

Aaron Slater, Illustrator by Andrea Beaty, PK-1

Aaron dreams of being a writer, but when he tries to read, the letters appear scrambled, so he retreats into drawing. After an entire school year of struggle, Aaron decides to just “blend in.” Then, a writing prompt from a new teacher inspires Aaron to find his voice and share his story in his own beautiful way.

Bathe the Cat by Alice McGinty, PK-1

Dad has posted a list of chores for the family to do before grandma comes, including bathing the cat. But the cat does not want a bath, so she mixes up the instructions, and soon the family is mowing the floor, vacuuming the lawn, mopping the baby--and the house is in chaos. This hilarious snapshot of a multiracial, gender-diverse family's antics is a delight.

Best Day Ever! by Marilyn Singer, PK-1

Join an exuberant, boundary-pushing pup and her exasperated boy in this reassuring story about unconditional love and the challenges of trying to always be on your best behavior.

Big Wig by Jonathan, PK-1

Dressed in drag for a costume contest, B.B. Bedazzle's wig travels around the audience and changes with thoughts and dreams of a diverse group of people (and one dog). Though not the biggest wig in size, this wig adapts to hopes, dreams, and wishes as it travels.

Blossom and Bud by Frank J. Sileo, PK-1

Blossom and Bud live in Mr. Baxter's flower shop, among plants of every imaginable size, color, and shape. Blossom doesn't like how tall she is and tries to hide her height. Bud doesn't like how he looks, so he tries to force his flower to bloom. But Mr. Baxter thinks they are just right, as they are, and has a special role for each of them.

Brilliant Bea by Shaina Rudolph, PK-1

A caring teacher helps Bea express herself by sharing her stories verbally. She feels successful at school and connects with peers.

Brown is Beautiful by Supriya Kelkar, PK-1

On a hike with her grandparents, a young Indian-American girl makes note of all the things in nature that are brown, too. On her way, the girl collects the beautiful brown things she encounters as mementos for a scrapbook to share with a very special new addition to her family.

Change Sings by Amanda Gorman, PK-1

As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and most importantly, in themselves.

Dancing with Daddy by Anitra Schulte, PK-1

Elsie can't wait to go to her first father-daughter dance. She picked out the perfect dress and has been practicing swirling and swaying in her wheelchair. But when a winter storm comes, she wonders if she'll get the chance to spin and dance her way to a dream come true.

Electric Slide and Kai by Kelly Baptist, PK-1

Kai is the only member of his family who can't get the dance steps to the Electric Slide right. But Kai is determined to bust a move in this fun and sweet celebration of Black families.

Everybody in the Red Brick Building by Anne Wynter, PK-1

A series of noises wake children and a cat living in an apartment building until comforting noises lull them back to sleep.

Eyes That Speak to the Stars by Joanna Ho, PK-1

A young boy comes to recognize his own power and ability to change the future. When a friend at school creates a hurtful drawing, the boy turns to his family for comfort. He realizes that his eyes rise to the skies and speak to the stars.

Friends are Friends, Forever by Dane Liu, PK-1

On a snowy Lunar New Year's Eve in Northeastern China, it's Dandan's last night with Yueyue. Tomorrow, she moves to America.

Hair Twins by Raakhee Mirchandani, PK-1

Every morning Papa combs through his daughter's waves like he does his own. Her favorite style is when he combs her hair in a tight bun on the top of her head, just like the joora he wears every day under his turban.

Halal Hot Dogs by Susannah Aziz, PK-1

Every Friday after JummaH prayer at the masjid, Musa's family has a special JummaH treat. It's Musa's turn to pick, and he picks his favorite-halal hot dogs! But actually getting to eat this deliciousness turns into a journey riddled with obstacles.

How to Wear A Sari by Darshana Khiani, PK-1

When a little girl tires of being treated like she's TOO little, she sets out to prove to her family that she can do ANYTHING she puts her mind to, including putting on a colorful, twinkly, silky sari. Sure, they're long and unwieldy, but that only means her family will be even more impressed when she puts it on all by herself.

I Am Golden by Eva Chen, PK-1

This joyful and lyrical picture book from New York Times bestselling author Eva Chen and illustrator Sophie Diao is a moving ode to the immigrant experience, as well as a manifesto of self-love for Chinese American children.

I Can Help by Reem Faruqi, PK-1

Zahra is proud when her teacher says she is good at helping. She is also crushed when other classmates make fun of her. Zahra changes her behavior, even though it makes her feel badly to not help, but then Zahra gets another chance to follow her own heart.

I Dream of Popo by Livia Blackburne, PK-1

A young girl and her family emigrate to America leaving her beloved grandmother behind. This story focuses on their bond, how they stayed in touch while away, and how visits back to Taiwan shaped her life and her heart forever forward. With Mandarin Chinese in the illustrations and a glossary at the end of the story along with notes from the author and illustrator this book is a treasure.

I'll Go and Come Back by Rajani LaRocca, PK-1

When Jyoti visits her grandmother, she is overwhelmed by the differences between India and home, but soon she and her grandmother form an incredible bond. When it's time to part, Jyoti remembers that in Tamil, people don't say goodbye, they say "I'll go and come back." The two reunite the next summer when Pati visits Jyoti in America, and it's Jyoti's turn to make her grandmother feel welcome.

Isabel and Her Colores Go to School by Alexandra Alessandri, PK-1

English, with its blustery blues and whites, just feels wrong to Isabel. She prefers the warm oranges and pinks of Spanish. As she prepares for class at a new school, she knows she's going to have to learn--and she would rather not! Her first day is uncomfortable, until she discovers there's more than one way to communicate with friends.

Itty-Bitty-Kitty Corn by Shannon Hale, PK-1

Kitty thinks she might be a unicorn. She feels so perfectly unicorn-y! "Neigh!" says Kitty. But when Unicorn clop clop clops over, sweeping his magnificent tail and neighing a mighty neigh,

Kitty feels no bigger than a ball of lint. Can this unlikely pair embrace who they are, and truly see one another?

Jet the Cat (Is Not a Cat) by Phaea Crede, PK-1

Jet is not like any other cat, but when other animals try to convince her that she's really a bird or a frog or a goat, she learns to embrace her unique identity. This hilarious story teaches us to celebrate our differences.

John's Turn by Mac Barnett, PK-1

John is an elementary aged boy who is going to perform a ballet dance in front of the whole school. Nobody knows about this talent that John has, and he is nervous about revealing this to all of them.

The Katha Chest by Radhiah Chowdhury, PK-1

Asiya loves to visit Nanu's house where she can rummage through Nanu's katha chest filled with quilts. There are stories in each of the quilts that her Nanu has collected through the years, all about the bold and brave women in Asiya's family. Among all of the games and exciting things at Nanu's house, Asiya thinks these hidden histories are the grandest treasure.

Let Me Fix You A Plate: A Tale of Two Kitchens by Elizabeth Lilly, PK-1

Whether you're settling in for a heaping plate of banana pudding or arepas and tostones, a good meal can always bring families together. Elizabeth Lilly's tale of a joyous road trip, drawn from her own experience captures all the warmth and love of her family's two distinct cultures.

Letters to Live By: An Alphabet Book with Intention by Lisa Frenkel Riddiough, PK-1

This picture book will allow for much discussion not only of the alphabet, but about social justice concepts, as well. Letters to Live By is a social emotional masterpiece.

Love, Violet by Charlotte Sullivan Wild, PK-1

Of all the kids in Violet's class, only one leaves Violet speechless: Mira, the girl with the cheery laugh, who races like the wind. If only they could adventure together! But every time Mira comes near, Violet goes shy.

Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle by Nina LaCour, PK-1

For one little girl, there's no place she'd rather be than sitting between Mama and Mommy. So when Mommy goes away on a work trip, she misses Mommy "as deep as the ocean and as high as an astronaut up in the stars". And when Mommy finally comes home, it takes a minute to shake off the empty feeling she felt all week.

My City Speaks by Darren Lebeuf, PK-1

Though the main character is visually impaired, she travels around the city and enthusiastically enjoys its many offerings, and actively contributes to the lyrical bustle of city life by putting on a violin performance in the park.

Nigel and the Moon by Antwan Eady, PK-1

When Nigel looks up at the moon, his future is bright. He imagines himself as...an astronaut, a dancer, a superhero, too! But it's Career Week at school, and Nigel struggles to find the courage to share his dreams.

One Sun and Countless Stars: A Muslim Book of Concepts by Hena Khan, PK-1

This gentle introduction to numbers also celebrates the many diverse traditions of the Muslim world, encouraging readers young and old to reflect upon—and count—their many blessings.

Patience, Patches! by Christy Mihaly, PK-1

Patches the puppy is very good at waiting--or at least that's what he thinks. But his patience is put to the test when his two moms arrive home with an unexpected bundle.

Peace by Baptiste Paul and Miranda Paul, PK-1

From saying hello and pronouncing your friend's name correctly to giving more than you take and saying I'm sorry, this simple concept book explores definitions of peace and actions small and big that foster it.

Perfectly Imperfect Mira by Faith Pray, PK-1

Mira longs to be good at something and compares herself to others who are already where she wants to be. Because of her desire for perfection, it is difficult for her to start or follow through with things. Until one day she realizes that being "a shadow" isn't very fun.

The Queen of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes, PK-1

MJ is more than ready for her first day of kindergarten! With her hair freshly braided and her mom's special tiara on her head, she knows she's going to rock kindergarten. But the tiara isn't just for show—it also reminds her of all the good things she brings to the classroom, stuff like her kindness, friendliness, and impressive soccer skills, too!

