



Good books for 13-year-old boys:

Alexander, Lloyd

The Black Cauldron (series)

Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper of Prydain, faces even more dangers as he seeks the magical Black Cauldron, the chief implement of the evil powers of Arawn, lord of the Land of Death.

Barron, T.A.

Merlin, The Lost Years (series)

A young boy who has no identity nor memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of fantastic adventures.

Barry, Dave and Ridley Pearson

Peter and the Starcatchers (and sequels)

Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island.

Grabenstein, Chris

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape

Ness, Patrick

The Knife of Never Letting Go (trilogy)

Pursued by power-hungry Prentiss and mad minister Aaron, young Todd and Viola set out across New World searching for answers about his colony's true past and seeking a way to warn the ship bringing hopeful settlers from Old World.

A Monster Calls

Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill--an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss.

Oppel, Kenneth

Airborn

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Paulsen, Gary

Hatchet (and sequels)

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

Pearson, Ridley

The Kingdom Keepers (series)

Thirteen-year-old Finn Whitman and four other young teens have been transformed into holograms to be guides for visitors to Disney World, but now they must do battle with the evil witch, Maleficent, and her Overtakers to save Walt Disney World.

Pratchett, Terry

Johnny and the Bomb (and sequels)

Thirteen-year-old Johnny Maxwell acquires the neighborhood homeless woman's shopping cart when she is injured and discovers that its contents have the ability to send him back in time from 1996 to 1941 England.

Schmidt, Gary

The Wednesday Wars

On Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom, where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

Okay, for Now (sequel to above)

As a fourteen-year-old who just moved to a new town, with no friends, an abusive father, and a louse for an

older brother, Doug Swieteck has all the stats stacked against him until he finds an ally in Lil Spicer--a fiery young lady. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds, and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage.

Stroud, Jonathan

The Amulet of Samarkand (trilogy)

Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace.

White, T.H.

The Sword in the Stone

A retelling of the Arthurian legend.