Roy Cloud recognizes that all readers need a variety of books from which to choose. Some books may contain mature subject matter. We encourage parents to have conversations with their child about book choices.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse: **Fever 1793 (historical fiction) **Fever 1793** is based on an actual epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia that wiped out 5,000 people—or 10 percent of the city’s population—in three months. It is the story of 16-year-old Mattie Cook, whose life is shattered by the epidemic, as her mother is felled, and the girl and her grandfather must flee for their lives. Later, after much hardship and terror, they return to the deserted town.

**Berk, Josh: **Strike three, You’re Dead (mystery) Lenny Norbeck and his friends The Mikes set out to investigate the suspicious death of a young pitcher at a Phillies game.

**Colfer, Eoin: **Artemis Fowl (fantasy) This book has magic, intrigue, deception, kidnapping, blackmail, computers, weapons, code-breaking, violence, and projectile flatulence, and can’t be faulted for the sheer brilliance of the scheming.

**Fitzgerald, Dawn: **Soccer Chick Rules (sports fiction) Tess Munro, 13, loves soccer. When school sports funding hinges on getting a tax levy voted in, she works hard to make it happen, but her fundraising activities go awry. It’s hopeful but realistic ending sends an important message to any girl with a passion or a cause.

**Fleischman, John: **Phineas Gage: A Gruesome But True Story About Brain Science (non-fiction) This is the true story of Phineas Gage, a railroad construction foreman, whose brain was pierced by a thirteen-pound iron rod in 1848. Phineas not only survived, but became a case study in how the brain functions.

**Green, Tim: **Unstoppable (sports fiction) Harrison’s luck changes when he is finally placed in a loving foster home, where the husband is a football coach! He has always wanted to play, and with his build and determination, soon becomes “unstoppable”, until something occurs that changes everything. Another great book by a former football player.

**Haddix, Margaret: **Among the Hidden (fantasy) In a future world, Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children. Luke has lived all his 12 years in isolation and fear on his family’s farm, until another “third” convinces him that the government is wrong.

**Hart, Philip: **Up in the Air The Story of Bessie Coleman (biography) The first African American woman to become an airplane pilot, Coleman overcame many obstacles in pursuit of her goal. She grew up in poverty but was determined not to spend the rest of her life picking cotton in Waxahachie, Texas. When American flying schools refused to train an African American woman, she enrolled in an aviation school in France, where she became a pilot in 1921.

**Hautman, Pete: **Snatched (mystery) Eleventh-grader Roni Delicata is the sometimes pushy but always dedicated reporter for the school paper, Bloodwater Pump. She meets science
geek Brian Bain, 14, when both are in trouble with the principal. They discover that Alicia Camden, the snooty new kid who lives in a mansion with her cold mother and bland stepfather, has been kidnapped. A story follows with a mix of suspense and humor.

Hunter, Erin: **Warriors: Into the Wild** (fantasy) Rusty, a young house cat, yearns for adventure. When he's offered the chance to join the Thunder Clan, one of the gangs of feral cats in the area; he doesn't hesitate. Renamed Firepaw, he becomes an apprentice and begins to train as a warrior.

Klages, Ellen: **Green Glass Sea** (historical fiction) Two girls spend a year in Los Alamos as their parents work on the secret gadget that will end World War II. Dewey is a mechanically minded 10-year-old who gets along fine with the scientists at the site, but is teased by girls her own age. As the story unfolds, Dewey is forced into a situation beyond her control involving another girl her age.

Korman, Gordon: **Ungifted** (realistic fiction) Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Law, Ingrid: **Savvy** (fantasy) Beaumont family members all receive their “savvy” on their thirteenth birthdays. A “savvy” can be creating electricity, storms, or other types of world changing talents! Mibs is about to turn thirteen and dreaming of her “savvy” and her delicious birthday cake, when her father is seriously injured in an accident and all plans are changed. Savvy is full of great adventures and characters!

Lupica, Mike: **Heat** (sports fiction) Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

Miller, Sarah: **Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller** (historical fiction) This is Anne Sullivan's story, told in first person, including excerpts of Annie Sullivan's letters at the beginning of chapters. Annie was a teenager who traveled to Alabama to work with Helen, who was blind, deaf, and completely wild when Annie first came into her life. Little did either of them know then that they would have a breakthrough within weeks of Annie's arrival, and that they would remain friends for the rest of Annie's life.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds: **Blizzard's Wake** (historical fiction) In 1941, when a severe blizzard hits Bismarck, North Dakota, a girl tries to save her stranded father and brother. During the storm she inadvertently helps the man who killed her mother in an accident four years before.

Nix, Garth: **Mister Monday** (fantasy) Arthur Penhaligon’s school year is not off to a good start. On his first day, he suffers an asthma attack while running cross country and dreams that a mysterious figure hands him a key shaped like the minute hand of a clock. However, when he wakes up, he still has the key. That’s when strange things begin to happen.
Nixon, Joan Lowery: The Séance (mystery) Lauren is reluctant to participate in the séance, and she feels the first foreboding of evil shortly after the room is darkened. When the lights come back on, her fear turns to shock: Sara Martin is missing, even though all the doors and windows are locked from the inside.

Paulsen, Gary: Guts (biography) The author relates how specific incidents in his life inspired parts of his books about Brian Robeson. (Hatchet series)

Pearson, Ridley: Steel Trapp The Challenge (adventure) Steven Steel Trapp, so nicknamed for a photographic memory tight as a steel strap, is aboard a train on his way to the National Science Challenge in Washington, D.C., when he unwittingly runs afoul of a gangster with ties to overseas terrorist organizations.

Oppel, Kenneth: The Nest (Horror) When wasps come to Steve in a dream offering to fix his sick baby brother, he thinks all he has to do is say yes. But yes may not mean what Steve thinks it means.

Sloan, Holly: Counting by 7s (realistic fiction) Willow lives with her adoptive parents, and is extremely gifted. She is also obsessed with counting by 7’s, nature, and medical conditions. When Willow’s adoptive parents are killed in a car accident, her new friend Mai convinces her mother to take Willow in. This book is full of interesting characters!

Stead, Rebecca: When You Reach Me (fantasy) Sixth-grader Miranda and her best friend Sal live in 1978 New York City with her mother. Her life compass is Madeleine L’Engle’s book A Wrinkle in Time. When she receives a series of mysterious notes that claim to want to save her life, she comes to believe that they are from someone who knows the future.

Stephens, John: The Emerald Atlas (fantasy) When Kate, Michael and Emma’s parents suddenly disappear, they are shuffled to various foster homes until being transported to a land ruled by an evil Countess and her army of Screechers. The children find themselves on an adventure that takes them to other worlds where they battle all kinds of creatures and people! The power of the Atlas, one of three magical books, has been unleashed and the three children are in the midst of it all with only a few allies to help save them.

Williams-Garcia, Rita: One Crazy Summer (historical fiction) Eleven-year-old Delphine has only a few fragmented memories of her mother, Cecile, a poet who abandoned the family in Brooklyn after giving birth to her third daughter. In the summer of 1968, Delphine’s father decides that seeing Cecile is “something whose time had come,” and Delphine boards a plane with her sisters to Cecile’s home in Oakland. What they find there is far from their California dreams of Disneyland and movie stars.