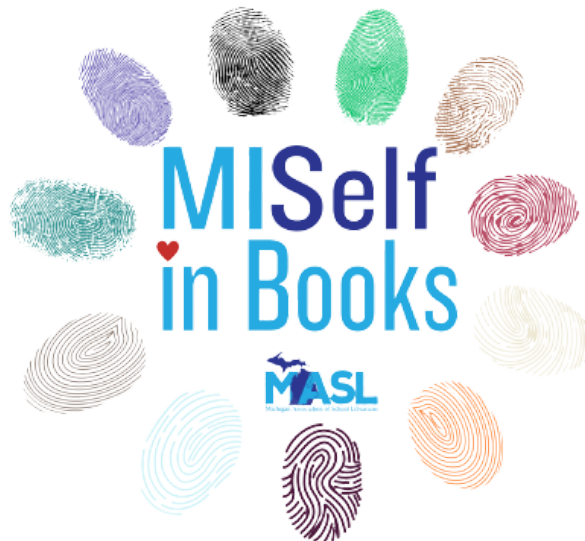


# WELCOME to the 2023 MISelf in Books List

**MISelf in Books** is an annual list of inclusive books for Michigan learners. The list was created by a committee of certified school librarians who are members of the Michigan Association of School Librarians (formerly Michigan Association for Media in Education). These recommendations are based on books that they see learners reading and enjoying in their libraries. The books are published in the last two years and are selected with a focus on authenticity. The list will include books for all grade levels: PreK-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The grade level suggestion is the best fit for independent reading. Book descriptions were taken from the summaries provided by the publishers' websites.



<https://miselfinbooks.glideapp.io/>

Jump to:

[Preschool - First Grade](#)

[Lower Elementary](#)

[Upper Elementary](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

You can also access and search the list on the **MISelf in Books** app!



[Preschool -  
First Grade](#)

[Lower  
Elementary](#)

[Upper  
Elementary](#)

[Middle  
School](#)

[High  
School](#)

## Preschool - First Grade

Title	Description	Grade Level
<a href="#"><i>Abuelita and I Make Flan</i></a> by Adriana Hernández Bergstrom	Anita loves to bake with her abuela, especially when they are using her grandmother's special recipes for Cuban desserts. Complete with a glossary of Spanish terms and a traditional recipe for flan, <i>Abuelita and I Make Flan</i> is a delicious celebration of food, culture, and family.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Everyday Sign Language: Sign Language &amp; Animals</i></a> by Bella Davis	This book introduces young readers to American Sign Language words for animals. Each page has a simple sentence featuring an animal and the opposite page has a bright, fun image as well as an illustration of the sign.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Forever Cousins</i></a> by Laurel Goodluck, illustrated by Jonathan Nelson	Kara and Amanda are best-friend cousins. Kara leaves the city to move back to the Rez. Will their friendship stay the same? This story highlights the ongoing impact of the 1950s Indian Relocation Act on Native families, even today, and reminds readers that the power of friendship and family can bridge any distance.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Henry, Like Always</i></a> by Jenn Bailey, illustrated by Mika Song	Join Henry as he navigates the ups and downs of marker missiles, stomach volcanoes, and days that feel a little too orange. This warmly funny book starring a child on the autism spectrum is a reassuring read for school-bound kids of all stripes.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Hurry, Kate or You'll Be Late</i></a> by Janice Harrington, illustrated by Tiffany Rose	A young girl stops to call out all the sights and sounds on her morning trip to pre-school, but that's not what makes her late—it is her dad's goodbye hug.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Katie Gets a Pet (Katie Can series)</i></a> by Erin Savory, illustrated by Marcin Piwowarski	Katie has Down syndrome and routines help her every day. When Katie gets a dog, she creates a routine to help her care for her new pet.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Kick Push</i></a> by Frank Morrison	Ivan, a.k.a. Epic, is a skateboarder who has just moved to a new neighborhood where the kids don't skateboard. Epic thinks about giving up his board to fit in, but an encouraging word from his dad helps him see that the trick to making new friends is to always be yourself.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Luli and the Language of Tea</i></a> by Andrea Wang, illustrated by Hyewon Yum	Though they may speak different languages, kids from all over the world come together to enjoy the shared pastime of tea in this delicious book for young readers.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>My Fade Is Fresh</i></a> by Shauntay Grant, illustrated by Kitt Thomas	A young girl goes to a barbershop and makes sure she gets her hair styled just the way she wants. This sweet, rhyming story encourages young girls to be self-confident, and celebrates the many shapes and forms Black hair can take.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>My Mommies Built a Treehouse</i></a> by Gareth Peter, illustrated by Izzy Evans	When one boy sets out to build the treehouse of his dreams, there's so much to consider - from finding the perfect tree to drawing up the plans. There are certainly challenges along the way, but one thing is for sure - he won't go too far wrong with his two mommies to support him.	PK-1
<a href="#"><i>Nell Plants a Tree</i></a> by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Daniel Miyares	Long before her grandchildren climb, explore, and sit under a pecan tree, Nell planted the seed that would one day become this tree. Nell's children and grandchildren enjoy the tree as she ages throughout the story.	PK-1

<p><a href="#"><u><i>The Pronoun Book</i></u></a> by Chris Ayala-Kronos, illustrated by Melita Tirado</p>	<p>They, she, he...all together, us! Join along in this vibrant book's joyful celebration of people and their pronouns.</p>	<p>PK-1</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><i>Some Bodies</i></u></a> by Sophie Kennen, illustrated by Airin O'Callaghan</p>	<p>This sweet and inclusive book encourages young readers to acknowledge and accept differences, and offers the perfect opportunity to open up conversations about body acceptance.</p>	<p>PK-1</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><i>Still This Love Goes On</i></u></a> by Buffy Sainte-Marie, illustrated by Julie Flett</p>	<p>Based on Academy Award-winning Cree icon Buffy Sainte-Marie's song of the same name, <i>Still This Love Goes On</i> is a stunning celebration of Indigenous experience. Breathtaking illustrations from celebrated Cree–Métis artist Julie Flett combine with Sainte-Marie's vivid lyrics to craft a remarkable piece of art.</p>	<p>PK-1</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><i>This Is Not My Home</i></u></a> by Eugenia Yoh, illustrated by Vivienne Chang</p>	<p>Lily's mom announces their family is moving back to Taiwan to take care of her elderly Ah Ma and Lily is devastated to leave for a place that is definitely not her home. Lily comes to realize what home really means, and how she may fit in after all.</p>	<p>PK-1</p>
<p><a href="#"><u><i>Wallflowers</i></u></a> by Mackenzie Joy</p>	<p>Sometimes they call you shy. Sometimes they call you quiet, or maybe even scared. This heartwarming book doesn't just acknowledge shy children, but celebrates them—because every wallflower deserves their chance to grow.</p>	<p>PK-1</p>

## Lower Elementary

Title	Description	Grade Level
<a href="#"><i>Abdul's Story</i></a> by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Tiffany Rose	Abdul loves to tell stories. But writing them down is hard. Abdul decides his stories just aren't meant to be written down...until a special visitor comes to class and shows Abdul that even the best writers—and superheroes—make mistakes.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>All Rise: The Story of Ketanji Brown Jackson</i></a> by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ashley Evans	Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, is an inspiration and role model to children of all ages. This uplifting picture book biography tells her story of perseverance, dignity, and honor.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Amy Wu and the Ribbon Dance</i></a> by Kat Zhang, illustrated by Charlene Chua	Amy Wu loves to move. From wriggling to shimmying to toe-tapping, she just can't keep still, not when there's music all around her! So when Amy sees Chinese ribbon dancing for the first time, she has to try it out. Only, how can she throw the perfect dance party when she doesn't have the perfect ribbon for her dance?	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Amy Wu and the Warm Welcome</i></a> by Kat Zhang, illustrated by Charlene Chua	Amy's class has a new student from China! Amy tries hard to make Lin feel included, but she can't draw him out of his shell. Then she sees Lin chattering happily in Chinese with his family. The gears in her head start to turn, and a plan blossoms. Step one: invite Lin to her dumpling party...	2-3
<a href="#"><i>An American Story</i></a> by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dare Coulter	This is the story of American slavery, a story that needs to be told and understood by all of us, through the voice of a teacher struggling to help her students understand its harrowing history. A testament to the resilience of the African American community, this book honors what has been and envisions what is to be.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Arab Arab All Year Long!</i></a> by Cathy Camper, illustrated by Sawsan Chalabi	Accompanied by lively illustrations, this picture book celebrates the beauty and diversity of Arab life and childhood enthusiasm throughout the entire year as busy kids take part in traditions old and new. Back matter includes an extensive glossary and notes to enrich the experience for readers of any culture.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Berry Song</i></a> by Michaela Goade, illustrated by Michaela Goade	On an island at the edge of a wide, wild sea, a girl and her grandmother gather gifts from the earth. Through the seasons, they sing to the land as the land sings to them. Brimming with joy and gratitude, they forge a deeper kinship with both the earth and the generations that came before, joining in the song that connects us all.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Big</i></a> by Vashti Harrison, illustrated by Vashti Harrison	Growing up, the main character in this book was big, and that was a good thing. She had big dreams and a big presence. As she grew older, being big became a negative thing. This caused her to shrink inside herself and grow depressed. Eventually, she realizes her self-love is stronger than the bullies around her and that being big is something beautiful.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>The Bright Side</i></a> by Chad Otis	The young boy in this story learns that it is sometimes difficult to look on the bright side of things, especially when his house is an old school bus. As he works through difficulties, he discovers that he can solve small problems, like creating his own toys to play with, to even bigger dilemmas, like making new friends at school.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>A Costume for Charly</i></a> by C.K. Malone, illustrated by Alejandra Barajas	Non-binary Charly must think outside the box to create the perfect Halloween costume: one that represents both their feminine and masculine sides.	2-3

