless dress, one with shorts. Very innocent.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and the Wild Goose Chase	1-2	OK	Family visits a farm
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge and the Wild Wind	1-2	OK?	Boy overcomes his fear of a storm. Illustrations of boy's mom barefoot in sleeveless dress. Boy hums "Jingle Bells"- mentioned twice.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Rylant, Cynthia	Henry and Mudge Get the Cold Shivers	1-2	OK	Boy's dog helps him feel better when he is sick
	Rylant, Cynthia	Mr. Putter and Tabby Make a Wish	2-3	OK	Man celebrates his birthday with his female neighbor - innocent.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Mr. Putter and Tabby Paint the Porch	2-3	OK	Pets keep getting in the way of a painting job.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Mr. Putter and Tabby Spill the Beans	2-3	OK??	Man and woman neighbors (both old) decide to take a cooking class together. Their pets cause mayhem. 2 page illustration of them riding a 2 seater bike - she is wearing a wetsuit. A large illustration of her taking beans out of his shirt collar (while he is wearing it) and sharing an ice cream sundae (to mature eyes looks like a date)
	Rylant, Cynthia	Mr. Putter and Tabby Spin the Yarn	2-3	OK	Mr. Putter decides to be a good neighbor by serving tea to female neighbor's knitting club.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Mr. Putter and Tabby Toot the Horn	2-3	OK?	Man and female neighbor decide to join a band. One mention of liking country music and opera because they like the "broken hearts" - kids won't get it, but might ask. She sings to him - the age group probably won't see it as problematic.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Mr. Putter and Tabby Write the Book	2-3	OK?	Man decides to write a book. Mention of Easter eggs - no religion. One picture of him and female neighbor drinking malts head to head. Very innocent.
	Rylant, Cynthia	Poppleton	1-2	OK??	Adventures of a pig. In one story he befriends a neighbor - eventually starts to resent spending time with her because he wants to watch TV.
	Rylant, Cynthia	The Cobble Street Cousins #1 - In Aunt Lucy's Kitchen	2-4	OK??	Note on series: 3 fourth grade cousins move into aunt's attic while parents who are ballet dancers are out of the country. One girl dreams of being in Broadway musicals, one aspires to be a poet, and one is a homebody. Ongoing story of their aunt and the man she will eventually marry. Relatively tame, but not completely so, and very prominent. Entire plot of this book revolves around meeting a nice man who "likes" their aunt and blushes when he sees her. Girls try to get them together. At end of book they hope they will marry. Talk of "being in love", "romantic", "Young loves". Very innocent but do kids this age need this?
	Rylant, Cynthia	The Cobble Street Cousins #2 - A Little Shopping	2-4	OK??	Girls repeatedly ask aunt if she will marry her "sweetheart" - aunt doesn't answer. Some focus on aunt and boyfriend.
	Rylant, Cynthia	The Cobble Street Cousins #3 - Special Gifts	2-4	OK??	Continuing side story of aunt's boyfriend who cousins hope will marry her (but doesn't in this book) - he takes her hand and kisses her cheek. Illustration of kiss on cheek.
	Rylant, Cynthia	The Cobble Street Cousins #4 - Some Good News	2-4	OK	Cousins decide to produce a newspaper. One sentence mention of aunt's boyfriend whom they hope she will marry (in later book, she does).

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Rylant, Cynthia	The Cobble Street Cousins #5 - Summer Party	2-4	OK??	Parents finally return from their world wide ballet tour and the cousins make a party for them. Boyfriend proposes to aunt, brief mention of seeing a movie in a theater, small black and white picture of ballet dancers in leotards (p. 31), picture and textual mention of pre-engagement hand-holding (p. 35), large photo of aunt and uncle holding hands when he proposes (p. 49).
	Rylant, Cynthia	The Cobble Street Cousins #6 - Wedding Flowers	2-4	OK??	Aunt and boy friend are finally getting married. Picture of them walking hand in hand (before wedding) - p. 81. Side story of priest who will marry them - has beard and long hair (even though bishop wants him to cut it!). Girls play with priest's dog in churchyard "beneath the wings of an angel (statue)" illustration page 45. At wedding girls see a look of "real love" between bride and groom. Girls write a poem for them - "don't forget to kiss".
	Rylant, Cynthia	The Light House Family - The Whale	2-3	OK?	A few lonely animals join together to form a family unit and help a baby Beluga reunite with his mother. I don't think children this age will notice mother and father of the family are not married (at least not from this volume).
	Rylant, Cynthia	Thimbleberry Stories	2-4	OK	Cute animal stories that younger children may enjoy having read to them - the words are much too difficult for a beginner to read.
	Sachar, Louis	Marvin Redpost: Alone in His Teacher's House	2-3	OK?	A teacher asks a boy to take care of her dog for a week, but it dies. Some very juvenile stuff about using teacher's bathroom and looking in her closet, but boy doesn't do it because it isn't right.
	Sachar, Louis	Marvin Redpost: Class President	2-3	OK?	President comes to visit class. Comes on "holes" day, when everyone is wearing clothing with holes in it; teacher has hole on stomach & boy can see her bellybutton.
	Sachar, Louis	Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth	2-3	OK?	Boy thinks he might be missing prince who was kidnapped at birth.
	Sachar, Louis	More Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School	5+	OK??	Unusual math problems featuring the irreverent characters from this series. Girl invites boys to her birthday party; a problem featuring women's undergarments - can be torn out and answer section crossed out; boy gets a tattoo - other kids say he's lucky. Teaches have names like Mr. Kidswatter, Miss Mush, etc. Language: nerd, gross.
	Sachar, Louis	Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School	5+	OK	Mind teasing arithmetic and logic problems, using the Wayside school characters.
	Sachs, Marilyn	Laura's Luck	5-6	OK?	Minor mention of girl liking movie star photos
	Sage, Angie	Araminta Spookie - Frognapped	3-5	OK	Strange story about a strange family that lives in a haunted house.
	Sage, Angie	Araminta Spookie - The Sword In the Grotto	3-5	OK?	Strange story about girls who try to get a special sword to give a ghostly knight for his 500th birthday. Language - wimp, revolting. Very unrefined. P. 4 - discuss buying ghost a present - "no good buying him socks because he has no feet, or boxer shorts because he's got no ____" (book has blank)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Sage, Angie	Septimus Heap Book 2: Flyte	6-8	OK	Wizard's apprentice tries to rescue his stepsister, the future queen, from his brother who has gone over to the dark side. Only language is "b____" (written with a line (p. 56); snot. Minor boy/girl references - girl is waiting for boy to come take her away. Boy thinks he would rather be riding on horse with her than with his sister.
	Sage, Angie	Septimus Heap Book 3: Physik	6-8	OK?	Wizard's apprentice is kidnapped back in time, while a wicked ghost queen is freed from captivity and tries to kill the princess. Very tame romantic inferences. Mild language: darn
	Sage, Angie	Septimus Heap Book 4: Queste	6-8	OK?	A wizard's apprentice and friends go on a dangerous quest to save people who were lost in another time. Mild romantic references - a boy likes the princess and he blushes when she notices him, continuation of story of bad man who took the girl he loves to his cave hideout - she dreams of getting married to him and living normally - no information as to how they've been spending their time in the cave. Mention of a married rat couple fighting a lot and then having an "amicable separation". Comical juvenile mentions of dragon droppings. Non-romantic negiah. Language: shut up; refers to boss that fired him as "horrible old cow".
new	Samphire, Patrick	Secrets of the Dragon Tomb	5-8	OK??	In 19th century British colony on Mars, a boy and his sister help his older (male) cousin rescue his family for evil villain. Mild references to romantic feelings between older sister and cousin: she wears a 'revealing' dress and he stares, at the end they agree to marry. Very tame in old fashioned way. Some non-romantic and affectionate negiah (a hug when she discovers he is alive after thinking he is killed; and hold hands when they agree to marry). Younger tomboy sister wears boy's clothing. Language: idiot
	Sanderson, Brandon	Alcatraz versus the Evil Librarians	5-7	OK	Tongue-in-cheek story of boy who discovers that he is part of a race that is saving the world from the evil librarians who run everything. One place that boy is interrupted when he is saying "hello" - joke that he is cursing because man interrupts him before he says 'o'.
	Sanderson, Brandon	Dog to the Rescue	5-7	OK?	Very graphic and scary true stories about near deaths that were prevented due to dogs' heroism. Definitely not for a younger or timid reader.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Sanderson, Brandon	The Rithmatist	8-11	OK?	Science Fiction / fantasy. Pre-industrial world where Rithmatists are capable of drawing chalk lines and figures that come alive. This ability is somehow tied to the church and a fictional version of Christianity. People vaguely believe in an impersonal "Master" that chooses people to be Rithmatists, and has power. Mention of atonement, resurrection - no details. Some description of church-like services. At one point boy wonders if there really is a Master in heaven. People 'curse' mildly, using the word "dusts". Some passing references to teen girl thinking young male teacher is good looking. Teenage boy and girl are friends, one mention of boy noticing she is pretty, no romance (but might come out in next installment of series). Language: screwed
new	Sands, Kevin	The Blackthorn Key	5-8	OK?	Boy apprenticed to chemist, solves mystery of master's murder. Some violence. Boy is hit in groin by makeshift cannon. Bodily functions. Boy puts ointment on old lady's bare back. Language: hell (the place). Boy prays to J---. Non-romantic negiah. Quasi-Christianity: archangel Michael leads armies of heaven in struggle against forces of hell. G-d gave him unique powers, people try to get those powers.
	Saunders, Susan	Neptune Adventure Danger on Crab Island	3-5	OK?	A newcomer tries to kayak to a nearby island without realizing the danger so his cousin has to rescue him. Middos between cousins. This story is set in a group whose goal is to rescue injured sea animals- lots of talk about conservation. Mention of the sports channel and MTV. Language-crummy, dumb.
	Schade, Susan and Jon Buller	Travels of Thelonious The Fog Mound	3-5	OK??	A novel with some comic book style pages about a chipmunk who accidentally lands in a waste land once inhabited by humans. Cartoonish picture of a scantily clad Barbie. Rear illustration of a cartoonish unclothed man. Animals read a diary entry about how female is sure a male would have asked her to marry him- he "liked" her. Cartoonish illustration of bears dancing- coed. Various books listed by title. Brief mention of evolution- no detailed discussion. Language-creepy, heck (once), shut up, drat (once).
	Schaefer, Jack	Old Ramon	4-6	OK	Boy learns lessons about shepherding and life
	Scheffler, Ursel	Grandpa's Amazing Computer	2-4	OK	A grandfather shows his granddaughter that a seed is more amazing than any computer that man could invent. No overt religion other than saying that seed was made by someone "much bigger" than himself.
	Schlein, Miriam	The Year of the Panda	3-4	OK	Boy rescues panda cub during bamboo famine

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Schlitz, Laura Amy	Splendors and Glooms	7-10	OK??	Girl and boy are apprenticed to puppeteer. He kidnaps a girl and turns her into a puppet by magic. Another woman uses magic to control him. Some violence, some scary magic scenes. Teenage girl considers 11 year old boy like her brother, she hugs him etc. in a sisterly way. She previously caught the "brother" trying to watch her undress; other than that, relationship is totally innocent. Boy kicks man between the legs. Some language: damn, bitch. Boy picks up girl puppet's dress to prove that she is wearing 'things underneath', unlike a real puppet. Visiting man kisses girl under the mistletoe, and she hates it: "he has a horrid wet mouth". Some female anatomy.
	Schnur, Steven	The Shadow Children	6-8	OK?	Scary. Boy discovers ghosts of children given up to Nazis
	Schoch, Tim	Cat Attack - Starring Flash Fry Private Eye	3-5	OK?	Dog helps master locate missing cats. One "love" scene between dogs. Not explicit but at end has puppies with her. Can tear out page.
	Schwabach, Karen	A Pickpocket's Tale	6-8	OK??	Historical fiction. Set in early colonial times. Jewish girl lives in poverty on streets of London until she is arrested for pickpocketing and sent to colonies as indentured servant and is bought by Jewish family as a chessed. Jewish content is quite accurate and positive. Passing mentions of low class women in London who have a sequence of different men living with them (does not specifically mention marriage one way or the other); not very explicit. Language: shut up, idiot, stinks, damn it to bloody hell, bleeding hell. A lot of old time London street language - if reader skips over it it's fine, but if reader uses glossary in back, may understand too much - e.g. men living in a woman's apartment are "boyfriends". Bad middos and some violence between criminals.
	Scieszka, Jon	Spaceheadz	3-6	OK?	New boy in class meets 2 classmates who turn out to be aliens. Very cute. Aliens speak in phrases they learned from interception of TV advertising waves from Earth - kids who don't watch TV probably won't notice. Book contains 3 actual websites (one of which gives important information for plot) - at time of this review, content of websites is appropriate. First in series.
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio - Marco? Polo?	3-5	OK?	Boys travel back in time and accompany Marco Polo to Kublai Khan's Palace. Lots of juvenile slang and minor language: doofus, nincompoop, stupid, butt.
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio #01 Knights of the Kitchen Table	3-5	OK?	Very cute series about 3 friends who go on adventures in time and space through a magic book whose rules they do not quite know. Minor language throughout series: idiot, shut up, butt, etc.
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio #02 The Not so Jolly Roger	3-5	OK??	See comment on series. A little gory. Boys go back in time and encounter scary pirates. Brief mention of the movies. Language-dumb, jerk, damnation and hellfire, blast it all, scumbucket, idiot, hell.
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio #03 The good the bad & the goofy	3-5	OK?	See comment on series.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio #04 Your Mother Was a Neanderthal	3-5	OK?	See comment on series. Boys go back 40,000 years to see caveman "ancestors". Since whole book is a spoof, should not be an issue.
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio #05 2095	3-5	OK	See comment on series. Boys go to future and meet great-great granddaughters
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio #08 It's all Greek to Me	3-5	OK?	See comment on series. Spoof on Greek gods.
	Scieszka, Jon	Time Warp Trio #10 Sam Samurai	3-5	OK?	See comment on series.
new	Scott , Michael	The Enchantress book 6	7+	OK??	The saga concludes. Continuation of convoluted philosophy about gods, myths, legends, immortals and which being created man and why- none of which involve G-d. Mentions of archeology, dinosaurs and Cretaceous period. Brief mention of movie and pop stars. This book has a lot of tenderness and affection between spouses as they say their final goodbyes- Wife hugs husband and "kisses the tear off his face", wife puts hand to husband's cheek, husband puts arm around wife, husband kisses wife etc. . Mention of TV series Star Trek. Mention of movie. A lot of intrigue among ruling class. Mother encourages one son to kill the other so that she can rule through him. Language- stupid, gross
new	Scott, Michael	The Alchemyst book 1	7+	OK??	Twin teenagers get mixed up with immortals and magic, ghosts and vampires and the potential enslavement and destruction of humanity. 15 year old is interested in a few girls but has no real girlfriend yet. Humans referred to as "ape descendents". A lot of discussion about how ancients worshipped the immortals as gods. Explanation for the biblical "flood"- "godlike creatures warred among themselves" and destroyed the world. A lot of Greek mythology. Discussion about free will vs.destiny. A lot of age of earth and fossils and dinosaurs etc. Throughout this series lot of technology- cell phones, internet,ipod, movies, TV- also a lot of good guys vs. bad guys magical and not so magical violence.Mentions of famous comedians and singers by name One word xmas. Language- weird, stupid
	Scott, Michael	The Magician book 2	7+	OK??	Twin teenagers are trained in magic and have to outrun immortals who want control of them. Girl is nostalgic for time when she was a normal teenager with time for boys she liked (one sentence page 32). Man kisses woman's hand in an "old fashioned courtly gesture." A lot of nonromantic negiah. One of the main characters is a rock star- some rock culture. Woman says she was leader of a band that was goth-punk. Many mentions of fossils and world being very old and its creation by an elder race and humans are "ape kin", jurassic age, but all in the context of a magical, not very believable plot. Mention of actor who starred in movies. Description of church, one word xmas- no religion. MOVies, TV, technology- laptops, cellphones, email, chat, IM Book based on premise that fairy tales and myths and legends are based on truth. Language- weird, stupid, freak out.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Scott, Michael	The Necromancer book 4	7+	OK??	The saga continues. Teenage twins aren't sure who is friend and who is foe and end up taking different sides with immortals, vampires, and gods. Even more technology- all the things in previous books plus jpeg. As in other books in this series many mentions of millions of years, different periods of prehistory, fossils, dinosaurs, etc. Two sisters fight over a boy and don't speak to each other again. Many mentions of a god who created man from his own aura. Man sleeps with head on wife's shoulder. Brief mention of woman being in a "goth-punk" band. Language- stupid
new	Scott, Michael	The Sorceress book 3	7+	OK??	The saga continues. Teenage twins are on the run from dangerous magical beings while trying to learn magic to save the world. One word xmas. Brief mention of going to the movies. One of the bad guys in this story recalls his childhood when his father wouldn't let him go to college, but he went without his permission. As in the other books in this series many mentions of millions of years ago, gods, immortals, dinosaurs, prehistoric creatures, etc. A lot of information about stonehenge and the people who worshipped there. ONE sentence- husband kisses wife and one sentence that he holds her in his arms for a long time. Brief mention that they got married in church. Language- stupid/ stupidity, dumb,
new	Scott, Michael	The Warlock book 5	7+	OK??	The saga continues. Teenage twins take different sides with the immortals and the "gods". Non romantic negiah. Man explains that he loved a woman and she loved him "though she would never admit it". Husband lies dying in his wife's arms- she "gently traced the lines of her husbands cheekbones and the shape of his jaw." Wife squeezes husband's hand. Brief mention of TV, movies, xmas. Language- stupid, shut up, freak me out,
	Seabrooke, Brenda	Jerry on the Line	3-5	OK??	Latchkey kid watches soap opera - who loves who, etc. Probably OK for older kids - very tame.
new	Searles, Rachel	The Lost Planet	5-8	OK?	Science Fiction. Boy wakes on alien planet with amnesia. Tries to find secret of his past and the death of his parents. Minor language: sucks, stupid, jerk, bugger. Steals items for a justified cause. Violence.
new	Searles, Rachel	The Stolen Moon	5-8	OK??	Science Fiction. Continuation of The Lost Planet. Boy continues search for his identity. Befriends girl, no romance. Some friendly negiah / hugs between 2 children, 2 adults, woman to boy. Minor language: idiot, screw-up, jerk. Girl's parents divorced. Boy is teased that his friend (who is a girl) is his girlfriend. Violence.
	Selden, George	The Cricket in Times Square	4-6	OK	A country cricket ends up at a NYC newsstand. Cute.
	Selzer, Adam	I Put a Spell on You	4-7	OK??	Kids try to win spelling bee - at any cost. Girl works "magic spell" which involves kissing boy.

