

Afikoman, Where'd You Go? By Rebecca Gardyn Levington and Noa Kelner, PK-1

This picture book brings to life the Passover tradition of searching for the afikoman—literally. When the mischievous piece of matzoh runs and hides during the seder, all the kids in the family (and even the pet dog!) go hunting for it through the house.

Baba's Peach Tree by Marie Tang and Seo Kim, PK-1

When the peach tree that provided so much childhood joy for Tao Hua and money for her family dies, her life had to change. Her father found jobs in the big city and they moved away from the home she had loved. Later in the story, Tao Hua brings her elderly father back to their old property for a visit.

Being Home by Traci Sorell and Michaela Goade, PK-1

A young Cherokee girl describes her joy at her mother's news that they're leaving their house in the city to return to the land of their ancestors. After packing their belongings and taking a car trip, they're warmly greeted by relatives who welcome them home.

Bros by Carole Boston Weatherford and Reggie Brown, PK-1

A celebration of childhood from an award-winning author, this upbeat day-in-the-life of a bunch of friends was inspired by the #BlackBoyJoy meme that spurred a movement. This title describes the ways a group of young Black boys spend their days playing make-believe, taking risks in a park, helping in a community garden, and joyfully shooting hoops together.

Butterfly on the Wind by Adam Pottle and Ziyue Chen, PK-1

On the day of the talent show, Aurora's hands tremble. No matter how hard she tries to sign, her fingers stumble over one another and the words just won't come. Using her hands to sign the ASL word for "butterfly," Aurora sends a magical butterfly of her own into the world, inspiring Deaf people across the globe.

Chloe's Lunar New Year by Lily LaMotte and Michelle Lee, PK-1

Chloe's family plans for a Reunion dinner before Lunar New Year. They clean the house, replace worn clothing with new, gather the foods that connect to the holiday, and invite the family that does not live with them to share the joy of the New Year as well as warmly including the family that has passed.

Dad and Daddy's Big Big Family by Seamus Kirst and Karen Bunting, PK-1

Harper is going to her first family reunion! She meets so many people. Dad and Daddy tell her they're all part of the same family, but they're all so different! And do families need to live together? Will she and Noah have to share a room? Follow along as Harper learns how all these families are unique... and still part of Harper's big big family!

Dear Muslim Child by Rahma Rodaah and Aya Ghanameh, PK-1

A lyrical ode to Muslim children all over the world, a joyful celebration of Islam and what it means to be a Muslim.

Dim Sum Here We Come by Maple Lam, PK-1

A young girl looks forward to seeing her extended family every week to enjoy dim sum. Her relatives teach her things about their culture, such as feng shui, good fortune, and the importance of taking turns as they share a meal together.

Eleven Words for Love: A Journey Through Arabic Expressions of Love by Randa Abdel-Fattah and Maxine Beneba Clarke, PK-1

"This lyrical narrative of a Palestinian family in exile explores universal bonds of family, loyalty, and friendship through the lens of eleven Arabic expressions for love."

Flap Your Hands: A Celebration of Stimming by Steve Asbell, PK-1

Four children navigate from sensory overload to self-regulation. The five bright colors initially clash but soon blend and overlap as the kids self-regulate. The reader can see that stimming can take various forms.

Grandad's Pride by Harry Woodgate, PK-1

Grandad and Milly are back for another adventure, this time honoring the past and celebrating the future with a pride parade. This heartwarming tale continues the wonderful journey that began with the book, Grandad's Camper.

The Great Banned-Books Bake Sale by Aya Khalil and Anait Semirdzhyan, PK-1

Kanzi, an Egyptian girl who was recently new to her school, finds that diverse books have been banned from her school library. She and her classmates decide to hold a bake sale to purchase new books.

Jam, Too? By JaNay Brown-Wood and Jacqueline Alcantara, PK-1

A young girl on the porch of a hut watches as one man begins to play a drum and welcomes all that ask to join with whatever instruments they have, including the girl when she says she can dance.

Laolao's Dumplings by Dane Liu and Shinyeon Moon, PK-1

A visit to Millie's Laolao is a welcome day for Millie from the smell of tea to creating their favorite meal. It feels this tradition is common until Laolao cannot prepare the dumplings on her own. In time, Millie shares the tradition of preparation with her parents and they bring a dish to Laolao. The gift of a loving family continuing traditions is exemplarily done in this beautiful book.

The Mochi Makers by Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson, PK-1

A girl and her grandmother spend the day making mochi together in this gentle and joyous celebration of family, tradition, and the memories that matter most. Includes information on mochi and a recipe.

Monster Hands by Karen Kane, Jonaz McMillan, and Dion MBD, PK-1

Milo suspects a monster under his bed. Luckily, Milo and his neighbor Mel have a habit of signing between the houses from their rooms. Mel shares ways to scare the monster with hand shadows!

Platanos Are Love by Alyssa Reynoso-Morris and Mariyah Rahman, PK-1

A young girl learns the cultural significance of plantains while cooking alongside her abuela. There is mention of ancestors who picked plantains, but they had to memorize recipes as they were not allowed to read, write, or draw.

A Ramadan to Remember by Marzieh Ali and Najwa Awatiff, PK-1

Ramadan is almost here! It's Zain's favorite time of the year. Well, it usually is. After a recent move and with no mosque or Islamic school in his new neighborhood, will Zain find a new Muslim friend to celebrate with him?

Rani's Remarkable Day by Saadia Faruqi and Anoosha Syed, PK-1

A modern South Asian princess, sparkling writing, lots of humor, and just the right amount of conflict come together for a clever and enchanting friendship story.

Sari-Sari Summers by Lynnor Bontigao, PK-1

Nora loves to spend time with her grandmother during the summer and loves to work at the Sari-Sari Store. When a heatwave negatively impacts business, Nora has a creative and delicious way to bring back customers.

Seoul Food by Erin Danielle Russell and Tamisha Anthony, PK-1

Celebrating with her grandparents at a meal may seem tricky, but Hana finds a way to mix both Southern Black cultural and Korean cultural food in a meal in a most spectacular way.

The Unstoppable Jamie by Joy Givens and Courtney Dawson, PK-1

Inspired by the author's son, the story of a boy with Down syndrome who goes on a superhero's journey to New York City and learns what truly makes him unstoppable.

Veo, Veo, I See You by Lulu Delacre, PK-1

A young girl is trying to understand the changes going on in the world due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Her mother speaks to her only in Spanish. As they travel through the neighborhood, they see many essential workers that make everyday life possible in the midst of many changes in the world.

Yasuko and the Dream Eater by A. Kidd and Marcia Misawa, PK-1

Yasuko loves visiting her grandmother in Japan for the first time. When she has a bad dream and asks to go back to America with her parents, her grandmother tells her about the Baku who will eat her bad dream. Yasuko calls him for help 3 times after bad dreams and then sends him away on his own journey.

You Need to Chill! By Juno Dawson and Laura Hughes, PK-1

When Bill can't be found at school one day, the imaginations of the other children run wild. Is he on holiday? Is he lost in the park? Has he been eaten by a shark?! It's up to Bill's sibling to explain: Bill is now their sister Lily.

Ali the Great by Saadia Faruqi and Debbi Rehmalia, 2-3

Ali Tahir is a Pakistani American second grader whose big ideas sometimes land him in a little trouble—but his even bigger heart always comes through stronger in the end.

All Good in the Hood by Dwayne Reed and Gladys Jose, 2-3

We meet a young boy and his family as they head to the park in the inner city to celebrate Juneteenth. The boy's fears of some of the sounds as they walk are calmed by his brother and he learns the history and the joy of his culture and specifically this celebration.

Aloha Everything by Kaylin Melia George and Mae White, 2-3

When the main character, Ano, learns to dance hula (the storytelling dance form that carries the knowledge, history, and folklore of the Hawaiian people) she is able to understand the true meaning of aloha and learn about the culture of her people.

Awe-Samosas! by Marzieh Abbas and Bhagya Madanasinghe, 2-3

This warm and joyful picture book blends family tradition and creativity as Noor puts an awesome spin on her Dadijaan's yummy ingredient-specific samosa recipe.

Barrio Rising by Maria Dolores Águila and Magdalena Mora, 2-3

A vivid historical fiction account of the community activism behind San Diego's Chicano Park—home to the largest outdoor mural collection in the U.S.—and just one example of the Mexican American community's rich history of resistance and resilience.

Beneath by Cori Doerrfeld, 2-3

Finn prefers to remain under the cover of a quilt most days. When Grandpa encourages him to go for a walk, Finn realizes the importance of what is beneath, like the roots beneath a tree or a broken heart inside a person. Finn understands that Grandpa is grieving the loss of Gramma, just like him.

The Book That Almost Rhymed by Omar Abed and Hatem Aly, 2-3

A boy is trying to write a story that rhymes. His little sister keeps changing it with words that do not rhyme. The story takes many unexpected, but fun, turns.

Born Naughty by Jin Wang and Anisi Baigude, 2-3

Jin Wang tells the story of their childhood in Inner Mongolia through a series of loosely connected short stories. The vignettes show the commonalities of the childhood experience across cultures while depicting the uniqueness of the traditions and customs of Inner Mongolia, the region in China where she grew up.

Cut!: How Lotte Reiniger and a Pair of Scissors Revolutionized Animation by C.E. Winters and Matt Schu, 2-3

This picture book tells the life story of Lotte Reiniger, a pioneer of early animation. The story begins with her work with paper silhouette stop motion and the creation of her first short film. The narrative follows her throughout her career and her contributions to the first full-length animated film.

Dancing Hands by Joanna Que, Charina Marquez, and Fran Alvarez, 2-3

This story of two kids, one speaking and one signing, is fascinating. Sam is fascinated by her new neighbors as she watches their hands dance when they are together. Her new neighbor Mai and Sam try to play, but realize they need a way to communicate. Mai teaches Sam some words in Filipino Sign Language and a new friendship grows quickly.

A Day With No Words by Tiffany Hammond and Kate Cosgrove, 2-3

A picture book that illustrates what a day might look like for a non-verbal, Autistic child and his family as he navigates the world and engages with others using assistive technology to communicate. This book gently addresses ableism by reminding readers that even though some people can't speak, they can still hear and understand your words.

Dear Yesteryear by Kimberly Annece Henderson and Clara LeRoy, 2-3

Featuring rarely seen archival photographs of Black Americans from the turn of the nineteenth century, the author transports the reader to the past in a moving letter. In it, she asks the subjects of the photographs questions about their hopes, dreams, families, plans, and accomplishments.

Door by Door: how Sarah McBride became America's first openly transgender senator by Meeg Pincus and Meridith McKean Gimbel, 2-3

Delaware State Senator Sarah McBride dreamed of making a difference as a kid. In college, she came out as transgender, and in 2020 she won her election to become a Delaware State Senator, making her the highest-ranking trans political official in the country.

A Dupatta Is... by Marzieh Abbas and Anu Chouhan, 2-3

A dupatta is so much more than a beautiful piece of fabric. These shawls - traditionally worn in various cultures of South Asia - are eye-catching and colorful of course, but they are also fun and functional. They carry the sounds and smells of family and identity.

Ella Kvellephant and the Search for Bubbe's Yiddish Treasure by Jen Kostman, 2-3

This is the delightful story of Ella, a spunky elephant explorer who is on the hunt for her grandmother's beloved Yiddish language. Join Ella, Bubbe, Zayde, and baby Eli for this colorful beach-day adventure! Readers will love learning new Yiddish vocabulary and seeing that they already use some of these fun and expressive words everyday.

Everyone Loves Career Day But Zia by Jenny Liao and Dream Chen, 2-3

Zia wants her mother to be present at Career Day, but mom does not speak English and cannot miss work. Using her creativity, Zia creates a video for her classmates to see her mother's work as a seamstress, while also translating her Cantonese words into English.

A Flicker of Hope: A Story of Migration by Cynthia Harmony and Devon Holzwarth, 2-3

This book stunningly intertwines the migration of monarchs from Mexico to Canada with the migration of workers who work in the fields during the growing season. Lucia and her father miss each other greatly,

but they have a song he played for her to remain connected. The Monarch's return fills Lucia with hope that she will reunite with her father soon.

The Girl Who Figured It Out by Minda Dentler and Stephanie Dehennin, 2-3

Minda is a young girl with polio who is put up for adoption in India by her birth mother. She is adopted by an American family, who help her learn how to reach her goals even though she is paralyzed.

Go Forth And Tell: The Life Of Augusta Baker, Librarian and Master Storyteller by Breanna J. McDaniel and April Harrison, 2-3

This biography tells the life story of the librarian Augusta Baker, New York Library's first Storyteller in Residence. Growing up in New York, she rarely saw books that positively reflected people that looked like her. When she became a librarian, she worked hard to tell authentic stories.

Henna Is... by Merzieh Abbas and Anu Chouhan, 2-3

Henna is so much more than nature, proportion, color, texture, fragrance, place, technique, art, function, friendship, celebration, and tradition...Henna is identity. This is a picture book celebrating henna, a traditional plant-based form of temporary tattooing in South Asian, North African and Middle Eastern cultures.

I Am A Masterpiece by Mia Armstrong and Alexandra Thompson, 2-3

Mia Armstrong—SAG-AFTRA actor, model, and activist—explores the joys and challenges of growing up with Down Syndrome. This book will help some readers see themselves and other readers have empathy for neurodivergent people in their lives.

