Past Winners:

2014: The Rule of Three  
By Eric Walters  
Survival/Dystopian, 405 pages  

What would happen if all the computers stopped working?

16-year-old Adam finds himself at the center of his neighborhood’s survival efforts after a technological disaster cripples the country. With normal society rapidly crumbling, Adam is faced with sacrifices, hard choices, and potentially deadly consequences.

Loot  
By Jude Watson  
Mystery/Adventure, 266 pages  

March has lived an unusual life in his nearly 13 years: no school, traveling the globe, and helping commit heists and cons with his father. But when a jewelry theft goes wrong, March is left with nothing but street smarts & his father’s dying words: “Find Jewels.” He soon discovers “Jules” is actually his twin sister, kept apart because of a curse. They join forces with two fellow “inmates” of a group home, hoping to solve the mystery, and save their own lives.

I am Malala: How One Girl Stood up for Education and Changed the World  
By Malala Yousafzai & Patricia McCormick  
Biography/Memoir, 230 pages  

Malala was named for a famous poet & warrior woman in Pakistan, but none could predict how well she would live up to her name. Her refusal to stop speaking out for girls’ rights to learn made her a target of religious extremists, who attacked Malala on her school bus. After months of recovery, she began an international speaking tour advocating for equal rights and education for girls. At 17, she became the world’s youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, and continues to speak out for education around the globe.

2013: The Isinglass Award aims to promote teen reading, and invites teens to help select great literature.

Each fall, 7th & 8th grade students across NH nominate their favorite books, and then vote on the top titles in April. Check out this year’s list, and remember to share it!

2012:  

Want to suggest YOUR favorite title for next year?

7th & 8th grade students only!

You’ll need the Title, Author & Publication Date, & why you think it should be nominated. Make sure to include your name, town & grade.

You can submit your suggestions to your own school or public librarian, or e-mail directly to Committee Chair Yvette Couser at the Merrimack Public Library:

ycouser@merrimacklibrary.org

Remember to VOTE for your favorite in April!

Cover Art courtesy of author’s publishers, Wikipedia & Goodreads
Brochure & Synopses by Lucia Von Letkemann

Did you know you can download eBook & audiobook versions of these books FOR FREE?? All you need is your library card! Go to: www.nh.lib.overdrive.com
The Iron Trial
By Holly Black & Cassandra Clare
Fantasy, 304 pages
Callum knows magic is bad news. His father has warned him to stay away from it if he ever hopes to reach his 18th birthday. When he is called to take the Iron Trial for admittance into The Magisterium, a magical school with a dark reputation, he promises to fail. Unfortunately for Call, his destiny seems already set, and he soon finds himself not only admitted, but a student of the most powerful mage of all. As Call learns about his own aptitude for magic, he begins to uncover mysteries about his past, and surprises about his future…

The War That Saved My Life
By Kimberly Bradley
Historical, 320 pages
Ada has never been outside. Her only link to the world is a dingy window and her younger brother, who is free to roam. Her mother says Ada’s deformed foot isn’t fit to be seen by anyone, not even when London children are being evacuated for fears of German bombing raids against the city. When she learns Jamie is to be sent away, Ada makes her own escape to join him, knowing it’s her only chance at freedom. When nobody offers to house the siblings, the children find themselves forced into the care of Susan Smith, a young single woman with no experience with children and troubles of her own. Still, Ada is free, and the children are warmer and better fed than they can remember ever being, and they soon come to love Susan. But can this new life really be theirs, or will their cruel mother come to take them away?

Unstoppable
By Tim Green
Realistic, 368 pages
Harrison has had a rough time in his 13 years. Passed from one foster home to another, he’s always angry, and sees no future for himself, especially not his dream of playing for the NFL. After being removed from abusive foster parents, Harrison is not expecting much from his fifth foster home. But the odds seem to be finally stacking up in his favor. The Kellys are actually good people. Mrs. Kelly, who Harrison soon starts calling “mom,” is a lawyer, and Mr. Kelly is even better – he’s a football coach at Harrison’s new school. With Harrison’s large build and natural drive and talent, he soon becomes an unstoppable force on the football team. Finally, Harrison has a true home, good friends, and a real shot at reaching his dream. But when a knee injury just won’t go away, doctors discover something devastating. Harrison has bone cancer, advanced enough that the only way to save his life is to amputate part of his leg. With his dream life feeling snatched out from under him, Harrison is filled with rage and despair. But Harrison’s new family and friends show him he’s done yet, and that he can still be truly unstoppable.

The Summer I Saved the World in 65 Days
By Michele Weber Hurwitz
Realistic, 272 pages
It’s the summer before high school, and Nina is feeling adrift. It’s been a year since her grandmother died, her parents are consumed with work, her brother’s never home, and her best friend has suddenly become a boy-crazy shopaholic. Nina decides to conduct a summer-long experiment: she’ll do one anonymous good deed a day for her neighbors, to see if simple things really can make the world a better place. As Nina begins observing what those around her truly need, she starts to realize people are a more complicated and wonderful than she anticipated.

Eye of Minds
By James Dashner
Science Fiction, 336 pages
Michael is a gamer, and spends almost all his time in the VertNet, where full-body virtual reality offers everything one could want. Hanging out online with friends, earning experience points, and breaking the rules are Michael’s specialties. But when a hacker begins messing with the VertNet, leading to actual deaths, the government steps in. Now, Michael is tasked with exploring parts of the cyber world that have never been seen, and tracking down a killer who’s playing for keeps.

Mark of the Dragonfly
By Jaleigh Johnson
Fantasy, 400 pages
Piper is an orphan who makes her living as a scrapper- scavenging whatever’s left by the fierce meteor storms that rage over her village. She’s particularly skilled at fixing things, especially mechanical objects. During a particularly fierce storm, Piper witnesses the destruction of a caravan, and finds one lone survivor—a terrified, mute girl with an elaborate dragonfly tattoo. Recognizing the tattoo as a mark of protection from a distant king, Piper sees saving this girl’s life could also change her own. But nothing is ever simple in Piper’s world, and more adventure, danger and wonder than she could have imagined is coming along with her too.

Invisibility
By Andrea Cremer & David Levithan
Fantasy, 384 pages
Elizabeth would love to be able to disappear, to go unnoticed, to be invisible. Stephen actually is invisible. Since birth, nobody, including his own mother, has ever seen him. Until Elizabeth. When her family moves into Stephen’s building, where he’s lived alone since his mother died, she sees him. At first, Stephen doesn’t know what to do, and Elizabeth has never wanted to let anyone in. But they grow closer, and begin to uncover the reason for Stephen’s invisibility, and search for a way to undo it. As the reality they thought they knew reveals itself to be so much more, they realize it’s not just Stephen’s place in the world at stake… it’s potentially both their lives.

The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight
By Jennifer E. Smith
Realistic, 272 pages
Hadley is having a rough day. Four minutes. A host of tiny obstacles has led to Hadley being four minutes too late for her flight to London, for a wedding she never wanted to go to, to see her father marry the woman he left Hadley’s mom for. Hadley is not her too.

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