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	Selznick, Brian	The Invention of Hugo Cabret	4-7	OK??	Boy discovers secret of automaton that his father found, and reveals identity of creator of early movies. Original style book with part of plot told in artful sketches of scenes in story (so even though it's a very thick book, it's not actually that long) . Several old-fashioned pictures of non-tznius women. Boy hugs girl; turns out it was to steal necklace from her (which he later returned). Several mentions of actual early films.
	Sendak, Maurice	Little Bear	1-2	OK	Cute stories about a little bear
	Sendak, Maurice	Little Bear's Friend	1-2	OK	Bear becomes friends with a little girl
	Sendak, Maurice	Little Bear's Visit	1-2	OK	Bear visits his grandparents and grandfather tells him a story about a goblin that is slightly scary but ends up being funny,
	Sendak, Maurice	The Sign on Rosie's door	2-3	OK	Imaginative girl entertains the neighborhood children with her creative games.
new	Serrailier, Ian	Escape from Warsaw (original title: The Silver Sword)	4-6	OK?	Historical fiction; Based on true story. 3 children (not Jewish) escape from Poland to Switzerland during WWII, and re-unite with their parents. Some non-romantic negiah. Word "gay" used to mean "cheerful". Language "heck" once. Girl reads from "Old Testament" about story of Daniel and the lions.
	Service, Pamela F.	Stinker From Space	4-6	OK??	A girl and boy help an alien in a skunk's body steal the space shuttle so he can return to his planet and defeat the bad guys. At first boy and girl don't want to associate with each other because they are of the opposite gender but eventually become friends. Girl thinks "boys stink". Girl enjoys acting out "space dramas" with action figures. Mentions of watching movies on TV. Language-idiotic, dummy, stupid, jerks, darn (once), weird.
	Service, Pamela F.	Stinker Returns	4-6	OK??	The saga continues. Children help alien steal the ruby slipper from the Wizard of Oz movie from the Smithsonian in order to save people from being destroyed. A lot of movie culture-names of movies and movie stars, being a movie buff etc. many mentions of TV. Brief non religious Santa Claus. Language- weirdo, freaks, gross, berserk, creep, lunatic, wacko, freak out, drat, darn (once).
	Seuling, Barbara	Robert and the Computer Hogs	2-3	OK?	Boy gets pen-pal and new computer. Mother mentions that before she met father she had boyfriends.
	Seuling, Barbara	Robert and the Triple Rotten Day	2-3	OK	Boy gets braces and has other "bad Luck"
	Sharmat, Marjorie W.	Nate the Great Saves the King of Sweden	2-3	OK	Boy detective finds a toy troll. Mentions of trolls in Swedish folklore.
	Sharmat, Marjorie W. and Mitchell Sharmat	Nate the Great and the Big Sniff	2-3	OK?	Boy detective finds his lost dog. P. 22 - goes into fitting room and sees a girl with a shirt that is "much too small for her" - picture of stomach showing - very juvenile.
	Sharmat, Marjorie W. and Mitchell Sharmat	Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise	2-3	OK	Boy detective helps find tortoise's home

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	Sharmat, Marjorie W. and Mitchell Sharmat	Nate the Great Talks Turkey	2-3	OK	Boy and girl detective team up to find turkey. Picture of girl in limo without a seatbelt.
	Sharp, Margery	The Rescuers	3-6	OK??	3 mice go on a quest to rescue a prisoner. Some minor boy/girl (mice) which doesn't lead to anything but along the way there is some non-romantic / semi-romantic negiah, e.g. boy mouse takes pretty girl mouse's hands to help her calm down, or she rests her head lightly on his shoulder (p. 22-23). Language: idiot (3 times)
	Sheinmel, Courtney	Stella Batts #1 Needs A New Name	3-5	OK??	A third grade girl named Stella decides to change her name when a mean boy in her class calls her "Smella" after she accidentally falls in dog "poop". Five year old calls her neighbor her "boyfriend". Middos between children. Brief description of a "show" (probably TV) the girls love. Language-poop, gross, weird, stinky.
	Sheinmel, Courtney	Stella Batts #2 Hair Today Gone Tomorrow	3-5	OK?	Girl sneaks a piece of chewing gum and it gets stuck in her hair forcing her to get an embarrassing haircut. Best friend moves away. Mean boy exhibits bad middos. Brief mention of watching a movie. Small black and white illustration of gymnast in leotard. Language-weird, berserk
	Sheinmel, Courtney	Stella Batts #3 Pardon Me	3-5	OK??	Girl makes a new best friend. Girl doesn't like certain vegetables and calls them "super gross". Girl's mother says let's go- girl responds "not until you promise we are coming back" Mother responds "Fine I promise". (pg 19) This interaction seen as normal. Watching TV. Language-gross, weird,
	Sheinmel, Courtney	Stella Batts #4 A Case of the Meanies	3-5	OK??	Mean boy doesn't invite girl to his birthday party. He is slightly chutzpadik to teacher. Girl says asparagus should be named "asparagross". Language-gross, weird.
	Sheth, Kashmira	Boys Without Names	5-8	OK?	Boys in India are forced to work in factory; become friends and escape. Minor Indian religion.
new	Shire, Poppy	Magic Pony Carousel - Crystal	3-5	OK?	Girl's carousel pony takes her on an adventure and she saves a village from an avalanche. Unimportant mention that village looks like an xmas card, and wooden walls smell like an xmas tree. One word mention of church as a landmark.
new	Shire, Poppy	Magic Pony Carousel - Jewel	3-5	OK?	Girl's carousel pony takes her on an adventure and she captures a criminal and helps his niece find a good home. One sentence mention of church clock chiming. language-stupid (once)
	Shreve, Susan	The Flunking of Joshua T. Bates	3-5	OK?	A boy is left back in third grade. His teacher befriends him and helps him get promoted. Some discussion that teacher is sad because husband left her.
	Shub, Elizabeth	The White Stallion	2-3	OK	A girl's pony wanders off wagon trail and gets lost; rescued by magical white stallion.
	Shura, Mary Francis	The Gray Ghosts of Taylor Ridge	4-5	OK	Brother and sister discover treasure and help blind old man reunite with estranged adopted son.

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	Shyer, Marlene Fanta	Fleabiscuit Sings	3-5	OK?	Sweet story about boy who adopts dog who can sing. Book uses the word "badword" in italics to indicate adults cursing. Passing reference to man kissing top of girlfriend's head.
	Sidney, Margaret	Five Little Peppers and How They Grew	4+	OK??	Classic sweet old-fashioned story about a poor but happy family who are adopted by a cranky rich man. Mentions of parsons and ministers and the L-rd will provide, but no details. A lot of detail about Xmas - the family could never afford to celebrate it but with the help of the rich man they finally do - very warm and fuzzy description of Xmas (chapter 15 p. 169 till end of chap. 17) - no heavy duty religion but lots of trees and presents and Santa Claus, etc. Language: stupid (once).
	Silverman, Erica	Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa Horse in the House	1-2	OK	Early chapter book about a horse who wants to move out of his barn into the house.
	Simon, Seymour	Einstein Anderson and the Gigantic Ants	3-5	OK	Boy solves mysteries. Similar to Encyclopedia Brown but solutions are science based. (In hardcover the same book is called Einstein Anderson Makes up for Lost Time).
	Simon, Seymour	Einstein Anderson Goes to Bat	3-5	OK	ditto.
	Simon, Seymour	Einstein Anderson Makes up for Lost Time	3-5	OK	Ditto (In softcover the same book is called --- and the Gigantic Ants)
	Simon, Seymour	Einstein Anderson Shocks his Friends	3-5	OK	More science mysteries. One involves going to a monster movie called "The Halloween Horror"; no religion.
	Simon, Seymour	Einstein Anderson Tells a Comet's Tail	3-5	OK??	Mention of asteroid hitting Earth 65 million years ago and this is why dinosaurs died - p. 10 chap 1 - can be crossed out. Brief technical description of fertilizing fish eggs - will very probably go over kids' heads.
	Simon, Seymour	Einstein Anderson The Howling Dog	3-5	OK?	Brief mention of boy concocting chemical to attract girlfriends, but only 1 sentence
	Simon, Seymour	Einstein Anderson The Invisible Man	3-5	OK	more science mysteries.
	Singer, A. L.	The Rescuers Down Under	3-5	OK?	Based on movie. 2 mice rescue a boy kidnapped by a poacher. Ongoing story of mouse trying to get courage to propose to girlfriend. Very cruel kidnapper.
	Singer, Marilyn	The Circus Lunicus	3-4	OK??	Boy lives with his stepmother and stepbrothers who are mean to him. Father is away on business for duration of book. Boy's mother died. Boy tries to join circus, and finds that circus members are crocodile creatures from another planet, and that he is one of them. Ending of book will be disturbing to adults, and to children who have lost a parent: boy finds out that his mother really did not die, but was a crocodile alien and became sick and is on her home planet. Minor language: crap, hell, butt, damn. Boy notes that his father does not hug and kiss his stepmother like he did to his mother

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	Skolsky, Mindy Warshaw	The Whistling Teakettle	3-5	OK?	Sweet stories of girl in 1940's era. Obvious that girl is Jewish, but only references are gefilte fish and grandmother's story of shtetl; call Yiddish "Jewish"
	Skorpen, Liesel Moak	His Mother's Dog	2-3	OK?	Boy is lonely when his mother has a baby, and is comforted by dog. Minor language: stupid, idiot.
	Skurzynski, Gloria	National Parks Mystery - Rage of Fire	5-7	OK?	some references to goddess of volcanoes
	Skurzynski, Gloria	National Parks Mystery - Valley of Death	5-7	OK?	girl whose parents are in anti-govt. group, learns truth from Jewish boyfriend
	Skurzynski, Gloria	The Minstrel In The Tower	3-5	OK??	A boy and girl look for their long lost uncle when their mother gets sick and their father is killed during the crusades. Crusaders are made out as heroes- no mention of who they set out to kill, just that they were brave and had big horses and swords. A girl offers her beautiful hair as a sacrifice at a shrine so her father will get well. Language-brats.
	Skye, Obert	Leven Thumps and the Eyes of Want	5-8	OK?	Book 3 of Leven Thumps series. Non-romantic negiah. Magical tree "turns red" when told stories of "cute girls".
	Skye, Obert	Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo	5-8	OK?	Boy and girl try to save the world from being taken over by a being from dream-world of Foo. All human adults in book are cartoonishly ugly, stupid and abusive. Non-romantic touching.
	Skye, Obert	Leven Thumps and the Whispered Secret	5-8	OK?	Book 2 of Leven Thumps series. Lots of talk of Fate as if it is a force on its own. Lots of fantasy good-guy vs. bad guy violence. More fantasy than first book. Non-romantic negiah. Minor language: stupid.
	Slote, Alfred	Finding Buck McHenry	3-5	OK	Boy is convinced janitor is old-time hero from negro baseball league. Adult lies but in end tells the truth
	Slote, Alfred	Hang Tough, Paul Mather	6-8	OK?	Boy with leukemia deals with missing out on playing baseball. Written in time period before there was a high cure rate for leukemia; tone at end of book is upbeat, but prognosis and description of treatments could be frightening for some.
	Slote, Alfred	Make Believe Ball Player	3-5	OK	imaginative boy scares off robbers and becomes a hero.
	Slote, Alfred	My Father, the Coach	3-6	OK	Lower-class boy's father sets up baseball team to show up his higher-class boss, who also coaches team. Boy is sometimes embarrassed by father's incompetent coaching and showing-off.
	Slote, Alfred	Rabbit Ears	3-5	OK?	Boy overcomes his sensitivity to ball-game jibes, by using trick from brother's rock band (which also has girl in it). Congratulatory kiss from girl to boy; they blush.
	Smarige, Nora	The Mystery at Greystone Hall	4-6	OK?	An American girl solves British mystery with help of a boy she likes, but not explicit. Mention of love affair in a book but not detailed. Very minor romance
	Smith, Alexander McCall	Akimbo and the Lions	2-3	OK	Boy raises lion cub

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	Smith, Alexander McCall	Akimbo and the Snakes	3-5	OK	A boy visits his uncle's snake park in Africa and helps him catch a deadly snake. Brief unimportant mention of going to a movie.
	Smith, Alexander McCall	Harriet Bean and the League of Cheats	3-5	OK	A girl goes undercover as a jockey to find out who is cheating at horse races.
	Smith, Alexander McCall	Max & Maddy and the Bursting Balloons Mystery	2-4	OK	Children figure out who is sabotaging a balloon race.
	Smith, Dodie	The 101 Dalmatians	5-7	OK??	Dalmatian parents rescue puppy from evil lady who wants their skin for a fur coat. Mother dog is jealous of stray dog brought into house to help nurse her pups, because she spends time with her husband. Name of house is Hell Hall. X-mas and presents - no religion. Pups go into place that is obviously a church (obvious to adults) but never stated outright (P 140 & 184). This edition has photos from the movie.
	Smith, Patricia	Royal Diaries: Lady of Palenque - Flower of Bacal	4-7	OK?	Some Mayan religion
	Smith, Patricia	Royal Diaries: Weetamoo - Heart of the Pocasset	4-7	OK?	One hug with boy she plans to marry - seems to be comforting her after death of her sister.
	Smith, Robert Kimmel	Chocolate Fever	4-6	OK?	A boy who loves chocolate breaks out in brown spots and is rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with "chocolate fever". He gets scared and runs away. A truck driver picks him up from the side of the highway and protects him from robbers. Book is not strong enough about dangers of hitchhiking and how lucky he was to find a kind person to help him.
	Smith, Roland	Zach's Lie	5-7	OK?	Boy goes into Witness Security Program with mother and sister, after father is caught using his plane business to fly for drug traffickers in order to pay down debts. Boy becomes friends with pretty girl - mostly platonic, with some non-romantic hand-holding.
	Smith, Sherwood	The Emerald Wand of Oz	5-7	OK??	An attempt at continuing the Oz series by a more modern author. Quite a lot of dwelling on the fact that children's parents have separated, and children are sad about it. (may not be appropriate for all readers). Also details the interference of an opinionated aunt. Non-romantic negiah, minor middos between siblings, many mentions of movie The Wizard of Oz, minor mentions of TV, one word mention of Halloween. Language - stupid, brat, dumb.
	Smith, Winsome	Elephant in the Kitchen	3-5	OK?	A mean magician shrinks elephant to get revenge. One minor romantic negiah.
new	Snicket, Lemony	"Who Could That Be At This Hour?"	4-6	OK??	Strange story of a boy who is hired as an apprentice to an incompetent detective and figures out the true ownership of a statue of a mythological creature. Mild boy/ girl mostly implied- can be easily missed. Non romantic negiah. One word Halloween. Books mentioned by title which may or may not be appropriate. Language- idiotic

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	Snicket, Lemony	A Series of Unfortunate Events #01 The Bad Beginning	4-6	OK??	Terrible things happen to children one after another. When it seems all will finally be well, turns worse. Book is purposely depressing - whole series is this way. Enjoyment of series is matter of personal taste. What do children learn from this series? Grownups are either evil and abusive or ineffectual and can't protect children; and that it's fine to consider tragedy funny. This book has minor rough language, mention in passing of naked actors.
	Snicket, Lemony	A Series of Unfortunate Events #02 - The Reptile Room	4-6	OK??	More of the same depressing "funny" story. Language - damn - page 94 (twice). "Blasted furnaces of hell - p. 98.
	Snicket, Lemony	A Series of Unfortunate Events #07 The Vile Village	4-6	OK??	Continued gloomy story of children escaping from villain.
	Snicket, Lemony	A Series of Unfortunate Events #08 The Hostile Hospital	4-6	OK??	Continued gloomy story of children escaping from villain.
	Snicket, Lemony	A Series of Unfortunate Events #12 - The Penultimate Peril	4-6	OK??	Several references to villainous woman wearing lettuce leaves taped to her body, instead of bikini.
	Snow, Alan	Here Be Monsters	5+	OK??	A very unusual (and very fat) book about a boy who helps capture a villain who wants to take over the town by shrinking friendly monsters and transferring their size to a giant rat who will be used as a deadly weapon. Language: damnable, darn it, stupid. Humorous illustration of clothing on a line, including a clear rendition of female undergarments. Women of the town are caught up in a fashion craze of having unusually shaped buttocks which they try to shrink when they aren't fashionable. Described in humorous detail. Warning: after reading this book, a person may never find cheese appetizing again.
	Snyder, Carol	Ike and Mama and the Once a Year Suit	2-3	OK	Ike's mother takes all the boys in the neighborhood to buy their new suits. Cute.
	Snyder, Laurel	Any Which Wall	4-7	OK??	Children find magical wall that transports them to any wall in time or space. Very mild "love" interest by 12 year old girl. Movie where man and woman kiss (P. 48). Drawing of woman in off-shoulder gown (p. 96). Drawing and description of older girls in low-slung skirts, tank tops, belly-button ring (p 195-197).
	Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	GIB and the Gray Ghost	5-7	OK	An orphan is brought to a farm and wonders if he will be adopted or is just "farmed out" labor.

