Author of the Month

Chris Van Allsburg is the winner of two Caldecott Medals, for Jumanji and The Polar Express, as well as the recipient of a Caldecott Honor Book for The Garden of Abdul Gasazi. The author and illustrator of numerous picture books for children, he has also been awarded the Regina Medal for lifetime achievement in children's literature. In 1982, Jumanji won the National Book Award and in 1996, it was made into a popular feature film. Chris Van Allsburg was formerly an instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design. He lives in Rhode Island with his wife and two children.

2017 Master List Grades 9-12

All American Boys / Jason Reynolds
When sixteen-year-old Rashad is mistakenly accused of stealing, classmate Quinn witnesses his brutal beating at the hands of a police officer who happens to be the older brother of his best friend.

All the Bright Places / Jennifer Niven.
Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, both teetering on the edge, it’s the beginning of an unlikely relationship; a journey to discover the “natural wonders” of the state of Indiana, and two teen’s desperate desire to heal and save one another.
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Mosquitoland by David Arnold
When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.

Need by Joelle Charbonneau
In the exploration of the dark side of social media, ant he government control and manipulation, the teenagers in a small town are drawn deeper and deeper into a social networking site that promises to grant their every need—regardless of the consequences.

Not After Everything by Michelle Levy
After his mom kills herself, Tyler shuts out the world—until falling in love with Jordyn helps him find his way toward a hopeful future.

The Rig by Joe Ducie
Fifteen-year old Will Drake has made a career of breaking our of high security prisons. His talents have landed him at the Rig, a specialist juvenile holding facility in the middle of the Artic Ocean. No one can escape from the Rig. No one except Drake.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
Told in alternating points of view, this masterful work of historical fiction is inspired by the real life tragedy that was the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff—the greatest maritime disaster in history. As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the wars final dangers, only to find themselves abroad a ship with at target on its hull.

Jackaby / William Ritter.
Newly arrived in 1892 England, Abigail Rook becomes assistant to R. F. Jackaby, an investigator of the unexplained with the ability to see supernatural beings, and she helps him delve into a case of serial murder which, Jackaby is convinced, is due to a nonhuman creature.

None of the Above / I. W. Gregorio
Homecoming queen Kristin Lattimer has a hard enough time dealing with her body, but her visit to the doctor reveals a difficult truth. Kristin is intersex, which means that though she looks like a girl, she has male chromosomes, not to mention boy “parts”, and after her diagnosis is leaked to the whole school, her identity is thrown into question.

The Red Queen / Victoria Aveyard
In a world divided by blood — those with common Red blood serve the Silver-blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities — 17-year-old Mare, a Red, discovers she has an ability of her own. To cover up this impossibility, the king forces her to pretend to be a lost Silver princess, and betroths her to one of his own sons. But Mare risks everything and uses her new position to help the Scarlet Guard—a growing Red rebellion — even as her heart tugs her in an impossible direction.

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Kids + Libraries = Learning