Racing Ace: Drive It! Fix It! by Larry Dane Brimner, PK-1

Ace has built her very own go-kart and is getting ready to race! After oiling the wheels and kicking the tires, Ace sets out to win. But when a missing part and a rut in the middle of the race threaten to keep her in last place, Ace has to think fast to finish strong — and come out on top!

A Sky-Blue Bench by Bahram Rahman, PK-1

After an accident that takes her leg, Aria is fitted with a helper leg and is ready to return to school. Since the furniture in the school had been used for firewood, there is nowhere for Aria to sit except on the floor, which is very uncomfortable. She decides to build a bench, even though that's not something girls have been trained to do. With the help of her family and community, she might be able to do it!

A Song of Frutas by Margarita Engle, PK-1

A little girl loves visiting her grandfather in Cuba and singing his special songs to sell all kinds of fruit: mango, limón, naranja, piña, and more! Even when they're apart, grandfather and granddaughter can share rhymes between their countries like un abrazo—a hug—made of words carried on letters that soar across the distance like songbirds.

That's Not My Name by Anoosha Syed, PK-1

Mirha is so excited for her first day of school! She can't wait to learn, play, and make new friends. But when her classmates mispronounce her name, she goes home wondering if she should find a new one.

This is a School by John Schu, PK-1

A moving celebration of school and all it may signify: work and play, creativity and trust, and a supportive community that extends beyond walls.

Time for Bed, Old House by Janet Costa Bates, PK-1

Isaac is excited about having a sleepover at Grandpop's house, but he's a little nervous about being away from home for the first time. Luckily, his knowing Grandpop tells him it's not quite time to go to bed yet—first, he needs Isaac's help in putting the house to bed.

Time for Kenny by Brian Pinkney, PK-1

Time for Kenny to get up and enjoy the day with his family! In four simple stories, Brian Pinkney guides readers through a young child's day.

Trouble by Katherine Battersby, PK-1

Squirrel has a new neighbor. That new neighbor is a bear and that means Trouble (as Squirrel knows about bears from TV and books). How will Squirrel keep her pet mouse Chamomile safe?

We All Play by Julie Flett, PK-1

This book celebrates diversity and the interconnectedness of nature through an Indigenous perspective, complete with a glossary of Cree words for wild animals at the back of the book, and children repeating a Cree phrase throughout the book.

We Move Together by Kelly Fritsch, PK-1

We Move Together follows a mixed-ability group of kids as they creatively negotiate everyday barriers and find joy and connection in disability culture and community. A bold and colorful exploration of all the ways that people navigate through the spaces around them and a celebration of the relationships we build along the way. Includes a kid-friendly glossary

You Are My Favorite Color by Gillian Sze, PK-1

A mother's celebration of her children's brown skin, told through warm and vivid poetry. With sweeping descriptions of what brown skin means, this is a book that empowers as it embraces, and reminds young readers that they have shades of color that only they can discover and express.

Your Mama by NoNieqa Ramos, PK-1

A sweet twist on the age-old "yo mama" joke, celebrating fierce moms everywhere with playful lyricism and gorgeous illustrations. Heartwarming and richly imagined, YOUR MAMA twists an old joke into a point of pride that honors the love, hard work, and dedication of mamas everywhere.

American Desi by Jyoti Gopal and Supria Kelkar, 2-3

This poetic story filled with expressive art celebrates being bicultural and is for every reader who aspires to bridge their worlds with grace, grit, and confidence.

Areli is a Dreamer by Areli Morales, 2-3

Areli leaves her grandmother's home in Mexico as a young child to join her parents and brother in the US. Classmates accuse her of being illegal, but eventually she feels at home and is protected by the DACA program.

Becoming Vanessa by Vanessa Brantley-Newton, 2-3

This sweet first day of school story has loving parents, a bold eccentric main character, a diverse class, and a name origin issue in a brightly illustrated package. Vanessa finds her bravery for her first day through a fun outfit and feels frustrated when the day did not go as perfectly as she had hoped.

Bella's Recipe for Success by Ana Siqueira, 2-3

Bella wants to find out what she's good at. Peppered with Spanish vocabulary and set in an intergenerational Latinx home, Bella shows all kids the value of practicing to learn a new skill, and that it's okay to make mistakes along the way.

Bindu's Bindis by Supriya Kelkar, 2-3

Bindu is a little girl who loves her bindis! When Nani comes to visit, it is just in time to wear something new to the school talent show. Bindu and Nani work together to shine their brightest and embrace their sparkle, even when they stand out from the crowd.

The Blur by Minh Lê, 2-3

From the very beginning, there was something different about this child... An ultrasonic voice. Fantastically elastic limbs. Super-magnetic powers. But it wasn't until the child took her first steps that she became: THE BLUR!

Bodies Are Cool by Tyler Feder, 2-3

A pure celebration of all the different human bodies that exist in the world. With its joyful illustrations and encouraging refrain, it will instill body acceptance and confidence in the youngest of readers.

Brayden Speaks Up by Brayden Harrington, 2-3

Brayden Harrington, a thirteen-year-old boy who stutters, is asked to give a speech at the Democratic National Convention after connecting with Joe Biden. This nonfiction picture book celebrates the importance of speaking up and using your voice—for everyone deserves to be heard.

Calvin by JR and Vanessa Ford, 2-3

Calvin has always been a boy, even if the world sees him as a girl. As the first day of school approaches, he's nervous and the "what-ifs" gather up inside him. But as his friends and teachers rally around him and he tells them his name, all his "what-ifs" begin to melt away.

The Cot in the Living Room by Hilda Eunice Burgos, 2-3

Night after night, a young girl watches her Mami set up a cot in the living room for guests. She resents that they get the entire living room, while all she gets is a tiny bedroom with a view of her sister. But sleeping on the cot in the living room isn't all she thought it would be.

Darryl's Dream by Darryl DMC McDaniels, 2-3

Darryl wants to share his poetry in the talent show, but is mocked for his good grades and his glasses and crosses out his name. Will Darryl find the strength to share his voice despite the bullies?

Facing Fear by Karen Lynn Williams, 2-3

Enrique can't believe his father won't let him travel to his team's big soccer tournament. Papi says going across the checkpoint is too risky. This book is a powerful depiction of the everyday struggles faced by undocumented immigrants and their families.

Fatima's Great Outdoors by Ambreen Tariq, 2-3

Excitedly joining her family for an outdoor camping trip, Fatima Khazi helps set up a tent, build a fire and fend off a daddy longlegs before settling down to sleep surrounded by the near-magical sounds of the forest.

From the Tops of the Trees by Kao Kalia Yang, 2-3

Yang asks her father what is beyond the fence of the refugee camp. At first her father has no answers for her. But on the following day, he leads her to the tallest tree in the camp and, secure in her father's arms, Kalia sees the spread of a world beyond.

Gibberish by Young Vo, 2-3

Dat and his Mah made a long journey to their new home and Dat doesn't know the language. To Dat, everything everybody says sounds like gibberish. Artfully told from a perspective often ignored, Dat starts to understand his surroundings.

Granddad's Camper by Harry Woodgate, 2-3

Gramps and Grandad were adventurers. But after Gramps died, granddad hasn't felt like traveling anymore. So, their amazing granddaughter comes up with a clever plan to fix up the old camper and get Grandad excited to explore again.

Home For A While by Lauren Kerstein, 2-3

Calvin is in foster care, and he wants to trust someone, anyone, but is afraid to open his heart. When he moves in with Maggie, she shows him respect, offers him kindness, and makes him see things in himself that he's never noticed before.

A Hundred Thousand Welcomes by Mary Lee Donovan, 2-3

You are invited to travel to homes around the world in this beautifully illustrated picture book about hospitality and acceptance, which features the word "welcome" from more than fourteen languages.

Hundred Years of Happiness by Thanh Hà Lai, 2-3

A stunning picture book debut, showcasing the love between grandparents and grandchildren, the challenges of memory loss, and the joy that sweet reminders of a faraway home can bring.

I Affirm Me: the ABCs of Inspiration for Black Kids by Nyasha Williams, 2-3

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.

I'm A Gluten-Sniffing Service Dog by Michal Babay, 2-3

In this simple story readers will go on a journey with a dog training to be a gluten sniffing dog and with Alice, the girl who hopes to own this dog.

Jo Jo Makoons by Dawn Quigley, 2-3

Hello/Boozhoo—meet Jo Jo Makoons! Full of pride, joy, and plenty of humor, this first book in an all-new chapter book series by Dawn Quigley celebrates a spunky young Ojibwe girl who loves who she is.

Justice Is... by Preet Bharara, 2-3

Preet Bharara, former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, explains what justice is and what it takes to achieve it for even the youngest readers. Drawing on examples of historic justice seekers such as Ida B. Wells, John Lewis, Malala Yousafzai, and many others.

Kalamata's Kitchen by Sarah Thomas, 2-3

Tomorrow is Kalamata's first day at a new school, and she's nervous! If only Kalamata and her stuffed alligator, Al Dente, could go back to the Indian spice market they visited this summer, then maybe she'd remember how to feel brave. Luckily for Kalamata, all the magic required for her journey is right in her own kitchen!

Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story by Danielle Greendeer, 2-3

In this Wampanoag story told in a Native tradition, two kids from the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe learn the story of Weeâchumun (corn) and the first Thanksgiving.