Ice Cream Man: How Augustus Jackson Made a Sweet Treat Better by Glenda Armand and Keith Mallett, 2-3

A biography of Black cook and entrepreneur, Augustus Jackson, who was born in Pennsylvania where slavery was outlawed. Augustus followed his dreams of being a cook by traveling to Washington D.C. and getting hired as a kitchen helper, then cook in the White House. Augustus created a popular eggless version of custard, a dessert known today as ice cream.

Insha'Allah, No, Maybe So by Rhonda Roumani, Nadia Roumani, and Olivla Aserr, 2-3

A young girl comes to understand what "Insha'Allah" really means. To her, it always seemed to mean "No," but mom teaches her that it really means "God willing," and also represents our hopes and dreams. Sometimes things happen that are out of our control, and through these experiences, we are equipped to deal with the ups and downs of life.

Jerry Changed the Game!: How Engineer Jerry Lawson Revolutionized Video Games Forever by Don Tate and Cherise Harris, 2-3

Meet Jerry Lawson, the Black engineer who revolutionized the video game industry, in this engaging picture book biography. Before Xbox, PlayStation, or Nintendo Switch, there was a tinkerer named Jerry Lawson. As a boy, Jerry loved playing with springs, sprockets, and gadget-y things. When he grew up, Jerry became an engineer—a professional tinkerer—and in the 1970s, he turned his technical know-how to video games.

Julie and the Mango Tree by Sade Smith and Sayada Ramdial, 2-3

A Jamaican girl wants mangoes from the tree in her yard, but she cannot reach them. After a storm comes, she has more mangoes than she can eat on her own.

A Kurta to Remember by Gauri Dalvi Pandya and Avani Dwivedi, 2-3

A young girl is about to move away from her Aaji and Ajoba and worries they will forget about each other. Aaji sews a kurta with many pockets, filling them with items that will remind the young girl of her grandparents. The young girl has the idea to create kurtas for both her grandparents, so they could always be reminded of her, as well.

Laolao's Dumplings by Dane Liu and Shinyeon Moon, 2-3

A Chinese American girl learns how to make dumplings from her aging grandmother. When her grandmother is unable to make dumplings, her granddaughter makes them for her.

The Last Stand by Antwan Eady, Jarrett, and Jerome Pumphrey, 2-3

There used to be five farmers' stands in this small community, but now there is only one. Even as age has started to wear on Earl, he and his grandson feel that they have an obligation to deliver produce on a weekly basis. When Earl becomes too tired, Little Earl will take the lessons he learned from his grandfather to keep the stand open.

Like Lava In My Veins by Derrick Barnes, Shawn Martinbrough, and Adriano Lucas, 2-3

Bobby Beacon is a boy with superhuman powers who begins attending a school for kids with superpowers. With the help of this teacher and a few friends, Bobby begins to reach his full potential. When supervillains invade the school he gets the chance to show how much he has grown.

A Little Bit of Everything by Meghana Narayan and Michelle Carlos, 2-3

Amaya is a little bit of her mama and a little bit of her papa. Her story is created through all of her experiences and memories. She shares this with her new sibling.

Mama's Panza by Isabel Quintero and Iliana Galvez, 2-3

A young boy describes different bellies, or "panzas". He talks about his Mama's panza and how he grew there. He can play drums on it, and he can hide behind it if he's feeling shy.

Mango Memories by Sita Singh and Nabi Ali, 2-3

Join an unnamed girl as she learns how to gather mangoes from the family trees. Her family members give her guidance to manage her fear as she climbs. Though she does not do as well as she hopes, she does gather her own mango memories, as all of her relatives have before her.

Martina Has Too Many Tias by Emma Otheguy and Sara Palacios, 2-3

A quiet girl overwhelmed by her rambunctious family finds a magical land of solitude only to discover what truly makes a home in this lively and magical bilingual picture book that reimagines the beloved Caribbean folktale "La Cucaracha Martina."

Marya Khan and the Awesome Adventure Park by Saadia Faruqi and Ani Bushry, 2-3

Spring break is finally here, and Marya could not be more excited. This year she, Hanna, and Alexa are going to Skye Adventure Park—the coolest theme park around! Most of all, Marya wants to do the obstacle course because it has a leaderboard that displays the fastest people's names, and Marya knows that she has to win and make it on that board!

Marya Khan and the Fabulous Jasmine Garden by Saadia Faruqi and Ani Bushry, 2-3

Marya is a sweet and competitive young girl. She submits a design for her class garden to become the group leader. She is selected to be co-leader with her worst enemy and learns about cooperation, organization and respect.

Marya Khan and the Spectacular Fall Festival by Saadia Faruqi and Ani Bushry, 2-3

Every year, Marya's family goes to the town's pumpkin patch and picks out the best pumpkin. But this year, after she sees her frenemy, Alexa, winning a big, cool pumpkin-shaped trophy, Marya knows she's got to win a trophy for something.

The Mermaid Princesses by Maya Cameron-Gordon and Mirelle Ortega, 2-3

Anaya, Shante and Kianna are sisters and mermaids of the sea. All three wonder who will become queen someday. When a problem becomes too big for any of them to solve, they find out who has what it takes. This fun adventure inspired by African mermaid myth, magic, and spirituality, reminds young readers about the importance of teamwork.

My Block Looks Like by Janelle Harper and Frank Morrison, 2-3

This book recognizes the beauty of the bodegas, subways, and playgrounds that characterize everyday life in the Bronx and pays homage to the ways that its residents have shaped pop culture through music, visual art, and dance.

Not Yet: The Story of an Unstoppable Skater by Zahra Lari, Hadley Davis, and Sara Alfageeh, 2-3

In this story of growth mindset, Zahra sets her mind to learn how to ice skate, but nobody believes in her. Zahra's determination is harder than ice and sharper than a blade, and she's not going to let anything get in the way of her ice-skating journey.

Party Diaries: Awesome Orange Birthday by Mitali Banerjee Ruths and Aaliya Jaleel, 2-3

Priya is excited to plan her aunty's birthday party. She will donate the money she makes to help the cutest endangered animal on the planet, the quokka! The party is quickly approaching; will she be able to get everything done?

Party Diaries: Starry Henna Night by Mitali Banerjee Ruths and Aaliya Jaleel, 2-3

Priya's party-planning business is hired to put together a henna-night party for teenagers! Can Priya create a perfect henna-night party, or will it be a flop?

The Perfect Sushi by Emily Satoko Seo and Mique Moriuchi, 2-3

Miko likes everything to be perfect. She works hard to make the perfect sushi for her grandmother's birthday, but can't get it quite right. Instead she buys her grandmother sushi made by a robot. Will her grandmother think it's perfect?

Put Your Shoes On and Get Ready by Raphael Warnock and TeMika Grooms, 2-3

Before Raphael Warnock became a pastor and the first Black senator from Georgia, he was a little boy whose father told him to get up, get dressed, put on his shoes, and get ready! From his work boots to his marching band shoes to his shiny lace-ups, Senator Reverend Warnock found the right shoes to fit his feet and carry him toward his dreams.

Ramadan Kareem by M.O. Yuksel and Hatem Aly, 2-3

Experience the joyful month of Ramadan with children and families around the world. From waking up for suhoor and fasting from dawn to dusk, to praying and preparing a meal to be shared for iftar, Ramadan is a time of increased spirituality, gratitude, charity, and empathy for all.

Rhythm by Jacki Azua Kramer and Taia Morely, 2-3

The main character's father has lost his job and businesses in her neighborhood are closing. She finds comfort in a large tree nearby and how it changes with the seasons.

Rivka's Presents by Laurie Wallmark and Adelina Lirius, 2-3

It's 1918 on the Lower East Side of New York City, and little Rivka is excited to start school. Rivka's father is sick with the flu, which means her Mama must work at the shirtwaist factory and Rivka needs to stay home and take care of her little sister. Rivka discovers that she can still learn, as she trades with her neighbors--trading chores for her lessons!

The Rock in My Throat by Kao Kalia Yang and Jiemel Lin, 2-3

In this moving true story, Kao Kalia Yang shares her experiences as a young Hmong refugee navigating life at home and at school. Having seen the poor treatment her parents received when making their best efforts at speaking English, she no longer speaks at school.

Rock Your Mocs by Laurel Goodluck and Madelyn Goodnight, 2-3

In this happy, vibrant nod to Rock Your Mocs Day, author Laurel Goodluck and artist Madelyn Goodnight celebrate the joy and power of wearing moccasins all year round, and the Native pride that comes with them.

Salat in Secret by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and Hatem Aly, 2-3

Muhammad is determined to pray five times a day when he receives a prayer mat for his birthday, but one of them takes place in the middle of the school day. This book is a beautifully accurate representation of a young Muslim boy finding the confidence to secure a place at school to pray.

Sami's Special Gift - An Eid al-Adha Story by M.O. Yuksel and Huseyin Sonmezay, 2-3

It's Eid al-Adha, and Sami wants to celebrate. But this year is different after his grandfather's passing. A touching picture book about kindness towards others.

Sejal Sinha Battles Superstorms by Maya Prasad and Abira Das, 2-3

Sejal is looking forward to celebrating Diwali with her family. Unfortunately, a hurricane is putting their house in danger. With the help of Sejal's favorite stuffed animal, Professor Cheetah, the two girls use Cardboard Box Magic to build their own Hurricane Hunter and fly into the eye of the hurricane!

Sejal Sinha Dives for Diamonds on Neptune by Maya Prasad and Abira Das, 2-3

In the third book in the chapter book series about a young Indian American girl who loves science and has a big imagination, Sejal and the gang soar through outer space! Ash has been working on a very cool science project about a theory that it rains diamonds on Neptune. But getting to Neptune might be harder than she and Ash think, especially when they find a couple of stowaways in their spaceship.

Sejal Sinha Swims with Sea Dragons by Maya Prasad and Abira Das, 2-3

Sejal is at the beach with her aunt, the scientist, when they find a sea dragon. Of course Sejal, her brother, Abu, and a surprise tag along will have to travel with the dragon back to its deep water home in a magical journey and meet many other deep sea animals along the way.

The Song That Called Them Home by David A. Robertson and Maya McKibbin, 2-3

One summer day, Lauren and her little brother, James, go on a trip to the land with their Moshom (grandfather). They are thrown overboard their canoe and when Lauren surfaces she sees her brother being pulled away by the Memekwesewak — creatures who live in and around water and like to interfere with humans. Lauren must follow the Memekwesewak through a portal and along a watery path to find and bring back James.

Swimming Toward A Dream by Reem Faruqi and Asma Enayeh, 2-3

Growing up in Syria, Yusra learned how to swim before she could walk. She dreamed of swimming in the Olympics one day. When war came to Syria, her home and pool were no longer safe. Yusra and her sister crossed the sea in search of safety.

Tala Learns to Siva by Kealani Netane and Dung Ho, 2-3

Tala wishes that she could dance the traditional Samoan dance, the tualuga, just like her Aunty Sina. But Tala's legs are too bouncy, her arms are too stiff, and she doesn't have Aunty's 'glow' when she dances. Will she find the strength and inspiration to help her dance?

They Built Me For Freedom: The Story of Juneteenth and Houston's Emancipation Park by Tonya Duncan Ellis and Jenin Mohammed, 2-3

A moving picture book about the history of Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas—and the origins of Juneteenth.

To See Clearly: A Portrait of David Hockney by Evan Turk, 2-3

Growing up under the gray skies of England during World War II, David Hockney used art to brighten his world. He discovered that the more he looked and drew, the more he could see beneath the surface to find beauty, possibility, and new perspectives. David always found something to love in the most ordinary things, uniquely capturing the life of his subjects.

Too Much: My Great Big Native Family by Laurel Goodluck and Bridget George, 2-3

Russell is excited to practice his role in the school play, but every time he attempts to do so, it is family time! Russell becomes frustrated with his big, loud family but comes to understand that nobody loves him as much as they do!

Two New Years by Richard Ho and Lynn Scurfield, 2-3

A family describes how they celebrate both Rosh Hashanah and Lunar New Year. They discover that while many traditions are significant and special, they are more similar than they are different.

Uno Mas, One More by Silvia Lopez and Olivia Sua, 2-3

A Latino family with 5 children and many pets play music every evening. Members of the community come to the home and are let in until the house gets so full it falls apart. The community helps to rebuild the house.

We Could Fly by Rhiannon Giddens and Briana Mukodiri Uchendu, 2-3

Drawing on lyrics from the song "We Could Fly", which in turn draws on a heritage of African folklore, this dialogue between a mother and daughter paired with beautiful illustrations celebrates love, resilience, and the spiritual power of tradition and shared cultural memories.

Across So Many Seas by Ruth Behar, 4-8

This multi-generational tale weaves together the stories of four young Jewish girls as they leave their homes in Spain (1492), Turkey (1923), Cuba (1961) and America (2003). Themes of family, music, and hope unite them.

Amil and the After by Veera Hiranandani, 4-8

Both Muslim and Hindu, twelve-year-old Amil is not sure what home means anymore after surviving the partition of India. The memory of the long and difficult journey from their hometown in what is now Pakistan lives with him. Through letters and drawings to his head mother in his journal, Amil tries to make sense of a chaotic world and find hope for himself and his newly reborn nation.

And Yet You Shine by Supriya Kelkar, 4-8

The history of the Kohinoor Diamond is defined. Kelkar's art makes this history appealing even to those who know no history of India at all, and the back matter will engage those interested in the historical situations that caused the movement of this particular diamond specimen from its original home.