<a href="#"><u><i>A Crown for Corina</i></u></a> by Laekan Zea Kemp, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri	This charming story shares a beloved family tradition through one girl's journey of self-discovery as she learns about the symbolism behind the Mexican flower crown.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Everyone Loves Lunchtime but Zia</i></u></a> by Jenny Liao, illustrated by Dream Chen	A heartwarming picture book about a Chinese-American girl who grows to appreciate the traditional dishes her parents prepare for her and finds a way to share her lunch with her classmates.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Fall Down Seven Times, Stand Up Eight: Patsy Takemoto Mink and the Fight for Title IX</i></u></a> by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Toshiki Nakamura	From a young age, Patsy Takemoto Mink learned that striving for goals came with challenges. But she also learned to never give up. As the Japanese proverb says: fall down seven times, stand up eight. The only picture book biography about unsung hero Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first Asian American woman elected to Congress.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Finding My Dance</i></u></a> by Ria Thundercloud, illustrated by Kalila J. Fuller	In her debut picture book, professional Indigenous dancer Ria Thundercloud tells the true story of her path to dance and how it helped her take pride in her Native American heritage.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>The Good Hair Day</i></u></a> by Christian Trimmer, illustrated by J. Yang	Noah has a special day coming up, but there's one thing missing from it, the thing he wants more than anything else in the world: long, beautiful, wavy hair. When a fresh trim brings Noah to his lowest point, it turns out his caring family has been paying closer attention than he thinks—and they have an idea that will show Noah it's okay to be his gorgeous self.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Gumbo Joy</i></u></a> by Robert P. Dixon, illustrated by Amakai Quaye	Rosa counts to ten as she works with Papa making gumbo. He teaches her about their West African heritage and how it combined with New Orleans culture to create the flavors of gumbo. Her whole family comes together to celebrate the rich dish with love and family.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Hello, Mister Blue</i></u></a> by Daria Peoples	A day in the park sparks an unlikely connection between a young girl and a street musician without a home. From acclaimed author-illustrator Daria Peoples, Hello, Mister Blue is a powerful picture book that emphasizes the importance of history, bravery, and community.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>I Absolutely, Positively Love My Spots</i></u></a> by Lid'ya C. Rivera, illustrated by Niña Mata	This lyrical celebration of self-esteem, perseverance, and loving the skin you're in will inspire all children to appreciate their spots or what makes them different.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>I Am Somebody</i></u></a> by Nyasha Williams, illustrated by Ashley Evans	This powerful story reminds us that every living thing is unique and should be treated with kindness and respect and that we are ALL "somebody." It highlights the importance of stepping up (and speaking up) to address injustice and effect change within our daily lives.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>If You're a Drag Queen and You Know It</i></u></a> by Lil Miss Hot Mess, illustrated by Olga de Dios Ruiz	Strike a pose. Blow a kiss. Mouth the words. A fun, sing-along book with a drag twist that encourages kids to embrace all the playfulness of drag culture written by a founding member of Drag Queen Story Hour.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Jo Jo Makoons: Fancy Pants</i></u></a> by Dawn Quigley, illustrated by Tara Audibert	"First grader Jo Jo Makoons knows how to do a lot of things, like how to play jump rope, how to hide her peas in her milk, and how to be helpful in her classroom. But there's one thing Jo Jo doesn't know how to do: be fancy. She has a lot to learn before her Aunt Annie's wedding!	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Jovita Wore Pants: The Story of a Mexican</i></u></a>	When her father and brothers joined the Cristero War to fight for religious freedom, Jovita wanted to go, too. Forbidden, she defied her father's rules –	2-3



<a href="#"><i>Freedom Fighter</i></a> by Aida Salazar, illustrated by Molly Mendoza	and society's – and found a clever way to become a trailblazing revolutionary! This remarkable true story about a little-known maverick Mexican heroine is brought vividly to life by her great-niece and Américas Award–winner Aida Salazar, and Eisner Award–honoree Molly Mendoza.	
<a href="#"><i>Juneteenth</i></a> by Van G. Garrett, illustrated by Reginald C. Adams and Samson Bimbo Adenugba	A lyrical picture book about our newest national holiday, Juneteenth follows the annual celebration in Galveston, Texas—birthplace of Juneteenth—through the eyes of a boy coming to understand his place in Black American history.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Just Like Grandma</i></a> by Kim Rogers, illustrated by Julie Flett	Becca loves spending time with Grandma. Whether they are beading moccasins, dancing like the most beautiful butterflies, or practicing basketball together, Becca knows that, more than anything, she wants to be just like Grandma.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Justice Rising: 12 Amazing Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement</i></a> by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Kim Holt	A celebration of twelve Black women who were pivotal to the civil rights movement and the fight for justice and equal rights in America.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Ketanji Brown Jackson: A Justice for All</i></a> by Tami Charles, illustrated by Jemma Skidmore	After 232 years and 115 appointments, Ketanji Onyika Brown Jackson became the first Black woman appointed to serve on the US Supreme Court. Readers will learn about the narratives that have shaped the Justice's life, and how this historic moment will be impressed upon the minds of the young dreamers of the future.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>The Kindest Red</i></a> by Ibtihaj and S.K. Ali Muhammad, illustrated by Hatem Aly	It's picture day and Faizah can't wait to wear her special red dress with matching hair ribbons. But when it's time for sibling pictures, Faizah realizes that she and her older sister, Asiya, don't match like her classmates do with their siblings. With help from her classmates inspired by Asiya's hijab, Faizah finds that acts of kindness can come back to you in unexpected ways.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Leaders Like Us: Ketanji Brown Jackson</i></a> by J.P. Miller, illustrated by David Wilkerson	A Black woman had never been a justice for the United States Supreme Court until April 7, 2022 when Ketanji Brown Jackson made history. This nonfiction biography is the story of her path to becoming a trailblazing justice.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Little Rosetta and the Talking Guitar</i></a> by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow	A picture-book biography of Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the woman who invented rock and roll—a warm, inspiring tale of a childhood filled with music, community, and a drive to succeed.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Love is Loud: How Diane Nash Led the Civil Rights Movement</i></a> by Sandra Neil Wallace, illustrated by Bryan Collier	Meet Diane Nash, a civil rights leader who worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis, in this illuminating nonfiction picture book.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Mariana and her Familia</i></a> by Monica Mancillas, illustrated by Erika Meza	A heartwarming picture book about a young girl on her first trip to visit family in Mexico, who learns there is no language barrier when it comes to love.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Marya Khan and the Incredible Henna Party</i></a> by Saadia Faruqi	Marya's eighth birthday is coming up in a week, and all she wants is an over-the-top birthday party just like the ones Alexa, her rich neighbor, always throws. When Alexa parades into school with fancy invitations, Marya can't help herself—she claims that she's having the most epic henna party ever. Now she has to convince her family to make it happen.	2-3

<a href="#"><u><i>Masala Chai, Fast and Slow</i></u></a> by Rajani LaRocca, illustrated by Neha Rawat	Rajani LaRocca invites readers in for a visit with Aarav and his family - a careful, deliberate grandfather and his impatient grandson - in a cozy story featuring a recipe for spiced chai.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>The Masjid Kamal Loves</i></u></a> by Ashley Franklin, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel	Friday is Kamal's favorite day of the week because he gets to go to the masjid for Jumu'ah prayer. Inspired by the famous nursery rhyme "This Is the House That Jack Built," each spread in this buoyant picture book builds on the rhythmic list of things Kamal loves about the masjid.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>The More You Give</i></u></a> by Marcy Campbell, illustrated by Francesca Sanna	A modern-day response to <i>The Giving Tree</i> , this lyrical picture book shows how a family passes down love from generation to generation, leaving a legacy of growing both trees and community.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>My Brother Is Away</i></u></a> by Sara Greenwood, illustrated by Luisa Uribe	A young girl copes with the confusing feelings her incarcerated brother's absence creates. Her parents take her for a visit, and she's excited - but also nervous. When she sees him, everything is different, but everything is the same too. Her brother is not home, but his love hasn't changed.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>My Hands Tell a Story</i></u></a> by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Tonya Engel	A little girl, baking bread with her grandmother, becomes transported by the tales her grandmother's hands tell—those that spring from the rose-painted nails, a flower-banded wedding ring, and the way her fingers move and glide. These hands have many tales to tell. But only if you listen.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>My Powerful Hair</i></u></a> by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Steph Littlebird	Mom never had long hair—she was told it was too wild. Grandma couldn't have long hair—hers was taken from her. But one young girl can't wait to grow her hair long: for herself, for her family, for her connection to her culture and the Earth, and to honor the strength and resilience of those who came before her.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>My Red, White, and Blue</i></u></a> by Alana Tyson, illustrated by London Ladd	A powerful story about the mixture of pride and pain that one Black family finds in the American flag, and an invitation for each of us to choose how we relate to America, its history, and the flag that means so many things to so many people.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Nana, Nenek &amp; Nina</i></u></a> by Liza Ferneyhough	Nina lives in San Francisco with her parents, and she loves visiting her two grandmas across the world. Follow Nina as her two trips unfold side by side, showing the details of what is the same and what is different at Nana's home in England and at Nenek's home in Malaysia.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Nothing Special</i></u></a> by Desiree Cooper, illustrated by Bec Sloane	When a young Black boy leaves Detroit to spend a week in coastal Virginia with his grandparents in the summer, he learns timeless family traditions and the fun of slowing down.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Oh No, The Aunts Are Here</i></u></a> by Adam Rex, illustrated by Lian Cho	A loving (and diverse) group of aunts arrives at their young relative's home for a visit. Doling out hugs, pinched cheeks, and advice, the aunts at first contribute to their niece's overwhelm, but that quickly changes when she realizes their undying support for her.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Once Upon a Book</i></u></a> by Grace Lin and Kate Messner	Alice loves to use her imagination, so an invitation from her book to dive into the pages is the perfect start of an adventure. She visits the jungle, the desert, and even space, but eventually wants to be in the place she loves the best.	2-3
<a href="#"><u><i>Only the Best: The Exceptional Life and Fashion of Ann Lowe</i></u></a> by Kate Messner and Margaret E. Powell, illustrated by Erin K.	An inspiring picture book biography about Ann Lowe, who grew up in a small Alabama dress shop and became the first nationally-known African American fashion designer. Detailing her design process and how she forged ahead despite setbacks, this story will captivate aspiring artists and young creative thinkers alike.	2-3