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	Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	Gib Rides Home	6-8	OK??	An orphan boy is taken to live with a family and he tries to figure out if he is wanted or they consider him free labor. A lot of mentions of parent's unhappy marriage but never any suggestion of divorce. Very sad story of an orphan who was mistreated and eventually died. Middos between orphans. Boy gets another boy in trouble by writing a "bad word" on his spelling test. When the headmistress dies she 'passes over to glory'. A very mean teacher severely beats the boys for small offenses. A few mentions of non religious xmas. Mention of a few books by title. Language- dumb, dummy, stupid, shut up, hell (once), durned, goldurned, dangbusted, dadburned.
	Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	The Bronze Pen	5-7	OK??	A girl is given a magical pen that makes her writing come true. It helps her deal with her father's scary heart disease. Minor language: shut up, jerk. Although the father is magically cured at the end, this book may disturb a sensitive child since it vividly depicts a child dealing with a parent's illness.
	Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	The Treasures of Weatherby	4-6	OK	Boy solves mystery in house of old rich aunt, with help from a girl from flying acrobat family.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclodedia Brown And the Case of the Jumping Frogs	3-5	OK	Simple mysteries for reader to solve. Solutions included in back of the book.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclodedia Brown and the Case of the Two Spies	3-5	OK?	One mention of girl trying to get boy's attention by posing for him in bathing suit on beach and getting dog to lick him, but he ignores her.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclodedia Brown Boy Detective	3-5	OK	more mysteries to solve
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclodedia Brown Saves the Day	3-5	OK	more mysteries to solve
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclodedia Brown Takes the Cake	3-5	OK	Mysteries interspersed with recipes - many of which are treif but can be altered (i.e. substitute margarine for butter). Mention of boy liking girl and other boy being jealous but very minor
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclodedia Brown's Book of Wacky Outdoors	3-5	OK	Strange stories and tall tales of outdoors. Mostly fishing stories.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of Pablo's Nose	3-5	OK	more mysteries to solve
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Dead Eagles	3-5	OK	more mysteries to solve
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Disgusting Sneakers	3-5	OK??	One story (the Case of the Brain Game): a few sentences about a boy who is always "stuck on some girl", so he helps her win contest at birthday party.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Midnight Visitor	3-5	OK?	Boy detective solves mysteries. One word mention of church. Brief mention of going to movie theater, watching movie on TV, and movie magazine. Gang of bad kids display their usual bad middos and minor violence. Language-drat, stupid, heck.

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	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Sleeping Dog	3-5	OK	more mysteries to solve
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Treasure Hunt	3-5	OK	more mysteries to solve
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown Cracks the Case	3-5	OK?	More mysteries . One word mention of church, no religion, Brief mention of TV news.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown Sets the Pace	3-5	OK?	Page 12 - dinosaurs lived 65 million years ago - easily crossed out.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown Solves them All	3-5	OK?	One story mentions boy who is "youngest ladies' man... always holding some girl's hand" "crazy over (girl), so is half the class". Tame. Illustration on cover is scantily clad bareback rider.
	Sobol, Donald J.	Encyclopedia Brown Tracks them Down	3-5	OK?	More Mysteries. Unimportant mention of Xmas present. Language - darn you (once), weird.
	Sonnenblick, Jordan	Dodger and Me	3-5	OK?	Unpopular boy gets invisible chimpanzee as magical genie. Mild language. Boy is "friends" with girl; is teased that she is his girlfriend.
	Soo, Kean	Jellaby	3-6	OK??	Comic book style novel. Children help strange creature find its parents. Simplistic but violent descriptions of bullying. Language: "friggin". Some Halloween - no religion. Children know parents won't let them go to city by themselves so they pretend they are going trick or treating. Girl wonders about father - implication is he abandoned her or disappeared, but not resolved in this book. Somewhat scary
	Sorrells, Walter	Erratum	7-9	OK??	Girl finds book about her own life and finds out she is the only one who can save the universe. Minor language: crap, etc.
	Soup, Cuthbert	A Whole Nother Story	5-8	OK?	Children and their father try to escape from agents who want to steal their time-machine. Tongue-in-cheek - fun read. Minor language: dumb, stupid, darn, shut up, heck, freaks, idiot, "hellish storm". Man says he "almost lost his head over a beautiful woman and a bottle of rye", then says it is not an appropriate story for children. Passing mention of characters who are not present in story, who fell in love with each other. Fortune teller "sees" father dancing with beautiful woman; beautiful woman then comes and offers to dance with father but he is too sad over remembering dead wife, so she dances with young teenage son instead - totally innocent. Passing mention of spaying and neutering of pets - not explained. Boy says he knows 3 swear words but refuses to say them. Girl painted picture of boy in her class whom she "used to like" - but stopped liking when she realized he didn't like her and spread mean nickname for her. Passing mention of dinosaur. All very innocent. First in series.
chg	Speare, Elizabeth George	The Sign of the Beaver	3-6	OK?	Historical fiction; Indians. Indian violence; may be disturbing to younger readers.

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	Speck, Nancy	Going to: Boston - The Freedom Trail Mystery	5-7	OK?	2 girls go to Boston University for hockey camp, and get involved in catching people stealing historical artifacts. Book is part mystery, part tour guide book. Girls are friends with boys in nearby camp - not overtly romantic. Many mentions of watching news on TV, and they are interviewed for TV news. Picture of girls in shorts on cover.
	Sperry, Armstrong	Call It Courage	5-7	OK??	A Newberry Medal survival book about an Indian boy's journey to prove his courage. Boy prays to god of sea fisherman. Black and white picture of unclothed boy - private parts in a shadow. Full page illustration and description of idol. Vivid descriptions of killing animals and fish.
	Spinelli, Jerry	Blue Ribbon Blues	2-4	OK	Girl moves to a farm and wants to exhibit her goat. Strange humor
	Spinelli, Jerry	Tooter Pepperday	2-3	OK	Girl adjusts to living on farm. Some chutzpah to parents regarding her anger at moving.
new	Spinner, Stephanie	Who Was Sitting Bull?	4-6	OK??	Biography of famous Indian chief. Many mentions of native American religion and beliefs- pray to buffalo god, great spirit, vision quest, shaman,ghost dance, etc, Wife died in childbirth. Text and illustration about battle between Indians and settlers- picture shows many dead with arrows in backs.
	Spyri, Johanna	Heidi	4-6	OK?	Classic story of girl brought up on mountain by eccentric grandfather. Good midos. Many minor religious references - pretty neutral, ie "higher being": pages 124, 192, 263, 277
	Stafford, Jean	Elephi the Cat with the High IQ	3-5	OK?	A cat steals a car so he will have a companion. One mention of laundry man "making eyes" at cleaning lady. Strange story.
	Stanley, G. E.	Scaredy Cats: The Day the Ants Got Really Mad	1-2	OK	Cute story of boy who moves to house built over ant hill; as solution, ants carry the house to a different place.
	Steele, William O.	The Perilous Road	4-6	OK	Historical fiction. A boy during the Civil war learns the evils of war.
	Steig, William	Abel's Island	5-6	OK??	Mouse lost on desert island. Not really a "kid" book -lots of adult language of missing his beloved, hugs and kisses on return, etc.
	Steig, William	The Real Thief	4-6	OK	Goose is accused of stealing from king's treasury.
	Stevenson, Drew	Terror on Cemetery Hill	3-5	OK	Girl and boy detectives solve bank robbery. Minor mention of Halloween
	Stevenson, Robert Lewis	Treasure Island	7-8	OK	Classic adventure story. Boy goes to find treasure. Lots of violence. Check specific book for illustrations
	Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell	Barnaby Grimes: Return of the Emerald Skull	3-6	OK??	Boy saves school from ancient curse. Ancient Mayan god described as real and powerful. Mentions of pretty girl. Somewhat gory violence.
	Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell	Dragon's Hoard- A Knight's Story #3	4-5	OK??	A knight saves a fair maiden from being sacrificed to a dragon. Some good guy vs. bad guy blood and gore described in detail. After knight saves her she agrees to marry him and rides on the horse behind him "with her arms wrapped tightly around my waist". Illustration of her leaning her head on him. Language-stupid.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell	The Edge Chronicles #1: Beyond the Deep Woods	4-7	OK?	A boy tries to find his true identity while having numerous mishaps in a nightmarish woods filled with bloodthirsty fantasy beasts. Lots of blood and gore but all unreal characters in an unreal setting.
	Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell	The Edge Chronicles #2: Storm Chaser	4-7	OK?	A boy rescues his world and foils villains. Same Fantasy type violence as previous book.
new	Stewart, Trenton Lee	The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict	5-8	OK?	A prequel to the Mysterious Benedict Society series. Story about the sad childhood of the founder and how he overcame many obstacles to succeed. Bullies in orphanage are terribly cruel to boy and the others go along with it out of fear besides one boy who stands up to them. Boy decides that cook and housekeeper are in love, but isn't sure how to help them admit it- nothing much happens between them other than stuttering, stammering, and being red in the face when they talk to each other. Boys befriend a deaf girl- nonromantic negiah. Language- shut up. nitwit, moron, blasted, idiot, stupid, dumb.
	Stewart, Trenton Lee	The Mysterious Benedict Society	5-8	OK	2 boys and 2 girls, all orphans or runaways, pass a test in order to be sent undercover to a mysterious school and foil a plot to take over the world.
	Stewart, Trenton Lee	The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey	5-8	OK?	Children go on a voyage to save their friends. A lot of non-romantic negiah between friends, eg: a hug when they are happy to see each other, taking a hand to save a friend, etc. One sentence unimportant mention that one of the boys briefly had a girlfriend (p. 34). Girl calls newly found father by first name because that's what she called him before she knew the truth. Minor language: stupid, jerk.
	Stewart, Trenton Lee	The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma	5-8	OK?	Children are captured and conspire to save themselves and the world. Some good guy vs. bad guy violence as in other books in this series. Non-romantic negiah. Non-religious mention of Santa Claus. Language: wimpy, stupid, dumb, creep, idiot, dimwit, gross,

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - A Cheese Colored Camper	2-4	OK?	Note on series: There seem to be four types of books in this series- the regular ones, the graphic novels, and the cavemice (for Thea Stilton scroll down to the first Thea Stilton book) and space mice. Regular- A mouse who is a newspaper editor is dragged into various adventures. Often mild boy mouse / girl mouse, and mentions of how mouse would like to approach girls and ask them on dates but he is too shy. Some of the books talk about him having a "major crush" on a girl- often different girls in different books. Cartoonish story often interspersed with factual information. The Geronimo Stilton graphic novels in this series have less about his crushes and more good guy/ bad guy violence, while the Thea Stilton graphic novels seem to have more about crushes than the novels. The Cavemice books are a parody of the regular books with many humorous references to the stone age, dinosaurs, fossils, etc. The women cavemice are dressed in cartoonish sleeveless dresses. The space mice are the same characters in outer space. All of these are attractive to beginning chapter-book readers, though many are problematic. In this book mouse goes on a trip with his family. Prominent picture of bikini tops and bottoms hanging on the line: p. 16-17. Chutzpadik to difficult grandfather (who seemingly deserves it) comes to appreciate him at the end. Sister goes out on more dates than a movie star - needs to shower in case she runs into "a cute mouse". Thinks he sees "Santa Mouse" on a sled pulled by reindeer. Language- stinky, creepy.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo	2-4	OK??	Mouse keeps missing his vacation plans until he finally ends up in a dumpy hotel sharing a room with his teenage (female) employee and her friends. Completely innocent. Mention of liking "the hottest female mouse band". Mouse who likes to cook thinks he should have his own cooking show on TV. A suggested game to play on vacation involves acting out names of television shows.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Attack of the Bandit Cats	2-4	OK??	Mice end up on a pirate ship manned by cats. Female mouse mentions that she went to a hotel "to book a weekend with my new sweetie". Mouse laughs because she "goes through sweetie pies the way a starving rat goes through a plate of nachos." Brief, unimportant mention of santa mouse (claus) and xmas gifts. Many mentions of TV and illustration of TV. Mentions mouse is famous like a "famous rock star or big time movie mouse". Mouse sold a song to a record company and now the song is "on top of the charts." Language- stinking,
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House	2-4	OK??	Mouse is stranded in the woods and takes shelter in a haunted house. Brief mentions that this story takes place on Halloween but no religion and no detail other than it is scary and go trick or treating. Brief mention of cinema and TV. Brief bathroom humor. Illustration of little boy mouse and little girl cat holding hands- innocent. Language- nincompoop, wacko.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Down and Out Down Under	2-4	OK??	Several mentions of Geronimo "liking" girl mouse - but not romantic. Picture of mouse swimming with bikini top and shorts - p. 55. Rocks formed 600 million years ago - page 57. Mention of Aborigines living in Australia for 40,000 years - page 63
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Field Trip to Niagra Falls	2-4	OK??	Passing mention of Niagara falls 12,000 years ago. Story of Indian girl who married god of thunder. Geronimo likes pretty mouse; she finds her lost love and they get married.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Flight of the Red Bandit	2-4	OK??	Mouse goes to Arizona and finds his old friend. Brief mention of cowboy movie. Mouse plays practical jokes- brief text and detailed illustration of the jokes. Brief mention of male mouse going to eat out with a female mouse- illustrations shows them clicking glasses. Language- freaked out.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Four Mice Deep in the Jungle	2-4	OK??	Psychologist advises mouse to overcome his fears, so his friends trick him into joining a boot camp in the jungle, by having the female instructor flirt with him. He blushes and thinks she is "attractive". The flirting is relatively innocuous. Nonromantic negiah. Cartoonish illustration of men's underwear. Brief mention in passing of Halloween being a spooky holiday and Halloween music being creepy. Brief unimportant mention of TV, movies. Language- poop, gross.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery	2-4	OK??	Mouse helps capture a criminal who cheats to win the Olympics. A lot of facts about the Olympics and ancient Greece and Greek gods (no mention of Greek's treatment of Jews). Movies on airplane. A lot of TV reporting. Male mouse kisses female mouse's hand to be a "gentlemouse"- show good manners. Cartoonish, nonprovacative pictures of female athletes in bathing suits, leotards, tank tops, shorts. Mouse wants to propose- calls female "adorable".
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Geronimo Stilton Saves The Olympics	2-4	OK?	Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to the first Olympic games to prevent the pirate cats from changing history. Some historical information about the Olympic games. Cartoonish illustrations of female mouse in tank top. Language- weird (once)
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - I'm Not A Supermouse	2-4	OK??	Friend takes mouse on dangerous adventures to "toughen him up". Brief mention of tough mouse who secretly likes "romantic poetry". Mention of watching the news on TV. Language- stinky, idiotic, weird. Chapter titles- "Too Darn Cold", "Too Darn Hot".
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye	2-4	OK??	Mice try to find treasure on a desert isle. Mention of "Santa Mouse". One sentence mention of mouse flirting with pretty flight attendant (p. 106). Male mouse asks female mouse on a date. Mention of favorite TV show and TV cartoons. Unimportant mention of St. Patricks Day (St. Patrats Day)

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - My Name is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton	2-4	OK??	Geronimo gets young trendy assistant, who plans a big New Year's Eve party so they can be on TV and be famous. Co-ed dance to rock music - not described in detail. Mouse changes his style to be more "with it". Pretty sister attracts attentions of guy mouse at party. Boy kisses girl's hand. Mention of Xmas - no religion.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Paws Off, Cheddarface	2-4	OK??	Mouse confronts his double who is trying to ruin his image and steal his newspaper. Brief mention of watching TV and TV news, and going to the movies and movie star (movie mouse)- Mel Gibson (Gibsqueak). Mouse is horrified when his double announces in his name that TV watching is better than reading a book. Unimportant mention of xmas stocking. Mouse is embarrassed that his image is being used to market toilets. Mentions of famous authors and their works which may or may not be appropriate. Language- moron, nincompoop.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Play It Again, Mozart!	2-4	OK??	Graphic novel. Mice travel back in time to prevent cat criminals from stealing Mozart's music. Description of the Enlightenment period "people could have life, social equality, and human rights as a result of...rational thought". Language- heck (p 45), In back 2 page "special romantic excerpt" from a graphic novel "The Three Musketeers".
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Run For The Hills, Geronimo	2-4	OK??	Mouse goes on a dangerous treasure hunt. Illustration of female mouse in sleeveless dress. Female mouse "playfully tugs" on male mouse's whiskers. Female mouse puts paw around male mouse to convince him to do something. Brief mention that man keeps picture of his girlfriend in his shirt pocket next to his heart. Male mice try to impress female mice by lifting heavy things. Female mouse gives male mouse "a kiss on the snout" and says he is her hero. Language- wimp.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Secret Agent	2-4	OK??	Mouse tries to find missing document and is secretly helped by his friend and his friend's "stunning" sister. Keeps mentioning how nervous he is around "beautiful rodents" and how her perfume is "delicate" and how he wishes he could ask her out (p. 26-28) - nothing comes of it. Sings favorite love song "Beady-eyed Beauty". Mouse is embarrassed to call female rat because she is so "smart and beautiful". He blushes when a female fan asks him to take her to the movies. Bathroom humor. Language- creeped out, stinky.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands	2-4	OK	Mice get shipwrecked on a deserted island and look for pirate treasure. A lot of info on pirates- facts, famous pirates, list of terms, etc. Cousin plays practical jokes.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Surf's Up, Geronimo	2-4	OK??	Inside label of men's bathing suit reads "I'm too sexy for my fur" - p. 68. Muscular mouse has tattoo of attractive female mouse (face only) - p. 79. Cover - drawing of female mouse in bikini top in background

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Coliseum Con	2-4	OK?	Graphic Novel. Mice go back in history to Ancient Rome to prevent pirate cats from changing history. Facts about Ancient Rome- all very positive including Titus son of Vespasian whose policies "were inspired by the principles of legality, generosity, and mercy."
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid	2-4	OK??	Egyptian gods. Mouse goes to Egypt and visits pyramids. May pages of Egyptian culture and religion explained in great detail. Needs adult guidance. An important storyline is about the mouse's grandfather deciding to enforce ridiculous austerity measures on his newspaper-a lot of grumbling against him, calling him names behind his back- crazy, wacko, etc- finally they chip in to send him on a trip around the world so they will leave them alone. Unimportant mention of xmas and church bells and Halloween. Unimportant mention of horror movies. Ongoing unrefined humor about the stench of camels, and a scientist who spits when he talks.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Discovery of America	2-4	OK??	Graphic Novel. Mice ride with Columbus to prevent pirate cats from changing history. Throughout, illustrations of ships with crosses on the sails. As in all books in this series, bad guys display bad middos. Comic style illustrations of mixed dancing. Language- idiot
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Fastest Train In The West	2-4	OK	Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to stop cats from ruining the transcontinental railroad.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The First Mouse on the Moon	2-4	OK?	Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to stop pirate cats from changing history at the time of the first moon landing. Language- freaked out. In back preview of "Thea Stilton Catching the Giant Wave"- cartoonish pictures of teenage female mice in tight fitting wet suits surfing.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The First Samurai	2-4	OK	Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to prevent pirate cats from acquiring a piece of land in ancient Japan.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Golden Statue Plot	2-4	OK?	Mouse helps prevent cats from stealing a statue. Brief mention of watching movies and TV. Mention of pigeon dropping a "stink bomb" on mouse's head. Call sunglasses "movie star glasses".

