

# Secular Book List: Complete List of Books

By Alisa Avruch and Sharon Schwartz

**Grade Level:** Elementary, Middle School, High School, Administration

## **Description:**

**Updated summer 2015!** The Secular Book List contains almost 4000 secular children's books which have been evaluated for appropriateness of content. This list is designed to enable parents and educators to choose secular reading material which is suitable to be read by Jewish children. An explanation for the criteria used for evaluation is included.

The Secular Book List is available in four formats:

1. [Secular Book List: Complete List of Books \(A\\_00663\)](#). CURRENT FILE. This item contains the entire list of evaluated books, including those books which were not approved. Detailed comments on each book are provided to help adults discern the appropriateness of content. Download this item for all books which have been reviewed by this contributor.
2. [Secular Book List: Approved and Questionable Books\(A\\_00663-05\)](#). This item contains only those books whose content was deemed acceptable or questionable and includes comments explaining why the books were rated as such. It does not include books which have not been approved. Download this item if you would like to select books from a list which does not contain books which were deemed inappropriate.
3. [Secular Book List: Approved Books Only \(A\\_00663-03\)](#). This item contains only those books from the Secular Book List which were deemed appropriate. This file does not include comments as it is intended for student use.
4. [Secular Book List: New Books Reviewed in 2015 \(A\\_00663-06\)](#). This item contains all books (approved, questionable and unapproved) which were reviewed in the year 2015. Download this item if you have a previous version of the Secular Book List and would like to see just those books which have been added most recently.

How to download:

- Download the print-ready PDF file for the non-editable version of the Secular Book List: Complete List of Books, criteria for evaluation and lesson plan.
- OPTIONAL: Download the Excel file for an editable version of the Secular Book List: Complete List of Books. (Does not include lesson plan or criteria for evaluation.)

- If you would like one of the other formats of the Secular Book List (listed above) search Chinuch.org for “Secular Book List” and select the item of your choice.

**Goals/Objectives:**

Parents and teachers will use this comprehensive list to determine the appropriateness of books for their children and students.

**Instructions:**

1. Read carefully through the cover sheet to understand the rationale and methods behind this book list.
2. Make sure to only give out to students the approved book list **without** the comments.
3. Happy reading!

**Additional Tips:**

- Please note that this list includes detailed (and sometimes graphic) comments. It is only meant to be used by adults. For a list of books to give to children to take to the library, please see [Secular Book List: Approved Books Only](#) (A\_00663-03).
- A Classics Analysis List, which discusses the classics frequently assigned in schools, is also available on Chinuch.org. Search “Classics Analysis”.

Revised 8/18/2010

Dear Parents and Teachers,

As concerned mothers we have noticed that the quality and content of the books available to our children leaves much to be desired. As voracious readers ourselves, we know that the words a child (or adult!) reads can leave a permanent impression on his or her *neshama*. We also recognize that many children need the outlet that reading provides. We have therefore undertaken BE”H to compile an ongoing list of books that we have checked so that we can more easily provide our children with appropriate reading material.

The attached list is made up of our own personal opinions. It is not officially endorsed by any Rav or Yeshiva. It is entirely possible that we may have erred or overlooked some problems, or that you will disagree with our assessments. We apologize for any mistakes or unclear recommendations.

**The complete list is not meant to be used by children**, as the comments column contains information that is inappropriate for them. If you wish to give a list to a child to take to the library, please use the “approved only” version, which does not have comments.

**Using this list:**

- Explanation of designations:
  - ❖ OK – we consider book to be acceptable
  - ❖ OK? – book is generally acceptable; parent should read comments to decide if appropriate
  - ❖ OK??- book is questionable; parent should read comments to decide if appropriate
  - ❖ N? – book is significantly problematic but may be acceptable in certain situations as determined by parent
  - ❖ N – not acceptable
  - ❖ C – Classic. Book generally would not be read as independent reading. Comments for educators can be found on Classics Analysis List.
- Generally, we included grade levels only for recommended or questionable books.
- Where a book series is known by the series name, and has multiple authors (especially when the authors’ names are not written on the book jackets), we generally used the series name in place of the author name (eg, American Girls, Wishbone).
- General notes about a series are often included in the comments about the first book listed for that series.
- Please note that the recommended grade levels are based on our own (non-scientific) analysis, based on our extensive experience as readers and parents of readers.
- This list may be copied and distributed, as a community service, as long as it does not have additional information added, and includes the cover page.
- This list is available in 2 formats:
  - (1) Complete list of approved and unapproved books, with comments
  - (2) Approved books only, with no comments

*We welcome your comments and questions.*

Alisa Avruch/Milwaukee, WI  
[Kosherbooks@juno.com](mailto:Kosherbooks@juno.com)

Sharon Schwartz/ Flushing, NY  
(206) 984-7294

# Criteria used for determining a book's acceptability

## Introduction

Each person has different levels of sensitivity about problematic issues in books. Please pay close attention to our "comments" column so that you can make your own judgments. As often as possible we include page numbers so that you can more easily decide on a book's appropriateness for a particular child or group. Please bear in mind that a book which may be acceptable for one child may be entirely inappropriate for another, depending on the child's maturity, reading level, reading style (i.e., skims vs. reads carefully), and personality.

Our main reasons for labeling a book as being problematic, fall into the basic categories listed below. Occasionally a book does not fit into any of these categories, but the overall tone is problematic. When this is the case, we will note it in the "comments" column.

## Boy/girl relationship, *tznius*, and *negiah*

We are particularly sensitive to books that include this as a main focus, especially when the characters involved are not anywhere near marriageable age. Even minor boy/girl relationships will generally be rated with 'OK?' or 'OK??'. We will note if the relationship results in marriage, and if it has only minor *negiah* described. Books which do not contain actual boy/girl relationships but focus on thoughts or dreams of such relationships can be equally problematic. We generally overlook illustrations or descriptions of girls who are wearing "regular" clothing, even if not *tzania* (eg, pants and a t-shirt), while more extreme cases (eg, bathing suits) will generally be noted. Some of the terms we use in the comments include: *minor romantic negiah* – handholding, quick hugs, kisses on the cheek, etc, mentioned in passing; *non-romantic negiah* – usually between "friends" or cousins or step siblings, with no romantic overtones.

## Religion

Books that actually glorify or describe in detail another religion, are considered questionable or unacceptable, depending on frequency, length, and importance to plot. When we feel that pages can be torn out or lines crossed out without ruining the story line, we note page numbers. Please note that we chose to use the term "J—" for the subject of Christian worship. (Please note that the comments are meant for use by *frum* people; please be sensitive if sharing the list with non-*frum* or non-Jewish teachers).

Books that mention religion in passing, or use a holiday as the setting without discussing it in religious terms, will often have a OK? or an "OK" with a comments. We will note if the religion is mentioned in a neutral way (eg: "he prayed" - without describing the prayers; quotes from the Old Testament; etc.).

Books that bring up *hashkafik* issues (eg, evolution, dinosaurs, age of the world, etc.) will be noted in the comments section with a suggestion for parental (or teacher) guidance in discussing these topics with the child before he reads the book. Detailed *hashkafik* issues in a book will often render it "N".

## Language

Books that are filled with objectionable language are considered "not recommended". Books with only a few unacceptable words will be generally be noted in the comments. We differentiate between *major language* (real curses), *minor language* (words that are not curses but we don't permit in our homes), *slang and street language* (rough language, unrefined language that sets a tone that a parent or teacher may not like), and *bathroom language* (self explanatory – usually very juvenile).

Acceptability of language is dependant on the age of the intended audience. Minor language that would be unacceptable in an early grade school book, may be noted with “?” in a book intended for older readers.

A well written book for older readers, which has no major issues other than a lot of minor language, or some major language, will generally be rated “OK??”.

## **Violence**

Often violence in books is not considered universally problematic; it can be hard to judge. For example, an historical fiction book about the Civil War will have some gory battle scenes; a survival book may have man vs. animal violence; a fantasy book may have fights with or between magical creatures who are obviously not realistic. We try to note violence in the comments section and leave it to the parent/teacher to decide. Real violence and bullying among real people, that is glorified or exciting, may render a book “N”.

## **Divorce, Death, Broken Families**

When divorce is treated as a matter of fact, not glorified in any way, and mentioned in passing, we usually consider that acceptable. If divorce, death, broken families, or dysfunctional families is an important focus of a book, we will note that in the comments section. Children in similar situation *r*’l might find such books very therapeutic, but for others it might be completely inappropriate

## **Middos**

Ideally, we wish all books would model good Middos for our children, but this is unfortunately not the case. Books which describe truly horrible Middos are considered “N”, especially when it is the main focus of the story. If minor, it is mentioned in the comments; we also note whether the character seems to learn his lesson at the end of the book.

## **Fantasy and Magic**

We are not overly concerned about fantasy if a child is old enough to distinguish between fantasy and reality, and knows that real magic is *assur*. However, we recognize that there are varying opinions on this topic, and if it is a theme it is usually noted in the comments column

## **Street Reality, “Gritty” books**

Some books focus on the unfortunate realities of the Western world, which we may not want to expose our children to, eg: drugs, homelessness, abuse, alcoholism, cults, etc. We note this in the comments section so that parents/teachers can make informed decisions.

## **TV, Movies, rock music, Internet, and other media**

If a book glorifies the secular media or includes a great deal of its culture and language, we note this in the comments. If it is only mentioned in passing, we often overlook it, as this is, unfortunately, a regular part of the western world.

Parents should be aware that some books provide web sites for readers to use in conjunction with the book. Our recommendation regarding the book does not include an endorsement of the content of the websites, nor does it sanction children’s use of the internet. We will note in our comments when websites are included in a book.

# The Kosher Book List

An Assessment of Children's Books for Parents and Teachers  
*updated July, 2015*

created by: Alisa Avruch and Sharon Schwartz

*This list may be copied, in whole or in part, as long as it is not revised and includes this cover page*

*This list is usually changed every 1-2 years*

*Please Note: Some comments are specific and detailed.*

*They are intended for adults to use to determine acceptability of books.*

*Additional copies can be obtained from:*

**Internet:** chinuch.org (search 'secular book list')

**E-mail:** [kosherbooks@juno.com](mailto:kosherbooks@juno.com)

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #01 - The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet | 2-4   | OK  | 2 boys and a girl help save a magical world that they accidentally find when they clean up the boy's basement.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #02 Journey to the Volcano Palace            | 2-4   | OK? | Children go into a secret volcano to steal back a magical jewel. Lies to his mother to protect magical land. Language-weird, stinky, dumb, creepy.                                  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #03 - The Mysterious Island                  | 2-4   | OK  | Children help save magical world.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #04 - City in the Clouds                     | 2-4   | OK? | Children visit an invisible flying city and help prevent the bad guy from gaining power. The Guardians of the magical city are dinosaurs - no mention of years.                     |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #05 - The Great Ice Battle                   | 2-4   | OK  | Children help save the city from an ice curse.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #06 - The Sleeping Giant of Goll             | 2-4   | OK  | Children prevent the bad guy from getting more power. An innocent hi-five between boys and girl.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #07 - Into the Land of the Lost              | 2-4   | OK  | Children go to a ghost land to save their friend.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #08 The Golden Wasp                          | 2-4   | OK  | Children accidentally bring something from the magic world into their world, thereby upsetting the balance between the worlds   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #09 The Tower of the Elf King                | 2-4   | OK? | Unimportant mentions of children mixed swimming.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #10 - Quest for the Queen                    | 2-4   | OK  | Children help save the queen.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #11 The Hawk Bandits of Tarkoom              | 2-4   | OK? | Children help destroy an evil city that reappears from the past. Girl is happy to see her friends (boys) so she hugs them- not romantic. Language- weird, creeps.                   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #12 - Under the Serpent                      | 2-4   | OK? | Picture of a sea serpent/lady in low cut outfit on cover - somewhat cartoonish.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #13: The Mask of Maliban                     | 2-4   | OK? | Children try to prevent bad guys from getting a magical mask. One of the children discovers that he has magical powers. Non-religious mention of Halloween. Minor language: doofus. |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #14 - Voyage of the Jaffa Wind               | 2-4   | OK  | Children help rescue their friends  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #18 - Search for the Dragon Ship             | 2-4   | OK  | Children rescue world from evil princess.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #19: The Coiled Viper                        | 2-4   | OK  | Children chase bad guys who came into their world from the magic world.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #22 - The Isle of Mists                      | 2-4   | OK  | Kids help prevent evil man from taking over the world.  |

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|------------------|--------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #24 - The Race to Doobesh            | 2-4   | OK?  | Children prevent beasts from creating powerful armor. Unimportant mention of children seeing a movie in a theater.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #25: The Riddle of Zorfendorf Castel | 2-4   | OK   | Children try to stop bad guys from using a portal to their world.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #26: The Moon Dragon                 | 2-4   | OK   | Children join townspeople in battle with the bad guys. A bit more violence than the other books in this series, but still pretty tame.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #27 - The Chariot of Queen Zara      | 2-4   | OK   | Children rescue world from evil genie.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #28 In The Shadow of Goll            | 2-4   | OK?  | Kids unsuccessfully try to rescue their friend from being transformed into a villain. Sad. Language- creepy.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #29 - Pirates of the Purple Dawn     | 2-4   | OK   | Children prevent bad guys from the past from building an evil city.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #30 - Escape from Tabar-Loo          | 2-4   | OK   | Children help rescue the king and queen.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #31 - Queen of Shadow Thorn          | 2-4   | OK   | Children are not sure if they should trust a queen from the future. Book ends very uncertainly - are the children OK or not?  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #32 - The Treasure of the Orkins     | 2-4   | OK   | Children help recover a stolen treasure   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #33: Flight of the Blue Serpent      | 2-4   | OK?  | Children battle bad guys and give a dying serpent back his scale. Girl holds hand of boy she thinks is dead and cries. Somewhat scary.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon #36 Knights of the Ruby Wand         | 2-4   | OK?  | Kids try to find a magical wand to rescue their friends. A bit convoluted for younger readers. Non romantic negiah. Language- weird, dudes  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon Special Edition #5                   |       | N    | Children go to the future and the past to save the magical world. In the future a boy and girl hug "it was an embrace that never seemed to want to end"; page 127 illustration.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon Special Edition #7 The Genie King    | 2-4   | OK?? | Children try to find a medallion in a city that is in a bottle. Very subtle boy/girl, some children might miss it. One accidental hug (p66 chapt. 5) some blushing, goodbye hug (pg. 167 chapt.12) language- dummy, dumb, minor bathroom humor. Subtly alludes to Santa Claus but never mentioned by name.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | The Secrets of Droon Special Edition #8 The Final         | 2-4   | OK?? | Conclusion to series, children save the magical world. Language- creepy. Non-religious xmas, non romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Abbott, Tony | Time Surfers #1 Space Bingo                               | 2-4   | OK?? | Note on series: Children travel to the future and try to save the world. A lot of juvenile slang. In each book preview of the next book in the back. In this book middos among classmates and siblings. A few brief references to a meteor crashing into earth sixty five million years ago and killing all the dinosaurs. Brief mention of rockband. Nonromantic negiah. Language:nerd, weird, |

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|------------------|-----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Abbott, Tony    | Time Surfers #2 Orbit Wipeout                           | 2-4   | OK?  | Comic book hero and villains. Brief mentions of enjoying eating snacks while watching TV. Language: gross, stinko, stupid, creepy, weird, stinky.  |
|                  | Abbott, Tony    | Time Surfers #3 Mondo Meltdown                          | 2-4   | OK?  | Mention of watching TV, reading comic books, Language- freak, weird, stinky, stupid, nerd, dorky, gross.   |
|                  | Abrahams, Peter | Behind the Curtain: An Echo Falls Mystery               | 6-10  | N?   | Girl solves mystery of steroid ring. Lots of language: damn, hell, piss, etc. Mild boy/girl - girl thinks of kissing boy, then is interrupted. Other books in series are worse.  |
|                  | Abrahams, Peter | Into the Dark: An Echo Falls Mystery                    |       | N    | Girl solves mystery of murder and clears grandfather. Lots of language: damn, hell, piss, bitch. Very minor boy/girl incident at end. Father has affair, leading to wife almost divorcing him by end of book.  |
|                  | Adam, Paul      | Max Cassidy - Escape from Shadow Island                 | 5-8   | OK?? | 14-year-old boy escape-artist tries to solve mystery of his mother who was framed for his father's supposed murder. In absence of his parents, he is cared for by his father's performance assistant, a beautiful young woman (30-ish?) - totally innocent. She hugs him several times out of motherly concern; once, a man says "don't I get a hug too?" (she shakes his hand). Description of her beauty and how young men wait to see her after act. When attacked by bully, boy hits him in groin. Some language: stupid, pee, creep, crap, (once each), J--- used as exclamation (once). Hell - p. 170, 242, 278. damn - p. 245. First in series - later books should be checked. |
|                  | Aden, William   | The Three Investigators: Mystery of the Shrinking House | 5-7   | OK   | Boys solve a case involving art forgers. Other books in this series listed under Arthur, Robert.   |
|                  | Adler, David    | Cam Jansen and the Spaghetti Max Mystery                | 2-4   | OK?  | Children help find a lost little girl. A few mentions of boy and girl being BFFs (best friends forever) and doing everything together. Totally innocent.   |
|                  | Adler, David    | Cam Jansen The Graduation Day Mystery                   | 2-4   | OK   | Children find missing graduation present. Brief mention that girl and boy are best friends.  |
|                  | Adler, David A  | Don't Talk to Me About The War                          |       | N    | A boy deals with his mother's worsening multiple sclerosis during WW II. A lot of boy/girl, juvenile romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Adler, David A  | It's a Baby, Andy Russell                               | 3-5   | OK?  | When a boy's parents go to the hospital to have a baby his very clean aunt comes to care for him. He misunderstands her and thinks she will take away his pets. Children don't speak very nicely about her and to her. Mention of TV cartoons. Language- gross   |
|                  | Adler, David A  | Parachuting Hamsters and Andy Russell                   | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy and girl spend the weekend with the girl's fancy aunt and uncle and confront a spoiled boy who is playing mean tricks. Boy practices being polite by pretending to kiss female's hands. Mild juvenile bathroom humor. Language- stupid   |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Andy Russell, Not Wanted by the Police                  | 3-5   | OK   | Children suspect that a robber is living in neighbor's empty house. Minor mention of daydreaming in school while pretending to listen.   |

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|------------------|-----------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Adler, David A. | Bones and the Birthday Mystery #5                | 2-3   | OK? | Simple, easy to read mystery. Boy finds his grandfather's lost birthday present. Cartoonish picture of boy's grandfather with one arm on boy's shoulder and other arm on elderly "girlfriend's" shoulder. Kids this age probably won't get it.                     |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Bones and the Dog Gone Mystery #2                | 2-3   | OK  | Simple, easy to read mystery - a boy finds his dog and magnifying glass.   |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Cam Jansen and the Barking Treasure Mystery      | 2-4   | OK  | black & white picture of ladies water-skiing in bathing suits  |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Cam Jansen and the Chocolate Fudge Mystery       | 2-4   | OK  | Children catch a bank robber.  |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Dinosaur Bones | 2-4   | OK? | Kids solve mystery of who is stealing dinosaur bones at the museum. Doesn't go into evolution at all. Does talk about different types of dinosaurs.  |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Monster Movie  | 2-4   | OK? | Children find thief of a movie reel. Fine except that entire setting is a movie theater.   |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Cam Jansen and the Triceratops Pops Mystery      | 2-4   | OK? | Children help catch a thief in a store that sells music tapes and CDs. Minor mentions of rock bands.   |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Cam Jansen and the Valentine Baby Mystery        | 2-4   | OK? | Cam's mother has twins on Valentine's day - mentioned a few times as being a nice day to have a baby - no religion.  |
|                  | Adler, David A. | Cam Jansen: The Ghostly Mystery                  | 2-4   | OK? | Children catch robbers while they are in line to buy tickets to a rock band called "Triceratops Pops", who wear dinosaur costumes while perfuming. A few humorous descriptions of unusual people who are waiting in line, e.g. a woman with green and purple hair. |
|                  | Adler, David A. | School Trouble for Andy Russel                   | 3-5   | N?  | Boy keeps getting into unintentional trouble with substitute. Lots of description of mean tricks played on sub, some chutzpah.   |
|                  | Adler, David A. | The Many Troubles of Andy Russell                | 3-5   | OK? | Cute story of well meaning fourth grade boy who gets into trouble. Tries to convince parents to let his black female friend (not romantic) move in while her parents recover from an accident. When they agree he hugs her (not romantic).                         |
|                  | Adler,David     | Cam Jansen The Basketball Mystery                | 2-4   | OK  | Children help find valuable basketball stolen at a high school basketball game.  |
|                  | Adler,David     | Cam Jansen The First Day of School Mystery       | 2-4   | OK? | Children figure out who stole their teachers car. Gym teacher tells fifth graders to hold hands on line- boy and girl hold hands and comment that they feel like they are in kindergarten- completely innocent. Class clown makes jokes to annoy teacher.          |
|                  | Adler,David     | Cam Jansen The Mystery of the Circus Clown       | 2-4   | OK  | Children help find pickpockets dressed up like clowns.   |

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|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Adler,David      | Cam Jansen The School Play Mystery            | 2-4   | OK   | Children figure out who stole the admission money to their play that they were collecting for charity.  |
|                  | Adler,David      | Young Cam Jansen and the Dinosaur Game        | 1-2   | OK   | Children discover who cheated at a game where they guessed how many plastic dinosaurs are in a jar. Other than the fact the toys are dinosaur shaped nothing objectionable.   |
|                  | Adler,David      | Young Cam Jansen and the Lion Lunch Mystery   | 1-2   | OK   | Children help find their friend's lunch.  |
|                  | Agell, Charlotte | The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister |       | N    | Girl's parents are divorced and father now lives with another man.  |
|                  | Ahlberg, Allan   | My Brother's Ghost                            | 3-5   | N?   | Strange little book of a woman's recollections of her childhood. She was orphaned at a young age and sent to live with a somewhat mean aunt and uncle. Her ten year old brother dies when a car hits him and he comes back as a ghost. Somewhat poignant and also somewhat believable for this age group. Mention of having a boyfriend at age 14.  |
|                  | Ahlberg, Allan   | The Better Brown Stories                      | 4-6   | N?   | Unusual book. Characters in book keep approaching their author to rewrite their story more to their liking. At one point, author makes a girl 2 years older and gives her a boyfriend and has him kiss her on the mouth - she tells him she doesn't like it. One boy asks for an X-mas story - ends up being about a snowman - boy is disappointed that the snowman isn't like the one he saw on a film.    |
|                  | Ahlberg, Allan   | The Children who Smelled a Rat                | 2-4   | OK   | Children are suspicious of changes in teacher and find out she's her evil twin. Fun read - short text and illustrations will appeal to younger readers, but funny enough for older ones.  |
|                  | Aiken, Joan      | A Necklace of Raindrops and other stories     | 4-6   | OK   | Collection of short stories. One brief mention of X-mas trees.  |
|                  | Aiken, Joan      | Arabel and Mortimer                           | 3-6   | OK?  | Continuation of Arabel series. Comical black and white illustration of a lady in a backless gown. Language: drat.   |
|                  | Aiken, Joan      | Arabel's Raven                                | 3-6   | OK?  | Cute adventures of a girl and her mischievous pet raven. Language: drat, nincompoop   |
|                  | Aiken, Joan      | Black Hearts in Battersea                     | 4-6   | OK?? | Continuation of story of peasant boy in "Wolves of Willoughby Chase". He goes to town to attend art school and finds himself caught up in a band of rebels against royalty. Finds out he is royalty himself. Brief unimportant incident of a man tickling a girl against her will to get her to go out with him (p. 59-60). Language: a lot of hackney slang that kids probably won't get; dammit (p. 119). |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                 | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Aiken, Joan       | Midwinter Nightingale                 | 5-8   | N?   | Continuation of 'Wolves' series. Girl helps dying king transfer power to his successor. Passing mentions of illegitimate children - no explanation. Church annuls marriage so king could remarry. A girl wants to marry the heir - silly one way courtship. Mention that a child resulted from a man's passing interest in a milkmaid but that "didn't count". Minor language: stupid, idiotic.   |
|                  | Aiken, Joan       | Night-Birds on Nantucket              | 5-7   | OK?  | Continuation of story of girl who was shipwrecked in "Black Hearts in Battersea". She is rescued by a whaling ship and helps capture a band of rebels. The language and dialects are getting increasingly difficult as this series goes on. Story is engaging but children may not have patience to figure out the dialogue. Girls are chutzpadik to a cruel woman who is posing as her aunt - she seemingly deserves to be treated this way but it is a poor show of middos. |
|                  | Aiken, Joan       | The Cuckoo Tree                       | 5-8   | OK?  | Continuation of "The Stolen Lake". Girl helps save the king's life. Lots of magic and witchcraft. Setting is St. Paul's Cathedral but only religion is invoking saints' names, eg: "Why not in the name of St. Pancras?" (p 243). Difficult dialect.  |
|                  | Aiken, Joan       | The Stolen Lake                       | 5-8   | OK?  | Continuation of "Night Birds on Nantucket". On her way back to England, girl ends up on an island and helps defeat an evil queen. Lots of strange magic. Many references to King Arthur. The island people worship a god named Sol and give him human sacrifices. Relatively tame romance leads to marriage many years later. Non-romantic negiah. Difficult dialect.   |
|                  | Aiken, Joan       | The Witch of Clattering Shaws         | 5-8   | OK?? | Continuation of series. A girl helps find an heir to the throne since her friend, the current king of England, isn't happy in the job. Minor magic, magical creatures, a witch. Minor religion - mostly tongue in cheek references to saints and their last words before they die. Language: hell hag (meaning witch), piss. Lots of difficult dialect like the other books in the series.  |
|                  | Aiken, Joan       | The Wolves of Willoughby Chase        | 4-6   | OK   | Two girls outsmart wicked governess with help of a peasant boy. Describes some very cruel adults who eventually get punished, but also some very kind adults. Girls dress like boys to save themselves.   |
|                  | Aiken, Joan       | Up the Chimney Down and other stories |       | N    | Collection of short stories. Some are fine but some have boy/girl, religion, language.  |
| new              | Albertalli, Becky | Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda     |       | N    | Extremely inappropriate: Alternative lifestyles, extreme language, very inappropriate references.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                              | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Alberts, Nancy | Teeth Week                         | 2-3   | OK?  | Second grader worries that she will be the only one in her class not to lose a tooth. She is confused about a classmate who is often mean and a tease, but occasionally does nice things as well. Brief mention of bobbing for apples at a Halloween party. Language- darn, drat, dumb.   |
|                  | Albom, Mitch   | The Five People You Meet in Heaven | 11+   | C    | See Classics Analysis list.   |
|                  | Albom, Mitch   | The Time Keeper                    | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis list.   |
|                  | Albom, Mitch   | Tuesdays with Morrie               | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Alcock, Vivien | Stranger at the Window             | 6-7   | OK?? | Children of social activist mother secretly hide illegal alien child in house. When mother discovers her & wants to report her, children are chutzpadik and criticize her for being a hypocrite. "Brotherly" kiss between friends   |
|                  | Alcock, Vivien | The Cuckoo Sister                  | 6-8   | N?   | A wealthy girl eagerly awaits the return of her kidnapped sister but is shocked when a girl raised in the slums claims to be her. Many descriptions of slum life including a somewhat dysfunctional mother, her drunken boyfriend, gambling, "men friends", going to the disco, the pub, etc. Cover illustration of a 12 year old girl wearing a very tight miniskirt and makeup. A lot of middos between siblings and chutzpah towards parents and housekeeper (due to deep seated issues and emotions). Non religious xmas, brief reference to bible story of the "prodigal son". A few mentions of praying in church, kneeling in church. Language- stupid, dumb, brat, weird, bums, flipping, damn (twice), idiot, hell (twice), bitch (once). Girl sneaks a magazine called "Real Love and Confessions" out of her housekeeper's bag and gets unrealistic ideas about falling in love. When someone says the girl's mother beat her she pulls up her skirt to show she has no bruises, revealing her underwear; a boy whistles. A lot of affectionate negiah between 2 teens but not overtly romantic. |
|                  | Alcock, Vivien | The Red-Eared Ghosts               | 6-8   | N?   | Strange story of girl who thinks she is seeing ghosts and discovers time-warp and parallel universe. Side story of teacher falling in love - including kiss. Mention of poor maids who disappear and show up later "with child", falsely claiming they were married - may go over kid's heads, or might raise questions.  |
|                  | Alcock, Vivien | The Stonewalkers                   | 4-6   | N?   | Girl accidentally causes stone statues to come to life, with dangerous results. Language: hell, etc. Juvenile religious discussions about whether there is a G-d and whether he cares what you say or do.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                       | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Alcock, Vivien     | The Sylvia Game                             | 5-8   | N?  | Girl tries to solve mystery of her artist father's secrecy. Thinks she has found evidence of his dishonesty - surprising twists at the end. Boy tells her that he is a bastard - not explicitly defined- only that father was a fair gypsy that "moved on before he had time to hear I was on the way". Some chutzpah to parents.  |
|                  | Alcock, Vivien     | The Trial of Anna Cotman                    | 5-8   | OK? | Girl joins secret society; when she breaks the rules, finds she is in danger. Turns out leader was on drugs; is caught in end. Somewhat disturbing; everything comes out OK in the end.  |
|                  | Alcott, Louisa May | Little Men                                  | 6-8   | N?  | minor religion scattered throughout - 2 pages of J-- - can be torn out. Juvenile and innocent boy/girl. Minor women's lib. Minor push for co-ed education.   |
|                  | Alcott, Louisa May | Little Women                                | 6-9   | C   | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Alexander, Lloyd   | The Arkadians                               | 6-8   | N?  | A group of unlikely friends help save the kingdom. Essentially a mild love story that results in 3 couples marrying. Mild romantic negiah- hand holding and brief kisses. Mild flirting. On back cover is a frontal statue of a women almost completely unclothed. Magical religion. Language-stupid, jackass/ass (usually referring to an animal), dumb, idiot, stupid, |
|                  | Alexander, Lloyd   | The Black Cauldron                          | 4-7   | OK? | Medieval-style mission to find evil magical cauldron. Some knight-type violence  |
|                  | Alexander, Lloyd   | The High King                               | 7-9   | OK? | a fantasy - lots of magic. A mild running romance - a few hugs - end up marrying. Can easily be crossed out. Some difficult old-fashioned language   |
|                  | Alexander, Lloyd   | The Illyrian Adventure                      | 5-7   | OK  | Girl and guardian go to an island to see if the legend in the book The Iliad is true. Minor non affectionate negiah. girl is a rebel and wears "pantaloons"  |
|                  | Alexander, Lloyd   | the Philadelphia Adventure                  | 5-7   | OK? | Girl, guardian and friends rescue kidnapped children and save the lives of the president of the US and the emperor of Brazil. General kisses girl's hand "with a flourish, that in former days, would have brought on palpitations in every female heart and vexation in every male. Girl "embraces" male friend when she is happy to see him. Language- maniac, idiot.  |
|                  | Alexander, Lloyd   | The Rope Trick                              |       | N   | Girl illusionist tries to find magician who does secret rope trick. Romantic thoughts, talk, and negiah.   |
|                  | Alexander, Lloyd   | Time Cat                                    | 4-6   | OK? | A cat takes a boy back in time. Talk of Egyptian gods, minor liking of girl mentioned in passing, story of St. Patrick but not clearly spelled out who he is.  |
|                  | Alexander, Nina    | Magic Attic Club Megan & Borealis Butterfly | 2-4   | OK  | A girl helps save rare butterfly and gains courage to go to father/daughter day in school with her aunt, since parents are divorced.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Alexaner, William  | Ghoulish Song                                    | 5-8   | OK? | Strange story of a girl whose shadow separates from her thereby causing everyone, including her family to be convinced that she is dead and is now a ghoul, even though she is very much alive. Middos between siblings. Calls brother "snofish". Sings chutzpadik song about her mother, but really loves her. Language-idiot.  |
|                  | Allende, Isabel    | City of the Beasts                               |       | N   | Boy with sick mother is sent to live with eccentric aunt who takes him to South American jungle in search of the mythical Yeti. Lots of native religion and spirits, experienced as real. Lots of mentions of natives' state of undress, including women. Discussions of boy/girl.   |
|                  | Aller, Susan Bivin | Sitting Bull                                     | 2-5   | OK? | Biography of Indian Chief who led his people in a fight against the US army. A lot of Indian religious beliefs- needs adult guidance.  |
|                  | Allison, Jennifer  | Gilda Joyce - The Ghost Sonata                   |       | N   | Girl solves mystery of ghost. Detailed crush, boy/girl kissing.  |
|                  | Almond, David      | Skellig  |       | N   | Boy tries to come to terms with newborn baby sister's sickness, with the help of a strange man with wings living in his decrepit garage. Lots of discussion of evolution as a fact, combined with Catholic ideas - eg, shoulder blades are where people had wings before they were born and will regrow them when they die. Minor boy/girl, semi-romantic negiah, minor language: darn, bloody hell  |
|                  | Alter, Stephen     | Ghost Letters                                    | 5-8   | OK? | Boy and girl deal with ghosts, genie, and magic, to fix mistakes of the past. Friends - no romance.  |
|                  | Alvarez, Julia     | How Tia Lola Ended Up Starting Over              |       | N   | 2 sets of children whose parents are dating, collaborate to help aunt open a bed and breakfast. One set of parents divorced, one died. Talk of how sad this is. Seventh grade girl wishes her father would let her start dating but since he won't she hopes "cute teenaged boys" will come as guests in the hotel. When some do, they treat her disrespectfully, and she realizes her father is right. She goes to watch the boys at a swim meet and is disgusted when they are wearing "eensy striped speedos that can be yanked off". Non religious xmas and Halloween. |
|                  | American Girl      | Addy - An Addy Mystery - Shadows on Society Hill | 3-5   | OK? | A former slave girl helps a spy and solves a mystery. Mild descriptions of discrimination. In back history section colored picture of black soldiers returning from Civil War hugging women - doesn't specify if women are relatives or girlfriends.   |
|                  | American Girl      | Addy - High Hopes for Addy                       | 3-5   | OK  | Short story. Girl gets the opportunity to go to high school but worries she can't afford it. Comes to understand the real meaning of family.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | American Girl | Addy - Meet Addy                                       | 3-5   | OK?  | A slave girl and her mother escape from their master after her brother and father are sold. Cruel descriptions of how slaves were treated. Girl is chutzpadik to parents but immediately feels bad. History section in back - talks about the spirituals the slaves sang - mentions one called "Steal away to J-" (p 66)   |
|                  | American Girl | Addy- Addy Learns a Lesson                             | 3-5   | OK   | A former slave girl goes to school and learns to read along with learning the meaning of true friendship.  |
|                  | American Girl | Addy- Addy Saves the Day                               | 3-5   | OK?  | Addy wins over a mean girl with kindness; children help with a church fundraiser - no religion. History section in back - picture of old fashioned woman's swim suit - explains that it was thought to be improper for men and women to swim together and women wore bulky dresses as swimsuits - written in a way to make separate swimming seem old fashioned - can be easily crossed out.   |
| new              | American Girl | Addy- Beforever- A New Beginning- My Journey With Addy | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses own ending. Brief mentions of TV, cell phone, video games, computer. Escaped slaves are housed in a church and helped by the reverend. Reader is encouraged to go to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios.  |
| new              | American Girl | Addy- Beforever- Finding Freedom                       | 3-5   | N?   | Redo of first 3 Addy books. Slave girl and her mother escape and make a new life for themselves in Philadelphia. Graphic descriptions of cruel overseer. Description of the items in a church- eg. organ, pulpit, etc.. Description of church service including reverends mentioning that story of xmas is story of birth of yoshka. A lot of xmas- presents, special food, church service, etc. Middos between classmates. Language- stupid, dumb |
|                  | American Girl | Addy- Changes for Addy                                 | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl searches for her missing family.Friend has to leave school so she can work and help her family earn money to survive. Many mentions of church and xmas,no serious religion.   |
|                  | American Girl | Addy- Happy Birthday, Addy                             | 3-5   | OK   | A blind lady helps a black girl cope with discrimination.  |
|                  | American Girl | Caroline- A Caroline Mystery- The Traveler's Tricks    | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl goes by stagecoach to conduct important business for her father and captures a criminal. Girl's friend likes to imagine that everyone has "sweethearts" ever since she heard details of a cousin's engagement and courtship. Her friend thinks she "is a bit too interested in who might be courting whom".   |
| new              | American Girl | Caroline- Beforever- Captain of the Ship               | 3-5   | OK?  | Redo of first 3 Caroline books. Girl helps her mother run the family's shipyard when her father is captured by the British. Xmas- xmas dinner, read the xmas story from the bible (no details) calls it a "comforting" story, brief mention of a traveling minister giving a service.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|--|
| new              | American Girl | Caroline- Beforever- Catch the Wind- My Journey with Caroline   | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses her own ending. Modern girl receives a compass that allows her to travel in time. Her adventures during the war of 1812 help her deal with her mother's imminent departure to the Navy. When girl is upset she is chutzpadik to parents- later apologizes. Watching movies on DVD, TV, parents go out to movies on "date night". Book refers reader to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios. Language- stupid, idiot, weird, blasted, dumb, freaking out. |
| new              | American Girl | Caroline- Beforever- Facing the Enemy                           | 3-5   | OK?? | Redo of last 3 Caroline books. Two girls and a boy prevent a British warship from capturing an American supply boat, and girl finds her father nearly dead and saves him. Innocent description of boy and girl who are friends wading together. Girl "throws her arms" around male friend when he is leaving- no romantic implications. Husband and wife "cling to each other" Language- blasted (twice)   |
| new              | American Girl | Caroline- Beforever- The Smuggler's Secrets- A Caroline Mystery | 3-5   | OK   | Girl helps figure out who is smuggling supplies to the British enemy in order to prove her uncle's innocence. Language- blast them (once)  |
|                  | American Girl | Caroline- Caroline Takes A Chance                               | 3-5   | OK?? | Two girls and a boy prevent a British warship from capturing an American supply boat, and girl finds her father nearly dead and saves him. Innocent description of boy and girl who are friends wading together. Girl "throws her arms" around male friend when he is leaving- no romantic implications. Husband and wife "cling to each other" Language- blasted.   |
|                  | American Girl | Caroline- Caroline's Battle                                     | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl helps defend her family's shipyard against the British. Illustration of father with his arms around mother and daughter's shoulders- mother is wearing a lowcut gown. In back history section illustration of lady in low cut gown. Language- blast   |
|                  | American Girl | Caroline- Changes for Caroline                                  | 3-5   | OK   | Girl goes to help uncle on farm and learns meaning of poverty and charity.   |
|                  | American Girl | Caroline- Meet Caroline   | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl helps her mother run the family's shipyard when her father is captured by the British.  |
|                  | American Girl | Caroline- A Caroline Mystery- Traitor in the Shipyard           | 3-5   | OK?  | Girls help capture British spies. Minor romance between a man and woman- they walk arm in arm, he gives her a necklace- girl comments that he is "smitten" with her. Girl notices that her father's fingers "linger" on her mothers after mealtime prayers. A bit scary. Language- blast/ blasted (used as a curse), stupid.   |
|                  | American Girl | Caroline- Caroline's Secret Message                             | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl goes with her mother to try to convince the British to release her father. Some bad middos between children- eventually work it out. In back history section picture of wife clinging to her husband as he goes off to battle. Preview of A Surprise for Caroline- mention of xmas gifts.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl | Cecile- Cecile's Gift                                 | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl recites a poem on stage to benefit the orphans whose parents were killed in an epidemic. Many French terms used throughout the book. Orphanage is called the "Holy Trinity" orphanage. Mention of going to mass at a cathedral and singing hymns. No detailed description. One word mention of xmas. A lot of sadness about the many who died in the epidemic. At the end in history section there is a photo of a parade, a woman is dressed in very skimpy dress             |
|                  | American Girl | Cecile- The Cameo Necklace                            | 3-5   | OK?? | A free black girl tries to find the necklace she took without her aunt's permission and then lost. A few sentences mentioning praying at mass in a cathedral- no real descriptions. Girl "takes boys hand" in gratitude. A woman can read palms and predict the future. A boy is "smitten" with a girl and secretly paints her portrait. When she leaves she gives him "a gentle kiss on the cheek". Language- shut your mouth (once)   |
|                  | American Girl | Cecile- Troubles for Cecile                           | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl copes with her brother's near death by yellow fever. Frequent mentions of the many deaths caused by the yellow fever and the many children orphaned. Girl sings song that she knows from mass "ave maria". Physical description of cathedral. Girl thinks that someone who died is now an angel. Mention of kneeling in prayer. Each bead of a rosary "is a prayer". In back history section, disturbing pictures of the sick and dying being cared for by nuns in full habit. |
|                  | American Girl | Elizabeth - Very Funny Elizabeth                      | 3-5   | N?   | Companion to Felicity books. A girl from a Loyalist family tries to convince parents not to send her away to England by behaving badly. Embarrasses sister many times; Book seems to justify it. Dance described. History section about courtship and marriage in 1775.   |
|                  | American Girl | Felicity - A Felicity Mystery - Peril at King's Creek | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl helps catch a British spy. A lot of rehashing about if she should have helped an abused horse escape his owner or not (as told in previous books ) and if she should have lied to her parents or not. Answer left unclear - eg. P. 66-69   |
|                  | American Girl | Felicity - Changes for Felicity                       | 3-5   | OK?  | Colonial girl's grandfather dies when he gets sick after freeing a man from prison. Very sad. Girl is "angry at G-d"; Mother helps her feel better. Girl reads "The Lord is my Shepherd"  |
|                  | American Girl | Felicity - Happy Birthday, Felicity                   | 3-5   | OK   | Colonial girl tries to save the colonist's gunpowder by sneaking out of her room after being punished. In the end she admits to doing something wrong by disobeying and she is forgiven.  |
|                  | American Girl | Felicity - Meet Felicity                              | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl helps horse escape from abusive owner - viewed as "not stealing" since she didn't keep it.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl | Felicity- A Felicity Mystery- Traitor in Williamsburg | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl uncovers traitor while trying to prove her father's loyalty to the Loyalist cause. Father kisses mother's forehead and calls her "my love". Girl wonders why man is so attentive to her mother- discovers he had wanted to marry her, but she refused him. He kisses her hand. Minor mentions of church- no religion.  |
|                  | American Girl | Felicity- Felicity Learns a Lesson                    | 3-5   | N?   | Colonial girl struggles with whether to stop drinking tea or not, in sympathy with the rebels. Younger sisters talk about older sister who has a crush on a boy (p. 37-38) and make fun by pretending she is kissing him (p 42-43). Mention of G-d ruling heaven and earth, quote from "The Lord's Prayer" "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven" (p. 10). History section- (p. 64) picture of mother reading with children wearing a very low cut gown.  |
|                  | American Girl | Felicity- Felicity Saves the Day                      | 3-5   | OK?  | Colonial girl convinces her father's apprentice to return, when he runs away to join General Washington's army. History section shows slaves wearing extremely low-cut gowns, but only noticeable if examined closely.  |
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University- A Girl's Best Friend            | 3-5   | OK?? | Reader chooses the endings- a girl decides what to do about a dog she believes is not being kept safely by it's owners. In most of the scenarios she decides to keep the dog, even though the family is frantically looking for it. In most scenarios she learns her lesson, though it's not entirely clear in all of them. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story. Language- freaking me out.  |
| new              | American Girl | Innerstar University- A Winning Goal                  | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses endings- a girl tries to balance having fun when playing soccer and winning as she tries to coach a friend who is just learning the game. A lot of detailed soccer plays. TV. Illustration of a poster advertising a dance recital- cartoonish girl in a leotard. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story.  |
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University- Bound For Snow                  | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses endings- a girl decides which winter sport she should participate in- mostly involving a very energetic dog. Mild snowboarding/ skiing/ dogsledding culture. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story.   |
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University- Braving the Lake                | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses endings- a girl tries to overcome her fear of the lake to attend her friend's birthday party. Some of the endings include her lying- she regrets doing it in all of them. Cartoonish, non provocative pictures of girls in bathing suits throughout. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story. Something reminds girl of "a movie played in slow motion." Middos issues somewhat resolved. Language (once each)- freaks me out, weird, dumb. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title                                   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University- Dive Right In     | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses endings- a girl deals with feelings of jealousy when her friend joins the diving team and shows great talent. Many cartoonish, non-provocative pictures of girls in bathing suits, leotards. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story.Middos issues eventually resolved. Language- bummed (once).   |
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University- Fork In The Trail | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses endings- a girl decides if she should lead a group on a nature hike and learns what it takes to be a leader. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story   |
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University- Quick Change      | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses the endings- girl tries various business schemes to earn enough money to buy a genie costume for a costume party. There are a number of illustrations of girls dressed in non snius outfits but they are all cartoonish and non provocative. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story. Girl wears an angel costume with a halo. Girl is wearing gold pants as a seventies costume and does disco moves (not explained).Middos between girls- eventually resolve. Language- dumb (once)  |
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University-Taking The Reins   | 3-5   | OK?  | Reader chooses the endings- a girl decides if she should compete in a horse show despite her fears. Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story. Some middos between friends. Language- freaked out (once)  |
|                  | American Girl | Innerstar University-The New Girl       | 3-5   | OK?? | Reader chooses the endings- a girl tries to overcome her jealousy of a new girl. A lot of middos issues but with a purpose.Reader is encouraged to go onto a (unreviewed) website to find one of the endings to the story Many non provocative illustrations of girls in t shirts and shorts. Small cartoonish illustrations of dancer wearing a sleeveless dress and a trapeze artist wearing a leotard and tights. Girls go to see a movie.  |
| new              | American Girl | Isabelle                                | 3-5   | N?   | A girl attends a special school for the arts where she studies ballet and modern dance. A lot of ballet culture. Very prominent. realistic full color illustrations as well as photos of girls in skimpy costumes at the back of the book. Boys are in ballet class as well. Mean girl displays very bad middos.Mother approves of girl wearing pink hair extensions. Family is very artsy- mother is a clothing designer and artist and father plays drums in a band- his playing described in detail as a "madman twisting and flailing behind the drums and cymbals". Girls dance before coed audience. One word xmas and jack o' lanterns- no religion. Language- shut up. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|---|
| new              | American Girl | Isabelle- Designs by Isabelle                                 | 3-5   | N?   | Girl performs in a professional production of the Nutcracker ballet- story of ballet summarized Similar problems to the previous book. Girl is upset and is mildly chutzpadik to parents. Mean girl displays bad middos. One word mention of santa and xmas.Father hides holiday presents. Language- freak out, screw up, weird..   |
| new              | American Girl | Isabelle- To the Stars, Isabelle                              | 3-5   | N?   | Girl is coached by ballet star and performs in hospitals and nursing homes before coed audiences. Prominent realistic cover picture of girl in skimpy costume. Similar illustration inside book. Similar problems to previous books. Retelling of Greek legend of goddess. Boy wants to be on TV gossip show. Residents in nursing home watch TV soap operas.One word xmas. In back of book photos of real girls in leotards. Language- weird |
|                  | American Girl | Ivy - Good Luck Ivy   | 3-5   | OK?  | A Chinese-American girl struggles to decide if she should go to compete in a gymnastics meet or go to a family reunion. Lots of Chinese culture and gymnastics culture, including Kung Fu and Bruce Lee. Brief mentions of TV shows. Illustrations of gymnasts and ice skaters in leotards. Mention of the Olympics. Girls' best friend moves away when her parents divorce.  |
|                  | American Girl | Jess  | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl goes to an archaeological dig with her parents.Full color illustrations of ten year old girl wearing shorts and a tank top.Girl is embarrassed when lady nurses her baby with her blouse open, but then realizes that no one else is uncomfortable so she tries not to be as well.Girls parents "lean into one another holding hands". Language-weird,stupid,creepy,darned (once p 117).   |
|                  | American Girl | Josefina - Meet Josefina                                      | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl in New Mexico struggles to deal with her mother's death when her aunt comes to visit. A short description of a dance with an illustration of men and women dancing together but not touching. A few mentions of Catholic religion including praying at an alter. History section in back has photos of religious painting and statue and another picture of men and women dancing but not touching.                                    |
| new              | American Girl | Josefina- Beforever- Secrets in the Hills- A Josefina Mystery |       | N    | Girl helps locate a buried treasure- turns out to be the cross from a church that was hidden to keep it safe. A lot of glorifying religion and descriptions of church. A lot of old fashioned boy/ girl- courting, mixed dancing, etc.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|-----|---|
| new              | American Girl | Josefina- Beforever- Sunlight and Shadows                    | 3-5   | N?  | Redo of first 3 Josefina books. A lot of religion- every morning family prays in front to the altar "dedicating their day's work to G-d", kneel in front of the altar to pray, A lot of description of getting the church ready for the priest to come on xmas, a lot of church bells, family works hard to prepare and "altar cloth" for xmas, sing a lullaby to baby yoshka on xmas eve. People play out the xmas story- go from house to house asking to be let in, everyone says no, finally they are let in at church. Mentions that xmas commemorates yoshka's birth. Navajo legend about when the "world was new". Family has a hard time coming to terms with mother's death.   |
|                  | American Girl | Josefina- Josefina Learns a Lesson                           | 3-5   | OK? | In back of book, history section has paragraph about Catholicism with picture of an alter.  |
|                  | American Girl | Julie- A Julie Mystery- The Silver Guitar                    | 3-5   | N?  | Girl helps boy figure out who replaced an expensive guitar which belonged to a famous guitar player, who was killed in a motorcycle crash, with a cheap imitation. Children attend an auction with celebrities and try to get autographs of stars. Children admire a soap opera star, a TV producer, and a football coach. Mention of rock music. Brief mention of parent's divorce. Boy lies around all day making a mess and watching TV. Hides his girlfriend in the curtains when he thinks his aunt and uncle came home. Non romantic negiah. Language- weird, stupid, creepy. In back history section discussion and illustration of rock musicians.  |
| new              | American Girl | Julie- Beforever- A Brighter Tomorrow- My Journey With Julie | 3-5   | N?  | Reader chooses own ending. Reader is encouraged to go to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios. The two main storylines involve a girl trying to prove she is as good as boys at basketball- a lot of coed basketball playing, and sisters trying to deal with parent's divorce. Older sister tries to avoid seeing her father- tells her mom she is going to the library but instead goes with a boy to sunbathe at the beach. Modern girl trying to deal with her parents separation and worry that they will get a divorce. Laptop, video chat. Mentions of 70s singers by name. Girl crashes into a boy and they fall - boy says "Gross get off of me". Middos between classmates. Language- weirdo, freak, stupid |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title                                       | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|--|
| new              | American Girl | Julie- Beforever- Soaring High              | 3-5   | OK?? | A redo of Julie and the Eagles, Julie's Journey, and Changes for Julie. Girl helps raise money to save injured eagles, goes for a ride on a wagon train celebrating the bicentennial of America, and runs for student body president along with a deaf girl. A lot of Earth day. TV, being on the TV news, girl has "crush" on TV character. Girls go to a coed square dance- but they dance with each other. One word Easter. Brief mention that blue jeans are more comfortable for horseback riding than dresses. Mean girls make fun of deaf girl- eventually learn lesson. Brief mention that parents got divorced. Nonromantic negiah. Mention of Little House books and TV show. Language- weird, dumb, stupid. |
|                  | American Girl | Julie-A Julie Mystery- Lost In The City     | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl helps find a missing parrot. Many mentions of divorce, both that of her parents and a recent divorce of a male classmate's parents and its negative effect on him. Girl listens to disco on the radio. Girl plays poker with her father with shells instead of money. Non romantic negiah. Language- darn (p67)   |
|                  | American Girl | Kailey                                      | 3-5   | N?   | A girl tries to save the tide pool on her beach from a resort developer. Some teen slang and culture - gross, creepy, stinky, butt, heck, gorked. Also going to movies, wanting to grow up to be a movie star/supermodel and wear lots of makeup/ 6 inch heels/dye her hair as many colors as she wants. 2 word mention of Santa. Older sister tries to meet boys.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya - A Kaya Mystery - The Silent Stranger | 3-5   | OK?? | Indian girl tries to befriend a mysterious silent woman who wanders into their camp, and discovers her tragic secret. Same worship of spirits as in other books. Sad.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya - Changes for Kaya                     | 3-5   | OK?? | Indian girl rescues home from forest fire. Lots of Indian religion - needs guidance.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya - Meet Kaya                            | 3-5   | N?   | Lots of Indian religion - needs guidance. Courtship dance - circle of men and women, if boy likes girl he puts stick on her shoulder, if she likes him she lets him keep it there, then dance together as a couple.  |
| new              | American Girl | Kaya- Beforever- Smoke on the Wind          | 3-5   | OK?? | Redo of "Changes for Kaya". Indian girl rescues home from forest fire. Lots of Indian religion- needs guidance. Indian marriage customs.   |
| new              | American Girl | Kaya- Beforever- The Journey Begins         | 3-5   | N?   | Redo of first 3 Kaya books. Girl and her blind sister are kidnapped by enemies- girl escapes and deals with guilt of leaving her sister. Courtship dance described in detail. Boy likes to serenade girls with his flute. Boy and girl huddle together for warmth while escaping. A lot of Native American religion- belief in creator, spirits, visions. Sad when young woman dies- belief that dead person's spirit stays in camp until buried and all belongings given away. Children give girl a nickname she hates.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|--|
| new              | American Girl | Kaya- Beforever- The Roar of the Falls- My Journey With Kaya | 3-5   | OK?? | Reader chooses own ending. Reader is encouraged to go to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios. Lots of Indian religion including belief in a creator who made everything as well as belief in spirits. One paragraph description of courtship dance- girls make a circle and boys make a circle around them and try to dance near the girl they like (pg. 163)   |
| new              | American Girl | Kaya- Beforever- The Silent Stranger- A Kaya Mystery         | 3-5   | OK?? | Redo of "The Silent Stranger". Native American religious beliefs- a lot of description about belief in spirits. In back of book even more detailed and clear description of beliefs.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya- Kaya and the Lone Dog: A Friendship Story              | 3-5   | OK?  | An Indian girl befriends a dog. Lots of descriptions of Indian religious beliefs.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya- Kaya and the River Girl                                | 3-5   | OK   | An native American girl overcomes her jealousy of her sister's friend when they work together to save the life of an old woman.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya- Kaya Shows the Way                                     | 3-5   | OK?  | Indian family spends summer fishing and searching for missing sister. Lots of Indian religion - needs guidance. Indian pre-marriage customs described.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya- Kaya's Escape  | 3-5   | OK?  | An Indian girl and her blind sister are captured by an enemy tribe. She eventually escapes with a boy who is also a captive, but is forced to leave her sister there. Native American religion and customs.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kaya-Kaya's Hero   | 3-5   | N?   | An older Indian woman Kaya admires is killed, and leaves Kaya her saddle and her name. Kaya struggles with feelings of inadequacy. Side story of Kaya's older sister's romance with the man she will marry. She makes a necklace for him, they dance together (p. 10), boy likes to serenade girls with flute (p. 36). Indian religion and customs. History section in back: a legend about a woman who is angry at her husband's selfishness so she leaves him and dances with another man (p. 71). |
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten - A Kirsten Mystery - The Runaway Friend             | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl tries to locate missing neighbor. Minor description of co-ed dance (pg. 18-19). Adults decide it's OK to open someone else's mail without permission if it will help them locate the missing neighbor.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten - Happy Birthday, Kirsten                            | 3-5   | OK?  | Swedish pioneer girl celebrates her birthday and the birth of a new sibling. One full color picture of a mixed dance - looks more fun than romantic.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten - Kirsten Learns a Lesson                            | 3-5   | OK   | A Swedish pioneer girl copes with an American school; befriends an Indian girl.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten - Meet Kirsten                                       | 3-5   | OK?  | Swedish girl immigrates to America. Very sad when her best friend dies. One sentence mention that boy hates to get dressed up even for church.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten and the New Girl                     | 3-5   | OK? | Short story about a girl overcoming her jealousy caused by the arrival of a new girl. Middos with a purpose. Girl wears a cross around her neck. In back history section small black and white photo of girls with dresses that start off the shoulder. Mentions that at parties women and girls gathered to sew a quilt and in the evening the young men arrived for supper, dancing and kissing games.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten- Kirsten On The Trail                | 3-5   | OK  | Parents forbid girl from playing with her Indian friend until she finds their lost little boy.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten- Kirsten: Changes for Kirsten        | 3-5   | OK? | Family moves in with relatives when log cabin burns down. When they find an old trapper dead in his cabin they decide that since he has no family it is OK for them to sell his things to buy a new house. In history section in back of book one small photo of farm dance with men and women dancing together but not touching.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kirsten-Kirsten's Short Story Collection     | 3-5   | OK? | Short stories, each with its own history section. In history section of "Kirsten and the New Girl", small photo of girls in low cut gowns. Mentions that after quilting bees, "the young men arrived for supper, dancing, and sometimes kissing games". In "Kirsten's Promise", small illustration of a grave with a wooden cross as a marker. In "Kirsten Snow Bound", history section details how many people died in a blizzard - a bit scary. |
|                  | American Girl | Kit - A Kit Mystery - A Thief in the Theater | 3-5   | OK? | A Shakespeare theater company struggles to stay open during the Depression. Children help locate a thief who stole money from the box office. In history section a small black and white photo of the scantily clad cast of the movie Tarzan. Lots of theater culture   |
|                  | American Girl | Kit - A Kit Mystery - Danger at the Zoo      | 3-5   | OK? | Children solve the mystery of who is trying to steal a baby monkey. A lot of intergender handshaking- completely nonromantic. Minor Language - darn (once).   |
|                  | American Girl | Kit - Changes for Kit                        | 3-5   | OK? | Kit tries to help children in a soup kitchen. History section has 2 photos of starlets in bathing suits with the NRA eagle suntanned on their backs - can be torn out.  |
|                  | American Girl | Kit - Happy Birthday Kit                     | 3-5   | OK  | In back of book, history section discusses making decision to have fewer children during Depression, and father abandoning family.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl | Kit- A Kit Mystery- Intruders at Rivermead Manor | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl discovers homeless and parentless children hiding out in an old lady's home and at the same time uncovers a romance between the old lady and her elderly next door neighbor. The romance is relatively mild. The two neighbors wanted to marry when they were young, but her parents forbade them. They used to "sneak" through a secret passageway to see each other. Girl is amazed that they still "like each other". Children found scraps of " mushy love letters". The only negiah is a "light punch on the arm" and a brief hand holding. Brief mention of fictional story of time traveler who went back to time of dinosaurs. In back history section, photo of orphans with their hands together praying at a table at Thanksgiving. |
| new              | American Girl | Kit- A Kit Mystery- Midnight in Lonesome Hollow  | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl goes to Kentucky and gets to know the poor but proud people who live in a small mountain village. Figures out who is causing damage. Very mild description of a boy courting a girl- they have an "understanding".One sentence- they hold hands. Girl sings "an old love song"- eventually sings on the radio. Language- idiot   |
|                  | American Girl | Kit- A Kit Mystery- Missing Grace                | 3-5   | OK?  | Two girls and a boy try to find a missing dog and uncover a criminal scheme. Woman touches her fiance's shoulder in sympathy. middos between children. coed singing. Language- stupid, stinkers.  |
| new              | American Girl | Kit- Beforever- Read All About It                | 3-5   | OK?? | Redone first 3 Kit books. Girl learns to make do during the depression when her father loses his job. Boy shakes lady's hand (good manners).Middos between classmates. Children curious about border's boyfriend- imagine them going on a "romantic date" where he asks her to marry him. Boy teases girl that she has a boyfriend (who is really her boarder) and he lives with her because she will marry him (she gets really mad) A lot of xmas, no religion. Girls go to the movies- girl is enchanted by glamorous movie star Language- stupid  |
| new              | American Girl | Kit- Beforever- The Jazzman's Trumpet            | 3-5   | OK?? | Redo of last 3 Kit books.Girl helps find a stolen trumpet and reunite a jazz singer with his daughter. Book explains that the father chose music over his family and that's why he left. A lot of jazz culture. Says leader of band looks like a rock star - girl says "he sounds dreamy". Boy gives girl "a playful nudge". Language- darn it/ darn (pg. 20,97, 99), dumb  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title                                 | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
| new              | American Girl | Kit- Beforever- Turning Things Around | 3-5   | OK?? | Redone last 3 Kit books. Girl's thrifty aunt comes to stay with her family and helps them learn to make-do during the depression- at first girl is embarrassed by her but eventually comes to appreciate her. Girl clips picture of Robin Hood style birthday party given for movie star's child. Aunt offers to make girl bloomers out of flour sack- girl responds "I couldn't wear underwear made out of a flour sack!" Aunt quotes a lot of Shakespeare.Sad and slightly scary description of hobo's lives. Discussion if one is allowed to steal if he is hungry. Language- stupid, dumb. |
|                  | American Girl | Kit- Kit Learns a Lesson              | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl's aunt comes to live with family and teaches them how to save money, but girl is embarrassed of her in front of her friends. Eventually comes to appreciate aunt. Kids tease girl that a boarder in her house is her boyfriend (he isn't). Brief part where kids in class show bad midos to each other.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kit- Meet Kit                         | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl's father loses his business in the depression and her mother turns their house into a boarding house in order to pay the mortgage. Mention of "Beauty and the Beast". Some minor middos.Language- stupid.   |
|                  | American Girl | Kit-Really Truly Ruthie               | 3-5   | OK?  | Kit's best friend tries to save Kit's family from eviction during the depression. Setting is the day after X-mas; a few enticing descriptions but no religion.   |
|                  | American Girl | Lanie                                 | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl who wishes she was a wildlife biologist finds adventures in her own backyard.A lot of emailing. Full color, full page illustration of woman and fourth grade girl in sleeveless tops.Discussion about soil coming from glaciers that use to cover the land melting. No mention of millions of years.Language- stupid, weird. In back letters from real girls about concern for animals and the environment. Brief discussion about what happens to xmas trees after the holiday, and about asking for donations to animal conservation as an xmas present- no religion.                   |
|                  | American Glrl | Lindsey                               |       | N    | A Jewish girl gets herself into all kinds of well meaning trouble. She tries to set up her teachers and figures out how to "get them to be romantic".She also tries to set up her depressed, divorced uncle, with disastrous results. A lot of middos between classmates. Uncle watches soap operas all day. A lot of detail about planning brothers bar mitzvah- a rock band performs, mixed dancing described, mentions of him reading "the Torah portion". Language- stinky, dork, snotty, stupid, freak, weird.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | American Girl | Marie- Grace Makes A Difference                        | 3-5   | N?   | Girl volunteers to help during a yellow fever epidemic. Detailed descriptions of infirmary filled with sick and dying people- somewhat scary. Detailed description of wedding in a cathedral including a priest, a nun, a physical description of the church, and one sentence- kissing the bride. Girl sings hymn "Amazing Grace"- some of the lyrics written out. Name of orphanage- "Holy Trinity". Illustration of bride in low cut dress.   |
|                  | American Girl | Marie- Grace- Marie-Grace and the Orphans              | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl cares for a baby left on her father's doorstep and worries he might be the son of slaves and will be caught. A lot of fear of an epidemic causing many deaths. Baby is brought to the "Holy Trinity" orphanage which is run by nuns and priests. Upcoming wedding to take place in a cathedral which girl admires. No real religion mentioned.  |
|                  | American Girl | Marie- Grace- Meet Marie-Grace                         | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl who is orphaned of her mother adjusts to her new home in New Orleans. A lot of French expressions throughout all the books in this series. Middos among classmates. Detailed description of a coed children's ball, nothing romantic. Girl's uncle is courting a woman whom he will eventually marry (in a later book)- brief mention that he "takes her hand", Minor opera culture. Explanation that Mardi Gras is the last day before Lent begins, then after forty days celebrate Easter. History section in the back repeats this explanation in greater detail, and also mentions that in New Orleans after church, people went shopping and did other things that were considered unacceptable in other parts of the USA. Preview of "Meet Cecille"- one word mention of xmas, talk of finding a good costume for the ball, father kisses mother. |
|                  | American Girl | Marie- Grace- A Marie-Grace Mystery- The Haunted Opera | 3-5   | N?   | Girls figure out who is trying to ruin the opera. A lot of detailed opera culture. Gossip that lead male opera singer is "in love" with the lead female singer- she takes his arm, he "put his arm around her protectively". A different singer is also "in love" with her but she doesn't notice him. One word mention of going to church. In the back history section, portraits of women in very low cut gowns.   |
|                  | American Girl | Marie- Grace- A Marie-Grace Mystery- The Hidden Gold   | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl helps an orphan find missing gold. Men play poker and smoke on a steamboat. Language- drat (p93)  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|---|
| new              | American Girl | Marisol   | 3-5   | N?   | Girl who loves to dance deals with moving to a new community where there are no local dance classes. A lot of dance culture and costumes. Detailed descriptions of dance class. Coed square dance. A dance where male kisses female partner's cheek- girl thinks that's yucky. Older man has a girlfriend- walks arm in arm with her- his daughter says he is a "big flirt". Girl says her father is her one and only boyfriend even though he "has eyes for another woman"- her mother! Go to church on Sundays- no description. TV. Says her father is "no movie star" in appearance. One word Halloween. Language- stupid, dang, heck In back of book photos and story about real girls who are dancers some wearing leotards. |
|                  | American Girl | McKenna   | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl who loves gymnastics begins to have trouble in school when she starts fourth grade. Girl lies to her friends about her tutoring sessions because she is so embarrassed- eventually learns her lesson. A lot of gymnastics culture. Teacher emails parents to request a meeting. Full color, full page illustration of fourth grade girls in short shorts and t shirts. Mention of watching TV. Brief mentions of divorce. Language- darn(once-p.38), weird.  |
|                  | American Girl | McKenna, Ready to Fly                             | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl prepares to compete in competitive gymnastics while trying to balance friendship and volunteering in a stable for special needs children. Cover of book is a very clear picture of fourth grade girl wearing a skimpy leotard. Similar large full color pictures of girls in leotards throughout the book. Girl's friend deals with pressure of a very competitive mother. Mention of watching a movie. Language- freaked out.   |
|                  | American Girl | Molly - A Molly Mystery - A Spy on the Home Front | 3-5   | OK   | Girl helps prove the innocence of her German/American friend's brother who is accused of spreading propaganda for Germany.  |
|                  | American Girl | Molly - Happy Birthday Molly - A Springtime Story | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl's family takes in an evacuee from London during WWII. History section - 1 picture of teenage girl and boy dancing together.  |
|                  | American Girl | Molly - Meet Molly                                | 3-5   | OK?  | brother has crush. Sister sings k-i-s-s-i-n-g song. Minor middos between siblings.  |
|                  | American Girl | Molly- A Molly Mystery- The Light In The Cellar   | 3-5   | OK?  | Girls try to figure out who is stealing war rations. Children go to the movies. In back history section, discussion of wartime shortages- mentions it was difficult to purchase underwear with elastic at the waistband. Language- dumb, creepy   |
|                  | American Girl | Molly- Brave Emily                                | 3-5   | OK?  | A companion to the Molly series. A war refugee finds herself lying about her musical talents to fit in - eventually owns up and finds that children like her for herself. Some tame mentions of difficulties caused by war. In back History section mentions that a million Jewish children were killed in the war. Language: stink, stupid. In preview of "Meet Molly", minor middos between siblings. Minor mention of Halloween costume.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl | Molly- Molly Learns a Lesson                   | 3-5   | OK   | Girl helps win contest to make something for the war effort.  |
|                  | American Girl | Molly- Molly Saves the Day - A Summer Story    | 3-5   | OK   | A girl goes to summer camp and overcomes her fear of swimming underwater.   |
|                  | American Girl | Molly-A Molly Mystery: Clues In The Shadows    | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl tries to figure out who is looking through the papers she is collecting for a wartime paper drive. Middos between children. Girl finds out that a boy's bad behavior is due to his father being missing in action. Description of women who work in war factories wearing greasy overalls and close fitting blouses. At celebration for end of war 2 sailors "kiss every young woman within reach." A lot of adults smoking. Mention of going to the movies. Girl does tap dance to entertain wounded soldiers. Veteran shows violent tendencies and a temper in reaction to his war experiences. Girl reacts to changes in her father due to his war experiences. A bit heavy for this age group. Language-stupid, shut up, dumb, darn (once). History section at back of book- photo of soldiers and girls dancing together (pg 178) |
|                  | American Girl | Nicki  | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl commits to train a service dog even though she is overwhelmed with helping her mother on bedrest, doing chores on the family pig farm and being on a school committee. Minor middos between classmates. Learns to withstand peer pressure. Minor chutzpah to parents but regrets it after. Illustration of mother in sleeveless top. Refers to her dog as a "handsome rock star" dog. Language-funky, berserk,darn it all,brat, shut up, weird, poop.  |
| new              | American Girl | Nicki- Thanks To Nicki                         | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl copes with her sadness when it is time to give up the dog she has been training. Deals with 2 best friends who don't like each other.A lot of discussion about the "puberty talk" given in school to fifth graders- girl is embarrassed it is coed- but description is rather neutral. Halloween- detailed trick or treating- text and full page illustration- Halloween party- no religion. Language- idiot, dumb, weird  |
|                  | American Girl | Rebecca-A Rebecca Mystery- A Bundle of Trouble | 3-5   | OK?? | A Jewish immigrant girl helps capture kidnappers. A few mentions of her dreams of becoming a movie star despite her parents intentions that she should become a teacher. Italian girl offers her ice cream from her father's ice cream parlor, girl doesn't hesitate to eat it (no mentions of kashrus). Many mentions of Italians sewing a good luck charm into their clothing to ward off the evil eye. In back of book illustration of a sukkah- hard to tell if it's kosher from picture.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|--|
| new              | American Girl | Rebecca- Beforever- A Growing Suspicion- A Rebecca Mystery | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl figures out who is causing damage at a Japanese botanical garden. Girl loves to imagine herself on a movie set, starring in a movie. Mother says it is a mitzvah to cheer up a Japanese couple who have lost their son. Girl explains that in the Jewish religion "we have an idea called rochmones" which is a way of "encouraging forgiveness"- Japanese woman says there is a "similar" Japanese custom and shows the girls how to wipe water on their foreheads to clean away past mistakes. Boy shakes girls hand politely. Shrine for a Japanese goddess to thank her for things that grow. |
|                  | American Girl | Saige  | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl overcomes her embarrassment to run a fundraiser for her school's arts program after her grandmother is injured and can't do it. At the same time she deals with her changing relationship with her best friend. Calls grandmother by her first name, but otherwise very respectful. Cover has large picture of fourth grader wearing sleeveless dress- as well as a 2 page full color illustration inside. Goes to a movie theater on Friday night with her friend. Non religious mentions of xmas..Language- weird, stupid, freaking out.  |
|                  | American Girl | Saige-Saige Paints the Sky                                 | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl organizes a demonstration to encourage her school to start an art class and overcomes her shyness to speak at a press conference- ends up on TV. One word non religious mention of xmas. Language-darn (p5), butt out, stupid,  |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha - A Samantha Mystery - The Curse of Ravenscourt   | 3-5   | OK   | Girls figure out who is causing trouble at a luxurious apartment building.   |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha - A Samantha Mystery - The Stolen Sapphire        | 3-5   | OK   | Girls help find a stolen jewel. Minor language: blasted.   |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha - Happy Birthday Samantha                         | 3-5   | OK?  | A wealthy girl celebrates her birthday with her cousins from the city who introduce her to innovations that her grandmother doesn't appreciate. In the end the grandmother concedes that some innovations are desirable - namely a woman's right to vote. Cousins try to convince her to break her grandmother's rule about wearing long underwear - Tame illustration of her putting them on (p4). Girls fight with boy and call him a nincompoop. Back history section explains that when children were 8 or 9 years old they took dancing lessons - picture of young boy and girl dancing (p 61).   |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha - Meet Samantha                                   | 3-5   | OK?  | Innocent discussion about where babies come from - does the stork bring them or the midwife?   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|--|
| new              | American Girl | Samantha- Beforever- The Lilac Tunnel- My Journey With Samantha | 3-5   | N?   | Reader chooses own ending. Reader is encouraged to go to an unreviewed website for the ending to one of the scenarios. The book begins with a modern girl who is having difficulty adjusting to her parent's divorce and her father's subsequent remarriage. Her journey to the past helps her come to terms with it. A lot of emphasis on how much more comfortable and practical pants are (old fashioned girl calls them bloomers) - point is really made very clearly. Coed swimming with uncle. Girl can't believe how uncomfortable and old fashioned bathing dress is. Can't believe women swim in stockings. End up swimming in their underwear. Man kisses girls hand (to be polite) she blushes. Brief mentions of movies, TV, computer, cell phone. Language- freaked out |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha- Clue in the Castle Tower                              | 3-5   | OK?  | Girls travel to England and with the help of two unruly boys, discover the true identity of the "ghost" haunting the castle. At a museum, they look at Greek and Roman sculptures and comment "I guess people didn't wear many clothes back then" girl wants to get a job instead of getting married. Boys play practical jokes. Language- daft, dumb  |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha- Samantha Learns a Lesson                              | 3-5   | OK   | Rich girl finds out truth about child labor. Helps servant girl.   |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha- Samantha Saves the Day                                | 3-5   | OK?  | Rich girl discovers the island where she spent time with parents before they died. Side story of a man who is said to propose to her grandmother each year and she says no - he kisses her hand.   |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha-A Samantha Mystery-The Cry of the Loon                 | 3-5   | N?   | Girls figure out who is causing accidents to happen at their grandmother's summer home. Description of two male birds quarrelling over a female. Girl asks grandmother if young men ever competed over her. Grandmother describes her "gentlemen callers" and how she had to choose between 2 of them she particularly liked. (P128-129 chapter.10, and a few scattered references after that). Old "flame" kisses grandmother's hand, she gives a "delighted laugh". Relatively tame, though may seem like a big deal to this age group. Language- stupid. In back history section photo of female hiker wearing sleeveless top and shorts.   |
|                  | American Girl | Samantha-Samantha's Winter Party                                | 3-5   | OK?? | Girls make a poor girl a party after a rich girl insults her. Many mentions of X-Mas: vacation, pageant, carols, songs, etc. but no religion. Minor language: nincompoop. History section in back - 2 illustrations of men and women skating hand in hand,   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl | The Crystal Ball   | 3-5   | N?   | Girl figures out who is robbing an old man. A lot of semi observant Judaism (which may be historically accurate but will be confusing for a child reading this without adult guidance) eg. light candles, make kiddush on friday night, but no Shabbos at all on Shabbos day, no shul at all, invite non Jewish janitor for Shabbos meal. Brief mention of church bells on Sunday. A lot of talk of fortunetellers and crystal balls. In back history section Houdini proves spiritualists to be fakes. Language- dumb,   |
|                  | American Girl | Felicity-A Felicity Mystery: Lady Margaret's Ghost       | 3-5   | OK?? | Colonial girl tries to manage the household while her mother is away and find out if a ghost is haunting it. Girl's go to church to ask minister about ghosts- he asks if they are talking about the father, the son and the holy ghost. They say no and ask if ghosts are real. Discussion on pg 131-132 chapter 12.   |
|                  | American Girl | Julie- A Julie Mystery: The Puzzle Of The Paper Daughter | 3-5   | N?   | A girl reunites two elderly Chinese women and discovers a treasure in a rag doll. Mentions of girl's parents divorce. A lot of talk about a Valentine's Day Disco party the high school kids were making for the community. Description of the coed dance –not romantic (P163-166 chapter 15). Brief description of ball gown with skinny straps. Teenager hopes she will get a date to the dance. Girls listen to rock music. Some Chinese culture. A few mentions of xmas cards-no religion. Language-weird, creepy, dang.  |
|                  | American Girl | Julie- A Julie Mystery: The Tangled Web                  | 3-5   | N?   | A new girl seems nice but she is keeping a lot of secrets which turn out to be lies. Girl uncovers the truth and ends up helping her family including her brother is traumatized by his experiences in Vietnam. Mention of Nancy Drew mysteries. A lot of mention of parent's divorce and missing her old life. Titles of various seventies TV shows and rock singers. Teenage sister has crushes but no steady boyfriend so younger sister tries to find her one. She says boy is "dreamy". Coed singing. A lot of Thanksgiving. Language- jerk, weird, creepy, stupid, suckers, heck (twice).                   |
|                  | American Girl | Rebecca-A Rebecca Mystery- Secrets At Camp Nokomis       |       | N    | A Jewish girl goes to summer camp to escape the polio epidemic. Townsfolk look down at female counselors who "tramp around in bloomers". Middos between campmates. Discussion of why Jewish girl is in a treif camp and refuses to eat pork (but not other non kosher food) Counselor explains it by comparing keeping kosher to the custom of Catholics not to eat meat on Fridays. (pg38-40 chapter 3). Girl's cousins are movie actors. One word xmas, Irish girl says "saints preserve us". Romance between 2 counselors- girls find them sitting in a cave at night reading "romantic verses" to each other. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title                           | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Betrayal at Cross Creek         | 4-6   | OK   | During early Revolutionary War, girl's family leans towards Loyalist & tries to find out who is betraying them to Patriots; turns out it was her own grandmother, to scare her grandfather into not going to war.   |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Circle of Fire                  |       | N    | A black girl and a white boy try to stop the KLu Klux Klan. They aren't allowed to play together because they are getting older and it's not right for them to be boyfriend and girlfriend and do "kissing and stuff". Discussions about a movie. Mentions of xmas and playing piano for church. Symbol of the klan represents yoshka's blood. Mother calls father honey and kisses him on the cheek to get him to agree. Violence. Language- stupid, darn tootin, peeing, dadgummit, dang.   |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Danger at the Wild West Show    | 4-6   | N?   | Girl tries to prove her brother's innocence when someone gets shot at a wild west show. Many mentions of older brother having girl friends, wooing women, flirting, etc. Girl enjoys tormenting shy boy by talking about "unmentionables" like "getting a swat on my backside" or "nethergarments". Children admire new invention of bloomers which are split skirts which are much more practical for trick riding a horse or bike riding. In back history section more discussion about girls wearing "divided garments" with a photo. Girl "cusses" by saying "bloody blazes". Boy and girl are embarrassed when they realize they are accidentally holding hands. Language- dang/ danged, |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Gangsters At The Grand Atlantic |       | N    | Girl hatches a plan to capture a dangerous gangster, while saving her sister and her boyfriend. A lot of boy/ girl, coed dancing, drinking, smoking, mixed swimming, negiah, etc.   |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Ghost Light on Graveyard Shoal  | 4-6   | OK?? | Girl helps capture a man who is trying to lure ships to a dangerous area so they will wreck. Very sad storyline about the girl's friend who is very sick and might die in the end she seems better. Gory ghost story told. Mother warns daughter to stay away from men who sit in the back of the general store talking because of their "scandalous language" - girl eavesdrops anyway and hears them say h-l. Language-dumb, goldurnit(once).   |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Hoofbeats of Danger             | 4-6   | OK?  | A girl figures out who harmed a pony express pony. Girl wishes her mother would let her wear pants. Girl squeezes boy's wrist to thank him for his help. Language-darn (once), dumb.  |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Mystery of the Dark Tower       |       | N    | A girl suspects that her father is being unfaithful to her mother when he whisks her away from her home, leaving her mother at home, and then she sees him with another woman. Even though it turns out fine, the entire premise is highly inappropriate.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Mystery on Skull Island    | 4-6   | OK?  | Girl suspects her father's fiancée of betraying him. She is forbidden from meeting with friends because they are working class, but she goes behind her father's back- in the end she is justified. Mentions of going to church for Sunday services. Non romantic negiah between men and women as befits that time period (men take women by the arm to escort them, kiss their hand, etc.) Minor violence. Language- berserk.  |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Secrets on 26th Street     | 4-6   | OK?? | Girl tries to locate her missing mother while at the same time uncovering the secret of her mysterious border. A lot of suffragists fights to get women the right to vote. Girl who likes to watch "romantic" movies thinks border's secret is a "love affair" Name of old time actress mentioned. Mention of "Hell's Kitchen"- a geographic location in New York City. Language-dumb,  |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Shadows in the Glasshouse  | 4-6   | OK   | Girl is kidnapped to be indentured servant in early American colonies. Solves mystery in glass-making factory.  |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | The Minstrel's Melody      | 4-6   | N?   | Black girl in segregationist south defies mother and runs away to join minstrel performing group. In end parents agree she was right. Several mentions of J--. Several instances of Christian imagery - burning in hell ("your fat sizzling") for singing "sassy" songs and lying.  |
| new              | American Girl History Mystery | The Night Flyers           |       | OK?  | Girl tries to figure out who is stealing her homing pigeons during World War I. Middos between classmates. Brief mention of going to church. It's "Christian duty to help out those less fortunate than us" one word xmas. Girl is frustrated because "grownups expect you to be honest , except when being honest was rude". Language- dang, stupid  |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | The Strange Case of Baby H | 4-6   | OK?? | In the midst of the great San Francisco earthquake a mysterious disguised baby is left at the doorstep of a family who then become entangled with kidnapers. Detailed and scary descriptions of the earthquake and its aftermath. Detailed and sad descriptions of loss of a boy in a boating accident and it's horrible effect on the family- especially on the relationship between the two parents.Eventually their relationship improves- daughter is happy to see father touch mother "it's been a long time since her parents had touched each other" . Girl likes going to the park and watching young men "courting their lady friends out in the rowboats" - Language- hell, brat, stupid. damnation, Mention of opera singer Caruso in story and in back history section (with photo) |
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Under Copp's Hill          |       | N    | religion  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | American Girl History Mystery | Voices at Whisper Bend   | 4-6   | OK?? | Children try to capture the person who stole the scrap metal they collected for the war effort. Middos among classmates. Soldier brother writes to his little sister and tells her not to grow up too fast and not to start inviting "fellas" over so he can inspect her "admirers". Classmate warns girl to stay away from a boy or else people will think she has "a crush" on him. Father says blessing before they eat. Sisters at the convent give orphans clothing. When mother dies children "pray over her" and wrap a rosary around her hand so they should know she is a Catholic then leave her on church steps. Sad descriptions of poverty and loss. Non-romantic negiah. In back history section mentions that women "traded dresses for overalls" when they went to work in factories to help the war effort. Language- dumb, goofball, darn/darn it (frequent), stinkers, creepy, stinkin'. |
|                  | Anckarsvard, Karin            | The Mysterious Schoolmaster                                      | 4-6   | OK?  | side plot of a boy/girl party - totally juvenile and unromantic   |
|                  | Anderson, Janet S             | The Last Treasure  | 6-8   | N?   | A boy and girl who are distant cousins find the family treasure and help make peace among their elders. Biggest problem: at end (chapter 40), treasure is described: " apostle spoons". Discussion of apostles by name including JC. Language - dumb, screwed up, stupid, dork, freaking out, hell (once), weird. Mentions of ghosts and spirits. Non-romantic negiah. Girl is bitter because mom remarried and she doesn't see dad (abandoned her??). Boy found pictures "so dirty they made his eyes pop" A lot of boy's feelings about mom dying and about how son fought with parents about girl he married - he cuts off all contact with them. Mild description of church service and beliefs.  |
|                  | Anderson, Laurie Halse        | Chains   | 7-10  | OK?? | Slave girl tries to win freedom. Some violence. A lot of racism and mistreatment of slaves. Description of X-mas – brief mention that it celebrates the birth of baby J___. Lots of talk of ghosts and other black slave superstitions. Mild description of church service. Sleeping girl feels a man pulling a blanket off her and is afraid he "meant me harm" - turns out he was cold and wanted the blanket. Girl feels boy's head to see if he has fever. Church is called house of G-d. Mild description of church service. Beseech the trinity but no explanation. One word mention of Easter. Language- blast/blasted (used as expletive), hellfire, idiot, stupid, brat, dolt.   |
|                  | Anderson, Laurie Halse        | Fever 1793   |       | N    |   |
|                  | Anderson, M.T.                | A Pals in Peril Tale: Jasper Dash and the Flame-Pits of Delaware | 5-8   | N?   | Tongue-in-cheek adventure tale. Minor language: butt. Several references to crush, dance, minor boy-girl, non-romantic negiah.  |

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|------------------|------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Anderson, M.T.   | The Game of Sunken Places              | 7-8   | OK  | Boys unwittingly become players in supernatural game. Scary. Minor non-romantic negiah between cousins.  |
|                  | Anderson, M.T.   | Whales on Stilts                       | 4-6   | N?  | Children try to save the world from a takeover by whales. Entire book is a farce poking fun at adventure thrillers. Main character is the result of a mating between a whale and a human. Language: sexy (p. 97) Gollblasted (p. 165). Non-romantic negiah. At end author implies she wants to marry a whale hybrid man. Whole book is very strange. |
|                  | Anderson, Rachel | Paper Faces                            | 5-7   | N?  | A British girl struggles with poverty during WWII and with mentally ill soldier father. Mother very lower class - always talking about movie stars - she has "film star legs". Mention of J---. Calls parents by first name. Now that father is home he will take girl's place "beside mother in bed".   |
|                  | Anderson, Rachel | The Bus People                         |       | N   | Stories told from perspective of developmentally disabled children and teenagers. Descriptions of loving adults as well as very dysfunctional adults. Very explicit and detailed descriptions of non-tzniusdik thoughts and posters.   |
|                  | Angell, Judie    | A Home is to Share and Share and Share | 3-5   | OK  | detached description of dog's pregnancy, eg.-babies moving inside  |
|                  | Angleberger, Tom | The Strange Case of Origami Yoda       |       | N   | Boy tries to figure out if a paper puppet can really predict if he should ask a girl to the school dance. Lots of boy/girl, middos, and language.  |
|                  | Angleberger, Tom | Fake Mustache                          |       | N   | Boy tries to stop his friend from taking over the world by wearing a fake mustache that hypnotizes people. Inappropriate boy/girl and language.  |
|                  | Appelt, Kathi    | Keeper                                 |       | N   | Inappropriate plot, boy/girl, boy/boy, language  |
|                  | Appelt, Kathi    | The Underneath                         |       | N   | A cat befriends an abused dog whose owner was an abused boy. Abusive personalities described in detail. Although book is full of imagery and symbolism, it is very gritty and unpleasant.  |
|                  | Applegate, K. A. | Animorphs (series)                     | 6-8   | N?  | Kids are endowed with power to change into animals, in order to fight aliens who are taking over the world by taking over people's brains. Lots of violence. Lots of philosophical discussions about killing some people to save many. Various mentions of attractions between boys and girls, with some negiah.                                     |
|                  | Applegate, K. A. | Remnants (series)                      |       | N   | Refugees escape into space after Earth is destroyed by an asteroid. Boy/girl. Extremely gory and scary.  |
|                  | Archer, Chris    | Pyrates #3: Dead Man's Chest           | 3-6   | OK? | Kids continue dangerous mission to find pirate treasure. Side story of boy who lives "underground" because he & mother ran away from abusive father & mother died.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Armstrong, Alan               | Whittington  | 4-6   | N?   | Told from animal's perspective. Animals help boy overcome dyslexia. Children's mother died and don't know where father is. JC - P. 40. Minor but powerful old fashioned love story. Boy falls in love with girl "couldn't breathe, couldn't swallow, eyes like lions for that girl" "could just make out her body" (beneath the gown). Minor negiah, eventually marry. |
|                  | Armstrong, Jennifer           | Steal Away... To Freedom   |       | N    | a white girl and slave girl run away together. White boy tries to seduce slave - described in detail and often. Lots of religion and J--, women's rights and emancipation.   |
|                  | Armstrong, Jennifer           | Too Many Pets  | 3-5   | OK   | Girl is overwhelmed with her pet business. Befriends lonely old lady.  |
|                  | Armstrong, William H.         | Souder   | 6-8   | OK   | Son of a black sharecropper deals with father's prison sentence (who stole to feed family), and heart wrenching devotion of father's dog. Lots of biblical quotes and thoughts but nothing too objectionable. Sad.   |
|                  | Armstrong, William H.         | Sour Land  | 5-7   | OK?  | Sequel to Souder. A noble black man tries to make his way in segregationist south. Religious quotes, but all from "old testament". One mention of Judas tree "legend that J---'s cross had been made of its wood". Beautiful and important book. Only about 100 pages but subject matter is appropriate for older readers.   |
|                  | Arnold, Louise                | Golden and Grey: A Good Day for Haunting                           | 3-6   | OK   | Boy who can see mischievous ghosts, traps evil ghosts from past. Fun read.   |
|                  | Arnold, Louise                | Golden and Grey: An Unremarkable Boy and a Rather Remarkable Ghost | 4-7   | OK?? | Boy who can see mischievous ghosts, foils plot of man who tries to take advantage of him. Language: hell (P. 236, 242).  |
|                  | Arnold, Louise                | Golden and Grey: The Nightmares that Ghosts Have                   | 4-7   | OK   | Boy and ghost friends find out why ghosts are going missing. Brief reference to dinosaurs  |
|                  | Aronson, Marc and HP Newquist | For Boys Only: the Biggest Baddest Book Ever                       | 5-8   | OK?  | Despite the title, just a book of interesting facts, records, and statistics - for boys AND girls. P. 151- ref. to dinosaurs/ billions of years.   |
|                  | Arthur, Robert                | The Three Investigators: The Mystery of the Green Ghost            | 5-7   | OK   | Boys solve mystery of ghost and missing heiress. Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.  |
|                  | Arthur, Robert                | The Three Investigators: The Mystery of the Missing Mummy          | 5-7   | OK   | Boys discover who is making mummy whisper. and catch a criminal. Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.  |
|                  | Arthur, Robert                | The Three Investigators: The Mystery of the Talking Skull          | 5-7   | OK   | Boys discover why skull talks, and find stolen money . Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.  |
|                  | Arthur, Robert                | The Three Investigators: The Secret of Skeleton Island             | 5-7   | OK   | Boys discover who is haunting island, and find pirate treasure. Other books in this series listed under Aden, William.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                            | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Asch, Frank         | Pearl's promise                  | 4-6   | N?   | A white mouse rescues his brother from a snake tank in a pet store and learns about the outside world. Language: darn you, shut up. Boy says about his mother: "don't mind her, she's hyper sometimes". Minor romantic mouse "negiah", some mouse "boy/girl".  |
|                  | Asimov, Janet       | Norby and the Terrified Taxi     |       | N    | A space cadet, his robot, and a taxi, team up to save the world from an alien who is trying to change the evolutionary history of Earth and keep the dinosaurs from being destroyed by an asteroid. Entire book one big hashkafa problem   |
|                  | Atkinson, Elizabeth | I, Emma Freke                    |       | N    | Girl tries to deal with her unusual name, distant mother, and absent father. Inappropriate relationships.  |
|                  | Auch, Mary Anne     | Frozen Summer                    | 5-7   | N?   | Sequel to Journey to Nowhere. Family tries to survive in Frontier days. Childbirth. Mother slowly goes mad; eventually wanders away and dies in cold. Lots of religious talk about bad weather being punishment for sins, end of the world, etc.   |
|                  | Auch, Mary Anne     | I Was a Third Grade Bodyguard    | 3-4   | N?   | Talking dog is given the job of guarding the class pet chicken and has great difficulty- chicken has bad "middos". A lot of xmas- tree, gifts, lights, special cookies, etc. No religion. Female chicken has crush on male chicken. TV watching. Bathroom humor. Language- dumb, stupid.                       |
|                  | Auch, Mary Anne     | I Was a Third Grade Spy          | 3-4   | OK?? | Boys use their talking dog to spy on female classmates to find out what they are doing for the school talent show. Boy teases his friend that girl has a crush on him (once- page 21). Bathroom humor. Brief mention of "Miss Teen Scene" beauty pageant on TV. Minor chutzpah. Language- stupid, weird, dumb  |
|                  | Auch, Mary Anne     | Journey to Nowhere               |       | N    | Last chapter   |
|                  | Auch, Mary Anne     | The Road to Home                 | 5-7   | N?   | Last in Journey to Nowhere trilogy. Tznius issues, negiah. Girl menstruates & thinks she's dying. Negative portrayal of father as irresponsible; girl runs away with younger children.   |
|                  | Auch, Mary Jane     | Cry Uncle                        | 4-6   | OK?? | Boy's great uncle comes to live with them after losing his brother and his farm. Uncle sometimes reverts to thinking he is child and boy is his brother. Ends up marrying widowed woman; when they get engaged, they kiss on mouth in public.  |
|                  | Auch, Mary Jane     | Glass Slippers Give You Blisters | 4-6   | OK?  | Girl discovers her own artistic talent when she does lighting for a play. Becomes platonic friends with boy. Lies to go to prepare for play, because mother would not approve. Artistic grandmother left family to be actress for 6 months when mother (her daughter) was 8 - returned and said she was wrong. |

Complete Secular Book List

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|------------------|-----------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Auch, Mary Jane | Kidnapping Kevin Kowalski                            |       | N   | After boy is badly injured in an accident, his friends feel the mother is too overprotective, and they kidnap him overnight to get him to be independent. Several mentions of boys enjoying looking at girls who are dressed very not tznius (bikini, etc.)  |
|                  | Auch, Mary Jane | One Handed Catch                                     | 4-8   | OK? | Boy learns to compensate after losing hand in accident. Very well done. X-mas gifts - no religion.   |
|                  | Auch, Mary Jane | Out of Step  | 4-6   | OK  | Boy deals with father's remarriage and father favoring athletic stepsister   |
|                  | Auseon, Andrew  | Alienated  |       | N   | A highly inappropriate story about boys who write a newsletter about aliens and get mixed up in their battle. Full of inappropriate language, boy/girl, romantic negiah, bad middos.   |
|                  | Avi             | Beyond the Western Sea Book 1 - The Escape from Home | 6-8   | N?  | A brother and sister who immigrate to America from Ireland meet up with a rich boy from a noble family who is running away from his fate of always being second best to his elder brother. Irish children are Catholic and do lots of crossing of themselves, rosary beads, and invoking JC, Mary and Joseph. Rich boy is Protestant and lots of discussion of sects not liking each other but no explanation. Plot brings up many questions including if Irish children were justified in leaving sick mother alone to join father in America, and if it was justified for rich boy to run away from what he considered an intolerable situation and steal money from his father in order to do so. Subtle implications of romance, may go over children's heads. This book leads into book 2 so parents should check its appropriateness before allowing book 1. |
|                  | Avi             | Beyond the Western Sea Book 2 - Lord Kirkle's Money  | 6-8   | N?  | Children travel in steerage to America to join their father, but they find he died. Help the rich boy stowaway and later retrieve his money. Their travelling companion is a failed Shakespearean actor who kisses her hand then proposes to the sister, much to her dismay. Constant invoking of Yoshka and his family and asking him for mercy and calling them holy. Vivid descriptions of discrimination against Irish and terrible mistreatment. Language-brat, stupid.   |
|                  | Avi             | Bright Shadow  | 5-7   | N?  | A girl is made into a wizard but isn't allowed to tell anyone. Her boyfriend mistakenly thinks he is the wizard and leads a rebellion against the king. A few instances of minor romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Avi             | Encounter At Easton                                  |       | N   | A novel written in the form of legal testimony of each character. Two slaves run away from their master and are helped by a woman who went crazy when she was raped by her master - clearly mentioned twice. Ends tragically.  |

Complete Secular Book List

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|------------------|--------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Avi    | Ereth's Birthday                                 | 3-5   | OK?  | Continuation of "Poppy" . Grouchy porcupine thinks everyone forgot his birthday and goes off to look for his own present. He ends up becoming a foster "mother" to orphaned foxes. Lots of humorous grouchy slang, minor language: goldarn, stupid, jerk (once each).  |
|                  | Avi    | Finding Providence - The Story of Roger Williams | 2-4   | OK?  | An early chapter book about the man who worked to create a separation of church and state. Mentions of church and Christianity and preaching, but no religion detailed.  |
|                  | Avi    | Hard Gold  | 5-7   | N?   | A boy goes west to find his uncle who is suspected of killing a man during the Colorado gold rush. Mild boy/girl throughout- a hug, girl tells boy he is her sweetheart, kiss on the cheek. Implied they will marry. Language- stupid, darn. Minister gives a rather irreverent blessing. Girl wishes she could wear bloomers so she could walk and run more easily- illustration of old fashioned woman in baggy bloomers. Girl sings to boy. |
|                  | Avi    | Iron Thunder                                     | 5-7   | OK?  | Boy serves first in iron warship. Language: Hell (formal).   |
|                  | Avi    | Man from the Sky                                 | 4-6   | OK?? | A learning disabled boy sees a criminal parachuting from a plane and saves his neighbor from him. Language: damn (p. 107).   |
|                  | Avi    | Midnight Magic                                   | 4-6   | OK?  | A magician's servant boy gets involved in palace intrigue and eventually saves the day. Fun.A lot of talk about the church finding magic to be evil and the characters are often praying and crossing themselves..   |
|                  | Avi    | Murder at Midnight                               | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy servant of illusionist in superstitious Middle Ages, works to prove his boss innocent of plotting against the king. One hug from girl whose life he saved: innocent.   |
|                  | Avi    | Night Journeys                                   | 4-5   | OK?  | Boy in Colonial America helps indentured servants escape. Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Avi    | Nothing but the Truth                            |       | N    | Boy sings the Star Spangled Banner in class to get back at a teacher who gave him a bad grade - ends up becoming the hero of the patriotic public who think he had good motives. Lots and lots of adolescent boy/girl, bad middos and language.  |
|                  | Avi    | Poppy  | 3-5   | OK?  | A mouse sets out to avenge death of her boyfriend by defying a tyrannical owl. P 73-describes picture of Rogers and Astaire (famous dancers) dancing, and mouse's ambition to also dance in arms of handsome mouse. Minor language.  |
|                  | Avi    | S.O.R. Losers                                    |       | N    | Group of nonathletic boys are forced by their school to form a soccer team. Boy notices his father is preparing to have a serious conversation with him and assumes it is about s-- (it's not)This is mentioned again later in the book. A lot of problematic language.  |

Complete Secular Book List

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|------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Avi    | Strange Happenings        | 4-6   | OK?  | A collection of strange short stories - some scary. Language: butt (p. 77). Boy who is bored with life thinks that only on TV things are interesting (p. 4)  |
|                  | Avi    | The Barn                  | 5-8   | OK?? | Sad story about a pioneer boy who has to leave school after father suffers an attack and becomes a virtual vegetable. Boy convinces himself that if they build the barn the father dreamed of, it will cure him. Detailed description of caring for his father including cleaning his "privates". Relatively neutral Christian prayer written out (p. 4). Older sister wants to marry a boy who kisses her - she blushes - (p. 78). Reviews of many books in back, some of which may be inappropriate - can be torn out.   |
|                  | Avi    | The End of the Beginning  | 4+    | OK   | Very unusual story. On surface seems to be about adventures of an ant and a snail. On deeper level lots of puns and tongue in cheek.   |
|                  | Avi    | The Fighting Ground       | 4-6   | OK?  | Historical fiction. A boy joins War of Independence and finds out war isn't as glorious as he imagined. Description of burial of man and wife, some dirt goes into woman's mouth - some kids might find it frightening.  |
|                  | Avi    | The Good Dog              | 4-6   | OK?  | A dog comes to grips with conflict between being owned by humans and call of wolves to run wild. One instance of dog "negiah" with "girlfriend" (p 118-119) - some children won't get it but some will.  |
|                  | Avi    | The Mayor of Central Park | 3-5   | N?   | Gang of rats takes over Central Park. The squirrel mayor tries to stop them while falling in love with the head rat's daughter. Lots of tongue-in-cheek humor that will go over kid's heads, lots of slang, minor romantic negiah that eventually leads to marriage.   |
|                  | Avi    | The Secret School         | 4-6   | N?   | The teachers of a one room schoolhouse leaves before the year end, so an eighth grader decides to secretly become the teacher so she can take the test to qualify for high school. An undercurrent of romantic tension between two eighth graders but nothing really happens between them besides them being good friends and a reference to him being "sweet" on her and one spontaneous hug - then she blushes and runs away. Some descriptions of a dysfunctional father/son relationship - son says of father "he is an angry old cuss". Minor language: darn. |
|                  | Avi    | The Seer of Shadows       |       | N    | A photographer's apprentice tries to prevent a ghost from murdering her wicked stepparents. Lots of discussion of ghosts and spirits and the afterlife. Statue of "G-d's glory" Discussion if it's OK to play a hoax if it won't really hurt anyone. White boy marries black girl.   |

