

Realistic Fiction

| Location | Author | Title |
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| J AME | Calonita, Jen | American Girl: The Real Z |
| <p>And action! Z knows what she's doing when it comes to making movies. She's an expert at stop-motion video. In this first book about the aspiring filmmaker, Z has to make a whole new kind of movie--a documentary--and it's harder than she thought. Z wants to wow the judges, but she's not sure her ideas are good enough for a film festival. With the help of her friends, Z shoots a lot of footage, but something about it doesn't feel right. Should she start over? As she tries to make a movie she can be proud of, Z discovers that to be a real filmmaker, she'll first have to be her real self.</p> | | |
| J AME | Harris, Teresa | American Girl: Gabriela |
| <p>When Gabby's beloved community arts center is threatened with closure, she makes a plan to use her spoken word poetry to overcome her stutter and save Liberty Arts.</p> | | |
| <p>Sequel: <i>Gabriela Speaks Out.</i></p> | | |
| J AME | Hertz, Kellen | American Girl: Tenney |
| <p>When Tenney gets invited to perform solo at Nashville's famed Bluebird Cafe, the pressure is on to write the song that will show what she's made of. But then Tenney's parents decide that she's too young to perform professionally, leaving her future hanging in the balance. What if this is Tenney's only chance to make her dreams come true?</p> | | |
| <p>Sequel: <i>Tenney in the Key of Friendship.</i></p> | | |
| J AND | Anderson, John David | Ms. Bixby's Last Day |
| <p>Loving their gifted teacher, three boys are dismayed when the teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories while cutting class and journeying across town together on a fateful day.</p> | | |
| J AND | Anderson, John David | Posted |
| <p>When cell phones are banned at their school, students start communicating through sticky notes left all over the school, triggering a wave of bullying activities in the wake of a new girl's arrival.</p> | | |
| J ARN | Arnold, Elana | Far from Fair |
| <p>As far as twelve-year-old Odette Zyskowski is concerned, her parents have ruined her life by selling the house she and her younger brother have grown up in, getting an RV, and giving her some little mutt instead of the Labrador Retriever she wanted--but as they travel north to see her grandmother, Odette becomes aware of an even more frightening problem: her parents may be on the verge of a divorce.</p> | | |
| J AVI | Avi | The Most Important Thing |
| <p>One of the most beloved writers of our time presents seven short stories exploring the vital ties between fathers and sons. Luke sees the ghost of his father but can't figure out what Dad wants him to do. Paul takes a camping trip with the grandfather he's just met and discovers what lies behind the man's erratic behavior. Ryan has some surprising questions when he interviews his prospective stepfather for the job.</p> | | |

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J BAS

Baskin, Nora Raleigh

nine, ten: a September 11 story

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

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

J BAS

Baskin, Nora Raleigh

Ruby on the Outside

Eleven-year-old Ruby Danes has a real best friend for the first time ever, but agonizes over whether or not to tell her a secret she has never shared with anyone--that her mother has been in prison since Ruby was five--and over whether to express her anger to her mother.

J BAU

Bauer, Joan

Almost Home

When twelve-year-old Sugar's grandfather dies and her gambling father takes off yet again, Sugar and her mother lose their home in Missouri. They head to Chicago for a fresh start, only to discover that fresh starts aren't so easy to come by for the homeless. Nevertheless, Sugar's mother has taught her to be grateful no matter what, so Sugar does her best. With the help of a rescue dog, Shush; a foster family; a supportive teacher; a love of poetry; and her own grace and good humor, Sugar comes to understand that while she can't control the hand life deals her, she can control how she responds.

J BAU

Bauer, Joan

Tell Me

Feeling scared and powerless when her father's anger escalates and her parents separate, twelve-year-old Anna spends the summer with her grandmother and decides to make a difference when she sees what seems to be a girl held against her will.

J BEN

Benjamin, Ali

The Truth About Jellyfish

Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.

Realistic Fiction

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| SERIES CUPCAKE | Berk, Sheryl | The Cupcake Club: Peace, Love and Cupcakes |
| Meet Kylie Carson. She's a fourth grader with a big problem. How will she make friends at her new school? Should she tell her classmates she loves monster movies? Forget it. Play the part of a turnip in the school play? Disaster! Then Kylie comes up with a delicious idea: What if she starts a cupcake club? Soon Kylie's club is spinning out tasty treats with the help of her fellow bakers and new friends. But when Meredith tries to sabotage the girls' big cupcake party, will it be the end of the Cupcake Club? | | |
| Also in this series: <i>Recipe for Trouble; Winner Bakes All; Icing on the Cake.</i> | | |
| J BIL | Bildner, Phil | A Whole New Ballgame |
| Rip and Red are best friends whose fifth-grade year is nothing like what they expected. They have a crazy new tattooed teacher named Mr. Acevedo, who doesn't believe in tests or homework and who likes off-the-wall projects, the more "off" the better. They also find themselves with a new basketball coach: Mr. Acevedo! Easy-going Rip is knocked completely out of his comfort zone. And for Red, who has autism and really needs things to be exactly a certain way, the changes are even more of a struggle. But together these two make a great duo who know how to help each other—and find ways to make a difference—in the classroom and on the court. | | |
| J BIR | Birdsall, Jeanne | The Penderwicks : a Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy |
| While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. (Ages 8-12) | | |
| Also in this series: <i>The Penderwicks on Gardam Street; The Penderwicks at Point Mouette; The Penderwicks in Spring.</i> | | |
| J BIS | Bishop, Jenn | 14 Hollow Road |
| Rising seventh-grader Maddie is consumed by her long-term crush on classmate Avery until a tornado destroys her home and her family must move in with his. | | |
| J BLA | Blakemore, Megan | The Friendship Riddle |
| Ruth Mudd-O'Flaherty has been a lone wolf at her new middle school ever since her best friend, Charlotte, ditched her for "cooler" friends. Who needs friends when you have fantasy novels? Roaming the stacks of her town's library is enough for Ruth. Until she finds a note in an old book...and in that note is a riddle, one that Ruth can't solve alone. With a tantalizing set of clues before her, Ruth must admit she needs help, the kind that usually comes from friends. Lena and Coco, two kids in her class could be an option, but allowing them in will require courage, and Ruth must decide: Is embarking on this quest worth opening herself up again? | | |

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J BLU

Blume, Judy

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Life with his little brother, two-year-old Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing mashed potatoes on the walls at Hamburger Heaven, or trying to fly, he's never far from trouble. He's an almost three-year-old terror who gets away with everything, and Peter's had it up to here!

When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. Peter has put up with Fudge for too long. How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change? (Ages 8-12)

J BOW

Bowe, Julie

My Extra Best Friend

It's Ida May's first time at sleepaway camp, and her two BFFs, popular Stacey and highly organized Jenna, are also coming along. But when they arrive at camp, their bunkmate is the last person Ida expected to ever see again: Elizabeth Evans, her last best friend who moved away before the start of this series. Ida was heartbroken when Liz didn't answer her letters, and now Liz won't even apologize. All the other girls are ready to welcome Liz back, but Ida just can't be the peacemaker this time. Not until she and Liz talk.

J BUR

Burt, Jake

Greetings from Witness Protection!

