

Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors Book List

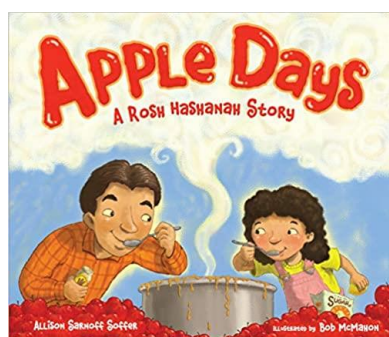
Livonia
PTSA Council

"Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created and recreated by the author. But if the light is right, the window becomes a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection, we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience."

- Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop

September 2021 Edition

This Month's Focus: Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur



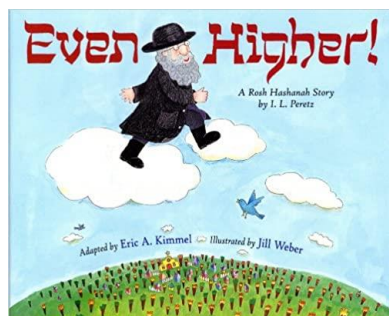
Apple Days: A Rosh Hashanah Story

By Allison Sarnoff Soffer, Illustrated by Bob McMahon

Recommended Age: 2 to 7 years

Picture Book

Katy's favorite holiday is Rosh Hashanah, when she gets to pick apples and make applesauce with her mother. But what happens when the tradition is interrupted by the early arrival of her baby cousin?



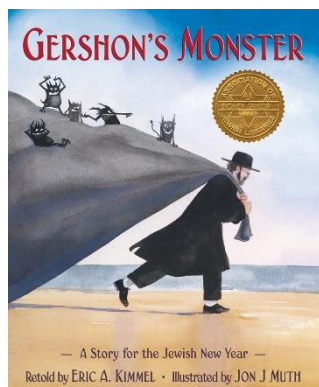
Even Higher!: A Rosh Hashanah Story

By Eric A. Kimmel, Illustrated by Jill Weber

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

Every year, just before Rosh Hashanah, the rabbi of Nemirov disappears. The villagers are certain their rabbi flies up to heaven to speak with God before the fate of every soul is decided for the coming year. But a skeptical Litvak scoffs at the villagers, claiming miracles cannot happen, and secretly follows the rabbi early one morning. What he witnesses -- an enormous act of human compassion -- changes his heart. Readers will be taken to a higher place in this celebration of the power of miracles.



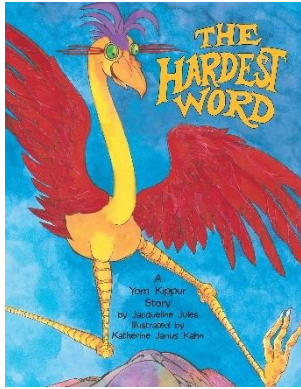
Gershon's Monster: A Story for the Jewish New Year

By Eric A. Kimmel, Illustrated by Jon J. Muth

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

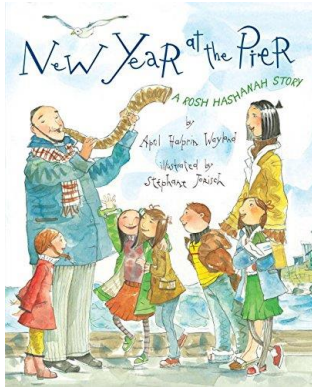
There was once a baker named Gershon who was a sinner. His sins were the common ordinary stuff; a few little lies, a broken promise, a temper lost for no reason. But unlike most people, Gershon never regretted what he had done. He never apologized or asked anyone's forgiveness. Why should he? He merely swept the little monsters up and tossed them into the cellar. Then, once a year, on Rosh Hashanah, he would stuff them in a sack and throw them into the sea. Why should he bother asking anyone for forgiveness when getting rid of them was so easy? It was only a matter of time, though, before Gershon's bad ways caught up with him. And they did come back to haunt him. One day, as his two children played by the sea, those sins he thought he'd gotten rid of had grown into a giant sea monster! Now they threatened what was most dear to him: his beloved children. Was it too late for Gershon to save them from his own mistakes?



The Hardest Word: A Yom Kippur Story

By Jacqueline Jules, Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn
Recommended Age: 3 to 8 years
Picture Book

The Ziz, a wonderful bird who lived long ago, is so big and clumsy that he can't keep from bumping into things. When a tree he knocks over destroys the children's garden, he seeks God's help to fix things. "Bring me the hardest word," God instructs him, and the Ziz flies off to search. He brings back words like rhinoceros, rock, and Rumpelstiltskin, but none is acceptable, until he makes an important discovery.

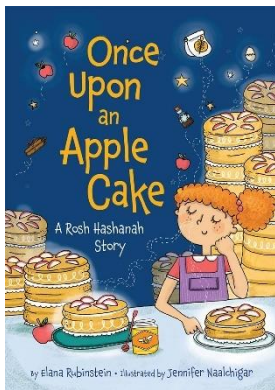


New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story

By April Halprin Wayland, Illustrated by Stephane Jorsch
Recommended Age: 5 to 8 years
Picture Book

Izzy's favorite part of Rosh Hashanah is Tashlich, a joyous ceremony in which people apologize for the mistakes they made in the previous year and thus clean the slate as the new year begins. But there is one mistake on Izzy's "I'm sorry" list that he's finding especially hard to say out loud.

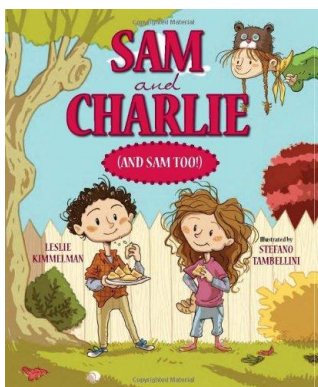
Humor, touching moments between family and friends, and lots of information about the Jewish New Year are all combined in this lovely picture book for holiday sharing.



Once upon an Apple Cake: A Rosh Hashanah Story

By Elana Rubinstein, Illustrated by Jennifer Naalchigar
Recommended Age: 7 to 10 years
Chapter Book

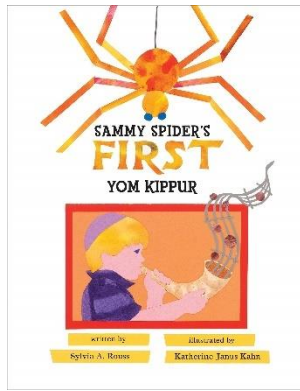
A clever story about two rival families and a Rosh Hashanah cake recipe. Saralee Siegel has a super nose she can smell things like no one's business. Her Zadie says that with a nose like that, she'll rule the world. This fast-paced, magical story about a girl who loves to cook, a rival restaurant, and a secret Rosh Hashanah cake recipe, is told in an illustrated chapter book format.



Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too!)

By Leslie Kimmelman, Illustrated by Stefano Tambellini
Recommended Age: 5 to 9 years
Chapter Book

When Charlie moves next door to Sam, he's thrilled to have a new friend -- even if she is a girl. Charlie has a little sister, also named Sam -- or Sam Too, as the other Sam comes to call her. Both Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too) are Jewish, and they try to live by the religion's motto: Love your neighbor as yourself. The five brief stories in this book, accompanied by colorful illustrations, highlight the value of friendship and its ups and downs.



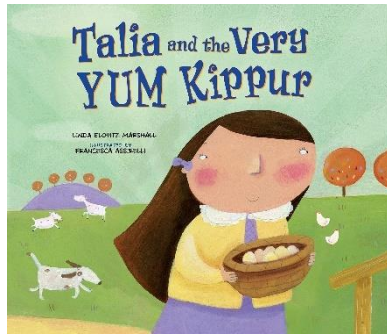
Sammy Spider's First Yom Kippur

By Sylvia A. Rouss, Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn

Recommended Age: 2 to 9 years

Picture Book

When Josh breaks the rules and plays ball indoors, he finds himself apologizing not only to his parents, but to Sammy Spider as well. A Yom Kippur story about saying, "I'm sorry."



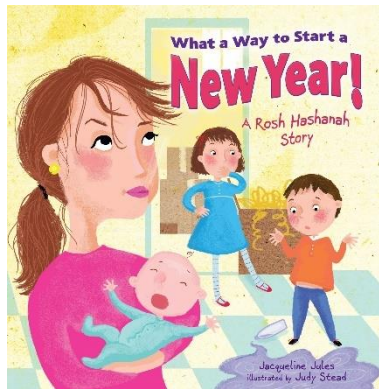
Talia and the Very YUM Kippur

By Linda Elovitz Marshall, Illustrated by Francesca Assirelli

Recommended Age: 3 to 8 years

Picture Book

When Grandma begins her preparations for breaking the Yom Kippur fast, Talia mishears the holiday as "Yum" Kippur, setting off a topsy-turvy series of misunderstandings.



What a Way to Start a New Year!: A Rosh Hashanah Story

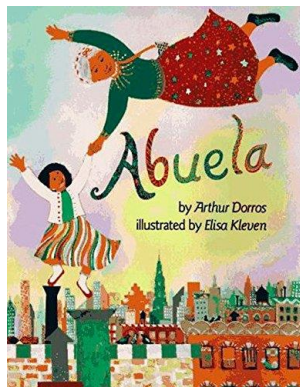
By Jacqueline Jules, Illustrated by Judy Stead

Recommended Age: 3 to 8 years

Picture Book

Beginning the New Year in a new city isn't easy, and it definitely isn't starting out very well for Dina and her family! But when they're welcomed by warm and generous hosts in their new community it becomes a very happy New Year for all.