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|------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Avi    | The Traitor's Gate                  | 5-8   | OK?  | Set in 19th century England, boy solves mystery of father's arrest for debt. J-- used as exclamation twice. Passing reference to mother's "copious bosom heaving with emotion". Friendly hug from female adult servant to boy. Boy and girl sleep back to back - totally innocent. At end of book boy says he will "not be a traitor" to girl who was his friend - mild reference to his liking her, but no romance. |
|                  | Avi    | Who Stole the Wizard of Oz          | 4-6   | OK?  | Children figure out who stole books from a library aisle and find a treasure. Minor language: stupid. A lot about the plots of classics: The Wizard of Oz, The Wind in the Willows, Through the Looking Glass, Treasure Island.  |
|                  | Avi    | Who was that Masked Man Anyway?     | 4-6   | OK?? | Entire plot revolves around boy's love for radio adventure program. Devises plot whereby brother and teacher will fall in love and marry. Some minor inappropriate references.   |
|                  | Avi    | Wind Catcher                        | 5-7   | OK?  | A boy spies a couple searching for a shipwreck and ends up in big trouble. First he is marooned on an island, then he is captured by the couple. Mildly scary. Minor language: stupid, idiot. Unimportant mentions of watching TV,   |
|                  | Avi    |                                     |       | N    | A poor orphan in Medieval England discovers he is illegitimate son of aristocracy. A lot of explicit and detailed religion, discussion of illegitimacy.  |
|                  | Avi    | True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle | 4-6   | OK?  | A well-bred girl sails to America and becomes involved in crew's rebellion, eventually she "throws away her dress" for pants and the life of a sailor. Minor rough language. Disobeys parents to become a sailor - viewed as positive.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
| new              | Avrech, Robert J. | The Hebrew Kid and the Apache Maiden |       | N    | A Jewish boy tries to survive in the old west. Judaism is described in detail- parents very "frum"- father learns kabbala and davens constantly. He is on a mission to meet "lamed vavnicks" to hasten the coming of the messiah. Older sister flirts with boys and dreams of meeting boys at an "ice cream social". Boy is almost bar mitzva and worries about having a minyan so he can say his haftarah. Most problematic are a number of boy/girl situations. The boy develops a relationship with an Indian girl, both agree they can't marry but they are good "friends" with an undercurrent of romance. A non Jewish couple explains that they are waiting for a minister to marry them because they don't want to "live in sin". In the meantime they kiss each day for only 6 minutes and hold hands. Man is anxious to marry so girl will "share a marriage bed" with him. Girl reads romances with "a lot of kissing" but boy prefers Charles Dickens. and "a generous tushy." Girl shows Indians her corset and explains she wears it because it is what men like "little waists, wide hips, proud bosom", Girl is somewhat chutzpadik to her father. Western lawlessness, violence, death. Scary description of woman hemorrhaging and dying after childbirth. Indian beliefs and customs. Language- hell (frequent), stupid, shut up. |
|                  | Babbit, Natalie   | Goody Hall                           | 5-8   | OK?? | A boy is raised in luxury by his mother, after his father is reported dead, but the the boy suspects that he is alive. With the help of a friendly tutor, the boy solves the mystery of his family. Well written, unusual story. Language: Gates of Hell; man rides horse "hell for leather". Mentions of Hercules (tutor's namesake) and his "Twelve Labors" from Greek mythology. At end of book. tutor kisses dour housekeeper on the forehead - not out of feelings for her, but out of happiness about the turn of events.  |
|                  | Babbit, Natalie   | The Moon Over High Street            | 5-7   | OK?? | An orphaned boy who lives with his grandmother resists being adopted by a wealthy man in order to pursue his dreams of becoming a scientist. Throughout alludes to boy/girl but never says it straight out- boy thinks girl is beautiful, he gets red in the face when he thinks about her. But in terms of behavior, they act like regular friends. Dog has a "crush" on a poodle, sneaks out to "visit" her. Mention of watching TV, movies. Language-dumb.  |
|                  | Babbit, Natalie   | Tuck Everlasting                     | 5-7   | OK?  | A family who drank from eternal spring can never die. A little girl discovers their secret but doesn't choose their way of life. Lots of philosophical discussion of immortality. Several mentions of girl looking at "beautiful boy"; sometimes she blushes. Eternally teenaged boy tries to convince young girl to drink from spring when she's older and become immortal and marry him. All family members, including teenage boy who likes her, give girl a hug when they leave. Rich classroom discussion potential.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                                  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Baccalario, P.D. | Ring of Fire: Century Quartet Book 1   | 6-8   | N?   | 2 girls and 2 boys join together to find ancient artifacts and save the world. Some language: hell, dammit. Magic/gods. No romance but quite a bit of very friendly negiah. Kids all sleep in same room - innocent except that one boy doesn't have pajamas and sleeps in boxers.   |
|                  | Badger, Meredith | Fairy School Dropout- Over The Rainbow |       | N    | A fairy girl sneaks out of boarding school to help her human friend who the fairy computer tells her is being crushed. It turns out she has a crush on a boy. Too bad, because otherwise this has the potential to be a cute series.Middos between classmates. Language- weird, stupid, freaky.   |
|                  | Baglio, Ben M.   | Animal Ark - Dolphin in the Deep       | 3-5   | N?   | Girl helps set sick dolphin free ;dolphin is property of mean man and book justifies stealing it to save its life. After the fact, the man comes to terms with it. Description of how dolphin nurses baby.  |
|                  | Baglio, Ben M.   | Animal Ark - Lamb in the Laundry       | 3-5   | OK   | Kids help new neighbor with sheep birthing and new baby.  |
|                  | Baglio, Ben M.   | Animal Ark - Mare in the Meadow        | 3-5   | OK   | Kids help girl with Cerebral Palsy re-connect to horse after losing hers to illness.  |
|                  | Baglio, Ben M.   | Animal Ark - Pony in a Package         | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl receives miniature horse as compensation for pony that she can't have because parents got divorced and mother's new home is too small. Parents got divorced because father traveled on business a lot and parents "grew apart". Girl is angry at father and blames him for divorce. At end sees him & is reconciled. Many passing mentions of x-mas gifts, tree etc.Boy blushes when someone gives him a look to indicate he is more than friends with a girl (he isn't )  |
|                  | Baglio, Ben M.   | Animal Ark - Pony on the Porch         | 3-5   | OK?  | When girl suspects that other girl's horse is allergic to hay, she steals him away from race to save him. Girl who is having trouble adjusting to a move displays bad middos but improves by end of book. Kids are somewhat chutzpadik to an older woman with a difficult personality - also resolves itself at the end of the book, though they never apologize. Girls best friend is a boy - someone asks if he's her boyfriend - she says no, just a friend. Many mentions of girl's mom being famous actress on TV. Brief mention of girl being adopted after parents killed in an accident. Non-religious mention of church and pastor. Language - stupid, idiot. In back of book, review of Puppies in the Pantry - mention famous TV soap opera actress non-religious mention of Easter. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                                | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Beagle in a Backpack     | 3-5   | OK?? | note on series- Most of the books in this series involve a boy and a girl who are best friends (boy is a year younger than the girl) who have animal adventures. Girl's adoptive parents are veterinarians (occasional mention that her birth parents were killed in an accident, but she never thinks about them since she loves her adoptive parents). The relationship between the two friends is completely innocent, but they often have sleepovers and go on vacations with their families, etc. Very pro animal rights. Girl is a vegetarian because she is an animal lover. Many of the books revolve around, or at least mention holidays like xmas, halloween, and easter, but little or no religion. The "Hauntings" series involve ghosts of animals- not scary ghosts. The "pets" series is easy readers. In this book children help rescue a runaway girl who stole a puppy to keep it from being put to sleep. A bit scarier than most books in this series. Leaves reader with the question if it is OK to steal an animal if its life is in danger (same question arises in other books in this series). Many mentions of Halloween, no religion. One word mention of xmas. Language- darn (once). Boy flings his arms around girl when she is rescued, then is embarrassed. |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Bunnies in the Bathroom  | 3-5   | N?   | A girl helps a boy get interested in rabbits to cheer him up when he is sad that his father got engaged while he was away in boarding school. Girl "has an urge to fling her arms" around her best male friend but he ducks out of the way (not romantic) . Woman puts arm around fiance's waist. Mention of giving female bunnies operation so she can't have babies. Easter bunnies, Easter presents, one word mention of xmas. A white lie "for a good cause" (making a sad boy feel better) is fine. Language- heck (once)  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Cats at the Campground   | 3-5   | OK?  | Children help rescue stray cat who is afraid of humans and her kittens. Affectionate but nonromantic negiah. One word mention of TV, Easter. Language- idiot  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Corgi in the Cupcakes    |       | N    | Girl helps reunite high school sweethearts. Entire plot revolves around this and valentines day. Lots of girl "liking" boy, "mushy stuff", a ten year old having a "crush", Mention of movie actor and pop star. Searching the internet for information.  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Cub in the Cupboard      | 3-5   | OK?? | Children rescue a mother fox and her baby from a hunter's trap. Woman says "We are all G-d's creatures, we have no right to kill animals" A few mentions of ringing church bells and church bazaar. Woman plays hymn "Rock of Ages" no details. Language- weird.  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Dalmation in the Daisies | 3-5   | OK?  | Children rescue a pregnant dalmation and after she dies, find homes for her pups, and save an endangered bird. Internet. Brief TV. One word xmas. Brief mentions of Easter decorations, Easter eggs- no religion.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|---|
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Dog at the Door                | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help locate the owner of a pregnant dog. Book begins with Halloween and trick or treating- no religion. Non romantic negiah.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Foals in the Field             | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help a man keep his horse farm. Scary when barn almost collapses on a girl, sad when horse dies. Brief mention of girls biological parents dying. Girl lies to try to help farmer and then justifies it as not real lying. Children try to prevent prospective buyers from reaching horse farm by giving them wrong directions and delaying them in any way they can. Entire town helps them. One word mention of church. Language- stupid                 |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Goose on the Loose             | 3-5   | OK?? | Children promise to care for a little girls pet goose, but it is accidentally given as a contest prize to a mean animal hating man. Children try to rescue (steal) it from him (Is stealing an animal OK to protect it?). In the end, he gives it up willingly and adopts a puppy. Many mentions of church, and vicar, and ringing church bells, but no religion. Brief mention that girl was adopted after her parents were killed in a car crash.Language- stupid |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Guinea Pig in the Garage       | 3-5   | OK?  | Children help girl who wants to have a pet. One word xmas.Brief mention that girl was adopted after parents were killed in a car crash. Language- stupid  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Hamster in a Handbasket        | 3-5   | OK?? | Children look after the school hamster and get involved with a group of teenagers camping near their homes.Black and white illustrations of girl in shorts and t shirts. Brother and sister twins display very bad middos- very mean to a girl, cause property damage, etc. Somewhat punished at the end. One word Easter. Language- idiot.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Hauntings - Hound on the Heath  | 3-5   | OK?? | On a camping trip, kids help a ghostly boy reunite with his ghostly dog. Boy and girl who are friends sleep in tent together- completely innocent. Language- idiot, crackpot.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Hauntings- Cats in the Castle   | 3-5   | OK?  | Children help ghostly cats and boy bring a family of real cats to live in a restored castle.Mention of a movie set. There is a chapel described but no religion. Language- creepy.  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Hauntings- Deer in the Darkness | 3-5   | OK?  | Children help prevent a road from being built through an old forest. The ghost of a deer helps them. Brief mention of a passageway used to hide priests from persecutors. Language- weird.  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Hauntings- Foal in the Fog      | 3-5   | OK?? | Ghost horse helps lead children to rescue an injured horse. Details about girl who is mourning the loss of her horse which died when she distracted her father when he was driving.Legend of a shepherd's wife who ran off with a young nobleman and a god turned him to stone. Speculation that ancient circle of stones was used to worship the sun. Language- weird, stupid  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Hedgehogs in the Hall          | 3-5   | OK   | Children help injured hedgehog and her babies while helping a lonely girl cheer up.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                              | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Horse in the House     | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help an elderly man keep his horse after his wife dies and he is forced to sell off his farm. Brief unimportant mention of actress on a soap opera on TV. Brief mention that girl's parents were killed when she was a baby and she was adopted. Language- creepy. In back of book review of "Pony in a Package"- mention of xmas.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Hound at the Hospital  | 3-5   | N?   | Children spend the week at a big city animal hospital and help serve a summons to a violent man for animal cruelty. A lot of description of animal injuries and suffering. Mention of neutering animals to prevent unwanted births. Man puts his arm around wife to comfort her. Boy and girl "camp out" in the living room- she on the couch, he on the floor in a sleeping bag- totally innocent. Children try to locate the cruel man- neighbor explains that he "split" up with his girlfriend a few months ago, but now they are back together and he moved in with her.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Husky in a Hut         | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl goes on vacation with her family and help care for a sled dog who is accidentally injured when people try to illegally hunt Indian legend of ghosts. Unimportant brief mention of coed dancing. Language- weird, dumb, stupid. In back of book preview of Hamster in the Holly- a lot of xmas.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Kittens in the Kitchen | 3-5   | N?   | Children rescue a stray cat who give birth in the school janitor's kitchen. Father teases daughter about having a boyfriend (she doesn't). Man refers to boy's female friend as his "girlfriend"- he turns red in embarrassment. Brief mention of giving cat operation so can't have kittens. Mention that girl's parents killed in car crash so she was adopted. Very brief nonreligious mentions of xmas, church bells, going to church on Sunday. TV. Boy turns red when girl hugs him (out of happiness, not romantic). Language- darn (twice), heck (twice), stupid,. In back of book preview of "Dolphin in the Deep"- detailed description of how dolphins nurse babies. |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Labrador on the Lawn   | 3-5   | OK?? | Girls help return injured lost dog to its owners and help them rescue injured otters. Parents have the room with the double bed. Girl opens door to wake boy while he is sleeping- totally innocent. One word mention of a church. Otter is depressed because his mate was killed, so they introduce him to a new female otter in the hope he will take her for a mate and start a family- they clearly like each other and groom each other etc.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Mare in the Meadow     | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help a handicapped girl come to grips with the loss of her horse and agree to ride again. Handicapped girl is somewhat chutzpadik to her mother. Boy uses internet to find information for school project. Girl tries to hug boy from happiness- he dodges away. Girl high fives man.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                               | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Owl in the Office       | 3-5   | OK?? | Kids make a pet show to raise funds to keep an animal sanctuary open. Brief mention that girl's parents were killed in an accident when she was a baby and she was raised by loving adoptive parents. Brief mention that grandfather is a bell ringer in the church. Vicar offers his garden as place to hold the pet show in return for a donation for the church roof fund, Non romantic negiah. Leader of a rock band agrees to be the MC at the pet show- gives a middle aged woman who wins a prize a kiss (not romantic). |
|                  | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Pets - Gerbil Genius     | 2-4   | OK   | Children rescue a gerbil and adopt it as a class pet. Mention of church bells ringing. No religion.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Pets- Hamste Hotel       | 2-4   | OK?? | Children help care for a hamster. Brief mention that grandfather rings the church bell, and that priest has a cat, and might let them put a notice on the church bulletin board. Grandmother runs a rummage sale to benefit the church. Someone is chairman of the church council. No religion. Man takes his wife to the movies. Grandmother gives grandfather a hug.  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Pets- Puppy Puzzle       | 2-4   | OK?  | Girl helps boy take care of a new puppy. Minor middos exhibited by a classmate, eventually she becomes nicer.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Pets- Rabbit Race        | 2-4   | OK   | Girl helps boy get over his sadness over his pet that died.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark Pets- Spaniel Surprise   | 2-4   | N?   | Children help a boy get a pet dog. Entire book is focused around a TV show about stray dogs put up for adoption. Children run to watch the show daily and it is described in detail many times throughout the book. There is nothing objectionable about the TV show per say, other than the fact it is a TV show, the actors are idolized, and the children are completely hooked on watching it. Many mentions of upcoming holiday of xmas w illustration- "glittering" tree, decorations, special food, etc. no religion.    |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Piglet in a Playpen     | 3-5   | N?   | Girls help a boy hide a pig that his father ordered him to kill. At the end, father agrees to let it live, but there is some sneaking and chutzpa on the way. One word xmas. TV. Language- stupid, heck (once)  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Polar Bears on the Path | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl goes to a small town in the arctic to watch polar bears. Helps save a mother polar bear and her cubs. Many mentions of Halloween- trick or treating, carving a pumpkin, costumes, decorations. No religion. One word mention of xmas. Brief mention that musk ox survived from the ice age. Non Romantic negiah.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                             | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Pony on the Porch     | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl steals a pony to stop its owner from jumping in a race and hurting it. At the end her actions are praised since she saved the pony's life. New girl exhibits bad middos since she is sad that her mother is rarely home since she is a famous TV actress. Girl is teased that her male friend is her boyfriend. Brief mention that girl was adopted after parents were killed in a car accident. Non romantic negiah. Girl is provoked by older woman and answers in chutzpadik fashion. Many mentions of the church as a geographic location. Language- idiot. |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Poodle in the Pansies | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help locate a dog's owner. A lot of sentimental warm and fuzzy Easter-bunnies, egg hunts, lambs being born, etc. but no religion. Detailed, sad, and somewhat frightening description of lamb giving birth to stillborn twins. Also a bit scary when farmer faints from pneumonia and girl is alone with him and doesn't know what to do. Non romantic negiah. Girl is interviewed on radio show- detailed description of radio station.  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Pup at the Palace     | 3-5   | OK?  | Children take a trip to London and help find escaped puppies. Boastful woman exhibits bad middos, but in the end she is helpful. Non romantic negiah. Brief mention of church service- no description. Language- idiot, stupid.  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Raccoons on the Roof  | 3-5   | N?   | Children's neighbor tries to kill racoons with traps but ends up injuring their daughter and a baby racoon. Girl thinks story of couple's courtship is "romantic". Boy wants to impress a girl so acts strange. Hangs out with her at her backyard pool (wearing bathing suits) Girls father is a "bully", parents push her to become dancer when she really doesn't want to. Brief mention of movies . Language- weird, heck, stupid, freaks  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Racehorse in the Rain | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help figure out what made a horse lose a race. Xmas- party, lights, cards, fair, etc. Go to church on xmas, no description. TV Language- dumb, blast, stupid  |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Shetland in the Shed  | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help girl get over her fear of horses that was caused by her mother being killed when the horse she was riding had a heart attack. Town has a medieval pageant to raise money to fix the church roof. Many mentions of church- no blatant religion- bell ringing Easter vacation. Someone's yard looks like a Hollywood movie studio. Language- idiot, stupid   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Siamese in the Sun    | 3-5   | OK   | Children help a shy boy and enter a cat in a show. Passing one word mention of a church.   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M. | Animal Ark- Tabby in the Tub      | 3-5   | OK?  | Children help a stray cat have kittens who then fosters kittens of an injured mother cat. Girl sticks flower blossoms down a boy's back as a joke- brief mention.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
| new              | Baglio, Ben M.          | Animal Ark- Tabby Under the Tree  | 3-5   | N?   | Children help find the owner of a lost injured cat. A lot of xmas- advent calendar, xmas tree, decorations, lights, presents, santa,tinsel,but no religion .One sentence mention of pews in church. Befriend an old blind lady (in the holiday spirit) In back of book preview of Corgi in the Cupcakes- mention of "teen romance".   |
| new              | Baglio, Ben M.          | Animal Ark- The Kitten That Won First Prize and Other Animal Stories        | 3-5   | OK?? | Short stories about animals. Girl gives boy a hug- "to his horror" and tells him he is a hero. Brief mention that male and female bunnies must be separated or will have a lot of babies. Boy and girl "best friends" sleepover at house to discover what is making scary noises- totally innocent- illustration of them in sleeping bags next to each other. Boy is interviewed on TV. One word mention of xmas. Language- stupid, berserk, weird.   |
|                  | Bagnold, Enid           | National Velvet   | 6+    | OK?  | A girl wins a horse in a raffle and wins the Grand National race by pretending to be a male jockey. Somewhat difficult language. Throughout the book many mentions of mating animals but no description. Minor Language: Blasted, stinkin, darn, shut up. One scene of boys and girls meeting at night without parental permission (p 30). Descriptions of jockeys changing room, their being "naked" and girl's shocked reaction (p. 198-199 ) - can be torn out.  |
|                  | Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin | Miss Hickory  |       | N    | Lots of talk of miracles of x-mas   |
|                  | Bailey, Linda           | A Stevie Diamond Mystery #2: How Can I Be A Detective if I have to Babysit? | 4-6   | N?   | A girl detective and her best friend (a boy) go to her father's tree planting camp and help capture thieves. A little boy put on a 12-year-old girl's underpants over his head - she is very embarrassed. Then he opens up the curtain where she is changing while she is "naked" - her friend (the boy) quickly turns away and reassures her he didn't see a thing. Non-romantic negiah. One sentence mention of Halloween. Minor language: weird, dumb, heck, stupid, idiot. A woman talks about her boyfriend and 12 year old girl listens closely because she is "practically a teenager" and might get a boyfriend soon. Babysitter watches "kissing shows" on TV. |
|                  | Baker, Barbara          | Oh, Emma  | 2-4   | OK?  | A young girl struggles with poverty and being the oldest. A few illustrations of girls in cutoffs and shorts.   |
|                  | Baker, Barbara          | The William Problem   | 2-4   | OK?? | Girl learns to deal with being in a different class from her best friend and with a boy she hates. Bad midos, catty/mean/obnoxious. Lots of talk of girls wearing t-shirts and jeans.   |
|                  | Baker, Betty            | Do Not Annoy the Indians  |       | N    | Very descriptive of Indian dress or lack thereof. Also of co-ed dance. Some discussion of belief in spirits.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Baker, E. D.  | No Place for Magic - Book 4 in The Tales of the Frog Princess |       | N   | Princess who is a witch travels with her fiance to get his parents' blessing on their marriage. Helps rescue his little brother from trolls. Lots of detailed romantic kissing between engaged couple. Someone intimates but doesn't spell out why it is inappropriate for them to share a tent before marriage. Before got engaged, prince held a kissing contest with the maidens in the village.  |
|                  | Baker, E.D.   | Wings   |       | N   | Girl discovers she is part fairy and becomes entangled in magical intrigue. An important setting is Halloween- no religion, but holiday mentioned frequently and in detail. Many references to boy/girl including dating, flirting, saying boy is "hot", minor romantic negiah leading to a kiss (last sentence). Middos between classmates and teacher to students. Girl speculates why parents put her up for adoption- maybe they were drug addicts, or split up, or thought she was a mistake, etc. A lot of emphasis on her being a half breed and how the human tricked the fairy into mating with him. Language- stupid, weird, freak, darn, stinking, drat, blast it, gross, idiot, shut up, heck, freakish. |
|                  | Baker, Rachel | The First Woman Doctor  | 5-8   | OK? | Biography of Elizabeth Blackwell, who became a doctor in 1840. Various mentions of women's libbers and how much she disliked them for trying to be like men (she was feminine). A few mild religious references, one mention of JC (chap. 2 p. 18) - easy to cross out. A few neutral mentions of men who tried to court her but she refused - she never married because she was too busy trying to be a doctor, but she did adopt an orphaned little girl.  |
|                  | Balaban, Bob  | McGrowl It's a Dog-Eat-Dog World                              | 3-5   | OK? | A bionic dog and his master track down two villains. Running story line of dog liking female dog. When she has puppies everyone knows "proud father" is dog detective (p 166). No mention of marriage (but they are just dogs after all!). Minor language - p. 16 "goldarned minute". Mention of x-mas presents in passing.  |
|                  | Balliet, Blue | Hold Fast   | 6-8   | N?  | When a girl's father mysteriously disappears she ends up in a gritty homeless shelter (described in stark detail) and tries to solve the mystery of his disappearance. Kids describe their father's abandoning them. One child consoles her and says it's not so bad, now her mom has a boyfriend who bought them a TV. A lot of loving physical affection between parents (girl reacts by saying "you guys are embarrassing"). Many books mentioned by title which may or may not be acceptable. Kids say girl's name is like a movie star. Middos between classmates. Brief unimportant mention of going to church. Boy says girl "rocks"- she blushes. Language-dang,heck,weird, darn,                            |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title            | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------|------|---|
| new              | Balliet, Blue    | The Calder Game  | 6-8   | N?   | Boy and girl travel to England to find their missing friend. Mystery is intertwined with mystery of a missing sculpture. A lot of art and museum culture. A few paragraphs describing unclothed sculptures and that it makes child uncomfortable looking at statue's "bare bottom" and a full page line drawing of the sculpture in question. Brief mention of woolly mammoths and other creatures that lived 200,000 years ago. Girl hugs and kisses boy after being lost- not romantic. Mentions of Greek legend of Queen who fell in love with a bull which resulted in the birth of a half man- half bull. Another story told of a king who had a mistress and when wife found her husband with her, she offered her poison of a knife. Mention of Lewis Carroll author of Alice in Wonderland and the church where he worked which is called by yoshka's name. Description of dysfunctional teacher who eventually changes. Language- weird, dumb, idiot, stupid, jerk, brat |
|                  | Balliett, Blue   | Chasing Vermeer  | 6-8   | OK?? | A convoluted and strange mystery/puzzle book where children try to locate a stolen work of art. P 33 - juvenile rhyme about boy and girl stuck in closet together. A few mentions in passing of art in museum being paintings of ladies in "too tight dresses" or "naked people" - easy to cross out. Talk of supernatural and if coincidences are real. Some kids will love the book and some won't get it.  |
|                  | Balliett, Blue   | The Wright 3     | 6-8   | OK?? | Children try to save a house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Same genre as "Chasing Vermeer" - mystery, supernatural, art, and math all strung together in a convoluted way. Promote book "The Invisible Man" (which may or may not be appropriate) and the movie "Rear Window". Children break into house to save it. Girl climbs up ladder last so that boys won't look at "the seat of her pants" . Children tell parents they are going to a movie so they can break into the house (which they have been forbidden to go near)   |
|                  | Banerjee, Anjali | Looking for Baps |       | N    | Indian-American boy blames himself for his grandfather's death and tries to bring him back using a mishmash of Hindu religious beliefs. Many hashkafa problems and language.  |
|                  | Banerjee, Anjali | Seaglass Summer  | 4-6   | N?   | An Indian American girl spends the summer with her uncle who is a veterinarian on a small island. Very graphic and detailed descriptions of animal injuries, their bodily functions, and their deaths. Discussion of which body parts are removed in neutering. Mention of animals mating. A woman on the island is a "psychic"- she uses tarot cards to channel spirits, etc. A man with a beard described as looking like Santa Claus. Language- fart, pee, sucked, gross   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                                       | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Banks, Kate            | Lenny's Space                               | 4-5   | OK?  | Socially-challenged boy learns about himself, relationships, and loss, by meeting with understanding counselor. Friend dies - sad.  |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | I, Houdini                                  |       | N    | Horrible chapter of hamster's attraction to female hamster and desire to mate with her. While most will go over kids' heads, sufficiently straightforward as to be inappropriate.   |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | Maura's Angel                               |       | N    | Girl in Ireland meets her guardian angel. Lots of Christian imagery and references.   |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | One More River                              |       | N    | apikorsus, premarital relations ok, lots of minor bad language  |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | The Fairy Rebel                             | 3-5   | N?   | A rebellious fairy helps a human have a baby but gets punished by the tyrannical fairy queen. Mentions in passing a woman being a TV actress. Lots of dwelling on the rebellious fairy wearing jeans and other stylish clothing against the rules of the fairy queen. Minor romantic negiah between fairies in love.  |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | The Farthest-Away Mountain                  | 5-7   | OK?  | Girl conquers an evil witch. Lots of fantasy and magic. Fairy tale type of instant falling in love. One kiss, not described. Language: idiot.   |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | The Indian in the Cupboard                  | 4-6   | OK?  | A boy receives magic cupboard and discovers it can bring plastic cowboy and Indian models to life. Some minor rough language. Great story   |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | The Return of the Indian                    | 4-6   | OK?  | Boy brings Indian to life and gets involved in French and Indian War. Some rough language and violence. Boy discovers how hard it is to be responsible for human lives.   |
|                  | Banks, Lynne Reid      | Tiger, Tiger                                | 6-11  | N?   | Greek princess receives gift of tiger cub. Ongoing mild description of princess and handsome tiger keeper being "in love" - does not lead to anything. Non-romantic negiah; one kiss between older couple.. Greek gods mentioned as general concept, and in negative light. Early Christians and their "god" mentioned in positive contrast. Tiger remembers "nipple" of mother that gave him milk. Vague mentions that tiger has been castrated - not completely male any more. Gory descriptions of Greek arena.  |
|                  | Baratz-Logsted, Lauren | The Sisters 8 - Book 1 - Annie's Adventures | 3-6   | OK?? | Octuplets parents suddenly disappear and they have to manage on their own and find their hidden powers. Young children figure out how to go shopping, cook, drive, pay the bills, etc Mentions of Xmas and New Year's celebrations and gifts, no religion. Father's job is being a model - no description. Minor middos between siblings. Children explain why their parents didn't give them Xmas presents (after they disappeared) by lying and saying they are Jewish children. Need to pretend parents are home because don't want to be placed in foster care. Minor language: stupid, lousy, blasted, idiots. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Barker, M.P.       | A Difficult Boy   | 6-8   | N?   | 2 boys are indentured servants to master who physically punishes them; later find out that he cheated them from rightful earnings. Language: hell, damn, bloody. Passing references to young men close to marital age, competing for pretty girl's attention - not specific. Several discussions of whether believing in wrong type of Christianity could cause one to burn in hell. One short, slightly irreverent discussion of G-d (p. 169). Young boy misbehaves and when mother comes up the stairs after him she falls and dies; boy is brought up to believe that he caused her death.              |
| new              | Barkley, Callie    | The Critter Club- Ellie's Lovely Idea                           | 1-3   | N?   | Kids decide to raise money for an organization that helps puppies by performing singing valentines. Although the entire story revolves around Valentine's Day, no religion, no boy/girl. Description of old movie girl watches on TV- text and illustration- " a shy young man falls in love with a young woman... and they live happily ever after."  |
|                  | Barnett, Mac       | The Brixton Brothers: The Case of The Case of Mistaken Identity | 3-6   | OK?? | Tongue-in-cheek story of boy who discovers he is a real 'detective' and is on the run from powerful 'librarians'. Minor language: jerk, sucks, heck. Boy's single mother has boyfriend who comes to dinner; boy doesn't like him.  |
|                  | Barnhill, Kelly    | The Mostly True Story Of Jack                                   |       | N    | Strange story of a boy who discovers his true identity and becomes involved in rescuing the town from evil magic. A lot of talk of boy's parents getting a divorce. A bully displays very bad middos-beats up kids and calls names like wart face and pig snot. Language- freak, stupid, weird, dork, dumb, idiotic, jerks, shut up, idiot, stinks, butt, creep. A lot of convoluted talk about death, souls, and magic. Boy /girl that is more suggestive than heavily romantic- boy amazed when girl takes his hand (pg.160), girl throws her arm around boy (pg.. 293). One kiss on the mouth (pg. 294) |
|                  | Barnhouse, Rebecca | The Book of the Maidservant                                     |       | N    | Maidservant accompanies mistress on pilgrimage to Rome. Lots of religion, inappropriate references.  |
|                  | Barrett, Tracy     | The Sherlock Files: The 100-Year-Old Secret                     | 3-5   | OK   | Children solve mystery of missing portrait.  |
|                  | Barrie, J.M.       | Peter Pan   |       | N    | Negiah, bad middos. Illustrations (In Jan Ormerod version): Frontal topless mermaids, undressed lost boys.   |
|                  | Barron, T. A.      | Merlin's Dragon   | 7+    | OK?? | A lizard like creature trying to discover his identity journeys around a magical world trying to save Merlin the Wizard. Very deep and philosophical. A lot of descriptions of how the magical world of Avalon came to be (obviously no mention of G-d in this creation). Many mentions of angels and gods who bestow gifts including the ability to create. Detailed description of wedding with one sentence about the kiss. Minor language: stupid, moron, idiot  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                             | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Barron, T. A.                      | Merlin's Dragon, Doomraya's Revenge           |       | N   | Continuation of series. Dragon tries to save his magical world amidst increasing violence. A detailed "passionate kiss"  |
|                  | Barrows, Anne and Sophie Blackall  | Ivy + Bean #2 - And the Ghost that Had to Go  | 2-4   | OK? | Girls think there is a ghost in the school bathroom and they create a scare in school. When a teacher forbids them talking about it, they create a ceremony to expel it with magic. Some middos issues between siblings.   |
|                  | Barrows, Annie and Sophie Blackall | Ivy + Bean #1                                 | 2-4   | N?  | 2 girls try to cast spell on older sister. A lot of bad middos - little sister plays tricks on big sister, calls her "booger head", stick out tongues at each other, etc. Girls keep going through backyard of neighbor who asked them not to - girls think of mean spell to cast on their neighbor. Minor language: weird, booger, pest, stupid, dork, crummy, heck, poop, freak out, dumb. Teenager listens to music with lots of "bad words" Not as bad as Junie B Jones but on a second grade level these are major issues.  |
|                  | Barry, Dave                        | Never A Land Book - Escape from the Carnivale | 5-7   | OK? | Prequel to Peter Pan by a different author. Children rescue a mermaid from a circus ship. A few black and white illustrations of girl in bikini and grass skirt, man in loincloth, and unclothed mermaid - not provocative but noticeable. Non romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Barry, Dave and Pearson Ridley     | The Bridge To Neverland                       | 6-8   | N?  | Based on the Star Catchers series (see comment above) by the same authors. Modern day children discover that the series really happened and end up confronting the villain. TV, lots of internet use and other technology including facebook, Google, twitter, ipad, etc. Language- idiot, shut up, moron, weird, stupid, snot, freak out, heck, idiot. Semi romantic negiah, humorous description of a belly dancer who "gyrated, wiggling and bouncing, and writhing" who tries to get the children's father to dance with her. Many mentions of juvenile boy liking girl. |
|                  | Barry, Dave and Pearson Ridley.    | Peter and the Star Catchers                   |       | N   | Prequel to Peter Pan. An orphan boy rescues magical star matter from the bad guys and becomes able to fly and will never grow up. Man and woman spend time in closed room together squeaking, thumping, laughing - children this age will get it. Pirates invent sail from ladies' corset - clear and vivid illustration. Bathroom humor. Language, negiah.  |
|                  | Barshaw, Ruth McNally              | Ellie McDoodle - Have Pen, Will Travel        | 3-5   | N?  | Girl goes camping with cousins she hates, and learns to like them. Bad middos, unrefined. Minor language: stupid, freak, snotty nosed, booger slurping, dog poop. Juvenile boy/girl. Very minor romantic negiah. Non-religious mention of Halloween.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                                 | grade |    |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|----|--|
|                  | Barshaw, Ruth McNally | Ellie McDoodle- Best Friends Fur-Ever | 3-5   | N? | <p>Note on series:Written in the form of a sketch-journal - a few words and comic style pictures recounting an experience. Similar to "Diary of a Wimpy Kid". Although this series is attractive to reluctant readers there are problems with the content. Read comments carefully.In all the books there is an ongoing joke about the mothers santa collection and the family's tendency to hide santa's wife in unexpected places as a practical joke.One of the girls in the group of friends covers her hair like a Muslim- this is apparent from illustrations, not text. In this book girl tries to train neighbors parrot to give her oral report for her and she ends up losing him. Girl watches birds and comments "It's funny how boy birds are so beautiful to impress the girls, but girl birds don't worry about how they look. In people...girls try to impress boys, and boys don't care how they look." Older sister says her boyfriend is " a hot piece of awesome". Small illustration of backview of sister and boyfriend with their arms over each other's shoulder- girl writes "Eeeewww!" to comment on their touching. Language- freak, gross,geeky, weird, stupid, freak out, creep, goofball, idiot, stinkeye.</p> |
|                  | Barshaw, Ruth McNally | Ellie McDoodle- Most Valuable Player  | 3-5   | N? | <p>Girl tries to succeed at soccer when her father is the coach. Girls "primp and flirt" when they notice "cute guys". Illustration of boys and girls hanging onto each other as they stand on a tiny platform for a team building activity. Mention of older sister's boyfriend. Kids play game- boys against girls. Boy secretly texts in school. Family hides Mrs. Claus doll in unexpected places as a practical joke. Non romantic negiah. Discussion of Greek gods. Cartoonish illustration of female soccer player in tank top. Unimportant mention of Halloween costume. Language- weird, stink, gross, freaky, creepy,</p>  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                     | Title   | grade |    |  |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|-------|----|--|
|                  | Barshaw, Ruth McNally      | Ellie McDoodle- New Kid In School               | 3-5   | N? | Girl tries to find a place for herself in a new school. Becomes friends with a boy (not romantic). Written as a sketch- journal. Family has a running joke involving a doll dressed up like Santa Claus' wife. Mother collects santas as a hobby. Girl's older sister flirts with clerk in a store. Girl hopes there will be no "boy- girl stuff" in her new class. Girl's friend has an older down syndrome brother who keeps asking her to dance with him. She does, to be nice- illustration. At dinner he sits so close to her "he's practically on my chair"- she tries not to appear too "weirded out" by him. Bathroom humor. In store someone opens dressing room door and laughs when they see her in her underwear. Middos between siblings and between classmates eg. kids call her "Ellie Smelly". Girl says her art teacher is strange and "her breath stinks". TV. Language- weird, creepy, freaky, idiot, freak out, stupid. In back of book interview with author- brief mention of Valentine's Day and April Fools Day. |
|                  | Barshaw, Ruth McNally      | The Ellie McDoodle Diaries- The Show Must Go On | 3-5   | N? | Girl becomes stage manager for her school production of "The Wizard of Oz" and tries to appease her friend who didn't get the lead role. A few mentions and sketches of a boy who "likes" a girl, but they don't want other people to know. Mentions of older sister's boyfriend. Girl says her mentor is "the cutest guy ever". Cartoonish sketch of coed dance (not romantic). A lot of detail about the Oz story and movie. Constant practical jokes with Mrs. Claus doll (Santa's wife) Middos between siblings. At the end of rehearsals, kids stand in circle holding hands and say how day went (coed- illustration). Language- stupid, freakout, weird, stink eye,.  |
|                  | Bartoletti, Susan Campbell | The Boy Who Dared                               |       | N  | Story of a German boy who grows increasingly uncomfortable with what the Nazis are doing. Finally he starts publishing treasonous pamphlets and is arrested and executed. Clear and repeated mentions that his mother never married his father, vivid descriptions of bodily functions in jail, a lot of Mormon philosophy and religion, clear description of anti Semitism. Description of westerns (movies), mother's boyfriend lives with her.  |
|                  | Bauer, A. C. E.            | No Castles Here                                 |       | N  | Boy finds comfort and strength from fairy tale book. Out-of-wedlock births, deviant lifestyles, language.  |
|                  | Bauer, Marion Dane         | A Bear Named Trouble                            | 3-5   | OK | Based on true story. Lonely bear tries to dig into zoo, zookeeper's son has conflicting feelings.  |
|                  | Bauer, Marion Dane         | The Secret of the Painted House                 |       | N  | A girl is lured into a playhouse by a ghost who wants to trap her. Quite scary for the age group - many sophisticated concepts, especially a mother who abandoned her daughter. Minor language: dumb, weird.   |
|                  | Bauer, Joan                | Peeled  |       | N  | boy/girl   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                          | Title                                | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Baum, L. Frank                  | Ozma of Oz                           | 4-6   | OK?  | Continuing adventures of Dorothy, who saves a royal family. A lot of magic. Picture of princess with low cut gown - not provocative. Mentions king who looks like Santa Claus - no explanation. Minor language: stupid.  |
|                  | Baum, L. Frank                  | The Magic of Oz                      | 4-6   | OK   | The Oz characters want to get the fairy ruler a birthday present. Get into all sorts of trouble.   |
|                  | Baum, L. Frank                  | The Marvelous Land of Oz             | 4-6   | OK   | The Oz characters try to reconquer the Land of Oz from an army of girls who would rather rule a land than do domestic chores.  |
|                  | Baum, L. Frank                  | The Wizard of Oz                     | 4-6   | OK   | A girl gets swept up by cyclone and finds herself in a magical land.   |
|                  | Baur, Joan                      | Hope was Here                        |       | N    |  |
|                  | Beale, Tad Williams and Deborah | The Dragons of Ordinary Farm         |       | N    | A brother and sister are sent to their mysterious great uncle's farm for the summer so their divorced mom can go to a singles retreat. They get involved with magical creatures and alternate universes. Lots of preadolescent culture, minor boy/girl, middos, constant problematic language.   |
|                  | Beatty, Patricia                | Charley Skedaddle                    | 4-6   | OK   | Historical Fiction - civil war. Brief mention of liking a girl.  |
|                  | Beatty, Patricia                | Sarah and Me and the Lady By the Sea |       | N    |  |
|                  | Beatty, Andrea                  | Cicada Summer                        | 5-7   | OK?? | Girl feels responsible for brother's death by carbon monoxide poisoning, so pretends she is mute. Meets girl who is running from criminal father's partner. Well written but a little heavy.   |
|                  | Beck, Ian                       | The Secret History of Tom True Heart | 5-8   | N?   | The youngest son of a family of adventurers who star in fairy tales, goes to save his brothers from an evil story writer who won't let them bring their adventures to a conclusion. Many tongue in cheek references to famous fairy tales like Cinderella, Snow White, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty, etc. Lots of fairy tale type romance - instantly falling in love and asking for hand in marriage, dancing at balls, kissing prince/princess to break enchantment, etc. |
|                  | Beddor, Frank                   | The Looking Glass Wars               | 8+    | N?   | Story of Alice In Wonderland turned into a mature novel full of intrigue. What "really" happened. Minor romance and romantic negiah. Kiss on cheek, dancing, holding close (p. 32), boy puts arm around girl to protect her, prince kisses her hand. Lots of good guys vs. bad guys violence. JC's name used as part of title of Christian college (C--- Church College). For older children objectionable things rather minor - parents should use discretion.                                  |
| new              | Beil, Michael D.                | The Red Blazer Girls                 |       | N    | Catholic school girls find a hidden ring. A lot of problematic boy/ girl, negiah, religion, and language.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                               | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Bell, Hilari      | The Goblin Wood                     | 6-8   | N?  | A girl witch watches the local priest murder her mother and gathers together a band of goblins to fight the humans who are their shared enemy. Lots of talk of the "dark one" (presumably the devil) and the priest's power coming from "the seven bright ones" or "the bright gods". Talk of demons and saints. Language: dung, prig, bastard, prissy fool. Mentions girl is product of bastardy - her father loved her mother but wouldn't stay with her because she was a witch. Minor tame love story. |
|                  | Bell, Mary Reeves | The Secret of the Mezusa            |       | N   | graphic description of German "Holocaust" computer game  |
|                  | Bellairs, John    | Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost       | 6-8   | OK? | Call priest to excise ghost w/ cross; locate "urim vetumim's" stones - description totally off - many kids will probably ignore it   |
|                  | Bellairs, John    | The Figure in the Shadows           |       | N   | A boy finds a magic amulet that is owned by a spirit who tries to kill him. Constant language: idiot, dumb, gol-darn, stupid, butt, darn, heck, lardass, crap, hell. Boy and girl are best friends - relatively platonic though teased about being boyfriend and girlfriend. To get amulet to work, boy crosses himself and says a prayer in Latin which is written out. (I don't know the meaning but kids will be tempted to read it out loud). Mentions of communion and x-mas.                         |
|                  | Bellairs, John    | The House with a Clock in Its Walls | 6-7   | OK? | spooky witchcraft; spirits return to life  |
|                  | Bellairs, John    | The Treasure of Alpheus Winterborn  | 6-7   | OK? | boy discovers treasure of eccentric millionaire with help of friendly librarian. Drinking saloon called cigar store "to be polite". Long description of lost "Kruvim" from Bais Hamikdash. Not very inaccurate as far as I can tell - may want Rabbinic Guidance.  |
|                  | Bentley, Sue      | Magic Kitten and Magic Puppy Series | 3-5   | OK? | Books about a tiger disguised as a kitten and a wolf disguised as a puppy who attempt to hide in the human world until they get strong enough to defeat their enemies. In each book they end up helping a child with a problem, often social. Although these books seem written for younger children the types of problems they deal with are really geared towards middle grade children.   |
|                  | Bentley, Sue      | Magic Kitten-A Circus Wish          | 3-5   | OK? | A girl learns to do circus tricks. Circus culture. Middos between classmates and friends. Girl's father is allergic to cats so she sneaks cat into room- eventually father finds out and lets her keep it. Language- creepy, shut up, weird, stupid, idiot.  |
|                  | Bentley, Sue      | Magic Kitten-Moonlight Mischief     | 3-5   | OK? | A girl helps her family take care of an animal kennel for a week and deals with an unfriendly older girl. Mention of renting a movie, going to the movies, TV. Girl gives father a "playful shove". Brief non-religious xmas. Language- dumb, stupid.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Bentley, Sue | Magic Kitten-Sparkling Steps                          | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl in ballet school deals with a jealous classmate with very poor middos. A lot of ballet culture and aspiring to be a famous ballerina. Brief mention of watching TV and videos. Language- weird, dumb.   |
|                  | Bentley, Sue | Magic Puppy- A Forest Charm                           | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl goes on a wilderness team building trip with her parents and deals with an overachieving girl and her father with very poor middos. In the end, she improves. Father calls his coworker "a Know it all". Language- stupid, freaky, brat   |
|                  | Bentley, Sue | Magic Puppy-Muddy Paws                                | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl spends the summer on her uncle's farm and learns to get along with her difficult cousin. Middos between cousins. Brief mention of watching TV. Language- stupid, idiot  |
|                  | Bentley, Sue | Magic Puppy-Party Dreams                              | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl's mother is in the hospital on bedrest so girl goes to stay with her step grandmother who likes to be called by her first name. Middos between friends, annoying brother, watching movies on TV, mother likes celebrity gossip magazines. Language- creepy, weird, stupid, flipping, heck (once pg. 87)   |
|                  | Bentley, Sue | Magic Puppy-Star Of The Show                          | 3-5   | N?   | A girl who is acting in a movie deals with another girl actress who exhibits terrible middos. Entire book revolves around the making of a movie and discussion of the "hot" male movie star. Lots of movie culture. Girls go on a "date" with the movie star- not romantic at all. Language- weird, stupid.  |
|                  | Bentley, Sue | Magic Puppy-Twirling Tails                            | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl deals with her best friend's budding friendship with a girl she doesn't like. Middos between classmates. Language- stupid, weird, heck (once)   |
|                  | Benton, Jim  | Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #1 Lunch Walks Among Us | 2-3   | OK?? | A girl who likes to be a mad scientist pretends to be a normal girl to make friends until she needs to rescue her teacher from a monster. Somewhat unrefined. Many mentions of boy wetting his pants when he is scared including an illustration of him with a stain on the front of his pants.Monster has a jack o lantern head- illustration. Language- weird, stinky, creep, darn (last page).  |
|                  | Benton, Jim  | Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #3-The Invisible Fran   | 2-3   | N?   | Girl makes herself invisible in order to convince her classmates to give up their boring hobbies and take up mad science instead. They end up accidentally creating a "stupid" robot that wreaks havoc in the school. As in other books in this series, unrefined bathroom humor including a toenail fungus translator, graffiti on the principal's door that says "the principal has a rubber butt", and spitballs. When girl is invisible peeks into rooms in school- sees principal eating pizza and playing a video game, and the teachers in the teacher's room mixed dancing.Language- dumb, stupid, |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                         | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Benton, Jim                    | Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #3-<br>The Invisible Fran                   | 2-3   | N?   | Girl tries to convince her friends to take up mad science as a hobby by becoming invisible- ends up rescuing teacher from a monster they create. When she is invisible stops off in the teachers lounge and sees them mixed dancing- cartoonish illustration. Robot writes on door to principal's office "The principal has a rubber butt". Somewhat unrefined. Language- dumb, stupid   |
|                  | Benton, Jim                    | Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #4-<br>The Fran That Time Forgot            | 2-3   | OK?? | A girl with an embarrassing middle name goes back in time to change her birth certificate. She encounters herself as a teen and doesn't like what she sees. Somewhat unrefined bathroom humor. Mention of encountering a giant cupid. Mom called dad "kisseypie" when they were dating. Language- dumb, stupid.  |
|                  | Benton, Jim                    | Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #5-<br>Frantastic Voyage                    | 2-3   | N?   | Girl shrinks and journeys inside her dog to diffuse an explosive he accidentally swallowed. Detailed gory and unrefined descriptions of his insides (in addition to inventions like remote control underpants) . This entire book is really meant to convey the message that TV is a form of mind control and children should limit their screen time, but in reality, it is very likely that this message will go over the young reader's head and they will be fascinated by how exciting TV is. Illustration of dog watching show with a lady in a bathing suit while he (the dog) is wearing a bikini. Language- dumb. |
|                  | Benton, Jim                    | Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #6-<br>The Fran With Four Brains            | 2-3   | OK?  | A girl with an overpacked extracurricular schedule creates robots to take over some of her activities. Unimportant mention of dinosaurs. Stupid (once)   |
|                  | Benton, Jim                    | Franny K. Stein Mad Scientist #7-<br>The Frandidate                       | 2-3   | N?   | Girl invents a way to win the school election and ultimately take over the world. Very tongue in cheek about politics and two faced politicians but will go over kids heads. A lot of TV. Unrefined bathroom humor- eg. she invents a "Steiny Heiny Ray to make everybody's butts so big they can't get out of their chairs", man walking around in his underwear (cartoonish picture, boy wets his pants. Language- darned (once)   |
|                  | Benz, Derek and<br>J. S. Lewis | Grey Griffins - the Clockwork<br>Chronicles Book 1 - The Brimstone<br>Key | 6-8   | N?   | Children try to save the world from an evil genius trying to use the souls of changelings to power huge robots. Frequent language - stupid, heck, weird, freak, shut up, jerk, sucks, screw up. Many mentions of girls wearing corsets (no description). Minor boy/girl, 6th grade girls go to a dance, minor mentions of dating.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                     | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Benz, Derek and J.S. Lewis | Revenge Of The Shadow King Grey Griffins Book 1        | 6-8   | N?   | Children try to prevent a witch from releasing an evil king. Lots of being upset that parents divorced. Somewhat dysfunctional mother. A lot of good guy vs. bad guy violence. Minor boy/girl. Boy is about to encounter danger and says "but I haven't even kissed a girl yet". Brief mention of movies and TV. Assistant principal is hypnotized into falling in love with the witch and doing her dirty work. Nonreligious mention of Santa Claus and xmas. Church is "holy ground" and fairies can't go in it. Language- freaky, stupid, weird, heck, dumb, idiot, screwed up, jerk, dratted, creep, wimp. |
|                  | Berends, Polly Berrien     | The Case of the Elevator Duck                          | 2-3   | OK?? | Boy solves problem of lost duck in housing project. Somewhat prominent mention of a couple "hugging" for a long time in the stairway until a housing policeman says "break it up". Bunny is named "Easter" because he was an Easter present no religion. Language- weird, dumb, stinking.  |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | Berenstain Bears and the Nerdy Nephew                  |       | N    | Cool tough-guy's girlfriend is attracted to nerdy intellectual.  |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | The Berenstain Bear Scouts & the Humongous Pumpkin     | 2-4   | OK?  | Chapter book. Papa Bear tries to win contest for biggest pumpkin. Bears uncover plot. Minor mention of Halloween. Papa portrayed as naïve and easily misled but not as bad as in some other Berenstain Bear books.   |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | The Berenstain Bear Scouts and the Sinister Smoke Ring | 2-4   | N?   | Chapter book. Brother Bear gets caught up with a mean gang that shoplifts, smokes, and sings rap music. Eventually sees that he should go back to good kids and help fight against smoking. Mention of middle schooler being "into kissing" (p. 55). Even though ends positively do kids need exposure?  |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | The Berenstain Bears and the Big Question              |       | N    | Picture book. Bears ask questions about G-d. Hashkafa issues.  |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | The Berenstain Bears and the Dress Code                |       | N    | Chapter book. The principal sends home a girl who is wearing a miniskirt, and the children rebel by wearing crazy fashions to school. Juvenile boy/girl. Language: darn, drop dead, buzz off, etc. Sneak behind parents' back to wear clothes they don't approve of. In the end grown-ups give in and let them wear whatever they want.  |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | The Berenstain Bears and the Homework Hassle           |       | N    | Picture book. Bear watches TV, talks on cell phone, and listens to music instead of doing homework. Little sister mentions that her brother is interested in girls but not fleshed out.  |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | The Berenstain Bears' Seashore Treasure                | 1-2   | OK   | I Can Read book. Bears search for treasure.  |
|                  | Berenstain, Stan and Jan   | The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need            |       | N    | Picture book. Bears give charity for X-mas   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Berger, Lara           | Sophie the Awesome  | 3-5   | OK?? | A third grade girl keeps trying to prove she is awesome, with disastrous results. Finally she saves a kindergartener from running into the street. Girl hates boy who used to be her best friend. Minor juvenile bad middos between children. Minor mention of fifth grade sister who follows around a boy she likes. Juvenile joke about body odor.  |
|                  | Berger, Melvin & Gilda | Where Did Your Family Come From? A Book About Immigrants      | 2-3   | OK   | examples of modern immigrant children to teach about process of immigration - no obvious Jews.  |
|                  | Berk, Professor Ari    | The Secret History of Giants                                  | 5+    | OK?  | A fantasy / alternative history disguised in the format of a real history book, with short factual sounding entries describing giants - their lives, religion, and contributions - including the creation of earth. Strange (inaccurate) explanation of who Gog and Magog are. Mention of thousands of years, fossils, and spirits. One section about biblical giants - relatively innocuous. Obviously only for child who can distinguish between fantasy and reality. |
|                  | Berlin, Eric           | The Puzzling World of Winston Breen                           | 5-7   | OK?  | Boy solves puzzles to solve mystery. Lots of puzzles for reader to solve. Boy mentions that woman is beautiful. Minor language  |
|                  | Berlin, Eric           | The Puzzling World of Winston Breen - The Potato Chip Puzzles | 5-7   | OK?? | A boy and his friends try to win a puzzle contest for their school and try to catch cheaters. Many puzzles woven into the story for the reader to solve (answers are given). Language: heck, goofballs, kick your butt, damn. Some teachers not good role models - cheat and lie. Children have better middos than the teachers. Very minor flirting.   |
|                  | Berry, James           | The Thief in the Village                                      |       | N    | bad language, bad values, cruelty, religion   |
|                  | Besson, Luc            | Arthur and the Forbidden City                                 |       | N    | A boy shrinks and helps rescue a tiny world. Romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne     | Pony Pals #01 - I want a Pony                                 | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl is unhappy staying with her grandmother while her father is away. She helps an injured pony and arranges to lease him. Forms a pony riding club with her friends. Minor language - jerk. Mention of x-mas songs; no religion.  |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne     | Pony Pals #02 - A Pony For Keeps                              | 3-5   | OK   | A girl with a learning disability is devastated when her parents threaten to take away her pony if she doesn't do better in school. She cuts school to spend time with her pony and a woman with a reputation as a witch (she isn't) helps her  |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne     | Pony Pals #03 - A Pony In Trouble                             | 3-5   | OK   | Girls try to find out what is making a pony sick, and they enter a horse show.  |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne     | Pony Pals #04 - Give Me Back My Pony                          | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl has to return her pony to a snobby older girl. On cover, picture of one girl in a sleeveless dress and one in shorts. Girl's mother died when she was 4but she's not so sad about not having a mom because she is very close with her dad. Mentions song Jingle Bells - no religion. 14 year old girl wears make-up. Non-romantic negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #05 - Pony to the Rescue           | 3-5   | OK   | Girls help find a lost little girl.   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #06 - Too Many Ponies              | 3-5   | OK   | A girl takes a job training ponies and tries to balance working with having fun   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #07 - Runaway Pony                 | 3-5   | OK   | A girl blames herself when her pony runs away   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #08- Good- bye Pony                | 3-5   | OK?? | Girls deal with the death of a beloved pony. May be difficult reading for a highly emotional child. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was young. Brief mention of a "dance" that the whole town attends. No description.   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #09- The Wild Pony                 | 3-5   | OK   | Girls try to save an abandoned pony from being killed. Girls get into a fight- eventually resolve it. Brief mention of girl not having a mother. Language- stupid, weird.   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #17 - Detective Pony               | 3-5   | OK   | Girls adopt a lost cat and save animals from a fire in the animal clinic  |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #18 The Saddest Pony               | 3-5   | OK?  | Girls care for an elderly pony and watch it die from old age. Very sad, especially for a highly sensitive child. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was little. Language- poop.   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #19- Moving Pony                   | 3-5   | OK?  | Girls help a girl who doesn't want to move, learn to make new friends. Brief mentions that girl's mother died. Mention of TV watching.  |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #27- The Pony and the Missing Dog  | 3-5   | OK?  | Girls search for missing dog. Boy who is usually mean to them actually helps them. Language- poop, stupid   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #31 - Ponies from the Past         | 3-5   | OK   | Girls find a letter from the past and connect with the elderly author in a nursing home. Very minor mention of ghosts.  |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #32 - He's My Pony                 | 3-5   | OK   | A girl deals with feelings of jealousy when a visitor proves to be a better artist than her and loves her pony as well.   |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals #36- The Pony and the Haunted Barn | 3-5   | OK?? | Girls find a barn they are convinced is haunted. Book ends with the feeling that maybe there really are ghosts. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was young. Sad story of man who was grief stricken after he lost his wife and 4 year old daughter. Boys tease girls, though girl notices that when one of them is alone he is "nice". Language- weird. |
|                  | Betancourt, Jeanne  | Pony Pals Super Special #1: The Baby Pony    | 3-5   | OK   | Girls take care of an orphaned baby pony.   |
|                  | Billingsley, Franny | The Folk Keeper                              |       | N    | Orphaned girl becomes the "folk keeper" for a large estate by the sea- it is her job to keep fairies from ruining things. Biggest issue here is that she was clearly born out of wedlock and an important focus of the book is discovering who her parents are. Some boy/girl and negiah, language,   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                                   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Biney, Betty G.  | Trouble According to Humphrey           | 3-5   | OK? | A classroom hamster finds the courage to help a classmate even though it means losing his freedom to leave his cage. Boy plays video games, family eats dinner in front of the TV, a lot of middos between siblings, some between classmates. Adult daughter is somewhat chutzpadik to her mother who lives with them. Mother offers children a prize of going to the movies. Description of family where kids are very chutzpadik, parents bicker, and everyone is very sad. It turns out it is because dad lost his job and mom is forced to work the night shift-resolves itself in the end. Language-stupid, weird, dumb, poo, dogone. |
|                  | Birdsall, Jeanne | The Penderwicks                         |       | N   | A family togetherness book of the Moffats genre, but updated to include boy/girl, romantic negiah, minor language.   |
| new              | Black, Holly     | The Coldest Girl in Coldtown            |       | N   | Gory vampire book. Violence, romance, alternative lifestyles.  |
|                  | Blackwood, Gary  | Second Sight                            | 5-8   | OK? | A boy living in Washington DC during the Civil War, becomes an entertainer who pretends to read people's minds. He befriends a gypsy girl with real fortune-telling and mind-reading abilities, and together they save President Lincoln's life. Brief mention in passing of brothels and women of the night, but no explanation. Non-religious mention of X-mas, minor mention of evolution, minor non-romantic negiah, man tries to kiss a woman and she slaps him (p. 230).   |
|                  | Blackwood, Gary  | Shakespeare's Scribe                    |       | N   | Sequel to The Shakespeare Stealer. Boy goes on tour with acting troupe and meets man who claims to be his father, He "knew" his mother well but could not marry her because she was a Catholic and her family objected. Doesn't state outright that he was born out of wedlock but obvious. Minor language. One mention J.   |
|                  | Blackwood, Gary  | The Just-So Woman                       | 1-2   | OK  | A woman who wants everything to be perfect, learns from a neighboring man that sometimes you need to accept things as they are.  |
|                  | Blackwood, Gary  | The Shakespeare Stealer                 | 5-8   | OK  | Historical fiction set in time of Shakespeare. Poor apprentice sent to secretly transcribe Hamlet. Ends up joining theater. One of boy actors turns out to be girl in disguise.  |
|                  | Blade, Adam      | Beast Quest - Cypher the Mountain Giant | 3-5   | OK? | Series about a boy and girl who undertake a quest to free huge beasts from enchantment by a villain who is trying to conquer the kingdom. Some magical violence. Children encounter great danger to free a giant. Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Blade, Adam      | Beast Quest - Epos The Winged Flame     | 3-5   | OK? | Children fight a beast that causes a volcano to erupt. Non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Blade, Adam      | Beast Quest - Ferno the Fire Dragon     | 3-5   | OK? | Children encounter great danger to free a dragon. Some non-romantic friendly negiah e.g. when they conquer the beast they hug to celebrate.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Blade, Adam       | Beast Quest - Soltra The Stone Charmer                      | 3-5   | OK   | Children rescue the village from a creature that turns people to stone.  |
|                  | Blade, Adam       | Beast Quest - Zepha The Monster Squid                       | 3-5   | OK?? | Children retrieve a piece of armor guarded by a dangerous squid. Girl asks boy to dance, he says he doesn't know how. Children decide it's OK to take a boat without permission since it's for a good cause. Non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Blair, Gwenda     | Laura Ingalls Wilder  | 2-4   | OK?  | Biography of author of Little House series. A few minor mentions of x-mas, one picture of x-mas tree with gifts under it. Agrees to marry fiancée if won't have to include a promise to "obey" him in wedding ceremony - p. 52   |
|                  | Blegved           | The Sound of Leaves   | 3-4   | OK?  | pictures of young girl at beach  |
|                  | Bligh, William    | Mutiny on the HMS Bounty - Great Illustrated Classics       | 3-5   | N?   | Ship crew mutinies and sends captain adrift. damn, hell. Drawings of non-tznius native women. Some violence.   |
|                  | Bloom, Stephen G. | Postville - A Clash of Culture in Heartland America         |       | N    | A reporter investigates why natives of rural town in Iowa hate the Lubavitchers who make the town prosperous with the meat packing plant. Portrays Jews in a terrible light - money hungry, uncouth and immoral. Extremely vulgar, explicit, and inappropriate.  |
|                  | Bloor             | Tangerine   | 8-11  | N?   | minimal boy/girl friendships; some violence. Edgy popular culture. Boy finds out the reason he is nearly blind is because his idolized older brother poured turpentine in his eyes.  |
|                  | Blos, Joan W.     | A Gathering of Days - A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32 |       | N    | A girl keeps a diary detailing her struggles to keep house for her father and little sister when her mother dies, her father's remarriage, and her best friend's death. One incident where people say they saw the single male teacher kissing the girl's aunt - they later marry. A lot of old fashioned boy/girl: girls "admire" boys and give each other "tokens of their affection" to remember each other over the summer. Mildly off-color joke about Adam and Eve (p. 78). A lot of neutral religion and bible quotes. Reference to x-mas "a newborn babe and his sweet young mother". One mention of JC. |
|                  | Blume, Judy       | Double Fudge  | 3-5   | N?   | Lots of juvenile bathroom terminology. P. 128 - mention of non-married couple - man is "nuzzling her neck". P. 153 -5-year-old says of married couple "didn't sleep in same bed until married... now play kissy-face all the time".  |
|                  | Blume, Judy       | Freckle Juice   | 2-4   | OK   | Girl gives boy recipe for getting freckles   |
|                  | Blume, Judy       | Fudge-a-mania   |       | N    | 12 year old boy has crush on teenage girl  |
|                  | Blume, Judy       | Here's to you, Rachel Robinson                              |       | N    |  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                       | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Blume, Judy         | Iggie's House                               | 5-7   | OK?? | When a black family moves into her best friend's former house, a girl tries to cope with the prejudice of her neighbors and family. She wishes she could be "curvy" like her mother. Very uncharitable, chutzpadik (albeit well deserved) thoughts about nosey, prejudiced neighbor. Spies on neighbors from tree house - one who sunbathes in only a towel and another who mows the lawn in a bathing suit (p. 59). Some minor name calling and fighting among children, tomboy dreads wearing a dress to school every day. In back of book reviews of books by the author, at least one of which is highly inappropriate - can be torn out. |
|                  | Blume, Judy         | It's not the End of the World               |       | N    | Messy Divorce   |
|                  | Blume, Judy         | Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great         |       | N    |   |
|                  | Blume, Judy         | Superfudge                                  | 3-5   | N?   | boy and girl hold hands   |
|                  | Blume, Judy         | Tale of a fourth grade nothing              | 3-5   | OK?  | minor rough language  |
|                  | Blume, Judy         | The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo | 2-3   | OK   | A second grader wants to prove himself and to his family that he is special so gets an important part in the school play.   |
|                  | Blume, Judy         | Then Again, Maybe I Won't                   |       | N    | detailed physical description of boy becoming adolescent. Shoplifting, drinking, peeping tom  |
|                  | Blume, Lesley M. M. | Tennyson                                    | 6-8   | OK?? | Set in Depression Era. When their artsy writer mother deserts the family, poor girls are sent to live with Aunt who is trying to revive Southern family dynasty. Language: damned (proper usage)  |
|                  | Bode, N.E           | The Somebodies                              | 5-7   | OK?? | Children battle an evil queen in a magical underground city. Vague references to characters in books which may or may not be appropriate, including other books in this series. Non-religious mentions of churches, synagogues, a mosque, and Halloween. Mean teacher comes back from bathroom with her skirt tucked into her underpants; comical (but inappropriate) description (p34 chapt 2). Affectionate negiah between step brother and sister. Language- weird, idiot, freakish.   |
|                  | Boling, Katherine   | January 1905                                | 5-7   | OK?? | Historical fiction. Twin sisters in mill town before child labor laws. Bodily functions: pee. Somewhat detailed description of childbirth: woman cries out in pain, nightdress up over her thighs, midwife looks between her legs.  |
|                  | Bond, Ann Sharpless | Adam and Noah and the Cops                  | 3-5   | OK?  | Boys keep getting into funny trouble. A few mentions of juvenile liking girls so they follow them and scare them - p. 29 and 75 - very minor.   |
|                  | Bond, Michael       | More About Paddington                       |       | N    | A lot of Xmas - many chapters - no religion but holiday seems very enjoyable.   |
|                  | Bond, Michael       | Paddington Goes to Town                     | 4-7   | OK   | Bear gets in unintentional mischief. Goes to town to see X-mas lights, also talk of X-mas presents; nothing religious   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Bond, Michael       | Paddington Here and Now                      |       | N    | A long chapter on Halloween - no real religion but a lot of trick or treat, spirits, pumpkins, etc. One chapter about advent calendar and what bear got for xmas.  |
|                  | Bond, Michael       | Paddington Takes the Test                    | 4-7   | OK   | Bear accidentally takes (and fails) a driving test, and accidentally gets into other mischief. Brief mention of Xmas. Family goes to theater to see a "pantomime".   |
|                  | Bone, Ian           | Fast Forward: A Dangerous Secret             | 5-7   | N?   | Teenagers are given DVD in which they become part of the movie. Teen's character in middle ages movie has a "love" - some affectionate negiah.   |
|                  | Boniface, William   | The Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Boy | 4-6   | N?   | An ordinary boy grows up in a town of superheroes and helps foil the plot of a supervillain planning to destroy the town with superhero cards. A lot of minor language: butt, crappy, jerk, heck, idiot, creep, stupid, dumb, kick butt. Running bathroom humor about a boy called "stench" who lets off bad smelling gas. A girl doesn't wear clothing - instead wears a form fitting costume of gelatinous goo - many illustrations of her - not really provocative since she's a child.   |
|                  | Bonners, Susan      | The Silver Balloon                           | 3-4   | N?   | Boy and man become pen pals via message balloon. Wonderful till end - page long lecture on dinosaurs. Adult guidance for that page.  |
|                  | Bonsall, Crosby     | Dumb Bells                                   | 2-3   | OK   | I Can Read Book. Boys accidentally hook up phone wires to door bells.  |
|                  | Bonsall, Crosby     | The Case of the Cat's Meow                   | 2-3   | OK   | Boys find lost cat.  |
|                  | Bosch, Pseudonymous | The Name of this Book is Secret              | 5-8   | OK?? | An eccentric boy and a girl try to find a missing magician and get involved with people searching for immortality who have kidnapped their classmate. Girl sometimes calls her mother by her first name. Girl is a bad liar but since she needs to lie to her parents to be allowed to go out to investigate a crime, she practices with small lies until she perfects it. Mentions of watching TV, movies. Boy's parents are divorced but they think they should both bring up their son so they divide their house in half and pretend the other doesn't exist. Very confusing for him. Some Egyptian religion and culture. Non-romantic negiah. Language-darn, stupid, weird, creepy, dumb, butt, fart, idiot, shut up, sucker. Minor bathroom humor. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title  | grade |    |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|----|--|
|                  | Bosch, Pseudonymous   | This Book is Not Good For You                            | 5-8   | N? | Third book in series. A girl and her 2 friends who are boys are members of a secret organization who try to stop bad guys from discovering the secret of eternal life. Funny, silly, and a bit scary. Minor language: stupid, sucks, freakin', dumb, jerk, darn it, butthead. A key part of the plot is a tuning fork made by the Aztecs which can produce delicious but dangerous chocolate - talks about its connection to Aztec gods. The school principal is a hypocrite who smokes and gambles. The children blackmail her. One of the boy's parents hadn't spoken in years and suddenly reconcile and "have eyes only for each other". Brief mention of a false rumor about a crush. One of the villains flirts with the girl's mother. One brief unimportant mention of man evolving from monkeys (p. 247)            |
|                  | Boston, L. M.         | The Children of Green Knowe - the Green Knowe Chronicles |       | N  | A boy sees child ghosts of his ancestors. A lot of Xmas - carols, tree, gifts, midnight mass (described), prayers, etc. Joking around about Noah and the ark. Talk of a saint come to life again and the angel Gabriel. A thief pretends to court a housemaid in order to steal a horse - sits with his arm around her.  |
|                  | Boyce, Frank Cottrell | Cosmic   | 4-8   | N? | An unusually tall boy who is already growing facial hair at age 12 poses as a father to his classmate and enters a contest with her. They win a trip to outer space. Many mentions of the internet and cell phone apps and a lot of online computer games and TV. Boy gets into funny but somewhat dangerous trouble while posing as an adult. Brief unimportant mention of magma bubbling up from earth millions of years ago. Father has a statue of St. Christopher that he feels protects him. Brief story of saint savior JC. Brief non religious xmas. 12 year old boy and girl live in a house together- posing as father and daughter- totally innocent. Different types of fathers depicted- some are a bit dysfunctional. Boy accidentally gets drunk and has a hangover. Brief mention that women wax their legs. |
|                  | Boyce, Frank Cottrell | Framed   | 5-8   | N? | Boy in small town learns about famous works of art and revives town. Father fakes theft of car to collect insurance and then disappears - boy steals work of art to collect insurance - both learn lesson and are forgiven in the end. Several mentions of paintings with naked women, including "one of her boobies was sticking out of her dress". Mention of car magazines with beautiful women on front. Language: hell, idiot. Girl who is mean to boy, explains to him when seeing fighting adult couple, that if people shout at each other it means they are in love. Several mentions of J--, Madonna, Virgin Mary. Friendly hug (once).  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                     | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Boyce, Frank Cottrell      | Millions                                       |       | N    | 2 brothers coping with death of mom find a huge bag of money and try to spend it before the country changes to Euros and the money is worthless. Boy has strong obsession with saints and constantly talks about them and tries to be like them. A lot of religion and hashkafa.  |
|                  | Boyne, John                | The Boy in the Striped Pajamas                 | 6-8   | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Bradbury, Bianca           | Two on an Island                               | 3-5   | OK   | Bother and sister trapped on an island. Learn to get along and appreciate each other  |
|                  | Bradbury, Ray              | Fahrenheit 451                                 | 9+    | OK?? | Set in future where they burn books and try to keep everyone artificially happy and not thinking deeply. One man rebels. Language: damn, hell (as a curse), JC (as a curse). Book has some deep concepts which need adult discussion - I wouldn't give it to a teenager as independent reading.   |
|                  | Bradford, Chris            | Young Samurai: The Way of the Sword (book 2)   | 6-8   | N?   | British boy stranded in Japan continues his quest to become a Samurai and return to England. Friendship with Japanese girl; mild negiah ranging from innocent to affectionate, but still no romance (p. 271, 273, 408, 410). Mention of another beautiful girl he is friendly with, first girl seems jealous. Martial arts violence. Japanese philosophy. Discussion of whether boy's Christian beliefs contradict Japanese philosophy; he is told that Buddhism encompasses all other religions. (p. 90 and others) Mention of Ch-- in this context (p 2 59). Language: Hell (the place ) p. 310 |
|                  | Bradford, Chris            | Young Samurai: The Way of the Warrior (book 1) | 6-8   | OK?? | English boy is stranded in Japan in 1600's, when ship is attacked. Adopted by samurai lord and learns art of samurai. Friends with beautiful girl - no romance (yet). Martial arts violence. Mention of JC - p. 85. Language: hell - p. 187. Japanese mythology, philosophy, passing mentions of gods. Later book in series slightly more problematic.  |
|                  | Bradford, Jan              | Caroline Zucker Makes a Big Mistake            | 2-4   | N?   | Lots of juvenile talk of liking/not liking certain boys and rock singers she thinks are cute.   |
|                  | Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker | The President's Daughter                       | 3-6   | OK?  | Historical fiction. 10 year old daughter of Theodore Roosevelt. Older sister smokes and drives car, against her parents' wishes. Passing mention of x-mas.,   |
|                  | Bradman, Tony              | Give Me Shelter                                | 6-8   | N?   | Collection of stories about children seeking asylum from politically unstable countries. In one story - female anatomy. In one story, non-related man is in mother's room overnight.  |
|                  | Brady, Esther Wod          | Toliver's Secret                               | 4-7   | OK?  | Historical fiction. Girl learns to confront her fears when she's sent to deliver a secret message that will help the Patriots defeat the British. A bully displays bad midos. Girl enjoys the freedom of wearing a boy's breeches. Non romantic negiah. Language- idiot, drat.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Bragg, Georgia     | Matisse on the Loose                                | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy tries to get out of trouble after he trades his copy of a masterpiece for the real thing. Language: butt (2x), screw up. When he was younger he "proposed" to girl, then "broke it off" and she hates him; become friends again. Very tame. Mild chutzpah of son to father.  |
|                  | Brand, Christianna | Nancy McPhee - The Collected Tales of Nurse Matilda | 4-6   | OK?? | 3 books in one and pictures from a movie, about a nurse who transforms extremely naughty children into well behaved children by using magic to cause them to continue their mischief even when they want to stop, until they beg her to let them stop being naughty. Although mischief is described in great detail it is so horrible that is unlikely a regular child will be influenced for the bad (see Mrs. Piggie Wiggle books), but parents should make an individual decision. Minor language used in a British sense: ass, drat, prig, dang. Sunday school described but no religion except "turn the other cheek". A co-ed beach where women wear modest swimsuits and don't swim near men. |
|                  | Brandeis, Gayle    | My Life With the Lincolns                           |       | N    | Girl's father gets involved in the civil rights movement, endangering his children and angering his wife (they eventually separate). Father poses as "husband" of black woman to test housing discrimination by real estate agents - implication of feelings between him and woman. Older sister falls in love with son of black woman. Female anatomy   |
| new              | Bransford, Nathan  | Jacob Wonderbar and the Cosmic Space Kapaow         |       | N    | 2 boys and a girl go into space and try to save the world. Includes boy trying to find his father who left him, whom he suspects is lost in space. Boy is chutzpadik to substitute teachers. Minor language: Heck, etc. Girl imagines boy she doesn't like, kissing her. Silly scientists note that a number typed into a calculator and held upside down spells "boobies". Hugs between boys and girls. At end of book, boy and girl who like each other, lie down to look up at stars, with shoulders touching.  |
|                  | Bredsdorff, Bodil  | The Children of the Crow Cove Series Eidi           |       | N    | Girl leaves home when her mother remarries and has a baby. Rescues an abused boy and eventually returns home. Biggest problem is when she discovers the identity of her father- quite clear that she was born out of wedlock. Also that childbirth hurts terribly, graphic (but matter of fact) nursing, a lot of talk of man being charming with a "red kissable mouth" and all of the ladies were "after him" and he fathered many children out of wedlock.  |
|                  | Breen, M. E.       | Darkwood  | 6-9   | OK   | Fantasy. Girl fights wolves and villains and discovers her powers and her past. Violence: animal vs. men and men vs. men.  |
|                  | Brennan, Herbie    | Faerie Wars   |       | N    | Completely inappropriate - deviant lifestyles, language, etc. One of the most deplorable examples of inappropriate children's literature.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                          | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Brennan, Herbie                 | The Doomsday Box: A Shadow Project Adventure | 6-9   | N?   | Teens with extra-sensory powers are sent into future to prevent disaster. Mild boy/girl: 'boyfriend/girlfriend', hand-holding. Mild language.  |
|                  | Brennan, Herbie and Neal Layton | Zartog's Remote                              | 2-5   | OK?  | Silly tongue in cheek book about an alien and a girl who accidentally switch remote controls - he takes her TV remote and she takes his that can change people into other things. She uses his remote to scare bullies who have been bothering her. Some silly slang. Minor language: darned. Alien disobeys his parents and gets into trouble.  |
|                  | Brenner, Barbara                | If You Were There in 1776                    | 3-5   | OK?  | Non-fiction. Describes life in 1776 using descriptions, quotes and illustrations. Mention of prostitutes coming to colonies - no definition or hint to meaning (P. 11). Minor language - stupid (referring to the British). One sentence (p. 85) about young couples crossing the "Kissing Bridge, which is well-named" - can be crossed out. Relatively neutral description of religious life - one mention of JC (P. 85) - can be crossed out. Back of book jacket - illustration of young women wearing very low-cut gowns, playing blind man's bluff with young men. |
|                  | Brett, Simon                    | The Three Detectives and the Knight in armor | 3-5   | OK   | lots of talk about ridiculous TV show - very anti TV   |
|                  | Brink, Carol Ryrie              | Baby Island                                  | 3-5   | OK   | 2 girls shipwrecked on tropical island with babies. Befriend a hermit. Mild religion, very minor language  |
|                  | Brink, Carol Ryrie              | Caddie Woodlawn                              | 4-6   | OK?? | Historical fiction, tomboy girl in pioneer days, discovers what it is to be a real American. Very innocent boy/girl side-story: Brother likes girl in class (page 60,90,260); buys her best Valentine in store (102, 177). Visiting preacher, praying on knees, mentions burning in hell, mention of xmas, when Saturday's sun goes down the "Sabbath" begins, etc. Mother cries, father kisses her. Girl tells her she is lucky to be going to England where "all the handsome noblemen simply languishing for dances with you"   |
|                  | Brink, Carol Ryrie              | Caddie Woodlawn's Family                     | 4-6   | OK?  | Previously published as "Magical Melons". Sequel to Caddie Woodlawn. Mild old fashioned boy/girl courting.   |
|                  | Brink, Carol Ryrie              | Family Grandstand                            | 3-5   | OK   | Sweet story about mid-1900's family  |
|                  | Brink, Carol Ryrie              | Magical Melons                               | 4-6   | OK?  | Sequel to Caddie Woodlawn. Mild old fashioned boy/girl courting  |
|                  | Broach, Elise                   | Masterpiece                                  | 5-7   | OK?  | Beetle draws beautiful art, adults think boy did it; together they solve mystery of stolen art. Non-romantic negiah between adults. Passing mention of naked statue: "The female body is a beautiful thing" (p. 111). Some discussion of divorce.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                             | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Broach, Elise      | Shakespeare's Secret              | 5-8   | N?   | Girl and boy solve secret of missing jewel and Shakespeare's identity. Boy is "hottest boy in eighth grade" but with this girl he is strictly friends. Passing mentions of crush. Non-romantic negiah. Boys write things about girl in boy's bathroom - "vulgar commentary" - no elaboration. Several mentions of people from Shakespearean times being lovers (no elaboration) or having illegitimate child. Boy's mother left family to become actress.                  |
|                  | Bronin, Andrew     | Gus and Buster Work Things Out    | 2-3   | OK   | easy reader. Mention of watching TV  |
|                  | Brooke, Lauren     | Heartland - Taking Chances        | 5-7   | N?   | Girls struggle to keep their horse farm running after mom's death. When they take on a new stable hand there is trouble with the old one who is very close with one of the girls - it is implied romantically but not spelled out. Girls discuss a boy being "cute" and wonder if he has a girlfriend. Brief mention of father abandoning family. Language: crap. Older sister goes on dates - unclear how tachlisdik they are.  |
|                  | Brooke, Peggy      | Jake's Orphan                     | 5-7   | N?   | boy at risk gets into a lot of trouble - robbing, hopping freight cars, hobos; but described in wholesome way - not like modern books. Minor liking of girl mentioned - one dance where she puts head on him to dance - can cross out. Pages 179, 180, 208,209.  |
|                  | Brooke, William J. | A Brush with Magic                | 3-6   | OK?  | Delightful Chinese fairy tale. Main character does "fall in love", but main focus is on magic.   |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R   | Freddy the Pied Piper             | 3-5   | OK?? | Animals help a bankrupt circus owner restart his circus. A few brief non religious mentions of xmas. A song about a duck who went "a courting" and took 2 female ducks "on his knee" and asked them to marry him. Sends them a valentine on st. valentines day. Discussion if superstitions really bring bad luck or not. A circus performer tells fortunes which almost never come true. Brief mention of going to movies. Frequent language- darn, shut up, stupid, dumb |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.  | Freddy and Mr. Camphor            | 3-5   | OK   | Intelligent pig and his friends have adventures.   |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.  | Freddy and the Bean Home News     | 3-5   | OK?  | P 169 - description of who danced with who at a fancy ball. No romance at all.   |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.  | Freddy and the Ignoramous         | 3-5   | OK?  | minor language, eg: shut up  |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.  | Freddy and the Perilous Adventure | 3-5   | OK?  | Pig tries to clear his name when he is accused of stealing a hot air balloon. Side story of the reappearance duck who was spirited away since he was unfairly strict with his nieces and constantly bragging about how great he is. In his absence his nieces became more self confident and tell him he can only stay if he listens to them (chutzpah?). He agrees to their terms. Mean man hits his son. Language-dumb.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                               | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy and the Space Ship           | 3-5   | OK? | More animal adventures.   |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy Goes Camping                 | 3-5   | OK? | More animal adventures.   |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy Goes to Florida              | 3-5   | OK? | More animal adventures.   |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy Goes to the North Pole       | 3-5   | N?  | Plot about visiting Santa at the North Pole. Lots of presents, goodwill, reindeer and sleighs. No real religion.  |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy Plays Football               | 3-5   | OK? | More animal adventures.   |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy the Detective                | 3-5   | OK? | More animal adventures. Minor language: darn, shut up, brat.  |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy the Pilot                    | 3-5   | N?  | Pig and friend try to scare away a comic book publisher who is trying to force a circus performer to marry him. Pig dresses up like a Spanish girl who tries to marry him. Cow tries to scare him by kissing him. Minor violence. Couple walks arm in arm when engaged. A lot of minor language: shut up, gol-darned, consarnit, darn it, idiot, nincompoop. Cartoonish line drawing of bareback rider in leotard |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy and the Men from Mars        |       | N   | Animals meet real man from Mars and uncover impostors. Evolution and language. Minor boy/girl.  |
|                  | Brooks, Walter R.    | Freddy's Cousin Weedly              | 3-5   | OK? | Animals try to prevent farmer's aunt from stealing his teapot. Minor language: consarn it, darn, I'll be darned, shut up.   |
|                  | Brown, Irene Bennet  | Skitterbrain                        | 4-6   | OK? | girl on Kansas prairie frantically tries to find lost cow to save baby's life. Encounters rough and unpleasant cowboys and befriends them. One incident - encounters cowboys bathing and turns away because won't talk to "no naked cowboys". Can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Brown, Jeff          | Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures | 2-3   | OK? | Flat boy goes to Japan to meet his favorite movie actor and finds out that he doesn't match the image he projects in his movies. Picture of scantily clothed very fat male sumo wrestlers.  |
|                  | Brown, Jeff          | Invisible Stanley                   | 2-3   | OK? | Sequel to Flat Stanley. One scene where helps a shy couple get engaged and they kiss. Easy to tear out page.  |
|                  | Brown, Jeff          | Stanley in Space                    | 2-3   | OK  | Stanley saves alien planet  |
|                  | Brown, Jeff          | Stanley, Flat Again                 | 2-3   | OK  | Sequel to Flat Stanley. One scene where girl kisses Stanley to thank him for saving her.  |
|                  | Brown, Laurie Krasny | Rex and Lilly School Time           | 1-2   | OK? | Cute school stories. At show and tell boy shows his new zoo underwear - very juvenile (and typical of this age).  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Brown, Laurie Krasny | Rex and Lily Playtime   | 1-2   | N?   | One story about boy who doesn't want to go to dance school but finally a girl asks him to dance and he enjoys it. Very innocent but do kids this age need it?   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur Accused (Chapter book 5)                                   | 2-3   | OK   | Boy is accused of stealing money. His friend plays detective to prove his innocence. Minor language: stupid (once).   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Bad Luck Brain (Chapter book 30)                   | 2-4   | N?   | The Brain tries to scientifically prove there is no such thing as bad luck, until he starts being on the receiving end. Leaves reader believing there is such a thing as luck. Language: he stinks  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Best Coach Ever (Arthur Good Sports Chapter books) | 2-3   | OK   | Arthur's friend's father becomes the new coach but he doesn't know much about coaching. He and the team learn together.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Big Blowup (Chapter book 20)                       | 2-4   | OK?  | 2 members of soccer team learn to patch up differences so team can win. Side story of little sister writing a letter to Santa; no religion  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Comet Crisis (Chapter book 27)                     | 2-4   | OK   | Boys panic when they think a comet is going to hit Earth - turns out they didn't assemble the telescope correctly. One boy believes in UFOs and aliens.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Cootie Catcher (chapter book 25)                   | 2-3   | OK?? | A girl receives a paper fortune teller as a birthday present and the kids think they have to listen to its predictions. When one of them tries to disprove it his bike gets run over and he starts to believe in the "curse" also. At the end they ask the fortune teller if they should stop listening to it - it says "yes" so they do. A few mentions of watching TV |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Crunch Cereal Contest                              | 2-4   | OK?  | Arthur desperately wants to win a TV jingle writing contest. So he uses lyrics he heard his sister singing - eventually feels guilty and gives her credit.  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Double Dare  | 2-4   | OK   | Kids dare each other to skip school, then chicken out but neglect to tell one of the group.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Lost Diary   | 2-4   | N?   | Sue Ellen loses diary. As friends help her find it they imagine what she wrote about them. Binky imagines she wrote he is "man of my dreams" - pretty innocent, but why do little kids need to read this?   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the No Brainer (Chapter books 26)                      | 2-4   | OK   | Boys help their brilliant friend cope with getting an answer wrong for the first time in his life.  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Pen Pal Playoff (chapter book 6)                   | 2-4   | OK   | Arthur exaggerates his basketball prowess to his pen pal but learns his lesson when he meets him in person  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur and the Poetry Contest (Chapter book 18)                   | 2-4   | N?   | Children try to write poetry. Juvenile bathroom humor - unrefined - eg: your feet smell, dirty socks drop on your face P.U., blowing nose slime green and yellow, etc.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author      | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur and the Popularity Contest (Chapter book 12)              | 2-4   | N?  | Kids take a test in a teen magazine and try to alter their personalities based on the results. Lots of teen culture discussed by clueless kids - prom dates, mini-dresses, movies, etc.  |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur and the Race to Read (Chapter Book 1)                     | 2-4   | OK  | Children try different strategies to win a running race.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur Chapter Book 10 Who's In Love With Arthur                 |       | N   | Boy worries that his female friend is in love with him and she worries about the same thing. In the end they are relieved to find that neither is in love. A lot of boy/girl square dancing in gym class- lots of illustrations. Boy has nightmare that girl kisses him and he gets the cooties.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur Chapter Book 11 Arthur Rocks With Binky                   | 2-4   | N?  | Boy dreams about meeting his favorite rock star but when the time comes he is hesitant to share his good fortune with his friends. Entire plot revolves around adoration for a rockgroup. It turns out the band is a holograph, but the message of it being an illusion will probably be lost on kids this age. Mention of watching TV. Illustrations of real looking not tznus rock band. |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur Chapter Book 17 Muffy's Secret Admirer                    |       | N   | Children are angry at a rich girl for bribing the science fair judge so they decide to take revenge by writing her a note from her "secret admirer". Although the secret admirer turns out to be fake, when the girl believes it she thinks about who her "dream guy" might be. Eventually they are caught and confess. Language- weird, stupid.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur Chapter Book 2 Arthur and the Scare-Your- Pants- Off Club | 2-4   | OK? | Children are upset when a parent group bans their favorite series because it is too scary and "weird". In the end it turns out the girl's nightmares are caused by sneaking too much ice cream, not from reading the series. Mention of TV news.Children go to movie theater. Language- weird, creepy.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur Chapter Book 31 Arthur Loses His Marbles                  | 2-4   | OK  | When boy's grandmother becomes a contestant in a marble tournament, he is worried she will win him, so he pretends to lose on purpose to save embarrassment.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur Chapter Book 6 Locked In The Library                      | 2-4   | OK? | Boy unthinkingly insults girl- she resolves never to talk to him again, but they are assigned to work on a project together. End up being locked in the library after closing time and learn to work together.Middos with a lesson. Watch TV. Mention of girl putting arm over boy's shoulder-completely unromantic.Language-creepy.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc | Arthur Chapter Book 7 Buster's Dino Dilemma                      | 2-4   | N?  | Kids go on a class trip to hunt fossils at a state park and boy sneaks one home illegally. Eventually feels guilty and owns up. Names of dinosaurs, mention of dinosaur movies, clear matter of fact explanation of how dinosaur fossils form over millions of years (p10-11). Minor middos between classmates. Needs guidance.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur Chapter Book 8 The Mystery of the Stolen Bike              | 2-4   | OK?  | Girl is embarrassed of her old bike. When it is accidentally picked up by the garbage collectors she lies to her father and friends about what happened to it. Eventually learns her lesson. TV watching.  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur Good Sports : Arthur and the Goalie Ghost (Chapter Book 5) | 2-4   | OK   | Buster tries to be like a famous hockey player and starts to see his ghost everywhere. Eventually learns to play using his own style.  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Arthur's Mystery Envelope (Chapter Book 1)                        | 2-4   | OK   | Arthur's principal hands him an envelope for his mother and Arthur is nervous he is in trouble. He is tempted to make it disappear but eventually feels too guilty and gives it to her.  |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Binky Rules (Chapter book 24)                                     | 2-4   | OK?  | Kids try to figure out who is graffitiiing their friend's name all over school. Turns out is publicity for a rockband. Lots of talk of Nancy Drew vs. Hardy Boys. Last page shows boy and girl dancing to the rock music - very juvenile   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Buster Baxter, Cat Saver (chapter book 19)                        | 2-4   | OK   | Buster learns what It means to be a real hero, as friends try to keep him from bragging.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | Buster's New Friend (Chapter Book 23)                             | 2-4   | OK   | Arthur is jealous when his best friend starts spending time with a new friend who turns out to be an assigned big brother from the community center.   |
|                  | Brown, Marc          | There's no Place Like Home  | K-1   | N?   | Picture book about different homes. Page 2 - Illustration of family with x-mas tree and menorah together   |
|                  | Brown, Margaret Wise | The Golden Sleeping Book  | 2-3   | OK   | Anthology of short stories and poems about animals   |
|                  | Bruchac, Joseph      | Bear Walker   | 7-8   | N?   | An unusually short Native American boy goes on a class trip to a wilderness camp and ends up saving everyone from criminals who were hired to close down the camp. Some genuinely scary violence. A lot of bad middos between classmates. Books mentioned by title which may or may not be appropriate. Boy's father is missing in action in Iraq. Some Mohawk culture. Girl leans against boy when listening to a story- nothing overtly romantic but he does like having her there. Parents abused their son and he went crazy |
|                  | Bruchac, Joseph      | Code Talker   | 8+    | OK?? | A novel written as a first hand account of the fascinating story of Navajo Indians who transmitted code during WWII in their native tongue. A lot of vivid discrimination against Indians. A lot of very detailed war gore, violence, and death. A mishmash of Catholicism and Indian religion described in detail. Mention of JC (p53 chapt 8) occasional language- stupid, dumb, heck, hell, darn, damned, kicking butt, danged. A lot of "blankety blank: written instead of curses.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                        | grade |     |   |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Bruchac, Joseph  | The Arrow Over the Door      | 4-6   | OK? | A Quaker boy tries to understand his family's pacifist beliefs in the face of the independence war, while an Indian boy deals with his anger at the white man for killing his mother and brother. Description of Quaker religious beliefs e.g.. Spirit of G-d dwells within each person. Mostly neutral. In the back of the book a more detailed description of their beliefs. Language- stupid   |
|                  | Bruchac, Joseph  | The Heart of a Chief         |       | N   | Lots of talk of mother's death leading to father's alcohol abuse. Some rough language & some mild romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Bruchac, Joseph  | The Warriors                 | 4-6   | OK? | Indian boy joins lacrosse team. Some Indian religion - lacrosse was given by Creator, use of game to heal the sick.   |
|                  | Bruchac, Joseph  | The Winter People            | 6-8   | N?  | Historical fiction. Indian boy caught in war between British and French. Lots of talk of Christianity and J-- using French terms, lots of talk of Indian religion. A little gory. Boy-girl dance.   |
|                  | Bruel, Nick      | Happy Birthday, Bad Kitty    | 3-5   | OK? | A silly book with minimal text and many illustrations interspersed with interesting facts about cats. Cat's owner tries to throw him a birthday party but cat misbehaves since he misses his mother. Language: heck, darn, weirdo, berserk, freak out (each used once).   |
|                  | Buchanan, Jane   | Hank's Story                 | 4-6   | OK? | Sequel to Gratefully Yours. Orphan train boy deals with family that abuses him. Woman who befriends him speaks of father who abused her family; asks why her mother put up with it, but doesn't continue discussion.  |
|                  | Buchanan, Paul   | Heebie Jeebies (series)      |       | N   | Christian series  |
|                  | Buck, Pearl S.   | The Big Wave                 | 6-8   | N?  | Tsunami wipes out village. Old man talks about times when gods leave man to take care of himself - they test us to see if we are able to save ourselves.  |
| new              | Buckley, Michael | NERDS- Attack of the Bullies |       | N   | See note on series. Children save the world from a crazy villian who invents a time machine and forms a team of bullies to attack them. One storyline that the book keeps coming back to involves an intermarried couple whose families are coming to celebrate xmas and chanukah. A lot of bathroom humor. Female villian wears very tight fitting costume- full page comic book style illustrations. She has a stuffed scarecrow as a "boyfriend"- she treats him as if he is real- gives him "passionate kiss". Boy looks "hot" in glasses. Mention of undergarments. Comics, movies, TV, hip-hop Language- stupid, snot, butt, knucklehead, freaks, booger, stink, fart, brat, dumb, weidos, darn |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
| new              | Buckley, Michael      | NERDS- M is for Mama's Boy   |       | N    | See note on series. Children try to stop former teammate from taking over the world. A lot of violence. A lot of comic book culture. Boy sees his older sister sneaking out and kissing a boy and then smoking. Girl says to boy "when did you get so cool?" and then kisses him on the nose. Girl says man is "total hottie". Woman takes man's hand and man feels a "tingling feeling" since "he has never been near someone so pretty". Husband kisses wife. Movies, TV, computers, technology. Bathroom humor. One sentence xmas and easter. A ship is named for yoshka. Middos between siblings. Bullying in school. Language- jerks. gross, freaky/ freak out, moron, stupid, nerd, spazz, lunatic, butt. |
| new              | Buckley, Michael      | NERDS- The Cheerleaders of Doom  |       | N    | See note on series. A genius girl who isn't pretty like her cheerleader sisters invents a machine that can take her to other dimensions and is threatening the world. Teachers are dating- hold hands- girl asks if they hug and kiss (no answer) , girl has "minor" crush on boy, Alot of emphasis on divorce and children who are miserable and act out to get parent's attention. A lot of good guys vs. bad guys violence. A lot of cheerleading culture. Very frequent language- screwball, creepy, freaky/ freaks/ freak out, stupid, dumb, moron, hot (as in a description of good looking girls), shut up, weird, idiot, screwball, stinks, butt, spaz.   |
| new              | Buckley, Michael      | NERDS- The Villian Virus   |       | N    | See note on series. In this book children try to save the world from a virus that turns ordinary people into villains. A lot of emphasis on a humorous romantic relationship with a lot of mild romantic negiah- a "wild passionate kiss", she "flings" her arms around his neck, etc. .Hollywood, movie star, TV, soap opera. movies. Bathroom humor. Language- weird, freak out, gross, spaz, weirdo, dumb, stupid, shut up, moron, nincompoop.   |
|                  | Buckley, Michael      | The Sisters Grimm Books 1-4  |       | N    | Series about 2 sisters who come to live with their grandmother after their parents are kidnapped, and discover that their family mission is to solve mysteries and to help fairy tale characters who are often very unpleasant and seriously violent. A lot of extremely coarse and unpleasant language, eg: snot, stinkpot, hottie, moron, jerk, freak, shut up, sick pervert, pain in the butt, crud, etc. A lot of coarse bathroom humor. Quite a bit of minor romantic negiah as well as some real kissing. Very poor middos. Problematic illustrations. X-mas.   |
|                  | Buckley-Archer, Linda | The Time Thief - Book two in the Gideon Trilogy (Also may be published as The Tar Man) | 6-9   | OK?? | Children try to remedy changes made in the first book, through time travel. Language: damn: p. 11, 131, 242 , 255, 479. Mild boy/girl: 224,313, 330,441   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Buckley-Archer, Linda | The Time Travelers - Book one in the Gideon Trilogy (Also published as: Gideon the Cutpurse) | 6-9   | OK?? | Boy and girl accidentally travel to 18th century. Language: damn, hell (the place). Very mild boy/girl. Short description of theory of evolution (presented as fact). Girl says they should sleep back-to-back for warmth - boy refuses.   |
|                  | Buckley-Archer, Linda | Time Quake- Book three in the Gideon Trilogy   | 6-9   | OK?? | Children chase villains to retrieve time machine and reverse damage to Time and history. Language: damn, hell. Non-romantic negiah: girl needs to hold on to boy's hand in order to avoid "fast forwarding" through time - very tame. One friendly comforting hug. Passing reference to theories of Darwin - not specified.  |
| new              | Bucklye, Michael      | NERDS  |       | N    | Note on Series- Children who have trouble fitting with their peers, become superheroes and save the world. Very offbeat. A lot of teen culture, bullying in school, movies, TV, texting, social media, movie stars. A lot of good guy vs. bad guy violence. Some books have more boy/girl than others. A lot of unrefined bathroom humor. This is the first book of the series. Children try to save the world from a mad scientist. Teacher talks about online dating to his class instead of teaching. Boy has trouble concentrating because librarian is too pretty. Boy lies that he kissed a girl. Girl kisses boy on the cheek. One sentence Santa Claus. This book has very cruel bullying described in painstaking detail. Cartoonish picture of girl in skimpy outfit. Language- idiot, weird/ weirdo, dumb, jerk, lunatic, freak, moron, kick butt, gross, stupid, screw up, dummy, dork |
|                  | Bulla, Clyde Robert   | Last Look  | 2-4   | OK   | A girl tries to befriend new girl who turns out not to be so nice. In end learns not to be in a clique and to be nice to others..  |
|                  | Bulla, Clyde Robert   | Squanto, Friend of the Pilgrims  | 2-4   | OK   | Biography of an Indian boy who travels to England and then back to America to help settlers. Innocent mention of church bells making "wonderful music" - P. 11 - easy to cross out.  |
|                  | Bulla, Clyde Robert   | The Chalk Box Kid  | 2-4   | OK   | Sweet story of boy who moves and has trouble adjusting to new school   |
|                  | Bulla, Clyde Robert   | The Paint Brush kid  | 2-4   | OK   | Continuation of The Chalkbox Kid. Boy helps old man save house from being knocked down for thruway.  |
|                  | Bulla, Clyde Robert   | White Bird   | 2-4   | OK   | Boy is raised by bachelor orphan during pioneer days. Runs away when bird is stolen. Eventually returns and comes to appreciate guardian.  |
|                  | Buller, Jon           | Space Rock   | 2-3   | OK   | Step-Into-Reading book. Boy helps return space rock to space ship.   |
|                  | Bunting, Eve          | Some Frog  |       | N    | Boy from broken home deals with disappointment in father who always breaks promises to him. May be appropriate for 2nd-3rd grade child in specific situation.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                   | Title                               | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Bunting, Eve             | The Memory String                   | 1     | N?  | Picture book. A girl has trouble dealing with mother's death and allowing herself to accept a kind stepmother. May be appropriate for child in similar situation.   |
|                  | Burnett, Frances Hodgson | A Little Princess                   | 5-8   | OK  | Beautiful classic about a little rich girl in a boarding school. When her father dies she is treated as a servant until she is discovered by father's old friend.   |
|                  | Burnett, Frances Hodgson | Little Lord Fauntleroy              | 5-8   | OK? | A little boy raised in a simple way by his American mother, suddenly finds out he is a lord and must go to England to live with his rich, crotchety grandfather. Innocent comments about liking to look at girls (p. 102 chapter 6). Description of church service - kneeling and folding hands in prayer - no heavy religion (p. 134-135, chap. 7). Drawn out description of a beautiful woman who all the men fawn over, seen through a young boy's eyes (p. 176-177 ch. 10; p 234 chap 15) |
|                  | Burnett, Frances Hodgson | The Secret Garden                   | 5-7   | OK? | A lonely unsociable child is sent to live with hunchback uncle. Magical religious hymn about father, son & holy ghost, other minor religion   |
|                  | Burton, Levar            | Aftermath                           |       | N   | Story set in future; Doctor tries to protect cure-all invention in U.S. that has collapsed under economic and racial pressures. Language. Detailed description of attempted rape. Extremely gory descriptions. Passing mention of couple "making love".   |
|                  | Butcher, A. J.           | Spy High Mission Two - Chaos Rising |       | N   | Teens stop an intelligent computer from taking over the world. A lot of boy/girl, romantic negiah, language.  |
|                  | Buther, Nancy            | Ghostwriter: Caught in the Net      |       | N   | Casual boy/girl relationships; a lot of negiah.   |
|                  | Butterworth, Oliver      | The Enormous Egg                    | 4-6   | OK? | Dinosaurs: mention of evolution: millions of years, Mesozoic age. Needs parental guidance.  |
|                  | Buzbee, Lewis            | Steinbeck's Ghost                   | 6-8   | OK? | Boy tries to save library from closing, as characters from John Steinbeck's books appear in town. Juvenile language: sucks, butt. Passing mention of talking to girls. Father threatens daughter not to kiss boyfriend; she doesn't. Book encourages reader to want to read Steinbeck's books. Although language level is 6-8th grade, book is more intellectual than the average reader of that age.   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy             | A Blossom Promise                   |       | N   | Grandfather has heart attack when saving mischievous grandson from flood. Mom's relationship with boy friend emphasized; lots of romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy             | Bingo Brown Gypsy Lover             |       | N   | Title based on hero of romance novel that boy's girlfriend likes to read. Boy/girl, inappropriate albeit juvenile.  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy             | Coast to Coast                      |       | N   | Girl goes on cross-country flight with grandfather without telling parents; finds out she had twin who died at birth. Meets boy on the way and has a "date" - mild boy/girl.  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy             | Cracker Jackson                     |       | N   | language, violence, negiah  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Byars, Betsy | Dead Letter - A Herculeah Jones Mystery       | 5-6   | OK? | Boy and girl solve murder. Mention of boy missing his father who left (abandoned?) family but not so clear. Minor reference to boys calling girls for a date.   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | Disappearing Acts - A Herculeah Jones Mystery |       | N   | bathroom language, female anatomy jokes   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | Keeper of the Doves                           | 7+    | OK? | Although reading level is for younger than seventh grade, subject is for a more mature child. When their dog dies, children suspect that a recluse living on their property killed him. One of the girls who is more sensitive disagrees. The book delves into her feelings about this as well as her fear that her mother and her new baby might die, as well as her dad's disappointment that she was a girl, not a boy. Neutral prayers said at graveside. |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | King of Murder - A Herculeah Jones Mystery    | 4-6   | OK? | Girl solves mystery of murder novel writer who appears to be murderer. Boy who is her friend is forced by his mother to take visiting girl out on a "date".   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | McMummy                                       | 5-7   | N?  | Strange story of a boy who becomes fascinated with a huge plant pod shaped like a mummy. Very heavy - deals with his father's death a lot. His mother sews costumes for beauty pageants - brief descriptions, mention of swimsuit portion of the pageant. Minor language: shut up.  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | Me Tarzan                                     | 3-4   | OK? | boy teases girl so she won't think he likes her; brief women's lib  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | Tarot Says Beware - A Herculeah Jones Mystery |       | N   | inappropriate language  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The Burning Questions of Bingo Brown          |       | N   | negiah, suicide, chutzpah, inappropriate language   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The Cartoonist                                |       | N   | Boy lives with dysfunctional family. Rough language, chutzpah.  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The Cybil War                                 |       | N   | 2 boys fight over a girl, father abandons family, juvenile romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The Midnight Fox                              | 3-5   | N?  | A boy tries to save a fox who killed his aunt's chickens. Subplot boy/girl: finds her in bathing suit and dumps her in water. Later marry.  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The Night Swimmers                            | 5-6   | N?  | A girl takes care of brothers because father is away nights being a country singer and mom died. Justifies sneaking into a rich man's property to use his pool. Father's girlfriend is a prominent character but nothing overtly problematic. Father sings lyrics about a woman who gained too much weight so he cheats on her - will kids understand? (p. 27)  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The Not Just Anybody Family                   |       | N   |   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The Summer of the Swans                       | 4-6   | OK? | Adolescent girl is upset about life until retarded brother is lost and found, and she gains a new perspective on life. Side mention of a boy who asks her to a party, and sister's boyfriend.   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy | The TV Kid                                    |       | N?  | Extensive TV refs.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Byars, Betsy  | The Two Thousand Pound Goldfish                      | 4-6   | N?  | Boy uses horror movies as escape from reality. Mother a fugitive, mention of boyfriends, abortions, 2 fathers, but none of it main focus  |
|                  | Byars, Betsy  | Wanted... Mud Blossom                                |       | N   | Boy/girl, romantic negiah. Talk of turtle mating and going to find "lover".   |
|                  | Byars, Betsy  | The Winged Colt of Casa Mia                          | 3-6   | OK  | Boy visits uncle and finds winged horse. Learn lessons of love and family   |
|                  | Byng, Georgia | Molly Moon Stops the World                           |       | N   | Children try to prevent an evil hypnotist from becoming president and controlling the world. Constant and detailed Hollywood, movie star, Broadway shows, movie culture. Female anatomy. Hashkafa issues about lack of need of religion and what happens after death. A lot of minor language, bathroom humor, etc.   |
|                  | Byng, Georgia | Molly Moon, Micky Minus, and the Mind Machine        | 5-8   | N?  | A time traveling girl goes to the future to rescue her twin from a tyrannical princess who uses a machine to steal people's knowledge and keeps the people of her time obedient by hypnotizing them. Language - idiot, dung, weirdo, moron, fart, damn, darn. Many mentions of the beginning of time - not very believable. Non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Byng, Georgia | Molly Moon's Hypnotic Time Travel Adventure          |       | N   | A girl who knows hypnosis ends up time traveling in order to save her younger self from being killed. Her mother is depressed and dysfunctional until end of book when she snaps out of it. Language: damn, pee, flippin, blasted, freaking out, bloody ell, butt. Some juvenile bathroom humor e.g. farting, underpants, diarrhea, etc. Mention of Hindu gods and Hindu beliefs especially reincarnation. Deep philosophical discussion about religion - if you should believe in it and if humans made it up or not. A lot of detail about the world being millions of years old, different stages of world forming, etc. |
|                  | Byng, Georgia | Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism            | 5-8   | OK? | Orphan girl discovers book that teaches her how to hypnotize people. Minor language. Later books in series are problematic.   |
|                  | Cabot, Meg    | Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls                       | 3-5   | N?  | Girl deals with changes in her life by writing down rules of how to behave in any given situation. Somewhat unrefined = eg: girl enjoys looking for bits of brain of a boy who was hit by a car. Some minor chutzpah and bad behavior especially when getting back at girls she doesn't like.   |
|                  | Cabot, Meg    | The Princess Diaries Volume IV - Princess in Waiting |       | N   | A teenage princess copes with balancing the duties of royalty with living a regular teenage life. Almost entire plot centered on boy/girl romantic negiah. Inappropriate language.  |
|                  | Calhoun       | Nascar (series)                                      |       | N   |   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                 | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Calhoun, Mary      | Depend on Katie John                  | 3-5   | N?  | Continuing saga of a girl living in a boarding house. A lot of valentine's day and wondering which boys will send her a valentine. Boy thinks old man is Santa Claus. A lot of talk of nutcracker ballet. Extensive description of being in a church choir- illustration of a priest behind a podium with a big cross and a choir wearing robes and singing. No heavy religion. A stature of an angel in the local cemetery is where teenagers kiss when they "go steady". Boys tease girl she has a boyfriend so he punches the boys who teased her. Language- drat, freak, dumb, oh blast, punk, brat |
|                  | Calhoun, Mary      | Katie John                            | 3-5   | OK? | Girl comes to love big old house. Talk of aunt who never married - girl decides aunt made right choice.   |
|                  | Callamari, Barbara | Angela Anaconda (series)              |       | N   | TV-style inappropriate language   |
|                  | Callen, Larry      | The Deadly Mandrake                   | 5-7   | OK? | Town beset by bad luck. Children try to uproot deadly plant that is causing it. Very detailed description of dead body (not gory, just detailed). Lots of superstition. Strange book.   |
|                  | Calvert, Patricia  | Bigger                                | 5-7   | OK  | Historical fiction - post civil war. Slave boy beaten because he wanted to "empty bowels".  |
|                  | Calvert, Patricia  | Sooner                                | 5-7   | OK  | Historical fiction - post civil war. Sequel to Bigger. Comes to terms with mom's remarriage by leaving home - with her permission. Minor violence.  |
|                  | Cameron, Ann       | Julian, Secret Agent                  | 2-3   | OK  | Boy and friends solve mysteries and fight crime.  |
|                  | Cameron, Ann       | Julian's Glorious Summer              | 2-3   | OK  | boy learns that it is better not to lie, when doesn't admit fear of riding bike to his friends.   |
|                  | Cameron, Ann       | Stories Julian Tells                  | 2-4   | OK  | Short stories about a young boy. Calls teeth "Cave boy teeth" - a few references to cave men. He says he is uncomfortable befriending a girl because "people find out and tease you", but she becomes his best friend anyway.   |
|                  | Cameron, Ann       | The Secret Life of Amanda K. Woods    |       | N   | Girl deals with growing up. Boy/girl, dysfunctional mother, negiah, J---  |
|                  | Cameron, Ann       | The Most Beautiful Place in the World | 4-5   | N?  | Disturbing. Boy's father leaves because he wants to drink with friends at night. Mother remarries and disappears with new husband, leaving son with grandmother.  |
|                  | Cameron, Eleanor   | Mr. Bass's Planetoid                  | 5-7   | OK? | Continuation of Mushroom Planet series. Lots of scientific discussion. Minor language: heck.  |
|                  | Cameron, Eleanor   | Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet       | 4-6   | OK? | Continuation of series. Language - darned, stupid, heck, An unimportant reference to the Age of Reptiles  |
|                  | Cameron, Eleanor   | The Private Worlds of Julia Redfern   |       | N   | A girl deals with growing up and father's death. Chutzpah, infidelity, romantic negiah, female anatomy, religion.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                                       | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Cameron, Eleanor       | The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet | 4-6   | OK  | Story of 2 boys who go to a strange planet on a spaceship. Very cute.  |
|                  | Cameron, Eleanor       | Time and Mr. Bass                           | 5-7   | OK? | Continuation of Mushroom Planet series. Lots of historical/sociological discussion - will go over most kids' heads. Minor talk of millions of years ago.   |
|                  | Camp, Joe              | Benji, Off the Leash                        |       | N   | Man mistreats and overbreeds dogs. Abusive to wife and son. Son asks mother why she doesn't leave him. Lots of talk about breeding dogs and dog pregnancies. Minor language. No redeeming value.   |
|                  | Campbell, Joanna       | Thoroughbred Series                         |       | N   | A series about horses. Most of the books have boy/girl, negiah, minor language. A few aren't so bad, but each one is based on past ones which are frequently problematic.  |
|                  | Campbell, L. A.        | Cartboy and the Time Campsule               |       | N   | Boy writes a series of essays about life in modern times, for an assignment to write a description for a time capsule. Boy/girl, unrefined body functions, social media.   |
|                  | Canfield, Jack         | Chicken Soup for the Child's Soul           | 1-5   | OK? | Character building stories, meant to be read to kids ages 5-8. Could also be read-alone for ages 8+. 2-3 stories on divorce; parents need to use discretion for choosing stories to read aloud, or allowing older children to read themselves.   |
|                  | Caple, Kathy           | Duck and Company                            | 1-2   | OK? | Strange story of 2 animals who run a book store. Tongue in cheek humor most kids won't get. Minor middos issues.   |
|                  | Card, Orson Scott      | Past Watch                                  |       | N   | Not a children's story. An alternative history where people of the future try to alter the course of history by changing the outcome of Columbus' journey. Hashkafa issues, inappropriate language, serious romantic negiah and rape.  |
|                  | Card, Scott            | Ender's Game                                |       | N   | Boy genius saves the world from aliens. Language, male anatomy. Other books in series are very inappropriate for children.   |
|                  | Carey, Elizabeth Doyle | The Callahan Cousins - Summer Begins        | 5-7   | N?  | Girl cousins spend their summer at their grandmother's house on a small island. One of the cousins deals with her parents' divorce by restarting a family feud. Minor boy/girl. Hopes of meeting boys, discomfort talking to boys, flirting. Frequent language - jerk, darn, bummer, ditch her, heck. Teen culture including being a "dead head", tattoos, enjoying "Princess Diaries" books. At end - sneak peek at #2 - girl finds out her father was married before to a different woman. |
|                  | Carey, Janet Lee       | The Double Life of Zoe Flynn                | 5-7   | OK? | Girl deals with family's move to mobile home. Passing mention of crushes. Passing discussion of heaven/ reincarnation in different religions. Ref to Xmas  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title                                  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Carey, Peter    | The Big Bazoochley                     | 3-6   | OK?  | 9-year old boy staying in hotel with parents - on the move because father gambles away money. Boy is accidentally entered into snobby high-class kids competition, with outrageous results. Boy/girl dancing is part of contest, but is not romantic & adds to hilarity. New friend, who is a girl, squeezes his hand at the end. Very tame.  |
|                  | Carlson, Nancy  | Harriet and Walt                       |       | N    | A boy dislikes little brother. Calls him dumb and stupid on every page.   |
|                  | Carlson, Nancy  | Loudmouth Geoge and the New Neighbors  | 1-2   | OK   | A rabbit overcomes prejudice and befriends new neighbors. Cartoonish picture of animals in bathing suits.   |
|                  | Carman, Patrick | Floors                                 | 4-7   | OK?  | A boy whose father is the janitor in a wacky hotel follow confusing and amusing clues to try to save the hotel in the absence of its eccentric owner. Boy comes to grips with his mother's death. Extremely subtle hint at a possible future romance between his widowed father and his friend's mother whose dad is "not in the picture" and is a "no show". Little girl exhibits bad middos much to older children's dismay. Language- butts, weird, pee, crummy, shut up.  |
|                  | Carman, Patrick | The 39 Clues book 5 - The Black Circle | 5-8   | OK?? | Children compete with other family members in a deadly race to find clues as they try to find out what happened to their parents. Brief mention of dinosaurs. A lot of minor language and slang - butt, heck, nitwit, geek, stupid, moron, jerk, sucker, idiot, freak out,dumb,maniacs, dork, gross, nerd, weird . Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest. Other books from this series listed under The 39 Clues  |
|                  | Carman, Patrick | The Land of Elyon: Into the Mist       | 4-7   | OK   | Prequel to Land of Elyon series: young Roland and Thomas come to Land of Elyon  |
|                  | Carman, Patrick | Trackers - Book 1                      | 6-9   | OK?? | Boy computer genius hacks into internet on instructions of mysterious man and young female accomplice, who claim to be government agents. Boy works with friends: 2 boys and a girl - totally innocent. Book has actual internet addresses to view videos supposedly created by boy; transcripts are included at back of book (actual videos were not reviewed - may or may not be appropriate). Language: butt (once), "freaky smart" (once). Friend jokes "skating keeps me trim for the ladies" (but he has no contact with girls). Young female accomplice of mystery man is described several times as beautiful and "hot" - no relationship between her and boys (yet). |
|                  | Carman, Patrick | Trackers - Book 2: Shantorian          | 6-9   | OK?  | Boy genius reveals elaborate plan to trap dangerous hacker. Book has actual internet addresses to view videos supposedly created by boy; transcripts are included at back of book (some actual videos reviewed - those reviewed were consistent with transcripts and were appropriate).   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                                    | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Caroselli, Remus F.    | The Mystery Cottage In Left Field        |       | N   | Boys get involved with gangsters. Bullying. Lots of thoughts of boy liking girl. Boy likes feel of female librarian touching him on shoulder. Wonders if girlfriend is hiding boyfriend and living with him as "man and wife" even though not married.   |
|                  | Carr, Jan              | Walt Disney's Classic Cinderella         | 3-5   | N?  | Classic story of a girl treated as a maid by her stepfamily who eventually marries the prince. Two kisses - one before marrying, one after. One description of ball and one illustration of them dancing.  |
|                  | Carrol, Michael        | Quantum Prophecy (series): The Awakening |       | N   | Superheroes in the real world. Boy/girl, language  |
|                  | Cart, Micael           | Tomorrowland - Stories About the Future  | 6-8   | N?  | Assorted stories by different authors. Some with mild boy/girl. One about girl born to single mother by artificial insemination who looks for her father; not detailed; refers to father as "donor", mention of "sperm that would become me". Passing mention of "sex" incorporated into futuristic word, with no elaboration. |
|                  | Carter, Alden R.       | Between a Rock and a Hard Place          |       | N   | Boy goes on camping trip with diabetic cousin. Lots of strong language. Boy/girl. Divorced parents both had affairs before divorce.  |
|                  | Carter, Ally           | Heist Society                            |       | N   | Teenagers who belong to crime family steal paintings from an art gallery. Romantic negiah, language.   |
|                  | Carter, Dorothy        | Grandma's General Store: The Ark         | 3-5   | OK? | Children in segregationist South deal with father's loss of job. Passing mention of men & women dancing. Lots of religion but not overtly recognizable as Christian (mostly quotes from Old Testament or other general quotes; one mention of Lucifer).  |
|                  | Casonova, Mary         | Wolf Shadows                             | 3-4   | OK? | minor refs. to boys being popular with girls   |
| new              | Castle, Jennifer       | You Look Different in Real Life          |       | N   | Language, flirting, kissing, alternative lifestyles.   |
|                  | Cather, Willa          | My Antonia                               |       | C   | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Catling, Patrick Skene | The Chocolate Touch                      | 3-5   | OK  | Boy who eats too much chocolate learns not to be so greedy, when everything he touches turns to chocolate.   |
|                  | Cavanna, Betty         | Mystery on Safari                        | 7-8   | N?  | Girl tries to uncover tiger skin poaching ring in Africa. Old fashioned light boy/girl story that doesn't lead to marriage. Dance not described in detail. Minor negiah - ie, hugs boy because surprised to see him.   |
|                  | Cavanna, Betty         | Spice Island Mystery                     |       | N   | A girl returns to her native island and helps break up a drug ring. Boy/girl, negiah.  |
|                  | Cazet, Denys           | The Octopus                              | 1-2   | N?  | Grandfather tells grandson a scary story to take his mind off the chicken pox. Scary/funny violence that many children this age will find just plain scary. Grandmother asks grandfather not to tell the scary story - grandfather doesn't listen.   |
|                  | Chabon, Michael        | Summerland                               |       | N   | children go to fairyland to save the world. A lot of problematic language and a lot of detailed description of body  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title                               | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Chapman, Linda and Steve Cole | How to be a Genie in Six Easy Steps | 5-7   | N?  | Children whose parents have just gotten married to each other, find a book which helps solidify their new relationship while at the same time getting into lots of magical trouble. Children worry that parents argue a lot. A lot of teen culture - electronic games, famous actresses, wishing to have a boyfriend, wanting to be on TV. Lots of language: dumb, loser, idiot, get lost, stupid, bum, dunce, moron. A lot of descriptions of genie clothing - shirts that show off the "tummy", miniskirt, cut-off top, etc. Mention of Easter, no religion. Middos issues.  |
| new              | Chari, Sheela                 | Vanished                            | 5-7   | N?  | An Indian (from India)/ American girl tries to locate her valuable instrument which was stolen from a church she sheltered in when caught in a rainstorm. Many mentions of church, no religion other than a poster in the church office that says "yoshka loves you", and mention of manger scenes in front of people's houses. A lot of Indian culture and beliefs including strong belief in good luck. Girl plays song about an Indian goddess. Indian concerts start with a prayer to the "lord Ganesha, the remover of obstacles" A boy from school helps her - he has dyed orange hair- girl lies to her mother because she know she would be angry at her for being with a boy. Friend says he is her boyfriend, she denies it. A lot of other lying to her parents as well which she justifies since they didn't tell her the whole truth about the curse around her missing instrument. MOvies, computer, TV. DVD movies, etc. Grl suggests getting over stage fright by picturing everyone in their underwear. Language- stupid, damn (pg. 24), sucks, dumb, butt. screw up, weird, freak, idiot, pissed, butt-ugly, |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | Magic in the Park                   | 3-4   | OK  | Strange story of magical tree  |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | Royal Magic                         | 3-5   | OK? | some African religion  |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | Secondhand magic                    | 3-5   | OK  | children meet a strange man who owns a bird kite that is real.   |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | The Secret Tree House               | 3-5   | OK  | Children find a magical pear tree. Language- stupid (once)   |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | The Witch's Buttons                 | 3-5   | OK  | A magic button turns out to be a witch.  |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | The Witch's Garden                  | 3-5   | OK  | children discover neighbor is a witch, and do magical things in her garden   |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | The Would Be Witch                  | 3-5   | OK  | children help an old lady who wants to be a witch  |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | What the Witch Left                 | 3-5   | OK  | girls have adventures with magical things left in a drawer   |
|                  | Chew, Ruth                    | Witch's Broom                       | 3-5   | OK  | girls have adventures on an enchanted broom  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title                           | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Child, Lauren   | Clarice Bean Spells Trouble     | 3-5   | N?  | A girl keeps getting into trouble, despite her best intentions. Constant talk of a rude girl detective she admires on TV and movies. Constantly watches movies. Is even an extra on a movie set when she is home suspended from school. Suspended for taking the blame for spraying chutzpadik graffiti in school (really a troubled boy who was abandoned by his father did it). Many chutzpadik thoughts about strict teacher. Older brother constantly surrounded by flirting girls. A lot of talk of the wonderful internet but she can't use it because her parents feel she "can't be trusted". School play Sound of Music - described in detail - boy balks at kissing his "girlfriend's" hand - he licks it instead.   |
|                  | Child, Lauren   | Clarice Bean, Don't Look Now    |       | N   | A girl deals with her secret worries, including her parents fighting - she is afraid they will divorce. Bad middos between siblings - especially the language they use to each other (eg p. 13). Call parents by first names. Long romantic kiss (p. 133). Idolizing TV characters. Language.  |
| new              | Child, Lauren   | Ruby Redfort - Catch your Death | 4-8   | OK? | Girl is secret agent. Solves mystery of missing jewels and escaped rare animals. Has friend who is a boy. Minor conversation in which 2 boys discuss whether a girl is 'too pretty' to date a certain boy. Wife kisses husband on the nose. Language: "duh brain", dork, dumb Girl lies to get boy out of class to solve mystery, then forges an assignment for and sneaks it into the teacher's pile. Girl "borrows" secret agent device from employer.   |
|                  | Child, Lauren   | Utterly Me, Clarice Bean        | 3-5   | N?  | Junie-B-Jones style narrative, with chutzpah .Girl idolizes girl detective in books, TV, and soon to be a movie - many excerpts from her unrealistic adventures. Detective says things like "you're an armpit". Friends call parents by first name. Black and white 2 page illustration of her mother in a low cut gown. Girl wonders if Santa Claus is real. She loves to watch TV and talks about how cool it is. Juvenile humor, eg: boy tries to pull down another boy's trunks in the pool, drinks orange juice through his nose with a straw, etc. Minor language: darn, bum, weird, stupid, slime butt. Older brother sits "awfully closely" to his girlfriend. In back of book, excerpt from "Clarice Bean Spells Trouble" - Mom is "sweet on a movie star". |
|                  | Choi, Sook Nyul | The Best Older Sister           | 2-3   | OK  | a Korean girl deals with jealousy over new baby brother. Lots of Korean culture - nothing overtly religious  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Choi, Sook Nyul        | Year of Impossible Goodbyes                               | 7-8   | N?  | A Korean girl survives persecution under the Japanese and later under the Soviets until she escapes with her little bother to South Korea. A lot of Catholic Korean religion described but not clearly explained (eg: chapter 1 page 3, chapter 3 page 46, chap 4 page 49-50, 61, chapter 5 page 80, 93). Many references about girls being forced to be prostitutes for the soldiers but never clearly explained (eg: chapter 4 p. 56, 59). Language: bastard (once).                     |
| chg              | Choldenko, Gennifer    | Al Capone Does my Shirts                                  | 5-8   | N?  | Family moves to Alcatraz so father can work as guard & send sister to school for autistic children. Mild boy/girl. Some inappropriate comments which kids may or may not understand. Convict likes autistic 16-year-old girl and puts arm around her; brother is at first scared but then decides it is OK because it is normal for a 16 year old girl to attract the attention of a guy. Friend asks boy if the autistic sister is pregnant, then asks him if he understand how it works. |
|                  | Choldenko, Gennifer    | Al Capone Shines my Shoes                                 |       | N   | Boy whose family lives on Alcatraz, returns favor to Al Capone and foils escape attempt. More explicit boy/girl discussions; 2 extended descriptions of kiss or attempt at kiss.   |
|                  | Choldenko, Gennifer    | Notes from a Liar and Her Dog                             | 6-8   | N?  | Somewhat rebellious girl deals with family who doesn't understand her. A lot of chutzpah to parents. One hand-holding with boy who is "friend". One description of how she looks in bra.   |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | Merger on the Orient Expressway                           | 3-5   | OK  | Boy detective figures out who is hurting mom's business.   |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | Mystery at Camp Triumph                                   | 6-8   | N?  | A girl tries to adjust to blindness in a special summer camp. Brief mention of her dating influential boys to help father's position (p 6). A few mentions of parents fighting and being troubled - at end try to work it out. Girl has many chutzpadik thoughts about father but never verbalizes them. May only be appropriate for mature reader.  |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | Sebastian [Supersleuth] and the Baffling Bigfoot          | 3-5   | OK  | Dog detective solves mystery of who is pretending to be Bigfoot to scare away hotel patrons. One instance of word "jerk"   |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | Sebastian [Supersleuth] and the Copycat Crimes            | 3-5   | OK  | Dog helps discover who is stealing author's manuscripts.   |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | Sebastian [Supersleuth] and the Stars in-His-Eyes Mystery | 3-5   | OK? | dog detective helps solve mystery of who is sabotaging a movie. Movie terms and movie set, but otherwise innocent.   |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | The Firebug Mystery                                       |       | N   | Boy and friend-becoming-girlfriend solve arson mystery. Although the book is on a 3-5 grade level, the protagonists are 16; negiah, discussions of becoming girlfriend.  |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | The Maltese Feline  | 3-5   | OK? | Children help rescue a wealthy woman being held captive. Minor language - dumb, jerk, nerd   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                                      | grade |     |   |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | The Mysterious Case Case                   | 3-5   | OK  | Children become owners of a briefcase full of money; catch bank robber.   |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | The Mystery of the Double Double Cross     |       | N   | Boy and girl are caught up in kidnapping. Hugs and kisses in process of rescuing each other; end up dating.   |
|                  | Christian, Mary Blount | The Phantom of the Operetta                | 3-5   | OK? | Children solve mystery of who is haunting an opera house. Minor language - nerd   |
|                  | Christie, Agatha       | Murder on the Orient Express               | 7+    | OK? | A detective solves a murder. A few references children probably won't get - p 119- a woman opens wrong door in train compartment - male occupant says "she's too old". P 122 - woman claims to have heard woman's voice in man's compartment, but "it isn't nice to speak about". P 217 - doctor "unblushingly recalling his thoughts from certain pornographic details" All of these can be easily crossed out. Only other possible objection is justification for people taking justice into their own hands by killing vicious murderer. |
|                  | Christopher, John      | The City of Gold and Lead - The Tripods #2 | 6-8   | OK  | Set in future time when human city is controlled by aliens. Boy joins group of rebels. Mild mention of liking girl, but not dwelled on at all.  |
|                  | Christopher, John      | The Pool of Fire - The Tripods #3          | 6-8   | OK  | Humans defeat aliens. Deal with questions of new "free will" leading to challenges.   |
|                  | Christopher, John      | The White Mountains - The Tripods #1       | 6-8   | OK  | Boy joins troupe of rebels against aliens who take over Earth.  |
|                  | Christopher, John      | When the Tripods Came                      | 6-8   | OK  | Prequel to Tripod series - how the aliens took over Earth through mind-control.   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Baseball Flyhawk                           |       | N   | Picture   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Baseball Turnaround                        |       | N   | Shoplifting gang  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Comeback Challenge                         | 3-5   | N?  | divorce   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Cool as Ice                                |       | N   |   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Double play at short                       | 4-6   | OK  | a boy shortstop wonders why other team's girl shortstop is so much like him. Discover they are adopted twins  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Drag Strip Racer                           |       | N   | smoking, pool, girlfriend   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Earthquake                                 | 3-5   | OK  | a boy runs away from camp - survives earthquake and learns lesson about running away.   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Fairway Phenom                             | 4-6   | OK? | Black boy resists ridicule of friends to get involved in golf. Hip slang. As example of perseverance, boy remembers when he asked a girl on a date 5 times and she finally went out with him; turned out he didn't like her.  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Goalkeeper in Charge                       |       | N   |   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Great Quarterback Switch                   |       | N   |   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt      | Hockey Machine                             | 4-5   | OK? | Strange; kid kidnapped by rich boy for hockey team  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                            | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Inline Skater                    | 3-5   | OK? | Boy who is into "aggro" skating joins hockey team. Becomes friends with girl on team - non-romantic. Juvenile language: jerk, wuss, dweeb.   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Johnny Long Legs                 |       | N   | smoking  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Little Lefty                     |       | N   | Picture  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Long Distance Swimmer            |       | N   | big part of subplot about liking girl  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Mountain Bike Mania              | 3-5   | OK  | Boy takes up biking to fill time when mom goes to work. Discovers who is a true friend and who is a bad influence.   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Olympic Dream                    | 4-6   | OK  | Overweight boy is inspired to take up cycling and get into shape   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Return of the Home Run Kid       |       | N   | Lots of hand-holding with girl "friend"  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Run for it                       | 4-6   | OK  | Brief mention - boy works out to attract girls' attention  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Skateboard Renegade              |       | N   | Punk behavior  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Snowboard Maverik                | 3-5   | N?  | boy does dangerous stunt against parents' orders, & they end up praising him when he succeeds.   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Soccer Duel                      |       | N   | messy divorce  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Soccer Scoop                     |       | N   |  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Supercharged Infield             | 4-6   | OK? | secret crush. Talk of boys asking girls to movies  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | The Basket counts                | 4-6   | OK  | Black boy experiences mild prejudice in new neighborhood. Lots of sports action  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | The Comeback Challenge           |       | N   | Messy Divorce  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | The Counterfeit Tackle           |       | N   |  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | The Submarine Pitch              | 4-6   | OK  | sad ending   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | The Winning Stroke               |       | N   |  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Windmill Windup                  |       | N   | Messy divorce, romance between mother and boyfriend.   |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Wingman on Ice                   | 4-6   | OK  | Boy gets a new hockey stick but won't use it until his game improves.  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Ice magic                        | 3-5   | OK? | hockey toy predicts real games. "magic"  |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | The Winning Stroke               | 3-5   | N?  | A boy can't play baseball after injury so he takes up swimming. Constant descriptions of co-ed swim team - help each other in pool with strokes - one mention of middle school boys having girlfriends. Black and white illustrations of girls in bathing suits. |
|                  | Christopher, Matt | Tough to tackle                  | 3-5   | OK  | boy tries not to quit football and encourages brother in army.   |
|                  | Ciencin, Scott    | Jurassic Park Adventures: Flyers | 3-5   | OK? | Pterodactyls invade Universal Studios Park. Based on movie. Reference to woman noticing man's muscles when he removes his shirt.   |
|                  | Cisneros, Sandra  | The House On Mango Street        |       | N   | A girl grows up in neighborhood of poor Mexican immigrants. Many inappropriate boy/girl references.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                            | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Clark, Clara Gillow | Hattie on Her Way                | 4-6   | OK?  | Sequel to Hill Hawk Hattie. 19th century girl confronts mystery of grandfather's disappearance. Describes grandfather's descent into madness; irrational discussion with him might confuse children. Mother also was delusional. Mention that mother and father danced before marriage. Seance in which mother's spirit speaks to her; medium explains that most of her work is fake, but this was clearly understood to be real. Some old-fashioned language - arse, etc.  |
|                  | Clark, Margaret G.  | Barney and the UFO               | 3-5   | OK   | an adopted boy refuses offer of alien to go to his planet, because he comes to appreciate adopted parents. Very minor reference of liking a girl  |
|                  | Clark, Margaret G.  | Barney on Mars                   | 3-5   | OK   | Boy helps get back a dog taken by an alien, and visits Mars in the process  |
|                  | Clark, Margaret G.  | Mystery House                    |       | N    |   |
|                  | Clark, Margaret G.  | Mystery of Sebastian Island      | 6-8   | N?   | Boy and girl uncover drug smugglers. Girl likes boy and wants to be alone with him  |
|                  | Clark, Margaret G.  | The Latchkey Mystery             | 3-5   | OK   | A group of latchkey kids form a neighborhood watch and capture robber. Boy and girl come to like each other but totally platonic.   |
|                  | Clarke, J           | Teddy B Zoot                     | 2-3   | OK   | Cute. Bear goes to school at night to find his owner's math homework.   |
|                  | Clarke, Susanna     | Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell | 11+   | OK?? | Two British magicians revive the use of magic in 18th century England. This is a well-written, very long (800+), adult-level book, which is for the most part "clean" (considering age level). Some language: hell, damn, "whoreson". One drawing of woman in low-cut gown (p. 418). Some very minor passing references to: kissing, female anatomy, mistresses, illegitimate children, Christian ritual, woman who left her husband for another man who later dumped her, man who seduced his sister. Some violence.   |
|                  | Clayton, Emma       | The Roar                         | 6-8   | OK?  | In futuristic world, all people live behind a wall on 1/3 of the world, supposedly to protect them from animals with violent plague. Children are recruited for army that will take back rest of world. Minor language: butt, pee, freakin', shut up. Made-up curse words: frag, fraggin, perp, "Oh my odd!". Passing mention of pre-historic humans, 35,000 years ago; millions of years. Non-romantic negiah. Boy and girl are friends - boy thinks she is pretty, and one mention he "loves" her, but mostly seem to be good friends - could get stronger in later books. Father and mother cuddle/kiss. |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly     | Dear Mr. Henshaw                 | 4-6   | OK?  | a boy writes to an author about parents' divorce and trucker father who often forgets about him. Talk of "whooping it up" at rest stop with waitresses - doesn't explain. Parent should decide if this book is for their child.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title                       | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Ellen Tebbits               | 2-4   | OK?  | Girl deals with challenges of grade school life. Boy teases her. Pictures of girls in ballet outfits. Lots of juvenile mentions of long underwear, summer underwear, and underwear slipping. Language: shut up.   |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Emily's Runaway Imagination | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl's imagination gets her into funny trouble until she is instrumental in getting a branch of the public library to open in her small town. Mentions of book "Black Beauty". A few non religious, brief mentions of xmas, church bells, church sometimes is "boring", mention of story of JC feeding the multitudes (p193 chapt 7), singing of hymn-"bringing in the sheaves" (p195). Mom doesn't believe in G-d. Father tells her she deserves a spanking but she is getting to big. Girl makes valentines for female cousins. When mom was young all the young men wanted to dance with her. Language-"gol-dinged". |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Henry and Ribsy             | 3-5   | OK   | Henry tries to keep dog out of trouble so can go on fishing trip - cute.  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Henry and the Paper Route   | 3-5   | OK   | Henry earns a kitten and a paper route.   |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Mitch and Amy               | 3-5   | N?   | Twins overcome a bully. Lots and lots of squabbling between twins - although it's relatively benign it is described in painstaking detail. Lots of TV watching. Boy tries to follow adult's advice in dealing with bully, unsuccessfully. In the end the bully is beaten up by a girl and that solves the problem; Adult's advice is ineffective. Minor juvenile girl-likes-boy. Minor language: shut up, stupid, drat. Bully smokes - illustration of him coughing. X-mas , no religion.   |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Muggie Maggie               | 3-4   | OK?  | Girl's teacher gets her to learn cursive by writing notes to another teacher in cursive. (Will kids get message that it's OK to read adult's notes?)  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Ottis Spofford              | 3-5   | OK?? | A companion book to "Ellen Tebbits" written from perspective of the boy who chases her and makes her life miserable. He loves to "liven things up" and constantly gets into trouble. A lot of middos issues in a somewhat well meaning juvenile way. Eventually gets his "comeuppance" when the girls he teases turn against him with the help of his friends. But the lesson is only partially learned-if at all. Parents need to make a decision about this book on an individual basis. Illustration of boys and girls dancing together – not romantic.  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Ralph S Mouse               | 4-6   | OK   | Sequel to The Mouse and the Motorcycle. Minor angry language  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly | Ramona and Her Father       |       | N    | Detailed description of Nativity Play   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Ramona and Her Mother      | 3-5   | OK?? | A second grader deals with her mother working full time, her father's dislike of his new job, and her changing relationship with her parents. Her parents quarrel when they are exhausted and she and her sister are afraid they will divorce. Mother explains that everyone quarrels sometimes and it's OK. Occasional minor chutzpah and minor bad middos. Nonreligious brief mentions of xmas and Santa and Easter. Second grade boy and girl get full of blue liquid so the babysitter strips them down to their underwear- they are very embarrassed. Many brief mentions of watching TV. Language-shut up, twerp. |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Ramona Forever             | 2-4   | OK?  | pareve description of church wedding, minor mention of kiss at end  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Ramona Quimby Age 8        | 3-5   | OK?  | Ramona is in 3rd grade. Father has job as "Santa's little helper" in a frozen food warehouse (term never explained). 8th grade sister worried about dancing at boy/girl party - page 145 - chap. 8 - easy to cross out.   |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Ramona the Brave           | 2-4   | OK?  | Chapter 1 - many references to boys calling "Beezus J---"; Ramona tells them not to take the lord's name in vain. Chap 8 (p 155) ref to 3 wise men and baby J--.  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Ramona the pest            | 2-4   | OK?  | likes to chase a boy and kiss him - very 5 year old juvenile  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Ramona's World             | 2-4   | OK?? | Beezus gets ears pierced without permission - no consequences. Beezus goes to dance where boys are invited but don't show up. Ramona notes that a boy she calls "Yard Ape" likes her (after trying to get his attention)  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Ribsy                      | 3-5   | OK   | Dog gets lost and tries to find his way home. Cute. Note: Harper/Trophy edition contains appealing summaries of all the author's books - including inappropriate ones. Easy to tear out.  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Sister of the Bride        |       | N    | 16-year-old girl experiences her sister's wedding & her own experiences with boyfriends. Old fashioned and quaint, but still inappropriate.   |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | Strider                    |       | N    | Continuation of Dear Mr. Henshaw. Boy/girl. Father kisses girlfriend and ex-wife Lots of talk about divorce.  |
|                  | Cleary, Beverly  | The Mouse & the Motorcycle | 3-5   | OK   | Cute. Mouse lives in a motel and is given a motorcycle by a guest. Mouse disobeys parents but in end learns his lesson  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | A Week in the Woods        | 4-6   | OK?  | A rich boy works hard to change teacher's bad impression of him but only succeeds after taking the blame for a friend on a class trip and running away in the woods. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Clements, Andrew | About Average           | 4-6   | N?   | A sixth grade girl who wishes she was above average in something ends up saving her friends when a tornado hits. A lot of juvenile boy/ girl- mostly girl likes boy because he is cute but he doesn't like her because he only notices the pretty girls. Girl teases older sister about kissing a boy on the lips. Middos between classmates. A girl is very mean to a classmate who decides to deal with it by being extremely nice to her. Mention of "The Wizard of Oz" and "Sarah Plain and Tall". Brief mention of Tv and internet. Brief non religious xmas. Illustration of sixth grader in shorts and t shirt. Language- stupid, dumb, creep, idiot, heck(once), darn (once). |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Extra Credit            | 4-6   | N?   | A girl has to write to a pen pal in Afghanistan as an extra credit assignment, in order not to be left back in sixth grade. An Afghani boy answers her letters through his younger sister, since in his culture it wouldn't be proper for a boy to write to a girl. They end up becoming interested in each other through the letters, until they are forced to stop because of anti-American threats the boy receives. Boy gets teased about having a girlfriend, girl writes to boy that she doesn't have a boyfriend even though a lot of her friends do. Girls thinks boy looks "cute".   |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Frindle                 | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy tests out rules of language by coining a new word. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Jake Drake Bully Buster | 3-5   | OK?? | A fourth grader describes encounters with bullies - detailed descriptions of bully's terrible middos. At one point boy is provoked so much he punches bully and is sent to principal. Eventually discovers nicer side to bully and that the bully has bullying siblings - older sister with 6 earrings and pink hair and terrible middos. Boy suspects teacher wears same pants every day and secretly makes a mark on them with permanent marker to prove it. Kids watch TV after school. Non-religious Xmas and Halloween - brief.  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Jake Drake Know-It-All  | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy tries to win science fair but discovers having fun is more important than winning. Subtle criticism of competitive school system. Language - jerk. Subtle chutzpah - boy thinks badly of father, but doesn't verbalize. P 33- p 35. Eventually realized father not so bad.  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Jake Drake, Class Clown | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy becomes class clown when a mean student teacher takes over. Eventually real teacher speaks to him and he stops the antics - somewhat learns a lesson. A few examples of somewhat bad behavior in class eg: burping, making jokes; no outright chutzpah. Preview of "Jake Drake, Bully Buster" in back of book. Children want to see if teacher owns only one pair of pants so they make a mark on them with permanent marker.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                     | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Jake Drake, Teacher's Pet | 3-5   | OK   | A boy unwittingly becomes a teacher's pet and tries to misbehave to change his reputation. Eventually discusses the problem with the principal who helps him. Although there are some descriptions of bad behavior in school he is eventually punished for them.  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Keeper of the School      | 4-6   | N?   | Children try to save their school from destruction by an amusement park developer. Minor language: weirdo, heck, stupid, butt kicking. Boy is miserable about his parents' separation. Mild references to liking girl. May become clearer in next book, which should be checked before this one is given to children.   |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Lost and Found            | 3-5   | N?   | Twin boys move to a new town and pretend they are the same person so they can alternate going to school and see what it feels like not to be a twin. When school discovers the ruse they get in big trouble. Lots of juvenile boy liking girl, boy having trouble acting normally around girls, talk of kissing girls (doesn't).  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Lunch Money               | 4-6   | OK?? | A boy who is interested in getting rich devises a scheme to publish comic books to sell in school. Chief competitor is a girl who he ends up partnering with. A teacher helps them defend themselves against a principal who hates comic books. Minor language: I hate your guts. Teacher tells boy that girl fights with him because she really likes him (P. 95). Teasing about liking girl (p. 114). Boy realizes he likes girl and she is cute (P. 147). One awkward attempt at holding hands (P. 221). Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.   |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | No Talking                | 3-5   | N?   | Fifth grade boys challenge girls to see who can keep quiet the longest, causing some funny and not so funny problems with teachers and principal. Minor Language: shut up, darn it, stupid, dork, idiot. Lots of discussion about how it's normal for fifth grade boys and girls to begin getting along and it's a shame when they don't. Girl teases boy she secretly has a crush on, by kissing him on the cheek. A little juvenile bathroom humor and slang. One incident of serious chutzpah to principal, who doesn't reprimand child (chapter 18 and 19). Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best. |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Room One                  | 3-5   | OK?? | Boy tries to help family living in abandoned house who are hiding from mother's scary boyfriend. "he tried to move in with us cuz he thinks he loves my mom" (p. 62). Although mother is clearly dysfunctional, not described in an inappropriate way. Passing mention of X-mas - no religion.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title             | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Clements, Andrew | The Jacket        | 3-5   | OK  | A white boy comes to grips with prejudice against blacks when he accuses his cleaning lady's grandson of stealing his jacket. Minor language ie: punk. References to internet use (look up name) and movies.   |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | The Janitor's Boy | 3-5   | OK? | Boy has to overcome embarrassment of father being janitor; learns to appreciate his father. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | The Landry News   | 3-5   | N?  | A girl prints a story about divorce in class newspaper and principal uses this as ammunition to fire dysfunctional/unorthodox teacher. Doesn't glorify divorce, but focuses on it a good deal. Might be scary to kids from stable homes - also makes it normal that parents "can stop loving each other". Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best. TV and movies. Brief mention that man kissed his wife. Brief mention that fifth grade girl thinks boy is "cute" and that girl "likes" boy. Girl wants to write a gossip column called "hot stuff" about "school romances- crushes, rumors, and who was going to be dumped." Fairly accurate quote from psalms about mercy and truth.. One word mentions of xmas. Language- stupid, idiotic |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | The Report Card   | 4-6   | OK? | Genius 5th-grade girl hides her intelligence and tries to revolutionize school testing system. Best friend is a boy - mentions that this is not a problem. Undertone of lack of respect for adults and authority, and message that kids know best.   |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | The School Story  | 3-5   | OK? | Girl writes a book under pen name and secretly has it published by mother who works as editor.   |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Things Hoped For  |       | N   | Sequel to "Things not Seen". Teenage musicians deal with death of grandfather and invisible criminal who is stalking them. Girl invites boy to stay in her house alone with her (in different rooms). She's not sure how she feels about him - he has girlfriend. Mention of co-ed dances. Affectionate but relatively non-romantic negiah. Emphasis on quote from New Testament.  |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Things Not Seen   |       | N   | A boy mysteriously becomes invisible. Mild chutzpah. Boy can't be detected when unclothed - lots of description and comparison to unclothed Greeks. Romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Clements, Andrew | Trouble Maker     |       | N   | A boy makes trouble in school to impress his brother who just got out of prison, but his brother convinces him to reform and behave himself. A lot of detailed descriptions of trouble making and chutzpah in school. Course. Even though it turns out well, there is a lot of unwholesomeness on the way. Lots of TV and movies. Lots of trouble making on Halloween. Language-jackass, dumb, stupid, jerk, weird, dweeb, creep, punk, dumb.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                               | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | Harvey's Marvelous Monkey Mystery   | 3-5   | OK   | 2 cousins return a lost monkey to a paralyzed girl, and capture kidnapper   |
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | Harvey's Wacky Parrot Adventure     | 3-5   | OK?  | Minor rough language. Description of teenage sister w/ "hair chopped off & sticking up"   |
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | Harvey's Horrible Snake Disaster    | 3-5   | OK   | Two cousins try to hide a snake - get into trouble. Minor subplot of sister who reads poetry to boyfriend.  |
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | Harvey's Mystifying Raccoon Mixup   | 3-5   | OK   | Children chase away counterfeiters with help of smart raccoon. Brief mention of sister's boyfriend.   |
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | Help I'm a Prisoner in the Library  | 3-5   | OK   | Girls get trapped in a spooky library and help injured librarian. Sibling rivalry.  |
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | I Hate your Guts Ben Brooster       | 3-5   | OK?  | harmless except for title   |
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | The Dastardly Murder of Dirty Pete  | 3-5   | OK   | takes place on a movie set  |
|                  | Clifford, Eth         | The Man Who Sang in the Dark        |       | N    | A few instances of premarital kissing and handholding   |
|                  | Clymer, Eleanor       | The Trolley car family              | 4-6   | OK   | Cute story of family living in trolley car, who befriend their grouchy neighbor.  |
|                  | Clymer, Susan         | Scrawny the Classroom Duck          | 3-5   | OK?  | A young boy gets attached to classroom duck and realizes he can make friends even if it's with a girl - totally not romantic friendship. Mentions he is named Elijah for Jewish grandmother and John for French Catholic grandfather - can cross it out.  |
|                  | Clymer, Susan         | There's a Tarantula in My Homework  | 2-4   | OK   | boy discovers he can best make friends by being himself.  |
|                  | Coatsworth, Elizabeth | The Cat Who Went to Heaven          |       | N    | Buddhism  |
|                  | Cody, Mathew          | Powerless                           | 5-8   | OK?? | Boy moves to new town and finds child superheroes; solves mystery of why they all lose their powers at age 13. Minor language: damn (p. 170), shut up, butt, crud, dork, shoot, heck, . etc. When boy doesn't eat much, other boy teases him that he's "watching his figure" for girl, who is his friend. Girl superhero says she wants to grow up normal and "kiss a boy". One boy's superpower is having a terrible stink. Non-romantic negiah. |
| new              | Coelho, Paulo         | The Alchemist                       |       | C    |   |
|                  | Coerr, Eleanor        | Chang's Paper Pony                  | 2-3   | OK   | I can read book. Boy resists urge to steal gold dust to buy a pony. In end, honesty pays off.   |
|                  | Coerr, Eleanor        | Sadak and the Thousand Paper Cranes | 3-5   | OK   | Japanese girl fights leukemia caused by radiation from a-bomb. Sad but beautifully done. Short reference to "the gods will make you better."  |
|                  | Coerr, Eleanor        | The Big Balloon Race                | 2-3   | OK   | I can read book. Girl stows away on mom's balloon and helps her win race.   |
|                  | Cohen, Barbara        | Make a Wish Molly                   | 3-4   | N?   | A new Jewish immigrant is invited to her first American birthday party on Pesach. Wrestles with eating chometz. Discussion if Jew allowed to eat in house of non-Jew. She ends up not eating cake but embarrassed - keeping halacha has negative connotations   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title                               | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Cohen, Miriam | Second Grade - Friends Again        | 2-3   | OK   | A boy feels bad for teasing overweight friend  |
|                  | Cole, Brock   | The Goats                           |       | N    | Campers play "practical joke": abandon nerdy boy and girl on island overnight - without their clothes. Very inappropriate.   |
|                  | Cole, Henry   | A Nest for Celeste                  | 3-5   | OK   | Mouse befriends artist's apprentice, and learns about survival and making friends.   |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin  | Airman                              |       | N?   | Boy Scientist escapes from prison to take revenge on person who put him there. Boy/girl, language.   |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin  | Artemis Fowl                        | 6-8   | OK?  | Rich boy genius takes on fairies. Great fun. Minor bad language and bathroom humor.  |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin  | Artemis Fowl - The Arctic Incident  | 6-8   | OK?  | Boy genius teams up with fairies to save father. Minor bad language eg. "bimbo". Minor negiah eg. strokes cheek. Juvenile bathroom humor related to dwarf who eats dirt and expels it through the back flap of his pants. Pretty minor stuff for older child.  |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin  | Artemis Fowl - The Atlantic Complex | 6-8   | N?   | Boy genius struggles with mental illness as he tries to save the world. Frequent language: stupid, shut your face, idiot, shut up, freaking out, jackass, sucks, dammit, hellfire. A bit less bathroom humor than usual, but a lot of the typical violence. Reference to a "moment of passion" between the boy and fairy from previous book - not detailed. Boy's alter ego tries to be romantic to fairy but she is not interested - hormones making him "wild and crazy" about her, etc. Villain has flashbacks to his meeting and courtship with his future wife. |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin  | Artemis Fowl - The Eternity Code    | 6-8   | OK?  | Boy genius teams up with fairies to save bodyguard's life and retrieve fairy technology. Minor bad language eg "morons" or "b---" (leaves it to reader to fill in the blank). Same bathroom humor as other books. Very minor negiah.   |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin  | Artemis Fowl - The Lost Colony      | 6-8   | N?   | Boy genius tries to save island of demons. Mentions of Artemis' frustration at being distracted by "puberty" = attraction to girls; not very specific. Same issues as other books but more language: hell (p. 220, 375), dammit, shut up, idiot, moron. The usual anatomical humor related to dwarf who eats dirt and expels it. Questionably romantic brief kiss and hug  |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin  | Artemis Fowl - The Opal Deception   | 6-8   | OK?? | Dwarf saves friends by passing gas & odor knocks out ; the bad guys-they see his "naked and very hairy behind". Victims are sprayed with troll pheromones that will make them smell like "female trolls in heat" - victims note that trolls are performing "mating ritual - they like us". These could possibly be crossed out, but would make holes in plot. Lots of references to "passing wind". Some friendly non-romantic negiah. Minor language.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                            | Title                                 | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Colfer, Eoin                      | Artemis Fowl: the Time Paradox        | 6-8   | N?   | Boy genius goes back in time to save mother's life. Several references to kiss between boy and female elf friend - mild. Usual bodily humor involving dwarf who expels waste.  |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin                      | Benny and Babe                        | 7-8   | N?   | Urban Irish boy builds friendship with rural tomboy girl. His liberal, artsy mother has them act in romantic play in order to turn friend into more of a girl-friend. Boy has to kiss girl on cheek as part of play. Relationship never gets truly romantic, although both do end up recognizing that she is actually a "girl". Also attend a dance together.                                      |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin                      | Benny and Omar                        | 7-8   | OK?? | Irish boy is relocated with family to Africa. Befriends local boy who communicates in phrases learned from TV shows; they get into assorted mischief together. Learns important lessons of life and family. Vague references to fact that he will eventually like girls. Girl befriends him & they go swimming together - but all very platonic. Non-romantic negiah. J-- used as swear - page 36. |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin                      | Legend of Spud Murphy                 | 3-4   | N?   | Boys are terrified of librarian until they discover that reading is fun. Sneak a book from adult section that has "spies kissing every girl they meet" (P. 73) - could be crossed out.mentions watching TV, middos between siblings, boy likes making bodily noises, Mentions of book titles which may or may not be appropriate. Language-dummy, sucker.  |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin                      | The Artemis Fowl Files                | 7-8   | OK   | 2 Short stories and background information about series.   |
|                  | Colfer, Eoin                      | The Wish List                         |       | N    | A girl dies and is caught in a battle between heaven and hell. A spoof on religion. Lots of religious references but not explained - I.e. Satan, Beelzebub, etc. Language, romantic negiah, hashkafic issues. Very inappropriate for frum children.  |
|                  | Collier, James L. & Christopher   | My Brother Sam is Dead                | 6-8   | N?   | Historical fiction - Revolutionary War. Conflict between Loyalist father and Patriot brother. Some negiah. Lots of bad language; gory war scenes   |
|                  | Collier, James L. and Christopher | Jump Ship to Freedom                  | 6-8   | OK   | Historical fiction. Post Revolutionary War. A black slave boy is determined to buy freedom for himself and his mother. Gets involved in the Constitutional Convention.   |
|                  | Collier, James L. and Christopher | The Bloody Country                    | 6-8   | N?   | Historical Fiction. Settlers. A miller's family try to prosper in the Wyoming Valley despite attacks by Indians and British, and despite attempts to take their land. Vivid descriptions of Indian attacks, death, suffering on the trail, and even a mother cooking her baby to feed her other children. Long drawn out description of the workings of the mill. Language: nigger, damn, bastard. |
|                  | Collier, James Lincoln            | The Dreadful Revenge of Ernest Gallen | 6-8   | N?   | Boy is haunted by ghost of swindler, who tries to get him to kill his grandfather, as revenge for cover-up of swindler's death. Ghost also haunts adults, causing them to accidentally hurt or kill themselves. Disturbing.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|--|
| new              | Collins, Suzanne | Gregor and the Code of the Claw- Book 5 in the Underland Chronicles         |       | N    | The saga continues as boy and his family help save the underworld. Boy and girl declare their "love" for each other and kiss. A lot of other mild romantic negiah. A lot of violence and death. TV., movies, One word xmas. Language- freaking out, weird, shut up, freak, stupid, hell.   |
|                  | Collins, Suzanne | Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods - Book 3 in the Underland Chronicles | 5-7   | OK?? | Children try to find the cure to a plague in the underland. Many mentions of fulfilling prophecies of the man who discovered the underland. Family teases boy who spends time in bathroom secretly reading a prophesy, that he is trying to look good to impress girls in school. Juvenile description of potty training little sister to "pee". Lots of non-romantic negiah. Lots of violence.  |
|                  | Collins, Suzanne | Gregor and the Marks of Secret - Book 4 in the Underland Chronicles         | 5-7   | N?   | Boy tries to save mice from evil rats. Minor semi-romantic negiah, juvenile dance, boy and girl sit back to back riding on a bat and she lays her head on him; he is not sure if he likes her or not. Mention of dates (p. 120) and that his mother won't let him go on any.   |
| new              | Collins, Suzanne | Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane- Book 2 in the Underland Chronicles         | 5-7   | OK?? | The saga continues as boy returns to the underland to save his sister and is sent on a dangerous mission. A lot of blood and gore- good guy vs. bad guy type violence. Constant mentions of anticipating a wonderful xmas- tree, presents, stockings, xmas spirit, etc. but no religion. Girl gives boy a hand to stand up, girl cousin comforts boy cousin by putting her arms around him . Brief mention of movies and TV. Language- freaked out, stupidity/ stupid, idiots, shut up, weird, dumb, butt, hell (once)   |
| new              | Collins, Suzanne | Gregor The Overlander- Book 1   | 5-7   | OK?? | Note on series: This series gets more problematic as children get older. Parent should decide if they want their child to begin this series. Boy and his little sister accidentally end up in a land under New York City and get involved in a war with the rats and save his father. A lot of talk about fulfilling prophecies of the man who discovered the underland. Sad description of senile grandmother. Boy hugs girl goodbye- not romantic. Many mentions of father disappearing and people suspecting he ran off with another women (he didn't) Brief humorous mention of cave men, the ice age and saber toothed tigers. Brief mentions of TV and movies. Neighbor tells fortunes with tarot cards. Good guy vs. bad guy violence. Many brief mentions of xmas- no religion. Language- idiot. weird, freaks/freaky, stupid, shut up, gross. At the end, interview with author. Mention of Alice in Wonderland. Preview of book 2. |
|                  | Collins, Suzanne | The Hunger Games  |       | N    | Children are forced to compete in a fight to the death. A lot of boy/girl, negiah. Very gory violence between children.  |
|                  | Collodi, C.      | The Adventures of Pinocchio   | 4-6   | OK   | Novel about mischievous marionette's adventures. Younger kids may find it somewhat scary.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
| new              | Cone, Molly        | Mishmash  | 3-5   | OK? | Boy and dog have funny troubles. Minor middos between boy and his girl neighbor. One word mention of xmas. Boy leaves dog in box for reverend of church since he wouldn't turn anyone away. Mention of church steeple. No religion. |
|                  | Cone, Molly        | Mishmash and the Big Fat Problem                  | 3-5   | OK  | Boy gives dog to teacher but dog keeps getting into trouble - tries to help him lose weight.  |
|                  | Cone, Molly        | Mishmash and the Venus Fly Trap                   | 3-5   | OK  | Dog is jealous of owner's venus fly trap, so tries to get rid of it.  |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | A Case for Jenny Archer                           | 2-4   | OK  | Girl suspects new neighbors are art thieves - ends up being wrong, but does catch criminals   |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | A Job for Jenny Archer                            | 2-4   | OK  | Girl tries different ways to earn money.  |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | Annabel the Actress Starring in Gorilla My Dreams | 2-4   | OK  | A girl who dreams of being an actress is hired to be a gorilla at a children's birthday party. Outsmarts a bully to get back her gorilla mask.  |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | Can Do Jenny Archer                               | 2-4   | OK  | Girl tries to win a can collecting contest.   |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | Get the Picture, Jenny Archer?                    | 2-4   | OK  | Girl takes pictures of unwilling subjects and suspects them of crimes, but they are really innocent. One incident of lady bending down and slacks split. Girl learns not to suspect innocent people.                                |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | Jenny Archer to the Rescue                        | 2-4   | OK  | Girl tries to be a heroine.   |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | Jenny Archer, Author                              | 2-4   | OK? | Girl writes fanciful "autobiography". Some TV references.   |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | Lenny Kendell, Smart Aleck                        |       | N   | boy wants to be a comedian. Side story of liking a girl. Minor bad language. Brief romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | Nibble Nibble Jenny Archer                        | 2-4   | OK? | A girl is on TV commercial. Lots of talk about how well it pays; otherwise not presented so favorably.  |
|                  | Conford, Ellen     | The Luck of Pokey Bloom                           | 3-5   | N?  | Girl keeps trying to win contests. Side story of older brother trying to get attention of a girl. Description of dance party. Not very explicit.  |
|                  | Conly              | Crazy Lady  |       | N   |   |
|                  | Conly, Jane Leslie | Racso and the Rats of Nimh                        | 5-6   | OK? | Rat brings city values to more wholesome environment - TV, disco, commercials, flashy headband. Learns good values  |
|                  | Conly, Jane Leslie | R-T, Margaret and the Rats of NIMH                | 5-6   | OK? | Rats rescue 2 human children lost in woods. Girl's best friend is a boy, but not romantic. Talk of TV, break dancing. But also lots of good values.   |
|                  | Conly, Jane Leslie | Trout Summer                                      |       | N   |   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                       | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Conrad, Pam         | Pedro's Journal             | 3-5   | N?   | Fictionalized journal of boy who travelled with Columbus. Quite a bit of religion (as befits the time period): Saying prayers and rosary and Hail Marys, midnight mass on Xmas eve, when they get caught in a storm the vow to make pilgrimages to various saints and shrines and to bring candles to alters. Descriptions of naked people - boy says his mother would have lowered her eyes and looked away but he "could not take his eyes off of them". Mentions the crew is happy because the Indian girls are very pretty and "sport freely with them". Sailor says his wife "keeps his bed warm".  |
|                  | Conrad, Pam         | Prairie Songs               |       | N    | Childbirth, baby dies, mother goes crazy & freezes to death  |
|                  | Conrad, Pam         | Stonewords                  | 5-7   | OK?? | Girl has friendship with another girl from the past; she goes back in past to save her from early death. One scene where "past" girl (who cannot be seen by anyone else) dances naked outdoors. Some spooky/gory scenes where "past" girl appears to be dead and decomposing. Scary.   |
|                  | Constable, Kate     | The Waterless Sea           |       | N    | A group of witches and their friends go to a distant kingdom to rescue children with magical gifts who are imprisoned. Ongoing romance that begins subtly but ends in romantic negiah. Talk of steady kisses, entwined lovers. A woman coerces a man to help her by flirting and stroking him, etc. Minor language: stinking, idiot.   |
|                  | Cooney, Caroline B. | Burning Up                  |       | N    | Girl tries to research racially-motivated arson in small town. Boy/girl.   |
|                  | Cooney, Caroline B. | The Face on the Milk Carton |       | N    | Girl discovers she was kidnapped and adopted by unknowing parents. Strong side story of relationship with boy: heavy negiah, kissing, check into motel to "learn about s--", but girl is too nervous.  |
|                  | Cooney, Caroline B. | The Ransom of Mercy Carter  |       | N    | Historical Fiction. French and Indian War. A remote settlement is attacked and children are kidnapped to Indian village. Children struggle to retain Puritan values in face of warm and less restrictive Indian environment. Vivid descriptions of Indian attack, murders, and death on the trail. Lots of religion - conflict between Puritanism and Catholicism. Indian beliefs mixed in. Needs guidance. Discussion of married Indian couple doing "what married couples did right in front of everybody while fire still lit up the room (P. 138) - can be crossed out. Description of Indian dress or lack thereof and the way it made Puritan children feel. |
|                  | Cooper, Susan       | King of Shadows             | 5-8   | OK?? | Young Shakespearean actor is transported to past to act in original Shakespeare play. Some minor language. Non-romantic negiah, one romantic hand-holding by peripheral characters. Mention in passing that girl "lives with" guy. Father committed suicide after death of mother; boy recalls finding father in pools of blood.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Cooper, Susan     | The Boggart                          | 4-7   | N?  | Family inherits invisible, mischievous spirit. Minor boy/girl via long-distance messages: "I miss you", "Love to Emily". One word mention of saints and Xmas. Father runs a theater company - some theater culture. Kids refer to elderly relative as "old codger". Father kisses mother on the ear. Mom doesn't like older boy whom son hangs out with because he is a school dropout and she suspects him of dealing drugs. Long description of Halloween and purposely scaring trick or treaters. 2 page explanation of Old Celt beliefs that Halloween isn't All Hallows Eve but it's the Eve of Simhain (p. 89). A psychologist acts badly - kids call him "the creep". Mention of TV show. Language: shut up, stupid, idiot, weird, computer freaks, damn, what the hell, gross, dumb, all hell broke loose, bum. |
|                  | Cooper, Susan     | The Boggart and the Monster          | 5-7   | N?  | Children go to Scotland and discover the Loch Ness Monster is really a magical boggart stuck in monster form. Help it escape from a scientist. Discussion about Plesiosaurus being extinct for 60,000 years (p. 12). Very subtle undercurrents of boy/girl crush. Language: damn, moron, shut up. Brief mention of man who never married because "he never wanted to be with a wife".   |
|                  | Corbett, Scott    | The Case of the Burgled Blessing Box | 4-6   | OK? | mild religious references about an evangelical group  |
|                  | Corbett, Scott    | The Mysterious Zetabet               | 2-3   | OK  | Boy finds himself in a land where one can only call things with the last letters of the alphabet  |
|                  | Corbett, Scott    | The Red Room Riddle - A Ghost Story  | 4-6   | OK? | On Halloween, 2 boys go to a strange boy's house to meet ghosts. Scary, but boy explains it away as hypnosis. Also go to a deserted house to see if it's haunted (breaking and entering?). No religion, minor language (darn)   |
|                  | Corbett, Sue      | Free Baseball                        | 4-6   | OK? | Boy living in Florida with mother, follows dream to work for baseball team. Father was famous ball player in Cuba. Boy finds out that when father found out it would be impossible for him to escape Cuba and join family, he divorced wife and remarried. Mild language: jerk, screwed up. Boy says prayer and crosses himself. References to women office managers of team falling in love with players and quitting to get married.  |
|                  | Corcoran, Barbara | Me and You and a Dog Named Blue      |       | N   | lots of bad language and alcohol  |
|                  | Corcoran, Barbara | The Clown                            | 6-8   | N?  | A girl visits Russia and becomes obsessed with a Jewish clown, and helps him defect. Obsession isn't clearly described as romantic, but in the end it's implied. One description of passing by a couple kissing. Mention of figure of J--- in store. Minor negiah.  |
|                  | Corcoran, Barbara | The Potato Kid                       |       | N   | Very sad description of dysfunctional family. Teenager "got caught", had baby and father "split". Use of curse once. Rough language.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                   | Title                                   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Corcoran, Barbara                        | The Sky is Falling                      | 6-8   | N?   | A pampered girl copes with father losing his job during the depression. Uncle commits suicide. P 47- minor mention of J---. Mentions of teenage interest in boys but all talk Another girl abused by drunken father. Non romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Corder, Zizou                            | Lion Boy                                | 6-8   | OK?  | Strange story of boy who can talk to cats. Story set in future; boy trying to save scientist parents who were kidnapped. Some bodily functions. Brief ref. to adult boyfriend/girlfriend. First in series.   |
|                  | Cormier, Robert                          | Fade                                    |       | N    | A boy inherits family trait of invisibility. Rated R.  |
|                  | Couloumbis, Audrey                       | Getting Near to Baby                    | 7-9   | OK?? | Sisters & mother deal with baby's death. Parts are very sad (after baby dies, mother does not tell anyone right away but just holds her for a while); beautifully done but heavy.  |
|                  | Couloumbis, Audrey                       | The Misadventures of Maude March        | 6-8   | OK?  | 2 orphaned sisters travel west to look for their uncle when the elder accidentally gets the reputation of an outlaw. Girls discuss if David of the Bible is real or made up- inconclusive. One word xmas. A minister's family adopt the girls but they feel like they are working them like slaves. They steal the minister's horses and run away. They try to justify the stealing but are never completely comfortable with it. Language-stupid, butt, goldanged, shut up, blasted.  |
|                  | Couloumbis, Audrey and Alsila Couloumbis | War Games                               | 6-8   | N?   | A Greek boy deals with the German invasion of his town. Humanizes the German commander who comes to live in his house. Minor language: stupid. Boys believe it is bad luck to kill a swallow because the red feathers at their throat is a drop of JC's blood. One sentence mention of flirting.   |
|                  | Couvillon, Jacques                       | The Chicken Dance                       |       | N    | Boy in small town finds out secrets about his own past. Lots of inappropriate references, out-of-wedlock children, affair, etc.  |
| new              | Coven, Wanda                             | Heidi Heckelbeck and the Secret Admirer | 2-3   | OK?? | Second grade girl tries to figure out who her secret admirer is- keeps giving her gifts and poems- eg. you're as sweet as a sugar beet.. Best friend is a boy. Second grade boy and girl "pound fists" for good luck (text and illustration), hug when they win science fair (illustration of them with arms over each others shoulders). Middos between classmates. Girl calls another a "stinkbug", "ding - dong". Unimportant mention of St. Patricks Day and Easter. Language- weirdo, gross. On back cover readers are encouraged to go onto a blog about the book. |
|                  | Coville, Bruce                           | Alien Visitors                          | 3-5   | OK?  | Sci-fi stories for kids. 2 illustrations of scantily clad women in modernistic costumes.   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce                           | Aliens ate my homework                  |       | N?   | father deserts family  |
|                  | Coville, Bruce                           | Aliens Stole My Body                    | 5-7   | OK?  | a boy tries to get body back from a mean alien. Minor bathroom talk.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | I was a Sixth Grade Alien #2 - Attack of 2 inch teacher   |       | N   | lots of bathroom talk, mild foul language, street talk, some negiah   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | Jennifer Murdley's Toad                                   |       | N   | A girl who thinks she is ugly buys a magical toad and confronts a beautiful witch. Children in school make fun of her because she wore her brother's underwear because hers were all in the laundry. Lots of bad middos between children in school and between siblings. Running story of toad kissing people on the lips - at the end toad finds his lost love and gets a real kiss. Language: shut up, creepazoid, weird, barf, creep, hanky panky, heck, jerk. |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | Jeremy Thatcher Dragon Hatcher                            |       | N   |   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | Moon Gobble and Me - The Evil Elves                       | 2-4   | N?  | Continuation of series. They go on a quest to find a jewel that causes evil thoughts. Minor language: stupid, nasty, farting, drat, butt  |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | Moon Gobble and Me - The Weeping Werewolf                 | 2-4   | N?  | A boy, an elderly knight, and a miniature dragon help a bumbling magician achieve 3 quests so he can be certified. In this book they need to collect tears from a werewolf who turns out to be the boy's missing father. Village children make fun of the boy, asking if the magician is his mother's boyfriend and if she kisses him. Minor language: idiot, drat, butt, heck.   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | My Teacher Flunked the Planet                             | 5-7   | OK? | brief mention of women's' anatomy. Confusing mention of earth's age and evolution   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | My Teacher Glows in the Dark                              | 5-7   | N?  | Sequel to "my Teacher is an Alien". Boy tries to convince aliens not to destroy Earth. Lots of juvenile language: snotball, farting, shut up, jerk, geeks, dweebs, heck, berserk, creep. Boy things about girl he likes a lot, when he gets back to Earth she throws her arms around him.   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | My Teacher is an Alien                                    | 5-7   | N?  | Children discover that their substitute teacher really is an alien who has frozen their real teacher and plans to kidnap some of them to his planet. In the end they unmask him but one of the boys from a troubled home decides to leave Earth with him. Minor language: geekazoid, heck, creep, creepazoid, shut up. Bad middos, bullying.  |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | Skull of Truth  |       | N   |   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | The Ghost wore Grey                                       |       | N   |   |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | The Unicorn Chronicles Book IV - The Last Hunt            |       | N   | Unicorns fight hunters to save their magical world. Romantic negiah, inferences to deviant lifestyle, detailed violence between magical creatures.  |
|                  | Coville, Bruce   | The Unicorn Chronicles: Book 1- Into The Land Of Unicorns | 6-8   | OK? | a girl becomes a protector of unicorns even though it means going against her family's traditions. Focus on her sadness that her parents abandoned her. Language- shake butt. Later books in this series are more problematic.  |
|                  | Cowell, Cressida | How To Cheat a Dragon's Curse                             | 5-7   | N?  | Same genre as "How To Train Your Dragon." A lot of unrefined language, unrefined bathroom humor.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                             | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Cowell, Cressida | How to Train Your Dragon          | 3-5   | N?  | Strange book. A man tells about his childhood as a Viking, and how he became a hero and rescued the tribe from 2 huge dragons. Very tongue in cheek. Very unrefined. Juvenile bathroom humor including illustrations. Illustration of ladies undergarments p. 169.   |
|                  | Creech, Sharon   | Bloomability                      |       | N   | Serious boy/girl friendships   |
|                  | Creech, Sharon   | Chasing Redbird                   |       | N   | subtle romance between younger girl and teen boy   |
|                  | Creech, Sharon   | Granny Torelli Makes Soup         | 6-8   | N?  | A 12 year old Italian girl is best friends with a blind boy her age. When a new girl moves in and befriends the boy, her grandmother helps her deal with the ensuing jealousy. This book is very "iffy" because, although there is nothing overtly romantic, the grandmother tells stories about her own experiences with a male best friend who eventually wanted to marry her, which gives a romantic undertone to the whole thing. A lot of friendly negiah which could be interpreted as romantic depending on reader's viewpoint. Brief mention of boy's father abandoning family. When a missing child is found, father exclaims "blessed mother Mary". Minor language: stupid, oh crud. |
|                  | Creech, Sharon   | Love that Dog                     | 4+    | OK? | Written in the form of poems and free verse from a boy to his teacher. Many of the poems are about his beloved dog who was killed by a hit and run car. Some children may find the book fascinating and some may find it upsetting since the dog's death is depicted very clearly.   |
|                  | Creech, Sharon   | The Unfinished Angel              | 4-7   | OK? | An angel and an unusual girl try to help some refugee children and their town. Fine except for the 'angel' concept. No religion. Minor language: shut up, etc  |
|                  | Creech, Sharon   | The Wanderer                      | 6-8   | N?  | A girl goes on a sailboat journey with adopted boy cousins and uncles and comes to grips with loss of parents. A few mentions in passing of girls liking to look at handsome boy cousin and him calling them "babes" and "wildlife". Side story of uncle's romance - he hugs her, but she refuses to marry him. Five word mention of "first girl he had kissed" Nothing terrible but overall tone problematic.   |
|                  | Creech, Sharon   | Walk Two Moons                    |       | N   | A girl comes to grips with mom's death by re-enacting her last journey. Lots of boy/ girl, romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Cresswell, Helen | The Little Sea Pony               | 2-3   | OK  | A girl wants to keep a sea pony as a pet; eventually lets it go.   |
|                  | Cresswell, Helen | Up the Pier                       | 5-7   | OK  | Strange story of girl who helps magical family return to their own time. A little scary.   |
|                  | Crilley, Mark    | Akiko and the Alpha Centauri 5000 | 3-5   | OK  | Girl is taken to alien space ship and tries to help them win race.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                   | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
| new              | Cronin, Doreen           | The Legend of Diamond Lil                          | 2-4   | OK? | A funny/strange book about a search and rescue dog who tries to protect the family's chickens, and ends up figuring out the mystery of a new dog in the neighborhood. Many mentions of "dog pee" and "rabbit pee". One word mention of Easter. Language- jerk  |
|                  | Cronin, Doreen           | The Trouble with Chickens - A JJ Tully Mystery     | 2-4   | OK? | A funny/strange book about a search and rescue dog who walks into a trap when he goes to free some chickens. Dog uses "tough detective talk" Like "in my face", "get lost", "sing like a bird", etc. Minor language: stink, dumb. 2 word mention of Easter. A few mentions of watching TV as a reward, and game shows.           |
|                  | Cross, Gilbert           | Mystery at Loon Lake                               | 4-6   | N?  | Children uncover smuggling ring. Totally unromantic negiah. Very inappropriate description of tavern where unclothed waiter dances - can be crossed out; otherwise fine  |
|                  | Crowne, Alyssa           | Perfectly Princess- Purple Princess Wins the Prize | 2-4   | OK  | A girl tries to win a prize to keep up with her brothers. Deals with feelings of jealousy and sibling rivalry. Middos between siblings and classmates which resolve at the end. Language- weird, gross.  |
|                  | Crowne, Alyssa           | Perfectly Princess: Blue Princess Takes The Stage  | 2-3   | OK? | A girl doesn't get the part she hoped for in her drama school play. She deals with feelings of jealousy. Play is coed- boys and girls sing and dance together-totally innocent. Language-dumb.   |
|                  | Crowne, Alyssa           | Perfectly Princess: Green Princess Saves The Day   | 2-3   | OK? | A girl tries to save her favorite park from being turned into a shopping center. Girls want to be singing stars when they grow up. Mention of watching the news on TV, watching a movie. In bio of author mentions she dressed up as snow white for Halloween.   |
|                  | Crowne, Alyssa           | Perfectly Princess-Yellow Princess Gets A Pet      | 2-4   | OK? | A girl gets a kitten and copes with feelings of disappointment when it turns out her mother is allergic to cats. Her best friends are a girl and a boy. She says she really likes the boy- no implications this is a romantic feeling. Mention of going to the movies and eating popcorn. Brief non religious mention of Easter. |
|                  | Cullan,Lynn              | Nellie in the Wilderness                           |       | N   |  |
|                  | Cunningham, Julia        | Dear Rat   | 3-5   | N?  | Spoof on detective stories, rat discovers who stole jewel from religious icon - described in detail. One kiss at end, then get married.  |
|                  | Curley, Marianne         | The Guardians of Time Trilogy (series)             |       | N   | Real negiah, lots of language, living together, etc.   |
|                  | Curtis, Christopher Paul | Bud, Not Buddy                                     |       | N   | romance, first kiss described  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                   | Title                               | grade |    |   |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|----|---|
|                  | Curtis, Christopher Paul | Elijah of Buxton                    | 6+    | N? | A child of slaves grows up free in Canada. A lot of black dialect. A few mentions of church, frequently use JC's name for emphasis e.g.. "sweet baby J_" or "take me now J_" etc. Mom teaches son a lesson for putting toad in her sewing basket by scaring him with a snake. Horrifying description of treatment of captured runaway slaves. A lot of prejudice described. A supposedly comical incident where teacher writes on the board "familiarity breeds contempt" but boys misinterpret it as "family breeding contests" which seems naughty to the boys. Another supposedly comical incident- "conjurer" hypnotizes boy to pull down his pants, not realizing he is not wearing underwear. Language- doggone it all, blang it all, berserk, idiot, blasted, dam (spelled that way, but same meaning as with an "n"), darn, stupid. |
|                  | Curtis, Christopher Paul | Mr. Chickee's Funny Money           | 3-5   | N? | A boy is given a quadrillion dollar bill and tries to outrun federal agents and cash it in a bank. Chutzpadik thoughts about parents but not carried out. Parents and other adults portrayed as silly and slow. Some juvenile bathroom humor. Minor language: weird, goofball, dolt, pain in the neck. mention of JC, no religion. Some African American music culture. Book has little redeeming value.  |
|                  | Curtis, Christopher Paul | Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission         | 3-5   | N? | Children try to save alternate universe inhabited by the authors of their favorite books. Same issues as "Mr. Chickee's Funny Money", though some adults are portrayed more intelligently. Juvenile boy/girl. Minor language: moron, jerk, fart, darn. Books mentioned may or may not be familiar to reader and may or may not be appropriate.  |
|                  | Curtis, Christopher Paul | The Mighty Miss Malone              | 6-8   | N? | An African-American girl and her family come through the great depression after a lot of suffering including living in a tramp's camp and father going crazy. A lot of talk of girl having crush on boy but doesn't go anywhere. Fist fight between bully and children. Mention of JC. Little boy tries to kiss bigger girl (p202-203) in a way he thinks is romantic- girl finds it funny. Brother gets a job singing in a "speak easy"- women described dressed in "scandalous" clothing. Language- idiot, pee, butt, heck, idiot, weird, brat, stupid, dang, shut up.  |
|                  | Curtis, Christopher Paul | The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 |       | N  | Language, religion, bullying violence, "pictures of nekkid ladies".   |
|                  | Cushman, Karen           | Catherine, Called Birdy             |       | N  | A daughter of a nobleman tries to make prospective suitors hate her by being rude and unrefined. Very disrespectful of semi-abusive father. Lots of religion and boy/girl, including pregnancies out of wedlock.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                  | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Cushman, Karen                          | The Ballad of Lucy Whipple                            |       | N    | A family goes west to California and runs boarding house for miners. Lots of rough language, drunken brawls, dances, religion, discussion of female monthly cycle  |
|                  | Cushman, Karen                          | The Midwife's Apprentice                              |       | N    | An abandoned girl works for a midwife and gradually builds a life for herself. Inappropriate descriptions of infidelity, romantic negiah, inappropriate language.  |
|                  | Cussler, Clive                          | The Adventures of Vin Fiz                             | 3-4   | OK   | After receiving a machine that turns toys into magical life-size objects, 2 children fly a plane across the country, saving people from bad guys along the way.  |
|                  | Cutler, Jane                            | My Wartime Summers                                    |       | N    | a girl deals with uncle going to army. Female anatomy described in detail. Lots of girl/boy  |
|                  | D'Lacey Chris                           | The Dragons Of Wayward Crescent-Gruffen               | 2-3   | OK?  | A girl is scared of a monster in her bedroom so her mother makes a clay guard dragon that comes to life. Girl sticks out her tongue at neighbor behind his back-picture and text description- (p51 chapt.5). Girl talks to dragon about marrying a female bat, he blushes.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie                           | Whistler's Hollow                                     |       | N    | father leaves for another woman  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey City Monsters #1 - The Monsters Next Door      | 3-4   | N?   | Kids try to protect monster family. Lots of Halloween talk - entire plot Halloween based.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey City Monsters #2 Howling at the Hartleys       | 3-4   | OK   | Strange Story - Kids get involved with monster family on the block and werewolf relative.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Aliens Don't Wear Braces #07     | 2-4   | OK?  | Is new art teacher an alien trying to steal people's colors? Teacher's hair is the color of a jack-o-lantern. Non-romantic negiah. Troublemaker boy displays usual bad middos. Girl briefly comments that she saw the principal's underwear sticking out of his pants. Language: creepy, weird, stink, nerds, moron (once).  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Angels Don't Know Karate #23     |       | N    | Too much about guardian angels and concept of miracles   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Bogeymen Don't Play Football #27 | 2-4   | OK?? | Is new student teacher the bogeyman who gets kids who don't do their homework? Girl worries that when she goes into a football locker room all the players will be "naked"- they aren't. Illustration of cheerleaders with short skirts.Minor language: weird, snot, freaky, creepy, stinky, booger. Middos issue - boy makes trouble for student teacher and shows bad middos with friends. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                  | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Cupid Doesn't Flip Hamburgers #12          |       | N    | Entire story focused on valentines day and boy/girl falling in love.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Dracula Doesn't Drink Lemonade #16         | 2-4   | OK?  | Is the new Guidance Counselor really Dracula? Same issues as others in this series.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Dracula Doesn't Play Kickball #48          |       | N    | Guidance counselor who left the school to join a rock band (book #39) returns as the playground monitor. Children suspect him of turning the teachers into vampires. Some rock band culture (p. 4), a few juvenile mentions of girl with crush on boy, flirting with him. Very tame, but children this age don't need it.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Dracula Doesn't Rock and Roll #39          | 2-4   | N?   | Is new rock star Dracula? Focus on how great it is to be a rock star and how cool rock music is.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Dragons Don't Cook Pizza #24               | 2-4   | OK?  | Is the Pizza Chef really a sad dragon? Same issues as others in this series.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Dragons Don't Throw Snowballs #51          | 2-4   | OK?? | Kids are marooned in school due to a blizzard and think a mad scientist brought a dragon snow sculpture to life. Sneak outside against school rules. A girl who "likes" a third grade boy (who hates her) "bats her eyelashes" at him and says it's "romantic" to be stranded in school together - he looks like he will "be sick any minute". Full illustration of boy laughing so hard that milk squirts out of his nose(p. 57) . Non-romantic negiah. Language: puke, weird. |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Elves Don't Wear Hard Hats #17             |       | N    | Are construction workers really xmas elves? Even though no religion, entire story is holiday focused  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Frankenstein Doesn't Slam Hockey Pucks #34 | 2-4   | OK?? | Children think the hockey coach is Frankenstein who escaped from his creator so they sneak into his private office to prove it. A girl "likes" a boy (who hates her) - she "bats her eyelashes at him" - very juvenile. Boy teases girl making a phone call that she is calling "dial a date". Minor middos between friends - trade insults. Unimportant mentions of Santa and his elves and of watching the History Channel. Language: gross, weird.                           |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Frankenstein Doesn't Plant Petunias #6     | 2-4   | OK?  | Is museum assistant Frankenstein? Same issues as others in this series.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                  | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Frankenstein Doesn't Start Food Fights #47 | 2-4   | N?   | A husband and wife team, whom kids suspect are Frankenstein monsters, come to the school to test a new cookie recipe, causing mayhem. Girl says that boys and girl always fight because they have a crush on each other so they are flirting, and they respond "yuck" (p. 9). Kids hope to be interviewed by TV reporter. Child calls another "monster breath" and other middos issues including a huge food fight.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Genies Don't Ride Bicycles #08             | 2-4   | OK?  | Is the new neighbor a genie who grants wishes? Minor mention of x-mas lights - no religion. Same issues as others in this series.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Ghosts Don't Eat Potato Chips #05          | 2-4   | OK?? | Children suspect a ghost is haunting a great aunt's attic. Boy refers to her as an "old bat" and a "crazy aunt". Children insult each other, e.g. "smarty pants", "your head is full of rice crispies". Aunt calls kids "little snots" and teaches them to play poker. Language - stink, stupid, dumb.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Ghouls Don't Scoop Ice Cream #31           | 2-4   | N?   | Is the girl working in the ice cream parlor really a ghoul trying to find a home for a family of vampires? Brief mention of a third grade girl who flirts with a boy who thinks she is a pain. Language - bat poop.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Goblins Don't Play Video Games #37         | 2-4   | N?   | Is the new computer teacher a goblin with a penchant for neatness? P. 72-73 - someone plays a trick on a boy and sends very juvenile love notes.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Gremlins Don't Chew Bubble Gum #13         | 2-4   | OK?  | Is the temporary secretary a gremlin who ruins everything she touches? Usual middos issues with troublemaker boy- makes fun of girl who misses the ball, trades insults with friends, etc. Children get rid of her using good luck charms. Juvenile joke about boy's "lucky underwear". Language- berserk  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Hercules Doesn't Pull Teeth #30            | 2-4   | OK?? | Kids think dentist is Hercules trying to take over their town. A lot of Greek mythology – mostly Hercules and Zeus- kids this age will probably find it confusing. Boy says that having no TV would be the most horrible thing he can think of. Language- weird, dumb, stupid.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Leprechauns Don't Play Basketball #4       | 2-4   | N?   | Children think the new gym teacher is a leprechaun and try to prevent him from stealing their teacher's pendant. Story takes place on St. Patrick's Day - constantly referred to as a time for wearing green, talking about Ireland, green shamrocks, etc. Boy displays terrible middos - goes around pinching people who aren't wearing green, makes trouble in school, purposely annoys teachers, plays tricks, speaks about them in a chutzpadik way. Language: stupid, shut up, weird. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                  | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Mermaids Don't Run Track #26                 | 2-4   | N?   | Is track teacher a mermaid who is trying to lure the camp director to sea forever so she can stay human? Cartoonish pictures of teacher wearing a half tank top, of a scantily clad mermaid, of third graders going mixed swimming, of boy pulling girl in to the water as a joke.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Monsters Don't Scuba Dive #14                | 2-4   | N?   | Kids suspect that the camp's scuba diving instructor is really the Loch Ness monster. Children say camp director is in love with female because of the way "he looked at her" and that it is so "romantic" Cartoonish picture of woman in a tight wetsuit (shows her shape) and children in bathing suits. Teacher kisses boy on the cheek - children tease him and say in about 10 years his girlfriend will kiss him Language: dog gone.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Phantoms Don't Drive Sports Cars #32         | 2-4   | N?   | Some focus on story Phantom of the Opera about a man who loves a girl, but she doesn't love him  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Pirates Don't Wear Pink Sunglasses           | 2-4   | OK?  | Children try to find buried treasure to save a camp. Same issues as others in this series.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Robots Don't Catch Chicken Pox #42           | 2-4   | OK?  | Children try to prove drama teacher is a robot, by pouring a bucket of water over her. Lack of derech erez, but it's so silly, it's unrealistic  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Sea Monsters Don't Ride Motorcycles #40      | 2-4   | OK?? | Children suspect that motorcycle racer is really a sea monster who wants to fight with her cousin and destroy the seaside town. Cover illustration of a lady in a tight sleeveless jumpsuit with a big sea monster tattoo on her arm. Illustrations of young boys and girls on the ocean and at the beach wearing non-provocative bathing suits. Illustration of woman in bathing suit - fitted but not terribly provocative. Kids talk about becoming famous movie producers. Xmas - mentioned once. Non-romantic negiah. |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Sea Serpents Don't Juggle Water Balloons #46 | 2-4   | OK?  | Is math tutor really a sea serpent who hates noise? Same issues as others in this series.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Skeletons Don't Play Tubas #11               | 2-4   | OK?  | Is band teacher's model skeleton able to play tuba. One mention of coffin & graveyard. Same issues as others in this series.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Super Special #4 Mrs. Jeepers In Outer Space | 2-4   | OK?  | Children go to space camp and suspect that their teacher, whom they think is a vampire, wants to take over outer space. Troublemaker boy displays worse middos than usual. Friends trade insults. Language: stupid, weird, wimps.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                  | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - The Abominable Snowman Doesn't Roast Marshmallows #50 | 2-4   | OK?  | Kids think stranger in town is the abominable snowman. Minor language: nutcase. Non-religions mention of church as shelter for homeless. Excerpts in back of book about a new series by these authors - Ghostville Elementary - although excerpts seem fine, still needs full review.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - The Bride of Frankenstein Doesn't Bake Cookies #41    |       | N    | Entire focus is boy/girl   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids Trolls Don't Ride Roller Coasters #35                   | 2-4   | OK?  | Children suspect that the lady in the amusement park is a mean troll so they try to get her to do a good deed. Troublemaker boy displays minor bad middos. Woman is wearing a t shirt so short can see her belly button. Language- weird   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Unicorns Don't Give Sleigh Rides #28                  | 2-4   | N?   | Although Xmas mentioned by name only a few times, entire book very "Xmas spirit" focused. Passing mentions of Santa, jingle bells, sleigh rides, poinsettias, decorations, etc. Language: stupid, berserk  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots #1                     | 2-4   | OK?? | Kids think their new teacher is a vampire. Old teacher left because kids played such mean tricks on her (last trick described in detail). Minor middos between kids. Unimportant mention of watching television. Unimportant mention of parents being divorced. Kids sneak into teacher's house (breaking and entering) to prove she is a vampire. Boy wears cross to scare off vampires. Language: wimp, weird, dumb, freaky, stupid. |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Werewolves Don't Go to Summer Camp #02                | 2-4   | OK?? | Children think camp director is a werewolf and sneak into his private cabin to prove it. Troublemaker boy displays usual bad middos. Unimportant mention of the "Late Show" and movies. Brief non-religions Xmas and mistletoe. Boy comments that head counselor can't have a steady girlfriend if he keeps turning into a werewolf. Language: shut up, moron, stupid, puke, berserk, nut, creepy.                                     |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Werewolves Don't Run for President #49                | 2-4   | OK   | Kids suspect that a presidential candidate of being a werewolf who is trying to turn them all into werewolves. They are eventually instrumental in his defeat. A lot of info about democracy and US history.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Witches Don't Do Back Flips #10                       | 2-4   | OK?  | Is the gymnastics teacher a witch who casts rhyming spells? Cartoonish illustrations of teacher in sleeveless leotard and tight shorts. Same issues as others in this series.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Wizards Don't Need Computers #20                      | 2-4   | OK?? | Children suspect that the library staff are King Arthur's court, come to transform their city into Camelot. Language: weird, idiot, boy calls friend "noodle nose" . Mention of TV cameras. Illustration of man and woman sitting on a bench holding hands - text explains that children suspect they are King Arthur and his wife - never proven.   |