Thirteen-year-old Nikki Demere is an orphan and a kleptomaniac, making her the perfect girl to portray the Trevors' daughter in witness protection, but she soon learns that the biggest threat to her new family's security comes from her own past.

J BUY

Buyea, Rob

Because of Mr. Terupt

Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.

Also in this series: *Mr. Terupt Falls Again; Saving Mr. Terupt.*

J BUY

Buyea, Rob

The Perfect Score

Randi, Gavin, Trevor, Scott, and Natalie all have strengths and weaknesses in school and at home but they all agree that the state testing is stressful and taking away what they like most about school.

When Scott comes up with a plan that can help everyone with the test, they all go along with it for different reasons and learn a lot about themselves on the way.

NEWBERY

Byars, Betsy

Summer of the Swans

1971

A teen-age girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally retarded brother gets lost. (Ages 9-12)

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J CAB Cabot, Meg **Allie Finkle’s Rules for Girls: Moving Day**

Nine-year-old Allie Finkle has rules for everything and is even writing her own rule book, but her world is turned upside-down when she learns that her family is moving across town, which will mean a new house, school, best friend, and plenty of new rules. (Grades 3 - 5)

Also in this series: *The New Girl; Best Friends and Drama Queens; Stage Fright; Glitter Girls and the Great Fake Out; Blast From the Past.*

J CAR Cartaya, Pablo **The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora**

When his family's restaurant and Cuban American neighborhood in Miami are threatened by a greedy land developer, thirteen-year-old Arturo, joined by Carmen, a cute poetry enthusiast, fight back, discovering the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.

J CAR Carvell, Tim **Planet Tad**

Tad has an agenda: Survive seventh grade. He *also* wants to: grow a mustache, get girls to notice him, and do a kickflip on his skateboard. . .

But those are not the *main* reasons he started a blog. Tad just has a lot of important thoughts he wants to share with the world, like: *Here is the first thing I have learned about having a dog in your house: Don't feed them nachos. Not ever.*

Sequel: *Return to Planet Tad.*

J CHE Cheng, Andrea **The Year of the Book**

In Chinese, *peng you* means friend. But in any language, all Anna knows for certain is that friendship is complicated.

When Anna needs company, she turns to her books. Whether traveling through *A Wrinkle in Time*, or peering over *My Side of the Mountain*, books provide what real life cannot—constant companionship and insight into her changing world. Books, however, can't tell Anna how to find a true friend. She'll have to discover that on her own.

J CHO Choldenko, Gennifer **Al Capone Does My Shirts**

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. (Ages 10 and up)

Also in this series: *Al Capone Shines My Shoes; Al Capone Does My Homework.*

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| J CLE | Cleary, Beverly | Beezus and Ramona |
| Beezus' biggest problem is her 4-year-old sister Ramona. Even though Beezus knows sisters are supposed to love each other, with a sister like Ramona, it seems impossible. (Ages 8-12) | | |
| <i>Also in this series: Ramona the Pest; Ramona the Brave; Ramona and Her Father; Ramona and Her Mother; Ramona Quimby, Age 8; Ramona Forever; Ramona's World.</i> | | |
| J CLE | Cleary, Beverly | Mitch and Amy |
| The adventures of a nine-year-old twin brother and sister who, despite constant bickering, support each other loyally at home and at school. | | |
| J CLE | Clements, Andrew | About Average |
| Jordan Johnston is average. Not short, not tall. Not plump, not slim. Not blond, not brunette. Not gifted, not flunking out. Even her shoe size is average. She's ordinary for her school, for her town, for even the whole wide world, it seems. But everyone else? They're remarkable. She sees evidence everywhere – on TV, in magazines, and even in her classroom. Tremendously talented. Stunningly beautiful. Wildly gifted. And some of them are practically her age! Jordan feels doomed to a life of wallowing in the vast, soggy middle. So she makes a goal: By the end of the year, she will discover her great talent. By the end of the year, she will no longer be average. She <i>will</i> find a way to become extraordinary, and everyone <i>will</i> know about it! | | |
| J CLE | Clements, Andrew | Frindle |
| When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control. (Ages 8 - 12) | | |
| J CLE | Clements, Andrew | The Losers Club |
| Alec, a sixth-grade bookworm always in trouble for reading instead of listening and participating in class, starts a book club, solely to have a place to read, and discovers that real life, although messy, can be as exciting as the stories in his favorite books. | | |
| J CON | Condie, Ally | Summerlost |
| Following the sudden deaths of her father and autistic younger brother, Cedar Lee spends the summer working at a Shakespearean theater festival, making a new friend, and coming to terms with her grief. | | |
| J CON | Conklin, Melanie | Counting Thyme |
| Thyme Owens moves across the country with her family so her younger brother can take part in a promising cancer drug trial, and though all she wants is for him to get better, adjusting to life in Manhattan is anything but easy. | | |

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| J CON | Connor, Leslie | Crunch |
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Dewey Mariss attempts to be the "embodiment of responsibility" as he juggles the management of the family's bicycle repair business while sharing the household and farm duties with his siblings after a sudden energy crisis strands their parents far from home. (Grades 5 - 8)

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| J COT | Cotler, Stephen L. | Cheesie Mack is Cool in a Duel |
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Cheesie and Georgie are back, and this time they're off to the greatest summer camp in Maine. As the oldest of the Little Guy campers, they'll get to make the campfires and choose the sports teams. It's sure to be their best summer yet! Then disaster strikes. Cheesie and Georgie are put in a cabin with the Big Guy campers, including Cheesie's archenemy, Kevin Welch. Now the youngest – and smallest – of the Big Guys, Cheesie has no choice but to use his brains to fight Kevin's brawn – he challenges the bully to a Cool Duel. The adventure that follows includes a toilet on a wall, a headless skateboarder, a garter snake mustache, and *the scariest ghost story ever told*. Will Cheesie survive to start middle school?

See Also: *Cheesie Mack is Not a Genius or Anything.*

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| J CRE | Creech, Sharon | The Boy on the Porch |
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One day a young couple wakes to find a boy asleep on their porch. Unable to speak, the boy cannot explain his history. What kind of people would leave their child with strangers? All John and Marta know is that they have been chosen to care for this boy. As their connection to him grows, they embrace his exuberant spirit and talents. The three of them blossom into an unlikely family, but how long can their happiness last?

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| J CRE | Creech, Sharon | Moo |
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When Reena, her little brother, Luke, and their parents first move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. She's ready for beaches, blueberries, and all the lobster she can eat. Instead, her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for an eccentric neighbor named Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna – and that stubborn cow, Zora.

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| J CRO | Cronin, Doreen | Cyclone |
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Riding the Cyclone, the world famous Coney Island rollercoaster was supposed to be the highlight of twelve-year-old Nora's summer, but right after they disembark, Nora's thirteen-year-old cousin Riley falls to the ground and into a coma that Nora thinks is her fault.

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| J CRO | Crowder, Melanie | Three Pennies |
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In San Francisco, eleven-year-old Marin desperately searches for her birthmother knowing time is running out before she is adopted, and discovers for the first time in her life what it feels like to be truly wanted by someone.