Love in the Library by Maggie Tokuda-Hall, 2-3

Tama and George are young adults imprisoned in Minidoka, a Japanese American incarceration camp. George is a constant presence in the camp library and his love gives Tama hope during a dark time.

Maryam's Magic: The Story of Mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani by Megan Reid, 2-3

Maryam's Magic is the true story of a girl whose creativity and love of stories helped her—and the world—to see math in a new and inspiring way.

Miss Rita, Mystery Reader by Sam Donovan and Kristen Wixted, 2-3

Daddy is the Mystery Reader at Tori's school today, and he's coming dressed as Miss Rita! Tori loves helping Daddy become Miss Rita. But will the other kids at school love Miss Rita like Tori does? Luckily, a last-minute idea helps Daddy and Tori find a way to make story time sparkle for everyone.

My Two Border Towns by David Bowles, 2-3

The loving story of a father and son's weekend ritual, a demonstration of community care, and a tribute to the fluidity, complexity, and vibrancy of life on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Opal Lee and What it Means to Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth by Alice Faye Duncan, 2-3

One Juneteenth day when Opal was twelve years old, an angry crowd burned down her brand-new home. She had to do something! But could one person's voice make a difference? Follow Opal Lee as she fights to improve the future by honoring the past.

Osnat and Her Dove: The True Story of the World's First Female Rabbi by Sigal Samuel, 2-3

Born in Mosul (in today's Iraq) in 1590, Osnat Barzani convinced her father, a learned rabbi, to teach her Hebrew and the holy texts of Judaism. Her wisdom was so great and so respected that everyone accepted and honored her as history's first female rabbi.

Powwow Day by Traci Sorell, 2-3

River wants so badly to dance at powwow day as she does every year. In this uplifting and contemporary picture book, follow River's journey from feeling isolated after an illness to learning the healing power of community.

Sakamoto's Swim Club: How a Teacher Led an Unlikely Team to Victory by Julie Abery, 2-3

The inspirational and little-known story of a dedicated teacher who coached Hawaiian swimmers all the way to the Olympics, beautifully told in simple rhyme. An author's note with photos provides the backstory of Soichi Sakamoto and his Three-Year Swim Club.

Sam is My Sister by Ashley Rhodes-Courter, 2-3

"Brothers to the moon!" Evan proclaims as he leads his two siblings on an imaginary space journey. The only problem is that Sam isn't his brother—she's his sister. Evan comes to understand and accept Sam's choices and her autonomy, and he learns that even princesses can go to the moon.

Seven Special Somethings: A Nowruz Story by Adib Khorram, 2-3

Kian can't wait for Persian New Year! But when a mishap wrecks the sofreh haft-seen, seven symbolic items whose names start with the 15th letter in the Persian alphabet, Kian must find items to replace them in time for his grandparents' Nowruz visit.

Stacey's Extraordinary Words by Stacey Abrams, 2-3

Stacey is a little girl who loves words more than anything. But when her teacher chooses her to compete in the local spelling bee, she isn't as excited as she thought she'd be. Stacey will learn that win or lose, her words are powerful, and sometimes perseverance is the most important word of all.

The Story of John Lewis by Tonya Leslie, 2-3

John Lewis was a civil rights leader and United States congressman who never stopped speaking up for justice, equality, and peace. Explore how John went from being a young farm boy to a famous activist, politician, and leader.

Strong by Rob Kearney, 2-3

Rob dreams of becoming a champion strongman. He wants to flip huge tires, lug boulders, and haul trucks -- and someday be the strongest man in the world! But he feels like he can't fit in with his bright leggings, unicorn T-shirts, and rainbow-dyed hair.

A Thousand White Butterflies by Jessica Betancourt-Perez, 2-3

Isabella has recently arrived from Colombia with her mother and abuela. It's her first day of school, but when classes are canceled because of too much snow, Isabella misses warm, green Colombia more than ever. Then Isabella meets Katie and finds out that making friends is easier than she thought!

Tía Fortuna's New Home by Ruth Behar, 2-3

When Estrella's Tía Fortuna has to say goodbye to her longtime Miami apartment building, The Seaway, to move to an assisted living community, Estrella spends the day with her. Tía explains the significance of her most important possessions from both her Cuban and Jewish culture, as they learn to say goodbye together and explore a new beginning for Tía.

Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America's First Gay Wedding by Rob Sanders, 2-3

Long before marriage equality was the law of the land, Jack Baker and Michael McConnell became the first same-sex couple in America to be legally married. Their empowering story is a little known part of LGBT history.

Uncle John's City Garden by Bernette G. Ford, 2-3

“How does this city garden grow? With help from Li'l Sissy and her siblings—and love, love, love! A celebration of nature, family, and food.”

A Walk in the Words by Hudson Talbott, 2-3

When Hudson Talbott was a little boy, he loved drawing, and it came naturally to him. But reading? No way! His inspiring story vividly reveals the challenges—and ultimately the rewards—of being a non-mainstream kind of learner.

Watch Me: A Story of Immigration and Inspiration by Doyin Richards, 2-3

Joe came to America from Africa when he was young. He worked hard in school, made friends, and embraced his new home. Like so many immigrants before and after him, Joe succeeded when many thought he would fail.

We Shall Overcome by Bryan Collier, 2-3

Powerfully imagined for the present moment, Collier's illustrations meld the most emblematic moments of the twentieth century Civil Rights movement with the present day, depicting the movements, protests, and demonstrations—big and small—as the fight for justice continues.

We Want to Go to School! The Fight for Disability Rights by Maryann Cocca-Leffler and Janine Leffler, 2-3

There was a time in the United States when millions of children with disabilities weren't allowed to go to public school. In 1971, seven kids and their families went to court to fight for the right to an equal education. Told in the voice of Janine Leffler, this book shares the true story of this landmark case.

What Happened to You? by James Catchpole, 2-3

Based on experiences the disabled author had as a young child, *What Happened to You?* genuinely reflects a disabled child's perspective for both disabled & able-bodied readers.

What's in Your Pocket: Collecting Nature's Treasures by Heather Montgomery, 2-3

When you find something strange and wonderful, do you put it in your pocket? Meet nine scientists who, as kids, explored the great outdoors and collected “treasures”: seedpods, fossils, worms, and more. Observing, sorting, and classifying their finds taught these kids scientific skills—and sometimes led to groundbreaking discoveries.

When My Cousins Come To Town by Angela Shante, 2-3

Filled with warmth, love, and laughter, *When My Cousins Come to Town* brings all the energy and love of a big family to prove that you don't need to be anyone else to be special—just the way you are is exactly right!

Where Butterflies Fill the Sky : A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home by Zahra Marwan, 2-3

With spare, moving text and vivid artwork, Zahra Marwan tells the true story of her and her family's immigration from Kuwait, where they were considered stateless, to New Mexico, where together they made a new home.

The World Belonged to Us by Jacqueline Woodson, 2-3

The kids on one Brooklyn block take advantage of everything summertime has to offer: freedom to meet their friends and make the streets their playground--jumping double Dutch, playing tag and hide-and-seek, building forts, chasing ice cream trucks, and best of all, believing anything is possible.

The Year We Learned to Fly by Jacqueline Woodson, 2-3

Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael Lopez's dazzling art celebrate the extraordinary ability to lift ourselves up and imagine a better world.

Yes We Will: Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country by Kelly Yang, 2-3

A gorgeously illustrated picture book about Asian American changemakers doing everything they dreamed of and inspiring all of us to reach for new heights!

You Have a Voice by Vera Ahiiya, 2-3

This book celebrates the power every child naturally holds in using their voice to make change for good. *You Have a Voice* empowers both kids and grown-ups to use their voice in all times, in all ways, for good.

Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling, 3-7

Twelve-year-old Jolene doesn't expect to witness her friend's ultralight plane crash while watching the livestream feed one afternoon. With just her mother's cell phone and credit card on hand she sets out on her own to save the Desert Aviator.

Air by Monica Roe, 4-7

Emmie loves her close-knit rural town, but she can't shake the feeling that her goals—and her choices—suddenly aren't hers anymore. With the help of her friends, Emmie makes a plan to

get her dreams off the ground—and show her community what she wants, what she has to give, and how ready she is to do it on her own terms.

All You Knead is Love by Tanya Guerrero, 4-6

Twelve-year-old Alba doesn't want to live with her estranged grandmother in Barcelona. But in her new home, Alba forms a close relationship with her grandmother, gains a supportive father figure and new friends, and even discovers a passion and talent for baking.

Answers in the Pages by David Levithan, 5-8

When Donovan left his copy of *The Adventurers* on the kitchen counter, he didn't think his mom would read it—much less have a problem with it. But soon the entire town is freaking out about whether the book's main characters are gay, Donovan's mom is trying to get the book removed from the school curriculum, and Donovan is caught in the middle.

Anybody Here Seen Frenchie? by Leslie Connor, 5-7

Aurora, a rock hunter, and Frenchie, who loves birds, have traits that make social connections hard. After becoming friends, they gain skills from one another that help them navigate the world.

Barakah Beats by Maleeha Siddiqui, 4-8

It's Nimra's first time going to public school after years of attending Islamic private school. She is surprised when her best friend starts giving hijab-wearing Nimra the cold shoulder around the other kids. Desperate to fit in, Nimra joins a band made up of popular Muslim eighth-grade boys, even though she was taught that music isn't allowed in Islam.

Cuba in my Pocket by Adrianna Cuevas, 4-6

A powerful historical novel about a twelve-year-old boy who leaves his family in Cuba to immigrate to the U.S. by himself, based on the author's family history.