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|------------------|---|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Bailey School Kids - Zombies Don't Play Soccer #15 | 2-4   | OK?  | Same issues as others in this series.   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Keyholders#1 This Side Of Magic                    | 3-5   | OK?? | Series about 2 girls and a boy and their magical companions who are appointed guardians of the world who keep evil magic creatures from infiltrating the real world. Throughout, mild juvenile bathroom humor, mild middos between friends. In this book brief mention of sixth grade girls standing in schoolyard talking about boys, girl calls man an "old geezer", girl's grandmother has a crush on their elderly neighbor, mention of watching TV, one word xmas. Language-creepy, weird, jerk, stupid, boogers, snot.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Keyholders#2 The Other Side Of Magic               | 3-5   | OK?? | The saga continues, same bathroom humor and middos as first book. Language-stupid, gross, stinky, weird.  |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Keyholders#3 Inside the Magic                      | 3-5   | OK?? | The saga continues- same issues as first two books. Language-stupid, butt, booger, creepy. Non romantic negiah. Preview of book 4- internet use (see book 4).   |
|                  | Dadey, Debbie and Marcia Thornton Jones | Keyholders#4 The Wrong Side of Magic               | 3-5   | OK?? | The saga continues- same issues as other books in this series. Children use internet to find info for science project, girl finds info on her phone that has a wireless internet connection, mp3 player. Teachers are taken over by changelings and become more mean then before. Description and silly illustration of teachers dancing in teacher's room singing about giving those "jerks" (the students) more and more homework. Grandmother has a crush on elderly neighbor. Brief mention of a scary movie. Teenage sister teases her brother that the girls are his girlfriends and sings "first comes love, then comes marriage..." Language-stink, boogers, stupid, gross. |
|                  | Dagger, J.T.                            | Quicksand and Grizzlies                            | 4-6   | OK   | Survival guide to true - but mostly unlikely - dangerous situations.  |
|                  | Dahl, Roald                             | Charlie and the Chocolate Factory                  | 5-7   | OK?  | Poor boy is selected to go on fantastic chocolate factory tour. Minor language. Mr. Wonka is insulting to other adults. Very tongue in cheek.   |
|                  | Dahl, Roald                             | Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator               | 5-7   | OK?  | Continuation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Some rough language, some bathroom talk, e.g. girl who had too many laxatives. Very tongue in cheek.   |
|                  | Dahl, Roald                             | Danny the Champion of the World                    |       | N    | Father convinces son that poaching on private property is acceptable and is not stealing  |
|                  | Dahl, Roald                             | Fantastic Mr. Fox                                  | 3-5   | N?   | A fox, his family and friends outwit 3 farmers who are trying to catch them. A lot of justification of foxes stealing food from farmers. Juvenile bathroom humor. Frequent language-dang, blast, stupid, shut up, heck.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author      | Title                            | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dahl, Roald | Going Solo                       | 6-8   | N?   | An autobiography of the author detailing his experiences as a fighter pilot. Detailed descriptions of injuries and deaths. Vivid description of a married couple who jog around the deck of a ship every morning without wearing any clothing. Man wonders if woman's son is illegitimate. Vivid description of bullfrogs' mating practices as compared to humans'. Man is in "ecstasy" everyday as a pretty nurse cares for him. JC's last name used as a curse and later as a historical figure. Frequent problematic language-shut up, darn, hell, ass, hellhole, stupid. |
|                  | Dahl, Roald | James and the Giant Peach        | 5-7   | OK?? | A very tongue in cheek book, about a boy whose parents were eaten by a rhinoceros, so he goes to live with his cruel aunts who treat him terribly until one day a magical peach kills his aunts and takes him on adventures with enormous bugs. Aunts are described as evil and scary and call the boy things like "disgusting beast" and "miserable creature". Language: shut up, twerp, ass, darned, idiot, nincompoop, blunderhead.   |
|                  | Dahl, Roald | Matilda                          |       | N    | Parents and headmistress very abusive to brilliant young girl. Father very dishonest business practices. Very sarcastic and tongue-in-cheek but children will take it at face value  |
|                  | Dahl, Roald | The BFG                          | 4-7   | OK   | Girl and Big Friendly Giant carry out plan to get rid of bad, child-eating giants. Mild humorous references to bodily functions.   |
|                  | Dahl, Roald | The Enormous Crocodile           | 3-5   | OK?  | A crocodile makes sneaky plans to eat children which are foiled by various animals. Language-creepy, stupid, horrid.   |
|                  | Dahl, Roald | The Giraffe and The Pelly and Me | 3-5   | OK?? | 3 animals and a boy team up to make a window washing business. Language-damnation (once), idiot.   |
|                  | Dahl, Roald | The Magic Finger                 |       | OK?? | A girl teaches a lesson to a family that likes to hunt by temporarily turning them into the prey. A problematic incident between girl and her teacher- the teacher calls her stupid, she turns her teacher into a cat.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dahl, Roald     | The Wonderful Story Of Henry Sugar and Six More | 5-7   | N?   | <p>Short stories by the author plus a short autobiography and an interview with him about becoming an author. "The Boy Who Talked With Animals"- a boy convinces his father to pay fisherman to free a turtle they caught and then runs off riding on the turtle's back. Language- idiotic, heck. "The Hitchhiker"-a man gives a master pickpocket a ride and gets ticketed for speeding but the pickpocket steals the policeman's book so he goes free. Language-stupid, twerp, darn right. "The Mildenhall Treasure"- a simple hired man discovers a treasure while plowing a field and tells a more savvy man who realizes its value and tries to keep it for himself though he is eventually forced to give it to a museum. Non religious mention of Easter. On treasure was name of JC as well as pictures of Greek gods (named and briefly described). Language-blast, stinking (used as a curse). "The Swan"-disturbing story of 2 bullies who torment a smaller boy. Horrible middos. Language-scum, flippin', shut your mouth, snotty nose, idiot, stupid. "The Wonderful Story Of Henry Sugar"-A spoiled rich man harnesses the power of yoga to cheat at gambling and ends up using the money for good causes. Very detailed description of yoga and the supposed miracles yogis can perform and how they train to do it. At one point, man takes off his clothing till he is "naked except for my underpants" language-idiot, damned, stupid, silly. "Lucky Break-How I Became A Writer"- Autobiography includes description of vicious beatings at the hands of mean school masters and upperclassmen. A list of books and authors which may or may not be appropriate as well as other stories by this author. "A Piece Of Cake" -The author describes being shot down in an army jet in WWII. Language-hell, shut up.</p> |
|                  | Dalgiesh, Alice | The Bears on Hemlok Mountain                    | 2-3   | OK   | <p>Boy goes over mountain and encounters bears, even though mother told him there aren't any bears. Father rescues him.</p>  |
|                  | Dalgiesh, Alice | The Courage Of Sarah Noble                      | 2-4   | OK?? | <p>A Newbery Honor book about a girl who overcomes her fears and goes to Indian territory with her father to claim their new home. He leaves her in the care of Indians when he goes back to get the rest of the family. At one point reads the Bible to the Indians- brief summary of biblical story- relatively accurate -p24 chapt. 5. Description and illustration of her kneeling to say prayers. Indian father explains to his children that she is praying to her "great spirit". Illustration and description of Indians wearing nothing more than a small piece of cloth.</p>   |
|                  | Dalgiesh, Alice | The Silver Pencil                               |       | N    | <p>Story traces the life of a British author who grows up in Trinidad from childhood through adulthood. Lots of religion - JC, church service, X-mas story. Lots of boy/girl and romantic negiah.</p>  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title                                   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dana Barbara            | Zucchini                                | 3-4   | OK   | A shy boy befriends a ferret. Story written from ferret's point of view.   |
|                  | Dank, Milton & Gloria   | The 3-D Traitor                         | 4-6   | N?   | modern arrangement of living together (subtle); Jewish books w/ Dybbuks - negative but minor   |
|                  | Dank, Milton & Gloria   | The Computer Caper                      | 4-6   | OK?  | one mention of boy who doesn't want to fulfill father's ambition of being rabbi  |
|                  | Dank, Milton & Gloria   | The Computer Game Murder                |       | N    | inappropriate references to Judaism & girls  |
|                  | Dank, Milton and Gloria | A UFO Has Landed                        | 4-6   | OK?  | Children discover UFO is really a company dumping toxic waste. One instance of overnight stakeout where girl puts head on boy's shoulder to sleep - not overtly romantic.  |
|                  | Danziger, Paula         | Amber Brown is Feeling Blue             |       | N    |  |
|                  | Danziger, Paula         | Amber Brown is Green with Envy          |       | N    | Entire books examines divorce in detail and parents' bad treatment of each other. Lots of teenage boy/girl, girls rate boys' "rear ends", talk of pushing up wedding date if bride is pregnant, families with 2 mothers or 2 fathers, chutzpah, language: jerk.  |
|                  | Danziger, Paula         | Amber Brown Is Not A Crayon             | 2-4   | OK?? | Third grade girl has trouble coming to grips with her best friend (a boy) moving away. Some middos between classmates- name calling- eg. tuna head, rat rear, etc. A few mentions of divorce- not at all glorified. Boy is referred to as girl's boyfriend but nothing in the story to suggest it is romantic. Language-stupid, doofus, goofball, gross, barf, jerk. |
|                  | Danziger, Paula         | Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown | 2-3   | OK?  | Easy Chapter book about girl beginning second grade. None of the problems found in the regular Amber Brown series (which is for older readers), but why introduce kids to a series they won't be able to read?   |
|                  | Danziger, Paula         | It's an Aardvark World                  |       | N    | Best friends' parents fall in love and live together. Lots of negiah, pritzus, bad language  |
|                  | Danziger, Paula         | Make Like a Tree and Leave              |       | N    | negiah, inappropriate references, immature language, name calling.   |
|                  | Danziger, Paula         | Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown         | 2-3   | OK?  | Book begins with fact that girl's parents didn't yell at each other this morning the way they usually do. Talk about the tooth fairy as real. Juvenile humor - nose picking. See comment on "Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown".   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                            | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Danziger, Paula                   | United States of America                         |       | N    | Sixth grader deals with new school, best friend drifting apart, and death of a beloved uncle. Girl comments that kids "goof" about a teacher's name- Mrs. Lipschitz. Middos between friends. Girl's sister wants to be a movie star. Mention of People Magazine. One word mentions of xmas and church. Sixth grader has been choosing boyfriends based on which boy is in charge of something since second grade. Eighth grade couple "breaks up". Sixth grader thinks about how she never went on a date. Girl sees teachers kissing in a movie theater. Girl thinks boy is cute and it makes her nervous. Language- weird, poop, crappy, stupid, dufus, gross   |
|                  | Danziger, Paula and Ann M. Martin | P.S. Longer Letter Later                         |       | N    | Boy/girl. Girl's father is out late - she suspects affair - turns out he is alcoholic.  |
|                  | Dashner, James                    | The 13th Reality: The Journal of Curious Letters | 5-8   | OK   | Children are selected to save the world from evil ruler in parallel universe. Non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | David, Lawrence                   | Horace Splatly, the Cupcaked Crusader (series)   |       | N    | Very pointless. Lots of bathroom humor and language; boy/girl   |
|                  | David, Peter                      | Mascot to the Rescue                             | 4-7   | OK?? | Boy believes his life is connected to life of comic book character. Language: Crap (one time). Boy convinces friend to go on internet against parents' permission. Father of girl is upset about her visiting boy and being alone with him in room. Adults who might be getting married, have arms around each other. Description of comic book picture of characters representing boy and his (girl) friend, passionately kissing. All very innocent - may be worth allowing at parent's discretion.   |
|                  | Davidson, Margaret                | Helen Keller                                     | 3-5   | OK?  | Mention of x-mas and Santa Claus - no religion  |
|                  | Davies, Jacqueline                | The Lemonade Crime                               | 3-5   | N?   | Sequel to The Lemonade War. Brother and sister try to figure out who stole their lemonade money. Brief mention of Yom Kippur, non Jewish boy invited to eat Jewish food Friday night, and to break the fast. He likes the idea of a day of atonement and not eating and thinking about sins. Middos between classmates. Boy plays very violent basketball game against another boy he thinks stole his money. A bit more explicit than last book about "liking" a girl in his class- eg. has trouble concentrating when he is sitting next to her, wonders how he can play basketball with her if he can't touch her, brief mention of being "in love" with her. Boy thinks friend's parents are "jerks" for yelling at him for accidentally breaking an expensive TV. Language- barf, weirdo, stupid, freaky, dumb, weird, crummy, idiot, butt, gross, jerk. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Davies, Jacqueline   | The Lemonade War   | 3-5   | N?  | Fourth grade boy has a hard time accepting the fact that his younger sister is being skipped to his class in school. Results in a battle to see who can earn the most money selling lemonade. A lot of middos between siblings and classmates- some really bad but are resolved at the end. Many references to father leaving the family. Mention of watching TV. Many somewhat veiled references to boy "liking" a girl in the class. innocent description of coed beach. Language- stupid, weird, dumb, cruel, weirdo, jerk, freaky, shut up, darn, creepifying, idiot, gross, sucker, stinks, holy crud. |
|                  | Davis, Jim           | Garfield Eats His Heart Out  |       | N   | comic strips; girl/boy, negiah etc. Man goes on vacation; makes passes at girls in bikinis.   |
|                  | Davis, Jim           | Garfields and the Mysterious Mummy   | 2-3   | OK  | Chapter book based on cartoon characters.   |
|                  | De Alcantara, Pedro  | Befuddled  |       | N   | A Jewish girl who is having difficulty coming to grips with her father's death, learns to play the fiddle from her African American janitor. Boy/girl, lots of language, serious hashkafa problems.   |
|                  | De Angel, Marguerite | The Door in the Wall   |       | N   | A boy in training to be a knight becomes crippled and is helped by a monk. Lots of difficult, old fashioned language. A lot of religion e.g. boy works hard to make a cross to put over his bed, constantly kneeling to pray, talk of the "holy crusaders" who fight for "our lord", xmas and different feasts of saints, a song about JC with his name written out.  |
| new              | De Clements, Barthe  | The Bite of the Gold Bug- The Story of the Alaskan Gold Rush-Once Upon America | 4-6   | OK? | Boy goes to Alaska with his father and uncle to pan for gold. Uncle gambles away gold in saloons. Language- stupid, pee.  |
|                  | De Clements, Barthe  | Wake Me At Midnight  | 4-6   | N?  | Girls help capture car thieves. Talk of mom being angry at having "surprise" baby at 42 and who (in older daughter's opinion) neglects baby, so daughter has to give him attention. Language - jerk. Talk of boys being "hunks". Chutzpah. Describes mentally unstable woman who buries money instead of buying food for child. Overall tone and lots of dysfunction.   |
|                  | De Guzman, Michael   | The Bamboozlers  | 5-6   | N?  | Boy meets long-lost grandfather who is a swindler. Grandfather uses boy in scheme to get money from person who wronged him. Tone of book is light, but theme questionable. Boy's father left them; grandfather says he was "stupid because he chased women". Bodily functions of dog. Passing mention of 12-year-old boy wishing 20 year old woman was his age; mention he wants to kiss her; she kisses him in celebratory scene. Language: "Kick butt". Book ends with implication that boy will take over grandfather's "business". Nothing terrible, but not terribly appropriate either.               |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | De Jong, Meindert | The Wheel on the School  | 3-6   | OK? | Dutch children in a fishing town begin a project to attract storks to the barren town, and in the process make many friends including a bitter handicapped man. Mention of Santa Claus - no religion (p. 125). Villagers go to church to pray but not described beyond sitting on benches. One incident of child answering back to his father (p. 208). Minor language: blasted (p. 244).  |
|                  | Dear America      | A Dear America Book- My Name Is America- The Journal of Ben Uchida- Citizen 13559- Mirror Lake Internment Camp- California, 1942 | 5-7   | N?  | A Japanese American boy is sent to an internment camp during WWII. A lot of discrimination against Japanese described. Some Japanese culture. Middos between children. Man commits suicide. Minor boy/ girl. Boy is excited to spy on girls changing into costumes so he can see them "naked"- doesn't happen. Boy calls parents "jerks". Woman change from traditional dress to pants because the high winds in the camp make dresses "go flying all over the place". A few mentions of going to movies. Nonreligious mentions of Santa Claus and xmas. Language- dumb, stupid, weird, idiotic, creepy.   |
|                  | Dear America      | Dear America - A Light In the Storm - The Civil War Diary of Amelia Martin - Fenwick Island - Delaware, 1861                     |       | N   | The daughter of an assistant lighthouse keeper struggles to understand the conflict leading to the war while at the same time watching her parents fight and eventually divorce. Detailed descriptions of parents' failing marriage. Also boy/girl, negiah, common law wife, etc.  |
|                  | Dear America      | Dear America - A Picture of Freedom - The Diary of Clotee, A Slave Girl - Belmont Plantation, Virginia, 1859                     |       | N   | Slave girl yearns for freedom - becomes conductor on underground railroad. Speculates as to who is dad of white looking black boy - innuendos of white men "forcing attention" on slaves - not spelled out but obvious. Lots of preaching and bible stories, which are euphemisms for slaves yearning for freedom - one mention of J- by name. Lots of boy/girl, dancing, flirting, negiah. Language. Xmas.  |
|                  | Dear America      | Dear America - Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie - The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell 1847                             |       | N   | A girl describes her journey to Oregon. Many deaths and tragedies on the trail described vividly. Many descriptions of coed dances. Her 14 year old friend falls in love and marries on the trail - girl and fiance walk around holding hands when engaged - description of the newlywed's wagon with a bed in it, girl mentions she wishes she also could find someone to love and marry, girl gets upset when the boy she likes (and later marries) asks a different girl to dance with him. She wonders why newlyweds blush when she asks them what marriage is really like. Discussion of whether Brigham Young's Mormons are committing adultery by having more than one wife. Girl is "furious" with G-d for allowing a good woman to die and bad one to live - mom says G-d loves us and has a plan, etc. Brief mention of JC in prayer, Xmas party with gifts. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - Color Me Dark - The Diary of Nellie Lee Love, The Great Migration North - Chicago Illinois, 1919 | 4-6   | N?   | Diary of a Southern black girl who moves to Chicago and deals with prejudice. References to a lot of black culture and black heroes. Adult child says to his father he will move North with or without his father's blessing - in the end father agrees. A few mentions of church service and xmas. One description of a black JC hanging in a church. One list of the parts in an xmas pageant (characters in the xmas story) but no explanation who they are.   |
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - Dreams in the Golden Country - Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant girl                |       | N    | A Jewish girl comes to America with her family to escape Russian pogroms. Shocked to find father, who came first, cut off his peyos and rarely goes to shul, mom refuses to remove sheitel. Older sister gets caught up in fight to unionize factories. Second sister marries a goy - family sits shiva - younger sister thinks this doesn't make sense. Eventually parents accept the goy and the marriage. Youngest girl dreams of becoming an actress. Romantic negiah, many hashkafa issue, father abandons family, etc. Although rather historically accurate, very problematic. |
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - My America: Our Strange New Land - Elizabeth's Diary, Jamestown, Virginia 1609                   | 3-5   | OK?  | Historical fiction. First year of Jamestown settlement. One mention boy touching girl's hand. Girl questions how G-d could let children die. Childbirth - long, painful and dangerous.  |
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - My Face to the Wind  |       | N?   | Lots of religion  |
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - Seeds of Hope - The Gold Rush Diary of Susanna Fairchild - California Territory, 1849            |       | N    | Girls go to California with dad to recover lost savings. Ongoing old fashioned love story between 16 and 18 year old that leads to marriage many years later; romantic negiah between them. Men stare at the girls often. Xmas, carols, and prayer. Corset gives a "womanly figure"   |
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - So Far from Home - The Diary of Mary Driscoll, An Irish Mill Girl, Lowell Mass. 1847             |       | OK?? | An Irish girl comes to America to earn money to send to her family in Ireland. Many Catholic expressions - sweet J-, Holy Mother of __, Merciful son of ____, blessed virgin. Language - hell (once). Mention of church, organs, Xmas - not detailed. Women paint their cheeks to catch the attention of men. Girl wonders if she will ever marry or if she even wants to.  |
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - Standing in the Light - The Captive Diary of Catherine Carey Logan                               | 4-6   | N?   | A Quaker girl captured by Indians slowly overcomes prejudices. Lots of Indian religion, minor Quaker religion, love story between the girl and another captive - minor romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Dear America | Dear America - The Great Railroad Race - The Diary of Libby West - Utah Territory - 1868                        |       | N    | A journalist's daughter describes the laying of the trans-continental railroad. Boy/girl and romantic negiah.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dear America       | Dear America - The Journal of Augustus Pelletier - The Lewis and Clark Expedition                                      | 4-7   | OK   | Historical fiction - boy joins Lewis & Clark expedition  |
|                  | Dear America       | Dear America - Voyage on the Great Titanic - The Diary of Margaret Ann Brady   | 5-7   | N?   | An orphaned British girl is brought on the Titanic to be the companion to a wealthy American woman and describes the crash and subsequent death of 1500 passengers in graphic detail. Girls' orphanage is run by nuns. Mentions of Sunday morning mass and Easter mass, and Xmas, but no description. Mentions a certain saint is the patron saint for travelers, sight of priests and nuns is comforting to her, mentions prostitutes came to mass (no definition). Mild boy/girl leading to a kiss (p. 137) before he goes down with the ship. |
|                  | Dear America       | Dear America - When Will This Cruel War be Over? The Civil War Diary of Emma Simpson - Gordonsville, Virginia 1864     |       | OK?? | The Civil War from a Southern girl's point of view. Detailed Xmas - decorations, tree, fancy meal, sleigh ride, hymns, but the only explicit religion is frequent mentions of the L-rd not forsaking those who trust in Him, having faith in the L-rd, etc. Old fashioned boy/girl leading to eventual marriage - girls flirt, blush, and write boys letters. A cousin who later has a nervous breakdown is very anti marriage and says can't trust men - has frequent tirades about this. A photo of dead soldiers lying on the ground.         |
|                  | Dear America       | My Name is America - The Journal of James Edmond Pease - A civil War Union Soldier - Virginia 1863                     |       | N?   | An orphaned teen joins the Union army. Unimportant mention of baby hugging its mother's "teat". Frequent language - ass, damned, dumb, hell, damn. Typical war gory-ness. Mild boy/girl leading to marriage. Question of how G-d can make bad things happen to good people.(p. 81)   |
|                  | Dear America       | My Name is America - The Journal of Joshua Loper - A Black Cowboy - The Chisholm Trail, 1871                           | 5-7   | N?   | A black boy experiences the life of a cowboy for the first time. Very gritty. A few mentions of going to church on Sunday, praying the L-rd's Prayer. Language - fart, butt, hell. Men are rough with each other. People keep threatening to shoot others, everything is rather lawless. Men tell boy that to be a real man he has to kiss a beautiful woman - boy lies and says he has.   |
|                  | Dear America       | My Name is America - The Journal of William Thomas Emerson - A Revolutionary War Patriot - Boston, Massachusetts 1774. |       | OK?? | Boy is involved in the struggle against the British. Boy questions a clergyman's advice - to deal with his parents' death by believing "the ways of the L-rd are mysterious" and throw himself on "His Mercy". Boy comments that the advice didn't make sense to him then (as a young boy) or now (as an older boy) p. 5 and 6 - can be crossed out.   |
|                  | DeClements, Barthe | Nothing's Fair in the Fifth Grade  | 4-5   | N?   | references to liking boys in elementary school; dysfunctional relationship mother & daughter   |
| new              | DeClements, Barthe | Once Upon America- The Bite of the Gold Bug- A Story of the Alaskan Gold Rush  | 4-6   | OK?? | Boy goes to Alaska with his father and uncle to pan for gold. Uncle gambles away gold in saloons. Language- stupid, pee.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | DeClements, Barthe | The Fourth Grade Wizards                   |       | N    | A girl who is mourning her mother's death gets a puppy who helps her cope with loneliness. Her neighbor who she doesn't like flirts with her father, but instead, the father ends up in a relationship with a neighbor she does like. One clear instance of romantic negiah between them. Children tease boy that he "likes" a girl. Middos between classmates. Mentions of watching TV. Non religious mention of a church. Language-scummy, stupid, stinky, idiot, shut up, jerk |
|                  | DeClements, Barthe | Tough Loser                                |       | N    |   |
|                  | Dee, Barbara       | Solving Zoe                                | 5-7   | N?   | A girl tries to find her place in a family and a school full of super talented people. Language: stupid, shut up, freak, sucks, moron, jerk, idiot, sexy, weirdo. Middos issues between siblings. Talk about having crushes on teachers. Kids tease about having a boyfriend. Discussion about Mayan religion and gods.   |
|                  | Defelice, Cynthia  | The Ghost of Fossil Glen                   | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl sees mother's boyfriend kiss her; thinks disgusting  |
|                  | Defoe, Daniel      | Robinson Crusoe                            |       | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Delaney, Joseph    | The Last Apprentice - Revenge of the Witch | 5-8   | N?   | Boy becomes apprenticed to a "spook" and learns how to deal with ghosts and other supernatural beings. Many scary scenes with evil witch. Black and white illustrations of dead people hanging from trees. Talk of ice age that lasted for thousands of years, then when it ended, men dressing in skins and hunted. Mild boy/girl, one instance of hand holding (p. 337) can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Delton, Judy       | A Birthday Cake For Brimhall               | 2-3   | OK   | A bear finds the courage to learn how to ride his bike.   |
|                  | Delton, Judy       | Angel's Mother's Wedding                   | 2-4   | N?   | A girl deals with mom's remarriage. Pre-wedding minor negiah. Mysterious talk about what they do on honeymoons - never answered.  |
|                  | Delton, Judy       | Brimhall Turns Detective                   | 2-3   | OK   | Easy reader. Two bears discover who is making tracks in the snow.   |
|                  | Delton, Judy       | Pee Wee Scouts - A Big Box of Memories     | 2-3   | N?   | Kids fill time capsule. Little girl decides she wants to marry one of the boys who is very nice. Wants to give him a big hug and kiss but decides not appropriate in public (85). At end all hold hands to sing scout song - illustration of her holding his hand. Very Juvenile. One word mention of Easter and xmas. Mentions of TV and movies. Language-dumb, weird..  |
|                  | Delton, Judy       | Pee Wee Scouts Send in the Clowns          | 2-3   | OK?  | girl decides which boy she will marry but very innocent   |
|                  | Delton, Judy       | Pee Wee Scouts Wild Wild West              | 2-3   | N?   | Kids visit a ranch and ghost town. Lots of description of square dance. Girls don't want to dance with boys but then see it's OK. Little girl says cowboy is cute and wants him to be her boyfriend.  |
|                  | Delton, Judy       | The Mystery of the Haunted Cabin           | 2-3 G | OK?  | illustration of trimming holiday tree in bathing suits - minor x-mas  |

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|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Demas, Corinne    | Everything I was                               |       | N    | Girl deals with father losing job. Boy/girl, romantic negiah, strong language.  |
|                  | Denenberg, Barry  | Nelson Mandela: No Easy Walk to Freedom        | 5-8   | OK?? | Biography of Nelson Mandela (written before end of Apartheid). Reference to group of black men falsely accused of rape; not detailed.   |
|                  | Denton, P. J.     | Sleepover Squad #3 - The Trouble with Brothers |       | N    | A girl's brothers threatens to ruin her sleepover party unless she becomes their servant. Very bad middos between siblings. Non-religious mentions of Halloween. Language: jerk, stupid dummies.  |
|                  | Depaola, Tomie    | 26 Fairmont Avenue                             | 2-3   | N?   | Autobiography of children's author. Tells about neighbor who is afraid of storms so needs to be sprinkled with Catholic holy water from St. Joseph's Church (P. 5). Description of going to movie theater to see Snow White, cartoons, Shirley Temple and Mae West (16-17). Brief retelling of Snow White story including kiss. Mention of X-mas and Easter - no religion. When father upset uses "bad words" - not listed.   |
|                  | Devillers, Julia  | Liberty Porter, First Daughter                 | 3-6   | OK?? | A girl whose father is elected president gets into funny scrapes as she tries to be a good first daughter. Description of White House movie theater where they can see movies with real movie stars before they are released. Mention of going on TV shows. The president's favorite dance is "the bump" and he does it with his wife. Cartoonish illustration of them dancing- women in the picture are wearing evening gowns (p162 chapt 17). Language- butt, peed, dumb, gross, weird, freak out.  |
|                  | Dexter, Catherine | Safe Return                                    | 4-6   | OK?? | An orphaned girl who is sad that her mother died tries to keep hope that her aunt is alive when her ship doesn't return after a big storm. A bit heavy for a younger child. The setting is a small Swedish island whose residents are very superstitious. Many mentions of xmas as a festive time. Mild description of church service. Boy questions if there is a G-d. Throughout, adults explain that even bad things can be G-d's will. A lot of relatively neutral talk about G-d. Minor middos between children. Married couple hugs and clasp hands. Language- stupid, shut up. |
|                  | Di Camillo, Kate  | Because of Winn-Dixie                          | 5-6   | OK?? | Beautiful story of lonely girl in small town, who finds a dog and ends up befriending several people and finding herself. Her mother ran away when she was 3; later find out her mother drank. Mention of J-- p. 153, chap 22   |
|                  | Di Camillo, Kate  | The Magician's Elephant                        | 5-8   | OK?  | Strange story of an orphaned boy being raised by a senile soldier, a magician who accidentally conjures an elephant, and a fortune teller who helps him find his sister whom he thought was dead. Sister lives in orphanage run by nuns - no religion.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                             | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Di Camillo, Kate                   | The Miraculous Journey of Edward Toulane | 3-5   | OK?? | A stuffed rabbit is lost and found and learns the meaning of love. Suspicious looking picture of rabbit nailed to crossed pieces of wood, as a scarecrow - otherwise innocuous. A few sad instances, the saddest being when a little girl gets progressively sicker (described in detail) and finally dies. Father seems somewhat dysfunctional. Father and son yell at each other in grief, son runs away. Language-dang, shut up, what the heck.  |
|                  | Di Camillo, Kate                   | The Tale of Desperaux                    | 4-7   | OK?  | A mouse falls in love with a human princess and saves her from a cruel rat and a mistreated servant girl. This falling in love is very innocent and based on stories he has heard of knights who fall in love with maidens and rescue them. Minor language: cripes, shut up. This book presents some serious, upsetting situations in a light, humorous, non-scary fashion that is a bit strange, eg: the queen dies suddenly, the servant girl's father sold her for a blanket to a man who mistreated her, the mouse's father renounces him for breaking the rules and his brother willingly escorts him to the dungeon to his supposed death.  |
|                  | Di Camillo, Kate                   | The Tiger Rising                         | 7+    | N?   | A boy who holds in his grief at his mother's death befriends a girl who lashes out in anger at her father's unfaithfulness and parent's subsequent separation. Quite heavy for the targeted age group. Clearly states (but doesn't define) that father had an affair with his secretary. Very mean bully beats up the boy- calls him a retard. Detailed description of painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel- the creation story. A lot of affectionate negiah- hand holding, soothing, etc- not overtly romantic. Man sees boy and girl together and asks boy if he likes chasing girls and if she is his girlfriend. Boy denies it. Non religious xmas, JC's name used as a curse (p61 chapt 16, pg.96 chapt. 24) JC's name used in a positive sense (pg. 109-110-chapt. 24). |
|                  | Di Camillo, Kate and Alison McGhee | Bink & Gollie                            | 2-4   | OK   | Graphic novel. Two very different friends learn to compromise to spend time together.   |
|                  | Di Terlizzi, Tony                  | Kenny and the Dragon                     | 4-6   | OK?  | A boy rabbit tries to save a friendly dragon from a scared mob of townspeople. One sentence mention of fair maiden giving elderly knight a peck on the cheek (p. 122) and when boy sees this his ears grow warm (easily crossed out).   |
|                  | Dickens, Charles                   | David Copperfield                        | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Dickens, Charles | Great Expectations (abridged) - Great Illustrated Classics |       | N   | Abridged version of the classic. Boy helps convict, who later secretly raises him from lower classes to gentleman. Boy falls in love with cold rich girl, who has been raised by old rich woman - continues to pursue her although she rejects him. Woman was spurned on her wedding day by fiance, who turned out to be already married and only wanted her money. Girl's mother suspected other woman of luring away her husband and strangled her; was thought to have killed baby too, in revenge against her husband. This edition also had some inappropriate pictures. |
|                  | Dickens, Charles | Oliver Twist (Penguin Classics Edition)                    | 9+    | C   | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Dickens, Charles | Oliver Twist - Abridged Edition - Classic Starts           | 3-6   | N?  | Written in much simpler language than original. Leaves out a lot of problematic things, eg: doesn't mention villain is a Jew, but still mentions a few times in passing that mother wasn't married to father - a careless reader might miss it (p. 130-140). Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Dickens, Charles | Oliver Twist - Great Illustrated Classics (abridged)       |       | N   | Abridged version of the classic. Oliver was born to woman who was not wearing a ring ("probably not married"). Later find out that his father was separated from his previous wife, when he met Oliver's mother; Never divorced wife, and never married Oliver's mother. Nancy "lives with" Bill Sykes; when she goes out at night they suspect she "has a new boyfriend". Several kisses between unmarried characters.   |
|                  | Dickens, Charles | Tale of Two Cities   |       | C   | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Dicks, Terrance  | Enter T.R.   | 2-5   | OK  | Cute story about a talking toy bear who helps owner's father get book published   |
| new              | Dicks, Terrance  | T.R.'s Day Out   | 2-5   | OK? | Boy captures art robber with the help of his stuffed animals. Language- heck (once)   |
|                  | Dicks, Terrance  | The Case of the Blackmail Boys                             | 5-7   | OK  | 3 boys and a girl find bank robbers.  |
|                  | Dicks, Terrance  | The Case of the Cinema Swindle                             | 5-7   | OK? | fine if delete 3 words: P 6 - 2 words describing cinema. P 75 - message on greeting card.   |
|                  | Dicks, Terrance  | The Case of the Ghost Grabbers                             | 4-6   | OK  | Children solve mystery of who is haunting a stately house.  |
|                  | Dicks, Terrance  | The Case of the Missing Masterpiece                        | 4-6   | OK? | Children figure out who stole masterpiece. Minor violence and rough language.   |
|                  | Disalvo, Dyanne  | The Sloppy Copy Slipup                                     | 3-5   | OK? | Boy tries to make excuses for missed writing assignment; discovers that he actually has a knack for writing. Calls mother by first name.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                           | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Disney                           | Frozen- The Junior Novelization                  | 3-5   | N?   | Based on the Disney movie. A princess almost kills her sister with her magical power to freeze things so she decides to live in seclusion until she is old enough to be Queen. She accidentally reveals her powers and runs away. Her sister tries to convince her to return. Along the way, the sister falls in love and gets engaged to a prince who turns out to be evil and then discovers what true love means. Romantic negiah including needing to get a kiss from her "true love" to save her life. Later she gets a kiss "sweet and romantic" from one who truly loves her. Mixed dancing. Brief unimportant mention of xmas tree. Center has photos from the movie including cartoonish picture of princess in low cut gown. Language- butt, creepy.            |
|                  | Disney-Club                      | Penguin Star Reporter Pick Your Path             | 3-5   | OK   | A penguin wants to be a reporter for a newspaper. Reader chooses endings.   |
|                  | DiTerlizzi, Tony and Holly Black | The Spiderwick Chronicles books 1-5              | 4-7   | OK?? | Family moves into great-aunt's old house after their father leaves them. Find out house and area are inhabited by elves, dwarves, etc - most of them mean. Experience numerous dangerous adventures, while mom thinks pranks are done by one son as acting out over father leaving. Some language - crap, etc. Book 4 - Discussion of boy whom girl likes. Some violence.   |
|                  | Divakaruni, Chitra Banerjee      | Girls of Many Lands: India: Neela - Victory Song | 5-7   | OK?  | Girl from India experiences sister's wedding. Father joins beginning rebellion against British. Questions raised about unfairness to girls, especially in marriage.   |
|                  | Divan, Karuni, Chitra Banerjee   | The Conch Bearer                                 | 6-8   | OK?? | A boy and girl try to return a magical shell to its proper owners while being chased by the bad guys. Neighbor suspects the missing father abandoned the family for a younger, prettier woman. A lot of history of the world including gods. Lots of Hindu type avodah zarah. Lots of magic. Language (once each): darned, damn. Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W.               | Hardy Boys #001 The Tower Treasure               | 4-6   | OK?  | Note on series: Two teenage boys solve mysteries. A lot of good guy vs. bad guy violence in which the good guys are guaranteed to win at the end. Boys "like" specific girls who appear in minor roles in almost all of the books- there is no serious romance- mostly mentions of liking them, dating them, going to parties with them and dancing with them. Occasional minor negiah like boy takes girl's hand to help her, etc. Rather minor by modern standards, but is present. Boys and their friends are clean cut, respectful, law abiding, and go to church every Sunday. In this book boys figure out where criminal hid booty. Two sentences about teenage boy thinking girl is nicest in town and dates her regularly - p. 11 and p.25 - easily crossed out. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                       | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #002 The House on the Cliff      | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys discover smugglers' hideout. Mention of girl being boy's favorite in class (p. 50). One paragraph about high school boy having a date (p. 25) - easy to cross out.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #003 The Secret of the Old Mill  | 4-6   | OK   | boys uncover smuggling ring   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #004 The Missing Chums           | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys rescue their friends who were kidnapped by criminals. Go to coed costume party with girls "they like best".  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #005 Hunting for Hidden Gold     | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys find lost gold in a mine. Good guys vs. bad guys violence. Minor mention of liking specific girl (p. 42). One incident where children trap a policeman they dislike in a snowball fight. Disrespectful to him in a humorous way - makes reader feel it was justified (p. 43-46 - can be torn out). Typical violence. Language: stupid, brat, shut up, cock and bull story, punks     |
| new              | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #006 The Shore Road Mystery      | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys capture a gang of car thieves and find a lost treasure. Boy who is usually "bashful" with girls is used to being teased about his "attachment" to one particular girl. Mixed swimming. Black and white illustration of teenage boy rescuing teenage girl who is tangled in a net under water (she is wearing a one piece bathing suit). One sentence go to church. Language- suckers |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #007 The Secret of the Caves     | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys capture enemy saboteurs. A boy whistles at a pretty girl, mention of a girl being a boy's "particular favorite", girl is the one boy often dated, boy and girl dance, teenagers "gyrate to the latest steps", subtle flirting, boy blushes when girl calls him. Language; shut up, fool, maniac, .   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #008 The Mystery of Cabin Island | 4-6   | OK   | Boys find missing boy and stolen medals   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #009 The Great Airport Mystery   | 4-6   | OK   | Boys find hidden airport used by criminals  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #010 What Happened at Midnight   | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys guard a secret invention. Boys take their regular dates to a dance. Girl touches boy's arm to get his attention. Usual violence. Minor language: stupid, idiot, shut up.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #012 Footprints Under the Window | 4-6   | OK   | boys help rebels resist tyrannical rule in Africa   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #013 The Mark on the Door        | 4-6   | OK   | Boys go to Mexico to find a missing man, locate a submarine and capture criminals. Unimportant mention of plans to attend church on Sunday.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #014 The Hidden Harbor Mystery   | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys help resolve a family feud and find a hidden treasure. Usual violence. A few mentions of a prehistoric monster/dinosaur which turns out to be a costume. Boy goes to the movies. Minor language: punk  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #015 The Sinister Signpost         | 4-6   | OK   | boys find out who is trying to steal a secret project   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #016 A Figure In Hiding            | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys uncover a criminal hiding out in a health farm. Boy says his sister wants to see a "creepy love picture" at the movies. Mentions boys have favorite dates and "like" specific girls. Boys go to co-ed beach party with girlfriends and other boys and their dates, and then "frolicked" in the water. Minor language: punks, blasted, stupid, doggone. A lot of talk of an idol of an Indian god and all the beliefs that surround it. Mentions going to church on Sunday, no description. Usual violence. |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #017 The Secret Warning            | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys locate a valuable Egyptian statue. Brief mention of watching TV. One sentence about girl being boy's favorite date and boy liking girl "very much". Minor language: drat, shut up, brats.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #018 The Twisted Claw              | 4-6   | OK   | boys uncover a criminal society who steal things from museums.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #019 The Disappearing Floor        | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys capture thieves and locate hidden jewels . Mention of boy finding a girl "very attractive". Usual violence. Language: weird, punk, shut up.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #020 Mystery of the Flying Express | 4-6   | N?   | Boys catch a saboteur. More boy/girl than usual - mention of girl being boy's favorite date, girls refer to boys as their boyfriends, girls hold on to boys when they are scared. A lot of detail about horoscopes. Usual violence. Language: jerk, punk, stupid, idiot....   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #021 The Clue of the Broken Blade  | 4-6   | OK   | Boys locate stolen sword and missing heir.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #022 The Flickering Torch Mystery  | 4-6   | N?   | Boys uncover a ring of smugglers. One goes undercover disguised as a guitar player in a folk-rock band - one description, some culture. Some mention of couples "grooving to the beat". Mention girls being boys' favorite dates. Go on a date to dance, calls girl a "cute chick", mention of going to church - no religion. Language: stupid, brat, idiot.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #023 The Melted Coins              | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys find missing Indian mask. A lot of Indian beliefs. Boys kid around with friend that he shouldn't let any "gorgeous secretaries turn his head". Minor language: punks, jerk, rat fink, shut up (once each)  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #024 The Short-Wave Mystery        | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys catch a gang of criminals using their short wave radio. Mention of a boy thinking a girl is the prettiest one in town and another having a "favorite date". A (tame) boy-girl party described - it says there was dancing but no details. Girl links her arm through her boyfriend's arm to lead him to a chair after he was kidnapped.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #026 The Phantom Freighter         | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys capture freighter used by smugglers. Office girl keeps flirting with teenage boy and commenting on his muscles. Boy is very embarrassed  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #028 The Sign of the Crooked Arrow    | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys uncover a gang of criminals. Brief mention of girl being boy's favorite date. Language: shut up, blasted.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #030 The Wailing Siren Mystery        | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys uncover a ring of criminals. Usual violence. Boys take girls on a date to a baseball game. Boy thinks girl is the nicest girl in his high school. Girl touches boy on the arm to reassure him. More boy/girl than usual but rather tame by modern standards. Language: nebbly, shut up.                           |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #031 The Secret of Wildcat Swamp      | 4-6   | N?   | Boys uncover ring of criminals. An extensive discussion about geology, fossils, millions of years, different prehistoric ages, dinosaurs, etc. Definitely needs guidance. Language: Shut up, jerk, idiot.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #032 The Crisscross Shadow            | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys help Indian tribe find the deed to their land. Usual violence. Brief mention of boys taking girls to the school dance. Mention Xmas vacation - no religion. Language: shut up.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #035 The Clue in the Embers           | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys travel to Guatemala and discover a lost palace. Mention girls being boys' usual date. A group of boys and girls have a cook out together - nothing romantic other than a boy putting his hand on a girl's shoulder to calm her down. Language - stupid (once).  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #036 The Secret of Pirates Hill       | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys go on a dangerous hunt to find a lost cannon and a sunken treasure. Mention of boys dating specific girls frequently. Illustration of a girl wearing a bikini running to help a hurt boy - not provocative, but definitely a bikini. Language - stupid  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #039 The Mystery of the Chinese Junk  | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys uncover the mystery in a Chinese boat. Usual violence. Mention of going to church on Sunday morning - no religion. Mention of boys having favorite dates and double dating. Girl kisses boy on the cheek. Minor mentions of Chinese religious beliefs - e.g. Buddha, spirits, etc. Language: shut up, jerk, dumb. |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #040 Mystery of the Desert Giant      | 4-6   | OK   | Boys find a missing man and crack a counterfeiting ring. Usual violence.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #041 The Clue of the Screeching Owl   | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys rescue their father's friend from a gang of criminals. Brief mention of a girl being a boy's date and favorite girl.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #042 The Viking Symbol Mystery        | 4-6   | OK   | Boys find stolen Viking stone and a treasure   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #043 The Mystery of the Aztec Warrior | 4-6   | OK   | Boys locate missing archaeologist and sword  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #045 The Mystery of the Spiral Bridge | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys break up a ring of criminals. One mention of boy having a "best girl" and "best date". Boy says girl is "cute." Girls invite boys to a dance but they very regretfully say they will be away. Language: dumb, dummy, shut up, punks.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #046 The Secret Agent on Flight 101  | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys help capture a crooked magician and his gang. One sentence mention of going to church. Boy flirts with stewardess - very tame and brief. Minor language: weird, idiot, shut up.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #048 The Arctic Patrol Mystery       | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys travel to Iceland to solve a mystery. Usual violence. Mention that boys have girlfriends and special dates. They have a get-together with other boys and their "dates". The boys play ping pong and their "dates" cheer them on. It says they put on dance records but no description of the dancing. Girl loops her arm through boy's arm when she says goodbye to him. Boy mentions that stewardess is good-looking - later meet her at the pool (nothing romantic mentioned). Minor language: dummy, dirty bums, stupid, jerk, fink. |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #049 The Bombay Boomerang            | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys uncover a plot to cause terrible damage to America. Usual violence. Mention of church service - no description. Mention of boy's favorite date and co-ed cookout. A radio jockey is involved in the crime - he plays a "groovy beat". A worshipper of the Hindu god Krishna tries to kill the boys because he feels they desecrated his statue. Descriptions of Hindu beliefs. Language - shut up, weird, dimwits.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #050 - Danger on Vampire Trail       | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys capture forgers and smugglers. Brief mention of boy having girl as "special friend" whom he dated often. She hooks her arm through his - p. 10  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #051 The Masked Monkey               | 4-6   | OK   | Boys find missing boy. Typical violence and scary moments.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #053 The Clue of the Missing Serpent | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys find a stolen life-size chess piece and uncover criminals. A lot about a curse on the chess piece. Description of Chinese burial practices. A scared boy crosses himself. Unimportant mention of watching TV. Mentions boy often dates specific girl. Some "pretty, young nurses" sign a boy's cast. 2 criminals lay trap by pretending to have a "lover's quarrel". Description of couples dancing at a boy/girl party - but not romantic. Girls take boys "by the hand" and lead them to the refreshments. Minor language: idiot.     |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #054 The Mysterious Caravan          | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys uncover mystery of an ancient mask that washes up on the beach where they are vacationing (with friends on their own, no adults). Mention of boys dating their "favorite" girls. Co-ed skating party. Brief mentions of Halloween and rock music. Non-romantic negiah. Minor language: shut up (once)   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                     | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #056 The Jungle Pyramid        | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys travel to Switzerland and Mexico to locate stolen gold. Mentions of listening to country music on the radio. Discussion of prehistoric people's gold and artifacts, millions of years, animals evolving. Mayan religious beliefs. Boys go skiing with "attractive teenage girls" and pair off with them on the lift up the mountain. Minor language: freak, dumb, punk, idiot  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #057 The Firebird Rocket       | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys travel to Australia to find missing scientist. Usual violence. Boys and girls squeeze into small car "practically sitting on each others laps" - boy manages to squeeze into place next to the girl "he usually dates when they go to parties or dances". Boys go to a dance and ask "attractive" girls to dance with them, then sit together and have an "animated conversation". Not described romantically, but quite a bit of it. Minor language: creep, stupid, punk, shut up |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #061 The Pentagon Spy          | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys capture a gang that kidnapped a navy scientist. Boy tries to shoot arrow at the target perfectly because his "pretty, vivacious date" was sitting on the grass watching him. Pennsylvania Dutch belief in hexes. Language: weirdo, punks, shut up. Usual violence.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #073 The Billion Dollar Ransom | 4-6   | OK   | Boys foil kidnapping of the President   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #074 Tic Tac Terror            | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys help terrorist to defect. Girlfriend tickles boy's feet with a stalk of grass. Boys and girls have a picnic and go swimming together - no description.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #161 Training for Trouble      | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys find out who is hurting people at new sports center. Violence, minor negiah. Many mentions of boys having girlfriends, a lot of comfortable kidding around with them. Boy helps girlfriend get up when she gets hurt, smooths out her hair. Usual bad guy vs. good guy violence, plus some additional macho violence where 2 people "settle things" by seeing who could beat the other up. Language- freaky, stinks, idiot, stupid, creepy, jerk, punk.                            |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #162 The End of the Trail      | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys are stuck in a small town and discover that the entire town is involved in a crime.. A lot of good natured kidding and insults among friends, especially about a heavy friend's weight. Brief non-religious mention of Easter Bunny. Brief reference to TV show about Vietnam war. Minor language - stupid, idiot.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #168 The Castle Conundrum             | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys go to a camp where they help rebuild a medieval European village and catch a saboteur. Camp is co-ed but nothing romantic other than 1 subtle sentence that implies that there is a reason a girl chose a boy to be on her team. Mention of church - no religion. Non-romantic negiah. Foreign children interested in American TV shows, pop groups, movies stars - no details. One sentence - boy notices girl's perfume - thinks it smells nice - wants to ask her where she bought it so he can bring some home. Language - weird, idiot, dumb. |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #169 Ghost of a Chance                | 4-6   | OK?  | boys work as animal wranglers on movie set. Solve mystery of who is sabotaging equipment. Some violence   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #171 The Test Case                    | 4-6   | N?   | boys accused of stealing state test. 1 incident of negiah in skating rink   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #175 Trick or Trouble                 |       | N    | boys find out who is sabotaging Halloween game. Very Halloween centered, a few romantic hugs, lots of violence  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #178 The Mystery of the Black Rhino   | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys capture poachers in Africa. Usual violence. Boys say goodbye to girlfriends when leaving for Africa - girls are crying. When return girls hug them (brief happy hug). Boy watches the same movie on the plane that he took a girl to see in a movie theater on a date. A lot of animal rights propaganda. One of the good guys gets killed - quite sad. Discussion of prehistory and homo erectus who evolved into humans. Minor language: punks, creep  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #181 Double Jeopardy                  | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys figure out who is trying to hurt race car drivers at the Grand Prix. Usual violence. A lot of race car culture. Boy calls girl "cute". Mention of rock music at a party. Dinosaur exhibit at a museum described but doesn't talk about millions of years, etc. Minor language: weird, dumb.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #182 The Secret of the Soldier's Gold | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys try to help a poor Holocaust survivor find her family's gold in Portugal. A high school girl invites boys to her birthday party - friendly, not romantic but boys wonder how to explain the invitation to their girlfriends so they won't get jealous. Their aunt complains that men were flirting with her in the park - the boys think she really enjoyed the attention. Girl has ambition to become a movie star so she works as an extra in movies and works in a TV studio. Language: dumb.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #184 The Dangerous Transmission       | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys visit England and catch a criminal. Usual violence. Non-descriptive mention of boy going to a night club. Go to a crypt in a church - no religion. Boy pretends to buy a present for his girlfriend. Minor language: weird, nutcase, stupid.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys #186 Hidden Mountain                      | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys rescue family on witness protection plan. One sentence (p. 1) boys dating specific girls from "time to time though not in a serious relationship". Minor language: dumb, weird, shut up, idiot, Brief mention of watching detectives on TV.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys Undercover Brothers#19 All New -Foul Play | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys investigate college football team to see who is fixing the game. Minor middos between brothers, mention of watching football on TV. Language-weirdo, dork, lunkheads, idiots, shut up, secker, jerk, dumb, idiot, stupid, weird, kissing butt, wimp, bummed, moron, wussing out.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys# 059 Night Of The Werewolf                | 4-6   | N?   | Boys investigate a glowing werewolf that is scaring the townspeople. Boys go on a date to the pizza store, girls cling to boys' arms in fright, boy dreamily calls girl " a knockout" and has "fallen hard" for her. He shows off for her. She gives him a "consoling" kiss when his canoe sinks, and another kiss on the cheek in happiness. Mention of a movie. Language-weird, lazy bum.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys# 060 Mystery of the Samurai Sword         | 4-6   | N?   | Brothers uncover Japanese criminals, boys "check out" a disco (no description), when boy wins race, girlfriend "awards him with a public kiss" (pg 51), usual violence. Language-wacko, creep, fathead, idiotic, stupid.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys# 179 Passport To Danger                   | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys solve a dangerous mystery. Many mentions of TV news, internet, and other technology. A few mentions in passing of dancers who dance to rock music to entertain at a soccer match. Usual violence. No mention at all of girlfriends. Language-weird, maniac, punks   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | Hardy Boys# 47 Mystery Of The Whale Tattoo           | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys find a stolen idol. Usual violence, brief mention of girl being regular date and favorite partner. Girls "clutch" boys for "protection" on a scary roller coaster, boys tease friend that he wants to flirt with a pretty girl, brief unimportant mention of the ice age, brief unimportant mention of seeing movie stars in Hollywood. Language-weirdo, freak, stupid, punks, jerks, brats, shut up, moron, idiot.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #006 The Shore Road Mystery           | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys solve a complicated mystery involving car thieves. Usual violence. Mention that boy is bashful around girls and is used to being teased about his "attachment" to a specific girl he likes. Boys go swimming with their girlfriends, one of whom "looks pretty" in her bathing suit.Illustration of boy diving to rescue her when she gets tangled in a net (p75-79). Mention of watching television newscast. Brief mention in passing of attending church. Language-punks,creeps,suckers. |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #011 While The Clock Ticked           | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys capture harbor thieves. Boys go to co ed party and dance with their "favorite dates". Ask girls to go out to porch to tell them they have to leave but everyone teases them that they are "romantic" by "ducking out in the moonlight with their girls". Language-shut up,  |

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|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #025 The Secret Panel              | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys capture "television thieves". A few mentions of being happy to see their "favorite dates" and girls they date frequently, some brief minor flirting. Usual violence. Language- stupid, moron, dummy,   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #029 The Secret Of The Lost Tunnel | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys solve a Civil War mystery. Usual Violence. Two pages describing the boys being surprised by their girlfriends for an evening of dancing to dance records and refreshments. Girls described as a "special friend" and a "favorite date" who is "slender and good looking" (p22-23). Black man referred to as a Negro.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #037 The Ghost At Skeleton Rock    | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys capture a criminal gang using clues in a ventriloquist dummy. Brief mention of "pretty girls with sparkling eyes" who often double date the boys. Boys basically ignore them. Language- dratted.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #038 Mystery At Devil's Paw        | 4-6   | OK?? | Boy's uncover mystery in Alaska. Girls come to see boys off- mention of girl being boy's "favorite date". Some brief, discussion of paleontology, prehistoric animal bones, ancient woolly mammoths, where first humans originated, fossils, etc. Language-creep,weird, stupid.   |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #044 The Haunted Fort              | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys find historical treasure in an old fort and capture art thieves. Brief mention of girl being boy's "special friend" and boy often dating a specific girl. Brief, unimportant mention of going to church on Sunday. Language- weird, blast it, dumb, fatso, punks,shut up.  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #047 Mystery Of The Whale Tattoo   | 4-6   | OK?  | Boys find a missing ivory idol. A lot of carnival performers and their lower class culture. Boys go on Ferris wheel with girls who are their "favorite partner" and "regular date" and girls "clutch" them for "protection" (p15-16). A car drives by with a blond boys tease friend that he noticed the car because he is "looking for an excuse to flirt"- he blushes.Brief mention that boys hope they will see famous movie stars in Hollywood. Usual violence. Language-weirdo, freak, stupid, punk,brats, shut up,moron,  |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #059 Night Of The Werewolf         | 4-6   | N?   | Boys unravel a case where a man is accused of being a werewolf. More boy/ girl then usual- boys are on a date with girl friends who cling to boy's arms in fright,boy calls girl a "knockout" and says "her dimensions are perfect" in response to someone commenting that she is "plump", boy dresses up to impress girl, girl gives boy "a consoling kiss on the cheek", girl "flung her arms around his neck and kissed him a resounding smack on the cheek" Mention of seeing a movie. Brief unimportant mentions of going to church and Halloween. Language-weird, punks |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W. | The Hardy Boys #060 Mystery Of The Samurai Sword  | 4-6   | N?   | Boys locate missing Japanese businessman and his valuable sword. Usual violence. More boy/girl than usual including a "public kiss". Language-punk, creep, stupid, idiotic, etc.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title                             | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W.      | The Hardy Boys Detective Handbook | 4-6   | OK?? | A few stories and a lot of information about detecting including how to take fingerprints, trail a suspect, do surveillance, etc. Also a very detailed (too detailed ) list of criminal slang and each word's meaning as well as a very detailed list of narcotics, their appearance, slang name, method of use, etc. Includes an introduction about how dangerous they are. Parents should decide if they want their children to have this information. Language (other than list of criminal slang) stupid, idiot. |
|                  | Dixon, Franklin W.      | The Hardy Boys Ghost Stories      | 4-6   | OK   | boys encounter ghosts, witches, talking scarecrow  |
|                  | D'Leary, Chris          | Icefire                           |       | N    | College-age boy deals with dragons. Boy/girl, romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Dobkin, Bonnie          | Neptune's Children                |       | N    | Biological terrorism wipes out all adults and leaves children alive; children left in amusement park engage in classic power struggle. Language, some romantic negiah, passing reference to teenage pregnancy.   |
|                  | Doder, Joshua           | A Dog Called Grk                  | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy has adventures as he returns lost dog to owners who have been arrested in far-away land. Boy runs away from parents and puts himself in danger to solve mystery.   |
|                  | Doder, Joshua           | Grk and the Hot Dog Trail         | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy and his dog solve mystery of missing art. Boy runs away from parents and puts himself in danger to solve mystery.  |
|                  | Doherty, Berlie         | Street Child                      | 5-7   | OK   | Historical fiction - London 1800's. Boy tries to find home after mom dies and is abused until finds a caring minister who helps street children.   |
|                  | Dorris Michael          | Morning Girl                      | 4-6   | OK?? | A brother and sister who are natives living on a Bahamian island alternate chapters describing their feelings and experiences. Girl describes her disappointment when her mother has a miscarriage. Very short (but vivid) description of father drawing mother into his hammock.(pg 66) Brief mention that natives "go around as naked as their mother's bore them"   |
|                  | Dorris, Michael         | Morning Girl                      | 3-5   | N?   | Story of Indian brother and sister told in their own words, alternating chapters - portrays Native Americans positively. Indian mother goes to women's hut every month, father pulling mother onto cot, miscarriage, strong allusions to negiah but not specific   |
|                  | Dorris, Michael         | The Window                        |       | N    | Girl with alcoholic mother who neglects her. Placed with foster family by father's girlfriend. Eventually ends up with father's white family even though she is black. Lifestyle described in detail.  |
|                  | Dowd, Sioban            | The London Eye Mystery            |       | N    | High-functioning autistic boy solves mystery of missing friend. Language. Detailed description of kiss between divorced couple. Sister says boy might have been kidnapped for sex. Some general religious philosophy.  |
|                  | Dowell, Frances O'Roark | Phineas L. MacGuire Blasts Off    | 3-6   | OK?? | Boy scientist experiments with dog drool. Cute book. Passing reference to PG-13 movies, and adults kissing in movies.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                           | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Dowell, Frances O'roark          | The Kind of Friends We Used to Be               |       | N   | Preteens struggle with growing up. Lots of teen culture, boy/girl, music culture, divorce, religion, teen slang, etc.   |
|                  | Dowell, Frances O'Roark          | Where I'd Like to Be                            | 4-6   | OK? | Foster child in group home. Sweet. Some stories of abandonment and neglect of other kids.   |
| new              | Dower, Laura                     | Palace Puppies- Sunny and the Royal Party       | 3-5   | OK? | Royal puppies get in the way as their owners try to please their unhappy cousin with a birthday party. Dog likes when her owner dances with her and flicks the lights on and off like it is a nightclub. Boy exhibits very bad middos. One word xmas. Language- dumb, stinks, freak out, brat.                                      |
| new              | Dower, Laura                     | Palace Puppies- Sunny and the Secret Passage #4 | 3-5   | OK? | Royal puppies find a map showing secret passages in the castle. Two one sentence mention of movies (in general, no specifics). Language- funky, stinky.   |
| new              | Dower, Laura                     | Palace Puppies- Sunny and the Snowy Surprise #3 | 3-5   | OK? | Royal puppies rescue lost husky puppies, and have a number of confrontations with an unpleasant royal cat. Brief mention that outdoors looked like a movie set. Language- weird.  |
| new              | Dower, Laura                     | Palace Puppies- Sunny to the Rescue #2          | 3-5   | OK? | Royal puppy helps locate his missing brother at a crowded beach. Setting is a coed beach. Relatively tame black and white illustrations of people sunbathing on the beach. Brief mention of dog having dream of being a movie star. Language- (once each) grossed out, drat, weird.   |
|                  | Downer, Ann                      | Hatching Magic                                  | 5-8   | OK? | Girl helps to save dragon transported from 13th century. Fun read. Passing mention of bra.  |
|                  | Doyle, Arthur Conan              | Adventures & Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes         | 7+    | OK? | Description of opium & casual cocaine use, "aversion to women"  |
|                  | Doyle, Arthur Conan              | The Hound of the Baskervilles                   | 8+    | C   | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Doyle, Debra and James MacDonald | Circle of Magic #3 - The Wizard's Statue        | 4-6   | OK? | Wizard deals with statue with evil power. Lots of witchcraft and spells.  |
| new              | Doyle, Roddy                     | The Meanwhile Adventures                        | 4-6   | OK? | Family has silly adventures. Minor language: poo, wee, shut up. Woman eats beans - many mentions of "farts". Passing mention of cultural icons: Eminem, Beyonce, the Hulk. Dog goes to beach where there are "canine beach babes" who "swoon".  |
|                  | Drake, Salamandra                | Dragonsdale                                     | 4-6   | OK? | A girl secretly flies the dragon she loves, against her overprotective father's wishes (he is afraid she will be killed like her mother was). In the end father allows it. Lots of talk about smelly dragon droppings and the like. Some violence when she loses her temper but she is remorseful later. Minor non-romantic negiah. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Drake, Salamandra | Dragonsdale - Riding the Storm                              | 4-6   | OK?  | A girl and her best friend become dragon riding rivals, and a mean girl tries to fan the flames of their rivalry in a sneaky way. Many people speak badly of her - although she is deserving of it, seems like poor role modeling for lashon horah. Refer to someone as a boyfriend - he isn't   |
|                  | Draper, Sharon M. | Out of My Mind  | 6-8   | OK?? | Girl with cerebral palsy cannot speak but is brilliant. Uses speech machine to talk and participates in contest. Heartwarming book; bittersweet ending. Some Minor language: fart, hell (the place), puke, sucks, crap, barf. Reference to Mom telling dirty jokes sometimes when father isn't listening (not specified). Girl wonders if a boy will ever like her (one sentence at end).  |
| new              | Draper, Sharon M. | Stella By Starlight   |       | N    | A black girl and her family deal with prejudice and racism. Scary especially when Klu Klux Klan burns down black family's house in retaliation for voting in election, and when mother almost dies bc of snake bite. Husband and wife hug, hold hands, etc. A lot of religion- mentions of yoshka by name, church songs written out in full, xmas pageant told in detail- xmas story about birth of yoshka, lots of xmas, church service described. Girl describes abusive father. Language- stupid, dagummit, stupid, heck, butt, poop, blasted |
|                  | Draper, Sharon M. | Ziggy #5 and The Black Dinosaurs - the Backyard Animal Show | 3-5   | OK   | A group of boys save an orphaned fawn. Some black slang, e.g. call people "mon", otherwise wholesome.  |
|                  | Drucker, Malka    | A Jewish Holiday ABC  |       | N    | Picture book. Girls wear yarmulkas for Yom Kippur  |
|                  | Duane, Daine      | A Wizard Alone: Young Wizards series                        |       | N    | Continuation of "So You Want to be a Wizard", but more philosophical and psychologically complex. Children go into autistic boy's mind, girl deals with mother's untimely death. Same problems as others in series.  |
|                  | Duane, Diane      | Deep Wizardry: Young Wizards book 2                         |       | N    | Continuation of series. Boy and girl wizard save the world by joining forces with whales. Parents clearly state suspicion that boy and girl keep sneaking out at night to have physical relations (not worded quite as nicely).  |
|                  | Duane, Diane      | High Wizardry: Young Wizards book 3                         |       | N    | Brilliant girl becomes part of group of wizards who try to save the universe. Language: crap, damned, hell. Word "sex" to describe what boy and girl "friends" don't do. Boy and girl wizards are "just friends" - but seems they might get closer to romance as they get older.   |
|                  | Duane, Diane      | So You Want to Be a Wizard: Young Wizards book 1            | 6-8   | N?   | Boy and girl go on first trial to become wizards by stealing book of light from evil wizard. Lots of problematic philosophy but presented in a convoluted way so kids probably won't even attempt to get it. Minor non-romantic negiah. Rest of series has increasingly problematic boy/girl issues.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Duane, Diane            | Wizard's Holiday                                      |       | N    | Teenage wizards participate in exchange program with aliens. Lots of references to boy/girl flirting and dating and "having the hots". Language: pain in the ass. Lots of philosophy about life after death and people's destiny. Very problematic and convoluted.   |
|                  | Duey, K. And K. A. Bale | Survival! Cave In                                     | 4-6   | N?   | A boy and girl get trapped in coal mine - eventually escape. Very scary and disturbing. Danger described in vivid detail. Also describes boy's friend whose donkey died and who was trapped under rocks, and they left him to die. Mention of Christmastide - no religion. Non-romantic negiah. Language - damn (once). Father swears - "J____, Mary and Joseph"   |
|                  | Duey, K. And K. A. Bale | Survival! Death Valley                                | 4-6   | OK?  | A brother and sister are forced to hike through Death Valley in search of help when their pioneer family is stranded and father is seriously injured. Graphic descriptions of danger, especially thirst. Eventually turns out OK. Language: damnation, dang it.  |
| new              | Duey, K. and K.A. Bale  | Survival! Blizzard                                    | 4-6   | OK?  | A girl goes to rescue her unpleasant cousin when he gets lost in the wilderness. Boy apologizes for bad middos at the end. Man plays mean trick on boy. One word mentions of xmas. Language- dang, stupid,   |
|                  | Duey, Kathleen          | American Diaries - Anoisett Lundberg, California 1851 | 4-6   | OK?? | A girl who helps her mother cook for gold miners finds a gold nugget and helps her family escape from a criminal who wants the gold. Many mentions of her being sad about her father's death. A wagon driver good-naturedly curses people as he passes by, e.g. "watch out you godforsaken...offspring of sway backed devils" etc. Mother sings song about a woman who went off with her "love". Brief mention of flirting (p. 76). Language: stupid, damn, hell (twice each)  |
|                  | Duey, Kathleen          | American Diaries - Maddie Retta Lauren                | 4-6   | OK   | brief non-romantic negiah at end.  |
|                  | Duey, Kathleen          | American Diaries Mary Alice Peale Philadelphia 1777   | 5-7   | N?   | The daughter of loyalists secretly tries to help her brother who was injured fighting for George Washington. She is torn between loyalty to her father and love for her brother. The most important setting is a ball her parents throw so that her older sister can meet a suitable husband among the British soldiers stationed in Philadelphia. A lot of description of the ball, flirting, dancing, a man looking "thunderstruck" when he saw sister, couples looking for privacy for "serious courtship and stolen kisses, her parents dance "gazing into each others eyes", women explains that "flirting and simpering" are the best ways to find a husband. Language- drunken idiot, stinks. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Duey, Kathleen       | Heartbeats: Katie and the Mustang - books 1-4                   | 4-6   | OK?  | Sad but hopeful story of orphan girl who is mistreated by adoptive family and goes west, along with wild mustang. First book contains some underlying anti-male sentiment: husband decides to go west against wife's will, wife tells child to never allow herself to be dependant on any man. Fourth book has references to mustang siring foals by 2 mares - not detailed.  |
|                  | Duey, Kathleen       | The Faeries' Promise #3 Wishes and Wings                        | 2-4   | OK?  | A fairy family journeys back to their home against the law of a cruel human ruler. Many pictures of scantily clad fairies. Non romantic negiah between fairy girl and human boy who are "like brother and sister".  |
|                  | Duffey, Betsy        | Alien for Rent  | 2-3   | N?   | Children accidentally cause an alien to turn a bully into a baby. Juvenile bathroom and burping humor. When children are invisible, play jokes on teachers, including calling one a "sissy". Somewhat unrefined.  |
| new              | Duffey, Betsy        | Camp Knock Knock  |       | N    | Boys in camp have a knock knock joke contest to see who is better. Children continually don't listen to the head counselor's directions. Food fight. One word mentions of xmas- no religion.  |
|                  | Duffey, Betsy        | Hey, New Kid  | 2-4   | OK?? | A boy moves to a new town and decides to reinvent himself by lying about his talents and family. Eventually tells the truth and makes friends. Some very juvenile issues: mom asks him if his fly is zipped, child brings underwear for show and tell in kindergarten, boy accidentally skates into girls' bathroom so girls wrap him in toilet paper, non romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Duffey, Betsy        | Lucky on the Loose  | 2-3   | OK   | boy ingeniously finds his lost dog. A few thwarted attempts to escape sleepaway camp.   |
|                  | Duffey, Betsy        | The Gadget War  | 2-4   | N?   | A third grade girl has the reputation of being the best inventor in her class, but when her position is challenged by a new boy, they each try to invent gadgets that will "get" the other one. Terrible middos between them. Eventually they get in trouble for throwing food and arrive at a truce. 1 paragraph description of love at first sight in movies (p. 11). Most kids in book have posters of rock stars in their rooms. Language: creep. |
|                  | Dukowski, Cathy East | So Weird #1 - Family Reunion                                    | 4-6   | OK?  | Kids on tour with rock-and-roll mother. Find ghost and solve mystery. Mild asides to boy/girl occurrences. Front cover photo of the mother with 2 teenage kids, plus family friend (teenage boy) who is leaning against the daughter.   |
|                  | Dumas, Alexandre     | The Count of Monte Cristo - abridged Great Illustrated Classics | 4-6   | N?   | Young handsome man about to marry, is falsely betrayed by several people and is put in jail. Inherits riches, escapes, and returns to take revenge on his tormentors. Entire book revolves around this desire for revenge and the satisfaction he gets from it, even though an innocent man is also killed, and even though he ends up losing his fiance anyway. Kissing and embracing by unmarried couple.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                     | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Dumos, Alexandre | The Count of Monte Cristo | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.  |
| chg              | Duncan, Lois     | Hotel for Dogs            | 3-5   | OK?? | Children start a "hotel" for dogs in an empty house. Somewhat justifies stealing dog because it's abused, but there are consequences. Brief mentions of xmas and going to church on Sundays. Bully shows terrible middos. Children play mean trick on him to teach him a lesson. Brief mention of movies, TV, movie stars, Shakespeare, Ladies Home Journal, Language (once each)- weirdo, shut up, heck , creep, dweeb, idiot   |
|                  | Duncan, Lois     | News For Dogs             | 3-5   | N?   | Children publish a newspaper for and about dogs which includes a gossip column which talks about which dog loves which dog and which owner loves which owner and who kissed his date good night etc. also emphasis on dogs fathering puppies with other dogs and switching "boyfriends" after having puppies with a different one etc. one word xmas, watching DVD movies. Boy deals with a bully who displays terrible middos. Girl describes how she fools her parents who don't let dog sleep with her. A lot of description of putting the newspaper on the internet. Language-dumb, idiot, stupid, floozy, shut up. |
|                  | Dunkle, Clare    | The Sky Inside            | 6-8   | N?   | Futuristic society in which people feel sense of security but are actually being controlled by power-hungry government. Babies are created by scientists; there is no natural childbirth. When boy finds out that all scientists have been killed, he is told that when he gets older he will find that there are ways to make babies without scientists. Language: damn.  |
|                  | Dunkle, Clare B. | The Hollow Kingdom        | 6-8   | N?   | Girl is forced to become wife of Goblin King; comes to love him. Some "hashkafa" references to the way G-d runs the world including magical beings. Some gory/scary scenes. Several references and descriptions of married people kissing, hugging, and being in bed together, including girl's dread of goblin kissing her - nothing graphic, but dwelled on.   |
|                  | Dunlop, Eileen   | Green Willow              |       | N    | Focus on child who is result of illegitimate relationship. Also drinks & brawls in bar.  |
|                  | DuPrau, Jeanne   | The City of Ember         | 5-8   | OK?  | Great story set in underground society with no knowledge of outside world. Implications of world being destroyed by war but never stated outright (may be scary to some kids). Minor non-romantic negiah. Brief mention of liking a boy (p 146 ch 11). Very well written. Some of the other books in this series more problematic, but this book can stand alone.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | DuPrau, Jeanne     | The Diamond of Darkhold                                    | 5-8   | OK?? | Book 4 of The City of Ember series. Children return to Ember to help their community get through a hard winter, and get captured by a family that has settled in Ember; finds a secret left by the Builders. A girl tries to get the boy's attention unsuccessfully, eventually finds a different boyfriend. Kids suspect that the boy and girl who went to Ember really wanted to "be together" because they like each other in a "special way" - not spelled out but an astute child will get it (chap 15 p 170-171). Non-romantic negiah. |
|                  | DuPrau, Jeanne     | The People of Sparks                                       | 5-8   | OK   | Sequel to The City of Ember. People of Ember have to adjust to life above ground in Post-Disaster world.   |
|                  | DuPrau, Jeanne     | The Prophet of Yonwood                                     |       | N    | Prequel to City of Ember (officially 3rd in series). As country faces looming war, woman in small town experiences vision of catastrophe. Her "prophecy" is interpreted by self-righteous woman who calls for bans on everything from novels to dogs. Extreme hashkafa issues raised, on what G-d wants from people and how do we know; perceptive children could draw unfavorable comparisons to Torah concepts, lehavdil.  |
|                  | Durango, Julia     | The Walls of Cartanega                                     | 7-8   | N?   | African boy is raised as privileged slave, who helps priest who tends to slaves (and tries to "save" them). Some Christian concepts (saving, confession, causing self-suffering) and quotes from New Testament but no direct references to JC. Language: hell, damned. Mention of slave owner "pawing" at female slave.  |
|                  | Dussling, Jennifer | EEK! Stories to Make You Shriek - A Very Strange Dollhouse | 2-3   | OK?  | Strange and scary story about a girl who shrinks her parents into dollhouse people and tries to shrink her classmate. Nightmare inducing for target age group.   |
|                  | Dyer, Heather      | Ibby's Magic Weekend                                       | 3-4   | OK?  | Cousins find magic kit that works real magic. Magically restore uncle who magically disappeared years before. Fine as long as child can distinguish between fantasy and reality.   |
|                  | Dyer, Heather      | The Fish In Room II  | 3-5   | OK?? | An orphaned boy who is made into a servant boy in a hotel befriends a mermaid family. Cover illustration of a cartoonish bare armed mermaid with long hair covering most of her front. Mention of TV. Non romantic negiah. Language-creepy, shut up, drat, I'll be darned, freaks.   |
|                  | Dyer, Heather      | The Girl with the Broken Wing                              |       | N    | A girl with a broken wing comes in through the skylight of a brother and sister's room and makes funny trouble. A lot of wondering if she is an angel and if angels are real. Xmas play with angels and shepherds scene in a church, xmas, etc. Language: shut up, hell's bells, weird.  |
|                  | Eager, Edward      | Half Magic   | 3-5   | OK?  | Children find amulet that grants half wishes. Description of movie where men try to kiss lady and she pushes them away. When couple decides to marry he takes her hand.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                                 | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Eager, Edward    | Knight's Castle                       | 3-5   | OK?? | Children have adventures with magic castle, mostly in line with plot of movie "Ivanhoe". Lots of chivalrous rescuing of maidens and trying to win their love in "important love scenes"  |
|                  | Eager, Edward    | Magic by the Lake                     | 4-6   | N?   | Children spend summer by magic lake. Cartoonish picture of topless mermaid. Description of dance. People dance "cheek to cheek", girl says "it's romantic". Girls make wish to be 16 so will be popular with boys. Long detailed incident of girl magically turning into 16 year old, dancing with boys, sitting in the moonlight, going for midnight canoe ride, etc. Minor language: darn.   |
|                  | Eager, Edward    | Magic or Not                          | 3-5   | OK?  | Children move to a house with magic wishing well and try to do good deeds. An elderly man kisses elderly lady's hand. Minor language: darned.  |
|                  | Eager, Edward    | Seven Day Magic                       | 3-5   | OK?  | Children find magic book that takes them into plots of books. Most books are tame, eg Treasure Island, Wizard of Oz and Half Magic (by same author). p 97 - man proposes with arms around woman - easily crossed out.  |
|                  | Eager, Edward    | The Time Garden                       | 3-5   | N?   | Children have adventures in a magical garden where they can go to different time periods. The oldest brother is becoming a teenager and is suddenly interested in girls, much to the consternation of the others. Nothing serious results from this new interest, but boy stares at girls a lot and wants to spend time with them. Brief mention of Broadway shows and TV. Boy and girl cousins swim together. Meet characters from book "Little Women." Non religious xmas. Brief mention of dinosaurs. Queen who doesn't marry is called "the Virgin Queen". Language-brats, darn. |
|                  | Eager, Edward    | The Well Wishers                      |       | N    | Continuation of Magic or Not? Mention of Halloween - no religion. Man and woman walk "hand in hand", eventually marry. Boy accuses girl of playing "post office" and kissing boy's eyebrow - girl denies it. A few descriptions of church service and talks with minister - relatively neutral. Boy has crush on beautiful older girl and drives her on handle bars of bike- thinks he is taking her on date until he realizes she is using him to go meet her boyfriend at movies. Boy decides he likes girls, and finds a girlfriend. Minor negiah in movie theater.               |
|                  | Earhart, Kristin | Big Apple Barn - #01 Happy Go Lucky   | 2-3   | OK   | A young pony is sent to live at a riding school and adjusts to the new place. Written from pony's point of view.   |
|                  | Earhart, Kristin | Big Apple Barn - #02 Happy's Big Plan | 2-3   | OK   | The pony finds a rider who understands him.  |
|                  | Earhart, Kristin | Big Apple Barn - #03 A Sassy Surprise | 2-3   | OK   | A new pony comes to the riding school. Pony deals with feelings of jealousy.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |    |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|----|--|
|                  | Earhart, Kristin  | Big Apple Barn - #04 Saddle Up Happy           | 2-3   | OK | Pony goes to a horse show and realizes it's more important to have fun than to compete.  |
|                  | Earhart, Kristin  | Big Apple Barn - Roscoe and the Pony Parade #6 | 2-3   | OK | Ponies try to find their missing mouse friend who is causing mayhem at the spring festival.  |
|                  | Ebbit, Carolyn Q. | The Extra-Ordinary Princess                    | 5-7   | N? | The youngest princess saves her sisters and her kingdom from an evil step uncle after her parents tragically die. Ongoing romance between her older sister and her tutor that ends in marriage. A few "kisses on the lips" between them. Children take coed dance lessons. Bad middos between children. Language- stupid, dumb, shut up, weird, idiot.   |
|                  | Eckert, Allan W.- | Return To Hawk's Hill                          | 5-8   | N? | Little boy gets stranded in a boat and is rescued by an Indian family. His family overcomes their prejudice against Indians. Matter of fact mention of urinating. The bad guy in this story is extremely scary. Description of how woman takes off all her clothing to dry them out after crossing a river and sits on a rock with only her "knickers" on. Non romantic negiah. Father gives mother a hug. Language- damn (once), shut up.   |
|                  | Eckert, Allan W.  | Incident at Hawk's Hill                        | 5-8   | N? | A little boy get lost in the prairie and survives with the help of a badger. A lot of very detailed animal descriptions including the killing animals by other animals and by hunters. Mentions of animal mates and finding new mates and mating leading to pregnancy. Describing going to the bathroom in the wilderness in a factual way. Archbishop talks about Divine intervention and miracles and the savior (p. 186-187). Some violence. Minor language: dumb, stupid, idiot.   |
|                  | Eddings, David    | The Belgariad Pawn of Prophecy - Book One      | 8+    | N? | A boy discovers that his background is not as common as he thought , as he gets involved in the search for a magical orb. Book begins with, and often refers to , a detailed history of the creation of the world involving 7 gods. A few mentions of boys suddenly becoming interested in their female childhood playmate who has begun to develop. She flirts with them and trades kisses for sweets. Adults worry that if boy is left with her unsupervised he might father her baby. The boy /girl situations and kisses are not described in detail. Parents need to decide how much they want to expose this age group to. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
| new              | Eddleman, Peggy        | Sky Jumpers   | 7+    | N?  | Children growing up in a post World War 3 world save the town from bandits who are trying to steal their only medicine against disease. Sister teases her brother that he "likes" a girl- he gets red in the face- girl wonders if it's true- nothing comes of it in this book (though it might in a sequel). Description of parent's courting- dad said he had been in love with her mom since he was 5- when he was 17 his mom died, she "wrapped her arms around him and whispered that everything would be OK" Girl has to clean toilets as a punishment. Language- stupid, I stink, weird, butt, stupid |
| new              | Eddleman, Peggy        | Sky Jumpers- The Forbidden Flats                            | 7+    | N?  | The saga continues. Children go on a mission to find a certain mineral that will save their community. Boy and girl hold hands to make a jump together just for fun. A different boy sits near girl and links her pinky in his. She wonders if he "liked- liked" her. . She holds his waist when they sit on a horse together. Older boy and girl "like" each other- he tucks a strand of hair behind her ear. Kids spy on them talking "their faces so close together..." Language- stupid, weird, freaking out.  |
|                  | Edwards, Julie Andrews | The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles                   |       | N   | A scientist takes children on a journey to a magical land using their imaginations and overcome obstacles to reach the palace of a mythical animal. Children befriend a stranger who talks to them at the zoo (not a great safety example). A whole chapter on Halloween and trick or treating- no religion- parents say no eggs or vandalism when trick or treating, but shaving cream is OK in moderation. One word xmas. Brief mention of a christening. A lot of discussion about DNA and the secret to life and playing G-d and that it took several million years for humans to develop.               |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series   | Eerie Indiana #01 Return to Foreverware                     | 4-6   | OK  | Intro to series: series is strange, about weird things that happen in a normal town, but only 2 boys notice. Mostly harmless. In this story a few mentions of X-mas, disco dancing, and Saturday Night Fever, but very minor.  |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series   | Eerie Indiana #02 Bureau of Lost                            | 4-6   | OK? | OK unless a deep thinker b/c raises questions about whole premise of book: freezing people forever   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series   | Eerie Indiana #03 The Eerie Triangle                        | 4-6   | OK  | Boys discover that their town was really created by the government as a place to settle aliens from outer space.   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series   | Eerie Indiana #04 Simon & Marshall's Excellent Adventure    | 4-6   | OK  | Boys catch boy from the future stealing things to sell.  |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series   | Eerie Indiana #05 - Have Yourself an Eerie Little Christmas |       | N   | Focus of book on x-mas, light love story, dances   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series   | Eerie Indiana #06 Fountain of Weird                         | 4-6   | OK? | minor mention of liking a girl   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #07 Attack of the 2 Ton Tomatoes | 4-6   | OK   | Boys foil plot to turn residents of town into giant vegetables.   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #08 Who Framed Alice Prophet?    | 4-6   | OK   | An evil artist tries to take over the town by painting people into pictures.  |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #10 Finger Licken Strange        |       | N    | hippie talk, clothing and dancing, disrespect, silly temporary affair between father and waitress   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #11 The Dollhouse Time Forgot    | 4-6   | OK?  | Cover and inside cover illustration not tzanua. Magic dollhouse is keeping a girl alive who should have died long ago; boys help her to "go to where she belongs"   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #12 They Say                     | 4-6   | OK   | A piece of crystal from a meteor causes "weirdness"   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #13 Switching Channels           | 4-6   | OK?  | setting is TV but portrayal is negative. Minor mention of teenage sister who has lots of dates.   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #15 Hollowierd                   | 4-6   | OK?  | setting is Halloween but it's not major   |
|                  | Eerie Indiana series | Eerie Indiana #16 Eerie in the mirror          | 4-6   | OK   | minor violence.   |
|                  | Eige, Lillian        | Dangling                                       | 5-8   | OK?? | Strange story billed as "psychological thriller". Boy's friend disappears in river and is assumed dead; turns out he ran away because he is foster child and is afraid of being returned to group home. Calls parents & senile grandmother by first names.  |
|                  | Eliot, George        | Brother Jacob                                  | 9+    | OK?  | A short story about a boy who steals money from his mother so that he can establish himself as a rich man, but his retarded brother gets in his way. Eventually he takes a false name and becomes engaged to a rich man's daughter until his retarded brother destroys his disguise. This story depicts a man who will stoop very low to get what he wants but his past ultimately catches up to him.                 |
|                  | Eliot, George        | Silas Marner - The Weaver of Raveloe           | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Eliot, George        | The Lifted Veil                                | 9+    | OK?? | A short story about a dying man who reminisces about his sad life primarily dwelling on his courtship and relationship with his estranged wife. It began when his brother was courting her but she sent him subtle messages thereby confusing and fascinating him. Man fears his servants won't come when he calls them because they are "lovers". Minor romantic negiah. Can magically see people's true intentions. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Ellis, Deborah        | Mud City  | 8+    | OK?  | The saga continues. A girl tries to escape a refugee camp and ends up in jail. She is eventually rescued by wealthy foreigners. Ultimately, she makes peace with her refugee status and helps others. Vivid descriptions of poverty, suffering, and begging. Chutzpah when under pressure. Language-shut up, stupid, piss.  |
|                  | Ellis, Deborah        | Parvana's Journey   | 8+    | OK?? | Continuation of "The Breadwinner". This book is appropriate only for a very mature and emotionally strong reader. After her father's death, girl walks through war torn Afghanistan to find her mother. Very vivid descriptions of death and suffering. Girl adopts a baby she finds beside its mother's dead body. She also adopts a crippled boy who exhibits terrible middos mostly because he is scared and hurt, and an orphaned girl who lives in a minefield. Non romantic negiah. Language- idiot, shut up, stupid. |
|                  | Ellis, Deborah        | The Breadwinner   | 7+    | OK?  | A girl helps her family survive in war torn Afghanistan by pretending to be a boy. Detailed description of the Taliban's persecution of women and all who don't obey their strict rules. Unimportant mention of television. Occasional mild middos between siblings, but generally very loving toward each other. At one point, they are so desperate for money the girl digs up graves to sell the bones. Girl is concerned her shape is changing and she won't be able to pretend to be a boy.                            |
|                  | Ellsworth, Mary Ellen | Gertrude Chandler Warner and the Boxcar Children  | 3+    | OK?  | Biography of the author of "The Boxcar Children". Brief mention of moving picture shows, dramas, minstrel shows, and a Broadway show. She played pipe organ and cello in church,wrote church skits, wrote a book about a missionary, did lettering in the bibles presented to sunday school children. One quote of a neutral sounding verse that may be from new testament, but not cited or explained (p58).   |
|                  | Embry, Margaret       | Mr. Blue  | 2-3   | OK   | A class adopts a strange cat that can talk  |
|                  | Emerson, Scott        | The Adventures of Samuel Blackthorne: Book One The Case of the Cat with the Missing Ear | 4-7   | OK?  | Sherlock Holmes -type book (down to the classic first meeting between Holmes and Watson), but with dogs as the characters. Detective solves mystery of man who was kidnapped. Some mentions of beautiful, modest woman, whom the detective is attentive to.   |
|                  | Emshwiller, Carol     | Mister Boots: A Fantasy Novel   |       | N    | Highly inappropriate story line with very serious language and negiah issues.   |
|                  | Ende, Michael         | The Neverending Story   | 5-8   | OK?  | Creative fantasy in which boy reading book ends up as part of the story. Brief reference to JC on page 86 - can be crossed out.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                                  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | English, Karen | Francie                                | 5-8   | OK?  | A black girl experiences discrimination as she waits for her father to send for their family to start a better life in Chicago. Mentions that some men who work far from home have 2 families. Mother beats girl with a switch when she is bad, but not in abusive way. Mention of boy whose mother died and father abandoned the family. Black girl takes clever revenge on white girl who was mean to her. Minor language: butt.   |
|                  | English, Karen | Nikki & Deja                           | 3-5   | OK?? | Two African American girls form a club to exclude a new neighbor they don't like. In the end somewhat learn their lesson, but it is not very strong. Along the way there are bad middos exhibited between classmates. TV watching. Language-stupid (frequent), dumb.   |
|                  | English, Karen | Nikki & Deja Birthday Blues            | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl's mean classmate decides to throw a "just because" party to compete with her birthday party. Girl hopes her father will come, but he lives "far away" and she never sees him- she is being raised by her aunt. Girl wonders why her aunt always seems "flustered and gushy" and suspects it has to do with the owner who is behind the register. TV.Language- stupid.   |
|                  | English, Karen | Nikki & Deja Substitute Trouble        | 3-5   | OK?? | Girls are troubled by their classmate's bad behavior with a substitute.Detailed descriptions of bad behavior, but not put in a positive light.TV, aunt does yoga with dvd on TV. Language- stupid, weird.  |
|                  | English, Karen | Nikki & Deja The Newsy News Newsletter | 3-5   | OK?? | Girls publish a newsletter about their block but don't check for accuracy before they publish. Even though the girls are good friends the middos they exhibit and the way they treat each other may be considered acceptable in the outside world, but is really poor role modeling e.g. neighbor gives a girl a brownie and instead of eating it right away she saves it to make her friend jealous. When the friend begs for some she gives her a minuscule piece. Juvenile bad lunchroom behavior described in detail. Girls decide that a girl they don't like is absent from school because her parents separated; really she has pneumonia             |
|                  | English, Karen | Nikki & Deja Wedding Drama             | 3-5   | N?   | Girls are invited to their teacher's wedding and deal with a lot of jealousy and misunderstandings.Middos between friends and classmates. Description of decorated altar. Girls are amused when after the marriage vows he kisses the bride only on the cheek because he is "very shy". Girl hopes a boy won't be picked as her partner because then everyone will tease her and sing "sitting in a tree k-i-s-s-i-". At wedding bride and groom dance together. Girl thinks her hair is so pretty, she looks like a movie star. Girl wonders how you can live without "backbiting" (gossip) since you would have to be a "perfect" person. Language-stupid, |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                          | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Enright, Elizabeth | Gone Away Lake                 | 5-7   | OK?? | A Newbery Honor book. Boy and girl cousins discover a forgotten community and befriend its elderly residents. Question arises if anyone owns houses abandoned 50 years ago and if it is OK to break into them and take things from them for personal use- decide yes. Girl is thrilled to wear her comfortable summer clothing- jeans, a t shirt, no socks-instead of dresses for school. Mention of finding fossil fishes, brief mention of dinosaurs. Minor middos between children. Mention of book "Wuthering Heights". Non religious xmas, church and Santa Claus. Description of concert where women sang for a coed audience. Mention of coed balls- no description. Brief mention of the zodiac. Illustration and description of partially clothed female statue- not provocative. Language-dopey, shut up, heck (often), idiotic, doggone it, dumb, darn it (once). |
|                  | Enright, Elizabeth | Return To Gone Away Lake       | 5-7   | OK?? | Children help their parents renovate an old house and have adventures. Non-romantic negiah. A few mentions of the "comfortable fragrance of pipe smoke" and description of how a pipe is lit. Brief non-religious xmas, broken rosary beads. Illustration of same half clothed statue as last book. Girls read a horoscope that tells them they will "concern themselves with the handsomest members of the opposite sex"-they aren't interested. Translation of Latin hymn of praise from Saint Francis of Assisi-relatively neutral p197 chapt 15.   |
|                  | Enright, Elizabeth | The Four Story Mistake         | 4-6   | N?   | During WWII a family moves to the country. Chapter on x-mas, a few hymns mentioned by name but not detailed; makes x-mas sound like fun. Last chapter oldest girl goes to dance - no description.  |
|                  | Enright, Elizabeth | The Saturdays                  | 4-6   | N?   | First book in "Four Story Mistake" series. Children pool their allowances so each can spend a Saturday doing something special. One goes to Opera, one to art exhibit, one cuts off braids and gets nails polished (without parental permission). Lots of mentions of old time actresses (like Lillian Russell). Nothing really bad but lots of glorification of having Saturdays to go places, and the places children describe as wonderful may not be what parent wants to promote.   |
|                  | Enright, Elizabeth | Then There Were Five           | 4-6   | OK?  | Continuation of "The Four Story Mistake". Family befriends an abused orphan and eventually adopts him. Innocent non-romantic negiah, innocent mixed swimming, minor language - heck. Story of a boy who snuck away from Church and went swimming on Sunday (forbidden) and got a whipping - found out later father really not angry at him (p 106-112); quote: "and on seventh day thou shalt rest"  |
|                  | Ephron, Delia      | The Girl Who Changed the World |       | N    | Bullying violence  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                    | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Erdich, Louise   | The Porcupine Year       | 4-6   | N?   | Continuation of series. Indian family looks for a new home. Same problem as previous books, with Indian spiritual beliefs. Gentle love story which will probably lead to marriage. Many mentions of becoming a woman and staying in women's hut for duration of period - discussed very respectfully. Minor mention of buttocks. A woman married a drunkard, threw him out and decided she preferred another man - no mention of legalities (wedding, divorce).  |
| new              | Erdich, Louise   | Chickadee                | 4-6   | N?   | The Birchbark story continues- now the girl is grown up and has twin sons. One boy is kidnapped and the family searches for him. A lot of emphasis on Indian beliefs. Catholic's try to convert them and change their "pagan" beliefs, but Indians not interested- priests, nuns, making the sign of the cross, etc. Comical villains "fall in love" with a woman and declare their love and ask her to marry both of them- she refuses. Boys play a mean trick on a mean old man and the adults are amused and even encourage them. Mother is worried about father, when he finally comes home "they hurled themselves together and held close".Coed dance- described in a matter of fact fashion. Language- butt, hell (once- the place) |
|                  | Erdich, Louise   | The Birchbark House      | 4-6   | OK?? | Realistic description of Native Americans. Smallpox epidemic and death discussed very matter of factly. Lots of emphasis on Indian beliefs - needs adult guidance  |
|                  | Erdich, Louise   | The Game of Silence      | 4-6   | N?   | Sequel to "The Birchbark House" Indian family deals with being thrown out of lands by white men. Many mentions of Indian belief in spirits, etc. Minor matter of fact mention of upper female anatomy. Sweet love story leads to marriage - some hugging before marriage.  |
|                  | Erickson, John R | Hank the Cowdog (series) |       | N    | extremely unrefined  |
|                  | Erskine, Kathryn | Mockingbird              | 6-8   | OK?? | Girl with Asperger's syndrome (form of autism) helps her father to deal with death of her brother in school shooting. Book can be helpful to children both dealing with death and understanding other children with Asperger's. Brother was cremated. Many mentions of the movie To Kill a Mockingbird.TV, computer, animated videos by name. Middos between classmates.One word Halloween. Language- stupid, weird/ weirdo, freak, shut up, idiot, puke, poop, fart   |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor   | Ginger Pye               | 4-6   | OK   | very sweet.  |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor   | Miranda the Great        | 4- 6  | OK   | A brave cat rescues motherless kittens as the city of Rome is burned by barbarians, and settles the kittens in the coliseum.   |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor   | Pinky Pie                | 4-6   | OK   | Family goes to Fire Island for summer and adopts a new cat.  |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor   | Rufus M                  | 4-6   | OK   | Moffats series. Cute adventures of youngest boy. A few one sentence mentions of x-mas; boy cleans pews in church, no religion.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                                 | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Estes, Eleanor | The Alley                             | 4-6   | OK?  | Sequel to "The Tunnel of Hugsey Goode". Girl and boy who are best friends try to capture burglars as well as policemen whom they suspect stole jewelry when they respond to the crime. Mention of x-mas; no religion. Mention of children mixed swimming - no description. Some unimportant dwelling on women wearing slacks. Minor language: gol-darned p 265.  |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor | The Curious Adventures of Jimmy McGee | 3-5   | OK   | A magical little man has strange adventures.   |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor | The Hundred Dresses                   | 2-4   | OK?  | Girls feel bad that they made fun of a poor classmate who bragged she owned a hundred dresses. A few minor mentions of x-mas; no religion  |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor | The Middle Moffat                     | 4-6   | OK?? | Moffat series. Boy writes letter to Santa Claus - whole chapter of this and making X-mas presents for mother. Mention of angels and newborn king - easily crossed out - p. 179. Mention of 16 year old sister getting love letters from a sailor - p. 80 (one paragraph).  |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor | The Moffat Museum                     | 4-6   | OK?  | Moffat series. Oldest daughter marries a minister. Church wedding described - no religion. Kisses bride (P. 135). 16 year old boy thinks about girl he likes but never spoke to (p 213-214) - can be crossed out.  |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor | The Moffats                           | 4-6   | OK?  | First book in series about old fashioned family with cute adventures. Children study Sunday school lessons for catechism class - nothing really objectionable (P. 82-83). On Halloween, children scare mean neighbor - revenge justified? Carve pumpkin.   |
|                  | Estes, Eleanor | The Tunnel of Hugsey Goode            | 4-6   | OK?  | 2 boys discover a hidden tunnel. Lots of juvenile boy vs. girl, e.g. call girls contaminated. Not great Middos but nothing really objectionable.   |
|                  | Evans, Douglas | MVP                                   | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy enters race to get around world in 40 days. Passing mentions of man and girlfriend, tattoos. Boy deceives mother (who thinks he is in camp) and train ticket agent (claims parents are divorced and he "gets tossed back and forth when one of the parents gets fed up"). Non romantic negiah. Pretty woman makes him blush. Minor language: snot, calls man named "Sheepsbottom", "Sheepsbutt". "takes a leak" over side of boat. |
|                  | Evans, Douglas | The Elevator Family                   | 2-4   | OK?  | A vacationing eccentric family can't find a room in a hotel so they take up residence in the hotel's elevator and have cute adventures. Very mild and innocent love story between the bellhop and the girl selling flowers in the lobby.   |
| new              | Ewert, Marcus  | 10,000 Dresses                        |       | N    | Picture book about boy who dreams of beautiful dresses and feels like he is a girl; is referred to as "she" in the book. Parents beware - this is the new trend in children's literature.  |
|                  | Ewing, Lynne   | Sisters of Isis #2: Divine One        |       | N    | Girls who are really Egyptian goddesses battle evil. Lots of boy/girl, romantic negiah, language, religion.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Falkner, Brian | The Tomorrow Code                             |       | N    | Friends decode messages from future to save Earth from man-eating bacteria. Boy/girl.  |
|                  | Farbeck, Matt  | Dragons Revealed Revelations Part 2           | 5+    | OK?? | Children save their city from attacking demons. Many mentions of church-confusing description of beliefs-saints, eternal damnation, priests. Violence between men and magical beasts. Occasional language-blast it, shut up, creep.  |
|                  | Farber, E.S.   | Fish Finelli                                  | 4-6   | OK?? | Boys accept a dare to find Captain Kidd's treasure in 2 weeks. Somewhat unrefined. A lot of juvenile bathroom humor and descriptions. Older sister writes love letters to a lacrosse player- "every girl at Marine Middle has a crush on him". Middos between rivals. Uncle brings home girlfriend and puts an arm around her- boy says when he does the "arm thing" it means he is serious about her. She is an astrologer and talks about horoscopes and auras.  |
|                  | Fardell, John  | The 7 Professors of the Far North             | 5-8   | OK?  | Children save their friends and the world, from a mad scientist who has created a genetic super-race. Non-main character girlfriend and boyfriend greet with a (non-romantic) kiss (p. 161). Passing mention of "governments have sterilized thousands of imperfect women before they could even conceive imperfect children".   |
|                  | Fardell, John  | The Flight of the Silver Turtle               | 5-8   | OK?  | Sequel to The 7 Professors of the Far North. Children and inventive scientists find secret invention and save the world. Passing references to evolution.  |
|                  | Farley, Walter | The Black Stallion and Island Stallion Series | 6-8   | OK?  | Both series focus primarily on race horses. Relatively well-written exciting stories for those who like detailed horse racing action and horse information. Of the 8 books I've read, all seem to have similar minor issues. There is a tremendous focus on breeding horses and how to decide which horses to mate together - almost never graphically described except in one book where it is slightly graphic: The Black Stallion's Ghost - Chap 10 p. 99-103 - parents should decide on appropriateness according to child's understanding. In other books most graphic line is "horse snorts with desire" or issues a "love call" when it sees a mare. Occasionally Arabs say "May Allah be with you". Name a horse "Satan" like the devil. Occasional minor violence. A few mentions of J.C. as reference to a period of time (The Black Stallion Mystery p 33 and The Black Stallion's Ghost p 57). Mention of wearing a cross and kneeling to a cross (The Black Stallion Mystery p. 50) |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title                          | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Farnsworth, Frances Joyce | Tike and Tiny In The Tetons    | 4+    | N?   | A cross between a guide book to Grand Teton National Park and a rather dull animal story. Lots of painstaking details about the park. A lot of discussion among animals as to the purpose of a church, and descriptions of their perception of the "beautiful" service, and praying, and the cross etc. Some kids might gloss over this, though if a child actually plows through this book and reaches this point, they might actually read it carefully. A few matter of fact mentions of the Ice Age and the Glacial Age. |
|                  | Fast, Howard              | April Morning                  |       | N    | Historical fiction - Revolutionary War. A boy witnesses his father's death at the hands of the British and decides to continue the fight. Very bloody and detailed descriptions of battle and death. Ongoing romance with romantic negiah - lots of kissing. Religion. Language.   |
|                  | Fawcett, Katie Pickard    | To Come and Go Like Magic      |       | N    | Girl living in the mountains of Kentucky dreams of seeing the world. Boy/girl, divorce, abandonment, and wondering if baby's father was mom's current boyfriend, even though it was before her husband abandoned her. Romantic negiah. etc.  |
|                  | Feder, Paula Kurzband     | Did You Lose The Car Again?-   | 1-3   | OK?? | Girls try to locate where their father parked the car and end up running from a lady they think is a witch who is really trying to return the girl's watch to her. May be a little bit scary for younger set. Mother tells girl not to take a book to read in the car but she sneaks it in pocket. Language-stupid dumb.   |
| new              | Federle, Tim              | Better Nate Than Ever          |       | N    | A boy sneaks away from home and falls in love with New York City. He takes his brother's fake ID and his mom's ATM card and lies to adults. Boy experiments with alternative lifestyles. His family has had problems with alcoholism and infidelity.   |
| new              | Federle, Tim              | Five, Six, Seven, Nate         |       | N    | More explicit gender identity issues, boy kisses another boy.  |
|                  | Feig, Paul                | Ignatious MacFarland: Frequent |       | N    | A boy who is a misfit in his class accidentally ends up in another frequency of the world and tries to save the alien inhabitants from a dictator. Frequent adolescent language: fart, boogers, retard, jerk, wuss, pee, butt, etc. Bad middos, violence, frequent bathroom humor, discussion about evolution, boy/girl.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                    | Title                                | grade |     |  |
|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Feldman, Jody                             | The Gollywhopper Games               | 5-7   | N?  | A boy becomes a contestant in a game sponsored by the company that fired his father after accusing him of stealing money from them. Many puzzles for the reader to solve. A lot of talk of TV reporters trying to get interviews. Unimportant mention of Paleozoic Era. Mention of valentine's day and x mas. Some middos between kids. Description and illustration of scantily clad teen girl who dreams of becoming a supermodel and an actress. Boy can't believe how beautiful she is. Many instances of nonromantic but still entirely inappropriate negiah- e.g.. Teenage girl throws arms around boy's neck to thank him. Language-jerk, gross, crud, creep, shut up, idiot, butthead, sucker, stupid, darndest thing. |
|                  | Fendler, Don (as told to Josheph B. Egan) | Lost on a Mountain In Maine          | 5-7   | OK? | A boy's first person account of being lost while mountain climbing and his eventual rescue 9 days later. Many mentions of getting on his knees to pray and feeling his prayers were answered. Belief in guardian angels. A photo of him wearing only underpants and bandages on feet.  |
|                  | Ferber, Brenda A.                         | Jemma Hartman, Camper Extraordinaire |       | N   | Girl goes to camp with best friend and deals with friend's cousin. Boy/girl.   |
|                  | Ferguson, Alane                           | Cricket and the Crackerbox Kid       | 4-6   | N?  | A lonely rich girl risks friendship with poor boy over ownership of a dog. Cattiness and bad middos of other rich kids described in detail. Not a romantic friendship but other kids tease and make kissing sounds when they are together. 160-161 a few lines of x-mas hymns. Other x-mas stuff mentioned without religion.   |
|                  | Ferguson, Alane                           | The Practical Joke War               | 3-5   | N?  | 3 siblings stage a practical joke war on each other. Bad middos, minor talk of preadolescents' figure and makeup. Best friend betrays girl because she likes her brother. Not so terrible, but nothing to be gained either.  |
|                  | Field, Rachel                             | Calico Bush                          | 5-7   | N?  | Historical Fiction. A young French girl is "bound out" to pioneer family. One ballad refers to "Kissing a pretty girl", an x-mas carol written out in French w/ translation in small letters on bottom about J--'s birth (will kids read it?), one brief mention of negiah.  |
|                  | Field, Rachel                             | Hitty, Her First Hundred Years       | 4-6   | OK? | A doll changes ownership and experiences changes in American history. Minor religion. Minor romantic negiah. One line about how young man took doll on his lap "and pretended to make love to me" p. 216 - easily crossed out.   |
|                  | Fields, Bryan                             | Lunchbox and the Aliens              | 4-6   | OK? | Strange story of a dog who is given intelligence by aliens who use him to build a machine to transform human garbage into alien food. Somewhat unrefined. Language: chump, jerk, stupid, weirdo, shut-up, doo-doo, you stink, idiot, punk. Some violence and bad middos between aliens - slightly serious, slightly silly.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Fields, Terri    | Bug Off   |       | N    | An alien babysitter turns boy into a bug and leaves sister to cope. Girl/boy. Takes underwear out of drawer and boy finds it.   |
|                  | Fields, Terri    | The Day the Fifth Grade Disappeared                                     | 4-6   | OK   | Boy and girl figure out why class keeps appearing and disappearing. Non-romantic hug  |
| new              | Finch, Kate      | Pet Hotel- A Big Surprise   | 2-3   | OK?  | Children help a pregnant cat at the pet hotel. A bird named Elvis constantly says "You ain't nothing but a hound dog"- no explanation. Name kittens for famous musicians- Duke Ellington, Judy Holliday, etc.- no further explanation.  |
| new              | Finch, Kate      | Pet Hotel- A Nose For Trouble   | 2-3   | OK?  | Children figure out what is making a mysterious sound in the pet hotel. Girl comments that she feels like a movie star.   |
| new              | Finch, Kate      | Pet Hotel- Calling All Pets   | 2-3   | OK?  | Children turn their great aunt's hotel into a hotel for animals. Boy mentions that hotel's' name sounds like somewhere movie stars would stay.  |
|                  | Fine, Anne       | The Granny Project  |       | N    | Children blackmail parents not to put grandmother into nursing home. Lots of chutzpah, really bad language, anatomy, call mother by first name.   |
|                  | Finlayson, Ann   | Greenhorn On The Frontier   |       | N    | An orphaned brother and sister (who are already young adults) stake a claim on the frontier. A running mild romance that eventually leads to marriage. Coed dance described in detail and illustrated. Flirting. Brother wonders why sister's beau (and future husband) never touches her in a romantic way. At wedding hold hands as "exchange vows". Groom kisses bride. Pioneers solve problems with fist fights or other competitions. Violence depicted. Language- dad blamed, stupid, drat, what the heck, damn, ass. |
|                  | Fitzhugh, Louise | Harriet the Spy   |       | N    | eavesdropping, chutzpah, bad middos, coarse language  |
|                  | Flanagan, John   | Ranger's Apprentice Book 6 - The Siege of Macinlaw                      |       | N    | A king's ranger and knight team up with a healer and his community of misfits to recapture the castle and rescue a hostage. A lot of good guys vs. bad guys violence described in detail. Magic. Running gentle love story - quasi-romantic hand holding, one kiss, goodbye hug. A lot of language - hell, shut up, damn, idiot.  |
|                  | Flat Stanley     | Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #1 The Mount Rushmore Calamity      | 2-4   | OK?? | Flat boy visits Mount Rushmore with his family and has adventures. Minor very juvenile boy/girl. Language- gol durned.  |
|                  | Flat Stanley     | Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #2 The Great Egyptian Grave Robbery | 2-4   | OK?? | Flat boy travels to Egypt and accidentally gets involved with criminals. Girl gives boy hero a hug- he blushes and wonders why he didn't notice how pretty she was. In back preview of #3- mention of movie star.   |
|                  | Flat Stanley     | Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #3 The Japanese Ninja Surprise      | 2-4   | OK?? | Flat boy goes to Japan to visit his favorite movie star/karate master and discovers that his karate skills are faked for the movies. A lot of information about ninjas. Movie star exhibits bad middos but eventually apologizes.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Flat Stanley     | Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #4 The Intrepid Canadian Expedition | 2-4   | N?   | Flat boy goes to Canada and ends up accidentally flying to Niagara Falls. A lot of bad middos exhibited by a boastful boy who improves a bit at the end. One page story about a high school romance that ends because the girl smiles at a different boy to make her boyfriend jealous. Eventually marry and kiss (pg 85). |
|                  | Flat Stanley     | Stanley in Space  | 2-3   | OK?  | Family rescues tiny people who live on another planet. Joke about boy who accidentally is on TV in his underwear, nonreligious mention of churches with spires. Language-drat, darn you.   |
|                  | Fleischman, Paul | The Borning Room  |       | N    | a girl helps mother give birth - detailed - lots of detailed religious talk.   |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | By the Great Horn Spoon   | 3-5   | OK   | Cute story about boy and his butler who go west to strike it rich. Eventually butler marries boy's mother.   |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | Chancy and the Grand Rascal   | 3-5   | OK   | Boy and uncle travel down river in raft in a quest to find his siblings. Uncle tells lots of funny tall tales.   |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | Here Comes McBroom  | 2-4   | OK   | A tall tale about an amazing farm on the prairie.  |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | McBroom and the Big Wind  | 2-4   | OK   | More McBroom tall tales.   |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | Mr. Mysterious & Company  | 3-5   | OK   | A family travels through the wild west putting on magic shows.   |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | The 13th floor - A Ghost Story  | 3-5   | OK?? | Boy and girl join ancestors on private ship and at witch trial. Big deal made about colonial law forbidding kissing wife on Sabbath. Minor boy-girl, nothing really horrible, just overall tone.   |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | The Midnight Horse  | 3-5   | OK   | A boy helps to foil his wicked uncle's plans with the help of a ghostly magician.  |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | The Whipping Boy  | 3-5   | OK   | A spoiled prince and his street smart whipping boy run away from the castle and come to trust each other.  |
|                  | Fleischman, Sid  | The White Elephant  | 2-3   | OK?  | A poor boy is given a white elephant as a punishment since it is considered sacred he can't use it to earn a living, yet he must feed it and follow its every whim. Illustration of bare chested man. Language-stupid, idiot, pest, brat.  |
|                  | Fleming, Candace | Lowji Discovers America   | 3-5   | N?   | Boy from upper-class Indian family moves to American small town. Short religious discussion comparing his religion and neighbor who wears cross. Bathroom humor. Several mentions of married couples hugging and kissing. Boy likes girl and is glad she likes him - but seems platonic                                    |
|                  | Fleming, Candace | The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School                    | 3-5   | OK?? | Strange stories of fourth grade class - "Wayside School"-style. Very mild language. Mild romance between school librarian and teacher.   |
|                  | Fleming, Susan   | Trapped on the Golden Flyer   | 3-5   | OK   | Orphaned boy goes by train to live with uncle. Train gets stuck in snow. Difficult ordeal teaches him to give new life a chance.   |
|                  | Flemming, Ian    | Chitty Chitty Bang Bang   | 3-5   | OK?  | Story about a family and their magical car. At one point children are kidnapped but it turns out fine. Brief non religious mention of xmas, father xmas, and Easter. Language-idiot.   |

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|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Fletcher, Charlie  | Stoneheart Trilogy      |       | N    | Children flee from dangerous statues that come to life in an alternate London. Large amounts of cursing and other seriously bad language. Last book in series contains references to inappropriate relationships.   |
|                  | Fletcher, Ralph    | Fig Pudding             | 7-10  | N?   | Sensitive and well-written story about large family. Beautiful & real descriptions of family dealing with death of child. Sad. Lots of x-mas, not heavy religion. May be appropriate for child who needs it and/or can handle it, with parental guidance.   |
|                  | Forbes, Esther     | Johnny Tremain          | 6-9   | OK?? | Historical fiction. Set in Boston, Revolutionary War. An orphan gets involved with the Patriots. Ongoing subtle love story runs throughout the novel but not integral focus.  |
|                  | Ford, Christine    | Scout                   | 6-8   | N?   | A book written in sparse free verse, about a girl who befriends an abused boy. Abuse never clearly spelled out but alluded to many times. Scary father described. Mention of sister and boyfriend kissing. Mention of holidays - no religion. Minor language: Darn. Sister goes mixed swimming with boyfriend and others.   |
|                  | Forester, Victoria | The Girl Who Could Fly  |       | N    | A girl who can fly is taken to a special government research facility where they try to brainwash children with unusual talents to become "normal". A lot of relatively neutral religion- a lot of talk of the "Good L-rd" and the "Good Book" etc. Girl disobeys her parents who forbid her from flying. Bad middos between children. Girl sees a boy kissing his best friend's girl behind a barn, girls flirt with boys and go with them into the nearby bushes (not specified what they did there), girls wish a certain boy would kiss them, boy decides girl is "the love of his life", running joke about boy with x ray vision looking at girl's underwear. Boy has parents who clearly don't care about him. A lot of language-dang, dawgoneitall, freak, retard, stupid, darned, fatso, dumb, gosh darn it all, crap, hell, snot nosed, heck, damn. |
|                  | Forrester, Sandra  | Leo and the Lesser Lion | 5-8   | N?   | Girl deals with death of brother. A lot of Catholic references (church service, wants to become a nun) - no explicit religious philosophy. Language: hell-bent, eternal damnation, butt-naked. Father questions G-d after son's death.  |

Complete Secular Book List

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|------------------|---|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Forrester, Sandra                             | Sound the Jubilee  | 5-7   | OK?? | A slave girl escapes with her family during the Civil war. Descriptions of prejudice and brutality towards slaves. Detailed Xmas, brief summary of JC's birth (p. 40), when mother is scared says "sweet J--" (p. 47, 119). Relatively neutral mentions of church and minister and preaching. Mentions that laws didn't allow slaves to marry so they would "jump over a broom and declare themselves husband and wife". Relatively tame description of long courtship leading to marriage. One co-ed dance not described romantically. Once when he returns from danger (before married) she was "swept up into his arms " (p 69) |
|                  | Fox, Paula                                    | Monkey Island  |       | N    | Boy forced to live on street after parents abandon him. Inappropriate references, language, rough scenes. Disturbing.  |
|                  | Fox, Paula                                    | Radiance Descending  |       | N    | Boy has extremely negative attitude towards brother with Down's syndrome for many years. Does not start to turn around until last page, which many kids would miss altogether.   |
|                  | Fox, Paula                                    | The Slave Dancer   | 6-8   | N?   | Black boy is kidnapped and forced to play fife so slaves on ship will get exercise. Extremely detailed description of torture and abuse of slaves. Horrifying and gory. P68 - boy describes undressed female slaves - not very graphic.  |
|                  | Fox, Paula                                    | The Village by the Sea   |       | N    | Girl sent to stay with uncle and manic depressive aunt. Disturbing.  |
|                  | Foxley, Janet                                 | Mungle Trogg. Small Giant-Big Adventure                        | 4-6   | OK?? | A giant who is much smaller than his peers ends up saving his community from humans who would attack them. Middos between siblings and school mates. The king's birthday celebration features a "burps and farts" competition. Boy wonders if a human is a male or female then decides it must be a woman because she had a "bosom" and other mild anatomical descriptions. One friendly hug. Language-stupid, pee.  |
|                  | Francis, Pauline (originally by Daniel Defoe) | Robinson Crusoe - Fast Track Classics Edition                  | 3-5   | OK?  | Abridged version of classic story of man shipwrecked on desert island. Clear description of cannibals eating people. Some violence. Some religion (P. 15, 18,20) - easily crossed out  |
|                  | Frank, Anne                                   | The Diary of A Young Girl - The Definitive Edition (Doubleday) |       | N    | The diary of a Jewish girl who struggles with coming of age while in hiding during the Holocaust. Although it's very moving, there are quite a few very clear and explicit passages dealing with boy/girl, negiah, and physical maturation. In addition, girl is very clear about negative feeling toward parents and especially lack of respect for mother. Also sprinkling of hashkafic issues. Not recommended for casual reading. For educators: this book would be difficult to censor sufficiently, but for problematic passages see Classics Analysis Listing.  |
|                  | Frank, Lucy                                   | The Homeschool Liberation League                               |       | N    | Girl becomes home-schooled. Boy/Girl.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                   | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Frazier, Angie           | The Midnight Tunnel: A Suzanna Snow Mystery   | 4-6   | OK? | Girl whose family owns a hotel, solves mystery of missing daughter of hotel patron. Some vague references to girls looking at good-looking boys - old-fashioned and innocent.  |
|                  | Frazier, Neta Lohnes     | The Magic Ring  |       | N   | religion, boy/girl   |
|                  | Frederick, Heather Vogel | Spy Mice (series)   |       | N   | Children team up with mice to conquer bloodthirsty rats who are trying to take over the world, and also to defeat bullies who are trying to make the children's lives miserable. Cute concept but a lot of unrefined and problematic language, boy/girl, and middos issues.  |
|                  | Frederick, Heather Vogel | The Education of Patience Goodspeed   | 4-7   | N?  | Continuation of series. Girl is left with missionaries to be educated along with her eccentric aunt and a dimwitted woman who wants to marry her father. Lots of religion - boys are named Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John (the 4 gospels). Mention of JC p. 140. A lot of bible quotes from both "old" and new testament eg. 274. Tznius issues - woman dresses with a low neckline to show off her "ample charms" which men "gawk at" - although phrased nicely, there's a lot of this. Mild descriptions of mixed dancing. Mild romantic negiah; mostly hand holding, "you may kiss the bride" at a wedding. A few descriptions of native girls walking around without clothes or topless. Some discussion of girl's "monthlies" and needing a "corset" Language: blasted. |
|                  | Frederick, Heather Vogel | The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed  | 4-7   | OK  | The Daughter of a whaling captain comes to grips with the death of her mother as she has adventures on a whaling ship. Minor language - called "cuss words" eg: blast, thunder and lightning, etc. Very detailed and gory description of butchering a whale. Xmas - no religion. A few matter of fact mentions of "the privy"  |
|                  | Fredericks, Mariah       | In the Cards of Life  |       | N   | boy/girl   |
|                  | Freedman, Florence B.    | Two Tickets to Freedom - The True Story of Ellen and William Craft, Fugitive Slaves | 4-7   | N?  | A husband and wife who are slaves escape by pretending she is a white man and he is her slave. A lot of talk that she is the product of a union between a white master and a black slave - more discreet than many similar books, eg. P. 9 - "sometimes a master found a slave attractive and might secretly treat her as if she were his wife". Also mentions that slaves weren't allowed to marry legally or religiously so they just "live together as husband and wife " p. 8. Language - damned, hellish, damn. One quote from "Old" Testament about helping escaped slaves - p. 73 - (Devarim 23:16 see Ramban - book has incorrect understanding according to our mesorah)  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Freedman, Russell  | Out Of Darkness                                 | 3-5   | OK?  | Biography of Louis Braille, the inventor of the Braille alphabet which allows blind people to read and write. A few mentions of the kind village priest who helped him, his playing the church organ, xmas, etc. but no detailed religion  |
|                  | Freeman, Martha    | Stink Bomb Mom                                  |       | N    |  |
|                  | Freeman, Martha    | Who Stole Grandma's Million-Dollar Pumpkin Pie? | 3-6   | OK?? | Boy and friend (who is a girl) solve mystery of missing pie recipe. Minor language: heck, snot. Several references to possible budding "romances" between grandparent-age people (including k-i-s-s-i-n-g song) - pretty tame.   |
|                  | Freeman, Martha    | Who Stole Uncle Sam?                            | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy and girl solve mystery of missing baseball coach. Recurring theme of local woman (boy's friend's mother) who was boy's father's "first love". Boy is teased by giggly girls, about his relationship with girl who is his (platonic) friend.  |
|                  | French, S. Terrell | Operation Redwood                               | 6-8   | OK?? | After being sent by flighty artistic mother, to live temporarily with stern aunt and uncle, boy works to save Redwood forest destined to be logged by uncle's company. Two boys and 2 girls are friends and sleep in different rooms of tree house; totally innocent. Boy disobeys aunt and uncle, runs away to house of girl he met via e-mail, lies. In end aunt and uncle are vilified and boy is hero. Language: hell (the place): p. 43; pee, stupid, butt, freakin'. Passing references to dinosaurs, millions of years. Passing mention of girl with "inch of bare skin showing above her jeans"; pierced belly button. |
|                  | Friedman, Jason K  | Phantom Trucker                                 |       | N    | boy kidnapped by ghostly trucker. Lots of talk about mom addicted to TV. Negiah on TV. Minor bad language. Bad middos  |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie   | Campfire Mallory                                | 3-5   | N?   | A girl goes to sleepaway camp for the first time and learns to appreciate an annoying bunkmate. Cartoonish illustration of boy and girl teens with arms around each other as if posing for a picture. Many cartoonish pictures of a teenaged counselor in a halter top bathing suit. Language - stink. Unimportant mention of favorite TV show. Middos between siblings.   |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie   | Happy Birthday, Mallory                         | 3-5   | OK?? | A fourth grade girl copes with disappointment when her birthday month doesn't go as planned. A big part of the story is that her best female friend's mother (divorced) dates her best male friend's father (widowed), and she is worried they will fall in love and marry and she will be left out. Illustration of their imagined wedding- the bride and groom are holding hands. Mention of watching TV. Middos between siblings. Language- dumb, stupid, weird.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Happy New Year, Mallory! | 3-5   | N?   | Girl invites camp friends to her house to celebrate New Years, but ends up in the hospital getting her appendix out. Mentions that her brother "likes" her best friends' sister. They have long phone calls. Sisters tease him that around her he is polite and "romantic". They say she is "the girl of his dreams". Girls decide which TV shows to watch and which movies to rent. Girls make "pinkie swears".  |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Honestly, Mallory        | 3-5   | N?   | Girl lies to her class that she won a fashion designer contest on her favorite TV show. Friend wants to be a hip hop dancer when she grows up. Girl makes speech about why being a fashion designer is important. Girl asks her mother's mom if she is going to give her boyfriend a nice greeting and makes a "kissy face". Middos between siblings. Language- weird.  |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | In Business With Mallory | 3-5   | N?   | Girl tries to earn enough money to buy an expensive purse advertised on her favorite TV show, at the cost of her friendship with her (male) best friend and her relationship with her brother. A lot of emphasis on watching TV show. One of her business ideas is a salon where she does her classmates' hair, makeup, and nails. Girl makes "pinkie swears" that she will or won't do something. Tries to manipulate her mother into buying her the purse, unsuccessful. Go to mall to buy underwear- text and illustration. Girl thinks she looks like a movie star. Illustration of girl sitting between her parents in their bed. Middos between siblings. Language- dumb, stupid, stinkin'. |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Mallory Goes Green       | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl is chosen to be class representative for her school's green (eco) fair, and learns what it means to listen to other people's ideas. Matter of fact mentions that "earth has been around 4.5 billion years". One paragraph mention of cute boy who is bestfriend's boyfriend. Illustration of male friend with arm around female friend's shoulder (not romantic). TV watching. Middos between siblings. Language- stupid, freak  |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Mallory In The Spotlight | 3-5   | N?   | A girl gets the star role in her school play Annie and mistakenly thinks her friend's change in behavior is caused by jealousy. Child reading this book will probably want to know more about the story of Annie. Mentions of fourth grade girl having a crush on a boy- he is referred to as her boyfriend. Illustration of girl holding boy's arm-p85. Mean girls exhibit bad middos. Mention of watching TV. Girl pretends she is a movie star. At the end of the book are instructions for renting videos and inviting friends to watch them with you. Language-weird.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                           | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Mallory on Board                | 3-5   | N?   | Girl deals with her jealousy as she goes on a cruise to celebrate the wedding of her best female friend's mother to her best male friend's father. Co ed swimming. Wedding is in the ship's chapel- there is no detailed religion, but the ceremony (performed by the captain) is described in detail, including kiss at the end.Children march their parents down the aisle. Coed dancing.Cartoonish illustrations of girls wearing sleeveless gowns. Girl loves TV and can't stop talking about TV shows. Girls "pinkie swear"- text and illustration. Language- dumb, stinky, weird.  |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Mallory On The Move             | 3-5   | N?   | A girl copes with her disappointment at moving away from her best friend- at one point she runs away from home. She "pinkie swears" never to become friends with the boy next door, but she does anyway. Boy's older sister and girl's older brother display bad middos towards younger children. The younger siblings get back on them by playing mean practical jokes (eg. clear plastic wrap on toilet seat). Girl notices her brother is quiet around female neighbor- plans to tell him that he should find a better way to show girl he likes her. Girls like to paint their toenails. Mention that best friend's mother got divorced.Middos between siblings. Language- weird, dumb, gross, moron, puke, booger.  |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Mallory vs. Max                 | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl overcomes her jealousy when her brother gets a pet. Middos between siblings.TV. Language- poop, stupid, pee, dumb, gross, weird, stinky, weirdo.  |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Mallory's Super Sleepover       | 3-5   | N?   | A fifth grader plans a birthday that turns into a disaster. Children exhibit some really bad middos at party, the birthday girl regrets that she didn't stop the bad behavior and instead succumbed to peer pressure. She swears to her parents that it will never happen again (she swears and "pinkie swears" often) and goes to apologize to everyone whose feelings she hurt. Teenage babysitter neglects her job because she is on the phone with her boyfriend. One of the party games is a waterballoon fight with her older brother's friends- in bathing suits (it's all very innocent, but...). Girl sneaks downstairs to email her friend when she should be in bed. Illustration of parents reading in bed (same bed). Girl says that soon she will be a teenager and wearing makeup and dating boys. Children watch a movie. Middos between siblings. Language- gross, stink. |
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Red, White, & True Blue Mallory |       | N    | Girl goes on class trip to Washington DC and is very disappointed when her best friend spends all of her time with a boy she likes instead of with her. Eventually they decide to become boyfriend/ girlfriend. Although there are lots of facts about Washington DC, the major emphasis of this book is on the boy/girl aspect.   |

