Looking for more suggestions?

MHL has a number of services to help you find books and other materials that you might enjoy!

NoveList and BookBrowse will help you find new titles based on other books you’ve enjoyed. Find these two services at https://www.mhl.org/online-resources/databases.

Visit https://www.mhl.org/book-recommendation-newsletters to sign up for monthly suggestions of bestsellers to travel to romance and more!

The Children’s Room staff maintains a list of recommendations at https://www.mhl.org/kids/lists.

Winter Reading Club 2018
Middle Grade Suggestions

- The Penderwicks at last by Jeanne Birdsall
  Happily anticipating the homecoming of college-student Batty, 11-year-old Lydia is delighted to hear that their family is returning to Arundel for the summer for an old-fashioned wedding, in a conclusion to the series.

- Wishtree by Katherine Applegate
  A wise old oak tree that stands as the neighborhood’s “wishtree,” where people write wishes on cloth and tie them to her branches, shares her days with her crow friend and helps the community embrace differences when new neighbors move in and are not warmly welcomed.

- Ghost boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
  After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including historical figure Emmett Till.

- Nate expectations by Tim Federle
  When E.T.: The Musical closes, Nate reluctantly returns home to begin high school and, with his best friend, Libby, makes a project of turning Dickens’ Great Expectations into a musical.

- March forward, girl : from young warrior to Little Rock Nine by Melba Pattillo Beals
  The civil rights activist and author of the best-selling Warriors Don’t Cry presents an ardent and profound childhood memoir of growing up in the face of adversity in the Jim Crow South.

From December 1, 2018 to January 2, 2019 pick up and return a Winter Reading Club Bingo Board from any public service desk (Childrens, Teen, Circulation, and Reference).

Show a complete row of activities to a staff member to win a free book. Complete the entire board to be entered into a drawing for an Andover Bookstore gift card!
The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge
by M. T. Anderson
Elf historian Brangwain Spurge is sent to goblin country to deliver a peace offering to their dark lord and spy on the goblin kingdom, but he and his goblin host commit a series of blunders that might bring their nations to war.

The cardboard kingdom
by Chad Sell
A team of neighbor kids use their imaginations and creativity to transform cardboard materials into fantastical homemade costumes that help them navigate conflicts with friends, family and their own identities, in a collaborative graphic novel that includes contributions by such authors as Jay Fuller, David DeMeo and Katie Schenkel.

Ivy Aberdeen’s letter to the world
by Ashley Herring Blake
Twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen’s house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

Marcus Vega doesn’t speak Spanish
by Pablo Cartaya
After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus’s mother takes him and his younger brother, who has Down syndrome, to Puerto Rico to visit relatives they do not remember or have never met, and while there Marcus starts searching for his father, who left their family ten years ago and is somewhere on the island.

Front desk
by Kelly Yang
Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang’s parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants—not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao’s son, Jason.

The Backstagers and the ghost light
by Andy Mientus
When Jory transfers to St. Genesius Prep, he joins the stage crew and discovers the magic that happens backstage but when some cast members play with a Spirit board, the ghost light goes out and strange things begin to happen.

Aru Shah and the end of time
by Roshani Chokshi
Telling fibs in order to fit in better with her wealthier peers, 12-year-old Aru Shah spends her school break at the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture, where her decision to light a cursed lamp unwittingly releases an ancient demon.

Two roads
by Joseph Bruchac
In 1932, twelve-year-old Cal must stop being a hobo with his father and go to a Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school, where he begins learning about his history and heritage as a Creek Indian.

Hurricane child
by Kheryn Callender
Born on Water Island in the Virgin Islands during a hurricane, which is considered bad luck, twelve-year-old Caroline falls in love with another girl—and together they set out in a hurricane to find Caroline’s missing mother.

The Parker inheritance
by Varian Johnson
Candice Miller is spending the summer in South Carolina, in the old house that belonged to her grandmother, who died after being dismissed as city manager for having the city tennis courts dug up looking for buried treasure—but when she finds the letter that sent her grandmother on the treasure hunt, she finds herself caught up in the mystery and, with the help of her new friend and fellow book-worm, Brandon, she sets out to find the inheritance.

You go first
by Erin Entrada Kelly
Charlotte, twelve, and Ben, eleven, are highly-skilled competitors at online Scrabble and that connection helps both as they face family issues and the turmoil of middle school.

Dactyl Hill Squad
by Daniel José Older
It is the summer of 1863, and the Civil War rages between dinosaur-mounted armies down south. In NYC, Magdalys and the other children at the Colored Orphan Asylum are trying to survive; but when she receives a letter telling her that her brother Montez was wounded, Magdalys knows that she must reach him—and that her ability to communicate telepathically with dinosaurs may come in handy.