This Month's BONUS Focus: National Hispanic American Heritage Month



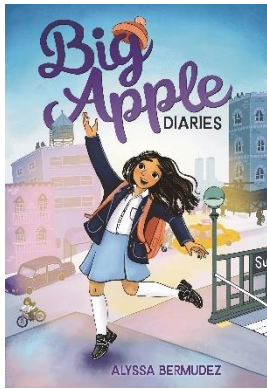
Abuela

By Arthur Dorros, Illustrated by Elisa Kleven

Recommended Age: 2 to 6 years

Picture Book

Come join Rosalba and her grandmother, her abuela, on a magical journey as they fly over the streets, sights, and people of New York City which sparkles below. The story is narrated in English and sprinkled with Spanish phrases as Abuela points out places that they explore together. The exhilaration in Rosalba's and Abuela's story is magnified by the loving bond that only a grandmother and granddaughter can share.



Big Apple Diaries

By Alyssa Bermudez

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

In *Big Apple Diaries*, a heartfelt diary-style graphic memoir by Alyssa Bermudez, a young New Yorker doodles her way through middle school—until the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack leaves her wondering if she can ever be a kid again.

It's the year 2000 in New York City. For 12-year-old Alyssa, this means splitting time between her Puerto Rican dad's apartment in Manhattan and her white mom's new place in Queens, navigating the trials and tribulations of middle school, and an epic crush on a new classmate. The only way to make sense of it all is to capture the highs and lows in doodles and hilarious comics in a diary.

Then life abruptly changes on September 11, 2001. After the Twin Towers fall and so many lives are lost, worries about gossip and boys feel distant and insignificant. Alyssa must find a new sense of self and purpose amidst all of the chaos and find the strength to move forward with hope.



Bird

By Crystal Chan

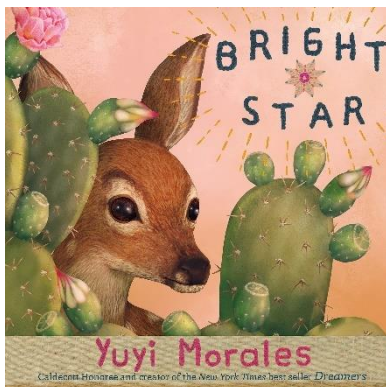
Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Nothing matters. Only Bird matters. And he flew away.

Jewel never knew her brother Bird, but all her life she has lived in his shadow. Her parents blame Grandpa for the tragedy of their family's past: they say that Grandpa attracted a malevolent spirit—a duppy—into their home. Grandpa hasn't spoken a word since. Now Jewel is twelve, and she lives in a house full of secrets and impenetrable silence.

Jewel is sure that no one will ever love her like they loved Bird, until the night that she meets a mysterious boy in a tree. Grandpa is convinced that the boy is a duppy, but Jewel knows that he is something more. And that maybe—just maybe—the time has come to break through the stagnant silence of the past.



Bright Star

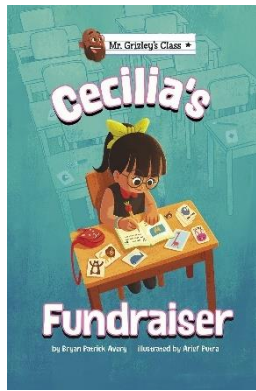
Written and Illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

Child, you are awake!
You are alive!
You are a bright star,
Inside our hearts.

Told with a combination of powerful, spare language and sumptuous and complex imagery that is typical of Yuyi Morales's work, this is the story of a fawn making her way through a border landscape teeming with flora and fauna native to the region. A gentle but empowering voice encourages her to face her fears when she comes across an obstacle in the form of an insurmountable barrier.



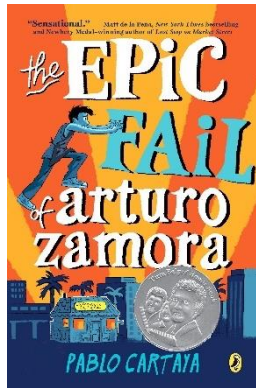
Cecilia's Fundraiser

By Brian Patrick Avery, Illustrated by Arief Putra

Recommended Age: 5 to 7 years

Chapter Book

Mr. Grizley's class is hosting a fundraiser for the animal shelter. Cecilia is disappointed that she forgot the tamales she was going to sell. Can her classmates come to the rescue and help her make a new plan? This early chapter book offers a fun and inviting approach to character education, complete with a special activity reinforcing social emotional learning skills.



The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora

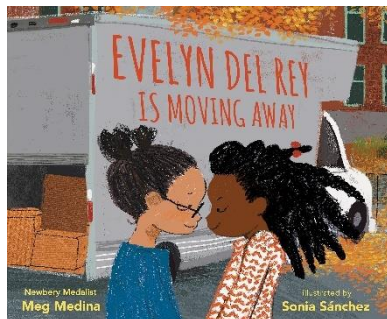
By Pablo Cartaya

Recommended Age: 10 years & up

Middle Grade Novel

Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC FAIL?

For Arturo, summertime in Miami means playing basketball until dark, sipping mango smoothies, and keeping cool under banyan trees. And maybe a few shifts as junior lunchtime dishwasher at Abuela's restaurant. Maybe. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo's apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. He almost doesn't notice the smarmy land developer who rolls into town and threatens to change it. Arturo refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.



Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away

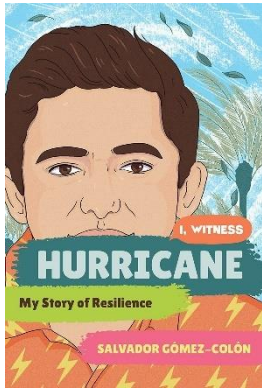
By Meg Medina, Illustrated by Sonia Sanchez

Recommended Age: 5 to 7 years

Picture Book

A big truck with its mouth wide open is parked at the curb, ready to gobble up Evelyn's mirror with the stickers around the edge . . . and the sofa that we bounce on to get to the moon.

Evelyn Del Rey is Daniela's best friend. They do everything together and even live in twin apartments across the street from each other: Daniela with her mami and hamster, and Evelyn with her mami, papi, and cat. But not after today—not after Evelyn moves away. Until then, the girls play amid the moving boxes until it's time to say goodbye, making promises to keep in touch, because they know that their friendship will always be special.



Hurricane: My Story of Resilience

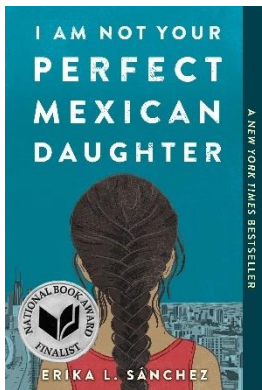
By Salvador Gómez-Colón

Recommended Age: 9 to 12 years

Middle Grade Non-Fiction

Suffering heavy damage in the wake of Hurricane Maria in 2017, Puerto Rican communities lacked access to clean water and electricity. Salvador Gómez-Colón couldn't ignore the basic needs of his homeland and knew that nongovernmental organizations and larger foreign philanthropies could only do so much. With unstoppable energy and a deep knowledge of local culture, Salvador founded Light and Hope for Puerto Rico and raised more than \$100,000 to purchase and distribute solar-powered lamps and hand-powered washing machines to households in need.

With a voice that is both accessible and engaging, Salvador recalls living through the catastrophic storm and grappling with the destruction it left behind. Hurricane brings forward a captivating first-person account of strength, resilience, and determination, and heralds the start of a new series of compelling narrative nonfiction by young people, for young people.



I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

By Erika L. Sánchez

Recommended Age: 14 to 17 years

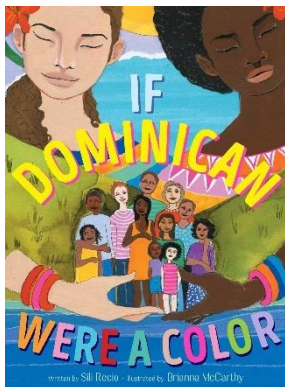
Young Adult Novel

Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents' house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family.

But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga's role.

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed.

But it's not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend, Lorena, and her first love (first everything), Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister's story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?



If Dominican Were a Color

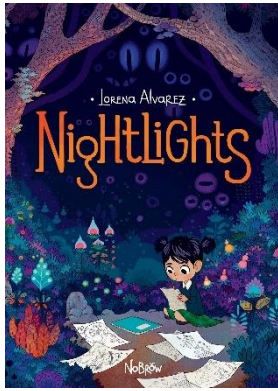
By Sili Recio, Illustrated by Brianna McCarthy

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

If Dominican were a color, it would be the sunset in the sky, blazing red and burning bright. If Dominican were a color, it'd be the roar of the ocean in the deep of the night, With the moon beaming down rays of sheer delight.

The palette of the Dominican Republic is exuberant and unlimited. Maiz comes up amarillo, the blue-black of dreams washes over sandy shores, and people's skin can be the shade of cinnamon in cocoa or of mahogany. This exuberantly colorful, softly rhyming picture book is a gentle reminder that a nation's hues are as wide as nature itself.



Nightlights

By Lorena Alvarez

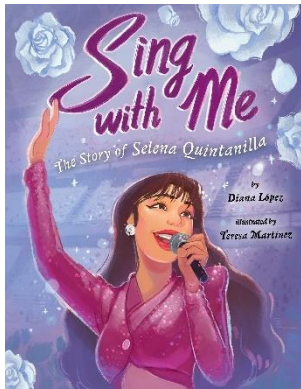
Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Graphic Novel

Every night, tiny stars appear out of the darkness in little Sandy's bedroom. She catches them and creates wonderful creatures to play with until she falls asleep, and in the morning brings them back to life in the whimsical drawings that cover her room.

One day, Morfie, a mysterious pale girl, appears at school. And she knows all about Sandy's drawings...

Nightlights is a beautiful story about fear, insecurity, and creativity, from the enchanting imagination of Lorena Alvarez.