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J DAN Danziger, Paula

Amber Brown is Not a Crayon

Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They've known each other for practically forever, sit next to each other in class, help each other with homework, and always stick up for each other. Justin never says things like, "Amber Brown is not a crayon." Amber never says, "Justin Time." They're a great team--until disaster strikes. Justin has to move away, and now the best friends are fighting. Will they be able to work it out before it's too late?

Also in this series: *You Can't Eat Your Chicken Pox, Amber Brown; Amber Brown Goes Fourth; Amber Brown Wants Extra Credit; Forever Amber Brown; Amber Brown Sees Red; Amber Brown Is Feeling Blue; I, Amber Brown; It's Justin Time, Amber Brown; What a Trip Amber Brown; Get Ready for 2nd Grade, Amber Brown; It's a Fair Day, Amber Brown; Amber Brown Is Green with Envy; Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown; Orange You Glad It's Halloween Amber Brown?; Amber Brown Is Tickled Pink.*

J DAV Davies, Jacqueline

The Bell Bandit

Everything about this trip to Grandma's house was different: First, because of the fire, Mrs. Treski, Evan, and Jessie had driven up to Grandma's two days after Christmas instead of the day before, missing Christmas with Grandma entirely.

Second, the fire had left a hole in the back kitchen wall big enough to drive a car through! And with Grandma in the hospital and not in her house, everything felt off. Third, someone had climbed the long, slow slope of Lovell Hill to the top and had stolen the old iron bell hanging on its heavy wooden crossbeam.

Who on earth would steal the New Year's Bell? And how could Grandma, Mrs. Treski, Evan, Jessie, and their neighbors ring in the New Year without it?

J DEC DeClements, Barthe

Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade

A fifth grade class, repelled by the overweight new student who has serious home problems, finally learns to accept her. (Ages 8 - 12)

J DEF DeFelice, Cynthia

Fort

Eleven-year-old Wyatt and his friend Augie aren't looking for a fight. They're having the best summer of their lives hanging out in the fort they built in the woods, fishing and hunting, cooking over a campfire, and sleeping out. But when two older boys mess with the fort--and with another kid who can't fight back--the friends are forced to launch Operation Doom, with unexpected results for all concerned.

J DIC DiCamillo, Kate

Because of Winn Dixie

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. (Grades 4 - 6)

Realistic Fiction

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| J DIC | DiCamillo, Kate | Raymie Nightingale |
| Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into an unlikely friendship with a drama queen and a saboteur. | | |
| J DOO | Dooley, Sarah | Ashes to Asheville |
| Twelve-year-old Fella is swept away on a wild road trip by her older sister Zany to fulfill their late mother's dying wish. | | |
| J DRA | Draper, Sharon M. | Out of My Mind |
| Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. (Grades 4 - 6) | | |
| J ELL | Ellis, Ann Dee | You May Already Be a Winner |
| Twelve-year-old Olivia endeavors to care for her younger sister, possibly make a new friend in the quirky and secretive Bart, and keep hope alive for her, her family, and her community of idiosyncratic neighbors at Sunny Pines Trailer Park. | | |
| J EST | Estes, Eleanor | The Hundred Dresses |
| In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson. (Ages 6 - 10) | | |
| J FAG | Fagan, Cary | Wolfie and Fly |
| Wolfie, a lone wolf who does not like using her imagination, reluctantly befriends Fly, a slightly weird and wordy boy, and soon they find themselves navigating through deep water in a submarine made from a cardboard box. | | |
| J FAR | Faris, Stephanie | 30 Days of No Gossip |
| Maddie Evans prides herself on being the gossip queen of Troy Middle School. She is the first person her classmates go to when they need the latest news on the ins-and-outs of TMS – and Maddie never disappoints. Her best friend since birth, Vi, isn't crazy about Maddie's penchant for passing on rumors, but it's never been an issue in their friendship. Until the day Maddie lets slip who Vi is crushing on – in front of her crush. Vi is furious, and she confronts Maddie with an ultimatum: no gossip for 30 days, or twelve years of sisterhood goes down the drain. Maddie agrees, but only a week into the challenge, she gets one of the juiciest pieces of gossip EVER – something that could affect the future of the school. Will she be able to keep her mouth shut and tame her ways? Or will she be left standing alone with no one to hear her stories? | | |

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| J FIT | Fitzmaurice, Kathryn | Destiny, Rewritten |
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Eleven-year-old Emily Elizabeth Davis has been told for her entire life that her destiny is to become a poet, just like her famous namesake, Emily Dickinson. But Emily doesn't even really like poetry, and she has a secret career ambition that she suspects her English-professor mother will frown on. Then, just after discovering that it contains an important family secret, she loses the special volume of Emily Dickinson's poetry that was given to her at birth. As Emily and her friends search for the lost book in used bookstores and thrift shops all across town, Emily's understanding of destiny begins to unravel and then rewrite itself in a marvelous new way.

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| J FLO | Florence, Debbi Michiko | Jasmine Toguchi, Super Sleuth |
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Jasmine has looked forward to spending Girls Day with her family and best friend, Linnie, but first her sister says she will not participate, and then Jasmine upsets Linnie.

Sequel: *Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen.*

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| J FOS | Foster, Stewart | Bubble |
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Orphaned eleven-year-old Joe lives in a hospital due to his autoimmune disease, interacting only with his sister, an American boy with the same illness, and medical staff while dreaming of being a superhero.

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| J FRA | Fraillon, Zana | The Bone Sparrow |
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Subhi's contained world as a refugee in an Australian permanent detention center rapidly expands when Jimmie arrives on the other side of the fence and asks him to read her late mother's stories to her.

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| J FRA | Frazier, Sundee Tucker | Cleo Edison Oliver in Persuasion Power |
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Successful businesswoman Fortune A. Davies has announced a new website where "kidpreneurs" can upload ads for their businesses and Cleo and her friend Caylee are sure this is their big break to get funding for their personalized barrettes, Passion Clips--but producing an internet ad using their classmates is proving difficult, and Cleo is further distracted by her desire to find her birth parents.

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| J FRA | Frazier, Sundee Tucker | The Other Half of My Heart |
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The close relationship of a pair of biracial twins is tested when their grandmother enters them in a pageant for African-American girls. (Grades 4 - 6)

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| J FRE | Frederick, Heather Vogel | Dear Pen Pal |
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Four very different friends in Concord, Massachusetts, and their mothers continue their book club, reading Jean Webster's "Daddy Long-Legs," while getting to know their own pen pals from Wyoming.