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Kingdom of Fantasy #1	2-4	OK??	Mouse goes to fantasy land to free the fairy queen. Many mentions of Greek mythology and retelling of many legends involving gods. A number of legends that involve a boy "falling in love" with a girl- usually resulting in marriage. Mentions of love letters. Comic style illustration of mermaid wearing tight fitting, low cut outfit. Character says "do you want to hear some dirt?" and proceeds to gossip about a king who has a crush on a princess. In sidebar, mention of plant used to prepare love potions. Mouse can only save queen by kissing her- eventually kisses her hand. Mouse worries about what "cute mouse at the drycleaner" will think about his soiled tie. Quite a bit of juvenile bathroom humor eg. smelly fit, snot dripping from the nose, etc. In a sidebar, one sentence mention that "around 3 billion years ago life was born from the sea". One word mention of Halloween and xmas. One sentence mention of Wizard of Oz. One word mention of movies. Language- stinky, puke
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Mona Mousa Code	2-4	OK??	References to sister mouse's many changing boyfriends. Mention of scary movies, girl mouse strokes love struck boy mouse's ear to get information, unimportant mention of xmas cards..
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Mouse Island Marathon	2-4	OK?	Nonathletic mouse runs a marathon and helps many people along the way (in very improbable situations). Works out in a coed gym, swims laps in a coed pool (pictures very cartoonish and nonprovacative) Likes meeting pretty female mice. Helps an injured female mouse with "the prettiest blue eyes I had ever seen" Illustration of them walking with arms over each others shoulders. Female mouse gives him a hug for helping her. Language- weird, great grandmother's name is "Stinkyfur", creepy. In back section advice for becoming healthy- don't watch too much TV and avoid scary movies before bedtime.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Mysterious Cheese Thief	2-4	OK??	Villainess girl mouse dressed in skin-tight bodysuit. Geronimo likes her. She pretends to like him so she can capture him. Detailed pictures of getting ready for x-mas party - tree, wreath, no religion
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Phantom of the Subway	2-4	OK?	Mice figure out who is haunting the subway station. Mouse's cousin exhibits very crude behavior and poor middos- worse than usual in this series. No boy/girl in this book. Brief mention of "surfing the net". One word mention of xmas. Brief mention of time travel machine and going to period of dinosaurs. Brief mention of making a movie. Language: pee-pee, doo-doo, wimp, shut your snout (mouth).
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Race Across America	2-4	OK?	Mouse participates in a grueling bicycle race. 2 page color illustration of female mouse jogging on boardwalk wearing skimpy exercise clothing. List of titles of famous western movies. Language: weird.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Search for Sunken Treasure	2-4	OK??	Mice search for buried treasure and locate shipwrecked uncle. A bit "mushy" when aunt finds uncle, but they are "married" (p. 102-103), Mention that mouse had lots of "sweethearts"

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Secret of the Sphinx	2-4	OK??	Graphic novel. Mice go back to Ancient Egypt to keep the pirate cats from convincing the Pharaoh to change the face of the sphinx to a cat face. Large amounts of facts about Ancient Egypt, including a lot of information about their religion and belief in gods and their priests. Girl wonders why she has to "put up with" "dummies" like her father. Mouse is asked to write a hymn dedicated to a goddess. He finds it difficult so imagines he is writing it for a girl he likes "you have eyes the color of the sky and a heart filled with love". Many cartoonish illustrations of mice wearing sleeveless dresses. Language- idiot, stupid
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Temple of the Ruby of Fire	2-4	OK	Geronimo saves ruby from villains. One word nonreligious mention of xmas. Language- stinking rich.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Way of the Samurai	2-4	OK?	Mouse goes to Japan to rescue a secret karate scroll. Unimportant mention of TV. Brief mention that man keeps a photo of his girlfriend in his shirt pocket.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Weird Book Machine	2-4	OK	Graphic novel. Mice go to Germany in 1455 to stop the pirate cats from changing history of the first printing press. In back preview of other graphic novels which may or may not be appropriate.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - The Wild, Wild West #21	2-4	OK??	Mouse confronts a bully in the Wild West. Silly violence. One sentence mention of "Santa Mouse". Girl mouse tries on a dress but when she realizes she can't walk or jump, changes to pants. Girl mouse flirts with boy mouse who is "love sick". Mouse falls asleep watching TV - illustration.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - This Hotel is Haunted!	2-4	OK??	Mouse helps figure out who is disguised as a ghost in order to haunt his friend's hotel. TV watching. Mouse reminisces about mischief he did when he was a young boy. Mouse kisses woman's paw in greeting (to be polite). Mention that grandparents were a "great love story". Double page cartoonish illustration of a coed dance- nothing overtly romantic. Language- creepy, stinky,
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton	2-4	OK??	Mouse tries to save his newspaper from mysterious adversary. Small drawing of painting at mouse art show - 2 mice not wearing tops - girl mouse is facing backwards. Small illustration of female mouse wearing bathing suit. Detailed explanation of where name of Halloween comes from. Mention of TV news, TV gameshow and movie theater. Summary of book "Rattenstein"- parody of "Frankenstein". Bathroom humor.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Wedding Crasher	2-4	OK??	In continuing story of unfortunate mouse, Geronimo goes to wedding of stingy relative with poor nebach girl. Thea dresses the girl mouse in stylish "short skirt" (knee length with slit) and sleeveless top, and styles her hair; boy mice see she is actually not a nebach and both try to get her to go with them. Very juvenile.
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - Welcome to Moldy Manor	2-4	OK	Mouse is forced to take a course in being a spendthrift when his cousin uses up all of his money. Language- weird,

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton - We'll Always Have Paris	2-4	OK??	Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to stop cats from ruining the Eiffel Tower. Adult single female mouse invites single male mouse (her boyfriend?) to go shopping with her. Language- stupid. In back, preview of "Thea Stilton Graphic Novel #1"- mice are planning for a school dance, discussion of who will be whose dates.
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- All for Stilton, Stilton for All	2-4	OK	Graphic novel-mice team up with their enemies to expose an imposter king of France.
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- Cavemice- Get the Scoop, Geronimo	2-4	OK??	Prehistoric mice try to win news contest by proving competitor is dishonest. Many humorous mentions of prehistory, stone age, dinosaurs, etc. Language- gross
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- Cavemice- The Great Mouse Race	2-4	OK??	Prehistoric mice try to figure out who stole their enemy's flag at a sports competition. Humorous mentions of dinosaurs, prehistory. Book encourages reader to read previous book, "Stone of Fire". Language- stinky
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- Cavemice- The Stone of Fire	2-4	OK??	Prehistoric mice retrieve a stolen invention from their saber tooth tiger enemies. Bathroom humor about dinosaur dung. Language- poop
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- Rumble in the Jungle	2-4	OK??	Mouse's friends decide his "Mousebook" (facebook) page on the computer is too boring so they take him on an adventure in Brazil. They abandon him and steal his wallet to make him have better adventures, but secretly follow him and take pictures for social media. Many facts about Brazil. Mouse is surprised his friend knows his computer password- friend explains he filmed him typing his password. Mouse ends up starring in a movie. Mouse dances the "samba".
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- Spacemice- Ice Planet Adventure	2-4	OK?	Mice take their space ship to a frozen planet to rescue a scientist and encounter aliens who try to capture them. Brief unimportant mention that female mechanic is the "loveliest" rodent on the ship. Brief unimportant mention of laptop computers, xmas lights. Language- weird.
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- Spacemice- The Galactic Goal	2-4	OK?	Mice compete in a sports tournament on an alien planet. Reads news on the computer. Mouse says female mouse is "fascinating"- illustration of him with hearts above his head. Illustration of coed sports team high fiving.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- The Kingdom of Fantasy #2- The Quest for Paradise- The Return to the Kingdom of Fantasy	2-4	OK??	Mouse returns to fantasy land to find the "heart of happiness". Confronts many scary/funny creatures. Ogres have names like Hogbreath and Snotbert. Juvenile bathroom humor. Brief mention that mouse was adopted and had a loving home. Language- creepy, stinky, gross
	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- The Kingdom of Fantasy #4- The Dragon Prophecy	2-4	OK??	Mouse returns to fantasy land to find a stolen dragon egg. Texting on cell phone. TV news. Mouse doodles name of girl he has a crush on- illustration of him doodling with hearts coming out of his head. A lot of juvenile bathroom humor- especially about dragon dung. Mouse accidentally pulls down pants of mouse- cartoonish illustration of him in his underwear. Non romantic negiah. One word Halloween. Language- stinky, dumb, gross, weird, creep me out, stupid

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Stilton, Geronimo	Geronimo Stilton- The Super Chef Contest	2-4	OK?	Geronimo becomes his cousin's assistant at a cooking contest and discovers his cousin was cheating. In the end wins fair and square. The winner of the contest would appear on a famous cooking show on TV.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab	2-4	OK??	NOTE ON SERIES- There seem to be two types- the novels and the graphic novels. In both, high school aged female mice have adventures. They are very fashionably dressed (and not very snius, though all illustrations are cartoons) and there are usually good looking male mice involved. In the novels, there are hints both in print and in illustrations to certain of them forming "special friendships" with others which might have a romantic undertone, but it is not stated explicitly. In the graphic novels the plots are more juvenile but the romance is more explicit. In the novels, one of the girls often consults her "mousepad" (ipad) or computer to get information. The graphic novels seem more overall teen culture. In this book mice go to Egypt to help archeologist find a legendary treasure. A lot of information about ancient Egypt including culture and religion- gods, temples, burial practices, religious ceremonies, etc.. Brief mention of prehistoric times. Use internet to find information.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure	2-4	OK?	See note on series. Teenage mice help catch thief of an ancient Japanese puppet. A lot of info on Japanese culture. Teenager does research on her phone.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Journey To The Lion's Den	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Teenage mice journey to Africa and help rescue a baby lion and capture a poacher. Illustration of boy and girl mouse dancing, a few other questionable illustrations. Boy and girl mouse keep in touch via email. Brief mention of movie stars. Language- weird.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Mountain of Fire	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Girl mice journey through the Australian outback to ask elders for help curing sick sheep. Comic book style illustrations of stylish girl mice in tank tops and cutoffs and later in a mini-skirt - wins "best dressed" prize. Cartoonish picture of mouse holding fiance's arm. Caption on a map says people came to Australia 50,000 years ago (p. 16). Aborigine beliefs in totems and spirits of ancestors. Description of a tree that is 2 million years old from the time of the dinosaurs (p. 62). They go to a dance but the illustration is tame. Minor language: shut your mouth, what the heck. Boy mouse sends girl a rose; her friends tease her that she is a heartbreaker.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Mystery in Paris	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Teenage mice visit Paris and help a fashion design student recover her designs in time for a fashion show. In sidebar about facts about Paris, mentions that a neighborhood was named for a Christian martyr. Mention can see dome of a church over the roofs of the houses (not identified as church, but rather by french name) with 2 page illustration featuring the church (with a cross on top) Discussions of fashion culture and opera- Sidebars give factual info on both. Non romantic negiah.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Mystery On The Orient Express	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Girl mice try to track down a criminal on the Orient Express. Many color illustrations of teenage and adult mice dressed unsniously. Information on fashion in the roaring twenties- knee length dresses "considered short at the time" etc.. Everyone very excited to be traveling with celebrities including a pop star, a famous ballerina, and a famous sports star. Gossip if 2 celebrities are "in love" and if they are just friends or if "their feelings run deeper" and they are "so romantic". Illustration of man with arm over woman's shoulder. Illustrations and description of coed dance. One word mention of xmas. Brief mention of movie.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Secret City	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Teenage mice search for missing archeologist and help discover an ancient treasure. A lot of Incan culture and religion- factual- and illustrations of the statues they worshipped. Xmas, santa mouse
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Secret of the Old Castle	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Teenage mice help their friend save her families ancient Scottish castle from dueling relatives. It is implied that boy and girl mice "like" each other and may eventually marry. He takes her paw in his hand. He is "cute". When she talks about him she blushes. His eyes "light up" when he talks about her. Text and illustrations of coed dances. A few mentions of TV. Text messages on cell phones. Language- shut your trap
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton and the Star Castaways	2-4	OK?	See note on series. Teenage mice go to a secret luxury hotel on the moon and capture the saboteur. TV news and TV personalities. Clothing not as bad as others in this series because they are mostly wearing spacesuits (though when they are not, the outfits are scanty as is usual in this series. One cartoonish illustration of a scantily clad statue. Brief mention that some journalists work on the internet. Language- stinky.
	Stilton, Geronimo	Thea Stilton- The Secret of the Fairies	2-4	OK??	See note on series. Teenage mice visit mythical land in Ireland and help save it from destruction. Non romantic negiah- text and illustration. Female mice are dressed more modestly in this book than in others in this series. However, some of the fairies are not.
new	Stine, Megan	Where Is The White House?	4-6	OK??	Book describing the history and layout of the White House. Also information about how different first families used the space. A few mentions of ,movie theater and TV including name of a TV show that takes place in the white house. President Ford's daughter had her high school prom there- text and illustration (of boy and girl holding hands/dancing). When Lincoln was shot his body was brought to lie in "state"- explanation given. President's young son who died was embalmed there as well. President's daughter had a dog that "mated' with another dog and had puppies. On xmas house is a "magical wonderland"- illustration of tree. Description of annual Easter Egg Roll- no religion. Halloween party described- included actors from a famous movie.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - A Night in Terror Tower	3-5	OK?	NOTE ON SERIES: Scary, often gory stories with little or no redeeming value. Books often have previews of other books in series, which may or may not be appropriate. In this book, children go to visit an old prison and are told they will soon be executed. Minor middos between siblings. Old tortures described in detail. Language: wimp, weird.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Attack of the Mutant	3-5	OK??	A boy who is obsessed with superhero comic books, fights a comic book super-villain. A lot of comic book culture. Minor middos between siblings. Father tells boy to do homework; he gets in trouble for sneaking comic books instead. Boy thinks girl is "cute looking". Non-romantic negiah. 2 word mention of Easter bunny. Frequent minor language: weird, dumb, geeky, stink, jerk, wimp. Preview of Bad Hare Day - language: weird, moron
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Beware, the Snowman	3-5	OK?	A girl moves to an Arctic town where residents are frightened of a living snowman. She reunites with her missing father and saves the town. Mention of church and pastor - no religion. Language - weird, creep, freaked, stupid. Preview of book "My Hairiest Adventure" - language: dumb, weird, stupid, jerk
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Chicken, Chicken	3-5	OK??	Two children accidentally upset a strange woman whom all the town's children regularly play tricks on. She curses them and they turn into chickens. Frequent minor language: weird, jerk, creep, stupid, dumb, freak. Some bad middos between siblings, boy plays tricks on people and tries to be funny. Co-ed birthday party - girls and a few boys dance - most of the boys stand around making jokes about the dancing. Boys and girls sing in a choir together. Preview of "Monster Blood III" - mother calls son weird - boy wonders why younger cousin doesn't like to play video games or watch TV like normal children. A bully displays bad middos. Language: gross, shut up, nerd, creep, jerk
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Deep Trouble	3-5	OK??	Children spend the summer on their uncle's floating lab, discover a mermaid, and get mixed up with criminals who try to kill them. Bad middos between siblings - constantly trick and insult each other. Language: jerk, stupid, gross, shut up, creep. Non-religious Xmas. Boy wants to be famous on TV or have his book turned into a movie. Mermaid holds boy's hand to heal a burn.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Deep Trouble II	3-5	OK?	A mad scientist tries to kill the children and their uncle. Siblings try to trick each other, but not as constant as in first book. Minor language: stupid, moron, weird, big fat liar, idiot, gross you out. Preview of "Return of the Mummy" - boy wonders if uncle has a crush on pretty news reporter. Language: weird, stupid.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Ghost Beach	3-5	OK??	Children get involved with ghosts. Girl thinks little boy has a crush on her. Language: dork, weird, gross, stupid, creep, freaked out, creepy, wimp, dumb. Minor middos between siblings and friends. Preview of "Ghost Camp": boy and girl have a playful shoving match. Camp director yells at boy and girl not to sneak off into woods - boy blushes. Language: weird, gross, jerk.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - It Came from Beneath the Sink	3-5	OK??	Children find a mythical creature that brings bad luck. Minor middos between siblings and friends. Older kids tease younger one, 1 word Halloween, unimportant mention of comic books and video games. Language: weird, wimp, stupid, dumb, brats, darn, freak out, gross, jerk, shut up.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Monster Blood	3-5	OK??	12 year old boy thinks a can of "monster blood" is a toy, but it turns out to be deadly. Great aunt asks boy's mom if he likes girls and has a girlfriend - he is embarrassed. Non-romantic negiah. Bullies with very bad middos. Boy calls his deaf aunt "a crazy old coot". Frequent minor language: weird, what the heck, creep, dumb, gross, stupid (very frequent).
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - My Best Friend is Invisible	3-5	OK?	An invisible boy tries to defend the main character but ends up causing a lot of trouble. Male and female best friends (not romantic). Many more middos issues - kids making fun of each other and playing juvenile tricks. Language: weird, stupid, dumb, freak, idiot, geek. Preview of book "Calling All Creeps" - kids are mean to each other.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - My Hairiest Adventure	3-5	OK??	Boy starts growing animal hair on his body. 12 year old children form a rock band called "The Geeks" - minor rock band culture. Middos between kids - make fun of each other, insult each other frequently. Boy has "good hair" and wears it long. Language: creep, jerk, wimp, weird, stupid, dumb, gross them out, wacko, freak, loser.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Night of the Living Dummy	3-5	OK??	Girl enjoys practicing with her ventriloquist dummy until he starts making trouble. A lot of bad middos between siblings described in detail. Brief mentions of reggae and Beatles music, video games, going to movies. One word Xmas. Juvenile bathroom humor. language: dumb, goof, gross, brat, creep, weird, sicko, wackjob, shut up.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Return of the Mummy	3-5	OK??	A boy and his female cousin rescue his scientist uncle from a tomb. Uncle flirts with female reporter and boy wonders if he "has a crush on her" or "likes her". She "takes his arm". Boy notices she is so good looking he wonders if she is a movie star. She turns out to be an ancient Egyptian who attacks the uncle. Language: dumb, dork, gross, freaked. Some Egyptian religion and beliefs. One word mention of Xmas. Mention of old movies about mummies. Kids try to scare each other.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - The Beast from the East	3-5	OK?	Book describing the history and layout of the White House. Also information about how different first families used the space. A few mentions of ,movie theater and TV including name of a TV show that takes place in the white house. President Ford's daughter had her high school prom there- text and illustration (of boy and girl holding hands/dancing). When Lincoln was shot his body was brought to lie in "state"- explanation given. President's young son who died was embalmed there as well. President's daughter had a dog that "mated' with another dog and had puppies.On xmas house is a "magical wonderland"- illustration of tree.Description of annual Easter Egg Roll- no religion. Halloween party described- included actors from a famous movie.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - The Blob that Ate Everyone	3-5	OK?	Boy who likes writing scary stories, gets a typewriter that makes stories written on it come true.. Unimportant mention of movies. Middos issues - children play mean tricks to scare a boy. Non-romantic negiah. Language: weird, dumb, stupid, jerk, gross. Preview of "Night of the Living Dummy" - girl says her sister wants to go to the park to see if a certain boy is there - she blushes. Girls hope "great looking" boys will move in next door.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - The Girl Who Cried Murder	3-5	OK??	A girl tries to prove that the librarian is a monster. Constantly trying to scare her younger brother and her male friend with monster stories. Her parents force her to join a reading program - she pretends to read so she can get a prize. Mention of books: Huckleberry Finn, Frankenstein, White Fang. Mentions watching TV. One word Xmas. Language: dumb, weird, stupid, jerk, shut up.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - The Haunted School	3-5	OK??	2 boys get lost in school and end up trapped in an alternate world where no color exists. A lot of pre-adolescent school culture - kids are on the decoration committee for the school dance, kids from a rock band to play at the dance, etc. (dance not described). Boy's father gets remarried and boy has difficulty adjusting to new mom. Sixth grade girl wears makeup and boy wonders why since she looks "pretty awesome" without it. Non-romantic negiah. Minor middos between kids. A group of kids go crazy in the alternate world and form a mean gang and try to push boys into a pit filled with black slime. Language: puke, weird, berserk, stupid, moron. Preview of "Don't Go To Sleep" - boy chutzpadik to woman who claims to be his mother. Language: weird, stupid
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - The Scarecrow Walks at Midnight	3-5	OK?	Children visit their grandparents' farm and encounter scarecrows brought to life by a farm hand. Frequent minor language: weird, gross, dump, stupid, wimp, creep, moron. Older boys play tricks in children. Boy complains grandparents don't have cable TV and MTV. Mom says Dad is handsome like a movie star