A Day for Rememberin' by Leah Henderson, 4-5

With poignant prose and celebratory, powerful illustrations, this book shines light on the little-known history of Memorial Day and reminds us never to forget the people who put their lives on the line for their country.

A Duet for Home by Karina Yan Glaser, 4-6

A triumphant tale of friendship, healing, and the power of believing in ourselves told from the perspective of two children living in a homeless shelter. As their friendship grows over a shared love of classical music, June and Tyrell confront a new housing policy that puts homeless families in danger.

Evicted! The Struggle for the Right to Vote by Alice Faye Duncan, 4-8

Informational book about the voting rights struggle for African Americans. Provides biographical stories of the men and women who were instrumental in gaining the right to vote, to register to vote, and to remain employed and alive once registered in southern states in the 1950s and 60s.

Fast Pitch by Nic Stone, 4-8

Shenice Lockwood dreams of leading the Fulton Firebirds to the U12 softball regional championship. But Shenice's focus is shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a career-ending-and family-name-ruining-crime may have been a setup. It's up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family's past-and fast-before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever.

Honestly Elliott by Gillian McDunn, 4-8

Elliott is your typical kid dealing with a lot of changes in his life and on top of it all, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. His passion for cooking drives him to want to do better. When his big school project comes up, he sees it as an opportunity to pay for camp and prove to his dad that cooking is a worthwhile endeavor.

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Twelve-year-old homeschooled Olive is tired of being seen as “fragile” just because she has osteogenesis imperfecta (otherwise known as brittle bone disease) so she's thrilled when she finally convinces her overprotective parents to let her attend Macklemore Elementary.

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Anna is counting the days until her family finally moves to America—the beautiful country. Even though Anna knows she'll miss her relatives and friends in Taiwan, she's excited for her new life in California. But the beautiful country is nothing like what she imagined.

Isla to Island by Alexis Castellanos, 5-8

Cuba is vibrant with flowers and food and people...but the home Marisol loves is no longer safe. Sent to the United States alone, Marisol finds everything in Brooklyn cold and gray. But she starts to realize that home isn't a place and finding her way can be as simple as staying true to herself.

Just Right Jillian by Nicole Collier, 4-7

Fifth grader Jillian will do just about anything to blend in, including staying quiet even when she has the right answer. Breaking out of her shell is easier said than done, and Jillian has only a month to keep her promise and prove to herself that she can speak up and show everyone her true self.

Kapaemahu by Hinalaimoana Wong-Kalu, 3-5

An Indigenous legend about how four extraordinary individuals of dual male and female spirit, or Mahu, brought healing arts from Tahiti to Hawaii. The stones still stand on Waikiki Beach, but the true story behind them has been hidden – until now.

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll, 5-8

A neurodivergent girl campaigns for a memorial when she learns that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different, like her.

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat, 4-7

In a fantasy adventure every bit as compelling and confident in its world building as *A Wish in the Dark*, Christina Soontornvat explores a young woman's struggle to unburden herself of the past and chart her own destiny in a world of secrets.

Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers by Uma Mishra-Newbery, 4-5

Loujain watches her beloved baba fly each morning, but her own dreams of flying face a big obstacle: only boys, not girls, are allowed to fly in her country. Eventually, Loujain's impossible dream becomes reality—and soon other girls dare to learn to fly.

The Lucky Ones by Linda Williams Jackson, 3-6

Award-winning author Linda Williams Jackson pulls from her own childhood in the Mississippi Delta to tell the story of Ellis Earl, who dreams of a real house, food enough for the whole family—and to be someone.

The Magical Imperfect by Chris Baron, 4-8

Etan, who struggles with selective mutism, and Malia, who is homebound with a disfiguring skin condition, form an unlikely friendship. This magical novel in verse is a book about overcoming bullies, the importance of family, friendship and community. Set against the backdrop of the 1989 earthquake in San Francisco.

Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee, 4-7

Twelve year-old Maizy discovers her family's Chinese restaurant is full of secrets in this irresistible novel that celebrates food, fortune, and family. When she discovers that a beloved

family treasure has gone missing—and someone has left a racist note—Maizy decides it's time to find answers.

The Many Meanings of Meilan by Andrea Wang, 4-7

A family feud before the start of seventh grade propels Meilan from Boston's Chinatown to rural Ohio, where she must tap into her inner strength and sense of justice to make a new place for herself.

Miosotis Flores Never Forgets by Hilda Eunice Burgos, 5-8

Miosotis Flores is excited about three things: fostering rescue dogs, goofy horror movies, and her sister Amarilis's upcoming wedding. While she is fostering a dog named Freckles, she notices that her sister is behaving strangely. When she discovers her sister's secret, she faces some hard choices.

More Than Just a Game: The Black Origins of Basketball by Madison Moore, 4-8

This informational book details the history of basketball, from how it began in all-white YMCAs, to African-American dance halls, to more formal teams, to what we know today as the NBA. Those people who made the game what it is today are featured, so all today's fans can understand and appreciate how the game took shape.

New From Here by Kelly Yang, 4-7

When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California, where they think they will be safe. Suddenly, Knox has two days to prepare for an international move—and for leaving his dad, who has to stay for work.

Omar Rising by Aisha Saeed, 4-5

Omar is a bright student who earns a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school and hopes to lift his mother out of relative poverty and change his future. He faces discrimination and injustice, but with the help of a caring community of friends and staff members, he is able to make a difference.

Operation Sisterhood by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, 4-7

Bo and her new sisters band together in this jubilant novel about the difficulties of change, the loyalty of sisters, and the love of family.

Out of My Heart by Sharon M. Draper, 4-8

Melody convinces her parents she is ready for summer camp, just like the other kids at her school. She experiences many firsts at camp - including swimming and horseback riding - and makes lasting memories and special friends.

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Addy, haunted by her tragic past, joins five other Black city kids—each with their own troubles—to spend a summer out west. There they learn to depend upon each other for companionship and strength. But then comes a devastating forest fire...

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When the COVID-19 pandemic starts, Malian, a young Wabanaki girl, is quarantined with her grandparents on the reservation, where she befriends a local dog and learns about her ancestors and how they always survive together.

Shelter by Christie Matheson, 4-8

A heart-wrenching middle grade debut that considers homelessness from one girl's perspective and explores deep truths about the resounding impact of empathy.

Simon B. Rhymin' by Dwanye Reed, 4-5

Eleven-year-old Simon Barnes dreams of becoming a world-famous rapper. But for now, he's just a Chicago fifth grader who's small for his age and afraid to use his voice. When his new teacher assigns the class an oral presentation on something that affects their community, Simon must face his fears.

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson, 4-5

The 1619 Project's lyrical picture book in verse chronicles the consequences of slavery and the history of Black resistance in the United States, thoughtfully rendered by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones and Newbery honor-winning author Renée Watson.

A Soft Place to Land by Janae Marks, 4-6

When Joy's father loses his job, her family must sell their home and move into an apartment. Joy finds solace in a secret shared by the apartment complex children: The Hideout. When a mystery writer leaves messages in the Hideout that make Joy want to provide a comforting shoulder, Joy is determined to find out their identity.

Stuntboy, in the Meantime by Jason Reynolds, 4-5

A hilarious, hopeful, and action-packed middle grade novel about the greatest young superhero you've never heard of, filled with illustrations by Raúl the Third!

The Turtle of Michigan : A Novel by Naomi Shihab Nye, 4-5

Aref travels from Muscat, Oman, to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and adjusts to a new life and a new school in the United States. Themes include immigration, family, and what it means to feel at home.

Unsettled by Reem Faruqi, 4-6

When her family moves from Pakistan to Peachtree City, all Nurah wants is to blend in, yet she stands out for all the wrong reasons. Nurah's accent, floral-print kurtas, and tea-colored skin make her feel excluded, until she meets Stahr at swimming tryouts.

The Vanderbeeker's Make a Wish by Karina Yan Glaser, 3-7

When Papa must leave town, the Vanderbeeker children are surprised to find their maternal grandparents on their doorstep. Can they learn more about the grandfather they lost and come to appreciate the grandparents they still have while making sure their papa has the best birthday ever?

The View from the Very Best House in Town by Meera Trehan, 4-5

Part thriller, part friendship story, part real estate listing, this witty and inventive debut explores issues of ableism and classism as it delves into the mysteries of what makes a person a friend and a house a home.

We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorrell, 4-6

Too often, Native American history is treated as a finished chapter instead of an ongoing story. This companion book to the award-winning *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* offers readers everything they never learned in school about Native American people's past, present, and future.

We Can: Portraits of Power by Tyler Gordon, 4-5

Tyler Gordon shares amazing paintings of powerful people who have impacted his life and helped him persevere. He also includes a brief, personal biographical synopsis of each person, including his connection to their influence.

Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero by Saadia Faruqi, 4-8

Yusuf is excited to start sixth grade and join the robotics team. When hateful notes start to appear in his locker, he quickly realizes the school year will not be as he'd hoped. Fear and anger pervade his hometown as the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack approaches, but Yusuf and the Muslim community meet the resistance with understanding and love.

Across a Field of Starlight by Blue Delliquanti, 8-12

When Lu and Fassen meet after a chance encounter on a planet in a universe scarred by war, they go to great lengths to stay connected. Their friendship will eventually challenge beliefs about themselves, their worlds, and what possibilities the future may hold.

Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling, 3-7

Twelve-year-old Jolene doesn't expect to witness her friend's ultralight plane crash one afternoon. Getting someone to help would require Jolene to reveal more about her home life than she is prepared to do. With just her mother's cell phone and credit card on hand she sets out on her own to save the Desert Aviator.

Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year by Nina Hamza, 6-8

After his dad gets sick, the family moves from Hawaii to Minnesota for his dad's treatment. Even though his dad grew up there, Ahmed feels out of place as one of the only brown people and a slacker dealing with expectations from new teachers.

Ain't Burned All the Bright by Jason Reynolds, 6-12

A beautiful poem about the ability and need to take a breath during times of stress, current and generational. Each page features dynamic and powerful art by Jason Griffin.

Air: A Novel by Monica Roe, 4-7

Emmie loves her close-knit rural town, but she can't shake the feeling that her goals—and her choices—suddenly aren't hers anymore. With the help of her friends, Emmie makes a plan to get her dreams off the ground—and show her community what she wants, what she has to give, and how ready she is to do it on her own terms.

Akata Woman by Nnedi Okorafor, 8-12

Sunny, a 15 year old Nigerian-American albino living in Nigeria, must embark on a dangerous quest in this third book of the Akata Witch series. She and her friends hope to survive by drawing on all of their magical powers and knowledge of the spirit world as they journey into parallel worlds on their mission to save their own.

All You Knead is Love by Tanya Guerrero, 4-6

Twelve-year-old Alba doesn't want to live with her estranged grandmother in Barcelona. But in her new home, Alba forms a close relationship with her grandmother, gains a supportive father figure and new friends, and even discovers a passion and talent for baking.

Answers in the Pages by David Levithan, 4-8

When Donovan left his copy of *The Adventurers* on the counter, he didn't think his mom would read it—much less have a problem with it. But soon the entire town is freaking out about whether the book's main characters are gay, Donovan's mom is trying to get the book removed from the school curriculum, and Donovan is caught in the middle.

Barakah Beats by Maleeha Siddiqui, 4-8

It's Nimra's first time going to public school after years of attending Islamic private school. She is surprised when her best friend starts giving hijab-wearing Nimra the cold shoulder around the other kids. Desperate to fit in, Nimra joins a band made up of popular Muslim eighth-grade boys, even though she was taught that music isn't allowed in Islam.

Both Can Be True by Jules Machias, 5-8

Ash is a gender fluid student and Daniel has been told he's overly sensitive. So when Daniel's big heart leads him to rescue a dog that's about to be euthanized, he's relieved to find Ash willing to help. The two bond over their four-legged secret, but when they start catching feelings for each other, things go from cute to complicated.

Clockwork Curandera vol.1:The Witch Owl Parliament by David Bowles & Raul the Third, 8-12

Enrique uses alchemy to engineer a way to bring his sister, Cristina, back from death in this graphic novel which combines green magic, steampunk, Frankenstein, and a fictional version of colonial Mexico. Together with skinwalker Mateo, Cristina and Enrique fight evil forces, search for Enrique's lost love, and try to find their place in this world.

Different Kinds of Fruit by Kyle Lukoff, 6-8

When Bailey joins the 6th grade, Annabelle begins to see herself, and her family, in a whole new light when she learns her dad is trans. She navigates a first crush and her class tries to tackle big issues facing the world. She also learns that her community isn't as welcoming as she thought.

Dream, Annie, Dream by Waka T. Brown, 4-7

Twelve-year-old Aoi Inoue has big dreams. She dreams of playing basketball in the NBA. She dreams of becoming an actress and winning an Oscar. Being one of the only Asian kids isn't

easy, however, and facing endless hassles with her name, she reinvents herself as Annie Enoway.

Drew Leclair Gets a Clue by Katryn Bury, 5-7

When Drew Leclair's mother runs away with the school guidance counselor, a cyberbully uses the opportunity to post the information for the whole school to see. Trying to protect her father from learning about the bullying, Drew is determined to use her true crime expertise to catch the perpetrator.

A Duet for Home by Karina Yan Glaser, 4-8

Biracial sixth-graders June and Tyrell are two children living in a homeless shelter. As their friendship grows over a shared love of classical music, June and Tyrell confront a new housing policy that puts homeless families in danger.

Ellen Outside the Lines by A.J. Sass, 6-8

Thirteen-year-old Ellen Katz feels most comfortable when her life is planned and people fit neatly into her predefined categories. She attends temple every weekend, only gets crushes on girls, and she knows she can always rely on her best-and-only friend, Laurel, to help navigate social situations at their private Georgia middle school.

Evicted! The Struggle for the Right to Vote by Alice Faye Duncan, 4-8

Informational book about the voting rights struggle for African Americans in Fayette County and other southern states. Provides biographical stories of the people who were instrumental in gaining the right to vote, to register to vote, and to remain employed and alive once registered in southern states in the 1950s and 60s.

A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome by Ariel Henley, 8-12

The memoir of Ariel, who along with her twin sister, Zan, were born with a rare condition called Crouzon Syndrome that affected the growth of their skull bones. Crouzon syndrome not only has medical repercussions—Zan and Ariel have seizures and problems with breathing, hearing, and vision—but a profound influence on the way the sisters look.

Fast Pitch by Nic Stone, 4-8

Shenice dreams of leading her team to the U12 softball regional championship. But Shenice's focus gets shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a career-ending-and family-name-ruining-crime may have been a setup. It's up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family's past-and fast-before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever.

Frankie & Bug by Gayle Forman, 5-8

Set in Venice, CA in 1987, ten year old Bug spends the summer making a new friend Frankie. Together they try to catch a serial killer, learn the secrets of Bug's family, and learn why Frankie's uncle was beat up.

The Girl from the Sea by Molly Knox Ostertag, 6-8

Fifteen-year-old Morgan can't wait to escape the perfect little island where she lives and stop hiding that she is gay. Then Morgan is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl named Keltie. As the girls start to fall in love, Morgan realizes that Keltie has some secrets of her own and that everything they're each trying to hide will find its way to the surface...whether Morgan is ready or not.

The Golden Hour by Niki Smith, 4-7

After witnessing a violent attack at school, Manuel struggles with anxiety, but his cell phone camera helps him find anchors when he dissociates. An unexpected friendship opens up new possibilities for Manuel to find a place to belong in the 4-H club and to find love.

Honestly Elliott by Gillian McDunn, 4-8

Elliott is your typical kid dealing with a lot of changes in his life and on top of it all, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. His passion for cooking drives him to want to do better. When his big school project comes up, he sees it as an opportunity to pay for camp and prove to his dad that cooking is a worthwhile endeavor.

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From a family restaurant to a hot-dog shaped car, from an empty road on a moonlight night to a classroom holiday celebration, this anthology of personal stories shows that hope can live everywhere, even—or especially—during the darkest of times.

How to Find What You're Not Looking For by Veera Hiranandani, 4-8

Middle schooler Ariel Goldberg must find her own voice and define her own beliefs after her big sister elopes with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage.

Hummingbird by Natalie Lloyd, 4-8

Twelve-year-old homeschooled Olive is tired of being seen as "fragile" just because she has osteogenesis imperfecta (otherwise known as brittle bone disease) so she's thrilled when she finally convinces her overprotective parents to let her attend Macklemore Elementary.

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Anna is counting the days until her family finally moves to America—the beautiful country. Even though Anna knows she'll miss her relatives and friends in Taiwan, she's excited for her new life in California. But the beautiful country is nothing like what she imagined. - From author website

The Insiders by Mark Oshiro, 6-8

Most days, Héctor hides in the janitor's closet. (Yes, he sees the irony.) But one day, when the door closes behind him, Héctor discovers he's stumbled into a room that connects him with two new friends from different corners of the country—and opens the door to a life-changing year full of friendship, adventure, and just a little bit of magic.

Isla to Island by Alexis Castellanos, 5-8

Cuba is vibrant with flowers and food and people...but the home Marisol loves is no longer safe. Sent to the United States alone, Marisol finds everything in Brooklyn cold and gray. But she starts to realize that home isn't a place and finding her way can be as simple as staying true to herself.

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll, 5-8

A neurodivergent girl campaigns for a memorial when she learns that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different, like her.

Lakelore by Anna-Marie McLemore, 7-12

Everyone who lives near the lake knows the stories about the world underneath it. But non-binary teens Bastian Silvano and Lore Garcia are the only ones who've been there. When the world under the lake drifts above the surface, Bastian and Lore must work together to make sure it doesn't bring their secrets with it.

The Language of Seabirds by Will Taylor, 6-8

Trapped on the Oregon coast with his unhappy, just-divorced father, 12-year-old Jeremy isn't expecting much from his summer vacation. But everything changes when the boy of his dreams runs by, and Jeremy discovers it takes more than dreaming to reach out and say what's in his heart.

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera, 5-8

Petra Pena's journey through space and time is a stunning reminder of the power of stories, and how those stories shape both our past and future. This is a mesmerizing science-fiction tale for the ages, sprinkled with Mexican folklore and is a must-read for fans of *The Giver*.

Last Gamer Standing by Katie Zhao, 6-8

Reyna Cheng is an amateur virtual reality esports player using a male avatar to avoid sexism and racism from the gaming world. When her mother needs expensive surgery, Reyna must stand against her father's disapproval to win a tournament and claim the prize money. But the pressure mounts when she is blackmailed by someone threatening to expose her identity.

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat, 4-7

In a fantasy adventure every bit as compelling and confident in its world building as *A Wish in the Dark*, Christina Soontornvat explores a young woman's struggle to unburden herself of the past and chart her own destiny in a world of secrets.