Also in this series: *The Mother-Daughter Book Club; Much Ado About Anne; Pies & Prejudice; Home for the Holidays.*

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| J FRE | Freeman, Martha | Effie Starr Zook Has One More Question |
| City girl Effie Starr Zook is not excited about spending the summer on her aunt and uncle's farm in Nowheresville, Pennsylvania, until she stumbles across a mystery that leads her smack into an old family feud. | | |
| J FRE | Freitas, Donna | Gold Medal Summer |
| Joey Jordan loves gymnastics: the thrill of performing a backflip on the beam, the cheers of the audience when she sticks a landing. But even with all her talent and style, she's never quite made it to that gold medal stand. Now big changes shake up Joey's life in and out of the gym. Joey wants to break out some daring new beam and floor routines--but she'll have to defy her strict coach to do it. Her best friend, Alex, is thinking about quitting gymnastics for good. And an old friend named Tanner just moved back to town, and he's suddenly gotten very, very cute. Can Joey handle all the challenges coming her way, and make her gold medal summer happen at last? | | |
| J FRE | French, Simon | My Cousin's Keeper |
| Eleven-year-old Kieran wants to be part of the "in" group at school. He wants to be on the soccer team. He wants to fit in. But then his weird cousin Bon turns up, both at school and at home. Bon knows nothing about fitting in, with his long blond braid, babyish hand-knit hat, and funny, precise voice. Bon doesn't play sports, and he likes to draw imaginary maps with stories about "Bon the Crusader" and "Kieran the Brave." He's an easy target for teasing, and Kieran has little patience for him. Even more irritating, Bon's only friend is the <i>other</i> new kid, a cool girl named Julia who wears cowboy boots and has a confidence that fascinates Kieran. What could she and Bon possibly have in common? | | |
| J GEM | Gemeinhart, Dan | The Honest Truth |
| A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau--but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading. | | |
| J GEP | Gephart, Donna | Olivia Bean, Trivia Queen |
| Olivia Bean knows trivia. She watches <i>Jeopardy!</i> every night and usually beats at least one of the contestants. If she were better at geography, she would try out for the show's kids' week. Not only could she win bundles of money, she'd get to go to the taping in California, where her dad, who left two years ago and who Olivia misses like crazy, lives with his new family. One day Olivia's friend-turned-nemesis, Tucker, offers to help her bulk up her geography knowledge. Before Olivia knows it, she's getting help from all sorts of unexpected sources: her almost-stepdad, super annoying Neil; her genius little brother, Charlie; even her stressed-out mom. Soon she has breezed through the audition rounds and is headed for Hollywood! But will the one person she wants to impress more than anyone else show up to support her? | | |

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| J GEW | Gewirtz, Adina | Zebra Forest |
| Inspired by her grandmother to strive for excellence in all things, eleven-year-old Annie lies to her social worker and invents stories about her murdered father, until an escaped fugitive takes her family hostage, upending everything she thought she knew about herself, her family, and their past. | | |
| J GIF | Gifford, Peggy Elizabeth | Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little |
| With summer coming to an end, about-to-be-fourth-grader Moxy Maxwell does a hundred different things to avoid reading her assigned summer reading book. (Ages 7 -11) | | |
| Also in this series: <i>Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-you Notes; Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Practicing the Piano: But She Does Love Being in Recitals.</i> | | |
| J GIF | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Pictures of Hollis Woods |
| A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her. (Grades 4 - 7) | | |
| J GIF | Giff, Patricia Reilly | Winter Sky |
| Almost twelve-year-old Siria, who chases firetrucks in the middle of the night to ensure her fire fighter dad's safety, learns about bravery one winter as she tries to mend a broken friendship. | | |
| J GIL | Gilson, Jamie | My Teacher is an Idiom |
| With a friend like Patrick, who needs enemies? Patrick is a showoff and a prankster, and Richard is his usual target. Resolved not to let Patrick get him in trouble, Richard is sucked in by The Mosquito, a way to eat red Jell-O through a straw, and of course trouble ensues. Complications arise when the new girl from France thinks the boys are seriously injured, and miscommunication is all too easy when idioms in English and in French are taken literally. | | |
| J GLA | Glaser, Karina Yan | The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street |
| Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages four to twelve, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind. | | |
| J GRA | Graff, Lisa | Absolutely Almost |
| Albie has never been the smartest kid in his class. He has never been the tallest. Or the best at gym. Or the greatest artist. Or the most musical. In fact, Albie has a long list of the things he's not very good at. But then Albie gets a new babysitter, Calista, who helps him figure out all of the things he <i>is</i> good at and how he can take pride in himself. | | |

Realistic Fiction

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| J GRA | Graff, Lisa | Double Dog Dare |
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Two fourth-graders, brainy Francine Halata and newcomer Kansas Bloom, get into a "dare war" to see which one can win the coveted prize of being chosen as the news anchor for their school's closed-circuit TV broadcast, and -- egged on by their friends - become bitter rivals despite having a lot in common.

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| J GRA | Graff, Lisa | Umbrella Summer |
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After her brother Jared dies, ten-year-old Annie worries about the hidden dangers of everything, from bug bites to bicycle riding, until she is befriended by a new neighbor who is grieving her own loss. (Ages 8-12)

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| J GRA | Gratz, Alan | Ban This Book |
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When her favorite book (From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler is a novel by E. L. Konigsburg) is banned from her school library, Amy Anne is cut to the heart. Why would someone ban her favorite book?

With a little digging and some help from her friends, Amy Anne learns than many books are banned, books that she loves, that others love. And she makes a choice – she’s going to run a Banned Book Library from her locker, freely giving out books, sharing her love of reading, with her classmates.

But this takes courage – what if she gets caught? And as more books disappear from the library shelves, Amy Anne has to decide if she can overcome her fear to speak out against this wrong.

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| J GRA | Gray, Kristin | Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge |
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Fourth grader Vilonia hasn't lost her rain coat in the three weeks she's had it and she's brushed her teeth every night and she's volunteered to be the Friday Library Helper. But all that hard work is worth it if it means she can get a dog. Besides, this dog isn't just because Vilonia has wanted one for pretty much ever. It's also to help Mama, who's been lost in one, big sadness fog for forty-three days – ever since Nana died. But Vilonia read that pets can help with sadness. Now all she has to do is keep the library goldfish alive over spring break, stop bringing stray animals home, and help Mama not get fired from her job. And she's got to do all of it before the Catfish Festival. Easy as pie, right?

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| J GRE | Greenwald, Lisa | 11 Before 12 |
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The first day of middle school means trading in freeze tag at the pool for new schedules, fabulous outfits, and a fresh start. But for eleven-year-old Kaylan, the chaos of new locker combinations, cafeteria cliques, and potential first kisses is more than she can handle. She dreads the start of sixth grade and feels like she wants - no, needs - a winning game plan. Luckily, Kaylan and her effortlessly chill BFF, Arianna, have a fool-proof plan for tackling transitions: a list of eleven things they need to do to totally transform themselves before they both turn twelve in November. But between making guy friends, getting detention (and makeovers!), helping humanity, and having super-candid conversations with their moms about their flaws, the first 100 days of school turn out worse than Kaylan ever imagined.

