

[See more series/author recommendations
here! \(book recs #2\)](#)

Middle School Suggested Summer Reading List 2026

Created by Ms. Leanne
& Class 601 🕶️





Intro to Summer Reading:

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Please be reminded that some young adult titles may contain more mature content or deal with sensitive matters. Please consider previewing your child's selections.

Students can find many of these books at their local library.

Want to read an ebook? The digital book app Sora, provides free audiobooks and ebooks to the Q300 community. Sora can be found on Teachhub, however, limited copies of each title are available for check-out at the same time.

Books & summaries are categorized by genre:
Realistic Fiction, Historical Fiction, Science Fiction/Fantasy,
Thriller/Mystery, Sports Fiction, Graphic Novels, Nonfiction



Realistic Fiction

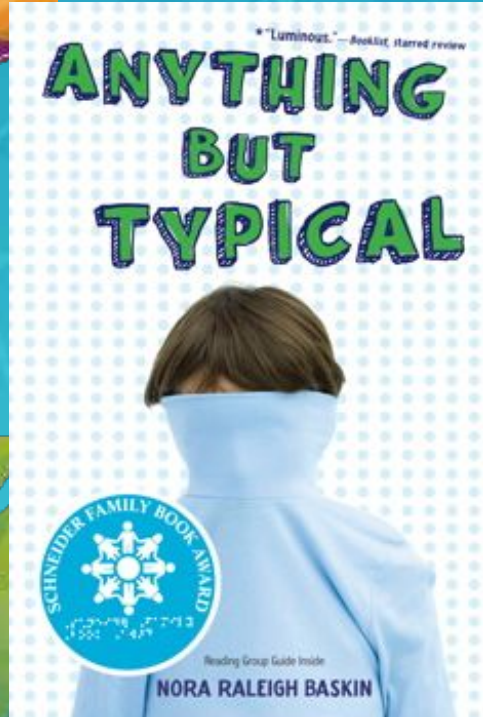


Angry Young Man by Chris Lynch



Alexander (Xan) is an awkward loner who hasn't been able to find his place in the world. His half-brother, Robert, seems exactly the opposite. When Robert suspects Xan is traveling down a dangerous path of extremism, he is determined to intervene before it's too late.

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Basken



Jason, an autistic teenager with a talent for creative writing, struggles to find acceptance in his middle school community

Swing by Kwame Alexander



Best friends Noah and Walt are far from popular, but Walt is convinced junior year is their year, and he has a plan that includes wooing the girls of their dreams and becoming amazing athletes. Never mind he and Noah failed to make their baseball team yet again, and Noah's crush since third grade, Sam, has him firmly in the friend zone. While Walt focuses on his program of jazz, podcasts, batting cages, and a "Hug Life" mentality, Noah feels stuck in status quo ... until he stumbles on a stash of old love letters. Each one contains words Noah's always wanted to say to Sam, and he begins secretly creating artwork using the lines that speak his heart. But when his art becomes public, Noah has a decision to make: continue his life in the dugout and possibly lose the girl forever, or take a swing and finally speak out...

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams



There are ninety-six things Genesis hates about herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list. Like #95: Because her skin is so dark, people call her charcoal and eggplant – even her own family. And #61: Because her family is always being put out of their house, belongings laid out on the sidewalk for the world to see. When Genesis reaches #100 on the list of things she hate about herself, will she continue on, or can she find the strength to begin again?

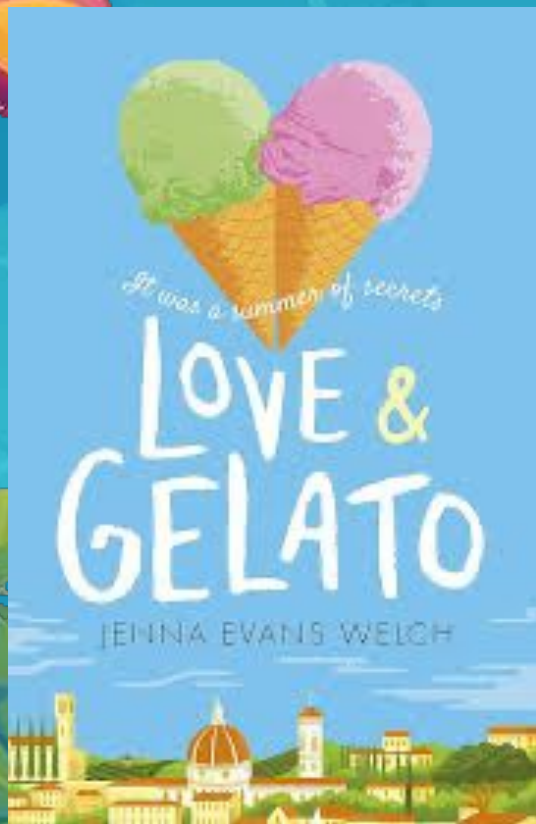
Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed



Amal has big dreams, until a nightmarish encounter...

Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment for her behavior, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate.

Love & Gelato by Jenna Evans Welch



Linda's mother's dying wish was for her to meet her father; so she flies all the way to Italy to meet her father. One day while on a run, she meets a boy, Ren. The two of them explore the city of Tuscany together and develop secret feelings for each other.

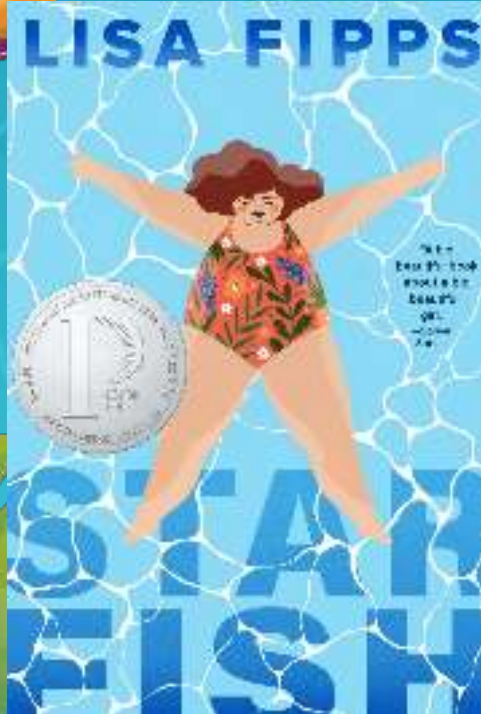
Sweet and Sour

by Debbi Michiko Florence



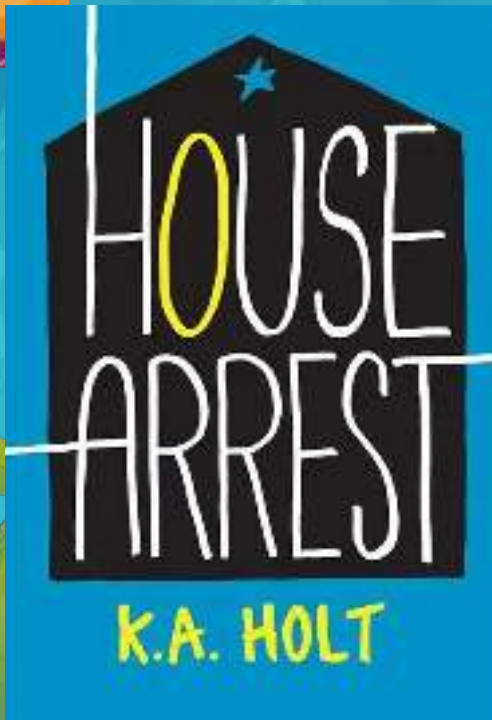
Mai and Zach are best friends who went through a painful betrayal just before Zach moved away to Japan. 2 years later Zach moves back and they are forced to spend their summer together at their childhood vacation home with their families. Mai tries to seek revenge but Zach is trying to salvage their friendship.

Star Fish by Lisa Fipps



Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules — like “no making waves,” “avoid eating in public,” and “don’t move so fast that your body jiggles.” She’s found her safe space — her swimming pool — where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the pool, she starfishes. Stretches out. Takes up all the room she wants, instead of living by the fat girl rules society taught her. The pool is also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie’s weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who love Ellie for who she is.

House Arrest by K.A. Holt



After stealing a credit card, Timothy is under house arrest for an entire year. This verse novel portrays a boy's journey in dealing with his family in crisis, and the legal system, while trying to stay out of trouble.



The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen



Track star Jessica loses a leg in a terrible bus accident. Her road to recovery is a long one, but she can't give up her dream of running again.



The Thing About Jellyfish

by Ali Benjamin



A 12 year old girl who is grieving over her best friend's death, and who is convinced she died because of a jellyfish sting. The story follows her doing research about jellyfish and trying to prove she is right. It has themes of friendship, loss, grief, and observing the majesty of the natural world through her distinct, introspective, and scientific lens.

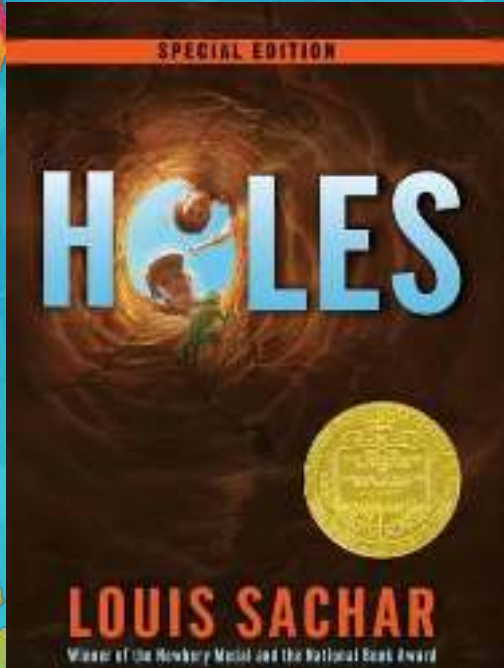


The Summer I Turned Pretty (series) by Jenny Han



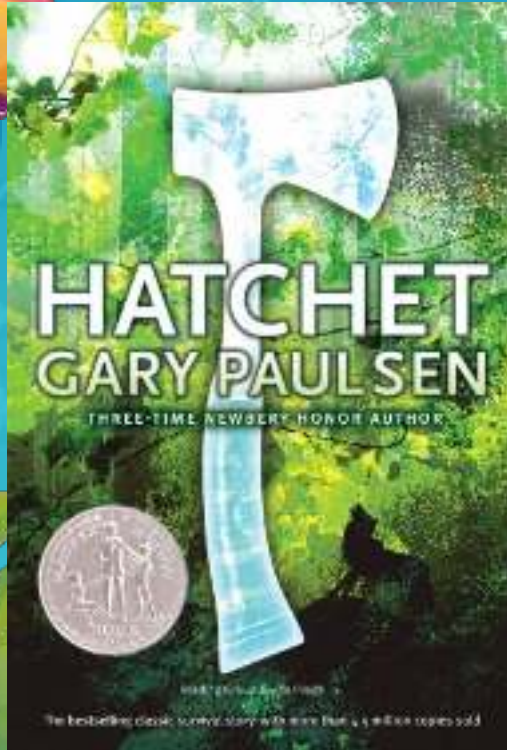
Belly measures her life in summers. Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. Winters are simply a time to count the weeks until the next summer, a place away from the beach house, away from Susannah, and most importantly, away from Jeremiah and Conrad. They are the boys that Belly has known since her very first summer—they have been her brother figures, her crushes, and everything in between. But one summer, one terrible and wonderful summer, the more everything changes, the more it all ends up just the way it should have been all along.