Sing with Me: The Story of Selena Quintanilla

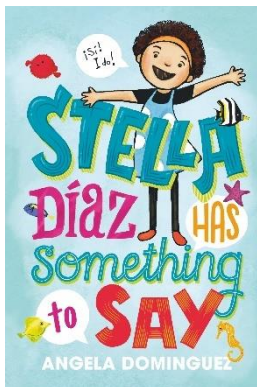
By Diana López, Illustrated by Teresa Martinez

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

An exuberant picture book celebrating the life and legacy of Selena Quintanilla, beloved Queen of Tejano music.

From a very early age, young Selena knew how to connect with people and bring them together with music. Sing with Me follows Selena's rise to stardom, from front-lining her family's band at rodeos and quinceañeras to performing in front of tens of thousands at the Houston Astrodome. Young readers will be empowered by Selena's dedication--learning Spanish as a teenager, designing her own clothes, and traveling around the country with her family--sharing her pride in her Mexican-American roots and her love of music and fashion with the world.



Stella Díaz Has Something to Say

By Angela Dominguez

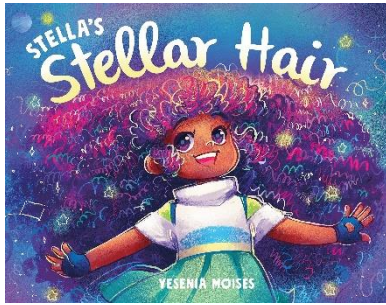
Recommended Age: 6 to 9 years

Middle Grade Novel

Stella Diaz loves marine animals, especially her betta fish, Pancho. But Stella Diaz is not a betta fish. Betta fish like to be alone, while Stella loves spending time with her mom and brother and her best friend Jenny. Trouble is, Jenny is in another class this year, and Stella feels very lonely.

When a new boy arrives in Stella's class, she really wants to be his friend, but sometimes Stella accidentally speaks Spanish instead of English and pronounces words wrong, which makes her turn roja. Plus, she has to speak in front of her whole class for a big presentation at school! But she better get over her fears soon, because Stella Díaz has something to say!

Stella Díaz Has Something to Say introduces an infectiously charming new character with relatable writing and adorable black-and-white art throughout. Simple Spanish vocabulary is also integrated within the text, providing a bilingual element.



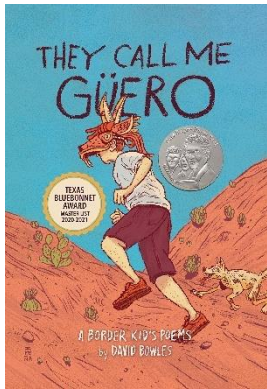
Stella's Stellar Hair

Written & Illustrated by Yesenia Moises
Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years
Picture Book

It's the day of the Big Star Little Gala, and Stella's hair just isn't acting right! What's a girl to do?

Simple! Just hop on her hoverboard, visit each of her fabulous aunties across the solar system, and find the perfect hairdo along the way.

Stella's Stellar Hair celebrates the joy of self-empowerment, shows off our solar system, and beautifully illustrates a variety of hairstyles from the African diaspora. Backmatter provides more information about each style and each planet.



They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems

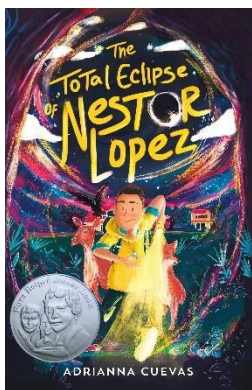
By David Bowles
Recommended Age: 9 to 12 years
Middle Grade Poetry

Twelve-year-old Güero is Mexican American, at home with Spanish or English and on both sides of the river. He's starting 7th grade with a woke English teacher who knows how to make poetry cool.

In Spanish, "Güero" is a nickname for guys with pale skin, Latino or Anglo. But make no mistake: our red-headed, freckled hero is puro mexicano, like Canelo Álvarez, the Mexican boxer. Güero is also a nerd--reader, gamer, musician--who runs with a squad of misfits like him, Los Bobbys. Sure, they get in trouble like anybody else, and like other middle-school boys, they discover girls. Watch out for Joanna! She's tough as nails.

But trusting in his family's traditions, his accordion and his bookworm squad, he faces seventh grade with book smarts and a big heart. Life is tough for a border kid, but Güero has figured out how to cope.

He writes poetry.



The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez

By Adrianna Cuevas
Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years
Middle Grade Novel

All Nestor Lopez wants is to live in one place for more than a few months and have dinner with his dad.

When he and his mother move to a new town to live with his grandmother after his dad's latest deployment, Nestor plans to lay low. He definitely doesn't want to anyone find out his deepest secret: that he can talk to animals.

But when the animals in his new town start disappearing, Nestor's grandmother becomes the prime suspect after she is spotted in the woods where they were last seen. As Nestor investigates the source of the disappearances, he learns that they are being seized by a tula vieja — a witch who can absorb an animal's powers by biting it during a solar eclipse. And the next eclipse is just around the corner...

Now it's up to Nestor's extraordinary ability and his new friends to catch the tula vieja—and save a place he might just call home.



Who Was Selena?

By Max Bisantz & Kate Bisantz, Illustrated by Joseph J. M. Qiu

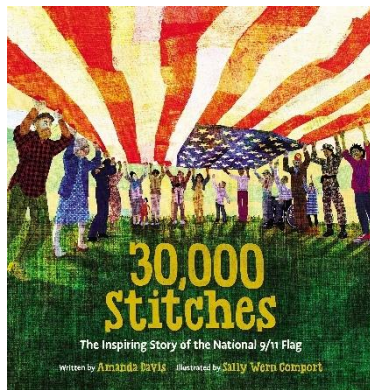
Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Biography

Discover why Selena, the Queen of Tejano music, became one of the most celebrated Mexican-American entertainers of the twentieth century!

As a young girl, Selena Quintanilla sang in a band called Selena y Los Dinos with her brother and sister. The family performed at fairs, weddings, quinceañeras, and on street corners in their native Texas. Selena learned how to sing in Spanish and soon became hugely popular within the Latino community--so much so that she became the best-selling Latin artist of the 1990s. Selena was poised to be a great success, but her life was cut short after being fatally wounded by the president of her fan club. Selena's contributions to music and fashion during her life made her one of the top Latin musicians in the 1990s, and readers will want to know more about the woman who introduced the world to Tejano music.

Other Books to Enjoy



30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag

By Amanda Davis, Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport

Recommended Age: 5 to 8 years

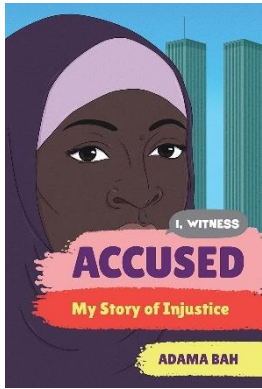
Non-Fiction Picture Book

Discover the inspiring story of the American flag that flew over Ground Zero, traveled across all fifty states as it was repaired, and returned to New York as a restored symbol of unity.

In the days following September 11th, a 30-foot American flag hung torn and tattered at 90 West Street, across from Ground Zero. A few weeks later, the flag was taken down by a construction crew and tucked away in storage, where it stayed for nearly seven years.

The flag was brought out of storage in 2008 when the New York Says Thank You Foundation headed to Greensburg, Kansas, a town nearly destroyed by a tornado. NYSTY brought the flag with them, sparking a grassroots restoration effort that traveled over 120,000 miles across all fifty states, bringing together thousands of people, and helping America heal and rebuild . . . hand by hand, thread by thread, one stitch at a time.

This book is the story of that journey, a journey that ended at the opening of the National September 11 Museum, where the flag remains today. Along the way, the flag was restored using pieces of retired flags from every state—including a piece of the flag that Abraham Lincoln was laid on after he was shot at Ford's Theater and threads from the original Star-Spangled Banner flag, which flew at Fort McHenry in the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem. The pieces and threads were stitched in by military veterans, first responders, educators, students, community-service heroes, and family members of 9/11 victims, among others. At each stop, communities came together to remember, to heal, and to unite.



Accused: My Story of Injustice

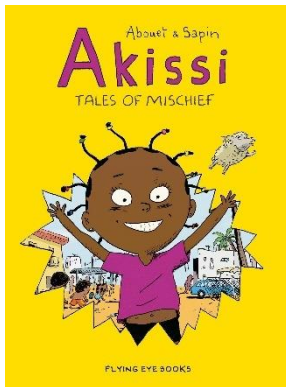
By Adama Bah

Recommended Age: 9 to 12 years

Middle Grade Non-Fiction

Adama Bah grew up in East Harlem after immigrating from Conakry, Guinea, and was deeply connected to her community and the people who lived there. But as a thirteen-year-old after the events of September 11, 2001, she began experiencing discrimination and dehumanization as prejudice toward Muslim people grew. Then, on March 24, 2005, FBI agents arrested Adama and her father. Falsely accused of being a potential suicide bomber, Adama spent weeks in a detention center being questioned under suspicion of terrorism.

With sharp and engaging writing, Adama recounts the events surrounding her arrest and its impact on her life—the harassment, humiliation, and persecution she faced for crimes she didn't commit. *Accused* brings forward a crucial and unparalleled first-person perspective of American culture post-9/11 and the country's discrimination against Muslim Americans and heralds the start of a new series of compelling narrative nonfiction by young people, for young people.



Akissi: Tales of Mischief: Akissi Book 1

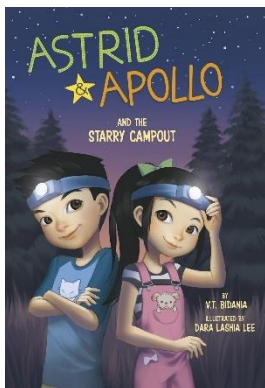
By Marguerite Abouet, Illustrated by Mathieu Sapin

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Graphic Novel

Poor Akissi! The neighborhood cats are trying to steal her fish, her little monkey Boubou almost ends up in a frying pan, and she's nothing but a pest to her older brother Fofana. But Akissi is a true adventurer, and nothing scares her away from hilarious escapades in her modern African city.