Realistic Fiction

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| J GRE | Greenwald, Lisa | My Life in Pink and Green |
| When the local homecoming queen shows up at Lucy Desberg's family's struggling drugstore with a beauty disaster that Lucy helps to fix, word gets out, and Lucy soon has a line of makeover customers. In this funny and sweet debut, Lucy is a girl who knows what she wants, whether it's great makeup, a killer business plan, or a better world. (Ages 10 and up) | | |
| J GRI | Grimes, Nikki | Garvey's Choice |
| Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in astronomy, science fiction, reading--anything but sports. Feeling like a failure, he comforts himself with food. Garvey is kind, funny, smart, a loyal friend, and he is also overweight, teased by bullies, and lonely. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes. The chorus finds a new soloist in Garvey, and through chorus, Garvey finds a way to accept himself, and a way to finally reach his distant father--by speaking the language of music instead of the language of sports. | | |
| J HAD | Haddix, Margaret Peterson | Because of Anya |
| While ten-year-old Anya faces the difficulties of losing her hair to alopecia, her classmate Keely learns how to stand up for what she knows is right. (Ages 8-12) | | |
| J HAR | Harper, Charise Mericle | Lights, Camera, Cook! |
| It's "lights, camera, cook!" for four tween contestants – energetic Tate, charming Rae, worldly Caroline, and hyper-competitive Oliver – who are all about to enter a televised cooking competition. What will the kids cook up? How will they all get along on- and off-camera? Which junior chef will have the grit – and maybe the grits – to make it through each challenge? And which junior chef will have to hang their apron up for good? | | |
| J HEL | Helget, Nicole | End of the Wild |
| Eleven-year-old Fern helps to take care of her impoverished family by foraging for food in the forest, but when a fracking company rolls into town, she realizes that her peaceful woods and her family's livelihood could be threatened. | | |
| J HIA | Hiaasen, Carl | Hoot |
| Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. (Ages 9-12) | | |

Realistic Fiction

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| J HIL | Hilmo, Tess | Skies Like These |
| <p>Twelve-year-old Jade's perfect summers have always been spent reading and watching TV reruns, so she's not happy when her parents send her off to Wyoming to her aunt's house. She meets a boy who calls himself Roy Parker – just like the real name of the legendary rebel cowboy Butch Cassidy. Roy's dad's hardware store has closed because a chain store has opened up in town, and Roy thinks it is just like the big cattle barons in Butch's day who put the local ranchers out of business. He wants Jade to be his Sundance Kid and help him pull some stunts worthy of Butch Cassidy. Sabotage the big store? Outsmart the store's owner by doing reconnaissance on his ranch? Jade wants to be a good friend, but she's not so sure about Roy's schemes.</p> | | |
| J HOL | Holmes, Sara | Operation Yes |
| <p>In her first ever teaching job, Miss Loupe uses improvisational acting exercises with her sixth-grade students at an Air Force base school, and when she experiences a family tragedy, her previously skeptical class members use what they have learned to help her, her brother, and other wounded soldiers. (Ages 9-13)</p> | | |
| J HOL | Holt, Kimberly Willis | Piper Reed, Navy Brat |
| <p>It's not easy being the middle child, especially when your dad is a Navy Chief. Meet Piper Reed, a spunky nine-year-old who has moved more times than she can count on one hand. From Texas to Guam, wherever Piper goes, adventure follows, inspired by her active imagination, free-wheeling spirit, and a bit of sister magic. Unlike her older sister, Piper loves being part of a Navy family, and unlike her little sister, Piper is no prodigy genius. Piper is Piper - fearless and full of life.</p> <p>Also in this series: <i>The Great Gypsy; Piper Reed Gets a Job; Campfire Girl; Piper Reed, Rodeo Star; Piper Reed, Forever Friend; Piper Reed, Clubhouse Queen.</i></p> | | |
| J HUN | Hunt, Lynda | Fish in a Tree |
| <p>Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.</p> | | |
| J JAK | Jakubowski, Michele | Sidney and Sydney: Dodgeball, Drama, and Other Dilemmas |
| <p>Eight-year-olds Sydney (girl) and Sidney (boy) are neighbors, classmates, and usually friends, so working together on the school play should not be too difficult.</p> <p>See Also: <i>Third Grade Mix-Up.</i></p> | | |
| J JOH | Johannes, Shelley | Beatrice Zinker, Upside-Down Thinker |
| <p>Beatrice Zinker does everything better upside down! Over summer break she's missing her best friend, Lenny, but they have a top secret plan once school is back in session! Only Lenny doesn't come in a matching ninja suit on the first day of third grade... no! She's totally different with not only a cool new look but also a cool new friend... and there doesn't seem to be a place for Beatrice.</p> | | |

Realistic Fiction

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| J JON | Jonsberg, Barry | The Categorical Universe of Candice Phee |
| <p>Candice Phee isn't a typical twelve-year-old girl. She has more than her fair share of quirks, but she also has the very best of intentions and an unwavering determination to make sure everyone around her is happy – which is no easy feat when dealing with a pet fish with an identity crisis, a friend who believes he came from another dimension, an age-old family feud, and a sick mom. But she is on a mission. Her methods might be unique, but Candice will do whatever it takes to restore order to her world and make sure everyone is absolutely, categorically happy again.</p> | | |
| J KAT | Kath, Natalie | The Summer I Lost It |
| <p>Kat is a young girl who is determined to lose weight during the summer before her freshman year at high school. She is tired of being the girl with the pretty face but unattractive body. Her goal is to lose weight so that she can feel comfortable in participating in things her friends do, like swimming in a bathing suit, going out to dances, and having a boyfriend. With the support of family and a journal to document her journey Kat embarks on a summer weight loss plan.</p> | | |
| J KEL | Kelly, Erin | Blackbird Fly |
| <p>Apple and her mother are Filipino immigrants living in Louisiana. Apple longs to play a guitar of her own but her mother insists she focus on education. As the only Filipina in her middle school, she's an outsider, bearing the brunt of racist taunts such as "dog-eater," ending up on the "Dog Log" of ugliest girls in school, and feeling ostracized by her so-called best friend Alyssa.</p> | | |
| J KEL | Kelly, Erin | The Land of Forgotten Girls |
| <p>Abandoned by their father and living in poverty with their heartless stepmother in Louisiana, two sisters from the Philippines, twelve-year-old Sol and six-year-old Ming, learn the true meaning of family.</p> | | |
| J KHA | Khan, Hena | Amina's Voice |
| <p>A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.</p> | | |
| J KLI | Klise, Kate | Regarding the Fountain : a Tale, in Letters, of Liars and Leaks |
| <p>When the principal asks a fifth-grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results. (Ages 8-12)</p> | | |
| J KOR | Korman, Gordon | Restart |
| <p>Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life?</p> | | |

Realistic Fiction

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| J KOR | Korman, Gordon | Schooled |
| Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school. | | |
| NEWBERY 1960 | Krumgold, Joseph | Onion John |
| Onion John is Andy's best friend, but Onion John is not an ordinary kid. Onion John is a man who does things his own way. John has lived in Serenity for many years, scavenging to furnish his home, working a little to buy food and supplies. Then he needs a new hinge for his door and suddenly everyone wants to change Onion John, from his home to his ways of making a living to his ways of thinking. The town gets together and decides to build a brand new house for John; it is not really what John wants and before the second day has passed, the house has burned to the ground. Should we change people? Should we try and make everyone fit in? Can it be done? Or does a world need people who don't quite fit, people like Onion John? | | |
| J LAF | LaFleur, Suzanne | Beautiful Blue World |
| Sofarende is at war and the army is paying families well to recruit children, so if twelve-year-old Mathilde or her best friend Megs is chosen, they hope to help their families but fear they will be separated forever. | | |
| J LAI | Lai, Thanhha | Listen, Slowly |
| Assisting her grandmother's investigation of her grandfather's fate during the Vietnam War, Mai struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar culture while redefining her sense of family. | | |
| J LAN | Lane, Kathleen | The Best Worst Thing |
| Maggie sees injustice and danger everywhere, and she does not like it one bit, so she devises intricate ways of controlling her own world, and a larger, more dangerous plan for protecting everyone else. | | |
| J LEA | Leal, Ann Haywood | Also Known as Harper |
| Writing poetry helps fifth-grader Harper Lee Morgan cope with her father's absence, being evicted, and having to skip school to care for her brother while their mother works, and things look even brighter after she befriends a mute girl and a kindly disabled woman. (Ages 10 and up) | | |
| J LEA | Leavitt, Lindsey | The Pages Between Us |
| Disappointed to learn that they will not be in many classes together when starting the sixth grade, best friends Piper and Olivia stay in touch by sharing a journal only to realize that their respective goals are taking them further apart. | | |