Holes by Louis Sachar



This is about a boy named Stanley Yelnats who gets arrested because of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. He has to go to a camp named Camp Green lake where he has to dig holes for 1 1/2 years. He meets some friends along the way in his hot journey in Texas digging holes.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen



A boy named Brian Robertson was on his way to visit his dad after his parents divorce. After something unusual happens on the plane ride there, he has to find a way to escape and survive in the wild. He is completely alone with a hatchet on him and a ton of memories left with him.



Kareem Between

by Shifa Saltagi Safadi



Seventh grade begins, and Kareem's already fumbled it.

His best friend moved away, he messed up his tryout for the football team, and because of his heritage, he was voluntold to show the new kid—a Syrian refugee with a thick and embarrassing accent—around school. Just when Kareem thinks his middle school life has imploded, the hotshot QB promises to get Kareem another tryout for the squad. There's a catch: to secure that chance, Kareem must do something he knows is wrong.

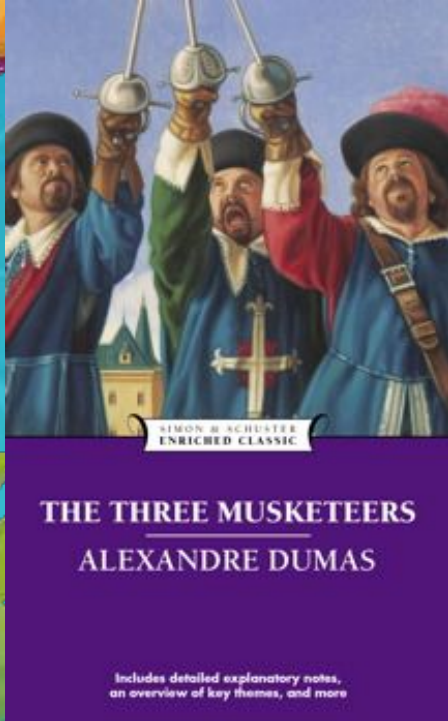
Then, like a surprise blitz, Kareem's mom returns to Syria to help her family but can't make it back home. If Kareem could throw a penalty flag on the fouls of his school and home life, it would be for unnecessary roughness.

Kareem is stuck between. Between countries. Between friends, between football, between parents—and between right and wrong. It's up to him to step up, find his confidence, and navigate the beauty and hope found somewhere in the middle.

Historical Fiction



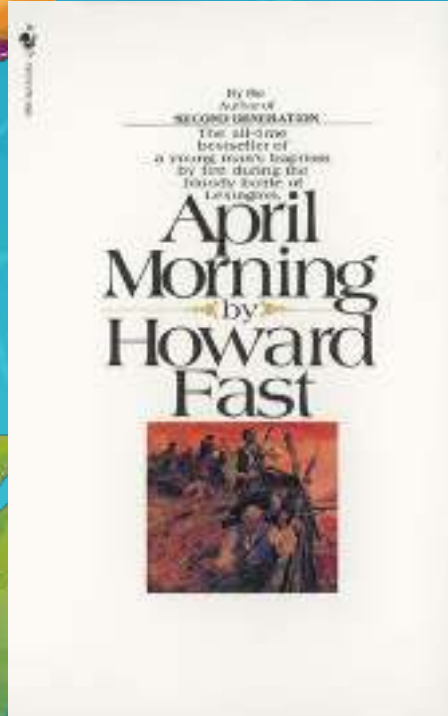
The Three Musketeers by Alexandre Dumas



A timeless tale of youth, daring, and friendship, and full of intrigue, swordplay, and revenge, *The Three Musketeers* follows the escapades of D'Artagnan and his musketeer comrades Porthos, Athos, and Aramis as they fight to foil the devious schemes of Cardinal Richelieu.



April Morning by Howard Fast



The American Revolution leaps to life in this unforgettable account of the Battle of Lexington. It is also the story of a father and son who are at odds



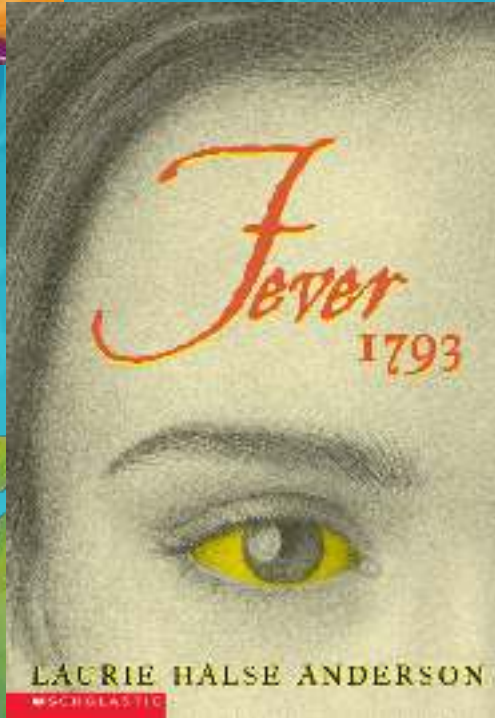
Rebellion 1776 by Laurie Halse Anderson



In the spring of 1776, thirteen-year-old Elsbeth Culpepper wakes to the sound of cannons. It's the Siege of Boston, the Patriots' massive drive to push the Loyalists out that turns the city into a chaotic war zone. Elsbeth's father—her only living relative—has gone missing, leaving her alone and adrift in a broken town while desperately seeking employment to avoid the orphanage.

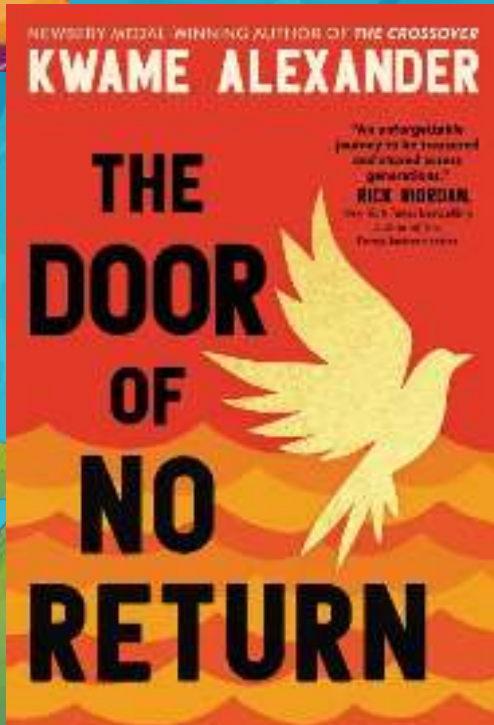
Just when things couldn't feel worse, the smallpox epidemic sweeps across Boston. Now, Bostonians must fight for their lives against an invisible enemy in addition to the visible one. While a treatment is being frantically fine-tuned, thousands of people rush in from the countryside begging for inoculation. At the same time, others refuse protection, for the treatment is crude at best and at times more dangerous than the disease itself.

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson



It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse. But fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook doesn't get a moment to mourn the passing of her childhood playmate. New customers have overrun her family's coffee shop, located far from the mosquito-infested river, and Mattie's concerns of fever are all but overshadowed by dreams of growing her family's small business into a thriving enterprise. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggle to build a new life must give way to a new fight—the fight to stay alive.

The Door of No Return by Kwame Alexander

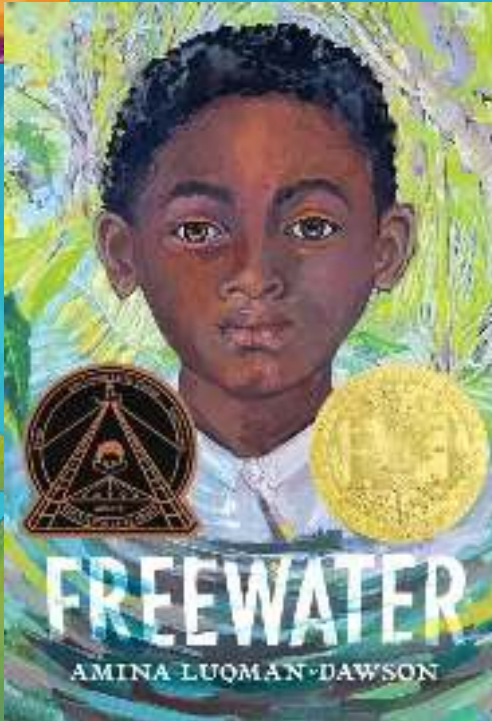


In his village in Upper Kwanta, 11-year-old Kofi loves his family, playing *oware* with his grandfather and swimming in the river Offin. He's warned though, to never go to the river at night. His brother tells him *"There are things about the water you do not know."* Like what? Kofi asks. *"The beasts."* His brother answers.

One fateful night, the unthinkable happens and in a flash, Kofi's world turns upside down. Kofi soon ends up in a fight for his life and what happens next will send him on a harrowing journey across land and sea, and away from everything he loves.