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|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Friedman, Laurie | Step Forth, Mallory                                       |       | N    | A girl starts fourth grade, and has a crush on the same boy as her best friend. Most of the storyline involves this. Middos between siblings. Emails. TV. Language- dumb.   |
|                  | Fritz, Jean      | Can't You Make Them Behave, King George                   | 3-5   | N?   | History. Kiss the ladies (p. 10), pray for king on Sunday - pictures of churches and angels (p. 37)   |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia  | Dragon Rider  | 5-8   | OK?  | A boy, a rat, a magical brownie and a dragon team up to defeat a vicious monster. Minor language: idiot, drat it, darn it, stupid, dratted. Minor hashkafa issues. One important setting is a monastery where monks are always praying at altars and shrines. Discuss belief that after death people come back as another person. Talk that heroes are fulfilling an ancient prophecy.  |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia  | Ghosthunters and the Gruesome Invincible Lightening Ghost | 3-5   | OK?? | Boy helps catch a ghost that is haunting a hotel. Nonromantic negiah. A lot of minor language - stinky, stupid, idiot, dumb, dumbo.   |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia  | Ghosthunters and the Incredibly Revolting Ghosts          | 3-5   | OK?? | First in series. A boy teams up with an old lady and a tame ghost to catch bad ghosts. Very unrefined. A lot of minor language - stupid, weird, revolting, weirdo, idiot. A lot of middos between siblings. Bathroom humor. A few mentions of watching TV. Go to a graveyard to collect dirt to throw at a ghost. Boy threatens annoying big sister that he will tell a boy in class that she has a crush on him. Detailed descriptions of different types of ghosts. |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia  | Ghosthunters and the Muddy Monsters of Doom!              | 3-5   | OK?? | Boy needs to catch a ghost to receive his ghost hunters diploma. Lots of descriptions of different kinds of ghosts, paganism, and ghostly violence. More silly than scary. One ghost described as five or ten thousand years old. One ghost was created by people doing "barbaric rituals" such as animal sacrifices. Book warns reader that if they have an unfair teacher it might be that the teacher is really a ghost.   |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia  | Ghosthunters and the Totally Moldy Baroness               | 3-5   | OK?? | Boys help catch a mean ghost in a haunted castle. Language - idiot, stupid, stinking, dimwit, weird. Ghost has a crush on another ghost - friends tease him that he is turning "romantic" and that he is "in love", and that when the 2 ghosts will press their icy fingers together it will be "hot stuff". Nothing comes of the relationship.   |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia  | Igraine the Brave   | 4-5   | OK?  | Girl who wants to become a knight, saves her magical family and kingdom from wicked baron. Unquestioned assumption that it is OK for girl to aspire to be a knight. Language: drat it (once), shut up. Ladies kiss knight's cheek - totally innocent.   |

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|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Funke, Cornelia                 | Inkheart                  | 7-8+  | N?   | After a father accidentally unleashes characters from many classic and modern books he reads aloud, he and his daughter work to defeat them. Some of these books may be unacceptable; parents should investigate. Some language (hell, damn, etc.) by feisty great-aunt when very upset. Some violence, lots of talk of violence. Boy/girl - page 37. Man falls in love with another man's wife, but both were brought out of a book (so maybe she's not still his wife?) In the end, husband finds her and man runs off. Mention of men making "advances" that are "rejected"; not spelled out but kids this age will get it. Later books in series are worse, |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia                 | Inkspell                  |       | N    | Sequel to Inkheart. Main characters go back into the story and try to change it for the better. Girl calls father by first name. A lot of language - bloody hell, dammit, bastard, etc. Lots of talk of man having children with woman - not clear if ever married though at end of book calls him husband. Lots of talk of who fathered which children. Talk of women selling bodies. Mentions of female anatomy. Brief boy/girl; lots of kissing.   |
|                  | Funke, Cornelia                 | The Thief Lord            | 6-8   | OK?? | Orphan brothers join street gang with fantastical results. Minor language - hell, darn, idiot. Lots of minor street crime. Raises question: can children run from adult (their aunt) who wants to care for them, but they think she is mean. Also, is stealing OK to survive.   |
|                  | Furlong, Monica                 | Wise Child                |       | N    | A girl is adopted by the village witch and finds her to be a kind guardian despite the villagers' superstitions of her. Lots of magic and witchcraft as a religion, lots of Christianity.   |
|                  | Gabhart, Ann                    | Discovery at Coyote Point |       | N    | A boy goes to live with grandparents. Discovers missing father's body. Sideplot of romantic relationship - minor romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Gackenbach, Dick                | Hooray for Hattie Rabbit  | 1-2   | OK   | I can read book. Cute stories about a rabbit girl.  |
|                  | Gaiman, Neil                    | Caraline                  | 4-6   | OK?  | Strange spooky story of a girl who frees her parents from a monster masquerading as her mother. This story was made into a movie. Some vague acting culture-mention of plays, men sending flowers to actresses dressing room, etc. Mention of watching videos, TV. Language-weird.  |
|                  | Gaiman, Neil                    | Odd and the Frost Giants  | 4-6   | N?   | Strange story about a crippled boy who helps Greek gods regain their land from giants. Men and gods get drunk a lot. References to Greek mythology. A god is seduced by a giant disguised as a beautiful woman who talks about giving "her heart and her lips" to a man.  |
|                  | Gaiman, Neil and Michael Reeves | Interworld                |       | N    | A boy with the ability to travel between worlds tries to rescue them from evil forces without disturbing the balance between magic and science. A lot of real language issues, mild boy/girl, mention of evolution.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Gaines, Ernest J.       | The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman                          |       | N    | An elderly black woman recalls her younger years as a slave and later as a free woman. A few mentions of not marrying the man she "lived with" because she saw no need for it. Lots of religion. Talk of if girl is a pure virgin or not. Talk of white men "ravishing" black women at whim and they bear them children. Description of 12 year old boy and girl lying together in loft - boy gets whipping for possibly making girl pregnant.   |
|                  | Gannett, Ruth Stiles    | Elmer and the Dragon  | 2-3   | OK   | a boy and a dragon help canaries solve a mystery.  |
|                  | Gannett, Ruth Stiles    | My Father's Dragon  | 2-3   | OK   | Boy rescues dragon who is being mistreated.  |
|                  | Gantos, Jack            | Jack Adrift - Fourth Grade Without a Clue                       |       | N    | A boy adjusts to a new town when father joins the navy. Language, huge crush on teacher, inappropriate juvenile fantasies, sneaky dysfunctional principal who tries to get boy to spy on other children.   |
|                  | Gantos, Jack            | Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key                                    | 4-6   | N?   | Hyper-active boy gets into trouble until finally gets medication patch. Written from boy's point of view - makes you feel what's going on his head! Boy's mother and father both left him with grandmother when he was baby; his mother returns and grandmother leaves. Mother drinks (one a day) and drank when she was pregnant; says father is a drunk. Language: butt (42,49), screwed up (82), "baby J" (85) damn (106), bodily functions (114).  |
|                  | Garden, Nancy           | Mystery of the Night Raiders #1                                 | 4-6   | OK   | Strange story; children scheme to catch vampire who is killing cows.   |
|                  | Gardiner, John Reynolds | Top Secret  | 3-5   | N?   | A boy discovers how to make humans do photosynthesis for science fair project. No one believes him except president who sees him as threat to national security. Detailed description of parents' long kiss.   |
|                  | Gardner, J.J.           | Men In Black  | 3-7   | OK?  | Novelization of movie. Secret agents deal with alien visitors to Earth. 1 word (crap). In effort to cover up for missing husband who was killed by aliens, agents tell wife he ran off with his girlfriend.  |
|                  | Gardner, Sally          | Magical Kids - The Smallest Girl Ever and the Boy Who Could Fly | 5-7   | OK?? | 2 books in one - flip the book over for the other story. The girl story is about a girl whose magical parents die and she is sent to a magic school despite the fact that she has no apparent magical abilities. She is subsequently kidnapped, rescued, kidnapped again, etc. until it is discovered that she is indeed magical. Many mean adults - a few kind ones. Unimportant mention of ladies underpants hanging on the line. In the Boy story a boy who concerned about his parents' deteriorating marriage is granted a wish to learn how to fly and he helps his father discover his fun side and helps his parents be happy again, Language - stupid. Running joke about a fat fairy who "belches" Since book details parents' constant arguments, parents should decide if book is appropriate. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                           | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Gates, Doris           | Blue Willow                     | 4-6   | OK?  | Daughter of poor itinerant workers tries to gain sense of permanence. Brief telling of myth where 2 "lovers" run away over objection of father (p 26); minor religious and bible talk  |
|                  | Gauthier, Gail         | My Life Among the Aliens        | 4-6   | N?   | Strange stories about aliens who keep appearing in a family's backyard. TV watching, co-ed swim class, misbehavior at birthday party, dancing, long discussion if Santa Claus is real and other Xmas. Language - heck, weird, suckers, babes (girls).  |
|                  | Gauthier, Gail         | The Hero of Ticonderoga         |       | N    | A girl who is a poor student is assigned an oral report on a local hero, Ethan Allen, and finds she enjoys giving it. A lot of language and bad middos.  |
| new              | Gavin, Rohan           | Knightly and Son                | 6-8   | OK?? | Son and father fight against mysterious group with supernatural source. Mother left father because she thought he was crazy. Remarried man who has a daughter; boy and girl work together but (currently) no romance. Some language: damn, oddball, satanic beast, idiot, bloody hell, damnation. Villain kicks father in groin. Passing mention of Santa Claus, xmas presents. Woman lives at father's house and is housekeeper/assistant - no romance. Passing mention of Virgin Mary. |
| new              | Gennari, Jennifer      | My Mixed-up Berry Blue Summer   |       | N    | Girl's mother marries another woman  |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | Case of the missing cutthroats  | 4-6   | OK?  | Cousins solve ecological mystery - why fish are disappearing from stream. Lots of detail about miraculous water bugs and fish as if nature developed them - I think from child with translate this to Hashem. Innocent negiah between cousins.   |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | Julie's Wolf Pack               | 3-5   | OK?  | Continuation of Julie of the Wolves - fascinating description on "society" of wolf pack. A lot of talk of mating but no description. End of story - kiss between humans - appears they are married already.  |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | My Side of the Mountain         | 6-8   | OK   | A boy runs away (with his parents permission) to live in the wilderness. Very detailed descriptions of hunting, etc. Mention of holidays, no religion.   |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | On the Far Side of the Mountain | 6-8   | OK?  | Continuation of My Side of the Mountain. Boy's younger sister comes to live with him and tries to catch a bird of prey. Very minor meeting with a girl who is "pretty" - he blushes (p 120-121) - non essential to story. Mention of JC as an historical figure.   |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | The Cats of Roxville Station    | 5-7   | OK?? | An abused cat befriends an orphan who lives with a foster mother who doesn't understand his love for animals. Extremely detailed cat info (to the point of tedium). Mention of Halloween cat - no religion. Minor language: drat, weird. Exterminator kills cats with poison. Mating leading to pregnancy. Mentions Egyptians treated cats as goddesses in 2000 BC. Mention of watching animal shows on TV   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | The Firebug Connection  | 4-6   | OK  | Children of scientists figure out why fire bugs aren't maturing. Vague references to evolution and nature solving its own problems - not blatant at all.  |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | The Missing Gator of Gumbo Limbo  | 4-6   | OK? | girl and mom live in wilderness to escape abusive father. Girl protects alligator who is important to ecology. References to abuse but not detailed.  |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | There's an owl in the Shower  | 4-6   | OK  | A lumberman loses his job because of spotted owl preservationists. His angry son inadvertently rescues one. Very pro-conservation.  |
|                  | George, Jean Craighead | Vulpes, The Red Fox   | 3-6   | OK  | Story of fox's life in the wild   |
|                  | George, Jessica Day    | Dragon Slippers   | 5-8   | N?  | An orphan girl is befriended by a dragon and helps defend her country. A lot of talk of romantic tales, suitors, and knights rescuing damsels from dragons and being a "virgin pure and true" (no definition) and girls meeting their "swains" to "canoodle" (no definitions) and girls "making eyes" at boys and writing love poems. Non romantic / slightly romantic negiah. Detailed description of a ball and the requisite dancing but not romantic. Some negiah between engaged couple - he puts his arm around her shoulders, he lays his head on her chest. A semi-romantic kiss at the end. Many mentions of praying to their gods. Comment about being "a vestal virgin giving sacrifices to a vengeful god". Language: Stupid, damned (once) |
|                  | Gephart, Donna         | As If Being 12 3/4 Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother Is Running for President |       | N   | Girl worries about mother being assassinated, while dealing with being a normal adolescent. Very, Very inappropriate language throughout the book. A lot of boy/girl, women's anatomy, and teen culture.  |
|                  | Giblin, James Cross    | The Boy Who Saved Cleveland   | 3-5   | OK? | Historical fiction. Boy supplies town with food when inhabitants are struck with illness. Passing mention of sister complaining that there are no boys to dance with, and by the time any come she'll be an old maid.   |
|                  | Gidwitz, Adam          | A Tale Dark and Grimm   |       | N   | A very gruesome rewrite of the fairy tale of Hansel and Gretel with a tremendous amount of blood, gore, and tongue in cheek. In order to save the Queen's life, the king's faithful servant draws blood from her lips- to king it looks like "he has done something unspeakable" and accuses him of treason. Author suggests that it would be better to take little children to an R rated movie than to continue reading this gruesome story. Girl falls in love with a man who ends up trying to eat her, but before that there is some minor romantic negiah. A whole chapter deals with the devil in hell and what happens there. Language-stupid, freaky, gross, damn it, shut up.   |
|                  | Gifaldi, David         | Listening for Crickets  |       | N   | Boy deals with parents' bitter marital strife, ending in father physically abusing mother. Strong language.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                                      | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | A House of Tailors                         | 5-7   | N?   | Beautiful story of girl who moves from Europe to America in the 1800's. Mild romance leading to assumed marriage after end of story. One affectionate touching.  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Eleven                                     | 5-6   | OK   | Learning disabled orphaned boy tries to solve mystery of his past with help of a new friend.   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Lazy Lions, Lucky Lambs                    | 2-3   | OK   | Boy with learning problems writes a story.   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Lily's Crossing                            | 4-6   | OK?? | Girl comes to grips with father being away at war and friend's brother being lost in action. Sneaks into movie without paying, lies, angry with grandma but eventually appreciates her. 2 pages of church services, holy water, rosary beads. Innocent non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Love From the Fifth Grade Celebrity        | 4-5   | OK?  | brief ref. to "talk about boys"  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Maggie's Door                              | 6-8   | OK?? | An Irish girl struggles to emigrate during the potato famine and reach her sister in America. Subtle and gentle love story, which is more implied than stated outright, between the girl and her sister's husband's brother. She has memories of him asking her to dance at their sibling's wedding but not described in any detail. When he suffers a bad burn she nurses him to health. 2 instances of affectionate but not overtly romantic negiah - when she sees him crying she puts her hand on top of his to comfort him, when they arrive in America he takes her hand in his and points at the house. |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Pictures of Hollis Woods                   | 5-8   | OK?  | Touching story of foster child who finally finds family. Beautifully done. Some non-romantic negiah between girl and prospective "brother". X-mas - decorations, gifts, but no religion. Cover photo of girl from waist down, wearing shorts.  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Polk Street School #9 Purple Climbing Days | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy overcomes fear of climbing a rope. Old female Gym teacher in shorts - description and illustration   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Rat Teeth                                  | 4-6   | N?   | Boy has a hard time making friends because acts tough to cover low self esteem about buck teeth and parents' divorce. Minor language, not nice description of teacher, plays hooky, and meets a boy who shoplifts and steals his money.  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Say "Cheese"                               | 2-3   | OK   | Lonely girl looks for best friend. Drawings of young girls in shorts and sleeveless.   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Snaggle Doodles                            | 2-3   | OK   | Kids work on inventions.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                                   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | The Candy Corn Contest                  | 2-3   | OK?  | A boy deals with 2 problems. First, he snuck 3 candy corns from the "guess how many" bottle on his teacher's desk and feels guilty, and secondly, he is having a slumber party and no one wants to come because a friend who wets his bed is coming. Some bad middos especially regarding the boy who smells, but the situation is eventually resolved.   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | The Gift Of The Pirate Queen            | 6-8   | OK?? | A girl tries to deal with the death of her mother and her sister's diabetes with the help of an old woman from Ireland. Although possibly intended for younger children, this story is somewhat heavy for them. Story centers around xmas and the fact that she accidentally broke her teacher's xmas bell. Lots of xmas but no religion. Middos between classmates. Brief mention of watching TV. Language-freak, brat.  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | The Powder Puff Puzzle                  | 2-3   | OK   | Girl finds her cat using logic  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | The Trial of the Screaming Teenager     | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl finds teenager's lost necklace. Lots of beach scenes but totally innocent. Illustrations of teenagers in bathing suits on co-ed beach.   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | The Winter Worm Business                | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy learns to deal with cousin he doesn't like. Bad middos but ends OK.   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Wild Girl                               | 5-7   | OK?  | A Brazilian girl joins her father and brother in America where her father runs a stable for race horses. She is challenged by the fact that her family treats her as the little girl she was when they last saw her, and by the overwhelming feelings of missing of her mother who died. The girl doesn't know English so she has an accident in school because she can't ask for the bathroom. She is so embarrassed she runs away from school. One word xmas. |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Willow Run                              | 5-7   | OK?  | Companion to Lily's Crossing. During WWII, family moves to factory town to help in war effort, and brother is reported MIA. Recurring memories of brother going out with his girlfriend, thinking she's pretty. One minor language ("Hitler is a jerk"). Passing mention of Mass and picture of St. Francis.  |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Women of our Time: Laura Ingalls Wilder | 3-4   | OK?  | Life of Laura Ingalls. Kiss goodnight when Almonzo asks her to marry him - p. 34.   |
| new              | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Zigzag Zoom                             | 2-3   | OK   | Young girl who is part of an afterschool program (coed, but completely innocent) is afraid to run in a race since she is a slow runner.   |
|                  | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Fourth Grade Celebrity                  | 3-5   | OK?  | Very mild language. Last page - decides obnoxious boy is "most good looking in class".  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                     | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Gifford, Peggy                             | Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Practicing the Piano | 3-5   | OK? | An unusual book written in very short humorous chapters about a girl who gets stage fright at her piano recital. Brief, unimportant sentence about a rock star performing in the same place as the recital (p. 4). Refers to another book in the series "Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little". Brief unimportant mention of a bird living 60 million years ago (p. 131).   |
|                  | Gifford, Peggy                             | Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little        | 3-5   | OK? | Girl keeps pushing off reading a book for summer homework. Book illustrated with photographs supposedly taken by the girl's twin brother some of which are slightly inappropriate-e.g. photo of mom's rear end as she works in garden. A six year old boy has a crush on an older girl that he doesn't really understand. It manifests itself in that he will do whatever she tells him to, no matter how difficult (p18-19). Unimportant mention of TV. Preview of "Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank You Notes". A girl whose father works in the movie industry invites her to come to Hollywood for a big New Year's Eve bash with the stars. Many mentions of xmas presents. Description of strapless evening gown that her mother made her return, plus a rear view photo of her wearing it.   |
|                  | Gilbreth Jr., Frank B. and Ernestine Carey | Cheaper by the Dozen                            | 6+    | N?  | Adventures of a family with 12 children. A lot of minor bad language: heck, damned, bloody bastards, g-damn, JC (as curse), freaks, sucker, and more. Inconclusive, vague discussion about "flowers and bees" and where babies come from - leaves kids wondering. A few vague allusions to "women of the night" and "loose women" but never explained. Family tricks ladies who are looking for a home to hold a meeting for "Society for Birth Control". Lots of talk of being sad since baby will be last child (reader wonders - how do they know?). Lots of juvenile, old fashioned, boy/girl courting among high schoolers. Girls convince father to let them be modern and wear bobbed haircuts, silk stockings, short skirts and short underwear. Father eventually gives in to everything but makeup and perfume. Talk about collegiate boys and girls "petting", "necking", and "jazzing". |
|                  | Gilden, Mel                                | Blubb and the Amazing Morphing Machine          | 3-6   | N?  | An evil boy genius tries to sabotage "youth day". Boy/girl: girl says things like "what a babe" or grabs evil boy's waist as he escapes on a winch. Very cartoonish type of story.  |
|                  | Gilmour H.B. and Randi Reisfeld            | Twitches Dead Wrong #4                          |       | N   | Twin witches try to keep friend out of trouble. Lots of boy/girl, teenage slang, teenage smoking, drinking, tattooing.  |
|                  | Gilson Jamie                               | Do Bananas Chew Gum?                            |       | N   | A boy tries to hide learning disability by being class clown. Lots of boy/girl talk of kissing.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                           | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Gilson, Jamie       | Bug in a Rug                    | 3-5   | OK?  | A boy gets a pair of pants that don't fit from eccentric relatives, and comes to appreciate them. Lots of juvenile incidents of pants falling down and everyone seeing his underwear. Silly.   |
|                  | Gilson, Jamie       | Hello My Name is Scrambled Eggs |       | N    | A boy's family hosts Vietnamese refugee and boy tries to make him over in own image. Boy/girl dance, one kiss described in detail.   |
|                  | Gilson, Jamie       | Here's Hermione                 | 4-6   | N?   | Flood causes school to move to shopping mall. Minor language (scumbreath). Juvenile boy/girl jokes - eg: a girl saved a boy from flood so other kids asked "did she give you mouth-to-mouth?" Funny misbehavior in school. Nothing terrible but it all adds up.  |
|                  | Gipson, Fred        | Old Yeller                      | 5-8   | OK?  | Newberry Honor book. A pioneer boy adopts a stray dog who saves his family's lives - then he is forced to kill the dog. Very detailed descriptions about hunting and killing animals. Boy "sort of likes" an 11 year old girl who has "right pretty eyes" and made him feel "sort of jumpy". Dog fathers pups with a "bitch".                              |
|                  | Girion, Barbara     | Indian Summer                   | 3-5   | OK?  | A white girl lives on an Indian reservation for a month and experiences reverse discrimination until all come to an understanding of each other. Minor references to boy/girl, thinking boy is cute. One tame boy/girl party. Some non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Girls of Many Lands | Minuk - Ashes in the Pathway    | 4-6   | N?   | religion   |
|                  | Gleitzman, Morris   | Two Weeks with the Queen        |       | N    | A boy dealing with brother's incurable cancer finds a soulmate in a gay man dealing with his partner's dying of AIDS. Lots of pro gay-equal-rights propaganda and normalization of deviant lifestyles.   |
|                  | Go Girl             | Go Girl - Back to School        | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl looks forward to school beginning but it doesn't turn out the way she expects: her teacher is mean and she is separated from some of her best friends; eventually comes to terms with it. One sentence about kids pretending they are on TV. A few minor displays of bad middos. Minor language: weird, dumb, stupid. Others in series are not OK.  |
|                  | Go Girl             | Go Girl - Basketball Blues      | 3-5   | N?   | A girl is told she plays basketball like a boy - she interprets this as being told she is ugly so she decides to become a cheerleader instead. A lot of focus on fact that it is a coed ball team A lot of description of cheerleader skirts and leotards. Mention of fairy tale princess cheering for her Prince Charming. Minor language: idiot, stupid. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Go Girl                 | Go Girl - Camp Chaos  | 3-5   | N?   | Children go camping with school . Girl deals with her 2 best friends fighting. Girls say some girls hang from monkey bars in dresses and don't care if their "undies" are showing. Language - weird, freak out, dumb, gross, bird brain, brat. Mention of TV show "Survivor". Girls excited about dance - wants to dance with a boy she "likes". Girls parents divorced - lives half a month in each home. A lot of boy vs. girl fighting to get each other's attention. Juvenile middos issues - call each other names, play tricks. Girl says boy in a pop band is "cute". |
|                  | Go Girl                 | Go Girl - Catch Me if You Can                                 |       | N    | Boy gets hurt playing "kissy tag". Juvenile boy/girl, first kiss, first hand holding, etc.   |
|                  | Go Girl                 | Go Girl - Sleepover   | 3-5   | N?   | A girl sleeps over at her friend's house and they cook on the stove without permission - when confronted by the friend's mother she tells the truth - her friend reprimands her and explains that lying is better because then she won't get in trouble. Girl is worried that if someone sees her underwear that is packed in her knapsack she will "die". Mentions watching TV. Non-religious Xmas. Minor language: stupid.   |
|                  | Go Girl                 | Go Girl - The Secret Club                                     | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl moves and makes new friends. A lot of fairly benign talk of celebrities and singers. Girl mentions that she is in a bad mood a lot because her parents are "splitting up". Language: stupid.  |
|                  | Goldberg, Whoopi        | Sugar Plum Ballerinas - Toeshoe Trouble                       | 3-5   | N?   | A girl tries to impress her rich cousin by bragging about owning valuable toe shoes, which really belong to her ballet teacher. She "borrows" (steals) them and intends to return them but they are chewed up by a dog. She regrets and admits to her actions and her friends help her fix the problem. Minor Mention (p. 1) of how older girls think about how to make boys like them. Language: kick your butt. Minor mention (p. 105) of older sister sneaking out to meet boy friend without parents' permission.  |
|                  | Goldin, Barbara Diamond | Red Means Good Fortune - A Story of San Francisco's Chinatown | 4-6   | OK?  | Once Upon America Series. A Chinese boy helps rescue a Chinese slave girl. A few brief mentions of Chinese kitchen god.  |
|                  | Golding, Julia          | Cat Among the Pigeons - A Cat Royal Adventure book 2          | 5-7   | N?   | Girl takes risks to save black friend from being returned to his former master. Language: hell, damn. Passing Christian references & Quaker service - no religion. Mention of JC. Non-romantic affectionate negiah (hug) between friends. Mean gang member, whom girl hates, implies that he likes her, and is therefore keeping her in his debt.  |
|                  | Golding, Julia          | Den of Thieves - A Cat Royal Adventure Book 3                 |       | N    | Cat Royal travels to France during revolution. Mild romantic thoughts and negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                              | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Golding, Julia                      | The Companion Quartet - The Gorgon's Gaze                | 6-8   | N?  | Children with special powers that let them communicate with mythical creatures, try to save humanity and try to save an old forest from being destroyed in order to build a road. Lots of magic and mythology. Lots of eco-protests and culture. Boy deals with divorced parents fighting a lot and his dad's new girlfriend whom dad kisses (can be crossed out).  |
|                  | Golding, Julia                      | The Diamond of Drury Lane - A Cat Royal Adventure book 1 | 5-7   | N?  | Girl adopted by theater group, helps political satirist. Language: hell, damn. Several references to young man and girl who are "lovers" - no details. Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Golding, William                    | Lord of the Flies  |       | C   | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Goldman, E. M.                      | Money to Burn  |       | N   | Boys find suitcase of money that turns out to be drug money . End of book is detailed battle between villains and heroes. Boy/girl, beach scenes, negiah, talk w/ prostitute, language.   |
|                  | Goodman, Allegra                    | The Other Side of the Island                             | 5-8   | OK? | After flood wipes out most dry land on Earth, remaining islands are governed by very controlling government. Girl and her non-conformist parents try to start rebellion. After rescuing mother, father kisses mother on lips.   |
|                  | Goodman, Susan E.                   | Brave Kids - Cora Frear                                  | 2-3   | OK  | A pioneer girl who assists her doctor father, survives a prairie fire. Scary  |
|                  | Gordon, Roderick and Brian Williams | Free Fall - book 3 of the Tunnels Series                 | 7-8   | N?  | Children fall into an underground world and try to defeat the bad guys who want to unleash a deadly virus. Lots of TV watching, chutzpah to parents. Bad girl calls her adopted father a "stupid old fart". Some convoluted discussion about beginning of the world and millions of years. Scientist theorizes that the image of an angel is really derived from a prehistoric insect. Boy's mother fights with his father and hits him with her fist. Eventually they agree to separate- their fights are described in detail. Mild boy-girl. One kiss on the cheek (may increase in later books). Language-stinking, dang, gross, blasted, freakin, darned, flipping, doofus, stupid, blast it, idiot, weird, darn, dumb, creep, 'ell, blast, heck. |
|                  | Gordon, Roderick and Brian Williams | Tunnels  | 7-8   | OK? | Boys discover hidden underground society. Mild language. Passing mention of boys putting dirty lyrics into religious songs - not detailed. Later books more problematic.  |
|                  | Gorman, Carol                       | Dork in Disguise   |       | N   | A brilliant boy tries to fit into new school by being cool. Boy/girl, real romantic negiah, language.   |
|                  | Gormley, Beatrice                   | More Fifth Grade Magic                                   | 4-5   | OK  | A girl tries to convince mother not to send her to modeling camp by using magic. Mention of parents' divorce.   |
|                  | Gould, Joan                         | Otherborn  |       | N   |   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Govan,Christine    | The Curious Clubhouse                      | 4-6   | OK?? | Children's parents keep getting upset at their messy rooms and their collections so children find a house that they think is abandoned and turn it into a clubhouse. A lot of telling stories and halftruths to keep clubhouse a secret from their parents. Kids collect movie magazines. Brief mentions of TV and movies. Child's nickname is "Awful". One word Halloween. Parents joke that soon son will be interested in girls and then will wash his neck and ears without being told. Language- crud/cruddy (frequent), weird, stupid, shuddup, stinking, bloomin', dumb. |
|                  | Grabenstein, Chris | The Hanging Hill                           | 6-8   | OK?? | Sequel to "The Crossroads". Boy who sees ghosts, prevents magician from raising demons to life. Magic, "gods". Language: hell/damn (formal meanings). Friends with girl - one hug at end when he saves her life. Somewhat scary/gory.   |
|                  | Graff, Lisa        | The Thing About Georgie                    | 4-6   | OK?  | A 4th grade boy who is a dwarf (medically) learns about friends, family, and himself. Boy wishes pretty 7th grader would pay attention to him - reasonably innocent. Description of X-mas services; no religion.  |
|                  | Graff, Lisa        | Umbrella Summer                            | 3-6   | OK?  | A girl and her family deal with brother's death. Has 2 friends who are boys - totally innocent. Very well done - could be very helpful for child dealing with loss. Language: pee, butt   |
|                  | Grahame, Kenneth   | The Wind in the Willows                    | 6+    | OK?? | Animals unsuccessfully try to keep their wealthy friend toad out of trouble. Eventually he learns to be less self-centered, but until that point he is an example of very poor midos. Language: "silly ass" (a few times). Mice sing Xmas carol - written out - mentions story of Joseph but not very clear (p. 91-92 chap 5), A confusing chapter about an "august presence" and feeling "awe" - seems like they had a religious experience with some animal-like creature but very vague (chap 7 p 126-127 and 132).  |
|                  | Granger, Michele   | The Summer House Cat                       | 2-4   | N?   | chutzpah, bad middos  |
|                  | Gratz, Alan        | The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings | 5-8   | OK?? | Nine generations of baseball-playing boys and girls, each confronting the conflicts of the particular era. Very well written. In first generation, boy's (non-frum) Jewish family converts to Christianity out of convenience; subsequent generations do not realize they are Jewish. One boy is teased that he does not know who his father is. Language: hell/damn, 2-3 times; dork, screw up. In V-day celebration, man kisses girl. Grandfather advises boy to attack bully with a knee to the groin. References to Star Wars movies.                                       |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Gray, Elizabeth Janet | Adam of the Road   | 6-8   | N?   | A minstrel's son has adventures while trying to locate his father and his stolen pet. A huge amount of Christianity woven in to the fabric of the story as befits the time period, but very little explained. References to holidays, saints, church, miracles at saints' shrines, a play about Adam and Eve depicts demons in Hell who cause the snake to tempt Eve. Boy calls father by first name. Tame description of squire being in love with a maiden, boy likes a girl but very tame. Father gambles away his horse but then regrets it. |
|                  | Gray, Kes             | Nelly The Monster Sitter   | 3-6   | OK?? | A girl has adventures while babysitting for monsters. A lot of sibling rivalry between twins- unusually bad middos. A lot of incidental TV watching. Language-freaks, weirdo, scummy, creeps. In back of book ad for book called "Sir Farts A lot".  |
|                  | Gray, Luli            | Falcon's Egg   | 4-6   | N?   | A lonely girl raises dragon. Call parents by first name, detailed description of neglectful but loving mother, talk of 6th grade girls liking boys, minor bad language, father says glad daughter spent money on museum membership and not "booze and wild parties".   |
|                  | Green, Phyllis        | Eating Ice Cream with a Werewolf   |       | N    | A boy is cared for by an eccentric babysitter. Boy's parents say they will discuss facts of life with him (not worded so politely). Juvenile co-ed dances, juvenile boy/girl, minor romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Green, Phyllis        | Mildred Murphy How Does Your Garden Grow?                                | 4-6   | N?   | A girl helps an old confused woman who is squatting in a condemned garage. Language - damn. Description of a man who loved to kiss ladies and girls - easy to cross out (p. 60). Mom explains why it is OK to put elderly parents into nursing home (p. 79)  |
|                  | Green, Tim            | New Kid  |       | N    | Boy tries to fit in as baseball player, as father moves them from place to place to escape dangerous assailants. Boy/girl, romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Greenberg, Jan        | A Season In Between  |       | N    | A girl deals with father's cancer and eventual death as she comes to grips with adolescence. Boy/girl, descriptions of romantic novels, shallow discussion about Judaism vs. Christianity, menstruation, romantic negiah   |
|                  | Greenberg, Jan        | Just the Two of Us   |       | N    | A girl convinces her mother to let her stay over at her platonic boy friend's artsy family's house for the summer. Constant talk about having a crush on his brother. Lots of boy/girl.  |
|                  | Greenberg, Jan        | The Iceberg and Its Shadow   |       | N    | A girl befriends aggressive newcomer and alienates old friends. Lots of chutzpah to parents, minor cursing, sneaking into R-rated movie, minor negiah, bad middos  |
|                  | Greenburg, Dan        | Secrets of Dripping Fang - Book 8 - When Bad Snakes Attack Good Children | 3-5   | N?   | Strange story - children try to prevent ants from taking over the world. Lots of minor crude and bathroom language. Cartoonish illustrations of un-tzniusly dressed women (p. 31). Very unrefined.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Greenburg, Dan       | The Zack Files - Never Trust a Cat who Wears Earrings | 2-3   | OK? | Strange story of boy who is scratched by a cat in a museum and begins to turn into ancient Egyptian cat goddess. Lots of info about Egyptian religion.  |
|                  | Greenburg, Dan       | The Zack Files - The Boy Who Cried Big Foot           | 2-3   | N?  | Boy goes to camp and befriends Bigfoot-like creature. Mentions divorce but doesn't dwell on it. A few discussions about how Bigfoot is the missing link between humans and monkeys in theory of evolution. Juvenile boy vs. girl. Juvenile bathroom humor. Unrefined.   |
|                  | Greenburg, Dan       | The Zack Files: Just Add Water...and Scream!          | 2-3   | N?  | Boys accidentally buy Martian spores in an air and space museum; try to prevent spores from taking over Earth. Very unrefined - museum has handkerchiefs with astronaut "boogers", discarded cosmonaut fur lined underpants, a bucket of trainee vomit, etc. Mention in passing of boy's parents being divorced and he lives half time with each. |
|                  | Greenburg, Dan       | Zack Files - Tell a Lie and your Butt will Grow       |       | N   | unrefined   |
|                  | Greenburg, J. C.     | Andrew Lost #1 On The Dog                             | 2-4   | OK  | Boy and girl and robot accidentally shrink and experience scientific adventures as they try to get back to original size. Very detailed descriptions of inside of nose including yucky parts. Goal of this series is to get kids interested in science.   |
|                  | Greenburg, J. C.     | Andrew Lost #2 In the Bathroom                        | 2-4   | OK  | Shrunken children are on a dog that is getting a bath. Scientific descriptions of bubbles, sponges, ants.   |
|                  | Greene, Constance    | Just Plain Al   |       | N   | Continuation of series. More of the same problems.  |
|                  | Greene, Constance C. | AL(exandra) the Great                                 |       | N   | Preteen helps friend deal with mom's illness. Explicit talk of female garments including detailed explanation of "chastity belt" used in Middle Ages. Explicit female anatomy, living together, negiah.   |
|                  | Greene, Constance C. | Double Dare O'Toole                                   |       | N   | A boy can't stop himself from accepting dares. Chutzpah, profanity, romantic negiah, inappropriate discussions, definitions of inappropriate words.   |
|                  | Greene, Constance C. | I and Sproggy   | 4-6   | N?  | Boy deals with accepting new stepmother and stepsister. Language - "you little faggot" once. Lots of realistic focus on divorce and new families. Bad middos which improve at end.  |
|                  | Greene, Constance C. | Your Old Pal Al                                       |       | N   | Preteen deals with 2 very different friends. Sister lives with guys because doesn't believe in marriage - stated very clearly. Negiah, boy/girl, etc.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                      | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Greene, Stephanie           | Sophie Hartley On Strike                                      |       | N   | Children protest doing jobs around the house by going on strike. Bathroom humor, women's undergarments, boy/girl, chutzpah, bad middos, etc. as seen through the eyes of a 9 year old. Although may seem humorous to older children, the intended age group will see it as attractively "naughty". Lots of TV watching, movies. 9 year old wishes she could get a tattoo. Language- dumb, shut up, dummy. |
|                  | Greenfield, Eloise          | Talk About Family   | 2-3   | N?  | Black girl deals with parents fighting and father moving out; realizes there are "all different types of families". Might be somewhat useful for children of divorce; otherwise not much redeeming value.   |
|                  | Greenwald, Sheila           | Alvin Webster's Surefire Plan for Success (and how it failed) | 3-5   | OK  | A smart boy learns his priorities are wrong from an average student he is tutoring.   |
|                  | Greenwald, Sheila           | Give us a Great Big Smile, Rosy Cole                          | 2-3   | OK? | Girl with no musical talent is subject of book by uncle. Drawings of girl in leotard. Adults hold hands: p 58   |
|                  | Greenwald, Sheila           | Rosy Cole Discovers America                                   | 2-3   | OK? | A girl (who seems Jewish, though never stated explicitly) attends a private school with rich WASP girls. Comes to grips with her own poor immigrant heritage. Lots of talk of debutante balls and high society.   |
|                  | Greenwald, Sheila           | Rosy Cole's Great American Guilt Club                         | 2-3   | N?  | Girl tries to keep up with rich girls by begging parents for designer jeans and pretending she has a country house. Lots of emphasis on gashmiyus though ends with girl appreciating what she has. Mention of X-mas presents under tree.  |
|                  | Greenwald, Sheila           | The Secret Museum   | 3-5   | OK  | Girls turn abandoned playhouse into a museum. Rationalize that it's OK to use someone else's property to make money. Mother forces them to ask permission from owners.  |
|                  | Greenwald, Sheila           | Write On Rosy (A Young Author In Crisis)                      | 3-5   | N?  | A girl wants to be an investigative reporter and decides to write a book about her principal. She spies on her and draws completely erroneous conclusions about what she sees. Sees principal romantically kissing a man (illustrated) who girl thinks is her adopted son- turns out to be principal's husband.(P79) Girls like to discuss TV shows, Mentions of movies. Girl wants to star in movie.     |
|                  | Greenwald, Tommy            | Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading                    |       | N   | A boy hates to read. Tons of boy/girl issues.   |
|                  | Greer, Gery and Bob Ruddick | Let Me Off This Spaceship                                     | 2-3   | OK  | Boys are accidentally brought into an alien spaceship and make a lot of funny and silly trouble so the commander will decide he is fed up with them and will allow them to return to Earth. Language: twerp   |
|                  | Greer, Gery and Bob Ruddick | Max and Me (all)  |       | N   |   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                      | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Greer, Gery and Bob Ruddick | This Island Isn't Big Enough For the Four of Us | 4-6   | N?   | 2 boys camp on island - get into battle of the genders with 2 girls also camping on island. Minor non-romantic negiah, but lots of emphasis on boy vs. girl   |
|                  | Gregory, Kristiana          | Jenny of the Tetons                             |       | N    | A pioneer girl loses her family in an Indian attack and goes to live with a white man and his Indian wife. A lot of detailed affection between husband and wife, complete comfort with nudity, romantic negiah between girl and man she will eventually marry. Language: dammit, son of a bitch, damned, bloody 'ell  |
|                  | Gregory, Kristiana          | The Stowaway                                    | 4-6   | OK?  | Historical fiction. Boy accidentally stows away on pirate ship. Violence  |
|                  | Griffin, Adele              | Witch Twins                                     | 3-5   | OK?? | Witch twins try to ruin divorced father's wedding. Learn lesson in end.   |
|                  | Griffin, Adele              | Witch Twins and the Ghost of Glenn Bly          | 3-5   | N?   | 2 girl witches go with their grandparents to Scotland to help with a haunted castle. One word mention of Halloween. Name calling between siblings - looney goon, stinky ugly, creepy, ickey. Language - shut up, nitwits, drat, blasted, darn, dimwit, creeps.  |
|                  | Griffith                    | The Ghost in the Bleachers                      |       | N    | Language, Devil   |
|                  | Griggs, Terry               | Cat's Eye Corner                                | 5+    | N?   | An unusual story about a boy who spends the summer with his grandfather and his third wife in a magical house and has mildly interesting adventures. The focus of the book is word play - puns, double meaning, tongue in cheek, etc. Perfect for fans of "Phantom Toll Booth" who enjoy word play more than exciting plot. Unfortunately, lots of minor language - goldarn, heck, stupid, blasted, nerdy, drat, weird. Many book titles mentioned but not story lines. |
|                  | Grimes, Lee                 | Fortune Cookie Castle                           | 3-5   | OK?  | boy and girl visit enchanted castle. Forced to help wizard find stolen crystal ball. Minor sidestory of romance between knight and princess. Minor negiah.  |
|                  | Gripe, Maria                | The Glassblower's Children                      | 4-6   | OK   | Strange story of 2 children who are kidnapped by an odd wealthy couple and are saved by a witch. Somewhat scary, pretty pointless.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                  | grade |    |  |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-------|----|--|
|                  | Grisham, John       | Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer             | 6-8   | N? | An eighth grade boy often helps schoolmates and their families with legal problems. He becomes fascinated with a murder trial and ends up holding key evidence that will convict the killer. Issues of homelessness, murder, wife abuse and divorce dealt with in detail but with great sensitivity. Trial and court procedure described in great detail A few mentions of a girl he is friendly with sitting closely with knees touching but "won't admit" to having a girlfriend at age 13. In school classes are separate but in halls there is "awkward flirting" boy has crush on married woman and enjoys staring at her but she treats him "like a cute little puppy". A minor character is "very cute and likes to flirt" and "changes boyfriends every month" when she asks boy to help her he gets distracted "because she is sitting very close" and put her hand "around his elbow". Boy's uncle lies that he has a funeral so he can get out of school. Minor language: shut up, moron (once each). |
|                  | Gruelle, Johnny     | The Magical Land of Noom               | 2-4   | OK | An old fashioned style fantasy about children who fly in a soapbox to the moon and have adventures.  |
|                  | Guest, Elissa Haden | Iris and Walter and the Birthday Party | 1-2   | OK | A boy's horse gives birth to a foal at his birthday party.   |
| new              | Gundisch, Karin     | How I Became An American               |       | N  | German immigrant boy adjusts to America (early 1900s). Teenage girls sneak to dance hall without parents permission- description of coed dance, put dog fat on their lips so boys would want to kiss them, boy hears couple leave dance hall and kiss- boy hears them breathing heavily. Pregnant woman confesses that the baby's father is the farmer she works for as a housemaid. Boy dances with girl and feels "heat" in his body where he touched her. Girl's uncle became rich panning for gold but then "drunk up his money" and died "as poor as a church mouse". Xmas- dinner, tree, santa claus,slaughter a pig. Confess to preacher, rosaries (not explained), say grace at the table, Detailed description of killing a chicken   |
|                  | Gutman, Dan         | Mickey and Me                          |       | N  | Extremely unacceptable - others by author are probably not good  |
|                  | Gutman, Dan         | My Weirder School (series)             |       | N  | Entire series problematic - tremendously bad middos, language, chutzpah, etc.  |
|                  | Gutman, Dan         | Nightmare at the Book Fair             | 3-4   | N? | Boy keeps finding himself in stereotypical book-type scenarios. Beautiful girl appears in several. Group of girls discuss boys.  |
|                  | Gutman, Dan         | Shoeless Joe and Me                    |       | N  | boy sees baseball player's wife naked  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title                               | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Gutman, Dan               | The Homework Machine                |       | N    | A "nerdy" boy genius invents a homework machine and a few of his classmates convince him to let them use it. Language: darn, creep, dweeb, mutant, dork, jerk, sucks, freaking, suckers. Description of fifth grade girl with body piercings and dyed pink hair, and fifth grade boy with long hair. Lots of internet usage, especially chatrooms. Boy/girl - kids going out in fifth grade, holding hands, Valentine's cards,. Preview of book "Getting Air" - boy has crush on pretty stewardess, language: dork, butt, crap - pretty good assumption it's also not acceptable. |
|                  | Gutman, Dan               | The Kid who Became President        | 4-5   | N?   | Lots of comments about gorgeous "first lady" (girl from "president's" class). 2 adults caught kissing. Very adolescent humor.   |
|                  | Gutman, Dan               | The Kid Who Ran For President       | 4-5   | N?   | Boy runs for president of US. Discussion of "First Babe" - gorgeous snobby girl. Juvenile name calling and language. Passing mention of teen pregnancy.   |
|                  | Gutman, Dan               | The Million Dollar Goal             |       | N    | Bodily functions, language, chutzpah, inappropriate descriptions.   |
|                  | Gutman, Dan               | The Talent Show                     |       | N    | A town devastated by a tornado stages a talent show as a fundraiser. A lot of popular culture including TV, shows, movies, celebrities, music, computers, commercials, Broadway shows, etc. Detailed lyrics to an inappropriate song and clear explanation of them. Kids purposely don't listen to adult's rules because want to be "rebels" because this is what rock stars do. Middos between children. Somewhat dysfunctional parents.   |
|                  | Haas, Dorothy             | Burton's Zoom, Zoom Va-room Machine | 3-5   | OK   | Absent-minded boy inventor invents a flying skateboard and comes to appreciate teacher.   |
|                  | Haas, Dorothy             | Peanut Butter & Jelly Forever #2    | 2-3   | OK?  | 1 sentence about liking boys. Illustration of girl in bathrobe and rock star on wall  |
|                  | Haas, Dorothy             | The Bears Upstairs                  | 3-5   | OK?  | a girl befriends bears trying to escape captivity and helps them escape to another planet. Side-story of mother who spends time with man daughter hates - afraid she will marry him. Mom explains it's just platonic because grownups need friends too.   |
|                  | Haas, Dorothy             | Tink in a Tangle                    | 3-5   | OK?? | a girl keeps getting into scrapes until she learns to think things through. Mom a beautician; a lot of that culture mentioned. Girl wants boy to like her but he never does; relatively innocent.   |
|                  | Haas, Jessie              | Beware the Mare                     | 2-4   | OK   | Cute story. A girl figures out why her pony has such a scary name.  |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Among the Barons                    | 6-8   | OK?? | Continuation of Among the Hidden. A third child meets his alias' real family and tries to sort out friends and enemies. P. 52 - boy tells about finding servants kissing in a garage - easy to cross out.   |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Among the Betrayed                  |       | N    | Third book in a series. Girl is arrested and escapes with other children. Many references from previous book to a boy kissing a girl and her falling in love with him. He held her hand, nuzzled her neck, etc.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title                                   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Among the Brave                         | 6-8   | OK?  | Continuation of Among the Hidden. Third children infiltrate the population police. P. 24 - boy marvels at pretty woman who has "curves" - he blushes.  |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Among the Enemy                         | 6-8   | N?   | Continuation of series. Children infiltrate population police and plot to foil their evil plan. Mention of girl flirting. When boy and girl are caught plotting in a dark walk-in freezer, people think they went there to kiss; they play along. Affectionate hug.  |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Among the Hidden                        | 6-8   | OK?  | Series is set in future where having more than 2 children is punishable by death. A third child meets another and has to decide if he wants to remain hidden or try to live a normal life. Lots of vague mentions of child being unexpected, about government forcing abortions, about doctors "fixing it" so won't have more children, mother wanted to name kids Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John but not explained. Page 7: bra uncomfortable item of clothing. Non-romantic negiah. This series may raise questions about birth control in child's mind. |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Among the Imposters                     | 6-8   | OK?? | Continuation of Among the Hidden. One sentence about boy drawing picture of naked girl - can be torn out.  |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Because of Anya                         | 5-7   | OK?  | A young girl with alopecia areata - a non-dangerous disease that causes hair to fall out - copes by wearing a wig to school. Class speculates that she has cancer and is dying. May be frightening for a very sensitive child. Her parents discuss if should or shouldn't have another baby.   |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Claim to Fame                           |       | N    | A former child TV star copes with the death of their father, and with finding out she can hear voices of people talking about her thousands of miles away, and with finding out her mother is in a mental asylum for the same reason, and that her grandfather is in jail. A lot of TV and teen culture, boy/girl, puberty, suspects teen is pregnant, drugs, cheating, prostitutes, affairs, language, etc.   |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Dexter the Tough                        | 3-5   | OK?  | Illness of parent: A boy stays with his grandmother while his father is having chemo treatments. Deals with anger by hurting another child but later regrets it. Teacher helps him come to grips with feelings by encouraging him to write about it. May be frightening for a child who hasn't experienced parent's serious illness, but excellent for one who has.  |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Don't You Dare Read This, Mrs. Dunphrey |       | N    | girl tries to cope with dysfunctional mom and abusive dad who eventually abandon the family. Girl tries to care for her younger brother alone. Lots of boy/girl and teen culture including teen pregnancy.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title                                      | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
| chg              | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Running Out of Time                        | 6-8   | OK? | A girl grows up in an historical restoration village and thinks it's reality, until she needs to go out into the real world to save her sister's life. Very original plot. A few minor mentions of older sister being in love. Girl changes into modern jeans and comments about how much freer she feels. 2 drunk boys accost the girl.  |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Say What?                                  | 2-4   | N?  | A clever humorous book with a big kibbud av v'em problem. Parents try to use a new parenting strategy from a magazine and kids figure it out and "wage war" by responding in kind. In the end sign a "peace treaty" and try to do better. Kids "make" parents promise not to yell so much or say such "boring" things. Running joke about picking nose. Minor middos between siblings. Language - weird, shut up, stupid.     |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | The Missing - Book 1: Found                | 6-9   | N?  | Story about a group of 13 year olds who were stolen from other times and were accidentally left in modern time, who are trying to keep from being sent back to their original time. A lot of juvenile/teen language and culture - stupid, screw up, morons, chicks, weird, hottie, jock, freaking out, bummed out, jerk, holy crap,. Boy/girl crushes. Boy speaks negatively about adoptive parents. Talk about Neanderthals. |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | The Missing - Book 3 Sabotaged             | 6-8   | N?  | Children go back in time to the lost colony of Roanoke in the sixteenth century. Similar issues to other books in this series.  |
|                  | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | The Missing-Book 2 - Sent                  | 6-9   | N?  | Kids go back to medieval England to try to fix history and save their friend. Girl tells boy she wants to be his girlfriend, tells him he is "hot", gives timid kiss.   |
|                  | Hahn, Mary Downing        | Following the Mystery Man                  |       | N   | Illegitimacy discussed a lot, romantic negiah   |
|                  | Hahn, Mary Downing        | Stepping on the Cracks                     | 4-6   | N?  | 2 girls help a deserter from WWII survive. Come to grips with a young soldier's death as well as the violent abuse of a classmate by his father. One mention of boys discussing which "pinup" they like the best. Lots of examples of physical abuse. Needs adult guidance and support.   |
|                  | Hale, Bruce               | Chet Gecko Mystery - Trouble is my Beeswax | 3-5   | N?  | Grade school detective cracks a cheating ring. Same issues as other books in this series.   |
|                  | Hale, Bruce               | Chet Gecko Mystery: Farewell, my Lunchbag  |       | N   | unrefined description of negiah; might go over kids' heads  |
|                  | Hale, Bruce               | Chet Gecko Mystery: Key Lardo              |       | N   | Grade school detective rescues rival detective. Same issues as some of the other books, plus very juvenile boy/girl crushes and flirting.   |
|                  | Hale, Bruce               | Chet Gecko Mystery: Mystery of Mr. Nice    | 3-5   | N?  | Minor language. Others in series are inappropriate.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |    |  |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|----|--|
|                  | Hale, Bruce   | Chet Gecko Mystery: the Big Nap                   | 3-5   | N? | Grade school detective tries to find out who is turning students into zombies. Lots of slang and juvenile behavior, eg spitballs, food fights, body odor humor. Juvenile flirting. Minor language: dumb, stinks, drat, jerk, heck, darn, butt.   |
|                  | Hale, Bruce   | Chet Gecko Mystery: The Possum Always Rings Twice | 3-5   | N? | Grade school detective tries to find out who is threatening a candidate in the student council election. Tongue in cheek humor, very unrefined juvenile bathroom humor and language and slang.   |
|                  | Hale, Bruce   | Chet Gecko Mystery: This Gum for Hire             |       | N  |  |
|                  | Hale, Bruce   | Chet Gecko Mystery: The Chameleon wore Chartreuse |       | N  |  |
|                  | Hale, Marian  | Dark Water Rising                                 | 6-8   | N? | Boy and family live through massive flooding in Texas town - based on historical events. Mild boy/girl; affectionate negiah.   |
|                  | Hale, Nick    | Striker Series                                    |       | N  | Boy helps his secret agent father capture criminals. Frequent and serious language, violence, boy/girl.  |
| new              | Hale, Shannon | Dangerous   |       | N  | Junior high age children get implanted with alien technology and need to save the world. Frequent, intense negiah. Language.   |
|                  | Hale, Shannon | Princess Academy                                  |       | N  | A girl from a poor rock mining town gets an education and a chance to marry a prince. Lots of boy/girl, negiah, dance described in detail.   |
| new              | Hale, Shannon | Spirit Animals Book 4 Fire and Ice                | 5-7   | N? | 2 teenage boys and 2 teenage girls have adventures while trying to save their land. A lot of magic including "spirit animals" who look like a tatoos but can be made real. Many mentions of boy/ girl, a few instances of not so accidental romantic negiah and many of affectionate but not quite romantic negiah. A lot of violence. Language- weird, stupid |
|                  | Hale, Shannon | The Goose Girl                                    |       | N  | A princess is sent away to marry a foreign prince she has never met. Her lady in waiting stages a rebellion and poses as the real princess. Intense boy-girl and romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Hall, Lynn    | Murder at the Spaniel Show                        |       | N  | violence, coarseness, dishonesty, a dance, hints of infidelity   |
|                  | Hall, Lynn    | Wild Mustang (orig. title: A Horse Called Dragon) | 4-6   | OK | Written from horse's point of view. Wild horse is captured and sold  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                     | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Hall, Teri          | The Line                                  |       | N    | After U.S. becomes a police state, girl and her mother live on remote property and try to help people in forbidden territory. Mother tries to explain to daughter about Adult Love - daughter laughs because she has already seen TV series called "Adult Love" - not explained. Girl's mother's employer tells them she was never married but fell in love with man from forbidden territory and had his child. Girl thinks her mother controls her internet access because she is afraid she will stumble on a porn site. At end of book, girl meets 2 boys in forbidden territory - no problem yet but may develop in later books. |
|                  | Hallowel, Tommy     | Alden All Stars - Last Chance Quarterback | 4-6   | OK   | Sports book of Matt Christopher type  |
|                  | Hallquist, Britt G. | Bettina's Secret                          | 3-5   | OK   | a girl is lonely in hospital with broken leg until a mysterious nurse visits her at night.  |
|                  | Hamilton, Richard   | Cal and the Amazing Anti-Gravity Machine  | 3-5   | OK?? | Boy helps eccentric neighbor with inventions and learns that gravity is important. Strange story, somewhat humorous. Boy's mom upset with noisy neighbor early in the morning - calls him a "horrible, inconsiderate, idiotic, old caveman". Minor language: idiotic, stupid.   |
|                  | Hamilton, Virginia  | M.C. Higgins, The Great                   |       | N    | A black boy who lives on a mountain surrounded by strip mines, tries to help his family escape a possible collapse of their mountain. A lot of boy/girl, minor romantic negiah, mixed swimming, a song about hugging and kissing a girl who might marry a boy. Graphic descriptions of skinning an animal. Minor language: Dude, danged. Entire book is very earthy, descriptive, and a bit gritty.   |
|                  | Hamilton, Virginia  | The House of Dies Drear                   | 6-8   | OK   | Black family moves into house used for underground railroad. Discussion of prejudice  |
|                  | Hamilton, Virginia  | The Planet of Junior Brown                | 8+    | N?   | A homeless boy takes care of younger homeless children and befriends a spoiled boy who seems to have some sort of mental illness. Very heavy, very gritty and somewhat strange. Boys cut school, rob to survive, smoke, etc. Nonreligious mention of halloween and xmas. Go to the movies. Language-weird, hell (once), JC (twice as a curse), damn it all (once), darn (once).   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                               | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
| new              | Hanlon, Abby           | Dory Fantasmagory                   | 2+    | N?   | An imaginative youngest sister tries to get her older siblings to play with her, but they think she is too much of a baby. Says bathroom words to make them laugh (illustration of her saying bathroom words includes random symbols to represent the words) One sentence mention of Halloween candy. Girl has difficulty distinguishing between fantasy and reality (and so may young readers)- she imagines a bad lady coming to get her, imagines monsters all over including a toilet monster, and has an imaginary friend. Cartoonish illustration of girl on the toilet, boy in his underwear, girl having temper tantrum in the underwear. typical middos between siblings. Language- stupid, weird, heck (pg 34), shut up, gross, butt |
|                  | Hardinge, Frances      | Fly By Night                        |       | N    | A complicated book with many layers. The basic plot is an orphaned girl teams up with a swindler and saves everyone from the bad guys. The deeper levels deal with freedom of speech and religion and questions if any religion is authentic. Lots of discussion potential but conclusions likely to be apikorsus. An important setting is a "marriage house" where people come to get married when they can't in church, e.g. woman who is already pregnant, bigamists, drunkards, etc.   |
|                  | Hardinge, Frances      | The Lost Conspiracy                 | 6-9   | OK?? | Fantasy. Girl tries to save her sister, who is rumored to be a prophetess. Legendary story of "husband" and "wife" volcanoes, wife is "with" another volcano. Ancestor and nature worship. Friendly non-romantic negiah. Language: hell, damn. Some violence. Passing mention of boy 'in love' with older woman - used as comic relief as he tries to offend people so that they will harm him, so that he can take revenge and join her group of avengers.  |
|                  | Hardy, Janice          | The Healing Wars Book III Darkfall  |       | N    | Teens save their country from an evil duke. A lot of boy/girl and a lot of romantic negiah. It's a pretty safe assumption that the other books in this series are also inappropriate.  |
|                  | Harlow, Joan Hiatt     | Thunder from the Sea                |       | N    | A boy is adopted by a fisherman and his wife and is brought to live on an isolated island. Lots of Christianity - hashkafa issues.   |
|                  | Harper, Charisa Meride | Fashion Kitty and the Unlikely Hero | 3-5   | N?   | Comic-book style novel. A girl cat turns into a superhero who helps people having a "fashion emergency". When her anti fashion school principal institutes uniforms, kids rebel - eventually win principal over. Very shallow values - opposite of what we want to teach.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Harper, Charise Mericle | Fashion Kitty is the Fashion Queen                 | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl cat superhero confronts a girl cat who tries to dictate how others dress. One girl is so desperate to be in fashion she steals money from mother's wallet to buy a hat - the superhero confronts her and explains why she is wrong. Parental discretion needed - although there is a lot focus on fashion, it has moral and may be helpful for reluctant readers   |
|                  | Harper, Suzanne         | The Unseen World of Poppy Malone: A Gust of Ghosts | 3-5   | OK?  | Siblings find ghosts and accidentally invite them to their home. Minor language: darn (once). Drawing of woman in spaghetti-strap shirt in corner of front cover.   |
|                  | Harrell, Beatrice O.    | Long Walker's Journey                              | 4-6   | OK?  | Historical fiction; Indians forced walk to Indian Territory, death & sickness, talk of Christian religion vs. Indian religion (most kids will probably skip it)   |
|                  | Harrison, Michelle      | 13 Treasures                                       | 5-7   | N?   | A girls and boy try to rescue a girl from vicious fairies. Somewhat disturbing book describing how fairies kidnap babies and switch them for fairy babies and do other cruel tricks. A lot of magic. Girl tells boy to put his arm around her to confuse fairies - he responds "this is not time for a cuddle" Language: idiot, shut up, hell, stupid.  |
| new              | Harrison, Paula         | The Rescue Princesses- The Ice Diamond #10         | 2-3   | OK?  | Note on Series- young princesses form a group to rescue animals in trouble. Often use magical jewels. Love using "ninja moves" so they can sneak around and no one will see them. A lot of sneaking out without permission, but always for good cause. Many illustrations of very young princesses wearing sleeveless gowns- not provocative. Many mentions of coed balls and banquets, but very innocent. In this book Young princesses stop construction in a wildlife zone and rescue a snow leopard cub. Illustrations of princesses wearing leggings and t shirts. Language- creepy. |
| new              | Harrison, Paula         | The Rescue Princesses- The Lost Gold #7            | 2-3   | OK?  | Young princesses save a baby monkey and stop treasure hunters from cutting down trees in the rainforest. Illustrations of princesses in sleeveless gowns and tshirts and leggings.  |
| new              | Harrison, Paula         | The Rescue Princesses- The Magic Rings #6          | 2-3   | OK?? | Young princesses take over their older sisters' club to rescue animals in danger. Main setting of the story is a dance festival- very juvenile mixed dancing, suggestion that princes and princesses create a dance and hold hands as they dance together (they refuse), juvenile performance of dances before mixed audience. Girls make up a "hip hop" dance. Mentions of jazz, boogie, pop music, etc. Cartoonish illustrations of princesses in sleeveless gowns.   |
| new              | Harrison, Paula         | The Rescue Princesses- The Moonlight Mystery #3    | 2-3   | OK?  | Princesses locate stolen lion cubs. As other books in this series black and white illustrations of young girls wearing sleeveless. Princesses parents want her to be nice to a visiting prince. She finds him "annoying" though eventually thinks he is "nice". No romance at all.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---|-------|------|---|
| new              | Harrison, Paula | The Rescue Princesses- The Rainbow Opal #11     | 2-3   | OK?  | Princesses use a magic jewel to heal a sick koala cub. TV.  |
| new              | Harrison, Paula | The Rescue Princesses- The Secret Promise #1    | 2-3   | OK?? | First book in series. Princesses form a club to rescue animals in danger. Illustrations of them wearing sleeveless gowns. Princesses arrive at a ball where they will be presented to the royalty. At ball prince asks princess to dance. She says no. Princes challenge princesses to a race. Relatively innocent. Change from gowns to pants because they are easier to climb in. |
| new              | Harrison, Paula | The Rescue Princesses- The Shimmering Stone #8  | 2-3   | OK?  | Young Princesses rescue tiger cubs whose mother was wounded. One sentence mention that groom danced with bride at wedding.  |
| new              | Harrison, Paula | The Rescue Princesses- The Silver Locket #9     | 2-3   | OK?  | Young princesses rescue a kidnapped dog and capture a burglar. One sentence mention of dancing at a ball- no description.   |
| new              | Harrison, Paula | The Rescue Princesses- The Snow Jewel #5        | 2-3   | OK?  | Princesses help find an escaped kitten. This takes place during the "winter holidays" which are never mentioned by name. Table is decorated with sprigs of holly. Brief mention that girl's mother died when she was a baby.  |
| new              | Harrison, Paula | The Rescue Princesses- The Stolen Crystals # 10 | 2-3   | OK?  | Young Princesses prevent the theft of magical crystals and preserve the panda's homes. Illustrations of princesses in sleeveless dresses.   |
| new              | Harrison, Paula | The Rescue Princesses- The Wishing Pearl #2     | 2-3   | OK?? | Princesses rescue an injured dolphin and find a treasure. One word mention of a ball, brief mention that kings and queens dance after dinner. Girls sneak away so they don't have to help. Brief mention that they are friendly with boys (no romance). Black and white cartoonish illustrations of young girl in nonprovacative bathing suit and sleeveless gowns..                |
|                  | Hart, Allison   | Rescue - a Police Story                         | 3-4   | OK   | real-life police action; threats, minor violence  |
|                  | Hart, Sharon M. | Animal Rescue Farm - Animal Orphans             | 2-4   | OK?  | Children help grandparents care for wild animals. Occasional mention of nature as its own force but very minor and will probably go over children's heads.  |
|                  | Hass, E.A       | Incognito Mosquito Flies Again                  | 4-6   | N?   | Lots of puns, very tongue in cheek. A little negiah - will go over head of child who doesn't get puns.  |
|                  | Hausman, Gerald | Doctor Moledinky's Castle - A Hometown Tale     |       | N    | Boys have unusual adventures. A lot of language and inappropriate references.   |
|                  | Hautzig, Esther | A Gift for Mama                                 | 2-4   | N?   | Very assimilated Jewish family in Poland described in detail. Only with adult guidance  |
|                  | Haven, Paul     | The Seven Keys of Balabad                       | 4-7   | OK?? | American boy whose father is assigned as reporter in poor Arab country. With 2 friends, a wealthy Arab and a beautiful girl, they disobey parents and put themselves in danger, to save national treasure from dishonest archaeologist. Passing mentions of boys noticing girl's looks, perfume, non-romantic hand on arm - but seem to be just friends.                            |
|                  | Haven, Paul     | Two Hot Dogs With Everything                    | 3-6   | OK?? | Boy brings good luck to baseball team. Juvenile language: butt, jerk, hell. Passing mention of older brother's date.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Havill            | Leona and Ike   |       | N?   | Divorce   |
|                  | Hawes, Louise     | Tales from the Cafeteria - Things that Go Bump in your Soup |       | N    | Much more blatant chutzpah than last book. Boy/girl more obvious.   |
|                  | Hawes, Louise     | Tales from the Cafeteria - Spaghetti & Spooks               | 4-6   | OK?? | Ghosts appear at school. Children help them to relive original Thanksgiving. Boy/girl innuendos between ghosts & children. Some chutzpah - refer to principal as "gabby Greg" because he likes to talk a lot. Even teachers make fun of him.  |
|                  | Haydon, Elizabeth | The Floating Island   | 6-8   | OK?  | A boy helps avert evil that is attacking an inn owned by a kind couple. Lots of magic. Strange story of how the Creator made the world. Language: freak, stupid, pig headed, fanny, heck, brat. Very minor crush boy has on cook - calls her "kitchen goddess"                              |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | B is for Betsy  | 2-3   | OK   | Betsy starts first grade. Mention that Thanksgiving is when pilgrims thanked G-d.   |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Betsy and Billy   | 2-3   | OK?? | Betsy starts second grade. Dressing up for Halloween party in school. Description of Santa Claus collecting money in a kettle and asking children what they want for X-mas in a store. P. 57 (Chapter 5) - 6 lines of Silent Night - talks about Virgin Mother and child. Can cross it out. |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Betsy and the Boys  | 2-3   | OK?  | Betsy wants to join the boys football team, but when she does she quickly changes to new interests. One whole chapter about x-mas party and play and one chapter about giving valentines, but no heavy religion in either.  |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Betsy and the Circus  | 2-3   | OK?  | Betsy befriends a circus child and learns it's OK to have more than 1 friend. Easter eggs but no religious discussion   |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Betsy's Little Star   | 2-3   | OK?  | Star wants to go to kindergarten and can't wait till she's old enough. Description of X-mas pageant but not overdone.   |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Danny's Green thumb   | 2-3   | OK   | Children learn about gardening and hard work and make a stand to sell home-grown vegetables.  |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Eddie's Friend Boodles                                      | 2-4   | OK   | Boys try to train dog to do circus tricks. Discuss the difference between a lie and a "funzie" that is a made up story that is OK to tell since both parties know it's not true.  |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Eddie's Happenings  | 2-4   | OK   | Eddie befriends a boy who likes to make up stories. Helps him realize he shouldn't lie. Minor name calling. Holiday shopping but no religious discussion.   |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Eddie's Valuable Property                                   | 2-4   | OK   | Eddie moves and has adventures with his new friends.  |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Happy birthday from Carolyn Haywood                         | 2-3   | OK?  | Each chapter about a different child's birthday. One is Easter but not detailed. One is sad when boy's dog dies on his birthday.  |
|                  | Haywood, Carolyn  | Hello Star  | 2-3   | OK?  | Star goes to grandparents' farm and befriends swans and raccoons. Mention of reason named Star - because born on Xmas   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                         | Title                         | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Hearne, Betsy                  | Eliza's Dog                   |       | N   | A girl finally gets a dog after a good deal of calculated nagging. Other bad middos as well. Mention of evolution. Girl loves TV and constantly argues with parents to allow her to watch more of it. Doesn't enjoy movie on the plane because there is too much kissing. Calls After School Sports by acronym (ASS) and when mom says don't be crude, she says it means a donkey. A whole section on Queen Elizabeth's relationship with Catholics. Mention females have bosoms. Minor language: gross, pest, twerp, stoned, stupid, pig, freak, etc.  |
|                  | Heide, Florence P.             | Banana Twist                  | 4-6   | OK? | Strange story about a boy who wants to get accepted to a boarding school where he will be allowed to nosh, since his parents don't let him. Nothing really bad - it's mostly silly but explicitly states that he wants to get away from his parents' rules. He lies a lot - but of the tall tale variety.   |
|                  | Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne | Brillstone Break-in           | 3-5   | OK  | Boy and girl solve mystery of a robbery   |
|                  | Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne | Face at Brillstone Windows    |       | N   | Lots of boy/girl romance  |
|                  | Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne | Fear at Brillstone            | 3-5   | OK? | Boy and girl uncover mystery of who is robbing a fancy store. Mention of her being his girlfriend but nothing romantic.   |
|                  | Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne | Growing Anyway up             | 5-7   | OK? | very strange coming of age story. Girl does strange rituals, mom dates and remarries  |
|                  | Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne | Mystery of the Mummy's Mask   | 3-5   | OK  | Children solve mystery of valuable mummy's mask and uncover a smuggling ring.   |
|                  | Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne | Mystery at Southport Cinema   | 3-5   | OK? | girl dresses up as teenager with slacks, heels, jewelry and makeup  |
|                  | Heide, Florence P. and Roxanne | Mystery of the Lonely Lantern | 3-6   | OK? | mention of Halloween but no religious discussion  |
|                  | Heinlein, Robert               | Time For The Stars            |       | N   | Twins sign up for an experimental program where one goes into outer space and communicates with the other through mental telepathy. A lot of boy/girl including dating in high school, flirting, dreams of kissing girl good night, one kiss described in detail (chapter x p132-133). Many mentions of population control- the twins father needs to pay a special tax because he has too many children. Non religious mention of Santa Claus. Old man had a "saintliness" like a deacon in a church. Mentions of watching TV. Discussion if aliens exist. Language-hell, darn, doggone it, stupid, shut up, freaks, sard head, brats, idiot, moron. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                            | grade |     |  |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Heinlein, Robert A. | Space Cadet                      | 6-8   | N?  | Futuristic novel of training of boy who serves in (all-male) Space Patrol. Frequent mentions of girls, usually in the sense of them not being present but boys wishing they were. One appearance of scantily clad "older" woman who boys try to pick up but she turns them down.   |
|                  | Helgerson, Joseph   | Horns and Wrinkles               | 5-7   | OK  | Strange fantasy about a small town where trolls cause havoc and fairies help humans. Lots of good guy vs. bad guy violence. Bully gets what he deserves. Genuine acts of kindness reverse bad spells.  |
|                  | Hemingway, Ernest   | The Old Man and the Sea          |       | C   | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Henkes, Kevin       | Protecting Marie                 | 7+    | N?  | Fascinating book written from a 12 year old child's perspective who has difficulty relating to perfectionist artist father and finds him scary and confusing but from adult's perspective he is perfectly normal. Mild boy/girl: boy calls on phone, imagines boy secretly in love with her and will kiss her (p 136). Mom says can start dating at 14. Father doesn't believe in G-d. College students with pierced lips and nose, "students folded together their faces concealed, kissing " (p. 86), wonders when she will develop (p. 144), mentions parents kissing, cuddling. Language: hell, damn it, pee.  |
|                  | Henkes, Kevin       | The Birthday Room                |       | N   | A 12 year old and his mom go to visit his uncle after many years of no contact between them, after an accident in the uncle's workshop that cut off the boy's finger. Language: damn, spaz, stupid, heck. Boys plan a practical joke with "plastic turds in a realistic puddle of vomit" Minor chutzpah which is uncorrected by parents (p. 44). Juvenile boy/girl, boy notices girl's belly button, romantic hand holding. A lot about aunt's pregnancy - he feels her stomach, he watches them encourage baby to move from breech position by putting lights and music on her stomach, describes her pants pulled down and her flesh showing. Grandfather doesn't want to cut down a dead tree because it is the first place he kissed the grandmother. Non-religious mention of Xmas. |
|                  | Henkes, Kevin       | Two Under Par                    |       | N   | Boy deals with remarriage of mother. Father left before he was born; mother mentions that she had "never had a husband". Friend tells him his mother only remarried because she is pregnant; it turns out she is.  |
|                  | Henry, Marguerite   | Brown Sunshine of Sawdust Valley | 3-5   | OK? | Girl gets horse who unexpectedly gives birth to mule, who is her favorite pet. Some speculation as to who 'father' was. Could cause some confusion - probably would be overlooked.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                             | Title                                   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Henry, Marguerite                  | King of the Wind                        | 4-6   | OK?? | The story of a horse from Morocco that ends up siring prize winning horses in England. Biggest issue is the dwelling on horses mating and which horse is the father of a colt. The process is not described but the idea might get kids thinking e.g. p152-155 and pg 164. Some minor Muslim religion, mention of Allah is great etc. Unsourced quote from the Bible-p112. Name of earl's estate is called GogMagog- no explanation. Detailed description of mistreatment of animals and of a poor boy.   |
|                  | Henry, Marguerite                  | Stormy, Misty's Foal                    | 4-6   | OK?  | Children raise a famous movie star pony on island devastated by storm. 1 hymn about J--- calling him savior - most kids will skip it. Horse birth announcement said - "baby out of Misty" (mother) "by Wings" (father)  |
|                  | Herman, Charlotte                  | My Chocolate Year                       | 5-7   | OK?  | A Jewish American girl during WWII awaits her cousin who survived the Holocaust, while trying to win a cooking contest in her public school. Jewish content relatively accurate but includes a clear portrayal of chillul shabbos (typical for that era). Nazi crimes mentioned but not super detailed. a few mentions of movies and idolizing movie stars. Aunt gets ready for a date, asks if dress makes her "tush" stick out". Parents tell kids they met at a party. Description of a holiday party at school where sing jingle bells. At wedding girl dances with boy cousin. |
|                  | Herman, Charlotte                  | The House on Walenska Street            | 2-4   | OK   | Jewish family in pre-war Poland. Nicely done.   |
|                  | Herman, Gail                       | Apollo 13 Space Race                    | 2-3   | OK   | Non-fiction. Describes space race between Russia and US. A bit scary - describes Apollo 13 difficult and dangerous mission.   |
|                  | Herman, Gail                       | Disney Fairies - Fira and the Full Moon | 2-3   | OK?  | A fairy has to keep tabs on mischievous triplet fairies while at the same time organizing replacements for sick lightening bugs. Illustrations of fairies in sleeveless dresses.  |
|                  | Herman, Spring                     | Seeing Lessons                          | 3-6   | OK?  | Based on true story of first American school for the blind. Students read from Gospel of Saint John - no quotation of verse. Quote from J--- "Blessed are those who have not seen, yet they have believed. Newborn brother dies - sad. Language: damnable.  |
|                  | Hermes, Patricia                   | Kevin Corbett Eats Flies                |       | N    |   |
| new              | Herthel, Jessica and Jazz Jennings | I am Jazz                               |       | N    | Picture book about a boy who feels that he is a girl, and his parents allow him to dress and act as one. Parents beware - this is the latest trend in children's books.   |
|                  | Hesse, Karen                       | Just Juice                              | 4-6   | OK?  | a dyslexic girl tries to help family save their house from being taken by government because didn't pay taxes. Helps mom deliver baby and saves her life by figuring out sugar monitor. Graphic description of childbirth. Beautiful story. Parents need to decide if this is appropriate for their child, especially boys.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title                      | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Hesse, Karen    | Letters from Rivka         |       | N    | Jewish family escapes from Russia but 12 year old daughter is forced to stay back temporarily because she has ringworm. Girl has encounter with guard: "he held my curls in his hand. He looked up and down the length of me as if he were hungry". Guard made them strip completely - detailed body descriptions. Graphic description of nursing a baby. Girl makes herself a "bar" mitzva on her 13th birthday "just like boys do" - wrapped in father's tallis, reads prayers. Tame romance on boat with sailor - kisses her on lips and runs away (p. 76-78). Girl is shocked to find family works on Shabbos in America. Book would need a lot of crossing out to make it acceptable. |
|                  | Hesse, Karen    | Out of the Dust            |       | N    | Novel written in free verse about a girl living in Oklahoma during the Depression. Copes with her mother and unborn baby being burned to death, and with being crippled so she can no longer play piano, and with the family having little food and money due to the dust storms and drought. Slightly graphic description of mom giving birth, description of mother standing unclothed in the rain. Minor language: darn, Heck. Xmas - no religion. Description of parents sharing a bed and of father smelling like mother when he got up. Mentions dinosaurs living a hundred million years ago.   |
|                  | Hesse, Karen    | Sable                      | 2-4   | OK   | a girl tries to get dog to behave so parents will let her keep it  |
|                  | Hesse, Karen    | Stowaway                   | 5-7   | N?   | A boy stows away on Captain Cook's ship and records his adventures in very detailed, sometimes tedious journal entries. Boy wonders if stealing is justified if treated rudely (P. 64). A native reveals her "privey parts" (p. 83) and other minor mentions of unclothed natives. Language - bastard, son of a b___ (p. 304)  |
|                  | Hesse, Karen    | The Music of Dolphins      | 6-8   | N?   | Scientists try to help a girl raised by dolphins adjust to the human world. For a while they are successful but eventually return her to the wild. Cover illustration of girl with bare shoulders swimming in the ocean. Mentions of television but no details of specific programs. Girl is attracted to scientist's son - she thinks he is beautiful and has a nice smell and wishes he would be her mate but she understands that he doesn't want a dolphin girl. Still, she wishes he would touch her - at the end, before they let her go he holds her hand and hugs her; she leaves, happy to "know the arms of Justin"  |
|                  | Hicks, Clifford | Alvin Fernald, TV Reporter | 3-5   | OK?  | brief mention of boy/girl  |
|                  | Hicks, Clifford | Alvin's Swap Shop          |       | N    |  |
|                  | Higgins, F.E.   | The Bone Magician          | 6-8   | OK?? | Boy in low-class, turn-of-century town, tries to solve mystery of his uncle's death and father's disappearance; meets mysterious characters. Somewhat creepy. Language: damned (p. 102)  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Higgins, F.E. | The Eyeball Collector                           | 6-9   | OK?? | Boy plans to avenge death of father; in end realizes he would be lowering himself to level of plotters. Creepy/gory at times. Language: hell (the place) - p. 95, 176, 211.   |
| new              | Hildick, E.W. | The Case of the Absent Author                   | 4-6   | OK?? | Children help locate a missing author of mystery novels. Mention of turning a book into a movie, TV series, computer games. Lady kisses boy on the cheek to thank him. A lot of Edgar Allan Poe- including a few nonobjectionable excerpts from his writings. Brief mention of magazines including TV Guide and Playboy (no description of contents) Language- jerk, jackass, darned right (twice), dumb, stupid, nature freak, weird.  |
|                  | Hildick, E.W. | The Case of the Desperate Drummer               | 4-6   | N?   | Children help keep a famous drummer safe from criminals. Detailed mentions and illustrations of dinosaurs, natural selection, millions of years, fossils, the missing link, etc. Definitely needs guidance. Minor language: dumb, jerk, bratty, stupid, darn, punk Children dress a dummy as a nightclub hostess with lots of makeup and a red evening gown with a slit down one side "showing plenty of leg". An 11 year old boy who is "interested in girls" mistakes the dummy for a classmate "who is crazy about him". |
| new              | Hildick, E.W. | The Case of the Fantastic Footprints            | 4-6   | OK?? | Children figure out who is vandalizing property with footprints. TV. Language- dummy/ dumb, stupid, jerk, creep, weird, darned (pg.53, 85), butt, freakish, psycho  |
| new              | Hildick, E.W. | The Case of the Slingshot Sniper                | 4-6   | OK?? | Children figure out who keeps breaking the windows in an old lady's house. Lady hires a teenager who claims to be psychic to figure out if it is spirits doing the damage. Mention priest can exorcise evil spirits. Brief mention of horror movie shown on Halloween. Man flatters a woman to get her to go along with his criminal plot. She thinks he is "wonderful",. Cartoonish picture of woman in low cut peasant dress. Language- dumb/dummy, jerk(frequent), weird, stupid   |
|                  | Hildick, E.W. | The Case of the Wandering Weathervanes          | 4-6   | OK   | Kids solve mystery of who is stealing weather vanes and uncover a secret spy plot.  |
| new              | Hildick, E.W. | The Case of the Weeping Witch- A McGurk Fantasy | 4-6   | OK?? | Children go back in time and help save a girl who is accused of being a witch. Boy helps save her from drowning, eventually marry. One word TV, Preacher reads from Bible "thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" Language- jerk, weird, creepy, all hell broke loose (pg. 60), darn/ darned (pg. 23, 88, 142), dummy   |
| new              | Hildick, E.W. | The Case of the Wiggling Wig                    | 4-6   | OK?? | Children try to solve the mystery of a man disguised as an invalid woman. Brief mention of movies. TV, one word church, boy pretends phone number on his cast belongs to his girlfriend (he doesn't have one). Language- dummy, jerk, brat, creeps, darned (pg.24), weird, freak  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                     | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Hildick, E.W.     | The Purloined Corn Popper | 5-7   | OK?  | Children locate person who stole money with help of a detective librarian. Minor language - jerk. P. 112- refer to old man as "old fossil" - can be easily crossed out.   |
|                  | Hildick, E.W.     | The Serial Sneak Thief    | 5-7   | OK?? | Kids and librarian capture a thief in the library. One word mention of Halloween, Easter, Yuletide, church- no religion. BOy's parents are divorcing and having a custody fight over him. Lady was a model and then became a TV star.Movie rights to a novel were bought. ONe page excerpt from book Oliver Twist and mention that it is also a movie. Language- jerk, dumb, brat, heck (twice), jerk, creep, weird, fink, darned (once), shut up   |
|                  | Hill, Kay         | Glooscap Stories          | 4+    | OK?? | Native American legends. Many have a moral message. Some are creation stories (which obviously conflict with Torah version). Mention of spirits, relationship with nature, and other Indian beliefs. May need parental guidance. Pg.100- man is advised that if the girl he wants to marry won't come he should give her a kiss or two to persuade her. Pg. 112-man can ask for anything and he asks for the love of many women. Language-stupid.   |
|                  | Hill, Kirkpatrick | The Year of Miss Agnes    | 3-5   | N?   | A remarkable teacher helps native children in Alaska learn in a one room schoolhouse. Short but detailed descriptions of skinning, trapping, etc (like Little House books). Children are amazed female teacher wore pants - teacher confided to student that teacher's mom would "have a fit" if she knew her daughter, the teacher, wore pants. Some discussion of Robin Hood and his girlfriend Maid Marian. Detailed but detached description of boys and girls dancing together. Brief, unimportant mention of cavemen. Mention of x-mas trees, choir in church but no religion. Girl decides doesn't want to get married because maybe her husband will get another girlfriend - easy to cross out p. 100. |
| new              | Hill, Kirkpatrick | Winter Camp               | 3-5   | N?   | Orphaned children are brought up by an old lady who is determined to teach them the old time Alaskan ways. Mentions of natives who have taken to drink and are wasting their lives away, men and women. Brief mentions of xmas,Santa Claus, Easter, priest. Brief mentions of movies. Story of grandfather who came home with 2 new wives, original wife so angry she left him.Old lady tells them many stories of old times, some not so pleasant- eg. a baby falls into a vat of boiling lard and dies.Belief in ghosts. Vague mention that when girl "became a women" they put her behind a blanket so no one would see her. Frequent language- shut up, damn, stupid, darn                                  |
|                  | Hiller, B.B.      | Rent a Third Grader       | 2-4   | OK   | A class tries to save a police horse from being made into pet food  |
|                  | Hilmmelman, John  | Simpson's Snail Sings     | 1-2   | OK   | Short stories about a snail. One includes a gypsy telling his fortune - most kids won't get it.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title                            | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Hilton, James             | Goodbye Mr. Chips                | 9+    | OK   | An elderly British school teacher remembers his younger days.  |
|                  | Hinkle, Thomas C.         | Shag                             | 3-5   | OK   | A dog is misunderstood by owner. Mistreated by humans. At end people come to appreciate it.  |
|                  | Hinton, S.E.              | The Outsiders                    |       | N    | Group of poor kids who call themselves "greasers" continuously fight with rich kids. Lots of violence and lots of philosophizing about ramifications of violence. Some boy/girl. Lots of rough street language. Very gritty book. Lots of drinking and smoking. Description of dysfunctional family. Allusion to what teens do in bedroom at party but not spelled out (p. 59). Allusion to single girl getting pregnant but not spelled out (p. 174). |
|                  | Hinton, SE                | The Puppy Sister                 | 2-4   | OK   | boy innocently kisses adopted sister   |
|                  | Hirahara, Naomi           | 1001 Cranes                      |       | N    | Japanese girl deals with parents' divorce. Boy/girl  |
| new              | Hldick, E.W.              | The Case of the Purloined Parrot | 4-6   | OK?  | Children locate stolen missing animals and help apprehend animal thieves. Girl suggests that missing cat may have gone off to "pay visits to girl cats", but boy says that is not possible because he has been "fixed". One word xmas. Discussion about radio show. Language- shut up, jerks, dumb   |
|                  | Ho, Mingfong              | The Clay Marble                  | 3-6   | OK?  | Girl and family trying to start new life from Cambodian refugee camp. Some female anatomy. Some mildly affectionate negiah between boy & girl planning to marry.   |
|                  | Hoban, Lillian            | A Bargain for Francis            | 1-2   | OK?? | A friend tricks Francis into buying her tea set. Francis tricks her back to teach her a lesson. Parents should decide if this is appropriate.  |
|                  | Hoban, Lillian            | Arthur's Back to School Day      | 2-3   | OK   | Arthur's lunch box gets stolen on first day of school.   |
|                  | Hoban, Lillian            | Arthur's pen pal                 | 2-3   | OK   | Arthur discovers pen pal is really a girl. Very innocent.  |
|                  | Hoban, Lillian and Phoebe | The Laziest Robot in Zone 1      | 2-3   | OK   | A robot learns his lesson - not to be lazy.  |
|                  | Hobbs, Valerie            | Sheep                            | 3-5   | OK   | Sheep dog learns lessons of life as he tries to find his calling. Sweet.   |
|                  | Hobbs, Will               | Bear Dance                       | 5-7   | N?   | An Indian boy is determined to help 2 orphaned grizzly cubs survive the winter. Lots of references to Indian religion and belief in spirits. Needs adult guidance. Legend of woman "mating" with bear and having baby. Description of man and woman doing dance together - negiah but not romantically described.  |
|                  | Hobbs, Will               | Far North                        | 5-7   | OK?  | Boys marooned in wilderness survive. Come to believe in spirits of animals and trees as taught to them by old man - kids may see as truth, probably not.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                      | grade |    |   |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------|----|---|
|                  | Hobbs, Will       | Jackie's Wild Seattle      | 6-8   | N? | A girl and her little brother spend the summer with their uncle, rescuing injured wild animals. Book deals with some weighty subjects. The uncle is secretly fighting cancer. When they find out, they don't tell him they know, so he can continue to be strong and fight it. A juvenile delinquent is sent to help them as part of his sentence for abusing and killing a dog. The girl befriends him and he confides in her that his father is abusive. The father tries to set fire to the animals, and the boy and his mother finally leave him. The little brother is traumatized because he saw the towers fall on 9/11, and his friend's father died in it, and he thinks he caused 9/11 to happen, and he becomes obsessed with natural disasters. Collects very unrefined bumper stickers, minor boy/girl references, affectionate kiss on cheek to say goodbye. Minor language: darned, jerk, pee, heck (once each). Xmas - non-religious. |
|                  | Hobbs, Will       | The Big Wander             |       | N  | A boy goes west to find his uncle. Boy/girl - romantic negiah   |
|                  | Hoffman, Mary     | Stravaganza: City of Masks |       | N  | Boy is transported to parallel-city of Venice in past. Unmarried female ruler has many lovers and has child by one - many references to this. Christian and pagan religion. Later books have increased boy/girl.  |
|                  | Hokenson, Terry   | The Winter Road            |       | N  | Girl runs away and ends up in airplane wreck. Extremely unacceptable language.  |
|                  | Holland, Isabelle | The Empty House            |       | N  | detailed romantic relationship, romantic negiah   |
|                  | Holland, Isabelle | The Promised Land          | 5-7   | N? | 2 Irish kids brought west on orphan train and are happy until uncle comes to "save" them from Protestant church. Light love story which seems tachlisdik. Light mention of J--, lots of church-going and talk of different denominations, word damn.  |
|                  | Holland, Isabelle | The Unfrightened Dark      |       | N  | drinking, sleeping around   |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L  | Boston Jane                |       | N  | A girl goes west to marry a man who doesn't show up to meet her. She ends up living with a bunch of rough frontiersman and Indians. A lot of boy/girl. Some romantic negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                           | Title                             | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L                 | Our Only May Amelia               |       | N   | A girl is the only girl on a secluded settlement filled with boys. A few problematic situations: Girl's cruel elderly grandmother comes to live with them and treats the girl terribly. Many descriptions of responding with extreme (justifiable??) chutzpah. Girl's mom has a baby but is too ill to care for her so girl takes over and is devastated when the baby dies and grandmother says it is her fault. Other deaths described in detail including a murder. Beloved brother elopes with a girl of another culture against parent's wishes. Mention of coed dances, catching a "fella", "catching a kiss", flirting etc. aunt has a "gentleman friend" who provides her with money. Frequent language-shut up, dumb, stinky, darn, goddammit, damn, idiots. |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L                 | Turtle In Paradise                |       | N   | Girl goes to live with relatives- the only girl among a lot of grubby boy cousins-when mother gets a job as a housekeeper for a lady who doesn't like kids. Clearly states that she was born out of wedlock and an important part of the story is where she discovers the identity of her real father. Also boy/girl, negiah, language, movies and movie stars, etc.  |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #01 Queen of the World | 2-4   | N?  | Comic book style series about a mouse who deals with typical and not so typical elementary school problems, She often imagines she is in the scene of various popular books or movies - which kids this age probably won't get. In this book she tries to get invited to a popular girl's slumber party by allowing her to hand in her homework as if the popular girl did it. Ends up having a bad time at the party. Girls (animals) watch movie of dogs kissing and say "it's romantic". language - stupid , doofus  |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #02 Our Hero           | 2-4   | OK  | Mouse is scared of playing dodge ball but she scores the winning shot   |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #03 - Beach Babe       | 2-4   | OK? | Mice spend summer at the beach. She considers her little brother a "pain" but when he runs away she comes to appreciate him. On cover, cartoonish illustration of mouse in loose 2 piece bathing suit. Other similar ones throughout the book; Not provocative.   |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #05 Heart Breaker      |       | N   | Mouse tries to get a date for the Valentine's Day Dance   |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #07 Skater Girl        | 2-4   | OK? | Mouse dreams of winning a gold medal as a figure skater, until she finds out how much work is involved. Very cartoonish illustration of animal children in skating outfits. Language: stupid.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                            | Title                                   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm  | Baby Mouse #08 Puppy Love               | 2-4   | OK   | Mouse wants a pet  |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm  | Baby Mouse #10 The Musical              | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse is an understudy in a school play. Very juvenile boy/girl when he saves heroine from falling. Also some very subtle flirting. Many parodies of Broadway shows that reader will only understand if familiar with the originals. As in other books, mean girl displays bad middos. Language- stupid.   |
| new              | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm  | Baby Mouse #14 Mad Scientist            | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse enters science fair and does a science project about amoebas- discovers one that likes cupcakes. Bully is very mean to her in teacher's presence- no reprimand. Brief parody of Star Trek- children unfamiliar with it won't get it. Language- dumb  |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L and Mathew Holm  | Camp Baby Mouse #06                     | 2-4   | OK   | Mouse goes to camp and tries to help her bunk win points, but she keeps making mistakes.   |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L. and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse # 13 Cupcake Tycoon          | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse tries to be the highest seller in a school fundraiser. As in other books in this series mean girl displays bad middos. Tongue in cheek joke about the "old testament" that most children will not notice. Watches TV, interviewed by TV news team. Brief parody of an old movie that children will only catch if they are familiar with the movie. Brief mention of online. A few unexplained references to Greek mythology. Language- stupid. |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L. and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #09 Monster Mash             |       | N    | Popular mouse tries to pressure baby mouse to dress up in a Halloween costume she doesn't like. No religion but entire book focused on Halloween - trick or treating, costumes, parties, playing mean tricks, etc.   |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L. and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #12 Burns Rubber             | 2-4   | OK?  | Mouse wants to enter a soap box derby but doesn't know how to build a car, so she convinces her friend to build it for her (against the rules). In the end she does the right thing and lets him drive it in the race. End of book - 2 page illustration of mouse hold a trophy standing next to a female mouse in a bikini - not provocative but very noticeable. Language- stupid.   |
|                  | Holm, Jennifer L. and Mathew Holm | Baby Mouse #16 Baby Mouse for President | 2-4   | OK?  | Mouse runs for G. O. president and discovers she needs to be true to herself. A classmate has poor middos. Language (once each)- stupid, gross, blasted.   |
|                  | Holmes, Sara Lewis                | Operation Yes                           | 6-9   | OK?  | Class with children of military families, learn from unique teacher. Minor language. When teacher's shirt becomes untucked children see tattoo on her hip and belly button ring - mentioned in passing.  |
|                  | Holt, Kimberly Willis             | When Zachary Beaver Came to Town        |       | N    | Romantic negiah, language  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                      | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Honeycut, Natalie           | Granville Jones, Commando  | 2-4   | N?   | reference to "mating" to have a baby  |
|                  | Honeycut, Natalie           | The all new Jonah Twist  | 2-4   | OK?  | parents divorce   |
|                  | Honeycutt, Natalie          | Juliet Fisher and the Foolproof Plan                                 | 3-5   | N?   | A prim and proper third grader tries to have a good influence on a messy "typical" girl, but instead is influenced by her. Minor chutzpah. Tells her mother she wants a nose ring so mother will be happy to buy her earrings. Not really bad, but book praises being messy, dressing in a flashy way, and being slightly chutzpadik as "having fun".   |
|                  | Hoobler, Dorothy and Thomas | And Now, a Word From Our Sponsor: A Story of a Roaring Twenties Girl | 3-5   | OK?  | Lots of old fashioned "women can do anything men can do" attitude, including voting and being a scientist. Wearing makeup is radical. Lots of talk of becoming a "flapper" and a "dancer". Children make up radio show where man grabs woman's arm, she pushes him away. Later actor "sweeps her into his arms".  |
|                  | Hooker, Ruth & Carole Smith | The Kidnapping of Anna   | 2-4   | OK   | Kids discover that housekeeper is an impostor   |
|                  | Hope, Laura Lee             | The Bobbsey Twins Adventure In Washington                            | 3-5   | OK?  | Children go on a school trip to Washington and help capture criminals and find missing china. Bully displays bad middos. Brief mention of TV and movies. Language- stupid   |
| new              | Hope, Laura Lee             | The Bobbsey Twins in the Great West                                  | 3-5   | OK   | Children go on a trip to a lumber farm and a cow ranch and help unite brothers with their estranged father.   |
|                  | Hope, Laura Lee             | The Bobbsey Twins Mystery at School                                  | 3-5   | OK?? | Children figure out who stole a valuable statue (of the Greek snake goddess) from the school museum. Boy has a fistfight with bully. Children think about how to "get back at him" for the mean tricks he plays on them.  |
|                  | Hope, Laura Lee             | The Bobbsey Twins Mystery on the Deep Blue Sea                       | 3-5   | OK?? | Children travel to Jamaica and help capture criminals and locate a pirate treasure. Girl looks at snapshot of boy "dreamily" and says "he is very good looking"- nothing at all comes of it. Mixed swimming- text and black and white illustration- non provocative. One word mention of Halloween and of going to church- no religion.   |
|                  | Hope, Laura Lee             | The Bobbsey Twins on a Houseboat                                     | 3-5   | OK?? | Children help an abused, orphan boy locate his kind uncle. Description of his stepfather beating him- may be difficult for a sensitive child. Legend of the son of an Indian chief who didn't want to marry the girl that his father picked out and instead wanted to marry a girl he "was in love" with. In the end they ran away together. Boy gets into fist fights (described in detail) with bully who plays mean tricks. Siblings play good natured practical jokes on each other. One word mention of xmas and one sentence mention of going to church- no religion. Mixed swimming. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Hope, Laura Lee       | The Bobbsey Twins on Blueberry Island                      | 3-5   | OK? | Children help capture a team of pickpockets while on a camping trip with their family. One word xmas- no religion. Bully shows terrible middos. After being repeatedly provoked the "good" boy punches him in the chest. Language- creep (once)   |
|                  | Hope, Laura Lee       | The Bobbsey Twins- The Secret at the Seashore              | 3-5   | OK? | Children and their friends (boys and girls) help capture a bank robber and locate a shipwrecked man. Very innocent and juvenile descriptions and illustrations of mixed swimming. Black and white illustration of women in sleeveless fairy costume. Good natured practical jokes. Little girl calls her father "Daddy Pete" (Pete is his first name). Brief, unimportant mentions of Santa Claus and going to church on Sunday morning- no religion. |
|                  | Hopkinson, Deborah    | Into The Firestorm   | 5-7   | OK? | Historical fiction-1906-the great San Francisco earthquake and fire. An orphaned boy finds friends and responsibility in the aftermath of a natural disaster. A bit scary and sad. Mention of Shakespeare, book "Call of The Wild", opera "Carmen". Boy's father abandoned family because he couldn't handle poverty. Brief mention of discrimination against Chinese Americans.. non romantic negiah. Language-dang, stupid.                         |
|                  | Hopper, Nancy J.      | I Was a Fifth Grade Zebra                                  |       | N   | A girl copes with being invited to a "grown up" boy/girl party, when she isn't ready to deal with romantic issues yet.  |
|                  | Hornik, Laurie Miller | The Secrets of Ms. Snickle's Class                         | 3-5   | OK? | A silly book that kids love, about a teacher who transforms the classroom into her living room at night. Some minor bathroom humor. One sentence mention of Santa Claus and elves.  |
|                  | Horowitz, Anthony     | Point Blank - An Alex Rider Adventure                      | 7-9   | N?  | Teen-age secret agent fights clones. Description of pretty girl in bikini. Obnoxious girl offers to be kissed - refuses. Language: hell, damn. Cold-blooded killing.  |
|                  | Horowitz, Anthony     | Scorpio - An Alex Rider Adventure                          | 7-9   | N?  | Teen-age secret agent joins bad guys. Language. Cold-blooded killing. References to woman being attracted to married man.   |
|                  | Horowitz, Anthony     | Skeleton Key - An Alex Rider Adventure                     | 7-9   | N?  | Teen-age secret agent and madman with nuclear weapon. Brief romantic negiah. Scantily clad women hired to entice president. Language: hell. Lots of cold-blooded killing.   |
|                  | Horowitz, Anthony     | The Gatekeepers - Book 2: Evil Star, and Book 3: Nightrise | 6-8   | N?  | Children with supernatural talents are responsible for keeping evil creatures out of the world. A lot of detailed violence, a lot of Inca religion and legends, a lot of churches. One of the boys is raised by a man and his live-in girlfriend. Joke about 14 year olds picking up girls. One sentence mention - boyfriend watches show with his hand on his girlfriend's thigh. Occasional language: weird, freak, damned, jerk, goddam.           |
|                  | Horowitz, Anthony     | The Switch   | 4-7   | OK? | Rich boy switches bodies with lower class boy. Discovers father is in charge of company that tests beauty products on homeless children, instead of animals.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                               | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Horvath, Polly | An Occasional Cow                   | 3-5   | N?   | A New Yorker comes to Iowa to spend the summer with cousins and has adventures. Play game of 'evolution' where they swim to bottom of lake, evolve to hands and knees, then become erect and come out of the water. Language: darn, hell, crap, dumb, shut up. Children go to see movie "Sound of Music" in movie theater.   |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | Everything on a Waffle              | 3-6   | OK?? | Girl learns about life and relationships, as she waits for her parents to return from being lost at sea. Delightful. Language: hell (as in the actual place), crap, stinker, J-- used as exclamation.  |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | My One Hundred Adventures           |       | N    | Girl has unusual adventures. Mother meets with several men who are apparently old boyfriends; girl realizes any of them could have fathered her or her siblings.   |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | No More Cornflakes                  |       | N    | borderline boy/girl; chutzpa   |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | Northward to the Moon               |       | N    | Girl and family (mother, stepfather, and 3 siblings) go on journey and meet distant family members. Several mentions of girl wondering which of mother's male acquaintances fathered each of the children.   |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | Pepins and Their Problems           | 4-6   | OK?? | A story about a wacky family which encourages the readers to help think of crazy answers to silly problems. Somewhat tongue in cheek. The mother entertains male neighbor with a Portuguese scarf dance (not suggestive). Brief unimportant mention of actor Fred Astaire. Family does a "rain dance" in their underwear (silly). Nonreligious mention of xmas tree. Near-sighted neighbor falls in love with a barber shop pole and eventually with a real woman. Illustration of man helping girlfriend put on her coat. Grateful neighbor calls man a "saint". Children throw candy at the movie screen during the "yucky love part". Language-I'll be darned, freakish, drat, to heck with them, shut up, darn it. |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | Sir Galahad, Mr. Longfellow, and Me |       | N    |  |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | The Happy Yellow Car                |       | N    | A girl tries to find money to enter "Pork Fry Queen" contest. Older sister lies about her family to boy she is dating; eventually elopes with her parents permission so he shouldn't meet them. Lots of JC and Minor language: dumb, darn, heck, darn you, shut up, goldarnit, dadblast it, slut. Boy puts arm around girl's waist.  |
|                  | Horvath, Polly | The Trolls                          | 4-6   | N?   | An eccentric aunt comes to babysit and tells children strange and scary stories. A few mentions of Halloween and trick-or-treat. Discussion of romance between aunt and man with "beautiful pants and lovely ankles". Language: hell.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title                         | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Horvath, Polly          | The Vacation                  |       | N    | When 12-year-old boy's mother decides to "find herself" by going to Africa as a self-proclaimed missionary, he is cared for by his 2 single older aunts, who then take him cross-country in an effort to "find themselves". Juvenile language (heck, screwed up, etc.). Minor romance between aunt and stranger whom she ends up marrying. Entire theme seems wacky and far beyond understanding of apparent intended reader age: middle age crisis, mother abandoning family to find herself, marital problems between mother and father who tries to deal with her craziness. Philosophical resolution at end of book will go entirely over heads of readers. |
|                  | Hostetter, Joyce Mayer  | Blue                          | 7-9   | OK?  | Historical fiction. Girl's father goes to fight in WWII and she and brother are struck with polio; brother dies. Passing mention of JC; Lord's prayer. Minor language: pee. Although Comfort is a sequel, this works as a stand-alone book.   |
|                  | Hostetter, Joyce Mayer  | Comfort                       | 7-9   | N?   | Sequel to Blue. Girl's father returns from war, but has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - has rages, and hits mother. Girl goes to Warm Springs for treatment of polio. Several mentions of mild 'boy likes girl' situations. One hand-holding. Hears songs from 'colored' church: "Fix me, J----". Passing mention of x-mas. Short description of church service.   |
|                  | Houston, Julian         | New Boy                       |       | N    | Boy from segregationist South attends Northern prep school and participates in anti-segregation sit-ins. Boy/girl. Extremely unacceptable language.   |
|                  | Howarth, Lesley         | Weather Eye                   | 7+    | OK?? | As increasingly severe weather hits worldwide, girl tries to make a difference. Girl has Near-Death Experience (going through tunnel to tree in meadow), which leaves her with some extra-sensory powers; learns not to meddle in things she does not understand. Strange. Strong ecological message. Younger brother teases her about liking boy (whom she actually hates). Non-romantic kiss.   |
|                  | Howe, Deborah and James | Bunnacula                     | 3-5   | OK?  | Cute story about a dog and cat who think bunny is a vampire. P 47 - dog remembers wife biting husband on neck; kids won't get it.   |
|                  | Howe, Deborah and James | The Celery Stalks at Midnight | 3-5   | OK   | Dog and cat try to save town from suspicious vampire bunny and end up getting into trouble. Cute.   |
|                  | Howe, James             | A Night Without Stars         |       | N    | A girl has open heart surgery and befriends a boy badly disfigured in a fire. Talk of boy/girl crushes, female anatomy, religion - references to rosaries and how G-d lets bad things happen and if people choose to believe in Him; language, minor negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |    |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|----|--|
|                  | Howe, James   | Dew Drop Dead - A Sebastian Barth Mystery  |       | N  | Children try to figure out identity of a murderer. Quite a bit about how disturbed the boy is with his parents' fighting constantly. 13 year old boy has a girlfriend Minister makes a homeless shelter in his church - the children volunteer there. Language: stupid, lush (drunk), jerk. A lot of flirting between single adults. Discussion of Bible found at crime scene and the "akedah" - labeled by a Jewish boy - not very reverently. Jewish boy helps out in Church shelter.  |
|                  | Howe, James   | Eat your Poison, Dear - A Sebastian Barth Mystery                                    | 5-7   | N? | A boy detective finds out who is poisoning the 8th grade in the school cafeteria. Unrefined language and behavior - e.g. "puke", children squirt milk at each other with straws, food fights, call kids "creeps", "jerk", dumb, stupid, etc. Brief movie talk. Boy asks Reverend theological question - says will answer with quote from New Testament but doesn't; instead, it's mostly neutral or of the "turn the other cheek" variety. Boy describes how his mother abandoned the family and his father runs away a lot, and the social worker threatened to put the kids into foster care. Disturbing ending. |
|                  | Howe, James   | Nighty-Nightmare   | 3-5   | OK | Horror spoof; not as scary as the title suggests   |
|                  | Howe, James   | Pinky and Rex and the School Play  | 2-3   | OK | A boy overcomes his jealousy when his best friend (a girl) gets the part he wanted in the school play.   |
|                  | Howe, James   | Stage Fright - A Sebastian Barth Mystery   | 5-7   | N? | Crushes, minor negiah, boy-girl, divorce, lots of actress-mushy type talk  |
|                  | Howe, James   | Tales from the House of Bunnacula #2 - Invasion of the Mind Swappers from Asteroid 6 | 3-5   | N? | A dog is the author of an adventure story which is actually a clever parody. A lot of dwelling on the dog's feelings about his girlfriend (female dog) but nothing happens beyond staring into each other's eyes. Language - stupid, weird.  |
|                  | Howe, James   | Tales from the House of Bunnacula #3 - Howie Monroe and the Doghouse of Doom         | 3-5   | N? | See comments from book 2. This one is a parody of Harry Potter. Dogs watch TV show "I Dream of Jeannie". Minor language (Once each) dumb, heck, "sucka", darn.   |
|                  | Howe, James   | Tales from the House of Bunnacula #4 - Screaming Mummies of the Pharaoh's Tomb II    | 3-5   | N? | More of the same. Minor language: Stinko, dumb   |
|                  | Howe, Peter   | Waggit's Tale  | 3-5   | OK | Lost dog joins pack of ownerless dogs, then is adopted by new owner.   |
|                  | Hughes, Carol | Dirty Magic  | 6-8   | N? | A boy helps stop a war in a land that hovers between life and death, where children go until it's decided if they will live or die. Not clear if this is a dream or real. Probably fine for a child who will read it just for adventure but a deep thinker may see it as a religious allegory and may raise hashkafa questions. Non-romantic negiah.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Hughes, Dean        | Nutty Knows All                                 | 4-6   | OK?? | A boy tries to produce a spectacular science fair project and ends up with problems. Minor language e.g. jerk. Some negiah when he is acting strangely, eg puts arms around girls and says he loves them. Later on when back to normal he is disgusted by his own behavior.  |
|                  | Hunt, Irene         | No Promises in the World                        |       | N    | Brothers leave home during Depression years to escape an angry father and hunger. Language, boy/girl, romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Hunt, Irene         | Up a Road Slowly                                |       | N    | An old fashioned growing up story but has romantic negiah, and alcoholic uncle, and implications of a single girl pregnant.  |
|                  | Hunter, Erin        | Warriors - The New Prophecy Book 1: Midnight    | 6-8   | OK?  | A group of cats go on a journey to save their clan. Story told by a cat. Quite a bit of cat "religion" - beliefs in higher cat beings and prophecies. Very fantasy-like.   |
|                  | Hurd, Edith Thacher | Johnny Lion's Book                              | 1-2   | OK?  | A little lion has to stay home and read while his parents go hunting. The story he is reading may be too scary for an imaginative child, though it turns out OK.   |
|                  | Hurmence, Belinda   | A Girl Called Boy                               | 5-7   | OK   | Girl goes back in time and learns firsthand what it was like to be a slave. Use word "crapper" for outhouse.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna    | Aldo Applesauce                                 | 2-4   | OK?  | Boy moves to new town and has trouble making friends. Lots of talk about why he is a vegetarian - may influence a sensitive child but will probably be considered strange by a typical child. Once sentence mention of teenage sister's interest in boys and rock music (P. 64). Discussion of girl being sad over parents' divorce.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna    | Aldo Peanut Butter                              | 2-4   | OK?  | Kids watch scary movie - lists details of movie; kids are frightened because of it. Buy lobsters to eat them, but end up setting them free.  |
| new              | Hurwitz, Johanna    | Anne Frank: Life in Hiding                      | 3-5   | N?   | Story of Anne Frank. She wants to use her birthday money to buy book of Greek and Roman mythology. Mild description of persecution of Jews. Mention that Jews weren't allowed to go to movies or visit Christian friends. She is somewhat chutzpadik to teacher. 15 and 17 year old in hiding together develop a "strong crush" but since they couldn't go on dates to the movies they spent hours in the attic talking to each other. Sometimes girl thought she "loved" him. |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna    | Baseball Fever                                  | 3-5   | OK   | Boy who loves baseball, and father who loves chess and reading, eventually come to an understanding.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna    | Birthday Surprises - 10 Great Stories To Unwrap | 3-5   | OK?? | 10 famous authors use same basic plot outline to write different stories. Creative idea. One story very sad - about a mother dying in the hospital. One story a man tells a paralyzed boy about first time he fell in love - made boy "blush inside". One minor mention of hanging out in mall to see a boy the girl "sort of likes".  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                         | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Class Clown                   | 3-5   | OK   | A boy learns that being a good student is even more fulfilling than being a class clown.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Class President               | 3-5   | N?   | A boy runs for class president and gets new confidence in himself. One mention of cool haircut - spikes. Refers to former teacher Mrs. Upchurch as "Old Upchuck" - p. 3. P. 5 - grandmother watches man kiss women on TV - boy says yuck!  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | E is for Elisa                | 2-3   | OK   | Little sister wishes she was as big as brother. Learns can't fool tooth fairy and that if you jump off furniture you break your arm.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Elisa in the Middle           | 2-3   | OK   | Girl gets into all sorts of funny trouble. Learns to deal with new baby.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Ever Clever Elisa             | 2-3   | OK?  | Girl gets into lots of mischief - gives teacher mom's engagement ring as present, sneaks to see her birthday present, etc. Learns lesson but moral not as explicit as mischief.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Faraway Summer                | 3-5   | OK?? | Orphaned Jewish girl from Lower East Side goes to visit farm family on Fresh Air Fund program. Adjusts to differences in country life and learns to make friends with girls in family despite their differences. The only elements of religion that her family has retained are not eating pork and not eating milk with meat; she continues these at the farm. Running theme of Christian family & Jewish girl getting along & realizing are not so different.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Hooray for Ali Baba Bernstein | 3-4   | N?   | boy has crush on teacher, girl has crush on him. List of women's underwear. Discussion of why santa claus doesn't give Jews presents. All of it is very tame and innocent, but clearly noticeable.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Hurricane Elaine              |       | N    | A 15 year old girl deals with growing up. Crush on teacher, boy/girl, first kiss, etc.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Llama in the Library          |       | N    | Even the book flap is inappropriate!   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Much Ado about Aldo           | 2-4   | OK?  | Passing mention of sister liking boys. Passing mention of dinosaurs. Boy becomes vegetarian out of concern for animals.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | New neighbors for Nora        | 3-5   | OK?  | illustration of mother checking brother's bottom for chicken pox- this age group may study it in detail.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Oh, no, Noah!                 | 2-4   | OK?  | Boy tries to make friends in his neighborhood by succumbing to peer pressure to make a "funeral" for a moosehead given to his parents as a housewarming present from his dad's boss. Boy goes along with it even through knows it is wrong. In the end, owns up to his actions. Lesson is pretty subtle, I'm not sure what messages kids this age will get from this book - might not be positive ones. Minor religion - at "funeral", brief prayers and brief discussion if animals have souls (p. 49). |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Ozzie on his Own              | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy turns a chicken coop into a clubhouse and makes new friends. Wakes up in middle of night to father being rushed to hospital with a heart attack. Very worried about death. May be scary to this age group.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                                | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Rip Roaring Russel                   | 2-3   | OK   | Boy goes to nursery school and makes a new friend.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Roz and Ozzie                        | 2-4   | OK?  | Girl deals with relationship with uncle, who is younger than her. Page 21 - Girl asks friend if likes a boy in class; very minor to story.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Russel Rides Again                   | 2-3   | OK   | Boy goes to kindergarten and learns to ride a 2 wheeler.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Russel Sprouts                       | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy learns it takes time to grow up. One scene where dresses up in Halloween costume but no religion.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | School Spirit                        | 3-4   | OK?  | Kids work to prevent their school from being closed. Side mentions of kissing on grandmother's soap operas. Side mention of brother who turns 16 and is starting to date.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | School's Out                         | 3-5   | OK?? | Teenage au pair teaches boys to dance. Gives an affectionate kiss at end.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Spring Break                         | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl breaks her leg and deals with disappointment at missing a trip to Washington. Some juvenile behavior described - e.g. boy "belched" three times while girl read her report, girl put pepper in frosting of boy's cupcake, etc. Minor language - darn. Reference to book "3 Musketeers".   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Teacher's Pet                        | 3-5   | OK?  | A fourth grade girl comes to terms with the fact that she is no longer the teacher's pet with the arrival of a new girl. Mention of watching TV. Non religious mention of Halloween and jack o lantern. Older sister is very into "freeing our language of sexist references" egg. Instead of mankind she says humankind. Girl writes a book report about book "Dear Mr. Henshaw" and describes it enough to make reader want to read it. Language-weird, stupid |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein | 3-4   | OK?  | Imaginative boy gets into funny trouble. Thinks man stole earring from lady by kissing her - turns out they are married.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | The Down and Up Fall                 | 4-6   | N?   | A girl deals with having overprotective male friends. Talk of distinction between boyfriend vs. friend who is a boy. Juvenile references to being in love. 11 year old boy proposes marriage to girl - silly. Boy convinces girl that some TV is worthwhile - she finally agrees and watches it. P 83 - a joke made about a nudist colony in a rainforest - easily crossed out.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | The Just Desserts Club               |       | N    | Girl tries to figure out which boy sent her a valentine & which one she likes.   |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | The Up and Down Spring               | 4-6   | OK   | Boy overcomes fear of flying to visit female best friend; innocent friendship  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Two Times the Fun                    | 2-4   | OK?? | Twins with unique personalities, have fun together. Minor mention of X-mas tree with large illustration of children around tree (p. 28). Children feed dog biscuit to cat, even though mom said cat won't eat it. When cat did eat it, kids very excited to prove mother wrong (p. 44-49). Brief mention of Easter Bunny - no religion - p. 58.  |
|                  | Hurwitz, Johanna | Yellow Blue Jay                      | 2-4   | OK   | A boy vacations in Vermont and discovers new strengths within himself  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title                     | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Ibbotson, Eva | Beast Of Clawstone Castle | 5-7   | OK?? | Children go to their elderly relatives' castle for the summer and help save their rare cows from the bad guys with the help of ghosts. Brief mention that old lady's skirt took on the "outlines of her behind, but not at all unpleasantly because she was a thin lady and her behind was small". Brief mention of TV. Boy's father killed by drunken driver. Ghost from India has a jewel in her belly button and she worships cows. Brief Indian religion and description of souls going to heaven on backs of cows. One sentence mention of actress keeping ketchup in her bra to look like blood. Children worry that ghost won't be allowed to go into a church because she broke a promise to marry a man, but decided that breaking a promise is so common it isn't really a sin. Brief description of flag made from long red underpants. On word xmas and Easter. Language=stupid, hell(once), blasted, idiot. |
|                  | Ibbotson, Eva | The Great Ghost Rescue    | 4-6   | OK?? | A boy convinces the prime minister to create a sanctuary for ghosts. Mild bathroom humor of the smelly feet variety. Some lovey-doveyness between ghost mother and father eg."she got into bed beside her husband and laid her hideous head against his gaping wound" etc. Mention of woman who was killed wearing her long woolen underpants. One word Halloween and xmas. Children lie to their headmistress and others in order to save the ghosts. Boy fights against a mean man who doesn't like people who are different then himself- includes dislike of Jews. Witches can't use their Christian names and ghosts don't like churches, and clergymen conduct exorcisms. Brief mention of TV. Man dreams of beautiful girls- no elaboration. Language-stinking, weird, idiotic, blasted, creepy, stupid, heck, blast you.   |
|                  | Ibbotson, Eva | The Secret of Platform 13 | 4-6   | N?   | Picture of unclothed fat lady in tub - water covers. Description of book where hero kisses heroine. Description of lady dancing w/ veils - takes each off & light goes out before last. Obnoxious woman tries to attract attention of married band player.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                     | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Ibbotson, Eva              | The Star of Kazan                                | 6-8   | OK?  | An orphan is found by her mother after inheriting a fortune; turns out the "mother" was an impostor after her money. Xmas, Easter: dinner and church, no religion. 2 mentions of J--, Holy mother of god, one description of Good Friday as mourning death of Ch--. Passing mention of girl wanting to talk about boyfriends, but she doesn't have any. Girl has 2 friends who are boys - totally innocent. 2-3 instances of brief friendly non-romantic negiah. Mention of 3 saints who died for their beliefs. When "mother" concocts story, claims that she was married for one week, then husband disappeared, she assumed he died, married current husband. Boy steals horse because he is afraid the horse will be mistreated; later finds out the horse had been bequeathed to him by its owner. |
|                  | Ibbotson, Eva              | Which Witch                                      | 4-6   | N?   | Mild fairytale romance; gross magic   |
|                  | Ignatow, Amy               | The Popularity Papers                            |       | N    | Journal-style book about two 5th grade girls trying to learn how to be popular. Some boy/girl, crushes, etc. Main problem: one of girls has "two fathers".  |
|                  | Impey, Rose                | No Name Dog                                      | 2-3   | OK   | Family has trouble deciding dog's name. Very mild rough language  |
| new              | Jacobson, Jennifer Richard | Andy Shane and the Very Bossy Dolores Starbuckle | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy doesn't like school because of a "know it all" classmate until his grandmother visits his class and helps him. Classmates behavior improves. Matter of fact mention that he needed someone to care for him at birth and his "granny" needed someone to share fun with. And he is living with her ever since. No mention of his parents.   |
|                  | Jacques, Brian             | A Tale Of Redwall- Eulalia!                      | 6-8   | OK?? | The saga continues. Same type of violence and behavior as other books in this series. Mild, gentle love story where nothing really happens beyond two animals seeming to commit to each other and enjoy each others company, she sings for him, and mild very brief negiah eg. she "clasped his paw", etc. Also brief, humorous side story of hare who pretends he can read palms (paws) and tells an owl he will meet a pretty owl who will lay eggs for him, also one sentence mention of young females fluttering their eyelashes at young males. Language- stupid, shurrup (shut up), bums (backside), blinkin', flippin', bloomin', berserk, idjit (idiot), hellgates, dumb,   |
|                  | Jacques, Brian             | A Tale Of Redwall- Loamhedge                     | 6-8   | OK?? | Ditto   |
|                  | Jacques, Brian             | A Tale Of Redwall- Salamandastron                | 6-8   | OK?? | Similar issues to other books in this series. A lot of talk of the spirit of a dead warrior living on and entering living creatures to protect the abbey when it is in danger. Some name calling eg. fathead, snotnose, etc. Language- hell (frequent), shut up, stupid, idiot, brat, darn (once).  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                        | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Jacques, Brian | A Tale Of Redwall-Doomwyte   | 6-8   | OK?? | Animals defeat dangerous band of birds and reptiles while seeking precious gems that were the eyes of an idol. There doesn't seem to be any problem with the fact that these gems were stolen many years ago from the bad guys- it is assumed that the good guys have a right to them. Very mild boy/girl (animals) leading to "marriage". Animals sing a song to help them keep time paddling about coming to "woo" a girl and being warned that its ok to dance with her but don't try to kiss her because her brothers are watching. (Many children skip the words in the songs). Female sings in front of males. Two animals have a battle of insults- mostly humorous slang, but still mean. Language- idiot, stupid, bloomin', blinkin', hellgates, berserk, scummy, shurru (shut up), snotty, bum, stinky, |
|                  | Jacques, Brian | A Tale Of Redwall-Mossflower | 6-8   | OK?? | Ditto.  |
|                  | Jacques, Brian | A Tale Of Redwall-Taggerung  | 6-8   | OK?? | Ditto.  |
|                  | Jacques, Brian | A Tale Of Redwall-Triss      | 6-8   | OK?? | Escaped slaves defeat their former captors. A greedy hare never seems to learn his lesson not to be a glutton- provides comic relief. Teenaged animals run away from home with their parent's unstated permission. Young animals cause an unusual amount of mischief- adults have a hard time disciplining them instead of laughing at them. One of the bad guys is unusually vicious. A brief, mild, love story where they mostly just stare into each others eyes eventually leading to marriage. Similar issues to other books in this series. Language- flippin', stupid, flamin', idiot, shuddup, hellgates, bloomin', scum, blinkin', 'ellish.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title                                 | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Jacques, Brian  | Redwall                               | 6-8   | OK?? | Notes on the series: Long novels featuring animal characters fighting vs. evil. Cute series that hides great sophistication and humor, though not every child will appreciate it. Appropriate for child who is a good reader and can follow a few story lines at a time as well as extensive, often difficult dialogue. Animals live in an abbey. There are mentions of the abbey bell, and cloisters, and the abbot being in charge, but beyond that, no blatant Christianity. Occasionally one of the characters has a "prophecy" about something that will happen in the future. Good guy vs. bad guy violence despite the fact that the good guys are "peace loving", as well as a lot of internal violence among the bad guys. Bad guys call each other insulting names. There is even death, sometimes even the good guys die. Throughout this series, some of the characters use a difficult but amusing dialect that takes a few seconds to translate. Although there is problematic language, there is so much detailed dialogue on every page that it might be overlooked, depending on the child's reading style. In this book mild male/female leading to marriage- e.g. he notices she is pretty and has long eyelashes. Mild romantic negiah- e.g. she dozes off against his shoulder, she wipes his tears with her pinafore. Husband squirrel "smothers his wife with kisses". A church is an important setting, but no obvious religion. Language-hell (frequent), stupid, idiotic, berserk, shut your trap, moron (once), idiot, snotty, brat, dumb, shut up, damn (once), ass (once). |
|                  | Jacques, Brian  | The Angel's Command                   | 6-8   | OK?? | A boy and a dog with eternal childhood have adventures with pirates and villains. Occasional reference to angel that blessed them and to a priest who gives them a cross to protect them from evil. Boy holds girl's hand when proposing marriage.  |
|                  | Jacques, Brian  | The Ribbajack and Other Curious Tales | 6-8   | N?   | A collection of creepy and strange short stories. Chutzpah, magic, overall tone.  |
|                  | Jacques, Brian- | Tale From Redwall -High Rulain        | 6-8   | OK?  | Continuation of the Redwall series. Some of the characters use the same difficult dialect as in previous books. Good guy vs. bad guy violence and death. Sometimes good guys die too. Bad guy father encourages his sons to be mean to each other and calls them names. Language-stupid, shut up, blinkin'fool, hellgates, flippin', bloodn'guts, idiot, brat, creepy, scum.  |
|                  | James, Mary     | Shoebag                               | 4-6   | OK?  | some TV and commercial talk   |
|                  | James, Mary     | Shoebag Returns                       | 4-6   | OK?  | A roach ends up in girl's school with only one boy student. Some minor plugs for TV. TV star who used to be a roach. Minor non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Jarrow, Gail    | Beyond the Magic Sphere               |       | N    | A girl is miserable that she has to go to cousin instead of Europe with her father. Talk of mother's abandonment, shopping for bra, thinking cousin has live-in boyfriend.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Jarvis, Robin      | The Whitby Witches                           |       | N    | A brother and sister come to live with an old lady and get entangled with a magical being and a wicked witch. Many references to church, nuns, belief in Christianity. Language (frequent): damn, damnit.   |
|                  | Jarvis, Robin      | Thomas- Book Three Of The Deptford Histories | 6-8   | N?   | Animals try to prevent an evil snake god from regaining his earthly form. A lot of violence. Boy/girl, brief negiah, Language-danged, blasted, weird, hellish (frequent), idiot, weird, stupid, asinine, scum.  |
|                  | Jenkins, Emily     | Toys go Out                                  | 3-5   | OK   | Adventures of toys owned by young girl. Sweet.  |
|                  | Jennings, Patrick  | Putnam & Pennyroyal                          | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl goes fishing with uncle who tells her exciting stories. Some tying in of family problems - uncle and father don't get along but very minor. Calls uncle by first name.   |
|                  | Jennings, Richard  | My Life of Crime                             |       | N    | Platonic relationship slowly becomes non-platonic for boy   |
|                  | Jensen, Dorothea   | The Riddle of Penncroft Farm                 | 4-6   | OK?? | Minor bad and bathroom language. Description of husking bee - person who finds red corn gets kissed. Ghost.   |
|                  | Jiang, Ji-Li       | Red Scarf Girl                               | 8+    | N?   | Memoir of a girl who lived through the worst parts of the Chinese cultural revolution. Detailed descriptions of suffering, suicide, and cruelty. Mentions of movies, plays and titles of various children's books. Revolution encouraged students to rebel against their teachers in terrible ways as well as to disown their families and betray their parents if they were not considered politically acceptable. Girl is embarrassed when her sanitary belt is found during a search of her house. Mild boy/girl. A woman is arrested because she had "relations" with a man before marrying. They pray to Allah. Non religious Halloween. Language-damn (frequent), shut up, stupid, bastard. |
|                  | Jiminez, Francisco | The Circuit                                  | 4-6   | N?   | True experiences of illegal immigrant family who try to make their way in US. A lot of religion including mentions of J---- and praying to Saint for recovery of sick child.  |
|                  | Jinkins, Jim       | Pinky Dinky Doo Polka Dot Pox                | 1-2   | N?   | Silly story about girl who misses show and tell because she has polka dot pox. A few juvenile subtle bathroom references, a few mentions of underpants. Unrefined.  |
|                  | Jinks, Catherine   | Evil Genius                                  |       | N    | Boy Genius is sent to University for training for Evil. Students and Faculty hurt and kill each other - not graphic. Lots of language: damn, hell, sh--, pi--, Ch--. Discussions of who boy's father is, and whether his mother ran away from her husband to another man; paternity testing. Boy is friends with cerebral palsied teenage girl; they meet when sending mushy letters on the Internet, both posing as adults. Passing mention of sex, dirty magazines, gay.  |