Realistic Fiction

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| J LEV | Levy, Dana | The Family Fletcher Takes Rock Island |
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Summertime brings the Fletcher Family back to Rock Island where the good times never end, but this summer the boys' favorite lighthouse is all boarded up and with the help from their new neighbors, the Garcia girls, the boys are determined to find out what is really happening with their lighthouse and saving it, no matter what the cost.

Also in this series: *The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher.*

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| J LIN | Lin, Grace | Year of the Dog |
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Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life. (Ages 8 - 12)

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| J LIS | Lisle, Janet Taylor | Quicksand Pond |
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Twelve-year-old Jessie spends the summer with her family on Quicksand Pond, a New England vacation spot, where she develops a star-crossed friendship with independent Terri, and meets a reclusive old lady whose connection to a murder that took place decades ago still informs her present--and affects Terri in ways that Jessie gradually comes to understand the more time they spend together.

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| J LOR | Lord, Cynthia | Half a Chance |
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Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small rural community in New Hampshire, and with her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.

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| J LOR | Lord, Cynthia | A Handful of Stars |
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When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. Salma, the daughter of migrant workers, is in the small town with her family for the blueberry-picking season.

After their initial chance meeting, Salma and Lily bond over painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather, and Salma's friendship transforms Lily's summer. But when Salma decides to run in the upcoming Blueberry Queen pageant, they'll have to face some tough truths about friendship and belonging. Should an outsider like Salma really participate in the pageant--and possibly win?

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| J LOW | Lowry, Lois | Anastasia Krupnik |
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Anastasia's 10th year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother. (Ages 8 - 12)

Also in this series: *Anastasia Again!; Anastasia at your Service; Anastasia, Ask your Analyst; Anastasia on Her Own; Anastasia has the Answers; Anastasia's Chosen Career; Anastasia at this Address; Anastasia Absolutely.*

Realistic Fiction

J MAC MacLachlan, Patricia **The Truth of Me: About a Boy, His Grandmother, and a Very Good Dog**

Robbie and his dog, Ellie, spend the summer at his grandmother Maddy's house, where Robbie learns many things about his emotionally distant parents and himself.

J MAC Mackler, Carolyn **Best Friend Next Door**

Meet Hannah. Her name is a palindrome. Her birthday is on New Year's. She wishes she had a cat. She's medium height and a little awkward. Her life has NOT been fun lately -- her dad and stepmom are having a baby and, worst of all, her best friend next door just moved away. Now a new girl is here, taking over her best friend's bedroom . . . and her own identity.

Meet Emme. Her name is a palindrome. Her birthday is on New Year's. She loves her enormous orange cat. She's so short that last week she was mistaken for a kindergartner. She's found moving hard . . . but at least there's the girl next door, Hannah. Maybe they'll become friends?

While Hannah and Emme are alike in so many ways, they're also different in some wrong ways, too. Is this the perfect friendship . . . or a recipe for disaster?

J MAR Marsden, Caroline **The Gold-Threaded Dress**

When Oy and her Thai American family move to a new neighborhood, her third-grade classmates tease and exclude her because she is different. (Ages 8 -11)

J MCA McAnulty, Stacy **Goldie Blox Rules the School**

When Goldie Blox accidentally blows off the roof of her school, she and her friends Val, Ruby, and Li have to work together and use their creative know-how to rebuild the school.

Also in this series: *Goldie Blox and the Three Dares.*

J MCD McDonald, Megan **Judy Moody**

Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage.

Also in this series: *Judy Moody Gets Famous!; Judy Moody Saves the World!; Judy Moody Predicts the Future; Judy Moody, M.D., The Doctor Is In!; Judy Moody Declares Independence; Around the World in 8 1/2 Days; Judy Moody Goes to College; Judy Moody, Girl Detective; Judy Moody and the Bad Luck Charm; Judy Moody, Mood Martian; Judy Moody and the Bucket List.*

J MCG McGhee, Allison **Pablo and Birdy**

The seaside town of Isla has many stories, the most notable being the legend of the Seafaring Parrot. Locals claim that the Seafarer remembers every sound, every whisper, cry, laugh, or snort ever uttered. But, though there have been rumored Seafarer sightings, no one has actually seen the bird before. Other stories surround a boy named Pablo, who had washed up on shore in a blow-up swimming pool as an infant with only a lavender parrot as a companion. Now, on the eve of his tenth birthday, the stories are repeated.

Realistic Fiction

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| J MCG | McGovern, Cammie | Just My Luck |
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Fourth grade is not going at all how Benny Barrows hoped. He hasn't found a new best friend. He's still not a great bike rider – even though his brother George, who's autistic, can do tricks. And worst of all, he worries his dad's recent accident might be all his fault. Benny tries to take his mom's advice and focus on helping others, and to take things one step at a time. But when his dad ends up in the hospital again, Benny doesn't know how he and his family will overcome all the bad luck that life seems to have thrown their way.

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| J MCK | McKay, Hilary | Binny, for Short |
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Eleven-year-old Binny struggles to cope with her father's death and the loss of her beloved dog while she adjusts to a new home that might be haunted by her horrible Aunt Violet.

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| J MCK | McKay, Hillary | Saffy's Angel |
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After Saffron Casson discovers that she's adopted, life is never quite the same again. Her artistic parents and doting siblings adore her, but Saffy wants a piece of her past. So when her grandfather bequests a stone angel to her, Saffy knows she has to find it. Realizing that her childhood in Siena holds the key, she secretly stows away on a car trip to Siena, with her new friend, Sarah. Meanwhile, the rest of her family are engaged in their own wacky projects. (Grades 5 - 8)

Also in this series: *Caddy's World*; *Indigo's Star*; *Permanent Rose*; *Caddy Ever After*; *Forever Rose*.

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| J MES | Messner, Kate | The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z. |
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Gianna Z has less than one week to collect, identify, and creatively display 25 leaves for her science project or else she won't be able to compete in the upcoming cross-country race. As the deadline for her project draws near, life keeps getting in the way. (Grades 5 - 8)

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| J MES | Messner, Kate | Marty McGuire Digs Worms! |
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Marty McGuire's third-grade class has a special assignment: Save the Earth! Even more exciting, the best project wins a special award. Marty's pretty sure her classmates' ideas won't stand a chance against her plan to turn the garbage from the school cafeteria into fertilizer. All she needs is a little help from her teammate and best friend, Annie--and the worms in her grandma's garden. But it turns out that worms are awfully SLOW eaters. And when the critters escape, the whole class starts grumbling. Can Marty save the Earth without losing her friends?