Art Club by Rashad Doucet, 4-8

Dale loves art and wants to be a comic artist when he grows up, but it seems the adults around him don't believe it's a viable job that can earn him a steady income. Dale decides to prove them all wrong by starting an art club after school. He manages to recruit new friends Kya, Mackenzie, and Aren, and together they must figure out a way to raise the necessary funds to start the club.

Blue Stars: The Vice Principal Problem: A Graphic Novel by Kekla Magoon and Cynthia Leitich Smith, 4-8

When 2 cousins have to move in with their grandmother allowing their parents time to follow their careers, it is a bit difficult at first. There is not a lot of bonding until they realize their Vice-Principal is a danger to all they love about their school. They listen to their Grandmother who has always told them to find their voice and use it when needed. The girls make changes in the process of recognizing each of their strengths.

Bollywood Academy Book Two: Melody Queen by Puneet Shandal, 4-8

Twelve-year-old Simi's life is set. First: graduate from the Bollywood Academy, school to future stars. Second: become a mega-famous actor, just like her showbiz parents. There's only one problem: Simi would rather make music than act, and music is a profession dominated by men. Can Simi navigate the gender barriers of the industry to prove she has what it takes to become Bollywood's next big music composer?

Clairboyance by Kristiana Kahakauwila, 4-8

Perfect for fans of Debbi Michiko Florence and Lisa Greenwald, Clairboyance's heartfelt and sweet coming of age story with a touch of magic follows Clara as her life is turned upside down when she discovers that she has boy-specific ESP abilities.

Club Kick Out!: Into the Ring by Steph Mided, 4-8

When the school principal cancels all of the clubs at Sasha's school, kids are left without a space to let their creativity shine. Just when she thinks all hope is lost, a class project leads Sasha and her new friends to discover pro wrestling, which gets all their creative juices flowing. Can Sasha and her friends convince the principal to give the school a match they'll never forget?

Continental Drifter by Kathy Macleod, 4-8

With a Thai mother and an American father, Kathy lives in two different worlds. She spends most of the year in Bangkok, where she's secretly counting the days till summer vacation. That's when her family travels for twenty-four hours straight to finally arrive in a tiny seaside town in Maine.

Coyote Queen by Jessica Vitalis, 4-8

When twelve-year-old Fud decides that she must get herself and her mother out of a bad situation, she works with her neighbor Leigh to enter the Miss Black Gold pageant, hoping that the prize money will be enough. An eerie connection to a coyote pack helps her see who she's meant to be when the pageant doesn't go as planned.

Cruzita and the Mariacheros by Ashley Granillo, 4-8

Cruzita is a Mexican-American girl who feels she is not Mexican enough. She doesn't speak Spanish well, but she doesn't fit in white America either. When her beloved great uncle dies, the family bakery business is in jeopardy and Cruzita feels her world is falling apart. Will becoming a mariachi help save the family business and more importantly will Cruzita learn to belong somewhere?

Cut Loose by Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz, 4-8

The show stopping sequel to *The Chance to Fly*, which New York Times bestselling author Chris Colfer called “unique, inspirational, and full of heart,” *Cut Loose* by Tony Award winner Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz is an uplifting story about embracing your strengths, standing out, and standing up for what you believe in.

Dancing in the Storm by Arnie Darnell Specht and Shannon Hitchcock, 4-8

Kate’s life in Baton Rouge, full of friends and family, gymnastics and Girl Scouts, is just plain great. But then, at the age of twelve, she suddenly develops a mysterious shoulder pain that won’t go away... and that will change her life forever.

The Death and Life of Benny Brooks: Sort of a Memoir by Ethan Long, 4-5

Benny Brooks has a lot on his mind, and if that weren’t enough, his parents got divorced over the summer and his father then received a serious diagnosis. Benny just wants to survive the fifth grade—and maybe learn how to finally ride a bike while he’s at it.

Do You Know Them? Families Lost and Found After the Civil War by Shana Keller and Laura Freeman, 4-8

Lettie seeks to help people connect with loved ones after the Civil War where many families were separated during slavery or during the war. She reads the ads in the newspaper to the congregation to help make connections.

The Door Is Open: Stories of Celebration and Community by 11 Desi Voices by Veera Hiranandani, Supriya Kelkar, Maulik Pancholy, Simran Jeet Singh, Aisha Saeed, Reem Faruqi, Rajani LaRocca, Naheed Hasnat, Sayantani DasGupta, Mitali Perkins, and Henna Khan, 4-8

Discover stories of fear, triumph, and spectacular celebration in the fictional town of Maple Grove, New Jersey, where the local Indian-American and Pakistani-American kids gather at the community center. When the city threatens to close the community center, everyone rallies to keep their beloved cultural hub open.

The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman by Mari Lowe, 4-8

Shaindy is a twelve-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl who struggles in school and has no good friends. She watches with envy as her next-door neighbor, Gayil, excels socially and academically. They have little to do with each other, and it comes as a surprise when Shaindy looks out her window one September evening and sees Gayil staring out at her from her own window with a sign reading want to know a secret?

Duel by Jessixa Bagley and Aaron Bagley, 4-8

Sixth grader Lucy and eighth grader GiGi are sisters and enemies, both struggling as a result of the death of their father and their overwhelmed mother. When they agree to a fencing duel, a passion of both girls, the whole school picks sides. Will either sister be victorious?

Drawing Deena by Hena Khan, 4-5

Deena is a young Pakistani American with artistic aspirations, but her parents would rather see her work towards a more traditional occupation. Throughout the book, Deena learns to advocate for herself and her artistic dreams.

Eagle Drums by Nasugraq Rainey Hopson, 4-8

Pinja must travel a mountain in search of obsidian his family needs on a journey his two older brothers did not survive. He finds himself kidnapped by Golden Eagles who have lessons to teach him, if only he will learn. His life depends on it.

Emma and the Love Spell by Meredith Ireland, 4-8

To keep her best friend — and secret crush — Evangeline from moving away, 12-year-old Korean-American adoptee Emma Davidson casts a love spell on Evangeline's parents so they won't get divorced, which backfires spectacularly.

Fake Chinese Sounds by Jing Jing Tsong, 4-8

Rising fifth grader faces racist bullying and becomes more aware of microaggressions as her grandma from Taiwan comes to visit her in the US. She finds paths to deal with the bullying through food that allows for new found connections with the bully and other members of her class. The format of the graphic novel is creative with Chinese (translated into English) in an alternative color speaking bubble.

Finally Heard by Kelly Yang, 4-8

Lina, a ten-year-old, Chinese-American girl, struggles to stay true to herself and not give in to cyberbullying while promoting her family business on social media.

Finding Papa by Angela Pham Krans and Thi Bui, 4-8

Follows young Mai and her mother's perilous journey from Vietnam to America to find Papa--who left ahead of them to start a better life for their family.

Finn and Ezra's Bar Mitzvah Time Loop by Joshua S. Levy, 4-8

Finn and Ezra's bar mitzvah weekend takes on a Groundhog Day twist in this hilarious and magical middle grade novel.

The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn by Sally J. Pia, 4-8

Neurodivergent Maudie is ready to spend an amazing summer with her dad, but will she find the courage to tell him a terrible secret about life with her mom and new stepdad? Maudie finds friendship, surfing, and trust might help her navigate the rough waters.

Flora La Fresca & The Art of Friendship by Veronica Chambers and Sujean Rim, 4-5

Flora is a 10-year old Panamanian-American girl. When her best friend Clara moves away, Flora struggles to find a new friend while still remaining long distance best friends with Clara. To complicate things, Clara's sister is obsessed with preparing for her Quinceañera.

Game of Freedom: Mestre Bimba and the Art of Capoeira by Duncan Tonatiuh, 4-5

This is a story about a legendary capoeira player, Mestre Bimba. Mestre Bimba resisted racial oppression through art and turned a marginalized practice into a global phenomenon.

Girl Who Sang by Estelle Nadel and Sammy Savos, 4-8

The story of a young girl in Poland who finds herself and her family's freedom taken during WWII when the Nazi army entered Poland and arrived in her small town. How she survived and how she found a home in America is the focus of this memoir.

Glenn Burke, Game Changer: The Man who Invented the High Five by Phil Bildner and Daniel J. O'Brien, 4-5

An inspiring picture book biography about Glenn Burke, the first Major League Baseball player to come out as gay, and the story of how he created the world's most recognizable handshake, the high five.

The Golden Frog Games by Claribel Ortega, 4-8

After proving themselves in the Impossible Task in book one, all eyes are on the most famous Spare witches in the Twelve Towns: Seven Salazar, Valley Pepperhorn, and Thorn Laroux, as they compete in the legendary magical tournament known as the Golden Frog Games. As they attempt to unravel the mystery of who is sabotaging the contestants, Seven is harboring a dangerous secret: while she's supposed to be able to communicate with animals, the voices she hears most clearly belong to monsters, and one spine-chilling voice is the loudest of all...

Grounded by Aisha Saeed, Huda Al-Marashi, Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, and S.K. Ali, 4-8

When a thunderstorm grounds all flights following a huge Muslim convention, four unlikely kids are thrown together. Feek is stuck babysitting his younger sister, but he'd rather be writing a poem that's good enough for his dad, a famous poet and rapper. Hanna is intent on finding a lost cat in the airport—and also on avoiding a conversation with her dad about him possibly remarrying. Sami is struggling with his anxiety and worried that he'll miss the karate tournament that he's trained so hard for. And Nora has to deal with the pressure of being the daughter of a prominent congresswoman, when all she really wants to do is make fun NokNok videos. These kids don't seem to have much in common—yet.

Growing Up Under a Red Flag: A Memoir of Surviving the Chinese Cultural Revolution by Vinh Chang Compestine and Xinmei Liu, 4-5

The author describes what life was like in China, as she was growing up during the time Mao Zedong came to power. Her father is taken away and she is forced to forget about her dreams of one day visiting America. As Mao eventually loses power, the author finds strength in herself and is today living the dreams she had as a young girl.

Gut Reaction by Kirby Larson and Quinn Wyatt, 4-8

From Newbery Honor author Kirby Larson and her daughter, debut author Quinn Wyatt, comes a poignant, sometimes silly, and always moving story of coming to grips with grief and finding the sweet filling inside every treat. -Scholastic

Hidden Truths by Elly Swartz, 4-8

Dani and Eric have been best friends since Dani moved next door in second grade. They bond over donuts, comic books, and camping on the Cape. Until one summer when everything changes.

House Before Falling Into the Sea by Ann Suk Wang and Hanna Cha, 4-5

When Kyung Tak's family begins taking in refugees fleeing the sirens and war, she has moments of frustration due to the crowding and noise. Yet, with the help of her family and others, she recognizes the hope and joy gained through helping others in a dangerous time for her country.

I'm From Here Too by Kashmira Sheth, 4-8

When Anoop joins a new class, separated from longtime friends, aspects of his identity—especially his long hair, covered with a patka—draw attention in new and uncomfortable ways. At the same time, his beloved grandfather in India is nearing death, leading Anoop to think about faith and identity and his place in the world, especially as attacks on American Sikhs accelerate and he is reminded of his grandfather's experiences during Partition.

Indigenous Ingenuity: A Celebration of Traditional North American Knowledge by Diedre Havrelock and Edward Kay, 4-5

Learn about the many significant contributions Native Americans have made to science, medicine, technology, and engineering. Readers who enjoy STEM activities will can dig deeper with explorations provided in each chapter.

Isabel In Bloom by Mae Respicio and Gica Tam, 4-8

A girl discovers a connection between her home in the Philippines and her new home in the U.S. through a special garden in this middle grade novel that celebrates nourishment and growth.

Jawbreaker by Christina Wyman, 4-8

Max Plink's life is complicated. Her parents aren't getting along. The school bullies are relentless—and her own sister is the cruelest of them. Worst of all, her mouth is a mess. With a mismatched puzzle of a jaw, Max has a Class II malocclusion, otherwise known as a severe overbite. She already has braces, which means she lives on Advil and soft foods after each orthodontist appointment. But now Max has to wear painful (and totally awkward) orthodontic headgear nicknamed "the jawbreaker."

Just Keep Walking by Erin Soderberg Downing, 4-8

Two years after her parents' surprising and painful split, twelve-year-old Jo and her mom find themselves on a one-hundred-mile hike on the Superior Hiking Trail. They'll encounter bears, moose, and other wildlife and meet an assortment of unlikely friends. But as one obstacle after the next continues to test her strength and ultimate survival, Jo will have to confront her greatest fears head-on and learn how to be alone.

Lily Xiao Speaks Out by Nicole Chen, 4-8

Taiwanese-American Lily Xiao is a model student, who happens to be into grunge rock and secretly dreams of being a lead singer like Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam. But in order to fulfill her dream of going to Camp Rock Out this summer, she has to help her cousin Vivian, who is struggling in school as she learns English.

Lumbering Giants of Windy Pines by Mo Netz, 4-8

Jerry and her mother move to yet another motel in a small town. It is clear pretty early on that something is amiss in this place as the woods seem foreboding and the radio spontaneously speaks from between regular stations only at a certain time of night. When Jerry's Mom does not come home, she finds her father's Ren Faire sword and heads out to find her.

The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry by Anna Rose Johnson, 4-8

Lucy, a spirited French-Ojibwe orphan, is sent to the stormy waters of Lake Superior to live with a mysterious family of lighthouse-keepers—and, she hopes, to find the legendary necklace her father spent his life seeking.

Mabuhay! by Zachary Sterling, 4-8

First-generation Filipino siblings JJ and Althea struggle to belong at school. JJ wants to fit in with the crowd, while Althea wants to be accepted as she is. When Filipino folklore becomes more than just their mother's stories, can they embrace who they really are and save their family?

The Magic Paintbrush by Kate Zhang and Phoebe Zhong, 4-8

When Amy, a Chinese American girl, picks up an ancient paintbrush, it unwittingly unleashes the power to make her art real—and sometimes dangerous.

Mamie Tape Fights to Go to School by Traci Huahn and Michelle Jing Chan, 4-5

Mamie Tape desperately wanted to go to school, but Chinese children were not allowed to do so. Mamie and her parents fought the superintendent, school board, and the California supreme court for this right. Finally, the Chinese Primary School was created and Mamie was the first student to walk through their doors.

The Many Masks of Andy Zhou by Jack Cheng, 4-8

Andy Zhou is used to being what people need him to be: the good kid for his parents and, now, his grandparents from Shanghai, or the helpful sidekick for his best friend Cindy's plans and schemes. But, no matter how much Andy cares about his friends and family, it's hard not to feel pulled between all the ways he's meant to be, all the different faces he wears, and harder still to figure out if any of these masks is the real him.

My lost freedom: a Japanese American WWII story by George Takei and Michelle Lee, 4-8

A true story about growing up in Japanese American incarceration camps during World War II--from the iconic Star Trek actor, activist, and author of the New York Times bestselling graphic memoir *They Called Us Enemy*.

Nayra and the Djinn by Jasmin Omar Ata, 4-8

Nayra Mansour, a Muslim American girl, is helped on her journey to selfhood by a djinn. In this graphic novel, Jasmin Omar Ata has created a realistic coming-of-age story with an enchanting dose of the fantastical about strength, identity, and, most of all, friendship.

The New Girl by Cassandra Calin, 4-8

Lia immigrates to Canada leaving everything she has ever known behind. How will she adjust to a new school, new language and a totally new culture all the while facing the usual challenges of puberty?

Next Stop by Debbie Fong, 4-5

Pia is setting off on a bus trip to Lake Cessarine, which is known for its magical healing powers. Pia is dealing with her own grief as she mourns the loss of her younger brother. She believes she is responsible for his death, which leads to a complicated relationship between Pia and her mother.

On All Other Nights: A Passover Celebration in 14 Stories by Chris Baron (editor) and Shannon Hochman, 4-8

In this collection of short stories, 14 bestselling and award-winning authors each reimagine a different step of the seder for today's young readers. Through historical and contemporary fiction, verse and prose, fiction and nonfiction, these gifted writers from different Jewish traditions and backgrounds gather around the seder table and invite everyone to join them.

The Other Side of Perfect by Melanie Florence and Richard Scrimger, 4-8

Two kids from two different worlds form an unexpected friendship in this lens into the interworking of empathy. Cody and Autumn come from very different backgrounds (he's White and poor, she's Indigenous and well-off) but a chance meeting means their lives are intertwined in ways neither expected. In spite of their differences, they find that supporting each other will help them both.

The Partition Project by Saadia Faruqi, 4-8

Mahnoor is not excited to have her Dadi move from Pakistan to live with them until Dadi's childhood memories of the Partition coincide with Mahnoor's need for a documentary topic for her journalism class. As details of Dadi's life are revealed, Dadi's personal story feels a lot more like the breaking news that Maha loves so much. But as friendship drama, journalistic responsibilities, and the weight of memories weigh on Maha and Dadi will Maha be able to share Dadi's story?

Puzzled: a Memoir by Pan Cooke, 4-8

A graphic-novel memoir that humorously and candidly explores the author's childhood experiences with undiagnosed OCD. Through a series of anxious thoughts and rituals, Cooke's story sheds light on the struggles of living with the condition and emphasizes the importance of self-empathy and understanding.

Race to the Truth: Exclusion and the Chinese American Story by Sarah-Soonling Blackburn and Kristen Uroda, 4-8

Until now, you've only heard one side of the story, but Chinese American history extends far beyond the railroads. Here's the true story of America, from the Chinese American perspective.

Sail Me Away Home by Anne Clare LeZotte, 4-8

Mary Lambert feels adrift as a teacher in Martha's Vineyard until she is invited to travel with missionaries to visit deaf schools in Paris where she hopes to learn methods for teaching she can bring back home. But traveling with the missionaries may be a betrayal of her friends, her own values, and her safety.

Saving Sunshine by Saadia Faruqi and Shazleen Khan, 4-8

A Muslim family faces all the normal difficulties of kids in middle school with the added pressure of being a different religion than most of those around them. It highlights the pleasures and pains of being Muslim in the US.

The Secret of the Ravens by Joanna Cacao, 4-8

Orphans Elliot and Liza survive by completing magical quests offered by message-carrying ravens. When a quest goes wrong and Liza is poisoned, Elliot finds himself making deals with a dark mage with mysterious motives of her own.

Shad Hadid and the Forbidden Alchemist by George Jreije, 4-8

After defeating the necromancers and bringing alchemy back to the Alexandria Academy, Shad Hadid is ready for an exciting second term at school. It doesn't hurt that he's being called a hero, but the new lessons are harder than he expected and his mentor, Kahem, is nowhere to be found.

Shark Teeth by Sherr Winston, 4-8

Mama promises things are different now. She's got a good job, she's stopped drinking, stopped going out every night. It's almost enough to make Kita believe her this time. But even as Kita's life is going well, she can't shake the feeling that everything could go up in flames at any moment. When her assistant principal and trusted dance coach start asking questions about her home life, Kita is more determined than ever to keep up appearances and make sure her family stays together-even if it means falling apart herself.

Shiny Misfits by Maysoon Zayid and Shadia Amin, 4-8

Bay Ann has Cerebral Palsy, but that is the least of her problems. Bay Ann dreams of being famous by going viral, but every time she is up against her rival, Alyee Maq, he finds a way to outshine her.

Shira and Esther's Double Dream Debut by Anna E. Jordan, 4-8

When two Jewish girls born the same day in the same hospital meet up just before they turn 13, magic is set in motion.-Kirkus

Something Like Home by Andrea Beatriz Arango, 4-8

Laura's parents are both struggling with addiction, so she is sent to live with her aunt, who she is not very close with. She adopts a puppy and hopes that she can train it to become a therapy dog. That way, she may be able to find a way to reunite with her parents.

Sparkle by Lakita Wilson, 4-8

After twelve-year-old aspiring superstar, Sparkle Moore, is diagnosed with alopecia, she must navigate family, friends, and her own self-esteem with the added challenge of losing her hair.

Step by Step: How the Lincoln School Marchers Blazed a Trail to Justice by Debbie Rigaud, Carlotta Penn, and Nysha Lilly, 4-5

This is the true story of Joyce Clemons, who along with other black students and their mothers, marched every day for two years to the white school they were not allowed to attend. This violated the law in their city, so they kept fighting for equal rights. Eventually, this group of students was allowed to attend the same school as their white peers. The students who marched are continuing to tell their stories in an effort to enhance social justice for all.

Stuntboy In-Between Time by Jason Reynolds and Raul the Third, 4-5

Portico (aka Stunt Boy) imagines he is a superhero, but his superpowers can't stop his parents from splitting up. He also battles with anxiety which he calls "the frets". Surrounded by his best friends, a variety of zany characters, and challenges such as getting stuck in an elevator, catching 16 iguanas, and coloring on the walls of an empty apartment building, make this hybrid graphic novel chapter book a super-funny read.

Summer at Squee by Andrea Wang, 4-8

From Newbery Honor-winning author Andrea Wang, a new middle grade novel about a Chinese American tween who attends a Boston-based Chinese cultural overnight camp--and the many ways it transforms her.

Tree of Life: How a Holocaust Sapling Inspired the World by Eliza Boxer and Alianna Rozentsveig, 4-5

This is the true story of a maple tree sapling planted in the Terezin prison camp during the Holocaust. After the sapling was smuggled into the camp and planted, the Jewish prisoners took turns caring for the tree, which brought them hope in the midst of darkness. Over the years, hundreds of saplings originating from the original tree were planted around the world and continue to grow. They are constant reminders of that time in history, and the hope that grew in the years following the conclusion of the war.

We Still Belong by Christine Day, 4-8

We Still Belong by Christine Day is a heartfelt middle-grade novel that follows Wesley Wilder, a young indigenous girl navigating the challenges of identity, belonging, and friendship. As she prepares for a cultural presentation at school, Wesley learns to embrace her heritage and finds strength in her community and family.

Wildfire by Breena Bard, 4-8

In the aftermath of a fire that destroys her family's home, Julianna and her family relocate to Portland, Oregon. But moving on and forgetting becomes impossible when Carson, an old friend from her hometown who may have had a hand in starting the wildfires is suddenly back in her life. Julianna can't seem to catch a break, but when two new friends invite her to join their school's conservation club, she learns that maybe she can turn her anger into something powerful.

With Twice the Love, Dessie Mei by Justina Chen, 4-8

On Dessie's first day at her new middle school, she meets Donna, who it turns out is a twin sister she never knew she had! The two girls learn all about nature and nurture as they get to know each other's adopted families. Although cultural and personality differences challenge their friendship, a rally for an important cause (fighting AAPI hate) brings them, and their families, together.

Across So Many Seas by Ruth Behar, 4-8

This multi-generational tale weaves together the stories of four young Jewish girls as they leave their homes in Spain (1492), Turkey (1923), Cuba (1961) and America (2003). Themes of family, music, and hope unite them.

Alebrijes by Donna Barba Higuera, 6-8

For 400 years, Earth has been a barren wasteland. The few humans that survive scrape together an existence in the cruel city of Pocatel – or go it alone in the wilderness beyond, filled with wandering spirits and wyrms. They don't last long. 13 year-old pickpocket Leandro and his sister Gabi do what they can to forge a life in Pocatel. The city does not take kindly to Cascabel like them – the descendants of those who worked the San Joaquin Valley for generations.

Amil and the After by Veera Hiranandani, 4-8

Both Muslim and Hindu, twelve-year-old Amil is not sure what home means anymore after surviving the partition of India. The memory of the long and difficult journey from their hometown in what is now Pakistan lives with him. Through letters and drawings to his head mother in his journal, Amil tries to make sense of a chaotic world and find hope for himself and his newly reborn nation.

And Then, Boom! by Lisa Fipps, 6-8

A gripping new novel in verse by the author of the Printz Honor-winning *Starfish*, featuring a poverty-stricken boy who bravely rides out all the storms life keeps throwing at him.-Penguin Random House

And Yet You Shine by Supriya Kelkar, 4-8

The history of the Kohinoor Diamond is defined. Kelkar's art makes this history appealing even to those who know no history of India at all, and the back matter will engage those interested in the historical situations that caused the movement of this particular diamond specimen from its original home.

Art Club by Rashad Doucet, 4-8

Dale loves art and wants to be a comic artist when he grows up, but it seems the adults around him don't believe it's a viable job that can earn him a steady income. Dale decides to prove them all wrong by starting an art club after school. He manages to recruit new friends Kya, Mackenzie, and Aren, and together they must figure out a way to raise the necessary funds to start the club.

Blue Stars: The Vice Principal Problem: A Graphic Novel by Kekla Magoon and Cynthia Leitich Smith, 4-8

When 2 cousins have to move in with their grandmother allowing their parents time to follow their careers, it is a bit difficult at first. There is not a lot of bonding until they realize their Vice-Principal is a danger to all they love about their school. They listen to their Grandmother who has always told them to find their voice and use it when needed. The girls make changes in the process of recognizing each of their strengths.

Bollywood Academy Book Two: Melody Queen by Puneet Shandal, 4-8

Twelve-year-old Simi's life is set. First: graduate from the Bollywood Academy, school to future stars. Second: become a mega-famous actor, just like her showbiz parents. There's only one problem: Simi would rather make music than act, and music is a profession dominated by men. Can Simi navigate the gender barriers of the industry to prove she has what it takes to become Bollywood's next big music composer?

Buzzing by Samuel Sattin and Rye Hickman, 6-8

As a lonely twelve-year-old kid with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), everything from studying to looking in the mirror becomes a battle between him and a swarm of unhelpful thoughts. The strict therapy his mother insists on doesn't seem to be working, but when a group of friends invites him to join their after-school role-playing game, the thoughts feel a little less loud, and the world feels a little brighter.

Clairboyance by Kristiana Kahakauwil, 4-8

Perfect for fans of Debbi Michiko Florence and Lisa Greenwald, Clairboyance's heartfelt and sweet coming of age story with a touch of magic follows Clara as her life is turned upside down when she discovers that she has boy-specific ESP abilities.

Club Kick Out!: Into the Ring by Steph Mided, 4-8

When the school principal cancels all of the clubs at Sasha's school, kids are left without a space to let their creativity shine. Just when she thinks all hope is lost, a class project leads Sasha and her new friends to discover pro wrestling, which gets all their creative juices flowing. Can Sasha and her friends convince the principal to give the school a match they'll never forget?

The Color of Sound by Emily Barth Isler, 6-8

Twelve-year-old Rosie is a musical prodigy whose synesthesia allows her to see music in colors. She's never told anyone this, though. She already stands out more than enough as a musical "prodigy" who plays better than most adults. Rosie's mom expects her to become a professional violinist. But this summer, Rosie refuses to play.

Continental Drifter by Kathy Macleod, 4-8

With a Thai mother and an American father, Kathy lives in two different worlds. She spends most of the year in Bangkok, where she's secretly counting the days till summer vacation. That's when her family travels for twenty-four hours straight to finally arrive in a tiny seaside town in Maine.

Coyote Queen by Jessica Vitalis, 4-8

When twelve-year-old Fud decides that she must get herself and her mother out of a bad situation, she works with her neighbor Leigh to enter the Miss Black Gold pageant, hoping that the prize money will be enough. An eerie connection to a coyote pack helps her see who she's meant to be when the pageant doesn't go as planned.

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Cruzita is a Mexican-American girl who feels she is not Mexican enough. She doesn't speak Spanish well, but she doesn't fit in white America either. When her beloved great uncle dies, the family bakery business is in jeopardy and Cruzita feels her world is falling apart. Will becoming a mariachi help save the family business and more importantly will Cruzita learn to belong somewhere?

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The show stopping sequel to *The Chance to Fly*, which New York Times bestselling author Chris Colfer called "unique, inspirational, and full of heart," *Cut Loose* by Tony Award winner Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz is an uplifting story about embracing your strengths, standing out, and standing up for what you believe in.

Dancing in the Storm by Arnie Darnell Specht and Shannon Hitchcock, 4-8

Kate's life in Baton Rouge, full of friends and family, gymnastics and Girl Scouts, is just plain great. But then, at the age of twelve, she suddenly develops a mysterious shoulder pain that won't go away... and that will change her life forever.

Deep Water by Jamie Sumner, 6-8

Tully Birch is determined to be the youngest kid to swim across Lake Tahoe, but as she makes her way across the lake, mile by slow mile, all that time left alone with her thoughts allows memories to surface. Tully braves her own thoughts and an impending storm to achieve something no one else has ever done - and maybe, just maybe, because this achievement may make her mom come back.

The Do More Club by Dana Kramaroff, 6-8

Ever since twelve-year-old Josh Kline found an antisemitic note in his family's mailbox in third grade, he has felt uncomfortable about his Jewish identity. At a new school where he's pretty sure he's the only Jew, he's hoping to just keep religion out of everything... until the morning someone sprays swastikas all over the building. That's when everything changes.

Do You Know Them? Families Lost and Found After the Civil War by Shana Keller and Laura Freeman, 4-8

Lettie seeks to help people connect with loved ones after the Civil War where many families were separated during slavery or during the war. She reads the ads in the newspaper to the congregation to help make connections.

Don't Want to Be Your Monster by Deke Moulton, 6-8

In this humorous and delightfully spooky novel for young readers, two vampire brothers, Adam and Victor, must overcome their sibling rivalry to solve a series of town murders. As they grapple with their identities as vampires hiding among humans, they face the threat of a vampire hunter targeting their family. Can they unite and stop the killer before it's too late?

The Door Is Open: Stories of Celebration and Community by 11 Desi Voices by Veera Hiranandani, Supriya Kelkar, Maulik Pancholy, Simran Jeet Singh, Aisha Saeed, Reem Faruqi, Rajani LaRocca, Naheed Hasnat, Sayantani DasGupta, Mitali Perkins, and Hena Khan, 4-8

Discover stories of fear, triumph, and spectacular celebration in the fictional town of Maple Grove, New Jersey, where the local Indian-American and Pakistani-American kids gather at the community center. When the city threatens to close the community center, everyone rallies to keep their beloved cultural hub open.

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Shaindy is a twelve-year-old Orthodox Jewish girl who struggles in school and has no good friends. She watches with envy as her next-door neighbor, Gayil, excels socially and academically. They have little to do with each other, and it comes as a surprise when Shaindy looks out her window one September evening and sees Gayil staring out at her from her own window with a sign reading want to know a secret?

Duel by Jessixa Bagley and Aaron Bagley, 4-8

Sixth grader Lucy and eighth grader GiGi are sisters and enemies, both struggling as a result of the death of their father and their overwhelmed mother. When they agree to a fencing duel, a passion of both girls, the whole school picks sides. Will either sister be victorious?

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Pinja must travel a mountain in search of obsidian his family needs on a journey his two older brothers did not survive. He finds himself kidnapped by Golden Eagles who have lessons to teach him, if only he will learn. His life depends on it.

Elle Campbell Wins the Weekend by Ben Kahn, 6-8

All Elle Campbell wants to do is meet their hero, non-binary icon Nuri Grena. So when Elle learns that Nuri is coming to town for book signing on Saturday, Elle is thrilled. It's the perfect chance to meet their hero! Elle's never been happier since they came out as non-binary, but they have a lot of questions -- questions only Nuri can answer.

Emma and the Love Spell by Meredith Ireland, 4-8

To keep her best friend — and secret crush — Evangeline from moving away, 12-year-old Korean-American adoptee Emma Davidson casts a love spell on Evangeline's parents so they won't get divorced, which backfires spectacularly.

Fake Chinese Sounds by Jing Jing Tsong, 4-8

Rising fifth grader faces racist bullying and becomes more aware of microaggressions as her grandma from Taiwan comes to visit her in the US. She finds paths to deal with the bullying through food that allows for new found connections with the bully and other members of her class. The format of the graphic novel is creative with Chinese (translated into English) in an alternative color speaking bubble.

The Fight for the Hidden Realm by Siobhan McDermott, 6-8

Outsider orphan Yeung Zhi Ging's only hope of escape from her village is to win the single invite to train as a Silhouette: an apprentice to the immortals. After unusual circumstances give her a second chance as a Silhouette, Zhi Ging must face the challenging trials set by her teachers in order to prove she's worthy--despite her rivals' attempts to sabotage her and the looming threat of the Fui Gwai, an evil spirit that turns people into grey-eyed thralls. When the impossible happens and the Fui Gwai attack the Silhouettes, can Zhi Ging use her newly uncovered talents to save her friends and the world beyond?

Finally Heard by Kelly Yang, 4-8

Lina, a ten-year-old, Chinese-American girl, struggles to stay true to herself and not give in to cyberbullying while promoting her family business on social media.

Finding Papa by Angela Pham Krans and Thi Bui, 4-8

Follows young Mai and her mother's perilous journey from Vietnam to America to find Papa--who left ahead of them to start a better life for their family"-- Provided by publisher.

Finn and Ezra's Bar Mitzvah Time Loop by Joshua S. Levy, 4-8

Finn and Ezra's bar mitzvah weekend takes on a Groundhog Day twist in this hilarious and magical middle grade novel.

The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn by Sally J. Pla, 4-8

Neurodivergent Maudie is ready to spend an amazing summer with her dad, but will she find the courage to tell him a terrible secret about life with her mom and new stepdad? Maudie finds friendship, surfing, and trust might help her navigate the rough waters.

Girl Who Sang by Estelle Nadel and Sammy Savos, 4-8

The story of a young girl in Poland who finds herself and her family's freedom taken during WWII when the Nazi army entered Poland and arrived in her small town. How she survived and how she found a home in America is the focus of this memoir.

The Golden Frog Games by Claribel Ortega, 4-8

After proving themselves in the Impossible Task in book one, all eyes are on the most famous Spare witches in the Twelve Towns: Seven Salazar, Valley Pepperhorn, and Thorn Laroux, as they compete in the legendary magical tournament known as the Golden Frog Games. As they attempt to unravel the mystery of who is sabotaging the contestants, Seven is harboring a dangerous secret: while she's supposed to be able to communicate with animals, the voices she hears most clearly belong to monsters, and one spine-chilling voice is the loudest of all...

Gone Wolf by Amber McBride, 6-8

In the future, a Black girl known only as Inmate Eleven is kept confined—to be used as a biological match for the president's son, should he fall ill. She is called a Blue—the color of sadness. She lives in a small-small room with her dog, who is going wolf more often—he's pacing and imagining he's free. Inmate Eleven wants to go wolf too—she wants to know why she feels so Blue and what is beyond her small-small room.

Grounded by Aisha Saeed, Huda Al-Marashi, Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, and S.K. Ali, 4-8

When a thunderstorm grounds all flights following a huge Muslim convention, four unlikely kids are thrown together. Feek is stuck babysitting his younger sister, but he'd rather be writing a poem that's good enough for his dad, a famous poet and rapper. Hanna is intent on finding a lost cat in the airport—and also on avoiding a conversation with her dad about him possibly remarrying. Sami is struggling with his anxiety and worried that he'll miss the karate tournament that he's trained so hard for. And Nora has to deal with the pressure of being the daughter of a prominent congresswoman, when all she really wants to do is make fun NokNok videos. These kids don't seem to have much in common—yet.

Gut Reaction by Kirby Larson and Quinn Wyatt, 4-8

From Newbery Honor author Kirby Larson and her daughter, debut author Quinn Wyatt, comes a poignant, sometimes silly, and always moving story of coming to grips with grief and finding the sweet filling inside every treat. -Scholastic

Hidden Truths by Elly Swartz, 4-8

Dani and Eric have been best friends since Dani moved next door in second grade. They bond over donuts, comic books, and camping on the Cape. Until one summer when everything changes.

Hope in the Valley by Mitali Perkins, 6-8

Twelve-year-old Indian-American Pandita Paul doesn't like change. She's not ready to start middle school and leave the comforts of childhood behind. Most of all, Pandita doesn't want to feel like she's leaving her mother, who died a few years ago, behind. -Macmillan

I'm From Here Too by Kashmira Sheth, 4-8

When Anoop joins a new class, separated from longtime friends, aspects of his identity—especially his long hair, covered with a patka—draw attention in new and uncomfortable ways. At the same time, his beloved grandfather in India is nearing death, leading Anoop to think about faith and identity and his place in the world, especially as attacks on American Sikhs accelerate and he is reminded of his grandfather's experiences during Partition.

Isabel In Bloom by Mae Recpicio and Gica Tam, 4-8

A girl discovers a connection between her home in the Philippines and her new home in the U.S. through a special garden in this middle grade novel that celebrates nourishment and growth.

The Jake Show by Joshua S. Levy, 6-8

A Jewish middle schooler obsessed with television, Jake plays two roles in life for his divorced parents: Yaakov for his orthodox mother and Jacob for his secular father. When his new friends invite him to a summer at Camp Gershoni, he begins weaving a complicated web of lies to both sides of his family to make sure he'll be able to go. Will his scheme succeed or will he be tangled in his web?

Jawbreaker by Christina Wyman, 4-8

Max Plink's life is complicated. Her parents aren't getting along. The school bullies are relentless—and her own sister is the cruelest of them. Worst of all, her mouth is a mess. With a mismatched puzzle of a jaw, Max has a Class II malocclusion, otherwise known as a severe overbite. She already has braces, which means she lives on Advil and soft foods after each orthodontist appointment. But now Max has to wear painful (and totally awkward) orthodontic headgear nicknamed "the jawbreaker."

Just Keep Walking by Erin Soderberg Downing, 4-8

Two years after her parents' surprising and painful split, twelve-year-old Jo and her mom find themselves on a one-hundred-mile hike on the Superior Hiking Trail. They'll encounter bears, moose, and other wildlife and meet an assortment of unlikely friends. But as one obstacle after the next continues to test her strength and ultimate survival, Jo will have to confront her greatest fears head-on and learn how to be alone.

Just Lizzie by Karen Wilfrid, 6-8

Lizzie is an eighth grader who is facing a lot of change. Not only are there shifts within herself that she is struggling to identify, but many external changes are affecting her relationship with herself and the world. Lizzie's family has had to move from her childhood home; her brother is more distant since entering college; and the girl's friends are all into crushes and dating, an interest she doesn't share. After a lesson in science on asexual reproduction serves as a catalyst for introspection and self-discovery, Lizzie embarks on a journey of exploring asexuality and how it applies to her.

Just Shy of Ordinary by AJ Sass, 6-8

Follow the journey of nonbinary thirteen-year-old, Shai, as they navigate 9th grade a year early and explore their identity. This story highlights themes of friendship, self-discovery, and the courage to embrace one's true self amidst societal pressures.

Kyra, Just for Today by Sara Zarr, 6-8

Kyra's mom has been sober for five years. When she relapses, Kyra must navigate the realities of living with and loving an addicted mother.

The Labors of Hercules Beal by Gary D. Schmidt, 6-8

From award-winning author Gary D. Schmidt, a warm and witty novel in the tradition of *The Wednesday Wars*, in which a seventh grader has to figure out how to fulfill an assignment to perform the Twelve Labors of Hercules in real life—and makes discoveries about friendship, community, and himself along the way.

Lily Xiao Speaks Out by Nicole Chen, 4-8

Taiwanese-American Lily Xiao is a model student, who happens to be into grunge rock and secretly dreams of being a lead singer like Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam. But in order to fulfill her dream of going to Camp Rock Out this summer, she has to help her cousin Vivian, who is struggling in school as she learns English.

Lo & Behold by Wendy Mass and Gabi Mendez, 6-8

The last thing Addie wants to do is make a new friend, but when her dad's summer job takes them across the country, she meets Mateo and finds herself caught up in an exciting project. With the help of a virtual reality headset, she's suddenly scaling castle walls, dodging angry kittens, and seeing the world in whole new ways. Plus, she has an idea that could be bigger than anything she's imagined before, but can she right some wrongs first . . . or is it too late?