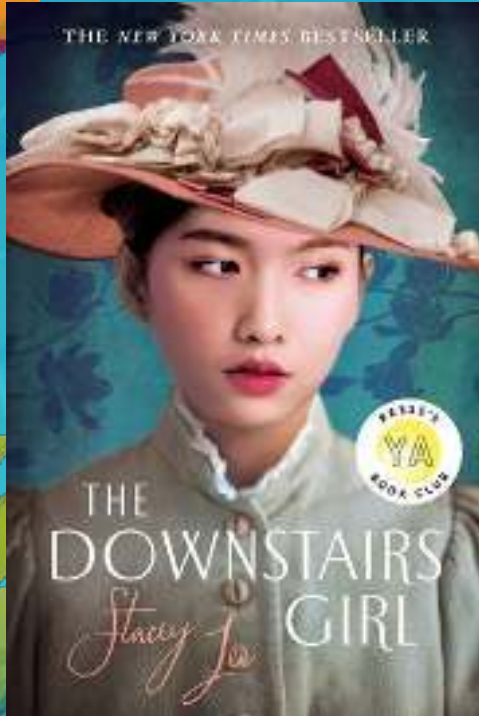
Freewater

by Amina Luqman-Dawson



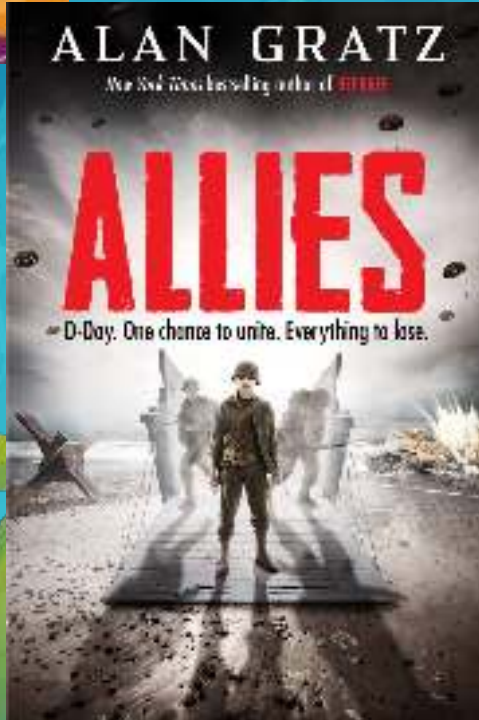
Under the cover of night, twelve-year-old Homer flees Southerland Plantation with his little sister Ada, unwillingly leaving their mother behind. Much as he adores her and fears for her life, Homer knows there's no turning back, not with the overseer on their trail. Through tangled vines, secret doorways, and over a sky bridge, the two find a secret community called Freewater, deep in the swamp...

The Downstairs Girl by Stacey Lee



By day, seventeen-year-old Jo Kuan works as a lady's maid for the cruel daughter of one of the wealthiest men in Atlanta. But by night, Jo moonlights as the pseudonymous author of a newspaper advice column for the genteel Southern lady, "Dear Miss Sweetie." When her column becomes wildly popular, she uses the power of the pen to address some of society's ills, but she's not prepared for the backlash that follows when her column challenges fixed ideas about race and gender. While her opponents clamor to uncover the secret identity of Miss Sweetie, a mysterious letter sets Jo off on a search for her own past and the parents who abandoned her as a baby. ..

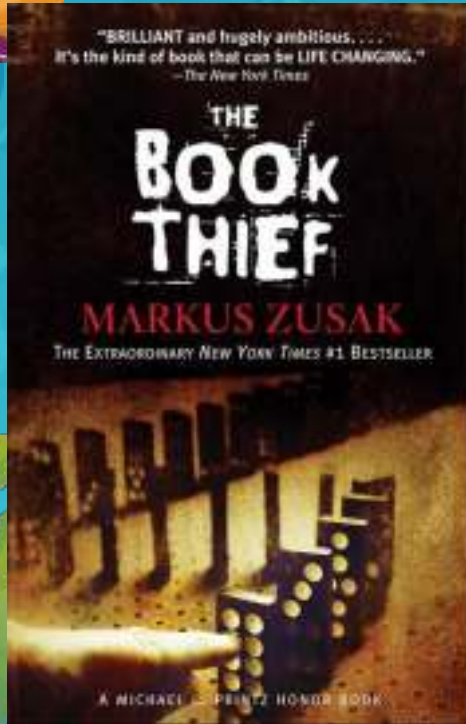
Allies by Alan Gratz



Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel to invade German-occupied France, most of them from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Thousands more in France fought the Nazis at home. It was a day of unprecedented unity and cooperation.

But many people played heroic roles on D-Day only to return to lives after the war filled with prejudice, segregation, and injustice...

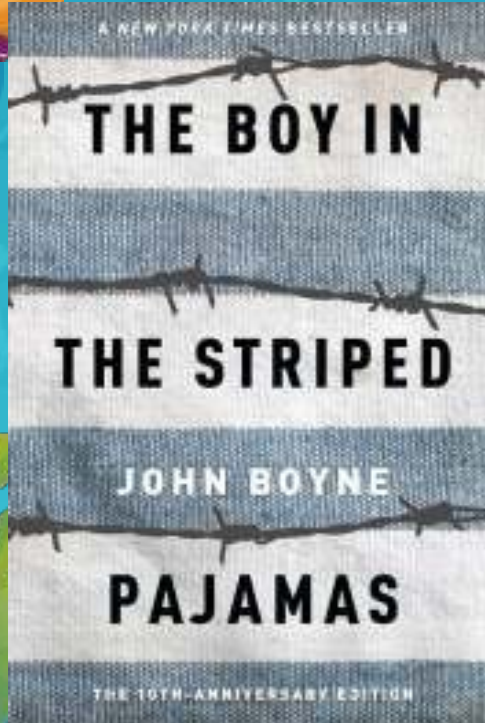
The Book Thief by Markus Zusak



It is 1939 in Nazi Germany. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing something she can't resist --- books.



The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne



Bruno and his family are moving to a place where there is no one to play with, nothing to do, and nothing to see except for a long fence. Then one day he meets a new boy, but he doesn't know about the consequences that come with being friends with him.



Front Desk by Kelly Yang



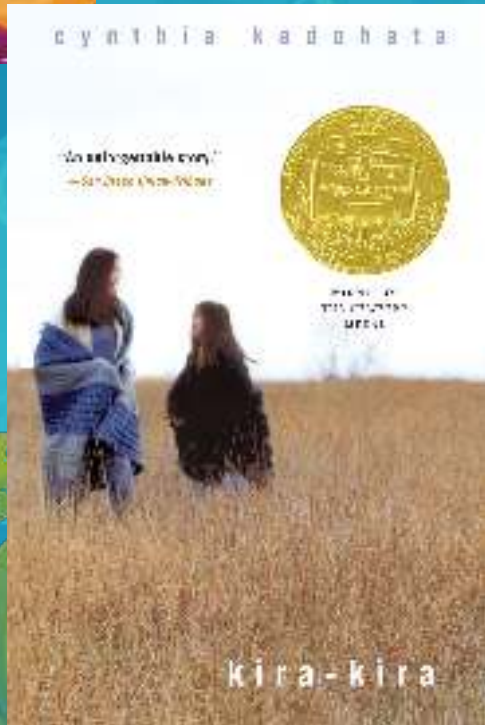
Mia Tang immigrated from China and is still trying to get her life together. After a slip up at the restaurant her mom works at, the Tangs somehow land a job at a nearby motel. However, the owner is super mean and overworks the Tangs a lot. Join Mia's journey to win back her family's freedom and fight racism in the early 1990s.

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti



In jail awaiting his execution, a German teenager recalls Hitler's rise to power and the courage he found to stand up against the Nazi regime.

Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata



The middle daughter in a Japanese-American family tells the story of their struggles to build a better life.



Great or Nothing by Joy McCullough, Caroline Tung Richmond, Tess Sharpe, Jessica Spotswood

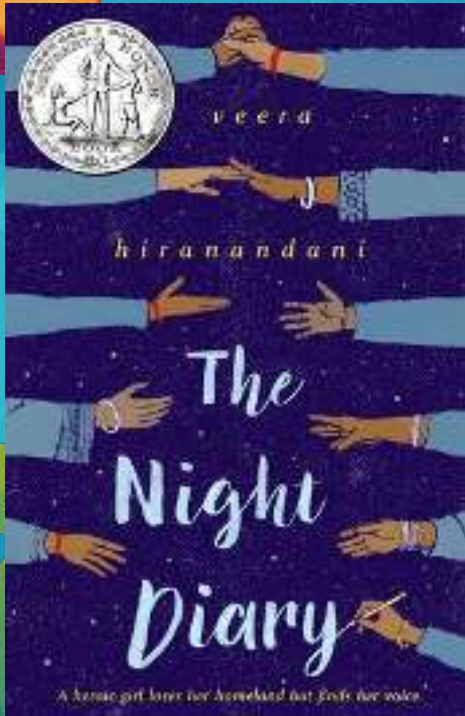


A reimagining of *Little Women* set in 1942, when the United States is suddenly embroiled in the Second World War, this story, told from each March sister's point of view, is one of grief, love, and self-discovery.

In the fall of 1942, the United States is still reeling from the attack on Pearl Harbor. While the US starts sending troops to the front, the March family of Concord, Massachusetts, grieves their own enormous loss: the death of daughter Beth.

Each March sister's point of view is written by a separate author, three in prose and Beth's in verse, still holding the family together from beyond the grave. Woven together, these threads tell a story of finding one's way in a world undergoing catastrophic change.

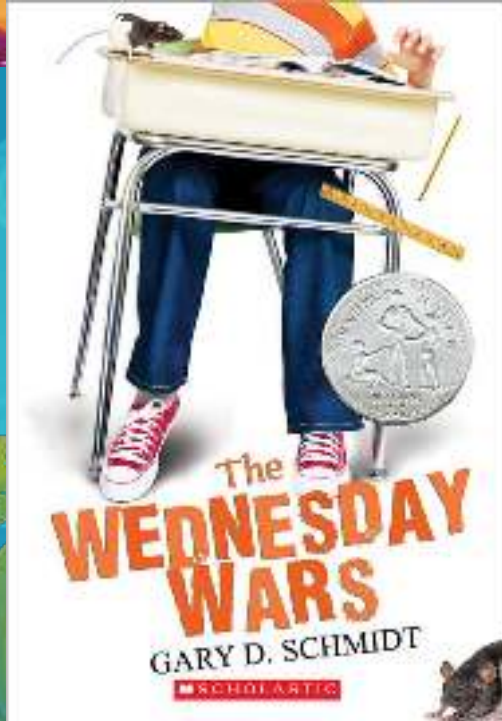
The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani



It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders.

Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt



Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? But everyone has bigger things to worry about, like Vietnam. His father wants Holling and his sister to be on their best behavior: the success of his business depends on it. But how can Holling stay out of trouble when he has so much to contend with?

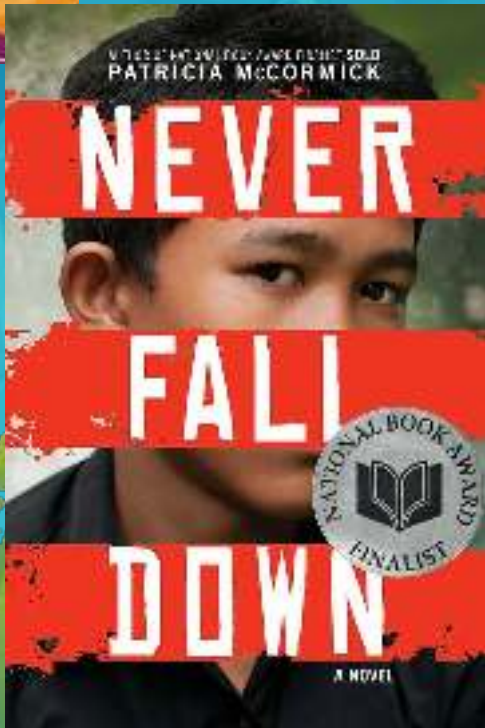
I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys



Romania, 1989. Communist regimes are crumbling across Europe. Seventeen year old Cristian Florescu dreams of becoming a writer, but Romanians aren't free to dream; they are bound by rules and force.