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| J MIL | Mills, Claudia | Annika Riz, Math Whiz |
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Annika hopes to change her best friends' hatred of math by winning a Sudoku contest, but she does not realize how important their lack of mathematical ability is until they make a mistake at the school carnival.

Also in the Franklin School Friends series: *Kelsey Green, Reading Queen*; *Izzy Barr, Running Star*; *Simon Ellis, Spelling Bee Champ*; *Cody Harmon, King of Pets*.

Realistic Fiction

J MOO Moore, David Barclay **The Stars Beneath Our Feet**

Unable to celebrate the holidays in the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly Rachpaul struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center.

J MOR Moranville, Sharelle **27 Magic Words**

Although Kobi's parents sailed into a storm five years ago, she believes they are alive, and when she is sent from her grandmother's luxurious Paris apartment to live with an uncle in Iowa, Kobi tells lies that soon catch up with her.

J MOS Mosier, Paul **Train I Ride**

Rydr is on a train heading east, leaving California, where her grandma can't take care of her anymore, and traveling to Chicago, to live with an unknown relative. She brings with her a backpack, memories both happy and sad, and a box, containing something very important.

As Rydr meets her fellow passengers and learns their stories, her own story begins to emerge. It's one of sadness and heartache, and one Rydr would sometimes like to forget. But as much as Rydr may want to run away from her past, on the train she finds that hope and forgiveness are all around her, and most importantly, within her, if she's willing to look for it.

J MOU Moulton, Erin **Tracing Stars**

Indie Lee Chickory is the fish freak of Plumtown. She's an expert at making fish faces and has a pet, The Lobster Monty Cola, who lives in a salt-water pool outside her bedroom window. But while she likes fish very much, not everyone else does, which makes finding friends a little difficult. Sure there's her older sister, Bebe, but she has other friends--and also has a starring role in the upcoming town musical, which has made her pretty popular. So when Indie accidentally brings Monty to school, to disastrous results, Bebe almost dies of embarrassment and Indie is left without anyone. No friends, no sister, and no lobster.

J MYR Myracle, Lauren **Eleven**

Winnie knows that change isn't all it's cracked up to be, especially when it means her best friend, Amanda, might be dropping her for someone else. Throw in a grumpy teenage sister, a cat who gets trapped in the wall, and a crush who has pinkeye, and you've got one big mess -- one that Winnie's not going to clean up! Winnie's decided that she's going to remain exactly the same, no matter what the rest of the world does. But every month brings crazy adventures. A lot can change in a year . . . maybe even Winnie.

Also in this series: *Ten, Twelve, Thirteen, Thirteen Plus One.*

Realistic Fiction

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| J NAL | Nall, Gail | Breaking the Ice |
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Kaitlin has always dreamed of being a champion figure skater, and she's given up a lot to pursue her passion. But after she has a totally uncharacteristic tantrum at a major competition, she's dropped by her coach and her prestigious skating club. When no other club will have her, she's forced to join the ridiculed and run-down Fallton Club, jokingly referred to as the "Fall Down Club." At first Kaitlin thinks this is a complete disaster, but after meeting some of the other skaters – including a boy who happens to have the most perfect hair she's ever seen – she realizes it might not actually be so bad.

Yet learning a whole new program right before regionals is a huge challenge, and when she realizes that all the other area skaters target Fallton for pranks, she begins to wonder if joining the Fall Down Club has any upsides.

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| J NAM | Namioka, Lensey | Half and Half |
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At Seattle's annual Folk Fest, twelve-year-old Fiona and her older brother are torn between trying to please their Chinese grandmother and making their Scottish grandparents happy. (Grades 4 - 6)

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| J NAN | Nannestad, Katrina | When Mischief Came to Town |
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When Inge Maria arrives on the tiny island of Bornholm in Denmark to live with her grandmother, she's not sure what to expect. Her grandmother is stern, the people on the island are strange, and children are supposed to be seen and not heard. But no matter how hard Inge tries to be good, mischief has a way of finding her. Could it be that a bit of mischief is exactly what Grandmother and the people of Bornholm need?

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| NEWBERRY 1992 | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | Shiloh |
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When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. (Grades 4 - 7)

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| J NEW | Newman, Catherine | One Mixed-Up Night |
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Frankie and Walter aren't really running away. Just like the kids in their favorite book, they are running to somewhere. Specifically, a massive furniture store. They've been obsessed with the Ikea catalog for years. So they make a plan, pack their backpacks, give their parents the sleepover switcheroo . . . and they're in.

One night all on their own, with no grown-ups or little brothers.

One night of couch jumping, pillow forts, and unlimited soda refills.

One night of surprises and twinkle lights and secrets they have been keeping – and waiting to share.

One unforgettable night in Ikea.

Realistic Fiction

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| J NIC | Nicholls, Sally | Ways to Live Forever |
| Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him. (Grades 4 - 7) | | |
| J NYE | Nye, Naomi Shihab | The Turtle of Oman |
| When Aref, a third-grader who lives in Muscat, Oman, refuses to pack his suitcase and prepare to move to Michigan, his mother asks for help from his grandfather, his Siddi, who takes Aref around the country, storing up memories he can carry with him to a new home. | | |
| J OCO | O'Connor, Barbara | The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester |
| After Owen captures an enormous bullfrog, names it Tooley Graham, then has to release it, he and two friends try to use a small submarine that fell from a passing train to search for Tooley in the Carter, Georgia, pond it came from, while avoiding nosy neighbor Viola. (Grades 4 - 7) | | |
| J ODE | O'Dell, Kathleen | Agnes Parker, Girl in Progress |
| As she starts sixth grade, Agnes faces challenges with her old best friend, a wonderful new friend, a longtime bully, and herself. (Grades 4 - 6) | | |
| Also in this series: <i>Agnes Parker, Happy Camper; Agnes Parker...Keeping Cool in Middle School.</i> | | |
| J OZ | Oz, Galia | Dog Trouble |
| Julie has only had her dog for two weeks, but she is already causing all sorts of problems. For starters, she is missing! Julie suspects the school bully Danny must be behind it. But it will take some detective work, the help of Julie's friends, and maybe even her munchkin twin brothers to bring her new pet home. | | |
| J PAL | Palacio, R.J. | Wonder |
| Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. | | |
| J PAP | Papademetriou, Lisa | Save the Cupcake! |
| Hayley's world is far from perfect: her parents have divorced, her mom has lost her job, and she and her sister Chloe are stuck sharing a bedroom in their grandmother's apartment. Luckily, Hayley has a knack for baking cupcakes -- and cupcakes always make life just a little sweeter! But when she and her best friend Artie start drifting apart, she realizes that it's going to take more than sugar and spice to make things nice. | | |

Realistic Fiction

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| J PAR | Parry, Rosanne | Heart of a Shepherd |
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Ignatius "Brother" Alderman, nearly twelve, promises to help his grandparents keep the family's Oregon ranch the same while his brothers are away and his father is deployed to Iraq, but as he comes to accept the inevitability of change, he also sees the man he is meant to be. (Grades 4 - 8)

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| J PAR | Parry, Rosanne | The Turn of the Tide |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------|

After a devastating tsunami in Japan, cousins Jet and Kai spend the summer together in Astoria, Oregon, training for the Young's Bay Treasure Island Race and become close friends in the process.