Robinson		
<a href="#"><i>Phenomenal AOC: The Roots and Rise of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez</i></a> by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Loris Lora	Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's remarkable story begins in her childhood Bronx home and comes full circle the moment she becomes America's youngest congresswoman. Ocasio-Cortez's empowering journey reminds us that everyone, regardless of their age, race, creed, wealth, or zip code, is capable of being a voice for change.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Phoenix Gets Greater</i></a> by Marty Wilson-Trudeau with Phoenix Wilson, illustrated by Megan Kyak-Monteith	Sometimes Phoenix gets picked on and he struggles with feeling different, but his mom and brother are proud of him. With their help, Phoenix learns about Two Spirit/Niizh Manidoowag people in Anishinaabe culture and just how special he is. A powerful story about the importance of family acceptance.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Ramen for Everyone</i></a> by Patricia Tanumihardja, illustrated by Shiho Pate	After much watching and note-taking, Hiro is ready to attempt the perfect bowl of ramen, passed down from his grandfather's recipe. However, nothing seems to go right when he is making the pork, seaweed, and other ingredients. After some help from his dad, Hiro learns that everyone's perfect bowl of ramen looks a little different.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Remember</i></a> by Joy Harjo, illustrated by Michaela Goade	US Poet Laureate Joy Harjo's iconic poem "Remember," illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Michaela Goade, invites young readers to pause and reflect on the wonder of the world around them, and to remember the importance of their place in it.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Runs With the Stars</i></a> by Heather M. and Darcy Whitecrow O'Connor, illustrated by Lenny Lishchenko	As they await the birth of a new foal, a man teaches his grandchild about the Ojibwe Horses that used to roam freely in northwestern Ontario. Now he is the caretaker of his own small herd, keeping the breed alive for future generations and teaching his grandchild about the loving bond between humans and animals.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Spicy Spicy Hot!</i></a> by Lenny Wen	When Lintang finally gets to taste her nenek's yummy, mouthwatering sambal, she's delighted! But when she takes a bite it's . . . SPICY! With a little help from Nenek, will Lintang find a way to beat the heat and connect with her Indonesian heritage?	2-3
<a href="#"><i>The Stars</i></a> by Jacques Goldstyn	A dazzling story about love—for the stars, and for one another—between two young people. Yakov is Orthodox Jewish and Aïcha is Muslim. They are inseparable until their fathers build a wall and move them apart. Will Yakov and Aïcha ever see each other again?	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Summer is for Cousins</i></a> by Rajani LaRocca, illustrated by Abhi Alwar	Ravi can't wait to spend summer vacation at the lake house with his family—especially his cousins! Summer vacation is for days at the beach, long hikes, paddleboarding, and—of course—ice cream.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>Too Small Lola Gets Tough</i></a> by Atinuke, illustrated by Onyinye Iwu	It's a strange, scary time for Too Small Tola when a new virus separates her family, but Atinuke's small-but-mighty heroine proves once again how wise, kind, and resourceful she can be.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>What Your Ribbon Skirt Means to Me</i></a> by Alexis Buntin, illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt	A contemporary Indigenous picture book that offers both an homage to Secretary Deb Haaland's achievements and a celebration of an urban Indigenous community through the eyes of a little girl. The story incorporates many traditions representing multiple Indigenous nations.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>When You Can Swim</i></a> by Jack Wong	In this exploration of what it truly means to swim, artist and author Jack Wong delivers an empowering and poetic journey that invites children to discover their confidence within to receive the warmth and wonder of the natural world.	2-3
<a href="#"><i>The Wishing Flower</i></a> by	Birdie longs for connection, to be understood. At school, Birdie feels like an	2-3



<p>A.J. Irving, illustrated by Kip Alizadeh</p>	<p>outsider. That all changes when Sunny, the new girl, comes along. When Sunny smiles at her, Birdie's heart balloons like a parachute.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><i>The Yellow Handkerchief/El Pañuelo Amarillo</i></a> by Donna Barba Higuera, illustrated by Cynthia Alonso</p>	<p>A young girl feels ashamed of her family for being “different” and subconsciously blames her abuela. Yet she gradually grows to not only accept, but also love, the yellow handkerchief that represents a language and culture that once brought embarrassment.</p>	<p>2-3</p>

## Upper Elementary

Title	Description	Grade Level
<a href="#"><i>Amanda Gorman</i></a> by Shasta Clinch	This fascinating book introduces readers to the life of Amanda Gorman, a National Youth Poet Laureate whose artistic and cultural contributions have expanded and illuminated the collective conversation on race.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Amy Coney Barrett: Reshaping the Supreme Court</i></a> by Heather E. Schwartz	The daughter of a lawyer and a high school teacher, Coney Barrett grew up with an interest in the law. Explore the life and career of the newest member of the highest court in the United States.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>A Bit of Earth</i></a> by Karuna Riazi	Growing up in Pakistan, Maria Latif has been bounced between reluctant relatives for as long as she can remember—first because of her parents’ constant travel, and then because of their deaths. After other guardians tire of her, Maria is shipped to the United States for a better life and soon discovers a secret garden that welcomes her as if she’s home.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Camp Quiltbag</i></a> by Nicole Melleby and AJ Sass	Twelve-year-old Abigail (she/her/hers) is so excited to spend her summer at Camp QUILTBAG, an inclusive retreat for queer and trans kids. She can’t wait to find a community where she can be herself—and, she hopes, admit her crush on that one hot older actress to kids who will understand.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Chef Edna: Queen of Southern Cooking, Edna Lewis</i></a> by Melvina Noel, illustrated by Cozbi Cabrera	Growing up, Edna learned the value of fresh, local, seasonal food, how to measure ingredients for biscuits using coins, and to listen closely to her cakes to know when they were done. Edna carried these traditions with her all the way to New York, where she became a celebrated chef.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Chinese Menu</i></a> by Grace Lin	Separated into courses like a Chinese menu, these tales—based in real history and folklore—are filled with squabbling dragons, magical fruits, and hungry monks. This book will bring you to far-off times and marvelous places, all while making your mouth water.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement</i></a> by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington	A Caldecott-honor winning picture book biography of the mother of Emmett Till, and how she channeled grief over her son’s death into a call to action for the Civil Rights movement.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Curve and Flow: The Elegant Vision of L.A. Architect Paul R. Williams</i></a> by Andrea J. Loney, illustrated by Keith Mallett	As an orphaned Black boy growing up in the early 1900s, Paul R. Williams became obsessed with the concept of “home” and dreamed of building his own. Breaking down walls of racism, Williams became a world-renowned architect, designing homes for celebrities, and creating buildings now considered landmarks.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>The Curse on Spectacle Key</i></a> by Chantel Acevedo	Frank’s family has moved into an old lighthouse on Spectacle Key in Florida to renovate it as their new home, only to discover that the island home is haunted! When Frank meets a girl in old-fashioned clothes with no memory of who she is, the two try to figure out how to lift the curse of Spectacle Key. But what if learning the truth means losing the first real friend Frank’s ever had?	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Eb &amp; Flow</i></a> by Kelly J. Baptist	Ebony and De’Kari (aka Flow) do not get along. How could they when their cafeteria scuffle ended with De’Kari’s ruined shoes, Ebony on the ground, and	4-8

	both of them with ten days of at-home suspension? Now Eb and Flow have two weeks to think about and explain their behavior—to their families, to each other, and ultimately to themselves.	
<a href="#"><i>Ellie Engle Saves Herself</i></a> by Leah Johnson	When a freak earthquake hits her small town, Ellie wakes up with the power to bring anything back to life with just her touch. And when a video of her using her powers suddenly goes viral, Ellie's life goes somewhere she never imagined—or wanted: straight into the spotlight.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Finally Seen</i></a> by Kelly Yang	When ten-year-old Lina Gao leaves China to live with her parents and sister after five years apart, she must reckon with her hurt, anger, and curiosity and find a way to get her bearings in this new country - and the almost-new family that comes along with it.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Flipping Forward, Twisting Backward</i></a> by Alma Fullerton	Fifth grader Claire excels in gymnastics but struggles in school. When her intuitive vice principal Mr. McCay suggests she might have a learning disability, Claire's single mother refuses to have her tested. But Claire wants the help and a group of allies support her in getting the help she needs.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Four Eyes</i></a> by Rex Ogle, illustrated by Dave Valeza	Rex's start to middle school is not going well. He hasn't had a growth spurt, his best friend is hanging out with a new group, and on top of everything he can't see in class! When the only glasses his mom can afford are the ugliest ones in the store, Rex's school troubles only get worse.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Freestyle</i></a> by Gale Galligan	Eighth grader Cory is part of the dance crew Eight Blitz, whose goal is to win the annual Bronx Kids Battle dance competition before they split up to attend different New York City high schools. But when his new tutor Sunna also starts teaching him yo-yo, things begin to get complicated.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Frizzy</i></a> by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra	Marlene's mother insists that Marlene must straighten her hair at the salon every weekend to have "presentable," "good hair" but Marlene hates the salon and doesn't understand why her curls are not considered pretty. With a few hiccups, and the help of Camila and Tia Ruby, she starts the journey to learn to appreciate and proudly wear her curly hair.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Going Places: Victor Hugo Green and His Glorious Book</i></a> by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Eric Velasquez	A nonfiction picture book about the Green Book, a travel guide created by Victor Hugo Green, a Black postal worker from Harlem, made to help African Americans stay safe while traveling during segregation.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Good Different</i></a> by Meg Eden Kuyatt	Selah knows the rules for being normal but struggles as her feelings build up each day at school and eventually she can't control it anymore. But as Selah starts to figure out more about who she is, she comes to understand that different doesn't mean damaged.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>H Is For Harlem</i></a> by Dinah Johnson, illustrated by April Harrison	This book is a celebration of the innumerable cultural riches of Harlem—its museums, community centers, performance spaces, restaurants, and bookstores are all icons of Black experience in the U.S. Harlem's triumphs, past and present.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Hamra and the Jungle of Memories</i></a> by Hanna Alkaf	When no one remembers Hamra's birthday, she stalks into the jungle, ignoring the rules she knows well. Of course, rules exist for a reason, and soon an enormous weretiger is stalking her dreams, demanding payment for her crimes—and Hamra embarks on a quest deep into the jungle to set things right.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Hands</i></a> by Torrey Maldonado	Twelve-year-old Trevor has an adult problem to deal with: how to protect himself, his sisters, and his mother from his abusive stepfather (currently in prison) and he thinks the way to do that is to take up boxing (although he	4-8

