**Emalee Klinefelter**

**February 21, 2012**

**RIFF/INSIDER 1**

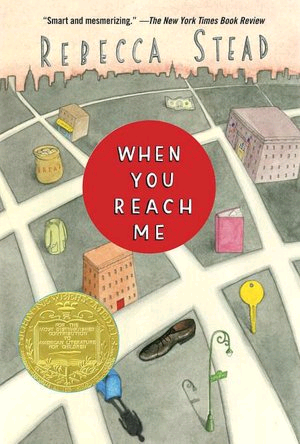
**YaLit**

**Literature Circles**

In reviewing the surveys of my prospective literature circle students, I have assessed that they all share a common interest in mystery and suspense stories. I have researched and came up with the following four potential chapter book contenders for our literature engagement. In selecting appropriate books, I took into account the Lexile reading comprehension level for the average sixth grade student. The books in which I chose reflected a Lexile comprehension that was lower on the sixth grade range. I chose a lower Lexile since the books that the three students read in school were in the middle of the Lexile comprehension spectrum. Since the students will be reading the literature independently without teacher guidance, I want to ensure their ultimate ability in comprehending the text for our literary meetings.

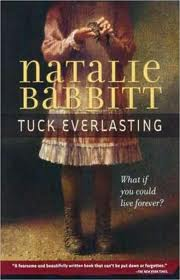
**1. When You Reach Me, by Rebecca Stead**

Lexile: 750 Synopsis: *(Barnes and Noble)*

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go, and they know who to avoid. Like the crazy guy on the corner. But things start to unravel. Sal gets punched by a kid on the street for what seems like no reason, and he shuts Miranda out of his life. The apartment key that Miranda's mom keeps hidden for an emergency is stolen. And then a mysterious note arrives, scrawled on a tiny slip of paper. The notes keep coming, and Miranda slowly realizes that whoever is leaving them knows things no one should know. Each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she's too late.

**2. Tuck Everlasting, by Natalie Babbit**

Lextile: 770 Synopsis: *(Barnes and Noble)*

Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing that it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing older.

**3. Among the Hidden, by Margaret Peterson Haddix**

Lexile: 800 Synopsis: *(Barnes and Noble)*

Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend.

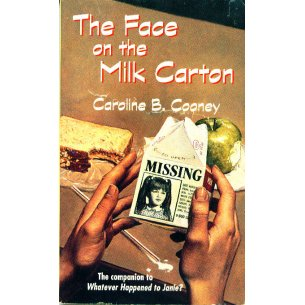
Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.

Then, one day Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children already live. Finally, he's met a shadow child like himself. Jen is willing to risk everything to come out of the shadows — does Luke dare to become involved in her dangerous plan? Can he afford not to?

In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

**4. The Face on the Milk Carton, by Caroline B. Cooney**

**Lexile: 660** Synopsis: *(Barnes and Noble)*

No one ever really paid close attention to the faces of the missing children on the milk cartons. But as Janie Johnson glanced at the face of the ordinary little girl with her hair in tight pigtails, wearing a dress with a narrow white collar—a three-year-old who had been kidnapped twelve years before from a shopping mall in New Jersey—she felt overcome with shock. She recognized that little girl—it was she. How could it possibly be true?

Janie can't believe that her loving parents kidnapped her, but as she begins to piece things together, nothing makes sense. Something is terribly wrong. Are Mr. and Mrs. Johnson really Janie's parents? And if not, who is Janie Johnson, and what really happened?

A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity.