Great Adventure Books at the Pleasanton Public Library

Compiled by the Pleasanton Library
Children’s Staff

Books are shelved in Children’s Fiction by author's last name and/or Children’s Paperbacks by first letter of author's last name (unless otherwise noted).

Please ask at the Children’s Desk if you need help.

Heaven Eyes by David Almond Grades 4-7 (233 p)
Having escaped from their orphanage on a raft, Erin, January, and Mouse float down into another world of abandoned warehouses and factories, meeting a strange old man and an even stranger girl with webbed fingers and little memory of her past.

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi Grades 5-8 (262 p) Audiobook available Sequel: Crispin at the Edge of the World
Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggling who holds a dangerous secret.

The Door to Time by Pierdomenico Baccalario Grades 4-6 (222 p) Ulysses Moore series
After moving from London to an old mansion on the English coast, eleven-year-old twins Jason and Julia discover that their new home has twisting tunnels, strange artifacts from around the world, and a mysterious, locked door.

Tracking Triple Seven by Jamie Bastedo Grades 5-7 (215 p)
Benji, a city slicker kid, who joins a team of biologists using cutting-edge technology with good bush wisdom in a death-defying search for the real grizzly bear of the Northwest Territories.

Shakespeare Stealer by Gary L. Blackwood Grades 5-8 (216 p) Audiobook available Shakespeare Stealer series
A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare’s acting troupe in order to steal the script of “Hamlet,” but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

A Week in the Woods by Andrew Clements Grades 4-6 (190 p)
The fifth grade’s annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark’s survival skills and his ability to relate to a teacher who seems out to get him.

The Rescued Adventures of Maude March by Audrey Couloumbis Grades 4-7 (295 p) Audiobook available Sequel: Maude March on the Run
After the death of the stern aunt who raised them since they were orphaned, eleven-year-old Sallie and her fifteen-year-old sister escape their self-serving guardians and begin a wild west adventure resembling those in the dime novels Sallie loves to read.

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech Grades 4-7 (310 p) Audiobook available
Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins, Dallas and Florida, have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pène Du Bois Grades 5-8 (179 p)
The incredible adventures are related of Professor William Waterman Sherman who in 1883 sets off in a balloon across the Pacific, survives the volcanic eruption of Krakatoa, and is eventually picked up in the Atlantic.

Wilderness Parrot by Thomas J. Drygard Grades 7-8 (194 p)
Two teenage boys camping in the Minnesota woods encounter a desperate airplane hijacker attempting to escape with three-quarters of a million dollars.

I am the Joe Worm by Maryann Easley Grades 5-8 (127 p)
When the plane carrying her to visit her mother crashes above the Arctic Circle, fourteen-year-old Allison Arrowood is rescued by an Inuit man who takes her back to his village, where she slowly comes to admire their very different way of life.

A Girl Named Disaster by Nancy Farmer Grades 6-8 (389 p)
While journeying to Zimbabwe, eleven-year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.

The Giant Rat of Sumatra by Sid Fleischman Grades 5-8 (194 p)
A cabin boy on a pirate ship finds himself in San Diego in 1846 as war breaks out between the United States and Mexico. After being plucked from the sea by the most notorious pirate in the Pacific, he discovers his adventure is only beginning.

The Writhing Boy by Sid Fleischman Grades 4-7 (90 p) Audiobook available
A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke Grades 5-8 (349 p) Audiobook available Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter and protection from Venice’s “Thief Lord.”

Julia of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George Grades 5-8 (170 p) Audiobook available Julie series
While running away from home and an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl becomes lost on the North Slope of Alaska and is befriended by a wolf pack.

Free Castle Island by Jean Craighead George Grades 4-7 (242 p) Audiobook available
After building his own canoe, fourteen-year-old Jack Hawkins goes to try it out in his beloved Okefenokee Swamp, where an accident tests his survival skills and leads him to a shocking discovery.

Getting Air by Dan Gutman Grades 5-8 (232 p)
After foiling a terrorist hijacking aboard their airplane, fourteen-year-old Jimmy, his younger sister, and two skateboarding friends crash-land the plane and try to survive in a forest wilderness until help arrives.

SilverFin: A James Bond Adventure by Charles Higgins Grades 6-9 (335 p) Audiobook available Young Bond series
This prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, introduces us to the young James when he’s just started boarding school in England and is about to become involved in his first adventure.

Jason’s Gold by Will Hobbs Grades 5-8 (223 p)
When news of the discovery of gold in Canada’s Yukon Territory in 1897 reaches fifteen-year-old Jason, he embarks on a 10,000-mile journey to strike it rich.