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - The Werewolf of Fever Swamp	3-5	OK??	A boy moves near a swamp so his scientist father can study deer. 16 year old sister anxiously waits for mail from her boyfriend. Brother calls it a "love letter". Minor middos between siblings. One word Xmas. Mentions watching TV. Mention Easter bunny - no religion. Mention of girl going to town to see a movie. Frequent language: freaked, weird, creep, dork, stupid, gross, goon, weirdo, shut up, jerk, dumb.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Vampire Breath	3-5	OK??	Children are spirited to a vampire's mansion. 12 year old boy and girl are best friends - love to playfully wrestle and hurt each other hard for fun - described in violent detail. Language: wimp, shut up, weird, jerk, stupid, stinks, gross, creepy. One word mention of Xmas. Preview of "Attack of the Jack-o-Lanterns" - children plan a Halloween party to save other children who want to take revenge on them.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Welcome to Camp Nightmare	3-5	OK??	Boy goes to a camp where children get hurt and disappear and counselors don't care. Juvenile minor boy/girl. Middos between kids - insult each other, food fights, boys replace words in camp song with "gross words" (not specified), non-romantic negiah. Preview of "Night of the Living Dummy" - language: jerk, stupid, moron
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Welcome to Dead House	3-5	OK?	Kids move into a home where ghosts try to kill them. Most of the action takes place in a cemetery. Mentions TV, Minor middos between siblings. Language: gross, weird, freaked, shut him up, stupid, crummy, sicko, freak out, creepy, stinky.
	Stine, R. L.	Goosebumps - Why I'm Afraid of Bees	3-5	OK??	A boy who is unhappy in his life tries to switch bodies with another boy but accidentally switches with a bee instead. Bad middos between siblings and between classmates; Also bullying. Language - dumb, brat, creep, weird, stupid, gross, jerk. Preview of book "Monster Blood" - 12 year old boy is left with his deaf great aunt - she asks if he has a girlfriend because his father "liked the girls".
	Stine, R.L.	Goosebumps - Calling All Creeps	3-5	OK??	A boy who is treated terribly in school tries to take revenge by playing a practical joke on the editor of the school newspaper which backfires. Really terrible middos displayed throughout the book. Many mentions of parents being addicted to the weather channel on TV. Language-nerd, dumb, creep, weird, stupid, wimp. Preview of "My Best Friend Is Invisible"-description of a movie, gross, weird, freak.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Stine, R.L.	Goosebumps - Don't Go To Sleep	3-5	OK??	A boy who doesn't get along with his older siblings (whose really terrible middos are detailed) comes to realize that he prefers them to other options. Mention of Star Trek and other science fiction, book Anna Karenina, a lot of watching TV. Brief non religious xmas and Santa Claus. Frequent language-geek, nutcase, stinks, stupid, weirdo, creep, jerk, wacko, moron. Preview of "The Haunted School"- language-weird, stupid.
	Stine, R.L.	Goosebumps - How To Kill A Monster	3-5	OK??	Children's grandparents leave them trapped in a house with a swamp monster. Mention that step sibling's parents got divorced and remarried each other. Middos between siblings. Refer to step grandparents as "smelly strange hermits". Can't wait to tell parents how "stupid they are" to "dump" them in the house. Language-jerk, weird, gross, freaked, creepy, stupid, dumb. Preview of "Deep Trouble"-jerk, nonreligious Santa Claus.
	Stine, R.L.	Goosebumps - One Day At Horror Land	3-5	OK?	Family is stranded at a very scary amusement park. Middos between siblings. When parents argue, daughter say "break it up you two" and other chutzpah. Mention of horror movies and TV show. Language- stupid, berserk, creepy, dumb, gross, weird, goof, stinks, freaked
	Stine, R.L.	Goosebumps-Ghost Camp	3-5	OK??	Children go to a sleep away camp with ghosts who want to take over their bodies. A lot of kids scaring other kids for fun. Girl pulls boy into the woods to ask him for help-the camp head sees it and jokes "no sneaking off into the woods" –implies more but not spelled out Boy blushes. Mixed swimming. Language-weird, stupid, jerk, gross, dumb, creep you out, puke.
	Stone, Jeff	The Five Ancestors book 4: Crane	5-7	OK??	A girl, her friends, and her family fight their enemies in China. Page by page detailed violence and martial arts. Lots of non-romantic negiah. Hard to tell who is really related because everyone calls each other brother and sister. Many references to Chinese religion but not detailed.
new	Stone, Jeff	The Five Ancestors book 5: Mouse	5-7	OK??	A boy stows away on an evil man's ship and is forced to work for him. A lot of detailed violence and death. Man explains that his mother has "moved on" from her first and second husbands- she is not the most "loyal" person. Custom to cremate the dead-"burn them to ash" and then entomb the ashes. Put paper robes and money near tombs because "even spirits need new clothes and money". Boy tries to steal weapons inventory but instead takes a list of "women's undergarments".Woman runs her fingernail along the side of man's neck, and "strokes his thinning hair" when she is trying to convince him to give her what she wants. Evil man kills his equally evil mother. Language- butt

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Straford, Jordan	The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency #1: The Case of the Missing Moonstone	4-7	OK?	2 independant-minded girls in 19th century England, solve a mystery. Several references to the unfairness of women's lacking in rights (can't go out un-chaperoned, husband owns their property, etc.) . Fiance reassuringly puts hand on shoulders of distraught fiance, removes them when her mother is disapproving. Notes at end say that historical figure that was model for a male character, had many love affairs - no details. Girl goes against wishes of absent mother by continuing detective activities.
	Strasser, Todd	Against the Odds - Grizzly Attack	4-6	OK	Boy visits uncle in Alaska and helps fight off bear.
	Strasser, Todd	Kidnap Kids	4-6	OK?	Parents too preoccupied with work, so kids "kidnap" them to get attention. Won't let them go when they beg. At end parents are grateful.
	Strauss, Linda Leopold	A Fairy Called Hilary	2-4	OK??	A fairy who looks like a regular girl comes to stay with a family. One word mention of dinosaurs in a museum. Full chapter about trick or treating on Halloween- no religion (chapter 4). Brief unimportant mention of Peter Pan characters. Mild middos between children. Language- weirdos, dumb.
	Streatfield, Noel	Ballet Shoes	5-7	OK??	3 orphans attend performing arts school so they can get jobs to help support their adopted family. Lots of ballet/stage cultural references. Quite a few Christian references - mostly not explained - e.g. name children after "holy apostles", lots of references to specific hymns that are named but not written out in full, quite a few mentions of x-mas - descriptions slightly religious but mostly trees, presents, and hymns. Lots of talk of making a "vow" that they will be famous one day and how once you make a vow you can't break it. Girl comically imitates a dancer with a "big behind".
	Streatfield, Noel	Dancing Shoes	5-7	OK??	A girl and her adopted sister go to live with her aunt when her mother dies, and deals with her disgust at being groomed to be part of her aunt's dancing troupe. She tries to discourage her enthusiastic adopted sister, as well, thinking that this is what her dead mother would have wanted. In the end comes to grips with letting her sister live her own life. Lots of theater and dance culture. Religion - mentioned in passing- christening a baby and having a Christian name, Easter, going to church, Good Friday, picking flowers to decorate church, Palm Sunday, Palm crosses, Easter eggs, xmas presents and plays, but no religious explanation for any of it. Minor language: shut up. Excitement about TV shows, excitement about being hired to act in a movie.
	Streatfield, Noel	When the Sirens Wailed	6-8	OK	Historical fiction - England WWII (Not Jewish). 2 poor London children evacuated to country and learn to adjust to life there.
	Strommen, Judith Bernie	Grady the Great	3-5	OK	Boy misses best friend who moved away. Learns to accept new situation instead of running away. Minor rough language
	Sullivan, George	Lewis and Clark - In their own words	3-5	OK	biography

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Sullivan, Nick	The Seventh Princess	4-6	OK	Girl "dreams" of being heroine princess
	Sutcliff, Rosemary	Warrior Scarlet	7-10	OK?	Boy in primitive tribe in early Europe, comes to manhood, despite being crippled in one arm. Visiting man left a dying woman who gave birth to a baby girl; later he returns and refuses to take the girl. He says he traded a different woman for a valuable knife. Some tribal 'religion', including ceremony in which boy, in a trance, "sees" the Sun deity.
	Sutherland, Tui T.	Wings of Fire- The Brightest Night- Book Five	5-7	OK??	The saga continues as dragons end the war. As in the other books in this series a lot of violence. More focus on boy/dragon- girl/dragon romance than other books in this series, but still rather mild. Dragon decides if she loves a male dragon she was raised with in a romantic way or as a brother. "Married" dragons sleep curled up together. Discussion of if its Ok for dragons from different tribes to have eggs together. Minor flirting. Language- weird, stupid, idiot/ idiotic, creepy, freaky, shut up, blasted.
	Sutherland, Tui T.	Wings of Fire- The Dark Secret- Book Four	5-7	OK??	The saga continues as dragons try to rescue dragons from captivity where they are being used for cruel experiments. A lot of focus on male dragon's feelings for female dragon and finally bringing himself to tell her that he loves her.Nothing further happens other than his thinking about her a lot. Affectionate negiah. Language- idiot, stupid, creepy,drat, shut up, weird
	Sutherland, Tui T.	Wings of Fire- The Dragonet Prophecy- Book One	5-7	OK??	Dragons are told that they are destined to fulfill a prophecy that they will stop the wars between dragons escape their captors and end up in the palace of an evil dragon queen. A lot of violence and death and cruelty between dragons.A few mentions of female dragon liking male dragon and being his "girlfriend" but male dragon is clueless. Affectionate negiah. Young dragon is hoping to find his father, but his mother explains that their type of dragon has "breeding night" once a month, so she doesn't know who his father is.No further description. Language- stupid, weird, dumb, idiot, shut up, dumb, heck (once).
	Sutherland, Tui T.	Wings of Fire- The Hidden Kingdom- Book Three	5-7	OK??	The saga continues as dragons visit a rainforest dragon kingdom and try to rescue kidnapped dragons who are being used for cruel experiments. As in other books in this series a lot of violence. Boy dragon/ girl dragon semi romantic negiah.Minor flirting. A lot of talk about who dragons' parents are and fathering dragon eggs etc. but no details. Language- creepy, weird, shut up, stupid, idiots/ idiotic, freaking/freaky, gross,
	Sutherland, Tui T.	Wings of Fire- The Lost Heir- Book Two	5-7	OK??	The saga continues as dragons visit an underwater dragon kingdom and help save a royal dragon egg.Suggestions of female dragon liking male dragon and thinking he is handsome and would like to spend more time with him some day. Mention that female dragon briefly had crushes on male dragons. Violence between dragons. Dragon grieves when she finds out she unknowingly killed her own father. Language- weird, stupid, shut up, idiot, brats, gross

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Sweet, J. H.	The Fairy Chronicles - Firefly and the Quest of the Black Squirrel	3-5	OK?	Fairies help squirrels find a cure for a fatal curse. Brief mention of a Native American fairy having a "spirit guide". Many mentions of mother nature being in charge. One sentence mention of a fairy who blushes when the name of a male brownie she likes, is mentioned (p. 63).
	Sweet, J. H.	The Fairy Chronicles - Periwinkle and the Cave of Courage	3-5	OK??	A team of magical creatures works together to recharge a cave that gives humans courage. Same issues with mother nature as other books in series. Non-religious mention of Xmas. Brief description of fairy blushing when a male brownie she likes, puts his arm around her waist to steady her as she rides on a snake with him.
	Szymanski, Lois	A New Kind of Magic	2-4	OK?	A girl deals with her father losing his job and being forced to move off the family farm. Mentions watching cartoons on TV. Mild tension in the house due to money problems. Brief non religious xmas. Language-weird.
	Talbot, Charlene Joy	Children in Hiding	4-6	OK	Children's father doesn't come home so children hide from welfare department in deserted building. Eventually helped by an artist. One description of visiting a mixed beach but very innocent.
	Tanner, Lian	City of Lies	5-7	OK??	Continuation of Museum of Thieves. Children go to rescue kidnapped sister and fight villains. Similar language to first book
	Tanner, Lian	Museum of Thieves	5-7	OK??	A girl escapes from an overprotective society and finds refuge in a magical museum. Both evil and kind adults described. Community worships 7 unpredictable gods - not very believable. Minor bad middos between children that are corrected. Language - boy names himself "Toad Spit", stupid, idiot, moron (once), brats, damned (once)
	Tanner, Lian	Path of Beasts	5-7	OK??	Continuation of City of Lies. Children battle evil to save their country. Good guy vs. bad guy violence. Brief unimportant joke about a fortune told about a husband running off with another woman (pg. 102) Married couple stands with arms around each other (pf 229) man drapes "casual arm" over girl's shoulder. Children are called "snotties". Language- weird, idjit/idiot, bommin' eck, stupid, stinkin', shut up, brat.
	Taylor, Mildred D.	Role of Thunder Hear My Cry	6-8	OK?	Historical fiction. A black girl experiences prejudice. Many descriptions of very cruel discrimination and violence including burning, tar and feathering. Mentions of black men being accused of flirting with white women "making advances". Mention of a boy and girl who loved in secret (p. 177).
	Taylor, Mildred D.	The Well	5-7	OK	Historical fiction. Interracial violence during segregation