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|------------------|--------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Jinks, Catherine         | Genius Squad                                     |       | N    | Sequel to Evil Genius. Boy genius joins group trying to cause downfall of evil mastermind. Language: damn, hell, sh--, Ch--. Repeated references to paternity testing to determine which of 3 possible men was his father.  |
|                  | Jobling, Brenda          | Goose on the Loose                               | 3-5   | OK   | A boy rescues injured goose. Minor mention of divorce.  |
|                  | Johnson, Annabel & Edgar | The Grizzly                                      |       | N    | Boy relives memories of scary father. Tries to reunite parents. Calls father by first name  |
|                  | Johnson, Charles         | Middle Passage                                   |       | N    | A black drifter stows away on a slaver to avoid gambling debts and marriage. Real negiah, vivid description of deviant relationship, language, etc.   |
|                  | Johnson, Dedra           | Sandrine's Letter To Tomorrow                    |       | N    | Highly inappropriate, highly disturbing. Real negiah, real child molestation, real language, etc.   |
|                  | Johnson, Elizabeth       | Break a Magic Circle                             | 3-4   | OK   | magic   |
|                  | Johnson, Jane            | The Eidolon Chronicles Book 2 - The Shadow World |       | N    | Children whose mother is from a magical world, try to save it from an evil creature. Discussion if people and dinosaurs lived on Earth at the same time. Description of park on a sunny day - "couples entwined around each other" (P. 18). Quite a bit of human boy "liking" half girl/half dolphin and human girl "liking" half man/half horse. Lots of falling in love. Name of one creature is "he who hangs around great south rock to attract females". Mention of woman's undergarments (p. 141). Lots of bathroom language and bathroom humor.  |
|                  | Johnston, Norma          | Lotta's Progress                                 |       | N    |   |
|                  | Jonell, Lynne            | Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat            | 5-7   | OK?  | Girl defeats mean nanny with help of rats with magical powers.. Language: shut up, etc. Passing mention of x-mas and church - no religion. When nanny is given "lie detection" potion, she emits smelly "farts" whenever she lies.  |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne       | Archer's Goon                                    | 6-8   | OK?? | Family faces group of wizards who want to take over the world. Lots of twists and surprises in plot - kids may not get all of it, but fun anyway. Subplot family babysitter falls in love with villain - no details and mostly humorous. Boy's little sister is extremely chutzpadik to all adults and pick fights with her peers- overall bad middos. The family nickname for her is "awful". Parents fights minutely detailed- a lot of verbal sparring and accusations. Mention of a cathedral and choir, no religion. Non religious xmas, unimportant mention of Saxons who burned Yoshka. Non romantic negiah. Frequent language-shut up, stupid, idiotic, stinky, daft, maniac, moron (once), damn (twice). |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                       | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | Cart and Cwiddler - Dalemark Quartet book 1 | 5-7   | N?   | Siblings in musical troupe try to solve mystery of father's death. After his death, their mother returns to the nobleman who she was originally betrothed to; they suspect she might have been involved in plot. Avodah Zarah throughout series, involving both the statues representing spirits, and spirits themselves.   |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | Dogsbody                                    | 6-8   | OK?? | Star is sentenced to live life on Earth as a dog, until he resolves mystery. 2 occurrences of word damn. Uses "bitch" to refer to female dogs. Several references to dogs spending time together, resulting in pups that look like the father. Male dogs are irresistibly drawn to sit outside fence of female dog - one dog explains it's because she's in heat and could have pups. |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | Enchanted Glass                             |       | N    | A magical boy comes to live with a magical man who saves him from the bad guys. An important story line involves figuring out the identity of his father - it is pretty clear that his mom never married his dad. Also language and negiah.   |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | Howl's Moving Castle                        | 6-8   | N?   | A girl who is bewitched into an old lady finds refuge in the house of a wizard with a reputation for eating young girls' hearts. Lots of magic. Lots and lots of very superficial falling in love and breaking of hearts but only minor romantic negiah - mostly hand holding   |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | Mixed Magics                                | 5-7   | N?   | 4 inter-related magical stories. Strange. In last story, deals extensively with gods of various worlds. Mentions concept that gods' existence is dependant on men believing in them. Mentions god who had child with human woman.   |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | Pinhoe Egg                                  |       | N    | Magical children make peace among warring elders. A lot of bad middos, language, strange history of religion.   |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | The Ogre Downstairs                         | 5-7   | N?   | A newly combined family learn to tolerate each other. Lots of juvenile rough language and behavior. Call stepfather ogre; chutzpa; but at end learn to appreciate him   |
|                  | Jones, Diana Wynne | Wild Robert                                 |       | N    |   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Jones, Kimberly K. | The Genie Scheme                         | 4-7   | OK?? | Girl gets services of genie, and finds out having it all is not what she thought it would be. Genie gives mussar: Things don't make people happy; the more you get the more you want. At end use wishes to bring happiness to others. Girl has friend who is a boy. Everyone (including children) calls friend's father by his last name. Language: ass, nerd, butt, poop, moron, wimp. Children magically visit dressing room of movie star whom girl thinks is "cute": when he tries out his signature facial expressions in the mirror, girl "sighs" and "nearly drools". Mention 2 (fictitious) movies the star was in, which both have the word "love". Children wear shorts and t-shirts; at one point genie magically gives them bathing suits and they protest that they don't want a bikini and Speedos. |
|                  | Jones, Miranda     | Little Genie Makes a Wish                | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl buys an old lava lamp at a garage sale and a girl/hippie genie emerges and grants her 3 wishes. Black and white illustration of a 9 year old in a tank top and shorts lying on a hammock. A few mentions of favorite rock band called "Boy Frenzy". Minor language: weird, darn. Girl imagines how her grandmother looked with her boyfriend at age 17 - with "black eye makeup, miniskirt, and big hair"  |
|                  | Jones, Rebecca C.  | Germy Blew It                            | 3-5   | OK   | A boy sets up a bubble gum contest and ends up in a mess.   |
|                  | Jones, Rebecca C.  | Germy Blew the Bugle                     |       | N    | Boy makes a newspaper until he realizes he bit off more than he can chew. Too much about kissing girls and bathing suits coming off.  |
| new              | Jonsberg, Barry    | The Categorical Universe of Candice Phee |       | N    | An odd 12 year old girl tries to fix her world in unusual ways. Detailed description of depressed mother, distant father, and dysfunctional marriage due to loss of child to crib death. Boy/ girl, detailed description of first kiss, frequent and detailed concern with lack of physical development, etc.   |
|                  | Joose, Barbara M.  | Dead Guys Talk                           | 2-3   | OK   | Kids solve mystery and prevent cemetery from being sold.  |
|                  | Joose, Barbara M.  | The Losers Fight Back                    |       | N    |   |
|                  | Jordan, Rosa       | The Goatnappers                          |       | N    | Children rescue a goat they sold to a cruel man by stealing it back - eventually pay him for it. Side story of father who abandoned family coming back to spend time with kids - pretty realistic - not glorified but call dad by first name. Language: sexy sports car, foxy lady, butt. Racial tension. Explicit description of friend's parents' scary marriage. Child is afraid parents will shoot each other so gets a knife to protect himself - gets suspended because of knife. Adults flirt with "sexy girls in short skirts and skimpy tops", etc.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                      | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Jules, Jacqueline                           | Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Makes A Splash      | 2-3   | OK?? | Boy confronts a bully. Brief mention of watching TV. Mixed swimming. Language-poop.   |
|                  | Jules, Jacqueline                           | Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Springs Into Action | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy saves man stranded on the roof. Brief mention of father and grandfather dying- language used is "losing them" Language- poop (once)   |
|                  | Jules, Jacqueline                           | Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Stomps the Snow     | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy helps capture a purse snatcher. Mentions of watching TV. One word mention of xmas. Brief mention of boy's father being war hero (he died).  |
|                  | Jules, Jacqueline                           | Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Takes Off           | 2-3   | OK?  | Note on Series: Boy receives sneakers as a present and discovers they make him run as fast as a superhero. In most books, brief, matter of fact mention that boy's father died as a hero in the army. Occasional Spanish phrases used. In this book (First book in series), boy uses internet to keep boy from bullying him. Little boy tries to write puppy- writes "poopey"- kids think someone is writing a bathroom word. Language- weird.  |
|                  | Jules, Jacqueline                           | Zapato Power- Freddie Ramos Zooms to the Rescue | 2-3   | OK?? | Boy helps a purple squirrel and rescues his mother's train. A lot of focus on TV reporters trying to get a story and children trying to get on TV.  |
|                  | Kadohata, Cynthia                           | Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam                |       | N    | Boy donates his dog to US Army in Vietnam. Lots of talk of soldiers being excited about pretty girls. A lot of language - bitch (female dog), darn, hell, dammit, kiss butt, freak, damn, etc. Lots of slang. Lots of gory war descriptions.  |
|                  | Kadohata, Cynthia                           | Kira-Kira                                       |       | N    | A Japanese American girl deals with her older sister's illness and eventual death as well as prejudice against Japanese. Boy/girl, romantic negiah, Japanese religion.  |
|                  | Kadohata, Cynthia                           | Weed Flower                                     | 6-8   | N?   | A Japanese-American girl is interned in a camp during WWII. Lots of talk of her older cousins having girl friends, gambling, and smoking. Girl is invited to her first boy/girl birthday party - no description. Girl befriends an Indian boy - not really romantic beyond him telling his brother she is pretty, and a good-bye hug. Brief mention of boys holding girlfriends in their arms when leaving for war. Teens get into a fight because a Japanese girl spoke to an Indian boy. Mention of couples dancing. Non-detailed mentions of Christian and Buddhist practices, eg: Xmas trees, statues. Bored children in the camp steal and disobey their elders. Minor language: pee, stupid. A bit gritty, overall. |
|                  | Kadono, Eiko (translated by Lynne E. Riggs) | Kiki's Delivery Service                         | 4-7   | N?   | A girl witch tries to establish herself by making a delivery service. Mild boy/girl running storyline. Witch begins to understand more about how girls make boys like them, when she is hired to deliver a birthday present to a boy anonymously. The first time she puts on a bathing suit she feels very exposed, her landlady tells her not to worry, everyone wears them at the beach. Black and white illustrations.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title                           | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Kalnay, Francis | Chicaro, Wild Pony of the Pampa | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy finds wild pony and keeps it, but ranch owner's spoiled son tries to get it for himself. One mention of picture of C--   |
|                  | Karl, Jean E.   | But We Are Not of Earth         |       | N    | Science fiction. Children find a way to escape from a renegade teacher who is trying to force them to stay on an uncharted planet. Boy/girl, romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Karr, Kathleen  | Born for Adventure              | 7-9   | N?   | Historical Fiction. Based on true story of expedition through African jungle. Language: hell, damn. Female anatomy of natives. Passing mention of attraction to girl. Mention of "wifely duties" at night. Gory.   |
|                  | Karr, Kathleen  | Worlds Apart                    | 6-8   | N?   | A fictionalized account of the true story of English colonists and the Indian tribe that helped them. Detailed war goriness. Two teenage boys compare Indian religion with relatively neutral English religion- mention bishop, archbishop, church, etc. but not detailed. Some relatively neutral quotes from the Bible, some of which may be mistranslations. When children display chutzpah have to recite their catechism- the parts quoted seem neutral. Indian describes what enemy does to captives- taking away their "manhood" (a bit graphic- pg.138 chapt 15). Girl asks brother what rape means- he says "never mind". Language-hell, damned |
|                  | Kassen, Lou     | Middle School Blues             |       | N    |  |
|                  | Kay, Elizabeth  | Jinx on the Divide              | 5-7   | OK?  | Book 3 of Divide Trilogy. When truant schoolmate is captured by a genie, boy goes back to the magical world to save him. Mentions of truant boy's mother drinking and smoking, and how she would not care if he disappeared.   |
|                  | Kay, Elizabeth  | Return to the Divide            | 6-8   | OK?? | Book 2 of Divide trilogy. Boy returns to magical world to save parents who have been turned to stone. Second in trilogy. Kisses queen to break sleeping spell. Language: hell (2).   |
|                  | Kay, Elizabeth  | The Divide                      | 6-8   | OK?? | Boy crosses into magical world where our myths are real and our reality is their myth. Very nicely done. First in series. Language - hell (2). Non-romantic negiah. Exclamation of surprise: "Sweet Mary, mother of god".  |
|                  | Kaye, M. M.     | The Ordinary Princess           | 4-6   | OK?? | A fairy tale type book about a princess who, unlike her sisters, is very ordinary. She runs away to work and accidentally meets a young king who falls in love with her, they marry and live happily ever after. Author's foreword - brief unimportant mention of Father Xmas and Halloween. In story a lot of talk and description of baby Christening party but no description of the ceremony. Negiah - hand holding - illustration (p. 98); holding on to each other to keep from falling, a few brief textual mentions of a kiss after marriage (p. 99)   |
|                  | Kaye, Marilyn   | Replica - In Search of Andy     |       | N    | A girl-clone uncovers a neo-Nazi group trying to use clones to build superior race. Lots of boy/girl; romantic negiah.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Kaye, Marilyn   | Replica - the Beginning  | 5-7   | OK?? | A girl-clone goes to place of origin on a class trip and is captured by an organization that wants to use clones for world domination. Minor non-romantic negiah. Lots of talk of babies being made in test tubes. Lots of speculation if tour guide is mom's old boyfriend.  |
|                  | Keane, Dave     | Joe Sherlock Kid Detective - The Art Teacher's Vanishing Masterpiece |       | N    | Boy detective finds his teacher's missing painting. Lots of silly mishaps. Running joke about his pants having a broken zipper that keeps coming down. Blackmails sister with a list of boys she thinks are cute. Bathroom humor. Language - heck, fart, dang it. Very unrefined and inappropriate for this age group   |
|                  | Keane, Dave     | Joe Sherlock Kid Detective - The Missing Monkey-Eye Diamonds         |       | N    | Boy detective finds a missing wedding ring. A lot of language and bathroom humor. Very unrefined, lots of bad middos between siblings.  |
|                  | Keehn, Sally M. | Moon of Two Dark Horses  |       | N    | Historical fiction. Indian and settler boy are friends. Lots of talk of dreams and visions. Descriptive talk of woman's biological process. Minor romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew #03 The Bungalow Mystery                                  | 4-6   | OK?  | Girls expose orphan's guardians as frauds. A boy asks a girl to go to a party with him, since she had previously gone to the spring prom with him. Girl relaxes on a co-ed beach in a bathing suit.   |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew #06 The Secret of Red Gate Farm                           | 4-6   | OK?  | Girl uncovers a cult that is really a cover for a gang of counterfeiters. Non-romantic negiah. Non-religious mention of Halloween. Implies a boy likes a girl - he "has his eye on her" and she blushes. Minor Language: weird, stupid.   |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew #08 Nancy's Mysterious Letter                             | 4-6   | N?   | Girls stop a woman from marrying a man who runs a fraudulent lonely hearts club. The main setting is the college campus where the girls' boyfriends live - the girls have been invited by their dates to spend the weekend. Mention of going to movie theater. Mention of church and Xmas present - no religion. Minor language: weird, stupid. Letter from a woman in the lonely heart club says she can't wait to be "in the arms of the man" they will find for her. Girls "lock their arms" with their dates, girl pats her date's arm, co-ed dance briefly described. Illustration of girl in sleeveless evening gown. |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew #23 The Mystery of the Tolling Bell                       | 4-6   | OK?? | Girls capture a gang of criminals. Mention of people wearing "scanty" beach clothes, go to movies, girl has a boyfriend - not much happens between them other than spending time together. Mentions they dance but no description. Brief mention of church bells and attending church - no description. Minor language - doggonit.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew #25 The Ghost of Blackwood Hall        | 4-6   | OK?? | Girls capture a gang that is involved in the occult - seances, spirits, etc. - turns out to be a fraud. Black and white illustration of a teenage girl in sleeveless dress. Girl spends time with boy friend solving mysteries. They go for a moonlit boat ride - just when it seems like it's about to get romantic they see someone drowning and save her. Non-romantic negiah. Minor language: stupid.  |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew #35 The Haunted Showboat               |       | N    | Girls solve mystery of a haunted boat. Entire plot a bit iffy - a fraud seduces an engaged girl until she breaks her engagement for him. Eventually he is found out and she realizes she really loved the first boy who eventually agrees to take her back. Throughout, the soon-to-be-engaged fraud flirts with other girls. A lot of voodoo and prayers and trances. The engaged girl is worried that her fiancé might like the detective girls so she conspires to make their boyfriend jealous so they will come to her house and keep their girlfriends busy. Minor language - stupid |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew #39 The Clue of the Dancing Puppet     | 4-6   | N?   | Girls solve mystery of the haunting of a house belonging to a theater group. Descriptions of a love scene in a play. On actress has "feeling for" an actor who likes a different actress, etc. She overdoes the love scene with him etc. Minor language: shut up, weird.   |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew and The Clue Crew #07 The Circus Scare | 2-4   | OK?? | Third grade detective solves the mystery of who is stealing circus costumes. On cover, cartoonish picture of girl in tank top. A spoiled girl gets everything she wants, her classmates gossip about her unkindly. Girl says boy is "kind of cute". Parents should decide if want children leading these books if they don't want them reading the older Nancy Drew books. Language- weird.  |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew Notebooks #08 The Best Detective       | 2-3   | OK?  | Note on series- this series is relatively innocent but it features the characters who grow up to be the characters in the Nancy Drew series which is more problematic. Parents should decide if they want to expose their child to this series. In this book girl detective finds her missing notebook. Entire plot revolves around tickets to a movie premier given to the girls by their teacher. One word mention of Halloween. Mention of watching videos. Language- gross, maniac   |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew Notebooks #09 Thanksgiving Surprise    | 2-3   | OK?  | see comment on the series  |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew Notebooks #14 Funny Face Fight         | 2-3   | OK?  | see comment on the series  |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn | Nancy Drew Notebooks #18 Stolen Unicorn           | 2-3   | OK?  | see comment on the series  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew Notebooks #20<br>Hannah's Secret     | 2-3   | OK?  | see comment on the series   |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew Notebooks #30 It's no Joke           | 2-3   | OK?  | see comment on the series   |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew Notebooks #33<br>Gumdrop Ghost       | 2-3   | OK?  | see comment on the series   |
|                  | Keene, Carolyn  | Nancy Drew Notebooks #60 The Lighthouse Mystery | 2-3   | OK?  | Girls solve a mystery in a lighthouse. See comment on the series  |
|                  | Kehret, Peg     | Danger at the Fair                              | 5-7   | OK?? | Girl gets message from spirits that brother is in danger - rescues him from criminals. Lots of belief in occult.  |
|                  | Kehret, Peg     | Deadly Stranger                                 | 4-6   | N?   | Scary abduction by mentally unstable stranger   |
| new              | Kehret, Peg     | Earthquake Terror                               | 3-6   | OK?  | a brother helps his handicapped sister survive an earthquake and flooding when they are left alone on an island. Scary. Brief mentions that boy likes to listen to sports on radio and watch games on TV. One sentence mention of Santa.  |
|                  | Kehret, Peg     | Escaping the Giant Wave                         | 3-5   | OK   | Kids escape from tsunamis.  |
|                  | Kehret, Peg     | I'm Not Who You Think I Am                      | 4-6   | N?   | Unstable woman tries convince girl she's her mother; disturbing   |
|                  | Kehret, Peg     | Night of Fear                                   | 5-6   | OK?  | Boy held hostage by arsonist - scary. Beautiful lesson of acceptance of grandmother who has Alzheimer's.  |
| new              | Kehret, Peg     | Nightmare Mountain                              | 3-6   | N?   | Girl and boy step cousins survive an avalanche and a murderous, thieving uncle when they are left alone after mother goes into a coma. Very scary. Detailed description of divorce and boy's mother who tells him she doesn't want him since he is "horrid and nasty", she only wants his twin sister. Step uncle hugs and kisses step niece a lot - innocent, but commented on by wife in a joking manner - eg. says to niece "that's my husband you are kissing" etc. Non religious mentions of xmas trees. Language- weird, stupid, scum, creep, jerk, dumb, dope, nerd, damn (once), shut up, creep |
|                  | Kehret, Peg     | Runaway Twin                                    | 4-6   | OK?  | Girl runs away from kind foster mother, to find twin sister. Tells lies in order to not get caught. Girl contemplates kicking bully in the groin (p. 69), but doesn't. Minor language: jerk (p. 186). Passing mention of going to movie.  |
|                  | Kehret, Peg     | Searching for Candlestick Park                  |       | N    | Boy runs away to live with his divorced father. Boy trusts stranger & stays at his house. Father has live-in girlfriend.  |
|                  | Keller, Beverly | Desdemona - Twelve going on Desperate           | 4-6   | N?   | A girl tries to be popular in junior high. Lots of talk of boys and typical pre-teen things. Side story of divorced father whose girlfriend dumps him for someone daughter doesn't like.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Keller, Holly    | Angela's Top Secret Computer Club              | 2-3   | OK?  | Children discover who is hacking into school's computer system and ruining report cards and school schedules by using e-mail. Short examples of sibling rivalry with typical but bad midos. Girl writes on her computer that her teacher has a long nose because she knows teacher can't read it without the password - p. 17 can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Keller, Julia    | Back Home                                      | 5-8   | N?   | Girl and family deal with father who is brain damaged in Iraq war. Language: hell, damn. Heavy material for age group. Girl becomes friends with boy.   |
|                  | Kelly, Eric P.   | The Trumpeter of Krakow                        | 7-9   | OK?? | A medieval Polish boy comes to a city when his farm is burned down by people trying to find a precious crystal his family guarded for the king. The plot involves an alchemist, a hypnotist, and his father's job as a trumpeter to play a hymn on the church tower and to keep watch. A few mentions of Jews who lived in hovels until the king built them a town. Religion and churches mentioned constantly but mostly as background. Poland portrayed in a very positive light. Boy thinks girl who will become his adopted sister is pretty. She kisses him on cheek when he saves her. Later, they marry. |
|                  | Kenah, Katharine | The Best Seat in Second Grade                  | 1-2   | OK   | Boy sneaks class hamster on trip to science museum but learns his lesson.   |
|                  | Kennedy, Emma    | Tender Foot #1 The Case Of the Frozen Hearts   | 4-7   | OK?  | Series about a girl who is raised in a horrible orphanage who is sent to work for an awful lady but dreams of becoming an apprentice to a famous detective. A mixture of realism, suspense, violence, with a small touch of fantasy and a large dose of bathroom humor. Side story of a man who likes a woman and tries to impress her but she is oblivious. Non romantic negiah. One word xmas and nuns. Language-stupid, shut up, idiot.  |
|                  | Kennedy, Emma    | Tender Foot #2 The Case Of the Putrid Poison   | 4-7   | OK?? | Girl helps a detective capture a killer in a vaudeville theater. Some theater culture. A lot of grisly deaths. A lot of bathroom humor. Girl thinks a theater costume is "racy", actress gossips that an actor is a "lovesick puppy" about an actress- he puts his arm around her, she mostly ignores him.  |
|                  | Kenny Kathryn    | Trixie Belden #11 The Mystery at Bobwhite Cave | 6-8   | N?   | Girl and boy detectives try to locate "ghost fish" to prove different stages of evolution. Some talk of evolution e.g. how humans lost their tails (p. 11). A lot of minor non-romantic negiah - e.g. boys and girls hold hands to help each other out of dark cave. Boy/girl square dance described - nothing romantic but they do dance together.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Kenny, Katheryn    | Trixie Belden#13 The Mystery On Corbett's Island | 6-8   | N?   | Teens go on vacation at a beach house and find a missing treasure. Ongoing story line hints that a boy likes a girl- he manages to sit next to her in the car. Looks at her fondly and gives her a compliment-she gets red in the face. Boy notices girl's new bathing suit, holds her hand, and more mild boy/girl. Illustration of girl diving in water as boy applauds, and another of boys and girls wearing bathing suits at the beach. Mention of dances and movies. Explains that a bird is monogamous-keeps one mate for life. Unimportant mention of singing carols on xmas and santa claus and presents. Language-dumb, bum, idiot, stupid.   |
|                  | Kent, Derek Taylor | Scary School By Derek The Ghost                  |       | N    | Children who attend a school which is a mix of monsters and humans compete in contest with monsters. A lot of gore, dying and coming alive again, bathroom humor, language etc. Very unrefined.   |
|                  | Kerr, Judith       | When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit                    | 6-8   | OK?? | A young girl from assimilated Jewish family deals with transformation into a poor refugee. A few mentions of Jewish family celebrating X-mas w/ gifts. In school boys show girls they "love" them by throwing things at them. P 94 - young man gives girlfriend "passionate farewell embrace". Mixed dancing at French cafes - p 145.   |
|                  | Kerr, P. B.        | Children of the Lamp - The Blue Djinn of Babylon | 7-8   | N?   | A boy genie rescues his sister from a genie who kidnapped her. A few mentions of boy dealing with divorce and father's remarriage. Explanation of Halloween: celebration of the worship of wicked genies. Explanation of history of the world from genie perspective - lots of talk of Nebuchadnezzar and King Solomon, totally corrupted to fit in with genie history. Talk of demons being real. mean father is happy a genie turned his son into a bird. Minor language: shut up, dumb, heck, jerk, freaked me out, stupid.  |
|                  | Kerr, P. B.        | Children of the Lamp - The Eye of the Forest     | 7-8   | N    | Genie children try to prevent the bad guys from entering a magical door and destroying the world. Mention of book Anna Karenina, a few actors mentioned by name, TV show The Simpsons. A lot of Incan culture and gods. Detailed description of battle between dead warriors who chop each others' heads off and keep fighting. Xmas no religion. Girl is hypnotized to think she is in love with a boy - leads to minor romantic negiah. Detailed descriptions of where genies get their power - many Hebrew terms thrown around including "neshama" which is defined as a genie's "inner fire" Much more language than the first book - idiot, freak, flipping heck, creep, stinking rich, heck, shut up, sucker, stupid, dumb, butt kicking; defines heck as meaning hell. |
|                  | Kessler, Leonard   | Last One In Is A Rotten Egg                      | 1-2   | OK?  | A boy learns to swim in deep water. One scary incident of big kids pushing him in - he almost drowns. All the illustrations are of lower elementary school kids mixed swimming; girls wear bikinis but not provocative.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Kessler, Liz   | The Tail of Emily Windsnap                            |       | N    | Girl discovers she is half mermaid and tries to rescue merman father from the god Neptune's jail. Lots of talk of mermaids and humans falling in love and marrying illegally, and of mermaids luring fishermen into the ocean with song. Story of a man who got a woman pregnant and abandoned her. Black and white illustration of topless mermaid. Language: heck, freak, darn       |
|                  | Ketchum, Liza  | Newsgirl  | 4-7   | N?   | Historical fiction. Girl goes with mother to California during gold rush. Throughout book, references to girl having "no father" - she was raised by mother and another woman. Near end, mother explained that she and boyfriend were kissing and it "turned into something else" - girl remembers how baby sheep are born (p. 263). Theme of early women's liberation.                |
|                  | Key, Alexander | Escape to Witch Mountain                              | 4-6   | OK   | 2 children with shadowy past discover they are refugees from alien spaceship   |
|                  | Key, Alexander | Return from Witch Mountain                            | 4-6   | OK   | Sequel to Escape to Witch Mountain (from Disney screenplay) - evil villain tries to use children for his own purposes.   |
|                  | Key, Alexander | The Forgotten Door                                    | 5-6   | OK?  | A family tries to help a boy from another world who has accidentally fallen in to this world, despite suspicious neighbors and curious media. Girl jokingly asks her father for payment and says "fork over, don't be a stingy puss"(p23) A few mentions of going to church-no description. Discussion of life on other planets (p52), kids go to the movies. Language-stupid, idiots. |
|                  | Keyes, Daniel  | Flowers for Algernon                                  |       | C    |  |
|                  | Kibuishi, Kazu | Amulet Book One - The Stonekeeper                     | 6-8   | OK?? | Graphic novel (comic-book style). Starts with scary car accident where father is stuck in car and falls off cliff. Mother & kids move to old house which is inhabited by monsters, and children try to save mother. Very scary. Language: butt   |
|                  | Kidd, Ronald   | Sammy Corducci's Guide to Women                       |       | N    | boy tries to seduce a girl. Language, negiah.  |
|                  | Kimball, Kim   | The Star Spangled Secret                              | 4-6   | OK?? | mention women could get raped by soldiers  |
| new              | Kimpton, Diana | Pony- Crazy Princess- Princess Ellie to the Rescue #1 | 2-4   | OK?  | A princess who loves horses saves a horse who falls into a ditch. A lot of changing out of gowns into riding clothes (pants). One word mention of TV. Language- stupid.  |
| new              | Kimpton, Diana | Pony- Crazy Princess- Princess Ellie's Camping Trip   | 2-4   | OK?  | Princess who loves horses is determined to go camping so she can have adventures like the children in the books she reads. She discovers that reality is different from fantasy. Girls laugh about where to go to the bathroom when camping.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
| new              | Kimpton, Diana     | Pony -Crazed Princess- Princess Ellie's Mystery #3 | 2-4   | OK? | Princess needs to entertain a bored prince. When they discover they both love ponies, she invites him to help her figure out if the woods are haunted.King takes arm of female guest and queen leads male guest to dinner. Text and illustration of boy "putting on innocent expression" as he begs his mother for something. Girl wishes she could learn to do that- "it would be really useful when she was in trouble". Find information on the internet. Language- weird, stupid. |
| new              | Kimpton, Diana     | Pony- Crazed Princess- Princess Ellie's Secret #2  | 2-4   | OK? | Princess tries to save her beloved pony from being sold by secretly teaching him to pull a cart. Brief TV.Princess wears jeans, her great aunt comments that in her day girls didn't wear pants. Language- gross.   |
| new              | King, A. S.        | Ask the Passengers                                 |       | N   | Girl comes of age in a small town. Romantic negiah, language, alternative lifestyles.   |
|                  | Kingfisher, Rupert | Madame Pample Mouse and Her Incredible Edibles     | 3-5   | OK  | A girl is sent by her mean uncle to find out a secret recipe and ends up becoming a famous chef. A bit odd.   |
|                  | Kingsley, Kaza     | Erec Rex, The Dragon's Eye                         | 6-8   | N?  | A boy ventures into a magical world to save his mom, and finds out he is destined to be king. Throughout, he has a close friendship with a girl and even dances with her, but nothing overtly romantic. A lot of minor language: freak, stupid, moron, jerk, heck, darnit, idiot, shut up, darned, twerp. Boy thinks his father abandoned him and hates his father, but later on discovers this isn't the case.   |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick   | A Mouse Called Wolf                                | 2-4   | OK  | A mouse who can sing and an elderly woman become friends. Mentions of classical music and composers. Minor middos between mouse siblings. Language-stupid.  |
| chg              | King-Smith, Dick   | Babe, the Gallant Pig                              | 3-5   | OK  | An intelligent pig wins a sheep dog contest. Cute. Uses word 'bitch' to describe female dog   |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick   | Funny Frank  | 2-3   | OK? | chicken gets 'girlfriend'   |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick   | Martin's Mice                                      | 3-4   | OK? | A kitten decides to keep mice as pets instead of eating them. Minor language: stupid. A mouse tries to explain the facts of life to him - done very vaguely - she tells the kitten he should find a male mouse for her so she can have babies, without a male she can't (p. 49-50, chap 7; p. 61 chap 9)  |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick   | Pigs Might Fly                                     | 3-5   | OK? | A pig born with misshapen feet learns to swim and saves his farm during a bad flood. Language: the farmer often says drat, dang, and blast, with "yer" added to each word (eg: "drat yer")  |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick   | Sophie Hits Six                                    |       | N   | religion  |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick   | Sophie's Snail                                     | 2-4   | OK? | Girl has strange pets. She is slightly chutzpadik and breaks another girl's toy because the girl stepped on one of her bug-pets. Bad middos of the Junie B. Jones variety.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                                   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | King-Smith, Dick      | The Cat Lady                            |       | N    | A woman believes her cats are people who have died and came back in cat form. Entire plot based on premise of reincarnation which is explained quite clearly and believably.   |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick      | The Cuckoo Child                        | 3-5   | OK   | A boy steals an ostrich egg from the zoo and raises it. Eventually confesses to crime, and everything works out. One boy calls another "a big lump of lard ' (p. 28).  |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick      | The School Mouse                        | 2-3   | OK?? | Mouse living in school learns to read. A lot of mouse boyfriend/girlfriend (thinks he's handsome, etc.). A lot of talk about mouse 'couples' having babies: Kids in intended age range would probably gloss over it; older kids may read too much into it.   |
|                  | King-Smith, Dick      | The Toby Man                            |       | N    | Boy robs; religious quotes   |
|                  | Kipling, Rudyard      | Courageous-Illustrated Classic Editions | 4-6   | OK?? | Adapted version of a classic for younger readers about a spoiled rich boy who falls overboard and ends up learning about the value of hard work on a fishing vessel. A few religious mentions- sailor suggests that boy should burn candles in church for the virgin, man says get on knees and thank the L-rd. description of funeral at sea where body is slid into the water. The boy buys the dead man's knife at an auction, later accidentally pulls up the body with a fishing rod and is sure the dead man came to get him for buying his knife. Boy names boat for a girl he "lost his heart to" and he secretly cut off a lock of her hair to keep. Sailor talks about "pretty girls". Husband takes wife in his arms. Boy somewhat chutzpadik to father. Language-dumb, fool. |
|                  | Kipling, Rudyard      | The Jungle Book                         | 6-8   | OK   | A boy is raised by wolves and other animal stories. Difficult language.  |
|                  | Kjelgaard, Jim        | Irish Red                               | 5-8   | OK?? | Boy trains dog with love. Language: Through hell and high water (p. 6), bitch (for female dog - p. 27), damn (p. 49); gosh-darnit, goshamighty, etc.   |
|                  | Klages, Ellen         | The Green Glass Sea                     | 6-8   | N?   | Historical fiction. Two girls form an unlikely friendship, when their parents are stationed in a secret enclave to invent the atom bomb during WWII. Subtle references to the Bomb, the politics behind it, and its effects - best understood with background information. Girl's mother was a drunk, dropped her down stairs when she was 2, and disappeared. Comic book character Shazam - "has powers of Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, etc.". Mother smokes. Crass poem about Nazis - (p. 219). Language: crissakes, jeez, butt, goddamn. Used as curses: Bitch (p. 61), Chell(170), J--- (p. 279). Can be edited.  |
|                  | Klages, Ellen         | White Sands, Red Menace                 |       | N    | Sequel to The Green Glass Sea. Girls experience post-WWII period. Out-of-wedlock births, romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Klass, Sheila Solomon | Nobody Knows Me in Miami                |       | N    | A girl from a frum poor family has to decide if she wants to be adopted by rich non-frum relatives. Fantasies of negiah, talk of eating treif.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author      | Title                                  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Klimo, Kate | Dog Diaries- Buddy                     | 4-7   | OK   | Written very realistically from a dog's point of view. A dog trains to become the first seeing eye dog. Non romantic negiah. In the back of the book factual information about seeing eye dogs. Preview of book "Dog Diaries-Barry".   |
|                  | Klimo, Kate | Dog Diaries- Ginger                    | 4-7   | OK?? | Written very realistically from a dog's point of view. A dog is adopted and abandoned by a number of owners. Very graphic and unpleasant (but seemingly accurate) descriptions of "puppy mills" and the dog's trials and tribulations at the hands of human owners. Vivid but matter of fact descriptions of the dog's bodily functions using words like piddle, puke, poop. Dog is given to boy as xmas present- non religious descriptions of tree etc. Brief explanation of spaying. 9 year old boy and girl camp out in tent in backyard- completely innocent. Illustration of them in bathing suits jumping into lake. Brief mention of "movie dance team"- Rogers and Astaire. |
|                  | Klimo, Kate | The Dragon in the Library              | 3-5   | OK?? | Children rescue their friend from an evil woman's castle. Running joke about dogs kicking each other's "butts" and some other bathroom humor. Minor middos. Non-romantic negiah. Important storyline about a woman trying to find her "consort, lover, etc." Somewhat vague if they ever married though they lived together in the castle. Minor language: darn tootin, creepy, pee, poop, dork, dumb, stupid, sucker, heck, weird.  |
|                  | Klimo, Kate | The Dragon in the Sock Drawer          | 3-5   | OK?? | Children raise a baby dragon and try to protect it from a man who wants to kill it. Fantasy set in a realistic modern setting. Easter vacation - no religion. Minor language: darned, heck, stupid, darn it. Mention of Narnia series (by C. S. Lewis)   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy | Herbie Jones                           | 2-4   | OK?  | Boy has many mishaps as he tries to improve in school. Girl is scared of a ghost in the bathroom so he goes in (after knocking) and pulls her out by the hand (illustration). When teacher is nice he suddenly notices how pretty she is. Sister cleans up house for boy to come study with her.   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy | Herbie Jones and the Birthday Showdown | 2-4   | OK?  | use bra underwire for school project; subtle   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy | Herbie Jones and the Dark Attic        |       | N    | Boy catches sister and boyfriend kissing in attic.   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy | Horrible Harry and the Ant Invasion    |       | N    | Too much talk about Harry's crush on a girl.   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy | Horrible Harry and the Dungeon         | 2-3   | OK   | Harry gets himself sent to detention to check out the scary-looking new detention teacher.   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy | Horrible Harry and the Purple People   | 2-3   | OK   | Second grade adventures.   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy | Horrible Harry and the Secret Treasure | 2-3   | OK   | Boy creates a mystery for his friends to solve. Brief mentions of oldtime TV detective. Language-gross.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Kline, Suzy           | Horrible Harry Goes to Sea                   | 2-3   | OK   | Class goes on a boat ride. Some matter-of-fact talk about where they went to the bathroom on the Mayflower - was it on the "poop deck".   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy           | Horrible Harry in Room 2B                    | 2-3   | OK?  | Horrible Harry's antics. Tickles boy and makes him scream "I love girls". Juvenile language: jerk   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy           | Horrible Harry's Secret                      | 2-3   | OK?  | Harry and girl keep passing notes. Student describes parents' divorce: "My father left us".   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy           | Orp  |       | N    | A boy starts an "I hate my name" club. Side story of romance, lots of boy/girl, negiah.   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy           | Orp and the FBI                              |       | N    |   |
|                  | Kline, Suzy           | Orp Goes to the Hoop                         |       | N    |   |
|                  | Kloepfer, John        | The Zombie Chasers                           | 4-6   | N?   | Children escape townspeople who have turned into zombies. A lot of very bad middos, some boy/girl, a lot of juvenile and teenage slang, lots of blood and gore. Minor Language: darn it, stupid, lunkhead, jerk, crud, that sucks.  |
|                  | Knudson, Mike         | Raymond and Graham Rule the School           |       | N    | 2 friends find out 4th grade is not all they expected. Boy/girl.  |
|                  | Koller, Jackie French | Dragons and Kings - The Dragonling Series #6 | 2-5   | OK?  | Fantasy. Children help make peace with an evil king and free parents from jail. Non-romantic negiah. Boy wonders whose baby a dragon is, because his dragon is too young to mate.   |
|                  | Koller, Jackie French | The Keepers Book 1: A Wizard Named Nell      | 4-6   | OK?? | A princess tries to become a wizard's apprentice - subtle women's lib throughout. Story of woman who fell in love with a boy as a child, when grew up got married (p. 115). Boy gives love potion to teacher and she was "all over" another teacher... "planting big wet smackers" (p. 133) - easy to cross out.  |
|                  | Koller, Jackie French | The Keepers Book 2: The Wizard's Apprentice  | 4-6   | OK?? | A girl goes to rescue her newly discovered twin brother from hands of a wicked ruler. Lots of magic and fantasy. Quite a lot of subtle women's lib - I.e., why should boy be ruler and not a girl?, etc. Girl comments that pants much more comfortable for dragon riding than a gown. Minor bathroom language. Unimportant conversations between 2 villains: "womens'll be fallin all over us tonight" (p. 130)  |
|                  | Koller, Jackie French | The Keepers Book 3: The Wizard's Scepter     | 4-6   | OK?? | Prince and princess siblings try to rescue their kingdom and learn that only together are they strong. Princess mentions slacks more comfy for dragon flying than gown. Lots of minor women's lib. Minor chutzpah of girl to elderly wizard who ignores her desire to learn from him because she is female (P. 28). Man is magically turned into a woman - seduces his captor so he can escape - not clearly spelled out, but older children will get it (p. 104-105) - can be crossed out. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Komaiko, Leah     | Annie Bananie Best Friends To The End               | 2-4   | OK?  | Girl tries to get new girl to be her best friend. She is embarrassed of grandmother and wishes she had a new one (but isn't outright chutzpadik). At end learns to appreciate her a little better.   |
|                  | Konigsberg, E. L. | The View from Saturday                              |       | N    | Book examines the life of 4 sixth graders who were the winning team in a state educational championship. Mentions intermarriage between Jew and Protestant, married by Rabbi - as if it's fine. Junior high school girls purposely show their bras. Inappropriate references about older people being pritzusdik. Entire tone inappropriate, much like many of author's other books.   |
|                  | Konigsburg, E.L.  | About the B'nai Bagels                              |       | N    | A bar mitzvah boy copes with mom as little league coach. Chutzpah; older brother calls mom by first name; boys pay to look at playgirl magazine; skips school to play ball, and so on.   |
|                  | Konigsburg, E.L.  | From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler | 5-7   | OK?? | Children run away from home and stay in Metropolitan Museum. P. 54: describe paintings of "billowy, bosomy naked ladies". Chap. 5 (p. 84) drawing of fountain - vague picture of naked kids and statues . Please note: many other books by this author are inappropriate.  |
|                  | Konigsburg, E.L.  | Journey to an 800 Number                            |       | N    |  |
|                  | Konigsburg, E.L.  | Silent to the Bone                                  |       | N    | A boy accused of shaking little sister. Discover au pair really did it. Detailed description of very seductive au pair. Real negiah. Bad news.   |
|                  | Konigsburg, E.L.  | The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place                   |       | N    | Girl escapes mean camp mates and helps save uncles' artistic towers. Boy/girl, female anatomy, father leaves mother for younger woman.   |
|                  | Koponen, Libby    | Blow Out the Moon                                   |       | N    | An American girl adjusts to life in an English boarding school. She prefers playing games with boys than with girls, and "really really likes" one boy - not overtly romantic. Minor language: stupid. Many novels mentioned and discussed, which may or may not be appropriate; including Pride and Prejudice and Little Women. Serious hashkafa issues - Christianity, JC, questions of G-d's existence; eg: p. 103-104 chap 17, p. 157-162 chap 28. |
|                  | Korman, Gordon    | Dive - Books 1-3                                    | 5-7   | OK?? | Kids on diving internship find out their supervisors are actually looking for sunken treasure. Some violence. Book 1: Occasional comments about boys noticing pretty female supervisor; girl says they're "hot on her". Book 3: Man finds it difficult to talk to pretty woman - distracted by looks.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Everest: Book 1: The Contest; Book 2: The Climb Book 3:The Summit. | 5-7   | N?   | Children compete to be on a team climbing Mt. Everest. A lot of language - sucker, idiot, butt, stupid, heck, shut up, brat,freak, butt, moron, darn, jerk. One boy has extremely bad middos and a really bad adolescent attitude throughout the series - in the last book he dies trying to rescue a boy he ambushed and nearly killed. A lot of other near misses and injuries. A lot of talk about a teenage girl having a boyfriend who "dumps her" - she tears up a picture of them holding hands. A lot Internet, TV, movies. Mentions of monasteries, incense,Buddhist temple, monks.   |
| new              | Korman, Gordon | Framed   | 5-7   | OK?? | Boy is accused of stealing valuable super bowl ring and is sent to a school for delinquents and put under house arrest until he is proven innocent. Middos among classmates.Parents hold hands. Boy accuses friend of being "in love" with girl- he denies it.TV, computer, internet. One word xmas and Easter. Language- barf, dumb, idiot, stupid, freak, moron, psycho, jerk, idiot, gross  |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Island - books 1-3   | 4-7   | OK?? | Kids (4 boys & 2 girls) survive shipwreck on island. The trip was a program meant to give problem kids a chance to straighten out. Some violence (shooting, find dead man). Pictures on back cover of all books & front of book 2 show girls in sleeveless shirts and shorts. Boy addicted to TV knows a lot of information about survival from TV shows. Boy who is child of famous movie actor misses his social calendar, being surrounded by "chicks" and having gossip columnists call and ask about his latest escapade. Non romantic negiah. One word Easter. Language- stupid, pain in the butt, shut up, dumb, damned (p135, book 2). |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Kidnapped - Book 1 - The Abduction                                 | 5-7   | OK?  | Series is sequel to On the Run series. Meg is kidnapped for ransom and FBI tries to save her. Lots of improbable escapades by kids. Brief mention of TV and movies.A lot of computer and internet. Blogger helps them with rescue effort. Language-jerk,stupid,idiot,freak,heck (once),shut up.  |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Kidnapped - Book 2- The Search                                     | 5-7   | OK?  | Continuation of rescue effort to find kidnapped girl.Mention of TV.A lot of computer and internet. Blogger plays prominent role in story. one word mention of xmas. Language-stupid, sucker, freaked out,  |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Kidnapped - Book 3 - The Rescue                                    | 5-7   | OK?  | Meg is rescued and parents are totally vindicated. Girl is forced to sit on ATV pressed up against her kidnapper (because there is not enough room) she is thoroughly disgusted. Some violence. Computer and internet. Blog. Language-idiot, stupid, jerk, brat, heck (once), shut up.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                          | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------|------|---|
| new              | Korman, Gordon | Masterminds                    | 6-8   | OK?? | First of series. Children in secluded community find out they are clones of criminals, as part of a scientific study. Some mention of being cloned as cells in test tubes, and put into their 'host mothers'. Children rebel against their 'parents'. One boy is a bully of his best friend; friend accepts bullying. Teacher says she met husband on vacation in Cancun - child imagines people swimming on beach. Child calls father by first name. Boys and girls are friends but no romance. Some friendly/reassuring negiah. Some language: butt, doofus, dummy, screw up, stupid, ticked off. Boy's pants get stuck on gate, and he takes them off while girl turns her back. Passing reference to girl who thinks her friend has a crush on a boy. References to internet usage. |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | No Coins, Please               |       | N    | 2 teenage boys take a job as counselors on a cross country tour, with hopes of meeting girls; but instead deal with a camper on the run from the FBI. Lots of talk of getting girl friends, dates, and girls being good looking, but nothing comes out of it. Minor mention of co-ed dancing. Minor language: shut up, idiot, dumb, jerk, weirdo, wimp, freak. One brief fist fight. One unimportant mention of Earth being millions of years old.  |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | No More Dead Dogs              |       | N    | Lots of focus on crushes, girl trying to get boy's attention. Minor language.   |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Nose Pickers from Outer Space  | 3-5   | OK?  | unrefined   |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | On the Run - Books 1,2,3,4,5,6 | 5-8   | OK?  | Brother and sister run away to try to clear parents who are framed for spying; escape from many impossible situations. Some violence. Book 1: Minor language: "wuss". Boy from rehab center was sentenced for manslaughter - he shoved stepfather who beat him, stepfather fell down steps and died.  |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Schooled                       |       | N    | Hippie kid from commune is put into public high school and becomes most popular. Boy/girl, popular culture.   |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | Swindle                        | 5-7   | OK?? | A boy tries to steal back a baseball card he was cheated out of. Book justifies stealing to correct injustice. A list of "helpful hints" as to how to sneak out at night without your parents knowing. A few mentions of having difficulty going an entire night without watching TV. Boy auditions for TV commercials, wants to "make it" in Hollywood. References to Star Trek. Some middos between children. Language-shut up, gross, sleazy, dumb, idiot, jerk, freaked out, nerd.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Korman, Gordon | The 39 Clues book 2- One False Note                          | 5-8   | OK?? | Orphaned children race to find clues to a treasure while competing against other branches of the family who are vicious and will stop at nothing to beat them. Justify breaking and entering and stealing if it will help them win. Some violence. The competing families exhibit terrible middos in their treatment of their cousins (adults and children alike). Lots of TV and internet usage. A lot of music culture. A church and a crypt are settings for some of the action. Brief mention of girl finding her male cousin good looking. (In later books becomes more romantic). Language- stupid, dumb, weird, gross, stinks, butts, doofus, maniac, idiots, berserk, dweeb. Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest. Others in series are more problematic. |
| new              | Korman, Gordon | The 39 Clues- Cahills Vs. Vespers- book one- The Medusa Plot | 5-8   | N?   | The saga continues as the united family face a new enemy. Same issues as others in series with a lot of violence and increased emphasis on girl's relationship with her boyfriend- brother notices they touch constantly. A lot of computers, internet, texting, and other technology. Movies, TV. Kids commit serious crimes in order to save their relatives who are being held hostage by murderers. Cousin is a rap star/ movie star- lots of descriptions of out of control fans and concerts. Boys make photocopies of "butt cheeks". Language- weird, freak, jerk, gross, barf.   |
| new              | Korman, Gordon | The Chicken Doesn't Skate                                    |       | N    | A boy uses a chicken as the subject of his science fair project and is surprised when the whole school goes crazy when he plans to eat it. A lot of popular culture, boy/girl, language, middos.   |
| new              | Korman, Gordon | The Hypnotists   | 5-8   | N?   | Boy with hypnotic powers is recruited to join organization that supposedly studies hypnotists but is really trying to take over the world. Adolescent boy/girl- boy acts silly to get girl's attention- friend tells him he doesn't need to act like an "idiot" to get girl to "like" him. Mention of prom dates. A pretty lady is a "looker" and a "dish". Boy ask friend to hypnotize girl so she thinks he is "hot". Internet, TV, movies. ONE word xmas. Language- stupid, idiot, scumball, dork, jerk, dumb, freaking out, weird,   |
|                  | Korman, Gordon | The Sixth Grade Nickname Game                                |       | N?   | Boys compete for girl's attention  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Korman, Gordon   | The Zucchini Warriors  | 5-6   | OK?? | A girl disguised as a boy helps junior high football team win its first championship. At one point boy dresses up like a cheerleader. Boys and girls frequently sneak over to each others dorms, but nothing romantic ever mentioned. Middos among classmates. Boy reveals personal information about his classmates, including "who is in love with who". They give him the nickname "blabbermouth". Brilliant boy spends his time trying to figure out how to get a nearly extinct animal to reproduce (mentioned many times, but no inappropriate details). An education official who comes to investigate the school succumbs to a football addiction and neglects his job in order to coach the team. His boss fires him and his wife yells at him, but he is offered a college coaching job and everything ends happily. Many mentions of watching TV, and desiring a widescreen TV. Language-shut up (frequent), stink, sleazeball, idiot, freak out, stupid (frequent), bums, weird, blast. |
| new              | Korman, Gordon   | Titanic- Book Three- SOS   | 5-8   | OK?? | Scary description of Titanic sinking- lots of death. Definitely not appropriate for the sensitive child. Scary encounters with Jack the Ripper. One word mentions of xmas. Language- idiot  |
|                  | Korman, Gordon   | Zoobreak   | 4-6   | OK?  | Same series as "Swindle". Kids steal back monkey that was stolen from them, then steal animals that are being mistreated by zoo owner; and are let off with a warning. Same moral dilemma: Is it OK to steal if you feel you're morally correct? Minor middos. Minor mention of TV and acting in TV commercials. Minor language: berserk, dumb, bummed, idiot, creep, freak out, stupid, jerk, weird, brat.   |
|                  | Korman, Susan    | Magic Attic Club - Megan in Ancient Greece                         | 3-5   | N?   | A girl helps save a Greek temple. Color illustrations of girls in sleeveless tunics. Lots of Greek gods, altars and temples.  |
|                  | Kozak, Warren    | The Rabbi of 84th Street - the Extraordinary Life of Haskel Besser | 8+    | OK?  | A gadol book written by a secular author! Accurate and positive. P. 7 - Talmud has "important discussions about sex. It's all about life and everything it involves"  |
|                  | Krantz, Hazel    | 100 Pounds of Popcorn  | 3-5   | OK?  | Kids find bag of raw popcorn and go into popcorn business. One illustration of girls dancing in leotards, and one verbal description of them marching in parade in leotards.  |
|                  | Krensky, Stephen | Lionel and Louise  | 2-3   | OK?  | A typical brother/sister relationship. Illustration of girl in bathing suit (probably about 8 years old).   |
|                  | Krensky, Stephen | Lionel at Large  | 2-3   | OK   | A boy has cute experiences  |
|                  | Krensky, Stephen | Lionel's Birthday  | 2-3   | OK   | A boy can't wait for his birthday.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Krensky, Stephen     | Louise Soccer Star                      | 2-3   | N?   | Greek gods  |
|                  | Krieger, Evelyn      | One Is Not A Lonely Number              | 6-8   | OK?? | An Orthodox Jewish girl living in an out of town community copes with being an only child. A lot of Jewish concepts woven throughout the story. Life out of town involves saying things like Shabbat (not Shabbos), and being in co-ed classes till fourth grade. A few references to boys in the parallel boy's school. Say an embarrassed good shabbos to each other in shul. At boy's bar mitzvah Kiddush, girl looks at boy's baby picture and says he was so cute; friend teases her: "was?". Boy's family sends girl flowers to congratulate her on winning a contest –friends tease her that boy sent the flowers to her, etc. Her parents try to match up two shabbos guests. Throughout the story girl expresses her distress at her parent's open door policy of having many guests each week. Her distaste for this mitzvah is enumerated and explained many times and might seem very plausible to the reader. It is not until the very end that she comes to understand her parents possible motivation at doing this mitzvah with such enthusiasm. Girl and her friends gossip about one of the houseguests. At the end, girl realizes that everyone is entitled to their privacy. Girls use technology, eg: wii, the internet, dance machine, etc. Mention of going to a Broadway show. Some ballet culture. Girls show relatively good but realistic middos in working out interpersonal problems. Language-weird, stupid, darn (twice), dumb, funky, heck (once), shut up, weirdo. |
| new              | Kroll, Steven        | Sweet America- An Immigrant's Story     |       | N    | An Italian immigrant boy wants to make something of himself in America, while still obeying his father. Father embraces mother. Intense boy girl- hand holding, kissing, etc.. Boy sees girl without his father's permission. Mother hangs a crucifix next to a picture of the steamship they will be going on. Save money so they can have a nice xmas. Discussion of going to mass and the merits of various churches. Description of holiday called San Rocco about a dog that could cure illness. Father is depressed because he can't find work- stays out late drinking, comes home drunk. Name of beer is "hell gate" .Gang violence. Language- creep  |
|                  | Kroll, Steven        | When I Dream of Heaven                  |       | N    |   |
| new              | Krosoczka, Jarret J. | Lunch Lady and the League of Librarians | 3-5   | N?   | Graphic novel that pits the lunch lady superheroes against the librarian villains. The librarians want to destroy video games but the lunch ladies stop them. Parents should decide if they like the premise of this book. Comicbook style minor bully. Language- geeks.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #07 Drat You Copycat       | 3-5   | N?   | A new girl comes to school and starts copying everything a popular, stylish girl does. Eventually finds her own style. A lot of talk about Coco Channel who designed first pants for ladies. Black and white cartoonish picture of girl in leotard. Juvenile language: stink, dog poo, underpants.   |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #09 Any Way You Slice It   | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl magically switches with the owner of a pizza store and saves the store from closing. Entire book is fine except for 2 sentences about a 3rd grade girl having a crush on a 3rd grade boy - can be crossed out (p 13, 16)  |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #10 Quiet On the Set       | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl trades places with a famous movie actress and discovers that it is very hard work and sometimes unpleasant. Teacher is starstruck and treats the girl differently than her classmates which causes the children to be mean to her-poor middos. Some movie culture and movie terminology. Language-weird, stupid.  |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #16 Bad Rap                | 3-5   | N?   | A girl magically switches places with a rap star and manages to save his band from breaking up. Lots of teeny bopper rock culture, juvenile crushes on rock star, minor juvenile bathroom humor.   |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #19 Gotcha! Gotcha Back!   | 3-5   | OK?? | Children try to liven up class with practical jokes - bad middos. Typical juvenile bathroom humor eg - whoopee cushion.  |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #20 Be Nice to Mice        | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl magically switches with a girl using mice for a science fair project, despite Katie's protests that it is cruel to use them without the mice's agreement. She learns not to judge a situation without knowing all the facts. Lots of juvenile language: stinks, gross, jerk, shut up, poop  |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #29 Major League Mess-up   | 3-5   | OK   | Girl magically switches places with an aging baseball player and helps him get a coaching job. Non-romantic negiah. Minor mostly non-objectionable slang eg: psyched, weird.   |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo #37 Red, White and -Achoo! | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl switches places with an actor playing the role of President Fillmore and comes to appreciate the little known president's accomplishments. Minor bathroom humor, minor middos between kids, boy calls teacher whose name is Mrs. Derkman, Mrs. Jerkman. Fourth grade girl has a crush on a boy, but it isn't mutual (p41 chapt 7). Language-weird. Preview of new series-George Brown Class Clown-reviews mischief boy did in Katie Kazoo series. Similar language and humor.   |
|                  | Krulik, Nancy | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo Anyone But Me #1           | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl trades places with her classroom hamster after having a bad day. A lot of middos especially the way a bully treats her. She eventually befriends the bully and discovers he isn't so bad. Girls want to hang upside down on the jungle gym-girl is wearing a skirt- the other girl asks her how she can hang in a skirt- she "yanks her skirt up to her belly button" to show she is wearing shorts. Boy calls teacher Mrs. Derkman "Mrs. Jerkman". Girl is embarrassed for burping out loud in class. Language- weird, wimp. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Krulik, Nancy       | Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo Super Special: Who's Afraid of the Fourth Grade? | 3-5   | N?  | Girl adjusts to being in fourth grade without her 2 best friends. Refer to teacher Mrs. Derkman as Mrs. Jerkman. Minor middos between kids. Strange male teacher has long hair and says things like "rock on dudes". 15 year old teenager wears makeup, low slung jeans, and a "belly shirt". Brief mention of fourth grade girl who has a "major crush on a boy- boy blushes when she compliments him. Male band teacher plays in a rock band and wears an earring-description and illustration. Juvenile slang- dorky, funky, bummed, gross, dumb, stinks, weird, tush, geeks.         |
|                  | Krull, Kathleen     | Giants of Science: Leonardo da Vinci                                     |       | N   | Page-long discussion of whether da Vinci was homosexual.   |
|                  | Krumgold, Joseph    | ...And Now Miguel  | 4-6   | N?  | A boy tries to prove he is old enough to take family's sheep up the mountains. Detailed description of lambs giving birth (p. 38-40). Lots of talk of saints granting wishes and why saints don't always fill requests.  |
|                  | Krumgold, Joseph    | Onion John   | 4-6   | OK  | Boy befriends eccentric but harmless man   |
|                  | Kuhlman, Evan       | The Last Invisible Boy   | 5-8   | N?  | 12-year old boy deals with his father's recent death; as his hair and skin turn white (from stress?) he believes he is turning invisible. Sensitive and beautifully written. Boy has girlfriend he is planning to marry; hand holding, kiss on cheek. References to parents' dating, kiss. Passing reference to watching R rating movie. Occasional language: hell, crap, sucks. Could be appropriate for child experiencing death in family. Note: although writing style and drawings would appeal to 4th grader, subtleties of narrative make it more appropriate for older children. |
|                  | Kwitz, Mary De Ball | The Bell Tolls at Mousehaven Manor                                       | 2-4   | OK  | mice keep vampire from stealing water from fountain of youth. Pointless story.   |
|                  | Lafaye, A.          | Stella Stand Alone   |       | N   | An orphaned girl struggles to single-handedly run her family's plantation in the deep south while treating all of the black workers fairly. Lots of minor language: darn, dang-blasted. Lots of problematic mentions of JC and religion. Minor mention of slave owners fathering children with female slaves. Insult: son of a whore (no explanation). Non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Lai, Thanhha        | Inside Out and Back Again  | 5-8   | OK? | Girl writes of experience as immigrant from Vietnam. Based on author's own experience; written in free-verse. Beautifully done. Girl sees woman give man a friendly kiss; girl thinks to herself that such things are only done by husband and wife, in private. Language: doo-doo face. Vietnamese culture: chanting, incense, New Year celebration.  |

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|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Lake, A.J              | Darkest Age-Book 1 The Coming Of Dragons               | 6-8   | OK?? | A boy and girl survive a shipwreck and become involved in a magical quest to save the world from an evil man and a vicious dragon. Some of the characters worship many gods and sacrifice to them in shrines and some are followers of Christianity which is also described. The third category of gods were supposedly the first rulers on earth. Language-hell, stupid.    |
|                  | Lakin, Patricia        | Amelia Earhart - More than A Flier                     | 2-3   | N?   | Easy-to-read biography of famous women's libber who was determined to do what men could do. Lots of focus on that. 2 Mentions of X-mas - no religion. One attractive illustration of x-mas tree with lots of presents ( p. 7) When she played sports she would wear bloomers like the boys (p. 10). Mention of father's drinking problem and subsequent divorce from mother. |
|                  | Lalicki, Tom           | A Houdini and Nate Mystery - Danger in the Dark        |       | N    | Houdini helps a boy rescue his aunt from a criminal pretending he can contact spirits. Throughout, Houdini is very frank with the boy, explaining clearly the meaning of words adults don't want him to know, eg: illegitimate; and is the boy illegitimate or not. Language: bastard, damn, what the hell.  |
|                  | Lampman, Evelyn Sibley | Bargain Bride  |       | N    | Orphaned pioneer girl is betrothed to much older man who dies on wedding night. Lots of religious discussion. 2 instances of romantic neigiah. Concept of living in sin.   |
|                  | Landon, Lucinda        | Meg Mackintosh Solves Seven American History Mysteries | 5+    | OK   | Children travel through America returning lost historical objects. Not much in the way of a storyline, mostly just historical facts couched as a mystery.  |
|                  | Landy, Derek           | Skulduggery Pleasant                                   | 6-9   | N?   | Girl discovers magic and underworld. Some language: hell, damn, etc.   |
|                  | Landy, Derek           | Skulduggery Pleasant: Playing with Fire                | 6-9   | N?   | Girl and assorted magical heroes and villains fight to save world. Some language. Violence. "gods".  |
|                  | Langton, Jane          | The Fledgeling   | 4-6   | OK   | A girl is taught to fly by a goose. Minor mention of boy thinking girl looks nice.   |
|                  | Langton, Jane          | The Time Bike  | 4-6   | OK?  | Boy uses bike to travel through time. Minor mention of girl having crush on boys   |
|                  | Lansky, Bruce          | Newfangled Fairy Tales - Book 1                        | 2-4   | OK?  | Modern twists on classic fairy tales. Parodies on standard fairytale romance.  |
|                  | Lanthier, Jennifer     | The Mystery of the Martello Tower                      | 5-7   | OK?  | Children solve mystery of father's disappearance and art thefts. At end of book children learn that father was driving when their mother and aunt were killed in car accident; although it was not his fault, father felt responsible and hid his past.  |
|                  | Lantz, Frances         | Spinach with Chocolate Sauce                           |       | N    | Dysfunctional mother forces child to be in commercials. Language. Father kidnaps child   |

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|------------------|------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Larson, Kirby    | The Friendship Doll                              | 4-7   | OK?  | Newberry Honor. Japanese doll "Ambassador of Friendship" meets various girls and women and transforms their lives. One girl dies - sad. One mention of "vulgar" dancer at World Fair: "people say she is naked... under those feathers". Girl questions why father died - "Preacher says he was taken to spare him suffering... but what about our suffering?"  |
|                  | Lasky            | Grace the Pirate                                 | 2-3   | OK   | Theme of independent woman  |
|                  | Lasky, Katherine | Camp Princess Novel - Unicorns? Get Real!        |       | N    | Girls in Princess camp help their friend rescue her pony from battle. Strange combination of royalty mixed with teen culture. A lot of language: darned, butt, barfed, knucklehead, darn. A lot of juvenile boy/girl, dances, being "boy crazy", joking about kissing. Some bad middos. Call mother "royal control freak" Gossip about king who is a flirt, and boys who are "hot" . Silly references to saints.  |
|                  | Lasky, Katherine | Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 2 - The Journey       | 4-6   | OK?  | Four orphaned owls find their way to a legendary owl kingdom and join them in performing good deeds. One chapter description of 2 "lovey dovey" owl "mates" who constantly preen each other and use "goeey names". Young owls wonder what it would be like to have a mate. Not discussed in detail. Minor mention of owl who wrote a memoir of her love life P. 135. Minor bathroom humor, ie owls make "wet dung" jokes about birds.   |
|                  | Lasky, Katherine | Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 4: the Seige          | 4-6   | OK?? | Owls infiltrate evil owl academy. Lots of owl violence and cruelty described. Owl says worst owl curse (sprink) to teacher and says "I'm happy I did it". Other owl chutzpah to teachers. Minor language - darn. One owl kills another to steal his mate.   |
|                  | Lasky, Katherine | Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 5 - The Shattering    | 4-6   | OK?  | Owls rescue an owl who was lured into being a spy for the enemy. More "wet poop" jokes, a few "swear" words in owl languages, eg sprink, frink  |
|                  | Lasky, Katherine | Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 6 - The Burning       | 4-6   | OK?? | Owls fly to Northern Kingdom to recruit allies in fight against evil owls. Owl language same as other books - very bad for owls, nonsense words for people.(e.g. Pg. 96). Some of the understandable language is mildly problematic (e.g.. shut up, idiot, stinking, scum, butt). Minor incident of owl flirting.   |
|                  | Lasky, Katherine | Guardians of Ga'Hoole Book 9 - the First Collier | 4-6   | N?   | Owls study ancient legend of how they came to be. Lots of magic, owl spirits come back after death, and owl has a "secret love" who mated with another and so he could never "have her", yet he nobly protects her egg. Minor incident of male owl allowing a drunk female to "snuggle against him" so he could get information from her (p. 45). Talk of "great spirit" who rules the world (p. 112). Owl wonders why some babies are born in a flow of blood (mammals) and some are not. Polar bear can't identify children's father because polar bears don't mate for life the way owls do. |

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|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|--|
| new              | Lasky, Katherine | My America- Home at Last -Sofia's Immigrant Diary     |       | N    | Girl tries to cope with dysfunctional mom and abusive dad who eventually abandon the family. Girl tries to care for her younger brother alone. Lots of boy/girl and teen culture including teen pregnancy.   |
| new              | Lasky, Katherine | My America- Home in My Heart- Sofia's Immigrant Diary |       | N    | Italian girl is quarantined on Ellis Island and faces down corruption. Written in the form of a diary. Discussion of becoming a nun. Boy/girl between teenage sister and boy on the boat. Younger sister enjoys catching them holding hands. Notices her sister looks "moony" at him as if he's said "the most impossibly romantic thing". Dancers wear light skirts so when they kick in the air it shows their garters. Mother screams to yoshka. Girl says it isn't so bad to be fresh to the teacher- you just confess to priest and he says to say "four hail marys and a couple of our fathers" and it is taken care of. Girl says in Europe they went to a special mass of St. Valentines day, but in America they give heart shaped cards and sweets. Catholic priest helps the girls. Girls says it is OK to steal because the adults have stolen her from her family when they quarantined her for no reason. Language- stupid, dumb |
|                  | Lasky, Katherine | The Night Journey                                     |       | N    | A Jewish girl asks her grandmother to describe her escape from Russia. Constant use of the word "damn" - also hell hole, idiot, gross, sexy, weird, shut up, darn. Mentions of Jewish holidays and culture, not very reverent. Girl tells her parents they should worry she might get pregnant. Song about boys kissing girls.   |
|                  | Latham, Irene    | Leaving Gee's Bend                                    | 4-8   | OK?  | Historical fiction. Black girl in poor southern village, leaves village for the first time to find a doctor to help her mother. Several mentions of lord, J--. Not very explicit description of childbirth.  |
|                  | Laurd, Elizabeth | Secret Friends  |       | N    |  |
|                  | Law, Ingrid      | Savvy   |       | N    | A family of children with unusual talents stow away on a Bible seller's bus, to go see their critically ill father in the hospital. Boy/girl, negiah, tattoos and piercings, language.   |
| new              | Lawlor, Laurie   | Addie Across The Prairie                              | 3-6   | OK?  | Pioneer girl moves to the prairie with her family and survives a huge brush fire. A lot of sibling rivalry that ends with an apology. Full rendition of a song (hymn?) called Beulah Land- seems pretty neutral on the surface. A few neutral mentions of church. One unimportant sentence that father kissed mother when he returned home. .Language- dumb  |
| new              | Lawlor, Laurie   | Addie's Forever Friend                                | 3-6   | OK?? | Girl overcomes her fear of water and saves her friend. Typical middos between siblings. Children go mixed swimming (in their clothing) text and illustration. Young girls wonder at store clerks strange behavior- he asks about the girls sister and blushes- girl says he is "sweet" on her sister, though she can't understand why. Language- stupid, puke, blasted.  |

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|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Lawlor, Laurie     | American Sisters Adventure on Wilderness Road 1775 | 5-7   | OK?? | Pioneer children go west with their family. A girl learns to appreciate her younger sister. Minor middos between siblings. Father cheers on kids when they fight or tease each other. Language - stupid, shut up, dammit (once). A dance described but not romantically. Non-religious mention of Xmas. When in danger father curses - a man tells him " don't curse, pray" - father responds "I have no time to pray". Unimportant mention of girls having "sweethearts". In back, preview of "American Sisters - Pacific Odyssey to California 1705. Korean girls surprised to see a woman "twirling around with a man" because a "proper" woman wouldn't be seen dancing in public. |
|                  | Lawlor, Laurie     | George on His Own                                  | 5-7   | OK?  | Boy gets tired of farming and runs away to join troupe of dishonest actors. Eventually realizes home is best and dishonesty bothers him. Some rough language, chutzpah.  |
| new              | Lawlor, Laurie     | The School at Crooked Creek                        | 3-6   | OK?? | Boy overcomes his fear of going to school. Typical middos between siblings. Big boys bully smaller boy in school. Very subtle boy liking girl- asks to walk her home (she refuses) and blushes when he says goodbye- will go over most kids' heads. Language- stupid   |
| new              | Lawlor, Laurie     | The Worst Kid Who Ever Lived on Eighth Avenue      | 2-3   | OK?? | Children suspect that there is a crime being committed on their block. They find out that they are completely wrong. Kids scare each other that a bad boy on their block might have escaped jail and is coming. Boys and girls have a sleepover in a tent- completely innocent. Brief mention of TV.   |
|                  | Lawrence, Caroline | The Case of the Deadly Desperados                  | 6-9   | N    | Boy in Wild West tries to find outlaws who killed his parents. "Soiled Doves" - women who "spark men for pay" = "kiss and cuddle". Women in low cut dresses. Young boy and girl who want to kiss. Language: danged, d-mn (with dash), hell. Men dancing with girls who "hardly had any clothes on". Mention of "what men and women do together", "mating" and "desire". Passing mention of verses from New Testament, including name of JC. Non-romantic negiah and passing mention of romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Lawrence, Iain     | Gemeni Summer                                      | 6-8   | N?   | boy believes dog is reincarnated from his dead brother. Lots of language. Passing mention of women's non-tznius garments.  |
|                  | Lawrence, Iain     | Ghost Boy  |       | N    | Albino tries to escape mockery of townspeople by joining circus; learns much about human nature. Language. Gypsy who consistently correctly predicts future.   |

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|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Lawrence, Iain                 | Lord of the Nutcraker Men         | 7+    | N?   | A British boy is sent to aunt in country during WWI and deals with dad being at war. Although nothing very objectionable, entire book written as x-mas story (p. 211) and focus is night of x-mas when soldiers stopped fighting and sang hymns together. Language: damned. Somewhat gory war descriptions. Minor juvenile teasing about boy and girl being friends (p. 44 and 54). Lots of comparing book The Iliad (about Greek gods) with WWI. Boy wonders if can see G-d (p. 132). x-mas (157, 182). Minor romantic negiah (p. 200)  |
|                  | Lawrence, Iain                 | The Giant-Slayer                  | 5-9   | OK?  | Girl visits friend in polio ward and tells fantasy story. Minor language. Graphic descriptions of polio illness and treatments.  |
|                  | Lawrence, Jan and Linda Raskin | America's Most Wanted 5th Graders | 4-6   | N?   | Boy and girl accidentally get involved with criminals. Side story of boy accidentally convincing guidance counselor he comes from an abusive home and parents are getting divorce, when really all is fine. Minor negiah. Plans to ask girl out.   |
|                  | Lawrence, Mildred              | Peach Tree Island                 | 3-5   | OK?? | An orphaned girl goes to live with her uncle and begins to feel at home as she helps him with his peach orchard. One chapter about X-mas trees, decorations and presents - makes xmas seem very pleasant - no religion. Can't tear out because crucial to plot.  |
|                  | Lawson, Robert                 | Mr. Revere and I                  | 5-7   | OK?  | Historical fiction - American revolution. Written from a horse's point of view. 2 page mention of x-mas celebration - no religion.   |
|                  | Lawson, Robert                 | Rabbit Hill                       | 3-5   | OK?  | Cute story told from animals' perspective. Old fashioned style. Mention of St. Francis Assisi, "Patron Saint of animals" - can tear out.   |
|                  | Leach, Christopher             | The Great Book Raid               |       | N    | A boy teams up with heroes from books to save the beach from developers. Rough talk. Suspected of "sowing his oats", asking girls to house when mom away.  |
|                  | Lean, Sarah                    | A Dog Called Homeless             | 5-7   | N?   | A girl goes through the grieving process after her mother dies including a period of selective mutism. She is helped by a blind and deaf boy with asthma, a homeless man, and a dog, as well as what she perceives as her mother's ghost. Beautifully written but very heavy for a sensitive child. She wonders what happens to people after they die, maybe they become stars or angels. Her friendship with the blind/deaf boy involves huge amounts of touching- that is how he learns about the world- but completely not romantic. Her friends display a lack of middos and basically abandon her in her grief. Father sits on couch drinking beer and watching TV. Brief non religious mentions of a cathedral and xmas. Language- weird, stupid, freak out. |
|                  | Lee, Harper                    | To Kill A Mockingbird             | 8+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.  |

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|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
| new              | Lee, Stan, Stuart Moore, Andie Tong | The Zodiac Legacy: Convergence       | 7-9   | OK?? | Zodiac powers, based on the Chinese "years", are unleashed into the world onto 12 individuals. Some teens join forces to defeat evil mastermind who wants all the powers for himself. Boys and girls work together. One pair apparently have an emotional 'connection', not overtly romantic, may become more so in future books. Some supportive/friendly negiah (including 2 hugs when someone is saved), one peck on cheek. Some language: hell, freaking, crap, jerk, screwed up, heck, etc. Violence. |
|                  | Leeds, Constance                    | The Silver Cup                       | 8+    | N?   | Historical Fiction: Middle Ages. Told from perspective of Christian girl. Jewish girl survives pogrom and comes to live with them. Lots of Christian theology. Girl called bastard because relatives did not recognize father's marriage. Girls raped in pogrom. Language: hell (the place). May be suitable for older readers with guidance.  |
|                  | Lehr, Norma                         | Dance Of The Crystal Skull           |       | N    | A girl goes to New Mexico and starts seeing a skull hanging in various places. A lot of talk of Indian beliefs as if they were true. Mention of prehistoric times and the "ancient ones" but then says 800 years ago. Description of co-ed dances. Boy/girl.   |
|                  | Lemna, Don                          | When the Sergeant Came Marching Home | 3-6   | OK?? | When father returns after WWII, family moves to a farm, where boy has funny adventures. Language: damn, hell (p. 134 - boys use words on purpose to be "bad"), crap (for manure) p. 162. X-mas - focus on gifts and meal, no religion. Mention of going to church. Mention of man who likes teacher -eventually becomes engaged, but breaks off when he is transferred. Boy has juvenile crush on teacher and older girl - innocent.   |
|                  | L'Engle, Madeline                   | A Wind in the Door                   | 7+    | N?   | A companion to "A Wrinkle in Time". A very deep multilayered story about children who enter a sick boy's mitochondria to save his life. Discusses evolution as a fact, and Darwin. Language - weirdo, idiot, hell. Mild boy/girl. Minor romantic negiah. Strange dragonlike creature named "Cherubim". Mentions "Seraphim" and "fallen angels" and naming the stars. Minor descriptions of dysfunctional family.   |
|                  | L'Engle, Madeline                   | A Wrinkle in Time                    | 6-8   | N?   | Fantasy/science fiction. Children try to rescue father from world where everyone is the same. Town gossips that father ran off with another woman but family doesn't believe it. Romantic negiah - holding hands, brief kiss (p. 191). Lots of minor boy/girl. Girl speaks to dad with chutzpah when she is worried. Some very convoluted philosophical musings that mention G-d - p. 193.   |
|                  | L'engle, Madeline                   | Many Waters                          |       | N    | Children mistakenly travel back in time to the Biblical Noah's period. Huge hashkafah issues, constant boy/girl, serious negiah.   |

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|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Lennon, Joan         | There's a Kangaroo in My Soup!                           | 3-5   | OK?  | A boy teams up with a kangaroo comedian who escaped from the circus to catch a criminal. Cute, especially for kids who like corny jokes. A few silly juvenile mentions of inventing a machine that will put on people's underpants the right way around.   |
|                  | Leppard, Lois Gladys | Mandie (series)  |       | N    | A lot of older teenage romance throughout.   |
|                  | Lerangis, Peter      | Spy X - Proof Positive #3                                | 5-7   | OK   | 2 kids on improbable mission to find mother who has disappeared because of involvement in secret organization. Their father believes she has gone to the bad side, and is working against them. Children are conflicted which parent to support.   |
|                  | Lerangis, Peter      | Spy X - The Code #1                                      | 5-7   | OK?  | Children's mother, who works for secret government organization, disappears, and they unravel clues to find her. Briefly speculate if she ran away with another man - p. 69.   |
|                  | Lerangis, Peter      | Spy X - Tunnel Vision #4                                 | 5-7   | OK   | Children find mother, run away with her, leaving stepfather who believes her organization is the bad guys. Subtle implication that since father turns out to really be stepfather, they do not have to rely on his judgement anymore. Book ends on an incomplete note, but there do not seem to be any more volumes forthcoming.   |
|                  | Lerangis, Peter      | The 39 Clues - book 3 - The Sword Thief                  | 6-8   | OK?? | Books of this series are written by different authors; reviews also appear under author name "The 39 clues". Orphaned children race to find clues to a treasure while competing against other branches of the family who are vicious and will stop at nothing to beat them. Ongoing love/hate relationship between 2 cousins which leads to mild romantic negiah (p. 123, chap 14). Minor language: heck, moron, stupid, dang. |
|                  | Lerangis, Peter      | Watchers #01 - Last Stop                                 | 5-7   | OK   | Series is Twilight Zone style: strange stories, with twist at the end. Each book is a stand-alone story, with the premise being that there are Watchers who oversee happenings and sometimes control them. Mildly scary. This book: Boy tries to find missing father and follows him to parallel world.  |
|                  | Lerangis, Peter      | Watchers #02 - Rewind                                    | 5-7   | N?   | See comment on series. Boy finds magical video camera which enables him to recreate and change event in which friend died. Some boy/girl. Disturbing implication that girl who indirectly and accidentally caused friend's death, is punished for it.  |
|                  | Lerangis, Peter      | Watchers #03 - ID  | 5-7   | OK   | See comment on series. Girl finds out she is a clone and races to find cure for her genetic condition.   |
|                  | Levine, Ellen        | If You Lived In The Time of The San Francisco Earthquake | 3-5   | OK   | scary, easy reading  |

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|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | Dave At Night                              | 5-7   | N?   | An orphan boy befriends rich black family and old Jewish fortuneteller. Graphic (but not gory) description of father's death. Minor bad language, eg: hell. Talk about Jews eating treif meat at parties. Descriptions of men and women dancing Charleston (not romantic). Boy likes black girl (not romantic).   |
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | Ella Enchanted                             |       | N    | Cute twist on Cinderella-style story. Fairytale romance. A lot of boy/girl including flirting, dances-described in detail, and real romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | Fairy Dust and the Quest For The Egg       |       | N    | Fairies try to fix a magical egg. Many cartoonish illustrations of scantily clad fairies. Many references to Peter Pan. Ongoing mild romance between 2 fairies-mostly the male likes the female and tries to get her attention but she is too busy feeling rejected by a human she loved. Too much of this for this age group.  |
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | Tale of Two Castles                        | 5-7   | OK?  | A girl leaves home to become an actress (called a mansioner) but ends up becoming an assistant to a clever dragon and helps solve a crime. Light use of old fashioned language. Wife leans into husband's shoulder, he encircles her with his arm. A king has terrible middos-his servants call him "Greedy Gremmy" behind his back. A woman takes the hand of the man she is engaged to. Girl blushes in the presence of a handsome man, but nothing happens. Girl directs soldiers to act in a play where they pretend to love her and want to marry her. Language-idiot. |
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | The Fairy's Mistake                        | 4+    | N?   | A fairy rewards a kind twin with jewels that come out of her mouth when she speaks and punishes the selfish twin with insects coming out of her mouth. Things go awry when a greedy prince proposes to the kind twin only because he wants jewels and doesn't treat her well. Very shallow fairy tale like romance. Mild romantic negiah between engaged couple, one word kiss (no description). Language-stupid, idiot, shut up.   |
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | The Fairy's Return (Princess Tales series) | 4+    | OK?? | A spoof on the story "The Golden Goose" Fairy tale type of romance: kisses her hand when he proposes. Language: damn, moron, darn   |
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | The Princess Test (Princess Tales series)  | 4+    | OK?  | A spoof on the story "The Princess and the Pea". Fairy Tale type of romance - nothing very objectionable except distorted idea of "being in love"   |
|                  | Levine, Gail<br>Carson | The Two Princesses Of Bamarre              |       | N    | A cowardly Princess goes on a quest to find a cure for her sister who is dying. A lot of magic, a lot of romance, romantic negiah.  |

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|                  | Levine, Kristin   | The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had  |       | N   | White boy befriends black girl in segregationist South, and learns beautiful lessons about life and friendship. Although they really appear to be just "friends", there is some touching and kissing. Also find older sister kissing beau in barn. Language: damn (2-3 times), hell (the place), J--- (as part of exclamation). Brief descriptions of church services, sermon, hymns. Black man in town is half brother of white man, as father, a slave owner, took his mother, a slave "into the woods".   |
|                  | Levine, Kristin   | The Lions Of Little Rock  |       | N   | A black girl and a white girl become friends during a time of extreme prejudice and segregation a lot of 12 year old boy/girl-crushes, dating, going steady, minor romantic negiah, etc. some language. Quote from new testament.  |
|                  | Levinson, Marilyn | And Don't Bring Jeremy  |       | N   | A boy comes to grips with having a neurologically impaired brother. Minor chutzpah, boy/girl. Language - twerp, jerk, retard, creep.   |
|                  | Levinson, Marilyn | The Fourth Grade Four   | 3-5   | OK  | Boy adjusts to needing glasses and worries his friends will leave him.   |
|                  | Levinson, Robin K | Gali Girls Jewish History Series - Miriam's Journey Discovering A New World | 4-6   | OK? | Note on series: this is a copy of the American Girls type books, intended to instill pride in Jewish identity. Seems to be fairly accurate historically. Problems occur when books attempt to draw comparisons to other religions, point out positive aspects of other religions as they compare to traditional Judaism, and imply moral equivalence between religions. A Russian Jewish girl travel to America to join her father but when they come they find out her father has died and they may be forced to return to Russia. Remarkably, uncle who came some time before them still has beard and long coat. Brief description of a pogrom. |
|                  | Levinson, Robin K | Gali Girls Jewish History Series - Renya and the Jade Star                  | 4-6   | N?  | A Chinese Jewish girl living in old China sneaks away to join her father's business trip to try to protect him. Mention that vanilla is considered a valuable spice because it could make you fall in love. Girl misses her mother who died when she was young. Comparison of Chinese religion and Judaism.  |
|                  | Levinson, Robin K | Girls Jewish History Series - Shoshana and The Native Rose                  | 4-6   | N?  | A Jewish girl in pioneer America makes friends with a Native American girl. Since her friend's parents separated, when her parents start to argue she fears they will also separate. Details of Indian religious beliefs and comparison with Jewish beliefs- "everyone should worship as they see fit". At Tu B'shvat party the Jewish girl reads tehilim- used as a basis for finding many similarities between Indians and Jews.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                    | grade |    |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|----|---|
| new              | Levitin, Sonia    | Journey to America                       |       | N  | Jewish family flees Nazi Germany. In Germany, Jewish girl enjoys going to stores to see the xmas decorations, reads book about Catholic saints- wants to be a martyr like St. Joan, lives in home of Catholics in Switzerland while she is waiting to go to America- watches girl kneel in prayer before picture of yoshka, goes to mass with them and thinks it is beautiful- her mother said that is fine "you can pray wherever you are and still be a good Jew. G-d is everywhere. I have prayed in many churches". Girl wonders if being Catholic is what makes them so good. Girl decides to stop thinking about it because she doesn't want to "question" the faith of her fathers any more. Celebrates xmas with them- helps them cut a tree, presents etc. Girl asks her friend if she "likes" a boy. She shrugs. Boy gives girl a kiss goodbye. Mother explains that teenage sister is moody because if they were still in Berlin she would be going to parties and dances. Girl wonders if it is stealing to take food from the orphanage kitchen that was intended for them anyway. Language- shut up, stupid |
|                  | Levitin, Sonia    | The No Return Trail                      |       | N  | A newly married girl goes west with husband and baby. Clear allusions to marital intimacy on the trail. Rough language. Minor religion. Monthly cycle.  |
|                  | Levy              | Third Grade Bullies                      |       | N  | Language  |
|                  | Levy, Elizabeth   | A Mammoth Mix-up                         |       | N  | Children find a woolly mammoth bone and compete in a science fair. Entire book revolves around dinosaurs, fossils, prehistoric era, millions of years ago, etc. also middos between siblings. Brief non religious Halloween. Language-shut up, jerk, brat, weird.   |
|                  | Levy, Elizabeth   | Cheater, Cheater                         |       | N  | A girls tries to prove her cheating was a mistake. Lots of boy/girl, couples only party, minor romantic negiah, junior high dating.   |
|                  | Levy, Elizabeth   | My Life as a Fifth Grade Comedian        |       | N  | A boy becomes class clown to hide insecurity. Father puts son down through very sarcastic and biting humor; boy is chutzpadik to him and teacher, brother has gambling problem.   |
|                  | Levy, Elizabeth   | The Computer that Said Steal Me          |       | N  | A boy steals expensive chess computer to keep up with rich friends. Boy wonders if can be friends with girl with out "going with her". Girl doesn't want to die a virgin.   |
| new              | Levy. Dana Alison | The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher |       | N  | Family raised by 2 'fathers'.   |
|                  | Lewis, C. S.      | The Chronicles of Narnia Series          | 5+    | N? | Although this series appears to be an innocent, exciting adventure series, it is actually a very subtle Christian parable. The parallels will generally not be apparent to uninformed children, but parents need to decided if they want their children involved in stories that have their basis in Christianity.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Lewis, Thomas P.    | Hill of Fire  | 1-2   | OK   | I-can-read-book. A volcano destroys a village. Scary  |
|                  | Lewis, Thomas P.    | Mr. Sniff and the Motel Mystery                         | 1-2   | OK   | I-Can-Read-Book. Dog detective solves mysteries.  |
|                  | Lewis, Zoe          | Magic Attic Club - Keisha Discovers Harlem              | 3-5   | OK?  | Historical fiction. Keisha goes to Harlem of 1920 and discovers swing culture. Picture on cover and inside of girl wearing flapper dress - short and sleeveless.  |
| new              | Lewitter, Sidney R. | American Dreams- The Story of a Jewish Immigrant Family | 7+    | N?   | A Jewish family comes to America and gradually descends into non observance until a grandson becomes frum again. A lot of detailed descriptions of assimilation that was typical in that era. Boy leaves his tefillin in Europe, father finds it hard to support family when he doesn't work on Shabbos so he rationalizes it is OK for his son to work on Shabbos to support the family, kids happier in a Conservative synagogue, etc. Parents need to decide if such detail is appropriate for their individual child. Definitely needs parental guidance. |
|                  | Lexau, Joan         | Miss Happ in the Dog Food Caper                         | 1-2   | OK   | Strange story of a witch who helps a boy figure out who is scattering dog food around the house.  |
|                  | Lexau, Joan         | Striped Ice Cream                                       | 2-4   | OK?  | Very fine story of black family struggling to get along on low income. Father could not get job & disappeared so family could go on welfare - this could be difficult for young readers to understand.  |
|                  | Lin, Grace          | Dumpling Days   | 4-7   | OK?? | (Note that other books by author have worse rating). Girl goes to visit Taiwan, where parents grew up. Interesting view into other culture. Emphasis on (treif) cultural foods. Mentions of Taiwanese religion, ancestors, superstitions/beliefs. Description and stick-figure illustration demonstrating how to use Taiwan-style toilet (squat over hole in floor) - mother says it's more sanitary because you don't have to worry about other people's "butts".  |
|                  | Lin, Grace          | The Year of the Dog                                     |       | N    | A Taiwanese/American girl tries to become comfortable with her identity. A lot of juvenile boy/girl-"liking" boys, becoming boyfriend/girlfriend, hand holding etc. Girl lies to her friend to keep her happy. Put on play Wizard of Oz. Mention of movie stars, titles of books, Elvis Presley, TV. Chapter about Halloween-boy dresses up like santa claus, also thanksgiving, xmas. A lot of Chinese culture. Selfish boy wants all the cake so he spits on family's pieces- gets a stomach ache.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                           | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Lindberg, Becky Thoman | Thomas Tuttle Just In Time      | 2-4   | N?   | A well meaning boy who has a difficult time in school finally completes an assignment to the teacher's satisfaction. A few brief mentions of dinosaurs that lived a hundred and thirty million years ago. Shoplifter with a white beard is mistaken for Santa Claus. 4 year old girl kicks a security guard in the shins and says his feet smell and he picks his nose. Mention of boy trying to stop himself from watching TV instead of doing his homework. When the boy hears sounds he imagines they are made by a vampire, or a mummy or Frankenstein's monster. |
|                  | Lindbergh, Anne        | The Prisoner of Pineapple Place |       | OK?  | Sequel to "The People of Pineapple Place". Boy lives on street that is magically transported from place to place; occupants do not age and are invisible to "real world". Boy becomes friends with girl in "real world" who can see and hear him.   |
|                  | Lindgren, Astrid       | Pippi Longstocking              | 2-4   | OK   | A girl without parents lives on her own with strange manners and ideas. Some chutzpah but book makes it clear it's because no one taught her how to behave. She has a heart of gold. Funny.   |
|                  | Lindgren, Astrid       | Pippi Goes on Board             | 2-4   | OK   | Ditto   |
|                  | Lindgren, Astrid       | Pippi in the South Seas         | 2-4   | OK?  | Cartoonish illustration of girl in grass skirt, mention of shedding clothes and wearing a loin cloth but very minor   |
|                  | Lisle, Janet Taylor    | Forest                          | 4-6   | OK?? | A girl runs off to a forest so she can think in peace, and ends up in a war between the squirrels and the townspeople. Children talk negatively about their father - call him a "creep" (he is). Minor language: stupid. Unimportant brief discussion about "bad pictures" of women - can be crossed out - p. 68.   |
|                  | Lisle, Janet Taylor    | The Art of Keeping Cool         | 5-7   | N?   | A boy and his family come to live with grandparents while father is at WWII. Minor language - damn. Boy discovers that father's old leg injury was caused by grandfather with terrible temper who purposely shot him. Book gives reader more insight into dysfunctional families than parents might want.   |
|                  | Lisle, Janet Taylor    | The Gold Dust Letters           | 3-5   | N?   | A girl and her friend try to discover the identity of the author of the "fairy" letters she keeps receiving. Very clear description from child's perspective of her parents' marriage falling apart, culminating in her father moving out.  |
|                  | Lisle, Janet Taylor    | The Lampfish of Twill           | 6-8   | OK?  | An orphan boy in a fishing village forms a relationship with an eccentric old man who takes him down to the world under the sea. Magical theory of how world evolved from under whirlpool.  |
|                  | Little, Jean           | Hey World, Here I Am            |       | N    |   |
|                  | Little, Jean           | His Banner Over Me              |       | N    | Children from a missionary family come from China to Canada and are brought up by relatives. Lots of explicit religion and hymns.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Little, Jean      | Home From Far                                | 5-7   | N?   | Girl deals with her twin's death in a car accident and the introduction of two foster children into her family. P 3 - hymn about x-mas, J---, and the wise men, etc. Can be torn out. Very sad, but moving.   |
|                  | Little, Jean      | Mine For Keeps                               | 5-7   | OK   | Beautiful story of a handicapped girl learning to manage in a mainstream environment  |
|                  | Little, Jean      | One to Grow On                               |       | N    | a girl discovers that she can make friends and that lying is bad. Side plot of girl who pretends to be her friend so that older brother will notice her. Keeps asking to ride on handlebars of his bike. Overall theme of 12-year-old girl trying to catch a boy (albeit unsuccessfully). |
|                  | Lively, Penelope  | The Revenge of Samuel Stokes                 | 5-7   | OK?  | A town is built on former estate of a gardener who comes back as a ghost determined to destroy the town. Talk of naked statues, no pictures. Ghost seems real.  |
|                  | Lively, Penelope  | Uninvited Guests                             | 3-4   | OK   | ghost starves. Fine as long as can distinguish between fantasy & reality  |
|                  | Lobel, Arnold     | Days with Frog and Toad                      | 1-2   | OK?  | A frog and toad who are friends have adventures. Minor language: drat (once). Frog tells a slightly scary story about a ghost - ends ok.  |
|                  | Lobel, Arnold     | Mouse Soup                                   | 1-2   | OK   | I Can Read Book. A mouse tricks a weasel who wants to eat him.  |
|                  | Lofting, Hugh     | Doctor Doolittle Tales                       | 3-5   | OK   | Same as "Voyages of Doctor Doolittle and other Tales"   |
|                  | Lofting, Hugh     | Dr. Doolittle's Zoo                          | 3-5   | OK   | The animals are in charge at Dr. Doolittle's zoo. Cute.   |
|                  | Lofting, Hugh     | The Voyages of Doctor Doolittle              | 5-7   | OK?  | An almost complete version of the Doctor Doolittle Tales meant for older readers. He wants to learn to talk to shellfish who are thousands of years old, so he can learn what the world was like "ages ago" in "glacial days". Minor language: stupid, oh lord. Xmas - no religion.       |
|                  | Lofting, Hugh     | The Voyages of Dr. Doolittle and other Tales | 3-5   | OK   | Excerpts from 2 Dr. Doolittle books - how he became an animal doctor and his voyage to a tropical island.   |
|                  | Loizeaux, William | Wings  | 3-6   | OK?? | Boy raises baby bird. Catholic friend baptizes bird so it won't be stuck in "limbo" after death. Single female teachers talk about single male teachers. Light touch on hand between courting adults.   |
|                  | London, Jack      | The Call of the Wild                         | 7-HS  | OK?  | Dog reverts back to wild ancestry. References to images of prehistoric man - walks stooped over, swings through trees. Subtle.  |
|                  | Look, Lenore      | Alvin Ho                                     | 2-4   | N?   | Boy who is afraid of everything, goes on camping trip. Language: butt (many times), pee (once). Passing reference to JC, billions of years, dinosaurs. Drawing of naked boy running. Bathroom humor. Friend is girl.  |
|                  | Look, Lenore      | Ruby Lu, Brave and True                      | 3-5   | OK?  | A Chinese American girl has cute adventures. Sprinkling of Chinese phrases and culture throughout the book. Very minor mention of trick or treat costumes. Mention of father saying 'four letter words' when angry.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                       | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Lord, Athena V.     | Today's Special S.A.P. and Zoe              | 4-6   | N?   | A Greek boy adapts to America while taking care of precocious younger sister. Very juvenile crush described. Walks hand in hand with girl p. 43. Son of a ___ (leaves reader to fill in blank [p. 164]). Boy wonders how Noah felt when he got out of the ark and saw "millions of dead bodies" - p. 100  |
|                  | Lord, Bette Bao     | In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson | 3-5   | OK?? | Chinese girl moves to US and becomes fan of a famous baseball player. Good except for one incident - kids sneak into father's study to see "naked people" in his anatomy books (really skeletons).  |
|                  | Lord, Cynthia       | Touch Blue                                  | 6-8   | N?   | A family living on a small fishing island takes in a troubled teen as a foster child. A lot of complex emotions and behavior- frequently related to the teens desire to see his biological mother who was deemed unable to care for him due to drugs and alcohol. Many mentions of church and xmas but no detailed religion. One word mention of Yoshka. Words to a hymn called "Peace Like A River"- not overtly problematic. Girl is highly superstitious and devises many different ways to get good luck. A number of book titles mentioned which may or may not be appropriate. Mentions of TV and movies. A boy exhibits terrible middos towards the foster child. Language- jerk, stupid, idiot, weird, heck (once). |
|                  | Love, D. Anne       | The Puppeteer's Apprentice                  | 6-8   | OK?  | A mistreated orphan girl runs away and becomes a puppeteer's apprentice. Set in medieval England. Violence described as well as mistreatment of the girl. Minor language: drat. Unimportant mention of "she squatted to relieve herself. Brief funeral service - priest says "ashes to ashes" and some Latin - not translated. Mentions of Xmas and All Hallows Eve. Mentions story of Jason casting water on a sacred stone - no further explanation.  |
|                  | Lovelace, Maud Hart | Betsy-Tacy                                  | 3-5   | N?   | 2 little girls have old fashioned adventures. Minor mentions of parents attending different churches. Dying Easter eggs and going to church on Easter - no religious explanation.. Girls discuss death when baby dies - very juvenile but may be hashkafa problem: p 61-64  |
|                  | Lovelace, Maud Hart | Betsy-Tacy and Tib                          | 3-5   | N?   | Talk of different Christian denominations without explanation. Juvenile discussion of G-d and heaven Page 96-100. Children form Christian Kindness club.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Lovelace, Maud Hart | Betsy-Tacy go Downtown |       | N   | Girls see play Uncle Tom's Cabin and act in play Rip Van Winkle . Heavily glorifying show biz. Heavily glorifying x-mas: presents, stockings, Santa Claus, hymns. 1 mention of J. C. being born. Side plot of sister and boyfriend - sing at piano together, go sledding, he carries her books; no romantic negiah but not tachlis-dik either. Girls dream that in highschool they will have boyfriends too. Girls sneak and read hired girl's dime store novels, hide them under mattress - get punished by father for reading them. Language: goshdarn. |
|                  | Lovelace, Maud Hart | Early Candle Light     |       | N   | Love story with historical fiction: Minnesota pioneers as setting. Romance, lust, negiah, language, children born out of wedlock.   |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | All About Sam          | 3-6   | OK? | Growing up, from the perspective of a baby. Language: heck. Sister makes a secret code using boys' names and when she writes "I despise so-and-so" it means "I love so-and-so". Very juvenile.  |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Attaboy, Sam           | 3-6   | OK? | mention bra in store; picture child sleeping between parents in bed   |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Autumn Street          |       | N   | White girl befriends black grandson of cook. Coarse language, bathroom talk, anatomy  |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Gossamer               |       | N   | Ephemeral beings bestow dreams on humans. Language. Sickening descriptions of emotional and physical abuse of child and mother by father/husband; entirely inappropriate for intended audience.   |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Messenger              |       | N   | Companion book to The Giver and Gathering Blue . A boy tries to find out why his village is becoming less tolerant, and tries to rescue the daughter of his adopted father, ultimately sacrificing his life to save the village. Depressing description of his childhood home where his mother "beat him bloody". A running storyline about a boy with a crush on a girl who promises to kiss him. Many mentions of flirting and teasing boys. Boy puts arm around girl to comfort her. One actual kiss. Language: damn'd, hell-rite.                     |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Rabble Starkey         |       | N   | Detailed description of crazy mother. Lots of talk of developing bodies and developing interest in boys. Boy/girl party   |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | See You Around, Sam    | 3-4   | OK? | reference to sister's boyfriend; Santa  |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Stay: Keeper's Story   | 3-5   | OK? | Vague anatomy (of dogs)   |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Switcharound           |       | N   | messy divorce   |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | Taking Care of Tremain |       | N   |   |
|                  | Lowry, Lois         | The Giver              | 6-HS  | N?  | Well written story about a future society where everything is seemingly perfect until one boy discovers the truth. Detailed description of boy bathing elderly woman, of thoughts of bathing girls his age, and of taking pills to stop "stirrings" (implied to mean boy/girl feelings). Not very explicit but this age group can usually read between the lines.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Lowry, Lois       | The One-Hundredth thing about Caroline                 |       | N   |  |
|                  | Lowry, Lois       | Zooman Sam   |       | N   | Ongoing adolescent flirting between sister and "non-boyfriend"   |
|                  | Lowry,Lois        | Anastasia On Her Own                                   |       | N   | When her mother goes on a business trip, a girl unsuccessfully tries to take care of things on her own. A lot of boy/girl, situation with her father's old girlfriend, language, teen culture, very informal relationship with parents, etc.   |
|                  | Lubar, David      | Punished   | 2-4   | OK  | Boy who is loud in library is "punished by having to speak in puns.  |
|                  | Lubar, David      | The Psycho Zone: Kidzilla and other Tales              | 5-6   | OK? | Collection of strange and scary short stories of the "twilight zone" variety. Some where kids get killed or eaten. May scare some kids. Last story - vampire - use cross to fight him.   |
|                  | Lucas, D. J.      | Dear Max   | 3-5   | OK  | Boy's correspondence with author.  |
|                  | Lunn, Janet       | Double Spell   | 5-7   | OK? | Twin girls are fascinated by antique doll which starts giving them strange memories of olden times. Spirits, ghosts, magic, although story written in a style to appear more realistic than fantasy.   |
|                  | Lupica, Mike      | Miracle on 49 St                                       |       | N   | Girl proves that famous ball player is her father (after brief relationship with her mother) - central theme of book.  |
|                  | Lynch, Chris      | Cyberia  | 5-7   | N?  | A boy whose life is completely computerized helps free animals being enslaved by technology. A lot of computer culture, some TV, mild bathroom humor, non religious mention of Santa Claus. Frequent language-stupid, jerk, fathead, weird, sap, freak out, stink, puke, freak, butt.  |
|                  | Lyon, George Ella | Here and Then  | 4-7   | N?  | A girl comes in contact with a ghost nurse at a civil war enactment who asks her to bring supplies for the wounded soldiers. Strange story. In order to collect funds for the ghost girls sneak out without parent's permission and pretend they are girl scouts collecting for hurricane relief. Justify this as fine. Considers sneaking money from her parent's wallets, then decides not to. Mention of female anatomy. Watches movie on TV. Mention of JC in a song. Language-stupid, weird, dumb, damned (once). |
|                  | Lyons, Mary E.    | Letters From A Slave Girl: The Story Of Harriet Tubman |       | N   | A lot of dwelling on masters taking advantage of their slave girls and then having light skinned babies.   |
|                  | Lytton, Deborah   | Jane in Bloom  |       | N   | Girl deals with death of sister with eating disorder. Heavy. Mild boy/girl   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | MacBride, Roger Lea | Little House The Ricky Rldge Years #5 Little Town in the Ozarks       |       | N    | <p>Girl adjusts to living in town.Minister visits to invite family to church and encourage them to send daughter to Sunday school, a lot of discussion about going to church and which church is better. Glorified xmas. Description of a pie supper where boys bid on pies that girl's made and the winning bidder gets to eat the pie with the girl. Boys ask a girl they like to walk them home from church. Girl realizes she likes a boy as more then a friend and is jealous when a girl shows interest in him. Wonders what it might be like to be in love.He gives her a kiss on the cheek- she blushes. Much more of the same. Mixed swimming. Discussion of suffering of the "negro". Language-durn/darn (frequent), dumb, hell,shut up, danged, shucks,blasted.</p> |
|                  | MacBride, Roger Lea | Little House The Rocky Ridge Years #1 Little House on Rocky Ridge     | 3-5   | OK?? | <p>Continuation of L.E. Wilder's Little House series. Family moves to the Ozark Mountains to escape a drought. Description of man and woman square dancing (p66). Sunday is day of rest. Mother reads relatively innocuous passages from bible(p96-97). Innocent mixed swimming. Discussion about which church to join (p167), one word mention xmas,. Detailed description of mother doing her hair, getting dressed (p186-187). Father gives mother a hug- she blushes. Later gives her "a great hug and a long kiss that made her gasp" (p239)Language- shut up.</p>  |
|                  | MacBride, Roger Lea | Little House The Rocky Ridge Years- #2 Little Farm In The Ozarks      | 3-5   | OK?? | <p>Girl adjusts to life on a farm and to new school. Mention of going to church on Sundays.On Decoration Day church members have a picnic and tidy the graveyard. One word mention of xmas.Description of a frolic- "folks" dance, "big boys" fight over "some girl". Girl gets scared when parents fight- eventually resolved. Girl thinks her teacher is "stupid" and "dirty". Language-durn, blasted (after father says this mother tells him not to cuss), stupid, dumb.</p>   |
|                  | MacBride, Roger Lea | Little House The Rocky Rldge Years #6 New Dawn on Rocky Ridge         |       | N    | <p>As girl gets older series gets to be more and more problematic.More girl/boy, negiah, rebellion against parents, etc.Too much to detail.</p>  |
|                  | MacBride, Roger Lea | Little House The Rocky Ridge Years#3 In The Land of the Big Red Apple |       | N    | <p>Girl helps her family try to make a success of their farm. Gentle but detailed love story leading to marriage.Lots of details of courtship. Little girl is jealous that boy is courting an older girl and not her. Detailed description of a "candy breaking" event which is "kissing games".Little girl wonders why boys and girls would want to kiss- that is for mothers and fathers. Description of coed square dance.Detailed and glorified xmas. Kiss girls under the mistletoe. Detailed plot of a book about Yoshka. Detailed discussion about if Santa Claus is real. Language-darn/durn, heck, shut up.</p>   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | MacCarone, Grace     | The Haunting of Grade Three          | 2-4   | N?  | Children investigate cause of haunting in school Lots of slang, movie talk, thinking about ghosts and death. Nothing specifically bad, just overall tone.   |
|                  | MacDonald            | Secondhand Star                      | 2-3   | OK  | ref. To nun, saint  |
|                  | MacDonald, Bailey    | Wicked Will                          |       | N   | Young William Shakespeare solves mystery of who killed miser. Kissing.  |
|                  | MacDonald, Betty     | Mrs. Piggle Wiggle (series)          | 3-6   | OK  | Magical cures fix children's bad habits like being a slowpoke or bully. Bad middos clearly described but so is cure. Cute.  |
|                  | MacGregor, Roy       | The Screech Owl's Northern Adventure |       | N   | A hockey team travels to the North of Canada to play an Indian team. A lot of language. Some boy/girl.  |
|                  | Macguire, Gregory    | The Good Liar                        | 3-5   | OK? | During WWII, two French boys befriend German soldier without knowing mother is hiding Jews. Very simple, innocent treatment of war. Humanizes German soldier.   |
|                  | MacHale, D.J.        | Pendragon - The Lost City of Four    | 5-8   | N?  | A boy is assigned the job of saving the universe and encounters adventures on a water covered world. Lots of minor bad language and slang - heck, bummed, haul ass, freaky, etc. Memories recalled of "magical kiss" with girl friend p 15. Minor non romantic negiah.  |
|                  | MacHale, D.J.        | Pendragon - The Never War            |       | N   | boy goes back in time to save Earth. Book raises the big question if it's OK to let some die to save the many. Author implies that it is. Lots of bad language and slang. Very prominent side plot of boy/girl romance, girl wears boy's favorite bikini for him, long description of a kiss. Entire series is probably equally problematic.  |
|                  | MacKellan, William   | The Ghost of Grannoch Moor           | 4-6   | OK  | Boy comes to love puppy that was given to him as a consolation for dog's death. Solves mystery of which dog is killing sheep.   |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | Grandfather's Dance                  | 4-6   | OK? | Last book in Sarah, Plain and Tall series. Anna gets married, grandfather dies. Sad. Boy and girl who grew up together "whisper by the barn". Girl wonders why people would want to marry anyone other than their dog - fantasizes about her wedding: "dog husband licks cheek and whispers - you've never been more beautiful - more beautiful than pot roast". Minor language: Drat (p. 16)   |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | Arthur, for the Very First Time      |       | N   | Boy stays with eccentric aunt and uncle for the summer. Humorous slang - e.g. call strange person "scatty". P. 44-45 Aunt calls G-d "Himself" and the devil "Ears" - boy is confused because parents do not believe in G-d - hashkafa problems. Humorous but slightly detailed description of church service (p. 46-49). Boy befriends a girl his age whose parents abandoned her (p. 58) Girl wonders if adopted father loves her; decides he does when she accidentally gets drunk on uncle's "medicine" and throws up all over adopted father. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                 | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | Caleb's Story                         | 4-6   | OK  | Continuation of Sarah, Plain and Tall. Long-missing grandfather returns after he deserted family; grandson discovers that the reason he never wrote letters to them is that he could not read.  |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | Journey                               | 4-6   | N?  | Mother deserts children   |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | More Perfect Than the Moon            | 4-6   | OK? | Girl deals with mom having baby. P 35-37: watches boy and girl kiss - later get engaged. Can be crossed out.  |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | Seven Kisses in a Row                 | 3-5   | N?  | Sweet story about girl who teaches visiting aunt and uncle about dealing with children. Discussions of love leading to marriage - hand holding, tingling feeling, girl wonders if brother feels that way about girlfriend. Picture of girl looking into parents' room - 2 pairs of feet sticking out of blanket on bed.                     |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | Skylark                               | 4-6   | OK? | Family confronts drought and scary fires. A happy marriage depicted very warmly, including physical affection between husband and wife - holding hands, kissing, hugging, dancing together, all described in a sweet and very gentle way. Parents need to decide if this is appropriate for their child.                                    |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | The Boxcar Children Beginning         | 3-5   | OK? | A prequel to the famous Gertrude Chandler Warner series which tries to depict the life of the children before their parents died. Illustration and text of husband and wife dancing to lively tunes, wife kisses husband- he blushes.   |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt |       | N   |   |
|                  | MacLachlan, Patricia | Word after Word after Word            | 3-5   | N?  | A writer visits a fourth grade class and teaches them the power of creative writing. Writing helps children deal with heavy issues - a mother with cancer, separation of parents, an adopted sibling. One child calls parents by first names. Minor language: dumb. A bit too heavy for the intended age group.                             |
|                  | Madonna              | The English Roses #2 Good-bye Grace   | 4-6   | N?  | A group of friends help their friend deal with a possible move. Mention of watching TV. Girls choose a table in the cafeteria to be close to the table where the "cute" boys sit. Sixth grade girl likes a boy- girls gossip about how cute he is, how adorable he is, etc. Nothing happens beyond them having a conversation about soccer. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Madonna          | The English Roses #6 Being Binah                           |       | N   | A lot of preteen culture- hottest nail polish colors, Mary- Kate and Ashley, pop stars, celebrity gossip, etc . Sixth grade girl has a crush on a boy. Another girl starts to notice how cute a boy is after he accidentally brushes against her, when his hand brushed against hers she "felt a slight tremor", she blushes when he speaks to her, etc. A lot of loшон hora type gossip about classmates. Discussion about why boys like a girl who wears very short clothing. Girl deals with feelings of jealousy when she sees another girl kiss him on the cheek. |
|                  | Magic School Bus | Magic School Bus Chapter Book #03 - The Wild Whale Watch   | 2-4   | OK? | Kids go under ocean to see whales. Brief comparison of whale's size to dinosaur (P. 3).  |
|                  | Magic School Bus | Magic School Bus Chapter Book #05 - Twister Trouble        | 2-4   | OK  | Kids experience a tornado.   |
|                  | Magic School Bus | Magic School Bus Chapter Book #07 - The Great Shark Escape | 2-4   | OK  | Class goes underwater to learn about sharks. Mildly scary.   |
|                  | Magic School Bus | Magic School Bus Chapter Book #10 - Expedition Down Under  | 2-4   | OK? | Tour guide is woman wearing shorts and tank top. P. 68 - Dingoes brought by sailors 15,000 years ago.  |
|                  | Magic School Bus | Magic School Bus Chapter Book #18 - The Fishy Field Trip   | 2-4   | OK  | Class goes to visit coral reef in Australia.   |
|                  | Magic School Bus | The Magic School Bus Gets Eaten                            | 1-3   | OK? | Picture book. Bus takes kids inside human body. Ms. Frizzle wears strap-sleeve sundress  |
|                  | Magoon, Kekla    | Camo Girl  |       | N   |  |
|                  | Maguire, Gregory | Missing Sisters  |       | N   | A girl in a Catholic orphanage finds her missing sister. Huge amounts of problematic religion.   |
|                  | Malley, Gemma    | The Declaration  |       | N   | Longevity drug enables people to live forever, on condition that they sign declaration to never have children; illegal children are raised in orphanages and used as servants. Woman marries man who is entitled to have one child; when she is pregnant discovers that he had an affair and his mistress had his child first, so she tells him to kill her child so he won't be illegal. Language. Boy and girl kiss.   |
|                  | Malley, Gemma    | The Resistance   |       | N   | Continuation of "The Declaration" - first book in series is unacceptable. References to teen pregnancy and harvesting embryos.   |
|                  | Manes, Stephen   | Be A Perfect Person In Just Three Days                     | 3-5   | OK? | Boy finds a book about being perfect but in following the silly instructions he comes to realize that perfection is boring. Some middos between siblings and classmates. Boy dreams that when he is perfect he will be able to correct his teachers in front of the class and he will be able to laugh at his family's mistakes. Brief mention of watching TV. Frequent use of the words stupid and dumb.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Manes, Stephen   | Make Four Million Dollars By Next Thursday                         | 3-5   | OK   | Boy finds book about getting rich and follows wacky instructions. Realizes wealth is not everything.   |
|                  | Marino, Nan      | Hiding Out at the Pancake Palace                                   | 5-7   | N?   | Boy who is a superstar singer and musician comes to a small town under assumed identity to escape the paparazzi after making an embarrassing mistake on stage. A lot of music culture including names of singers, shows, types of music- eg rock, heavy metal, etc., Broadway shows, TV shows etc. Girls flirt with boys. Girls keep scrapbooks of favorite boy star. Boys favorite book is Bud Not Buddy by Curtis. Non religious mention of church. Language- shut up, creepy,   |
|                  | Marino, Nan      | Neil Armstrong is my Uncle & Other Lies Muscle Man McGinty Told Me | 4-7   | N?   | Girl deals with new boy in town who tells whopper lies; learns about friendship and loss. Girl calls her non-attentive parents by their first names behind their backs & is passively chutzpadik; wishes she could call them first names to their faces. Occasional minor language: bag of bull, jeez, butt, pee in pants. Mother watches soap operas and tries to explain to girl who loves who; one male character in show "holds a woman close".  |
|                  | Marsden, Carolyn | When Heaven Fell   | 4-7   | OK?? | Vietnamese family has visit from Americanized half-Vietnamese grown daughter. Very nicely done insight into Vietnamese society (and hopefully hakoras hatov for American lifestyle). Mention of mother who "had child with" American soldier who then left - kids would assume married? Children watch American movie of teenage girls who swim in bikinis, go out with boy and kiss - very peripheral. Vietnamese family has separate house for dead ancestors; go there to "pray" and leave offerings of food for ancestors. |
|                  | Marshall, James  | Fox on Stage   |       | N    | Fox takes video of people "smooching" and woman putting on girdle.   |
|                  | Martin, Ann      | Yours Turly, Shirley   | 3-5   | OK?? | Very nice story about learning-disabled girl. Short non-religious summary of story of JC. Compares Chanukah to X-mas - both get gifts.   |
|                  | Martin, Ann M    | Babysitters Little Sister #9 Karen's Sleepover                     | 3-5   | OK?? | Same issues as other books in this series. Girl invites her friends to a sleepover, but when her best friend's invitation doesn't arrive they get into an ugly fight. They only make up when a new, haughty girl starts to ruin the party. Minor middos between classmates and between siblings. Girl "likes" a boy, he says he wants to come to the sleepover to see girls in their underwear. Movie The Wizard of Oz described in great detail. Language- weirdo, gross, jerks, dweebs, wimp, dumbbell.                      |
|                  | Martin, Ann M.   | A Corner of the Universe   |       | N    | A girl deals with mentally retarded uncle. Lots of female anatomy, catching unmarried couple in bed, boy/girl, profanity, chutzpah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|-----|---|
| new              | Martin, Ann M. | Rain Reign  | 7+    | N?  | Story written from the perspective of a girl with high functioning Asperger Syndrome. She is being raised by a father who is trying very hard not to be abusive since he was a foster child due to an abusive father. It is an uphill battle since he drinks too much and loses his job. Girl believes her mother abandoned her, but at the end, finds out that she died. Through it all, she is helped by a caring uncle who eventually becomes her guardian when her father can't take it anymore and leaves her at his door. Very sad and gritty. A lot of bad behavior in the classroom due to her aspergers. Teacher recommends resource room and father says "that's OK as long as its not for retards". Classmates call her a "retard". A lot of TV watching, movies. Father walks around in undershirt and boxer shorts. Halloween was "cancelled" because of a hurricane. One word xmas. Father smokes Language (usually said by adults)- freaking (as an expletive), frickin', damn (pg 93), crap (pg. 8), hell (pg. 127), butt |
|                  | Martin, Ann M. | The Kids in Ms. Colman's Class - Teacher's Pet #1 | 2-4   | OK? | Second graders choose a pet, girl tries to find a new best friend. Minor bad middos of the typical grade school variety - check later books to see if still minor. Minor language: school stinks, Ms. Colman stinks, barf.  |
|                  | Martin, Ann M. | Babysitters Little Sister #14 Karen's New Year    | 3-5   | N?  | Girl celebrates New Years at her divorced father's home and learns about making resolutions. She spies on her family to see if they are keeping their resolutions and angers everyone by keeping track of every time they break a resolution. Father explains that no one takes New Years resolutions seriously. First chapter is called "the day after xmas". Friend got same present for Chanukah as girl got for xmas. Same detailed description of divorce as other books in this series. Second grader makes resolution to ask boy who she likes to marry her. Older sister (maybe junior high) has boyfriend. Language- gross, creepy. Back of book preview of "Karen's In Love" about Valentines Day.  |
|                  | Martin, Ann M. | Everything for a Dog                              | 3-6   | OK? | Boy finds stray dog; another boy deals with death of his brother and his dog. X-mas gifts, meal, parade - no religion.  |
|                  | Martin, Ann M. | Main Street - Best Friends                        | 5-7   | N?  | 2 sisters whose parents died in a car accident come to live with their grandmother in a small town. Down's syndrome boy graduating high school wants a girl friend. Passing mention of girl with 2 dads - no explanation (p 72). Same issues with abusive father as other books. Mentions of X-mas no religion.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author   | Title                             | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Martin, Ann M.                                     | Main Street - September Sun Rises | 5-7   | N?   | Continuation of series. Minor language - dang. Minor reference to female anatomy (p 17). A lot of dwelling on girl with abusive father who ran away and fear that he may return. Mention of X-mas, Halloween, no religion. Mentions of titles of books which may or may not be appropriate. Single aunt has a closet of baby things - doesn't explain why so girl wonders if she is pregnant. Theme of revenge against a mean girl.   |
|                  | Martin, Ann M. and David Levithan                  | Friends                           | 5-8   | N?   | A collection of stories by famous authors. In "The Friend Who Changed My Life" girl solves problem with a bully by punching her in the nose., other middos issues between classmates. In "My Best Friend" girl's mom smokes, dad "ran out on them", language- weird. In "Connie Hunter Williams, Psychic Teacher" teacher wears mini skirts and go-go boots and used to be a psychic, fourth grade girls and boys "go together" until teacher forbids it, middos between children, fifth grade girl is thrilled when boy she likes asks her to skate. In "Smoking Lessons" popular girl with anorexia sneaks out to smoke, girl who wants to be her friend copies her. Popular girls roll up their uniform skirts. Language- dork, freak. In "Shashikala A Brief History Of Love and Khadi" mention of watching movies, boy likes girl and gets up the courage to chase her, a lot of description of how much boy admires girl and thinks she's pretty. In "Flit" - language- geeks, freaks, stupid,dumb. In "The Justice League" middos between classmates, bullying, mention of TV, comic book heroes, language- freaks, stupid. In "Minka and Meanie" mention of church- no details, TV watching, implication that unmarried couple lives together, older woman smokes, girl sneaks to watch PG 13 movies. In "Doll" girls don't like a girl who smells like urine, brief unimportant mention of church. In back of book short bios of authors including titles of books they wrote which may or may not be appropriate. |
|                  | Martin, Ann M. and Laura Godwin                    | The Doll People                   | 4-6   | OK?  | A doll house family rescues their missing aunt . A few mentions of Nancy Drew books. Minor language: darn (P. 195)  |
|                  | Martin, Ann M. and Laura Godwin and Brian Selznick | The Runaway Dolls                 | 4-6   | OK?? | The third "Doll People Story". The doll children run away with their newly discovered baby sister and end up being put up for sale in a department store. A few mentions of watching TV and reading the magazine TV Guide.. Girls plan to make up fake boy friends for fun (pg 311), Movie The Wizard of Oz.Dolls that can be plugged into a computer and used on line. Some scary moments that might be scary for younger readers. Language-weird, creepy  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                  | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Martin, Nora                            | The Eagle's Shadow                       | 4-6   | N?   | A girl goes to live with her grandmother in a small native village in Alaska and discovers a lot about her own identity. She learns to deal with the knowledge that her mother who abandoned her had a drinking problem. Very heavy for this age group. Mild boy/girl. Boy picks up girl (pg 170). A lot of native culture- spirits, legends, etc. Girl becomes enemies with a man who brings alcohol to the village that causes drunken problems- a lot of very scary encounters. A lot of going to church, detailed xmas celebration- call it "night of birth", mention of yoshka. Language- stupid, crap, stinky, jerk, creep. |
| new              | Mason, Jane B. and Sarah Hines Stephens | Snowfall Surprise                        |       | N    | A girl invites her friends to go skiing and breaks her leg. A lot of juvenile boy/girl, preteen culture, etc.   |
| new              | Mason, Jane B. and Sarah Hines Stephens | Spy Society- Disguised and Dangerous     | 3-5   | N?   | Sixth graders find spy equipment and use it to uncover a cheating ring at school. A lot of middle school culture including coed parties, makeup, cellphones, mp3 player, names for different groups in school- nerd herders, sports pack, etc. Girl lies to a teacher to keep from getting in trouble. Girls name cheaters by name in front of entire school at assembly. Language- freaked, weird, dang it, weirdo, idiot, heck  |
| new              | Mason, Jane B. and Sarah Hines Stephens | The Sister Switch                        |       | N    | Twins switch places in school and get into all kinds of mixups. A lot of middle school culture including a large focus on boy/ girl crushes, etc.   |
|                  | Mason, Simon                            | The Quigleys in a Spin                   | 2-4   | OK   | Delightful funny stories about British family.  |
|                  | Mason, Simon                            | The Quigleys: Not for Sale               |       | N    | Cute stories BUT one story of children going to sauna and seeing naked people, with rough drawing.  |
|                  | Mass, Wendy                             | 11 Birthdays                             | 4-7   | OK?? | Girl relives the day of her 11th birthday until she makes up with friend (who is a boy) and breaks the spell. Fun read. Minor side story of older sister who is trying to get popular boy to like her; he likes other girl and puts his arm around her.   |
| new              | Mass, Wendy                             | 13 Gifts                                 |       | N    | A girl visits her aunt and uncle in her parent's home town and discovers secrets about her family and inner strength in herself. A lot of junior high boy girl, a lot of detailed minor romantic negiah, crushes, flirting, blushing etc. Crush on teenage movie star, language, .etc.  |
|                  | Mass, Wendy                             | Every Soul a Star                        |       | N    | 3 kids from different backgrounds, experience an eclipse and learn about life. Boy/girl, negiah.  |
|                  | Massie, Elizabeth                       | Daughters of Liberty - Patsy's Discovery | 4-6   | OK?  | Girl wishes she could wear trousers like a boy instead of uncomfortable colonial clothing. Otherwise nice historical fiction  |
|                  | Mastermon-Smith, Virginia               | The Treasure Trap                        | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy and girl search for treasure and get trapped in tunnel. Take revenge against mean lady; book makes it seem justified.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                         | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Matas, Carol                   | Rosie in Los Angeles - Action  | 3-5   | N?   | A Jewish girl's family settles in L.A. to produce movies. She helps defeat poachers with the help of a boy she likes (implied, not stated clearly) and a Jewish cowboy she sees in her dreams - described like a guardian angel. Minor romantic negiah. Strange story.  |
|                  | Mathews, L.S.                  | The Outcasts   | 7-8   | N?   | Strange story of misfit teens who save the world through unlikely fantasy experience. Lots of language. Non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Matlin, Marlee                 | Deaf Child Crossing  | 3-5   | OK?? | 9-year-old deaf girl learns about friendship. Several mentions of other girl wanting to see/talk about boys.  |
|                  | Matlin, Marlee and Doug Cooney | Nobody's Perfect   | 3-5   | OK   | Deaf girl learns to deal with new friend whose brother is autistic.   |
|                  | Mayerson, Evelyn Wilde         | The Cat Who Escaped from Steerage                                      | 4-6   | OK?  | A Jewish girl and her deaf friend are emigrating to America from Europe with their families. Try to find escaped cat in forbidden area of the ship. Almost no religion except when passengers are scared some take out rosary beads and crosses and some put on prayer shawls. Also mentions that captain christened baby on board.   |
|                  | Mazer, Anne                    | Amazing Days of Abby Hayes - Super Special 01: The Best is Yet to Come |       | N    | Girl graduates fifth grade. Lots of talk if should wear bright orange silk pants to graduation (p. 16) because she hates dresses. Kids tease her about being friends with a boy but she likes him too much to care. (p. 131). Description of kids' clothes at graduation - sleeveless top, strapless red gown, etc. Biggest problem in book: mom's old school friend comes as uninvited guest and behaves outrageously e.g. refuses to eat food served because it's not healthy enough, lets daughter do whatever she wants because it's her choice (even not to shower). Eventually hosts literally throw her out. This whole story a really, really bad example of hachnasas orchim from both ends. |
|                  | Mazer, Anne                    | Amazing Days of Abby Hayes #01 Every Cloud has a Silver Lining         | 3-5   | N?   | Series about a fifth grader who loves to write - most of the story is told as journal entries. A lot of emphasis on what a trendy girl in the class wears, and trendy teacher - described in detail - but the heroine doesn't dress this way. In this book she wants to be special like the rest of her high achieving family, so she tries to be a soccer star. Trendy girl has a crush that doesn't amount to much more than saying he's cute or trying to get him to notice her. Heroine doesn't 'get' entire boy/girl situation. Minor language: barf (once).   |

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|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Mazer, Anne         | Amazing Days of Abby Hayes #02<br>The Declaration of Independence |       | N    | Girl tries to prove her maturity so her parents will let her go to the fair with her friends instead of with her family. She writes diary entries trying to figure out why a classmate has a crush on a boy, since to her the boy seems ordinary (p. 26 chap 4, p. 62-63 chap 8). A girl isn't allowed to go to the class's first co-ed party ; co-ed dance described but not romantic at all. She surveys kids to find out how to get what they want from parents; sample answers: begging, whining, pouting, throwing fits, etc. (p. 57-59 chap 8).               |
|                  | Mazer, Anne         | Amazing Days of Abby Hayes #03<br>Reach for the Stars             | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl wants to be the star of her class play. One minor reference to a girl with a crush on a boy (P. 38 chap 5) - can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Mazer, Anne         | Amazing Days of Abby Hayes #07 -<br>Two Heads are Better Than One | 3-5   | OK?  | 5th grader becomes friends with boy while working on science project. Is teased about "boyfriend". Although they really remain "just friends", a lot of emphasis on "what's wrong with being friends with a boy, anyway?"   |
|                  | Mazer, Harry        | My Brother Abe  | 3-7   | OK?? | Historical fiction. Sister of Abraham Lincoln. Father is verbally abusive to children. Mother dies. Passing mention of Devil and Second Coming p. 91.   |
|                  | Mazer, Harry        | The Island Keeper   |       | N    | Rich girl runs away after sister's death to an island and survives on her own. Thoughts of boy/girl, female biological functions, language  |
|                  | Mazer, Norma<br>Fox | Goodnight Maman   |       | N    | Girls and brother escape Germany to DP camp in America. Language - pissed, go to hell. P. 72 - brief mention of female anatomy. Boy/girl. Asks brother if "necks" with girlfriend. Brother stares at girlfriend's chest. 15 year old boy smokes.  |
|                  | McAllister, M. I.   | The Mistmantle Chronicles book 1:<br>Urchin of the Riding Stars   | 5-8   | OK?  | An ongoing story about an animal kingdom on a magical island and an orphaned squirrel who saves the kingdom from a greedy advisor to the king. Minor language: stupid (once). References to a "greater power" that controls everything, called "the heart" which is "compassionate", that understands more than the animals do, and has reasons for what it does. There are priests who pray to the heart. Some "falling in love" and getting married - quite tame.   |
|                  | McAllister, M. I.   | The Mistmantle Chronicles book 2:<br>Urchin and the Heartstone    | 5-8   | OK?? | Squirrel is kidnapped and prevents neighboring island from invading his home. A lot of minor language: shut up, idiot, freak (constantly used), stupid. A lot of praying to the "great heart" but no further description. An evil sorcerer kills animals to use their bodies for evil magic. Some good guy vs. bad guy violence. Priest gets prophecies. One sentence mention of flirting, falling in love, and marrying (no description of flirting). One sentence mention of a "handsome officer" who wants a romantic place to impress his girlfriends (p. 198). |

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|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | McAllister, M. I.      | The Mistmantle Chronicles book 3: The Heir of Mistmantle   | 5-8   | OK? | Continuing saga. The island is confronted with drought, disease, flooding, and the kidnapping of the baby princess. When one of the heroes finds out his father was a villain, he contemplates suicide (in the end comes to terms with it). There are some sad moments with when one hero dies saving another. Same issues about religious beliefs as previous books. Non-romantic negiah. Unimportant mention of a male having a quiet conversation with his girlfriend. Story told about a villain who married and had a child but when he became interested in another, he tried to kill his wife and child. (p. 136-139). Brief unimportant mention of king and queen who lay in each other's arms (p. 276).   |
|                  | McAllister, M. I.      | The Mistmantle Chronicles book 4: Urchin and the Raven War | 5-8   | OK? | Continuing saga. Animals go to war against evil ravens and almost lose their island. Ends happily. Many mentions of priests and praying but very neutral - more talk of the "heart" they pray to. Minor language: stupid (twice). A lot of bad guy vs. good guy violence. Brief mention of married squirrels holding forepaws.   |
|                  | McAllister, M. I.      | The Mistmantle Chronicles book 5: Urchin and the Rage Tide | 5-8   | OK? | Continuing saga. Animals prepare for a rage tide that will devastate their island at the same time as an insane animal tries to destroy them. More detailed worshipping of the "heart", priest has prophecies that come true, kneels to pray, etc. but still pretty innocuous. Very sad and moving moments when king sacrifices his life to save an ill girl. Sweet and tame romance leading to marriage-when she is dying, he holds her hand, reaches out to rescue her from being swept away.  |
|                  | McCaughrean, Geraldine | Smile!   | 3-6   | OK? | Photographer is stranded in jungle village, and uses 10 remaining instant photos on his camera to record village life. Short book, yet sophisticated and fun; appropriate for wide range of ages. Passing indirect reference to hand-holding. Drawings of tribal women in sleeveless dresses.  |
|                  | McCaughrean, Geraldine | Stop the Train   | 6-8   | N?  | A pioneer town uses funny and violent methods to get train to stop in their town so their town won't die out. Language: danged, vestal virgins (no explanation), go to hell, heck, stinkin, damn, blast, dang it. Child from a large family asks an only child if her parents have a single or double bed; she says double; he responds "my parents bought a single bed to save on money and space but my father says it was a false economy 'cause look where it got him", both kids puzzled by this. Innocuous quotes from both "testaments", eg "mighty in deed and word - Luke 24:19. Minor romantic negiah. A few mentions of JC as an expletive and as a religious figure - no explanation (p. 120, 310). Mention of Church of JC of Latter Day Saints - no explanation (p. 168). Man is about to marry woman when wife and kids, whom he left behind, show up in town |

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|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | McCaughrean, Geraldine | The Death Defying Pepper Roux      |       | N    | Since his aunt predicted he would die by age 14, boy tries to escape death by assuming various personae. Religion, language, inappropriate references.  |
|                  | McCloskey, Robert      | Centerburg Tales                   | 4-6   | OK?? | An elderly man tells humorous tall tales in a small town where everyone minds each other's business. Mentions of the movies. Mention of stories by Mark Twain. Tall tale of man who could hop unbelievably high but wasn't wearing clothes- humorous illustration. A lot of dialogue that includes humorous but somewhat problematic language- durned tootin', dadgommit, I'll be durned, dadblamed,doggonit,screwball,weird,shucks.  |
|                  | McCloskey, Robert      | Homer Price                        | 5-8   | OK?  | Funny old fashioned stories about a boy living in a small town where everyone minds each others' business. Minor language: derved, heck, goll darnit. A comical 2-page illustration of an old time barber shop with a calendar on the wall of a side view of a girl in a bathing suit; a picture of a woman kissing a man on the head - more comical than romantic but kids will notice it.   |
| new              | McCormick, Scott       | Mr. Pants - It's Go Time!          | 3-5   | N?   | Graphic novel. Cat siblings have different ideas about how to spend the last day of summer vacation. Very offbeat and strange. Middos between siblings. Bathroom humor. Story about prince and princess getting married with "a lot of kissing." Language- nerd, weirdo,  |
|                  | McCranie, Stephen      | Mal and Chad                       | 2-5   | N?   | Graphic novel. Brilliant boy makes great inventions. Many mentions of him liking girl (including drawings of hearts...)   |
|                  | McCusker               | (all ' Focus on Family' publisher) |       | N    | Christian publisher; explicit refs. To JC   |
|                  | McDonald, Megan        | Judy Moody                         | 2-4   | N?   | Third grader who dreams of being a doctor, has third grade adventures. Very juvenile and innocent boy/girl - boy sends her valentines, invites her to his birthday (she is the only girl). Younger brother's nickname is "Stink" - even parents call him that. Children make a club called "Toad Pee Club" because when you hold a toad this is what happens in your hand. Nothing terrible but overall is unrefined with mild bad behavior of the Junie B. Jones variety, but in this case mostly manifests itself in treatment of little brother. |
|                  | McDonald, Megan        | Judy Moody Declares Independence   | 2-4   | N?   | Judy Moody learns meaning of responsibility. British girl teaches her slang word that means "Bare naked". She makes a list of other unrefined British expressions. Minor chutzpah, midos issues especially between siblings, same unrefined language as other books.  |
|                  | McDonald, Megan        | Judy Moody Gets Famous             | 2-4   | N?   | Judy is jealous of classmate whose picture was in paper for winning the spelling bee, so tries to get famous herself. Finally accomplishes it by stealing broken dolls from the hospital waiting room, fixing them, and sending them back. Minor language: dumb, weird. Same issues as other books.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | McDonald, Megan   | Judy Moody MD, The Doctor is In      | 2-4   | N?   | Judy is excited to learn about the human body because she wants to be a doctor. Same issues as other books.  |
|                  | McDonald, Megan   | Judy Moody Predicts the Future       | 2-4   | N?   | Judy tries to convince friends that she can predict the future with a mood ring from a cereal box. Tries to decide if teacher is really in love. In the end it turns out she is right and he is getting married. Calls brother "Mr. Lice Head". Teasing about being "in love".   |
|                  | McDonald, Megan   | Judy Moody Saves The World!          | 2-4   | OK?? | Girl tries various ecological schemes to save the world. Same problems as other books in this series. Middos between siblings and between kids in school. Language-weird, fink, gross, pee, freak.   |
|                  | McDonald, Megan   | The Sisters Club: Rule of Three      |       | N    | 2 sisters compete for part in the school musical. Boy/girl, flirting, wanting to be in a scene where boy kisses her. A lot of acting culture and plays. A lot of juvenile language: fink face, butt, stink, drop dead, freak, blast, shut up, jerk, screwed  |
|                  | McEwan, Ian       | The Daydreamer                       |       | N    | Boy daydreams far out things like making parents vanish with vanishing cream and switching bodies with a cat. Minor bad language. Romantic negiah.   |
|                  | McGinley, Phyllis | The Most Wonderful Doll in the World | 2-3   | OK   | A girl learns her lesson to be satisfied with what she has, when she loses her doll and finds it again.  |
|                  | McGovern, Ann     | The Secret Soldier                   | 3-5   | OK?  | Biography of a woman who dressed up like a man and then signed up to be a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Begins on a sad note when her father dies and her mother is forced to give away her child. When she gets older she decides to be a soldier because it was the only way she could travel and have adventures. She tied a cloth around her chest "so she would look flat chested like a boy" Men proposed marriage to her - she said no because she wanted adventure, not marriage - though she did marry much later on. |
|                  | McGraw, Eloise    | The Moor Child                       | 6-8   | OK?? | A child who is half fairy and half human unsuccessfully tries to fit into a superstitious human village. Frequent minor language - shut up, freaking odd. Some talk of priests, christening, holy water. Description of how fairies keep taking different mates and have children, then forget about them. Description of a fairy luring a human into fairyland and having a baby with him. Celebration of saints day. Girl eventually runs away with a boy who accepts her as she is (not clear if it's romantic).                |
|                  | McKay, Hilary     | Amber Cat                            | 5-7   | OK?  | Girl turns out to be ghost from another time. Fascinating interplay between main story and story told by mother about her childhood.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | McKay, Hilary             | Dog Friday   | 5-7   | OK?? | A boy whose father died helps his mother struggle to maintain a bed and breakfast. He struggles to overcome his fear of dogs after a dog attacked him (described in detail). Brief non religious easter and xmas. Mothers in this story are relatively decent, but "jokingly" call children names like "a howling idiot" or "a nightmare". Middos between classmates. Language-shut up, idiot, stupid, hell's bells. |
|                  | McKay, Hilary             | Dolphin Luck   | 5-7   | OK?  | Interplay between reality and supernatural.  |
| new              | Mckay, Hilary             | Lulu and the Cat in the Bag  | 2-4   | OK?  | Someone leaves a cat in a bag on girl's doorstep; she tries to find a home for it.Parrot likes to watch TV. Grandmother is very strict that male rabbits and female rabbits go in separate hutches- no explanation why. One word mention of xmas. Girl says boy is "bonkers". Language- poo.   |
| new              | McKay, Hilary             | Lulu and the Dog From the Sea  | 2-4   | OK?  | Girl befriends stray dog while on a family vacation at the beach. One large black and white illustration of mother and girls at the beach wearing bathing suits.   |
|                  | McKay, Hilary             | Lulu and the Duck In The Park  | 2-4   | OK?? | A girl who love animals rescues a duck egg.Some minor bad behavior in class-very juvenile.Teacher reads kids Harry Potter- kids give her a hard time since the book is different than the movie version. One word mention of xmas. One sentence mention of googling things on the internet.One word mention of church. Language- poop  |
| new              | McKay, Hilary             | Lulu and the Rabbit Next Door  | 2-4   | OK?? | Girl tries to help boy appreciate his pet rabbit. At the beginning boy is unfriendly and exhibits bad middos, later she wins him over and he improves. Minor arguments between friends. One word mention of xmas. Boy and girl are miserable because their teacher forces them to be partners for square dancing in school. Very juvenile. Language- stupid (once).  |
|                  | McKay, Hilary             | Wishing for Tomorrow: The Sequel to A Little Princess                    | 4-6   | OK?  | What happened after Sara left the Boarding School. Juvenile boy/girl - some girls try to get attention of boy next door. Passing mention of evolution - no definition or detail.   |
|                  | McKinley, Robin           | The Hero and the Crown   |       | N    | The daughter of the king saves the kingdom. Lots of boy/girl and real romantic negiah. Highly inappropriate love story.  |
|                  | McKinnon, Hannah Robberts | Franny Parker  |       | N    | Girl befriends boy who is running away from abusive father. Romantic thoughts, negiah.   |
|                  | McMahon, P. J.            | The Freaky Joe Club - Secret File #1<br>The Case of the Swimming Gorilla | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy creates club to solve mysteries. Mention of boy that has 2 beautiful sisters; several mentions of them. Minor language - title.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | McMann, Lisa   | The Unwanteds  | 6-8   | N?   | Children are cast out of society because they show creativity or emotions. They are saved from a death sentence in a magical land. Romantic negiah-hand holding, a kiss on the cheek which makes girl's face "grow hot", girl leans on boy and rests head on his arm. A child comes to terms with the fact that his father wants to kill him. Middos between children. Language-stupid, dolt, weird, jerk, heck, blast it, drat it, priss, crud. |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayer's Academy #01 - The New Kid at School                | 3-5   | OK?  | Silly book about boy who joins school to learn to slay dragons. Adults portrayed as silly and immature. Juvenile bathroom humor.   |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayer's Academy #02 - Revenge of the Dragon Lady           | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy kills a dragon but the mean mother dragon comes to take revenge. Same silly bathroom humor as other books in series.   |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayers Academy #10 - Help It's Parents' Day at DSA         | 3-5   | OK?  | Children put on a play for their parents. One boy worries he will be kicked out because he hasn't paid tuition. A girl who pretends to be a boy tries to convince her parents to let her stay in school. The parents and teachers are very juvenile. The king tells a joke about his "bum" being frozen.   |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayers Academy #12 - The Ghost of Sir Herbert Dungeonstone | 3-5   | OK?  | Children try to save their school from a greedy ghost. As in all the books in this series, teachers are portrayed as silly and bumbling; the headmaster is moneyhungry. Same bathroom humor as others.   |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayers Academy #13 - Beware! It's Friday the 13th          | 3-5   | OK?  | Children prepare to defend their school and a monk from a ferocious dragon until they find out that the dragon only wants the monk to cook peanut brittle for him. Headmaster is extremely immature and superstitious because it is Friday the 13th, which he considers unlucky.   |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayers Academy #14 - Pig Latin - Not Just for Pigs         | 3-5   | OK?  | Children go to visit their classmate's royal palace. A talking pig cures the sick king. The king is portrayed as a fool. His daughter says "my parents are so weird"; kids respond "don't worry, everybody's are".   |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayers Academy #16 Worlds' Oldest Living Dragon            | 3-5   | OK?  | Kids try to save their school from a dragon by enlisting the help of old retired knights. Man kisses woman's hand when she thanks him - can be crossed out.  |
|                  | McMullan, Kate | Dragon Slayers Academy #17 Hail! Hail! Camp Dragonika              | 3-5   | OK?  | Kids go to camp where head of camp tries to trick them into digging up dragon gold. Typical juvenile bathroom humor - belching, snot, toilets, etc. Talking pig has a crush on a boar. In the end decides he's boring.   |
|                  | McNamee, Eoin  | City of Time   | 6-8   | OK?? | Book 2 of The Navigator Trilogy. Boy aids in battle to defeat enemies who want to freeze Time. Language: hell (p. 158). Several characters have parents who die or are presumed dead.  |
|                  | McNamee, Eoin  | The Navigator  | 6-8   | OK?? | Book 1 of The Navigator Trilogy. Boy finds out he has inherited father's position of The Navigator who can save the world from enemies who turn Time backward. Non-romantic negiah - 333. Language: hell, damn: 215, 244,246, 263, 274, 287, 300, 319  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-----------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | McSwigon, Marie | Snow Treasure   | 4-6   | OK? | Norwegian children help smuggle gold out of their country to prevent the Nazis from taking it. Nazis portrayed as bad guys who do a few minor bad things but nothing mentioned about Jews or killing, other than the threat of death as a punishment for disobeying. Slightly scary book for a sensitive child. Boys and girl play together and fight together - nothing romantic. Mention of the priest on the altar at mass - no further description. Minor language - stupid  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy  | Rainbow Magic - A Fairy Ballet                                    | 1-3   | OK? | Easy reader. Fairies present a ballet. Same problematic type illustrations as regular series, but these are all full color.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy  | Rainbow Magic - Pet Parade  | 1-3   | OK? | Easy reader. Fairies can't decide which pet to give to the king and queen. Problematic full color illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy  | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Autumn The Falling Leaves Fairy | 2-4   | OK? | Note about entire series: Each book is part of a seven-book grouping in which girls help fairies to do one of seven things until mission is complete. Books can be read separately but kids will probably want to read all 7 in the grouping. Exception are the special editions which are self contained, as well as the easy readers. Throughout this series are illustrations of scantily clad, high fashion, young-ish fairies; not very provocative but definitely not snius. Covers are full color illustrations of scantily clad fairies. Although this book is way below a fourth grade reading level, children at this age still enjoy them. In this book, Girls help fairy find magical objects that help the Fall season arrive and have a good harvest. References to nature being magical (as if it is a force of its own). Problematic illustrations. Language-weird. Preview of Keira the Movie Star Fairy. Takes place on a movie set. Male actor offers female actress his arm. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy  | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Belle The Birthday Fairy        | 2-4   | OK? | Girls help recover magical birthday items. Comical illustration of girls dancing with male goblins. Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy  | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Brianna The Tooth Fairy         | 2-4   | OK? | Girls help fairy retrieve stolen magical objects that they use to collect children's teeth when they fall out. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy  | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Cara The Camp Fairy             | 2-4   | OK? | Girls help fairy retrieve magical objects that make summer camp fun. Illustrations slightly worse than usual since there is a large illustration of girls and counselor in (non provocative) bathing suits. language-weird.  |