Jump into the laugh-out-loud misadventures of Akissi in these girls-will-be-girls comics, based on author Marguerite Abouet's childhood on the Ivory Coast.



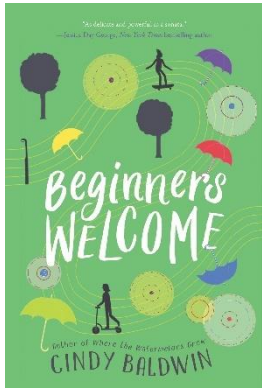
Astrid and Apollo and the Starry Campout

By V.T. Bidania, Illustrated by Dara Lashia Lee

Recommended Age: 6 to 8 years

Chapter Book

Astrid is afraid of the dark and doesn't want to go on her family camping trip. But her twin brother, Apollo, is excited. When they encounter scary things such as crawly bugs and the creepy dark, Apollo helps his twin through them. And when they encounter the scariest thing of all, Astrid might just be the one to save the starry campout.



Beginners Welcome

By Cindy Baldwin

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

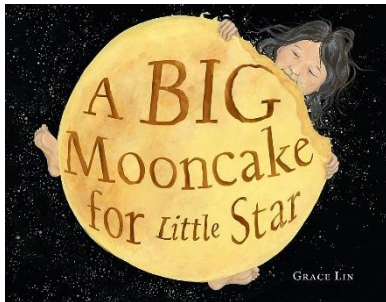
It's been eighty-three days since Annie Lee's daddy died, but she still sees reminders of him everywhere. His record player mysteriously plays his favorite songs, there's shaving cream in the sink every morning, and the TV keeps flipping to the Duke basketball games he loved.

She knows Mama notices it too, but Mama's been working around the clock to make ends meet. To make matters worse, Annie Lee's friends ditched her over the summer. She feels completely alone—until she meets Mitch.

Though Mitch is tough and confident on the outside, she may need a friend just as badly as Annie Lee. But after losing so much, Annie Lee is afraid to let anyone get too close.

And Mitch isn't the only friend trying to break through Annie Lee's defenses. Ray, an elderly pianist who plays at a local mall, has been giving her piano lessons. His music is pure magic, and Annie Lee hopes it might be the key to healing her broken heart. But when Ray goes missing, searching for him means breaking a promise to Mitch.

Faced with once again losing those who mean the most to her, Annie Lee must make a choice: retreat back into her shell, or risk admitting how much she needs Mitch and Ray—even if it means getting hurt all over again.



A Big Mooncake for Little Star

Written & Illustrated by Grace Lin

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

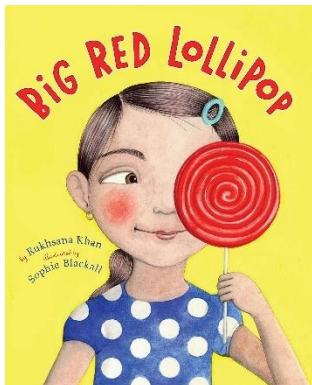
Picture Book

Pat, pat, pat...

Little Star's soft feet tiptoed to the Big Mooncake.

Little Star loves the delicious Mooncake that she bakes with her mama. But she's not supposed to eat any yet! What happens when she can't resist a nibble?

In this stunning picture book that shines as bright as the stars in the sky, Newbery Honor author Grace Lin creates a heartwarming original story that explains phases of the moon.



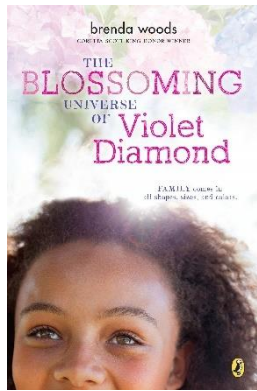
Big Red Lollipop

By Rukhsana Khan, Illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

Rubina has been invited to her first birthday party, and her mother, Ami, insists that she bring her little sister along. Rubina is mortified, but she can't convince Ami that you just don't bring your younger sister to your friend's party. So both girls go, and not only does Sana demand to win every game, but after the party she steals Rubina's prized party favor, a red lollipop. What's a fed-up big sister to do?



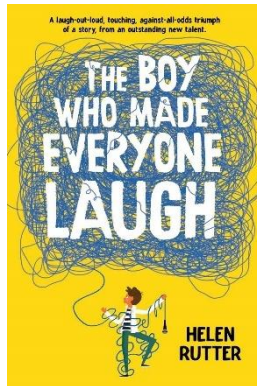
The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond

By Brenda Woods

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Violet is biracial, but she lives with her white mother and sister, attends a mostly white school in a white town, and sometimes feels like a brown leaf on a pile of snow. Now that she's eleven, she feels it's time to learn about her African American heritage, so she seeks out her paternal grandmother. When Violet is invited to spend two weeks with her new Bibi (Swahili for "grandmother") and learns about her lost heritage, her confidence in herself grows and she discovers she's not a shrinking Violet after all.



The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh

By Helen Rutter

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

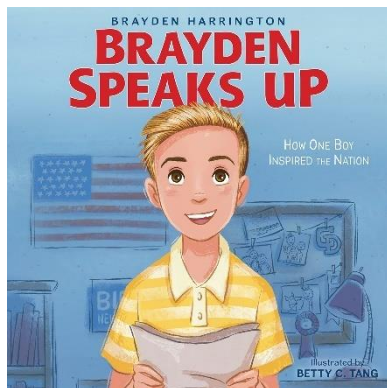
When life is funny, make some jokes about it.

Billy Plimpton has a big dream: to become a famous comedian when he grows up. He already knows a lot of jokes, but thinks he has one big problem standing in his way: his stutter.

At first, Billy thinks the best way to deal with this is to . . . never say a word. That way, the kids in his new school won't hear him stammer. But soon he finds out this is NOT the best way to deal with things. (For one thing, it's very hard to tell a joke without getting a word out.)

As Billy makes his way toward the spotlight, a lot of funny things (and some less funny things) happen to him. In the end, the whole school will know --

If you think you can hold Billy Plimpton back, be warned: The joke will soon be on you!



Brayden Speaks Up: How One Boy Inspired the Nation

By Brayden Harrington, Illustrated by Betty C. Tang

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

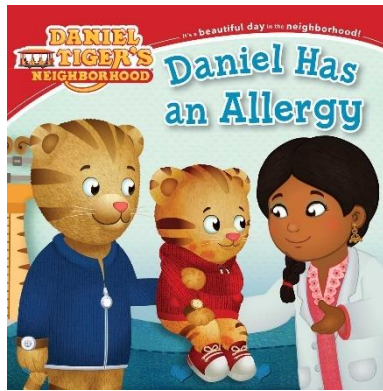
Non-Fiction Picture Book

Brayden Harrington, a thirteen-year-old boy who stutters, gives an incredible speech that electrifies the nation in this timely and extraordinary nonfiction picture book that celebrates the importance of speaking up and using your voice—for everyone deserves to be heard.

When Brayden talks, his words get caught in his mouth. He has bumpy speech—and that's okay! Sometimes, though, he doesn't feel anyone really understands what it feels like to be a person who stutters.

Then Brayden meets Joe Biden, who knows exactly how he feels and inspires him to be more confident. But when Mr. Biden asks Brayden to give a big speech in front of the whole nation, will Brayden be brave enough to speak up and speak out?

Brayden Speaks Up is the incredible true story of one extraordinary boy's perseverance and the importance of celebrating yourself just as you are. For after all, your biggest challenge just might be your greatest gift.

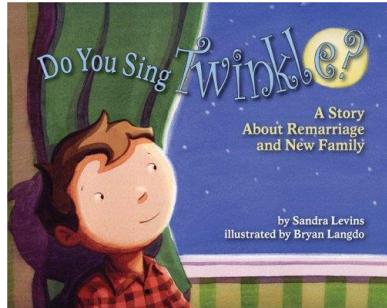


Daniel Has an Allergy

By Angela C. Santomero, Illustrated by Jason Fruchter
Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years
Picture Book

Daniel Tiger learns how to manage a food allergy in this helpful 8x8 storybook based on an episode of Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood.

When Daniel eats a peach for the first time, he learns that he is allergic to the fruit. Thankfully, Dad and Doctor Anna take care of him. Daniel learns how he can take care of his allergy — even at school! A wonderful story for children with food allergies or for those who know someone with them.

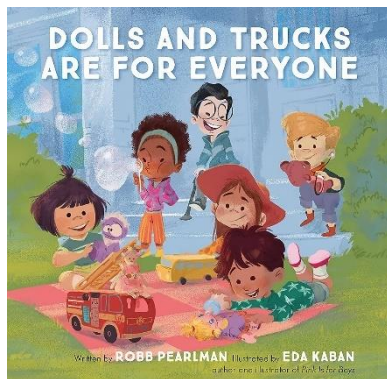


Do You Sing Twinkle?: A Story About Remarriage and New Family

By Sandra Levins, Illustrated by Bryan Langdo
Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years
Picture Book

Mom has a new family! She has a new husband who is not my dad, and worst of all, new kids. Girls! Just as it feels for the young child in Do You Sing Twinkle? living apart from a parent can be a hard adjustment for kids. And, when that parent remarries and has stepchildren, things can get really confusing for kids! Told from a young boy's point of view, the book sensitively addresses many questions that children may have while adjusting to remarriage and joint-custody situations. Kids and parents will learn good and easy ways to stay connected all around | helping kids to feel special and loved.

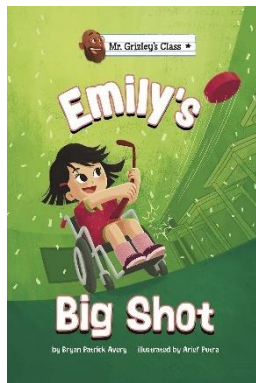
A "Note to Parents" is included that will help parents talk to their children and deal with common but difficult emotions as they adjust to all the changes in their lives.