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Taylor, Sydney	A Papa Like Everyone Else	4-6	OK??	Historical Fiction. A Jewish family in Czechoslovakia waits for father in America to send for them. Some Jewish things slightly inaccurate - eg, no time limit for matza baking, appears made dishes pesachdik by scrubbing. Goyim are depicted as friendly, goyish festivals described as being fun and exciting - especially dance wearing native costumes. Fairy tale told in detail about a poor girl who goes to a ball - the prince dances with her and falls in love with her - he throws his arms around her. Women enjoy singing love songs (not detailed) while they pluck goose feathers. Non-romantic negiah. 2 dances described in detail but not involving Jews.
	Taylor, Theodore	The Cay	6-8	OK	A boy is shipwrecked on a deserted island together with an elderly black man. Overcomes prejudices.
	Taylor, Theodore	The Trouble with Tuck	4-5	OK??	Touching story of girl who tries to help her dog who goes blind. One scene of attack by stranger in park is actually an attempted rape, but would probably would go over heads of most kids: "he ripped at my dress" "I knew what had almost happened to me".
	Teague, Mark	The Doom Machine	6-8	OK??	Girl and boy are kidnapped by aliens and save Earth. Some minor language: stupid, darn, crap, screwup, ass, arse. Boy and girl reluctantly lean on each other to keep warm; totally innocent.
	The 39 Clues (each book by a different author)	The 39 Clues book 1 - The Maze of Bones	5-8	OK??	First of series. Brother and sister compete against ruthless family members, to find clues that will lead to power. Some violence. Minor language. Back of book includes website where readers can enter the contest.
	The 39 Clues (each book by a different author)	The 39 Clues book 2- One False Note	5-8	OK??	Orphaned children race to find clues to a treasure while competing against other branches of the family who are vicious and will stop at nothing to beat them. Justify breaking and entering and stealing if it will help them win. Some violence. The competing families exhibit terrible middos in their treatment of their cousins (adults and children alike). Lots of TV and internet usage. A lot of music culture. A church and a crypt are settings for some of the action. Brief mention of girl finding her male cousin good looking. (In later books becomes more romantic). Language- stupid, dumb, weird, gross, stinks, butts, doofus, maniac, idiots, berserk, dweeb. Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest. Later books more problematic.
	The 39 Clues (each book by a different author)	The 39 Clues book 5 - The Black Circle	5-8	OK??	Children compete with other family members in a deadly race to find clues as they try to find out what happened to their parents. Brief mention of dinosaurs. A lot of minor language and slang - butt, heck, nitwit, geek, stupid, moron, jerk, sucker, idiot, freak out, dumb, maniacs, dork, gross, nerd, weird, . Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Thesman, Jean	Calling the Swan	9+	OK??	Girl talks to her older sister, as she struggles with dark secret of her family. Near the end of the book, the reader realizes that the dark secret is that her sister was abducted, and all along she was hallucinating talking to her. Some possible hashkafa issues as girl questions G-d. Brief Church ceremony, hymn, "body of Ch--". Language: "hell" (one time). For the sophisticated reader.
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	Granpa In Oz	5+	OK??	Children and various Oz characters help restore a king's head and find a princess for his son to marry. Many plays on words, puns, etc. Some talk of vanquishing dragons to win the princess' hand in marriage. Boy and girl dance together. Picture of boy holding girls hand to help her climb a mountain. One word xmas. After boy marries princess he "takes her in his arms". Language-idiot, shut up.
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	Kabumpo in Oz	5+	OK?	A prince needs to marry a fairy princess in order to save his kingdom from disappearing. Usual cast of characters and plays on language as in other Oz books. One of the cook's names is Hashem- makes for uncomfortable reading when it says things like "Hashem loses a birthday cake" etc. Prince takes the princesses hand when he asks her to marry him.
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	Pirates In Oz	5+	OK?	A boy helps save Oz from being conquered by pirates. One word mention of a valentine. Usual language play. Language-doggone, dumb, darn (once).
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	Speedy In Oz	5+	OK??	A boy and a dinosaur skeleton brought to life help save a princess. Entire plot revolves around a bunch of dinosaur bones dug up by a professor-lots of mentions of prehistoric eras, fossils, as well as the reborn dinosaur's recollections of that era. Language-dumb, stupidly.
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	The Cowardly Lion of Oz	5+	OK?	A clown and an orphan try to avoid capturing the cowardly lion even though they are under a spell that will turn them blue and immobile if they disobey. A very spoiled king has very bad middos- eventually learns his lesson. Many plays on words. Minor violence. Language: stupid, dumb, idiot, freaks.
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	The Giant Horse Of Oz	5+	OK?	Children and various Oz characters save an island from a monster. Similar to other books in this series. Girl offers to dance with a stone man (very innocent). A little boy blushes with pleasure when a beautiful queen kisses him on both cheeks. Language= stupid, idiot, weird shut up.
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	The Lost King Of Oz	5+	OK?	Children help find the true king of Oz. Similar to other books in the series. One of the characters is a dummy from a movie set- some minor references to movie culture. Comical black and white drawing of a woman in a sleeveless gown. Language- idiot
	Thompson, Ruth Plumly	The Purple Prince of Oz	5+	OK?	A boy and an elephant help restore a royal family to their palace. Good choice for a child who appreciates language play. Non-provocative picture of fairy ruler in a sleeveless low-cut gown. Mild violence. Language - idiot, shut up.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Thurber, James	The 13 Clocks	8+	OK?	A prince sets out to find jewels so that he can win the princess's hand in marriage, and appease her evil uncle. Written like a children's fairy tale but extremely sophisticated in its play on words and ideas and symbolism. Many children reading this will not get it on their own.
	Tine, Robert	Beethoven's Puppies	3-5	OK?	Puppies avoid capture by criminals. Minor chutzpah supported by mother (Kids stick out tongues at father because he wants to sell the puppies). Mention of butt twice.
	Titus, Eve	Basil of Baker Street	3-5	OK	Mouse patterns himself after Sherlock Holmes and solves case of kidnapped twins. Cute.
	Tolkien, J.R.R.	The Fellowship of the Ring	7+	OK?	First of a three part series where hobbit and friends try to escape the bad guys and destroy a dangerous ring. Very detailed and complex with difficult language- appropriate for good readers who will appreciate a detailed fantasy world. Characters smoke and blow smoke rings for pleasure. Female characters described as beautiful, having flowing hair, etc. In this book females are rarely mentioned in general, and when they are it is as if they are held in awe. Brief mention of woman waiting for her "lover" to return. Language- stupid, ass(p257)
	Tolkien, J.R.R.	The Hobbit	7+	OK	A fantasy about dwarves who try to get back fortune from a dragon. Lots of good guy vs. bad guy violence. Brief, unimportant mention of yuletide feast. One word xmas. Language- drat, idiotic, shut up.
	Tolkien, J.R.R.	The Return of the King	7+	OK??	Part 3 (finale) of "Lord of the Rings". More good guy vs. bad guy violence. Long appendix which was only skimmed, not carefully reviewed. A little romance leading to marriage, though its minor when placed in context of the very long, very detailed story. Some romantic negiah, most of it minor- she lays her hand on his arm, Man kisses woman's brow, Man and woman go "hand in hand". One sentence kiss (p 944) .Girl likes a man who ends up marrying another and she gets over her disappointment and marries another as well. A lot of pipe smoking. Language- ass (said in an endearing way), brat, stinking, idiot.
	Tolkien, J.R.R.	The Two Towers	7+	OK?	Part 2 of "Lord of the Rings". The saga continues as good guys try to defeat bad guys and destroy an evil ring. Brief mention that traitor was waiting for his master's defeat so he could "take the woman you desire". When woman looks at man "her eyes were shining" an when his hand met hers accidentally "he knew that she trembled at the touch". Good guy vs. bad guy violence. Language- ass (once), dratted. stupid, damned (once).
new	Tomlinson, Jill	The Penguin Who Wanted to Find Out	2-4	OK	A baby penguin finds the answers to his questions as he grows up. Although a fictional story, book gives a lot of factual information about penguins. Language- shut up.
	Townley, Roderick	The Great Good Thing	7-8	OK?	Sweet fairytale about girl heroine who lives out story in pages of book. Affectionate non-romantic negiah.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Townsend, John Rowe	Tom Tiddler's Ground	3-5	OK??	Children find treasure and help solve mystery; get into danger. Language: damn (p. 160). Not-nice comments about mean grandmother.
	Travers P. L.	Mary Poppins and the House next door	3-5	OK	strange story. Sophisticated language.
	Travers, P. L.	Mary Poppins Opens the Door	3-5	OK??	A strange, magical, and somewhat conceited nanny returns to take care of her charges, and has adventures with an unusual cast of characters. Non romantic and questionably romantic negiah. A woman keeps pestering her uninterested tenant to marry her - he eventually shrinks her and plans to charge people to see her. Detailed description of how the king used to tell his queen how beautiful she was and how much he loves her, etc - very lovey-dovey. Parents tenderly put arms around each other. A marble statue of a naked boy comes to life, horrifying adults that he is walking around the park unclothed - many illustrations of him but no detailed anatomy. A number of dances described - co-ed but not overly romantic. Children play with fireworks with adult supervision. Mention of many book and nursery rhymes characters - may or may not be appropriate. Language: stupid.
	Trine, Greg	Melvin Beederman Superhero - The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich	3-5	OK??	A silly, slightly tongue-in-cheek story about a comic book style superhero who would rather do math than stop a train. Many juvenile mentions of his x-ray vision enabling him to see everyone's underwear - he finds this "talent" annoying. Very juvenile bathroom humor and language - eg stinky, stupid. No redeeming value.
	Tripp, Valerie	Hallie's Horrible Handwriting	2-3	OK	Girl struggles with poor handwriting and is helped by understanding teacher.
	Tunis, John R.	Schoolboy Johnson	4-6	OK?	Story of arrogant pitcher who learns to take responsibility for own actions. Boy takes girl on date - she puts hand on his to calm him down. Lots of locker room talk
	Twain, Mark	The Prince and the Pauper - Penguin Edition level 2	4-6	OK	Classic story of prince and pauper who switch places. Pauper's father described as violent and abusive but not gory . Language is simplified.
	Twohill, Maggie	Who Has the Lucky Duck in Class 4-b?	2-4	OK??	Good luck charm unwittingly passed around class. Story depicts good luck charm as if it really works. Describes teacher who constantly leaves class to put on makeup.
	Uchida, Yoshiko	Journey to Topaz	4-7	OK?	Historical fiction. Japanese family in internment camp during world war II. Mentions of X-mas - gifts, decorations, no religion. Mention that college-age brother is interested in girls over 16.
	Ullman, James Ramesy	Banner in the Sky	7-9	OK??	Boy strives to be first to climb "impossible" mountain. On the way, he learns important life lessons. Problems: some references to J--- and Mary - could be blacked out. Boy is so driven to climb, that he disobeys his mother & lies; justified in the end.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Udiale, Eleanor	Johnny Swanson	5-7	OK??	Boy tries to prove his mother innocent of murder. Boy writes deceptive ads to get money; realizes he was wrong in the end. Passing mention of Xmas, no religion. Boy makes a "rude sign" and says a "ruder word" to mean woman. Overhears conversation about girl's "entanglement" with a man who "appeared to be married" - no detail. Boy's father died in war - mother is afraid people will think she had him without being married. Man takes woman's hand when announcing engagement.
	Udiale, Eleanor	Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?	6-9	OK??	Former convict leads a double life, as high-society gentleman by day, and thief at night. Eventually becomes kinder person and is able to stop life of crime. Passing references: bare-breasted statues; one man jokes to friend that the reason he is fat is that the friend's wife gives him a biscuit every time he kisses her. Language: damned (2-3 times). Ugly girl tries to get gentleman's attention & believes he loves her - really he ignores her.
new	Ursu, Anne	Breadcrumbs	5-8	OK?	Modern day fairy tale. Boy and girl are friends. Boy runs away to magical ice queen and girl saves him. Mother "swears" - no actual words. Mean girls ask girl if she and boy are "going out". Drawing of ice queen in sleeveless, low cut gown - page 94. Several references to Narnia (The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe); also to Hogwarts (Harry Potter), Wonderland (Alice in Wonderland), Dictionopolis (Phantom Tollbooth). Non-romantic negiah, including girl holding boy when she is saving him. Well written with sophisticated writing style.
	Ury, Allen B	Scary Stories for Sleepovers	5-6	OK?	Very scary short stories. Very creepy one about a girl who is "into" her rock music.
	Van Leeuwen, Jean	Amanda Pig and her Big Brother Oliver	2-3	OK	Cute stories of a little girl pig and her brother
	Van Leeuwen, Jean	Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day	2-3	OK?	In one story big boys don't let little girl into their fort, so girl takes revenge by not giving them lemonade. In end make up.
	Van Leeuwen, Jean	Benjy and the Power of Zingies	3-4	OK?	A short boy gets friend to beat up a bully. Very juvenile and simplistic solution to bullying problem. Mention of girl who goes around kissing boys at recess - they run away (3rd graders).
	Van Leeuwen, Jean	More Tales of Oliver Pig	2-3	OK	More stories about pig siblings
	Van Leeuwen, Jean	Tales of Amanda Pig	2-3	OK	More stories about pig siblings
	Van Leeuwen, Jean	The Great Googlestein Museum Mystery	2-4	OK	Mice go to Guggenheim Museum and create art.
	Van Stockholm, Hilda	The Cottage at Bantry Bay	4-6	OK	Quaint story of family living in Irish countryside.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Vanderpool, Claire	Moon Over Manifest	6-8	OK??	A girl whose mother died is sent to a small town by her father to live with a drunken preacher where he spent some of his childhood years. She finds out her father's true story which includes being raised by a criminal uncle who committed murder. Girl wonders at a fence which says "perdition" when she knows that preachers use that term to mean ""the path the devil follows". The teacher is a nun- descriptions of her habit and rosary beads. A woman says she is medium, a fortuneteller, a diviner. On word xmas. Humorous descriptions of church service. Preacher tells story of men walking with JC. On a tombstone it says "the L-rd is my Shepherd...". Klu Klux Klan. Boy plays mean/funny tricks on people. Mild running bathroom humor. Teen boy "courts" a girl- takes her on the carousel.
new	Vaughn, M. M.	The Ability	4-7	OK?	Boys and girls are trained in mind-control and telekinesis, in order to protect adults who have been targeted by a woman using her adopted twins who have the same abilities. Some mentions of xmas shopping, dinner - no religion. Language: idiota (Spanish). Girl blushes when boy quotes Shakespearean sonnets, and when boy notes that she "actually looks like a girl" when she is dressed formally. Boy's mother is non-functional after the death of his father; even at end of book, she does not relate to him normally. Boy accidentally causes the death of one of the twins; at end of book, twin swears revenge. Some violence.
	Velde, Vivian Vande	Ghost of a Hanged Man	5-6	OK?	A criminal vows to take revenge on those who sentenced him to death and attacks children of sheriff. Scary. Gives credence to gypsy beliefs and fortunetelling.
	Velde, Vivian Vande	Three Good Deeds	5-6	OK??	A witch turns a naughty boy into a goose and tells him he will stay that way until he does 3 good deeds. Geese get very angry when anyone goes near their "female". Boy realizes that his friend hasn't noticed him since he is busy trying to "impress a girl". Very sad, uncomfortable ending. Language-stupid, weird, poop, dumb.
	Velde, Vivian Vande	Wizard at Work	3-6	OK?	A wizard solves people's problems. A family with bad middos is portrayed negatively. Language: drat (once). Description of adolescent male unicorns who "show off" for female unicorns (who wear spiked manes!). Wizard fixes unicorn problem by causing them to grow up quickly. One brief hand kiss after proposal of marriage. Non-religious mention of Xmas
	Verne, Jules	Master of the World	8+	OK	A police inspector investigates strange happenings in a mountain and tries to capture an inventor who created a vehicle that can't be stopped by human beings. A bit outdated by modern technology but a fun read with some discussion potential. Many references to the devil but no real religion.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Verne, Jules	Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea	7+	OK?	A classic tale of captives who are taken on an amazing underwater journey by a captain with a mysterious past. Violence and death described. Language- stupid.
	Verrillo, Erica	Elissa's Odyssey- Phoenix Rising Trilogy book 2	5-7	OK?	Fantasy: Girl discovers friends and her own magical powers as she tries to find her father the king. Language: crap. Many mentions of gods and deities. Passing mention of king having mistresses - not elaborated.
	Voight, Virginia Frances	The Gold Smugglers (original title: Patriot's Gold)	5-7	OK	Historical fiction. A printer's apprentice smuggles gold out of beleaguered Philadelphia to help Washington's army. Non romantic negiah page 10, 20.
new	Voigt, Cynthia	Mister Max: The Book of Kings (book 3)	5-8	OK?	Boy goes to primitive country of Andesia, to rescue his parents. Husband kisses his wife on the lips to say goodbye. Woman emotionally grabs hands of boy who is a stranger to her. Engaged couple holds hands and their foreheads touch.
	Voigt, Cynthia	Mister Max: The Book of Lost Things (book 1)	5-8	OK?	Boy's actor parents disappear, and he works to solve several mysteries. Ongoing story of man of nobility who fell in love with servant girl; very tame, no descriptive romance. Mention of school assignment about greek gods.
new	Voigt, Cynthia	Mister Max: The Book of Secrets (book 2)	5-8	OK?	Boy continues to solve mysteries as he tries to figure out how to rescue parents. Picture of man taking woman's hand to help her onto a boat. Language: piss
	Voigt, Cynthia	The Callender Papers	5-8	OK	Orphaned girl is hired to sort through papers of wealthy estate; solves secret of murder and her own past.
	Vornholt, John	The Troll King	5-7	OK??	A troll helps his persecuted people and overthrows their cruel ruler who is a sorcerer. He has a "crush" on a female troll who mostly ignores him until he gains power. Whereby she proposes to him -he wants to take her in his arms but he doesn't . Some violence. Language- creepy, stupid, darn (once), weird, dung, blasted, creepy, belch.
	Wahl, Jon	The Furious Flycycle	3-4	OK	Boy invents flying bicycle and rescues his cousins who are stranded in the woods. Lots of tongue in cheek.
	Wallace, Barbara Brooks	Cousins in the Castle	4-8	OK	Rich orphan kidnapped, solve mystery, reunited with family. Some scary adults- some beat a boy when they hear his voice crack as if it was changing since they are afraid it will ruin his disguise as a girl singer. Mention of collection plate in church. man dresses up like a priest- no religion. Girl reads a "sorrowful love story" in a fashion magazine for women. Language- stupid, creepy.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Wallace, Barbara Brooks	Ghosts in the Gallery	4-8	OK??	Orphan is sent to live with her grandfather whose son believes she is a fraud and gives her a servant's position. Eventually it comes out that her mother was a "hostess in a dance hall " and her grandfather didn't approve of the marriage so he ran away to marry her.A conspiracy to keep her true identity from him leads to an attempted murder. A servant boy befriends her and helps her. His language consists of a lot of slang and often the word "creeping" used for emphasis.A few one word mentions of xmas- no religion. Man and his "lady friend" have "their eyes glued one to another"Language- dumb, confounded, blast, idiot,
	Wallace, Barbara Brooks	Hello Claudia!	3-5	OK??	A girl tries to find a new friend when her best friend moves away. Minor chutzpah and disobedience - usually learns lesson afterwards. Mentions 13 year old going to a dance with a date - not described. Language: I'll be damned.
	Wallace, Barbara Brooks	Peppermints in the Parlor	4-8	OK?	An orphaned girl comes to live with her aunt and uncle and ends up as a servant to cruel criminals. Despite her circumstances she tries to help others.Eventually escapes with the help of a friendly boy.One sentence mention of ornament on xmas tree- no religion. Girl worries that when aunt and long lost uncle see each other again he will no longer be able to love her because he has grown handsomer and she has grown uglier, but she is reassured when she runs into his arms. Uncle is accused of murder, but it turns out he is innocent. He does admit that he had bad judgement and drank and gambled too much- which he now regrets. Language- brat, stupid/ stoopid, danged.
	Wallace, Barbara Brooks	Sparrows in the Scullery	4-7	OK	Rich orphan kidnapped to dreadful orphanage. Friends help him escape and solve the mystery of his abduction. One word xmas. Middos between boys- eventually apologize and improve. Language- jackass, flippin', shut up, dolt, stupid,
	Wallace, Barbara Brooks	The Perils of Peppermints.	4-8	OK??	Sequel to Peppermints in the Parlor. Girl is sent to a boarding school run by a cruel woman and eventually escapes and sets things right. Husband puts arms around wife to comfort her. Brief recap of previous book. A boy who works in the grocery store is "smitten" with a 15 year old girl in the school and gives her chocolates without paying for them. She tells her mother she loves him.Sends him "love notes". Older girls are invited to a ball where there would be "several handsome naval officers" . No description of the ball. Language- flippin', stupid, idiot.
	Wallace, Barbara Brooks	The Twin in the Tavern	4-8	OK??	Orphaned boy is forced to be a virtual slave for shady innkeepers, until he finds out he is really a member of a wealthy family. Woman poses as a widow so she can marry a rich man- she is actually already married. Very minor romantic negiah-eg. man takes woman's hand in greeting (she "blushes prettily") , One word mention of xmas- no religion. Language- dolt, idiot, stupid/stoopid,
	Wallace, Bill	The Backward Dog	3-5	OK	Cute story told from dog's perspective