The Legend of Auntie Po by Shing Yin Khor, 5-9

Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the camp foreman's daughter, and telling stories about Paul Bunyan--reinvented as Po Pan Yin (Auntie Po), an elderly Chinese matriarch.

LGBTQ+ Rights by Virginia Loh-Hagan, 5-8

Learn all about LGBTQ+ activism. Get a global look at the history of the movement, meet the activists involved, and celebrate some of the legal victories! Each chapter ends with a call to action, so kids can feel inspired to get involved in their own communities. This high-interest book is written at a lower reading level for struggling readers.

Linked by Gordan Korman, 5-8

When swastikas start to mysteriously appear around Chokecherry middle school, some students decide to fight back and start a school-wide project that honors the victims of the Holocaust. As the mystery unfolds it becomes apparent that all is not as it seems in this small Colorado town and many will have to face their past mistakes in order to heal.

Living with Viola by Rosena Fung, 4-7

Livy is having trouble fitting in as the new girl at school--and then there's Viola. Viola is Livy's anxiety brought to life that only Livy can see or hear. Livy tries to push back against Viola, but nothing seems to work until she strikes up new friendships at school. Only when Livy learns how to ask for help and face her anxiety does she finally figure out living with Viola.

The Lock-Eater by Zack Loran Clark, 5-8

Melinda Gate is a foundling with a magical talent for opening any lock. When Melanie is selected by the Traveler, a gearling automaton, to serve as an apprentice for his magical mistress, Melanie's powers will unlock the darkest secrets of the empire.

The Magical Imperfect by Chris Baron, 4-8

Etan, who struggles with selective mutism, and Malia, who is homebound with a disfiguring skin condition, form an unlikely friendship. This magical novel in verse is a book about overcoming bullies, the importance of family, friendship and community. Set against the backdrop of the 1989 earthquake in San Francisco.

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A family feud before the start of seventh grade propels Meilan from Boston's Chinatown to rural Ohio, where she must tap into her inner strength and sense of justice to make a new place for herself.

Middletown by Sarah Moon, 5-8

Thirteen-year-old Eli likes baggy clothes, baseball caps, and one girl in particular. Her seventeen-year-old sister Anna is more traditionally feminine; she loves boys and staying out late. They are sisters, and they are also the only family each can count on.

Mighty Inside by Sundee T. Frazier, 5-8

Melvin Robinson's stutter prevents him from speaking to his crush Millie Takazawa or from standing up to his bully. When the murder of Emmitt Till hits the papers, Melvin becomes aware that racism exists not just in the south but also in his hometown of Spokane, Washington. With his new friend Lenny by his side, Melvin works to find his voice and speak up.

Miosotis Flores Never Forgets by Hilda Eunice Burgos, 5-8

Miosotis Flores is excited about three things: fostering rescue dogs, goofy horror movies, and her sister Amarilis's upcoming wedding. While she is fostering a dog named Freckles, she notices that her sister is behaving strangely. When she discovers her sister's secret, she faces some hard choices.

Miss Quinces by Kat Fajardo, 5-8

Sue is a Honduran-American girl who, instead of going to sleepaway camp with her friends, gets stuck visiting family in Honduras and having a surprise quinceañera, which is the last thing Sue wants--until she grows to appreciate both her family and their traditions.

New From Here by Kelly Yang, 4-7

When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California, where they think they will be safe. Suddenly, Knox has two days to prepare for an international move—and for leaving his dad, who has to stay for work.

Obie Is Man Enough by Schuyler Bailar, 5-8

A coming-of-age story about transgender tween Obie, who didn't think being himself would cause such a splash. Obie knew his transition would have ripple effects. He has to leave his swim coach, his pool, and his best friends. But it's time for Obie to find where he truly belongs.

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Bo and her new sisters band together in this jubilant novel about the difficulties of change, the loyalty of sisters, and the love of family.

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When the COVID-19 pandemic starts, Malian, a young Wabanaki girl, is quarantined with her grandparents on the reservation, where she befriends a local dog and learns about her ancestors and how they always survive together.

The Samosa Rebellion by Shanti Sekaran, 6-8

When Muki's grandmother Paati arrives for a visit from India to their home on the island of Mariposa, the president has recently announced his plan to divide citizens into groups based on how long they have lived on the island. Muki and his friends find a camp being built to imprison some and he discovers that a secret rebellion is underway.

The Science of Being Angry by Nicole Melleby, 6-8

Eleven-year-old Joey is angry all the time and she doesn't understand why. Her life is good. But sometimes she loses her temper and lashes out, like that time she threw a soccer

ball—hard—at a boy in gym class and bruised his collarbone. Or that time jealousy made her push her (former) best friend (and crush), Layla a little bit too hard.

The Secret Battle of Evan Pao by Wendy Wan-Long Shang, 6-8

Sixth grader Evan Pao has a gut instinct for telling when things don't add up and people are being less than honest. This proves useful when Evan, his divorced mother, and big sister relocate from California to the Virginia town where his Uncle Joe lives, fleeing a scandal involving his dad.

Shelter by Christie Matheson, 4-8

A heart-wrenching middle grade debut that considers homelessness from one girl's perspective and explores deep truths about the resounding impact of empathy.

Singing with Elephants by Margarita Engle, 6-8

Cuban-born eleven-year-old Oriol finds herself opening up when she begins learning poetry from Gabriela Mistral, the real life first Latin American winner of a Nobel Prize in Literature. As she begins to create a world of words for herself, Oriol learns that it will take courage to stay true to herself and what she thinks is right--attempting to rescue a baby elephant in need.

A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger, 7-12

A Snake Falls to Earth is a breathtaking work of Indigenous futurism. Darcie Little Badger draws on traditional Lipan Apache storytelling structure to weave another unforgettable tale of monsters, magic, and family. It is not to be missed.

A Soft Place to Land by Janae Marks, 3-7

When Joy's father loses his job, her family must sell their home and move into an apartment. Joy finds solace in a secret shared by the apartment complex children: The Hideout. When a mystery writer leaves messages in the Hideout that make Joy want to provide a comforting shoulder, Joy is determined to find out their identity.

Taking Up Space by Alyson Gerber, 6-8

Twelve-year old Sarah is used to being the star on her basketball team, but suddenly she finds that she cannot keep up on the court. Plus, her mother has gotten so weird about food, binging on candy while forgetting about dinner. When Benny, her crush, offers to teach her how to cook and wants to partner in a cooking competition, she starts to find a way to change her life for the better.

Thanks A Lot, Universe by Chad Lucas, 5-8

Anxious Brian and popular Ezra are middle school basketball teammates who strike up an unlikely friendship off the court when life takes a turn for the worst for Brian's family.

Unsettled by Reem Faruqi, 4-6

When her family moves from Pakistan to Peachtree City, all Nurah wants is to blend in, yet she stands out for all the wrong reasons. Nurah's accent, floral-print kurtas, and tea-colored skin make her feel excluded, until she meets Stahr at swimming tryouts.

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When Papa must leave town, the Vanderbeeker children are surprised to find their maternal grandparents on their doorstep. Can they learn more about the grandfather they lost and come to appreciate the grandparents they still have while making sure their papa has the best birthday ever?

Violets Are Blue by Barbara Dee, 6-8

Twelve-year-old Wren, who is learning special effects makeup from her favorite YouTuber, is thrilled to be makeup artist for her new school's production of *Wicked*, but her parents' divorce is seriously affecting her mother.

Wave by Diana Farid, 6-8

A novel-in-verse set in 1980s Southern California, about Persian American Ava who loves to surf and to sing. Singing and reading Rumi poems settle her mild OCD, and catching waves with her best friend, Phoenix, lets her fit in—her olive skin looks tan, not foreign. But then Ava has to spend the summer before ninth grade volunteering at the hospital, to follow in her single mother's footsteps to become a doctor.

Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero by Saadia Faruqi, 4-8

Yusuf is excited to start sixth grade and join the robotics team. When hateful notes start to appear in his locker, he quickly realizes the school year will not be as he'd hoped. Fear and anger pervade his hometown as the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack approaches, but Yusuf and the Muslim community meet the resistance with understanding and love.

Ace of Spades by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé, 9-12

Devon Richards and Chiamaka Adebayo, two students at Niveus Private Academy, are selected to be part of the elite school's senior class prefects and struggle against an anonymous bully who reveals all of their secrets.

Across a Field of Starlight by Blue Delliquanti, 6-12

When Lu and Fassen meet after a chance encounter on a planet in a universe scarred by war, they go to great lengths to stay connected. Their friendship, which plays out amongst action-packed space battles and unbelievable new technologies, will eventually challenge beliefs about themselves, their worlds, and what possibilities the future may hold.

African Town by Irene Latham and Charles Waters, 9-12

In 1860, long after the United States outlawed the importation of enslaved laborers, 110 men, women and children from Benin and Nigeria were captured and brought to Mobile, Alabama aboard a ship called Clotilda. Their journey includes the savage Middle Passage and being hidden in the swamplands along the Alabama River before being secretly parceled out to various plantations, where they made desperate attempts to maintain both their culture and also fit into the place of captivity to which they'd been delivered.

Ain't Burned All the Bright by Jason Reynolds, 6-12

A beautiful poem about the ability and need to take a breath during times of stress, current and generational. Each page features dynamic and powerful art by Jason Griffin, which supports and highlights the words of Jason Reynolds poem.