	would really rather draw). Ultimately, Trev knows his future is in his hands, and his hands are his own, and he has to choose how to use them.	
<a href="#"><i>Heroes of the Water Monster</i></a> by Brian Young	Edward and Nathan are starting to figure each other out after their parents moved in together. As the monster from the Navajo Hero Twin stories begins to threaten both their community's water supply and the Water Healer that both boys are now responsible for, Nathan and Edward must confront their past and their inner selves if they are to save this world from a devastating disaster.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Holding Her Own: The Exceptional Life of Jackie Ormes</i></a> by Traci N. Todd, illustrated by Shannon Wright	A picture book biography about the life of Jackie Ormes, whose cartoons became some of the first empowering depictions of Black women in America. Ormes was a journalist, fashionista, philanthropist, and activist, but in post-WWII America, Black people were still being denied their civil rights. How can Jackie's art stay true to her signature “Jackie joy” while remaining honest about the inequalities Black people have been fighting?	4-5
<a href="#"><i>How Do You Spell Unfair?</i></a> by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison	In 1936, MacNolia Cox became the first African American to win the Akron, OH spelling bee and was asked to compete at the National Spelling Bee in DC. She left her home state a celebrity, but when the train crossed the state line into Maryland, segregation was the law of the land. Prejudice and discrimination ruled—on the train, in the hotel, and at the spelling bee itself.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Invisible</i></a> by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, illustrated by Gabriella Epstein	Five kids who are stuck together doing school community service hours are sure they have nothing in common with one another, even though some people see them as all the same because they all speak Spanish. Then they meet someone who truly needs their help, and they must decide whether they are each willing to expose their own secrets to help, or if remaining invisible is the only way to survive middle school.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Isaiah Dunn Saves the Day</i></a> by Kelly J. Baptist	Isaiah Dunn finds that starting middle school is hard. His mentee Kobe won't stop making trouble. To fix things, Isaiah will have to rely on every hero he knows—including himself!	4-8
<a href="#"><i>It's Her Story: Josephine Baker: A Graphic Novel</i></a> by Lauren Gamble, illustrated by Markia Jenai	Josephine Baker left a segregated America in 1925 and became the most famous entertainer in Paris, France. She went on to be the first Black woman to star in a movie, a volunteer spy during World War II, and she returned to the States to bring her voice to the Civil Rights Movement.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Jackie Ormes Draws the Future: The Remarkable Life of a Pioneering Cartoonist</i></a> by Liz Montague	Zelda Jackson—or Jackie— created bold cartoon characters who entertained readers of African American newspapers. She tackled racism, pollution, and social justice, and made the world listen. Author Liz Montague, one of the first Black cartoonists at the New Yorker, carries Jackie's indelible legacy forward in text and evocative cartoons.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Jennifer Chan is Not Alone</i></a> by Tae Keller	Mallory Moss knows that in middle school, you have to fit in to survive. But when Jennifer Chan moves in across the street and challenges that rule, Mallory has to figure out if she'd rather fit in or find a friend, especially when Jennifer goes missing and Mallory might know why.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life</i></a> by Jerry Pinkney	Jerry Pinkney drew everywhere, all the time. Since childhood, it was how he made sense of the world—how he coped with the stress of being a sensitive child growing up in crowded spaces, struggling with a learning disability, in a time when the segregation of Black Americans was the norm. Only drawing could offer him a sense of calm, control, and confidence.	4-8

<a href="#"><u>Keep Dancing, Lizzie Chu</u></a> by Maisie Chan	Twelve-year-old Lizzie Chu has lived with her wai gong (grandfather) in Glasgow since her parents died when she was a baby. But Wai Gong has been acting differently, spending lots of time talking to a statue of a Chinese goddess and becoming more forgetful. Will Lizzie's plan to fix things and help her grandfather work?	4-8
<a href="#"><u>The Marvellers</u></a> by Dhonelle Clayton	Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute, a magic school in the clouds where Marvellers from around the world practice their cultural arts. Despite her excitement, Ella discovers that being the first isn't easy—some Marvellers mistrust her magic, which they deem "bad and unnatural." The story parallels many of the struggles that African Americans have faced for Civil Rights in the past, as well as currently.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Matteo</u></a> by Michael Leali	In this modern homage to Pinocchio, eleven-year-old Matteo wants to make his father proud but things quickly go wrong. As his parents start noticing something is wrong, the truth gets harder to hide--and Matteo makes some surprising discoveries about himself, his hometown, and his entire family tree.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Mihi Ever After</u></a> by Tae Keller, illustrated by Geraldine Rodriguez	Korean American Mihi Whan Park has dreamed of being a princess, even as she secretly wonders if she's good enough. When she and her friends discover a portal to a medieval fantasy world, they have the opportunity to become princesses. But when they encounter racist stereotypes, they learn there's a darker side to being a princess.	4-5
<a href="#"><u>Mirror to Mirror</u></a> by Rajani LaRocca	Maya is the pragmatic twin who is increasingly suffering from anxiety and Chaya is the outgoing twin. When they switch places at summer camp on a bet, they discover that stepping into each other's shoes comes with its own difficulties, and the girls don't know how they're going to make it.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Moonflower</u></a> by Kacen Callender	In a world changed by a mysterious disease, Moon's only escape is traveling to the spirit realms every night, where they hope they'll never return to the world of the living again. But when the realm is threatened, it's up to Moon to save the spirit world, and they begin to learn that a magical adventure of love and acceptance awaits them in the world of the living, too.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>My Aunt is a Monster</u></a> by Reimena Yee	When Safia, who is blind, goes to live with her distant and mysterious aunt, adventurer Lady Whimsy, she experiences a world she had only dreamed about. When an unlikely group of chaotic agents come after Whimsy, Safia must become the hero of her own story, do what she can to save the day, and maybe even make some friends along the way.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>My Indigo World</u></a> by Rosa Chang	Chang pays tribute to the color indigo and its history in her native country, Korea. She shares the history of this plant, and shows others how to grow it themselves. There is a great deal of information throughout the book that describes how to cultivate the plants, create the deep blue color, and the science behind it all.	4 - 5
<a href="#"><u>My Nest of Silence</u></a> by Matt Faulkner	Ten-year-old Mari Asai and her family were sent to Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp in California. As their family struggles under the confinement, Mari's older brother Mak decides to enlist in the army against her father's wishes. Mak faces the racism of White soldiers and Mari and her family deal with the increasing squalid conditions at camp.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Nic Blake and the Remarkables</u></a> by Angie Thomas	All Nic Blake wants is to be a powerful Manifestor like her dad. But before she has a chance to convince him to teach her the gift, a series of shocking revelations and terrifying events launch Nic and two friends on a hunt for a powerful magic tool she's never heard of...to save her father from imprisonment for a crime she refuses to believe he committed.	4-8



<a href="#"><u>No Matter the Distance</u></a> by Cindy Baldwin	It seems like having cystic fibrosis is the only thing Penny knows about herself for sure. During spring break Penny spots something impossible in the creek behind her house: a dolphin, far from its home. Penny feels an immediate bond, since the dolphin seems to be sick, too. As Penny's CF worsens, she realizes the dolphin needs to leave and return to its pod to get better.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Not an Easy Win</u></a> by Chrystal D. Giles	Lawrence faces a number of setbacks - his father leaves his family and they must move to a new town to live with his grandma. He is expelled from his majority-white middle school after fighting in response to racially motivated bullying. He finds a new path forward after becoming involved with the chess club at the rec center.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Parachute Kids</u></a> by Betty Tang	Feng-Li can't wait to discover America with her family! But after an action-packed vacation, her parents deliver shocking news: They are returning to Taiwan and leaving Feng-Li and her older siblings in California on their own. Suddenly, the three kids must get along and fend for themselves in a strange new world..	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Pink: Pop Powerhouse</u></a> by Heather E. Schwartz	Pop powerhouse P!nk has taken the music world by storm, producing hit singles and receiving numerous awards. This book tells about her journey to success and how she uses her success to help others.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>The Prince of Steel Pier</u></a> by Stacy Nockowitz	While helping out at his Jewish family's struggling Atlantic City hotel in 1975, thirteen-year-old Joey Goodman gets a summer job working for a mobster. Eventually disillusioned by the mob's bravado, and ashamed of his own dishonesty, Joey realizes where he really belongs: with his family, who drive him crazy, but where no one fights a battle alone.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Seen and Unseen</u></a> by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki	This important work of nonfiction features powerful images of the Japanese American incarceration captured by three photographers—Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams—along with firsthand accounts of this grave moment in history.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Serwa Boateng's Guide To Vampire Hunting</u></a> by Roseanne A. Brown	Just as Serwa starts to get the hang of this whole “normal girl who doesn't punch vampires every day thing,” an adze infiltrates her school. It's up to her to whip some of her classmates into monster-fighting shape before all of them become firefly food all while she has to decide which side of herself—normal girl or slayer—is the right one.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>Sir Callie and the Champions of Helston</u></a> by Esme Symes-Smith	In a magical medieval world filled with dragons, shape-shifters, and witches, a twelve-year-old nonbinary hopeful knight battles for the heart of their kingdom.	4-5
<a href="#"><u>The Snail</u></a> by Emily Hughes	Growing up mixed-race, born in the United States and raised in Japan, Noguchi found himself perceived as an outsider who did not belong in either country. Unable to identify fully as either Japanese or American, he turned to his art to shape, hold, and create light - to conquer the darkness within.	4-5
<a href="#"><u>Speak Up!</u></a> by Rebecca Burgess	Twelve year old Mia is trying to navigate a world that doesn't understand her true autistic self. With her nonbinary friend Charlie, the duo are the viral musical sensation Elle-Q. When a chance to perform live for a local talent show has Charlie excited, Mia must decide if she will let bullying, other's estimations of her abilities, and her own worries stand in the way of what she has to say.	4-8
<a href="#"><u>A Spoonful of Time</u></a> by Flora Ahn	Maya's grandmother, Halmunee, may be losing her memory, but she hasn't lost her magic touch in the kitchen. Then one day, something extraordinary happens: one delicious bite transports Maya and Halmunee into one of Halmunee's memories. As Maya eats her way through the past, her questions	4-8

	multiply—until a shocking discovery transforms everything she thought she knew about family, friendship, loss, and time itself.	
<a href="#"><i>Standing In the Need of Prayer</i></a> by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison	All of the events and individuals represented in this picture book represent Africans or African Americans who stood up for basic human rights during times of racial discrimination and ingrained, systemic racist practices and beliefs.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Swim Team</i></a> by Johnnie Christmas	Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school - until she's stuck with Swim 101. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim captain is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a state championship?	4-8
<a href="#"><i>That Flag</i></a> by Tameka Fryer Brown, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith	Bianca and Kiera are best friends, but only at school. Bianca's family flies a Confederate flag from their front porch and when Kiera begins to understand the meaning of that flag, she begins to question their friendship. Kiera's family teaches her about the history of that flag and about the history of racism and prejudice they continue to face.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Tumble</i></a> by Celia C. Pérez	Before she decides whether to accept her stepfather's proposal of adoption, twelve-year-old Adela Ramirez reaches out to her estranged biological father - who is in the midst of a career comeback as a <i>luchador</i> - and the eccentric extended family of wrestlers she has never met, bringing Adela closer to understanding the expansive definition of family.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Turtles of the Midnight Moon</i></a> by Maria Jose Fitzgerald	When poachers threaten the Honduran island they love, two girls team up to save the turtles—and each other. An eco-mystery with an unforgettable friendship story at its heart.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>Two Tribes</i></a> by Emily Bowen Cohen	Mia is still getting used to living with her mom and stepfather, and to the new role their Jewish identity plays in their home. Feeling out of place at home and at her Jewish day school, Mia makes a plan to use the gifts from her bat mitzvah to take a bus to Oklahoma—without telling her mom—to visit her Muscogee dad and find the connection to her Muscogee side she knows is just as important as her Jewish side.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Unfadeable</i></a> by Maurice Broaddus	Bella “Unfadeable” Fades is determined to stay out of trouble. A wiser-than-her-years graffiti artist known for tagging walls and bridges in her Indianapolis neighborhood, Bella plans to spend her summer break laying low and steering clear of anyone who might tip off to social services that she’s living on her own. But keeping a low profile is all but impossible when Bella discovers people in high places are trying to defund her community.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>We Are Here</i></a> by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier	Lyrical, affirmational, and bursting with love, this book is an ode to all of the Black women and men throughout history who have made momentous contributions from the beginning of time.	4-5
<a href="#"><i>We Still Belong</i></a> by Christine Day	Wesley is proud of the poem she wrote for Indigenous Peoples’ Day—but the reaction from a teacher makes her wonder if expressing herself is important enough. And due to the specific tribal laws of her family’s Nation, Wesley is unable to enroll in the Upper Skagit tribe and is left feeling “not Native enough.” However, with the help of her family and friends, she comes to embrace her own place within the Native community.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>When Impossible Happens</i></a> by Jane De Suza	A poignant story of life in India during the pandemic that mixes loss, hope, and even a mystery solved by imaginative, lively, almost-nine-year-old Swara.	4-5