Dolls and Trucks Are for Everyone

By Robb Pearlman, Illustrated by Eda Kaban
Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years
Picture Book

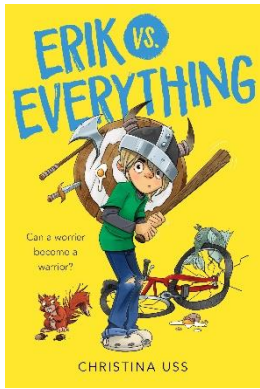
Dolls and trucks are for boys and girls, as are dancing shoes, figure skating and hockey, and many more activities and hobbies. Robb Pearlman and Eda Kaban (Pink Is For Boys) create a celebratory read-aloud book that defies gender stereotypes and encourages the youngest readers to reach for the stars and to follow their dreams no matter what.



Emily's Big Shot

By Brian Patrick Avery, Illustrated by Arief Putra
Recommended Age: 5 to 7 years
Chapter Book

Emily is tired of always playing goalie during floor hockey just because she's in a wheelchair. When one of her classmates volunteers to play goalie, Emily jumps at the chance to try a new position. Her classmates work together to create a hockey stick that Emily can use from her wheelchair. Will she score a goal?



Erik vs. Everything

By Christina Uss

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Meet Erik Sheepflattener. Each member of his modern-day Viking-heritage family has a motto to live by. His parents have Family and Pride. His sisters have Conquer and Win. His grandfather has Turnip. But Erik is developing a motto he can truly believe in: Avoid Stuff. Mostly, Erik's fierce family ignores or discounts him, especially when he tries to say no. But while spending the summer with his rough-and-tumble cousins and older sister Brunhilde in Minnesota, axe-wielding Bru gets the idea to name and Conquer all of Erik's fears. Will anyone hear him say no before it's too late? And will Erik end up defined by his fears, or by his fearless family?



Everything I Know About You

By Barbara Dee

Recommended Age: 9 to 13 years

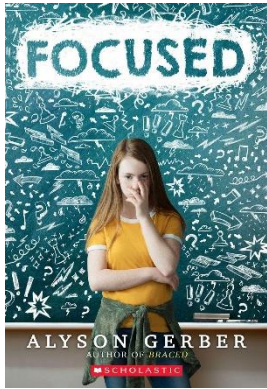
Middle Grade Novel

During a class trip to DC, thirteen-year-old Tally and her best friends, Sonnet and Caleb (a.k.a. Spider) are less than thrilled when they are assigned roommates and are paired with kids who are essentially their sworn enemies. For Tally, rooming with "clonergirl" Ava Seely feels like punishment, rather than potential for fun.

But the trip is full of surprises. Despite a pact to stick together as much as they can, Sonnet pulls away, and Spider befriends Marco, the boy who tormented him last year. And Marco just might "like" Tally—what's that about?

But the uneasy peace in Ava and Tally's room is quickly upended when Tally begins to suspect something is off about Ava. She has a weird notebook full of random numbers and doesn't seem to eat anything during meals. When Tally confronts Ava, Ava threatens to share an embarrassing picture of Tally with the class if Tally says anything to anyone about her suspicions. But will Tally endanger more than her pride by keeping her secret?

This is one class trip full of lessons Tally will never forget: how to stay true to yourself, how to love yourself and embrace your flaws, and how being a good friend can actually mean telling a secret you promised to keep...



Focused

By Alyson Gerber

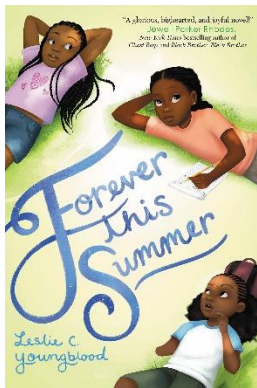
Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Clea can't control her thoughts. She knows she has to do her homework . . . but she gets distracted. She knows she can't just say whatever thought comes into her head . . . but sometimes she can't help herself. She knows she needs to focus . . . but how can she do that when the people around her are always chewing gum loudly or making other annoying noises?

It's starting to be a problem-not just in school, but when Clea's playing chess or just hanging out with her best friend. Other kids are starting to notice. When Clea fails one too many tests, her parents take her to be tested, and she finds out that she has ADHD, which means her attention is all over the place instead of where it needs to be.

Clea knows life can't continue the way it's been going. She's just not sure how you can fix a problem that's all in your head. But that's what she's going to have to do, to find a way to focus.



Forever This Summer

By Leslie C. Youngblood

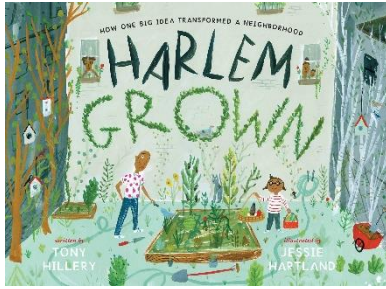
Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Georgie has no idea what to expect when she, Mama, and Peaches are plopped down in the middle of small town USA--aka Bogalusa, Louisiana--where Mama grew up and Great Aunt Vie needs constant care.

Georgie wants to help out at the once famous family diner that served celebrities like the Jackson 5 and the Supremes, but everyone is too busy to show her the ropes and Mama is treating her like a baby, not letting her leave her sight. When she finally gets permission to leave on her own, Georgie makes friends with Markie--a foster kid who'd been under Aunt Elvie's care--who has a limb difference and a huge attitude.

Then Markie asks Georgie to help her find her mom, and suddenly summer has a real purpose. But as Georgie and Markie's histories begin to entwine, Georgie becomes more desperate to find the truth. But words spoken cannot be taken back and once Georgie knows the truth, she may even find a way to right past wrongs and help Aunt Vie and Markie out after all.



Harlem Grown: How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood

By Tony Hillery, Illustrated by Jessie Hartland

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Non-Fiction Picture Book

Once

In a big city called New York

In a bustling neighborhood

There was an empty lot.

Nevaeh called it the haunted garden.

Harlem Grown tells the inspiring true story of how one man made a big difference in a neighborhood. After seeing how restless they were and their lack of healthy food options, Tony Hillery invited students from an underfunded school to turn a vacant lot into a beautiful and functional farm. By getting their hands dirty, these kids turned an abandoned space into something beautiful and useful while learning about healthy, sustainable eating and collaboration.

Five years later, the kids and their parents, with the support of the Harlem Grown staff, grow thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables a year. All of it is given to the kids and their families. The incredible story is vividly brought to life with Jessie Hartland's "charmingly busy art" (Booklist) that readers will pore over in search of new details as they revisit this poignant and uplifting tale over and over again.



Hug in the Wind

By Tim Steiner

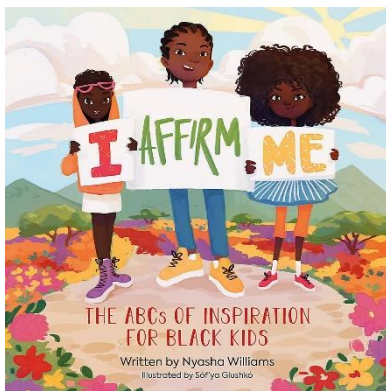
Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years

Picture Book

Hug in the Wind touches the heart of every military family with this encouraging picture book of a parent's hug sent home wrapped in the wind.

This story reads and rhymes smoothly with the sweetly simple message every child needs to hear when separated from a parent: I love you even though we are apart.

Truly from the heart. Written and illustrated by a deployed father for his son's second birthday, this is a genuine story for any child braving the months-long separation endured by military families.



I Affirm Me: The ABCs of Inspiration for Black Kids

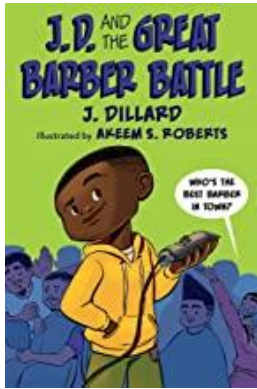
By Nyasha Williams, Illustrated by Sóf'ya Glushkó

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

Learn the power of language and love with this empowering alphabet book of affirmations to inspire and remind Black children of their inner power, strength, and worth.

From A is for Afro, to J is for Justice, to R is for Rally, this alphabet book offers affirmations featuring Black children and role models to help children nurture and embrace their authentic selves and to enjoy the magic of childhood.



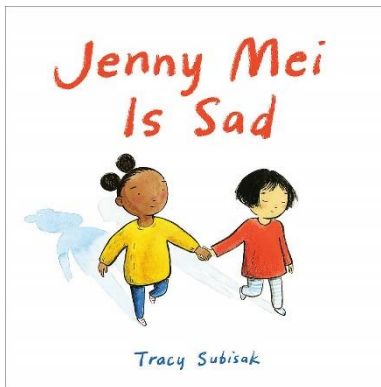
J.D. and the Great Barber Battle

By J. Dillard, Illustrated by Akeem S. Roberts

Recommended Age: 6 to 8 years

Chapter Book

J.D. has a big problem—it's the night before the start of third grade and his mom has just given him his first and worst home haircut. When the steady stream of insults from the entire student body of Douglass Elementary becomes too much for J.D., he takes matters into his own hands and discovers that, unlike his mom, he's a genius with the clippers. His work makes him the talk of the town and brings him enough hair business to open a barbershop from his bedroom. But when Henry Jr., the owner of the only official local barbershop, realizes he's losing clients to J.D., he tries to shut him down for good. How do you find out who's the best barber in all of Meridian, Mississippi? With a GREAT BARBER BATTLE!



Jenny Mei Is Sad

By Tracy Subisak

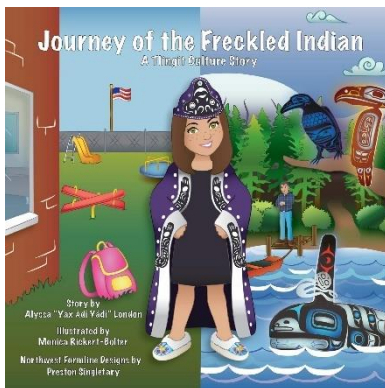
Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

My friend Jenny Mei is sad. But you might not be able to tell.