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Wallace, Bill	Totally Disgusting	2-4	OK??	Cute story in spite of title. Children watch TV. One word xmas. Old sickly cat explains what it means to be put to sleep. Frequent language-dumb, yucky, crud, shut up, dummy, darned (once), nerd.
	Wallace, Carol and Bill	Bub, Snow, and the Burly Bear Scare	3-5	OK	Forest animals defeat a cranky bear. Cute.
	Wallace, Nikki	Stubby and the Puppy Pack to the Rescue	3-5	OK?	Animals help rescue a girl who torments them when she falls into a pit of sewage. Husband gives wife a kiss. Language- stinky, stinkin', gross, freak, dumb.
	Walter, Mildred Pitts	Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World	3-5	OK?	A boy spend time on his grandfather's ranch and learns the family history of escaping from slavery, and also learns that "women's work" of housekeeping and cooking isn't so bad when you know how to do it. Brief mention that boy's father was killed in an accident. Black cowboy culture. Mention in passing of grandfather dancing with ladies. Minor language: shut up.
	Warner, Gertrude Chandler	Box Car Children Series	3-5	OK	A series about self sufficient children who solve mysteries. First one is sad when their parents die but it ends with their kind grandfather adopting them. After reading many dozens I've never found a problem beyond an occasional illustration of kids in bathing suits or shorts.
	Warren	Pioneer Girl: Growing up on the Prairie	4-6	OK??	True memoir of growing up on prairie. Discusses mother who was not well but kept having kids because she knew nothing about "family planning"; and would not talk to daughter about "facts of life"; kids didn't know where babies come from (p. 43). Mention of husking bee where boy who gets red corn kisses girl (p. 54)
	Warriner	Spellcasters 1	4-5	OK?	witchcraft (note: others in series have boy/girl)
	Wasserman, Robin	A Candy Apple Book - Callie for President	4-6	OK??	A non-conformist girl runs for class president. Girl is pretty irreverent about school spirit, and especially gym teacher. Plans ways to get back at teacher but doesn't follow through. Language: jerk, dung, spaz. A teen pop-rock diva appears at a political rally. Girl is furious of opponent for sharing an embarrassing picture of her on TV, so she defaces campaign posters - in the end admits to the crime. Cheerleaders and jocks flirt with each other at party. Boy and girl who are best friends tickle each other.
	Watterson, Bill	Calvin and Hobbes - Attack of the Deranged Mutant Killer Monster Snow Goons	6+	OK?	Book of comic strips featuring escapades of a mischievous little boy with an overactive imagination, and his stuffed tiger. Dinosaurs, bad Middos, chutzpah, minor language - butt, jerk, booger. Boy likes TV, parents think it's a waste of time. Tiger talks about "smooches" with girls. Lots of asking Santa for gifts. A matter of personal taste.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Watts, Irene N.	No Moon	5-8	OK?	Young nursemaid, whose brother drowned, goes with employer's family on the Titanic. X-mas - no religion. Passing mentions of liking boy servant in household; a dance. Older sister is seeing boy; implies they will marry. All old fashioned and quite innocent.
	Waugh, Sylvia	The Mennymys	3-5	OK?	Strange series about stuffed dolls who are really alive. Not all in series are OK - some have boy/girl.
new	Webb, Holly	Alone in the Night	2-4	OK??	A girl takes care of her neighbors' cat during xmas vacation and she surprises everyone by having kittens. Many mentions of xmas- presents, shopping, decorations, tree (text and illustration). Names kitten "tinsel" after xmas decorations. Language-weird.
new	Webb, Holly	Ellie The Homesick Puppy	2-4	OK	Puppy tries to go to old home after family moves. One word mention of Easter and xmas- no religion. Language- stupid (twice)
new	Webb, Holly	Ginger The Stray Kitten	2-4	OK?	A girl befriends a stray kitten and tries to help it leave a fenced in construction site. Girl gets information from the internet. Mother and daughter watch a TV show together.
new	Webb, Holly	Jessie The Lonely Puppy	2-4	OK?	A girl overcomes her fear of dogs to take over her brother's job of caring for the family puppy when he breaks his leg and needs to spend a lot of time in the hospital. Takes dog to dog training class in the local church. No religion. Technology- watches DVD, looks up information on the computer, TV. Language- weird
new	Webb, Holly	Lily	5-7	OK??	Two sisters run away from their scary mother who is trying to use the elder sister's magic to assassinate the queen. Girls find refuge in a theater and act in a conjurer's show- a lot of theater culture. Women has her eye on a man- girl says "she has him on a string". Mentions of women's old fashioned undergarments- corset, dress-improver. Non romantic negiah. Language- dratted, stupid, brat, idiot, hell-beast, hell-cat,
new	Webb, Holly	Lost in the Snow	2-4	OK??	Girl tries to find a lost kitten. Many mentions of xmas- no religion- wreaths, mistletoe, tree, xmas shopping, everything looking festive, the Nutcracker ballet, etc.. Boy exhibits bad middos. Language- stupid
new	Webb, Holly	Lost in the Storm	2-4	OK?	Kitten gets lost and ends up saving a smaller kitten. Yard looked "beautiful like an xmas card". Language-stupid
new	Webb, Holly	Max The Missing Puppy	2-4	OK?	A girl's puppy gets lost and is found by another girl who dreams of adopting him. One sentence about parents watching TV. Mother makes missing dog posters on her computer.
	Webb, Holly	Rabbit Magic	4-6	OK??	A girl tries to save a rabbit but her magical dog gets jealous. Father's old girlfriend is "insanely jealous" and is trying to take revenge on the family. Many mentions of people whose fathers don't live with them anymore for various reasons. Middos among classmates. One word xmas. Language-stupid

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Webb, Holly	Rose	5-7	OK??	An orphaned girl is hired to become a housemaid in a rich magician's house and discovers that she has magical powers. Girl was left in the churchyard and found by the vicar. Description of going to church services wearing "Sunday best"- no real religion described beyond the vicars prayer for the king and the royal family. Church described as a palace with fancy stained glass windows of bible characters. Baby is christened and given name. Rich girl is extremely spoiled and displays terrible middos when she doesn't get her way. Boys insult each other when they meet, but they are really friends. Sad story of baby and father dying of cholera- buried in churchyard. Man is bewitched to fall in love with evil woman who captures children and drinks their blood- servants say "he has gone batty" over her. Girl accuses servant of having "an immoral trist"- she wasn't. Boys and girls hold hands to pool their strength so they can escape the evil woman. Language- stupid, brat, shut up, dumb, blasted, idiot, drat, damn (pg.220 chapt 16)
new	Webb, Holly	Rose and the Lost Princess	5-7	OK??	Orphaned girl tries to protect princess from being stolen by evil magician. Girl was abandoned in the churchyard as a baby. Middos between servants. Brief review of plot of previous book where a witch drinks children's blood. Boy's cousin is very handsome and works in the palace and the princess "is absolutely in love" with him, boy worries he will have an "unsuitable" romance with the princess. ONE word church. Boy asks girl to go to the fair with him. Girl suspects he wants to show off by taking girl to the fair with him. Nothing overtly romantic. Friendly negiah eg. boy pats girl's hand to reassure her. Language- brat, idiot/ idiotic, stupid, freak, shut up, dung, blast,
new	Webb, Holly	Rose and the Magician's Mask	5-7	OK??	Orphaned girl goes to Venice to recover a very powerful magical mask stolen from the king. A lot of xmas being very exciting- presents, gingerbread, wreaths, pudding, hair ribbons- Only religion is going to church (service not described). An officer of the king is described as "startlingly beautiful" and all of the king's older daughters were "in love" with him. Boy "gawks" at paintings of "scantily clad ladies".Description of costume ball- men and women dance- nothing romantic. Middos between housemaids. Non romantic negiah. Language- freak, idiot/ idiotic, stupid, damned (pg. 16), brat, shut up, dratted , blasted
new	Webb, Holly	Rose and the Silver Ghost	5-7	OK??	Orphaned girl finally finds out her origins and sets off on a dangerous mission with her friends(2 boys, 1 girl and a magical cat) to rescue her mother from a wicked magician. Some violence and a ghost. Girl "runs off" with the gardner's boy and marries him despite her father's objections. Woman says that girl's aunt is a "gossip and a flirt and gallivants with her footman". Non romantic negiah. One word xmas. Language- stupid, dratted/ drat it, shut up, idiot

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Webb, Holly	Sky the Unwanted Kitten	2-4	OK	Girl is so upset about moving that she pretends she doesn't want her kitten. One word xmas. Language- brat, gross
new	Webb, Holly	The Kidnapped Kitten	2-4	OK?	Girl helps find her kitten that was stolen by thieves. TV. Use computer to make lost kitten posters. Language- shut up, stupid.
new	Webb, Holly	The Mysteries of Maisie Hitchins- The Case of the Feathered Mask- Book 4	3-5	OK??	Girl helps find stolen mask. Girl whose mother died is nervous that her governess will "fall in love" with her father. Woman gets a present from her "admirer" who she hopes to marry. Girl hugs boy in excitement (text and illustration) "which was a shock for both of them" (nothing romantic) Same boy holds girls hand tightly in fright (text and illustration). Language- dash it, dratted, stupid
new	Webb, Holly	The Mysteries of Maisie Hitchins- The Case of the Phantom Cat- Book 3	3-5	OK?	Girl is invited to go to the country to help cheer up her wealthy friend who was ill and figures out what is haunting the house. Language- drat, stupid
new	Webb, Holly	The Mysteries of Maisie Hitchins- The Case of the Stolen Sixpence- Book 1	3-5	OK??	A girl who helps her grandmother run a boarding house helps figure out who stole money from the butcher's cash box. Girls asks what happened to old delivery boy, new boy says "sweet on him, was yer?" She denies it. Grandmother also wonders if she is "sweet on that butcher's boy". Mention of "Oliver Twist" by Dickens. Girl wonders why young woman is crying- maybe she "had a fight with her young man" just like the housemaid had cried when "her young man" was seen "making eyes" at someone else. Frequent language- stupid, drat it/ dratted, shut up, brat
new	Webb, Holly	The Mysteries of Maisie Hitchins- The Case of The Vanishing Emerald- Book 2	3-5	OK??	Girl helps figure out who stole a valuable necklace from an actress. A lot of old time theater culture, admiration for famous actors, Man says watched a show 4 times just to see actress sing and dance, etc. A romance between a young man and an actress who turns out to be a duke. Description of their courtship- first he came to the theater to watch her perform every night and "gazed" at her. Finally he asked her out for tea and they were "smitten with each other" every since. Girl like to "gossip". In play lead actor and actress run off stage "hand in hand". Famous jewel is called "the stone of saint cecilia" because it was in the crown of a statue of a saint in a church. Frequent language- idiot, dratted, stupid, brat