<p><a href="#"><i>Wildoak</i></a> by C.C. Harrington</p>	<p>Maggie Stephens's stutter makes her avoid speaking in class or calling attention to herself. Her mother sends her to her grandfather's where she encounters an abandoned snow leopard cub. But once the cub's presence is discovered by others, danger follows, and Maggie soon realizes that time is running out, not only for the leopard, but for herself and the forest as well.</p>	<p>4-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>You Are Here: Connecting Flights</i></a> by Ellen Oh, editor</p>	<p>In this collection of short stories by twelve Asian-American authors, an initial incident at a TSA security checkpoint creates a chain of events that impacts young Asian Americans in a crowded and restless airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross and collide with fellow travelers, they discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, and the importance of the right word at the right time.</p>	<p>4-8</p>

## Middle School

Title	Description	Grade Level
<a href="#"><i>Akim Aliu: Dreamer</i></a> by Akim Aliu and Greg Anderson Elysee	Akim Aliu — also known as “Dreamer” — is a Ukrainian-Nigerian-Canadian professional hockey player whose career took him all around the world and who experienced systemic racism at every turn. This graphic novel tells Akim's incredible story, from being the only Black child in his Ukrainian community, to his family struggling to make ends meet while living in Toronto, to confronting the racist violence he often experienced both on and off the ice.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Amanda Gorman</i></a> by Shasta Clinch	This fascinating book introduces readers to the life of Amanda Gorman, a National Youth Poet Laureate whose artistic and cultural contributions have expanded and illuminated the collective conversation on race.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Amy Coney Barrett: Reshaping the Supreme Court</i></a> by Heather E. Schwartz	The daughter of a lawyer and a high school teacher, Coney Barrett grew up with an interest in the law. Explore the life and career of the newest member of the highest court in the United States.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Attack of the Black Rectangles</i></a> by A.S. King	When sixth-grader Mac discovers several words of his classroom copy of Jane Yolen's <i>The Devil's Arithmetic</i> are blacked out, he is outraged, so he, his friends, and his eccentric family set out to do something about the censorship imposed by one teacher and the school board.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Black Bird, Blue Road</i></a> by Sofiya Pasternack	When Pesah, who has leprosy, has a vision that the Angel of Death will come for him on Rosh Hashanah, his sister Ziva hatches a plan for them to run away. But when they accidentally free a half-demon boy, he suggests a new path to the fabled city of Luz, where no one ever dies—now they just have to run faster than the Angel of Death can fly to get there in time.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>A Bit of Earth</i></a> by Karuna Riazi	Growing up in Pakistan, Maria Latif has been bounced between reluctant relatives for as long as she can remember—first because of her parents' constant travel, and then because of their deaths. After other guardians tire of her, Maria is shipped to the United States for a better life and soon discovers a secret garden that welcomes her as if she's home.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Camp Quiltbag</i></a> by Nicole Melleby and AJ Sass	Twelve-year-old Abigail (she/her/hers) is so excited to spend her summer at Camp QUILTBAG, an inclusive retreat for queer and trans kids. She can't wait to find a community where she can be herself—and, she hopes, admit her crush on that one hot older actress to kids who will understand.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Chinese Menu</i></a> by Grace Lin	Separated into courses like a Chinese menu, these tales—based in real history and folklore—are filled with squabbling dragons, magical fruits, and hungry monks. This book will bring you to far-off times and marvelous places, all while making your mouth water.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>The Civil War of Amos Abernathy</i></a> by Michael Leali	Amos Abernathy has been a historical reenactor nearly all his life, but when a cute new male volunteer arrives at his Living History Park, Amos finds himself wondering if there's something missing from history: someone like the two of them. When he discovers a Civil War soldier who would identify as a trans man today, Amos hatches a plan to share the soldier's story with his divided twenty-first century town.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>The Curse on Spectacle Key</i></a> by Chantel Acevedo	Frank's family has moved into an old lighthouse on Spectacle Key in Florida to renovate it as their new home, only to discover that the island home is haunted! When Frank meets a girl in old-fashioned clothes with no memory of who she is, the two try to figure out how to lift the curse of Spectacle Key. But what if learning the truth means losing the first real friend Frank's ever had?	4-8

<a href="#"><i>Doodles from the Boogie Down</i></a> by Stephanie Rodriguez	A New Yorker in eighth grade, Steph has decided to apply for LaGuardia High School. Even though she knows her mom won't approve of a public school in Manhattan so far away from the Bronx. When Steph comes up with a plan that includes lying to her mom, friends, and teachers, she must decide how far she'll go to get what she wants.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Door of No Return</i></a> by Kwame Alexander	In his village in Upper Kwanta, 11-year-old Kofi loves his family, playing oware with his grandfather and swimming in the river Offin. After one fateful night swim, Kofi ends up in a fight for his life and what happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Eb &amp; Flow</i></a> by Kelly J. Baptist	Ebony and De'Kari (aka Flow) do not get along. How could they when their cafeteria scuffle ended with De'Kari's ruined shoes, Ebony on the ground, and both of them with ten days of at-home suspension? Now Eb and Flow have two weeks to think about and explain their behavior—to their families, to each other, and ultimately to themselves.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Ellie Engle Saves Herself</i></a> by Leah Johnson	When a freak earthquake hits her small town, Ellie wakes up with the power to bring anything back to life with just her touch. And when a video of her using her powers suddenly goes viral, Ellie's life goes somewhere she never imagined—or wanted: straight into the spotlight.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Finally Seen</i></a> by Kelly Yang	When ten-year-old Lina Gao leaves China to live with her parents and sister, after five years apart, she must reckon with her hurt, anger, and curiosity and find a way to get her bearings in this new country--and the almost-new family that comes along with it.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>A First Time for Everything</i></a> by Dan Santat	Dan has low expectations when his parents send him on a class trip to Europe. While he's skeptical about the trip, as he travels through France, Germany, Switzerland, and England, a series of first experiences begin to change him—first Fanta, first fondue, first time stealing a bike from German punk rockers... and first love.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Four Eyes</i></a> by Rex Ogle, illustrated by Dave Valeza	Rex's start to middle school is not going well. He hasn't had a growth spurt, his best friend is hanging out with a new group, and on top of everything he can't see in class! When the only glasses his mom can afford are the ugliest ones in the store, Rex's school troubles only get worse.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Freestyle</i></a> by Gale Galligan	Eighth grader Cory is part of the dance crew Eight Blitz, whose goal is to win the annual Bronx Kids Battle dance competition before they split up to attend different New York City high schools. But when his new tutor Sunna also starts teaching him yo-yo, things begin to get complicated.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Freewater</i></a> by Amina Luqman-Dawson	After fleeing the plantation where they were enslaved, siblings Ada and Homer discover the secret community of Freewater, and work with freeborn Sanzi to protect their new home from the encroaching dangers of the outside world.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Frizzy</i></a> by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra	Marlene's mother insists that Marlene must straighten her hair at the salon every weekend to have "presentable," "good hair" but Marlene hates the salon and doesn't understand why her curls are not considered pretty. With a few hiccups, and the help of Camila and Tia Ruby, she starts the journey to learn to appreciate and proudly wear her curly hair.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Gold Mountain</i></a> by Betty G. Yee	Fifteen-year-old Tam Ling Fan disguises herself as her twin brother, journeys from her village in China to California, and works as a laborer on the Transcontinental Railroad--where she faces danger on multiple fronts--to earn the money her family desperately needs.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Good Different</i></a> by Meg Eden Kuyatt	Selah knows the rules for being normal but struggles as her feelings build up each day at school and eventually she can't control it anymore. But as Selah	4-8