Amidst the tyrannical dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu in a country governed by isolation and fear, Cristian is blackmailed by the secret police to become an informer. He's left with only two choices: betray everyone and everything he loves – or use his position to creatively undermine the most notoriously evil dictator in Eastern Europe.

Never Fall Down by Patricia McCormick



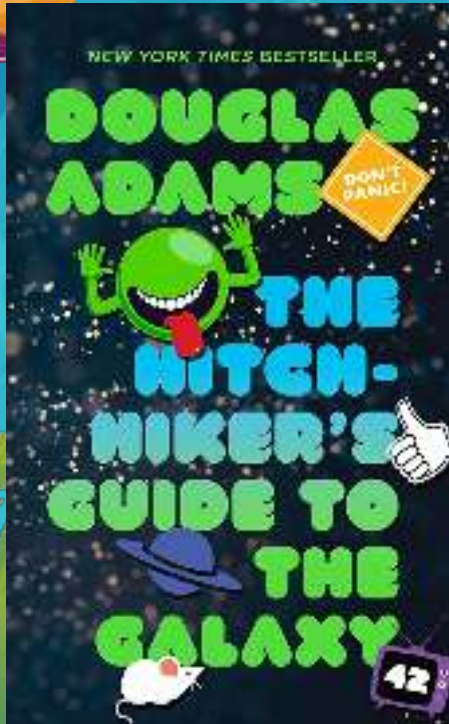
Written from the childhood perspective of Arn Chorn-Pond, this story explores his involvement in the Cambodian genocide.



Science Fiction/Fantasy



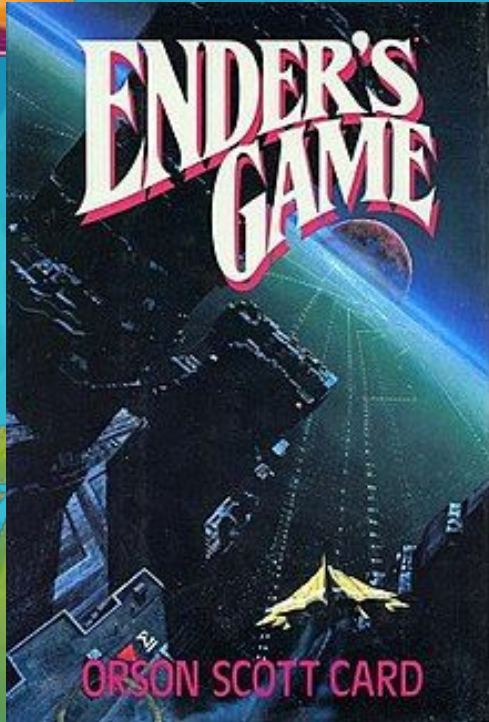
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams



Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy.

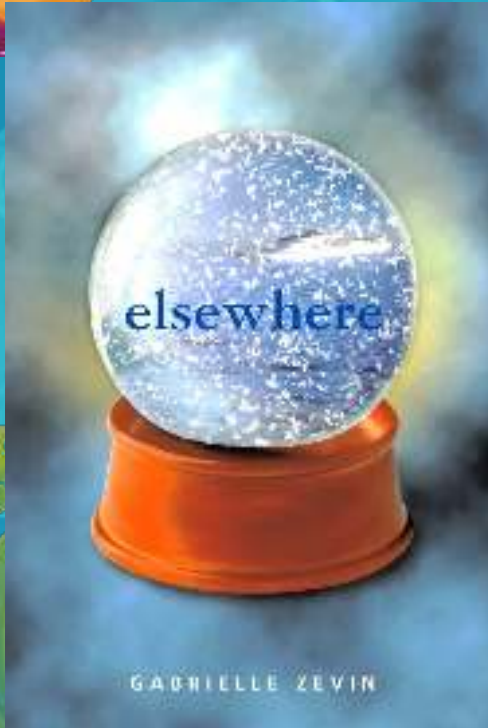


Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card



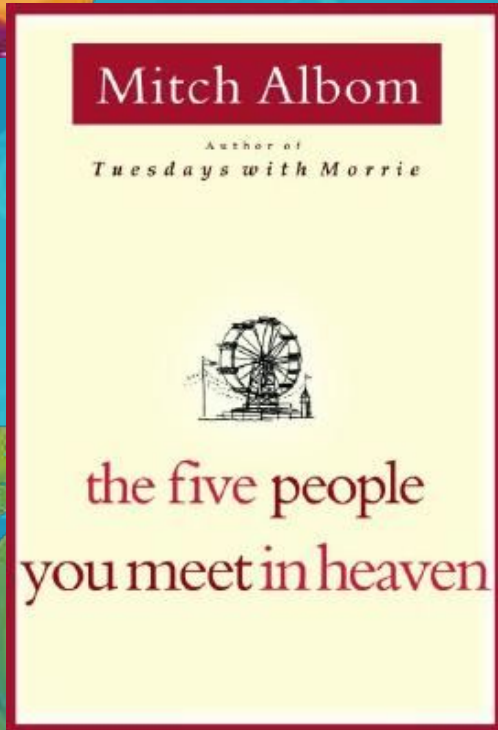
Government agencies breed child geniuses in order to combat the next alien attack. A brilliant boy, Andrew "Ender" Wiggins, makes the cut for military training but suffers from his own psychological battles.

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin



Elsewhere is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so like Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver's license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she's dead, Liz is being forced to live a life she doesn't want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embrace a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward?

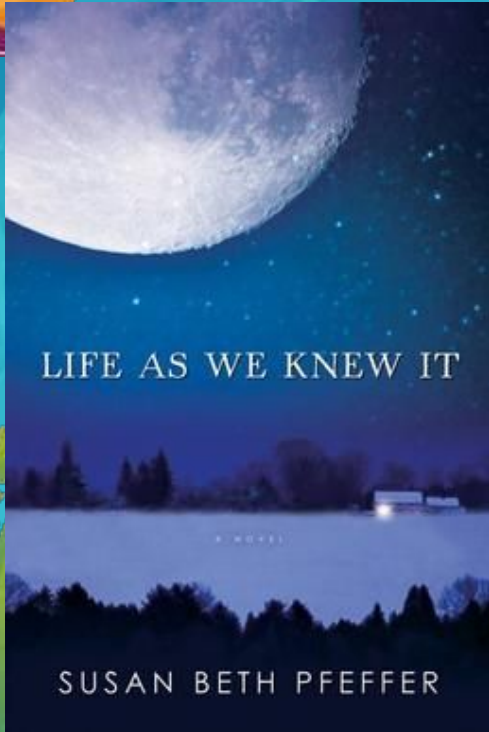
The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom



A war veteran who feels trapped in a meaningless life fixing rides at a seaside amusement park. While trying to save a little girl's life, he dies in a tragic accident. This story focuses on what happens in the afterlife – a place where your earthly life is explained to you by five people who were in it.

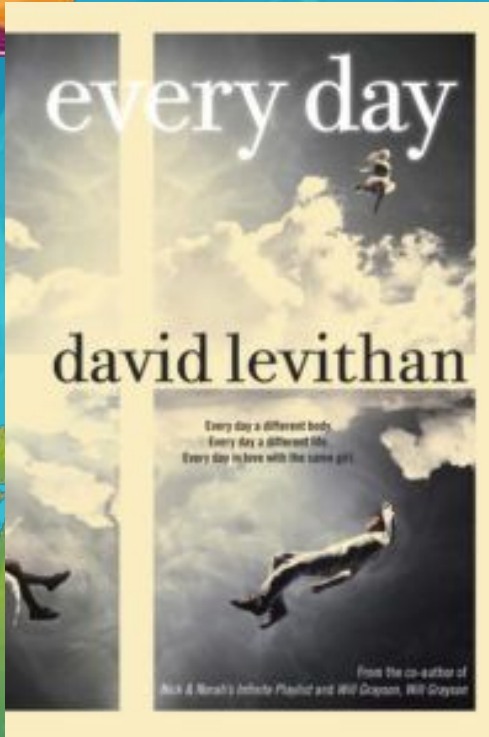
Life As We Knew It

by Susan Beth Pfeffer



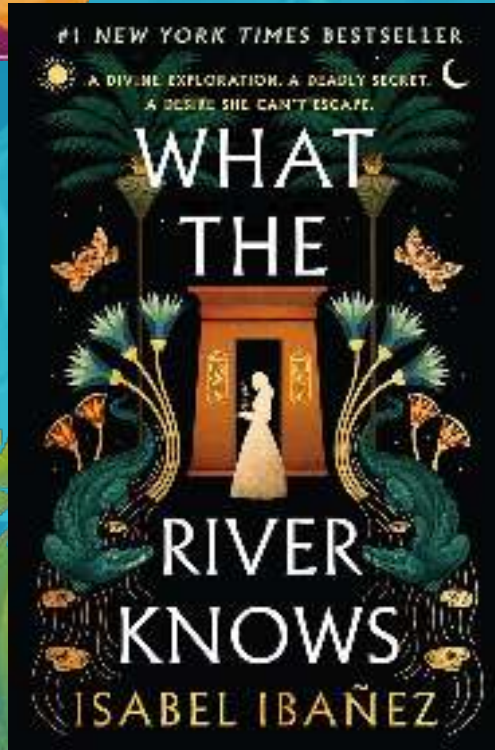
A meteor hits the moon and in one moment the whole world changes. Food and heat are almost nonexistent. One girl journals her family's desperate struggle for survival.

Every Day by David Levithan



The main character, A, wakes up in a different body every morning. He runs into complications when he begins to emotionally attach to someone he does not wish to live without.

What the River Knows by Isabel Ibañez



Bolivian-Argentinian Inez Olivera belongs to the glittering upper society of nineteenth century Buenos Aires, and like the rest of the world, the town is steeped in old world magic that's been largely left behind or forgotten. Inez has everything a girl might want, except for the one thing she yearns the most: her globetrotting parents—who frequently leave her behind.

When she receives word of their tragic deaths, Inez inherits their massive fortune and a mysterious guardian, an archeologist in partnership with his Egyptian brother-in-law. Yearning for answers, Inez sails to Cairo, bringing her sketch pads and a golden ring her father sent to her for safekeeping before he died. But upon her arrival, the old world magic tethered to the ring pulls her down a path where she soon discovers there's more to her parent's disappearance than what her guardian led her to believe.

*Historical Fantasy

Warriors by Erin Hunter



Warrior Cats is about wild cats who live in clans in the forest. There are 4 Clans in the forest, and they have to hunt for prey and try to survive in the forest, while fending off their territory from other Clans. When sickness comes, the Clans have to battle over the last piece of prey.



The Mystwick School of Musicraft by Jessica Khoury

In this book about music and magic, the main character, Amelia Jones goes to a magic school to follow the legacy of her mother but she finds out that she wasn't supposed to get her acceptance letter and isn't suppose to go to the school. She has great character development and overall the book has a lot of plot twists and you will always be surprised.



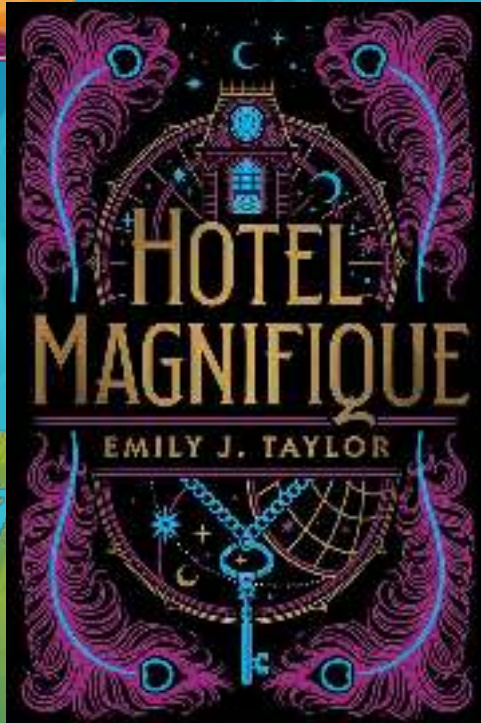
Scythe by Neal Shusterman



A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control.

Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

Hotel Magnifique by Emily J. Taylor



All her life, Jani has dreamed of Elsewhere. Just barely scraping by with her job at a tannery, she's resigned to a dreary life in the port town of Durc, caring for her younger sister Zosa. That is, until the Hotel Magnifique comes to town.

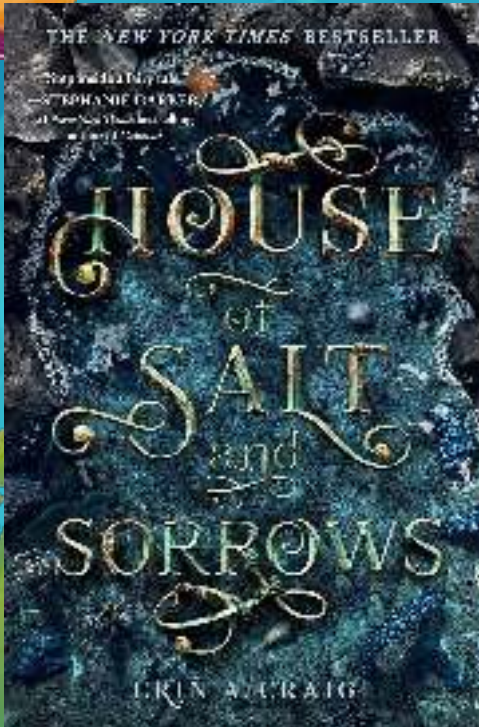
The hotel is legendary not only for its whimsical enchantments, but also for its ability to travel—appearing in a different destination every morning. While Jani and Zosa can't afford the exorbitant costs of a guest's stay, they can interview to join the staff, and are soon whisked away on the greatest adventure of their lives. But once inside, Jani quickly discovers their contracts are unbreakable and that beneath the marvelous glamour, the hotel is hiding dangerous secrets.

Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell



Christopher is whisked away to the magical land of the Archipelago where he is thrown in the middle of an exciting adventure. He, Mal, and the crew of the Neverfear go on a search for the long lost Immortal. This book has so many fun, magical, and exciting aspects to it.

House of Salt and Sorrows by Erin A. Craig



In a manor by the sea, twelve sisters are cursed.

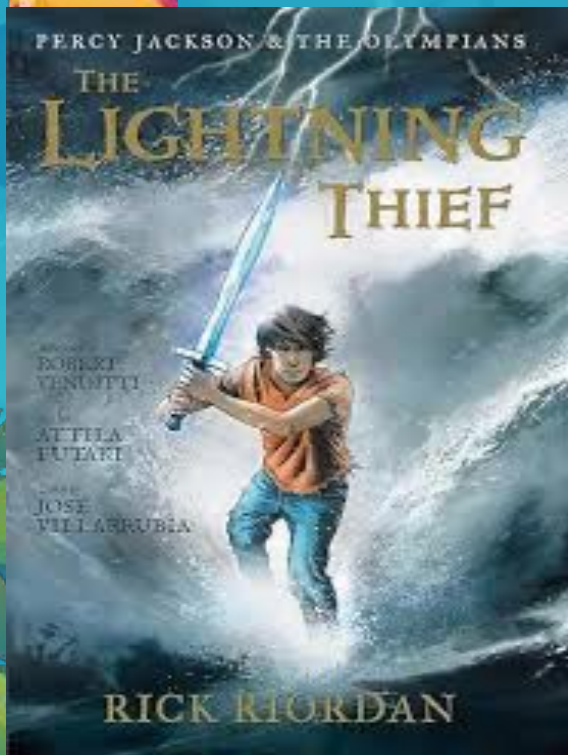
Annaleigh lives a sheltered life at Highmoor with her sisters and their father and stepmother. Once there were twelve, but loneliness fills the grand halls now that four of the girls' lives have been cut short. Each death was more tragic than the last--the plague, a plummeting fall, a drowning, a slippery plunge--and there are whispers throughout the surrounding villages that the family is cursed by the gods.

Dragonborn by Struan Murray



The main character Alex discovers that she is a dragon after transforming in her sleep and almost catching herself on fire. She goes to an island full of dragons so that she can learn how to use her skills. But there is a great evil lurking in the shadows, another dragon who seeks to take back his dragon form

Percy Jackson the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan



Percy Jackson is a book about greek mythology. Percy finds out one of his parents is a God and he gets sent to a special camp. He has to overcome training and challenges and try his best to stay alive.



Also a series!



Thriller/Mystery

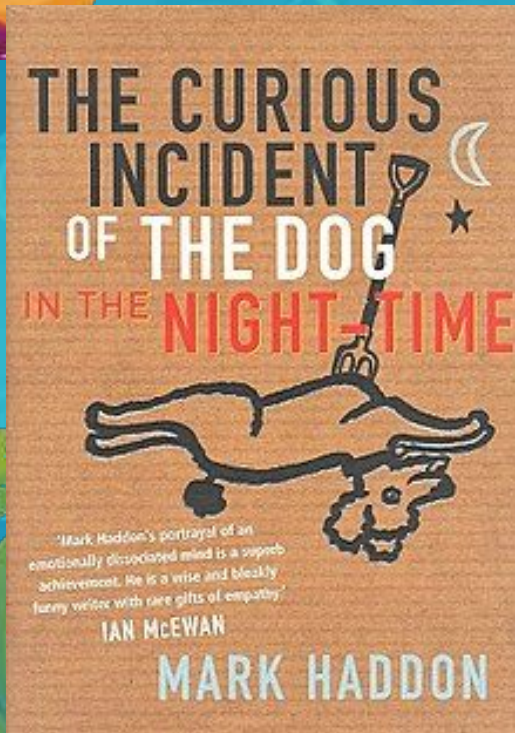


Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle



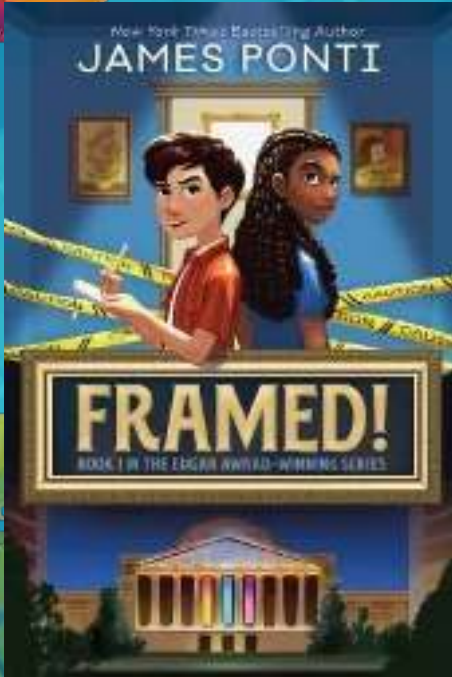
In this, one of the most famous of Doyle's mysteries, the tale of an ancient curse and a savage ghostly hound comes frighteningly to life. The gray towers of Baskerville Hall and the wild open country of Dartmoor will haunt the reader as Holmes and Watson seek to unravel the many secrets of the misty English bogs.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon



A math genius who is afraid of people pretends to be Sherlock Holmes and investigates the murder of a neighbor's dog. He uncovers more mysteries than he expected.

Framed! By James Ponti

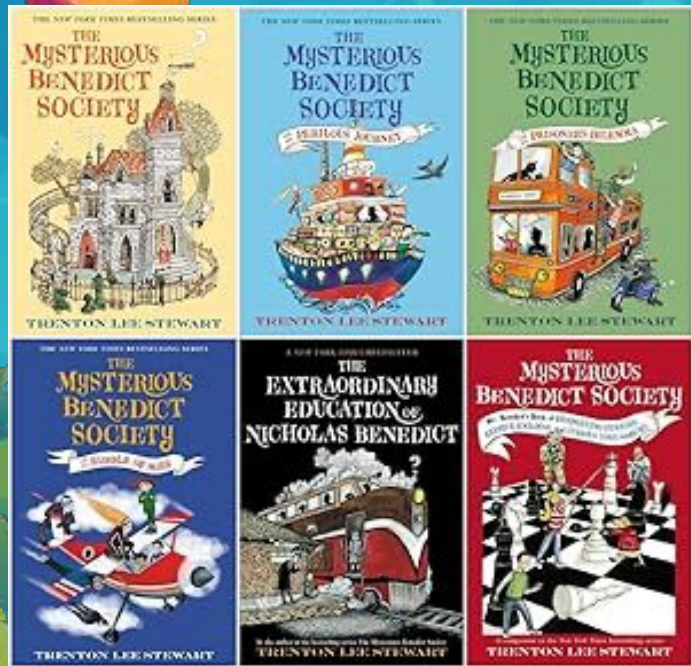


Florian Bates, a 12 year old gets hired by the FBI to find stolen art. He just moved to Washington D.C, as his father is a security specialist and his mom is an art preserver. He then develops his theory of TOAST that focuses on little mysteries in life. For example, where to sit on the first day of school or which Chinese store has the best egg rolls.



