

## Middle Ages (Novels)

### **At the crossing places by Kevin Crossley-Holland (394 pages) YA**

In late twelfth-century England, thirteen-year-old Arthur goes to begin his new life as squire to Lord Stephen at Holt, where crusaders ready themselves.

### **Bella at midnight by Diane Stanley (278 pages) J**

Raised by peasants, Bella discovers that she is actually the daughter of a knight and finds herself caught up in a terrible plot that will change her life and the kingdom forever.

### **Black horses for the king by Anne McCaffrey (217 pages) A**

Galwyn, son of a Roman Celt, escapes from his tyrannical uncle and joins Lord Artos, later known as King Arthur. Using his talent with languages and way with horses he helps secure and care for the Libyan horses that Artos hopes to use in battle against the Saxons.

### **Blood red horse by K.M. Grant (277 pages) YA**

A special horse named Hosanna changes the lives of two English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin's armies during the Third Crusade.

### **Book of Mordred by Vivian Velde (342 pages) YA**

As the peaceful King Arthur reigns, the five-year-old daughter of Lady Alayna, is abducted by knights who leave their barn burning and their only servant dead.

### **Book of the lion by Michael Cadnum (204 pages) YA**

In twelfth-century England, after his master, a maker of coins for the king, is brutally punished for alleged cheating, seventeen-year-old Edmund finds himself traveling to the Holy Land as squire to a knight crusader on his way to join the forces of Richard Lionheart.

### **Catherine called Birdy by Karen Cushman (205 pages) YA**

The thirteen-year-old daughter of a country knight living in medieval England keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women.

### **Coalition of lions by Elizabeth Wein (210 pages) YA**

After the death of Artos, High King of Britain, and his sons, his daughter Princess Goewin journeys to Aksum to meet Constantine, her intended husband, but finds the country in political turmoil.

### **Crispin at the edge of the world by Avi (234 pages) J**

Branded as traitors by the king's authorities, Crispin and his guardian, Bear, flee to coastal towns in fourteenth-century England, where they perform a musical juggling act and bond as a family after befriending a disfigured girl.

### **Crispin: the cross of lead by Avi (282 pages) J**

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

### **Dogboy by Christopher Russell (259 pages) YA**

In 1346, twelve-year-old Brind, an orphaned kennel boy raised with hunting dogs at an English manor, accompanies his master, along with half of the manor's prized mastiffs, to France, where he must fend for himself when both his master and the dogs are lost at the decisive battle of Crecy.

### **Dragon throne by Michael Cadnum (212 pages) YA**

At the request of Eleanor of Aquitaine, the newly-knighted Edmund and Hubert accompany a young noblewoman on her dangerous pilgrimage from England to Rome.

### **Girl in a cage by Jane Yolen (234 pages) YA**

As English armies invade Scotland in 1306, eleven-year-old Princess Marjorie, daughter of the newly crowned Scottish king, Robert the Bruce, is captured by England's King Edward Longshanks and held in a cage on public display.

**In a dark wood by Michael Cadnum YA**

On orders from the King, the Sheriff of Nottingham seeks to capture the outlaw Robin Hood, but he finds him to be a tricky and elusive foe.

**Incantation by Alice Hoffman (166 pages) YA**

During the Spanish Inquisition, sixteen-year-old Estrella, brought up a Catholic, discovers her family's true identity. When their secret is betrayed by Estrella's best friend, the consequences are tragic.

**Kite Rider by Geraldine McCaughrean (272 pages) YA**

In thirteenth-century China, after trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, twelve-year-old Haoyou has life-changing adventures when he takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and ends up meeting the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

**Knights of the cross: a novel of the Crusades by Tom Harper (370 pages)--A**

In late-eleventh-century Byzantium, Demetrios Askiates is assigned to investigate the murder of a Norman knight during a disastrous winter campaign, following a trail of jealousy, betrayal, and fanaticism.

**Leopard Sword by Michael Cadnum (195 pages) YA**

A knight's squire, exhausted from the Crusades, must use his sword to fight attacking infidels during the return voyage to England.

**Lioness and her knight by Gerald Morris (343 pages) YA**

Headstrong sixteen-year-old Lady Luneta and her distant cousin, Sir Ywain, travel to Camelot and find more adventure than they hoped for until, with the help of a fool, Luneta discovers what she really wants from life.