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|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Flora the Dress-Up Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?? | Note on series: Each Special Edition fairy book features a stand alone 3 part story of girls helping fairies retrieve magical objects and/ or fairies helping girls with their magical objects. Always involve goblins who are humorous "bad guys". Throughout this series, illustrations of scantily clad young-ish fairies; not very provocative but definitely not tznus. Covers are full color illustrations. The fairy books which are not Special Edition are part of a 7 book series. In this book fairy helps girls to keep goblins from ruining their aunt and uncle's masquerade ball . Illustrations are slightly worse than usual (fairy on cover and in book wearing a mermaid costume, girls wear angel costumes with harps). Language: greedy-guts. Mentions dancing at the ball - no description. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Florence The Friendship Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?  | Girls help fairies magically help friendships. A few illustrations of co-ed dancing nothing romantic at all- mostly looks like kids having fun. Usual problematic illustrations. Many references to fairies in previous books. Mild bodily function humor eg. stinky feet, etc. Language-weird. Preview of Lindsay The Luck Fairy- mention of St. Patricks day.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Gabriella The Snow Kingdom Fairy | 2-4   | N?   | Girls help locate a stolen magic snowflake, festive spirit, and a firestone. Xmas is implied throughout the book but only mentioned in passing- a few brief mentions of xmas tree with small illustration, brief reference to previous book about xmas fairy, mention of dressing up like a caroler with illustration. xmas book reviewed in back.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Joy the Summer Vacation Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?  | Girls team up with fairy to stop a villain from ruining people's vacations. On the cover a full color cartoonish illustration of a youngish fairy wearing a tank top and short skirt. Inside many illustrations of similarly clad youngish girls. Mentions girls changing into bathing suits to go swimming on the beach, but no explicit mentions of it being coed. A bit scarier than usual.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Kylie the Carnival Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. Girls help stop goblins from ruining a carnival. Language - weird (once). One of the rides is a "tunnel of love" - a train ride that goes through the scenery of the 4 seasons - an illustration shows a boy with his arm around a girl - no verbal explanation.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Mia The Bridesmaid Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. Girls help fairy recover stolen objects so that their cousin's wedding won't be ruined. Setting is outside a church. Church bells. Illustration of female pastor. A lot of talk of tradition - "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue", to bring luck. Mentions going on honeymoon.   |

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|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Olympia The Games Fairy            | 2-4   | OK?  | Girls help fairy find magical objects that help people in races. Problematic illustrations. One word mention of church as a geographic landmark. Mentions of characters in previous books. Review in back of Selena The Sleepover Fairy.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Selena The Sleepover Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?? | Girls go to a big charity sleepover at a museum and help retrieve magical items that make sleepovers fun. (It is co-ed, but never mentioned). Illustrations a bit better than usual, though still not tsnius. One word xmas. Mention of dinosaurs but not millions of years. Language- shut up, gross, weird, dumb.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Shanon the Ocean Fairy             | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Begins with girls dancing at a luau together with the "Disco Fairy" - no detailed description.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - Special Edition - Stella the Star Fairy              | 2-4   | N    | Entire plot Xmas centered.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Dance Fairies #2 - Jade The Disco Fairy          | 2-4   | N?   | Note on Dance series- girls help fairies find missing dance ribbons. In this book a lot of disco culture, descriptions of dance, and many illustrations. Only coed dancing couple is humorous description of couple who dances badly. Language- dumb. Preview of Rebecca the Rock and Roll Fairy- a lot of rock and roll culture.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Dance Fairies #4 - Tasha the Tap Dance Fairy     | 2-4   | OK?  | Preview of "Jessica the Jazz Fairy" - Mentions Broadway musicals.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Dance Fairies #6 - Serena the Salsa Fairy        | 2-4   | N?   | Problematic illustrations. Illustration of boy and girl dancing (p. 26 & 62). This is part of a series that includes disco and rock and roll.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Dance Fairies #7 - Isabelle the Ice Dance Fairy  | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. Mentions of ice dancing. Mentions fairy tale characters Sleeping Beauty, Red Riding Hood, Cinderella - plot not given. Girls think ice dancing with a partner would be great - no mention of gender of partner or illustrations. Cartoonish illustration of male goblins getting dressed - some half dressed - no detailed anatomy. Preview of Poppy the Piano Fairy- mention of pop singing group and their new single. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fairies' Birthday Surprise                       | 1-3   | OK?  | Easy reader. Fairies make a birthday cake from scratch. Problematic full color illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #2 Claudia the Accessories Fairy | 2-4   | OK?? | Note on Fashion series- girls help find magical objects that help "take care of fashion". Mild fashion world culture- parent needs to decide if they want their child exposed to this. Throughout this series girls talk about designing outfits for a fashion contest- one girl is decorating her old jeans. Problematic illustrations. Language- weird.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #3- Tyra The Designer Fairy      | 2-4   | OK?? | Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations.  |

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|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #4- Alexa The Fashion Reporter Fairy | 2-4   | OK?? | Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #5- Jennifer the Hairstylist Fairy   | 2-4   | OK?? | Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fashion Fairies #6- Brooke The Photographer Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?? | Girls are modeling clothes (not snius) for a fashion shoot and are anticipating a fashion show.(which happens in the next book which is previewed at the end of this book) Mild fashion world culture. Problematic illustrations. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #1 - Megan the Monday Fairy          | 2-4   | OK?  | Fun Day series: Children help find magical items that will allow their friends to have fun. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #2 - Tara the Tuesday Fairy          | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #3 - Willow the Wednesday Fairy      | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #4 - Thea the Thursday Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Mentions that male seahorses have babies instead of females - and that the females fight over the males "with the biggest bellies" - said in a very matter of fact way.                                |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #5 - Felicity the Friday Fairy       | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #6 Sienna The Saturday Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?? | Girls are in a fashion show in the mall. Detailed descriptions and illustrations of trendy clothing (typical of fashions in this series) and modeling them on a runway but very innocent.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Fun Day Fairies #7 Sarah The Sunday Fairy            | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Stella The Star Fairy"-about xmas-can be torn out.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #1 - India the Moonstone Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Jewel series: Girls help find precious stones that give magical powers like seeing future or flying. Problematic illustrations. One non-religious mention of Halloween.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #2 - Scarlett the Garnet Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language: stupid (once)  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #3 - Emily the Emerald Fairy           | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Chloe the Topaz Fairy" - Costumes for Halloween party.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #4 - Chloe the Topaz Fairy             | 2-4   | N?   | Problematic illustrations. A lot of mention of getting costumes for a Halloween party - no religion but witches, goblins, pumpkins, etc.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #5 - Amy the Amethyst Fairy            | 2-4   | OK?  | Illustrations slightly better than others.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #6 - Sophie the Sapphire Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Illustration issues including one of a mermaid with long hair covering her chest. A lot of talk that wishes really do come true.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Jewel Fairies #7 - Lucy the Diamond Fairy            | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. A bit scary.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #1 Ashley The Dragon Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?  | Note on Magical Animals series- Girls help locate magical animals while spending a week at an outdoor adventure camp. In this book problematic illustrations. Language-weird.      |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #2 Lara The Black Cat Fairy   | 2-4   | OK?  | Mild superstitions about bad and good luck- eg. black cat, four leaf clover, walking under a ladder.Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.                                     |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #3 Erin The Phoenix Fairy     | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #4 Rihanna The Seahorse Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #5 Sophia The Snow Swan Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #6 Leona The Unicorn Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?  | Mention of Shakespeare's play- A Midsummer's Night's Dream. Mention of watching a movie on TV.Problematic illustrations.Language- weird, gross.                                    |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Magical Animal Fairies #7 Caitlin The Ice Bear Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.Unimportant one sentence mention of twinkling xmas lights. Language-weird.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #1 - Poppy The Piano Fairy             | 2-4   | N?   | Music series: Children help find missing magical instruments. Problematic illustrations. A lot of talk of listening to rock music on the radio and a contest to be a big pop star. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #3 - Fiona the Flute Fairy             | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Girls help fairy locate her magic flute that was stolen by the goblins who want to enter a TV talent show. Juvenile joke about "stinky feet".           |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #4 - Danni the Drum Fairy              | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. Girls are excited to appear in a music video with a famous pop star - numerous (but tame) references to music culture. Language: funky.                 |

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|------------------|----------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #5 Maya The Harp Fairy            | 2-4   | OK? | Mention of a rose garden with Greek gods all around- no details. Preview of "Victoria The Violin Fairy"-girls download music from the internet. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #6 - Victoria the Violin Fairy    | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations. Text and illustration about downloading music from the internet.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Music Fairies #7 Sadie The Saxophone Fairy      | 2-4   | OK? | Girls prevent goblins from winning a TV talent contest. Mentions that the winner will get a recording contract with a record company. Brief mention of different kinds of music eg. Jazz, rock, etc. Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #1 Ava The Sunset Fairy           | 2-4   | OK? | Note on Night series: Girls help fairies find stolen bags of magical dust that help things go well at night. Setting is a camp girls go to with their parents that has an observatory. Problematic illustrations. In this series girls become friends with 2 boys- seems completely innocent. Some nonromantic negiah- eg. when girl falls boy helps her up. In this book language-weird. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #2 Lexi The Firefly Fairy         | 2-4   | OK? | see note on series. Problematic illustrations. Brief mention that tree lit up by fireflies looks like an xmas tree.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #3 Zara The Starlight Fairy       | 2-4   | OK? | see note on series. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #4 Morgan The Midnight Fairy      | 2-4   | OK? | see note on series. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #5 Nia The Night Owl Fairy        | 2-4   | OK? | see note on series. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #6 Anna the Moonbeam Fairy        | 2-4   | OK? | see note on series. Problematic illustrations. Language-weird. Preview of Sabrina the Sweet Dreams Fairy- coed sleepover- totally innocent.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Night Fairies #7 Sabrina The Sweet Dreams Fairy | 2-4   | OK? | see note on series. Co ed sleepover described with illustrations but completely innocent and juvenile.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #1 Ally The Dolphin Fairy         | 2-4   | OK? | Note on Ocean series- Girls help fairies find pieces of a magical conch shell that "brings peace and order to the oceans". Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #2 Amelie The Seal Fairy          | 2-4   | OK? | Illustrations slightly less problematic than usual.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #3 Pia The Penguin Fairy          | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #4 Tess The Sea Turtle Fairy      | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |

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|------------------|----------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #5 Stephanie The Starfish Fairy | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #6 Whitney The Whale Fairy      | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Ocean Fairies #7 Courtney The Clownfish Fairy | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations. One sentence mention and small illustration of older couple relaxing on beach chairs "arm in arm".   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #1 - Cherry the Cake Fairy      | 2-4   | OK? | Party series: girls prevent parties from being ruined. Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Melodie the Music Fairy" - unimportant mentions of Xmas lights.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #2 - Melodie the Music Fairy    | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations. Brief mention of twinkling Xmas lights - no religion.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #3 - Grace the Glitter Fairy    | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations. Brief unimportant mention of Xmas decorations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #4 - Honey the Candy Fairy      | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #5 - Pooly the Part Fun Fairy   | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #6 - Phoebe The Fashion Fairy   | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Party Fairies #7 - Jasmine the Present Fairy  | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #1 - Katie the Kitten Fairy       | 2-4   | OK? | Pet series: girls rescue fairy animals and human animals. Cover has scantily clad fairy. Illustrations of fairies and children in various outfits ranging from more to less tznius. End of book has excerpt from "Bella the Bunny Fairy" about Easter - easy to tear out. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #2 - Bella the Bunny Fairy        | 2-4   | N?  | Problematic illustrations. Lots of Easter - egg hunt, baskets, bunny - no religion.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #3 - Georgia the Guinea Pig Fairy | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #4 - Lauren the Puppy Fairy       | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #5 - Harriet the Hamster Fairy    | 2-4   | OK? | Mention of TV and illustration of a TV turned off. Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #6 - Molly the Goldfish Fairy     | 2-4   | OK? | Problematic illustrations.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Pet Fairies #7 - Penny the Pony Fairy               | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #1 - Tia The Tulip Fairy              | 2-4   | OK?  | Petal series: children find magical flower petals that help flowers bloom. Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #2 - Pippa the Poppy Fairy            | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #3 - Louise the Lily Fairy            | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language: dumb  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #4 - Charlotte the Sunflower Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #5 - Olivia the Orchid Fairy          | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. At one point the girls put themselves in real danger to get the petal - somewhat scary (and foolhardy). Language: stupid (once)   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #6 - Danielle the Daisy Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Petal Fairies #7 - Ella the Rose Fairy              | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Goblin tells girls they are wearing "yucky pink" and "pink stinks".   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #1 Hope The Happiness Fairy        | 2-4   | OK?  | Note on Princess series- Girls help fairies find magical tiaras while they spend their spring vacation at a royal sleepover camp in a restored palace. Problematic illustrations. Many characters from previous books mentioned. Mention of a ball, no details. Illustration of a hedge cut into the shape of a prince and princess dancing. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #2 Cassidy The Costume Fairy       | 2-4   | OK?  | Mention of a ball but no illustrations of ball or mention of mixed dancing.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #3 Anya The Cuddly Creatures Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #4 Elisa The Royal Adventure Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #5 Lizzie The Sweet Treats Fairy   | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #6 Maddie the Fun and Games Fairy  | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language-shut your mouth.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Princess Fairies #7 Eva The Enchanted Ball Fairy  | 2-4   | OK?? | Setting is preparing for a ball and attending it. Humorous illustration of boys and girls trying to learn to waltz but having difficulty. Otherwise, no mention or illustrations of coed dancing. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #1 Ruby The Red Fairy             | 2-4   | OK?  | .Note on Rainbow series: Girls rescue fairies that make colors. Problematic illustrations   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #2 - Amber the Orange Fairy       | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #2 Amber The Orange Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations- girls in bathing suits at the beach  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #3 - Saffron the Yellow Fairy     | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #4 - Fern the Green Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Illustrations slightly less problematic than others in series.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #5 - Sky the Blue Fairy           | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. Slightly scary but ends fine. Preview of "Inky the Indigo Fairy" - The Nutcracker, Xmas, Xmas tree - no religion.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #6 - Inky the Indigo Fairy        | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Mention of going to the nutcracker ballet at Xmas, a picture of an Xmas tree in a book - no religion.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Rainbow Fairies #7 - Heather the Violet Fairy     | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #1 - Helena the Horse-Riding Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Sports series: girls rescue fairies' magical sports items. Problematic illustrations. Mention of Olympic Games.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #2 - Stacy the Soccer Fairy        | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Mention of Olympic Games and other sports culture.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #3 - Zoe the Skating Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #4 Brittany The Basketball Fairy   | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #5 - Samantha the Swimming Fairy   | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Illustrations of girls in 2 piece bathing suits - not provocative. Cover of fairy in bathing suit - not provocative.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #6 - Alice the Tennis Fairy        | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Preview of "Gemma the Gymnastics Fairy" - Easter eggs, Easter presents, no religion.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Sports Fairies #7 - Gemma the Gymnastics Fairy      | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations. Olympic games. Mention of Easter eggs and presents no religion. Mention of goblin who likes to sing rock and roll and Elvis songs.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #2 Adele The Voice Fairy          | 2-4   | OK?? | Note on Superstar series-Girls help retrieve magical clefs that help pop stars give good performances. In this book a lot of mild pop culture- e.g. "boy band", "getting autographs", "hit songs", "dance videos" etc. Problematic illustrations. Mention of previous book- rockstar fairy. Preview of Vanessa The Choreography Fairy- similar issues as this book. |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #3 Vanessa The Choreography Fairy | 2-4   | OK?? | A lot of mild rock culture as in previous book including boy bands, latest hits, dance videos, etc.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #4 Miley The Stylist Fairy        | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series- same issues   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Superstar Fairies #7 Cassie The Concert Fairy       | 2-4   | OK?? | Same issues as other books in this series. Girls pretend to film a TV show. Illustration of girls singing on stage with rock stars- males and females with arms over each other's shoulders (not romantic). Preview of Miranda the Beauty Fairy-girls excited to meet a "supermodel" at the grand opening of a mall.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #1 - Crystal the Snow Fairy         | 2-4   | OK?  | Weather series: girls help retrieve magical feathers that control the weather. Problematic illustrations.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #2 - Abigail the Breeze Fairy       | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. 2 unimportant mentions of church bells blowing in the wind. Goblin eats dog food then "burps" and has "stinky breath".   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #3 - Pearl the Cloud Fairy          | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Brief mention of people coming out of a movie theater after watching a funny movie.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #4 - Goldie the Sunshine Fairy      | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #5 - Evie the Mist Fairy            | 2-4   | OK?  | Unimportant mention of Xmas tree (p. 12). Problematic illustrations.  |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #6 - Storm the Lightning Fairy      | 2-4   | OK?  | Illustrations slightly better than usual.   |
|                  | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic - The Weather Fairies #7 - Hayley The Rain Fairy          | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|--|
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #2- Isabella the Air Fairy                 | 2-4   | OK?  | Note on Earth series- Girls ask fairies for help cleaning the environment, and help locate stolen wands. Very pro conservationist. In this book, girls want to see a movie in a movie theater. In this book illustrations slightly less problematic. |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #4- Coral The Reef Fairy                   | 2-4   | OK?? | Problematic illustrations- people coed dancing on the beach, usual problematic outfits.  |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #5- Lily The Rain Forest Fairy             | 2-4   | OK?  | Unimportant mention of seeing a movie. Language- weird   |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #6- Milly The River Fairy                  | 2-4   | OK?  | Typical problematic illustrations  |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Earth Fairies #7- Carrie the Snow Cap Fairy              | 2-4   | OK?  | In back of book preview of an xmas fairy book- girls baking for xmas- no religion  |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #2 - Esme the Ice Cream Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?  | Girls briefly meet up with male classmates- text and illustration- friendly but not at all romantic. Usual problematic illustrations.  |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #3- Coco the Cupcake Fairy       | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations  |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #5- Madeline the Cookie Fairy    | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations.   |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #6- Layla The Cotton Candy Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations. Language-weird.   |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The Sugar and Spice Fairies #7- Nina the Birthday Cake Fairy | 2-4   | OK?  | Problematic illustrations  |
| new              | Meadows, Daisy | Rainbow Magic- The sugar and Spice Fairies #1- Lisa the Lollipop Fairy      | 2-4   | OK?  | Note on Sugar and Spice Series- Girls help retrieve stolen magical items that make treats taste good. Language- gross  |
|                  | Mebus, Scott   | Gods of Manhattan   | 6-9   | N?   | Boy discovers he has the ability to see an alternative world and he becomes entangled in the lives of gods and spirits. A lot of language: butt, crap, idiot, stupid, bastard, damn.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Meigs, Cornelia    | Invincible Louisa - The Story of the Author of Little Women | 7-8   | N?  | Biography of author Louisa May Alcott. Very religious family - many mentions of book "Pilgrim's Progress", G-d providing, Quakers and their beliefs. Mentions as she became a teenager she got into "romantic" thinking and had a crush on an older man. Mentions slaves that "lived together as a married couple" until they could be legally married. Boy kisses a girl during a game but family disapproved of this. Soldiers kiss their nurse when they were well enough to leave the hospital. She has a platonic/romantic friendship with a younger boy. Detailed discussion of why she never married. Parents are advised to read review of Mrs. Alcott's books before offering this biography. |
|                  | Meigs, Cornelia    | The Covered Bridge  | 3-5   | OK  | A sweet, old fashioned story about a girl spending the winter on a farm in Vermont. Neutral quotes from the Bible.   |
|                  | Meloy, Colin       | Wildwood  |       | N   | A girl and boy get involved in stopping an evil women who dabbles in black magic. Mention of book titles, superheroes, TV. A lot of bloody battle violence and death. Boy mentions he drinks Manishevitz on Passover- no further religion. A story about a lawyer who "marched naked", song about lady's undergarments, mention of wife with a "roving eye", a few non-romantic but very affectionate kisses on the cheek, hugs between friends with illustration. Chutzpah to parents. Non religious Halloween and thanksgiving. A lot of language-shut up, weirded out, creep, stinking, gross, idiot, heck, sucker, damn, hell, screwed up, heck, hellhole, dang it all, blast it all, darn.        |
|                  | Meltzer, Milton    | Mary McLeod Bethune: Voice of Black Hope                    | 3-4   | OK? | True story of black woman who opens girls school & is civil rights hero. New Testament quotation on p. 12-13 - can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Mercado, Nancy E.  | Tripping Over the Lunch Lady and other School Stories       |       | N   | A collection of stories by famous authors, some of which include middos issues, bathroom humor, juvenile boy/girl, etc.  |
|                  | Mercer, Sienna     | My Sister the Vampire No. 1 - Switched                      |       | N   | 2 adopted girls discover they are identical twins - but one is a cheerleader and one is a vampire. Lots of teen culture, boy/girl, language.   |
|                  | Merrill, Jean      | The Pushcart War  | 5-8   | OK  | Funny story disguised as historical account of a battle between pushcarts and big trucks.  |
|                  | Micklethwait, Lucy | I Spy Shapes In Art   |       | N   | Picture book. Reader is asked to find shapes in real artwork. One picture by Peter Blake has small works of pop art. If you look closely (and children this age will), one picture is a scantily clad woman, one is and man and woman about to kiss.   |
|                  | Miles, Ellen       | Taylor-Made Tales - The Pirate's Plot                       | 3-5   | OK  | A teacher helps a boy deal with his frustration with boring drills at soccer practice, by telling the class a tale of a stowaway. Minor mention of going to church and having special Sunday dinner - no religion.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title                                | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Miles, Ellen    | The Puppy Place - Lucky              | 2-4   | OK?  | Boy befriends a very shy boy and returns a lost puppy to its owners. One sentence mention of Xmas present - no religion. Language - dratted, pee (once). At one point seems as if puppy might die - ends OK.   |
|                  | Miles, Ellen    | The Puppy Place - Princess           | 2-4   | OK   | Boys help a spoiled puppy find a home. Setting is a beauty parlor - minor beauty parlor culture. Language: brat (once).  |
| new              | Miles, Ellen    | The Puppy Place- Cocoa               | 2-4   | OK?? | Children foster an energetic dog who accidentally caused his elderly owner to get hurt.High school dating (mentioned repeatedly but in a very matter of fact way). Repetitive joke about a little boy whose class was singing "deck the halls" for the winter festival, but he kept getting the words wrong, letter to santa,dressing like reindeers- no religion Language- butt, gross      |
|                  | Miles, Ellen    | The Puppy Place- Gizmo               | 2-4   | OK?  | A boy takes a foster puppy to agility class and learns the power of encouragement also applies to him when he learns to play basketball. Language (once each)-maniac, jerk, stink, stupid, butt.   |
| new              | Miles, Ellen    | The Puppy Place- Oscar               | 2-4   | OK?? | Girls family fosters hard to place puppies. She takes in a puppy who has trouble dealing with other dogs and in the course of training him confronts the death of an elderly dog she loves. Sad. At the dog's "funeral" they all hold hands (coed) and have a moment of reflection.  |
| new              | Milford, Kate   | Greenglass House                     | 6-10  | OK?  | At an inn where smugglers are known to stay, boy and girl solve mystery of thefts and mysterious guests. Girl turns out to be a ghost of a girl who died years before. Setting revolves around Xmas - no religion. Some language: "come hell or high water", crap, shut up. 2 women who love the same man, follow him to the inn, man loves one of them - no overt romance, hold hands once. |
|                  | Milford, Kate   | The Bone Shaker                      |       | N    | Odd story about a girl who helps save her town from a doctor who is in league with the devil. Major hashkafa problems, some language.  |
|                  | Miller, Kirsten | Kiki Strike - Inside the Shadow City |       | N    | Group of girls explore a mysterious city beneath New York and use their unusual talents to catch criminals. A lot of very problematic language - hell, crap, suck, butt, etc. Bad middos.  |
|                  | Miller, Matt    | Milltown Yank: The Silent Mills      |       | N    | Second volume in the history of a minor league team during The Depression, and one of its star players. Author is obviously a deeply religious Christian - in his intro he thanks JC and declares him the "lord". Minor language: bums, stupid. Love affair between ball player and local teenager - probably leads to future marriage - they walk down the street hand in hand, 2 kisses.   |
|                  | Mills, Claudia  | Dinah for President                  | 4-6   | N?   | A sixth grade girl runs for class president, mentions numerous times that her friend is starting to get "interested" in a certain boy, she points out "cute" boys, checks out a book "Abby In Love" from the teen section of the library. 2 word mention of Xmas minor bad middos.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title                              | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Mills, Claudia          | How Oliver Olson Changed The World | 2-4   | OK?? | A third grade boy with very overprotective parents learns to be a bit more independent. This book reads somewhat like a criticism on his parents even though it clearly states they were very well meaning. A few mentions of TV show and movies. A few mentions of planets being named from characters in Greek mythology with brief explanations of who the gods are. In back of book interview with the author. She mentions her favorite books and characters by name. brief non religious Halloween, Easter, valentines day. Language stupid. |
|                  | Mills, Claudia          | Losers Inc.                        |       | N    | Boys form a club for losers until one of them decides to be a winner. Lots of juvenile boy/girl, crush on teacher, love poems, teasing about kissing a girl who likes a boy, summary of "Tale of Two Cities": 2 people love the same person etc.   |
|                  | Milne, A.A              | The World of Christopher Robin     | 3+    | OK?  | A book of poetry reflecting lives of British children. A few mildly problematic poems -easily torn out. P. 117: about boy praying on knees. P. 125-130: X-mas; no religion. P. 143: Very young boy and girl holding hands. P. 188-193: Mention of Easter eggs - no religion. P. 198-200 Girl wonders how G-d began - no one would answer her.  |
|                  | Milne, A.A.             | The House at Pooh Corner           | 3-5   | OK   | A sequel to the first Winnie the Pooh novel  |
|                  | Milne, A.A.             | When We Were Very Young            | 3+    | OK   | A book of poetry reflecting the life of British children   |
|                  | Milne, A.A.             | Winnie the Pooh                    | 3-5   | OK   | A novel about a cute bear.   |
|                  | Milton, Hilary          | Blind Flight                       | 5-7   | OK   | A blind girl tries to land a plane. Scary.   |
|                  | Milton, Hilary          | Emergency 10-33 on Channell 11     | 4-6   | OK   | 2 boys try to rescue a family in an overturned camper. Lots of CB radio slang but nothing bad.   |
|                  | Milton, Hilary          | May Day! May Day!                  | 4-6   | OK?  | 2 teenagers try to get help for families in plane crash. Scary and graphic - wild dogs, bloody parents, non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Milton, Hilary          | November's Wheel                   | 5-7   | OK   | Historical fiction. A boy during Depression works hard to win bike. In end becomes much more sensitive to suffering of those around him.   |
|                  | Minarik, Else Holmelund | Father Bear Comes Home             | 1-2   | OK?  | I can read book. Cute stories about bear's adventures. Last story - he dreams of a mermaid - illustrations of her scantily clad (but not as bad as Disney mermaids)  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
| new              | Mlynowski, Sarah  | Whatever After- Dream On                            | 3-6   | N?  | Brother and sister have a magical mirror that takes them into fairy tales. In this book, they end up in Sleeping Beauty. The book is written on the assumption that the reader already knows the classic fairy tale. The story revolves around the need to find a prince to kiss their friend who accidentally was put to sleep for 100 years. First they try a two year old prince and eventually a dog named prince. The princess in the fairy tale, who was supposed to be put to sleep until her prince charming kissed her and woke her up, instead realizes she loves her male friend and wants to marry him even though he is a commoner. She kisses him on the cheek, he blushes. Cover illustration of cartoonish girl in sleeveless tank top. Girl asks if they have prince/ princess mixer dances. Cell phone/ texting<br>Language- freak/ freaked out, gross         |
|                  | Mohr, Nicholasa   | Going Home  |       | N   | A girl goes to Puerto Rico for the summer and has a hard time fitting in. Boyfriend, negiah, first kiss, chutzpah.   |
|                  | Mohr, Nocholasa   | The Magic Shell                                     | 2-4   | OK  | A boy moves from island of Jamaica and adjusts to NY with the help of a magic shell.   |
|                  | Montes, Marisa    | Get Ready for Gabi #4 - Please Don't Go             | 2-3   | OK? | Series incorporates Spanish words. Spanish American girl tries to get grandmother to stay and live with them Mention opossums lived 70 million years ago.  |
| new              | Montgomery R.A.   | Choose Your Own Adventure- The Mystery of Ura Senke | 4-6   | OK? | Boy tries to recover stolen valuable tea bowl in Japan. Reader chooses outcome. A fortune teller talks about spirits and guardians. Brief mention of a movie. Language- moron (once)   |
|                  | Montgomery, L. M. | Anne of Avonlea                                     | 6-8   | N?  | Continuation of Anne of Green Gables. She is now 16 and a school teacher. There is gentle boy/girl throughout leading to engagement and marriage. Engagements last many years. A spinster never marries because she had a fight with her fiance, he left and she regretted it. After many years he returned and they marry - not a great or very realistic message. Anne is content with a platonic friendship with a boy who secretly loves her - at the end of the book she begins to wonder how she really feels about him (p. 195, 312). minor romantic negiah after marriage proposal (p. 306, 312). Minor language: durned. Religion: lots of imaginative talk about souls: what they look like, where they go. Talk of heaven and dryads (eg g. 128, 134, 154, 192, 212); mostly neutral and harmless. Talk of catechism (p. 133). Neutral description of church service. |

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|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Montgomery, L. M. | Anne of Green Gables                                 | 6-8   | N?   | An immigrant orphan girl is adopted by a spinster and bachelor (sister and brother). Many mentions of prayers on the knees. Some hashkafa (49, 50, 171; J--- 56). Girl makes up juvenile "romantic" stories - eg, boy loves girl and dies in her arms. Jewish peddler cheated her and sold dye that turned hair green. Lots of talk of clothing and fashion.   |
|                  | Montgomery, L. M. | Anne of Windy Poplars                                |       | N    | Continuation of Anne of Green Gables series. Anne is grown up and engaged to be married (in 3 years) and is the principal of a high school. This book is mostly a series of love letters Anne writes to her fiance with certain portions left out which obviously contain inappropriate topics. The letters are very lovey-dovey and occasionally inappropriate.   |
| new              | Montgomery, R.A.  | Choose Your Own Adventure- House of Danger           | 4-6   | OK?? | Children answer a distress call in a mysterious house that stands on the grounds of a Civil War prison. Use "psychic" powers. Computer use.Ghosts. Language-weird, heck (once), creepy , darn (once)   |
|                  | Montgomery, R.A.  | Choose Your Own Adventure- Killer Virus              | 4-6   | OK?  | A girl helps her uncle research Ebola virus outbreak. Reader chooses outcome. Lots of violence.  |
|                  | Montgomery, R.A.  | Choose Your Own Adventure- Return to Atlantis        | 4-6   | OK   | Marine biologists try to return to underwater Atlantis.Some violence.Reader chooses outcome. Language-stupid.  |
| new              | Montgomery, R.A.  | Choose Your Own Adventure- The Case of the Silk King | 4-6   | N?   | Boy tries to locate missing man in Malaysia. Lots of text and/or illustrations of temples, monasteries, monks, gods, buddha, fortune telling, incense, a few brief mentions of Easter. Boy hugs girl- text and illustration- not overtly romantic. Language- heck (once)   |
| new              | Montgomery, R.A.  | Choose Your Own Adventure- Trouble on Planet Earth   | 4-6   | OK?  | Brothers try to figure out why the earth's oil reserved have disappeared.One sentence about praising allah.Use "psychic" power. Reader chooses outcome. Violence. Language- idiot, stupid, creeps,   |
|                  | Moore, Elaine     | There's a Mastadon in My Living Room                 |       | N    |  |
|                  | Moore, Ulysses    | The Door To Time                                     | 5-7   | N?   | Children move to a mysterious mansion and find a ship that can sail through time. Some allusions to a potential future boy/girl relationship that may come out in future books. Friendly maybe slightly romantic negiah. Mixed swimming. Brief mention of movies. Brief mention of altar in church. Mention of birth of JC. A lot of talk about destiny and fate and if things happen randomly or not. Mention of Greek gods. Language-weird, wacko, creeps me out, freak, sucker, stupid, freaky, stinks. |
|                  | Morey, Walt       | Gentle Ben   | 6-8   | OK?  | An Alaskan boy forms a special bond with a brown bear. There are some sad moments and some genuinely frightening ones. The boy's brother died of TB and his parents worry that he may die as well. Brief mention of the Ice Age and millions of years ago.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                              | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Moriarty, Chris   | The Inquisitor's Apprentice        |       | N   | Set in early 20th century NY, except with magic superimposed over accurate historical portrayal. A Jewish boy finds out he has magical powers and is hired by the NYPD magic investigators. Mentions several times that boy keeps kosher. Fights a dybbuk that was created using Kabbalah; Kabbalah portrayed as a kind of "magic", although Rabbi explains why a pious Jew would never "use" G-d in that way. Fairly accurate portrayal of traditional Jewish life of time period, including wry humor and a familiar, irreverent relationship with G-d, which would be confusing for young readers. Mention of man's 'unrequited love' for woman. One handshake between boy and girl; boy thinks he could be friends with girl, if they weren't in different social classes. Language: crapper, damn, hell, tushie, cripes. Passing mention of boy realizing he could "walk away" from being a Jew.   |
| new              | Morpurgo, Michael | An Elephant in the Garden          |       | N   | During the bombing of a German town, a mother and children (not Jewish) escape with an elephant from the zoo. They end up hiding the identity of a Canadian pilot who was shot down to protect him from being arrested. Brief mention of cruelty to Jews (mostly whitewashed) and how the girl thought it was unjust. Very detailed description of courtship leading to marriage. Xmas, church bells, TV Frequent language- hell , bastards, stupid   |
|                  | Morpurgo, Michael | Kensuke's Kingdom                  | 3-5   | OK? | Boy is stranded on island where Japanese man has been stranded for many years. Detailed description of parent's fight- ends up fine. Father puts arms around mother. 2 page xmas- carols, presents, pudding.  |
|                  | Morpurgo, Michael | The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips | 5-7   | N?  | A girl living in a coastal English town is evacuated so that the allies can use the beach for practice landings. When her cat runs away into restricted territory she befriends two black soldiers who help her. She eventually marries one of them (racially mixed marriage). Xmas-trees, stockings, carols, brief mention of birth of JC. Call teacher "Bloomer" because she once came to school with her "skirt hitched up" showing her navy bloomers. Girl thinks very mean thoughts about her teacher until the end where she comes to appreciate her. A boy's father is killed in war, vicar tells children to hold their hands together and pray for the husband of their teacher who is missing in action. Mention of praying in church and things in a church. Soldier uses JC's full name as a curse. Boy beats up another boy for making fun of a girl-girl is grateful to him but not enough to "do kissing" with him. Non romantic friendly negiah. Woman has painted on eyebrows like movie star Marlene Dietrich. Language-stupid. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
| new              | Morpurgo, Michael | The Sandman and the Turtles                        | 3-5   | OK? | Boy and his young cousin help a mythical creature. One word mentions of xmas. Minor middos between siblings. Girl calls brother "dumbo" and "pegleg" (he broke his leg). Language- daft.  |
|                  | Morrow, Honore    | Seven Alone  | 5-7   | OK? | Historical fiction 1844: pioneer days. A family of orphaned children decide to continue on their own to claim a homestead. Experience much hardship. P 156 side mention of "Blessed Virgin" - kids won't get it. Lots of Bible reading and praying but pretty unobjectionable.  |
|                  | Moss, Marissa     | Rose's Journal                                     | 3-6   | OK? | Journal of girl growing up on farm during the Depression. Drawing of back of naked man - for political reasons.   |
|                  | Moss, Olivia      | Butterfly Meadow - Joy's Close Call                | 2-3   | OK  | Butterflies make a new friend who accidentally angers scary hornets. Learns not to show off.  |
|                  | Moss, Olivia      | Butterfly Meadow - Twink Dives In #2               | 2-3   | OK? | A butterfly who is obsessed with her looks accidentally gets her wings wet and is almost eaten by a bug. A bit scary. In the end she learns that character is more important than looks. Illustrations of butterflies are girls with wings wearing bathing suit type clothing - not provocative.  |
|                  | Moss, Olivia      | Butterfly Meadow - Zippy's Tall Tale               | 2-3   | OK? | Butterfly tells tall tales and makes herself out to be a hero, when he really is a coward. He doesn't learn a lesson but the butterflies around him do.   |
|                  | Muldrow, Diane    | Dish Series - Boiling Point and Recipe for Trouble | 4-6   | N?  | Both of these books have covers that show boy and girl teens in a way that makes you think the books will be more inappropriate than they really are. A group of 11 year old girls form a cooking business. A lot of detail about their clothes - typical preteen dress and makeup. Language: Preteen slang - bummer, weird, bummed, out, you stink, flipping out, freak out, butt head, what the heck. Cheerleading. E-mail. Talk of TV shows. One incident where boy emails a girl about going to the movies. She assumes it will be with a whole group but it turns out to be just the 2 of them - she is upset because it is like a date - she worries the whole time he will kiss her or hold her hand - he doesn't. Another storyline of a girl who "likes" a boy but he "likes" someone else - nothing really comes of it. |

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|                  | Mull, Brandon            | Fablehaven Book One  | 5-7   | N?   | A brother and sister go to stay with their grandparents on a secret preserve for magical creatures. Typical middos between siblings. Description of grandmother's wake. Boy keeps breaking house rules with disastrous consequences. Discussion if Greek mythology is based on truth, some of the magical characters in the book based on it. Brief mention Halloween, jack o lanterns. Climax takes place in an old church- no religion. Fairies kiss people to cure them. In order to save themselves give creature a massage. Grandmother mentions that the only one she has ever given a massage to is her husband because she is "his woman". Grandparents hold hands. Language-creepy, stupid, weird, weirdo, freaked out, freaky, gross, heck, jerk, sicko, idiot, creeped out, jerks. Preview of next book in series "Rise Of The Evening Star" which seems quite inappropriate. |
|                  | Murphy, Elspeth Campbell | The Mystery of the Sock Monkeys                              | 2-4   | OK?? | Children figure out who is making cute sock monkeys. Book is cute and clean but published by Christian publishing house to teach proverbs from the bible - the proverb is written only on the first page - could be torn out. Others from this series should be checked carefully.   |
|                  | Murphy, Jill             | The Worst Witch at Sea                                       | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl in witch academy keeps getting into funny trouble . She tries to smuggle her cat on the class trip and ends up accidentally saving the strictest teacher in school and also finds a treasure. One of the girls displays very bad middos but no one likes her because of it.   |
|                  | Murphy, Jim              | The Great Fire   | 4-8   | OK?  | Non-fiction account of the Great Chicago Fire. Some mentions of "half-naked" or "half dressed" women running away from the fire.   |
|                  | Murray, Marguerite       | Odin's Eye   |       | N    | Girl and boy catch a spy. Entire plot revolves around boy/girl, romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Murrow, Liza Ketchum     | Allergic to My Family  | 3-5   | N?   | Girl wishes her family was smaller. Detailed description of mom nursing baby on beach. Discuss concept of having no more kids. Some chutzpah   |
|                  | My America               | My America - Home At Last - Sofia's Immigrant Diary - Book 2 |       | N    | An Italian immigrant girl arrives in Boston. Many mentions of religious things without detailed religious descriptions - Easter, mass, priest, expressions like "Holy Mother", feasts for saints, statues of saints, medallions with picture of saint, priest blesses things. Girl doesn't want to take a bath because brother "peed" in the water. Asked to be a shabbos goy by a Jewish family - to light oil lamps and light burners for the soup (this is not necessarily halachically permitted). Somewhat graphic description of children dying due to crowded living conditions. A doctor explains why he wears a medallion with a saint on one side and a Jewish star on the other, and also why he doesn't go to church - because he believes in all gods, etc. Mention Earth started hundreds of thousands of years ago.   |

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|                  | My America  | My America - My Brother's Keeper - Virginia's Diary - Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 1863 | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl witnesses the Battle of Gettysburg - lots of gory war and injury descriptions. Girl helps teacher get engaged to her brother - relatively tame - when get engaged hold hands. Mentions girls watched soldiers march by and blew kisses to them and seemed to "fall in love" with every soldier that passed by. Some questions about why G-d doesn't answer prayers right away that her father and brother should come home safely. Eventually they do.  |
|                  | My America  | My America - Season of Promise - Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary                 | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl sees her colony prosper while under the rule of a very strict governor, and deals with her father's remarriage after the death of her mother. Very tame discussions about women loving men and marrying them. Girl notices that Indian braves don't wear much and that makes her blush. Description of a church service as "very long and boring" but the new church "is enough to make one's spirit soar to G-d". When she thinks her father and stepmother will have a new baby, she blushes. Mention that father shares a bed with his new wife. |
|                  | My America  | My America - As Far As I Can See - Meg's Prairie Diary                              | 2-4   | OK?? | Historical Fiction. Children go to Kansas to escape cholera epidemic and help underground railroad. Two mentions of girls taking off skirts (no men are around) and wearing "just pantaloons" because of new style started by Amelia Bloomer (P. 59, 87). Brief mention of boy who liked having girl as dance partner (P. 64) easy to cross out  |
|                  | My America  | My America - Corey's Underground Railroad Diary - Message in the Sky                | 2-4   | OK?  | Historical Fiction. Slaves escape to Canada. Stay in a church- described. Brief mention of preaching, baptism. Boy is excited to have xmas as a free person- mention of gifts, special food, singing hymns in church including "silent night" but no explicit religion described in detail. Language- stupid.  |
|                  | Myers, Anna | Captain's Command   |       | N    | Beautiful story of girls' father who is MIA and uncle who is bitter about being blinded in war. Several side points that are problem: Soldier's wife sends him letter that she found someone else and is leaving him; Kind gentile cooks extra bacon for Jewish kid who can't have it at home; running X-mas theme including "baby J-----"   |
|                  | Myers, Anna | Spy!  | 5-7   | OK?  | Historical fiction. Nathan Hale as schoolteacher and spy, through eyes of young student. Hale considers marriage with various young women, always comparing them by which was prettier.  |

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|                  | Myers, Anna                    | The Keeping Room                       | 5-7   | OK?  | Historical fiction - revolutionary war. A boy deals with British taking over his house and father's imprisonment. Comes to terms with thinking differently from father about slavery and women's education. One mention of J--- (P. 5, chapter 1). Talk of teacher's bride being "comely", but wouldn't verbalize it because it wouldn't be "seemly". Soldier implies bride would be "real warm on a cold evening" - kids won't get it. Some talk about Quakers' religious belief about slavery and war. |
|                  | Myers, Edward                  | Storyteller                            | 5-7   | N?   | Royal storyteller falls in love with princess and tries to de-throne bad king. Mild romance.   |
|                  | Myers, Laurie                  | Earthquake in the Third Grade          | 2-3   | N?   | boy and girl hide in bathroom; boy embarrassed to be in room with girl & toilet.   |
|                  | Myers, Laurie                  | Garage Sale Fever                      | 2-3   | OK?  | Kids have garage sale. Boy accidentally sells something and tries to break into house to get it back - unsuccessful and regrets it later.  |
|                  | Myers, Laurie                  | Surviving Brick Johnson                | 3-5   | OK   | Boy mistakenly thinks boy is bully; learns important lessons about respect and not judging others.   |
|                  | Myers, Walter Dean             | Fast Sam, Cool Clyde and Stuff         |       | N    | Boy becomes friends with older kids on block and is exposed to drugs, jail, boy/girl, real romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Myers, Walter Dean             | Me, Mop, and the Moondance Kid         | 4-6   | N?   | 3 kids adopted from Christian orphanage. Continuing discussion of saint. References to religion but no JC. Language: crap. Physical fighting between kids considered normal.   |
|                  | Myers, Walter Dean             | The Young Land Lords                   |       | N    | Kids become landlords of a slum and try to improve it. Romantic negiah, kissing, chutzpah, lots of slang.  |
|                  | Myron, Vicki with Brett Witter | Dewey the Library Cat - A True Story   | 5-7   | OK?? | A true story of a cat that was abandoned in a library book slot, who became famous, Very detailed, including cat's sickness and death. A full detailed chapter of Xmas - no religion beyond mention of a manger display. Brief mention of: watching movies on TV, being divorced. Minor language: darn (once), stupid (once)   |
|                  | Nabb, Magdalen                 | Josie Smith at School                  | 2-3   | OK   | A well intentioned little girl gets into all sorts of scrapes that come out fine in the end.   |
|                  | Namioka, Lensey                | Yang the Eldest and His Odd Jobs       | 3-5   | OK?  | A Chinese family adjusts to America. Side story of sister's "not boyfriend" and "not dates"  |
|                  | Namioka, Lensey                | Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear | 3-5   | OK   | A boy copes with being tone deaf in a very musical family.   |
|                  | Napoli, Donna Jo               | Jimmy, the Pickpocket of the Palace    | 4-6   | OK?  | Sequel to the Prince of the Pond. Frog searching for magic ring is turned into a boy by a hag . Finds father, who has also been turned into a man, and has decided to stay that way & marry princess. Somewhat disturbing that father/frog is thereby deserting his wife/frog & frog children.   |

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|                  | Napoli, Donna Jo                   | Mogo, the Third Warthog                       | 4-5   | OK?  | 3 warthog brothers try to make their own way in the jungle. Vague references to mating but nothing explicit. Description of giraffe giving birth (baby falls out without mother noticing)  |
|                  | Napoli, Donna Jo                   | Sly the Sleuth and the Pet Mysteries          | 2-4   | N?   | A girl detective solves animal mysteries. Frequent minor language - dumb, stink, stupid. A boy comments that the girl "bosses" her mother a lot - girl issues commands to mother e.g."mother tell them __", "do ____", etc. Mother usually lets her get away with it. One story revolves around Halloween costumes - no religion. Girl dresses up like a TV character in a low cut dress (not provocative on her). Brief explanation of evolution. |
|                  | Napoli, Donna Jo                   | The Bravest Thing                             | 4-5   | N?   | Girl who loves pets brings up bunny and saves its baby against prediction of vet. Lots of talk of mating of rabbits - not extremely specific, but enough to raise questions.   |
|                  | Napoli, Donna Jo                   | Three Days                                    | 4-6   | N?   | A girl is kidnapped when she is stranded on the road with unconscious/dead father who collapsed when driving. Very stark and scary. An incident of a scary man leering at her female captor and putting his arm around her waist. Mention of JC hanging on crucifix (p. 113).  |
|                  | Napoli, Donna Jo                   | When Water Closes Over My Head                | 3-5   | N?   | A boy overcomes fear of swimming. Chutzpah, minor bad language (hell, butt).   |
|                  | Napoli, Donna Jo and Robert Furrow | Sly the Sleuth and the Food Mysteries         | 2-4   | OK?? | Girl solves mysteries. Some allusions to girls and boys liking each other but very vague, except for paragraph where boys invite girl to valentine's party (p. 127)  |
|                  | Nash, Mary                         | Mrs. Coverlet's Magicians                     | 4-6   | N?   | Children try to manage on their own when their nanny leaves to enter a cooking contest. No real religion but book very heavily focused on xmas-many chapters. "saints help us" used as an expletive. Six and a half year old boy frequently calls siblings "dumbheads" . Boy casts a spell on the woman who is caring for them since he doesn't like her. Language-stupid, heck.   |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds           | Agony of Alice                                |       | N    |  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds           | Bernie Magruder - Case of the Big Stink       |       | N    | Older sister with boy  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds           | Danny's Desert Rats                           |       | N    | Extremely inappropriate  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds           | Footprints at the Window (#3 in York Trilogy) |       | N    | Romance, fantasies of negiah   |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds           | Maudie in the Middle                          |       | N    |  |

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|------------------|--------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | Saving Shiloh                             | 5-6   | OK?  | Former owner of dog repents from past bad behavior and saves dog from drowning. Author points out that dogs and humans are the same.  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | Shiloh (first of trilogy)                 | 5-6   | OK?? | references to J--- that need to be blacked out: pages 42, 56-57 (a lot), 58, 90, 100, 124, 138  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | Shiloh Season                             | 5-6   | OK?  | Lots of discussion about dangers of drinking and drunken behavior. Juvenile two year old shows her underpants - boy comments "girls are strange"  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Bomb in Besseldorf Bus Depot          |       | N    |   |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Face in the Besseldorf Funeral Parlor | 3-6   | N?   | Children solve mystery of missing VP who stole company money. Several passing references to sister's breakup with recent boyfriend. Sister ends up dating man known as a "cad", who was known by one of the children to be simultaneously dating her aunt. Children sing "k-i-s-s-i-n-g" song about aunt, to break news to sister.  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Fear Place                            | 5-8   | N?   | Two brothers who are always fighting go on camping trip with parents. When parents are called away, one brother goes up mountain and is hurt, and other brother must face his fear of heights to save him. Powerful book. Language: many instances of p-- for bodily functions; 'scared shellless', 'pissed off'. As practical joke, one brother urinates on stamps that other brother ends up licking. |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Girls' Revenge                        | 4-6   | OK   | Family of girls and family of boys try to outdo each other in practical jokes. Middos issues but done in friendly manner.   |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Girls Take over                       | 4-6   | OK   | Cute story of 2 families - one with all boys, one with mostly girls - who stir up mischief in small town. Middos issues but done in friendly manner.  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Haunted Hotel                         | 3-4   | OK?  | Ghost haunts house until appeased.  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Mad Gasser of Besseldorf St.          |       | N    | Family tries to save their job (managing a hotel) by catching a criminal. Boy/girl, negiah, harsh language  |
|                  | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Treasure of Besseldorf Hill           |       | N    | Older sister falls "head over heels" in love with handsome hotel guest.   |
| new              | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | The Witch's Eye                           |       | N    | Girl tries to get rid of a witch's eye that causes terrible behavior. Older sister goes on and on about boyfriend, first kiss, etc. Inappropriate   |

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|------------------|----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Neff, Henry H. | The Hound of Rowan - Book 1: The Tapestry | 5+    | N?   | Magical children go to school - similar to Harry Potter, but more of the adults (not all) are wholesome. Magic is a bit tamer. The "history" of the world includes "others who were here before us who helped shape the world" and who left the world in the hands of "caretakers" who were gods and goddesses (p. 89-91). Language: darn, pee, bum (meaning behind). Some boy/girl, boys call girls "lookers", boy "moons" other boys, girl hints to boy she wants to be asked to the Halloween dance, minor romantic negiah includes kisses on the cheek, one kiss on the lips when children are bewitched by a frog, older students bully younger students in a mean way. Halloween - called All Hallows Eve - no religion. |
|                  | Nesbet, Anned  | The Cabinet of Earths                     | 5-8   | OK?? | Girl visits Paris and finds she is part of a family with magical powers. Very mild warm feelings towards boy; 2 instances of affectionate negiah.  |
|                  | Nesbit, E      | The Railway Children                      | 4-6   | OK?  | Children move to the country with their mother after father is framed and sent to jail . Have many old fashioned adventures. P. 180 - girl holds injured boy's hand as they wait in a dark tunnel to be rescued "even though, like most boys his age, he hated all material tokens of affection such as kissing and holding of hands. He called them 'pawing' and detested them", yet he is surprised that the experience is not so bad" - can be crossed out. Brief mention of occasionally questioning G-d and trying to believe in Him even when it's hard (pg 199) can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Nesbit, E.     | Wet Magic                                 | 4-6   | OK?  | Children have adventures in an underwater world and get involved in a battle between underwater kingdoms and eventually make peace between them. Minor language: shut up, weird, drat, stupid. Many books are mentioned by title and their characters by name (which may or may not be appropriate reading). Children sneak about circumventing adult rules but by modern standards it's very tame. Boy kisses mermaid's hand - no provocative description or illustration of mermaids. Passing mention of Xmas tree. Man touches woman's hand when he asks her to marry him.  |
|                  | Nesbit, E.     | The Enchanted Castle                      | 4-6   | N?   | British children find a magic ring in an enchanted castle and get involved in all kinds of magical trouble. Author mentions that it is not sensible to have separate boys and girls schools (p. 1). Language: prig, drat, sucking up. Children enjoy manipulating grown-ups to get whatever they want. Non-romantic negiah. Many, many references to Greek gods which are statues that come alive who have a lot of wisdom and have feasts. Relatively tame running love story between their governess and the owner of the castle; ends in hand-holding and a wedding.  |

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|                  | Nesbit,E             | The Magic City                                       | 4-6   | OK?? | Stepbrother and sister go on a quest in a magic city. Orphaned boy has a hard time dealing with his sister's marriage, since his sister brought him up, so he exhibits bad middos to his new step sister. When they are in danger step sister asks him to kiss her (pg 166 chap 9). Mean nurse treats boy very badly-in the magic city she is the villain.  |
|                  | Neville, Emily       | It's Like this, Cat                                  |       | N    | Boy/girl  |
|                  | Newman, Robert       | The Case of the Indian Curse                         | 4-6   | OK   | Boy and girl detectives discover who is frightening the owner of an antique store; leads to arrest of violent gang from India. Some minor violence  |
|                  | Newman, Robert       | The Case of the Somerville Secret                    | 4-6   | OK   | Children discover murderer, and rich man hiding his son who is retarded and deformed. Some minor violence   |
|                  | Nicholson, William   | The Wind Singer Book One in the Wind On Fire Trilogy | 6-8   | OK?? | A family rebels against their society which is constantly testing and assessing its citizens. Their twins, a boy and a girl reluctantly team up with a castoff child and go on a quest to find an item that will magically change things. Husband puts arms around wife and kisses her neck when he is intoxicated.Children and teachers alike display bad middos, especially to castoff classmate.Teacher insults girl by making up an arithmetic problem about her giving him "slobbery kisses". Even children who team up with him occasionally are mean to him, though they come to appreciate him at the end.Many made up "curse words" like sagahog and pocksicker. Language (frequent)-shut up,stupid, you stink, scum, damn(once p211). At the end of this edition is a reading group guide- It lists books by title and author which may or may not be appropriate, and describes the next two volumes of the trilogy which may not be appropriate since the children "grow into thoughtful teens with romantic interests." An exercise suggests that children try saying aloud the "made up swear words" in the book and the then make up some of their own. The reader should also think about why swear words "need to be rude to be satisfying". |
|                  | Nickerson, Sara      | How to Disappear Completely & Never be Found         | 9+    | OK?? | Unusual book - children solve mystery with aid of cartoons left by mysterious stranger. Disturbing imagery. Children discover that uncle accidentally caused father's drowning  |
| new              | Nielsen, Jennifer A. | The False Prince                                     | 6-9   | OK?? | Nobleman chooses 3 boys to train to impersonate missing prince; turns out one of them actually is the prince. Language: "pea-sized bladder", dance lesson for boys with middle-aged women, 2 kisses on cheek - not romantic. Some violence, including some fatal stabbings. Short description of king falling in love with common woman and marrying her. Man and boy sleep in same inn room as girl by necessity; short conversation about whether she was "safe" or should be "worried". Later books have increasing loving feelings between prince and girl, but this book works as a stand-alone.   |

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|                  | Nielsen, Susan | Word Nerd                                       |       | N    | Scrabble genius makes friends. Boy/girl, language.   |
|                  | Nimmo, Jenny   | Charlie and the Time Twister #2                 | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy with magical talents goes to magical school and disappears. Same issues as other books in this series.   |
|                  | Nimmo, Jenny   | Charlie Bone and the Beast #6                   | 4-7   | N?   | Children help free their friend, a wolf boy, who was captured by evil people. In this book children are growing up and starting to have girlfriends. Even dog likes girl dog. Description of boy with arm around girl's neck with his hand "resting on her shoulder as she gazes up at him" P. 171 - can be crossed out. Language- weird, freak, stupid, shut up, airhead, creep.  |
|                  | Nimmo, Jenny   | Charlie Bone and the Castle of Mirrors #4       | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy tries to rescue friend from cruel adoptive parents. Many references to uncle admiring a woman as in previous books. Some of the adults in the story are kind and good as are their protégés, some are evil an exhibit terrible middos along with the children who admire them. Girl who wants to be a movie star auditions for a part in a movie. Boy is excited because he thinks he will be getting his own TV. Language- freak, idiot, darn, weird, stupid, what the heck, shove it, shut up, berserk. Unimportant mention of watching TV, finding information on the internet. |
|                  | Nimmo, Jenny   | Charlie Bone and the Invisible Boy #3           | 4-7   | OK?  | Children use magical talents to rescue invisible boy. Villains try to kill uncle's girlfriend - uncle gives her "the kiss of life" - will kids understand this is artificial respiration?  |
|                  | Nimmo, Jenny   | Midnight for Charlie Bone #1                    | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy discovers he has magical talents and uses them to reunite abducted child with his aunt. Running side story of eccentric uncle courting a woman but when he got excited by how "stunning she looked" he was "bowled over" by her "neck as white as a swan". Nothing terribly explicit.  |
|                  | Nimmo, Jenny   | The Snow Spider (The Magician Trilogy Book One) | 4-7   | OK?? | Strange story of a boy who discovers he has magic abilities and uses them to bring back his missing sister. When he is mad at his parents he calls his father a "mean old man" and his mother a "foolish woman". Father mourns his missing daughter making him somewhat dysfunctional. Mention of All Hallows Day and xmas but no religion. Middos between schoolmates. Nonromantic negiah. Brief unimportant mention of TV.   |
|                  | Nix, Garth     | The Seventh Tower - Above the Veil              | 4-7   | OK?  | Continuing saga. Children try to return home and encounter same type of violence as in other books. One sentence where boy alludes to what he would like to do with pretty girl - but so vague most kids will miss it.   |
|                  | Nix, Garth     | The Seventh Tower - Aenir                       | 4-7   | OK   | Continuing saga. Boy and girl fight to get magical stone. Lots of violence, but mostly with magical fantasy creatures.   |
|                  | Nix, Garth     | The Seventh Tower - Into Battle                 | 4-7   | OK   | Continuing saga.   |
|                  | Nix, Garth     | The Seventh Tower - The Violet Keystone         | 4-7   | OK   | End of saga. Friendly but non romantic negiah.   |

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|                  | Nix, Garth         | The Seventh Tower -The Fall                   | 4-7   | OK   | Creative science-fiction account of boy growing up in a society totally different from Earth's. Story is left hanging at end - need to read continuation in later books.   |
|                  | Nixon, Jean Lowery | Laugh Till You Cry                            | 5-7   | OK?? | A boy adjusts to a new school and to living near his bullying cousin, with the help of a friendly police officer. A lot of descriptive talk about Shakespeare's "Hamlet". Mentions that boy is sad after losing his father. Minor language: dumb, weird, stupid, pee. A lot of bad middos. In the end the cousin somewhat learns his lesson about bullying.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Casebusters #6 - Secret of the Time Castle    | 3-5   | OK   | Time capsule of town is stolen - boys solve mystery  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Ghost Town: Seven Ghostly Stories             |       | N    | Ghost stories set in real life ghost towns. Written in very believable fashion. Lots of western style violence. Minor language: jerk, stupid. One story called "Magic Eye" about a girl who dreams of kissing a handsome boy (who turns out to be a ghost) in great detail. Chutzpah written off as "thirteen is a difficult age".   |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Mystery of the Secret Stowaway                | 3-5   | OK   | Boy accidentally stows away on a cruise ship. Befriends a singer and a hopeful movie star. Minor innocent negiah - not romantic  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Adventures - A Dangerous Promise | 4-6   | OK?  | A boy runs away to become a drummer boy during the Civil War. Experiences the horrors of war (described in gory detail) including the death of a friend. May be too much for a very sensitive child.   |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Adventures - A Family Apart      | 4-6   | OK?  | A family of children is sent west to be adopted. Some rough/sad street scenes, occasional references to girl liking male chaperon. Oldest girl dresses up like a boy so family can stay together.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Adventures - A Place to Belong   | 4-6   | OK?? | 2 children adopted by kind family. After foster mother dies, try to convince real mother to come west to marry foster father. Lots of talk if love is necessary to make a happy marriage. Page 8 - unimportant mention of boy looking "admiringly" at actresses who pass by. Some violence between pro- and anti-slavery believers. Mention of x-mas pageant and angel and church by no religion detailed. |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Adventures - Caught in the Act   | 4-6   | OK?  | Boy is sent west to prevent him from being imprisoned after stealing pennies to feed his family. He is adopted by a farmer with a violent temper and a jealous son. Learns the meaning of honesty and responsibility. Vivid description of whipping.   |

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|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Adventures - In the Face of Danger            | 4-6   | OK? | A girl is adopted by a kind couple and experiences danger on the prairie, including a rattlesnake killing her dog, and an escaped murderer who throws her pregnant adoptive mother against a wall and causes her to go into early labor. Somewhat scary. She experiences prejudice because she is Irish. A few mentions of Xmas as special meal, going to Church (p. 125 chap 12) and receiving presents - no detailed religion.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Adventures - Keeping Secrets                  | 4-6   | OK? | Girl tries to uncover civil war spy. Brother dies - sad. One mention of women's anatomy.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Children - David's Search                     | 4-6   | OK  | A boy is adopted by a strict but fair couple and confronts the Ku Klux Klan.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Children - Lucy's wish                        | 4-6   | OK  | An orphan hopes for a loving family and cute little sister but ends up with non-demonstrative mother and mentally disabled older sister.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Orphan Train Children - Will's Choice                      | 4-6   | OK? | A boy's father who works in circus is immature and critical of son. Sends him on orphan train to be adopted. Wants son to call him by first name.   |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Search for the Shadowman                                   | 5-7   | OK? | While doing research for a school genealogy report, boy tries to uncover what really happened to ancestor who was accused of stealing the family's money. One sentence mention of eating fudge on X-mas. One sentence mention of petticoats being underwear. A few extremely tame quotes from "love letters" from man to girlfriend he hopes to marry.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | The Name of the Game was Murder                            | 6-8   | OK  | Girl solves mystery of man who writes acquaintances' secrets in novel, and is murdered.   |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Young Americans - Colonial Williamsburg - Ann's Story 1747 | 4-6   | N?  | A colonial girl dreams of being a doctor like her father, even though the profession is closed to women. Constantly asking adults what it's like too have a baby and no one will give her a straight answer. May cause reader to wonder and question as well. Lots of early women's Lib type of talk. Neutral description of church services. Non-religious mention of X-mas ball.  |
|                  | Nixon, Joan Lowery | Young Americans - Colonial Williamsburg: Will's Story 1771 | 5-7   | OK  | A jailer's son comes to grips with the morality of slavery in colonial Williamsburg   |
|                  | Nodelman, Perry    | The Same Place but Different                               |       | N   | Boy rescues baby sister from evil fairies who are destroying the world. A lot of language and somewhat graphic seduction of boy by "naked" fairies.   |
|                  | Nordstrom, Ursula  | The Secret Language  | 3-5   | N?  | A girl goes to boarding school and has adventures. A lot of talk about how terrible school is and how much girls hate it, though eventually come to like it. Middos issues between girls, language: dumb, big fat dope. Girl has no father - no explanation. A chapter on Halloween - mostly costumes and party, no religion. Lots of talk of Xmas vacation; mention of carolers singing "Glory to the newborn king" and carrying candles. Go to church - no description. A fifth grade boy asks a girl to take a walk with him; a friend explains it's because he likes her. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                           | Title                            | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | North, Sterling                  | Rascal                           | 7-12  | N?   | Several passages with problematic hashkafa questions re: good and evil (p. 128), age of Earth (p. 92). Short version of x-mas story (p. 174). J-- name for G-d (p. 121). Excellent book, classic - may be worth blacking out offending passages   |
|                  | Norton, Mary                     | Bedknob and Broomstick           | 3-6   | OK?  | Children have adventures on a magical bed. Fun story. At very end, warlock kisses witch on cheek and says "my own true love". Kids will probably think they are already married.  |
|                  | Norton, Mary                     | The Borrowers                    | 3-6   | OK   | Tiny family survives by "borrowing" things from humans. Book clearly says borrowing is not stealing (but they don't ask permission) - parent may want to discuss this point. Cute book.   |
|                  | Norton, Mary                     | The Borrowers Afield             | 3-6   | OK   | Ditto   |
|                  | Norton, Mary                     | The Borrowers Afloat             | 3-6   | OK   | A bit scary when gypsy tries to catch the tiny people with a fishing hook, but ends up OK. Picture of tiny girl dressed in flowers, not clothing.   |
|                  | Norton, Mary                     | The Borrowers Aloft              | 3-6   | OK?  | Continuation of series. Tiny people are captured and devise an escape plan. Mild romantic undertones - somewhat tachlis oriented - between girl who is almost 17 and boy (no age) - p.152-153. Mention of choir boys with hymn books and cassocks on steps of model church - no religion. Black and white cartoonish picture of back of woman trying on girdle(p. 217).   |
|                  | O'Dell, Scott and Elizabeth Hall | Thunder Rolling In The Mountains | 5-7   | N?   | Native Americans are forced to leave home and fight with the white men. A lot of death and cruelty described vividly. A side plot is a love story between two young Indians who eventually plan to marry. A few instances of minor romantic negiah between them. Indian beliefs described eg. spirits, care of the dead, etc.   |
| new              | Obed, Ellen Bryan                | Twelve Kinds of Ice              | 3-5   | OK?? | A short book describing a family that loves to ice skate who turn their garden into an ice skating rink every winter. Small black and white illustrations of girls in skating costumes. Coed skating- nothing romantic. Boys throw hockey pucks into rink to bother girls who are figure skating. Father puts pie in grandfathers face- book states this matter of factly as if it was perfectly acceptable. One word TV. |
|                  | O'Brian, Robert C.               | Mrs. Frisby & the Rats of NIMH   | 5-6   | OK   | Lovely story of super-intelligent rats who escape from a lab and form their own society. Lots of opportunity for moral discussions  |
|                  | O'Connel, Jean S.                | The Dollhouse Caper              | 3-5   | OK?  | Dollhouse people try to warn humans of impending robbery. Minor x-mas mentioned   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                         | Title                                  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | O'Connell, Rebecca             | Penina Levine is a Hard Boiled Egg     |       | N   | A Jewish girl in public school refuses to write a letter posing as the Easter Bunny for a school assignment - since it is against her religion. Many discussions of being a different religion from her classmates. Accurate description of a traditional seder but family does melacha the next day. Her little sister goes to church with non-Jewish best friend at the end of the book, which seems to convey message that all religions should accept each other. Also, chutzpah, bad middos and language. |
|                  | O'Connor, Charles              | Bratz: Keepin' it Real                 |       | N   | Extreme teen culture and funky language. Some negiah.  |
|                  | O'Connor, Jane                 | Fancy Nancy Pajama Day                 | 1-2   | OK? | A girl is jealous when her best friend comes to school matching someone else. She wears a nightgown on pajama day and is worried she can't hang upside down or everyone would see her underpants.  |
|                  | O'connor, Jim and Jane         | Fancy Nancy Poison Ivy Expert          | 1-2   | OK? | A girl accidentally brings her teacher a bouquet of poison ivy. At the end the little boys and girls dance to a rock and roll song called "poison ivy" - very innocent.  |
|                  | O'Connor, Jim and Jane         | The Ghost in Tent 19                   | 2-4   | OK  | Kids in camp discover a grave in their tent, and help a ghost reunite with his ghost father.   |
|                  | O'Dell, Scott                  | Island of the Blue Dolphins            | 6-8   | OK? | A girl survives alone on an island for many years. Lots of talk of her Indian religious beliefs but will probably appear extremely foreign and unbelievable to children reading it.  |
|                  | O'Dell, Scott                  | The Black Pearl                        |       | N   | A boy finds a huge pearl & gives to Madonna statue in church. Lots of religion   |
|                  | O'Dell, Scott                  | The Capture                            |       | N   | A priest in training is marooned on Mayan Island and allows himself to be worshipped as a god. Huge doses of Christian Theology and Indian avodah zara.  |
|                  | O'Dell, Scott                  | Zia                                    | 6-8   | OK  | Sequel to Island of the Blue Dolphins. Karana's niece tries to find her.   |
|                  | O'Dell, Scott & Elizabeth Hall | Thunder Rolling in the Mountains       | 4-6   | OK? | Indian girl tells of fate of her tribe. Violence in fighting. Speaks of "her love" - man she is supposed to marry; includes brief touch. Minor Indian religion.  |
|                  | Older, Effin                   | Figure Eights - Randi's Missing Skates | 2-3   | OK? | pictures   |
|                  | Older, Effin                   | Figure Eights #3 Best Ice Show Ever    | 2-4   | OK? | pictures: girls in skating outfits, boy holding girl's hand for skating. Girl "borrows" brother's walkie-talkie w/out permission - viewed as positive.   |
|                  | Oppel, Kenneth                 | Silverwing                             | 5-7   | OK? | Fascinating fictional story of bats. Reference bat "religion", complete with god, creation myth, predicted redemption. Includes concept that bats were around for "millions of years". Since the whole book is fantasy, most kids shouldn't notice   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Oppel, Kenneth          | Sunwing   | 5-7   | OK?  | Continuation of Silverwing. Bats try to rescue the sun from the god of the underworld, who wants to let carnivorous bats take over. Lots of boy bat likes girl bat references but very innocent and ultimately lead to "choosing a mate" which kids will probably translate as marriage. Some minor romantic bat "negiah".  |
|                  | Orczy, Baroness Emmuska | The Scarlet Pimpernel                           | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Adaline Falling Star                            | 3-6   | OK?  | Daughter of white father and American Indian mother is left with white relatives. Girl believe spirit of mother speaks to her from doll. Some mild Indian spiritual songs.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - A Crazy Day with Cobras #45  | 2-3   | OK?? | Kids go back to India to find a precious Jewel.Information about people worshipping snakes- and this belief still exists today in India. Language- weird, heck (pg.90).   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - Afternoon on the Amazon #6   | 2-3   | OK   | Note on series:Each book is part of a multiple book series (usually 4 books) where children have an adventure which contributes to an end goal eg.saving someone, collecting items, etc.to complete a mission. Although each book can stand alone, the books often mention the others in the grouping, and children will likely want to read them all.The later books often include fantasy and mythology.In this book, children go to a rain forest to find a special fruit. Unimportant one line references to visiting times of the dinosaurs. |
| new              | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - Blizzard of the Blue Moon    | 2-3   | OK?  | Children go back to New York City during the Great Depression to free a unicorn from a tapestry. Non romantic negiah. One word mention of church bells. Language- creepy, stupid, shut up, darn (once) brats.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - Buffalo before Breakfast #18 | 2-3   | OK?  | minor mention of belief in animal spirits   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - Carnival At Candlelight #33  | 2-3   | OK?? | Children go to Venice to save it from a flood. Lots of magic and mythology and the god Neptune. Non romantic negiah. Language-stupid, weird. In back of book talks about the patron saint of Venice and Greek mythology.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - Civil War on Sunday #21      | 2-3   | OK   | Kids go back to Civil War and find out war is not glamorous.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - Dark Day in the Deep Sea #39 | 2-3   | OK   | Children help rescue an octopus from 19th century scientists who think it's a monster.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope      | Magic Tree House - Day of the Dragon King #14   | 2-3   | OK?  | Children go to ancient China to rescue an ancient legend. Side story of a silkweaver and a cowherd who "fall in love and embrace".  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Dingoes at Dinnertime #20           | 2-3   | N?   | Children go to Australia and help animals escape forest fire. Find a cave drawing of a "rainbow serpent" and when they touch it, rain falls and puts out the fire. At the end of the book, tells the Aborigine myth of the rainbow serpent in its entirety. Leaves reader wondering if it is true or not. In fact section at end says Australia became a separate continent 200 million years ago and that kangaroos have been in Australia for 25 million years. |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Dinosaurs before Dark #1            | 2-3   | OK?  | Talk of dinosaur picture, needs adult guidance  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Dolphins at Daybreak #9             | 2-3   | OK   | Children solve mystery under the ocean. A bit scary when forced to abandon leaky submarine and escape shark.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree house - Dragon of the Red Dawn #37          | 2-3   | OK?  | Children go to ancient Japan to find the secret of happiness, and are helped by a famous poet named Bashro. Mention of belief in legend of the cloud dragon, that commands rain clouds.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Earthquake In The Early Morning #24 | 2-3   | OK   | Children experience the great fire in San Fransisco following a terrible earthquake. Scary. Child mistakes news reporter for a TV reporter. Back section about earthquakes.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Eve of The Emperor Penguin #40      | 2-3   | OK?? | Children go to Antarctica and pretend to be adults so they can go on a tour of a volcano to find an ancient secret. A few brief mentions of millions of years and dinosaurs. Penguin couples "dancing" on ice. Some "touch beaks" with cartoonish illustration. Language- darn, weird. In back, preview of Moonlight On the Magic Flute #41.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Ghost Town at Sundown #10           | 2-3   | OK?  | Kids meet a "real" ghost. In the back of the book are printed the words to a relatively tame country love song about a cowboy who is sad because his love left him.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Good Morning Gorillas #26           | 2-3   | OK   | Children enjoy spending time with gorillas and communicating with them  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - High Tide In Hawaii #28             | 2-3   | N?   | Children go to old Hawaii and encounter a tsunami. Details about how land formed from volcanoes millions of years ago. Needs adult guidance. Non romantic negiah. Minor middos between friends- eventually apologize. A few large black and white cartoonish illustrations of Hawaiians wearing scanty Hawaiian dress. Language-darn.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Hour of the Olympics #16            | 2-3   | N?   | Glorifying of Greek culture. Statue of Greek god; mention of gods. Children are saved by Pegasus (flying horse).  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Leprechaun in Late Winter #43       | 2-3   | OK?  | Children go to Ireland to help a famous author become "inspired" by showing her that fairies are real. Discussion of going to the theater and acting in a Shakespearean play. At end of book "facts" about fairies. Mention of looking for information on the internet.Preview of #44 A Ghost Tale For Christmas Time. Language-weird.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|--------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Lions at Lunchtime #11             | 2-3   | OK  | Children go to Africa to help wild animals.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Midnight on the Moon #8            | 2-3   | OK  | Children go to the moon to find an object to free their friend. Brief unimportant mention of dinosaurs and ice age.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Monday with a Mad Genius #38       | 2-3   | OK? | Children spend the day with Leonardo Da Vinci. One sentence that fossils were created when "water covered the mountains millions of years ago". Very subtle implication - book says Mona Lisa wouldn't smile because she was afraid that when Leonardo finished her portrait he would forget about her. When he promises to carry her portrait forever she smiles her famous smile. |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Moonlight on the Magic Flute #41   | 2-3   | OK? | Children go to party and help a young and very spoiled Mozart with a magic flute. Non-romantic negiah. Minor middos between siblings - apologize later. Minor language - dummy, stupid, darn (p. 52, 57), weird   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Mummies in the Morning #3          | 2-3   | N?  | Egyptian 'afterlife' ; Description of decayed mummy; Scary  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Night of the New Magicians #35     | 2-3   | OK  | Children go to 1889 World's Fair and meet famous inventors.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Night of the Ninja #5              | 2-3   | OK? | ninja philosophy: "use nature, be nature, follow nature"  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Pirates Past Noon #4               | 2-3   | OK  | a bit scary   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Polar Bears Past Bedtime #12       | 2-3   | OK? | refer to animal spirits. Language- weird, creepy.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Revolutionary War on Wednesday #22 | 2-3   | OK? | Children convince General Washington to attack the British in spite of bad weather. Many mentions of it happening on Xmas and wishing merry x-mas but no religion.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Season of the Sandstorms #34       | 2-3   | OK? | Children travel to ancient Baghdad to deliver a book of Aristotle's wisdom to the caliph. Language - stupid (twice)   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Stage Fright on a Summer Night #25 | 2-3   | OK? | Annie "frees" (steals) mistreated bear to save it.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Summer Of The Sea Serpent #31      | 2-3   | OK? | Children go to a fantasy land to rescue a mythical sword and encounter magical beings. A few non religious mentions of xmas and Hallows Eve (which are settings for other books in this group). Boy takes girls hand- not blatantly romantic. Language-weird, gross.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope | Magic Tree House - Sunset Of The Saber Tooth #7       | 2-3   | N?  | Children go to the Ice Age. Detailed information about Cro-Magnons and the Ice Age and prehistoric world. Needs adult guidance.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                    | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope                        | Magic Tree House - Thanksgiving On Thursday #27                      | 2-3   | OK?  | Children go back to the first Thanksgiving. A few sad mentions of people dying during the first winter. Brief unimportant mention of pilgrims singing a hymn. Language-idiot.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope                        | Magic Tree House - The Knight at Dawn #2                             | 2-3   | OK?  | Several mentions of dinosaur period they visited in previous book.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope                        | Magic Tree House - Tonight On The Titanic #17                        | 2-3   | OK?? | Children go on board the Titanic as it is sinking and help rescue two children. May be scary for this age group. It is quite clear that a lot of people died, though its not spelled out in stark detail. The sinking is pretty detailed. Non religious mention of xmas.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope                        | Magic Tree House - Twister On Tuesday #23                            | 2-3   | OK?  | Children go to the Kansas prairie and save children and teacher from an twister. Scary. Language- shut up, weird.   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope                        | Magic Tree House - Vacation under the Volcano #13                    | 2-3   | N?   | Pompeii during the volcano eruption. Greek gods seem real.  |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope                        | Magic Tree House - Viking Ship at Sunrise #15                        | 2-3   | OK?  | glorifying monks' role in keeping literature in dark ages   |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope                        | Magic Tree House - Winter Of The Ice Wizard #32                      | 2-3   | OK?? | Children go to a magical land to rescue a friend. Non religious mentions of xmas and Hallows Eve in reference to other books in this grouping. Also mentions making xmas cookies and xmas trees sparkling in windows. Non romantic negiah. Language-weird. In back of book author writes about Norse and Greek myths and gods |
|                  | Osborne, Mary Pope and Natalie Pope Boyce | Magic Tree House Research Guide - Dolphins and Sharks                | 2-4   | OK   | passing mention that Greeks believed that dolphins were messengers from the gods.   |
|                  | Osborne, Will and Mary Pope               | Magic Tree House Research Guide - Pilgrims                           | 2-4   | OK?  | Includes Thanksgiving. Drawings of Indian women with dresses with one shoulder bare - not very obvious.   |
|                  | Osborne, Will and Mary Pope               | Magic Tree House Research Guide - Rain Forests                       | 2-4   | OK?  | Photo of extremely scantily clad tribal man - p. 77.  |
|                  | Osborne, Will and Mary Pope               | Magic Tree House Research Guide - Space                              | 2-4   | N?   | Lots of mentions of millions/billions of years  |
|                  | Osborne, Will and Mary Pope               | Magic Tree House Research Guide - Titanic                            | 2-4   | OK?  | p. 27 - man who was in love with woman on board, her mother did not approve; he came on board & they were married a year later.   |
|                  | Osborne, Will and Mary Pope               | Magic Tree House Research Guide - Twisters and Other Terrible Storms | 2-4   | OK?  | Description and picture of Greek god of wind - p, 23-24   |
|                  | Osborne, Will and Mary Pope Osborne       | Magic Tree House Research Guide - Knights and Castles                | 2-4   | OK?  | Non-fiction companion to The Knight at Dawn. P 56 -Picture of manor family in chapel with priest and large cross - can be crossed or torn out.  |
|                  | O'shea, Skye                              | Your's Truly, Skye O'Shea  |       | N    |   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Pace, Mildred Martin | Old Bones the Wonder Horse                     | 3-5   | OK   | Story of a sorry looking horse who becomes a champion.  |
|                  | Packard, Edward      | Choose your Own Adventure - Fugitive           | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl is forced to be an accomplice to a jewelry theft. Reader chooses ending. Lots of violence  |
|                  | Packard, Edward      | Choose your Own Adventure - Mayday!            | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl is forced to pilot uncle's plane when he is knocked out. One story line is looking for a 90,000 year old Neanderthal skeleton preserved in glacial ice. Needs parental guidance.   |
|                  | Packard, Mary        | Ripley's Believe it or Not! - Odd-inary People | 3-8   | OK?  | 2 pictures: muscle-bound woman in bikini in end of color photo insert; woman contortionist on P. 67   |
| new              | Palacio, R.J.        | Wonder   |       | N    | Boy whose face is marred by a birth defect tries to fit in at middle school. Many people display horrible middos when they interact with the boy with the disfigured face. Very detailed descriptions of ninth grade sister developing relationship with her boyfriend including romantic negiah. Fifth graders have boyfriends. have crushes, and go on dates. Boy says girl is "hot". Coed dance class in school. Long, detailed story about delivery room nurse who kept farting, as well as ongoing joke about principal named Mr. Tushman who should go on a date with a lady named Miss Butt. Ninth grader dies her hair pink. Brief mention that a man is getting remarried and has a baby on the way (before the wedding). Some chutzpah to parents. Boy punches bully. Movies and TV- especially a lot of details about Star Wars since boy is obsessed with it. Movie- Sound of Music, Lord of the Rings. Detailed Halloween. One word xmas. Mention of book "Diary of a Wimpy Kid", "War and Peace", "Peter Pan". Computers and texting. Divorce. Implication that Jewish man married non Jewish woman. Language- shut up, jerk, freakin/ freak, dumb, heck, weird, stupid, idiot, dork, pee, it sucks, heck, you stink, |
|                  | Pantell, Dora        | Mrs. Pickereil and the Lost World              | 5-7   | OK?  | An eccentric woman is determined to find lost animals a home. Discovers people lumbering illegally. Talk of evolution with emphasis on 70 million years ago - may need parental discussion.   |
|                  | Paolini, Chirstopher | The Inheritance Cycle - Eldest Book 2          |       | N    | Continuation of saga. Much more specific philosophy about religion and gods (eg p. 632-634), origin of world, etc. Main problem is the most beautiful and powerful creatures in the novel are the elves who are staunch atheists - explain their reasoning very powerfully - much more romance and romantic negiah. Very problematic.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                 | grade |    |   |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|----|---|
|                  | Paolini, Christopher | The Inheritance Cycle - Eragon Book 1 | 7+    | N? | A hefty novel about a boy who finds a dragon elf and gets caught up in a war against a wicked king. Huge doses of magic and magical beings. As boy matures, begins to have romantic feelings for a beautiful elf - when he saves her life he undresses her (to help her) he notices "her body was exceptionally beautiful" (p. 316). Flirts with other women - minor romantic negiah. Romantic things are alluded to much more than spelled out. Mentions (without explanation) bedding a woman (p. 344). Somewhat problematic but vague philosophy about religions and gods (eg p. 632-634), origin of the world and of the beings who live in it. See also comments on book 2 |
|                  | Papademetriou, Lisa  | Ice Dreams- A Candy Apple Book        | 4-6   | N? | A girl adjusts to a new school and makes new friends while competing in an ice skating competition. A lot of juvenile boy/ girl- flirting, wondering who "likes" who, thinking boy is "super cute", mixed get togethers, minor romantic negiah, etc. A lot of popular culture, hanging out in the mall, internet, movies, tv, etc.  |
|                  | Park, Barbara        | Don't Make Me Smile                   | 3-5   | N? | Entire book focuses on a boy dealing with parents' divorce. Parents need to read through entire book to determine appropriateness for individual child.   |
|                  | Park, Barbara        | Junie B. Jones series                 |       | N  | A little girl gets into humorous trouble, mostly out of childish innocence, but she speaks her mind quite clearly - there is frequent chutzpah, minor language ("stupid", etc), and bathroom language. Very unrefined. Very inappropriate for age group (1st-2nd grade)   |
|                  | Park, Barbara        | Operation Dump the Chump              | 2-4   | N? | A boy hatches plan to get rid of hated little brother. Plan backfires. Bad middos, chutzpah, minor bad language. He really treats brother terribly.   |
|                  | Park, Barbara        | Skinnybones                           | 2-4   | N? | A skinny boy is a smart alec - starts up with biggest, most athletic kid in class because jealous of him. Eventually becomes celebrity when wins TV commercial contest. Bad middos, minor bad language eg: jerk.  |
|                  | Park, Barbara        | The Graduation of Jake Moore          | 5-7   | N? | Powerful story of boy helping to take care of grandfather with Alzheimer's. Hero was born out of wedlock- pages 4-6 - could tear out. C--- used as curse word - p. 28. Grandfather comes to boy's room wearing no pants.  |
|                  | Park, Barbara        | My Mother Got Married                 | 3-4   | N? | Sensitive issues in remarriage of divorced mother   |
|                  | Park, Linda Sue      | A Single Shard                        | 6-8   | OK | A Newberry Medal book that is acceptable! A Korean orphan who lives under a bridge with a kind vagrant, becomes an apprentice to a master potter and is eventually adopted by him when his friend dies. A lot of Korean culture but very little religion beyond description of monks helping people and giving presents on Buddha's birthday. One word mention of King's concubines - no explanation. At end of book, excerpts of 2 books by same author - "See Saw Girl" and "The Kite Fighters".  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                           | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Park, Linda Sue     | Archer's Quest                  | 5-7   | OK?? | Korean king from ancient history appears in bedroom of a Korean-American boy. Boy tries to help him return to his land and time. A lot of minor language and slang - heck, pee, bummed out, weird, nerd, drat, stupid. Mention of belief in spirits, magic, Chinese zodiac. Boy thinks of his father as "King of the Nerds"   |
|                  | Park, Linda Sue     | The Kite Fighters               | 5-7   | OK?  | Korean brothers befriend a young king and fly his kite at a competition. A lot of Korean culture and beliefs - especially the honoring of the spirits of ancestors and the teachings of Confucius. The king asks the boys to teach him the proper way to talk to a friend - the boys teach him how to use the same humorous, friendly insults as they use with each other, e.g. pig-brain, cow dung, etc.   |
|                  | Parkinson, Siobhan  | Something Invisible             |       | N    | Boy learns sensitive lessons about life, and death, when he fails to save friend's sister. Boy/girl non-romantic friendship. Boy's father "left" when he was a baby. His new "father", who came into family shortly afterwards, does not marry mother until after they have a baby together.  |
|                  | Parkinson, Siobhin  | Something Invisible             |       | N?   | Touching and unusual story about boy who makes friends with a girl and learns important lessons about friendship and life. Boy's father "left" when he was a baby; another man arrived soon after, who is his stepfather. In middle of book, mother announces that since they are having a christening for their new baby, they have decided that they will get married - so the reader realizes that they have not been married all this time. Non-romantic negiah. Mother accidentally runs over her daughter and she dies - sad. |
|                  | Paros, Jennifer     | Violet Bing and the Grand House | 2-3   | OK   | Very shy girl finds out about herself and friendship when she visits aunt's old house.  |
|                  | Parry, Rosanne      | Heart of a Shepherd             | 5-7   | N?   | Boy growing up on ranch; father goes to Iraq during war. Passing mention of pretty girl. Occasional language (damn, sh--); J--- as part of exclamation. Detailed description of religious services, but without theology. Besides this, an exceptionally wholesome and touching book.   |
|                  | Pascal, Francine    | The Hand Me Down Kid            |       | N    | A girl borrows her sister's bike without permission and it is stolen. Bad middos, brother sneaks smokes, description of "making out in bed", lots of female anatomy and undergarments.  |
|                  | Paterson, Katherine | Bread and Roses, Too            | 6-8   | N?   | Girl struggles as family joins famed Bread and Roses mill strike. Language: hell, "hell's bells" (exclamation frequently used). Some religion: church, priest, "Virgin", "mother of god". Boy smitten by beautiful labor leader and will follow whatever she says. Excellent book overall - biggest problem is language.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Paterson, Katherine | Bridge To Terabithia    |       | N    | A lonely boy and girl become friends and form an imaginary kingdom together until she dies. Boy has a hard time dealing with her death. Tremendously sad and touching. Detailed description of bully's actions and their impact on the victims. Kids take revenge on the bully by writing her a fake love note from a boy she likes. Later bully describes how her father beats her. High school girls have boy friends. Little girl accuses brother of enjoying looking at her in her underwear. A lot of xmas. On Easter go to church- boy finds it boring, girl likes it. Children talk about belief in JC's story and if it's true and if you don't believe it you will be "damned to hell when you die" (chapt 8-pg 117-128). Mention of dinosaurs in a museum. Frequent language-shut up, dang, dumb, stupid, weird, heck, damn.  |
|                  | Paterson, Katherine | Flip-Flop Girl          |       | N    | A girl and her mom are forced to move into her stepgrandmother's house after her father's death. She tries to adjust to her new school and deal with her brother who is so traumatized by her father's death that he stops speaking. A strange girl whose father is in jail for murdering her mother, befriends them. This book goes into depths about her frustrated feelings about her brother, her father's death, wondering what is happening to her father's body in the grave, and worries she will "catch" cancer like him. She has a major crush on her teacher and dreams of him falling in love with her. When she finds out her teacher is getting married, she is so distressed she scratches up his brand new car. Language: dumb, stupid, all teacher "rat face", I'll be damned, to heck with it, shut up. Mention of sex education book - no details. Xmas and Halloween - no religion. |
|                  | Paterson, Katherine | Jip, His Story          |       | N    | Book about slave child fathered by master. A lot of mentions of JC. Also, true and false claims of parenthood by people not married to each other.  |
|                  | Paterson, Katherine | Park's Quest            |       | N    | Boy finds out his dead Vietnam vet father had a child in Vietnam - while married to his mother.   |
|                  | Paterson, Katherine | The Great Gilly Hopkins | 6-8   | N?   | A tough, chutzpadik girl finally feels loved in a foster home, but still dreams of being reunited with her mom. A lot of minor bad language (almost every other page), e.g. hell, creep, jerk, stupid, darn, dammit, etc. A few mentions of nakedness but mostly poetic references, not outright pritzus (eg p. 38). Girl steals from her foster mother and her friend - sort of learns her lesson. She survives school by using physical violence and bullying. Vague implications that she is illegitimate - never stated outright.   |
|                  | Paterson, Katherine | The King's Equal        | 2-3   | OK?? | A vain prince seeks a wife who is his equal and learns humility. One sentence mention that he admires the "body" of a princess with "skin of alabaster on the body of a goddess" . Illustration of prince and princess holding hands- presumably after they are married. Language- stupid   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Paton Walsh, Jill | The Green Book  | 4-7   | OK   | Great story about refugees from doomed Earth who try to set up colony on different planet  |
|                  | Patrick, Carman   | The 39 Clues book 5 - The Black Circle                                    | 5-8   | N?   | Books of this series are written by different authors; reviews also appear under author name "The 39 clues". Children compete with other family members in a deadly race to find clues as they try to find out what happened to their parents. A lot of minor language and slang - butt, heck, nitwit, geek, stupid, moron, jerk, sucker. Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest.   |
|                  | Patron, Susan     | Lucky Breaks  | 4-7   | N?   | Sequel to The Higher Power of Lucky. Girl from tiny town in desert, has adventures and makes new friend. Girl's father abandoned her and she is being raised by her father's second ex-wife. Several mentions that her hero is Charles Darwin - no details. Passing mention of bra. Speculates that view of stars could have been created by "G-d's pesky second cousin' poking holes in sky". Short but emphasized account of burro peeing. Language: hell (p. 163), butt (p. 173). |
|                  | Patterson, James  | Maximum Ride  |       | N    | Children who are partially birds try to save the world. Lots of boy/girl, negiah, language, etc.   |
|                  | Patterson, James  | The Fugitives #3 Maximum Ride - Saving the World and other Extreme Sports |       | N    | Mutant bird/children try to save the world. Constant problematic language, romantic negiah, descriptive violence, etc.   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary     | Brian's Hunt  | 5-7   | OK?? | Boy returns to the wilderness. Boy looks forward to meeting his friends daughter and thinks about her a lot, but not overtly romantic. When he finally meets her he needs to save her and inform her that her parents were killed. He "holds her" as he tells her this. Mention of television. Minute details of hunting and eating animals. Language- dumb.   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary     | Culpepper Adventures (series)   |       | N    |  |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary     | Grizzly   | 5-7   | OK   | Boy hunts a bear who killed his favorite sheep. Some close calls and vivid descriptions.   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary     | Hatchet   |       | N    | Classic story of boy surviving in wilderness with only his hatchet. Boy remembers seeing mother kissing man in car; parents subsequently divorce. Many references to his mother meeting the other man.   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary     | How Angel Peterson Got His Name   |       | N    | Story of crazy and reckless things thirteen year old boys do. Language, bathroom humor, a 16-year-old with picture of "practically nude woman", girl/boy   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary     | Lawn Boy  | 5-6   | N?   | Boy gets lawn mower for birthday and unexpectedly turns it into big business. Describes how owner of last lawn service ran off with wife of customer. Minor language. Good guy vs. bad guy violence.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | River  | 5-7   | OK?? | Sequel to Hatchet. Boy goes to relive experience in wilderness, with psychologist; ends up having to save him. Mention of dating girl. Vague mention of mother with other man - if didn't read Hatchet would not get it. Since it's a sequel, might make them want to read Hatchet.   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Soldier's Heart                                  | 7-8   | N?   | Boy in Civil War. Very gory and violent.  |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | The Cook Camp                                    |       | N    | When boy's father goes to war and mother goes to work, she sends him to live with grandmother. Sweet and sensitive story of him missing his mother and his relationship with grandmother. Problem: story starts with man coming to "stay at our house" - mother says it's his uncle but boy knows he's not. Boy sees mother with the man on the couch "making sounds he did not understand but did not like". All very subtle but problematic. Also several instances of damn and one "p-- in pants". |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | The Haymeadow                                    | 5-7   | N?   | 14 year old boy is sent alone to watch sheep in summer pasture; survives many dangers. Some language - hell, etc. Several mentions of girl he saw on the road, whom he will never see again, but keeps thinking of her.   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | The Rifle  | 5-6   | N?   | anti-gun book: traces history of a rifle from revolutionary war to the present, when it kills someone. Gruesome. Teenage boy has crush on girl  |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | The Schernoff Discoveries                        |       | N    | Crass boy/girl  |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | The Transall Saga                                | 6-8   | N?   | Boy is transported to post-nuclear-war future. Some negiah.   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | The Winter Room                                  | 6-7   | OK?  | Strange story. Boy (and reader ) wonder if uncle's stories are true or not. Some discussion of love.  |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Tracker  | 6-7   | OK?  | very sad and harsh. Boy's father dying. Gory description of hunting   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Tucket's Travels book 1 - Mr. Tucket             | 5-6   | OK   | Boy is kidnapped from wagon train by Indians and has adventures on the Oregon Trail. Western-style violence: human to human and human to animal.  |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Tucket's Travels book 2 - Call Me Francis Tucket | 5-6   | OK   | see comment on series   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Tucket's Travels book 3 - Tucket's Ride          | 5-6   | OK?? | See comment on series. Boy escapes from Indians and travels west to find family. Vague references to attempted rape: "He come wanting me", "he tried to force a woman." - may go over kid's heads.  |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Tucket's Travels book 4 - Tucket's Gold          | 5-6   | OK   | see comment on series   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Tucket's Travels book 5 - Tucket's Home          | 5-6   | OK   | See comment on series   |
|                  | Paulsen, Gary | Woodsong   | 6-7   | OK?  | very gory detailed descriptions of hunting and nature   |
|                  | Paulson, Gary | Night John                                       |       | N    | A black slave girl learns to read. Horrifying descriptions of slavery- a lot of detail about "breeding" slave girls and the like. A lot of real language issues.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Paulson, Gary     | The Crossing                                   |       | N    | A Mexican street orphan befriends an alcoholic soldier and tries to escape his gritty violent, vividly depicted street life. Drunkenness described in detail. Soldier's nightlife involving alcohol and unclothed dancing women in sleazy clubs described in detail. Language-jerk, stupid, damn, hell.   |
|                  | Pearce, Philippa  | Tom's Midnight Garden                          |       | N    | A boy discovers that he can enter a garden from long ago and befriends a girl from that time. Brief retelling of Cain and Abel story-pg 80 and burning bush-pg 78. Man thinks boy from another time is work of the "devil". Brief xmas. A whole section about chapter and verse quotes from the book of "Revelation" (new testament) about angels and other hashkafic problems (pg 162-169 and scattered throughout). Man has a "sweetheart". Description of co ed ice skating. Boy/girl leads to eventual marriage.  |
|                  | Pearsall, Shelley | Crooked River                                  | 5-7   | OK?? | Historical fiction. Pioneer girl learns to respect Indian who is accused of killing a white trapper. Language (damn, etc) by irate judge trying to maintain order in court.   |
|                  | Pearson, Kit      | The Sky is Falling                             | 4-6   | N?   | A British girl and her little brother are evacuated to Canada during WWII. One instance of grandfather disagreeing with the children's parents about sending them away - mother says, "father, they're our children. Let us decide and stop interfering - if you can't keep quiet then leave the room". Mention of Halloween - no religion. Detailed chapter about X-mas - mostly no religion but go to church and sing a hymn. X-mas fun and presents and tree are very detailed and appealing.  |
|                  | Pearson, Susan    | Eagle Eye Ernie - The Campfire Ghosts          | 2-3   | N?   | Children go on a camping trip and wonder if ghosts stole their jewelry - at end realize it was a bird. Ghost stories recounted fully - about Indian lore and spirits. Also stories about how constellations got their names - mythology and Greek gods, told in a very juvenile way.  |
|                  | Pearson, Susan    | The Green Magician Puzzle #5 - Eagle Eye Ernie | 2-3   | OK   | Children need to solve clues to get star part in Earth Day Play.  |
|                  | Peck, Dale        | Drift House - The First Voyage                 | 6-8   | OK?? | Children go to live with their uncle in a house that is really a time traveling boat, and end up in an adventure involving conniving mermaids, a whale, a talking parrot, and a lot of convoluted philosophy about the true nature of time. A few descriptions of mermaids whose hair discreetly covers their chests or who wear halter tops made of clam shells. Infrequent language: crap, blast, stupid, heck. Unimportant mention of girl watching a violent movie at her friend's slumber party even though her parents don't let. Brief discussion of dinosaurs - no details. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                 | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Peck, Richard       | A Long Way from Chicago               | 5-7   | N?   | A boy and girl visit eccentric grandmother in a rural community. Description of town "prominents" including sheriff, dancing drunk in their underwear. 2 ladies discuss why Roosevelt married an ugly woman "maybe she's a good cook... Kissin' don't last. Good cookin' does". Girl sticks tissues in dress to have a "figure". Description of ballroom dancing. Dress "scooped breathtakingly low on her bosom".  |
|                  | Peck, Richard       | A Year Down Yonder                    |       | N    | Eccentric grandmother acts in interesting, but unacceptable way. Also: woman poses for nude portrait; mild adolescent romance.  |
|                  | Peck, Richard       | Fair Weather                          |       | N    | Farm family goes to Columbian Exposition in 1893. Description of dancer who wears veils "and little else", girl asks if boy ever gave a girl a "squeeze". Illustration of actress in very low cut dress, description of dance   |
|                  | Peck, Richard       | Lost in Cyberspace                    | 5-7   | N?   | Boy discovers way to travel in time using computers. Mention seeing woman and man kissing and embracing. Mention woman in unhappy marriage who has "admirer" - ends up divorcing and leaving with him.  |
|                  | Peck, Richard       | On the Wings of Heroes                | 5-8   | OK?  | Historical fiction - American town during WWII. Boy deals with realities of war, from rationing to brother enlisting. Very nicely done. P 117 - girl in low-cut prom dress tells enlisted boy she always had a crush on him.  |
|                  | Peck, Richard       | Secrets At Sea                        |       | N    | A mouse family travels to Europe with their "humans" and end up intertwined in their lives. A lot of boy/girl, some minor romantic negiah, descriptions of ball gowns showing bare shoulders with illustrations, corsets, description of coed dance, flirting, etc. girl has "naughty dreams of interacting with men- not described in detail but implied. Royal family goes to "give thanks" in St. Paul's Cathedral.  |
|                  | Peck, Richard       | The Dreadful Future of Blossom Gulp   |       | N    | Occult, language, spies on unclothed boys swimming, stealing is OK  |
|                  | Peck, Richard       | The Last Safe Place on Earth          |       | N    |   |
| new              | Peck, Richard       | The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail |       | OK?? | A mouse discovers his identity in the secret attics of Buckingham Palace. Mouse is bullied because of his size and other middos between classmates. Male servant flirts with female servant- unties her apron string- she calls him "cheeky boy" and "flounces away". Humorous mentions of horse droppings. One sentence mention of christening "at the foot of the font in the royal chapel". Mouse finds out his royal mother married for love, not duty so her mother disowned her. Language- nincompoop |
|                  | Peck, Robert Newton | Extra Innings                         |       | N    | Boy comes to terms with loss of family and loss of leg in plane crash. Black aunt tells stories of prejudice against black baseball team. Drunkenness, fights, harsh language.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Peck, Robert Newton   | Soup (series)   |       | N    | Lots of juvenile boy/girl, illustrations, descriptions of adult novels, juvenile romantic touching and kissing, bathroom humor, language  |
|                  | Peck, Robert Newton   | Trig Sees Red   |       | N    | A tomboy gets into trouble and reflects on the foolishness of the adults. A spoof on small town behavior. Lots of minor bad language - jackass, darn, dang. Adults exhibit very poor middos in a comical way.   |
|                  | Penner, Lucille Recht | Eating the Plates: A Pilgrim Book of Food and Manners | 3-5   | OK   | Non-fiction: Pilgrims   |
|                  | Pennypacker, Sara     | Clementine  | 2-4   | OK?? | Cute Junie-B-Jones style, (without the language). One mention of seeing janitor with lunchroom lady kissing in car - can be crossed out. One mention of friend's single mother's "special friend - that's really a boyfriend for adults".   |
| new              | Pennypacker, Sara     | Clementine and the Family Meeting                     | 3-5   | N?   | Nine year old girl deals with news of her mother's pregnancy with the help of understanding parents and teacher. Her friend is obsessed with moving to Hollywood to live with her father and his girlfriend and becoming a makeup artist for TV commercials. Her science partner thinks he has super powers. A few mentions of dinosaurs. Girl thinks her friend's big brother wants to be her boyfriend, though she doesn't want a boyfriend "right now". Sees horror movie.   |
|                  | Pennypacker, Sara     | The Talented Clementine                               | 3-5   | N?   | A third grader is worried that she has no talent to act in the school talent show but she discovers she is a talented director. Language: stupid, dumb, heck (p. 73, 82). Girl is careful not to sit too close to neighbor because she doesn't want him to think she is trying to be his girlfriend, friend is embarrassed because friend's mother's boyfriend kisses the friend's mom in public, but girl likes when her own parents kiss. Explains that Elvis used to sing and dance until girls would fall on the floor and hold their hearts and want to marry him. Preview in back - "Clementine's Letter" - teacher's name if mispronounced is 2 curse words every child will try it. |
| new              | Perl, Erica S.        | Aces Wild   |       | N    | Boy deals with his new puppy and his Yiddishism-speaking grandfather. Grandfather has 3 'girlfriends' after death of his wife. Grandfather has 'sleepover' at girlfriend's house.   |
|                  | Perlman, Rhea         | Otto Under Cover Born To Drive                        | 3-5   | OK?? | A comic book style graphic novel about a boy who invents the fastest race car in the world and comes up against various bumbling goons. Somewhat unrefined. Running joke about a thug who sweats too much and smells, and another who sheds his skin in piles and smells like "barf". Language- dumb, punk, moron.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------|------|---|
| new              | Peschke, Marci | Kylie Jean Blueberry Queen | 2-4   | OK?? | <p>Note on series: The second grade heroine is the antithesis of Junie B Jones and similar heroines. She is polite, friendly, optimistic, and generous. Her big brother is almost always kind to her. Her parents and extended family are loving, supportive, and understanding. She works hard to achieve her goals and is almost always successful. The most "naughty" thing about this book is that her dog's name is "Ugly Brother". The only real issue with this series is that she wishes she could be a beauty queen (never describes what this means in detail but mentioned numerous times in every book) and she frequently practices her beauty queen wave and smile and measures her behavior against what a "real" beauty queen would do eg. a beauty queen shares so I will too, a beauty queen is happy for the other team that they won, so I will be too, etc. In her mind (and soon to be in the reader's mind) a beauty queen is perfection. At the back of each book the reader is invited to use a code to enter a website which hasn't been reviewed. In this book, girl enters contest to be the "queen" of a local blueberry festival. Girl uses internet to enter contest. Grandparents sit on a porch swing holding hands "like the true sweethearts they are"- text and illustration. Father holds mother's hand as they wait to hear if she won a contest. Mention of watching "Miss America" beauty contest. One word mention of church. Girls in contest look like "movie stars". One sentence mention of country radio show. She stands in the dress shop to try on dresses in her slip because "it is classy".</p> |
| new              | Peschke, Marci | Kylie Jean Dancing Queen   | 2-4   | OK?? | <p>See note on series. Girl auditions to be in ballet "Swan Lake"- story briefly summarized. Girl saves the day when she offers volunteers her high school age brother to dance the male role where he needs to pick up the ballerina (who is his cousin). Ballet culture. ONE word mention of movie theater. TV. Class goes on a trip to see the ballet "Cinderella"- story briefly summarized.</p>  |
| new              | Peschke, Marci | Kylie Jean Drama Queen     | 2-4   | OK?  | <p>See note on series. Girl competes with a mean, new girl to be a part in the class play. Play is "Alice in Wonderland"- mention that it is a movie. New girl exhibits very bad midos but she eventually wins her over with kindness. TV. Language-gross. shut up, weird.</p>  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|---|
| new              | Peschke, Marci    | Kylie Jean Football Queen                | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Girl needs to choose between being in a halftime dance at a football game or cheering for her brother and being his "good luck charm". One word sentence that her high school aged brother is "sweet" on her neighbor- this is explained as meaning he would like her to be his girlfriend. Nothing further mentioned about it. A lot of football culture- entire town roots for the highschool football team- pep rallies, cheerleaders, etc. Cartoonish pictures of high school girls in skimpy clothing. |
| new              | Peschke, Marci    | Kylie Jean Hoop Queen                    | 2-4   | OK?  | See note on series. Girl tries to win a basketball contest to raise money for an animal shelter. Mention of movie "The Pink Panther", TV watching, teenage brother listens to loud music. Family goes to church- no religion. Cartoonish illustration of basketball uniform worn by second grade girls (shorts and tank top)  |
| new              | Peschke, Marci    | Kylie Jean Rodeo Queen                   | 2-4   | OK?  | see note on series. Girl wants to win contest in the rodeo. One sentence mention of going to church- no religion. Girl stays up late watching movie on TV. Grandmother makes her "pinkie swear" that she will work hard learning a rodeo trick- text and illustration. Language- dumb.  |
| new              | Peschke, Marci    | Kylie Jean Singing Queen                 | 2-4   | OK?  | see note on series. Girl enters talent show and wins second place. Mention of church singers- no religion. Grandfather watches golf on TV. Language- gross.   |
| new              | Peschke, Marci    | Kylie Jean Spelling Queen                | 2-4   | OK?  | see note on series. Girl studies hard to win the spelling bee. Mention of going to church on Sunday.  |
|                  | Peters, Julie Ann | Revenge of the Snob Squad                |       | N    |   |
|                  | Peters, Julie Ann | Romance of the Snob Squad                |       | N    |   |
|                  | Peterson, John    | The Littles and the Big Storm            | 3-5   | OK?  | A tiny family lives in human house and use humans' things but only take things humans won't miss. The owners of their house are away and the Littles try to fix the damage caused by a storm. Two pages describe children watching TV and discussing that soap operas are always sad (p. 48, 49)  |
|                  | Peterson, John    | The Littles and their Amazing New Friend | 3-5   | OK?  | Tiny children accidentally land their hot air balloon on a hill where residents live as they had for hundreds of years. They introduce them to modern ideas, especially focusing on women being equal to men. Language - darn, darn it. Very subtle boy/girl crush - he "liked and admired her", he can't stop talking about her. One sentence about mother nature as creator: "Mother Nature takes as much care in creating her tiny masterpieces as she does with her big ones".  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                 | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Peterson, John      | The Littles Have a Wedding            | 3-5   | OK? | The Littles' cousin gets married. When introduces bride to the family, he holds her hand. Talk about girlfriends and being "romantic". Talk of getting married in church with a minister. One sentence - groom kisses bride. Very juvenile and innocent.  |
|                  | Peterson, John      | The Littles Take a Trip               | 3-5   | OK? | Tiny children feel isolated and convince their family to take a dangerous trip so they can meet other tiny children. As in other books in this series, some dwelling on the fact that tiny people survive by taking things from big people without their knowledge, though in return they help them. Language - dummy.  |
|                  | Peterson, John      | The Littles to the Rescue             | 3-5   | OK? | The Littles travel to the woods to rescue their aunt who has been captured. Language - stupid, dumb (once each).  |
|                  | Peterson, P.J.      | My Worst Friend                       |       | N   | Two girls constantly fight, compete and insult each other, until one is diagnosed with a brain tumor and the other doesn't know how to treat her. Very detailed and constant bad middos, very heavy subject matter for this age group.  |
|                  | Peterson, Will      | Triskellion 2: The Burning            | 6-8   | N?  | Twins who are descendants of aliens and humans, escape danger to find symbolic icon. Non-romantic negiah. Language: hell, damn. Book revolves around premise that aliens arrived 30,000 years ago and caused a shift in the evolution of humans by mating with them.  |
|                  | Petty, J.T.         | Clemency Pogue: The Hobgoblin Proxy   | 5-7   | N?  | Strange story about a girl who helps a hobgoblin find a boy who was switched at birth. Girl blushes when she reads love stories. Illustrations of fairy's scanty clothing. Description of a door-"the fairy...watched from the bottom half of a door that opened like a scandalous bathing suit, in two pieces. This being France, the top was open." Girl pretends she is a boy's girlfriend and kisses boy on the cheek to distract him and then realizes what she did and "spits in disgust". Girl kicks boy "In the bathing suit area". Language: vomit, "drad nast it", fink, butt, poop, weird, ass, fart, stupid, shut up, dumb, drat. |
|                  | Pfeffer, Susan Beth | Kid Power                             | 4-6   | OK? | A girl starts an odd job organization to earn money for bike. Says shut-up to mother once - can be crossed out - P. 57 Chap 5   |
|                  | Pfeffer, Susan Beth | Rewind to Yesterday                   | 4-6   | OK  | Children discover that VCR can take them back to the past and they can change things. Story centers around TV and VCR but it's background   |
|                  | Pfeffer, Susan Beth | What to Do When Your Mouth Won't Open |       | N   | A girl tries to overcome fear of public speaking so she can enter a contest. Minor chutzpah to teacher, 9th grade sister talks a lot about dating, girl discovers can take out adult books on children's card so she can't wait to take out "dirty" ones.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                       | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Philbrick, Rodman | REM World                                   | 5-7   | OK?? | An overweight boy buys a machine that promises to help you lose weight, from an ad in a comic book. Many scary adventures. Constant very unrefined language, eg, friends call him Biscuit Butt, stupid, crummy, stinky, moron, doofus. Minor boy/girl - kiss on the cheek, engaged giants embrace. Confusing mention of demons and angels, cloud people. Worship the sun.  |
|                  | Philbrick, Rodman | The Fire Pony                               | 6-8   | OK?  | Touching story of boy and older brother who try to make it on their own on a horse ranch. Older brother has some problems with drinking and pyromania. Handled well. Sad ending.   |
|                  | Philbrick, Rodman | The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg | 5-7   | OK?? | Boy exaggerates truth in efforts to get older brother out of army during civil war. Brief mention of saints, heaven, bible, Job, parson, xmas, angels. Orphaned boy describes being raised by a mean, non caring ,selfish uncle. Other bad adults described (and some good ones.) Descriptions of drunk men. Boy steals uncle's horse to rescue his brother. A swindler convinces "naïve minister in training" to marry her, then steals his money. Some negiah including a kiss (not described). Man is "lovesick" for his "sweetheart" with a "goofy look" on his face. At a state fair there is a tent where "women danced in their underclothes and showed their bare ankles". Boy describes horrific sights he saw on a battlefield. Language-brat, shut up, stupid, stink, sucker, dumb, puke, heck. |
|                  | Pierce, Tamora    | Circle of Magic: Sandry's Book              | 6-9   | OK?  | Four teens discover their powers in a world filled with magic. Mentions of gods of their culture. Friendly non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Pierce, Tamora    | Emperor Mage                                |       | N    | A girl living in a magical world can communicate with animals. Goes to cure emperor's birds and becomes a "tool of the gods" to get revenge on emperor. Minor romantic negiah, allusions to major negiah and affairs, lots of talk of gods and immortals as part of this fantasy world.  |
|                  | Pierce, Tamora    | Protector of the Small - First Test         | 5-7   | N?   | A girl applies to be a knight in the magical kingdom but must confront a bias against females. Lots of minor violence, eg black eyes and fist fights. One mention of a crush a boy has on an older woman (p 96) and one mention of a man being a woman's "lover" (p 169) - both can easily be crossed out.   |
|                  | Pike, Christopher | Spooksville: Night of the Vampire           | 4-6   | OK?  | Children try to get rid of vampires in town. Plan to kill with wooden stakes, burn some. In end kill vampire Queen, and then spell over others is ended. In one passage, they are looking for "holy water", but can't find any because local priest has been turned into a rabbi by the local witch - "now he won't eat bacon any more".   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                                | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Pike, Christopher     | Spooksville: Phone Fear              | 5-7   | N?   | Voice on phone commands people to harm others; if they don't listen, they are harmed. Kids figure out it is a consciousness from the Internet and try to outwit it. Boy shoots girl; turns out to be blanks and ketchup. Some romantic negiah - peripheral to plot. Cover photo has girl in sleeveless top. No redeeming value.   |
|                  | Pinkney, Andrea Davis | Bird In A Box                        |       | N    | 2 boys in an orphanage become friends. Boy has a crush on a girl in a choir that sings to entertain the orphans. A lot of black culture, boy/girl, religion, etc.   |
|                  | Pinkney, Andrea Davis | Silent Thunder                       |       | N    | Story about 2 black slave children during civil war. Beautiful but lots of focus on master fathering slave child - might be OK only for very mature, older child  |
|                  | Pinkwater, D. Manus   | Lizard Music                         |       | N    | Boy is left at home when parents go on vacation and big sister goes camping with "hippie" friends - described. Experiments with smoking (makes him sick). Very inappropriate descriptions of female anatomy p. 53-54. Lots and lots of TV culture.  |
|                  | Pinkwater, Daniel     | Mrs. Noodlekugel                     | 2-3   | OK?? | Children have magical adventures with their babysitter. Parents forbid them from visiting her because they know they will disobey. When kids realize, they confront their parents for being "sneaky" and "tricky". Language- weird (once)   |
| new              | Pinkwater, Daniel     | Mrs. Noodlekugel and Four Blind Mice | 2-3   | OK?  | Children go with babysitter to take mice to get glasses and have adventures. Cat is angry at his father for abandoning his family and says he will bite him "to teach him a lesson". In the end finds him and they make up.   |
|                  | Pinkwater, Daniel     | The Artsy Smartsy Club               | 3-5   | OK?? | Children get interested in art when they find sidewalk chalk drawings of famous paintings. A lot of art culture especially paintings of saints. Children sneak to Manhattan by subway (without parental permission). When children get wet in the rain they want to paint in their underwear while their clothing dries (totally innocent) but one of their mothers says no because she doesn't want them to turn "nudist" and she doesn't want "naked children" in her basement. |
|                  | Pinkwater, Daniel     | The Moosepire                        | 4-6   | OK?? | Tongue in cheek book about a moose who solves mystery. Helped by a conservative Rabbi who likes matza. Minor language. Very strange.  |
|                  | Pinkwater, Daniel     | The Yggyssey                         | 5-6   | N?   | Girl solves secret of missing ghosts. Statue of J---, hell (the place), "piss off" (many times).  |
|                  | Pinkwater, Jill       | Mister Fred                          | 4-6   | OK?  | Unruly 6th grade class discovers teacher is an alien and try to protect him. Lots of bad behavior with substitutes. Chutzpah, minor bad language  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                    | grade |    |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|----|--|
|                  | Place, Nick        | The Kazillion Wish                       | 3-5   | N? | Children's parents are divorced, they shuttle between them. Their mom is happy with her boyfriend but their father is depressed and lonely. They go on a crazy magical quest to earn their right to a wish for an "also mom"-a woman who won't replace their mom but will love them and their father. Entire book is focused on this- may be too much exposure for most, therapeutic for some. A lot of unrefined bathroom humor. Comic book superheroes by name. Mention of pop singers by name Silly song about "just one more kiss my love". Female's name is "Bikini". Male's name is "Jingle Bells Bathroom Smells". Silly coed dance- they "grooved" and did "funky moves" and "boogied". When father meets the "also mom" they hug and hold hands. Language-freak out, shut up, dumb, funky, weird, idiot, suckers, kick butt, stupid.  |
| new              | Pogue, David       | Abby Carnelia's One & Only Magical Power | 5-7   | N? | A girl goes to a magic camp to figure out why she can do magic, but she ends up being a laboratory experiment by a drug company. Camp is coed- she becomes friends with a boy- when she approaches him to ask a question she hopes he doesn't think she is a stalker. Not overtly romantic. A lot of non romantic negiah including an escape that involves boys sitting on a floating girls stomach. Many movies mentioned by name. TV shows, books all of which may or may not be appropriate. A lot of email, blogs, ebay, rock star, etc.. A few lines of a rock song that is somewhat inappropriate. Children suspect that teacher leaves the room to sneak into the teacher's room and kiss his secret girlfriend. Mention of girl's undergarments. Frequent language- stupid, weirdo, gross, freaky/freak/ freak out. creeped out, what the heck, idiot, darned, dumb, numbskull, butt |
|                  | Polacco, Patricia  | The Keeping Quilt                        |       | N  | picture book. Justifies intermarriage, assimilation  |
| new              | Polonsky, Ami      | Gracefully Grayson                       |       | N  | Boy who believes that he is a 'girl' on the inside. Parents beware - this is the latest trend in children's literature.  |
|                  | Poole, Josephine   | Touch and Go                             | 5-7   | N? | Boy and girl prevent bombing of foreign delegation. Girl's mother wears short skirts, smokes, reads "trashy magazines". borderline language, minor negiah.   |
|                  | Pope, Elizabeth    | The Perilous Gard                        |       | N  | A girl is exiled to a castle in 16th century England and helps save them from the "fairy folk" who are trying to make a human sacrifice. Lots of detailed Christian and pagan references. Major hashkafa issues.   |
|                  | Porte, Barbara Ann | Ruth Ann and Her Pig                     | 2-3   | N? | Strange story of girl with allergies who wants cousin's pig as a pet because it has no fur. Side story of grandfather who shows up years after abandoned family with no explanation  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Porter, Tracey   | Billy Creekmore: A Novel  | 6-8   | OK?  | Boy goes from orphanage, to coal mines, to circus. Finds father who deserted him; leaves father because he is dishonest good-for-nothing. Boy feel "spirits".   |
|                  | Potter, Ellen    | Olivia Kidney and the Exit Academy                              |       | N    | Strange story of a girl who can communicate with her dead brother and ends up living in a school which prepares people to die. A lot of talk of spirits, a lot of minor language, boy/girl, etc.  |
|                  | Potter, Ellen    | Slob  |       | N    | Boy tries to build machine to see into past, to see who killed his parents. Boy/girl, language, culture.  |
|                  | Pratchett, Terry | I Shall Wear Midnight   |       | N    | Girl witch fights enemy. Several out-of-wedlock births. Many references to what bride will do on honeymoon - no details, but a lot of giggling. Language: hell. Very mild developing relationship between boy and girl.   |
|                  | Pratchett, Terry | Johnny and the Bomb - The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy book 3         | 6-8   | OK?? | 14 year old boy and friends travel in time to save people from WWII bomb. One of friends is girl - totally innocent. Passing references to dinosaurs and 65 million years. Language: goddamnit (p 156), damn (p. 157), hell. Passing cultural references to black discrimination, female discrimination, skinheads; one friend has "weakness" for "borrowing" cars with keys in ignition.   |
|                  | Pratchett, Terry | Johnny and the Dead - The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy book 2         | 6-8   | N?   | Johnny finds he can see the dead, and tries to help them when cemetery is to be destroyed. Dead have had to stay in cemetery to await "Judgment Day", but decide that it is an old-fashioned concept that does not apply any more, so they leave; implication of no judgment and no heaven, etc. could be confusing to some kids. Speculate x-ray vision could see through women's clothes , dinosaur 70 million years, "Jewish is the same as Christian" , Language: nerd , Satan, damn. hell (place). |
|                  | Pratchett, Terry | Only You Can Save the World - The Johnny Maxwell Trilogy book 1 | 6-8   | OK?? | Johnny finds that the aliens in his computer game can speak to him, and he tries to save them. Language: Butt (47, 56, 162), nerd, dweeb, pissed off (54),bra (126),crap (114), ref to J. C. (53), Satan/hell (137). Passing reference to friend who lives with brother and brother's girlfriend. Vague background references to Trying Times = boy's parents fighting & getting divorced - many kids won't get it.   |
|                  | Pratchett, Terry | The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents                    | 5-7   | OK?? | A cat and a group of rats who have mysteriously become intelligent after eating from a wizard's dump, team up with a boy to con towns out of money by pretending to be a rat catcher. Language - stupid, damn (once), nonsense rat swear words eg "rrkrkrk". A lot of speculation about who created animals and people - book leads to belief in an afterlife but never spelled out.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Pratchett, Terry | The Wee Free Men - A Story of Discworld                         | 7-8   | N?  | Girl finds out she is a witch and saves her brother. Language: dang, darned, drat, stupid, hell, heck, fart. Minor mention of girl's older sister liking to watch sheep shearers with their shirts off. A few mentions of the picture on the tobacco label, which when turned upside down looks like a woman with no clothes on. Discussion about if tiny people could marry a big person "if a lad was to cuddle this one he'd have to leave a chalk mark where he left off yesterday". Brief scene discussing getting married and having babies, and comparison to animals on farm - vague, but could be deciphered by older readers. |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Disappearing Dinosaur  | 2-3   | OK  | Boy has detective agency and solves friends' mysteries.   |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Ghostwriter            | 2-3   | OK  | Boy tries to find out if book is really written by a ghost.   |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Groaning Ghost #32     | 2-3   | OK? | Boy solves mystery of "ghost" who haunts friends' houses. Brother says he has a hot date. Passing references to Halloween.  |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Marshmallow Monster    | 2-3   | OK  | mystery   |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Runaway Dog            | 2-3   | OK  | p. 2 - discussion of favorite holidays: Kwanzaa, X-mas, halloween, valentine's day.   |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - the Case of the Sneaker Sneak          | 2-3   | OK  | mystery   |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - The Case of the Spoiled Rotten Spy     | 2-3   | OK  | movie actors  |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery - the Case of the Stinky Science Project | 2-3   | OK? | Teenage brother of main character has girlfriend - puts on father's aftershave, puts arm around girlfriend  |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery- The Case of the Race Against Time       | 2-3   | OK? | Children locate missing pocket watch. Mention of brother's girlfriend who he thinks is a "drip". Language-weird, darn (pg.4)  |
|                  | Preller, James   | A Jigsaw Jones Mystery- The Case of the Snowboarding Superstar  | 2-3   | N?  | Boy finds a missing good luck charm belonging to a champion snowboarder. A lot about good luck charms, though most people in the story are skeptical about their effectiveness. A lot of mild boy/girl, though at one point boyfriend and girlfriend go in the hot tub together (with illustration) but not at all romantic. Also she kisses him on the cheek and hugs him hello (illustration of girl with arm over boy's shoulder). Girl says boy is teen magazine's "number one hottie". A lot of snowboarding culture and slang.  |
|                  | Primavera, Elise | Libby of High Hopes   |       | N   | A girl who loves horses tries to cope with changing friendship while trying to live up to her potential. Too many mentions of her sister "hanging out" with a boy and watching them kiss.   |

Complete Secular Book List

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|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Prince, Alison     | Night Landings                                   | 5-7   | OK   | Boy and girl help fugitive boy rescue his mother who is mixed up with mean smugglers. Some violence - all good guys vs. bad guys   |
|                  | Prineas, Sarah     | The Magic Thief: Book One                        | 4-7   | OK?? | Boy discovers he is a wizard and tries to solve problem of missing magic. Has friend who is girl - she is slightly older. Briefly leans his head on her shoulder. Language: damn (p. 246), a few variations on the word "drat" .   |
|                  | Prineas, Sarah     | The Magic Thief: Lost (Book 2)                   | 4-7   | OK?? | Boy wizard tries to save city from evil magic. Continuing close friendship with girl; no romance. She teaches him to dance, "fierce hug" when she finds he has been saved from danger.   |
| new              | Probst, Jeff       | Stranded Shadow Island- Book 2 The Sabatoge      | 5-7   | N?   | The saga continues. Children join up with native girl to win contest that will give them a chance to escape. Boy's crush on girl more obvious and frequent- minor romantic negiah. Violence and middos between competing children. Brief unimportant mention of movie. Language- freak out, heck, gross, jerk, stupid  |
| new              | Probst, Jeff       | Stranded   | 5-7   | OK?? | Step siblings of newly married parents go on a weeklong boat trip to help them bond as a family, and they are shipwrecked on a desert island. Cell phones, TV, renting movies, texting, video games, laptop, dvds, etc. The boy who often saves the day got all of his information from watching TV constantly. Innocent negiah among step siblings.Middos between step siblings. Language- gross, butt, weird, stupid |
| new              | Probst, Jeff       | Stranded 2- Trial by Fire                        | 5-7   | OK?? | The saga continues. Same issues as previous book.One word xmas. Girl finds human skeleton and a grave marked with a cross. Language- geeks, dumb, weird, gross, stupid, shut up.   |
| new              | Probst, Jeff       | Stranded 3- Survivors                            | 5-7   | OK?? | The saga continues. Same issues as previous book.One word xmas. Girl finds human skeleton and a grave marked with a cross.Boy says skeleton looks like a "movie prop". Boy urinates on boy who got stung by a jelly fish. Language- gross, stupid, shut up, pee.   |
| new              | Probst, Jeff       | Stranded Shadow Island- Book 1 Forbidden Passage | 5-7   | OK?? | The same children as in the original series are stranded on a new island with a tribe that won't let them reveal their location to their rescuers.Boy has an obvious "crush" on a native girl. Tries to impress her.Siblings tease him about it, but nothing comes of it in this book, though it is obvious it will escalate in future books.Some violence between competing children. Language- stupid, shut up       |
|                  | Promitzer, Rebecca | The Pickle King                                  |       | N    | Girl and friends try to solve mystery in town. Boy/girl.   |

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|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Prue, Sally        | Cold Tom   | 5-7   | N?  | An elf escapes from his parents who want to murder him, and goes to live with the humans. A lot of talk of humans mating with elves and taking them as "lovers" (No marriage mentioned). Detached mention of female anatomy (p, 29). Side story of boy having hard time dealing with divorced parents. Minor language: shut up.   |
|                  | Pryor, Bonnie      | Poison Ivy and Eyebrow Wigs  |       | N   | Boy/girl, love poems to teacher (4th grade)   |
|                  | Pryor, Bonnie      | Vinegar Pancakes and Vanishing Cream   | 3-5   | N?  | Boy tries to keep up w/ successful family. Borderline language and content. Some middos issues among classmates and siblings. Running joke about a 2 year old who keeps wetting his pants. Mentions of watching TV and movies. Mother leans on father's shoulder and says "camping out is kind of romantic". Brief mention of jack o lanterns. Language- dummy, dumb, stupid, weird, creepy.                    |
|                  | Pullman, Phillip   | I Was A Rat  | 5-7   | N?  | A boy who claims he was a rat has trouble fitting into human society until he is helped by an elderly couple and a princess. Periodically, the book shows a gossipy newspaper page which is often somewhat inappropriate - e.g. refers to the "playboy prince" as a "lover" with many previous girlfriends (page 1), a cartoonish picture of royal couple kissing (p. 69). Language: bloody trap, damn (p. 77). |
|                  | Pullman, Phillip   | Lyra's Oxford  | 5-7   | OK? | Strange story about a girl who fights a witch with lots of magical creatures and events. Mentions 2 people are lovers (not detailed). One page is meant to look like a photocopy from a book with hard to read small print - a bit racy - but can be torn out in the unlikely event someone will read it (p. 31 & 32).  |
|                  | Pullman, Phillip   | The Firework-Maker's Daughter  | 3-5   | OK? | A girl is determined to become a professional firework maker. Strange. Some chutzpah to father. One "shy kiss" P. 92.   |
|                  | Pullman, Phillip   | The Subtle Knife   |       | N   | A boy and girl journey through another world in search of his missing father and get embroiled in a battle against "the highest deity" Lots and lots of religion and Christianity - all of it negative. Lots of hashkafic problems. Talk of child being conceived in sin, lovers, and seduction. Whole series is probably questionable.   |
|                  | Pyle, Howard       | King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table (Illustrated Classic Edition) |       | N   | Abridged version. Lots of knight trying to win beautiful lady, lady betrays knight - caught in a locked room with another knight; never outright explains why it's betrayal. Lots of dueling for honor.   |
|                  | Quakenbush, Robert | Daughter of Liberty - A True Story of the American Revolution                | 3-5   | OK  | A woman retrieves important papers for General Washington under the noses of the British. Before her mission family joins hands in "prayer" - nothing objectionable.  |

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|------------------|---------------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Ragz, M.M.                | Gotcha!  | 4-6   | OK? | School troublemaker becomes school president. Joins girls' field hockey team as a joke and ends up star of team. Some bad midos: practical jokes, revenge. Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Ramthun, Bonnie           | The White Gates                                    |       | N   | Boy moves to small town with mother who is doctor; solves mystery of deaths. Boy sees man kissing mother without her consent; friend says man just wants to sleep with her & has frequent live-in girlfriends.  |
|                  | Raskin, Ellen             | Figgs & Phantoms                                   |       | N   | Strange story of a girl who struggles with her identity as part of an eccentric show biz family, and deals with the death of a beloved relative. A lot of speculation about what happens after you die- this family believes you go to an imaginary place called "Capri" where you live out your dreams. Girl becomes sick because wants to join her uncle in Capri- a lot of detailed description of what it is like there. Children discuss reading pornography with definition (p38-39) Many book titles and authors including one title that is very inappropriate (pg 90).   |
|                  | Raskin, Ellen             | The Mysterious Dissapearance of Leon (I mean Noel) | 5-7   | N?  | Two orphans help their eccentric adopted mother find her missing husband whom she married as a child. A number of brief nonreligious mentions of xmas and xmas related things. Brief mention of going to church on Sundays. Short chapter about St. Valentine's Day (pg.41-43) where girl is miserable because she only got a valentine from her brother, not from the boy who sat in front of her. Non romantic affectionate negiah. Boy's father is an actor on TV. Very mild love story leading to marriage. Humorous chapter discussing if people should wear lace underwear in case they are hit by a truck and their dress flies up in the air. A lot of tongue in cheek humor. Language-fink |
|                  | Raskin, Ellen             | The Tatoood Potatoe and other Clues                | 5-7   | OK? | Girl takes job as apprentice to eccentric artist who solves mysteries. Strange and a bit confusing. Non-romantic negiah. Some violence.   |
|                  | Raskin, Ellen             | The Westing Game                                   | 6-8   | OK? | Clever mystery - group of people in contest to discover "murderer" and win inheritance. Minor romance leading to marriage. Peripheral to plot - girl postpones marriage to get a career and find herself. Mention of ex-wives and suicide.  |
|                  | Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan | The Secret River                                   | 2-3   | OK  | Girl tries to find a secret river to catch a fish to help her family through hard times.  |
|                  | Rawls, Wilson             | Summer of the Monkey                               | 6-8   | N?  | Beautiful story but romantic hand holding; Discuss if boy likes girl  |