Old Man Island by Will Hobbs Grades 5-8 (184 p) Audiobook available
After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father’s death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska, where he manages to survive; encounters unexpected animal and human inhabitants, and looks for traces of the earliest prehistoric immigrants to America.

Slate’s Limbo by Felice Holman Grades 4-6 (117 p) Audiobook available Thirteen-year-old Arenis Slake, hounded by his fears and misfortunes, flies them by entering into New York City’s subway tunnels, never again—he believes—to emerge.

Popular Adventure Series

Dive by Gordon Korman J Paperbacks “K”
Everest by Gordon Korman J Paperbacks “K”
Island by Gordon Korman J Paperbacks “K”
Kidnapped by Gordon Korman J Paperbacks “K”
National Parks Mysteries by Gloria Skurzynski J Paperbacks “N”
On the Run by Gordon Korman J Paperbacks “O”

Pleasanton Public Library
Children’s Services
400 Old Bernal Ave
Pleasanton, California  94566
(925) 931-3400
Hours:
Monday-Thursday:  10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday-Saturday:  10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday:  1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

10/2007
In the Aftermath of a Tsunami in Sumatra, 2004
by Deborah Hopkinson
Grades 5-8 (200 p)

Days after arriving in San Francisco from Texas, eleven-year-old orphan Nicholas Dray tries to help his new neighbors survive the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the subsequent fires.

The Devil and His Dog
by Anthony Horowitz
Grades 5-7 (182 p)

In 1593, thirteen-year-old Tom travels through the English countryside to London, where he falls in with a troupe of actors and finds himself in great danger from several sources.

Stormbreaker
by Anthony Horowitz
Grades 5-8 (226 p) Audiobook available

Alex Rider is a thirteen-year-old secret agent, and after the death of his uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his dangerous work for Britain’s intelligence agency, MI6.

Skullduggery
by Kathleen Karr
Grades 5-8 (227 p)

In 1839, twelve-year-old Matthew’s job as assistant to the phrenologist Dr. Connolly takes him up and down the Eastern Seaboard to Europe, as they rob graves and try to find out who is following them and why.

Earthquake Terror
by Peg Kehret
Grades 4-6 (132 p)

When an earthquake hits the isolated island in northern California where his family had been camping, twelve-year-old Jonathan Palmer must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed younger sister, and their dog alive until help arrives.

Alabama Moon
by Walt Key
Grades 5-8 (294 p) Audiobook available

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon leaves their forest shelter home and is sent to an Alabama institution, becoming entangled in the outside world he has never known and making good friends, a relentless enemy, and finally a new life.

The Wreckers
by Iain Lawrence
Grades 5-8 (196 p) Audiobook available

High Sea trilogy
Shipwrecked after a vicious storm, fourteen-year-old John Spencer attempts to save his father and himself while also dealing with an evil secret about the English coastal town where they are stranded.

Black Duck
by Janet Taylor Lisle
Grades 5-8 (232 p) Audiobook available

Years afterwards, Ruben Hart tells the story of how, in 1929 Newport, Rhode Island, his family and his best friend’s family were caught up in the violent competition among groups trying to control the local rum-running trade.

The Killing Star
by Richard Lewis
Grades 4-6 (103 p)

In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sumatra, two teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where teenagers, American Sarah and Acehnese Ruslan, meet and continue together their arduous climb inland, where

Shackleton’s Stoogys
by Victoria McKerrnan
Grades 5-8 (317 p)

A fictionalized account of the adventures of eighteen-year-old Perce Blackbrow, who stowed away for the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition and, after their ship Endurance was crushed by ice, endured many hardships, including the loss of the toes of his left foot to frostbite, during the nearly two-year return journey across sea and ice.

Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary “Jacky” Faber, Ship’s Boy
by L. A. Meyer
Grades 7-9 (278 p) Bloody Jack adventure series

Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and convinces her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

Stranded
by Ben Mikaelson
Grades 4-6 (247 p) Audiobook available

Twelve-year-old Kohby, who has lost his foot in a accident, sees a chance to prove her self-reliance to her parents when she tries to rescue two stranded pilot whales near her home in the Florida Keys.

The Fear Place
by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Grades 4-7 (118 p) Audiobook available

When he and his older brother Gordon are left alone camping in the Rocky Mountains, twelve-year-old Doug faces his fears, heights and his feelings about Gordon — with the help of a cougar.