The Mysterious Benedict Society

by Trenton Lee Stewart



Have you ever really wanted to get into a school? Maybe it was middle school or maybe it was high school. Whatever it was, Rainey Muldoon probably went through the same thing. Rainey really wants to get into L.I.V.E, the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened. He is a very intelligent kid with big dreams so he steps into the testing room with nervous confidence. Solving puzzles, meeting friends, looking deeper into things, follow Rainey as he does all of this and more!

The Agathas by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson



Last summer, Alice Ogilvie's basketball-star boyfriend Steve dumped her. Then she disappeared for five days. She's not talking, so where she went and what happened to her is the biggest mystery in Castle Cove. Or it was, at least. But now, another one of Steve's girlfriends has vanished: Brooke Donovan, Alice's ex-best friend. And it doesn't look like Brooke will be coming back. . .

Enter Iris Adams, Alice's tutor. Iris has her own reasons for wanting to disappear, though unlike Alice, she doesn't have the money or the means. That could be changed by the hefty reward Brooke's grandmother is offering to anyone who can share information about her granddaughter's whereabouts. The police are convinced Steve is the culprit, but Alice isn't so sure, and with Iris on her side, she just might be able to prove her theory.

In order to get the reward and prove Steve's innocence, they need to figure out who killed Brooke Donovan. And luckily Alice has exactly what they need—the complete works of Agatha Christie. If there's anyone that can teach the girls how to solve a mystery it's the master herself. But the town of Castle Cove holds many secrets, and Alice and Iris have no idea how much danger they're about to walk into.

Sports Fiction



Ball Don't Lie by Matt De La Peña



A teenager (Grayson Boucher) uses basketball to overcome his emotional scars and obsessive-compulsive personality disorder.

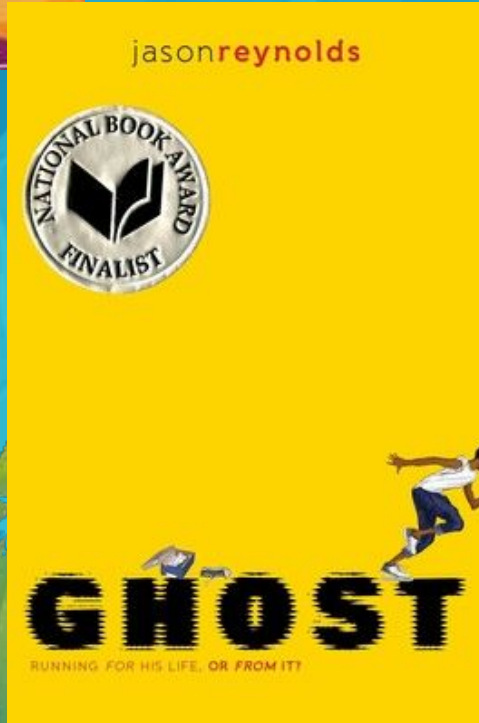
Heat by Mike Lupica



Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only 12 years old, and he has no parents to offer them proof.



Ghost by Jason Reynolds



Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons—it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems—and running away from them—until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

Volleyball Series by Pam Greer

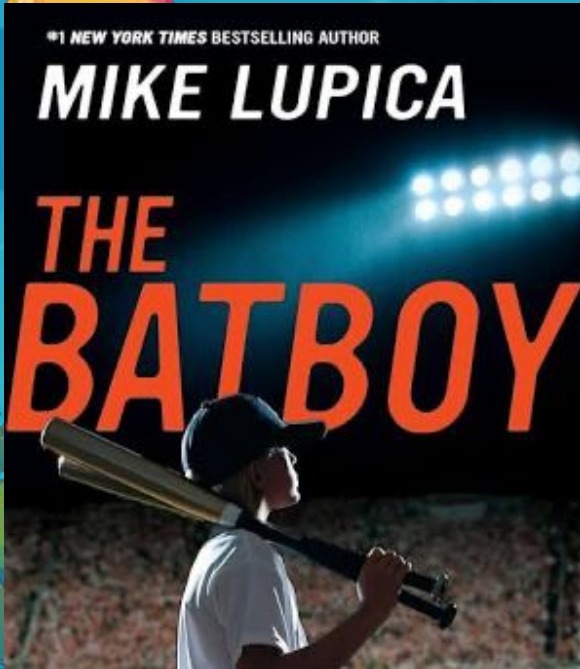


Alarm. Breakfast. Bus. Bio. Spanish. Socials. Study. Lunch. Calc. Humanities. Bell. And THEN the day starts. Knee pads, ponytail. Full court. No drama.

But drama is just the beginning when senior Annette Reynolds recruits incoming freshman Payton Moore to play for the varsity team.

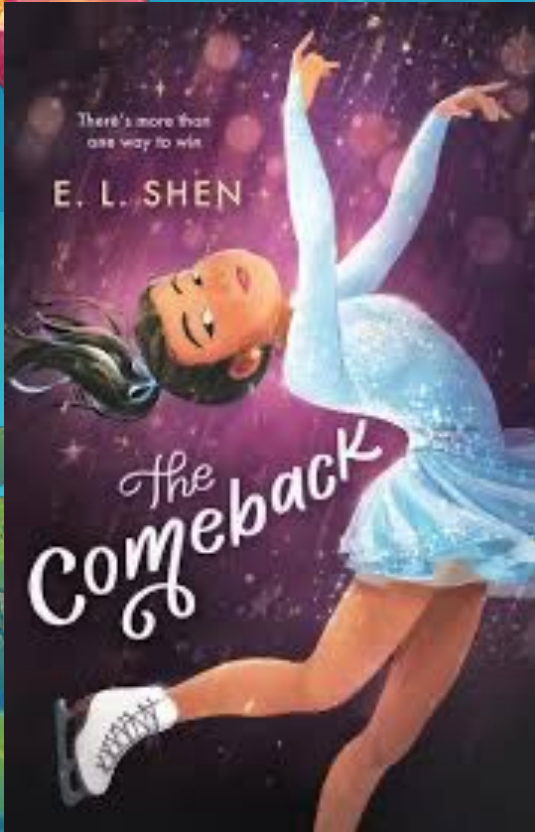
Payton quickly finds that her superior basketball talent doesn't translate to the volleyball court, resulting in a divided team and a rift between Payton and her best friend Renika, whose natural ability for volleyball earns her a starting position on the varsity team.

The Batboy by Mike Lupica



The story follows a 14-year-old boy who lands a dream job as a batboy for his favorite Major League team and navigates the complexities of sports, family, and hero worship

The Comeback by E.L Shen



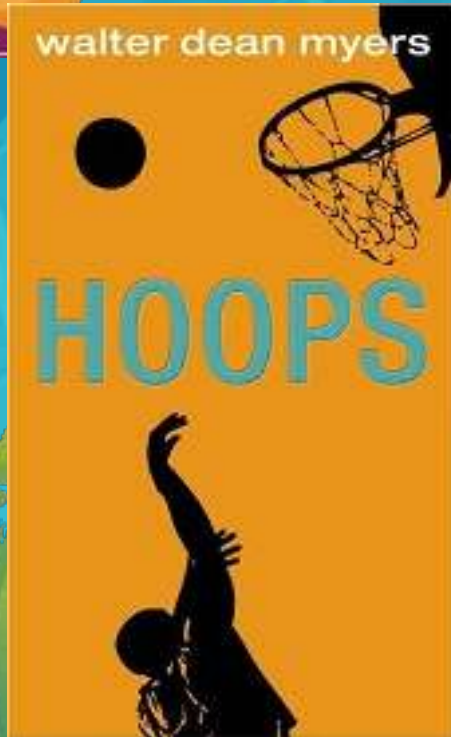
Maxine loves figure skating and is pretty good at it too. Her parents are extra supportive and make financial sacrifices so that Maxine can pursue her passion. Still, they're balanced and never pressure her to do anything she doesn't

Tangerine by Edward Bloor



Set in muck-filled Florida, this deep, engaging novel centers around legally blind soccer player Paul Fisher. It combines intense soccer rivalries with a deep mystery about his family and school.

Hoops by Walter Dean Myers



A teenage basketball player from Harlem is befriended by a former professional player who, after being forced to quit because of a point-shaving scandal, hopes to prevent other young athletes from repeating his mistake.

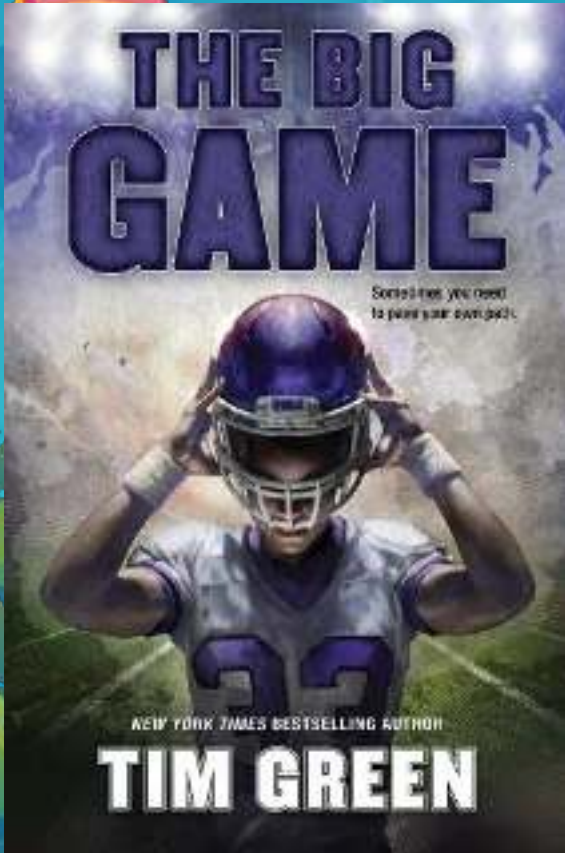
Fast Pitch by Nic Stone



Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is hyper-focused when she steps up to the plate. Nothing can stop her from leading her team to the U12 fast-pitch softball regional championship. But life has thrown some curveballs her way.



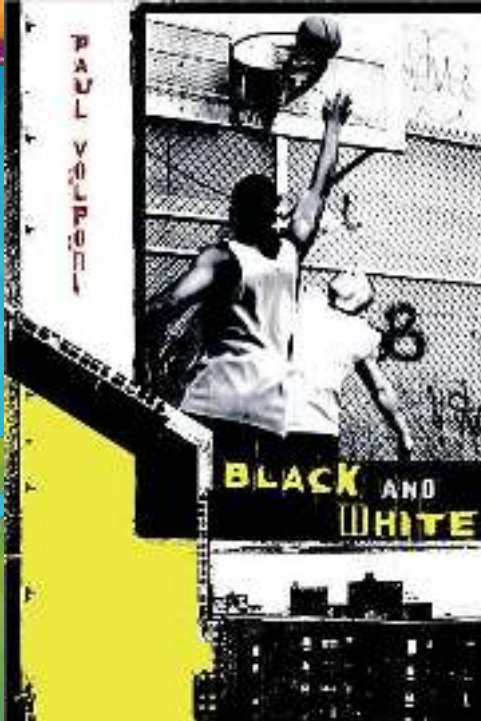
The Big Game by Tim Green



If Danny can't pass his class, he won't be eligible to play in the big championship game that could unlock his future. While his resentment rises against the one person willing to help him win off the field, the pressure to succeed begins to weigh heavily on Danny's shoulders.

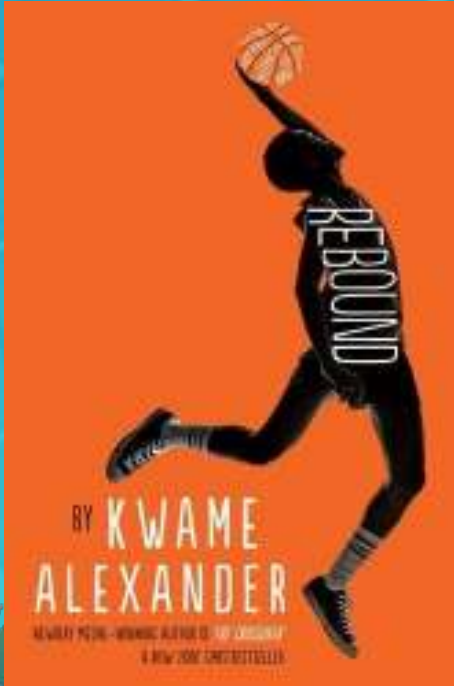


Black and White by Paul Volponi



Two-star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.

Rebound by Kwame Alexander

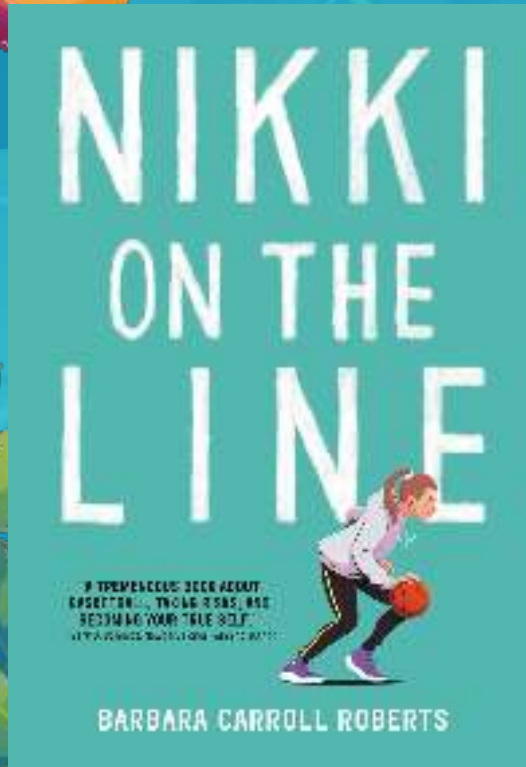


Charlie experiences many challenges in his life with basketball being his new hope. He goes to his grandparents house and spends most of his summer there. He faces many other challenges in his stay of his grandparents, with family, friends and more.



Nikki on the Line

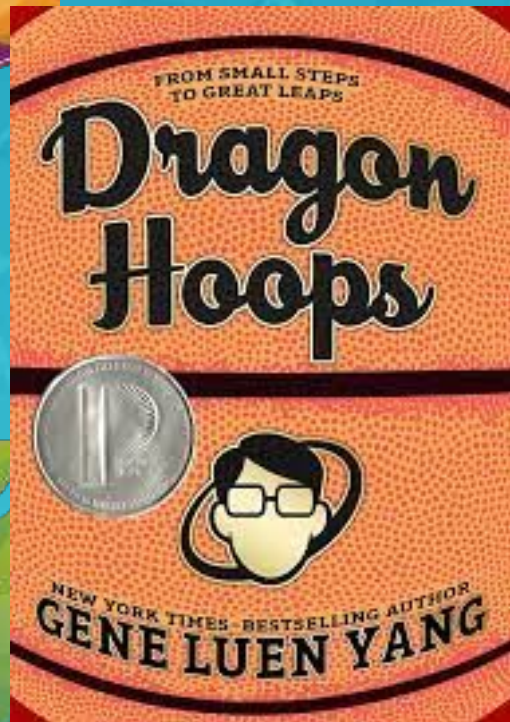
By Barbara Carroll Roberts



Nikki makes an elite club team but finds she's no longer the best player, losing her point guard position and facing pressure from school, friends, and family obligations like babysitting her younger brother to pay for the team.



Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang



Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins. But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons's lives, but his own life as well

Graphic Novels



New Kid by Jerry Craft



Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

Mooncakes by Wendy Xu and Suzanne Walker

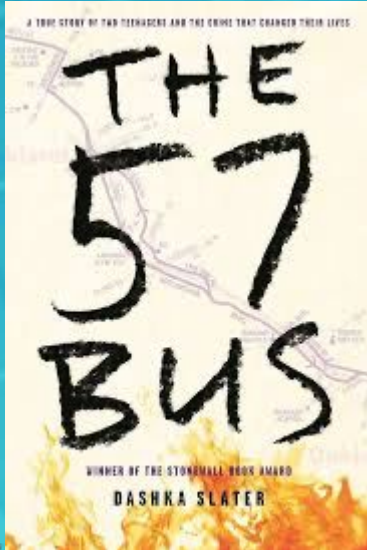


A story of love and demons, family and witchcraft. Nova Huang knows more about magic than your average teen witch. She works at her grandmothers' bookshop, where she helps them loan out spell books and investigate any supernatural occurrences in their New England town. One fateful night, she follows reports of a white wolf into the woods, and she comes across the unexpected: her childhood crush, Tam Lang, battling a horse demon in the woods. As a werewolf, Tam has been wandering from place to place for years, unable to call any townhome. Pursued by dark forces eager to claim the magic of wolves and out of options, Tam turns to Nova for help.

Nonfiction



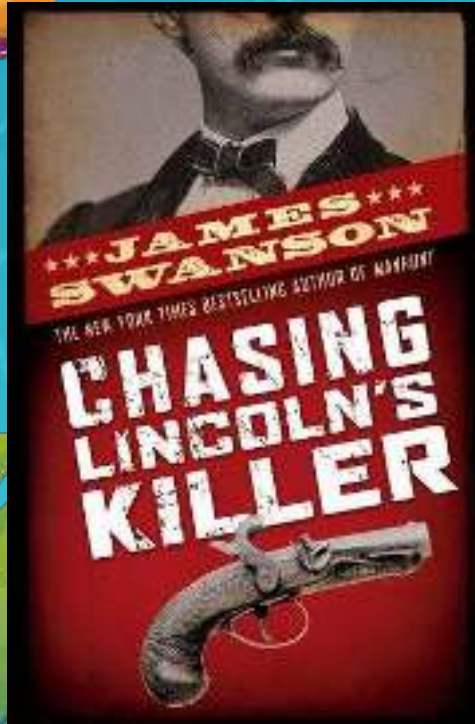
The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater



It is a true story about two teenagers that are from 2 very different parts of the same city, and cross paths for 8 minutes every day on the 57 bus route. One day, Sasha wakes up on the bus to find their skirt on fire. Richard, the teen who set Sashas skirt on fire has to face the consequences



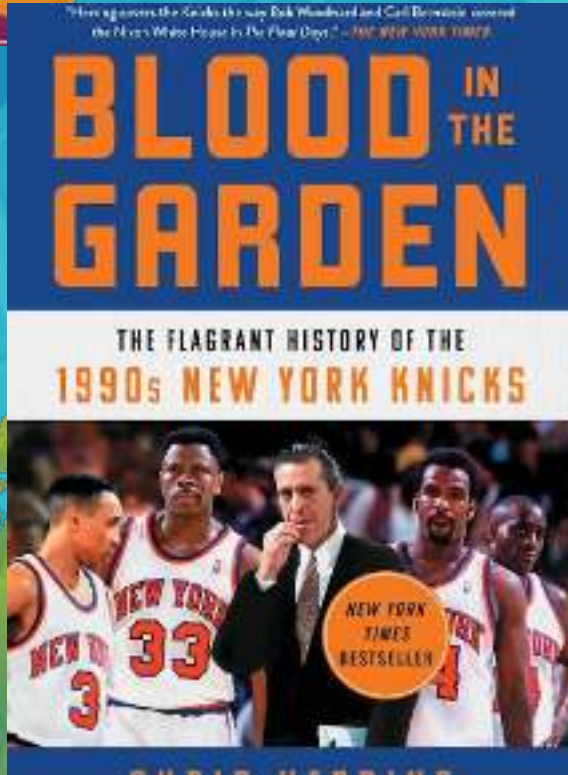
Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson



This is a biographical account of John Wilkes Booth's plot to kill the president and Booth's 12 days on the run following Lincoln's assassination.



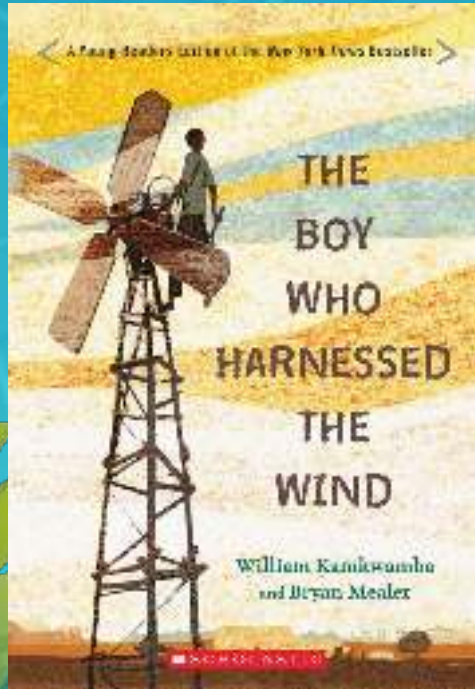
Blood in the Garden by Chris Herring



This book is about the 1990s Knicks (the golden era of the Knicks.) It shows every single exciting part of the prime time NYKS. Although they never won a chip, this team was outstanding and the book is even better.