Akata Woman by Nnedi Okorafor, 6-12

Sunny, a 15 year old Nigerian-American albino living in Nigeria, must embark on a dangerous quest in this third book of the Akata Witch series. She and her friends hope to survive by drawing on all of their magical powers and knowledge of the spirit world as they journey into parallel worlds on their mission to save their own.

All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir, 9-12

Salahudin and Noor are more than best friends; they are family. Growing up as outcasts in the small desert town of Juniper, California, they understand each other the way no one else does. Until The Fight, which destroys their bond with the swift fury of a star exploding.

At the End of Everything by Marieke Nijkamp, 9-12

A group of incarcerated young people are abandoned by the staff at the Hope Juvenile Treatment Center when an outbreak of a new strain of the pneumonic plague threatens society. They must decide how to survive, who they can trust, and whose lives are worth saving.

Baby Teeth by Meg Grehan, 9-12

Immy has been in love before – many times, across many lifetimes--but never as deeply as when she falls for Claudia. The forbidden thirst for blood runs deep in Immy and within her mind clamor the voices of all the others she has been, their desires, and their wrongs.

Black Birds in the Sky by Brandy Colbert, 6-12

In the early morning of June 1, 1921, a white mob marched across the train tracks in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and into its predominantly Black Greenwood District—a thriving, affluent neighborhood known as America's Black Wall Street. But how did it come to pass? The Tulsa Race Massacre has long failed to fit into the story Americans like to tell themselves about the history of their country.

The Bone Spindle by Leslie Vedder, 9-12

Fi is a bookish treasure hunter with a knack for ruins and riddles, who definitely doesn't believe in true love. Cursed princes are nothing but ancient history to Fi—until she pricks her finger on a bone spindle while exploring a long-lost ruin.

Call Us What We Carry by Amanda Gorman, 6-12

Amanda Gorman explores history, language, identity, and erasure through an imaginative and intimate collage. Harnessing the collective grief of a global pandemic, this beautifully designed volume features poems in many inventive styles and structures and shines a light on a moment of reckoning.

Cheer Up: Love and Pompoms by Crystal Frazier, Val Wise, and Oscar O. Jupiter, 9-12

Annie is a smart, antisocial lesbian starting her senior year of high school who's under pressure to join the cheerleader squad to make friends and round out her college applications. Her former friend Bebe is a people-pleaser—a trans girl who must keep her parents happy with her grades and social life to keep their support of her transition.

The City Beautiful by Aden Polydoros, 9-12

Death lurks around every corner in this unforgettable Jewish historical fantasy about a city, a boy, and the shadows of the past that bind them both together.

Clockwork Curandera Vol.1 by David Bowles & Raul the Third, 6-12

When he cannot bear his curandera sister Cristina's death, Enrique uses alchemy to engineer a way to bring her back in this graphic novel which combines green magic, steampunk, Frankenstein, and a fictional version of colonial Mexico.

Cool for the Summer by Dahlia Adler, 9-12

Seventeen-year-old Lara's dream of catching Chase Harding's eye finally comes true even as Jasmine, with whom she just spent a confusing, oddly romantic summer, re-enters her life.

The Darkness Outside Us by Eliot Schrefer, 9-12

Ambrose wakes up on the Coordinated Endeavor with no memory of a launch. There's more that doesn't add up: evidence indicates strangers have been on board, the ship's operating system is voiced by his mother, and his handsome, brooding shipmate has barricaded himself away.

Does My Body Offend You? by Mayra Cuevas and Marie Marquardt, 9-12

After a terrible sunburn, Malena Rosario goes to school bra-less and is humiliated by the school administration into covering up. When Ruby McAllister notices the new girl crying in the bathroom, she is not willing to keep quiet about it.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask (Young Readers Edition) by Anton Treuer, 6-12

Dr. Treuer answers questions about Native Americans and Indigenous culture in this adaptation for young people of his previous work. He addresses both historical events, current issues, cultural beliefs and expressions while being clear about when he's sharing his research and when he's drawing from his own opinions as Professor of Ojibwe.

A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome by Ariel Henley, 6-12

This memoir of a young white woman with Crouzon syndrome explores growing up with facial differences in an ableist, beauty-obsessed society.

Ariel and her twin sister, Zan, were born with a rare condition that affected the growth of their skull bones.

Fifteen Hundred Miles From the Sun by Jonny Garza Villa, 9-12

Julián Luna has a plan for his life: Graduate. Get into UCLA. And have the chance to move away from Corpus Christi, Texas, and the suffocating expectations of others that have forced Jules into an inauthentic life. Then in one reckless moment, with one impulsive tweet, his plans for a low-key nine months are thrown—literally—out the closet.

Finding Jupiter by Kelis Rowe, 9-12

Finding Jupiter is a timeless love story set in Memphis, Tennessee where two hearts are threatened to be torn apart by old family secrets. Love can change everything, but is it enough to rewrite the past?

Girl on Fire by Alicia Keys and Andrew Weiner, 9-12

Lolo Wright discovers that she has inherited powers when her brother is held in a chokehold by a police officer. When Skin, the local gang lord, discovers her powers, he wants to work for him along with Michael, a schoolmate with super strength. Lolo will not let Skin hurt anyone else. She must find a way to stop him, keep her family safe, and try to bring Michael back to the other side.

Hani and Ishu's Guide to Fake Dating by Adiba Jaigirdar, 9-12

When Humaira "Hani" Khan comes out to her friends as bisexual, they immediately doubt her. Apparently, she can't be bi if she's only dated guys. Cornered into proving her sexuality, she tells them she's dating someone—Ishita "Ishu" Dey, the straight A student who seems more concerned with studying than relationships.

The Heartbreak Bakery by A.R. Capetta, 9-12

Syd, a baker at the Proud Muffin, is perplexed after couples who eat their brownies immediately split up, but when the owners of the bakery eat the brownies, Syd is afraid the bakery may close and it is only, Harley, a delivery person, who convinces Syd that their baking can actually fix things.

Himawari House by Harmony Becker, 9-12

Nao, Hyejung, and Tina became fast friends through living together in the Himawari House in Tokyo and attending the same Japanese cram school. Nao came to Japan to reconnect with her Japanese heritage, while Hyejung and Tina came to find freedom and their own paths.

Hollow Fires by Samira Ahmed, 9-12

After discovering the body of fourteen-year-old Jawad Ali in Jackson Park, seventeen-year-old journalism student Safiya Mirza begins investigating his murder and ends up confronting white supremacy in her own high school.

Home is Not a Country by Safia Elhillo, 9-12

Muslim immigrant Nina feels out of place in her suburban neighborhood and school; her only friend is her neighbor Haitham. While she wonders what her life would have been like if they had stayed in their home country, Nina begins to grow distant from her mother.

How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love With the Universe by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland, 9-12

When seventeen-year-old Star Fuentez reaches social media stardom, her polar-opposite twin, Moon, becomes "merch girl" on a tour bus full of beautiful influencers and the grumpy but attractive Santiago Philips.

How to Live Without You by Sarah Everett, 9-12

Seventeen-year-old Emmy returns home for the summer to uncover the truth behind her sister Rose's disappearance—only to learn that Rose had many secrets, ones that have Emmy questioning herself and the sister Emmy thought she knew.

Huda F Are You? by Huda Fahmy, 9-12

Huda and her family just moved to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population. In her old town, Huda knew exactly who she was: She was the hijabi girl. But in Dearborn, everyone is the hijabi girl.

I Kissed Shara Wheeler by Casey McQuiston, 9-12

After seventeen-year-olds Chloe and Shara, Chloe's rival for valedictorian, kiss, Shara vanishes leaving Chloe and two boys, who are also enamored with Shara, to follow the trail of clues she left behind, but during the search, Chloe starts to suspect there might be more to Shara and her small Alabama town than she thought.

Instructions for Dancing by Nicola Yoon, 6-12

Ever since her parents divorced, Evie no longer believes in love. When she retires her collection of romance novels to a neighborhood lending library, Evie leaves with a new book (and a clairvoyant ability) which prompt her to enroll in ballroom dancing lessons.

Iron Widow by Xiran Jay Zhao, 9-12

Iron Widow is a YA Pacific Rim meets The Handmaid's Tale retelling of the rise of Wu Zetian, the only female emperor in Chinese history. The series follows an 18-year-old re-imagining of her as she avenges her sister's murder by an intensely patriarchal military system.

Kneel by Candace Buford, 9-12

When his best friend is unfairly arrested and kicked off the team, Russell Boudreaux kneels during the national anthem in an effort to fight for justice and, in an instant, falls from local stardom to become a target of hatred.

The Kindred by Alechia Dow, 9-12

Joy and Felix (Monchurians from 2 different planets) are connected by the Kindred system and meet for the first when they must escape being framed for murder. They crash land on Earth where they must pass as human while they figure out who is framing them and why. They must also decide if they will each fulfill their destiny away from each other or break the rules for the Kindred system.

Lakelore by Anna-Marie McLemore, 7-12

Everyone who lives near the lake knows the stories about the world underneath it, an ethereal landscape rumored to be half-air, half-water. But non-binary teens Bastian Silvano and Lore Garcia are the only ones who've been there . . . Then the lines between air and water begin to blur.

The Legend of Auntie Po by Shing Yin Khor, 6-12

Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the camp foreman's daughter, and telling stories about Paul Bunyan--reinvented as Po Pan Yin (Auntie Po), an elderly Chinese matriarch.