	starts to figure out more about who she is, she comes to understand that different doesn't mean damaged.	
<a href="#"><i>Hamra and the Jungle of Memories</i></a> by Hanna Alkaf	When no one remembers Hamra's birthday, she stalks into the jungle, ignoring the rules she knows so well. Of course, rules exist for a reason, and soon an enormous weretiger is stalking her dreams, demanding payment for her crimes—and Hamra embarks on a quest deep into the jungle to set things right.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Hands</i></a> by Torrey Maldonado	Twelve-year-old Trevor has an adult problem to deal with: how to protect himself, his sisters, and his mother from his abusive stepfather (currently in prison) and he thinks the way to do that is to take up boxing—although he would really rather draw. Ultimately, Trev knows his future is in his hands, and his hands are his own, and he has to choose how to use them.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Heroes of the Water Monster</i></a> by Brian Young	Edward and Nathan are starting to figure each other out after their parents moved in together. As the monster from the Navajo Hero Twin stories begins to threaten both their community's water supply and the Water Healer that both boys are now responsible for, Nathan and Edward must confront their past and their inner selves if they are to save this world from a devastating disaster.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Invisible</i></a> by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, illustrated by Gabriella Epstein	Five kids who are stuck together doing school community service hours are sure they have nothing in common with one another, even though some people see them as all the same because they all speak Spanish. Then they meet someone who truly needs their help, and they must decide whether they are each willing to expose their own secrets to help, or if remaining invisible is the only way to survive middle school.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Isaiah Dunn Saves the Day</i></a> by Kelly J. Baptist	Isaiah Dunn finds that starting middle school is hard. His mentee Kobe won't stop making trouble. To fix things, Isaiah will have to rely on every hero he knows—including himself!	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Iveliz Explains It All</i></a> by Andrea Arango, illustrated by Alyssa Bermudez	Iveliz is struggling to cope with her father's death even as her medicine isn't working and her grandmother's judgment about the medicine isn't helping either. Instead of asking for help, she turns to her journal, which vividly details the despair she feels, but ultimately helps her find her voice.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Jennifer Chan is Not Alone</i></a> by Tae Keller	Mallory Moss knows that in middle school, you have to fit in to survive. But when Jennifer Chan moves in across the street and challenges that rule, Mallory has to figure out if she'd rather fit in or find a friend, especially when Jennifer goes missing and Mallory might know why.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life</i></a> by Jerry Pinckney	Jerry Pinkney drew everywhere, all the time. Since childhood, it was how he made sense of the world—how he coped with the stress of being a sensitive child growing up in crowded spaces, struggling with a learning disability, in a time when the segregation of Black Americans was the norm. Only drawing could offer him a sense of calm, control, and confidence.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Keep Dancing, Lizzie Chu</i></a> by Maisie Chan	Twelve-year-old Lizzie Chu has lived with her wai gong (grandfather) in Glasgow since her parents died when she was a baby. But Wai Gong has been acting differently, spending lots of time talking to a statue of a Chinese goddess and becoming more forgetful. Will Lizzie's plan to fix things and help her grandfather work?	4-8
<a href="#"><i>The Love Match</i></a> by Priyanka Taslim	Zahra Khan is basically Bangladeshi royalty, although that doesn't mean much in New Jersey. Her mother is convinced that a "good match" is the answer to everything, but Zahra quickly realizes that her feelings for her coworker Nayim and her dislike of her match Harun get confused and upend everything.	6-8

<a href="#"><i>The Marvellers</i></a> by Dhonele Clayton	Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute, a magic school in the clouds where Marvellers from around the world practice their cultural arts. Despite her excitement, Ella discovers that being the first isn't easy—some Marvellers mistrust her magic, which they deem "bad and unnatural." The story parallels many of the struggles that African Americans have faced for Civil Rights in the past, as well as currently.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Matteo</i></a> by Michael Leali	In this modern homage to Pinocchio, eleven-year-old Matteo wants to make his father proud but things quickly go wrong. As his parents start noticing something is wrong, the truth gets harder to hide--and Matteo makes some surprising discoveries about himself, his hometown, and his entire family tree.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Mirror to Mirror</i></a> by Rajani LaRocca	Maya is the pragmatic twin who is increasingly suffering from anxiety and Chaya is the outgoing twin. When they switch places at summer camp on a bet, they discover that stepping into each other's shoes comes with its own difficulties, and the girls don't know how they're going to make it.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Momo Arashima Steals the Sword of the Wind</i></a> by Misa Sugiura	When Momo's mother falls gravely ill and a mythological death hag attacks Momo at the mall, "ordinary" goes out the window. It turns out that Momo's mother is a banished Shinto goddess and the land of the dead that she used to protect is now under attack. In order to save the day, Momo must embrace her identity as half human, half goddess to unlock her divine powers, save her mother's life, and force the demons back to Yomi.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Moonflower</i></a> by Kacen Callender	In a world changed by a mysterious disease, Moon's only escape is traveling to the spirit realm every night, where they hope they'll never return to the world of the living again. But when the realm is threatened, it's up to Moon to save the spirit world, and they begin to learn that a magical adventure of love and acceptance awaits them in the world of the living, too.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Moonwalking</i></a> by Zetta Elliott and Lyn Miller-Lachmann	Punk rock-loving JJ Pankowski and Pie Velez, a math and history geek by day and graffiti artist by night, don't appear to have much in common, but the boys stumble into an unlikely friendship. A run-in with the cops threatens to unravel their friendship at the same time they are each trying to figure out where they belong.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>My Aunt is a Monster</i></a> by Reimena Yee	When Saifya, who is blind, goes to live with her distant and mysterious aunt, adventurer Lady Whimsy, she experiences a world she had only dreamed about. When an unlikely group of chaotic agents come after Whimsy, Safia must become the hero of her own story, do what she can to save the day, and maybe even make some friends along the way.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>My Nest of Silence</i></a> by Matt Faulkner	Ten-year-old Mari Asai and her family were sent to Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp in California. As their family struggles under the confinement, Mari's older brother Mak decides to enlist in the army against her father's wishes. Mak faces the racism of White soldiers and Mari and her family deal with the increasing squalid conditions at camp.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Nic Blake and the Remarkables</i></a> by Angie Thomas	All Nic Blake wants is to be a powerful Manifestor like her dad. But before she has a chance to convince him to teach her the gift, a series of shocking revelations and terrifying events launch Nic and two friends on a hunt for a powerful magic tool she's never heard of...to save her father from imprisonment for a crime she refuses to believe he committed.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>No Matter the Distance</i></a> by Cindy Baldwin	It seems like having cystic fibrosis is the only thing Penny knows about herself for sure. During spring break Penny spots something impossible in the creek behind her house: a dolphin, far from its home. Penny feels an immediate bond, since the dolphin seems to be sick, too. As Penny's CF worsens, she realizes the dolphin needs to leave and return to its pod to get better.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Not an Easy Win</i></a> by	Lawrence faces a number of setbacks - his father leaves his family and they	4-8

Chrystal D. Giles	must move to a new town to live with his grandma. He is expelled from his majority-white middle school after fighting in response to racially motivated bullying. He finds a new path forward after becoming involved with the chess club at the rec center.	
<a href="#"><i>Parachute Kids</i></a> by Betty Tang	Feng-Li can't wait to discover America with her family! But after an action-packed vacation, her parents deliver shocking news: They are returning to Taiwan and leaving Feng-Li and her older siblings in California on their own. Suddenly, the three kids must fend for themselves in a strange new world-and get along.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Pink: Pop Powerhouse</i></a> by Heather E. Schwartz	Pop Powerhouse P!nk has taken the music world by storm, producing hit singles and receiving numerous awards. This book tells about her journey to success and how she uses her success to help others.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>The Prince of Steel Pier</i></a> by Stacy Nockowitz	While helping out at his Jewish family's struggling Atlantic City hotel in 1975, thirteen-year-old Joey Goodman gets a summer job working for a mobster. Eventually disillusioned by the mob's bravado, and ashamed of his own dishonesty, Joey realizes where he really belongs: with his family, who drive him crazy, but where no one fights a battle alone.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Probability of Everything</i></a> by Sarah Everett	Everything Kemi thought she knew changes when she sees an asteroid hover in the sky, casting a purple haze over her world. At the same time, the new town she moved to that was supposed to be "better for her family" isn't very welcoming. While Amplus-68 is taking over her life, others are still going to school and eating at their favorite diner like nothing has changed which makes Kemi wonder if she's the only one who feels like the world is ending.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Rain Rising</i></a> by Courtne Comrie	Rain is keeping a big secret from everyone around her: she's sad all the time. When her older brother Xander becomes the victim of violence at a predominantly white university, Rain's life and mind take a turn for the worse. Rain has to find out if she has the courage to help herself and her family heal.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>A Seed in the Sun</i></a> by Aida Salazar	Lula Viramontes aches to one day become someone whom no one can ignore, but her work harvesting grapes complicates her dreams. When she meets labor rights activists, she realizes she may need to raise her voice sooner rather than later as farm workers are striking for better treatment and wages.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Seen and Unseen</i></a> by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki	This important work of nonfiction features powerful images of the Japanese American incarceration captured by three photographers—Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams—along with firsthand accounts of this grave moment in history.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Serwa Boateng's Guide To Vampire Hunting</i></a> by Roseanne A. Brown	Just as Serwa starts to get the hang of this whole "normal girl who doesn't punch vampires everyday thing," an adze infiltrates her school. It's up to her to whip some of her classmates into monster-fighting shape before all of them become firefly food, all while she has to decide which side of herself—normal girl or slayer—is the right one.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Shannon in the Spotlight</i></a> by Kalena Miller	After Shannon accidentally lands a lead role in the summer musical, she realizes she has bigger things to worry about than stage fright. She feels pressure to save her friendship with Elise and also make her Mom and Grandma Ruby act like grown-ups, all while knowing that the show must go on.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Shot Clock</i></a> by Caron Butler and Justin A. Reynolds	Basketball changed for Tony when his friend Dante was killed by a police officer. When Tony doesn't make the team, Coach James offers him another chance: join the team as the statistician. With his community reeling and the team just finding its footing on the court, can Tony find a path to healing while helping to bring the Sabres a championship?	6-8

<a href="#"><i>Simon Sort of Says</i></a> by Erin Bow	After a traumatic event, Simon and his family move to the National Quiet Zone—the only place in America where the internet is banned. Instead of talking about Simon, the astronomers who flock to the area are busy listening for signs of life in space. And when Simon makes a friend who's determined to give the scientists what they're looking for, he'll finally have the chance to spin a new story for the world to tell.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>A Song Called Home</i></a> by Sara Zarr	Receiving a mysterious guitar the night before she leaves the city to live with her mom and new stepdad, Lou believes that if she learns how to play it, she can bring a piece of her old life home and reunite with her alcoholic father.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Speak Up!</i></a> by Rebecca Burgess	Twelve year old Mia is trying to navigate a world that doesn't understand her true autistic self. With her nonbinary friend Charlie, the duo are the viral musical sensation Elle-Q. When a chance to perform live for a local talent show has Charlie excited, Mia must decide if she will let bullying, other's estimations of her abilities, and her own worries stand in the way of what she has to say.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>A Spoonful of Time</i></a> by Flora Ahn	Maya's grandmother, Halmunee, may be losing her memory, but she hasn't lost her magic touch in the kitchen. Then one day, something extraordinary happens: one delicious bite transports Maya and Halmunee into one of Halmunee's memories. As Maya eats her way through the past, her questions multiply—until a shocking discovery transforms everything she thought she knew about family, friendship, loss, and time itself.	4-8
<a href="#"><i>Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler</i></a> by Ibi Zoboi	Acclaimed novelist Ibi Zoboi illuminates the young life of the visionary storyteller Octavia E. Butler in poems and prose. Born into the Space Race, the Red Scare, and the dawning Civil Rights Movement, Butler experienced an American childhood that shaped her into the groundbreaking science-fiction storyteller whose novels continue to challenge and delight readers fifteen years after her death.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Swim Team</i></a> by Johnnie Christmas	Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school until she's stuck with Swim 101. Lucky for her, Etta, an elderly occupant of her apartment building and former swim captain is willing to help. With Etta's training and a lot of hard work, Bree suddenly finds her swim-crazed community counting on her to turn the school's failing team around. But can Bree defy the odds and guide her team to a state championship?	4-8
<a href="#"><i>A Thousand Steps into Night</i></a> by Traci Chee	When Miuko, who has never longed for adventure, is hit with a curse that begins to transform her into a demon, she embarks on a quest to reverse the curse and return to her normal life, but along the way is forced to confront her true power within.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Travelers Along the Way</i></a> by Aminah Mae Safi	The Third Crusade rages on while sisters Rahma and Zeena journey to Jerusalem. Their travels soon take them into the orbit of Queen Isabella herself, who plans to re-seize power in Jerusalem, guaranteeing further war and strife in the Holy Land. They will have to use every scrap of cunning and wit to foil the usurper queen and perhaps finally restore peace to the land.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Troublemaker</i></a> by John Cho	On the first night of rioting in the wake of the Rodney King verdict, Jordan's father leaves to check on the family store, spurring twelve-year-old Jordan and his friends to embark on a dangerous journey through South Central and Koreatown. While trying to ensure that Jordan's father is safe, they encounter racism, kindness, fear, both their own and others'.	6-8
<a href="#"><i>Tumble</i></a> by Celia C. Pérez	Before she decides whether to accept her stepfather's proposal of adoption, twelve-year-old Adela Ramirez reaches out to her estranged biological father—who is in the midst of a career comeback as a <i>luchador</i> —and the eccentric extended family of wrestlers she has never met, bringing Adela closer to understanding the expansive definition of family.	4-8