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|------------------|---------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Rawls, Wilson       | Where the Red Fern Grows   | 6-8   | N?  | A boy and his hunting dogs live in the Ozarks. Some gory descriptions of hunting. Some hashkafa, mostly of the "does G-d answer all prayers" type. Some Christianity, e.g. "even the good lord suffered when he was here" - p. 237. Some talk about, do dogs go to heaven (p. 242). Boy is so upset dogs died, he questions G-d and doesn't feel like saying his prayers. Parents explain that everything G-d does has a reason. Belief that angels plant red fern at spot that is sacred. Language: damned. |
|                  | Reeder, Carolyn     | Shades of Gray   | 5-8   | OK  | Historical Fiction. Post Civil War. An orphaned boy comes to live with relatives whose farm was devastated in the war. Comes to terms with uncle's refusal to take sides in the war.   |
|                  | Reeve, Philip       | Mothstorm: The Horror from Beyond Uranus Georgium Sidus!                       |       | N   | An enormously tongue in cheek sci-fi novel about a British family in space. Lots of X-mas with some religious explanation, eg p. 102-103. Comic romantic kissing. Lots of philosophical discussion about who created and shaped the world and a group of gods called shapers who have amazing powers and can live forever.   |
|                  | Reeve, Philip       | Starcross  | 5-8   | N?  | Continuation of Larklight. Language: d---- (written with dashes!). References to "billions of years". Old-fashioned romance - mild.  |
|                  | Reeve, Phillip      | Larklight - A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space |       | N   | Fantasy world where 19th century ships fly in space - children save the world from aliens disguised as hats. Girl wishes she could go to balls and dance with young gentleman. Humorous boy/girl, minor romantic negiah (hugging, hand-holding), mother kisses father. A lot of references to Christianity, a lot of cursing with blanks, confusing talk of creation of world and G-d, illustration issues, etc.   |
|                  | Regan, Diane Curtis | The Class with the Summer Birthdays  |       | N   | Lots of boy likes/dislikes girl & vice versa. Bad middos   |
|                  | Reiche, Dietlof     | I, Freddy  | 4-6   | OK? | Cute story about intelligent hamster who figures out how to communicate via computer. Minor bathroom talk. Mention of cat being neutered - not explained (p 99). Minor language - butt.  |
|                  | Reiche, Dietlof     | The Haunting of Freddy: Book 4 in the Golden Hamster Saga                      | 4-6   | OK? | Hamster writes a story and his characters come to life as scary ghosts. Lots of talk of the "undead". Minor mention of hamster owner having girlfriend with "lustrous red hair and apple peach blossom perfume" but very tame. Poems are very hamster-like - not terribly suggestive. When old cat flirts with a cute young rabbit, hamster refers to him as a "geriatric come-on".  |
|                  | Reilly, Matthew     | Crash Course   | 4-6   | N?  | Hover car racers in future. Language: crap, screw, frickin'. 14 year old boy sees beautiful 17 y/o girl; wishes he was older. Un-tznius drawing of girl.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Reisman, Michael              | Simon Bloom the Gravity Keeper                         |       | N    | Boys and girl find a book and learn the laws of physics to fight enemies. This entire books is based on the very clearly stated premise that the world is run by the laws of the universe that are written in magical books that control them - leaves out any possibility of G-d. Also, presumes evolution as a fact. Language- moron, kick butt, puke, jerk. Minor boy/girl. Non-romantic negiah. Girl accused of holding boy's hand romantically, but he really pulled her arm to help her escape.                                    |
|                  | Reiss, Johanna                | The Upstairs Room                                      | 6-8   | N?   | Jewish girls hide from Nazis. Boy/girl. Language: damn, butt, one real curse. Girl shared bed with married couple unrelated to her. At first don't eat pork, but when realize all food in house is treif eat pork too (pikuach nefesh??). Celebrate X-mas. 22 year old girl makes point of kissing liberating soldiers. Cover - shapely 20-year-old wearing low-cut nightgown (Trophy Newbery edition)   |
|                  | Reiss, Kathryn                | Paint by Magic   | 6-8   | OK?  | When boy's mother starts acting in old-fashioned manner and going into frightening trances, he goes back in time to find artist who has connection to her. Extremely mild boy/girl with mild negiah. Teen language: pissed (annoyed). Bodily functions.  |
|                  | Rendal, Justine               | A Very Personal Computer                               |       | N    | Dysfunctional family, bad language, graphic puberty, negiah  |
|                  | Rex, Adam                     | The True Meaning of Smekday                            | 6-8   | N?   | Girl saves the world from invading aliens. Language: hell, ass, crap, shut up, gross, butt, dumb, stupid, jerk, jackass, fart, pee, weird. Girl says shut up to mother. Preadolescent boys name their club by its acronym: BOOB. Discuss theory of aliens trying to impregnate women to save their dying race. One boy curses constantly - book bleeps him out (eg "shut the bleep bleep" -) - leaving lots of bleeps to the imagination. Passing mention of x-mas and religion. Non-romantic negiah. Pareve references to old TV shows. |
|                  | Reyes, Gabrielle (adapted by) | Dolphin Tale: The Junior Novel Based on the Hit Movie  | 3-5   | OK?? | A sad boy helps rescue an injured dolphin and ends up finding himself. Center is photos from movie including girl in tank top and shorts. Non romantic negiah. Some intimations of boy/girl but not explicit (probably does exist in the movie). Indian legend of how dolphins were created. Boy mentions father left family and they haven't heard from him in 5 years. Mention of watching TV, using Internet. Language-brat, heck, stupid, jerk.  |
| new              | Reyes, Gabrielle (adapted by) | Dolphin Tale2- The Junior Novel Based on the Hit Movie | 3-5   | N?   | The saga continues as the boy grows up- intimations of boy/girl much more explicit- they touch accidentally a few times and "their eyes lock", girl is jealous that another girl might like him, etc. In centerfold, pictures from the movie- girl dressed in skin tight wet suit etc., TV, Internet Language- freak out, I'll be darned   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Rhodes, Jewell Parker  | Ninth Ward   | 6-8   | N?   | African American girl survives hurricane Katrina. Girl is being brought up by midwife since her mother died in childbirth and her family rejected her. A lot of talk of seeing ghosts as if it were reality. Somewhat scary and sad. Gritty. Girl wonders who her father was- pretty clear that her mother never married him. A lot of nonromantic negiah between girl and her friend who is a boy. Mentions of Shakespeare and especially Romeo and Juliet. Mentions of watching TV. Some religion, belief in many gods, burning candles at an alter. Scared man says "please yoshka". Middos between classmates. Language-stupid, weird, butt. |
|                  | Rich, Louise Dickinson | Sally (Original title: Three of a Kind)                        | 4-6   | OK?  | A foster child lives on an island with a loving family and helps care for their autistic grandson. Minor language: stinkin, darned.  |
|                  | Richler, Mordecai      | Jacob Two-Twos   |       | N    | Silly story about a boy who tries to prove his new principal is a criminal with the help of a wacky neighbor who claims to be a spy. A lot of middos, language, etc. Inappropriate and unrefined.  |
|                  | Rinaldi, Ann           | Juliet's Moon  |       | N    | Civil war. Too many indirect references to older brother having inappropriate relationships.   |
|                  | Rinaldi, Ann           | Keep Smiling Through   | 4-6   | OK?? | Historical Fiction: Girl living in America during WWII. Deals with self-absorbed stepmother, friend who deserts her when friend's brother dies in war, stepmother's baby dies. German grandfather meets with friend who has pro-German propaganda - girl decides the correct thing to do, is to report it. Language: crap, Blessed Virgin. Passing references to Easter. Uncle "isn't married, and lives with a woman in an apartment". Brother smokes.  |
|                  | Rinaldi, Ann           | Or Give Me Death   |       | N    | Historical Fiction. Patrick Henry's family deals with his insane wife. Romantic negiah and thoughts.   |
|                  | Rinaldi, Ann           | The Last Silk Dress  |       | N    | A Southern girl decides where her loyalties lie during the Civil War. A lot of boy/girl, romantic negiah, vivid and sympathetic description of brothel and prostitutes, clear descriptions of infidelity.  |
|                  | Riordian, Rick         | Percy Jackson and the Olympians - Book 1 - The Lightning Thief |       | N    | Children who are demigods (children of human/Greek god pairing) try to save the world from evil. Lots of Greek mythology as if it were real. Clearly states boy's mother never married his father. A lot of violence. Language: shut up, butt, darn, jerk, punk, idiot, heck, stupid. Chapter describes what happens to people after they die - the underworld, field of Elysium, Asphodel Fields, etc   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Riordian, Rick       | Percy Jackson and the Olympians - Book2 - The Sea of Masters |       | N   | Children who are demigods (children of human/Greek god pairing) try to save the world from evil. Lots of Greek mythology as if it were real. Lots of talk of humans "mating" with gods, giving offerings to gods, praying to gods,. Minor language - darn. Non-romantic negiah. In preview of next book "The Titan's Curse", demigod children are at a co-ed dance.   |
|                  | Riordian, Rick       | The 39 Clues book 1 - The Maze of Bones                      | 5-8   | OK? | Books of this series are written by different authors; reviews also appear under author name "The 39 clues". First of series. Brother and sister compete against ruthless family members, to find clues that will lead to power. Some violence. Back of book includes website where readers can enter the contest.  |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis | Babysitting is a Dangerous Job                               | 4-7   | N?  | Babysitter and kids are kidnapped and plot to outwit captors. Some mentions of girls trying to get attention of boys (p.10-14, 35). Side story of girl who is abused by father; authorities don't believe her and keep returning her to father, then he beats her more; so friends help her run away (kids may learn it doesn't pay to report abuse?)   |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis | Hostage  | 5-7   | OK  | Girl taken hostage by robbers. Scary.   |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis | Pawns  |       | N   |   |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis | Rebel  |       | N   | Rebellious girl solves mystery. Lots of boy/girl.   |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis | The Girl With The Silver Eyes                                |       | N   | A girl with supernatural powers runs away to find others like herself. A lot of detailed discussion about her parent's divorce and her mother giving her to her grandmother, and her discomfort with her mother's boyfriend who is always around. Picture of mother wearing a bikini with boyfriend at beach . Many descriptions of a mean neighbor who is a "jerk" who is constantly trying to make a date with a woman. A lot of flirting. Mixed swimming described. Grandmother wants girl to be careful of child molesters- girl want to know what they are (not defined) Detailed description of mischief girl causes- some innocent, some mean. Middos between children. Mentions of book titles, watching soap operas. On TV man and women kiss each other "passionately". Non religious xmas, valentines, church service. |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis | The Kidnappers   | 5-7   | OK? | A rich boy gets kidnapped together with a boy he is fighting with. Some violence  |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis | The One Left Behind  | 4-6   | OK? | Girl is accidentally left behind when family members go on vacation; meets boy who runs away with half-brother so baby-sitter's relative won't kidnap him. Language: stupid, creep, danged.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title                            | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis      | The View from the Cherry Tree    |       | N    | drugs, language, violence  |
|                  | Roberts, Willo Davis      | What Could Go Wrong              | 4-6   | OK   | Children help catch criminals. Some mention of FBI agent thinking aunt is pretty; ends up marrying her.  |
|                  | Robertson, Keith          | Henry Reed's Big Show            | 4-6   | OK?  | Boy and girl produce a show. Girl makes audio tape criticizing cast members, to help decide on auditions. Tape is accidentally played in front of cast. Sort of learns lesson, but not so clear.   |
|                  | Robertson, Mary Elsie     | Jemimalee                        | 3-5   | OK   | Cat who writes poetry fights mean rats.  |
|                  | Robinet, Harrietta        | Children of the Fire             | 4-6   | OK?  | Brief Religious references   |
|                  | Robinet, Harriette Gillem | If You Please, President Lincoln |       | N    | A boy escapes slavery and accidentally ends up on a boat full of blacks being taken to colonize an island in Haiti. A lot of very detailed Catholic religion. A lot of focus on "pretty girls" and a clear explanation of slaves fathering children without official marriage.   |
|                  | Robinson, Barbara         | My Brother Louis Measures Worms  | 5-6   | OK?? | Humorous stories about boy and his family. Various references to pregnancy - most will go over kids' heads. Language: hell (21, 123, 128) - can be crossed out.  |
|                  | Robinson, Barbara         | The Best School Year Ever        | 3-6   | OK?? | A girl struggles to complete an assignment to think of a complement for each classmate, since one girl seems thoroughly bad. Somewhat humorous, minute details about the bad things done by a family of children brought up in a dysfunctional home where father abandoned the family. Brief mention of watching TV, going to movies. One word Halloween. Language-dumb, shut up, gross. In back of book review of other books about this family- "The Best Halloween Ever", The Best Christmas Pageant Ever". |
|                  | Robinson, Nancy K.        | Mom You're Fired                 | 3-5   | N?   | A girl is embarrassed of her mother and lies to her friend that mom is her babysitter. Gets into trouble because of lies and comes to appreciate mother. Chutzpah, very bad middos.  |
|                  | Rock, Gail                | Thanksgiving Treasure            |       | N    |  |
|                  | Rocklin, Joanne           | Jace the Ace                     | 3-5   | OK   | Boy deals with moving and making new friends by imagining himself to be a junior photojournalist. Eventually comes to grips with telling the truth.  |
|                  | Rocklin, Joanne           | Strudel Stories                  | 3-6   | OK   | Stories revolving around Jewish generational family tradition of making strudel; effectively skirts issue of religion  |
|                  | Rocklin, Joanne           | The Very Best Hanuka Gift        |       | N    | religion   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Rockwell, Thomas | How to Eat Fried Worms                          | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy tries to win a bet to eat 15 worms. Somewhat humorous, mostly disgusting. Recent edition has many photos from the movie (movie may or may not be appropriate). Some bad middos between the boys - they trick and cheat the boy who is winning, call each other names (mostly "fink") and eventually come to physical blows until their parents step in. 2 pages where boy imagines he will cause a commotion in church and school - described in detail - no religion. (p. 288-289). Frequent language: stupid, heck, fink, shut up. |
|                  | Rodda Emily      | Fairy Realm #7 The Star Cloak                   | 3-4   | OK   | Girl helps convince fairies to repair magical cloak that helps make wishes come true. Unimportant mention of what a kid in a movie might do. Language- weird, stupid.  |
|                  | Rodda Emily      | The Three Doors Trilogy Book 1- The Golden Door | 5-7   | OK?? | A boy teams up with an orphaned girl and goes on a quest to find his missing brothers. Very mild romance between his older brother and a girl. One description of her head resting on his shoulder. Magic. Language- stupid.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #1 The Forests of Silence         | 4-6   | OK?  | An eight part series about a boy, a man, and a girl who was raised in the forest, who are on a quest to find 7 missing gems that will complete a magic belt that will rescue the kingdom from an evil shadowbird. Typical good guy vs. bad guy violence and death throughout the series. The heroes are always horrified by killings and death which are nonetheless described in detail. Language: idiot, brat  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #2 The Lake of Tears              | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes travel through the land of an evil sorceress to find a missing gem. Same violence. Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #3 City of the Rats               | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes battle enemies to find a gem that will help rescue the kingdom. Good guys vs. and guys violence. Language - stupid  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #4 The Shifting Sands             | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes survive a dangerous tournament and find another jewel in a dangerous desert. Usual violence. More blood and gore than usual. Tournament is coed, men and women fight each other- definitely not romantic. Language- weird, stupid.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #5 Dread Mountain                 | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes enter enemy territory to find a missing gem. Same violence as others. Language - stink, stupid, idiot, brat, shut your mouth.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #6 The Maze of the Beast          | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes tangle with pirates and other bad guys in the quest to find another magical jewel. Usual violence. Non romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #7 The Valley of the Lost         | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes find the last gem and free a nation from an evil spell. Usual violence. Non-romantic negiah. Language: fool, stupid, shut your ugly mouth.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily     | Deltora Quest #8 Return to Dell                 | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes complete their quest and find the heir to the throne. Non-romantic/questionably romantic negiah. Same violence as others.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Deltora Shadowlands #1-3 (Cavern of Fear, The Isle of Illusion, The Shadowlands) | 4-6   | OK?? | Children search for pieces of a magical flute that can stop their enemy who has enslaved the people. Violence against magical creatures. In book #1 legend of boy and girl who are "lovers"- boy took girl "in his arms" and they lived happily ever after. Language-freak, stupid. Throughout these books, there is a subtle romance happening which at the end (of the last book) turns out to be a misunderstanding. All of the questionably romantic negiah turns out to be not romantic, though the reader doesn't know that until the end. |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Dragons of Deltora #1 - Dragon's Nest  | 4-6   | OK   | Boy king and friend search for evil that is poisoning the land, and awaken ancient dragons.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Dragons of Deltora #2 Shadow Gate  | 4-6   | OK?  | The quest to destroy wickedness and awaken dragons continues. Usual cast of evil and good characters. A girl imprisons her sister and the man she loves since she is jealous of their relationship. Affectionate negiah.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Dragons of Deltora #3 Isle Of The Dead   | 4-6   | OK?  | The quest continues. Affectionate negiah.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Dragons of Deltora #4 The Sister of the South                                    | 4-6   | OK?  | Heroes finally conquer the last remaining dangers in the kingdom. Long anticipated marriages between heroes. Semi romantic negiah mentioned in passing, not focused on. Language- weird, stupid  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #1 The Charm Bracelet  | 3-4   | OK?  | First book in series. A girl discovers that her grandmother is the true queen of fairy land and helps her prevent enemies from penetrating the land. Lots of magic. A human fell in love with fairy princess and eventually married her.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #10 The Rainbow Wand   | 3-4   | OK   | Girl finds missing child, and finally confronts a woman who keeps spying on her. T.V. news people come to find a story. Language- stupid, weird.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #2 The Flower Fairies  | 3-4   | OK   | girl with 2 left feet visits a magical kingdom and discovers that she can dance if she believes in herself.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm -#3 The Third Wish   | 3-4   | OK?  | Girl goes to find a wish-stone to save her home from fire. Picture on cover of scantily clad mermaid and girl in bathing suit. One black and white illustration of girl in bathing suit.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #4 The Last Fairy Apple Tree   | 3-4   | OK   | Girl helps gnomes restore their magical trees. Language- stupid.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #5 The Magic Key   | 3-4   | OK   | A girl helps a fairy find a lost treasure  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #6 The Unicorn   | 3-4   | OK   | Girl helps save the magical kingdom from her wicked cousin   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #8 The Water Sprites   | 3-4   | OK?  | Girl helps make peace in magical kingdom - many illustrations of her in sleeveless dress including cover, as well as magical water sprites in sleeveless outfits made of reeds. Not provocative but very stark.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Fairy Realm #9 The Peskie Spell  | 3-4   | OK?  | Girl rescues the kingdom from mischievous creatures. Minor language: stupid (once).  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Raven Hill Mysteries #3 Beware The Gingerbread House | 5-7   | OK?? | While working in the mall, teens become enmeshed in a crime. Teen culture. Girl's parents are divorced-father offers to take her but he is very self centered and irresponsible. A lot of talk of story of Hansel and Gretel. Language-shut up, stupid, gross, idiotic, idiot, weird, jerk, dimwit.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Raven Hill Mysteries #4 Deep Secrets                 | 5-7   | OK?? | Teens are hired to do odd jobs in a remote house and solve a crime. Kids enjoy playing along with game show on TV. Girl knows a lot about film stars and TV shows. One word non religious mention of a church. Language-stupid, freak, weird, idiot, shut up.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Rowan and the Ice Creepers                           | 4-7   | OK   | A boy receives the gift of telling the future to save his people from being frozen by a harsh winter. Some unromantic negiah as four friends help each other on a perilous journey.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal                  | 4-7   | OK?  | Boy finds himself and unwilling judge among a race of fish people as he races against time to find the antidote to the poison that was killing his mother. Mother's fiance "gathers her in his arms" in an effort to wake her from the poison. Middos between rivals. Language-stupid.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Rowan and the Travelers                              | 4-7   | OK   | Boy helps to save his village from a mysterious enemy. Non romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Rowan and the Zeback                                 | 4-7   | OK   | Boy and friends rescue his kidnapped sister and discover the history of his people. Language-idiot  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | Rowan of Rin   | 4-7   | OK?  | Note on Series: A boy overcomes his weakness and fearfulness to help rescue his village. One of the main characters is a witch who does magic and has "prophecies" which predict the future. In this book, a number of references to a man liking the boy's mother (a widow) and his feelings about it. People say the man thinks she is beautiful and he looks at her "admiringly". He "takes both of her hands" and promises to return safely. (In a later book they marry) |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | The Key to Rondo                                     | 5-7   | OK   | A boy and his girl cousin enter the magical world of a music box to rescue her dog from a wicked witch. Non-romantic negiah between cousins. One instance of calling someone "fathead".   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | The Three Doors Trilogy Book 2- The Silver Door      | 5-7   | OK?? | Children continue their quest to stop deadly animals from invading their land. Boy puts his arm around girlfriend to comfort her, holds her hand, and other minor negiah. Language- weird, shut your mouth, stupid, idiot.  |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | The Time Keeper                                      | 4-6   | OK   | Boy and friend in parallel universe save both worlds. Entire plot centered around a game show on TV, but nothing problematic.   |
|                  | Rodda, Emily | The Wizard of Rondo                                  | 5-7   | OK?  | Sequel to Key to Rondo. Boy and girl cousin re-enter magical world and try to solve mystery and avoid witch. Passing mention of minor characters who announce engagement, holding hands.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                                      | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Rodgers, Raboo         | Magnum Fault                               | 5-8   | OK?  | Teenage boy and girl solve mystery of father's disappearance and discover illegal underground mining. Non-affectionate negiah.   |
|                  | Rodin, Ruth Yaffe      | Tac's Turn                                 | 3-5   | N?   | Boy shows friend around town. Brief mention of fossils being from "millions of years ago" Boy asks if any girls live nearby so can look at their underwear on clothesline.   |
|                  | Rodkey, Geoff          | The Chronicles of Egg: Deadweather Sunrise |       | N    | Boy deals with the disappearance of his father and abusive siblings, pirates, and strange Native legends. Boy/girl, romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Rodman, Mary Ann       | Jimmy's Stars                              | 6-8   | N?   | Girl deals with brother going to war. Mild boy/girl, brother kisses 2 women before going to war, girl stuffs socks in bra. Language: hell. X-mas, church, no religion.   |
|                  | Rollins, James         | Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow    |       | N    | Boy and sister are transported back in time to era of dinosaurs, where small groups from several civilizations have been mysteriously sent to live. One of tribes is Neanderthals. Statues of various gods. Affectionate negiah between main character and friend who is a girl, a few passing mentions of romantic negiah between minor characters.                               |
|                  | Rook, Sebastian        | Vampire Plagues - London, 1850             | 5-7   | OK?? | Ancient Mayan god, personified in vampire bats, comes to London. Children see it descend to "hell". Book has sequel.   |
|                  | Roop Peter and Connie  | Give Me a Sign, Helen Keller               | 2-4   | OK?  | Story of Helen Keller. Mentions once that she learned about dinosaurs, and once that on X-mas she wrote Santa Claus a letter - easily crossed out.   |
|                  | Roop, Peter & Connie   | In Their Own Words: Benjamin Franklin      | 2-4   | OK?  | Biography. People used to believe that lightning "was sent by G-d.. to punish wrongdoers..he showed lightning was part of nature". He "courted" a woman he eventually married. He skipped church so he would have time to read. One word non religious mention of xmas. Black and white photos of women in low cut gowns. He is buried in a cemetery called by Yoshka's last name. |
|                  | Roop, Peter & Connie   | Take a Stand, Rosa Parks!                  | 2-4   | OK   | biography  |
|                  | Roop, Peter and Connie | Buttons for General Washington             | 2-4   | OK   | Historical fiction - boy smuggles gold in buttons of his coat.   |
|                  | Roop, Peter and Connie | Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie             | 2-3   | OK   | A girl keeps the lighthouse functioning while her father is away.  |
|                  | Roop, Peter and Connie | Sitting Bul                                | 2-4   | N?   | Biography of Indian chief who stood up to the US army. A lot of Indian religion- vision quest, the great spirit, prayers, etc. Needs adult guidance. Chapter describing his family life- he had more than one wife at once. Describes courtship- they dated "standing up wrapped in a buffalo robe". Illustration of Queen Victoria in a low cut gown.                             |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Roos, Stephen      | Recycling George                                       | 5-7   | N?  | A boy lives with his married sister in a rundown trailer park, when they are forced to move to find a new job. The boy decides to move in with a wealthy classmate until the grandmother tries to adopt him and make him something he isn't. Language: darn it, heck, stupid, shut up, nerd, jerk, stink, creep, puke, gross, brat, weird, butt, damn  |
|                  | Rorby, Ginny       | Hurt Go Happy  | 6-8   | N?  | Deaf girl, whose mother did not allow her to learn sign language, meets signing chimpanzee who has been raised like a human child. Mild girl/boy; non-romantic negiah. Flashbacks to abuse by divorced father, who caused deafness. Girl continually disobeys mother in visiting man with chimp and learning sign; mother later admits she was wrong. Mentions of chimps as "our closest ancestors" who "share 98% of our DNA". Strong anti-animal-testing message.          |
|                  | Rosen, Michael J.  | Chanukah Lights Everywhere                             |       | N   | Picture book. Comparison to x-mas candles  |
|                  | Rosenburg, John    | Young George Washington                                |       | N   | A biography of George Washington before he became famous. A lot of emphasis on the fact that he was in love with his friend's wife. A few love poems and love letters he wrote to various women are printed in full, also details his strained relationship with his mother. Portrait of women in off the shoulder gowns.  |
|                  | Rosenfeld, Zvi     | The Ring of Fate                                       | 5-9   | OK? | Fantasy/magic. Vampire (a good one) tries to find ring that has magical powers. Minor language: darn, heck, dang, "thank the stars", "blast it". "Hell" used in proper usage. Character named "Hellray". Main character is friendly with young woman; no romance. One non-romantic thankful hug. Characters refer to both "G-d" and gods. Violence.  |
|                  | Ross, Malcom       | Traces: Luke Harding, Forsenic Investigator. Roll Call |       | N   | Set in future, 16 year old genius solves murder mystery. Repeated references to "Pairing", mandated marriages determined by the Authorities; a conflict for hero who already has a girlfriend. Romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Roth, Veronica     | Divergent  |       | N   | This is a very popular series with the junior high set, but is highly inappropriate. Although it is quite engrossing and has fascinating themes which give much food for thought, the entire storyline is laced with highly problematic language and even more so, detailed romantic negiah, not to mention senseless violence, tattoos, body piercings, etc. It also has an underlying message of how refreshing it is to achieve freedom from modesty and self discipline. |
| new              | Rothblatt, Phyllis | All I Want to be is Me                                 |       | N   | Essays exploring gender identity and alternative lifestyles.   |
|                  | Rottman, S.L.      | Rough Waters   |       | N   | 2 orphaned brothers go to live with uncle who runs rafting company. Language, romantic negiah, drinking, drugs   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Rowling, J. K. | Harry Potter 2 - Chamber of Secrets      | 6+    | OK?  | Note for series: Parents should decide if series is OK, for a child who can distinguish between fantasy and reality and know real magic is assur. Is often read by children younger than intended grade level. Mentioned in passing - boy's mom "fancies" an author, Boy's father gets in a brawl with an evil man who insulted him (p 62). Halloween as a backdrop for a few chapters - no religion. Mention of sending valentines on valentine's Day. Younger girl has crush on boy - very juvenile. Bloody battle with evil snake. Page 341 (last page) girl catches brother kissing girlfriend - easy to cross out. |
|                  | Rowling, J. K. | Harry Potter 3 - The Prisoner of Azkaban | 6+    | OK?? | Minor language - damn (p 23) crap (p 80). Girls giggle about love potion (p 70). A mentions of older brother having girlfriend. A few mentions of X-mas and Halloween - nothing religious.  |
| chg              | Rowling, J. K. | Harry Potter 4 - Goblet of Fire          | 6+    | N?   | If your kids are dying to read this, it's worth buying it and crossing out and/or ripping out pages at your discretion. P 103-104: "Veela" - beautiful women; men are hypnotized by seeing them P. 127: damn. P. 252-253 - looking at girls. P. 388-402 - discussion of asking girls out to ball, and x-mas. Chapter 23 - ball, dancing. P. 506 - kiss from beautiful girl for saving sister. P. 599 - hex for teasing about kissing.   |
|                  | Rowling, J. K. | Harry Potter 5 - Order of the Phoenix    | 6+    | N?   | (see above). 77- Damn. P. 347-349 - who's going out with whom. P. 404 - kiss for good luck. P. 453-462 - kiss under mistletoe. 501 - x-mas presents. 534- reference back to kiss. 555-565 - Date, including Valentine's day in café - couples holding hands and kissing. 571-573 - discussion of date. 583 - kiss on cheek.   |
|                  | Rowling, J. K. | Harry Potter 6 - The Half Blood Prince   | 6+    | N?   | Much worse than any of the previous books - but you can still censor while leaving in what's left of the plot. The following pages have problems ranging from mild to horrible: 91, 120-121, 132, 214, 282,283, 286-290, 300-302,304-306, 309,312,313,329,330,338,339,351-352, 354, 365, 392-393, 417, 449-450, 472, 514-516, 519, 520, 533, 535, 536, 537, 539, 611,613, 634, 635, 643, 646-647  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title   | grade |     |  |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|-------|-----|--|
| chg              | Rowling, J. K.            | Harry Potter 7 - The Deathly Hallows              | 6+    | N?  | <p>General tone is dark and often scary. Some popular characters are tortured or killed.</p> <p>General mild comments: 52, 53, 74, 113, 117, 118, 138, 145, 147, 150, 176, 179, 242, 275, 298</p> <p>Affectionate/supportive negiah (arm around shoulder, etc.) 95, 97, 119, 160, 210, 329, 480, 485</p> <p>Small Picture of couple about to kiss: 111</p> <p>**Serious kissing: 116, 377, 625, 704</p> <p>Couple seen "snogging" (slang for kissing): 756</p> <p>Language: hell: 133, 162, 220, 300, 371, 448, 453, 484, 502, 538, 622, 731<br/>damn: 162, 306, 362, 374, 558, 591<br/>"effing": 307<br/>Bastard (as curse): 564, 645<br/>Bitch (as curse): 736</p> <p>X-mas (passing mentions; no religion): 279, 307, 315, 323, 329, 331, 342, 363, 383, 396, 397, 574, 575</p> |
|                  | Rowling, J. K.            | The Tales of the Beetle and the Bard              | 5+    | OK? | <p>Written as a book of fairy tales told to magical children who grew up in the times of Harry Potter. Stories have a commentary supposedly written by Harry's headmaster, with many references to Harry Potter series. Mention of Xmas and Yuletide, no religion. Mentions 2 students are boyfriend and girlfriend, no romantic details. Story of a warlock who killed a girl to cut out her heart - picture of him lying on top of her, both dead with blood flowing out of them. Silly language: mudwallower, dunglicker, scumsucker, etc.</p>  |
|                  | Rowlings, Marjorie Kinnan | The Yearling                                      | 7+    | C   | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron                  | A to Z Mysteries - Detective Camp                 | 2-4   | OK? | Language: stupid (once). One mention of TV remote.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron                  | A to Z Mysteries - Detective Camp Super Edition 1 | 2-4   | OK? | Children go to detective camp to uncover art forger. One black and white picture of boy and girl swimming in lake. It's a co-ed camp but totally innocent.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron                  | A to Z Mysteries - Mayflower Treasure Hunt        | 2-4   | OK? | Children find a necklace from the Mayflower. A bit scary as they run away from someone trying to take away the necklace. One mention of Halloween witch. Language - heck (p. 51), "my mom is going to freak (p. 77). Father jokingly asks kids why they keep finding mysteries: "why can't you just watch TV like normal kids?"  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author   | Title                                    | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Absent Author     | 2-4   | OK?  | Note on Series: Three third graders, a girl and two boys, solve mysteries. There are occasional sleepovers, but they are totally innocent. In this book they find a missing author. One child calls his friend "you dope", in a funny way - p. 3. shut up - p. 63. Woman in disguise is happy to take off her dress and get back into her jeans. In back, author writes he was inspired by the book " King Arthur and the Knights of The Round Table". |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Bold Bandit       | 2-4   | OK?  | Children capture a bank robber. A few non-religious mentions of dressing up and trick or treating for Halloween. One boy dresses up as Elvis (illustration).   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Canary Caper      | 2-4   | OK?  | Children capture animal thieves. Unimportant one-sentence mention of chimp in circus dressed like Elvis. Minor language: creep (p. 32), heck (p. 65).  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Deadly Dungeon    | 2-4   | OK?? | Children capture a parrot smuggler. In order to rescue parrots, 2 boys and girl take off jeans in deep water and use them as floats. Totally innocent. Brief mention that movie star built a castle Minor language: heck (p. 8, 62, 64)  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Empty Envelope    | 2-4   | OK?? | Children return a stolen valuable stamp to its owner. Minor language: heck (p. 19, 51), jerk (p. 58, 73), shut up (p. 73)  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Falcon's Feathers | 2-4   | OK?  | Children figure out who stole falcons from their nest. Minor language: "That's the darndest thing" (p. 46), stupid (p. 72)   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Goose's Gold      | 2-4   | OK?  | Children prevent elderly ladies from losing their money. A few non-religious mentions of X-mas. Minor language: heck (p. 82).  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Haunted Hotel     | 2-4   | OK?  | Children figure out who is haunting the neighborhood hotel. Two unimportant one-sentence mentions of Halloween.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Invisible Island  | 2-4   | OK   | Children uncover a counterfeit ring  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Jaguar's Jewel    | 2-4   | OK?  | Children figure out who stole a precious gem. Brief mention of zodiac signs (p. 6).  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Kidnapped King    | 2-4   | OK   | Children rescue a kidnapped heir to the throne.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Lucky Lottery     | 2-4   | OK?? | Children find a stolen lottery ticket. Many non-religious one-sentence mentions of Xmas. Brief mention of watching lottery numbers chosen on TV.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Missing Mummy     | 2-4   | OK?  | Children help capture museum thieves. Minor language: heck (p. 30). Brief mention of dinosaur skeleton in museum (p. 48). Brief mention of Egyptian burial ideas. Brief mention of seeing news on TV.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Orange Outlaw     | 2-4   | OK   | Children figure out who stole an expensive painting.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author   | Title                                     | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Panda Puzzle       | 2-4   | OK?  | Children find a stolen baby panda. Brief mention of video of dinosaurs fighting with each other (p. 18). Brief description of children going mixed swimming, illustration of adults going mixed swimming (p. 58-59) - very innocent. Minor language: heck (p. 60). Kids hold hands to escape - totally innocent. |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Quicksand Question | 2-4   | OK?  | Children find stolen money. Boys and girl have sleepover - totally innocent. Minor language: "I'm really bummed" - p. 35, "I'll be darned" - p. 68. In back of book, brief unimportant mention of watching TV, going to movie theater, watching Tarzan movie.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Runaway Race Horse | 2-4   | OK?  | Children figure out why a race horse lost a race. Illustration of children posing with arms around each other - p. 4 - totally innocent. In back of book, author mentions Santa and reindeer - can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The School Skeleton    | 2-4   | OK?  | Children figure out that their principal stole the school skeleton from the nurse's office as an April Fool's joke.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Talking T Rex      | 2-4   | OK?? | Children figure out who stole money hidden inside a fake dinosaur. Some dinosaur "facts", eg: size of T-Rex, 70 million years ago, eating habits, humans didn't live in time of dinosaurs. Minor language: darn (p. 80)  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Unwilling Umpire   | 2-4   | OK?? | Children figure out who stole autographed baseball. Minor language: darn (p. 8), heck (p. 14, 50), stupid (p. 52), dumb (p. 52). A boy steals a car to joyride but later feels bad about it.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Vampire's Vacation | 2-4   | OK?  | Children think a movie star practicing for a role, is really a vampire. Children go to a movie theater to see the movie from a special viewing box; description and illustrations of the theater. Minor language: "I'll be darned " - p. 48.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The White Wolf         | 2-4   | OK?  | Children find stolen baby wolves. Brief unimportant mention, and illustration, of an island being the shape of a dinosaur. Illustration of 3rd grade boy shaking hands with 13 year old girl. One word mention of x-mas - p. 8.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The X'ed Out X-Ray     | 2-4   | OK?  | Children find a rock star's stolen necklace. Pictures and description of a very tame and innocent rock concert. Female rock star gives boys a kiss on the cheek to thank them for their help - illustration. Minor language: jerk (p. 8)   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Yellow Yacht       | 2-4   | OK?  | Children find a king's stolen gold. Two word unimportant mention of a movie star. In back of book, Mentions that actress Shirley Temple served as an inspiration for one of the characters, because she didn't let any boys get the best of her.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - The Zombie Zone        | 2-4   | OK?  | Children catch a real-estate developer, who robs graves to scare villagers into selling their property. Says that some people believe in zombies.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author   | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Roy, Ron | A to Z Mysteries - White House White Out          | 2-4   | N?   | A to Z characters meet Capitol Mysteries characters - help decorate White House for X-mas and get kidnapped. Lots of X-mas. On cover full color X-mas tree, detailed description of "national X-mas Tree", Black and white illustration of decorating for x-mass with wreaths and trees. Black and white illustration of fireplace with stocking and tree. No actual religion. Non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | Calendar Mysteries-April Adventure                | 2-3   | N?   | Note on series: Series features younger siblings of the characters of A to Z Mysteries. Each book is set in a different month, and often features a holiday that occurs in that month. In this book, kids go on an Easter egg hunt. Entire book focused on this, but no religion. Coed sleepover- totally innocent. Brief mention of TV.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | Calendar Mysteries-January Joker                  | 2-3   | OK?? | Kids think that their older siblings are abducted by aliens. It turns out the older children were playing a joke on the younger children in revenge for a joke played on them. The younger children are allowed to decide the punishment- they decide that their older siblings should sit in the local diner dressed up like aliens. Little kids have coed sleepovers (totally innocent). Girl wears superhero pajamas. Brief mention of xmas presents and tree. Brief mention of TV, computer, video games. Language-shut up, weird, creepy. Preview of February Friend about Valentine's Day. |
|                  | Roy, Ron | Calendar Mysteries-June Jam                       | 2-3   | OK?  | Kids try to figure out who is eating the strawberries from the garden so they can make strawberry jam for Father's day. Boy asks his father for his clothing for a scarecrow-father jokes that he wants him to cook in his underwear. Brief mentions of TV. Language-freak, creeping me out.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | Calendar Mysteries-March Mischief                 | 2-3   | OK?  | Children dress up a leprechaun statue to compete in a St. Patrick's Day contest. When it is stolen they set out to find the criminal. Brief mention of watching TV. Language= weird, dumb, creepy  |
|                  | Roy, Ron | Calendar Mysteries-May Magic                      | 2-3   | OK?? | Boy is afraid that a hypnotist turned his mother into a duck. It turns out their mother was playing a trick on them. When they figure it out, they play a trick on her. Brief mention of Spiderman movie. Language-weird, creepy, gross.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron | Capital Mysteries #01 - Who Cloned the President? | 2-4   | OK   | Series about girl whose mother eventually marries the president. She solves mysteries in Washington, D.C with her friend who is a boy. Girl has relationship with her biological father and calls or writes to him every week. Some books focus more on mother's relationship with the president than others, so they are more problematic (especially before they marry). In this book, children save the president.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #02 - Kidnapped at the Capital           | 2-4   | OK?  | Children rescue mother and presidential clone. Book ends with president sending mother flowers and asking her on a date. Girl wants to be TV anchor. Boy orders green and red ice cream comments looks like xmas.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #03 - The Skeleton in the Smithsonian    | 2-4   | N?   | Children prove that man claiming to be Smithsonian heir is a fake. Girl notices mother's and president's fingers are touching and suspects that they are more than just "friends". Full page illustration of their fingers touching. Language-gross, jerk, weird.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #04 - A Spy In the White House           | 2-4   | N?   | Children figure out who is leaking information about the president's wedding and honeymoon to a gossip column. Minor pre-wedding negiah handholding. Non-romantic negiah between friends. One sentence about kissing the bride (last page). Brief mixed dancing (last page). Language-weird, creepy, puke, dorky.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #06 - Fireworks at the FBI?              | 2-4   | OK   | Children solve mystery at the FBI  |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #07 - Trouble at the Treasury            |       | N    | Children help catch criminal who stole money from the U.S. Treasury. Children show a man's fiance a picture of the man giving a different woman a kiss "and putting his arms around her." Children wonder why the man is giving different women kisses. Pretty tame but why do children this age need it?  |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #08 - Mystery at the Washington Monument | ?     | OK?? | Children solve an old mystery of a stolen necklace. Boy and girl camp out on the front lawn of the white house - text and illustration - totally innocent. Language: I'll be darned.   |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #09 - A Thief at the National Zoo        | 2-4   | OK   | Children figure out who stole a valuable gem.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #10 The Election Day Disaster            | 2-4   | N?   | Children figure out who altered pictures of the president at a Halloween party in order to hurt his campaign. An important setting is a Halloween party at the White House, a lot of fun Halloween but no religion. Mentions of book and movie Charlotte's Web. President gives wife a kiss full page illustration of them hugging. Discussion of how putting a prank picture on the Internet for friends to see can go viral without warning and cause trouble. |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | Capital Mysteries #12 The Ghost At Camp David              | 2-4   | OK?? | Children help capture a couple who want to steal the presidential silver at Camp David. Young boy and girl sleep in a cabin together- completely innocent- they consider it an adventure. Language-dumb, weird, heck (p 64,81), jerk.  |
|                  | Roy, Ron      | The Chimpanzee Kid   | 4-6   | OK?  | very heavy on feelings of upset at divorce and feelings of abandonment   |
|                  | Royal Diaries | Eleanor - Crown Jewel of Aquitaine France 1136             |       | N    | Diary of girl who becomes a child queen. Almost entirely boy/girl, romance, negiah, illegitimate children, heavy descriptive religion.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                         | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Royal Diaries        | Isabel                        |       | N    |   |
|                  | Royal Diaries        | Kaiulani                      | 5-7   | OK?? | Diary of a girl who is destined to become queen of Hawaii. A lot of Hawaiian culture. Ancient Hawaiian religion and belief in gods described, though she is a devout christian who religiously attends church and prays- she finds services "uplifting" mentioned many times. Many minor mentions of xmas. Girl mourns deaths of those she loves, including her mother. Many novels mentioned by title and author which may or may not be acceptable.Plays and operas also mentioned by name. Minor mentions of flirting.   |
|                  | Royal Diaries        | Marie Antoinette              | 5-7   | N?   | Diary of a girl who is destined to become queen of France and later beheaded.Vivid descriptions of the shallow lives of royalty and the emptiness behind the etiquette demanded in the palace. A lot of explicit religion, descriptions of prayer and penance, yoshke and family referred to by name, glowing descriptions of chapels, xmas and many other religious festivals. Many references and descriptions of the mistress of the king. Descriptions of coed dancing.Discussion of old fashioned undergarments and getting into and out of them.Description of bathing and dressing in front of an audience. Mother worries daughter's "bosom" will be too large or too small in order to make a good marriage. The children are all married for political reasons, not love. Daughter occasionally exhibits chutzpa to mother but then regrets it. Language-stupid/stupidity, butt, idiot.   |
|                  | Rubin, Susan Goldman | The Flag With Fifty-Six Stars | 3-5   | N?   | Picture book; geared towards older children. True story of liberation of Mauthausen. Mentions of groups in concentration camps: homosexuals and J-Witnesses (p. 8, 11). (Not sure if it is mutar to cross out J---; kids might read it out loud?)   |
|                  | Rubinstein, Gillian  | Space Demons                  |       | N    | Kids get caught in computer game. Boyfriend/girlfriend, violence and violent emotions, mother deserts daughter.   |
|                  | Ruby, Lois           | Steal Away Home               | 4-6   | N?   | A girl finds a skeleton behind a wall in her house, and she uncovers the history of the underground railroad and the Quaker family who lived there. Minor language: moron, creep, stupid, gross, idiot, nigger. Mentions of boy who "always got the girl". Boy suddenly understands why parents are standing so close together "like foot to boot" and his face gets flushed. Boy has a crush on a girl but he can't bring himself to tell her. Wife considers if she should lie to her husband about slaves, since for 14 years they shared "bed and board". Boy becomes "of an age" (puberty). Non-romantic negiah. Kids sit all over each others' laps to fit in a car. Mentions of JC in a hymn (p. 78). Boy wants to become a doctor because he can see women without their clothes on. In back of book a sequel is excerpted "Soon to be Free": girl says a boy is a "potential love object". |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Ruby, Lois          | The Secret of Laurel Oaks                              |       | N   | Ghost mystery - slave accused of murder. Constant references to Master's nighttime visits to teenage girl slave's bed.  |
|                  | Ruckman, Ivy        | Night of the Twisters                                  |       | N   | Boy survives tornadoes. Boy/girl, holding hands, mention of J--   |
|                  | Runton, Andy        | Owly Tiny Tales  | 2-6   | OK  | A novel in comic book form with almost no words at all - reader must follow storyline completely thru pictures. Adventures of a cute owl.   |
|                  | Rupp, Rebecca       | The Dragon Of Lonely Island                            | 4-6   | OK? | Children befriend a three headed dragon that tells them exciting stories with a moral to help them improve themselves. Short non religious xmas. One of the stories describes wicked and cruel pirates who use rough language. Unimportant mention of a book by Charles Darwin. Language-stupid (frequent), brat, shut up, blasted, drat.   |
|                  | Russel, Ching Yeung | First Apple  |       | N   |   |
| new              | Ruth, Greg          | The Lost Boy   | 5-7   | N?  | Strange story written in form of graphic novel about a boy and girl who venture into a strange kingdom to save the world. Very gritty. violence. Girl tackles boy and puts her knee on his chest- someone comments that they make a "lovely couple" later on they become friends and they hug- a few pics. One word Halloween Language- shut up, idiot, heck, crappy, blasted,weirdo, darn it, puke, hellscape  |
|                  | Rutkoski, Marie     | The Cabinet of Wonders - The Kronos Chronicles: Book 1 | 6-8   | OK? | Girl's father is commissioned by prince to build magical clock; when prince steals the father's eyes so he can use them, girl goes to castle to get them back. Passing mention of "crushes" with no descriptive details. Non-romantic negiah between girl and platonic boy friends who help her. Lots of magic woven into distorted Renaissance history. Language: stupid, darn, sucking up. Later books have deepening feelings between girl and 2 boys. |
|                  | Rutkowski, Marie    | The Celestial Globe - The Kronos Chronicles: Book 2    | 5-8   | N?  | Girl is magically taken to England, where she continues quest to find her magical powers and help her father. Several references to her feelings for young man; later turns out he betrayed her. Negiah: affectionate touch, one kiss, a dance. Two young men have strong friendship with her - no romance (yet). Minor language: darn.   |
|                  | Ryan, Pan Munoz     | Becoming Naomi Leon                                    | 5-7   | N?  | Girl and brother live with great-grandmother; mother who deserted them comes (with boyfriend) to claim them. Mother does not want brother because of physical birth defects to his appearance. Several mentions of xmas, saints, nativity, JC. Elaborate description of Mexican x-mas festival and customs.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-----------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Ryan, Pan Munoz | The Dreamer                                  | 6+    | N?  | A boy who eventually becomes a famous poet, deals with an authoritarian/borderline abusive father who wants him to become a doctor. Boy has a crush on a girl and he dreams of her kissing him on both cheeks. Bully hires him to write her love letters signed by the bully. Very sad incident of caring for an injured swan that dies. |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Annie and Snowball and the Dress Up Birthday | 1-2   | OK? | Girl invites her cousins to a fancy dress up birthday party but they misunderstand and think it's a costume party. Brief mention that girl's family consists of her father and her bunny (no mention of mom). One sentence mention of watching movies on Friday night, with illustration of them watching TV. Pretend fortune telling.   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Annie and Snowball and the Shining Star      | 1-2   | N?  | Girl is nervous to be a star in an X-mas play. No religion. X-mas only mentioned on first page - can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Annie and Snowball and the Teacup Club       | 1-2   | OK? | A little girl makes a club for teacup lovers. Reference in passing to fact that she is proud that her dad is a good mother,too; obviously she doesn't have a mother, but book doesn't explain or dwell on it.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and Annie's Perfect Pet      | 1-2   | OK  | Boy buys his cousin a pet rabbit   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover        | 1-2   | OK? | Children have a sleepover and watch monster movies on TV (illustration)  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and the Forever Sea          | 1-2   | OK? | Boy and dog go to the beach. One very unclear illustration of co-ed beach.   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and the Funny Lunch          | 1-2   | OK  | Boy and father prepare a Mother's Day lunch for his mom.   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night         | 1-2   | OK? | Family goes camping. At night, "Henry's Father and Mother snuggled", Father sings "sappy love songs". Very innocent.   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and the Tumbling Trip        | 1-2   | OK? | Boy goes with family on trip to the west. Two illustrations of boy's mom - one with a sleeveless dress, one with shorts. Very innocent.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and the Wild Goose Chase     | 1-2   | OK  | Family visits a farm   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge and the Wild Wind            | 1-2   | OK? | Boy overcomes his fear of a storm. Illustrations of boy's mom barefoot in sleeveless dress. Boy hums "Jingle Bells"- mentioned twice.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Henry and Mudge Get the Cold Shivers         | 1-2   | OK  | Boy's dog helps him feel better when he is sick  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Mr. Putter and Tabby Make a Wish             | 2-3   | OK  | Man celebrates his birthday with his female neighbor - innocent.   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Mr. Putter and Tabby Paint the Porch         | 2-3   | OK  | Pets keep getting in the way of a painting job.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Mr. Putter and Tabby Spill the Beans                  | 2-3   | OK?? | Man and woman neighbors (both old) decide to take a cooking class together. Their pets cause mayhem. 2 page illustration of them riding a 2 seater bike - she is wearing a wetsuit. A large illustration of her taking beans out of his shirt collar (while he is wearing it) and sharing an ice cream sundae (to mature eyes looks like a date)   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Mr. Putter and Tabby Spin the Yarn                    | 2-3   | OK   | Mr. Putter decides to be a good neighbor by serving tea to female neighbor's knitting club.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Mr. Putter and Tabby Toot the Horn                    | 2-3   | OK?  | Man and female neighbor decide to join a band. One mention of liking country music and opera because they like the "broken hearts" - kids won't get it, but might ask. She sings to him - the age group probably won't see it as problematic.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Mr. Putter and Tabby Write the Book                   | 2-3   | OK?  | Man decides to write a book. Mention of Easter eggs - no religion. One picture of him and female neighbor drinking malts head to head. Very innocent.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Poppleton   | 1-2   | OK?? | Adventures of a pig. In one story he befriends a neighbor - eventually starts to resent spending time with her because he wants to watch TV.   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | The Cobble Street Cousins #1 - In Aunt Lucy's Kitchen | 2-4   | OK?? | Note on series: 3 fourth grade cousins move into aunt's attic while parents who are ballet dancers are out of the country. One girl dreams of being in Broadway musicals, one aspires to be a poet, and one is a homebody. Ongoing story of their aunt and the man she will eventually marry. Relatively tame, but not completely so, and very prominent. Entire plot of this book revolves around meeting a nice man who "likes" their aunt and blushes when he sees her. Girls try to get them together. At end of book they hope they will marry. Talk of "being in love", "romantic", "Young loves". Very innocent but do kids this age need this? |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | The Cobble Street Cousins #2 - A Little Shopping      | 2-4   | OK?? | Girls repeatedly ask aunt if she will marry her "sweetheart" - aunt doesn't answer. Some focus on aunt and boyfriend.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | The Cobble Street Cousins #3 - Special Gifts          | 2-4   | OK?? | Continuing side story of aunt's boyfriend who cousins hope will marry her (but doesn't in this book) - he takes her hand and kisses her cheek. Illustration of kiss on cheek.  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | The Cobble Street Cousins #4 - Some Good News         | 2-4   | OK   | Cousins decide to produce a newspaper. One sentence mention of aunt's boyfriend whom they hope she will marry (in later book, she does).   |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | The Cobble Street Cousins #5 - Summer Party           | 2-4   | OK?? | Parents finally return from their world wide ballet tour and the cousins make a party for them. Boyfriend proposes to aunt, brief mention of seeing a movie in a theater, small black and white picture of ballet dancers in leotards (p. 31), picture and textual mention of pre-engagement hand-holding (p. 35), large photo of aunt and uncle holding hands when he proposes (p. 49).   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | The Cobble Street Cousins #6 - Wedding Flowers | 2-4   | OK?? | Aunt and boy friend are finally getting married. Picture of them walking hand in hand (before wedding) - p. 81. Side story of priest who will marry them - has beard and long hair (even though bishop wants him to cut it!). Girls play with priest's dog in churchyard "beneath the wings of an angel (statue)" illustration page 45. At wedding girls see a look of "real love" between bride and groom. Girls write a poem for them - "don't forget to kiss".                  |
| new              | Rylant, Cynthia | The Islander                                   | 5-7   | N?   | Orphaned boy lives an isolated life with his grandfather on an island until he meets a mermaid who turns out to be the spirit of his dead aunt. Quite sad when his grandfather dies. Detailed descriptions of dead wildlife after a storm. He saves a little girl who eventually becomes his girlfriend- descriptions of old fashioned courting. Boy can "hardly stop looking at her" Mentions of going to church and singing in church choir. Boy names dog after god of the sea. |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | The Light House Family - The Whale             | 2-3   | OK?  | A few lonely animals join together to form a family unit and help a baby Beluga reunite with his mother. I don't think children this age will notice mother and father of the family are not married (at least not from this volume).  |
|                  | Rylant, Cynthia | Thimbleberry Stories                           | 2-4   | OK   | Cute animal stories that younger children may enjoy having read to them - the words are much too difficult for a beginner to read.   |
|                  | Sachar, Louis   | Dogs Don't tell Jokes                          |       | N    | An unpopular boy wins the school talent show. Boy fantasizes about his pretty teacher. A lot of talk about kissing boyfriends and girlfriends. Middos. A lot of language: butt, stupid, darn, lardbutt, stink, fart, boogers. Describe school: "6 hours of numbing maggot infested drive!". Combats stage fright by imagining audience naked. Boy starts to tell inappropriate joke about couple on their honeymoon - teacher stops him.   |
|                  | Sachar, Louis   | Holes  | 5-8   | N?   | A well written story about a boy sent to a prison camp where children are forced to dig holes in the desert. Eventually finds a treasure. Side story which is essential to main story, about Kissing Kate Barlow - a female bandit who kissed victims after shooting them, in revenge for being run out of town after caught kissing a black man she loved.  |
|                  | Sachar, Louis   | Marvin Redpost: A Magic Crystal #8             |       | N    | Boy wishes a girl he likes would "shut up" and she suddenly can't talk. Lots of juvenile boy/girl.   |
|                  | Sachar, Louis   | Marvin Redpost: Alone in His Teacher's House   | 2-3   | OK?  | A teacher asks a boy to take care of her dog for a week, but it dies. Some very juvenile stuff about using teacher's bathroom and looking in her closet, but boy doesn't do it because it isn't right.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Sachar, Louis | Marvin Redpost: Class President              | 2-3   | OK?  | President comes to visit class. Comes on "holes" day, when everyone is wearing clothing with holes in it; teacher has hole on stomach & boy can see her bellybutton.  |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | Marvin Redpost: Is He a Girl #3              | 2-3   | N?   | A girl convinces a boy that if he kisses his elbow he will turn into a girl. He does and has many strange gender-confused thoughts. Bad middos displayed toward a "weird" girl - call her worm-face, stupid-head, stinkgirl, etc.   |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | Marvin Redpost: Kidnapped at Birth           | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy thinks he might be missing prince who was kidnapped at birth.   |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | More Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School | 5+    | OK?? | Unusual math problems featuring the irreverent characters from this series. Girl invites boys to her birthday party; a problem featuring women's undergarments - can be torn out and answer section crossed out; boy gets a tattoo - other kids say he's lucky. Teaches have names like Mr. Kidswatter, Miss Mush, etc. Language: nerd, gross.  |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | Sideways Arithmetic from Wayside School      | 5+    | OK   | Mind teasing arithmetic and logic problems, using the Wayside school characters.  |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | Sideways Stories from the Wayside School     | 4-6   | N?   | Stories of a wacky school. Very sarcastic and somewhat unrefined. Some people find it more funny then objectionable.  |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | Small Steps                                  |       | N    | Sequel to "Holes", focusing on character named "Armpit" who is trying to lead a straight life. Lots of boy/girl, romantic negiah, language, violence.   |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | The Boy Who Lost His Face                    |       | N    | language, boy/girl, violence, bad middos  |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom         | 4-5   | N?   | A new boy tries to befriend an antisocial troublemaker with the help of a school guidance counselor (who is later fired by parents who don't understand the need for her). Although he improves in the end, along the way there are huge amounts of bad middos happening - the boy to his parents, teachers, and classmates, the kids to him, his sister to him, etc. Some of the fights even lead to physical violence. There is an ongoing juvenile storyline about kids going into the opposite gender's bathroom, either by mistake or on purpose. Boy plays with toy animals and makes 2 of them "fall in love" and "make out" and kiss. Guidance counselor kisses him on the cheek (because he's cute) and he is convinced she loves him and will marry him and so on. Includes review of other books by this author that seem even more inappropriate than this one. |
|                  | Sachar, Louis | Wayside School is Falling Down               |       | N    | More strange stories about a strange school. Chutzpah, e.g. writing teacher is as fat as a hippo. Lunchroom food causes boy to go crazy and kiss girls and female teachers on the lips. Minor language, ie dumb, jerk. Boy gets a tattoo as a birthday present. Boy has a juvenile crush on teacher.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Sachs, Marilyn        | Call Me Ruth   |       | N   | A Jewish immigrant girl adjusts to America. Detailed discussions of how in Europe her mom wore a sheitel and dreamed of marrying a talmid chochom. In America she took off her sheitel because is made her look like a "greener". Works on Saturdays. Girl learns Xmas carols in school - titles listed.  |
|                  | Sachs, Marilyn        | Laura's Luck   | 5-6   | OK? | Minor mention of girl liking movie star photos  |
|                  | Sachs, Marilyn        | Surprise Party   |       | N   | A girl and her brother try to make peace between mother and grandmother while giving a surprise anniversary party. Most of book trying to find out cause for feud. Turns out dad is convicted criminal and mom ran off to marry him. Minor bad language, chutzpah, mom's dress "sexy", suspected negiah between teacher and principal.  |
|                  | Sachs, Marilyn        | Thirteen Going on Seven                                  |       | N   | 2 very different twins cope with being 13. Minor language - creep, jerk, weirdo, etc. Description of menstruation, boy/girl, minor romantic negiah.   |
| new              | Saenz, Benjamin Alire | Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe |       | N   | Friendship between 2 Mexican boys. Kissing, inappropriate references, alternative lifestyles.   |
|                  | Sage, Angie           | Araminta Spookie - Frognapped                            | 3-5   | OK  | Strange story about a strange family that lives in a haunted house.   |
|                  | Sage, Angie           | Araminta Spookie - The Sword In the Grotto               | 3-5   | OK? | Strange story about girls who try to get a special sword to give a ghostly knight for his 500th birthday. Language - wimp, revolting. Very unrefined. P. 4 - discuss buying ghost a present - "no good buying him socks because he has no feet, or boxer shorts because he's got no ____" (book has blank)  |
|                  | Sage, Angie           | Septimus Heap Book 2: Flyte                              | 6-8   | OK  | Wizard's apprentice tries to rescue his stepsister, the future queen, from his brother who has gone over to the dark side. Only language is "b____" (written with a line (p. 56); snot. Minor boy/girl references - girl is waiting for boy to come take her away. Boy thinks he would rather be riding on horse with her than with his sister.   |
|                  | Sage, Angie           | Septimus Heap Book 3: Physik                             | 6-8   | OK? | Wizard's apprentice is kidnapped back in time, while a wicked ghost queen is freed from captivity and tries to kill the princess. Very tame romantic inferences. Mild language: darn  |
|                  | Sage, Angie           | Septimus Heap Book 4: Queste                             | 6-8   | OK? | A wizard's apprentice and friends go on a dangerous quest to save people who were lost in another time. Mild romantic references - a boy likes the princess and he blushes when she notices him, continuation of story of bad man who took the girl he loves to his cave hideout - she dreams of getting married to him and living normally - no information as to how they've been spending their time in the cave. Mention of a married rat couple fighting a lot and then having an "amicable separation". Comical juvenile mentions of dragon droppings. Non-romantic negiah. Language: shut up; refers to boss that fired him as "horrible old cow". |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                        | grade |    |   |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------|----|---|
|                  | Sage, Angie       | Septimus Heap Book 5 - Syren | 6-8   | N? | Children prevent bad guys from taking over the castle. Language: stupid, shut up, weevil brain, dung brain, idiot boy, pig face, rat brain, drattin', rat butts. Girl calls father by his first name. Continuing saga of the bad brother and his girlfriend - they seem to be living together in an apartment - they are definitely not married since she is referred to as his girlfriend - but nothing is clearly spelled out - the only physical affection described is when she blows him a kiss - though the apartment they share is described in detail. A lot of non-romantic and affectionate negiah between friends. Very mild romantic references about a boy who likes the princess. When he is about to encounter danger she hugs him (not romantically) much to his amazement.                 |
|                  | Sage, Angie       | Septimus Heap Book 6: Darke  | 6-8   | N? | Children (who are now 14) help rescue the castle from the bad guys.As in other books in this series a lot of magic, witches, ghosts, dragons, etc. Bad brother becomes good and decides to marry his (live in, though never said outright) girlfriend. Some negiah between them described (before married)- he puts arm around her, she held him tight, etc. Middos- usually displayed by the bad guys, but also occasionally between siblings.Language- creep, stupid, shut up, poop, drat, idiot, dingbat,weird, dumbo, scum,weirdos, dingbat,  |
|                  | Sage, Angie       | Septimus Heap Book 7: Fyre   | 6-8   | N? | Children, who are now 14 and a half, finally defeat the bad guys. Mild romance continues between two friends.Boy tells his friend that he should tell girl he "likes" her. Girl is jealous when the boy she likes goes for a walk with another girl "walking arm in arm". When they make up she "holds his hand tightly". He gives her a heart necklace as a present- she is happy. Another budding mild romance between an older couple- he "grasps her hand encouragingly" when she is scared and she "does not object". Unimportant mention of romance novels. Now that the live in romance married, much less problematic then previous books-He gives her a quick kiss etc. Language-weird, idiot, stupid, poo, blasted (used as a curse), freak, shut up, bum (meaning backside), drat, geek, creepy, |
|                  | Salisbury, Graham | Under the Blood Red Sun      | 5-7   | N? | A Japanese-American boy in Hawaii survives the attack on Pearl Harbor and the internment of his father and grandfather. A lot of language and slang - stupid, punk, jerk, creep, bum, damn, frickin, crap. Some gang and drunken soldier violence, low class prejudice and violence. Some discussion of Japanese religion, belief in spirits, sacrificing to ancestors. Minor mention of plans to have girlfriends some day.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                          | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Sanderson, Brandon              | Alcatraz versus the Evil Librarians          | 5-7   | OK  | Tongue-in-cheek story of boy who discovers that he is part of a race that is saving the world from the evil librarians who run everything. One place that boy is interrupted when he is saying "hello" - joke that he is cursing because man interrupts him before he says 'o'.   |
|                  | Sanderson, Jeanette             | Dog to the Rescue                            | 5-7   | OK? | Very graphic and scary true stories about near deaths that were prevented due to dogs' heroism. Definitely not for a younger or timid reader.   |
|                  | Sanford, William and Carl Green | Joe DiMaggio                                 |       | N   | Describes famous baseball player's 2 failed marriages in detail   |
|                  | Saroyan, William                | The Human Comedy                             |       | N   | Boy comes of age during war and deals with death. Lots of convoluted philosophy throughout book and lots of discussion material - definitely not appropriate for independent reading. Lots of explicit religion though mostly neutral. Prayer and hymns written out (p. 33-34, 131, 202, 213). Chutzpah to teacher, teacher calls another teacher a liar in front of students, minor boy/girl, romantic negiah - hand holding, kisses (p. 82, 85, 87, 113, 137, 223, 241). Drinking to drown troubles, calls someone sex starved (177). |
|                  | Saunders, Susan                 | Neptune Adventure Danger on Crab Island      | 3-5   | OK? | A newcomer tries to kayak to a nearby island without realizing the danger so his cousin has to rescue him. Middos between cousins. This story is set in a group whose goal is to rescue injured sea animals- lots of talk about conservation. Mention of the sports channel and MTV. Language-crummy, dumb.   |
|                  | Saunders, Susan                 | Sleepover Friends #28 - Lauren's New Address |       | N   | A girl moves to a new house and is afraid she'll lose her old friends. Side story of suspecting new neighbor is a princess. Lots of talk about being "boy crazy", rock stars, boy/girl. Nothing terrible but very heavy on American teen culture.   |
|                  | Savitt, Sam                     | Vicki and the Brown Mare                     | 6-8   | N?  | Girl trains a horse to compete in shows. Lots of boy/girl talk though not much action   |
|                  | Sawyer, Ruth                    | Roller Skates                                | 5-7   | N?  | A girl is left in care of retired ladies who give her unheard of freedom in old New York. Minor language - dammit, hell. Lots of x-mas and religion - can be torn out. Some chutzpah to aunt. Says "When I'm married I shall have to sleep with my husband. Everyone does that - I know". Kiss at wedding "as if he meant it"   |
|                  | Say, Allen                      | The Ink-Keeper's Apprentice                  |       | N   | A boy apprentices himself to a cartoonist. Detailed discussion of painting unclothed models and how makes boy feel, prostitutes, nightclubs, etc, etc.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                       | Title                                       | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Schade, Susan and Jon Buller | Travels of Thelonious The Fog Mound         | 3-5   | OK?? | A novel with some comic book style pages about a chipmunk who accidentally lands in a waste land once inhabited by humans. Cartoonish picture of a scantily clad Barbie. Rear illustration of a cartoonish unclothed man. Animals read a diary entry about how female is sure a male would have asked her to marry him- he "liked" her. Cartoonish illustration of bears dancing- coed. Various books listed by title. Brief mention of evolution- no detailed discussion. Language- creepy, heck (once), shut up, drat (once).  |
|                  | Schaefer, Jack               | Old Ramon                                   | 4-6   | OK   | Boy learns lessons about shepherding and life  |
|                  | Scheffler, Ursel             | Grandpa's Amazing Computer                  | 2-4   | OK   | A grandfather shows his granddaughter that a seed is more amazing than any computer that man could invent. No overt religion other than saying that seed was made by someone "much bigger" than himself.   |
|                  | Schlein, Miriam              | The Year of the Panda                       | 3-4   | OK   | Boy rescues panda cub during bamboo famine   |
|                  | Schmidt, Gary D.             | Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy       | 7-9   | N?   | Minister's son becomes friends with black girl, to dismay of small town. Language: hell, damn. Non-romantic negiah. References to Darwin and his works. Christian references - not very objectionable.   |
|                  | Schmidt, Gary D.             | Straw into Gold                             | 6-8   | N?   | A serious novel which is a take off on the fairy tale Rumpelstiltskin. Fairy-tale type of falling in love instantly. Villagers often invoke saints but no religious explanation. Lots of mentions of churches and convents and various religious functionaries. Religious ceremonies not clearly described. Many relatively neutral references to G-d. Language: damn, piss.   |
|                  | Schnur, Steven               | The Shadow Children                         | 6-8   | OK?  | Scary. Boy discovers ghosts of children given up to Nazis  |
|                  | Schoch, Tim                  | Cat Attack - Starring Flash Fry Private Eye | 3-5   | OK?  | Dog helps master locate missing cats. One "love" scene between dogs. Not explicit but at end has puppies with her. Can tear out page.  |
|                  | Schotter, Roni               | Rhoda Straight and True                     |       | N    | A girl learns that different doesn't mean bad. Children break into old house. Lots of description of physical tenderness between married couple. Father abandons family, boy/girl, first kiss.   |
|                  | Schwabach, Karen             | A Pickpocket's Tale                         | 6-8   | OK?? | Historical fiction. Set in early colonial times. Jewish girl lives in poverty on streets of London until she is arrested for pickpocketing and sent to colonies as indentured servant and is bought by Jewish family as a chessed. Jewish content is quite accurate and positive. Passing mentions of low class women in London who have a sequence of different men living with them (does not specifically mention marriage one way or the other); not very explicit. Language: shut up, idiot, stinks, damn it to bloody hell, bleeding hell. A lot of old time London street language - if reader skips over it it's fine, but if reader uses glossary in back, may understand too much - e.g. men living in a woman's apartment are "boyfriends". Bad middos and some violence between criminals. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                            | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Schwartz, Alvin                   | In a Dark, Dark Room and Other Scary Stories      |       | N    | I-can-read book. Simplified ghost stories: Skeletons, ghosts, graveyards. Nightmare-inducing.   |
|                  | Schwartz, Howard and Barbara Rush | The Diamond Tree - Jewish Tales from Around World |       | N    | Jewish stories. Some with witches and imps.   |
|                  | Schwartz, Joel L.                 | Upchuck Summer                                    |       | N    | Boy sees what it feels like to be a "nerd". Language, behavior, boy/girl.   |
|                  | Schwartz, Virginia Frances        | 4 Kids In 5E & 1 Crazy Year                       |       | N    | Fifth graders come to love writing. A lot of juvenile girl liking boy eg. girl is "lovestruck" but nothing comes of it. Call a boxer a "hunk". Boy watches as mom and boyfriend dance slowly together and kiss. Girl's mom was very young when she had her and abandoned her. African American culture especially hairstyles. Boy wears an earring. A lot of talk about boy's parents "splitting" and how much it upsets him. Later it comes out that his father physically hurt him and his mom (quite a bit of description). Brief non religious xmas, Santa Claus, valentines day,. Children dress up like book characters for Halloween parade. Titles mentioned. Watch boxing on cable TV. |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon                     | Spaceheadz  | 3-6   | OK?  | New boy in class meets 2 classmates who turn out to be aliens. Very cute. Aliens speak in phrases they learned from interception of TV advertising waves from Earth - kids who don't watch TV probably won't notice. Book contains 3 actual websites (one of which gives important information for plot) - at time of this review, content of websites is appropriate. First in series.   |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon                     | Time Warp Trio - Marco? Polo?                     | 3-5   | OK?  | Boys travel back in time and accompany Marco Polo to Kublai Khan's Palace. Lots of juvenile slang and minor language: doofus, nincompoop, stupid, butt.   |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon                     | Time Warp Trio #01 Knights of the Kitchen Table   | 3-5   | OK?  | Very cute series about 3 friends who go on adventures in time and space through a magic book whose rules they do not quite know. Minor language throughout series: idiot, shut up, butt, etc.   |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon                     | Time Warp Trio #02 The Not so Jolly Roger         | 3-5   | OK?? | See comment on series. A little gory. Boys go back in time and encounter scary pirates. Brief mention of the movies. Language-dumb, jerk, damnation and hellfire, blast it all, scumbucket, idiot, hell.  |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon                     | Time Warp Trio #03 The good the bad & the goofy   | 3-5   | OK?  | See comment on series.  |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon                     | Time Warp Trio #04 Your Mother Was a Neanderthal  | 3-5   | OK?  | See comment on series. Boys go back 40,000 years to see caveman "ancestors". Since whole book is a spoof, should not be an issue.   |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon                     | Time Warp Trio #05 2095                           | 3-5   | OK   | See comment on series. Boys go to future and meet great-great granddaughters  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Scieszka, Jon     | Time Warp Trio #08 It's all Greek to Me | 3-5   | OK?  | See comment on series. Spoof on Greek gods.   |
|                  | Scieszka, Jon     | Time Warp Trio #10 Sam Samurai          | 3-5   | OK?  | See comment on series.  |
|                  | Scott, Michael    | The Magician                            | 7+    | OK?  | Twin teenagers are trained in magic and have to outrun immortals who want control of them. Girl is nostalgic for time when she was a normal teenager with time for boys she liked (one sentence page 32). Minor mentions of rock culture. Many mentions of fossils and world being very old and its creation by an elder race and humans are "ape kin", but all in the context of a magical, not very believable plot.  |
|                  | Scrimger, Richard | The Nose from Jupiter                   |       | N    | A boy deals with bullies with the help of an alien who lives in his nose. Lots of description of divorced parents fighting, lots of bathroom words, bullies, kids smoking. Boy/girl, minor romantic negiah, chutzpah to teacher.  |
|                  | Seabrooke, Brenda | Jerry on the Line                       | 3-5   | OK?? | Latchkey kid watches soap opera - who loves who, etc. Probably OK for older kids - very tame.   |
|                  | Sealy, Shirley    | Squeaky Stories for Children            | 2-3   | N?   | Slightly "preachy" stories with a moral about a mouse and his friends. Strange, juvenile discussion about meaning of a promise and what it means to keep it (p. 23-27). A few page mention of X-mas presents, santa bringing them, and general X-mas excitement.  |
|                  | Sedgwick, Marcus  | Floodland                               | 5-7   | N?   | A girl escapes from her rapidly drowning island. She encounters a group of children who are fighting for survival and behave like a gang of animals who kill anyone they perceive to be an enemy. Bad middos between children. A few mention of a girl having a boyfriend. Girl and boy escape together and fall asleep together in a doorway, when she wakes up she moves away from him- he says "don't" but nothing further happens. Scary description of how girl became separated from her parents when they were trying to escape the island. Throughout the book girl is sure that if her parents were still alive they would have come to get her- at the end when she finds them she needs to come to grips with the fact that they didn't. May be disturbing to some children. |
|                  | Selden, George    | The Cricket in Times Square             | 4-6   | OK   | A country cricket ends up at a NYC newsstand. Cute.   |
|                  | Seldon, George    | The Genie of Sutton Place               | 5-7   | N?   | An eccentric boy frees a genie who helps him adjust to living with a well-meaning but difficult aunt. His adult friend tries to reach the "spirit world" by holding seances and reading palms. Language: hell, stupid, darn, damn. A running comical love story between the genie and the cook - they sing duets together.  |
|                  | Selzer, Adam      | I Put a Spell on You                    | 4-7   | OK?? | Kids try to win spelling bee - at any cost. Girl works "magic spell" which involves kissing boy.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                        | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Selznick, Brian    | The Invention of Hugo Cabret | 4-7   | OK?? | Boy discovers secret of automaton that his father found, and reveals identity of creator of early movies. Original style book with part of plot told in artful sketches of scenes in story (so even though it's a very thick book, it's not actually that long) . Several old-fashioned pictures of non-tznius women. Boy hugs girl; turns out it was to steal necklace from her (which he later returned). Several mentions of actual early films.  |
|                  | Selznick, Brian    | Wonderstruck-                |       | N    | A deaf boy runs away to find his father after his mother dies. It turns out he is illegitimate- clearly states that his parents never married. Non religious xmas. Mother is a movie star who divorces her husband. An important setting is the museum of natural history. A lot of museum culture. Illustration of the dinosaur room and mention of dinosaur skeletons. Acknowledgements at the back of the book mention that a region in Minnesota was formed billions of years ago by the impact of a meteorite. Language-stupid. |
|                  | Sendak, Maurice    | A Kiss for Little Bear       | 1-2   | N?   | Bear sends his grandmother a picture and she sends back a kiss via barnyard animals. Very sweet and innocent but when one skunk passes the kiss to another, he realizes she is pretty and they keep kissing each other until they eventually marry.  |
|                  | Sendak, Maurice    | Little Bear                  | 1-2   | OK   | Cute stories about a little bear   |
|                  | Sendak, Maurice    | Little Bear's Friend         | 1-2   | OK   | Bear becomes friends with a little girl  |
|                  | Sendak, Maurice    | Little Bear's Visit          | 1-2   | OK   | Bear visits his grandparents and grandfather tells him a story about a goblin that is slightly scary but ends up being funny,  |
|                  | Sendak, Maurice    | The Sign on Rosie's door     | 2-3   | OK   | Imaginative girl entertains the neighborhood children with her creative games.   |
|                  | Service, Pamela F. | Alien Expedition             | 4-6   | N?   | An alien disguised as a boy helps defeat evil aliens in Mongolia. Lots of talk of hundreds of million years ago and dinosaurs and fossils etc. mention of in-flight movies, watching TV, doing research online. Mongolian religion and beliefs in spirits and Buddha etc. innocuous disco party described. Language-weird, barf, stupid, idiot, gross, creep me out.   |
|                  | Service, Pamela F. | Phantom Victory              |       | N    | Boy and girl team up to solve ghost mystery. Minor bad language (eg - jerk), talk of boyfriend/girlfriends, negiah.  |
|                  | Service, Pamela F. | Stinker From Space           | 4-6   | OK?? | A girl and boy help an alien in a skunk's body steal the space shuttle so he can return to his planet and defeat the bad guys. At first boy and girl don't want to associate with each other because they are of the opposite gender but eventually become friends. Girl thinks "boys stink". Girl enjoys acting out "space dramas" with action figures. Mentions of watching movies on TV. Language-idiotic, dummy, stupid, jerks, darn (once), weird.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                    | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|---|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Service, Pamela F.                        | Stinker Returns                                   | 4-6   | OK?? | The saga continues. Children help alien steal the ruby slipper from the Wizard of Oz movie from the Smithsonian in order to save people from being destroyed. A lot of movie culture-names of movies and movie stars, being a movie buff etc. many mentions of TV. Brief non religious Santa Claus. Language- weirdo, freaks, gross, berserk, creep, lunatic, wacko, freak out, drat, darn (once).                             |
|                  | Service, Pamela F.                        | Tomorrow's Magic                                  |       | N    | Merlin and King Arthur in post-nuclear holocaust world. Boy/Girl   |
|                  | Service, Pamela F.                        | Yesterday's Magic                                 |       | N    | Merlin and King Arthur in post-nuclear holocaust world. Boy/Girl   |
|                  | Seuling, Barbara                          | Robert and the Computer Hogs                      | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy gets pen-pal and new computer. Mother mentions that before she met father she had boyfriends.  |
|                  | Seuling, Barbara                          | Robert and the Triple Rotten Day                  | 2-3   | OK   | Boy gets braces and has other "bad Luck"   |
| new              | Shahan, Sherry                            | Frozen Stiff                                      |       | N    | Boy and girl cousins sneak off to go camping in Alaska and become trapped when a glacier melts. A lot of discussion of impact of divorce on the family-caused by father dating and then marrying his university student, Matter of fact mentions of undergarments, Girl thinks that friends who talk about boys and clothes are superficial. One word xmas, TV,, Language- darn (frequent), freaked out, stupid, weird, dammit |
|                  | Shakespeare, William                      | Julius Ceasar                                     | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Shakespeare, William                      | The Merchant of Venice                            | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Shalant, Phyllis                          | The Rockstar, the Rooster, and Me<br>The Reporter |       | N    | Mention of liking boy, going to rock concert, minor bad language - no redeeming value  |
|                  | Shalant, Phyllis                          | When Pirates came to Brooklyn                     |       | N    | Girl from culturally Jewish family tries to make new friends. Mother resists allowing her to play with "goyim", but gives in. Friends mother writes notes to girl, about accepting J-- and being Saved; girl wants to be friends with her anyway.. Message of book appears to be that people of different religions should accept each other.  |
|                  | Sharmat, Marjorie W.                      | Nate the Great Saves the King of Sweden           | 2-3   | OK   | Boy detective finds a toy troll. Mentions of trolls in Swedish folklore.   |
|                  | Sharmat, Marjorie W. and Mitchell Sharmat | Nate the Great and the Big Sniff                  | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy detective finds his lost dog. P. 22 - goes into fitting room and sees a girl with a shirt that is "much too small for her" - picture of stomach showing - very juvenile.   |
|                  | Sharmat, Marjorie W. and Mitchell Sharmat | Nate the Great and the Tardy Tortoise             | 2-3   | OK   | Boy detective helps find tortoise's home   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                    | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Sharmat, Marjorie W. and Mitchell Sharmat | Nate the Great Talks Turkey              | 2-3   | OK   | Boy and girl detective team up to find turkey. Picture of girl in limo without a seatbelt.  |
|                  | Sharp, Margery                            | The Rescuers                             | 3-6   | OK?? | 3 mice go on a quest to rescue a prisoner. Some minor boy/girl (mice) which doesn't lead to anything but along the way there is some non-romantic / semi-romantic negiah, e.g. boy mouse takes pretty girl mouse's hands to help her calm down, or she rests her head lightly on his shoulder (p. 22-23). Language: idiot (3 times)           |
|                  | Shearer, Alex                             | Canned                                   | 7-8   | N?   | Very creepy story about an eccentric boy and girl who collect cans and discover a human finger and ear in the cans. They track down the mystery and uncover a canning factory employing children as slaves. Very scary and unsettling. Brief unimportant mention of people piercing body parts (p. 33). Language (once each): moronic, stupid |
|                  | Sheinmel, Courtney                        | Stella Batts #1 Needs A New Name         | 3-5   | OK?? | A third grade girl named Stella decides to change her name when a mean boy in her class calls her "Smella" after she accidentally falls in dog "poop". Five year old calls her neighbor her "boyfriend". Middos between children. Brief description of a "show" (probably TV) the girls love. Language-poop, gross, weird, stinky.            |
|                  | Sheinmel, Courtney                        | Stella Batts #2 Hair Today Gone Tomorrow | 3-5   | OK?  | Girl sneaks a piece of chewing gum and it gets stuck in her hair forcing her to get an embarrassing haircut. Best friend moves away. Mean boy exhibits bad middos. Brief mention of watching a movie. Small black and white illustration of gymnast in leotard. Language-weird, berserk   |
|                  | Sheinmel, Courtney                        | Stella Batts #3 Pardon Me                | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl makes a new best friend. Girl doesn't like certain vegetables and calls them "super gross". Girl's mother says let's go- girl responds "not until you promise we are coming back" Mother responds "Fine I promise". (pg 19) This interaction seen as normal. Watching TV. Language-gross, weird,   |
|                  | Sheinmel, Courtney                        | Stella Batts #4 A Case of the Meanies    | 3-5   | OK?? | Mean boy doesn't invite girl to his birthday party. He is slightly chutzpadik to teacher. Girl says asparagus should be named "asparagross". Language-gross, weird.   |
|                  | Shelley, Mary                             | Frankenstein                             | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                 | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Sherman, Delia      | The Magic Mirror Of The Mermaid Queen | 5-7   | N?  | A human changeling girl raised by fairies in Central Park attends a special school and helps retrieve a magic mirror. A lot of middos between schoolmates. Girls and boys are friends but nothing overtly romantic even though other people refer to him as her boyfriend, she never does. A lot of Halloween. Girl tries on a gown and is surprised to notice she has "a shape". Her guardian pulls it up to her collar bone (evidently it was too low to be modest). Fairies dance (mixed). Boy offers to help girl go to a ballet (Swan Lake) to find the missing mirror- her guardian asks if it is a date and if he will make her pay with a kiss. She denies it. Non romantic negiah. A lot of language and slang- gross, drat, geek, bums, punk, fart, moron, freaking, dork, poop, stupid snotty, shut up, idiot, jerk, butt, snot, dumb. |
|                  | Sheth, Kashmira     | Boys Without Names                    | 5-8   | OK? | Boys in India are forced to work in factory; become friends and escape. Minor Indian religion.  |
|                  | Shlitz, Laura Amy   | A Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama  |       | N   | An orphaned child is adopted by 3 spinsters who train her to play the part of dead children in seances. Bad middos that are sometimes reprimanded and sometimes encouraged. Mentions a girl who mysteriously never had a father. A few mentions of JC - a picture of him blessing children, walking on water, rosary beads, prayers, rising from the dead, etc.   |
|                  | Shreve, Susan       | Jonah the Whale                       |       | N   | refs. To kissing and kissing parties  |
|                  | Shreve, Susan       | Joshua T. Bates In Trouble Again      |       | N   | Boy gets into trouble trying to be cool to fit in new class. Sloppy clothing, Cigarette behind ear, steals father's pocket knife to show off. Older sister dresses inappropriately for junior high.   |
|                  | Shreve, Susan       | The Flunking of Joshua T. Bates       | 3-5   | OK? | A boy is left back in third grade. His teacher befriends him and helps him get promoted. Some discussion that teacher is sad because husband left her.  |
|                  | Shub, Elizabeth     | The White Stallion                    | 2-3   | OK  | A girl's pony wanders off wagon trail and gets lost; rescued by magical white stallion.   |
|                  | Shura, Mary Francis | Polly Panic                           |       | N   | discussion of girls' development; boyfriends  |
|                  | Shura, Mary Francis | The Gray Ghosts of Taylor Ridge       | 4-5   | OK  | Brother and sister discover treasure and help blind old man reunite with estranged adopted son.   |
|                  | Shusterman, Neal    | The Eyes of Kid Midas                 |       | N   | Boy finds magical glasses that do his bidding and discovers that this can lead to havoc and danger. Detailed description of bad middos, bullying, boy girl, and problematic language.   |
|                  | Shusterman, Neal    | The Schwa Was Here                    |       | N   | A boy seems to be invisible. Boy/girl.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                                     | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Shyer, Marlene Fanta  | Fleabiscuit Sings                         | 3-5   | OK?  | Sweet story about boy who adopts dog who can sing. Book uses the word "badword" in italics to indicate adults cursing. Passing reference to man kissing top of girlfriend's head.   |
|                  | Sidney, Margaret      | Five Little Peppers and How They Grew     | 4+    | OK?? | Classic sweet old-fashioned story about a poor but happy family who are adopted by a cranky rich man. Mentions of parsons and ministers and the L-rd will provide, but no details. A lot of detail about Xmas - the family could never afford to celebrate it but with the help of the rich man they finally do - very warm and fuzzy description of Xmas (chapter 15 p. 169 till end of chap. 17) - no heavy duty religion but lots of trees and presents and Santa Claus, etc. Language: stupid (once). |
|                  | Siegel, Siena Cherson | To Dance - A Ballerina's Graphic Novel    |       | N    | A ballerina reminisces about her years of training and growing up. Lots ballet culture including retelling of stories of famous ballets, worship of ballet stars, etc. Illustrations of ballerinas in leotards. A section devoted to partner dancing (men and women). Female anatomy.   |
|                  | Silverman, Erica      | Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa Horse in the House | 1-2   | OK   | Early chapter book about a horse who wants to move out of his barn into the house.  |
|                  | Simon, Seymour        | Einstein Anderson and the Gigantic Ants   | 3-5   | OK   | Boy solves mysteries. Similar to Encyclopedia Brown but solutions are science based. (In hardcover the same book is called Einstein Anderson Makes up for Lost Time).   |
|                  | Simon, Seymour        | Einstein Anderson Goes to Bat             | 3-5   | OK   | ditto.  |
|                  | Simon, Seymour        | Einstein Anderson Makes up for Lost Time  | 3-5   | OK   | Ditto (In softcover the same book is called --- and the Gigantic Ants)  |
|                  | Simon, Seymour        | Einstein Anderson Shocks his Friends      | 3-5   | OK   | More science mysteries. One involves going to a monster movie called "The Halloween Horror"; no religion.   |
|                  | Simon, Seymour        | Einstein Anderson Tells a Comet's Tail    | 3-5   | OK?? | Mention of asteroid hitting Earth 65 million years ago and this is why dinosaurs died - p. 10 chap 1 - can be crossed out. Brief technical description of fertilizing fish eggs - will very probably go over kids' heads.   |
|                  | Simon, Seymour        | Einstein Anderson The Howling Dog         | 3-5   | OK?  | Brief mention of boy concocting chemical to attract girlfriends, but only 1 sentence  |
|                  | Simon, Seymour        | Einstein Anderson The Invisible Man       | 3-5   | OK   | more science mysteries.   |
|                  | Singer, A. L.         | Disney's Aladdin                          |       | N    | Based on movie. Negiah. Centerfold pictures from movie of scantily clad girls.  |
|                  | Singer, A. L.         | The Rescuers Down Under                   | 3-5   | OK?  | Based on movie. 2 mice rescue a boy kidnapped by a poacher. Ongoing story of mouse trying to get courage to propose to girlfriend. Very cruel kidnapper.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                                  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
| new              | Singer, Marilyn        | The Circus Lunicus                     | 3-4   | OK?? | Boy lives with his stepmother and stepbrothers who are mean to him. Father is away on business for duration of book. Boy's mother died. Boy tries to join circus, and finds that circus members are crocodile creatures from another planet, and that he is one of them. Ending of book will be disturbing to adults, and to children who have lost a parent: boy finds out that his mother really did not die, but was a crocodile alien and became sick and is on her home planet. Minor language: crap , hell, butt, damn. Boy notes that his father does not hug and kiss his stepmother like he did to his mother  |
|                  | Skinner, David         | Thundershine                           |       | N    | Stories about children with special powers. Boy/girl, language, middos, hashkafa issues.  |
|                  | Skolsky, Mindy Warshaw | Love, from your Friend Hannah          |       | N    | Girl writes to FDR. Cute but Eleanor Roosevelt gives advice to read any books she wants even if she has to sneak them. Some language and boy/girl.  |
|                  | Skolsky, Mindy Warshaw | The Whistling Teakettle                | 3-5   | OK?  | Sweet stories of girl in 1940's era. Obvious that girl is Jewish, but only references are gefilte fish and grandmother's story of shtetl; call Yiddish "Jewish"   |
|                  | Skorpen, Liesel Moak   | His Mother's Dog                       | 2-3   | OK?  | Boy is lonely when his mother has a baby, and is comforted by dog. Minor language: stupid, idiot.   |
|                  | Skurzynski, Gloria     | Dangerous Ground                       | 6-8   | N?   | Girl worried aunt has Alzheimer's, but turns out it was from wrong medication. Boy/girl minor to story, besides one page (p 168) where she enjoys his accidental touching of her. Mixed dance (p 65). Aunt explains reasons for never marrying (p 70). J--- (p 90) - no religious connotations.   |
|                  | Skurzynski, Gloria     | National Parks Mystery - Cliff Hanger  |       | N    | Mild negiah & boy/girl attraction   |
|                  | Skurzynski, Gloria     | National Parks Mystery - Over the Edge | 5-7   | N?   | Family takes temporary foster child to the Grand Canyon to figure out why near extinct birds are dying. Foster child is in trouble because he took revenge on people by defaming them online. He is very addicted to internet and plays violent games. Tells younger boy that he is wrong to be cautious on line. He is quite rude and disrespectful. Brief mention of chatting with favorite rock star on line. A lot of talk about hunting culture and people who will resort to violence to show their political views that the government has no right to control their lives. Mentions of prehistoric birds that disappeared in the Ice Age. Minor boy/girl. Brief Indian legend/religion. Frequent language- freaking morons, stupid, weird, idiot, heck, gross, dumb, snotty, jerk, maniac, gross. |
|                  | Skurzynski, Gloria     | National Parks Mystery - Rage of Fire  | 5-7   | OK?  | some references to goddess of volcanoes   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Skurzynski, Gloria | National Parks Mystery - Valley of Death | 5-7   | OK?  | girl whose parents are in anti-govt. group, learns truth from Jewish boyfriend  |
|                  | Skurzynski, Gloria | The Minstrel In The Tower                | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy and girl look for their long lost uncle when their mother gets sick and their father is killed during the crusades. Crusaders are made out as heroes- no mention of who they set out to kill, just that they were brave and had big horses and swords. A girl offers her beautiful hair as a sacrifice at a shrine so her father will get well. Language-brats. |
|                  | Skurzynski, Gloria | Trapped In Slick Rock Canyon             |       | N    | Negiah between cousins - non-romantic, but too descriptive. Girl takes off shirt in front of boy and makes fun of him for turning away.   |
|                  | Skye, Obert        | Leven Thumps and the Eyes of Want        | 5-8   | OK?  | Book 3 of Leven Thumps series. Non-romantic negiah. Magical tree "turns red" when told stories of "cute girls".   |
|                  | Skye, Obert        | Leven Thumps and the Gateway to Foo      | 5-8   | OK?  | Boy and girl try to save the world from being taken over by a being from dream-world of Foo. All human adults in book are cartoonishly ugly, stupid and abusive. Non-romantic touching.   |
|                  | Skye, Obert        | Leven Thumps and the Whispered Secret    | 5-8   | OK?  | Book 2 of Leven Thumps series. Lots of talk of Fate as if it is a force on its own. Lots of fantasy good-guy vs. bad guy violence. More fantasy than first book. Non-romantic negiah. Minor language: stupid.   |
|                  | Sleator, William   | Dangerous Wishes                         | 6-8   | N?   | Boys try to return jewel to a Buddha statue in Thailand. Entire plot revolves around belief in powers of avodah zarah.  |
|                  | Slepian, Jan       | Lester's Turn                            |       | N    | Romantic negiah, talk of deviant lifestyles   |
|                  | Slepian, Jan       | The Alfred Summer                        |       | N    | 3 friends - one retarded, one with CP and one tomboy, build a boat together. Very poignant but rough language, pritzusdik references, 1 real curse  |
|                  | Slepian, Jan       | The Broccoli Tapes                       |       | N    | In several scattered passages, girl describes growing physical attraction to boy, ending in kiss  |
|                  | Slepian, Jan       | The Mind Reader                          |       | N    | boy who can read minds gets tired of performing and runs away to eccentric uncle. Some romantic negiah, drunk dysfunctional father  |
|                  | Slote, Alfred      | A Friend Like That                       |       | N    | lots of adult dating and romance, lots of talk of divorce and remarriage  |
|                  | Slote, Alfred      | Finding Buck McHenry                     | 3-5   | OK   | Boy is convinced janitor is old-time hero from negro baseball league. Adult lies but in end tells the truth   |
|                  | Slote, Alfred      | Hang Tough, Paul Mather                  | 6-8   | OK?  | Boy with leukemia deals with missing out on playing baseball. Written in time period before there was a high cure rate for leukemia; tone at end of book is upbeat, but prognosis and description of treatments could be frightening for some.  |
|                  | Slote, Alfred      | Make Believe Ball Player                 | 3-5   | OK   | imaginative boy scares off robbers and becomes a hero.  |
|                  | Slote, Alfred      | Moving In                                |       | N    | chutzpah, girl tries to shock adult by saying 12 year old became pregnant, boy steals computer program to help competitor.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Slote, Alfred           | My Father, the Coach                          | 3-6   | OK   | Lower-class boy's father sets up baseball team to show up his higher-class boss, who also coaches team. Boy is sometimes embarrassed by father's incompetent coaching and showing-off.  |
|                  | Slote, Alfred           | Rabbit Ears                                   | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy overcomes his sensitivity to ball-game jibes, by using trick from brother's rock band (which also has girl in it). Congratulatory kiss from girl to boy; they blush.  |
|                  | Slote, Alfred           | The Trading Game                              |       | N    | Father divorces mother because he fell in love with another woman   |
|                  | Smarige, Nora           | The Mystery at Greystone Hall                 | 4-6   | OK?  | An American girl solves British mystery with help of a boy she likes, but not explicit. Mention of love affair in a book but not detailed. Very minor romance   |
|                  | Smelcer, John           | Edge of Nowhere                               | 5-9   | N?   | Boy is washed overboard and survives on deserted island. Language: damn. Eskimo myths including creation of some animals. Romantic negiah between father and mother. Disturbing myth in which man "forces himself" on girl in her room at night; turns out to be her brother.   |
|                  | Smiley, Jane            | The Georges and the Jewels                    |       | N    | Girl lives on horse breeding ranch. Boy/girl  |
|                  | Smith, Alexander McCall | Akimbo and the Lions                          | 2-3   | OK   | Boy raises lion cub   |
|                  | Smith, Alexander McCall | Akimbo and the Snakes                         | 3-5   | OK   | A boy visits his uncle's snake park in Africa and helps him catch a deadly snake. Brief unimportant mention of going to a movie.  |
|                  | Smith, Alexander McCall | Harriet Bean and the League of Cheats         | 3-5   | OK   | A girl goes undercover as a jockey to find out who is cheating at horse races.  |
|                  | Smith, Alexander McCall | Max & Maddy and the Bursting Balloons Mystery | 2-4   | OK   | Children figure out who is sabotaging a balloon race.   |
|                  | Smith, Dodie            | The 101 Dalmatians                            | 5-7   | OK?? | Dalmatian parents rescue puppy from evil lady who wants their skin for a fur coat. Mother dog is jealous of stray dog brought into house to help nurse her pups, because spends time with her husband. Name of house is hell Hall. X-mas and presents - no religion. Pups go into place that is obviously a church (obvious to adults) but never stated outright (P 140 & 184). This edition has photos from the movie. |
|                  | Smith, Doris Buchanan   | A Taste of Blackberries                       | 3-5   | N?   | Boy deals with sudden death of friend. Some theological issues with some Christian overtones.   |
|                  | Smith, Doris Buchanan   | Last was Lloyd                                | 5-7   | N?   | A very fat boy is miserable in school and pretends to be bad at baseball so his talent can be his secret. Eventually makes a friend. Lots about mom's ex-boyfriend, playing hookey, minor bad language.   |
|                  | Smith, Doris Buchanan   | Return to Bitter Creek                        |       | N    | Girl lives with mom & boyfriend; mentioned explicitly over & over and states explicitly that this arrangement is fine.  |
|                  | Smith, Doris Buchanan   | The Penny Whistle Tree                        | 5-7   | N?   | Dysfunctional family. Boy violent and chutzpadik to cover-up reading problem. Mom has stillborn   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Smith, Janice Lee    | It's Not Easy Being George                               |       | N    | clear descriptions of lots of physical affection between teacher and her husband  |
|                  | Smith, Patricia      | Royal Diaries: Lady of Palenque - Flower of Bacal        | 4-7   | OK?  | Some Mayan religion   |
|                  | Smith, Patricia      | Royal Diaries: Weetamoo - Heart of the Pocassets         | 4-7   | OK?  | One hug with boy she plans to marry - seems to be comforting her after death of her sister.   |
|                  | Smith, Robert Kimmel | Chocolate Fever  | 4-6   | OK?  | A boy who loves chocolate breaks out in brown spots and is rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with "chocolate fever". He gets scared and runs away. A truck driver picks him up from the side of the highway and protects him from robbers. Book is not strong enough about dangers of hitchhiking and how lucky he was to find a kind person to help him.  |
|                  | Smith, Robert Kimmel | Jelly Belly  | 4-6   | N?   | A fat boy goes to weight loss camp and figures out his real problem is caused by doting grandma who overfeeds him. Confronts her with chutzpah and later apologizes. Lots of coarse talk, ie sucks, damn, moron, etc. Book is great motivator for overweight kids if cross out language   |
|                  | Smith, Robert Kimmel | The War With Grandpa                                     |       | N    | Boy "wages war" with grandfather when grandfather moves into his room. Inappropriate chutzpa.   |
|                  | Smith, Roland        | Zach's Lie   | 5-7   | OK?  | Boy goes into Witness Security Program with mother and sister, after father is caught using his plane business to fly for drug traffickers in order to pay down debts. Boy becomes friends with pretty girl - mostly platonic, with some non-romantic hand-holding.   |
|                  | Smith, Sherwood      | The Emerald Wand of Oz                                   | 5-7   | OK?? | An attempt at continuing the Oz series by a more modern author. Quite a lot of dwelling on the fact that children's parents have separated, and children are sad about it.(may not be appropriate for all readers). Also details the interference of an opinionated aunt. Non-romantic negiah, minor middos between siblings, many mentions of movie The Wizard of Oz, minor mentions of TV, one word mention of Halloween. Language - stupid, brat, dumb.          |
|                  | Smith, Winsome       | Elephant in the Kitchen                                  | 3-5   | OK?  | A mean magician shrinks elephant to get revenge. One minor romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Snicket, Lemony      | A Series of Unfortunate Events #01<br>The Bad Beginning  | 4-6   | OK?? | Terrible things happen to children one after another. When it seems all will finally be well, turns worse. Book is purposely depressing - whole series is this way. Enjoyment of series is matter of personal taste. What do children learn from this series? Grownups are either evil and abusive or ineffectual and can't protect children; and that it's fine to consider tragedy funny. This book has minor rough language, mention in passing of naked actors. |
|                  | Snicket, Lemony      | A Series of Unfortunate Events #02 -<br>The Reptile Room | 4-6   | OK?? | More of the same depressing "funny" story. Language - damn - page 94 (twice). "Blasted furnaces of hell - p. 98.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Snicket, Lemony        | A Series of Unfortunate Events #07<br>The Vile Village        | 4-6   | OK?? | Continued gloomy story of children escaping from villain.   |
|                  | Snicket, Lemony        | A Series of Unfortunate Events #08<br>The Hostile Hospital    | 4-6   | OK?? | Continued gloomy story of children escaping from villain.   |
|                  | Snicket, Lemony        | A Series of Unfortunate Events #12 -<br>The Penultimate Peril | 4-6   | OK?? | Several references to villainous woman wearing lettuce leaves taped to her body, instead of bikini.   |
|                  | Snow, Alan             | Here Be Monsters  | 5+    | OK?? | A very unusual (and very fat) book about a boy who helps capture a villain who wants to take over the town by shrinking friendly monsters and transferring their size to a giant rat who will be used as a deadly weapon. Language: damnable, darn it, stupid. Humorous illustration of clothing on a line, including a clear rendition of female undergarments. Women of the town are caught up in a fashion craze of having unusually shaped buttocks which they try to shrink when they aren't fashionable. Described in humorous detail. Warning: after reading this book, a person may never find cheese appetizing again.   |
|                  | Snyder, Carol          | Ike and Mama and the Once a Year Suit                         | 2-3   | OK   | Ike's mother takes all the boys in the neighborhood to buy their new suits. Cute.   |
|                  | Snyder, Laurel         | Any Which Wall  | 4-7   | OK?? | Children find magical wall that transports them to any wall in time or space. Very mild "love" interest by 12 year old girl. Movie where man and woman kiss (P. 48). Drawing of woman in off-shoulder gown (p. 96). Drawing and description of older girls in low-slung skirts, tank tops, belly-button ring (p 195-197).   |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | GIB and the Gray Ghost  | 5-7   | OK   | An orphan is brought to a farm and wonders if he will be adopted or is just "farmed out" labor.   |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | Gib Rides Home  | 6-8   | OK?? | An orphan boy is taken to live with a family and he tries to figure out if he is wanted or they consider him free labor. A lot of mentions of parent's unhappy marriage but never any suggestion of divorce. Very sad story of an orphan who was mistreated and eventually died. Middos between orphans. Boy gets another boy in trouble by writing a "bad word" on his spelling test. When the headmistress dies she 'passes over to glory". A very mean teacher severely beats the boys for small offenses. A few mentions of non religious xmas. Mention of a few books by title. Language- dumb, dummy, stupid, shut up, hell (once), durned, goldurned, dangbusted, dadburned. |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | The Bronze Pen  | 5-7   | OK?? | A girl is given a magical pen that makes her writing come true. It helps her deal with her father's scary heart disease. Minor language: shut up, jerk. Although the father is magically cured at the end, this book may disturb a sensitive child since it vividly depicts a child dealing with a parent's illness.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title  | grade |     |  |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | The Egypt Game                                       | 5-7   | N?  | Children pretend they are in ancient Egypt - lots of Egyptian religion. Calling of mother and grandmother by first names. Slightly dysfunctional Hollywood mother mentioned a few times. Halloween and X-mas in detail but no religion. Minor language - jerk. A bit scary when child is almost captured by murderer.  |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | The Ghosts of Rathburn Park                          |       | N?  | Language   |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | The Gypsy Game                                       | 5-7   | N?  | Sequel to The Egypt Game. Children start researching the sad history of gypsies but then their friend runs away and they are in a dilemma if they should tell his worried father where he is. Somewhat scary and sad. It turns out he ran away because his grandparents want to adopt him way from his somewhat dysfunctional father and threaten to reopen the investigation into the mother's death which was caused by drugs. He is helped by some kind but troubled street people. Some detail about reading palms and telling fortunes. Non religious xmas. Rumors that boy's father paints "almost naked" boy says not to worry, in the winter he wears overalls. Unimportant mention of watching TV. Talk of a brontosaurus sculpture. Language-jerk, weird, stupid, dumb, creeps, freak out, stinking, hell, lamebrain, idiotic. |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | The Magic Nation Thing                               |       | N   | A girl trying to deal with her parents divorce discovers she has paranormal abilities. At the end her parents get remarried- very unrealistic. A lot of description of her mother's assistant who is so beautiful that men follow her and are always begging her for dates. Six year old boy has a crush on his older sister's friend and writes her a love letter. Older brother teases him that he has a girl friend. Boy tell "little boy dirty jokes". Mention of woman's undergarments. Mention of movies and TV shows. Girl is fixated on movie stars. Juvenile middos between siblings. Language- weird, stupid, gross, dumb, idiot, brats.   |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | The Treasures of Weatherby                           | 4-6   | OK  | Boy solves mystery in house of old rich aunt, with help from a girl from flying acrobat family.  |
|                  | Snyder, Zilpha Keatley | The Trespassers                                      | 5-7   | N?  | Disturbing. Boy and girl get mixed up with dysfunctional family and ghost. Paranoid father, nonfunctional mother, son tries to shoot and kill the boy.   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J.       | Encyclodedia Brown And the Case of the Jumping Frogs | 3-5   | OK  | Simple mysteries for reader to solve. Solutions included in back of the book.  |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J.       | Encyclodedia Brown and the Case of the Two Spies     | 3-5   | OK? | One mention of girl trying to get boy's attention by posing for him in bathing suit on beach and getting dog to lick him, but he ignores her.  |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J.       | Encyclodedia Brown Boy Detective                     | 3-5   | OK  | more mysteries to solve  |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J.       | Encyclodedia Brown Saves the Day                     | 3-5   | OK  | more mysteries to solve  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclodedia Brown Takes the Cake                                | 3-5   | OK   | Mysteries interspersed with recipes - many of which are treif but can be altered (l.e. substitute margarine for butter). Mention of boy liking girl and other boy being jealous but very minor  |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclodedia Brown's Book of Wacky Outdoors                      | 3-5   | OK   | Strange stories and tall tales of outdoors. Mostly fishing stories.   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of Pablo's Nose                  | 3-5   | OK   | more mysteries to solve   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Dead Eagles               | 3-5   | OK   | more mysteries to solve   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Disgusting Sneakers       | 3-5   | OK?? | One story (the Case of the Brain Game): a few sentences about a boy who is always "stuck on some girl", so he helps her win contest at birthday party.  |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Midnight Visitor          | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy detective solves mysteries. One word mention of church. Brief mention of going to movie theater, watching movie on TV, and movie magazine. Gang of bad kids display their usual bad middos and minor violence. Language-drat, stupid, heck.       |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Secret Pitch              | 3-5   | N?   | Page 57 - boy and girl go on date holding hands - easily crossed out.   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Sleeping Dog              | 3-5   | OK   | more mysteries to solve   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the the Mysterious Handprints | 3-5   | N?   | One story about a boy who is a real "ladies' man" (The Case of the Angry Girl); wrote a love letter that she isn't the type to "kiss the first boy who comes along". Entire story can be torn out but solution page is back-to-back with another one. |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Treasure Hunt             | 3-5   | OK   | more mysteries to solve   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown Cracks the Case                               | 3-5   | OK?  | More mysteries . One word mention of church, no religion, Brief mention of TV news.   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown Sets the Pace                                 | 3-5   | OK?  | Page 12 - dinosaurs lived 65 million years ago - easily crossed out.  |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown Solves them All                               | 3-5   | OK?  | One story mentions boy who is "youngest ladies' man... always holding some girl's hand" "crazy over (girl), so is half the class". Tame. Illustration on cover is scantily clad bareback rider.   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | Encyclopedia Brown Tracks them Down                              | 3-5   | OK?  | More Mysteries. Unimportant mention of Xmas present. Language - darn you (once), weird.   |
|                  | Sobol, Donald J. | The Amazing Power of Asher Fine                                  |       | N    | boy/girl, negiah, minor bad language  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                 | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Somper, Justin      | Tide Of Terror book 2 | 7+    | N?   | Orphaned boy is rescued by pirates, but his sister is rescued by vampires. A lot of pirate vs. pirate violence described including death. A lot of vampires regularly sucking blood of women who seem to love them. Mild boy/girl which might get less mild in future books. A lot of boy talk about things like how they like to "ogle" a girl in her bikini, a girl is the "foxiest" girl in school, etc. Some flirting. Mild, somewhat romantic negiah which hints to more in future books. Detailed explanation as to why it is good to party when someone dies instead of mourning. Language-stupid, all hell broke loose, bloody hell, idiot. |
|                  | Sonnenblick, Jordan | Dodger and Me         | 3-5   | OK?  | Unpopular boy gets invisible chimpanzee as magical genie. Mild language. Boy is "friends" with girl; is teased that she is his girlfriend.  |
|                  | Soo, Kean           | Jellaby               | 3-6   | OK?? | Comic book style novel. Children help strange creature find its parents. Simplistic but violent descriptions of bullying. Language: "friggin". Some Halloween - no religion. Children know parents won't let them go to city by themselves so they pretend they are going trick or treating. Girl wonders about father - implication is he abandoned her or disappeared, but not resolved in this book. Somewhat scary  |
|                  | Sorensen, Virginia  | Plain Girl            | 4-6   | N?   | Amish girl learns to interact with outside world. Brother leaves Amish but returns. Quotes from New Testament - not specific to JC. Mention of Doubting Thomas who did not believe JC was alive until he saw him. Several mentions of boy/girl dating/marriage - mild. Boy who left dated girl in outside world, was surprised that she dated others, told father that they kissed.   |
|                  | Sorrells, Walter    | Erratum               | 7-9   | OK?? | Girl finds book about her own life and finds out she is the only one who can save the universe. Minor language: crap, etc.  |
|                  | Sorrells, Walter    | First Shot            |       | N    | Boy in boarding school proves dad did not kill his mom. Lots of language. Boy/girl. Mother suspected of having affair   |
|                  | Soto, Gary          | Boys at Work          |       | N    | Language, bullying, boy/girl  |
|                  | Soto, Gary          | Crazy Weekend         |       | N    | Continuation of "Boys at Work" - same issues - a drop less problematic but still no good.   |
|                  | Soto, Gary          | Summer on Wheels      | 4-6   | N?   | 2 Hispanic boys take a bike trip. Talk of beginning to like girls, boy vs.boy violence, non-romantic negiah, mention of gangs, crime, juvenile prison. Heavy on Hispanic culture - not all of it positive.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                         | Title                         | grade |     |  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
| new              | Soto, Gary                     | The Skirt                     | 3-5   | N?  | A Mexican American girl is worried because she left her fancy dance skirt on the school bus. She convinces a friend to help her break into the bus to retrieve it. Lies to her parents about where she was and what she was doing. At the end the lesson is not learned so clearly. Go to church, finds priest's talk boring- no outright religion described. A lot of TV especially baseball. Language- darn it (once)  |
|                  | Souci, Robert D. San           | Even More Short and Shivery   |       | N   | Collection of spooky short stories, some are OK, some have problematic religious overtones   |
|                  | Souci, Robert D. San           | Short and Shivery             |       | N   | ditto  |
|                  | Soup, Cuthbert                 | A Whole Nother Story          | 5-8   | OK? | Children and their father try to escape from agents who want to steal their time-machine. Tongue-in-cheek - fun read. Minor language: dumb, stupid, darn, shut up, heck, freaks, idiot, "hellish storm". Man says he "almost lost his head over a beautiful woman and a bottle of rye", then says it is not an appropriate story for children. Passing mention of characters who are not present in story, who fell in love with each other. Fortune teller "sees" father dancing with beautiful woman; beautiful woman then comes and offers to dance with father but he is too sad over remembering dead wife, so she dances with young teenage son instead - totally innocent. Passing mention of spaying and neutering of pets - not explained. Boy says he knows 3 swear words but refuses to say them. Girl painted picture of boy in her class whom she "used to like" - but stopped liking when she realized he didn't like her and spread mean nickname for her. Passing mention of dinosaur. All very innocent. First in series. |
|                  | Spain, Susan Rosson            | The Deep Cut                  | 4-8   | N?  | Boy in South during Civil War. Language: damn (usually as in "damned Yankees")   |
|                  | Spartz, Emerson and Ben Schoen | Harry Potter Should Have Died |       | N   | Book analyzing Harry Potter books and movies - some very inappropriate chapters, pointing out inappropriate things that kids would not pick up from just reading the books.  |
|                  | Speare, Elizabeth George       | The Sign of the Beaver        | 3-6   | OK  | Historical fiction; Indians  |
|                  | Speare, Elizabeth George       | The Witch of Blackbird Pond   | 7+    | N?  | A free spirited girl from Barbados comes to live with her Puritan relatives and tries to adjust to their way of life. Lots of church-going and bible, mention of JC, lots of romance - all of it clean and "tachlis" oriented, but very emphasized.  |
|                  | Spearman, Andy                 | Barry, Boyhound               |       | N   | Boy turns into dog. Lots of bathroom humor.  |
|                  | Spears, Britney & Lynne        | A Mother's Gift               |       | N   |  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Speck, Nancy      | Going to: Boston - The Freedom Trail Mystery | 5-7   | OK?  | 2 girls go to Boston University for hockey camp, and get involved in catching people stealing historical artifacts. Book is part mystery, part tour guide book. Girls are friends with boys in nearby camp - not overtly romantic. Many mentions of watching news on TV, and they are interviewed for TV news. Picture of girls in shorts on cover.  |
|                  | Sperry, Armstrong | Call It Courage                              | 5-7   | OK?? | A Newberry Medal survival book about an Indian boy's journey to prove his courage. Boy prays to god of sea fisherman. Black and white picture of unclothed boy - private parts in a shadow. Full page illustration and description of idol. Vivid descriptions of killing animals and fish.  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Blue Ribbon Blues                            | 2-4   | OK   | Girl moves to a farm and wants to exhibit her goat. Strange humor  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Library Card                                 |       | N    | Mature themes  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Lizzie Logan (series)                        |       | N    | Mother has live-in boyfriend; childish at-risk behavior  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Loser  | 5-7   | N?   | Follows boy's life from kindergarten through middle school and traces how he became so unpopular. Bad middos, depressing how kids treat each other.  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Maniac McGee                                 | 6-7   | N?   | Inappropriate language - gang talk, etc.   |
| new              | Spinelli, Jerry   | Picklemania                                  |       | N    | Sixth graders survive middle school. A lot of bullying and middos, though in the end everyone becomes friends. An obnoxious, inappropriate busdriver ends up being the boyfriend of their teacher, girl tries to figure out who asked her to be his valentine- she decides she is head over heels in love with him until she discovers it was a mistake, and a lot more that ranges from mildly inappropriate to extremely.  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Tooter Pepperday                             | 2-3   | OK   | Girl adjusts to living on farm. Some chutzpah to parents regarding her anger at moving.  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Who Put that Hair in My Toothbrush           |       | N    |  |
|                  | Spinelli, Jerry   | Wringer                                      |       | N    | A boy worries about his upcoming birthday when he will be expected to participate in a fundraiser for his local park, where adults shoot pigeons and boys wring the necks of the wounded birds to put them out of their misery. Very poor middos displayed by boy's friends and boy often joins them due to peer pressure. Many brief non-religious references to Xmas. 10 year old boy and 9 year old girl have a very friendly relationship - not overtly romantic but possibly implied. She kisses the end of his nose and laughs (p. 131). Language - dumb, stupid |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Springer, Nancy     | The Case of the Missing Marquess: An Enola Holmes Mystery | 6-8   | N?  | Young sister of Sherlock Holmes begins her mystery-solving career when her mother disappears. Lots of turn-of-the-century style feminism: resistance to corsets and hairpins, references to women having no independence. Justification of mother, who deserted daughter to run away and join gypsies. Passing mention of prostitute, "ladies of the night", "dens of iniquity". A number of discussions of women's "unmentionables", mostly about corsets, figure enhancers, and other outdated garments.  |
|                  | Springer, Nancy     | The Case of the Peculiar Fan: An Enola Holmes Mystery     | 6-8   | N?  | Sister of Sherlock Holmes prevents a forced marriage. Discusses in detail the "secret language" that "young lovers" use while in the presence of chaperones. Girl hides things in her "bust" to give herself a "bosom". Many references to old fashioned undergarments e.g. corset, bust enhancer, hip regulator etc, worn to provide the "requisite hourglass figure". Describes a lady's derriere. Unimportant allusion to prostitutes described only as "women who show a great deal of bosom and ankle". Unimportant mention of evolution and Darwin's monkeys. Language: drat, blast, stupid, confounded, idiotic, damnable. |
|                  | Springstubb, Tricia | Mrs. Wren, Lost and Found                                 | 5-7   | N?  | A girl adjusts to her mother's death and her father's plan to move away from her beloved block and start a restaurant. Minor chutzpah. Non religious Halloween. A lot of noticing her friend's changing figure and mentions of women's undergarments. Little sister tell her sister's male friend that her sister has a boy friend and writes him love letters, which isn't true though she does "like him" a little bit. Girl likes reading the "___loves ___" hearts written on a bus shelter. Mention of watching TV. Language- moron, perverts, dang, dumb, stupid, stinks, weird, whacked out, gross.                        |
|                  | Spyri, Johanna      | Heidi   | 4-6   | OK? | Classic story of girl brought up on mountain by eccentric grandfather. Good midos. Many minor religious references - pretty neutral, ie "higher being": pages 124, 192, 263, 277  |
|                  | Stafford, Jean      | Elephi the Cat with the High IQ                           | 3-5   | OK? | A cat steals a car so he will have a companion. One mention of laundry man "making eyes" at cleaning lady. Strange story.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title   | grade |    |   |
|------------------|---------------------|---|-------|----|---|
| new              | Standiford, Natalie | The Secret Tree                               |       | N  | Girl adjusts to growing up. A lot of focus on older sisters relationship with boyfriend including romantic negiah. Conflict between girls over a boy they both like. Discussion of girls development and undergarments. Lady has "bad dates" with people she met online. Kids say that two cats are "in love" and are "living together" Description of alcoholic mother. Voodoo curses. Spying on neighbors. Girls act obnoxious to friend. Chutzpa to parents. Middos between siblings. Boys consistently display bad middos- later comes out that they are reacting to painful things in their lives. Roller derby culture. Halloween. TV, movies. Language- idiot, stupid, darn, weird, butt, jerk, maniac, dorks, pee, shut up  |
|                  | Stanley, Diane      | Bella at Midnight                             |       | N  | A nobleman's daughter is raised by peasants, befriends a prince, and saves a kingdom from war. Lots of explicit hashkafa and religion, boy/girl, romance, negiah.   |
|                  | Stanley, Diane      | Saving Sky                                    | 6-9   | N? | When terrorists attack several key American energy plants, girl and her New-Age, Hippie-type family take in an American Arab boy who is in danger of being arrested in a mass incarceration of American Arabs. Raises interesting and heavy philosophical issues: The real possibility of a "war" consisting of domestic terror; New-Age 'religion' and rituals of family (not explicitly against Torah, but foreign to us); Implied moral superiority of their lifestyle; Moral question of arresting Arabs with no proof of guilt. Minor language: sucks, crap, heck, stupid, poop. Friendly/comforting negiah between 13-year old girl and 13-year old Arab boy. Girl blackmails bully by threatening to tell about embarrassing kindergarten incident involving losing control of bodily functions. Main theme seems heavy for kids in intended age range ; might be read by older kids, with guidance. |
|                  | Stanley, Diane      | The Mysterious Matter of I.M.Fine             | 5-7   | N? | Children try to locate the author of a series of books that is causing readers to do strange and even dangerous things. Kids break into the house of a suspected bad guy. Girl thinks teacher looks like she stepped off the cover of a romance novel. Mixed swimming. Girl has a seizure and her skirt rides up to show her underwear. Middos between classmates. References to TV show, children's books and movies. Kids do research on the internet. Frequent language-weird, stupid, heck, creepy, freaking out, gross, dummy, shut up, moron.   |
|                  | Stanley, G. E.      | Scaredy Cats: The Day the Ants Got Really Mad | 1-2   | OK | Cute story of boy who moves to house built over ant hill; as solution, ants carry the house to a different place.   |
|                  | Stauffacher, Sue    | Donut Heart                                   |       | N  | A boy deals with growing up. Lots of boy/girl, bathroom humor, negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Stead, Rebecca          | First Light                                       | 5-8   | N?   | A boy goes to Greenland with scientist parents and discovers a community of people living under the ice. Lots of juvenile language - dope, dummy weird, stupid, freak out, butt, stinks, darn, freak, rat. Boys exchange friendly insults. Boy and girl cousins very close friends - lots of non-romantic, affectionate negiah between them. Lots of talk of mating - both dogs and people - discussed in a very non-emotional, scientific way, but can cause a reader to think into it more deeply. In their society it was decided to keep "sires" (father of the child) a secret and to keep "love out of it". Non-religious mention of Xmas. |
|                  | Stead, Rebecca          | When You Reach Me                                 |       | N    | Story of a girl who loves the book "A Wrinkle In Time" who discovers that a time traveling boy her age is trying to save her friend's life. A lot of boy/girl, TV, middos. Some romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Steele, William O.      | The Perilous Road                                 | 4-6   | OK   | Historical fiction. A boy during the Civil war learns the evils of war.  |
|                  | Steer, Dugald A.        | Dragonology Chronicles Volume 1: The Dragon's Eye | 5-7   | N?   | Children go to summer school and learn about dragons. They help their teacher save valuable dragon items from wicked people. Quotes book "written by" Charles Darwin about evolution of dragons - very realistic sounding. Many descriptions of how evolution works - sounds very plausible - needs adult guidance.  |
|                  | Steig, William          | Abel's Island                                     | 5-6   | OK?? | Mouse lost on desert island. Not really a "kid" book -lots of adult language of missing his beloved, hugs and kisses on return, etc.   |
|                  | Steig, William          | The Real Thief                                    | 4-6   | OK   | Goose is accused of stealing from king's treasury.   |
|                  | Steinbeck, John         | The Red Pony                                      | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Steiner, Barbara        | Oliver Dibbs To The Rescue                        | 3-5   | N?   | A boy comes up with wacky schemes to raise money for animal preservation. Unintentionally gets into funny trouble. A lot of the book revolves around Halloween but no mention of religion. Brief non religious xmas. Mention of movie theater and watching movies and TV. Illustration of family watching TV. Parents say TV rots the brain. Kids tease boy that he loves a girl who is his friend- she tells him to ignore them, they are jealous. Teacher's boyfriend puts his arm around her- not overtly romantic (pg. 88, 117). Language- dumb, weird.  |
|                  | Stervermer, Caroline    | A College of Magics                               |       | N    | A girl studies magic and discovers it is up to her to save the world. A lot of highly inappropriate romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Stevenson, Drew         | Terror on Cemetery Hill                           | 3-5   | OK   | Girl and boy detectives solve bank robbery. Minor mention of Halloween   |
|                  | Stevenson, Robert Lewis | Treasure Island                                   | 7-8   | OK   | Classic adventure story. Boy goes to find treasure. Lots of violence. Check specific book for illustrations  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                          | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell | Barnaby Grimes: Legion of the Dead                       | 5-6   | N?   | Boy sees dead corpses rise from graves; finds out it is because of power of idol found by soldier years before. Language: hell. Drawing of female idol, not tznius - p. 150. Vivid descriptions and drawings of decayed corpses coming to life. Mild boy/girl - boy finds excuses to see pretty nurse, and invites her to see show.   |
|                  | Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell | Barnaby Grimes: Return of the Emerald Skull              | 3-6   | OK?? | Boy saves school from ancient curse. Ancient Mayan god described as real and powerful. Mentions of pretty girl. Somewhat gory violence.   |
|                  | Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell | Dragon's Hoard- A Knight's Story #3                      | 4-5   | OK?? | A knight saves a fair maiden from being sacrificed to a dragon. Some good guy vs. bad guy blood and gore described in detail. After knight saves her she agrees to marry him and rides on the horse behind him "with her arms wrapped tightly around my waist". Illustration of her leaning her head on him. Language-stupid.   |
|                  | Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell | Fergus Crane   | 5-7   | N?   | Boy discovers that his school is run by pirates and tries to save students. Lots of exaggerated, theatrical hand kissing between his neighbors. A few cartoonish pictures of inappropriately attired mermaid tattooed on man's arm and on sign of the school. Captain has cartoonish pictures of scantily clad ladies tacked up on his walls; turns out he has "wives" at every port and these are their pictures. Lots of non-romantic negiah among children helping each other. Silly, problematic language - as pirates fall into a hole they say things like "hell's haddocks", "Satan's starfish", "blast you", etc. Very prominent cartoonish picture of actress in strapless gown and long gloves. |
|                  | Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell | The Edge Chronicles #1: Beyond the Deep Woods            | 4-7   | OK?  | A boy tries to find his true identity while having numerous mishaps in a nightmarish woods filled with bloodthirsty fantasy beasts. Lots of blood and gore but all unreal characters in an unreal setting.  |
|                  | Stewart, Paul and Chris Riddell | The Edge Chronicles #2: Storm Chaser                     | 4-7   | OK?  | A boy rescues his world and foils villains. Same Fantasy type violence as previous book.  |
|                  | Stewart, Trenton Lee            | The Mysterious Benedict Society                          | 5-7   | OK   | 2 boys and 2 girls, all orphans or runaways, pass a test in order to be sent undercover to a mysterious school and foil a plot to take over the world.  |
|                  | Stewart, Trenton Lee            | The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey | 5-7   | OK?  | Children go on a voyage to save their friends. A lot of non-romantic negiah between friends, eg: a hug when they are happy to see each other, taking a hand to save a friend, etc. One sentence unimportant mention that one of the boys briefly had a girlfriend (p. 34). Girl calls newly found father by first name because that's what she called him before she knew the truth. Minor language: stupid, jerk.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stewart, Trenton Lee | The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma | 5-7   | OK?  | Children are captured and conspire to save themselves and the world. Some good guy vs. bad guy violence as in other books in this series. Non-romantic negiah. Non -religious mention of Santa Claus. Language: wimpy, stupid, dumb, creep, idiot, dimwit, gross,   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo    | Geronimo Stilton - A Cheese Colored Camper                 | 2-4   | OK?  | Note on series: There seem to be three types of books in this series- the regular ones, the graphic novels, and the cavemice (for Thea Stilton scroll down to the first Thea Stilton book). Regular- A mouse who is a newspaper editor is dragged into various adventures. Often mild boy mouse / girl mouse, and mentions of how mouse would like to approach girls and ask them on dates but he is too shy. Some of the books talk about him having a "major crush" on a girl- often different girls in different books. Cartoonish story often interspersed with factual information. The Geronimo Stilton graphic novels in this series have less about his crushes and more good guy/ bad guy violence, while the Thea Stilton graphic novels seem to have more about crushes than the novels. The Cavemice books are a parody of the regular books with many humorous references to the stone age, dinosaurs, fossils, etc. All of these are attractive to beginning chapter-book readers, though many are problematic. In this book mouse goes on a trip with his family. Prominent picture of bikini tops and bottoms hanging on the line: p. 16-17. Chutzpadik to difficult grandfather (who seemingly deserves it) comes to appreciate him at the end. Sister goes out on more dates than a movie star - needs to shower in case she runs into "a cute mouse". Thinks he sees "Santa Mouse" on a sled pulled by reindeer. Language- stinky, creepy. |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo    | Geronimo Stilton - A Fabumouse School Adventure            | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse comes to his nephews career day and keeps embarrassing himself. When mouse gets a text message from a mouse he secretly has a crush on, he starts daydreaming about her, his "paws were clammy" and his fingers felt "like jelly". She give him "a tiny kiss on his whiskers". Factual section about Egyptian's belief in life after death. Mention of actor with blockbuster movies.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo    | Geronimo Stilton - A Fabumouse Vacation for Geronimo       | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse keeps missing his vacation plans until he finally ends up in a dumpy hotel sharing a room with his teenage (female) employee and her friends. Completely innocent. Mention of liking "the hottest female mouse band". Mouse who likes to cook thinks he should have his own cooking show on TV. A suggested game to play on vacation involves acting out names of television shows.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo    | Geronimo Stilton - All Because of a Cup of Coffee          |       | N    | Mouse falls in and out of love with beautiful countess.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Attack of the Bandit Cats        | 2-4   | OK?? | Mice end up on a pirate ship manned by cats. Female mouse mentions that she went to a hotel "to book a weekend with my new sweetie". Mouse laughs because she "goes through sweetie pies the way a starving rat goes through a plate of nachos." Brief, unimportant mention of santa mouse (claus) and xmas gifts. Many mentions of TV and illustration of TV. Mentions mouse is famous like a "famous rock star or big time movie mouse". Mouse sold a song to a record company and now the song is "on top of the charts." Language- stinking,      |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Cat and Mouse in a Haunted House | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse is stranded in the woods and takes shelter in a haunted house. Brief mentions that this story takes place on Halloween but no religion and no detail other than it is scary and go trick or treating. Brief mention of cinema and TV. Brief bathroom humor. Illustration of little boy mouse and little girl cat holding hands- innocent. Language- nincompoop, wacko.  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Cavemice - Help, I'm in Hot Lava | 2-4   | N?   | Prehistoric mice go on adventure to find a legendary village. Many mentions of prehistory, fossils, millions of years, etc. A lot of tongue in cheek humor readers of this age may miss. Mouse is "head over heels" about a "charming" " female with "lovely grey eyes"- she calls him "my hero" and he blushes then she gives him "a tiny peck on the snout"- his legs turn to "melted cheese". Many cartoonish illustrations of female mice in sleeveless dresses. Brief mention that romantic stories make grandmother cry. Language-wimp, stinky, |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Down and Out Down Under          | 2-4   | OK?? | Several mentions of Geronimo "liking" girl mouse - but not romantic. Picture of mouse swimming with bikini top and shorts - p. 55. Rocks formed 600 million years ago - page 57. Mention of Aborigines living in Australia for 40,000 years - page 63   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Field Trip to Niagra Falls       | 2-4   | OK?? | Passing mention of Niagara falls 12,000 years ago. Story of Indian girl who married god of thunder. Geronimo likes pretty mouse; she finds her lost love and they get married.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Flight of the Red Bandit         | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse goes to Arizona and finds his old friend. Brief mention of cowboy movie. Mouse plays practical jokes- brief text and detailed illustration of the jokes. Brief mention of male mouse going to eat out with a female mouse- illustrations shows them clicking glasses. Language- freaked out.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Following the Trail of Marco Polo   | 2-4   | N?   | Graphic novel. Mice go to Ancient China to prevent pirate cats from stealing the diary of Marco Polo. Pirate cats display bad middos to each other ( as befitting the villains in the story)- including daughter being chutzpadik to father. Female pirate cat "flirts" with Marco Polo so she can steal the diary.Comic style illustration of her holding his arm, giving him kiss on the cheek. Coed water skiing with comic style illustrations. Girl rolls up sleeves for a male mouse who likes her. One word mention of prehistory. In back preview of graphic novel "The Great Ice Age"- mouse plays golf with female he likes- wants to "spend time with her". |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Four Mice Deep in the Jungle        | 2-4   | OK?? | Psychologist advises mouse to overcome his fears, so his friends trick him into joining a boot camp in the jungle, by having the female instructor flirt with him. He blushes and thinks she is "attractive". The flirting is relatively innocuous. Nonromantic negiah. Cartoonish illustration of men's underwear. Brief mention in passing of Halloween being a spooky holiday and Halloween music being creepy. Brief unimportant mention of TV, movies. Language- poop, gross.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Geronimo and the Gold Medal Mystery | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse helps capture a criminal who cheats to win the Olympics. A lot of facts about the Olympics and ancient Greece and Greek gods (no mention of Greek's treatment of Jews). Movies on airplane. A lot of TV reporting. Male mouse kisses female mouse's hand to be a "gentlemouse"- show good manners. Cartoonish, nonprovocative pictures of female athletes in bathing suits,leotards, tank tops, shorts. Mouse wants to propose- calls female "adorable".   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Geronimo Stilton Saves The Olympics | 2-4   | OK?  | Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to the first Olympic games to prevent the pirate cats from changing history. Some historical information about the Olympic games. Cartoonish illustrations of female mouse in tank top. Language- weird (once)  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Get Into Gear Stilton!              | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse and robotic car team up to capture criminal. Mouse has a "major crush" on a girl but can't get the courage to ask her on a date. A different female mouse squeezes his shoulder (cartoonish illustration) and wishes him luck- "her big green eyes made my heart skip a beat". Brief mention of TV, movies.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - I'm Not A Supermouse                | 2-4   | OK?? | Friend takes mouse on dangerous adventures to "toughen him up". Brief mention of tough mouse who secretly likes "romantic poetry". Mention of watching the news on TV. Language- stinky, idiotic, weird. Chapter titles- "Too Darn Cold", "Too Darn Hot".  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - I'm Too Fond of My Fur               | 2-4   | N?   | Geronimo travels to Andes to help scientist save Yeti. Mention Mastodons lived 11,000 years ago, Pleistocene Age, dinosaurs. Mention of watching TV, non-religious mention of Xmas,  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye     | 2-4   | OK?? | Mice try to find treasure on a desert isle. Mention of "Santa Mouse". One sentence mention of mouse flirting with pretty flight attendant (p. 106). Male mouse asks female mouse on a date. Mention of favorite TV show and TV cartoons. Unimportant mention of St. Patricks Day (St. Patrats Day)   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Mouse In Space                       | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse goes to space to destroy a satellite that criminals are using to take over the world. When mouse sees pretty female mouse his fur turns "beet red". He wonders why he gets tongue tied around pretty mice. Large cartoonish illustration of boy and girl mice holding hands while looking out the window at outer space. TV watching. Minor bathroom humor.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - My Name is Stilton, Geronimo Stilton | 2-4   | OK?? | Geronimo gets young trendy assistant, who plans a big New Year's Eve party so they can be on TV and be famous. Co-ed dance to rock music - not described in detail. Mouse changes his style to be more "with it". Pretty sister attracts attentions of guy mouse at party. Boy kisses girl's hand. Mention of Xmas - no religion.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Paws Off, Cheddarface                | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse confronts his double who is trying to ruin his image and steal his newspaper. Brief mention of watching TV and TV news, and going to the movies and movie star (movie mouse)- Mel Gibson (Gibsqueak). Mouse is horrified when his double announces in his name that TV watching is better than reading a book. Unimportant mention of xmas stocking. Mouse is embarrassed that his image is being used to market toilets. Mentions of famous authors and their works which may or may not be appropriate. Language- moron, nincompoop. |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Play It Again, Mozart!               | 2-4   | OK?? | Graphic novel. Mice travel back in time to prevent cat criminals from stealing Mozart's music. Description of the Enlightenment period "people could have life, social equality, and human rights as a result of...rational thought". Language- heck (p 45), In back 2 page "special romantic excerpt" from a graphic novel "The Three Musketeers".  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Red Pizzas for a Blue Count          | 2-4   | N?   | Mice go to rescue a cousin from a vampire bat's castle. Mentions that girl mouse has many "sweethearts", boy mouse flirts with girl mouse and "falls in love" with her. Coed dancing-boy holds girl tightly. Language- dumb, creep.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|--|
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Run For The Hills, Geronimo     | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse goes on a dangerous treasure hunt. Illustration of female mouse in sleeveless dress. Female mouse "playfully tugs" on male mouse's whiskers. Female mouse puts paw around male mouse to convince him to do something. Brief mention that man keeps picture of his girlfriend in his shirt pocket next to his heart. Male mice try to impress female mice by lifting heavy things. Female mouse gives male mouse "a kiss on the snout" and says he is her hero. Language- wimp.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Save the White Whale!           | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse asks the girl he has a crush on to go on vacation with him. He spends the entire time trying to work up the courage to tell her he likes her- he even writes a long poem about it- but he never manages to tell her. This is a much greater focus of the book than the part about saving whales, although there are a lot of facts about whales. It also says that a little girl mouse has a crush on a little boy mouse. Coed swimming- cartoonish pictures. Mouse loses his swim trunks in a big wave, so he makes new ones from seaweed- some fans snap a picture and the next day it is all over the gossip magazine covers- illustration - on same magazine shows male and female holding hands with hearts between them. Details about novel "Moby Dick" and its author. |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Secret Agent                    | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse tries to find missing document and is secretly helped by his friend and his friend's "stunning" sister. Keeps mentioning how nervous he is around "beautiful rodents" and how her perfume is "delicate" and how he wishes he could ask her out (p. 26-28) - nothing comes of it. Sings favorite love song "Beady-eyed Beauty". Mouse is embarrassed to call female rat because she is so "smart and beautiful". He blushes when a female fan asks him to take her to the movies. Bathroom humor. Language- creeped out, stinky.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands | 2-4   | OK   | Mice get shipwrecked on a deserted island and look for pirate treasure. A lot of info on pirates- facts, famous pirates, list of terms, etc. Cousin plays practical jokes.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Singing Sensation               | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse sings on TV show "Mouse Island Idol". Most of story focused on this. Details about making a music CD. Mouse tries on different costumes including rock, reggae, punk, and Elvis Presley. Bathroom humor. One word xmas.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Surf's Up, Geronimo             | 2-4   | OK?? | Inside label of men's bathing suit reads "I'm too sexy for my fur" - p. 68. Muscular mouse has tattoo of attractive female mouse (face only) - p. 79. Cover - drawing of female mouse in bikini top in background  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Coliseum Con                | 2-4   | OK?  | Graphic Novel. Mice go back in history to Ancient Rome to prevent pirate cats from changing history. Facts about Ancient Rome- all very positive including Titus son of Vespasian whose policies "were inspired by the principles of legality, generosity, and mercy."  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid | 2-4   | OK?? | Egyptian gods. Mouse goes to Egypt an visits pyramids. May pages of Egyptian culture and religion explained in great detail. Needs adult guidance. An important storyline is about the mouse's grandfather deciding to enforce ridiculous austerity measures on his newspaper-a lot of grumbling against him, calling him names behind his back- crazy, wacko, etc- finally they chip in to send him on a trip around the world so they will leave them alone. Unimportant mention of xmas and church bells and Halloween. Unimportant mention of horror movies. Ongoing unrefined humor about the stench of camels, and a scientist who spits when he talks. |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Discovery of America        | 2-4   | OK?? | Graphic Novel. Mice ride with Columbus to prevent pirate cats from changing history. Throughout, illustrations of ships with crosses on the sails. As in all books in this series, bad guys display bad middos. Comic style illustrations of mixed dancing. Language- idiot   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Enormouse Pearl Heist       | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse finds a rare clam with a huge pearl inside. Mouse has a "total" crush on a female mouse (who is a TV reporter) but is ashamed to tell her. The sight of her makes his heart go "thump, thump, thump".He is embarrassed when he answers the door and he is only wearing a towel. He dreams of riding a dolphin with her- cartoonish illustration shows them both in bathing suits riding a dolphin.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Fastest Train In The West   | 2-4   | OK   | Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to stop cats from ruining the transcontinental railroad.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The First Mouse on the Moon     | 2-4   | OK?  | Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to stop pirate cats from changing history at the time of the first moon landing. Language- freaked out. In back preview of "Thea Stilton Catching the Giant Wave"- cartoonish pictures of teenage female mice in tight fitting wet suits surfing.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The First Samurai               | 2-4   | OK   | Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to prevent pirate cats from acquiring a piece of land in ancient Japan.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Giant Diamond Robbery    | 2-4   | N?  | Mouse helps uncover cheating at a golf tournament. Female TV reporter comes to watch the game, mouse blushes because he has a crush on her but whenever he is around her he acts like "a bumbling fool" . One sentence mention that when he gets the ball in she kisses him on the cheek. He faints in response. Mouse reaches out to shake a woman's hand to be polite, she slaps him- illustration. Brief mention of cousin who is a "dinosaur expert". Brief mention of a time the mouse sang on stage in his underwear. Language- shut your trap, nincompoop.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Golden Statue Plot       | 2-4   | OK? | Mouse helps prevent cats from stealing a statue. Brief mention of watching movies and TV. Mention of pigeon dropping a "stink bomb" on mouse's head. Call sunglasses "movie star glasses".  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Haunted Castle           | 2-4   | N?  | Mouse goes to stay at his frugal uncle's castle. Single uncle courts single aunt (from the other side) and eventually marries her. Calls her "the rodent of my dreams." Illustration of him proposing to her on his knee, holds her hand. She "kisses his whiskers". A female mouse tries to convince Geronimo that they would make a good couple- He is afraid of her- she forces him to dance with her- kisses him goodbye- humorous, cartoonish illustrations. Bathroom humor. Mention of TV show. Brief summary of Romeo and Juliet.  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Hunt for the Golden Book | 2-4   | N?  | Mouse tries to track down his computer that has the only manuscript of the book he is writing to help his grandfather win over the mouse he has a "crush" on. The entire story revolves around this romance (in a comical way). Mentions of romantic notes, telling her he has always loved her, going on dates, buying her flowers and chocolate, falling madly in love, etc. Text and illustration of mixed dancing. At the end takes her on a romantic cruise and says that maybe he will marry her. Usual mention of mouse liking female mouse- dreams of going on a "romantic canoe ride" with her- text and illustration. Mention of a "gossip newspaper" and TV. Language- stinky, |

