

# Genre Bending

Sci-fi or Fantasy? YA or adult? Country or pop?

Good Stuff without **Labels**

## Music

*Broken Records 12*. Bush Upper School Music.

*DJ Recha presents Basement Bhangra*. Rap mashed up with traditional Indian music.

*Ethiopiquest 3: Golden Years of Modern Ethiopia*. Soul, jazz, R&B, all with a unique Ethiopian berbere (spice).

*Gulag Orkestar* by Beirut. Balkan beats with ukulele, glockenspiel, cello, you name it. All done by a 19-year-old kid from Albuquerque.

*Juntos Por Ultima Vez*, by Vicente y Alejandro Fernández. (intern Juan's pick)

*Lullaby for My Favorite Insomniac*, by the Ahn Trio. A nice, classical trio of piano, violin and cello . . . with remixes by DJ Spooky and the Tao of Sound.

*Middle Cyclone*, by Neko Case. Alt-pop with perfect pitch.

*Promenade* by Grand Hallway. Seattle musician Tomo Nakayama and a large cast of local musicians present lush, melodic chamber pop songs.

*Rapa Iti*, by the Tahitian Choir. This technically is one genre, traditional quarter-tone Tahitian music, but it's a rare one. Needs to be heard to be believed.

*Reptilectric*, by Zoé. (for intern Pilar)

*Timeless*, by Sergio Mendez and the Black-Eyed Peas. Ser.gi.o, will.i.am, fer.gi.o and a variety of guest performers bring Brasil 66 into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Vegetal*, by Emilie Simon. (in honor of intern Jeanne)

## Non-fiction

*A.D.: New Orleans after the Deluge*, by Josh Neufeld. Survival stories, political commentary, graphic novel.

*Art and Intimacy*, by Ellen Dissanayake. Art or science?

*The Artful Storybook*, by Terry Taylor. Craft? Short stories? Altered book?

*Biology* (and *Physics* and *Astronomy* and *Periodic Table*, etc.), designed by Basher. Science topics presented in a fun visual format.

*The Cornbread Book*, by Jeremy Jackson. Cookbook and passionate defense of a simple food.

*The Freedom Business*, by Marilyn Nelson. Poetry or slave narrative?

*High Tide in Tucson*, by Barbara Kingsolver. Natural history, humor, grief, life-in-these-trying-times – these essays cover it all beautifully.

*Knitting Rules!* By Stephanie Pearl-McPhee. Humor, craft?

*The Map as Art*, by Katharine Harmon. Cartography? Graphic design? Art?  
*Maus*, by Art Spiegelman. Graphic novel or Holocaust biography?  
*Operating Instructions*, by Anne Lamott. Parenting manual? Memoir? Standup comedy?  
*The Photographer*, by Emmanuel Guibert, Didier Lefevre, Frederic Lemerrier. Graphic novel or news photography – war-torn Afghanistan with Doctors without Borders.  
*Street Food* by Clare Ferguson. Travelogue? Cookbook?  
*Sweethearts of Rhythm*, by Marilyn Nelson. History of a 1940s all-woman swing band told in poems.  
*Your Own, Sylvia*, by Stephanie Hemphill. Poetry collection, literary biography, fiction?

### **Independent Reading**

*Castle Waiting*, by Linda Medley. Part fairy tale collection, part Canterbury Tales, all comic book format and lots of fun.  
*The Earthsea Cycle*, (or anything else) by Ursula Le Guin. Through the lens of three nations at odds in the archipelago of Earthsea, Le Guin explores predeterminism, sexism, imperialism and fundamentalism, among other -isms. The cycle is nominally the story of the rise and fall of Ged, a brilliant wizard and a flawed man.  
*His Dark Materials*, by Philip Pullman. *The Golden Compass* is the first book in this trilogy which confronts big questions about free will, religious authority, original sin, and the immortality of god, and is above all a whopping great adventure.  
*The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins. Definitely science fiction because it's set in a future North America, where control is maintained through an annual televised survival competition with real consequences, so there's also some social commentary going on.  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, by Brian Selznick. Graphic novel? Film storyboard? Chapter book? All three in this magical book about finding your place in the world.  
*The Knife of Never Letting Go*, by Patrick Ness. On a planet where all male thoughts are audible, Todd tries to mask his intentions to discover the true history of his community and to warn an approaching ship of hopeful colonists. Sci-fi/social commentary  
*Locomotion and Peace, Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson. Novels of loss, survival, finding one's voice. Poetry collection.  
*The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, by Sherman Alexie. This collection of short stories reads like a novel, or is it that this novel reads like a collection of short stories?  
*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse. Another novel of loss and finding one's voice told in poems, but this one is also historical fiction.  
*Seek*, by Paul Fleischman. A novel told in a radio transcript about a boy trying to connect with his deceased father.  
*The Shadow Speaker*, by Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu. A girl with mystical powers embarks on a hero's quest through the Sahara.

*When You Reach Me*, by Rebecca Stead. A twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

*The young inferno*, by John Agard and Satoshi Kitamura. Dante in a hoodie, looking for his Beatrice in this 21<sup>st</sup> century update of a classic.

### **Picture books**

*Chicken and Cat*, by Sara Varon. Picture book or graphic novel? Super cute retelling of the Country Mouse and the City Mouse.

*Cook-a-doodle-doo!*, by Janet Stevens. Funny and animated picture book with beginning instruction in cooking.

*Jack and the Box*, by Art Spiegelman. Is this funny story about a rabbit and his new toy a comic book or a beginning reader or a graphic novel, or all three?

*Tales from Outer Suburbia* by Shaun Tan. Picture book? Short stories? Quirky stories running the gamut of extraterrestrial visitors to the end-of-map expeditions and beyond.

*The Three Pigs*, by David Wiesner. Folktale mash-up: three pigs, a wolf, a cat and dragon move from book to book (and through various illustration styles) to get “home.”

*Univers Revolved*, by Ji Lee. Alphabet book and 3-D puzzle. Can you decode it?

*Weslandia*, by Paul Fleischman. Wesley's garden produces a crop of huge, strange plants which provide him with clothing, shelter, food, and drink, and the basis for a new civilization.

### **Multimedia**

*Baghdad Burning* and *Baghdad Burning II*, by Riverbend. Two books from a blog by a young Iraqi woman documenting the first few years of the ongoing Iraq War.

*Bride and Prejudice*. Jane Austen movie adaptation and homage to Bollywood, complete with beautiful heroines, exotic locales and lavish costume changes.

*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, from the Reduced Shakespeare Company. Abridgements and Shakespeare were never so funny. You will LOL!

*Departures*. Japanese movie about loss and reconciliation, as well as offering a unique perspective on another culture.

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, by Jeff Kinney. Blog, books and movie. <http://www.wimpykid.com/>

*A Homemade Life*, by Molly Wizenberg. Blog/cookbook/memoir.

<http://orangette.blogspot.com/>

*Man on Wire*. Archival news footage blends with modern re-enactments and interviews to make an unforgettable documentary about the Frenchman who, in 1974, walked across a tightrope stretched between the World Trade Center's twin towers.

*Mirrormask*. Fantasy movie with animated sequences – from Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean and the Jim Henson Company.

*Playing for Change*. Street musicians from around the world play covers of pop songs. There's a documentary and CD.

*Skeleton Creek* series, by Patrick Carman. Web site and books.

<http://www.patrickcarman.com/enter/skeleton-creek/>