<p><a href="#"><i>Two Tribes</i></a> by Emily Bowen Cohen</p>	<p>Mia is still getting used to living with her mom and stepfather, and to the new role their Jewish identity plays in their home. Feeling out of place at home and at her Jewish day school, Mia makes a plan to use the gifts from her bat mitzvah to take a bus to Oklahoma—without telling her mom—to visit her Muscogee dad and find the connection to her Muscogee side she knows is just as important as her Jewish side.</p>	<p>4-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>Undercover Latina</i></a> by Aya De Leon</p>	<p>Fourteen-year-old Andréa Hernández-Baloquín hails from a family of spies working for the Factory, an international organization dedicated to protecting people of color. Andréa has dreamed about getting her first solo mission, but she never imagined that she would have to straighten her hair and go undercover as a white girl to befriend the estranged son of a dangerous white supremacist.</p>	<p>6-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>Unfadeable</i></a> by Maurice Broaddus</p>	<p>Bella “Unfadeable” Fades is determined to stay out of trouble. A wiser-than-her-years graffiti artist known for tagging walls and bridges in her Indianapolis neighborhood, Bella plans to spend her summer break laying low and steering clear of anyone who might tip off to social services that she’s living on her own. But keeping a low profile is all but impossible when Bella discovers people in high places are trying to defund her community.</p>	<p>4-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>We Still Belong</i></a> by Christine Day</p>	<p>Wesley is proud of the poem she wrote for Indigenous Peoples’ Day—but the reaction from a teacher makes her wonder if expressing herself is important enough. And due to the specific tribal laws of her family’s Nation, Wesley is unable to enroll in the Upper Skagit tribe and is left feeling “not Native enough.” Through the course of the novel, with the help of her family and friends, she comes to embrace her own place within the Native community.</p>	<p>4-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>Weird Rules to Follow</i></a> by Kim Spencer</p>	<p>In the 1980s coastal fishing town of Prince Rupert, Mia navigates her friendship with non-indigenous middle class neighbor Lara. Even though their differences never seemed to matter, Mia begins to notice how adults treat her differently.</p>	<p>6-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>Wildoak</i></a> by C.C. Harrington, illustrated by Diana Sudyka</p>	<p>Maggie Stephens's stutter makes her avoid speaking in class or calling attention to herself. Her mother sends her to her grandfathers where she encounters an abandoned snow leopard cub. But once the cub's presence is discovered by others, danger follows, and Maggie soon realizes that time is running out, not only for the leopard, but for herself and the forest as well.</p>	<p>4-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>Witchlings</i></a> by Claribel A Ortega</p>	<p>When twelve-year-old Seven fails to be assigned to a witch coven and is named a Spare, she and the two other Spares risk being stuck as Witchlings and losing their magic. Seven invokes her only option—the impossible task. Now the three Spares must succeed at the impossible task or be turned into toads forever!</p>	<p>6-8</p>
<p><a href="#"><i>You Are Here: Connecting Flights</i></a> by editor Ellen Oh</p>	<p>In this collection of short stories by twelve Asian-American authors, an initial incident at a TSA security checkpoint creates a chain of events that impacts young Asian Americans in a crowded airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross with fellow travelers they discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, and the importance of the right word at the right time.</p>	<p>4-8</p>



## High School

Title	Description	Grade Level
<a href="#"><i>Abuela. Don't Forget Me</i></a> by Rex Ogle	Rex captures and celebrates the powerful presence of a woman he could always count on to offer safety when darkness closed in. Throughout a coming-of-age marked by violence and dysfunction, Abuela's red-brick house in Abilene, Texas offered Rex the possibility of home, and Abuela herself the possibility for a better life.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Afterglow</i></a> by Phil Stamper	Bestselling author Phil Stamper takes the Golden Boys from summer fun to senior year in the next installment of his charming duology. After a life-changing summer, these four friends are finally ready for senior year.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Anne of Greenville</i></a> by Mariko Tamaki	In this retelling of <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> , when one of Anne's parents gets a job at a new school, Anne and her family are stuck in Greenville. Anne is determined to live unapologetically as her full self, but the citizens of Greenville are homophobic and closed-minded. Not only does Anne fall head-over-heels in love, but she finds time to audition for the school play and stand up to jerks and bullies while perfecting her roller-disco skills.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow</i></a> by Zoulfah Katouh	An epic, emotional, breathtaking story of love and loss set amid the Syrian revolution. A love letter to Syria and its people, <i>As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow</i> is a speculative novel set amid the Syrian Revolution, burning with the fires of hope, love, and possibility.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Bloodmarked (Legendborn #2)</i></a> by Tracy Deonn	All Bree wanted was to uncover the truth behind her mother's death. So she infiltrated the Legendborn Order, a secret society descended from King Arthur's knights—only to discover her own ancestral power. If Bree has any hope of saving herself and the people she loves, she must learn to control her powers from the ancestors who wielded them first—without losing herself in the process.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants</i></a> by Robin Wall Kimmerer, adapted by Monique Gray Smith, illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt	Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> . Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest teachers: the plants around us.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Breathe and Count Back from Ten</i></a> by Natalia Sylvester	Verónica has had many surgeries to manage her hip dysplasia. Verónica wants to audition for Mermaid Cove, a kitschy underwater attraction where professional mermaids perform. But her conservative Peruvian parents would never go for it. She decides it's time to seize control of her life, but her plans come crashing down when she learns her parents have been hiding the truth from her—the truth about her own body.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Briarcliff Prep</i></a> by Brianna Peppins	Avi LeBeau juggles navigating her first year at a Historically Black Boarding School with the revelation that her older sister Belle is in an abusive romantic relationship.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Burn Down, Rise Up</i></a> by Vincent Tirado	For over a year, the Bronx has been plagued by sudden disappearances that no one can explain. Sixteen-year-old Raquel does her best to ignore it. But when her crush Charlize's cousin goes missing, Raquel starts to pay attention. Raquel and Charlize soon discover that everything is tied to a terrifying urban	9-12

	legend called the Echo Game.	
<a href="#"><i>Cool. Awkward. Black</i></a> by editor Karen Strong	18 stories from Black authors focus on Black teenagers who are trying to figure out their places in their worlds (including outer space). Themes include familial reconciliation, friendship, and identity.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Different for Boys</i></a> by Patrick Ness, illustrated by Tea Bendix	Friendship, masculinity, sex—Anthony Stevenson has a lot of questions. Is it different for boys who like boys? A poignant and frank story filled with meta-humor by renowned author Patrick Ness.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Don't Look Back: A Memoir of War, Survival, and My Journey from Sudan to America</i></a> by Achut Deng and Keely Hutton	After a deadly attack in South Sudan left six-year-old Achut Deng without a family, she lived in refugee camps for ten years, until a refugee relocation program gave her the opportunity to move to the United States. But the chance at starting a new life in a new country came with a different set of challenges.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Drizzle, Dreams, and Lovestruck Things</i></a> by Maya Prasad	The four close-knit Singh sisters live on drizzly Orcas island, where their dad's inn has just been named the Most Romantic Inn in America. Over the course of a year, romance truly is in the air, with a sister falling in love each season. Ultimately, the magic of the Songbird Inn leads the sisters to new passions and breathtaking kisses—and to unearth the truest versions of themselves.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Edge of Being</i></a> by James Brandon	Isaac Griffin has always felt a hole in his life from the absence of his father. When he discovers a box in his attic with clues about his father, he sets off with his boyfriend to San Francisco and ends up retracing his father's steps during the weeks leading up to the Compton's Cafeteria Riot, a precursor to the Stonewall Riots a few years later.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Eight Nights of Flirting</i></a> by Hannah Reynolds	When Shira and Tyler get snowed in together at Golden Doors, they strike a deal—flirting lessons for Shira in exchange for career connections for Tyler. But as Shira starts to see the sweet, funny boy beneath Tyler's playboy exterior, she realizes she actually likes hanging out with him. And that wasn't part of the plan.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Four for the Road</i></a> by K.J. Reilly	Asher Hunting wants revenge on the drunk driver who killed his mom and got off on a technicality. He ends up in a bereavement group where he makes some unexpected friends.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Getaway</i></a> by Lamar Giles	Jay discovers that the mountain resort where he lives and works with his friends and family is also a doomsday oasis for the rich and powerful who expect top-notch customer service even as the world outside the resort's walls disintegrates.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be: a Speculative Memoir of Transracial Adoption</i></a> by Shannon Gibney	At its core, the novel is a tale of two girls on two different timelines occasionally bridged by a mysterious portal and their shared search for a complete picture of their origins. Gibney surrounds that story with reproductions of her own adoption documents, letters, family photographs, interviews, medical records, and brief essays on the surreal absurdities of the adoptee experience.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea</i></a> by Axie Oh	Each year Mina's people throw a beautiful maiden into the sea to serve as the Sea God's bride in the hopes that he will be appeased and end the deadly storms that have ravaged her homeland for generations. When the girl her brother loves is chosen as the sacrifice, Mina throws herself into the water in her stead.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute</i></a> by Talia Hibbert	Bradley Graeme, a star football player with OCD, and Celine Bangura, a conspiracy theory obsessed social misfit, are ex-best friends with conflicting ideas about why their friendship fell apart. As an adventure brings them closer together, they begin to remember the good bits of their history. But has too	9-12