Jenny Mei still smiles a lot. She makes everyone laugh. And she still likes blue Popsicles the best. But, her friend knows that Jenny Mei is sad, and does her best to be there to support her.

This beautifully illustrated book is perfect for introducing kids to the complexity of sadness, and to show them that the best way to be a good friend, especially to someone sad, is by being there for the fun, the not-fun, and everything in between.



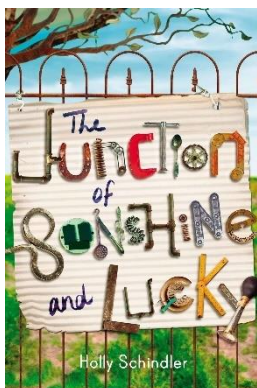
Journey of the Freckled Indian: A Tlingit Culture Story

By Alyssa Kalyn London, Illustrated by Monica Rickert-Bolter

Recommended Age: 4 to 7 years

Picture Book

A multicultural girl struggles with her identity and is made fun of by her classmates for telling them of her Tlingit, Alaska Native heritage. Her parents send her on a trip to Ketchikan, Alaska to reconnect with her grandfather and learn about her heritage. There she has an adventure that helps her to make sense of her identity and develop confidence from knowing who she is. This story seeks to inspire others to learn about their culture and heritage as well and to be proud of it.



The Junction of Sunshine and Lucky

By Holly Schindler

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

August "Auggie" Jones lives with her Grandpa Gus, a trash hauler, in a poor part of town. So when her wealthy classmate's father starts the House Beautification Committee, it's homes like Auggie's that are deemed "in violation." Auggie is determined to prove that she is not as run-down as the outside of her house might suggest. Using the kind of items Gus usually hauls to the scrap heap, a broken toaster becomes a flower; church windows turn into a rainbow walkway; and an old car gets new life as spinning whirligigs. What starts out as a home renovation project becomes much more as Auggie and her grandpa discover a talent they never knew they had—and redefine a whole town's perception of beauty, one recycled sculpture at a time. Auggie's talent for creating found art will remind readers that one girl's trash really is another girl's treasure.



Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom

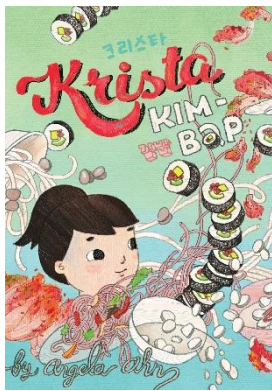
By Sangu Mandanna

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Kiki Kallira has always been a worrier. Did she lock the front door? Is there a terrible reason her mom is late? Recently her anxiety has been getting out of control, but one thing that has always soothed her is drawing. Kiki's sketchbook is full of fanciful doodles of the rich Indian myths and legends her mother has told her over the years.

One day, her sketchbook's calming effect is broken when her mythological characters begin springing to life right out of its pages. Kiki ends up falling into the mystical world she drew, which includes a lot of wonderful discoveries like the band of rebel kids who protect the kingdom, as well as not-so-great ones like the ancient deity bent on total destruction. As the one responsible for creating the evil god, Kiki must overcome her fear and anxiety to save both worlds--the real and the imagined--from his wrath. But how can a girl armed with only a pencil defeat something so powerful?



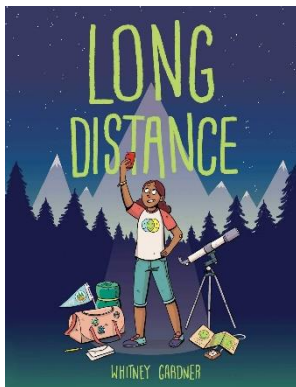
Krista Kim-Bap

By Angela Ahn

Recommended Age: 9 to 13 years

Middle Grade Novel

Krista and Jason have been best friends since preschool. It never mattered that he was a boy with reddish-brown hair and she was the "Korean girl" at school. Now in fifth grade, everyone in their class is preparing their Heritage Month projects. Jason has always loved Krista's Korean family, and particularly their cooking, but Krista is conflicted about being her school's "Korean Ambassador". She's also worried about asking her intimidating grandma to teach the class how to make their traditional kimbap dish. Combine that with her new friends pulling her away from Jason, and Krista has a lot to deal with this year!



Long Distance

Written & Illustrated by Whitney Gardner

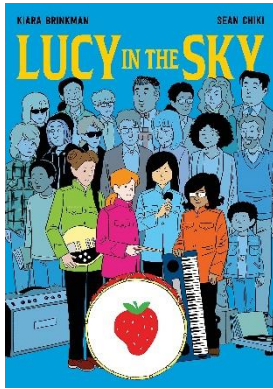
Recommended Age: 10 years & up

Graphic Novel

Vega's summer vacation is not going well.

When her parents decide it's time to pack up and leave her hometown of Portland, Oregon, behind for boring Seattle, Washington, Vega is more than upset—she's downright miserable. Forced to leave her one and only best friend, Halley, behind, Vega is convinced she'll never make another friend again.

To help her settle into her new life in Seattle, her parents send Vega off to summer camp to make new friends. Except Vega is determined to get her old life back. But when her cellphone unexpectedly calls it quits and things at camp start getting stranger and stranger, Vega has no choice but to team up with her bunkmates to figure out what's going on!



Lucy in the Sky

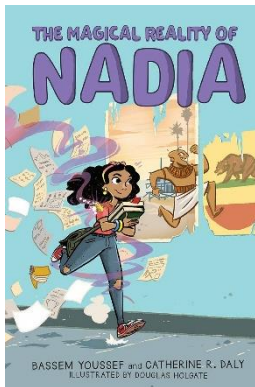
By Kiara Brinkman, Illustrated by Sean Chiki

Recommended Age: 10 years & up

Graphic Novel

It's the first day of seventh grade, and everything is going downhill for Lucy Sutcliffe. At school, she has the feeling her friends are all leaving her behind. At home, her single father is in a rut, and her perpetually traveling photojournalist mother is more absent than ever. Worst of all, Lucy's grandmother is undergoing chemotherapy and is no longer the warm, vibrant presence that her family has come to depend on.

But everything changes the day Lucy discovers a box of her father's Beatles records. Inspired by their music, she gets a drum set and forms an all-girl rock band with her friends. But can she keep the band together when petty rivalries, unrequited crushes, and outside pressures threaten to tear it apart?



The Magical Reality of Nadia

By Bassem Youssef & Catherine R. Daly, Illustrated by Douglas Holgate

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Inspired by the author's real-life experiences, this rollicking, charming novel follows sixth grade Egyptian immigrant Nadia as she navigates the ups and downs of friendships, racism, and some magic, too!

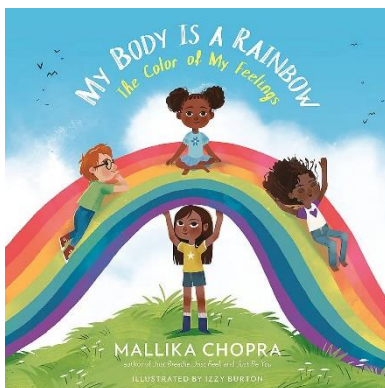
Nadia loves fun facts. Here are a few about her:

- She collects bobbleheads -- she has 77 so far.
- She moved from Egypt to America when she was six years old.
- The hippo amulet she wears is ancient... as in it's literally from ancient Egypt.
- She's going to win the contest to design a new exhibit at the local museum. Because how cool would that be?!

(Okay, so that last one isn't a fact just yet, but Nadia has plans to make it one.)

But then a new kid shows up and teases Nadia about her Egyptian heritage. It's totally unexpected, and totally throws her off her game.

And something else happens that Nadia can't explain: Her amulet starts glowing! She soon discovers that the hippo is holding a hilarious -- and helpful -- secret. Can she use it to confront the new kid and win the contest?



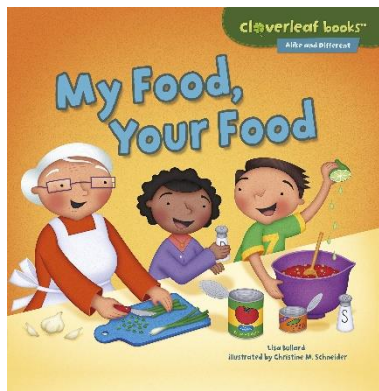
My Body Is a Rainbow: The Color of My Feelings

By Mallika Chopra, Illustrated by Izzy Burton

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

Did you know that your body is absolutely amazing? It can do so many things at the same time, explore the world both inside and outside, and help you feel the feelings deep down inside. When you start to feel big feelings, it's helpful to use colors, words, and breath to explore your body and to make yourself calmer and more at peace.



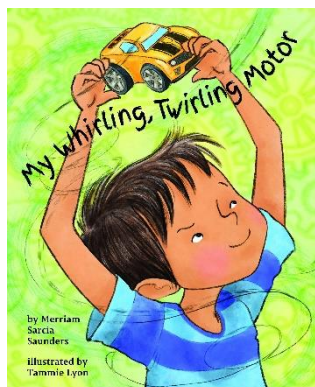
My Food, Your Food

By Lisa Bullard, Illustrated by Christine M. Schneider

Recommended Age: 5 to 8 years

Picture Book

It's food week in Manuel's class. Each student tells about something special his or her family eats. Manuel learns that families have different food traditions. Some eat noodles with chopsticks. Others use a fork. Some families eat flat bread. Others eat puffy bread. What kind of food will Manuel share with his class? Join him to find out how deliciously different and alike food can be.