Louder Than Hunger by John Schu, 6-8

Jake volunteers at a nursing home because he likes helping people. He likes skating and singing, playing Bingo and Name That Tune, and reading mysteries and comics aloud to his teachers. He also likes avoiding people his own age... and the cruelty of mirrors... and food. Jake has read about kids like him in books—the weird one, the outsider—and would do anything not to be that kid, including shrink himself down to nothing. But the less he eats, the bigger he feels. How long can Jake punish himself before he truly disappears?

Lumbering Giants of Windy Pines by Mo Netz, 4-8

Jerry and her mother move to yet another motel in a small town. It is clear pretty early on that something is amiss in this place as the woods seem foreboding and the radio spontaneously speaks from between regular stations only at a certain time of night. When Jerry's Mom does not come home, she finds her father's Ren Faire sword and heads out to find her.

The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry by Anna Rose Johnson, 4-8

Lucy, a spirited French-Ojibwe orphan, is sent to the stormy waters of Lake Superior to live with a mysterious family of lighthouse-keepers—and, she hopes, to find the legendary necklace her father spent his life seeking.

Lunar New Year Love Story by Gene Luen Yang and LeUyen Pham, 6-8

Val is ready to give up on love. It's led to nothing but secrets and heartbreak, and she's pretty sure she's cursed--no one in her family, for generations, has ever had any luck with love. But then a chance encounter with a pair of cute lion dancers sparks something in Val. Could this be her chance to break the family curse? Or is she destined to live with a broken heart forever?

Mabuhay! By Zachary Sterling, 4-8

First-generation Filipino siblings JJ and Althea struggle to belong at school. JJ wants to fit in with the crowd, while Althea wants to be accepted as she is. When Filipino folklore becomes more than just their mother's stories, can they embrace who they really are and save their family?

The Magic Paintbrush by Kate Zhang and Phoebe Zhong, 4-8

When Amy, a Chinese American girl, picks up an ancient paintbrush, it unwittingly unleashes the power to make her art real--and sometimes dangerous.

Mani Semilla finds Her Quetzal Voice by Anne Lopera, 6-8

Mani Semilla is a Guatemalan/Filipino/Chinese-American middle school girl trying to deal with the pressures of puberty and middle school. She and many other girls in her school are being sexually harassed and the school principal will not take it seriously. Can Mani find her voice with the help of her Guatemalan aunt's letters?

The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams by Daniel Nayeri and Daniel Miyares, 6-8

A young boy travels the Silk Road with his master, Samir, a larger than life character and the so-called "Seller of Dreams." Monkey is determined to pay off his debt by saving Samir from the many attempts on his life from furious customers that Samir has swindled. Can he keep Samir alive long enough to pay off his debt?

The Many Masks of Andy Zhou by Jack Cheng, 4-8

Andy Zhou is used to being what people need him to be: the good kid for his parents and, now, his grandparents from Shanghai, or the helpful sidekick for his best friend Cindy's plans and schemes. But, no matter how much Andy cares about his friends and family, it's hard not to feel pulled between all the ways he's meant to be, all the different faces he wears, and harder still to figure out if any of these masks is the real him.

Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir by Pedro Martin, 6-8

When his parents tell the family their abuelito is coming to live with them, Pedro is excited to finally meet his grandpa after hearing all the legendary stories of him fighting crime and fighting in the Mexican Revolution. Pedro is less excited about the prospect of a road trip in a Winnebago with all eleven of his family members. This wild adventure of a road trip helps bring Pedro closer to his family and find his grito.

Mid-Air by Alicia D. Williams and Danica Novgorodoff, 6-8

Isaiah feels lost when his best friend Darius is killed in an accident. Visiting family out of state helps him heal, but an unspeakable event makes him wonder if he can keep it all together.

Muzoon: A Syrian Refugee Speaks Out by Muzoon Almellehan, 6-8

When her family had to flee Syria, 14-year-old Muzoon was told to pack only the most essential things--and so she packed her schoolbooks. This is the inspiring true story of a Syrian refugee who fought hard for what she needed--and grew into one of the world's leading advocates for education.

My lost freedom: a Japanese American WWII story by George Takei and Michelle Lee, 4-8

A true story about growing up in Japanese American incarceration camps during World War II--from the iconic Star Trek actor, activist, and author of the New York Times bestselling graphic memoir *They Called Us Enemy*.

Nayra and the Djinn by Jasmin Omar Ata, 4-8

Nayra Mansour, a Muslim American girl, is helped on her journey to selfhood by a djinn. In this graphic novel, Jasmin Omar Ata has created a realistic coming-of-age story with an enchanting dose of the fantastical about strength, identity, and, most of all, friendship.

The New Girl by Cassandra Calin, 4-8

Lia immigrates to Canada leaving everything she has ever known behind. How will she adjust to a new school, new language and a totally new culture all the while facing the usual challenges of puberty?

No Place Like Home by James Bird, 6-8

A heartfelt novel about a young boy named Opin, who embarks on a journey to find a place where he truly belongs after being separated from his family. Along the way, he navigates the challenges of foster care, discovers the importance of self-acceptance, and learns the value of home and family.

Not Quite a Ghost by Anne Ursu, 6-8

Violet is dealing with a lot: starting middle school, shifts in friend groups, moving to a new home, and struggling with an unexplained illness. Also, she starts to think her new room might be haunted in this middle grade novel inspired by Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper."

The Ojja-Wojja : a Horror-Mystery, or Whatever by Magdalene Visaggio, 6-8

When a school project about their hometown's supernatural history leads to a for-real ghost sighting, Val and Lanie realize Bolingbroke might not be as boring as they'd always thought. But after a run-in with the resident middle school queen bee (who also happens to be Lanie's former friend), they decide to take things to the next level... and accidentally summon the Ojja-Wojja, a demonic presence connected to a slew of mysterious tragedies throughout Bolingbroke's sordid history. With the whole town acting weird and nowhere left to turn, it's going to be up to Val, Lanie, and their small group of friends to return things to normal—if "normal" is even something they want to return to.

On All Other Nights: A Passover Celebration in 14 Stories by Chris Baron (editor) and Shannon Hochman, 4-8

In this collection of short stories, 14 bestselling and award-winning authors each reimagine a different step of the seder for today's young readers. Through historical and contemporary fiction, verse and prose, fiction and nonfiction, these gifted writers from different Jewish traditions and backgrounds gather around the seder table and invite everyone to join them.

The Order of Things by Kaija Langley, 6-8

Eleven-year-old April Jackson loves playing the drums, almost as much as she loves her best friend, Zee, a violin prodigy. But when something devastating happens and everything around her seems to change at once, April has to figure out how she is going to move forward.

The Other Side of Perfect by Melanie Florence and Richard Scrimger, 4-8

Two kids from two different worlds form an unexpected friendship in this lens into the interworking of empathy. Cody and Autumn come from very different backgrounds (he's White and poor, she's Indigenous and well-off) but a chance meeting means their lives are intertwined in ways neither expected. In spite of their differences, they find that supporting each other will help them both.

Paige Not Found by Jen Wilde, 6-8

When Paige discovers her parents had a chip put in her head to monitor and change her emotions, she is horrified. She and her best friend find other autistic children who had this done to find and stop the company from selling their program to a social networking company known to sell personal information.

Paper Planes by Jennie Wood and Dozerdraws, 6-8

After a life altering incident, Dylan and Leighton are sent to a summer camp for troubled youth. Can Dylan and Leighton save their friendship and protect their future while trying to survive camp?

The Partition Project by Saadia Faruqi, 4-8

Mahnoor is not excited to have her Dadi move from Pakistan to live with them until Dadi's childhood memories of the Partition coincide with Mahnoor's need for a documentary topic for her journalism class. As details of Dadi's life are revealed, Dadi's personal story feels a lot more like the breaking news that Maha loves so much. But as friendship drama, journalistic responsibilities, and the weight of memories weigh on Maha and Dadi will Maha be able to share Dadi's story?

Puzzled: a Memoir by Pan Cooke, 4-8

A graphic-novel memoir that humorously and candidly explores the author's childhood experiences with undiagnosed OCD. Through a series of anxious thoughts and rituals, Cooke's story sheds light on the struggles of living with OCD and emphasizes the importance of self-empathy and understanding.

Race to the Truth: Exclusion and the Chinese American Story by Sarah-Soonling Blackburn and Kristen Uroda, 4-8

Until now, you've only heard one side of the story, but Chinese American history extends far beyond the railroads. Here's the true story of America, from the Chinese American perspective.

The Reckoning by Wade Hudson, 6-8

When Gramps talks about his activism and Black history, Lamar doesn't think much about it. Times have changed since the old Civil Rights days! Right? He has a white friend named Jeff who wants to be a filmmaker, too, even though Jeff's parents never let him go to Lamar's Black neighborhood. But there's been progress in town. Right?

Remember My Story by Claire Sarnowski and Sarah Durand, 6-8

This page-turning memoir is a tribute to a man who survived the worst of humanity, an ode to friendship and community, and an empowering call to activism.

Ruptured by Joanne Rossmassler Fritz, 6-8

Claire knows her parents' marriage isn't a happy one but when her mother confides a secret to her moments before she suffers a brain aneurysm, Claire doesn't know what to do—especially when her mother doesn't even remember her confession in the days after. With the weight of her mom's confession on her shoulders, Claire must navigate fear, grief, and prospects for recovery.

Safiyyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan, 6-8

Safiyyah has an idyllic life in the Grand Mosque of Paris, where her father works and her family lives. Her existence revolves around browsing maps in her beloved library and spending Saturday afternoons with best friend Isabelle. But on the cusp of the Nazi invasion, everything is about to change.

Sail Me Away Home by Anne Clare LeZotte, 4-8

Mary Lambert feels adrift as a teacher in Martha's Vineyard until she is invited to travel with missionaries to visit deaf schools in Paris where she hopes to learn methods for teaching she can bring back home. But traveling with the missionaries may be a betrayal of her friends, her own values, and her safety.

Saving Sunshine by Saadia Faruqi and Shazleen Khan, 4-8

A Muslim family faces all the normal difficulties of kids in middle school with the added pressure of being a different religion than most of those around them. It highlights the pleasures and pains of being Muslim in the US.

Second Chance Summer by Sarah Kapit, 6-8

Maddie and Chloe used to be best friends, but after The Incident, they don't speak to each other anymore. When they show up at camp and discover they're cabin mates, they have to decide whether they want to be friends again, or if their differences are too big, and they should stay enemies forever.

The Secret of the Ravens by Joanna Cacao, 4-8

Orphans Elliot and Liza survive by completing magical quests offered by message-carrying ravens. When a quest goes wrong and Liza is poisoned, Elliot finds himself making deals with a dark mage with mysterious motives of her own.

Shad Hadid and the Forbidden Alchemist by George Jreije, 4-8

After defeating the necromancers and bringing alchemy back to the Alexandria Academy, Shad Hadid is ready for an exciting second term at school. It doesn't hurt that he's being called a hero, but the new lessons are harder than he expected and his mentor, Kahem, is nowhere to be found.

Shakti by SJ Sinou and Nabi H. Ali, 6-8

When the three meanest girls in school start casting spells, 12-year-old Shakti draws on ancient Indian magic to stop them but instead curses the entire town and must harness her own strength, power and empathy to save those she loves and end the hate.

Shark Teeth by Sherry Winston, 4-8

Mama promises things are different now. She's got a good job, she's stopped drinking, stopped going out every night. It's almost enough to make Kita believe her this time. But even as Kita's life is going well, she can't shake the feeling that everything could go up in flames at any moment. When her assistant principal and trusted dance coach start asking questions about her home life, Kita is more determined than ever to keep up appearances and make sure her family stays together-even if it means falling apart herself.

Shiny Misfits by Maysoon Zayid and Shadia Amin, 4-8

Bay Ann has Cerebral Palsy, but that is the least of her problems. Bay Ann dreams of being famous by going viral, but every time she is up against her rival, Alyee Maq, he finds a way to outshine her.

Shira and Esther's Double Dream Debut by Anne E. Jordan, 4-8

When two Jewish girls born the same day in the same hospital meet up just before they turn 13, magic is set in motion.-Kirkus

A Sky of Paper Stars by Susie Yi, 6-8

Teenager Sei struggles with balancing her own aspirations with the expectations of her traditional Korean family. As she navigates the challenges of adolescence and cultural pressures, Sei learns to assert her identity and follow her passions. The novel explores themes of cultural heritage, personal growth, and the pursuit of dreams against the backdrop of familial obligations.

Something Like Home by Andrea Beatriz Arango, 4-8

Laura's parents are both struggling with addiction, so she is sent to live with her aunt, who she is not very close with. She adopts a puppy and hopes that she can train it to become a therapy dog. That way, she may be able to find a way to reunite with her parents.

The Songbird and the Rambutan Tree by Lucille Abendanon, 6-8

In Batavia, Dutch East Indies, in 1942 Emmy fights her father to stay when he tries to evacuate them to safety ahead of the impending Japanese invasion. When her own actions sabotage her chance to evacuate, Emmy is confined to the Tjideng prisoner-of-war camp with other women and children. Separated from her family and silenced by her grief, Emmy will need all her strength to survive the war.

Sparkle by Lakita Wilson, 4-8

After twelve-year-old aspiring superstar, Sparkle Moore, is diagnosed with alopecia, she must navigate family, friends, and her own self-esteem with the added challenge of losing her hair.

Stars in Their Eyes by Jessica Walton Aśka, 6-8

On her way to her first Fancon, Maisie has always dreamed of meeting her hero, Kara Bufano, an amputee actor who plays a kick-arse amputee character in her favorite show. Then she meets Ollie, a cute volunteer who she has a lot in common with.