	much time passed...or just enough to spark a whole new kind of relationship?	
<a href="#"><i>Imogen, Obviously</i></a> by Becky Albertalli	Imogen's got the World's Greatest Straight Ally title locked down. When Imogen visits her friend Lili on campus, Lili drops a bombshell: she's told all her college friends that Imogen and Lili used to date. But the more time Imogen spends with Lili's new friends - especially freckle-faced Tessa - the more she starts to wonder if her truth was ever all that straight to begin with.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Important Black Americans in Civil Rights and Politics</i></a> by Stephen Currie	Over the last few decades, Black Americans have made enormous strides in the areas of politics and civil rights. Profiled in this book are five Black American political and civil rights activists and officeholders: Thurgood Marshall, John Lewis, Barack Obama, and Kamala Harris.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>In Limbo</i></a> by Deb JJ Lee	Ever since Deborah (Jung-Jin) Lee emigrated from South Korea to the United States, she's felt her otherness. But Deb is resilient and slowly heals with the help of art and self-care, guiding her to a deeper understanding of her heritage and herself.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Kings of B'more</i></a> by R. Eric Thomas	Harrison is grateful that he and his best friend, Linus, will face the uncertainties of junior year together, until he finds out that Linus is moving out of state at the end of the week. To keep from completely losing it, Harrison plans a send-off à la Ferris Bueller's Day Off that's worthy of his favorite person.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School</i></a> by Sonora Reyes	Seventeen-year-old Yamilet prefers drawing attention for her killer eyeliner, not for being one of the only Mexican kids at her new mostly white Catholic school. At least here no one knows she's gay, and she intends to focus on her new priorities: make her mom proud, keep her brother out of trouble, and most importantly, don't fall in love.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen</i></a> by Isaac Blum	Hoodie Rosen, an Orthodox Jewish boy living in a new town, has basketball to play, studies to avoid, and a supermarket full of delicious kosher snacks to eat. But when he meets and falls for Anna-Marie Diaz-O'Leary—who happens to be the daughter of the obstinate mayor trying to keep Hoodie's community out of the town - things get more complicated.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Lost Dreamer</i></a> by Lizz Huerta	Imdir is a Dreamer, descended from a long line of seers; able to see beyond reality, she carries the rare gift of Dreaming truth. Saya is a seer, but not a Dreamer--she has never been formally trained. But when the beloved king dies, his son has no respect for this time-honored tradition.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Love Radio</i></a> by Ebony LaDelle	Dani Ford has a plan: write an outstanding college essay so she can go to NYU and become a famous writer. When Prince Jones (a teen DJ who dispenses romantic advice) runs into Dani at the library, sparks fly between them, but Dani doesn't want her plan derailed.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Man Made Monsters</i></a> by Andrea L. Rogers, illustrated by Jeff Edwards	Horror fans will get their thrills in this collection – all the time-worn horror baddies are there but so are predators of a distinctly American variety – the horrors of empire, of intimate partner violence, of dispossession and so too the monsters of Rogers' imagination, that draw upon long-told Cherokee stories – of Deer Woman, fantastical sea creatures, and more.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Minus-One Club</i></a> by Kekla Magoon	In this coming-of-age novel, a closeted gay teen tries to navigate life after the death of his sister. The book explores themes relating to depression, suicide, identity, and religious expression. The text reveals Kermit's, the main character's, complicated, sensitive inner life while depicting various ways people respond to the loss of a loved one.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>My Fine Fellow</i></a> by Cohen Jennieke	In 1830s England, Penelope and Helena meet Elijah, and a golden opportunity arises: to pull off a project never seen before, and turn Elijah from a street vendor to a gentleman chef. But Elijah's transformation will have a greater	9-12

	impact on this trio than they originally realize—and mayhem, unseemly faux pas, and a little romance will all be a part of the delicious recipe.	
<a href="#"><i>Nearer My Freedom: The Interesting Life of Olaudah Equiano by Himself</i></a> by Monica Edinger and Lesley Young	Olaudah Equiano's <i>The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano</i> is perhaps the most well known of the autobiographies that exist. Using this narrative as a primary source text, authors Monica Edinger and Lesley Young share Equiano's life story in "found verse," supplemented with annotations to give readers historical context.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Next New Syrian Girl</i></a> by Ream Shukairy	Khadija is a Syrian-American girl raised in Detroit on boxing and football and Leene is a Syrian refugee battling panic attacks and trying to adjust to life at a public high school. When their worlds collide, it's a disaster.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Ones We Burn</i></a> by Rebecca Mix	Ranka wants to be left alone, living out her days with the coven that raised her, attempting to forget the horrors of her past. But when she is named the next treaty bride to the human kingdom of Isodal, her coven sends her south to kill him.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Pardalita</i></a> by Joana Estrela and Lyn-Miller Lachmann	16-year-old Raquel lives in a small town in Portugal, the kind of place where everyone knows everyone else's business. She has two best friends, Luísa and Fred, but wants something more. Then, from afar, she sees Pardalita, a senior and a gifted artist who's moving to Lisbon to study in the fall. The two girls get to know each other while working on a play. And Raquel falls in love.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Promise Boys</i></a> by Nick Brooks	The prestigious Urban Promise Prep school might look pristine on the outside, but deadly secrets lurk within. When the principal ends up murdered on school premises and the cops come sniffing around, a trio of students emerge as the prime suspects. But with all three maintaining their innocence, they must band together to track down the real killer before they are arrested.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Queer Ducks (And Other Animals): The Natural World of Animal Sexuality</i></a> by Eliot Schrefer, illustrated by Jules Zuckerberg	A quiet revolution has been underway in recent years, with study after study revealing substantial same-sex sexual behavior in animals. Join celebrated author Eliot Schrefer on an exploration of queer behavior in the animal world—from albatrosses to bonobos to clownfish to doodlebugs.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Reggie and Delilah's Year of Falling</i></a> by Elise Bryant	Delilah and Reggie meet on New Year's Eve, then again on Valentine's, then again as several other holidays roll around. Delilah wishes she were more like Reggie—open about what she likes and who she is, even if it's not cool. Except . . . it's all a front. Reggie, the DnD master, is just role-playing someone confident. The kind of guy who could be with a girl like Delilah.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>The Roof Over Our Heads</i></a> by Nicole Kronzer	Finn has a lot going on: his blended family, consisting of his lesbian mothers and his gay identical twin biracial college-age brothers, are putting on an "interactive play meets murder mystery meets escape room" in their Victorian home. Success will save their home; anything else means disaster.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Spice Road</i></a> by Maiya Ibrahim	In the hidden desert city of Qalia, there is secret spice magic that awakens the affinities of those who drink the misra tea. Imani has the affinity for iron and is able to wield a dagger like no other warrior. Imani's brother disappears and is believed dead after it was revealed he was stealing spice. Imani will soon find that many secrets lie beyond the Forbidden Wastes but will she find her brother?	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Strike the Zither</i></a> by Joan He	The year is 414 of the Xin Dynasty, and chaos abounds. The realm has fractured into three factions and three warlordesses hoping to claim the continent for themselves. Zephyr, the strategist, is forced to infiltrate an enemy camp to keep Ren's followers from being slaughtered. But there are more	9-12

	enemies than one—and not all of them are human.	
<a href="#"><i>A Tale of Two Princes</i></a> by Eric Geron	Edward has a problem: he's unsure how to tell his parents, his beloved country, and his adoring fans that he's gay. Billy Boone, an out-and-proud cowboy, should be happy with the simple life on his family's ranch, but he feels something's missing. When they meet by chance in New York City they discover that they are long-lost twins, and their lives are forever changed.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Transmogrify!: 14 Fantastical Tales of Trans Magic</i></a> by G. Haron Davis, editor	In <i>Transmogrify!</i> , you'll embark on fourteen different adventures alongside unforgettable characters who embody many different genders and expressions and experiences—because magic is for everyone, and that is cause for celebration.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Victory. Stand! Raising My Fist for Justice</i></a> by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile	In his first-ever memoir for young readers, Tommie Smith looks back on his childhood growing up in rural Texas through to his stellar athletic career, culminating in his historic victory and Olympic podium protest.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>Warrior Girl. Unearthed</i></a> by Angeline Boulley	With the rising number of missing Indigenous women, her family's involvement in a murder investigation, and grave robbers profiting off her Anishinaabe tribe, Perry takes matters into her own hands to solve the mystery and reclaim her people's inheritance.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>We Are All So Good at Smiling</i></a> by Amber McBride	While in the hospital for treatment of clinical depression, Whimsy meets a boy named Faerry and recognizes that they both have magic in their bones. The Forest at the end of the street they both live on whispers to Whimsy and might hold the answers to the part of Ferry that he feels is missing.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>We Are All We Have</i></a> by Marina Budhos	When a teenage girl's single mom is taken by ICE, everything changes. Her asylum case was supposed to be all-but-guaranteed, but suddenly Rania and her younger brother Kamal are on the run. While discovering family secrets and navigating the immigration system, Rania needs to learn how to survive in a country that has suddenly turned hostile.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>We Deserve Monuments</i></a> by Jas Hammonds	When seventeen-year-old Avery moves to rural Georgia to live with her ailing grandmother, she encounters decade-old family secrets and a mystery surrounding the town's racist past.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>We Weren't Looking to be Found</i></a> by Stephanie Kuehn	Dani, the richest Black girl in Texas seems to have everything a girl could want, but keeps using and engaging in other self-destructive behavior. Camila, whose Colombian-American family doesn't have much, knows exactly what she wants out of life and works to get it, but when she fails she self-harms. When Dani and Camila find themselves rooming together at a treatment facility they find a mysterious music box filled with letters from a former resident, and together they set out on an investigation that will bring them together.	9-12
<a href="#"><i>What The Fireflies Knew</i></a> by Kai Harris	A coming-of-age novel told from the perspective of an eleven-year-old over the course of a single summer, as she tries to make sense of her new life with her estranged grandfather and sister after the death of her father and disappearance of her mother.	9-12



2023 MISelf in Books Book Committee

Melissa Baumann

Christina Chatel

Tonya Colvin

Jackie Cope

Rachel Cwiek

Amanda Davies

Rachel Goldberg

Brett Howard

Lisa Kelley

Justine Keuning-LaFrence

Alexa Lalejini

Rebecca Lowe (co-chair)

Stephie Luyt (co-chair)

Terri Luzenske

Kathleen McBroom

Megan Rochon

Janis Salomon

Kelly Voigt