Living Beyond Borders: Growing Up Mexican in America by Margarita Longoria, 9-12

In this mixed-media collection of short stories, personal essays, poetry, and comics, this celebrated group of authors share the borders they have crossed, the struggles they have pushed through, and the two cultures they continue to navigate as Mexican Americans.

Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity by Angela Velez, 9-12

Overachiever Luz 'Lulu' Zavala has straight As, perfect attendance, and a solid ten-year plan. Middle sister Milagro wants nothing to do with college or a nerdy class field trip. On a journey from Baltimore all the way to San Francisco, Lulu and Milagro will become begrudging partners as they unpack weighty family expectations and maybe even discover the true meaning of sisterhood.

Man o' War by Cory McCarthy, 9-12

After a chance encounter with a happy, healthy queer person during a field trip, River must admit the truth: they don't know who they are—only what they've been told to be. This sets off a wrenching journey of self-discovery, from internalized homophobia and gender dysphoria, through layers of coming out, affirmation surgery, and true freakin' love.

The Marvelous by Claire Kann, 9-12

This exuberant YA Novel follows six teens locked together in a mansion, contending for a life-changing cash prize in a competition run by a reclusive heiress. Told from the perspective of three dazzling players--Nicole: the new queen of Golden Rule; Luna: Jewel's biggest fan; and Stella: a brilliant outsider.

Me (Moth) by Amber McBride, 9-12

Moth, who lost her family in an accident, and Sani, who is battling ongoing depression, take a road trip that has them chasing ghosts and searching for ancestors, which helps them move forward in surprising, powerful and unforgettable ways.

Meet Cute Diary by Emery Lee, 9-12

Noah Ramirez thinks he's an expert on romance. He has to be for his popular blog, the Meet Cute Diary, a collection of trans happy ever afters. When a troll exposes the blog as fiction,

Noah's world unravels. The only way to save the Diary is to convince everyone that the stories are true, but he doesn't have any proof. Then Drew walks into Noah's life, and the pieces fall into place.

Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese American by Laura Gao, 9-12

Laura Gao details her journey as an American, an immigrant, a queer person, and as a Wuhanese American in the middle of a pandemic.

Mirror Girls by Kelly McWilliams, 6-12

When returning to segregated 1950s Georgia to honor her dying grandmother's wish, Charlie learns of her twin sister Magnolia and meets her for the first time since their parents' lynching while they were infants. They must overcome shock, differences in upbringing (one is a young black organizer from Harlem while the other was raised white on a plantation), the horrors of Jim Crow, and even a curse if they are both to survive.

The Mirror Season by Anna-Marie McLemore, 9-12

Graciela Cristales' whole world changes after she and a boy she barely knows are assaulted at the same party. She loses her gift for making enchanted pan dulce. Neighborhood trees vanish overnight, while mirrored glass appears, bringing reckless magic with it. And Ciela is haunted by what happened to her, and what happened to the boy whose name she never learned.

Private Label by Kelly Yang, 9-12

When Serene's mother receives a sudden diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, Serene has to take over her mother's fashion label overnight while trying to figure out what happened with her absent father in Beijing. Lian Chen moved from China to Serene's mostly white Southern California beach town a year ago.

Reclaim the Stars: 17 Tales Across Realms & Space edited by Zoraida Cordova, 9-12

Reclaim the Stars is a collection of bestselling and acclaimed YA authors that take the Latin American diaspora to places fantastical and out of this world. From princesses warring in space, to the all too-near devastation of climate change, to haunting ghost stories in Argentina, and mermaids off the coast of the Caribbean.

Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People by Kekla Magoon, 9-12

In this comprehensive history of the Black Panther Party, the author introduces readers to the Panthers' community activism, grounded in the concept of self-defense, which taught Black

Americans how to protect and support themselves in a country that treated them like second-class citizens.

Run: Book One by John Lewis, 8-12

The sequel to the #1 New York Times bestselling graphic novel series March--the continuation of the life story of John Lewis and the struggles seen across the United States after the Selma voting rights campaign.

Salaam, with Love by Sara Sharaf Beg, 6-12

This heartfelt and humorous YA contemporary novel follows 17 year-old Dua Sheikh, who spends the month of Ramadan making unexpected discoveries about family, faith, and first love. Dua struggles to find her place in the conservative household and to connect with her aloof, engaged-to-be-married cousin, Mahnoor.

Scout's Honor by Lily Anderson, 9-12

Prudence Perry is a member of the Ladybird Scouts, a group masquerading as a prim and proper ladies' social organization whose real mission is to fight trans-dimensional monsters that feed on human emotions. Three years ago, Prue's best friend was killed during a hunt, and Prue retired from the Scouts.

A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger, 7-12

A Snake Falls to Earth is a breathtaking work of Indigenous futurism. Darcie Little Badger draws on traditional Lipan Apache storytelling structure to weave another unforgettable tale of monsters, magic, and family. It is not to be missed.

Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet by Laekan Zea Kemp, 9-12

Told in two voices, Pen, whose dream of taking over her family's restaurant has been destroyed, and Xander, a new, undocumented, employee seeking his father, form a bond.

Squad by Maggie Tokuda-Hall, 9-12

When Becca, tired of feeling like a weirdo and having no friends, starts a new school and is invited to join the squad of the most popular girls, she goes to great lengths to fit in their group. When they reveal their biggest secret, she even decides to join their werewolf pack. Their work as feminist werewolves hunting date-rapey teen boys seems to be going well until Thatcher dies.

The Summer of Bitter and Sweet by Jen Ferguson, 7-12

Lou has enough confusion in front of her this summer. She'll be working in her family's ice-cream shack with her newly ex-boyfriend—whose kisses never made her feel desire, only

discomfort—and her former best friend, King, who is back in their Canadian prairie town after disappearing three years ago without a word.

Sunny G's Series of Rash Decisions by Navdeep Singh Dhillon, 9-12

Sunny takes off his turban, cuts his hair, shaves his beard and debuts his look at a traditional prom which he chooses to attend instead of a night at the annual cosplay fest with his best friend or his brother's barsi a year after his death due to alcohol overdose/addiction.

Survive the Dome by Kosoko Jackson, 9-12

A high school junior teams up with a hacker during a police brutality protest to shut down a device that creates an impenetrable Dome around Baltimore that is keeping the residents in and information from going out.

Together We Burn by Isabel Ibanez, 9-12

An ancient city plagued by dragons. A flamenco dancer determined to save her ancestral home. A dragon hunter refusing to teach her his ways. They don't want each other, but they need each other, and without him her world will burn.

Tokyo Ever After by Emiko Jean, 7-12

Izumi Tanaka has never really felt like she fit in—it isn't easy being Japanese American in her small, mostly white, northern California town. Raised by a single mother, it's always been Izumi—or Izzy, because "It's easier this way"—and her mom against the world.

Wave by Diana Farid, 6-12

A coming-of-age novel in verse set in 1980s Southern California, about a Persian American girl who rides the waves, falls, and finds her way back to the shore. Thirteen-year-old Ava loves to surf and to sing. Singing and reading Rumi poems settle her mild OCD, and catching waves with her best friend, Phoenix, lets her fit in—her olive skin looks tan, not foreign.

We Are Not Broken by George M. Johnson, 9-12

A memoir of Black non-binary writer and activist George M. Johnson's childhood in New Jersey, growing up with their brother and two cousins, all under the supervision of their larger-than-life grandmother.

We Light Up the Sky by Lillian Rivera, 9-12

Pedro, Luna, and Rafa find themselves thrown together when an extraterrestrial visitor lands in their city and takes the form of Luna's cousin Tasha. As the Visitor causes destruction wherever it goes, the three teens struggle to survive and warn others of what's coming--because this Visitor is only the first of many.

When We Make It by Elisabet Velasquez, 9-12

First generation Puerto Rican 8th grader Sarai hears people talk all the time about making out of her Bushwick, Brooklyn NY neighborhood. Sarai, her sister, and friends experience many of the challenges people talk about escaping but questions the world around her and redefines for herself what it means to make it.

White Smoke by Tiffany D. Jackson, 9-12

Marigold's family moves to a new neighborhood as part of a housing agreement and new job for her mom. They must stay for at least 3 years, but Marigold starts seeing someone in the house at night, there are strange smells coming from the vents, and they've been told to stay out of the basement.

Why We Fly by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal, 6-12

Told in dual-voice, best friends and cheerleaders Eleanor and Chanel start their senior year with Eleanor still in physical therapy months after a serious concussion from a failed cheer stunt. Chanel starts making questionable decisions to deal with the mounting pressure of college applications.

Within These Wicked Walls by Lauren Blackwood, 9-12

Andromeda is a debtera—an exorcist hired to cleanse households of the Evil Eye. When a handsome young heir named Magnus Rochester reaches out to hire her, Andromeda quickly realizes this is a job like no other, with horrifying manifestations at every turn, and that Magnus is hiding far more than she has been trained for.

The Words in My Hands by Asphyxia, 9-12

Near-future Australia is controlled by Organicore, a company that produces the 'perfectly balanced' synthetic meals that have all but replaced wild food, but Piper McBride, 16, who is deaf, begins to wonder if wild food is as dangerous as Organicore's propaganda says.

-Wrong Side of the Court by H.N. Khan, 9-12

Dreaming of being the world's first Pakistani to be drafted into the NBA, fifteen-year-old Fawad Chaudhry must convince his mother to let him try out for the basketball team while dealing with the neighborhood bully and trying to forget about things like his father, who died two years ago, and his mother's desire to arrange a marriage to his first cousin.