Stories of the Islands by Clar Angkasa, 6-8

In this collection of reimagined Indonesian fairy tales, the girls are the ones with power. The power to fight evil, to protect others, and to grow as people. Because why should girls in folktales always need saving? What if they save themselves instead?

Summer at Squee by Andrea Wang, 4-8

From Newbery Honor-winning author Andrea Wang, a new middle grade novel about a Chinese American tween who attends a Boston-based Chinese cultural overnight camp--and the many ways it transforms her.

Tagging Freedom by Rhonda Roumani, 6-8

Set in the early days of the Syrian Civil War, cousins Kareem and Samira living in Massachusetts navigate the growing conflict in Syria, new friendships, and the use of art to express themselves.

Tiger Daughter by Rebecca Lim, Leni Lui, and Yvette Liu, 6-8

Wen Zhou is a first-generation daughter of Chinese migrant parents who dreams of creating a future for herself more satisfying than the one her parents expect her to lead. Then she befriends a boy named Henry who is also a first generation immigrant. But when tragedy strikes, it will take all of Wen's resilience and tiger strength to get herself and Henry through the storm that follows.

UltraViolet by Aida Salazar, 6-8

UltraViolet is about a Latino boy struggling to grow into manhood, make sense of his pubescent body and feelings and trying to figure out how to be "a real macho man" while at the same time being an ally to women. First love makes it hard to keep his head on straight and leads to finding both new strengths and new challenges.

Upstaged by Robin Easter, 6-8

Ever since sixth grade, Ashton Price and their best friend and enduring crush, Ivy Santos, have spent their summers together at theater camp. Now it's their last year before they part ways for high school, and Ash is determined to end it on a high note!- Hachette

Warrior on the Mound by Sandra W. Headen, 6-8

In 1939 North Carolina, an all-Black baseball team "trespasses" on the whites-only baseball field, and the resulting racial outrage can only be resolved on the mound.

We Are Big Time by Hena Khan and Safiya Zerrougi, 6-8

Inspired by a true story, a Muslim girls' basketball team challenges stereotypes and shows that Muslim girls are able to succeed in sports and in life.

We Still Belong by Christine Day, 4-8

We Still Belong is a heartfelt middle-grade novel that follows Wesley Wilder, a young indigenous girl navigating the challenges of identity, belonging, and friendship. As she prepares for a cultural presentation at school, Wesley learns to embrace her heritage and finds strength in her community and family.

Wildfire by Breena Bard, 4-8

In the aftermath of a fire that destroys her family's home, Julianna and her family relocate to Portland, Oregon. But moving on and forgetting becomes impossible when Carson, an old friend from her hometown who may have had a hand in starting the wildfires is suddenly back in her life. Julianna can't seem to catch a break, but when two new friends invite her to join their school's conservation club, she learns that maybe she can turn her anger into something powerful.

Will on the Inside by Andrew Eliopoulos, 6-8

Will loves playing center midfield on his middle school soccer team. This year, though, Will hasn't felt like himself. When his new doctor diagnoses him with Crohn's disease, Will hopes that means he'll start feeling better soon and he can get back to playing with his team before the season ends. But Will's new medicines come with all kinds of side effects. Forced to sit out afternoon practice, Will finds himself hanging out with a kid at school, Griffin. This could be a real problem, seeing as Griffin just asked Will's best friend to the spring dance. As in, guy friend. What would Will's teammates say if they knew the whole story? Not to mention Will's friends at church.

Winnie Nash is Not Your Sunshine by Nicole Melleby, 6-8

12-year-old Winnie Nash is forced to live with her grandma for the summer and finds herself torn between her family's secrets and the joy of celebrating Pride.

With Twice the Love, Dessie Mei by Justina Chen, 4-8

On Dessie's first day at her new middle school, she meets Donna, who it turns out is a twin sister she never knew she had! The two girls learn all about nature and nurture as they get to know each other's adopted families. Although cultural and personality differences challenge their friendship, a rally for an important cause (fighting AAPI hate) brings them, and their families, together.

The Year My Life Went Down the Toilet by Jake Maia Arlow, 6-8

Twelve-year-old Al Schneider is too scared to talk about the two biggest things in her life: 1. Her stomach hurts all the time and she has no idea why. 2. She's almost definitely 100% sure she likes girls. Her family and friends (both new and old) help her open up and overcome some significant and often funny challenges.

All That Shines by Ellen Hagan, 9-12

Chloe Brooks has only ever known what it's like to have everything. Her parents' wealth and place in society meant she had all she wanted, and friends everywhere she turned. Until it all crashes down: Her father is arrested in the middle of the night, under investigation for fraud. Bankrupt and facing foreclosure, Chloe must forgo her lavish summer plans as she and her mom are forced to move into one of the rundown apartments they still own, just outside Lexington, Kentucky.

All That's Left to Say by Emery Lord and Adele Leyris, 9-12

On prom night, Hannah MacLaren sits in the headmaster's office in her fanciest dress, soaked to the bone. One year ago, her cousin Sophie, who was also her best friend and the person she loved most in the world, died of an overdose. Drowning in grief, Hannah becomes obsessed with one question: Who gave Sophie those pills? Who is refusing to give her family the closure they deserve?

All the Fighting Parts: A Novel by Hannah V. Sawyerr, 9-12

Sixteen-year-old Amina Conteh isn't afraid to speak her mind or use her temper when things aren't as she thinks they should be, which sometimes causes clashes between her and her strict father. When she gets in trouble for cursing at a peer, her father sends her to volunteer with a respected member of their Black church, Pastor Johnson, who unbeknownst to them all is a sexual predator. Amina is raped by him and afterwards withdraws from friends and family and her grades start slipping. Soon however, Pastor Johnson is arrested on charges from someone else, and Amina must decide whether she is brave enough to break her silence and finally speak about what happened to her.

All You Have to Do by Autumn Allen, 9-12

Two Black young men attend prestigious schools nearly thirty years apart, and yet both navigate similar forms of insidious racism. In April 1968, in the wake of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, Kevin joins a protest that shuts down his Ivy League campus. In September 1995, amidst controversy over the Million Man March, Gibran challenges the "See No Color" hypocrisy of his prestigious New England prep school.

America Redux: Visual Stories from our Dynamic History by Ariel Aberg-Riger, 9-12

America Redux explores the themes that create our shared sense of American identity and interrogates the myths we've been telling ourselves for centuries. With iconic American catchphrases as chapter titles, these twenty-one visual stories illuminate the astonishing, unexpected, sometimes darker sides of history that reverberate in our society to this very day—from the role of celebrity in immigration policy to the influence of one small group of white women on education to the effects of "progress" on housing and the environment to the inspiring force of collective action and mutual aid across decades and among diverse groups.

And Don't Look Back by Rebecca Barrow, 9-12

Harlow Ford has spent her entire life running, caught in her mother's wake as they flit from town to town, hiding from a presence that Harlow isn't even sure is real. After Harlow's mother is fatally injured in a car accident, Harlow finds a photograph of her mom as a teenager with two other girls, the deed to a house in a town she's never heard of, and a handful of newspaper clippings discussing the disappearance of a woman named Eve Kennedy, Harlow's grandmother...relics of a part of Harlow's life she never knew existed.

Ariel Crashes a Train by Olivia A. Cole, 9-12

Ariel grapples with her fear of her own mind and violent fantasies, driven by her desire to meet her parents' expectations and societal norms, until a summer job at a carnival leads her to new friends who help her discover her struggle with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and find acceptance and support for herself.

Becoming a Queen by Dan Clay, 9-12

Mark is gay and discovers that he likes dressing in drag, an impulse he tries to suppress. He has a wonderful and supportive older brother that struggles with alcohol abuse which leads to tragic consequences.

Being Ace: An Anthology of Queer, Trans, Femme, and Disabled Stories of Asexual Love and Connection by Madeline Dyer (editor), 9-12

This diverse asexual anthology highlights the ace spectrum experience in a collection of 15 unique stories, flash fiction, and poetry. A disabled vigilante trying to save her kidnapped girlfriend, a little mermaid who loves her sisters more than suitors, a slayer whose virgin blood keeps attracting monsters and more, the works in *Being Ace* are anything but conventional. Whether in psychiatric hospitals, spaceships, haunted cemeteries, or under the sea, no two aces are the same in 15 unique works that highlight asexual romance, aromantic love, and the many other sub-identities of the asexual umbrella.

The Boy You Always Wanted by Michelle Quach, 9-12

Attempting to fulfill her dying grandfather's wish, seventeen-year-old Asian American Francine enlists Ollie Tran to pretend to be ceremonially adopted and be her grandfather's honorary male heir--the grandson he never had--to carry on the family traditions. However, the mounting lies and romantic feelings they develop complicate their plan.

Brooms by Jasmine Walls and Teo DuVall, 9-12

Set in an alternate 1930's Mississippi, Brooms centers on six BIPOC witches teaming up to compete in illegal broom races in order to earn money to better their lives in a place where the laws are made to keep them down. Brooms focuses on the bonds of friendships, new and old, and the strength it provides.

Chronically Dolores by Maya Van Wagenen, 9-12

Dolores Mendoza is not thriving. She was recently diagnosed with a chronic bladder condition called interstitial cystitis. The painful disease isn't life threatening, but it is threatening to ruin her life.

Dear Medusa by Oliver A. Cole, 9-12

Alicia Rivers has a reputation that precedes her, but there's more to her story than the whispers that follow her throughout the hallways at school. What her classmates don't know is that Alicia was sexually abused by a popular teacher, and that trauma has rewritten every cell in her body into someone she doesn't recognize. To the world around her, she's been cast, like the mythical Medusa, as the monster of her own story, but Alicia is finally discovering her own courage, rage, and voice.

Don't Ask if I'm Okay by Jessica Kara, 9-12

Heartfelt and bittersweet, this coming-of-age story explores the tender space of healing where grief meets love.

Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant by Curtis Chin, 9-12

Curtis grew up in the heart of Detroit where his family ran a Cantonese restaurant. When Curtis was in elementary school, his family moved to Troy and was one of the first, if not THE first families to move to what was then a predominantly white suburb. This memoir contains some mature sexual content.

Forever Is Now by Mariama J. Lockington, 9-12

Sadie was already managing generalized anxiety when, while being dumped by the girlfriend who made her feel safe, she witnessed police violently attacking another Black girl. The events trigger a debilitating panic that prevents her from leaving home, even to attend the protest that she wants to participate in. Instead of spending the summer interning at the local creative writing center, Sadie has to relearn how to exist in the world as a bisexual Black person with anxiety and agoraphobia and, eventually, how to use her voice, find joy, and move beyond the safety of her home.

Forgive Me Not by Jennifer Baker, 9-12

After driving drunk and causing the accident that kills her little sister, Violetta is incarcerated. Under the juvenile justice system, her fate lies in the hands of those she's wronged—her family. Denied her family's forgiveness, Violetta must participate in the Trials: if she succeeds she could regain her freedom and her family's love.

Funeral Songs for Dying Girls by Cherie Dimaline, 9-12

Winifred has lived in the apartment above the cemetery office with her father, who works in the crematorium, all her life, close to her mother's grave. Her habit of wandering the graveyard at all hours has started a rumor that Winterson Cemetery might be haunted. But when Phil, an actual ghost of a teen girl who lived and died in the ravine next to the cemetery, starts showing up, Winifred begins to question everything she believes about life, love and death.

Give Me a Sign by Anna Sortino, 9-12

Lilah always feels stuck in the middle - her hearing loss is significant enough that she misses out on conversations all the time, but doesn't feel like she is "deaf enough" to claim Deaf Pride. All of that changes during one summer, working at a summer camp for the deaf and blind. Once there, she finds community, language, and even love.

The Hills of Estrella Roja by Ashley Robin Franklin, 9-12

Kat, a college freshman with a podcast about the supernatural, visits a South Texas town with an unusual glow. She meets Mari, who was born in Estrella Roja, but moved away years ago, who has returned for her abuela's funeral. Together they investigate the mystery which involves Mari's family and fall in love.

Homebody by Theo Parish, 9-12

In their comics debut, Theo Parish masterfully weaves an intimate and defiantly hopeful memoir about the journey one nonbinary person takes to find a home within themselves.

Hope Ablaze by Sarah Migha Rana, 9-12

A Muslim teen's journey to find her voice in a post-9/11 America. When Nida, a hijabi poet, writes a scathing poem about a politician after being illegally frisked at a rally, her life takes an unexpected turn as the letter goes viral and she grapples with newfound fame and the loss of her ability to write poetry.

How the Boogeyman Became a Poet by Tony Keith, 9-12

In this memoir-in-verse, poet and educator Tony Keith tells his story of being a questioning gay teen who grows into an openly gay first-generation college student and poet.

I'll Be Waiting For You by Mariko Turk, 9-12

After losing her best friend Imogen, Natalie dives into her senior project—a playful ghost-hunting venture at the Harlow Hotel. Intent on proving herself to a teen ghost hunting show, she reluctantly partners with her rival Leander. As eerie occurrences unfold, Natalie begins to question if the supernatural tales she once dismissed as fun might actually be true.

An Impossible Thing to Say by Arya Shahi, 9-12

The Poet X meets *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* in a bold novel-in-verse starring a Persian American teen navigating his first crush, his family's post-9/11 dynamics, and the role of language in defining who we are.