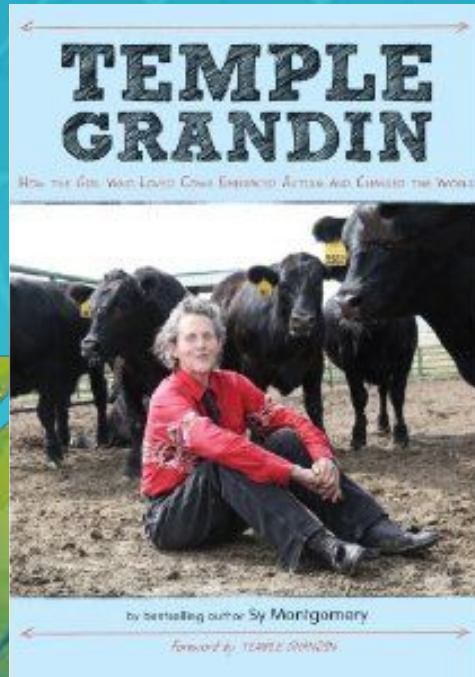


The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer



When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

Temple Grandin: How the Girl who loved cows embraced Autism and changed the world by Temple Grandin



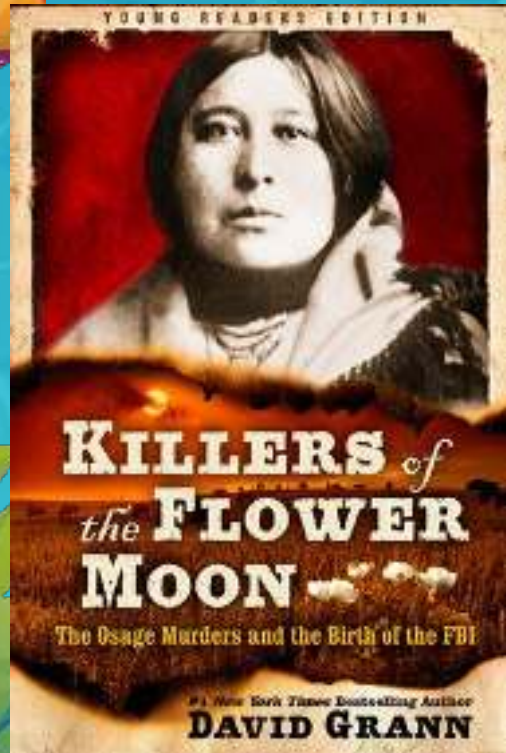
This biography explores the life and mind of Temple Grandin, a brilliant autistic woman who revolutionized the livestock industry

Becoming by Michelle Obama (Young Readers Version)



Michelle Robinson was born on the South Side of Chicago. From her modest beginnings, she would become Michelle Obama, the inspiring and powerful First Lady of the United States, when her husband, Barack Obama, was elected the forty-fourth president. They would be the first Black First Family in the White House and serve the country for two terms.

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann (Young Edition)

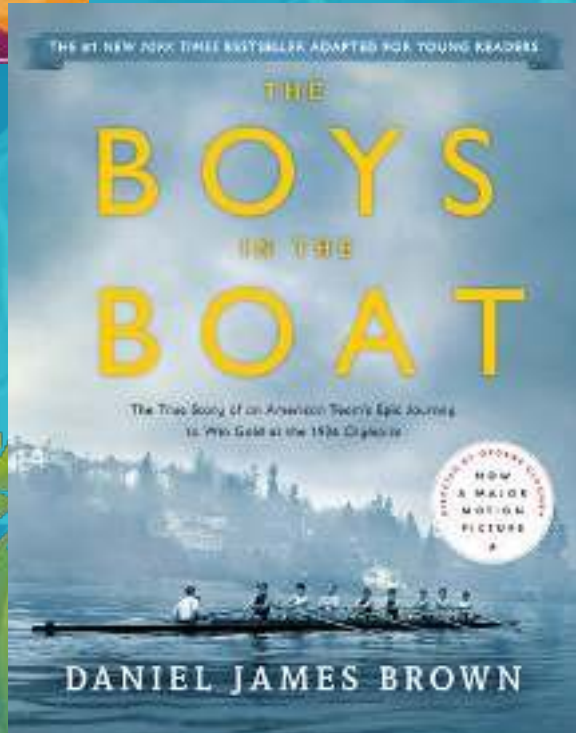


In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe.

Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off.

As the death toll surpassed more than twenty-four Osage, the newly created F.B.I. took up the case, in what became one of the organization's first major homicide investigations.

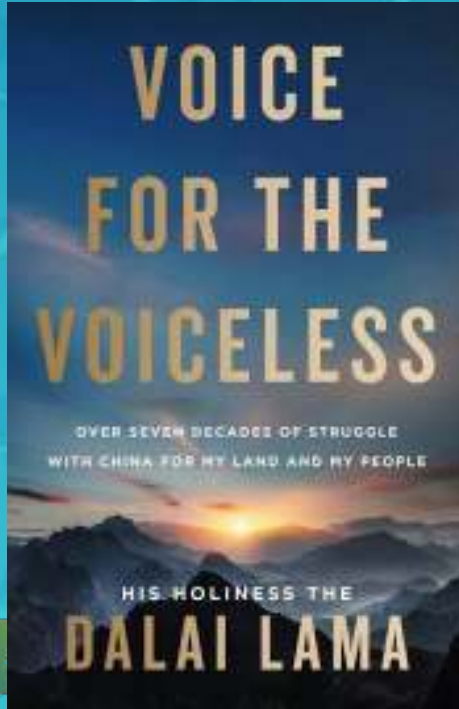
The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics by Daniel James Brown (Young Edition)



Out of the depths of the Great Depression comes the astonishing tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.

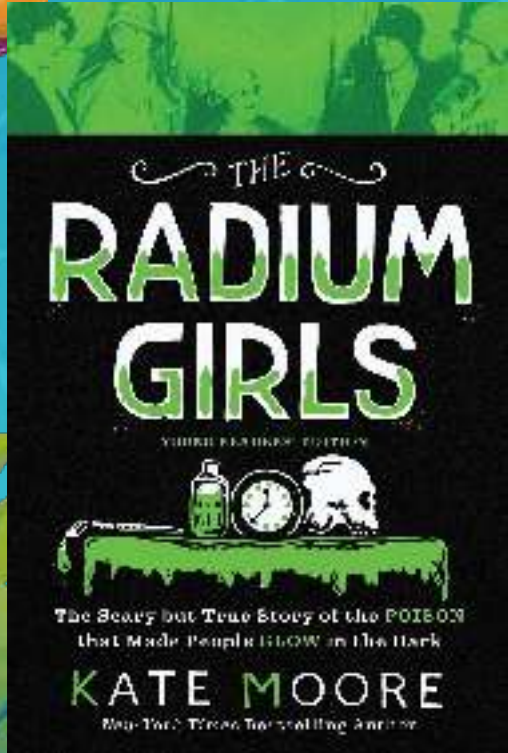
At the center of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, whose personal quest captures the spirit of his generation.

Voice For The Voiceless By His Holiness The Dalai Lama



The Dalai Lama's life as he had to escape Tibet while China invaded back in the 1950's. As he was living in exile trying to save and protect his people and culture. He grew to become the voice for the voiceless as his people were silenced

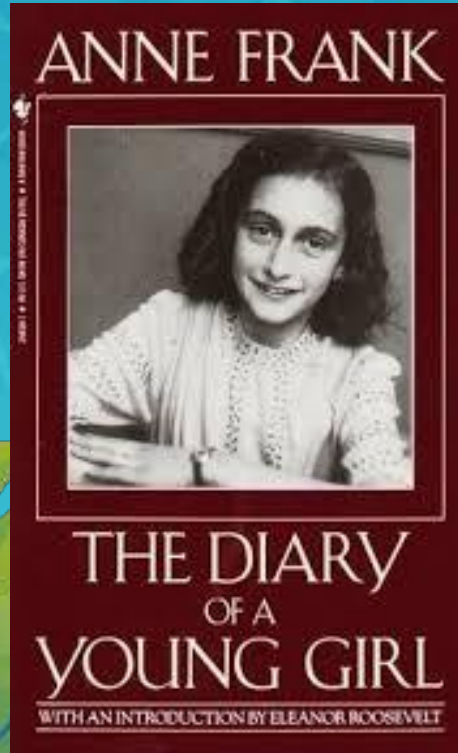
Radium Girls by Kate Moore (Young Edition)



Amid the excitement of the early twentieth century, hundreds of young women spend their days hard at work painting watch dials with glow-in-the-dark radium paint. The painters consider themselves lucky--until they start suffering from a mysterious illness.

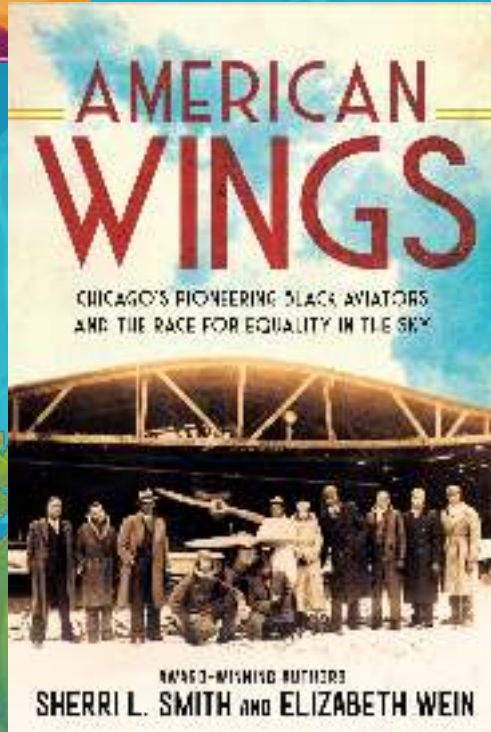
As the corporations try to cover up a shocking secret, these shining girls suddenly find themselves at the center of a deadly scandal.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank



In 1942, with the Nazis occupying Holland, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, the Franks and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annexe" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her experiences during this period.

American Wings: Chicago's Pioneering Black Aviators and the Race for Equality in the Sky by Sherri L. Smith and Elizabeth Wein



In the years between World War I and World War II, aviation fever was everywhere, including among Black Americans. But what hope did a Black person have of learning to fly in a country constricted by prejudice and Jim Crow laws, where Black aviators like Bessie Coleman had to move to France to earn their wings?

American Wings follows a group of determined Black Americans: Cornelius Coffey and Johnny Robinson, skilled auto mechanics; Janet Harmon Bragg, a nurse; and Willa Brown, a teacher and social worker. Together, they created a flying club and built their own airfield south of Chicago..



Helpful Children's Literature Websites



[American Library Association](#) - A collection of ALA's literature award winners and various notable reading lists for children.

[The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books](#) - Homepage for the BCCB, one of the best sites for information on quality literature for children.

[Common Sense Media](#) - This non-profit organization provides thousands of book, movie, tv, podcast, game, app and YouTube reviews from parents and kids.

[International Literacy Association](#) - A collection of "reading lists, shaped by thousands of students and educators across the United States."