Complete Secular Book List

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|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Kingdom of Fantasy #1   | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse goes to fantasy land to free the fairy queen. Many mentions of Greek mythology and retelling of many legends involving gods. A number of legends that involve a boy "falling in love" with a girl- usually resulting in marriage. Mentions of love letters. Comic style illustration of mermaid wearing tight fitting, low cut outfit.Character says "do you want to hear some dirt?" and proceeds to gossip about a king who has a crush on a princess. In sidebar, mention of plant used to prepare love potions. Mouse can only save queen by kissing her- eventually kisses her hand. Mouse worries about what "cute mouse at the drycleaner" will think about his soiled tie. Quite a bit of juvenile bathroom humor eg. smelly fit, snot dripping from the nose, etc.In a sidebar, one sentence mention that "around 3 billion years ago life was born from the sea".One word mention of Halloween and xmas. One sentence mention of Wizard of Oz.One word mention of movies. Language- stinky, puke |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Mona Mousa Code         | 2-4   | OK?? | References to sister mouse's many changing boyfriends. Mention of scary movies, girl mouse strokes love struck boy mouse's ear to get information, unimportant mention of xmas cards..   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Mouse Island Marathon   | 2-4   | OK?  | Nonathletic mouse runs a marathon and helps many people along the way (in very improbably situations). Works out in a coed gym, swims laps in a coed pool (pictures very cartoonish and nonprovacative) Likes meeting pretty female mice.Helps an injured female mouse with "the prettiest blue eyes I had ever seen" Illustration of them walking with arms over each others shoulders. Female mouse gives him a hug for helping her. Language- weird, great grandmother's name is "Stinkyfur", creepy. In back section advice for becoming healthy- don't watch too much TV and avoid scary movies before bedtime.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Mummy With no Name      |       | N    | Mouse helps figure out identity of unlabelled mummy in the museum. Mentions young girl mouse has secret crush on young boy mouse. Adult mouse has crush on woman mouse and acts goofy every time he speaks to her. When they reunite 2 married mummies, she grabs his paw and says "how romantic". A lot of talk of spooky Halloween party - no religion. Lots of detailed information on Egyptian gods.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Mysterious Cheese Thief | 2-4   | OK?? | Villainess girl mouse dressed in skin-tight bodysuit. Geronimo likes her. She pretends to like him so she can capture him. Detailed pictures of getting ready for x-mas party - tree, wreath, no religion  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Mystery In Venice       |       | N    | Mouse goes to Venice to help a young lady who sent a note in a glass sculpture. Entire book very boy/ girl focused. Cover has picture of   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Phantom of the Subway      | 2-4   | OK?  | Mice figure out who is haunting the subway station. Mouse's cousin exhibits very crude behavior and poor middos- worse than usual in this series. No boy/girl in this book. Brief mention of "surfing the net". One word mention of xmas. Brief mention of time travel machine and going to period of dinosaurs. Brief mention of making a movie. Language: pee-pee, doo-doo, wimp, shut your snout (mouth).   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Race Across America        | 2-4   | OK?  | Mouse participates in a grueling bicycle race. 2 page color illustration of female mouse jogging on boardwalk wearing skimpy exercise clothing. List of titles of famous western movies. Language: weird.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Search for Sunken Treasure | 2-4   | OK?? | Mice search for buried treasure and locate shipwrecked uncle. A bit "mushy" when aunt finds uncle, but they are "married" (p. 102-103), Mention that mouse had lots of "sweethearts"   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Secret of Cacklefur Castle | 2-4   | N?   | Creepy girl mouse wants to marry Geronimo - keeps kissing him. Bodily functions.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Secret of the Sphinx       | 2-4   | OK?? | Graphic novel. Mice go back to Ancient Egypt to keep the pirate cats from convincing the Pharaoh to change the face of the sphinx to a cat face. Large amounts of facts about Ancient Egypt, including a lot of information about their religion and belief in gods and their priests. Girl wonders why she has to "put up with" "dummies" like her father. Mouse is asked to write a hymn dedicated to a goddess. He finds it difficult so imagines he is writing it for a girl he likes "you have eyes the color of the sky and a heart filled with love". Many cartoonish illustrations of mice wearing sleeveless dresses. Language- idiot, stupid |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Temple of the Ruby of Fire | 2-4   | OK   | Geronimo saves ruby from villains. One word nonreligious mention of xmas. Language- stinking rich.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Way of the Samurai         | 2-4   | OK?  | Mouse goes to Japan to rescue a secret karate scroll. Unimportant mention of TV. Brief mention that man keeps a photo of his girlfriend in his shirt pocket.   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Weird Book Machine         | 2-4   | OK   | Graphic novel. Mice go to Germany in 1455 to stop the pirate cats from changing history of the first printing press. In back preview of other graphic novels which may or may not be appropriate.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - The Wild, Wild West #21        | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse confronts a bully in the Wild West. Silly violence. One sentence mention of "Santa Mouse". Girl mouse tries on a dress but when she realizes she can't walk or jump, changes to pants. Girl mouse flirts with boy mouse who is "love sick". Mouse falls asleep watching TV - illustration.   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - This Hotel is Haunted!         | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse helps figure out who is disguised as a ghost in order to haunt his friend's hotel. TV watching. Mouse reminisces about mischief he did when he was a young boy. Mouse kisses woman's paw in greeting (to be polite). Mention that grandparents were a "great love story". Double page cartoonish illustration of a coed dance- nothing overtly romantic. Language- creepy, stinky,                              |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Valley of the Giant Skeletons  | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse looks for lost treasure in Mongolia - finds dinosaur bones. A lot of detail and information about dinosaurs presented as fact. Some unrefined bathroom humor. Mouse has a crush and he blushes and stammers whenever he talks to her. A bad-guy-female rodent flirts with mouse to get his secret. Non-romantic negiah. A lot of facts about Mongolian culture and history.                                     |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Watch Your Whiskers, Stilton   | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse tries to save his newspaper from mysterious adversary. Small drawing of painting at mouse art show - 2 mice not wearing tops - girl mouse is facing backwards. Small illustration of female mouse wearing bathing suit. Detailed explanation of where name of Halloween comes from. Mention of TV news, TV gameshow and movie theater. Summary of book "Rattenstein"- parody of "Frankenstein". Bathroom humor. |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - Wedding Crasher                | 2-4   | OK?? | In continuing story of unfortunate mouse, Geronimo goes to wedding of stingy relative with poor nebach girl. Thea dresses the girl mouse in stylish "short skirt" (knee length with slit) and sleeveless top, and styles her hair; boy mice see she is actually not a nebach and both try to get her to go with them. Very juvenile.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton - We'll Always Have Paris        | 2-4   | OK?? | Graphic novel. Mice go back in history to stop cats from ruining the Eiffel Tower. Adult single female mouse invites single male mouse (her boyfriend?) to go shopping with her. Language- stupid. In back, preview of "Thea Stilton Graphic Novel #1"- mice are planning for a school dance, discussion of who will be whose dates.  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton- Spacemice- Ice Planet Adventure | 2-4   | OK?  | Mice take their space ship to a frozen planet to rescue a scientist and encounter aliens who try to capture them. Brief unimportant mention that female mechanic is the "loveliest" rodent on the ship. Brief unimportant mention of laptop computers, xmas lights. Language- weird.  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton- Spacemice- You're Mine Captain  |       | N    | Mice go to an alien planet and the Queen "falls in love" with Geronimo because he is "so cute". Full page cartoonish illustration of her hugging and kissing him (he is protesting)In the end, the Grand Advisor tells her he loves her and wants to marry her, she "tenderly" puts her "trunk" around his shoulders and agrees.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|---|
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton- The Kingdom of Fantasy #2- The Quest for Paradise- The Return to the Kingdom of Fantasy | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse returns to fantasy land to find the "heart of happiness". Confronts many scary/funny creatures. Ogres have names like Hogbreath and Snotbert. Juvenile bathroom humor. Brief mention that mouse was adopted and had a loving home. Language- creepy, stinky, gross  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton- The Kingdom of Fantasy #3- The Amazing Voyage   | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse returns to fantasy land to rescue the queen. Small illustration of scantily clad, cartoonish mermaids. Illustration of men in an office giving women bouquets of flowers and one of the secretaries commenting "ahh love". Giant is looking for his "one true love", his "special someone". King and queen get married- illustration of them holding hands. Chameleon gets engaged and tells about his first date and the movie they saw. Female giant gets a makeover so she can look like a "movie star". Giants get married- illustration of them walking together holding hands (not clear if this is before the wedding or after). Bride and groom "danced a special dance with each other". Mouse gives a flower to a girl he has a crush on "for the longest time"- she gives him "a little kiss on the ear"- illustration. Juvenile bathroom humor. One word mention of Halloween, and "Santa mouse". One of the places he visits is called The Land of Fairy Tales- illustration of map with many places named for famous fairy tale characters. Language- slimy, stinky, creepy |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton- The Kingdom of Fantasy #4- The Dragon Prophecy  | 2-4   | OK?? | Mouse returns to fantasy land to find a stolen dragon egg. Texting on cell phone. TV news. Mouse doodles name of girl he has a crush on- illustration of him doodling with hearts coming out of his head. A lot of juvenile bathroom humor- especially about dragon dung. Mouse accidentally pulls down pants of mouse- cartoonish illustration of him in his underwear. Non romantic negiah. One word Halloween. Language- stinky, dumb, gross, weird, creep me out, stupid  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Geronimo Stilton- The Kingdom of Fantasy #5- The Volcano of Fire  | 2-4   | N?   | Mouse returns to fantasy land to stop destructive earthquakes. Man and woman fall into fountain of love and fall in love. Mouse wonders if they fell in love only because of the fountain. He is answered that "every true love is already written in the stars. Sometimes all you need is a little encouragement so the love can blossom" He takes her hand to help her across a narrow bridge. Illustration of him taking her hand and proposing to her. Brief mention of reality TV show. Language- creepy, stinky, gross,   |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|---|
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Blue Scarab              | 2-4   | OK?? | NOTE ON SERIES- There seem to be two types- the novels and the graphic novels. In both, high school aged female mice have adventures. They are very fashionably dressed (and not very snius, though all illustrations are cartoons) and there are usually good looking male mice involved. In the novels, there are hints both in print and in illustrations to certain of them forming "special friendships" with others which might have a romantic undertone, but it is not stated explicitly. In the graphic novels the plots are more juvenile but the romance is more explicit. In the novels, one of the girls often consults her "mousepad" (ipad) or computer to get information. The graphic novels seem more overall teen culture. In this book mice go to Egypt to help archeologist find a legendary treasure. A lot of information about ancient Egypt including culture and religion- gods, temples, burial practices, religious ceremonies, etc.. Brief mention of prehistoric times. Use internet to find information. |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure | 2-4   | OK?  | See note on series. Teenage mice help catch thief of an ancient Japanese puppet. A lot of info on Japanese culture. Teenager does research on her phone.  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Chocolate Sabotage       | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Teenage mice help capture mouse who is sabotaging a chocolate factory. computers, email, "Snoutbook" (facebook). A lot of info on Ecuador and its culture. Mention of church as geographic location. Mild romance. Mouse think a suspicious envelope is a love letter. At the end male and female hug- text and illustration. Cartoonish illustrations of mice wearing very skimpy evening gowns. Illustration of female holding onto male's arm at coed party and other males and females in deep conversation.  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Dragon's Code            | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Teenage mice help find a missing student. Female mouse comments that male mice often find her pretty. Male mouse kisses her paw. Male mouse is "head over heels in love" with female mouse he hardly knows. Amusing attempts to get her attention. She isn't interested. Female mouse kisses male mouse on the cheek- text and illustration- he turns red.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Great Tulip Heist        | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Teenage mice go to Holland to help locate a missing botanist. Illustration of boy mouse warmly shaking hand of girl mouse. Illustration of boy and girl mouse walking arm in arm, and another of them holding hands. Detailed review of book "The Black Tulip" by Dumas. Flower parade has a fairy tale theme. Language- stupid, heck.  |

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| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|---|
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Ice Treasure              |       | N    | See note on series. Teenage mice go to Alaska and capture poachers who are blowing up icebergs to make bottled water. Ongoing storyline about girls having a "crush" on a "cute" boy and being jealous of each other when they get to spend time with him- especially when one of them rides behind him on a snowmobile holding his waist. Thinking about him makes girl's "heart race". Large illustration and text of him walking "paw in paw" with a female mouse. large illustration of non romantic coed dance. TV, rock group, one word xmas, "santa mouse", email, internet, movies. Language- heck (once)   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Journey To The Lion's Den | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Teenage mice journey to Africa and help rescue a baby lion and capture a poacher. Illustration of boy and girl mouse dancing, a few other questionable illustrations. Boy and girl mouse keep in touch via email. Brief mention of movie stars. Language- weird.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Mountain of Fire          | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Girl mice journey through the Australian outback to ask elders for help curing sick sheep. Comic book style illustrations of stylish girl mice in tank tops and cutoffs and later in a mini-skirt - wins "best dressed" prize. Cartoonish picture of mouse holding fiance's arm. Caption on a map says people came to Australia 50,000 years ago (p. 16). Aborigine beliefs in totems and spirits of ancestors. Description of a tree that is 2 million years old from the time of the dinosaurs (p. 62). They go to a dance but the illustration is tame. Minor language: shut your mouth, what the heck. Boy mouse sends girl a rose; her friends tease her that she is a heartbreaker. |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Mystery in Paris          | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Teenage mice visit Paris and help a fashion design student recover her designs in time for a fashion show. In sidebar about facts about Paris, mentions that a neighborhood was named for a Christian martyr. Mention can see dome of a church over the roofs of the houses (not identified as church, but rather by french name) with 2 page illustration featuring the church (with a cross on top) Discussions of fashion culture and opera- Sidebars give factual info on both. Non romantic negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Mystery On The Orient Express | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Girl mice try to track down a criminal on the Orient Express. Many color illustrations of teenage and adult mice dressed unsniously. Information on fashion in the roaring twenties- knee length dresses "considered short at the time" etc.. Everyone very excited to be traveling with celebrities including a pop star, a famous ballerina, and a famous sports star. Gossip if 2 celebrities are "in love" and if they are just friends or if "their feelings run deeper" and they are "so romantic". Illustration of man with arm over woman's shoulder. Illustrations and description of coed dance. One word mention of xmas. Brief mention of movie. |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Prince's Emerald              | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Teenage mice figure out who is training mice to steal jewels in India. A lot of info on Indian culture and religion including cartoonish pictures of scantily clad dancers. Male mouse has a crush on teenager- says she has a "bewitching laugh". She "blushes under his intense gaze". Friends comment he was "bitten by the lovebug". At the end illustration of them holding hands, and then riding on an elephant gazing into each others eyes. Illustration of male and female teenagers high fiving. Cell phones, internet, TV  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Secret City                   | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Teenage mice search for missing archeologist and help discover an ancient treasure. A lot of Incan culture and religion- factual- and illustrations of the statues they worshipped. Xmas, santa mouse  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Secret of the Old Castle      | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Teenage mice help their friend save her families ancient Scottish castle from dueling relatives. It is implied that boy and girl mice "like" each other and may eventually marry. He takes her paw in his hand. He is "cute". When she talks about him she blushes. His eyes "light up" when he talks about her. Text and illustrations of coed dances. A few mentions of TV. Text messages on cell phones. Language- shut your trap   |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Spanish Dance Mission         | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Girls go to Spain for a dance festival. A lot of coed dancing- text and illustrations. Many illustrations of sleeveless gowns and other non snius clothing. Girl uses her mousepad (ipad) to get information.  |
|                  | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton and the Star Castaways                | 2-4   | OK?  | See note on series. Teenage mice go to a secret luxury hotel on the moon and capture the saboteur. TV news and TV personalities. Clothing not as bad as others in this series because they are mostly wearing spacesuits (though when they are not, the outfits are scanty as is usual in this series. One cartoonish illustration of a scantily clad statue. Brief mention that some journalists work on the internet. Language- stinky.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------|--|-------|------|---|
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton- Big Trouble in the Big Apple | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Teenage mice travel to New York City so to cheer on their friend running in the marathon and end up helping capture person who is threatening to burn down their friend's family pizza store. Mentions of watching marathon on TV. Many illustrations of mice female mice running in scanty outfits. Captain of ship slows down so he can catch the attention of female mice bathing on a cruise ship. A lot of Halloween- costumes, parade, dancing in the street, etc. No religion. When mouse wins marathon, coed crowd boys pick her up in the air in celebration- text and illustration. Language- brats |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton- Revenge of the Lizard Club   |       | N    | Graphic novel. Teenage mice compete to become president of their clubs and end up saving seals from an oil spill. Girl and her mother display usual bad middos. Lots of boy/girl. Girl saves boy who has a crush on her from drowning and perfoms mouth to mouth resuscitation- he is thrilled.   |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton- The Journey to Atlantis      | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Teenage mice help a mysterious boy from the mythical island of Atlantis. Brief mention of movies. Girl holds boy's arm- text and illustration. Boy links arm with girl- text and illustration. Semi romantic illustration of boy giving girl a medallion. Finds info on her "mouse phone" (smart phone)- internet, email.   |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton- The Secret of the Fairies    | 2-4   | OK?? | See note on series. Teenage mice visit mythical land in Ireland and help save it from destruction. Non romantic negiah- text and illustration. Female mice are dressed more modestly in this book than in others in this series. However, some of the fairies are not.  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton- The Secret of the Snow       | 2-4   | N?   | See note on series. Teenage mice visit a mythical Japanese world and help save the Lotus flower. Book begins with mice decorating for xmas at their academy- a lot of words describing xmas like beautiful and enchanting and illustrations as well, but no religion. A "romantic" story is told of a wizard who wants to marry a nymph against her father's wishes. Illustration of him taking her hand. They have a "tender hug" (text only). He "grasps her hand" and pledges his eternal love to her (text only)  |
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton- The Secret of Whale Island   |       | N    | Graphic novel. Teenage mice help foil the plans of a women who is capturing sea animals for her personal aquarium. A lot of discussion of dates for the dance. Girl is in love with fisherman. Illustration of her hugging him. Many pages of coed dance including many illustrations. Language- weird. darn (once)   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
| new              | Stilton, Geronimo | Thea Stilton- The Treasure of the Viking Ship | 2-4   | N?   | Graphic novel. Teenage mice help raise money to salvage a Viking ship. Mean girl and her mother display bad middos. Viking legend about a Viking king that is so happy his bride arrived safely he takes her hands (illustration) and tells her she is his real treasure. Girls try to get boys attention. Xmas is not mentioned but illustrations of them decorating the winter fair with xmas looking decorations. Illustration of coed dance (no text) Language- drat.  |
|                  | Stine, R. L.      | Goosebumps - A Night in Terror Tower          | 3-5   | OK?  | NOTE ON SERIES: Scary, often gory stories with little or no redeeming value. Books often have previews of other books in series, which may or may not be appropriate. In this book, children go to visit an old prison and are told they will soon be executed. Minor middos between siblings. Old tortures described in detail. Language: wimp, weird.  |
|                  | Stine, R. L.      | Goosebumps - Attack of the Mutant             | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy who is obsessed with superhero comic books, fights a comic book supervillain. A lot of comic book culture. Minor middos between siblings. Father tells boy to do homework; he gets in trouble for sneaking comic books instead. Boy thinks girl is "cute looking". Non-romantic negiah. 2 word mention of Easter bunny. Frequent minor language: weird, dumb, geeky, stink, jerk, wimp. Preview of Bad Hare Day - language: weird, moron   |
|                  | Stine, R. L.      | Goosebumps - Beware, the Snowman              | 3-5   | OK?  | A girl moves to an Arctic town where residents are frightened of a living snowman. She reunites with her missing father and saves the town. Mention of church and pastor - no religion. Language - weird, creep, freaked, stupid. Preview of book "My Hairiest Adventure" - language: dumb, weird, stupid, jerk  |
|                  | Stine, R. L.      | Goosebumps - Chicken, Chicken                 | 3-5   | OK?? | Two children accidentally upset a strange woman whom all the town's children regularly play tricks on. She curses them and they turn into chickens. Frequent minor language: weird, jerk, creep, stupid, dumb, freak. Some bad middos between siblings, boy plays tricks on people and tries to be funny. Co-ed birthday party - girls and a few boys dance - most of the boys stand around making jokes about the dancing. Boys and girls sing in a choir together. Preview of "Master Blood III" - mother calls son weird - boy wonders why younger cousin doesn't like to play video games or watch TV like normal children. A bully displays bad middos. Language: gross, shut up, nerd, creep, jerk |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title                                      | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Deep Trouble                  | 3-5   | OK?? | Children spend the summer on their uncle's floating lab, discover a mermaid, and get mixed up with criminals who try to kill them. Bad middos between siblings - constantly trick and insult each other. Language: jerk, stupid, gross, shut up, creep. Non-religious Xmas. Boy wants to be famous on TV or have his book turned into a movie. Mermaid holds boy's hand to heal a burn. |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Deep Trouble II               | 3-5   | OK?  | A mad scientist tries to kill the children and their uncle. Siblings try to trick each other, but not as constant as in first book. Minor language: stupid, moron, weird, big fat liar, idiot, gross you out. Preview of "Return of the Mummy" - boy wonders if uncle has a crush on pretty news reporter. Language: weird, stupid.   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Ghost Beach                   | 3-5   | OK?? | Children get involved with ghosts. Girl thinks little boy has a crush on her. Language: dork, weird, gross, stupid, creep, freaked out, creepy, wimp, dumb. Minor middos between siblings and friends. Preview of "Ghost Camp": boy and girl have a playful shoving match. Camp director yells at boy and girl not to sneak off into woods - boy blushes. Language: weird, gross, jerk. |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - How I Learned to Fly          | 3-5   | N?   | Boy is in constant competition with another boy in trying to get a girl's attention. Although nothing romantic really happens, he describes how "cute" she is in great detail and how much he enjoys spending time with her and impressing her. Language : idiot, weird, stupid   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - It Came from Beneath the Sink | 3-5   | OK?? | Children find a mythical creature that brings bad luck. Minor middos between siblings and friends. Older kids tease younger one, 1 word Halloween, unimportant mention of comic books and video games. Language: weird, wimp, stupid, dumb, brats, darn, freak out, gross, jerk, shut up.   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Monster Blood                 | 3-5   | OK?? | 12 year old boy thinks a can of "monster blood" is a toy, but it turns out to be deadly. Great aunt asks boy's mom if he likes girls and has a girlfriend - he is embarrassed. Non-romantic negiah. Bullies with very bad middos. Boy calls his deaf aunt "a crazy old coot". Frequent minor language: weird, what the heck, creep, dumb, gross, stupid (very frequent).                |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - My Best Friend is Invisible   | 3-5   | OK?  | An invisible boy tries to defend the main character but ends up causing a lot of trouble. Male and female best friends (not romantic). Many more middos issues - kids making fun of each other and playing juvenile tricks. Language: weird, stupid, dumb, freak, idiot, geek. Preview of book "Calling All Creeps" - kids are mean to each other.                                      |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - My Hairiest Adventure       | 3-5   | OK?? | Boy starts growing animal hair on his body. 12 year old children form a rock band called "The Geeks" - minor rock band culture. Middos between kids - make fun of each other, insult each other frequently. Boy has "good hair" and wears it long. Language: creep, jerk, wimp, weird, stupid, dumb, gross them out, wacko, freak, loser.   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Night of the Living Dummy   | 3-5   | OK?? | Girl enjoys practicing with her ventriloquist dummy until he starts making trouble. A lot of bad middos between siblings described in detail . Brief mentions of reggae and Beatles music, video games, going to movies. One word Xmas. Juvenile bathroom humor. language: dumb, goof, gross, brat, creep, weird, sicko, wackjob, shut up.  |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Return of the Mummy         | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy and his female cousin rescue his scientist uncle from a tomb. Uncle flirts with female reporter and boy wonders if he "has a crush on her" or "likes her". She "takes his arm". Boy notices she is so good looking he wonders if she is a movie star. She turns out to be an ancient Egyptian who attacks the uncle. Language: dumb, dork, gross, freaked. Some Egyptian religion and beliefs. One word mention of Xmas. Mention of old movies about mummies. Kids try to scare each other. |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - The Beast from the East     | 3-5   | OK?  | Kids go camping and get lost and are forced to play a deadly game of hide and go seek. Boy addicted to Gameboy. Minor middos between siblings. Language: freak, creep, weird, jerk, dumb, stupid.   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - The Blob that Ate Everyone  | 3-5   | OK?  | Boy who likes writing scary stories, gets a typewriter that makes stories written on it come true.. Unimportant mention of movies. Middos issues - children play mean tricks to scare a boy. Non-romantic negiah. Language: weird, dumb, stupid, jerk, gross. Preview of "Night of the Living Dummy" - girl says her sister wants to go to the park to see if a certain boy is there - she blushes. Girls hope "great looking" boys will move in next door.                                       |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - The Curse of Camp Cold Lake | 3-5   | N?   | Girl in camp is haunted by a ghost that wants her to die. Kids play such mean jokes on the girl that she wants to run away from camp and she stages her own drowning to get sympathy. Boys "wolf whistle" at pretty swimming instructor.  |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - The Girl Who Cried Murder   | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl tries to prove that the librarian is a monster. Constantly trying to scare her younger brother and her male friend with monster stories. Her parents force her to join a reading program - she pretends to read so she can get a prize. Mention of books: Huckleberry Finn, Frankenstein, White Fang. Mentions watching TV. One word Xmas. Language: dumb, weird, stupid, jerk, shut up.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - The Haunted School              | 3-5   | OK?? | 2 boys get lost in school and end up trapped in an alternate world where no color exists. A lot of pre-adolescent school culture - kids are on the decoration committee for the school dance, kids from a rock band to play at the dance, etc. (dance not described). Boy's father gets remarried and boy has difficulty adjusting to new mom. Sixth grade girl wears makeup and boy wonders why since she looks "pretty awesome" without it. Non-romantic negiah. Minor middos between kids. A group of kids go crazy in the alternate world and form a mean gang and try to push boys into a pit filled with black slime. Language: puke, weird, berserk, stupid, moron. Preview of "Don't Go To Sleep" - boy chutzpadik to woman who claims to be his mother. Language: weird, stupid |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - The Scarecrow Walks at Midnight | 3-5   | OK?  | Children visit their grandparents' farm and encounter scarecrows brought to life by a farm hand. Frequent minor language: weird, gross, dump, stupid, wimp, creep, moron. Older boys play tricks in children. Boy complains grandparents don't have cable TV and MTV. Mom says Dad is handsome like a movie star   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - The Werewolf of Fever Swamp     | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy moves near a swamp so his scientist father can study deer. 16 year old sister anxiously waits for mail from her boyfriend. Brother calls it a "love letter". Minor middos between siblings. One word Xmas. Mentions watching TV. Mention Easter bunny - no religion. Mention of girl going to town to see a movie. Frequent language: freaked, weird, creep, dork, stupid, gross, goon, weirdo, shut up, jerk, dumb.   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Vampire Breath                  | 3-5   | OK?? | Children are spirited to a vampire's mansion. 12 year old boy and girl are best friends - love to playfully wrestle and hurt each other hard for fun - described in violent detail. Language: wimp, shut up, weird, jerk, stupid, stinks, gross, creepy. One word mention of Xmas. Preview of "Attack of the Jack-o-Lanterns" - children plan a Halloween party to save other children who want to take revenge on them.   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Welcome to Camp Nightmare       | 3-5   | OK?? | Boy goes to a camp where children get hurt and disappear and counselors don't care. Juvenile minor boy/girl. Middos between kids - insult each other, food fights, boys replace words in camp song with "gross words" (not specified), non-romantic negiah. Preview of "Night of the Living Dummy" - language: jerk, stupid, moron   |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Welcome to Dead House           | 3-5   | OK?  | Kids move into a home where ghosts try to kill them. Most of the action takes place in a cemetery. Mentions TV, Minor middos between siblings. Language: gross, weird, freaked, shut him up, stupid, crummy, sicko, freak out, creepy, stinky.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author       | Title                               | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - Why I'm Afraid of Bees | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy who is unhappy in his life tries to switch bodies with another boy but accidentally switches with a bee instead. Bad middos between siblings and between classmates; Also bullying. Language - dumb, brat, creep, weird, stupid, gross, jerk. Preview of book "Monster Blood" - 12 year old boy is left with his deaf great aunt - she asks if he has a girlfriend because his father "liked the girls".                              |
|                  | Stine, R. L. | Goosebumps - You Can't Scare Me     | 3-5   | N?   | Kids think of mean ways to scare a fearless girl - exhibit terrible middos against her and moderately bad middos amongst themselves. Non-romantic negiah. Frequent minor language: jerk, stupid, freak, dumb, gross, punk, weird.   |
|                  | Stine, R.L.  | Goosebumps - Calling All Creeps     | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy who is treated terribly in school tries to take revenge by playing a practical joke on the editor of the school newspaper which backfires. Really terrible middos displayed throughout the book. Many mentions of parents being addicted to the weather channel on TV. Language-nerd, dumb, creep, weird, stupid, wimp. Preview of "My Best Friend Is Invisible"-description of a movie, gross, weird, freak.                         |
|                  | Stine, R.L.  | Goosebumps - Don't Go To Sleep      | 3-5   | OK?? | A boy who doesn't get along with his older siblings (whose really terrible middos are detailed) comes to realize that he prefers them to other options. Mention of Star Trek and other science fiction, book Anna Karenina, a lot of watching TV. Brief non religious xmas and Santa Claus. Frequent language-geek, nutcase, stinks, stupid, weirdo, creep, jerk, wacko, moron. Preview of "The Haunted School"- language- weird, stupid.   |
|                  | Stine, R.L.  | Goosebumps - How To Kill A Monster  | 3-5   | OK?? | Children's grandparents leave them trapped in a house with a swamp monster. Mention that step sibling's parents got divorced and remarried each other. Middos between siblings. Refer to step grandparents as "smelly strange hermits". Can't wait to tell parents how "stupid they are" to "dump" them in the house. Language-jerk, weird, gross, freaked, creepy, stupid, dumb. Preview of "Deep Trouble"-jerk, nonreligious Santa Claus. |
|                  | Stine, R.L.  | Goosebumps - One Day At Horror Land | 3-5   | OK?  | Family is stranded at a very scary amusement park. Middos between siblings. When parents argue, daughter say "break it up you two" and other chutzpah. Mention of horror movies and TV show. Language- stupid, berserk, creepy, dumb, gross, weird, goof, stinks, freaked   |
|                  | Stine, R.L.  | Goosebumps - The Haunted Mask       |       | N    | A girl who is often picked on gets a scary mask for Halloween and enjoys getting revenge by scaring those who pick on her. A lot of detailed bad middos. A lot of Halloween. Language-stupid, jerks, creepy, idiot, darn, shut up, gross.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title                                    | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Stine, R.L.            | Goosebumps - The Headless Ghost          |       | N    | Children who enjoy scaring people visit a haunted house and encounter real ghosts. A lot of Halloween- no religion but a lot of trick or treating, dressing up, and scaring people. Constant terrible middos throughout the book. Language-creeps, weird, dumb. Preview of "Monster Blood III"-nerd, dumb, stupid.  |
|                  | Stine, R.L.            | Goosebumps-Ghost Camp                    | 3-5   | OK?? | Children go to a sleep away camp with ghosts who want to take over their bodies. A lot of kids scaring other kids for fun. Girl pulls boy into the woods to ask him for help- the camp head sees it and jokes "no sneaking off into the woods" –implies more but not spelled out Boy blushes. Mixed swimming. Language-weird, stupid, jerk, gross, dumb, creep you out, puke. |
|                  | Stolz, Mary            | The Noonday Friends                      |       | N    | great book, but 1 page of explicit boy/girl descriptions  |
|                  | Stone, Jeff            | The Five Ancestors book 4: Crane         | 5-7   | OK?  | A girl, her friends, and her family fight their enemies in China. Page by page detailed violence and martial arts. Lots of non-romantic negiah. Hard to tell who is really related because everyone calls each other brother and sister. Many references to Chinese religion but not detailed.  |
|                  | Stowe, Harriet Beecher | Old Town Folks                           |       | N    | Orphaned children make life for themselves in Puritan New England. Huge amounts of Puritan, Christian and Catholic theology. Story line of man who tries to pay off his mistress because he couldn't present her in respectable society.  |
|                  | Stowe, Harriet Beecher | The Minister's Wooing                    |       | N    | This novel is mostly a Christian treatise with a story line thrown in. Old fashioned romance. Girl thinks cousin she loves drowned, so she gets engaged to a Puritan minister, then her love returns. Long religious discussions on every page.   |
|                  | Stowe, Harriet Beecher | Uncle Tom's Cabin                        |       | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Strang, Celia          | Foster Mary                              |       | N    | A compassionate couple adopt abandoned and abused children. Descriptions of neglect, allusions to abuse. Minor romantic negiah. X-mas themes of compassion and brotherly love.  |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Abe Lincoln for Class President          |       | N    |   |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Against the Odds - Grizzly Attack        | 4-6   | OK   | Boy visits uncle in Alaska and helps fight off bear.  |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Give a Boy a Gun                         |       | N    | Pro gun control. Heavy and serious. Boys hold classmates hostage. Suicide, drugs, drinking, violence.   |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped In a Movie Star's Body |       | N    | language, boy/girl  |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped in a Vampire's Body    | 3-5   | N?   | References to pretty girl - all boys have crush on her, wonder who wouldn't want to be with her in the dark haunted house...  |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped In an Alien's Body     |       | N    | language, TV culture (even though subtle message is that TV is bad)   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped in my Gym Teacher's body        |       | N    |   |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped in Obedience School             |       | N    |   |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped in Obedience School Again       |       | N    | Boy trades bodies with a dog to help friend get girl's attention. Boy/girl. Vivid description of teenage dress - shaved head, lots of earrings, etc.  |
| new              | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped in the First Day of School      |       | N    | Boy keeps re-experiencing first day of school in different ways - bullies younger student, flirts with a new girl, cheats on a bet he knows he will win, etc. Eventually helps someone and behaves more appropriately. Lots of slang and street language. Lots of boy/ girl. Lots of middos issues. Language.             |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm trapped in the First Day of Summer Camp | 3-5   | N?   | Boy keeps re-experiencing first day of camp in different ways - is mean to "nerdy" kid, nice to him, distant from him etc. Lots of slang and street language. Mention of counselor sneaking off to see girls. Lots of mean practical jokes.   |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Help! I'm Trapped in the President's body         |       | N    | Boy accidentally switches places with the president. A lot of very juvenile unrefined behavior and language and middos. Most adults portrayed as inept.   |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Kidnap Kids                                       | 4-6   | OK?  | Parents too preoccupied with work, so kids "kidnap" them to get attention. Won't let them go when they beg. At end parents are grateful.  |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | The Complete Computer Popularity Program          |       | N    | A boy uses computer voice synthesizer to help computer-geek friend become popular. Boy/girl, dances, negiah   |
|                  | Strasser, Todd         | Thief of Dreams                                   | 5-7   | N?   | Rich boy comes to grips with fact that uncle he loves is a jewel thief. Lots of X-mas talk, no religion. Minor language - freak. Call psychologist "world's most beautiful babe". Mild romance between adults - hand-holding. Book subtly gives message that stealing is bad but not so terrible if you're a good person. |
|                  | Strauss, Linda Leopold | A Fairy Called Hilary                             | 2-4   | OK?? | A fairy who looks like a regular girl comes to stay with a family. One word mention of dinosaurs in a museum. Full chapter about trick or treating on Halloween- no religion (chapter 4). Brief unimportant mention of Peter Pan characters. Mild middos between children. Language- weirdos, dumb.                       |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                     | Title                  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Streatfield, Noel          | Ballet Shoes           | 5-7   | OK?? | 3 orphans attend performing arts school so they can get jobs to help support their adopted family. Lots of ballet/stage cultural references. Quite a few Christian references - mostly not explained - e.g. name children after "holy apostles", lots of references to specific hymns that are named but not written out in full, quite a few mentions of x-mas - descriptions slightly religious but mostly trees, presents, and hymns. Lots of talk of making a "vow" that they will be famous one day and how once you make a vow you can't break it. Girl comically imitates a dancer with a "big behind".  |
|                  | Streatfield, Noel          | Dancing Shoes          | 5-7   | OK?? | A girl and her adopted sister go to live with her aunt when her mother dies, and deals with her disgust at being groomed to be part of her aunt's dancing troupe. She tries to discourage her enthusiastic adopted sister, as well, thinking that this is what her dead mother would have wanted. In the end comes to grips with letting her sister live her own life. Lots of theater and dance culture. Religion - mentioned in passing- christening a baby and having a Christian name, Easter, going to church, Good Friday, picking flowers to decorate church, Palm Sunday, Palm crosses, Easter eggs, xmas presents and plays, but no religious explanation for any of it. Minor language: shut up. Excitement about TV shows, excitement about being hired to act in a movie. |
|                  | Streatfield, Noel          | Newshoes               | 5-7   | N?   | (Boring) adventures of Christian Vicar's family who try to help community get a sense of unity. Lots of Christian references but not explained; intended for knowledgeable Christian audience; may go over heads of frum kids.  |
|                  | Streatfield, Noel          | When the Sirens Wailed | 6-8   | OK   | Historical fiction - England WWII (Not Jewish). 2 poor London children evacuated to country and learn to adjust to life there.  |
|                  | Strommen, Judith<br>Bernie | Grady the Great        | 3-5   | OK   | Boy misses best friend who moved away. Learns to accept new situation instead of running away. Minor rough language   |
|                  | Stroud, Jonathan           | Heroes of the Valley   | 7-8   | N?   | A boy and girl who are skeptical of the magical legends of their land, end up saving the boy's home from invaders. Lots of language: damn, brat, bum, bloody hell. Minor mention of woman's anatomy. Lots and lots of violence, described in gory detail. Bad middos between siblings and between competing families. Implications of romantic negiah, not spelled out (p. 49). A lot of negiah between friends - may be romantic but not spelled out. Boy's mother asks if he likes his friend the girl: "Do you want to lie with her?" (p. 311 can be crossed out). Ghosts and magic.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title                                | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Stuart Gibbs            | Belly Up                             | 5-8   | N?  | Boy solves mystery of murdered hippo in zoo. Lots of minor language: ass, crap, heck, jerk, poop, screw, etc. Some language: damn, hell. J--C-- used as exclamation once. Friendship with pretty rich girl, very mild references to boy/girl issues. One hand-holding at end. They take off shorts to swim (leaving on underwear) - he is embarrassed, she is not. Mention of dinosaurs. Describe "misfits" who dress up as zoo mascots: one reeks of marijuana, one "contorted wildly inside his costume so he could scratch his private parts." At funeral for famous hippo, "group of orthodox Jews saying kaddish". |
|                  | Stuchner, Joan<br>Betty | Honey Cake                           |       | N   | Jewish and non-Jewish families are friends in Copenhagen under the Nazis. Share everything including participating in each others' holidays.  |
|                  | Suhl, Yuri              | Uncle Misha's Partisans              |       | N   | Jewish boy joins partisans and blows up Nazi building. Beautifully written but graphic violence and romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Sullivan, George        | Lewis and Clark - In their own words | 3-5   | OK  | biography   |
|                  | Sullivan, Nick          | The Seventh Princess                 | 4-6   | OK  | Girl "dreams" of being heroine princess   |
|                  | Sutcliff, Rosemary      | Warrior Scarlet                      | 7-10  | OK? | Boy in primitive tribe in early Europe, comes to manhood, despite being crippled in one arm. Visiting man left a dying woman who gave birth to a baby girl; later he returns and refuses to take the girl. He says he traded a different woman for a valuable knife. Some tribal 'religion', including ceremony in which boy, in a trance, "sees" the Sun deity.  |
| new              | Sutherland, T.T.        | Pet Trouble- Mud- Puddle Poodle      | 4-6   | N?  | Girl copes with disappointment when her new pet turns out to be different than what she imagined. A lot of boy/ girl- especially 17 year old and his girlfriend who is very "cool"and has a nose piercing, flirting, crushes, middos between siblings, internet, TV, Language- shut up, weird, butt, dumb, stupid, dimwit, gross, heck, idiot, dork .On inside back cover photo of author wearing a tank top.   |
| new              | Sutherland, T.T.        | Pet Trouble- Oh No, Newf!            |       | N   | Girl finds a huge dog and tries to hide him from her parents.The boy next door is her "secret friend" who is a bully in school- exhibits terrible middos.Bully's parents fight frequently and divorced twice (described in detail) Lots of sixth grade boy/girl, thinking boy is "cute", having a crush, dating, etc. TV, titles of books and authors that may or may not be appropriate, movies, dvds, Frequent language- weird, stupid, shut up, jerk, gross, idiot, pain in the butt, dummy,freaking out.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--|-------|------|---|
| new              | Sutherland, Tui T. | Wings of Fire- The Brightest Night- Book Five  | 5-7   | OK?? | The saga continues as dragons end the war. As in the other books in this series a lot of violence. More focus on boy/dragon- girl/dragon romance than other books in this series, but still rather mild. Dragon decides if she loves a male dragon she was raised with in a romantic way or as a brother. "Married" dragons sleep curled up together. Discussion of if its Ok for dragons from different tribes to have eggs together. Minor flirting. Language- weird, stupid, idiot/ idiotic, creepy, freaky, shut up, blasted.   |
| new              | Sutherland, Tui T. | Wings of Fire- The Dark Secret- Book Four      | 5-7   | OK?? | The saga continues as dragons try to rescue dragons from captivity where they are being used for cruel experiments. A lot of focus on male dragon's feelings for female dragon and finally bringing himself to tell her that he loves her.Nothing further happens other than his thinking about her a lot. Affectionate negiah. Language- idiot, stupid, creepy,drat, shut up, weird  |
| new              | Sutherland, Tui T. | Wings of Fire- The Dragonet Prophecy- Book One | 5-7   | OK?? | Dragons are told that they are destined to fulfill a prophecy that they will stop the wars between dragons escape their captors and end up in the palace of an evil dragon queen. A lot of violence and death and cruelty between dragons.A few mentions of female dragon liking male dragon and being his "girlfriend" but male dragon is clueless. Affectionate negiah. Young dragon is hoping to find his father, but his mother explains that their type of dragon has "breeding night" once a month, so she doesn't know who his father is.No further description. Language- stupid, weird, dumb, idiot, shut up, dumb, heck (once). |
| new              | Sutherland, Tui T. | Wings of Fire- The Hidden Kingdom- Book Three  | 5-7   | OK?? | The saga continues as dragons visit a rainforest dragon kingdom and try to rescue kidnapped dragons who are being used for cruel experiments. As in other books in this series a lot of violence. Boy dragon/ girl dragon semi romantic negiah.Minor flirting. A lot of talk about who dragons' parents are and fathering dragon eggs etc. but no details. Language- creepy, weird, shut up, stupid, idiots/ idiotic, freaking/freaky, gross,   |
| new              | Sutherland, Tui T. | Wings of Fire- The Lost Heir- Book Two         | 5-7   | OK?? | The saga continues as dragons visit an underwater dragon kingdom and help save a royal dragon egg.Suggestions of female dragon liking male dragon and thinking he is handsome and would like to spend more time with him some day. Mention that female dragon briefly had crushes on male dragons. Violence between dragons. Dragon grieves when she finds out she unknowingly killed her own father. Language- weird, stupid, shut up, idiot, brats, gross   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                                 | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--|--|-------|------|--|
| new              | Sutherland, Tui T. and Kari Sutherland | The Menagerie  |       | N    | New boy in town helps find escaped mythical creatures. A lot of discussion of boy's mother abandoning the family (though at the end it seems that something might have happened to her) as well as another's parents' divorce. Junior high boy/girl, crushes, girlfriend, flirting, who "likes" whom, boy is "cute", asking to the prom, etc. Girl constantly speaks in a chutzpadik way to parents ("Dad You're being boring," "Daaad, wouldn't it be easier to shoot me instead of embarrassing me to death" etc.) and is never reprimanded Texting, googling, movies, TV, ipod. Book titles that may or may not be appropriate. Brief Halloween. Language-weird, heck, stupid, jerk, idiot, gross, it sucks, shut up, creep, freak out. |
|                  | Sutton, Jane                           | Confessions of an Orange Octopus                                   | 3-5   | N?   | Boy disobeys parents and juggles in public; eventually saves the day with his juggling. Minor language, scene at museum where boys examine undressed Indian woman statue.  |
|                  | Sweet, J. H.                           | The Fairy Chronicles - Firefly and the Quest of the Black Squirrel | 3-5   | OK?  | Fairies help squirrels find a cure for a fatal curse. Brief mention of a Native American fairy having a "spirit guide". Many mentions of mother nature being in charge. One sentence mention of a fairy who blushes when the name of a male brownie she likes, is mentioned (p. 63).   |
|                  | Sweet, J. H.                           | The Fairy Chronicles - Periwinkle and the Cave of Courage          | 3-5   | OK?? | A team of magical creatures works together to recharge a cave that gives humans courage. Same issues with mother nature as other books in series. Non-religious mention of Xmas. Brief description of fairy blushing when a male brownie she likes, puts his arm around her waist to steady her as she rides on a snake with him.  |
|                  | Sweet, J. H.                           | The Fairy Chronicles - Thistle and the Shell of Laughter           | 3-5   | N?   | Fairies help a brownie rescue a shell that causes laughter in the world. A lot of warm, fuzzy and sentimental Xmas, though not heavily religious, a lot of Mother Nature being the one in charge of nature.  |
|                  | Swift, Jonathan                        | Gulliver's Travels   | 8+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Szymanski, Lois                        | A New Kind of Magic  | 2-4   | OK?  | A girl deals with her father losing his job and being forced to move off the family farm. Mentions watching cartoons on TV. Mild tension in the house due to money problems. Brief non religious xmas. Language-weird.   |
|                  | Taka Shima, Shizuye                    | A Child in Prison Camp   |       | N    | A Japanese girl born in Canada is suddenly sent to an internment camp with her family during World War II. Vivid descriptions of racism. A few descriptions of woman's anatomy e.g. p. 60. Detailed discussions of "lord" being born on X-mas (p. 34), church service, communion. Descriptions of Buddhist religious practices, nuns make X-mas dance for internees. Language: hell, damn, shut up. Watercolor illustration of unclothed women in communal bath - a bit blurry but can tell they're not dressed. Descriptions of young girl who was attacked by a man and gave birth to a child (p. 82).   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Talbot, Charlene Joy | Children in Hiding                   | 4-6   | OK   | Children's father doesn't come home so children hide from welfare department in deserted building. Eventually helped by an artist. One description of visiting a mixed beach but very innocent.  |
|                  | Tanner, Lian         | City of Lies                         | 5-7   | OK?? | Continuation of Museum of Thieves. Children go to rescue kidnapped sister and fight villains. Similar language to first book   |
|                  | Tanner, Lian         | Museum of Thieves                    | 5-7   | OK?? | A girl escapes from an overprotective society and finds refuge in a magical museum. Both evil and kind adults described. Community worships 7 unpredictable gods - not very believable. Minor bad middos between children that are corrected. Language - boy names himself "Toad Spit", stupid, idiot, moron (once), brats, damned (once)  |
|                  | Tanner, Lian         | Path of Beasts                       | 5-7   | OK?? | Continuation of City of Lies. Children battle evil to save their country. Good guy vs. bad guy violence. Brief unimportant joke about a fortune told about a husband running off with another woman (pg. 102) Married couple stands with arms around each other (pf 229) man drapes "casual arm" over girl's shoulder. Children are called "snotties". Language- weird, idjit/idiot, bommin' eck, stupid, stinkin', shut up, brat.   |
|                  | Tarshis, Lauren      | Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree |       | N    | A socially awkward girl (Asperger's?) tries to help solve her classmate's problems and ends up making friends. A running storyline of her mother falling in love with their boarder (her father died), and her coming to grips with it. One long hug. Preadolescent girls like a boy and trying to get him to dance with her at the school dance. Minor language: idiot, screw up, moron, jerk, shut up, dumb, freakin'  |
|                  | Tashjian, Janet      | My Life As a Book                    | 4-6   | N?   | A boy who would rather fool around during the summer is sent to a learning camp and uncovers a mystery that involves his babysitter drowning. He constantly gets into funny trouble and mischief. A lot of talk of TV and movies. Mentions man and woman were kissing in a movie. Teenage boy flirts with girls. Meets teacher wearing a tank top and cut off jeans with a tattoo on her shoulder. When dog kisses girl, boy says dog is "making out" with her and that dog "makes out" with more pretty girls than any hunky doctor on TV. Unrefined juvenile humor. Non religious xmas. Language-stupid, fart, freak, stinking, butt, moron. |
|                  | Taylor, Mildred D.   | Let the Circle Be Unbroken           |       | N    | Historical fiction. A black family deals with prejudice. Lots of talk of white men "having their way" with colored women, and a girl became pregnant as a result. Lot of talk about cousin who is product of black/white marriage. Lots of boy/girl negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                       | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Taylor, Mildred D. | Role of Thunder Hear My Cry | 6-8   | OK?  | Historical fiction. A black girl experiences prejudice. Many descriptions of very cruel discrimination and violence including burning, tar and feathering. Mentions of black men being accused of flirting with white women "making advances". Mention of a boy and girl who loved in secret (p. 177).   |
|                  | Taylor, Mildred D. | The Land                    |       | N    | Historical fiction. Prequel to "Roll of Thunder". Story of how black grandfather came to own land in the segregated South. Lots of talk of him being the child of a white slaveholder and his black slave mistress and whether it was morally bad or not for white man to have fathered children in this way. Boy/girl, negiah.  |
|                  | Taylor, Mildred D. | The Road to Memphis         |       | N    | Historical fiction. Third book in series. Black Kids are in late teens, still dealing with terrible racism. Lots of boy/girl. Girl has a baby out of wedlock to try to convince baby's father to marry her. Negiah, etc.   |
|                  | Taylor, Mildred D. | The Well                    | 5-7   | OK   | Historical fiction. Interracial violence during segregation  |
|                  | Taylor, Sydney     | A Papa Like Everyone Else   | 4-6   | OK?? | Historical Fiction. A Jewish family in Czechoslovakia waits for father in America to send for them. Some Jewish things slightly inaccurate - eg, no time limit for matza baking, appears made dishes pesachdik by scrubbing. Goyim are depicted as friendly, goyish festivals described as being fun and exciting - especially dance wearing native costumes. Fairy tale told in detail about a poor girl who goes to a ball - the prince dances with her and falls in love with her - he throws his arms around her. Women enjoy singing love songs (not detailed) while they pluck goose feathers. Non-romantic negiah. 2 dances described in detail but not involving Jews.   |
|                  | Taylor, Sydney     | All of a Kind Family        | 4-6   | N?   | Historical Fiction. Jewish girls growing up in the Lower East Side. Jewish content somewhat accurate. Jewish girl has crush on non-Jewish peddler- she is awkward around him and blushes. She is sad when she finds out he has a "sweetheart" he is trying to locate. She imagines when he finds his sweetheart "he will take her in his arms..." When he does really find her he kisses her. Mention of unreviewed book by title- "Peter and Polly In Winter". Brief, unimportant mentions of old fashioned undergarments. Oldest girl dresses up in boy's clothing for Purim. Children read St. Nicholas" magazine. Mixed swimming at the beach (illustration of coed beach scene in old fashioned bathing suits)purchased food (eg candy, ice cream, hot pretzel, etc.) without worrying about kashrus- but not stated clearly. Family seems to eat Language- heck (p113), freak. It may be a classic, but... |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author            | Title                                   | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Taylor, Sydney    | All of a Kind Family Uptown             | 4-6   | N?   | Historical Fiction. Ella sees boy friend off to war - lots of hand holding and a kiss. Very close relationship with non-Jewish neighbors, yet depicted as so very observant of Jewish things. It may be a classic, but...  |
|                  | Taylor, Sydney    | More All of a Kind Family               | 4-6   | N?   | Historical Fiction. Family celebrates uncle's wedding. Ella has first boy friend. Family moves to the Bronx. Beautiful story but many issues: Boy/girl, children order bouquet delivered to mom in shul on Yom Kippur, swimming on mixed beach - illustration with old time bathing suits; romantic hand-holding, mixed dancing, go to Conservative shul - father says it's OK because it's progressive. |
|                  | Taylor, Theodore  | The Cay                                 | 6-8   | OK   | A boy is shipwrecked on a deserted island together with an elderly black man. Overcomes prejudices.  |
|                  | Taylor, Theodore  | The Trouble with Tuck                   | 4-5   | OK?? | Touching story of girl who tries to help her dog who goes blind. One scene of attack by stranger in park is actually an attempted rape, but would probably go over heads of most kids: "he ripped at my dress" "I knew what had almost happened to me".  |
|                  | Taylor, William   | Numbskulls                              |       | N    | Girl tries to improve boys using a 'learning chair" She teaches one boy to be "sexy". Very, very inappropriate.  |
|                  | Teague, Mark      | The Doom Machine                        | 6-8   | OK?? | Girl and boy are kidnapped by aliens and save Earth. Some minor language: stupid, darn, crap, screwup, ass, arse. Boy and girl reluctantly lean on each other to keep warm; totally innocent.  |
| new              | Telgemeier, Raina | Drama                                   |       | N    | Alterternative lifestyles: explicit crushes between kids of same gender  |
|                  | Telgemeier, Raina | Smile                                   |       | N    | A graphic novel about a girl dealing with teeth problems, friend problems, and boy problems. Lots of language, boy/girl, bad middos.   |
|                  | Thal, Lili        | Mimus                                   |       | N    | Prince is captured by enemy king and forced to be court jester. Masterful novel. Lots of religious references: general religion, saints, 2-3 specific discussions of J- and his story. Language: hell and damn used in formal, original sense of words. Bodily functions, some vulgar terms or stories (most would go over kids' heads, but some that won't). Non-romantic negiah.                       |
|                  | The 39 Clues      | The 39 Clues book 1 - The Maze of Bones | 5-8   | OK?? | First of series. Brother and sister compete against ruthless family members, to find clues that will lead to power. Some violence. Minor language. Back of book includes website where readers can enter the contest.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author  | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | The 39 Clues                                    | The 39 Clues book 2- One False Note            | 5-8   | OK?? | Orphaned children race to find clues to a treasure while competing against other branches of the family who are vicious and will stop at nothing to beat them. Justify breaking and entering and stealing if it will help them win. Some violence. The competing families exhibit terrible middos in their treatment of their cousins (adults and children alike). Lots of TV and internet usage. A lot of music culture. A church and a crypt are settings for some of the action. Brief mention of girl finding her male cousin good looking. (In later books becomes more romantic). Language- stupid, dumb, weird, gross, stinks, butts, doofus, maniac, idiots, berserk, dweeb. Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest. Later books more problematic. |
|                  | The 39 Clues                                    | The 39 Clues book 3 - The Sword Thief          |       | N    | Ongoing love/hate relationship between 2 cousins which leads to mild romantic negiah (p. 123, chap 14). Minor language: heck, moron, stupid, dang.  |
|                  | The 39 Clues                                    | The 39 Clues book 5 - The Black Circle         | 5-8   | OK?? | Children compete with other family members in a deadly race to find clues as they try to find out what happened to their parents. Brief mention of dinosaurs. A lot of minor language and slang - butt, heck, nitwit, geek, stupid, moron, jerk, sucker, idiot, freak out, dumb, maniacs, dork, gross, nerd, weird, . Back of book includes website where readers can enter contest.  |
|                  | The Royal Diaries                               | Johanara - Princess of Princesses - India 1627 |       | N    | Fictional diary of an Indian princess. Many descriptions of Emperor's harem, wives, concubines, eunuchs, etc. A lot of detailed descriptions of religious beliefs of Buddhism, Islam, and some Christianity. Mentions many gods including JC. Detailed discussion of flirting with men - they even set up a fake bazaar to give royal women an opportunity to flirt with men who come to buy their wares.   |
|                  | The Wednesday Tales No.1 The Palace Of Laughter |  | 5-7   | OK?? | A boy who escapes from a cruel orphanage teams up with a girl who is an angel to stop a villain from stealing the world's laughter. A lot of description of the angel's world in heaven and the hierarchy of there (no mention of G-d) and how a song sung by angels is at the heart of everything. Nonreligious mention of church. Orphaned and unwanted children form their own ganglike societies. Non romantic negiah. Language- stink, dumb, Hell, pee, stupid, dratted, freaky, friggin', shut up.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Thesman, Jean         | Calling the Swan       | 9+    | OK?? | Girl talks to her older sister, as she struggles with dark secret of her family. Near the end of the book, the reader realizes that the dark secret is that her sister was abducted, and all along she was hallucinating talking to her. Some possible hashkafa issues as girl questions G-d. Brief Church ceremony, hymn, "body of Ch--". Language: "hell" (one time). For the sophisticated reader.        |
|                  | Thompson, Kate        | Switchers              | 6-8   | N?   | A girl and boy who can turn into animals save the world. Non religious xmas. Mentions of TV, disco, movies. The boy smokes. Mention dinosaurs, woolly mammoth. Negiah between friends- not overtly romantic. frequent language-freak, stupid, hell (a curse)), blast it, shut up, dumb, idiot, damn.   |
|                  | Thompson, Kate        | The New Policeman      |       | N    | Irish boy goes to fairy land to save leaking of "time" into their world. Boy's parents are a 'couple' but not married - mother says that's because she wanted to keep her family name alive. Mention of an ancestor who had 'lover' and became pregnant. Language: hell (once). Later books in series have similar issues.   |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | Granpa In Oz           | 5+    | OK?? | Children and various Oz characters help restore a king's head and find a princess for his son to marry. Many plays on words, puns, etc. Some talk of vanquishing dragons to win the princess' hand in marriage. Boy and girl dance together. Picture of boy holding girls hand to help her climb a mountain. One word xmas. After boy marries princess he "takes her in his arms". Language- idiot, shut up. |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | Jack Pumpkinhead of Oz | 5+    | N?   | A boy, a man with a pumpkin head and a griffin have adventures in Oz. A lot of language play. Quite a few religious mentions of xmas, Santa Claus, halloween. And xmas tree chases a boy. An evil Baron wants to marry a princess and tells her to come kiss him-she is repulsed. Man walks in with his bride "on his arm". Language-doggone it, darn.   |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | Kabumpo in Oz          | 5+    | OK?  | A prince needs to marry a fairy princess in order to save his kingdom from disappearing. Usual cast of characters and plays on language as in other Oz books. One of the cook's names is Hashem- makes for uncomfortable reading when it says things like "Hashem loses a birthday cake" etc. Prince takes the princesses hand when he asks her to marry him.  |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | Pirates In Oz          | 5+    | OK?  | A boy helps save Oz from being conquered by pirates. One word mention of a valentine. Usual language play. Language-doggone, dumb, darn (once).  |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | Speedy In Oz           | 5+    | OK?? | A boy and a dinosaur skeleton brought to life help save a princess. Entire plot revolves around a bunch of dinosaur bones dug up by a professor-lots of mentions of prehistoric eras, fossils, as well a the reborn dinosaur's recollections of that era. Language-dumb, stupidly.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                      | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | The Cowardly Lion of Oz    | 5+    | OK? | A clown and an orphan try to avoid capturing the cowardly lion even though they are under a spell that will turn them blue and immobile if they disobey. A very spoiled king has very bad middos- eventually learns his lesson. Many plays on words. Minor violence. Language: stupid, dumb, idiot, freaks. |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | The Giant Horse Of Oz      | 5+    | OK? | Children and various Oz characters save an island from a monster. Similar to other books in this series. Girl offers to dance with a stone man (very innocent). A little boy blushes with pleasure when a beautiful queen kisses him on both cheeks. Language= stupid, idiot, weird shut up.                |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | The Lost King Of Oz        | 5+    | OK? | Children help find the true king of Oz. Similar to other books in the series. One of the characters is a dummy from a movie set- some minor references to movie culture. Comical black and white drawing of a woman in a sleeveless gown. Language- idiot   |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | The Purple Prince of Oz    | 5+    | OK? | A boy and an elephant help restore a royal family to their palace. Good choice for a child who appreciates language play. Non-provocative picture of fairy ruler in a sleeveless low-cut gown. Mild violence. Language - idiot, shut up.  |
|                  | Thompson, Ruth Plumly | The Yellow Knight Of Oz    | 5+    | N?  | On the cover is a picture of a knight taking a woman's hand and them smiling at each other-somewhat suggestive. Negiah between engaged couple- she put her "arms round the knight's neck and embraced him. Language- stupid, darn (once), dumb.   |
|                  | Thurber, James        | The 13 Clocks              | 8+    | OK? | A prince sets out to find jewels so that he can win the princess's hand in marriage, and appease her evil uncle. Written like a children's fairy tale but extremely sophisticated in its play on words and ideas and symbolism. Many children reading this will not get it on their own.                    |
|                  | Tine, Robert          | Beethoven's Puppies        | 3-5   | OK? | Puppies avoid capture by criminals. Minor chutzpah supported by mother (Kids stick out tongues at father because he wants to sell the puppies). Mention of butt twice.  |
|                  | Titus, Eve            | Basil of Baker Street      | 3-5   | OK  | Mouse patterns himself after Sherlock Holmes and solves case of kidnapped twins. Cute.  |
|                  | Tolan, Stephanie S.   | Surviving the Apple Whites |       | N   | A juvenile delinquent finds himself when he comes to live with an artsy, home schooling family. Language, smoking, boy/girl, kisses girl he likes as part in a play he was acting in.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title                                | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Tolkien, J.R.R.     | The Fellowship of the Ring           | 7+    | OK?  | First of a three part series where hobbit and friends try to escape the bad guys and destroy a dangerous ring. Very detailed and complex with difficult language- appropriate for good readers who will appreciate a detailed fantasy world. Characters smoke and blow smoke rings for pleasure. Female characters described as beautiful, having flowing hair, etc. In this book females are rarely mentioned in general, and when they are it is as if they are held in awe. Brief mention of woman waiting for her "lover" to return. Language- stupid, ass(p257)  |
|                  | Tolkien, J.R.R.     | The Hobbit                           | 7+    | OK   | A fantasy about dwarves who try to get back fortune from a dragon. Lots of good guy vs. bad guy violence. Brief, unimportant mention of yuletide feast. One word xmas. Language- drat, idiotic, shut up.  |
|                  | Tolkien, J.R.R.     | The Return of the King               | 7+    | OK?? | Part 3 (finale) of "Lord of the Rings". More good guy vs. bad guy violence. Long appendix which was only skimmed, not carefully reviewed. A little romance leading to marriage, though its minor when placed in context of the very long, very detailed story. Some romantic negiah, most of it minor- she lays her hand on his arm, Man kisses woman's brow, Man and woman go "hand in hand". One sentence kiss (p 944) .Girl likes a man who ends up marrying another and she gets over her disappointment and marries another as well. A lot of pipe smoking. Language- ass (said in an endearing way), brat, stinking, idiot. |
|                  | Tolkien, J.R.R.     | The Two Towers                       | 7+    | OK?  | Part 2 of "Lord of the Rings". The saga continues as good guys try to defeat bad guys and destroy an evil ring. Brief mention that traitor was waiting for his master's defeat so he could "take the woman you desire". When woman looks at man "her eyes were shining" an when his hand met hers accidentally "he knew that she trembled at the touch". Good guy vs. bad guy violence. Language- ass (once), dratted. stupid, damned (once).   |
|                  | Tolles, Martha      | Katie for President                  |       | N    | A girl runs for president against a sophisticated, popular girl. Boyfriends, bras, riding a bike with boy and enjoying his touch.   |
|                  | Towne, Mary         | Angie the Airhead                    |       | N    | Girl "borrows" her club's money to buy a horror video that her parents told her isn't OK. Most of the story is her trying to earn the money to pay the club back before anyone discovers her crime. At end, confesses to her parents who laugh it off as not so terrible.   |
|                  | Townley, Roderick   | The Great Good Thing                 | 7-8   | OK?  | Sweet fairytale about girl heroine who lives out story in pages of book. Affectionate non-romantic negiah.  |
|                  | Townsend, John Rowe | Tom Tiddler's Ground                 | 3-5   | OK?? | Children find treasure and help solve mystery; get into danger. Language: damn (p. 160). Not-nice comments about mean grandmother.  |
|                  | Travers P. L.       | Mary Poppins and the House next door | 3-5   | OK   | strange story. Sophisticated language.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title  | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Travers, P. L. | Mary Poppins Opens the Door                                    | 3-5   | OK?? | A strange, magical, and somewhat conceited nanny returns to take care of her charges, and has adventures with an unusual cast of characters. Non romantic and questionably romantic negiah. A woman keeps pestering her uninterested tenant to marry her - he eventually shrinks her and plans to charge people to see her. Detailed description of how the king used to tell his queen how beautiful she was and how much he loves her, etc - very lovey-dovey. Parents tenderly put arms around each other. A marble statue of a naked boy comes to life, horrifying adults that he is walking around the park unclothed - many illustrations of him but no detailed anatomy. A number of dances described - co-ed but not overly romantic. Children play with fireworks with adult supervision. Mention of many book and nursery rhymes characters - may or may not be appropriate. Language: stupid.   |
|                  | Trine, Greg    | Melvin Beederman Superhero - The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich | 3-5   | OK?? | A silly, slightly tongue-in-cheek story about a comic book style superhero who would rather do math than stop a train. Many juvenile mentions of his x-ray vision enabling him to see everyone's underwear - he finds this "talent" annoying. Very juvenile bathroom humor and language - eg stinky, stupid. No redeeming value.   |
|                  | Tripp, Valerie | Hallie's Horrible Handwriting                                  | 2-3   | OK   | Girl struggles with poor handwriting and is helped by understanding teacher.   |
|                  | Trivas, Tracy  | The Wish Stealers  | 5-7   | N?   | A girl is given unlucky pennies stolen from a wishing well and tries to get rid of her bad luck. A lot of discussion about good luck and bad luck. Girl does a science project with a boy. Everyone assumes they are going out; when they have a fight people ask if they broke up or if he "dumped" her. Girl tells her friend a boy "likes her", has a crush on her, etc. Girls think a boy is the "cutest" one in the sixth grade. Boy comments girl smells like strawberries-they both blush. Boy is part of a rock band. Mentions of names of rock stars. Kids email and text each other. A lot of referring to the fact that boy's father left him and his mother, but not clear if they are divorced or abandoned. At the end of the book, father comes back and explains that they never stopped loving each other- very confusing. A lot of bad middos between classmates. A lot of Greek mythology to explain the constellations. Non religious mention of church bell chiming on Easter Sunday. Many mentions of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Language: stupid, dumb, gross, stinks, nerd, weird, freaky. |
|                  | Trueman, Terry | 7 Days at The Hot Corner                                       |       | N    | Highly inappropriate. Alternative lifestyles, serious language issues.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Trueman, Terry       | Stuck in Neutral   |       | N    | Written from perspective of boy with severe CP who is actually brilliant but is totally unable to respond, so everyone assumes he is a vegetable. Thought-provoking. Language. Hashkafa questions. Father struggles with thought of killing boy out of love for him.  |
|                  | Tunis, John R.       | Schoolboy Johnson  | 4-6   | OK?  | Story of arrogant pitcher who learns to take responsibility for own actions. Boy takes girl on date - she puts hand on his to calm him down. Lots of locker room talk   |
|                  | Turnage, Sheila      | Three Times Lucky  |       | N    | A girl helps catch a criminal while at the same time trying to come to grips with the fact that she is adopted and probably will never find her birth mother. Boy steals old man's boat then returns it to him for reward money. Mention of TV, people in café dress up like famous movie stars for Hollywood night. Description of church service, xmas present, JC's name as a curse. Middos between children. Detailed description of alcoholic father who beats his wife and children, wife eventually divorces him. Detailed description of 18 year old who is a real "ladies man". Rumor of a man having a girlfriend while she is married to another man. Girl is excited when an older boy she has a crush on kisses her "face"; call it her first kiss. Children are surprised to meet their teacher wearing shorts- "you've got knees". A lot of language-jackass, idiots, stupid, boobs, dumb, weird, damn, dirtbag, moron, idiocy, dang, hell idiot , butt, shut up, pervert, heck. |
|                  | Turner, Megan Whalen | The Queen Of Attolia                                       |       | N    | A story filled with adult type royal court intrigue, romance, negiah, language, etc.  |
|                  | Turner, Megan Whalen | The Thief  | 6-8   | N?   | Lots of descriptions of myths of old avodah zarah religion.   |
|                  | Twain, Mark          | A Connecticut Yankee - The Library of America Edition      | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Twain, Mark          | Pudd'nhead Wilson  | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Twain, Mark          | The Prince and the Pauper - Penguin Edition level 2        | 4-6   | OK   | Classic story of prince and pauper who switch places. Pauper's father described as violent and abusive but not gory . Language is simplified.   |
|                  | Twain, Mark          | The Prince and the Pauper - The Library of America Edition | 8+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Twohill, Maggie      | Who Has the Lucky Duck in Class 4-b?                       | 2-4   | OK?? | Good luck charm unwittingly passed around class. Story depicts good luck charm as if it really works. Describes teacher who constantly leaves class to put on makeup.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                       | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Uchida, Yoshika      | A Jar of Dreams             | 6-8   | N?   | A Japanese-American girl confronts prejudice. With help of her aunt she learns to believe in herself. Man yells "get outta here you damn Jap kids" (p. 5, 91). Minor middos between siblings. Religion - mom is fervent Christian - says long grace before eating and has long "conversations" with G-d, girl doesn't like "boring sermons" in church, aunt is fervent Buddhist who lights incense near alter with picture of dead relatives, girl wonders what it would be like to die and end up as an angel, mom sings in church "J-- savior pilot me" and "onward Christian soldiers" (no further details), girl compares brother to shining star on top of Xmas tree. Girls unsuccessfully try to set up aunt with a family friend. Language: stupid, damn. |
|                  | Uchida, Yoshiko      | Journey Home                | 5-7   | N?   | A Japanese American girl and her family are released from an internment camp and try to start over again despite prejudice and poverty. Chapter on xmas includes brief summary of xmas story with yoshka and warm and fuzzy xmas memories. An important setting is a church which becomes a hostel for the Japanese exiles. Brief description of church service. Brief boy/girl, soldier goes to dances and movies with girlfriends. When girl's brother returns from the army he is profoundly depressed over the death of his friend. Improves at the end. A lot of social smoking. Language-stupid, damn (twice), weird, creepy, darn.  |
|                  | Uchida, Yoshiko      | Journey to Topaz            | 4-7   | OK?  | Historical fiction. Japanese family in internment camp during world war II. Mentions of X-mas - gifts, decorations, no religion. Mention that college-age brother is interested in girls over 16.  |
|                  | Ullman, James Ramesy | Banner in the Sky           | 7-9   | OK?? | Boy strives to be first to climb "impossible" mountain. On the way, he learns important life lessons. Problems: some references to J--- and Mary - could be blacked out. Boy is so driven to climb, that he disobeys his mother & lies; justified in the end.  |
|                  | Ulman, Barb Bentler  | The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood |       | N    | A girl who is very upset about her parents' divorce is befriended by a old woman and discovers fairies living in the woods. Her friend (a boy) deals with his mother's death and his father's subsequent alcoholism. Somewhat stark and gritty and dwells on issues parents may not want their children exposed to. Language: what the H (not spelled out), darn, dork, screwed up, butt, dang, moron. Non-romantic negiah.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Updale, Eleanor        | Johnny Swanson   | 5-7   | OK?? | Boy tries to prove his mother innocent of murder. Boy writes deceptive ads to get money; realizes he was wrong in the end. Passing mention of Xmas, no religion. Boy makes a "rude sign" and says a "ruder word" to mean woman. Overhears conversation about girl's "entanglement" with a man who "appeared to be married" - no detail. Boy's father died in war - mother is afraid people will think she had him without being married. Man takes woman's hand when announcing engagement.   |
|                  | Updale, Eleanor        | Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?                               | 6-9   | OK?? | Former convict leads a double life, as high-society gentleman by day, and thief at night. Eventually becomes kinder person and is able to stop life of crime. Passing references: bare-breasted statues; one man jokes to friend that the reason he is fat is that the friend's wife gives him a biscuit every time he kisses her. Language: damned (2-3 times). Ugly girl tries to get gentleman's attention & believes he loves her - really he ignores her.  |
|                  | Urban, Linda           | A Crooked Kind Of Perfect  | 5-7   | N?   | A sixth grade girl who dreams of playing piano gets an organ and ends up competing in an organ playing contest. Detailed side story with juvenile boy/girl. A lot of mention of TV shows. Girl learns to play many TV show theme songs. Description of girls being into certain jeans and brand names. Sweet description of slightly dysfunctional father. Brief non religious xmas. Juvenile bathroom humor. Language-dorky, weird, flipping out, idiot, stupid, dumb, screw up, freak out, shut up, snot.   |
|                  | Ury, Allen B           | Scary Stories for Sleepovers                                       | 5-6   | OK?  | Very scary short stories. Very creepy one about a girl who is "into" her rock music.  |
|                  | Valente, Catherynne M. | The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In A Ship Of Her Own Making | 5+    | N?   | An old fashioned type of tale about a girl who defeats the mean ruler of fairyland. Many plays on words and difficult language. A lot of focus on who is a dragon's true father. Girl comforts dragon with story of her friend's father who ran off with another woman so the mother told her she didn't have a father, she is an angel's daughter. Girl is amazed that a man is married to 2 women- it is explained to her that the wives are sisters who got married together to save years of "courtship and blushing behind curtains and love potions" and also because he needs a certain amount of "deviance" in his personal life. One sentence description of man in a newsreel embracing his bride "passionately". Description of a girl with a miserable life whose mother died and whose father drank. A lot of affectionate negiah that doesn't seem romantic, though at the end they marry. Non religious xmas and Halloween. Brief mention of dinosaur bone. A number of mentions of evolution. A few mentions of going to movies and wanting to become a movie star. |
|                  | Valentine, James       | Jumpman (series)   |       | N    | Boy from future time-travels to present. Romantic boy/girl.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title   | grade |    |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|----|---|
|                  | Van Draanen, Wendelin | How I Survived Being a Girl                   | 3-5   | N? | Girl puts on show where she pretends to strip; is wearing skin-colored bathing suit. Boy jokingly calls to girl to come see other boy when undressed; she doesn't go. Kids use unrefined nicknames for slovenly neighbors. Girl slowly recognizes crush on neighboring boy. All mild, but adds up.  |
|                  | Van Draanen, Wendelin | Sammy Keyes                                   |       | N  | A girl goes to find her mother, who has gone to Hollywood to become a star. Language, bad middos, reference to "women of the night."  |
|                  | Van Draanen, Wendelin | Sammy Keyes and the Case of Moustache Mary    |       | N  | Girl gets involved in family feud and encounters arson, possible ghosts rising from graves, a lab where illegal drugs are produced to be sold to kids. Vivid description of boy/girl party including drinking and drugs. Pre-adolescent and adolescent boy/girl. Same language issues as other books in this series. Mild Romanic negiah - hand holding, "nuzzling", etc. Use JC name as expletive.   |
|                  | Van Draanen, Wendelin | Sammy Keyes and the Hollywood Mummy           |       | N  | Same issues as other books in this series. Girl goes to Hollywood to convince dysfunctional mother to leave show biz and come home to take care of her, but instead gets caught up in catching a murderer. Vivid description of "woman of the night" and other sleazy characters on Sunset Blvd. Lots of show biz culture.  |
|                  | Van Draanen, Wendelin | Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief               | 6-8   | N? | Pg. 138 - long discussion about crush/liking boy/thinking about boy. Girl gets suspended for punching another girl in the nose. Minor Language. Very gritty and street-wise.  |
|                  | Van Draanen, Wendelin | Sammy Keyes and the Psycho Kitty Queen        |       | N  | Same issues as others in this series. Girl uncovers an illegal group that stages cat fights. Along the way deal with many dead cats and a fortuneteller (who seems to be sincerely knowledgeable about "reading people's stars"). She attends wrestling school so when bullies attack her she completely beats them up (described). Her Hollywood actress mother keeps lying to her and everyone else. Ongoing boy/girl, language, slang, bathroom humor.   |
|                  | Van Draanen, Wendelin | Sammy Keyes and the Search for the Snake Eyes |       | N  | Girl tries to locate mother of an abandoned baby and ends up confronting violent gang members and a very dysfunctional family - child abuse, drunkenness, etc. Same issues as other books, with an escalation of language and slang. Talk of young girl "getting in trouble" and having a baby. Girl "has the hots" for a boy. Ongoing story line of adolescent boy/girl. In back of book, preview of "The Art of Deception" - more boy/girl, language, probably much like the others in this series. |
|                  | Van Leeuwen, Jean     | Amanda Pig and her Big Brother Oliver         | 2-3   | OK | Cute stories of a little girl pig and her brother   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Van Leeuwen, Jean    | Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day    | 2-3   | OK?  | In one story big boys don't let little girl into their fort, so girl takes revenge by not giving them lemonade. In end make up.   |
|                  | Van Leeuwen, Jean    | Benjy and the Power of Zingies       | 3-4   | OK?  | A short boy gets friend to beat up a bully. Very juvenile and simplistic solution to bullying problem. Mention of girl who goes around kissing boys at recess - they run away (3rd graders).  |
|                  | Van Leeuwen, Jean    | Bound for Oregon                     | 4-6   | N?   | Historical fiction. Pioneer girl describes Oregon Trail - death, Indian raid, sickness and hunger. Family keeps strong religious faith. Lots of talk of bible and hymns. At end talks about baby J-- and first x-mas.   |
|                  | Van Leeuwen, Jean    | More Tales of Oliver Pig             | 2-3   | OK   | More stories about pig siblings   |
|                  | Van Leeuwen, Jean    | Tales of Amanda Pig                  | 2-3   | OK   | More stories about pig siblings   |
|                  | Van Leeuwen, Jean    | The Great Googlestein Museum Mystery | 2-4   | OK   | Mice go to Guggenheim Museum and create art.  |
|                  | Van Stockholm, Hilda | The Cottage at Bantry Bay            | 4-6   | OK   | Quaint story of family living in Irish countryside.   |
|                  | Vanderpool, Claire   | Moon Over Manifest                   | 6-8   | OK?? | A girl whose mother died is sent to a small town by her father to live with a drunken preacher where he spent some of his childhood years. She finds out her father's true story which includes being raised by a criminal uncle who committed murder. Girl wonders at a fence which says "perdition" when she knows that preachers use that term to mean ""the path the devil follows". The teacher is a nun- descriptions of her habit and rosary beads. A woman says she is medium, a fortuneteller, a diviner. On word xmas. Humorous descriptions of church service. Preacher tells story of men walking with JC. On a tombstone it says "the L-rd is my Shepherd...". Klu Klux Klan. Boy plays mean/funny tricks on people. Mild running bathroom humor. Teen boy "courts" a girl- takes her on the carousel. |
|                  | Velde, Vivian Vande  | Ghost of a Hanged Man                | 5-6   | OK?  | A criminal vows to take revenge on those who sentenced him to death and attacks children of sheriff. Scary. Gives credence to gypsy beliefs and fortunetelling.   |
|                  | Velde, Vivian Vande  | Three Good Deeds                     | 5-6   | OK?? | A witch turns a naughty boy into a goose and tells him he will stay that way until he does 3 good deeds. Geese get very angry when anyone goes near their "female". Boy realizes that his friend hasn't noticed him since he is busy trying to "impress a girl". Very sad, uncomfortable ending. Language-stupid, weird, poop, dumb.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                   | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Velde, Vivian Vande      | Wizard at Work                                      | 3-6   | OK?  | A wizard solves people's problems. A family with bad middos is portrayed negatively. Language: drat (once). Description of adolescent male unicorns who "show off" for female unicorns (who wear spiked manes!). Wizard fixes unicorn problem by causing them to grow up quickly. One brief hand kiss after proposal of marriage. Non-religious mention of Xmas   |
|                  | Venokur, Ross            | Amazing Frecktale                                   |       | N    |   |
|                  | Venokur, Ross            | The Autobiography of Meatball Finkelstein           |       | N    | Overweight boy discovers that eating meatballs gives him superpowers and thwarts the attempts of an evil group of principals plotting to take away fun forever. Boy/girl, language, lots of chutzpah.   |
|                  | Vercoana-Suarez, Ana     | Flight to Freedom                                   |       | N    | Cuban family escapes to US in 1950's. Some religious ceremonies and references to "Virgencita Mother of G-d". Talk about boys, sister has boyfriend, one kiss. Girls in bikinis on beach: "half naked" "bra and panties". Language: hell (the place) - page 21.   |
|                  | Verne, Jules             | Master of the World                                 | 8+    | OK   | A police inspector investigates strange happenings in a mountain and tries to capture an inventor who created a vehicle that can't be stopped by human beings. A bit outdated by modern technology but a fun read with some discussion potential. Many references to the devil but no real religion.  |
|                  | Verne, Jules             | Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea               | 7+    | OK?  | A classic tale of captives who are taken on an amazing underwater journey by a captain with a mysterious past. Violence and death described. Language- stupid.  |
|                  | Vernholt, John           | The Troll King                                      | 5-7   | OK?? | A troll helps his persecuted people and overthrows their cruel ruler who is a sorcerer. He has a "crush" on a female troll who mostly ignores him until he gains power. Whereby she proposes to him -he wants to take her in his arms but he doesn't. Some violence. Language- creepy, stupid, darn (once), weird, dung, blasted, creepy, belch.  |
|                  | Vernon, Ursula           | Dragon Breath Revenge Of The Horned Bunnies         | 3-5   | N?   | Animal children go to camp and uncover the head counselor's plot to poach rare animals. Boy eventually comes to appreciate his annoying younger cousin, though displays bad middos towards him throughout most to the book. Brief non religious Halloween and Easter. Many mentions of TV show, movies. Boy asks another boy where his girlfriend is-he denies that she is his girl friend, just a friend. Language-weird, crud, gross, heckuva, pee, crap, heck, nerd, puke, dumb, shut up, stupid, idiot, dorky, jerk, freak. |
|                  | Verrillo, Erica          | Elissa's Odyssey- Phoenix Rising Trilogy book 2     | 5-7   | OK?  | Fantasy: Girl discovers friends and her own magical powers as she tries to find her father the king. Language: crap. Many mentions of gods and deities. Passing mention of king having mistresses - not elaborated.   |
|                  | Voight, Virginia Frances | The Gold Smugglers (original title: Patriot's Gold) | 5-7   | OK   | Historical fiction. A printer's apprentice smuggles gold out of beleaguered Philadelphia to help Washington's army. Non romantic negiah page 10, 20.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                               | grade |     |  |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Voigt, Cynthia | Building Blocks                     | 4-7   | N?  | Boy is frustrated that his mousy father always gives in to his aggressive mother. Goes back in time and experiences a day with his father as a boy, with his authoritarian and marginally abusive parents; comes to understand his father. Descriptions of his parents fighting; wonders why they got married. Wonders why they don't get divorced - older sister says when parents divorce it's strange at first but then you just get used to it. Some language - d--, etc. Goes swimming with his "father" (at age 10) and his father's younger sister; they all strip down to underpants.  |
|                  | Voigt, Cynthia | Dicey's Song                        |       | N   | Girl & siblings come to live with grandmother when mother has nervous breakdown. Mother was never married to father, & he left. Women's anatomy, bras. Watching couple walking with arms around each other. Mention of menstruation & s--. Describe visit to catatonic mother; mother dies & is cremated & they bring her remains back in a box.   |
|                  | Voigt, Cynthia | It's Not Easy Being Bad             |       | N   | Teen culture. Reference to unmarried girls getting pregnant.   |
|                  | Voigt, Cynthia | Mister Max: The Book of Lost Things | 4-8   | OK? | Boy's actor parents disappear, and he works to solve several mysteries. Ongoing story of man of nobility who fell in love with servant girl; very tame, no descriptive romance. Mention of school assignment about greek gods.   |
|                  | Voigt, Cynthia | The Callender Papers                | 5-8   | OK  | Orphaned girl is hired to sort through papers of wealthy estate; solves secret of murder and her own past.   |
|                  | Voigt, Cynthia | The Vandemark Mummy                 |       | N   | Mother lives in separate city from family in order to pursue career - discussed a lot. Mention of lesbians and speculation if mother is one. Long discussion of possibility girl was raped.  |
| new              | Vos, Ida       | Anna is Still Here                  |       | N   | Jewish girl who was hidden during the Holocaust has trouble getting over her trauma. Very detailed about her trauma, her parents trauma, and a neighbor who is still waiting for her young daughter to come home. Lingering anti semitism. Very intense. Saint Nicholas gives holiday presents. Words to a gypsy song about a man who wants to dance with a girl, kiss her, and presumably marry her. Husband gives wife a kiss. Boy tells girl to kiss him (she doesn't ) Middos between children. Father punches anti semitic storekeeper. Brief Friday night candlelighting. Frequent language- stupid, idiot/ idiotic, darn , hell, weird, damn , brat, stinking (used as a curse) |
|                  | Vos, Ida       | The Key is Lost                     |       | N   | 2 Jewish girls hide from the Nazis. Book is not gory but is very straightforward about Nazis killing Jews and others. Girls have no connection to Judaism beyond Jewish names - celebrate Xmas, St. Nicholas Day, etc. Some crude jokes. Married woman who hides them has "lover" - vivid description. Language: shut up, dirty, bastard, idiot, hell, darned, stupid.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wahl, Jon               | The Furious Flycycle                                | 3-4   | OK   | Boy invents flying bicycle and rescues his cousins who are stranded in the woods. Lots of tongue in cheek.  |
|                  | Walden, Mark            | H.I.V.E. - Higher Institute of Villainous Education | 6-8   | N?   | First of series. Young teens are kidnapped and taken to secret training center for high-level criminal activity; they try to escape. Teachers make speeches about how evil is just a vocation and is not actually wrong - clearly meant to not be taken seriously by reader. Some of book's heroes have engaged in highly sophisticated (and exceedingly unlikely) criminal activity (hacking, stealing). Language: hell: 36, 134, 267; bitching: 173; damn: 187. Boy uses power of suggestion to make prime minister "moon" on public TV (127-128). Note that series starts when characters are 13 - later books have developing feelings between boy and girl heroes. |
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | Cousins in the Castle                               | 4-8   | OK   | Rich orphan kidnapped, solve mystery, reunited with family. Some scary adults-some beat a boy when they hear his voice crack as if it was changing since they are afraid it will ruin his disguise as a girl singer. Mention of collection plate in church. man dresses up like a priest- no religion. Girl reads a "sorrowful love story" in a fashion magazine for women. Language- stupid, creepy.   |
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | Ghosts in the Gallery                               | 4-8   | OK?? | Orphan is sent to live with her grandfather whose son believes she is a fraud and gives her a servant's position. Eventually it comes out that her mother was a "hostess in a dance hall " and her grandfather didn't approve of the marriage so he ran away to marry her.A conspiracy to keep her true identity from him leads to an attempted murder. A servant boy befriends her and helps her. His language consists of a lot of slang and often the word "creeping" used for emphasis.A few one word mentions of xmas- no religion. Man and his "lady friend" have "their eyes glued one to another"Language- dumb, confounded, blast, idiot,                      |
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | Hello Claudia!                                      | 3-5   | OK?? | A girl tries to find a new friend when her best friend moves away. Minor chutzpah and disobedience - usually learns lesson afterwards. Mentions 13 year old going to a dance with a date - not described. Language: I'll be damned.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title                        | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | Peppermints in the Parlor    | 4-8   | OK?  | An orphaned girl comes to live with her aunt and uncle and ends up as a servant to cruel criminals. Despite her circumstances she tries to help others. Eventually escapes with the help of a friendly boy. One sentence mention of ornament on xmas tree- no religion. Girl worries that when aunt and long lost uncle see each other again he will no longer be able to love her because he has grown handsomer and she has grown uglier, but she is reassured when she runs into his arms. Uncle is accused of murder, but it turns out he is innocent. He does admit that he had bad judgement and drank and gambled too much- which he now regrets. Language- brat, stupid/ stoopid, danged. |
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | Sparrows in the Scullery     | 4-7   | OK   | Rich orphan kidnapped to dreadful orphanage. Friends help him escape and solve the mystery of his abduction. One word xmas. Middos between boys- eventually apologize and improve. Language- jackass, flippin', shut up, dolt, stupid,  |
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | The Perils of Peppermints.   | 4-8   | OK?? | Sequel to Peppermints in the Parlor. Girl is sent to a boarding school run by a cruel woman and eventually escapes and sets things right. Husband puts arms around wife to comfort her. Brief recap of previous book. A boy who works in the grocery store is "smitten" with a 15 year old girl in the school and gives her chocolates without paying for them. She tells her mother she loves him. Sends him "love notes". Older girls are invited to a ball where there would be "several handsome naval officers" . No description of the ball. Language- flippin', stupid, idiot.   |
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | The Trouble with Miss Switch | 3-5   | N?   | Boy discovers his teacher is a witch and tries to help save her from a terrible fate by devising an original piece of witchcraft. He has a friend who is a girl. There are very subtle suggestions that he might like her more than a friend but younger children will not notice it. Girl holds onto boy when go on a broom ride. Quite a bit of Halloween, no religion. Language- weird, heck (frequent), blast/ blasted, dumb, berserk.  |
|                  | Wallace, Barbara Brooks | The Twin in the Tavern       | 4-8   | OK?? | Orphaned boy is forced to be a virtual slave for shady innkeepers, until he finds out he is really a member of a wealthy family. Woman poses as a widow so she can marry a rich man- she is actually already married. Very minor romantic negiah-eg. man takes woman's hand in greeting (she "blushes prettily") , One word mention of xmas- no religion. Language- dolt, idiot, stupid/stoopid,  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wallace, Bill           | A Dog Called Kitty                           | 4-6   | N?   | Boy overcomes fear of dogs and adopts stray puppy. Vivid and scary description of boy being attacked by rabid dog. Strange incident - father decides to move to farm so calls moving truck without telling wife and says "I love you more than you'll ever know... but me and my sons are moving... with you or without you". Mom comes along but doesn't talk to him for a week, until little boy tells father "you're a mean toot" because he made mom mad, all laugh and mom sits in dad's lap (p 10-11). Physically fighting bully seems justified even though father says not to. Minor language: danged,. Boy is chutzpadik but apologizes (p. 50). When mom mad at dad, kicks him on the foot - dad laughs. Despite all this it's relatively wholesome.                                    |
|                  | Wallace, Bill           | Coyote Autumn                                | 3-5   | N?   | Boy saves an orphaned coyote pup and eventually deals with the sadness of releasing him to the wild. Graphic descriptions of the killing of the parent coyotes. Boy sneaks the pup and doesn't tell his parents. When his father finds out they keep it a secret from his mother. Girls talk about "How cute so-and-so was and how what's-his-name had a crush on what's-he name, but she didn't like him..." Boy notices girl is "kind of cute". Nonreligious mentions of xmas. A few mentions that they go to church on Sundays, no description. A lot of TV watching, movies, vcr, playstation. Some middos between siblings- eg. sister calls him brat and isn't always so nice but in the end acts loving. Language- weird, butt, stupid,dumb, gross, idiot, poop, darndest (once), shut up. |
|                  | Wallace, Bill           | Danger in Quicksand Swamp                    |       | N?   | Boy teased for liking girl "you want to play kissy-face"  |
|                  | Wallace, Bill           | Ferret in the Bedroom, Lizards in the Fridge |       | N    |   |
|                  | Wallace, Bill           | Red Dog                                      | 7-8   | N?   | Boy comes to appreciate his stepfather after encountering evil men who try to kill him and his family. This book is intended for middle grade children but is seriously scary and likely inappropriate for them. A lot of serious, gory, scary, violence. A lot of chutzpah as boy deals with his grief over the death of his father and his difficulty adjusting to his mother's remarriage and the relocation of his family.  |
|                  | Wallace, Bill           | The Backward Dog                             | 3-5   | OK   | Cute story told from dog's perspective  |
|                  | Wallace, Bill           | Totally Disgusting                           | 2-4   | OK?? | Cute story in spite of title. Children watch TV. One word xmas. Old sickly cat explains what it means to be put to sleep. Frequent language-dumb, yucky, crud, shut up, dummy, darned (once), nerd.   |
|                  | Wallace, Carol and Bill | Bub, Snow, and the Burly Bear Scare          | 3-5   | OK   | Forest animals defeat a cranky bear. Cute.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                    | Title                                     | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wallace, Nikki            | Stubby and the Puppy Pack to the Rescue   | 3-5   | OK?  | Animals help rescue a girl who torments them when she falls into a pit of sewage. Husband gives wife a kiss. Language- stinky, stinkin', gross, freak, dumb.  |
|                  | Walsh                     | A Parcel of Patterns                      |       | N    |   |
|                  | Walsh, Jill Paton         | The Dolphin Crossing                      | 6-8   | N?   | Historical fiction WWII - boys go by boat to rescue soldiers from Dun Kirk. Bloody. One mention of boy's mother running off with someone so dad tried several women until found one. Boy reading book with "scantily clad women on cover" - can be crossed out.   |
|                  | Walter, Mildred Pitts     | Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World | 3-5   | OK?  | A boy spend time on his grandfather's ranch and learns the family history of escaping from slavery, and also learns that "women's work" of housekeeping and cooking isn't so bad when you know how to do it. Brief mention that boy's father was killed in an accident. Black cowboy culture. Mention in passing of grandfather dancing with ladies. Minor language: shut up.   |
|                  | Warner, Gertrude Chandler | Box Car Children Series                   | 3-5   | OK   | A series about self sufficient children who solve mysteries. First one is sad when their parents die but it ends with their kind grandfather adopting them. After reading many dozens I've never found a problem beyond an occasional illustration of kids in bathing suits or shorts.  |
|                  | Warner, Sally             | Totally Confidential                      |       | N    | A girl offers her services as a "professional listener" to help people with their problems. Gets involved with woman considering divorce because husband is too "boring". Boy/girl, attending forbidden boy/girl parties, flirting, talk of having baby before marriage.  |
|                  | Warren                    | Pioneer Girl: Growing up on the Prairie   | 4-6   | OK?? | True memoir of growing up on prairie. Discusses mother who was not well but kept having kids because she knew nothing about "family planning"; and would not talk to daughter about "facts of life"; kids didn't know where babies come from (p. 43). Mention of husking bee where boy who gets red corn kisses girl (p. 54)  |
|                  | Warriner                  | Spellcasters 1                            | 4-5   | OK?  | witchcraft (note: others in series have boy/girl)   |
|                  | Warriner                  | Spellcasters 2: Full Moon Magic           |       | N    |   |
|                  | Warriner                  | Spellcasters 6 Phoebe's fortune           |       | N    |   |
|                  | Wasserman, Robin          | A Candy Apple Book - Callie for President | 4-6   | OK?? | A non-conformist girl runs for class president. Girl is pretty irreverent about school spirit, and especially gym teacher. Plans ways to get back at teacher but doesn't follow through. Language: jerk, dung, spaz. A teen pop-rock diva appears at a political rally. Girl is furious of opponent for sharing an embarrassing picture of her on TV, so she defaces campaign posters - in the end admits to the crime. Cheerleaders and jocks flirt with each other at party. Boy and girl who are best friends tickle each other. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author          | Title   | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---|-------|------|---|
| new              | Watson, Tom     | Stick Dog Chases A Pizza  | 3-5   | N?   | Silly/humorous adventures of dogs trying to steal pizza from the pizza store. Written from a dog's perspective. Doesn't give any impression that stealing is at all wrong. Brief, humorous mention of cavemen and dinosaurs. Language- darn, freak out, goofball, heck, weird   |
|                  | Watterson, Bill | Calvin and Hobbes - Attack of the Deranged Mutant Killer Monster Snow Goons | 6+    | OK?  | Book of comic strips featuring escapades of a mischievous little boy with an overactive imagination, and his stuffed tiger. Dinosaurs, bad Middos, chutzpah, minor language - butt, jerk, booger. Boy likes TV, parents think it's a waste of time. Tiger talks about "smooches" with girls. Lots of asking Santa for gifts. A matter of personal taste.  |
|                  | Watterson, Bill | Calvin and Hobbes - The Revenge of the Babysat                              | 6+    | N?   | More of the same. Page 70: comic strip illustration of mother lying in bed hugging father.  |
|                  | Watts, Irene N. | No Moon   | 5-8   | OK?  | Young nursemaid, whose brother drowned, goes with employer's family on the Titanic. X-mas - no religion. Passing mentions of liking boy servant in household; a dance. Older sister is seeing boy; implies they will marry. All old fashioned and quite innocent.   |
|                  | Waugh, Sylvia   | The Mennymys  | 3-5   | OK?  | Strange series about stuffed dolls who are really alive. Not all in series are OK - some have boy/girl.   |
|                  | Webb, Holly     | Rabbit Magic  | 4-6   | OK?? | A girl tries to save a rabbit but her magical dog gets jealous. Father's old girlfriend is "insanely jealous" and is trying to take revenge on the family. Many mentions of people whose fathers don't live with them anymore for various reasons. Middos among classmates. One word xmas. Language-stupid  |
|                  | Weeks, Sarah    | As Simple As It Seems   | 5-7   | N?   | see Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Weeks, Sarah    | Jumping the Scratch   |       | N    | A boy from a broken home tries to forget being molested by an older man. Although actual molestation not described in detail it's clear enough to be problematic unless there is a special situation where a child needs to read this - with a lot of adult guidance. Father "took off" with another woman, language, bullying, stealing from a soda machine is OK.   |
|                  | Weeks, Sarah    | Pie   | 4-6   | N?   | A girl is saddened by the death of a beloved aunt who made marvelous pies. Book is interspersed with recipes throughout (mostly kasherable). Girl's mother talks about how jealous she was of her sister. Parents somewhat dysfunctional, girl is slightly chutzpadik to them. They improve at the end. Brief unimportant Santa Claus. Boy likes girl and asks her out to the movies- she refuses. Idea of kissing a boy makes a girl want to throw up. Kids spy on a school principal and see her wearing a bright red skin tight outfit that shows her muscles. A jump rope rhyme - "Cinderella who went upstairs to kiss a fella". Brief mention of TV and xmas. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title   | grade |    |  |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------|----|--|
|                  | Weiss, Ellen and Mel Friedman | The Animal Rescue Squad #1 - Kitten Alert!      | 3-5   | N? | Girls save kitten and start Animal Rescue Squad. Several mentions of girl's crush on boy. Deal with mean neighbor, who is mean because her husband "ran off with a waitress".  |
|                  | Weiss, Ellen and Mel Friedman | The Animal Rescue Squad #3 - Horse in the House | 3-5   | N? | Girl is gymnast; father pressures her to succeed. Saves miniature horse and gets to keep it. Several mentions of crushes (p. 7, 97,108). Girl's mother has been away for some time, having gone to India to "find herself"; a lot of resentment by girl; mother writes letter where she says that when girl is grown up she will understand mother is doing the right thing; on last page, mother writes she is coming back. Girl realizes that father is pushing her in gymnastics too much; tells him so in chutzpadik way.  |
|                  | Weissman, Elissa Brent        | Standing for Socks                              | 4-7   | N? | Girl gains unintended fame by wearing 2 different socks. Passing mentions: of boy being "hot", piercing, tattoos, arm around shoulder, girlfriend. Vague references to boy liking girl. Language: fart (1). Subtle play on words throughout book: socks/sucks (implied); once actually uses word sucks.  |
|                  | Weissman, Elissa Brent        | The Short Seller                                | 5-7   | N? | Girl learns how to day-trade stocks, while home sick from school. Ends up using parents' account to lose and gain large amounts of money; learns lesson in the end. While she is sick, girl's 2 best friends, a boy and a girl, become boyfriend/girlfriend, go out on dates, and hold hands. Minor language. Social networking.   |
|                  | Weissman, Elissa Brent        | The Trouble with Mark Hopper                    | 4-6   | N? | 2 boys with exact same name, encounter challenges at school. Lie to win contest; learn lesson in the end. Minor language. 'damn' - page 170. 2 friendly non-romantic hugs. Passing references to girl "everyone has crush on". Boy's father left them; although divorce papers have not yet been filed, boy hears woman in background on phone calls; would be missed by most in age group. In effort to explain to son that it is not his fault that father left, grandfather tells him anyone who leaves his family is a terrible person - could be confusing to some children of divorce. Bad midos by boy's sister and divorced parents. |
|                  | Wells, H.G.                   | The Invisible Man                               | 9+    | C  | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Wells, H.G.                   | The Time Machine                                | 9+    | C  | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Wells, H.G.                   | The War of the Worlds                           | 9+    | C  | See Classics Analysis List.  |
|                  | Wells, Rosemary               | Through the Hidden Door                         |       | N  | Mature Content; Violence   |
|                  | Wesley, Valerie Wilson        | Willimena Rules: How to Fish for Trouble        | 2-3   | OK | Willimena deals with popular cousin  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wesley, Valerie Wilson | Willimena Rules: How To Lose Your Cookie Money | 2-3   | OK?? | Girl spends her girl scout cookie money to feed hungry neighbors. When it is time to give the money to the girl scouts, her sister tries to help her to earn the money with disastrous results. Lots of sibling rivalry and minor language. TV. Language- stupid, dumb, stinks.   |
|                  | Westerfeld, Scott      | Uglies   |       | N    | Future society where everyone gets surgery to be beautiful. Mild language. Romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Weston, Carol          | Melanie Martin Goes Dutch                      | 6-9   | N?   | Girl goes with family on vacation to Holland. Take along friend whose mother is having surgery for breast cancer. Learns important lessons about friendship, growing up, and dealing with illness. Mild adolescent language, eg: perv, butt. Visit to Dutch beach where most women are topless; father explains Europeans are more relaxed about their bodies. Girl is reading Diary of Anne Frank - mentions Anne falling in love with Peter and kissing. Detailed discussion of breast cancer operation. Could be helpful for older girls dealing with breast cancer in family. |
|                  | Weyn, Suzanne          | Baker's Dozen - Hilary and the Rich Girl #2    | 3-4   | OK?  | (no connection to Jewish series of same name.) Girl steals money from her family to buy rich girl a present. Eventually feels guilty. Kids don't talk nicely to each other; e. g. - You're weird.   |
|                  | Weyn, Suzanne          | Baker's Dozen - Make Room for Patty #1         | 3-4   | OK?  | Child adjusts to being adopted. Some rough language and bad midos   |
|                  | Wharton, Edith         | Ethan Frome                                    | 9+    | C    | See Classics Analysis List.   |
|                  | Whelan, Gloria         | Night of the Full Moon                         | 2-3   | OK?  | Girl is accidentally mistaken for an Indian when white men take Indians away from their land. Soldier "squashes girl against him" to keep her from falling off a horse.   |
|                  | Whelan, Gloria         | Silver   | 2-3   | OK?  | Girl in Alaska raises runt dog to be sled racer. Dog's pregnancy was "unplanned" - someone left the gate open between 2 pens by accident.   |
|                  | Whelan, Gloria         | The Impossible Journey                         | 5-8   | OK?  | Girl and brother try to join mother who has been exiled to Siberia. Sad ending - father escapes prison camp and then dies. Religion: used to go to church, but don't anymore because of Communist regime. X-mas service at home: Father Xmas, C--- in manger. Pray to St. Vladimir.   |
|                  | Whelan, Gloria         | The Indian School                              | 4-5   | OK?  | An orphaned girl goes to live with her strict aunt who runs a school for Indian children. She befriends an orphaned Indian girl. The school is affiliated with a church which is mentioned but no religion detailed. Indian girl explains that when she dies she will become a star in the sky.   |
|                  | Whelan, Gloria         | The Locked Garden                              | 4-7   | OK?  | Girl's father is psychiatrist at turn of the century. Unusual plot for children's book. After death of their mother, mother's spinster sister stays with them; girls prefer woman from asylum who helps out in their home, & try to get rid of aunt and get father to marry woman. Short description of church service. Grown brother of woman is chutzpadik to their abusive father.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author         | Title                                 | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Whelan, Gloria | The Turning                           |       | N    | A ballerina decides if she should defect from Russia on the eve of democracy. Lots of boy/girl, romance, negiah, inappropriate references, women's undergarments detailed.   |
|                  | White, Andrea  | Radiant Girl                          | 7-8   | N?   | Girl and family during Chernobyl reactor disaster. Boy/Girl  |
|                  | White, Andrea  | Surviving Antarctica: Reality TV 2083 | 6-8   | OK?  | In Futuristic dystopia of collapsed U.S. economy, scheming government official runs real-life "Survivor" shows, in which contestants actually risk their lives. Somewhat scary.  |
|                  | White, E. B.   | Stuart Little                         | 3-5   | OK?  | A mouse born to a human couple runs away to seek his fortune and to find his bird-friend. One chapter about a date (chap 14) with a short girl, that ends in disaster; nothing romantic. Mention of the poem "The Night Before Xmas". One sentence mention of a girl receiving a present from a boy to remember him by (chap 12 p. 98).  |
|                  | White, E. B.   | The Trumpet of the Swan               | 4-6   | OK?? | A boy becomes friend with a mute swan who eventually learns to blow a trumpet so he can win a mate. This book is essentially a gentle love story between swans. The only "negiah" is one swan putting neck on the other. A lot of focus on swans finding mates and falling in love - done in a very gentle way. One unimportant mention of nature as a force (p. 54 chap 6). Minor language: darned (once). Head counselor of boys camp encourages them to go swimming without bathing suits. Xmas - no religion.                        |
|                  | White, Ruth    | Little Audrey                         | 5-7   | OK?  | True story of difficult life of family in coal mine town. Father drinks and uses up part of food money; mother retreats into her own mental world. Mild/innocent boy-liking-girl relationship. Somewhat heavy for age group.   |
|                  | White, T.H.    | The Sword in the Stone                |       | N    | Story of the boy who grew to be King Arthur. Lots of knights jousting, talk of lady love, description of religious ceremony when knighted, hunting for sport, lots of myth and magic, minor bad language (eg damn, sucks). Minor romantic negiah between Robin Hood and Maid Marian. Fairly accurate retelling of story about R. Yochanan and Eliahu Hanavi, lots of myth about how world evolved and animals evolved and millions of years, X-mas celebration, lots of talk of animal mating, a few clear and religious mentions of J-- |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                  | Title                      | grade |      |  |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Whitesides, Tyler       | Janitor                    | 5-7   | N?   | Children uncover a plot to ruin their education and work with janitors to magically defeat their enemies. A lot of bad middos between classmates. Boy has a crush on teacher- calls her a "hottie"- hopes she will hold his hand. Long drawn out incident where a boy and girl go to a bathroom to find a magical nail and are accused of being lovebirds and going there to kiss- but nothing overtly romantic. Throughout book boy thinks his father abandoned the family- at the end finds out he was a hero. Frequent language- shut up, doofus, berserk, weirdo, freaky, gross, shut up, heck, stupid, creepy, freak out.   |
|                  | Wiegand, Roberta        | The Year of the Comet      |       | N    | A girl in a small town has old fashioned adventures. Many mentions of father's "wandering eye" when he sees a pretty woman. Girl writes a love letter to her teacher.  |
|                  | Wiggin, Kate<br>Douglas | Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm | 4-7   | OK?? | Classic story of a poor girl who comes to live with her spinster aunts and ends up coming to appreciate them, and they her. Novel follows her as she grows up always backed by an older single man- not overtly romantic but might end up that way in a future book. Some classics mentioned by title. Many mentions of church and Sunday school. Girl writes a poem about "seraphim" angels, goes to a missionary meeting, hymn singing, an actual hymn written out (p181-182), hymn "J. should reign" (not written out p 183), girl makes up a prayer –relatively innocuous, many mentions of xmas presents. During the war one of the aunts was engaged and her fiancé was injured so she went to nurse him and "hold his hand through hours of pain" and he died "in her arms". Mention of boys and girls mingling, boys carrying books for girls, "flirtations", and "school girl romances" but none of it described in detail. Girl wishes she could wear gowns with low necks that show her shoulders. Humorous description of a family with a father who is in and out of jail and mother not really around to raise them, leading to a dysfunctional household. Language- stupid, consarned, idiot. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                         | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-----|---|
| new              | Wildavsky, Rachel     | The Secret of Rover           | 4-7   | OK? | Brother and sister escape kidnappers and try to save their parents. Though the kids steal food and supplies when they are in an emergency, they discuss the morality of this at the time. As soon as their family is reunited, they tell their parents about the stealing, and their mother says "we'll pay it back. "Pee" on truck where they are stowaways. Language: heck. Uncle is a hermit; says it is because he was once attached to a lady; listener thinks she left for another man. Later the uncle meets the girlfriend, they call each other 'darling' and 'sweetheart', and 'needed to be alone'. Later they hold hands and announce they are engaged. Children go against instructions of adults and put themselves in danger, help to capture kidnappers by spraying them with mace. |
|                  | Wilder, Laura Ingalls | Farmer Boy                    | 3-5   | OK? | Day to day life of little boy on farm. Mention of Christian holidays and saying grace but not major issue.  |
|                  | Wilder, Laura Ingalls | Little House in the Big Woods | 3-5   | N?  | Little girls growing up in a log cabin. Slaughter of animals described in painstaking detail. X-mas described in detail. Sunday described in detail - kids will draw parallel to Shabbos (lehavdil). Bedtime prayer - "now I lay me down'. Co-ed dance - illustration of men and women dancing. Can tear out pages.   |
|                  | Wilder, Laura Ingalls | Little House On The Prairie   | 3-5   | N?  | Classic story of a family that moves west. Girl asks parents if dogs go to heaven-father answers" yes, G-d wouldn't leave a good dog out in the cold". A full chapter on xmas and girls hope of Santa Claus bringing her presents. Very warm and fuzzy description of the holiday. Father sings song about angels and saints (p170). Brief unimportant mention of women's undergarments. Description of "naked" Indians. Some scary moments when cabin is surrounded by wolves and when fear Indians will "massacre" (never defined but implication is clear).  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                | Title                                      | grade |     |  |
|------------------|-----------------------|--|-------|-----|--|
|                  | Wilder, Laura Ingalls | Little Town on the Prairie                 | 3-5   | N?  | Girl is getting older and works hard in order to earn a teacher's certificate to earn enough to enable her blind sister to attend college. A lot of minor boy/ girl that the girl herself doesn't quite understand. When an older boy asks permission to walk her home from church she wonders why, when she is a girl and he is a grownup. A more savvy classmate flirts with boys. A boy tries to give candy to a female classmate, but the flirtatious girl pretends it was for her. Boys pull girls on sled in a mildly flirtatious way. Non romantic negiah. At night girl overhears father telling mother "lie down again and let me have some of the covers back" . Alot of discussion about corsets and other old fashioned women's undergarments. A lot of going to church and xmas, as in other books in this series- including descriptions of church service, physical description of new church, words of hymns, detailed xmas . School children behave badly with an ineffective teacher. Middos between classmates. Language- drat. |
|                  | Wilder, Laura Ingalls | On the Banks of Plum Creek                 | 3-5   | N?  | Fourth book in series. The family moves to Minnesota so girls can go to school. Lots of Thanksgiving - no religion. 2 full chapters of Xmas and presents. Discussion if Santa Claus is real. Detailed church attendance and Sunday School lessons. Some quoting of Bible. Father wears cracked boots because he gave his money to repair the church bell. Song about JC (p. 29). A stuck-up girl makes fun of poor country girl - they take revenge - impression given that revenge is sweet. Minor language: darned.  |
|                  | Wilder, Laura Ingalls | On the Way Home                            | 3-5   | OK? | Diary written from perspective of mother of the family on journey to Missouri ( series is written from perspective of daughter) A few mentions of church. Photo of children at church posed under a cross. Language (once)- "Hell for Leather" (meaning very quickly and recklessly)   |
|                  | Wiles, Deborah        | Each Little Bird that Sings                | 5-6   | OK? | Small-town girl, whose parents own town funeral parlor, learns lessons about loss, friendship, and life, when she experiences death in her own family. Sweet; a little strange. 2 mentions of J--- on tombstone - p 208.   |
|                  | Wiles, Deborah        | The Aurora County All-Stars                | 3-5   | N?  | A boy deals with the deaths of his mom and an elderly friend, while trying to figure out how his team can play ball at the same time that they are in a pageant. A lot of detailed talk about death - no religion beyond saying that angels took him to heaven A lot of descriptions of a girl who wears flamboyant clothing that emphasizes her "almost curves". Minor language: shut up, stupid, butt, heck, dang. Some bad middos. Talk of watching soap opera that a boy from their town acts in.  |
|                  | Wiley, Melissa        | The Martha Years: Beyond the Heather Hills | 3-6   | OK  | Fictionalized story of childhood of Martha, grandmother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Martha visits house of married sister and returns home older and wiser.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                 | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Wiley, Melissa         | The Martha Years: The Far Side of the Loch    | 3-6   | OK  | Martha spends time with her cousins.  |
|                  | Wilkins, Celia         | The Caroline Years: Across the Rolling River  | 3-6   | OK? | Fictionalized story of childhood of Caroline, mother of Laura Ingalls Wilder. 11 year old Caroline meets Charles Ingalls. Older sister Martha is shyly courted by neighboring boy; tame.  |
|                  | Wilkinson, Carole      | Dragon Moon                                   |       | N   | A Chinese girl helps an orphaned dragon find a place to live. A Chinese seer can make accurate predictions about the future. Romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Williams, Barbara      | Titanic Crossing                              | 5-7   | OK? | Boy is going back to tyrannical grandma with family on the Titanic. Deals with death of father, fact that mom wants to be actress despite grandma's disapproval, mention of suffragettes. Mentions, but doesn't explain, that actresses are "fast". Mother's dress not so modest.   |
|                  | Williams, Carol Lynch  | Pretty Like Us                                |       | N   | Unpopular girl befriends girl who has rare rapid-aging disease. Female anatomy. Romantic negiah between girl's single mother and mother's boyfriend. Mother gave birth to girl when mother was 14; her father was 15 and left.  |
|                  | Williams, Mark London  | Danger boy City of Ruins - Episode 4          |       | N   | Boy travels in time and accidentally affects history. Set in time of churban with Yirmiyahu Hanavi. Lots of problematic hashkafic historical issues. A few brief recollections of romantic kiss. Minor boy/girl. Some language.   |
|                  | Williams, Sarah DeFord | Palace Beautiful                              | 5-7   | N?  | Girl whose mother died giving birth to younger sister, moves to new house with father, sister, and kind step-mother (who is pregnant). Befriend eccentric girl who is not 'accepted' by her straight-laced mother. Find journal in attic from girl whose family members died in flu pandemic of 1918. Nice book overall, but deals with some heavy topics, and has some small but significant problems. Girl makes up her own "Creation" stories, about how world and people were created. Vague mention of embarrassing "health" class, and vague mention of being embarrassed finding out where babies come from. Eccentric girl is chutzpahdik to mother; book implies it is positive that she stands up for her rights. 2 kisses between adolescent boy/girl (not discussed in detail); girl talks about 'longing' for boy in class, and turns red. Some heavy hashkafa/emotional questions and thoughts regarding death of mother and worrying about bad things happening. Minor language: jeez. |
|                  | Williams, Suzanne      | Third Grade Friends - Josh Taylor Mr. Average | 2-3 ? | OK? | Boy runs for class representative. Side story of 9th grade brother always on phone with girl.   |
|                  | Williams, Tennessee    | The Glass Menagerie                           |       | C   | See Classics Analysis List.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title   | grade |     |   |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Williams, Vera S.             | WASPS - Women Air Force Service Pilots of WWII                              |       | N   | Describes, in their own words, the lives of women who flew planes in the war - very inappropriate and vulgar language and descriptions - very explicit about boy/girl relations and bodily functions.   |
|                  | Williams-Garcia, Rita         | One Crazy Summer  |       | N   | Girls travel to California to find their dysfunctional mother who abandoned them. A lot of black culture set in the sixties- Black Panthers, black pride, etc. language, boy/girl, etc.   |
|                  | Wilner-Pardo, Gina            | Jumping into Nothing  |       | N   | Constant refs. to pre-adolescent boy-girl stuff   |
|                  | Wilson, Holly                 | Snowbound in Hidden Valley  | 4-6   | OK? | A girl is snowbound with a friendly family of Indians and learns to appreciate their similarities and differences. Girls giggle over a book where a little girl wears corsets (never explains why it's funny). Minor mention of Indians' belief in gods.  |
|                  | Wilson, Jacqueline            | Candy Floss   |       | N   | A girl from a divorced home decides to stay with her unsuccessful father instead of moving to Australia with her mother and successful stepfather. Lots of teen culture - rock bands, kissing pictures of boys, talk about s--, boy moves in with girl - no marriage mentioned. Chutzpah, bad middos, father "snuggles" on couch with girlfriend.   |
|                  | Wilson, N. D.                 | Dandelion - Book 2 of the 100 Cupboards                                     | 7-8   | N?  | A boy discovers his true identity when he goes through a magical cupboard and is involved in a battle with evil magical creatures. Story is very convoluted with random out-of-context biblical references (relatively neutral ones) thrown in (instead of Moses is says Moische?!?). Boy's parents are divorcing. A lot of talk about the importance of a Christening ceremony. Occasional language: ass, bastard, damn, idiot |
|                  | Wilson, Nancy Hope            | Old People, Frogs, and Albert   | 3-5   | OK? | A boy overcomes his fear of a nursing home when his reading tutor has a stroke and goes there to recover. Language (once each)- jerk, blasted   |
|                  | Winkler, Henry and Lin Oliver | Hank Zipper -The World's Greatest Underachiever - A Tale of Two Tails       |       | N   | A dyslexic boy tries to train his dog to win the school mascot contest. Children discuss teacher getting divorced and getting "dumped" . Lots of juvenile bathroom humor. A lot of minor language: idiot, weird, butt, stupid, moron, vomit, darn, maniac. Juvenile romantic negiah.  |
| new              | Winkler, Henry and Lin Oliver | Hank Zipper- The World's Greatest Underachiever - Niagra Falls, or Does It? |       | N   | A dyslexic boy tries to avoid writing an essay about his summer vacation by building a working model of Niagra Falls. Middos between friends. Adolescent boy/ girl, flirting. Boys wonder if teachers husband kisses her good night. One line about santa claus. TV Language- stupid, butt naked, weird, creepy, freak out, jerk,   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                        | Title  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Winkler, Henry and Lin Oliver | Hank Zipper- The World's Greatest Underachiever - Summer School!<br>What Genius Thought That Up? |       | N    | A dyslexic boy and his adventures and misadventures in summer school. Unrefined. Lots of juvenile language - darf, dorky, idiot, moron, jerk, freaking out, dumbo, darn. Lots of juvenile bathroom and body odor humor. Old lady has a crush on the boy's grandfather. Juvenile boyfriend and girlfriend. Kids make fun of principal . Teacher wears a coconut bikini top over her shirt for Hawaii week. A list of 10 very manipulative ways to get parents to change their minds.   |
|                  | Winterfield, Henry            | Mystery of the Roman Ransom  | 4-6   | OK?  | Roman gods (tangential to plot)   |
|                  | Winterfield, Henry            | Trouble at Timpetill   | 3-6   | OK   | When children in town misbehave, parents all leave. Cute. Minor language nitwit, shut up, idiot.  |
|                  | Winters, Ben H.               | The Mystery of the Missing Everything  | 5-8   | OK?  | Follows "The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman" . Girl solves mystery of missing trophy. Has friend who is a boy. Minor language: freakazoid, god!, stupid, pee. Song about boy who falls in love (mentioned - no lyrics). Non-romantic negiah. Boy briefly mentions parents' messy divorce. Principal is feared but ridiculous character.   |
|                  | Winters, Ben H.               | The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman   | 6-8   | OK?? | Girl discovers that mousy music teacher was once a rock star. Class performs rock-and-roll concert. Girl and boy become friends. Mild language: pee, suck, butt, stupid. Mother wonders why girl is upset, and proudly thinks she has "boy problems" (she doesn't). Mentions of actual rock bands and songs from 60's-90's. Parent encourages student to blackmail teacher. Passing mention of xmas lights. Boy student hugs female teacher to thank her. Male teacher sees female teacher dressed as rock star and "falls in love" with her - no follow-up. Teacher has tattoo on arm. Girl wears gown modeled after star in YouTube clip. Prodigy piano player defies parents by playing rock instead of classical music. |
|                  | Winterson, Jeanette           | Tangle Wreck   |       | N    | A girl tries to keep the bad guys from finding a clock that controls time. Many hashkafic issues and boy/girl   |
|                  | Winthrop, Elizabeth           | Counting on Grace  | 4-7   | OK?? | Historical fiction: Children working in mill in early 1900's. Girl is encouraged by her teacher to get an education and a better life. Language: "damn" by adult trying to save child in dangerous situation towards end of book - can be crossed out.  |
|                  | Winthrop, Elizabeth           | The Castle in the Attic  | 4-6   | OK?  | Boy receives a magic castle as a present. Helps knight regain kingdom from evil wizard. A few unimportant and unexplained references to Greek gods. A few titles of Xmas Carols - no words or details (p. 115) other than "The Battle Hymn of the Republic, which is relatively neutral, especially for this age group that just won't get it.  |
|                  | Wiseman, Eva                  | A Place Not Home   |       | N    | Immigrant Jewish family. Boy/girl attraction, dance.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                          | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|------|--|
|                  | Wiseman, Eva       | No One Must Know               |       | N    | Holocaust survivors try to hide Jewish identity from daughter and raise her as Catholic, with predictable results. Complicated by girl getting Jewish boyfriend. Negiah.   |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | Digging up the Past #6         | 4-6   | OK?  | Rip Van Winkle story. Caricature of nagging wife   |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | Don Quixote                    |       | N    | romance  |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | Frankenstein                   | 4-6   | OK   | scary  |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | Ivanhoe                        |       | N    | Romance, including Jewish girl   |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | Joan of Arc                    |       | N    | religion   |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | Last of the Breed              | 4-6   | OK?  | mild romance   |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | Muttketeer #8                  |       | N    | helps unfaithful queen not get in trouble with husband   |
|                  | Wishbone Classics  | The Odessey                    |       | N    | Greek gods   |
|                  | Wishbone Mysteries | Case of the Unsolved Case      |       | N    | Entire book revolves around xmas, a girl with a crush on a boy, and unfinished (unreviewed) novel by Mark Twain.   |
|                  | Wishbone Mysteries | Disoriented express #14        | 4-6   | OK   | Dog helps solve pretend murder as well as a real crime.  |
|                  | Wishbone Mysteries | Lights, Camera, Action Dog     | 4-6   | N?   | Dog solves mystery of who is sabotaging a historical film. Side-plot of going back in history to discover who sent letter to a girlfriend's grandfather that caused him to commit suicide. Encourages readers to read the book in its original form - I don't know if it's problematic but I would guess it is.                                  |
|                  | Wishbone Mysteries | Stage Invader #15              | 4-6   | N?   | Kids put on play "Grease" -- about boy catching girl. Boy and girl are "couple"; girl jealous that boy is getting attention from other girls. Boy and girl hold hands for dance in play.   |
|                  | Wishbone Mysteries | The Disappearing Dinosaurs #10 | 4-6   | N?   | Solve mystery of who is sabotaging dinosaur exhibit. Lots of talk of millions of years ago - needs adult guidance. Boy is very understanding of scientist who lied to get funding - makes it almost OK to lie for this.  |
| new              | Wishbone Mysteries | The Stolen Trophy #5           | 4-6   | OK?? | Dog helps solve the mystery of a stolen trophy. New boy frames another boy to get attention and make friends. Learns his lesson. A lot of accusations and rechilus. Brief mention of movie and movie theater, TV. Brief mention that boy's father died when he was young and raised by mother. Intro mentions that this character has a TV show. |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                               | Title                            | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wishbone Mysteries                   | The Treasure of Skeleton Reef #1 | 4-6   | OK   | Find pirate treasure in order to save lighthouse  |
| new              | Wishbone- the Adventures of Wishbone | A Pup in King Arthur's Court     | 4-6   | OK?? | Based on classic "A Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court" by Mark Twain. Dog becomes a hero in the classic story of a modern man who suddenly finds himself in the dark ages and tries to introduce modern ideas. This is interspersed with a modern day story of sixth graders who decide to publish a sports newsletter and end up causing bad feelings with eighth graders doing the same thing. Intro mentions TV show starring this character. Man has a "sweetheart" who works as an operator who he calls every week just to hear her voice. Princess seats behind knight on horse and holds on to his chain mail shirt. Eventually marry. Many mentions of the church as fighting modern ideas. church bells. church punishes people by "interdict"- forbidding them from taking part in religious services. Knight search for the holy grail which is explained as the cup that yoshka (full name mentioned) used at the last supper. Language- weird note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book. |
| new              | Wishbone- The Adventures of Wishbone | Dog Overboard #12                | 4-6   | OK?? | Based on classic "Kidnapped" by Robert Louis Stevenson. Dog becomes hero in classic story of a young man kidnapped on a sailing ship. This is interspersed with a modern day story of a boy who struggles with telling the truth about not listening to his mother, thereby proving the innocence of a boy he dislikes who was accused of writing graffiti. At the end he does the right thing. Intro mentions that there is a TV show starring this character. Boy watches movie on TV. Brief mention that boy has a crush on his teacher and makes up a crossword puzzle using her name. In classic, 2 brothers "love" the same lady so they strike a deal- one marries her, and one gets the family estate. Middos between children. note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book. Language- weird.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author                               | Title                        | grade |      |  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|------|--|
| new              | Wishbone- The Adventures of Wishbone | Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Dog #14   |       | N    | Based on classic "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Stevenson. Dog becomes hero in classic story of a doctor who discovers a way to change his identity so he can carry out his basest desires, though the alter identity eventually takes over and the doctor commits suicide. This is interspersed with a modern day romance between the kid's teacher and neighbor who takes on an alternate identity of a rock star and Elvis Presley impersonator. A long romantic hug as well as some other flirty type of negiah. Intro mentions that this character has a television show. Unimportant mentions of Halloween, church bells, xmas gifts. Language-weird, blast it, darn it all, stupid. note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book. |
| new              | Wishbone- The Adventures of Wishbone | Moby Dog #10                 | 4-6   | OK?? | Based on classic "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville. Dog becomes hero in classic story of whalers who try to capture a huge whale. This is interspersed with a modern day story of a boy who tries to get back his basketball from a bully. Middos among teenagers- a lot of name calling and insults.Intro mentions that this character has a TV show. Internet. One word mentions of xmas.Description of chapel service- the minister delivers a sermon on Jonah and the whale. Pretty neutral.Mentions that boy's father died when he was young. Cannibal worships an idol. Language- dumb. blast it, jerk note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book.  |
| new              | Wishbone- The Adventures of Wishbone | The Prince and the Pooch #3  | 4-6   | OK?  | Based on classic "The Prince and the Pauper" by Mark Twain. Dog becomes hero in classic story of peasant who switches places with a prince. This is interspersed with a modern day story of a boy who learns that being a team coach isn't so easy when he becomes the coach of a little girls Tball team. Corronation takes place at Westmister Abbey with the "robed" heads of church.Man abandons his wife so she marries someone else. In intro, mention that this character has a TV show. note: this book may encourage some children to want to read the original classic. If parents believe that this may be the case with their child they should first ensure the acceptability of the original before allowing child to read this book.  |
|                  | Wisler, G. Clifton                   | The Drummer Boy of Vicksburg | 4-6   | OK?  | A boy enlists as drummer in civil war. War, violence, blood. Mention in passing of girls "getting kissed"  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                  | grade |      |   |
|------------------|----------------------|--|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wisler, G. Clifton   | Thunder on The Tennessee               |       | N    | lots of gory description. Details about leaving girlfriend, long kiss   |
| new              | Wittlinger, Ellen    | Parrotfish                             |       | N    | Girl decides she wants to be a boy.   |
|                  | Wojciechowska, Maia  | Shadow of a Bull                       | 4-7   | OK   | Boy deals with expectations of townspeople that he will follow in footsteps of his father who was a celebrated bull fighter.  |
|                  | Wolf, Joan M         | Someone Named Eva                      | 7+    | OK?? | A story based on real events about a non Jewish Czech girl who is pulled away from her family by the Nazis to be raised as a perfect German Aryan girl. The Nazis destroyed her town and killed all the men in retaliation for a partisan attack. Many mentions of Nazis hating Jews and killing them. Girl has a "crush" on a boy and blushes when he is present. Girl is embarrassed when Nazis force her to strip to her underwear, girl who is punished is forced to pull down her underwear to be beaten. Girl talks about asking a boy to dance with her. Mother prays using rosary beads. Church with crosses and altar described as a location. Girls wish they could be movie actresses and like to talk about actresses' clothing. Language-stupid. |
|                  | Wolf, Virginia Euwer | Mozart Season                          |       | N    | boy/girl attraction   |
|                  | Wolff                | Bat 6 - A Novel                        |       | N    | religion; out-of-wedlock child  |
|                  | Wolitzer, Meg        | The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman       |       | N    | Boy finds he can 'see' letters by touch, and enters Scrabble contest. Out-of-wedlock birth.   |
|                  | Wood, June Rae       | About Face                             |       | N    |   |
|                  | Wood, June Rae       | The Man Who Loved Clowns               |       | N    | Girl dealing with uncle's Down's syndrome, as well as parent's death. Negiah, mild pritzus, mild religion, friend's father in jail  |
|                  | Wood, Mary Rose      | The Incurable Children of Ashton Place | 5-7   | OK?? | A young governess is hired to care for children raised by wolves under mysterious circumstances. This book is really part one of the story- it does not reach a satisfying conclusion so parent's should check the next book for appropriateness. Detailed description of xmas party including a coed dance and women wearing gowns with "bare shoulders". Xmas tree, presents, father xmas. Minor boy/girl – flirting at the party with other people's spouses, male servant looks at female servant in a "lingering" way. Non romantic negiah. Language-blast it all, stinky, idiot, brats.   |
|                  | Woodruff, Elvira     | Dear Austin                            | 4-5   | OK   | Historical fiction.   |
|                  | Woodruff, Elvira     | Dear Levi                              | 4-5   | OK   | Historical fiction. Boy travels wagon trail to claim dead father's homestead. Lots of people die. Very sad.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author           | Title                                    | grade |      |  |
|------------------|------------------|--|-------|------|--|
|                  | Woodruff, Elvira | Fearless                                 | 6-8   | OK?  | A boy becomes apprenticed to the inventor of a fun house when his father's ship goes down in a storm. Although the reading level of this book is lower than the recommendation it is quite sad when the boy has to deal with his father's death, his aunts sending him away and later his benefactor's death. Vivid descriptions of poverty. One word xmas. Language-stink, blasted, nincompoop.   |
|                  | Woodruff, Elvira | George Washington's Socks                | 5-7   | OK?? | Historical fiction. Children travel through time and join George Washington's army as they head toward the Battle of Trenton. A lot of scary, sad, and graphic descriptions of suffering and death That may be difficult for a sensitive child. .Description of young dying soldier who is so ill he wets himself with urine without realizing it. Soldier swears with Jeh-va as his witness (p152) Mention of TV,VCR.' Brief humorous mention of George Washington's underwear. Language- nerd, damn (p66), hell (p72),   |
|                  | Woodruff, Elvira | The Magnificent Mummy Maker              | 4-5   | OK?  | A boy feels average compared to gifted stepbrother and has hard time dealing with mom's death and dad's remarriage. Draws an amazing mummy and attributes new talent to mummy's power. Lots of Egyptian belief in afterlife. Some chutzpah, but is reprimanded.  |
| new              | Woodruff, Elvira | The Orphan of Ellis Island               | 5-7   | N?   | A foster child travels back to Italy in the 1900s and learns about his heritage when he accidentally gets trapped on Ellis Island during a school trip. Detailed description of what it means to be a foster child. Detailed description of boy dying- very sad. Priest says "last rites".Boys believe that a "saint's relics" will cure the dying boy (they don't ) Boy asks priest "What if G-d makes mistakes?" priest answers "That is what faith is all about. Everything happens for the best reasons...believing in the best is believing in G-d's goodness..." and goes on to explain there is good and bad in the world and you have to discover good in challenges etc. Boys make sign of the cross when they pass a statue. Mild boy/girl- boy blushes when girl speaks to him.Middos between children. Brief mention that dinosaurs lived in prehistoric times. Running joke about a goat who burps.TV.Description of "beautiful" cathedral. Language- dumb, |
|                  | Woodruff, Elvira | The Secret Funeral of Slim Jim the Snake | 4-5   | OK   | An orphan learns to appreciate fastidious uncle who is raising him. Makes funeral for snake in uncle's funeral parlor.   |
|                  | Woodruff, Elvira | The Summer I Shrank My Grandmother       | 4-5   | OK?  | Girl invents formula to stop grandmother's aging but she gets too young until she almost disappears. When she is a teenager she likes to look through binoculars at boys on the beach - stated as fact w/o reason. Buys bikini and paints her nails Otherwise very innocent and cute.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author              | Title  | grade |     |   |
|------------------|---------------------|--|-------|-----|---|
|                  | Woodson, Jacqueline | Peace, Locomotion  | 7+    | N?  | A series of letters a black boy in foster care writes to his sister to remind her about their parents who were killed and to share his feelings as he grows up. Mentions having crush on teacher, minor boy/girl, some minor black culture, mention of going on knees to pray to JC (p. 80), X-mas - no religion. |
|                  | Woodworth, Chris    | Georgie's Moon   |       | N   | Troubled girl deals with moving to new town, comes to grips with father's death in Vietnam. Language: crap. Crushes on boys. Bad middos in girl positively contrasted to "boring" goody-goody friend  |
|                  | Wrede, Patricia C.  | Book of Enchantments   | 6-8   | N?  | Short stories of fantasy and magic. Teen smoking, party with loud rock music, fairy tale kiss of sleeping girl, the sister "stealing" boy from another, overall tone.   |
|                  | Wrede, Patricia C.  | Dealing With Dragons - The Enchanted Forest Chronicles book 1  | 5-7   | OK? | A princess is tired of royal life so she runs away to be princess of a dragon. Makes fun of romantic knights trying to rescue her. Minor language - drat. Calls boy her paramour - he translates it as "lover", she says he is nothing of the kind  |
|                  | Wrede, Patricia C.  | Searching for Dragons - The Enchanted Forest Chronicles book 2 |       | N   | A king teams up with a princess to rescue the dragon queen and ends up marrying her. Romantic negiah before marriage. Lots of tongue-in-cheek parodies of fairy tales.  |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | A Ghost in the House   | 4-6   | OK  | very scary  |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | A Ghost in the Window  | 4-6   | OK? | minor bad language. Describe husking bee - winner gets kissed.  |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | Dollhouse Murders  | 4-6   | OK? | Description of murders  |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | Nothing but Trouble  | 2-4   | OK  | Girl figures out who is vandalizing elderly aunt's house.   |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | Phantom of Five Chimneys                                       |       | N?  | Remarriage; daughter tries to get rid of stepfather   |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | Rosie and the Dance of the Dinosaurs                           | 4-5   | OK? | Parents disagree where to live; imply could split   |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | The Ghost Comes Calling  | 3-4   | OK? | Ghost haunts until appeased. Mixed swimming and mild negiah.  |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | The Ghosts of Mercy Manor                                      | 4-6   | OK? | Ghost acts out own murder   |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | The Pike River Phantom   | 4-6   | OK? | mention 'bra'; father was in jail for stealing  |
|                  | Wright, Betty Ren   | Too Many Secrets   | 4-5   | OK? | Rumors about boy's actor father marrying an actress; turns out to be not true.  |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author             | Title                                | grade |      |   |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|---|
|                  | Wulf, Linda Press  | The Night of Burning Devorah's Story |       | N    | Religious Jewish girl leaves Europe to South Africa after being orphaned and experiencing pogrom. Adopted by assimilated family. Nightmare inducing descriptions. Lots of mention of JC by name. Although family in Europe described as religious - describes bed parents shared, carrying cholent pot from non-Jew's oven on shabbos-yet, mom tells dad to sit and learn and daven with a minyan. Daughter thinks mom is silly to tell him to learn since dad knows everything already. When dad dies, mom goes into bed and lies with him. Girl reacts when sister's adoptive family serves meat and milk together - says how could you - sister responds "mummy says no need to be too Jewish - maybe mamma and poppa wouldn't have died if they weren't so Jewish". |
|                  | Wulffson, Don      | The Golden Rat                       | 7-8   | N?   | Historical Fiction. Ancient China. A boy is unjustly accused of killing his stepmother and tries to solve the mystery of the man who agreed to be executed in his place. Strong language: sh--, bastard, damn. Gory. Non-romantic negiah.   |
|                  | Wyatt, Leslie J.   | Poor Is Just A Starting Place        | 5-7   | N?   | Girl dreams of leaving Depression-era farm. Father neglects family and verbally abuses mother. Discussion of why mother doesn't leave him. Discussion of why mother has more kids even though she has TB. Cover photo of girl in sleeveless, low cut dress. Religious discussions about why G-d does what he does - does not contradict Torah, but...   |
|                  | Wyss, Johann David | The Swiss Family Robinson            | 6-8   | OK?  | A very religious Christian family gets shipwrecked and make a wonderful life for selves on desert island. Lots of religion but nothing really objectionable. Very specific and painstaking details about all they did including killing animals for food and clothing; may be gory for some.  |
| new              | Yee, Lisa          | Warp Speed                           |       | N    | Unpopular boy who is obsessed with TV show Star Trek is bullied and ignored in school until he discovers his hidden talent. Lots of TV, movies, comic book culture, language, boy/ girl, bad middos, etc.   |
|                  | Yelchin,Eugene     | Breaking Stalin's Nose               | 6-8   | OK?? | A boy becomes disillusioned with communism. Although the reading level appears to be much younger the content is only appropriate for a much more sophisticated reader.A lot of betrayal,imprisonment, and death. Blind faith in the communist system. Middos issues exhibited by children and by teacher. Language-jerk,stupid, scum.  |
|                  | Yen Mah, Adeline   | Chinese Cinderella                   | 8-HS  | N?   | True story of Chinese girl whose mother dies and is rejected by stepmother and family. Stepmother is physically and verbally abusive. Mention of J-- and Virgin Mary. Mention of women's anatomy and undergarments.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author        | Title                                       | grade |      |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|-------|------|---|
|                  | Yep, Laurence | Angel Fish                                  | 5-7   | N?   | Sequel to "Ribbons". Same issues with ballet culture. Lots of descriptions of boy dancer needing to pick up girl dancer. Lots of non affectionate negiah and play fighting among boys and girls. Lots of discussions about "Beauty and the Beast" and how character falls in love. Brief mention of feeling connected to universe by practicing Tai Chi.  |
|                  | Yep, Laurence | Dragon Wings                                |       | N    | Chinese boy joins father in U. S. and helps him build a flying machine. A lot of Chinese religion and culture include the sordid side - brothels, prostitutes, opium dens, killings, violence. Lots of anti-Chinese prejudice described. Language: damned, stupid, son of a ____, bastard.  |
|                  | Yep, Laurence | Later, Gator                                | 4-6   | OK?  | A boy buys hated younger brother an alligator instead of following mother's instructions. Father fondly reminisces about playing ball with girls and meeting wife at co-ed game.  |
|                  | Yep, Laurence | Ribbons                                     | 5-7   | N?   | Chinese American girl struggles with being forced to give up ballet lessons in order to finance grandmother's trip to America. Many mentions of boys and girls doing ballet together and lots of platonic boy/girl. Non religious description of x-mas and presents. A number of arguments between parents - girl is scared she is the cause of the fights. A number of chutzpadik incidents between girl and grandmother - at end apologizes. A few incidental mentions of enjoying soap operas on TV.   |
|                  | Yep, Laurence | The Case of the Firecrackers                |       | N    | gangs, boyfriend/girlfriend jealousy. Set on TV set.  |
|                  | Yep, Laurence | The Serpent's Children                      | 8+    | OK?? | Children try to help family survive as farmers in old China despite severe poverty. Finally the brother goes to America to earn money to send back. Very sad when mother dies in children's arms. Aunt and uncle try to adopt children but children give them a hard time. When they try to bind the girl's feet they escape. A lot of Chinese beliefs and culture eg. gods, spirits, incense, etc. a few mentions of women being sold to a brothel and girl could have been raped- no explanations. Language-stupid, idiot, brat, dumb, shut up, hell cat. |
|                  | Yep, Laurence | The Tiger's Apprentice - Tiger Magic Book 3 | 4-6   | OK?  | A mix of fantastic creatures and humans in a bad guy vs. good guy fight in Chinatown. Minor language: idiot, screw up. Minor non romantic negiah. Some convoluted Chinese philosophy.   |
|                  | Yep, Laurence | The Tom Sawyer Fires                        |       | N    | During Civil War, a street urchin teams up with a friend and a reporter to capture a confederate spy. Actress auditions off kisses for charity. Very clear description of actresses who aren't dressed in much.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg for 2015 | Author               | Title                                     | grade |      |  |
|------------------|----------------------|---|-------|------|--|
|                  | Yep, Laurence        | Thief Of Hearts                           | 5-7   | OK?? | A girl whose mother is Chinese and father Caucasian tries to come to grips with her mixed heritage as she helps prove that a newly arrived Chinese girl with an unpleasant personality is not a thief. A lot of Chinese culture and religion. People insult the girl and call her "mixed seed" and "half breed". Juvenile boy/girl. Coed dances. Thinks an actor is cute. Non romantic negiah. Watches movies on cable TV, go to movies. Girl with serious issues comes from a dysfunctional home- parents sit at home all day watching 2 different televisions which blast loudly. Language-idiot, stinks, darn, punks, maniac, jerk, nerd, freak, shut up, stupid, weird, dumb.  |
|                  | Yolen                | Wizard's Hall                             | 2-3   | OK?  | A boy goes to wizard school even though he lacks magical talent. He saves the school from an evil wizard by virtue of trying hard. Language-stupid (once).   |
|                  | Yolen, Jane          | Briar Rose                                |       | N    | A girl goes to Poland to find out the meaning of a fairytale her grandfather told her about the past. Language, description of deviant relationship, lots of boy/girl, negiah, etc.  |
|                  | Yolen, Jane          | Pit Dragon Trilogy                        |       | N    | romance  |
| chg              | Yolen, Jane          | The Devil's Arithmetic                    | 7-8   | OK?  | A non-frum American girl opens door for Eliyahu Hanavi at seder and is transported to the Holocaust. P. 38 - references but not specific about coming home on wedding night and walls being thin. Girl says she knows what wedding night is because of "General Hospital" (meaning - the soap opera). P 92- female anatomy. P 134 - girl recites Kaddish. P 153 before they are shot groom says to bride "the sky is our wedding canopy" and kisses the top of her head. Language: bastard. Several references to Rabbi saying they should trust in G-d, while some make vaguely cynical comments. Bride and groom hold hands before marriage (when being loaded onto Nazi train). Adult man hugs girl who is his neice. References to some movies, including Yentl. |
|                  | Yolen, Jane          | The Dragon's Boy                          | 3-6   | N?   | Young King Arthur meets mentor disguised as dragon. Two references to kissing girls - tangential to plot.  |
|                  | Yolen, Jane          | The Young Merlin Trilogy - Book 2 - Hobby | 2-4   | OK?  | Adventures of young Merlin of Arthurian fame - has dreams that come true. Woman tells him to "kiss a wench" - he doesn't.  |
|                  | York, Carol Beach    | Pudmuddles                                | 2-4   | OK?? | Strange/ humorous little book about an eccentric man and his bride. Gets married in a church, go to church on Sundays- no description. One sentence that he kisses the bride.  |
|                  | York, Carol Beach    | The Key to the Playhouse                  | 2-4   | OK   | Two girls very mean to their neighbor but in the end resolve to do better next time.   |
|                  | Zalben, Jane Breskin | Four Seasons: A Novel in Four Movements   |       | N    | Brilliant pianist has nervous breakdown from stress of succeeding. Boy/girl.   |

Complete Secular Book List

| new/chg<br>for 2015 | Author        | Title                       | grade |   |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------|---|
|                     | Zinnen, Linda | The Dragons of Spratt, Ohio | 5-7   | <p>N?</p> <p>A boy tries to save his family's dragons from his aunt who wants to use their blood as anti-aging cream. Mother gives father "smooch" on the lips. Mentions watching TV. Lots of boy dreaming of asking a popular girl to the seventh grade dance. Preteen girl very into wearing makeup and fashionable clothing. Preteen boys "like" girls. Very frequent minor language: heck, birdbrain, shut up, crud, stupid, jerk, gosh-darned, screwy, darn, idiot, weird, freakin',</p> |