Adalone Falling Star
by Mary Pope Osborne
Grades 4-7 (170 p)

Feeling abandoned by her deceased Arapaho mother and her explorer father, Adalone Falling Star runs away from the prejudiced cousin with whom she is staying and comes close to death in the wilderness, with only a mongrel dog for company.

Hatchet
by Gary Paulsen
Grades 6-8 (142 p) Audiobook available

Brian series
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents’ divorce.

White Water
by P.J. Petersen
Grades 4-7 (107 p)

Greg confronts his own fears and assumes a leadership role when his father is bitten by a rattlesnake during a white water rafting trip.

Pirates!
by Celia Rees
Grades 6-9 (379 p) Audiobook available

In 1722, after arriving with her family at the family’s Jamaican plantation where she is to be married off, sixteen-year-old Nancy Kington escapes with her slave friend, Minerva Sharpe, and together they become pirates traveling the world in search of treasure.

Holes
by Louis Sachar
Grades 5-8 (233 p) Audiobook available

As further evidence of his family’s bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional colony in Texas where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Night of the Howling Dogs
by Graham Salisbury
Grades 7-9 (191 p)

In 1975, eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping in Halape, Hawaii, find their survival skills put to the test when to a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

Sea Legs
by Alex sheerer
Grades 4-6 (309 p)

The brother of the Clive are ready for adventure on the high seas, so instead of staying with their grandparents yet again, they stow away on the cruise ship on which their father serves as senior steward.

The Trap
by John Smelter
Grades 6-9 (170 p)

In alternating chapters, seventeen-year-old Johnny Least-Weasel, who is better known for brains than brawn, worries about his missing grandfather, and the grandfather, Albert Least-Weasel, struggles to survive, caught in his own steel trap in the Alaskan winter.

Peak
by Roland Smith
Grades 6-9 (246 p)

To avoid juvenile detention, Peak Marcellis is sent to live with his father, whose renewed interest in him has strings attached. He wants Peak to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit—a challenge that could cost him his life.

Maniac Magee
by Jerry Spinelli
Grades 6-9 (184 p) Audiobook available

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee’s life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Rowan Hood: Outlaw Girl of Sherwood Forest
by Victoria$Huang$Grades 5-7 (170 p) Audiobook available

Rowan Hood Series
In her quest to connect with Robin Hood, the father she has never met, thirteen-year-old Rosamary disguises herself as a boy, barters as half-wolf, half-dog, a runaway princess, and an overgrown boy whose singing is hypnotic, and makes peace with her elfin heritage.

The Thief of Dreams
by Anthony Horowitz
Grades 5-8 (160 p) Manor of the Dead series

It is the final year of school, and pursued by murderous treasure hunters, Garf and Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.

Swiss Family Robinson
by Johann David Wyss
Grades 4-6 (377 p)

Relates the fortunes of a shipwrecked family as they imaginatively adapt to life on an island abundantly inhabited by animal and plant life.

Rogues
by Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris
Grades 7-8 (234 p) Scottish quarter

After his family is evicted from their Scottish farm, fifteen-year-old Rody forms an unlikely friendship with a notorious rogue who helps him avoid a tyrant bound in order to find a family treasure and make his way to America.

Manji
by Chris van Allsburg
Grades 3-4 (31 p)

Children’s Moving Up Van Allsburg
Also available in Spanish
Life for their own as an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and delightful jumble adventure board game.

Amazon River Rescue
by Amanda Luney
Grades K-3 (32 p)

Children’s Picture Books “L” Adventures of Riley series
Nine-year-old Riley visits a rainforest in Brazil near the Amazon River while his scientist uncle is on assignment there.

AFTERNOON IN THE AMAZON
by Mary Pope Osborne
Grades 3-6 (67 p)

Children’s Moving Up Osborne
Magic Tree House series
Eight-year-old Jack, his seven-year-old sister, Annie, and Peanut the mouse ride in a tree house to the Amazon rain forests, where they encounter giant ants, flesh-eating piranhas, hungry crocodiles, and wild jaguars.

Kaya’s Escape
by Janet Shaw
Grades 2-4 (60 p)

Children’s Moving Up Shaw
American girls Series
In the fall of 1764, after Kaya and her sister are kidnapped from their Nee Perce village by enemy horse raiders, she tries to find a way to safety in British north.

Akimbo and the Elephants
by Alexander McCall Smith
Grades 3-4 (68 p) J Fiction McCall Smith
Audiobook available — Akimbo series
On a unique prime preserve where his father works, Akimbo devises a dangerous plan to capture a ring of elephant poachers.

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