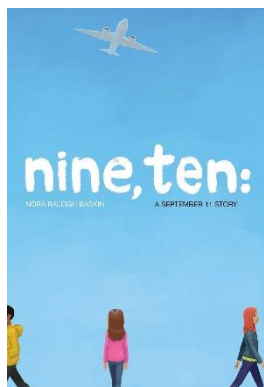
My Whirling, Twirling Motor

By Merriam Sarcia Saunders, Illustrated by Tammie Lyon

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

Charlie feels like he has a whirling, twirling motor running inside him all the time and sometimes he just can't settle. When his mom wants to talk to him, he figures he's in trouble...but she has a surprise for him instead! Includes a Note to Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers with more information on ADHD, behavior management, and helping children focus on the positives.



Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story

By Nora Raleigh Baskin

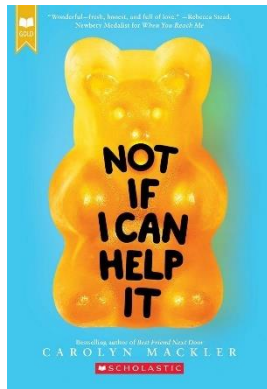
Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Ask anyone: September 11, 2001, was serene and lovely, a perfect day—until a plane struck the World Trade Center.

But right now it is a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. Sergio, who lives in Brooklyn, is struggling to come to terms with the absentee father he hates and the grandmother he loves. Will's father is gone, too, killed in a car accident that has left the family reeling. Naheed has never before felt uncomfortable about being Muslim, but at her new school she's getting funny looks because of the head scarf she wears. Aimee is starting a new school in a new city and missing her mom, who has to fly to New York on business.

These four don't know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined. Award-winning author Nora Raleigh Baskin weaves together their stories into an unforgettable novel about that seemingly perfect September day—the day our world changed forever.



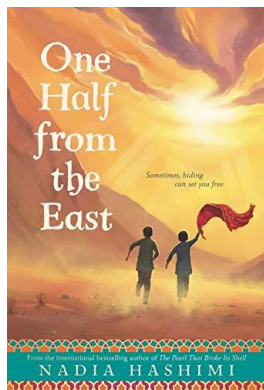
Not If I Can Help It

By Carolyn Mackler

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Willa likes certain things to be certain ways. Her socks have to be soft . . . and definitely can't have irritating tags on the inside. She loves the crunch of popcorn and nachos . . . but is grossed out by the crunch of a baby carrot. And slimy foods? Those are the worst. Willa can manage all these things -- but there are some things she can't deal with, like her father's big news. He's been keeping a big secret from her . . . that he's been dating the mom of Willa's best friend Ruby. Willa does NOT like the idea of them being together. And she does NOT like the idea of combining families. And she does NOT like the idea of her best friend becoming her sister overnight. Will she go along with all of these changes? NOT if she can help it!



One Half from the East

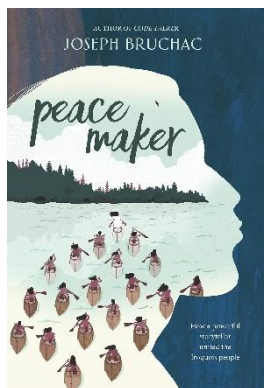
By Nadia Hashimi

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Obayda's family is in need of some good fortune, and her aunt has an idea to bring the family luck—dress Obayda, the youngest of four sisters, as a boy, a bacha posh.

Life in this in-between place is confusing, but once Obayda meets another bacha posh, everything changes. Their transformation won't last forever, though—unless the two best friends can figure out a way to make it stick and make their newfound freedoms endure.



Peacemaker

By Joseph Bruchac

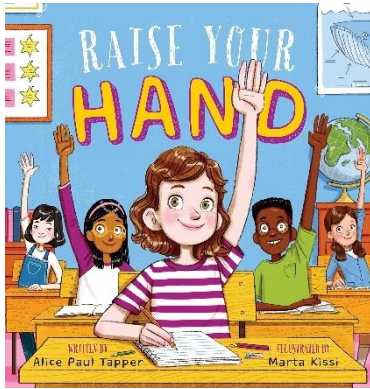
Recommended Age: 9 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

A twelve-year-old Iroquois boy searches for peace in this historical novel based on the creation of the Iroquois Confederacy.

Twelve-year-old Okwaho's life has suddenly changed. While he and his best friend are out hunting, his friend is kidnapped by men from a neighboring tribal nation, and Okwaho barely escapes. Everyone in his village fears more raids and killings: The Five Nations of the Iroquois have been at war with one another for far too long, and no one can remember what it was like to live in peace.

Okwaho is so angry that he wants to seek revenge for his friend, but before he can retaliate, a visitor with a message of peace comes to him in the woods. The Peacemaker shares his lesson tales—stories that make Okwaho believe that this man can convince the leaders of the five fighting nations to set down their weapons. So many others agree with him. Can all of them come together to form the Iroquois Great League of Peace?



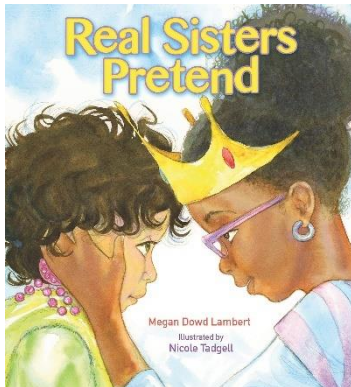
Raise Your Hand

By Alice Paul Tapper, Illustrated by Marta Kissi

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Non-Fiction Picture Book

When Alice Tapper noticed that the girls in her class weren't participating as much as the boys, she knew she had to do something about it. With help from her Girl Scout troop and her parents, she came up with a patch that other girls could earn if they took a pledge to be more confident in school. Alice even wrote an op-ed about the experience for the New York Times! Inspired by that piece, this picture book illustrates her determination, bravery, and unwillingness to accept the status quo. With Marta Kissi's delightful illustrations depicting Alice's story, young readers everywhere will want to follow Alice's lead and raise their hand!



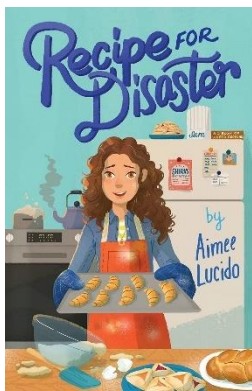
Real Sisters Pretend

By Megan Dowd Lambert, Illustrated by Nicole Tadgell

Recommended Age: 6 to 8 years

Picture Book

Mia and Tayja pretend to be princesses on a perilous journey, but there's one thing they don't have to pretend. They know in their hearts that they're real sisters despite being adopted. Playful and sweet, Real Sisters Pretend celebrates the wonderful variety of modern families, in which the only essential ingredient is love.



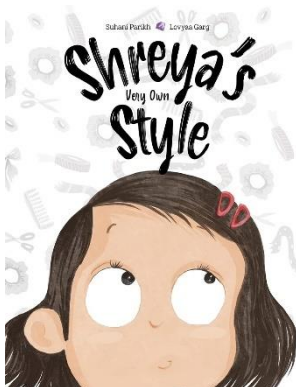
Recipe for Disaster

By Aimee Lucido

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

In this heartfelt middle school drama, Hannah's schemes for throwing her own bat mitzvah unleash family secrets, create rivalries with best friends, and ultimately teach Hannah what being Jewish is all about.



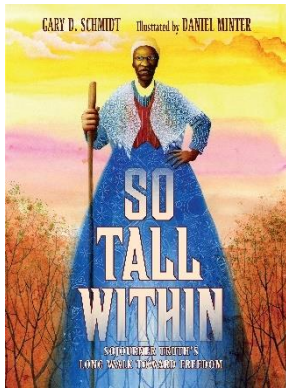
Shreya's Very Own Style

By Suhani Parikh, Illustrated by Lovyaa Garg

Recommended Age: 5 to 7 years

Picture Book

Though Shreya is a champion on the soccer field, the coolest scientist at her school, and dances like a star, she just can't seem to figure out how else to style her hair. After all, how would she explain the patches on her head with no hair at all?



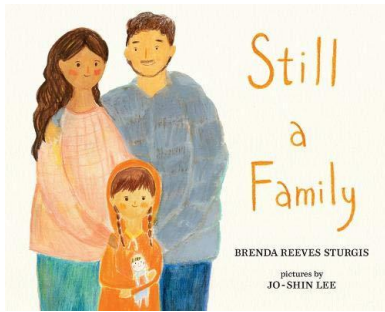
So Tall Within: Sojourner Truth's Long Walk Toward Freedom

By Gary D. Schmidt, Illustrated by Daniel Minter

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book Biography

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery but possessed a mind and a vision that knew no bounds. *So Tall Within* traces her life from her painful childhood through her remarkable emancipation to her incredible leadership in the movement for rights for both women and African Americans.



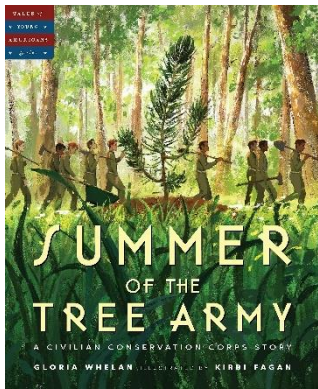
Still a Family: A Story about Homelessness

By Brenda Reeves Sturgis, Illustrated by Jo-Shin Lee

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

A little girl and her parents have lost their home and must live in a homeless shelter. Even worse, due to a common shelter policy, her dad must live in a men's shelter, separated from her and her mom. Despite these circumstances, the family still finds time to be together. They meet at the park to play hide-and-seek, slide on slides, and pet puppies. While the young girl wishes for better days when her family is together again under a roof of their very own, she continues to remind herself that they're still a family even in times of separation.