Invisible Son by Kim Johnson, 9-12

After spending six months in a juvenile detention center for a crime he did not commit, seventeen-year-old Andre returns home and tries to adapt to a pandemic world and find his missing best friend.

Kill Her Twice by Stacey Lee, 9-12

In 1930s Hollywoodland, Lulu Wong is a star of the silver screen and her fame is skyrocketing - that is, until two sisters find her body hidden in Chinatown. The sisters suspect foul play, but the cops don't seem too motivated to investigate, meaning the Chow sisters need to play detective and infiltrate the movie studios - putting them right in the crosshairs of a killer.

Kin Rooted in Hope by Carole Boston Weatherford and Jeffery Boston Weatherford, 9-12

Carole and Jeffery Boston Weatherford's ancestors are among the founders of Maryland. Their family history there extends more than three hundred years, but as with the genealogical searches of many African Americans with roots in slavery, their family tree can only be traced back five generations before going dark. And so from scraps of history, Carole and Jeffery have conjured the voices of their kin, creating an often painful but ultimately empowering story of who their people were in this breathtaking, deeply personal book.

The Luis Ortega Survival Club by Sonora Reyes, 9-12

Ariana Ruiz wants to be noticed. But as an autistic girl who never talks, she goes largely ignored by her peers—despite her bold fashion choices. So when cute, popular Luis starts to pay attention to her, Ari finally feels seen. Luis's attention soon turns to something more, and they have sex at a party—while Ari didn't say no, she definitely didn't say yes. Before she has a chance to process what happened and decide if she even has the right to be mad at Luis, the rumor mill begins churning—thanks, she's sure, to Luis's ex-girlfriend, Shawni.

Monstrous : a Transracial Adoption Story by Sarah Myer, 9-12

Adopted from South Korea by white parents and raised in rural, white Maryland, Sara dealt with questions about why her birth parents gave her up for adoption, living in a community where she looks different from most of the other residents, and also works through gender dysmorphia.

Nerd Crush by Alisha Emrich, 9-12

Ramona Lambert is a typical shy, artistic sixteen-year-old. She has a best friend whom she's known since they were in diapers; parents who love her; a love for cosplay; and a crush on the cute boy in her class. To escape her troubles, Ramona turns to cosplay and her original character, Rel, who gives her the confidence and freedom that she lacks in real life.

Nigeria Jones by Ibi Zoboi, 9-12

Nigeria lives in a vibrant but turbulent neighborhood in Brooklyn. Struggling with her identity and the pressures of her environment, Nigeria must navigate her complex family dynamics, cultural heritage, and personal dreams. The story explores themes of resilience, self-discovery, and the search for belonging in a world that often feels divided.

Northranger by Rey Terciero and Bre Indigo, 9-12

Gay romance in rural Texas is confusing and mysterious. When Cade and his black stepdad Dale go to work as ranch hands there are many complications, particularly when Cade and Henry, the ranch owner's son fall in love.

One in a Million by Claire Lordon, 9-12

Claire has always been a happy, athletic, dedicated student - but something is wrong with her and not even the doctors know what is causing her chronic fatigue, weight gain, and pounding headaches. This graphic memoir follows Claire's junior and senior years of high school as she relies on her family and friends while searching for a diagnosis.

Only this Beautiful Moment by Abdi Nazemian, 9-12

Only This Beautiful Moment by Abdi Nazemian is a multigenerational story that follows three Iranian men from the same family, exploring their experiences with love, identity, and cultural heritage. Set across different decades, the novel interweaves their lives, highlighting the impact of political and social changes on their personal journeys.

A Place for Vanishing by Ann Fraistat, 9-12

In this contemporary gothic horror, a teen girl and her family return to her mother's childhood home, only to discover that the house's strange beauty may disguise a sinister past.

Plan A by Deb Caletti, 9-12

Ivy can't believe it when the pregnancy test shows up positive, and now her summer plans look a lot different: instead of working and saving for college, she and her almost-boyfriend (who is not the father) are embarking on a cross-state road trip to Oregon so she can legally obtain an abortion. As Ivy and Lorenzo travel through the states, they hear stories from women of all walks of life; those stories chip away at the stigma and shame surrounding abortion and guide Ivy to her destination.

Pride and Prejudice and Pittsburgh by Rachael Lippincott, 9-12

What if you found a once-in-a-lifetime love... just not in your lifetime? Audrey Cameron has lost her spark after getting dumped by her first love and waitlisted at her dream art school all in one week. So when local curmudgeon Mr. Montgomery walks into her family's Pittsburgh convenience store saying he can help her, Audrey doesn't know what she's expecting...but it's definitely not being transported back to 1812 to become a Regency romance heroine.

Rez Ball by Byron Graves, 9-12

An inspiring young adult novel that follows Tre Brun, an Ojibway high school basketball player on the Red Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota. As Tre navigates the challenges of life on the reservation and the pressures of the basketball season, he learns about resilience, community, and the importance of his cultural roots.

Saints of the Household by Ari Tison, 9-12

Two brothers have very different ways of coping with the trauma of living with an explosive and abusive father. These differences drive a wedge between them. The siblings do eventually find a way to find peace with their differences.

Salt the Water by Candice Iloh, 9-12

Cerulean Gene is free everywhere except school, where they're known for repeatedly challenging authority. Raised in a free-spirited home by two loving parents who encourage Cerulean to be their full self, they've got big dreams of moving cross-country to live off the grid with their friends after graduation. But a fight with a teacher spirals out of control, and Cerulean impulsively drops out to avoid the punishment they fear is coming. Why wait for graduation to leave an oppressive capitalist system and live their dreams?

The Shadow Sister by Lily Meade, 9-12

Sutton going missing is the worst thing to happen to Casey, to their family. She's trying to help find her sister, but Casey is furious. She knows Sutton is manipulative, meanwhile everyone paints a picture of her perfection. People don't look for missing Black girls--or half-Black girls--without believing there is an angel to be saved. When Sutton reappears, Casey knows she should be relieved. Except Sutton isn't the same. She remembers nothing about while she was gone—or anything from her old life, including how she made Casey miserable. There's something unsettling about the way she wants to spend time with Casey and watch her goldfish swim for hours.

The Spirit Bares Its Teeth by Andrew Joseph White, 9-12

London, 1883: violet-eyed mediums commune with spirits under the watchful eye of the Royal Speaker Society, and sixteen-year old trans, autistic Silas Bell would rather rip out his eyes than be an obedient Speaker wife. After a failed attempt to escape an arranged marriage, Silas is diagnosed with Veil sickness—a mysterious disease sending violet-eyed women into madness—and shipped away to Braxton's Finishing School and Sanitorium. When the ghosts of missing students start begging Silas for help, he decides to reach into Braxton's innards and expose its guts to the world—so long as the school doesn't break him first.

Sunshine: How One Camp Taught Me About Life, Death, and Hope by Jarrett Krosoczka, 9-12

When Jarrett J. Krosoczka was in high school, he was part of a program that sent students to be counselors at a camp for seriously ill kids and their families. Going into it, Jarrett was worried: Wouldn't it be depressing to be around kids facing such a serious struggle? Wouldn't it be grim? But instead of the shadow of death, Jarrett found something else at Camp Sunshine: the hope and determination that gets people through the most troubled of times.

There Goes the Neighborhood by Jade Adia, 9-12

Rhea's neighborhood is fading away - the mom-and-pop shops of her childhood forced out to make space for an artisanal kombucha brewery here, a hot yoga studio there. And everywhere, the feeling that this place is no longer meant for her. Because while their little corner of South L.A. isn't perfect, to Rhea and her two best friends, it's something even more important - it's home. And it's worth protecting.

Thieves' Gambit by Kayvion Lewis, 9-12

At only seventeen, Ross Quest is already a master thief, especially adept at escape plans. Her plan to run away from her legendary family of thieves takes an unexpected turn, leaving her mother's life hanging in the balance. In a desperate bid, she enters the Thieves' Gambit, a series of dangerous, international heists where killing the competition isn't off limits, but the grand prize is a wish for anything in the world—a wish that could save her mom.

This Book Won't Burn by Samira Ahmed, 9-12

After her dad abruptly abandons her family and her mom moves them a million miles from their Chicago home, Noor Khan is forced to start the last quarter of her senior year at a new school, keeping her head down and making it to graduation. But things aren't so simple; Noor discovers hundreds of books have been labeled "obscene" or "pornographic" and are being removed from the library in accordance with a new school board policy. She can't sit back and do nothing, but challenging the status quo just might put a target on her back.

This Time It's Real by Ann Liang, 9-12

When seventeen-year-old Eliza Lin's entirely fictional essay about meeting her perfect boyfriend goes viral at her international school in Beijing, she has to make a deal with the handsome and charming Caz Song to play the part—but when the relationship starts to feel real all her career plans are suddenly threatened.

This Town is On Fire by Pamela N. Harris, 9-12

A lot is up in the air in Naomi Henry's life; luckily she has a best friend like Kylie to keep her grounded. But then a video of Kylie calling the cops on two Black teens in a shopping store parking lot goes viral. While Naomi tries to reckon with Kylie, the other Black students in their high school are questioning their friendship, and her former friends are wondering where this new "woke" Naomi came from. As tensions in town escalate, Naomi wants to stand by her best friend, but she now can't help but see everything in a different light.

Those Pink Mountain Nights by Jen Ferguson, 9-12

Jen Ferguson writes about the hurt of a life stuck in past tense, the hum of connections that cannot be severed, and one week in a small, snowy town that changes everything.

Tilly in Technicolor by Mazey Eddings, 9-12

Working as an intern for her perfect older sister's startup isn't exactly how Tilly wants to spend her summer, but the required travel around Europe promises a much-needed change of scenery as she plans for her future. The problem is, Tilly has no idea what she wants. Oliver Clark knows exactly what he wants.

Wander in the Dark by Jumata Emill, 9-12

Two brothers must come together to solve the murder of the most popular girl in school after one of them is caught fleeing the scene of her death. To find Chloe's killer, Amir and Marcel need to dig into her secrets. And what they find is darker than either could have guessed. Parents will go to any lengths to protect their children, and in a city as old as New Orleans, the right family connections can bury even the ugliest truths.

Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange, 9-12

Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange explores Native Americans grappling with identity, addiction, and the search for meaning in contemporary society - juxtaposed by a series of interwoven narratives regarding an indigenous family's history beginning with Sand Creek Massacre to the present day. Through a poignant narrative, Orange explores themes of cultural dislocation, resilience, and the enduring influence of ancestral roots.

Warrior Girl Unearthed by Angeline Boulley, 9-12

Perry Firekeeper-Birch becomes involved in a quest to bring home to her tribe artifacts and remains that have been stolen by graverobbers which leads to also investigating the disappearance and murder of multiple native women.

What's Eating Jackie Oh? By Patricia Park, 9-12

A Korean American teen tries to balance her dream to become a chef with the cultural expectations of her family when she enters the competitive world of a TV cooking show.

When It All Syncs Up by Maya Ameyaw, 9-12

Ballet is Aisha's life. But when discrimination at her elite academy pushes her to her breaking point, she decides to pivot. At her new public arts school, Aisha scores more dance opportunities than she's ever had before. And it doesn't hurt that she gets to take classes with her bestie... and with Ollie, an adorably shy musician who keeps throwing off her usually impeccable balance.

When We Become Ours: A YA Adoptee Anthology by Shannon Gibney and Nicole Chung (editors), 9-12

There is no universal adoption experience, and no two adoptees have the same story. This anthology for teens edited by Shannon Gibney and Nicole Chung contains a wide range of powerful, poignant, and evocative stories in a variety of genres.

Where You See Yourself by Claire Forrest, 9-12

As Effie navigates her way through a year of admissions visits, senior class traditions, internal and external ableism, and a lot of firsts—and lasts—she starts to learn that sometimes growing up means being open to a world of possibilities you never even dreamed of.

Wild Wishes and Windswept Kisses by Maya Prasaad, 9-12

The Songbird Inn has always been the perfect home. No one knows that better than the Singh sisters. Nidhi, Avani, Sirisha, and Rani have been love struck and heartbroken and everything in between, all at their dad's cozy bed-and-breakfast. And today the whole Singh family will support aspiring filmmaker Rani in her first film festival—if only they can make it through the windstorm ravaging the Pacific Northwest.

Wren Martin Ruins It All by Amanda DeWitt, 9-12

Now that Wren Martin is student council president, he wants to abolish the school's annual Valentine's Day dance, a drain on the school's resources and general social nightmare—especially when you're asexual. But Leo Reyes, vice president and all-around annoyingly perfect student has a solution to Wren's budget problem—a sponsorship from Buddy, the anonymous "not a dating" app sweeping the nation. When Wren develops capital F-Feelings for his anonymous match, things start to spiral and Wren isn't sure what will kill him first: the dance, his relationship drama, or the growing realization that Leo's perfect life might not be so perfect after all.

You Don't Have a Shot by Racquel Marie, 9-12

Valentina "Vale" Castillo-Green's life revolves around soccer. Her friends, her future, and her father's intense expectations are all wrapped up in the beautiful game. But after she incites a fight during playoffs with her long-time rival, Leticia Ortiz, everything she's been working toward seems to disappear.

Your Plantation Prom is Not Okay by Kelly McWilliams, 9-12

Harriet Douglass lives with her historian father on an old plantation in Louisiana, which they've transformed into one of the South's few enslaved people's museums. Together, while grieving the recent loss of Harriet's mother, they run tours that help keep the memory of the past alive.