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Wells, Rosemary	On the Blue Comet	4-7	OK?	1930's Boy magically gets into model train and goes back and forth in time. Overall very wholesome tone. Language: piss, darn,heck, dumb, godforsaken, shut up, damn (once), dammit, "Hell Gate Bridge", "Hell or high water". Additionally, some swear words written with dashes: h____, d____. Rich authoritarian father is mean to son. Boy prays and 'turns his face upwards to wherever G-d might be hiding". Passing mention of Xmas, Santa, saint's day, Our Lady of Sorrows, Sacred Heart of J---, Saint Savior's Church, "Holy Mother of god", when in danger boy "prayed to every single one of the saints", memorizing Greek gods. Dad smokes cigar. When boy is drafted, the officer tells him to go get drunk and kiss your girlfriend goodbye. Boy goes forward in time and notices women in shorts and trousers. Mention of going to movies. Movie stars from 1940's are named. Boy complains that he was sent to military academy where there are 'no girls'. Girl describes 'coming out party', for girls to meet 'all the right boys and none of the wrong boys' (to marry). Girl says she wished for something and promised to be good, and G-d heard her. Childish comparison of Catholic and Episcopal prayers. Boy meets girl who helps him. Non-romantic negiah.
	Wesley, Valerie Wilson	Willimena Rules: How to Fish for Trouble	2-3	OK	Willimena deals with popular cousin
	Wesley, Valerie Wilson	Willimena Rules: How To Lose Your Cookie Money	2-3	OK??	Girl spends her girl scout cookie money to feed hungry neighbors. When it is time to give the money to the girl scouts, her sister tries to help her to earn the money with disastrous results. Lots of sibling rivalry and minor language. TV. Language- stupid, dumb, stinks.
	Weyn, Suzanne	Baker's Dozen - Hilary and the Rich Girl #2	3-4	OK?	(no connection to Jewish series of same name.) Girl steals money from her family to buy rich girl a present. Eventually feels guilty. Kids don't talk nicely to each other; e. g. - You're weird.
	Weyn, Suzanne	Baker's Dozen - Make Room for Patty #1	3-4	OK?	Child adjusts to being adopted. Some rough language and bad midos
	Whelan, Gloria	Night of the Full Moon	2-3	OK?	Girl is accidentally mistaken for an Indian when white men take Indians away from their land. Soldier "squashes girl against him" to keep her from falling off a horse.
	Whelan, Gloria	Silver	2-3	OK?	Girl in Alaska raises runt dog to be sled racer. Dog's pregnancy was "unplanned" - someone left the gate open between 2 pens by accident.
	Whelan, Gloria	The Impossible Journey	5-8	OK?	Girl and brother try to join mother who has been exiled to Siberia. Sad ending - father escapes prison camp and then dies. Religion: used to go to church, but don't anymore because of Communist regime. X-mas service at home: Father Xmas, C--- in manger. Pray to St. Vladimir.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Whelan, Gloria	The Indian School	4-5	OK?	An orphaned girl goes to live with her strict aunt who runs a school for Indian children. She befriends an orphaned Indian girl. The school is affiliated with a church which is mentioned but no religion detailed. Indian girl explains that when she dies she will become a star in the sky.
	Whelan, Gloria	The Locked Garden	4-7	OK?	Girl's father is psychiatrist at turn of the century. Unusual plot for children's book. After death of their mother, mother's spinster sister stays with them; girls prefer woman from asylum who helps out in their home, & try to get rid of aunt and get father to marry woman. Short description of church service. Grown brother of woman is chutzpadik to their abusive father.
	White, Andrea	Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083	6-8	OK?	In Futuristic dystopia of collapsed U.S. economy, scheming government official runs real-life "Survivor" shows, in which contestants actually risk their lives. Somewhat scary.
	White, E. B.	Stuart Little	3-5	OK?	A mouse born to a human couple runs away to seek his fortune and to find his bird-friend. One chapter about a date (chap 14) with a short girl, that ends in disaster; nothing romantic. Mention of the poem "The Night Before Xmas". One sentence mention of a girl receiving a present from a boy to remember him by (chap 12 p. 98).
	White, E. B.	The Trumpet of the Swan	4-6	OK??	A boy becomes friend with a mute swan who eventually learns to blow a trumpet so he can win a mate. This book is essentially a gentle love story between swans. The only "negiah" is one swan putting neck on the other. A lot of focus on swans finding mates and falling in love - done in a very gentle way. One unimportant mention of nature as a force (p. 54 chap 6). Minor language: darned (once). Head counselor of boys camp encourages them to go swimming without bathing suits. Xmas - no religion.
	White, Ruth	Little Audrey	5-7	OK?	True story of difficult life of family in coal mine town. Father drinks and uses up part of food money; mother retreats into her own mental world. Mild/innocent boy-liking-girl relationship. Somewhat heavy for age group.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Wiggin, Kate Douglas	Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm	4-7	OK??	Classic story of a poor girl who comes to live with her spinster aunts and ends up coming to appreciate them, and they her. Novel follows her as she grows up always backed by an older single man- not overtly romantic but might end up that way in a future book. Some classics mentioned by title. Many mentions of church and Sunday school. Girl writes a poem about "seraphim" angels, goes to a missionary meeting, hymn singing, an actual hymn written out (p181-182), hymn "J. should reign" (not written out p 183), girl makes up a prayer –relatively innocuous, many mentions of xmas presents. During the war one of the aunts was engaged and her fiancé was injured so she went to nurse him and "hold his hand through hours of pain" and he died "in her arms". Mention of boys and girls mingling, boys carrying books for girls, "flirtations", and "school girl romances" but none of it described in detail. Girl wishes she could wear gowns with low necks that show her shoulders. Humorous description of a family with a father who is in and out of jail and mother not really around to raise them, leading to a dysfunctional household. Language- stupid, consarned, idiot.
	Wildavsky, Rachel	The Secret of Rover	4-7	OK?	Brother and sister escape kidnappers and try to save their parents. Though the kids steal food and supplies when they are in an emergency, they discuss the morality of this at the time. As soon as their family is reunited, they tell their parents about the stealing, and their mother says "we'll pay it back. "Pee" on truck where they are stowaways. Language: heck. Uncle is a hermit; says it is because he was once attached to a lady; listener thinks she left for another man. Later the uncle meets the girlfriend, they call each other 'darling' and 'sweetheart', and 'needed to be alone'. Later they hold hands and announce they are engaged. Children go against instructions of adults and put themselves in danger, help to capture kidnappers by spraying them with mace.
	Wilder, Laura Ingalls	Farmer Boy	3-5	OK?	Day to day life of little boy on farm. Mention of Christian holidays and saying grace but not major issue.
	Wilder, Laura Ingalls	On the Way Home	3-5	OK?	Diary written from perspective of mother of the family on journey to Missouri (series is written from perspective of daughter) A few mentions of church. Photo of children at church posed under a cross. Language (once)- "Hell for Leather" (meaning very quickly and recklessly)
	Wiles, Deborah	Each Little Bird that Sings	5-6	OK?	Small-town girl, whose parents own town funeral parlor, learns lessons about loss, friendship, and life, when she experiences death in her own family. Sweet; a little strange. 2 mentions of J--- on tombstone - p 208.
	Wiley, Melissa	The Martha Years: Beyond the Heather Hills	3-6	OK	Fictionalized story of childhood of Martha, grandmother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Martha visits house of married sister and returns home older and wiser.
	Wiley, Melissa	The Martha Years: The Far Side of the Loch	3-6	OK	Martha spends time with her cousins.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Wilkins, Celia	The Caroline Years: Across the Rolling River	3-6	OK?	Fictionalized story of childhood of Caroline, mother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. 11 year old Caroline meets Charles Ingalls. Older sister Martha is shyly courted by neighboring boy; tame.
	Williams, Barbara	Titanic Crossing	5-7	OK?	Boy is going back to tyrannical grandma with family on the Titanic. Deals with death of father, fact that mom wants to be actress despite grandma's disapproval, mention of suffragettes. Mentions, but doesn't explain, that actresses are "fast". Mother's dress not so modest.
	Williams, Suzanne	Third Grade Friends - Josh Taylor Mr. Average	2-3 ?	OK?	Boy runs for class representative. Side story of 9th grade brother always on phone with girl.
	Wilson, Holly	Snowbound in Hidden Valley	4-6	OK?	A girl is snowbound with a friendly family of Indians and learns to appreciate their similarities and differences. Girls giggle over a book where a little girl wears corsets (never explains why it's funny). Minor mention of Indians' belief in gods.
	Wilson, Nancy Hope	Old People, Frogs, and Albert	3-5	OK?	A boy overcomes his fear of a nursing home when his reading tutor has a stroke and goes there to recover. Language (once each)- jerk, blasted
	Winterfield, Henry	Mystery of the Roman Ransom	4-6	OK?	Roman gods (tangential to plot)
	Winterfield, Henry	Trouble at Timpetill	3-6	OK	When children in town misbehave, parents all leave. Cute. Minor language nitwit, shut up, idiot.
	Winters, Ben H.	The Mystery of the Missing Everything	5-8	OK?	Follows "The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman" . Girl solves mystery of missing trophy. Has friend who is a boy. Minor language: freakazoid, god!, stupid, pee. Song about boy who falls in love (mentioned - no lyrics). Non-romantic negiah. Boy briefly mentions parents' messy divorce. Principal is feared but ridiculous character.
	Winters, Ben H.	The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman	6-8	OK??	Girl discovers that mousy music teacher was once a rock star. Class performs rock-and-roll concert. Girl and boy become friends. Mild language: pee, suck, butt, stupid. Mother wonders why girl is upset, and proudly thinks she has "boy problems" (she doesn't). Mentions of actual rock bands and songs from 60's-90's. Parent encourages student to blackmail teacher. Passing mention of xmas lights. Boy student hugs female teacher to thank her. Male teacher sees female teacher dressed as rock star and "falls in love" with her - no follow-up. Teacher has tattoo on arm. Girl wears gown modeled after star in YouTube clip. Prodigy piano player defies parents by playing rock instead of classical music.
	Winthrop, Elizabeth	Counting on Grace	4-7	OK??	Historical fiction: Children working in mill in early 1900's. Girl is encouraged by her teacher to get an education and a better life. Language: "damn" by adult trying to save child in dangerous situation towards end of book - can be crossed out.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Winthrop, Elizabeth	The Castle in the Attic	4-6	OK?	Boy receives a magic castle as a present. Helps knight regain kingdom from evil wizard. A few unimportant and unexplained references to Greek gods. A few titles of Xmas Carols - no words or details (p. 115) other than "The Battle Hymn of the Republic, which is relatively neutral, especially for this age group that just won't get it.
	Wishbone Classics	Digging up the Past #6	4-6	OK??	Rip Van Winkle story. Caricature of nagging wife - hits lazy husband with broom
	Wishbone Classics	Frankenstein	4-6	OK	scary
	Wishbone Classics	Last of the Breed	4-6	OK?	mild romance
	Wishbone Mysteries	Disoriented express #14	4-6	OK	Dog helps solve pretend murder as well as a real crime.
	Wishbone Mysteries	The Stolen Trophy #5	4-6	OK??	Dog helps solve the mystery of a stolen trophy. New boy frames another boy to get attention and make friends. Learns his lesson. A lot of accusations and rechilus. Brief mention of movie and movie theater, TV. Brief mention that boy's father died when he was young and raised by mother. Intro mentions that this character has a TV show.
	Wishbone Mysteries	The Treasure of Skeleton Reef #1	4-6	OK	Find pirate treasure in order to save lighthouse
	Wishbone- the Adventures of Wishbone	A Pup in King Arthur's Court	4-6	OK??	Based on classic "A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court" by Mark Twain. Dog becomes a hero in the classic story of a modern man who suddenly finds himself in the dark ages and tries to introduce modern ideas. This is interspersed with a modern day story of sixth graders who decide to publish a sports newsletter and end up causing bad feelings with eighth graders doing the same thing. Intro mentions TV show starring this character. Man has a "sweetheart" who works as an operator who he calls every week just to hear her voice. Princess seats behind knight on horse and holds on to his chain mail shirt. Eventually marry. Many mentions of the church as fighting modern ideas. church bells. church punishes people by "interdict"- forbidding them from taking part in religious services. Knight search for the holy grail which is explained as the cup that yoshka (full name mentioned) used at the last supper. Language- weird note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
new	Wishbone- the Adventures of Wishbone	Digging up the Past #6	4-6	OK??	Based on classic "Rip Van Winkle" by Washington Irving. Dog becomes hero in classic story of man who falls asleep for 20 years and awakens to find life very different. Man enjoys helping others around the village but refuses to help his wife. She hits him with a broom. Belief in spirits who control the weather and ghosts of Henry Hudson and crew. This is interspersed with a modern day story of a women who comes back to see her old home and finds things very changed.
	Wishbone- The Adventures of Wishbone	Dog Overboard #12	4-6	OK??	Based on classic "Kidnapped" by Robert Louis Stevenson. Dog becomes hero in classic story of a young man kidnapped on a sailing ship. This is interspersed with a modern day story of a boy who struggles with telling the truth about not listening to his mother, thereby proving the innocence of a boy he dislikes who was accused of writing graffiti. At the end he does the right thing. Intro mentions that there is a TV show starring this character. Boy watches movie on TV. Brief mention that boy has a crush on his teacher and makes up a crossword puzzle using her name. In classic, 2 brothers "love" the same lady so they strike a deal- one marries her, and one gets the family estate. Middos between children. note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book. Language- weird.
	Wishbone- The Adventures of Wishbone	Moby Dog #10	4-6	OK??	Based on classic "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville. Dog becomes hero in classic story of whalers who try to capture a huge whale. This is interspersed with a modern day story of a boy who tries to get back his basketball from a bully. Middos among teenagers- a lot of name calling and insults. Intro mentions that this character has a TV show. Internet. One word mentions of xmas. Description of chapel service- the minister delivers a sermon on Jonah and the whale. Pretty neutral. Mentions that boy's father died when he was young. Cannibal worships an idol. Language- dumb. blast it, jerk note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Wishbone- The Adventures of Wishbone	The Prince and the Pooch #3	4-6	OK?	Based on classic "The Prince and the Pauper" by Mark Twain. Dog becomes hero in classic story of peasant who switches places with a prince. This is interspersed with a modern day story of a boy who learns that being a team coach isn't so easy when he becomes the coach of a little girls Tball team. Coronation takes place at Westminster Abbey with the "robed" heads of church. Man abandons his wife so she marries someone else. In intro, mention that this character has a TV show. note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book.
	Wisler, G. Clifton	The Drummer Boy of Vicksburg	4-6	OK?	A boy enlists as drummer in civil war. War, violence, blood. Mention in passing of girls "getting kissed"
	Wojciechowska, Maia	Shadow of a Bull	4-7	OK	Boy deals with expectations of townspeople that he will follow in footsteps of his father who was a celebrated bull fighter.
	Wolf, Joan M	Someone Named Eva	7+	OK??	A story based on real events about a non Jewish Czech girl who is pulled away from her family by the Nazis to be raised as a perfect German Aryan girl. The Nazis destroyed her town and killed all the men in retaliation for a partisan attack. Many mentions of Nazis hating Jews and killing them. Girl has a "crush" on a boy and blushes when he is present. Girl is embarrassed when Nazis force her to strip to her underwear, girl who is punished is forced to pull down her underwear to be beaten. Girl talks about asking a boy to dance with her. Mother prays using rosary beads. Church with crosses and altar described as a location. Girls wish they could be movie actresses and like to talk about actresses' clothing. Language-stupid.
	Wood, Mary Rose	The Incurable Children of Ashton Place	5-7	OK??	A young governess is hired to care for children raised by wolves under mysterious circumstances. This book is really part one of the story- it does not reach a satisfying conclusion so parent's should check the next book for appropriateness. Detailed description of xmas party including a coed dance and women wearing gowns with "bare shoulders". Xmas tree, presents, father xmas. Minor boy/girl – flirting at the party with other people's spouses, male servant looks at female servant in a "lingering" way. Non romantic negiah. Language-blast it all, stinky, idiot, brats.
	Woodruff, Elvira	Dear Austin	4-5	OK	Historical fiction.
	Woodruff, Elvira	Dear Levi	4-5	OK	Historical fiction. Boy travels wagon trail to claim dead father's homestead. Lots of people die. Very sad.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Woodruff, Elvira	Fearless	6-8	OK?	A boy becomes apprenticed to the inventor of a fun house when his father's ship goes down in a storm. Although the reading level of this book is lower than the recommendation it is quite sad when the boy has to deal with his father's death, his aunts sending him away and later his benefactor's death. Vivid descriptions of poverty. One word xmas. Language-stink, blasted, nincompoop.
	Woodruff, Elvira	George Washington's Socks	5-7	OK??	Historical fiction. Children travel through time and join George Washington's army as they head toward the Battle of Trenton. A lot of scary, sad, and graphic descriptions of suffering and death That may be difficult for a sensitive child. .Description of young dying soldier who is so ill he wets himself with urine without realizing it. Soldier swears with Jeh-va as his witness (p152) Mention of TV,VCR.' Brief humorous mention of George Washington's underwear. Language- nerd, damn (p66), hell (p72),
	Woodruff, Elvira	The Magnificent Mummy Maker	4-5	OK?	A boy feels average compared to gifted stepbrother and has hard time dealing with mom's death and dad's remarriage. Draws an amazing mummy and attributes new talent to mummy's power. Lots of Egyptian belief in afterlife. Some chutzpah, but is reprimanded.
	Woodruff, Elvira	The Secret Funeral of Slim Jim the Snake	4-5	OK	An orphan learns to appreciate fastidious uncle who is raising him. Makes funeral for snake in uncle's funeral parlor.
	Woodruff, Elvira	The Summer I Shrank My Grandmother	4-5	OK?	Girl invents formula to stop grandmother's aging but she gets too young until she almost disappears. When she is a teenager she likes to look through binoculars at boys on the beach - stated as fact w/o reason. Buys bikini and paints her nails Otherwise very innocent and cute.
	Wrede, Patricia C.	Dealing With Dragons - The Enchanted Forest Chronicles book 1	5-7	OK?	A princess Is tired of royal life so she runs away to be princess of a dragon. Makes fun of romantic knights trying to rescue her. Minor language - drat. Calls boy her paramour - he translates it as "lover", she says he is nothing of the kind
	Wright, Betty Ren	A Ghost in the House	4-6	OK	very scary
	Wright, Betty Ren	A Ghost in the Window	4-6	OK?	minor bad language. Describe husking bee - winner gets kissed.
	Wright, Betty Ren	Dollhouse Murders	4-6	OK?	Description of murders
	Wright, Betty Ren	Nothing but Trouble	2-4	OK	Girl figures out who is vandalizing elderly aunt's house.
	Wright, Betty Ren	Rosie and the Dance of the Dinosaurs	4-5	OK?	Parents disagree where to live; imply could split
	Wright, Betty Ren	The Ghost Comes Calling	3-4	OK?	Ghost haunts until appeased. Mixed swimming and mild negiah.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Wright, Betty Ren	The Ghosts of Mercy Manor	4-6	OK?	Ghost acts out own murder
	Wright, Betty Ren	The Pike River Phantom	4-6	OK?	mention 'bra'; father was in jail for stealing
	Wright, Betty Ren	Too Many Secrets	4-5	OK?	Rumors about boy's actor father marrying an actress; turns out to be not true.
	Wyss, Johann David	The Swiss Family Robinson	6-8	OK?	A very religious Christian family gets shipwrecked and make a wonderful life for selves on desert island. Lots of religion but nothing really objectionable. Very specific and painstaking details about all they did including killing animals for food and clothing; may be gory for some.
	Yelchin, Eugene	Breaking Stalin's Nose	6-8	OK??	A boy becomes disillusioned with communism. Although the reading level appears to be much younger the content is only appropriate for a much more sophisticated reader. A lot of betrayal, imprisonment, and death. Blind faith in the communist system. Middos issues exhibited by children and by teacher. Language-jerk, stupid, scum.
	Yep, Laurence	Later, Gator	4-6	OK?	A boy buys hated younger brother an alligator instead of following mother's instructions. Father fondly reminisces about playing ball with girls and meeting wife at co-ed game.
	Yep, Laurence	The Serpent's Children	8+	OK??	Children try to help family survive as farmers in old China despite severe poverty. Finally the brother goes to America to earn money to send back. Very sad when mother dies in children's arms. Aunt and uncle try to adopt children but children give them a hard time. When they try to bind the girl's feet they escape. A lot of Chinese beliefs and culture eg. gods, spirits, incense, etc. a few mentions of women being sold to a brothel and girl could have been raped- no explanations. Language-stupid, idiot, brat, dumb, shut up, hell cat.
	Yep, Laurence	The Tiger's Apprentice - Tiger Magic Book 3	4-6	OK?	A mix of fantastic creatures and humans in a bad guy vs. good guy fight in Chinatown. Minor language: idiot, screw up. Minor non romantic negiah. Some convoluted Chinese philosophy.
	Yep, Laurence	Thief Of Hearts	5-7	OK??	A girl whose mother is Chinese and father Caucasian tries to come to grips with her mixed heritage as she helps prove that a newly arrived Chinese girl with an unpleasant personality is not a thief. A lot of Chinese culture and religion. People insult the girl and call her "mixed seed" and "half breed". Juvenile boy/girl. Coed dances. Thinks an actor is cute. Non romantic negiah. Watches movies on cable TV, go to movies. Girl with serious issues comes from a dysfunctional home- parents sit at home all day watching 2 different televisions which blast loudly. Language-idiot, stinks, darn, punks, maniac, jerk, nerd, freak, shut up, stupid, weird, dumb.

Secular Book List: OK and Questionable Books

	Author	Title	grade		
	Yolen	Wizard's Hall	2-3	OK?	A boy goes to wizard school even though he lacks magical talent. He saves the school from an evil wizard by virtue of trying hard. Language-stupid (once).
	Yolen, Jane	The Devil's Arithmetic	5-8	OK?	A non-frum American girl opens door for Eliyahu Hanavi at seder and is transported to the Holocaust. P. 38 - references but not specific about coming home on wedding night and walls being thin. Girl says she knows what wedding night is because of "General Hospital" (meaning - the soap opera). P 92- female anatomy. P 134 - girl recites Kaddish. P 153 before they are shot groom says to bride "the sky is our wedding canopy" and kisses the top of her head. Language: bastard. Several references to Rabbi saying they should trust in G-d, while some make vaguely cynical comments. Bride and groom hold hands before marriage (when being loaded onto Nazi train). Adult man hugs girl who is his neice. References to some movies, including Yentl.
	Yolen, Jane	The Young Merlin Trilogy - Book 2 - Hobby	2-4	OK?	Adventures of young Merlin of Arthurian fame - has dreams that come true. Woman tells him to "kiss a wench" - he doesn't.
	York, Carol Beach	Pudmuddles	2-4	OK??	Strange/ humorous little book about an eccentric man and his bride. Gets married in a church, go to church on Sundays- no description. One sentence that he kisses the bride.
	York, Carol Beach	The Key to the Playhouse	2-4	OK	Two girls very mean to their neighbor but in the end resolve to do better next time.