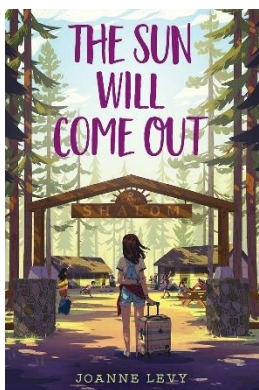
Summer of the Tree Army: A Civilian Conservation Corps Story

By Gloria Whelan, Illustrated by Kirbi Fagan

Recommended Age: 6 to 9 years

Picture Book

When young Charlie Brightelot first spies the mysterious barracks in the woods near his home, he's not sure what to think. His father explains that the barracks will soon house young men serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps. President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the work relief program to help employ millions of young men during the Great Depression. Not everyone is happy to see these young men and Charlie's father questions their value. But when a fire threatens the forest, Roosevelt's "Tree Army" springs into action.



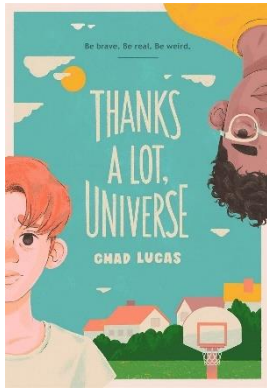
The Sun Will Come Out

By Joanne Levy

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

Middle Grade Novel

Twelve-year-old Bea Gelman and her best friend Frankie are planning the BEST SUMMER EVER at Camp Shalom—a sleep-away camp. But at the last minute, Frankie bows out, leaving painfully shy Bea on her own. Just talking to strangers causes Bea to break out into ugly, blotchy hives. As if the hives weren't bad enough, Bea gets pranked by a couple of mean girls and is betrayed by someone she thought was a new friend. Bea has had enough! She decides to spend her summer in the infirmary far away from everything that's stressing her out. No more boys (including her crush, Jeremy), no more horrible mean girls, and no more fake friends! At the infirmary, Bea meets Harry, a boy living with a disease that's way more intense than stress breakouts. Inspired by Harry's strength and positive outlook, Bea decides to face her fears—in a big way. *The Sun Will Come Out* is a funny and heartwarming account of a shy girl's first summer away from home, where she learns she really can do anything and that silver linings can be found just about anywhere.



Thanks a Lot, Universe

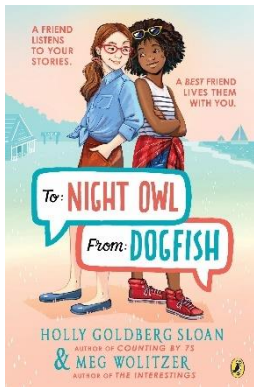
By Chad Lucas

Recommended Age: 10 years & up

Middle Grade Novel

Brian has always been anxious, whether at home, or in class, or on the basketball court. His dad tries to get him to stand up for himself and his mom helps as much as she can, but after he and his brother are placed in foster care, Brian starts having panic attacks. And he doesn't know if things will ever be normal again . . . Ezra's always been popular. He's friends with most of the kids on his basketball team, even Brian, who usually keeps to himself. But now, some of his friends have been acting differently, and Brian seems to be pulling away. Ezra wants to help, but he worries if he's too nice to Brian, his friends will realize that he has a crush on him...

But when Brian and his brother run away, Ezra has no choice but to take the leap and reach out. Both boys have to decide if they're willing to risk sharing parts of themselves they'd rather hide. But if they can be brave, they might just find the best in themselves and each other.



To Night Owl From Dogfish

By Holly Goldberg Sloan & Meg Wolitzer

Recommended Age: 10 to 12 years

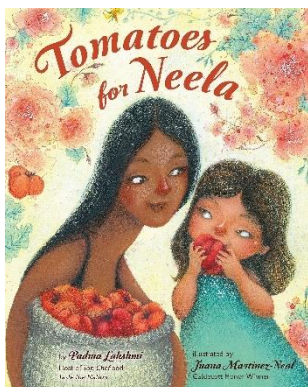
Middle Grade Novel

From two extraordinary authors comes a moving, exuberant, laugh-out-loud novel about friendship and family, told entirely in emails and letters.

Avery Bloom, who's bookish, intense, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water, lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who's fearless, outgoing, and loves all animals as well as the ocean, lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both twelve years old, and are both being raised by single, gay dads.

When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends--and possibly, one day, even sisters.

But things soon go off the rails for the girls (and for their dads too), and they find themselves on a summer adventure that neither of them could have predicted. Now that they can't imagine life without each other, will Bett and Avery (who sometimes call themselves Night Owl and Dogfish) figure out a way to be a family?



Tomatoes for Neela

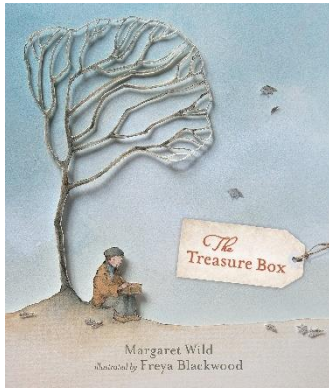
By Padma Lakshmi, Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

Recommended Age: 3 to 7 years

Picture Book

Neela loves cooking with her amma and writing down the recipes in her notebook. It makes her feel closer to her paati who lives far away in India. On Saturdays, Neela and Amma go to the green market and today they are buying tomatoes to make Paati's famous sauce. But first, Neela needs to learn about all the different kinds of tomatoes they can pick from. And as Neela and Amma cook together, they find a way for Paati to share in both the love and the flavors of the day.

Bestselling author and host of Bravo's Top Chef and Hulu's Taste the Nation Padma Lakshmi takes young readers on an intergenerational journey full of delicious flavors and fun food facts that celebrates a family's treasured recipes.



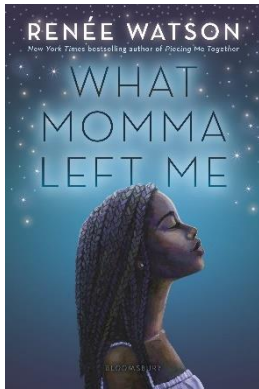
The Treasure Box

By Margaret Wild, Illustrated by Freya Blackwood

Recommended Age: 5 to 8 years

Picture Book

When the enemy bombs the library, everything burns, and only one book survives. As war rages around them, Peter and his father, alongside so many refugees, flee their home, taking with them a treasure box that holds something rarer than rubies and more precious than gold. They journey through mud and rain and long cold nights, and soon survival becomes more important than any possession. But as the years go by, Peter never forgets the treasure box, and one day he returns to find it. This moving story from celebrated author Margaret Wild is illustrated with Freya Blackwood's subtly affecting artwork, which incorporates pages of children's books in translation. The result is a haunting and beautiful tale of the power of stories and the resilience of the human spirit.



What Momma Left Me

By Renée Watson

Recommended Age: 13 years & up

Young Adult Novel

Serenity is good at keeping secrets, and she's got a whole lifetime's worth of them. Her mother is dead, her father is gone, and starting life over at her grandparents' house is strange. Luckily, certain things seem to hold promise: a new friend who makes her feel connected, and a boy who makes her feel seen. But when her brother starts making poor choices, her friend is keeping her own dangerous secret, and her grandparents put all of their trust in a faith that Serenity isn't sure she understands, it is the power of love that will repair her heart and keep her sure of just who she is.



World in Between: Based on a True Refugee Story

By Kenan Trebinčević

Recommended Age: 8 to 12 years

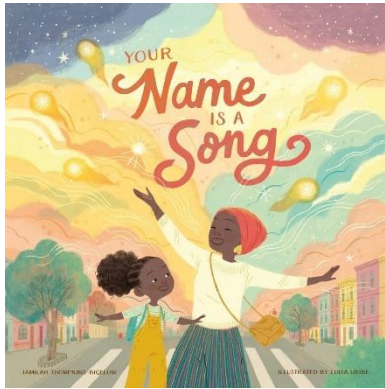
Middle Grade Novel

Co-written by a New York Times best-selling author, this moving story of a Muslim boy's exile from war-torn Bosnia to the United States offers a riveting refugee saga.

Kenan loves drawing and playing soccer with his friends. He wants to be a famous athlete, hates it when his classmates trash his buck teeth by calling him "Bugs Bunny," and fights with his big brother, who's too busy and cool for him lately. Sometimes his parents drive him crazy, but he feels loved and protected—until the war ruins everything.

Soon, Kenan's family is trapped in their home with little food or water, surrounded by enemies. Ten months later, with help from friends and strangers, they finally make it out of the country alive. But that's only the beginning of their journey.

An action-packed page-turner with heart about a kid doing his best during difficult times, *World in Between* celebrates the power of community and resilience, hope and kindness.



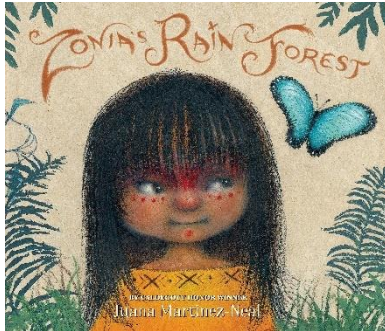
Your Name Is a Song

By Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, Illustrated by Luisa Uribe

Recommended Age: 5 to 10 years

Picture Book

Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city. Empowered by this newfound understanding, the young girl is ready to return the next day to share her knowledge with her class. *Your Name is a Song* is a celebration to remind all of us about the beauty, history, and magic behind names.



Zonia's Rain Forest

Written & Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

Recommended Age: 4 to 8 years

Picture Book

Zonia's home is the Amazon rain forest, where it is always green and full of life. Every morning, the rain forest calls to Zonia, and every morning, she answers. She visits the sloth family, greets the giant anteater, and runs with the speedy jaguar. But one morning, the rain forest calls to her in a troubled voice. How will Zonia answer?

Acclaimed author-illustrator Juana Martinez-Neal explores the wonders of the rain forest with Zonia, an Asháninka girl, in her joyful outdoor adventures. The engaging text emphasizes Zonia's empowering bond with her home, while the illustrations—created on paper made from banana bark—burst with luxuriant greens and delicate details. Illuminating back matter includes a translation of the story in Asháninka, information on the Asháninka community, and resources on the Amazon rain forest and its wildlife.