**Lionclaw: a tale of Rowan Hood by Nancy Springer (122 pages) YA**

Young Lionel, minstrel in the outlaw band of Rowan Hood, daughter of Robin Hood, tries to find his courage when Rowan is abducted from Sherwood Forest.

**Matilda Bone by Karen Cushman (167 pages) J**

Fourteen-year-old Matilda, an apprentice bonesetter and practitioner of medicine in a village in medieval England, tries to reconcile the various aspects of her life, both spiritual and practical.

**Pagan's scribe by Catherine Jinks (357 pages) YA**

In France in 1209, Pagan, now an archdeacon, takes on a new scribe named Isidore, a fifteen-year-old epileptic and an orphan, and together they try to survive the siege of Carcassonne.

**Prince and the pilgrim by Mary Stewart (287 pages)--A**

During the era of King Arthur, Alexander, a young prince sets off on a quest to avenge his father's assassination. Alice, a gentle young lass, accompanies her father on pilgrimages to Holy shrines. They meet, fall in love, and vanquish the foe in the exciting climax.

**Secrets in the house of Delgado by Gloria D. Miklowitz (182 pages) YA**

In Spain in 1492, fourteen-year-old Maria, a Catholic orphan, becomes a servant to a wealthy family of Conversos, converted Jews, at a time when the Jews are being expelled from the country and when the Inquisition is diligently searching for religious heretics.

**Seeing stone by Kevin Crossley-Holland (341 pages) YA**

In late twelfth-century England, a thirteen-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, the events of whose life seem to have many parallels to his own.

**Serpent dreamer by Cecelia Holland (335 pages) A**

Corban Loosetrife returns to his home in Vinland to find his colony destroyed and his beloved wife dead. When his niece has a prophetic dream about a serpent-worshipping army, he undertakes a dangerous quest.

**Sign of the chrysanthemum by Katherine Paterson (132 pages) J**

In twelfth-century Japan, a teenager comes to know himself through contacts with social ills and political unrest while searching for his father in Japan's capital.

**Song of the sparrow by Lisa Ann Sandell (394 pages) YA**

In Britain, nine years after the destruction of their home brings her to live with her father and brothers in the military encampments of Arthur's army, seventeen-year-old Elaine describes her changing perceptions of war and the people around her as she becomes increasingly involved in the bitter struggle against the invading Saxons.

**Soul thief by Cecelia Holland (300 pages) A**

Exiled by his father from his farm on the coast of Ireland because of his refusal to fight for the High King, Corban embarks on a search for his missing twin sister, Mav, kidnapped and taken as a slave during a Viking raid on the farm.

**Sword in the stone by T.H. White (256 pages) J**

This humorous story describes young Arthur's training to become king, under the guidance of Merlin the magician.

**Sword of the rightful king: a novel of King Arthur by Jane Yolen (349 pages) YA**

Merlinus the magician devises a way for King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England--pulling a sword from a stone--but trouble arises when someone else removes the sword first.

**The Cure by Sonia Levitin (258 pages) YA**

A sixteen-year-old boy living in 2407 collides with the past when he finds himself in Strasbourg in 1348 confronting the anti-Semitism that sweeps through Europe during the Black Plague.

**Widow of Jerusalem by Alan Gordon (276 pages) –A**

In 1204, as jester Theophilus and his family are fleeing from the disastrous Fourth Crusade, he recounts the story of how he and the Scarlet Dwarf got caught up in political intrigue and murder in Tyre while Richard the Lionhearted was leading the Third Crusade to free Jerusalem from Saladin.

**Witches' kitchen by Cecelia Holland (384 pages) A**

Fifteen years after killing a Viking marauder Corban and his family have forged a new life for themselves on a rugged, windswept island off the coast of Vinland. Receiving an unexpected visit from an old ally in trouble, Corban decides to break his self-imposed exile to face the reckoning he knows he can not avoid.

**The First Princess of Wales by Karen Harper (618 pages) A**

Hoping to redeem her family's disgraced name, Joan of Kent journeys to the intrigue-filled court of King Edward III, where, as part of her revenge on the royal family for their betrayal of her father, she targets Edward, Prince of Wales, but her vengeance is undermined by her growing feelings for the prince.

**The Thralls Tale by Judith Lindbergh (450 pages) A**

A tale set in Viking Greenland at the turn of the ninth century follows the intertwined lives of three women straddling the pagan past and Christian future.

**Abbreviations: A = adult YA =Young Adult J =children's**

**Most annotations taken and/or adapted from NoveList database**

**Youth Services Department**