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| J PAR | Park, Linda Sue | Project Mulberry |
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While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more. Between the chapters are short dialogues between the author and main character about the writing of the book. (Ages 9-12)

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| J PAR | Park, Barbara | Skinnybones |
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Alex's active sense of humor helps him get along with the school braggart, make the most of his athletic talents, and simply get by in a hectic world. (Ages 8 - 12)

See Also: *Almost Starring Skinnybones.*

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| NEWBERY | Patron, Susan | The Higher Power of Lucky |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|

2007

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life. (Grades 4 - 6)

Also in this trilogy: *Lucky Breaks; Lucky for Good.*

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| J PAU | Paulsen, Gary | Crush: The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Love |
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Kevin Spencer tackles the problems of his world, this time with careful, scientific logic, and no lies. Kevin still has a crush on Tina Zabinski. He's sure that he is her perfect match, but he won't approach her until he's 100 percent positive that he can win her heart. This doesn't seem likely, since he becomes more awkward and tongue-tied whenever she's around. When handsome and smooth-talking Cash Devine starts moving in on his target, Kevin has to move quickly. Since love is based on chemistry, Kevin decides to set up a series of scientific experiments to help him discover the meaning of love and the way to a girl's heart.

Realistic Fiction

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| J PAU | Paulsen, Gary | Fishbone's Song |
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Deep in the woods, in a rustic cabin, lives an old man and the boy he's raised as his own. This sage old man has taught the boy the power of nature and how to live in it, and more importantly, to respect it. In *Fishbone's Song*, this boy reminisces about the magic of the man who raised him and the tales that he used to tell--all true, but different each time.

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| J PEN | Pennypacker, Sara | Summer of the Gypsy Moths |
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Stella loves living with Great-aunt Louise in her big old house near the water on Cape Cod for many reasons, but mostly because Louise likes routine as much as she does, something Stella appreciates since her mom is, well, kind of unreliable. So while Mom "finds herself," Stella fantasizes that someday she'll come back to the Cape and settle down. The only obstacle to her plan? Angel, the foster kid Louise has taken in. Angel couldn't be less like her name – she's tough and prickly, and the girls hardly speak to each other. But when tragedy unexpectedly strikes, Stella and Angel are forced to rely on each other to survive, and they learn that they are stronger together than they could have imagined. And over the course of the summer they discover the one thing they do have in common: dreams of finally belonging to a real family.

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| J PEN | Pennypacker, Sara | Waylon!: One Awesome Thing |
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Waylon, a boy with the mind of a scientific genius and the vulnerable heart of an eight year old, is trying to understand his older sister and deal with changes among the kids at school.

Sequel: *Waylon!: Even More Awesome.*

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| J PER | Perez, Celia | The First Rule of Punk |
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Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

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| J PIN | Pincus, Gregory K | The 14 Fibs of Gregory K |
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Gregory Korenstein-Jasperton is an eleven-year-old boy who likes to write stories and poems and is not excited by math, but he has a problem--he is the middle child in a family of math geniuses and his father expects him to participate in the City Math contest.

Realistic Fiction

J PIN

Pincus, Gregory

The Homework Strike

Middle school is hard work, and Gregory tries to be a good student. He participates in class, he studies for his tests -- he and his friends even help each other with their assignments. But no matter what he does, there's never enough time to finish all his homework. It just isn't fair.

So Gregory goes on a total, complete homework strike. No worksheets, no essays, no projects. His friends think he's crazy. His parents are worried about his grades. And his principal just wants him to stop making trouble. Can Gregory rally his fellow students, make his voice heard, and still pass seventh grade?

J PRE

Preller, James

Six Innings : A Game in the Life

A lively cast of characters – baseball-loving boys between the ages of eleven to thirteen – are playing the biggest game of their lives. With acrobatic catches, clutch hits, dramatic whiffs, and costly errors, this game is full of action. But as the book unfolds, pitch by pitch, a deeper story emerges, with far more at stake: Sam and Mike, best friends, are trying to come to terms with Sam's newly diagnosed cancer. And this baseball diamond becomes the ultimate testing ground of Sam and Mike's remarkable friendship as they strive to find a way to both come out winners. This is for the championship.

This is for life.

J REY

Reynolds, Jason

As Brave as You

Genie and Ernie, brothers from Brooklyn, go to spend the summer with their Grandparents in rural Virginia. They're in for a lot of changes. No cell phone reception, chores, and getting to know their grandparents who they only know from phone calls before. Ernie, the elder, is brave, confident, and cool. Genie is intellectual, perpetually anxious, and afraid. The biggest change is perhaps dealing with their grandfather, who is (to their surprise) totally blind, and perhaps a little crazy. But Genie quickly makes a close bond with his Grandfather, while Ernie is bonding with the pretty girl down the hill.

J RIV

Rivers, Karen

The Girl in the Well is Me

Eleven-year-old Kammie reflects on her life as she fights claustrophobia while waiting to be rescued from a well she fell into while trying to impress some mean girls.

Realistic Fiction

J ROR Rorby, Ginny

How to Speak Dolphin

Lily loves her half-brother, Adam, but she has always struggled with him, too. He's definitely on the autism spectrum--though her step-father, Don, can barely bring himself to admit it--and caring for him has forced Lily to become as much mother as sister. All Lily wants is for her step-father to acknowledge that Adam has a real issue, that they need to find some kind of program that can help him. Then maybe she can have a life of her own.

Adam's always loved dolphins, so when Don, an oncologist, hears about a young dolphin with cancer, he offers to help. He brings Lily and Adam along, and Adam and the dolphin--Nori--bond instantly.

But though Lily sees how much Adam loves Nori, she also sees that the dolphin shouldn't spend the rest of her life in captivity, away from her family. Can Adam find real help somewhere else? And can Lily help Nori regain her freedom without betraying her family?

J RYA Ryan, Pam Muñoz

Becoming Naomi León

Naomi Soledad León Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life, her name for one. Then there are her clothes (sewn in polyester by Gram), her difficulty speaking up, and her status at school as "nobody special."

But according to Gram, most problems can be overcome with positive thinking. And with Gram and her little brother, Owen, Naomi's life at Avocado Acres Trailer Rancho in California is happy and peaceful...until their mother reappears after seven years of being gone, stirring up all sorts of questions and challenging Naomi to discover and proclaim who she really is.

NEWBERY Sachar, Louis
1999

Holes

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself. (Grades 5 - 8)

J SCA Scanlon, Liz

The Great Good Summer

Ivy Green's mama has gone off with a charismatic preacher called Hallelujah Dave to The Great Good Bible Church of Panhandle Florida. At least that's where Ivy and her dad think Mama is. But since the church has no website or phone number and Mama left no forwarding address, Ivy's not entirely sure. She does know she's missing Mama. And she's starting to get just a little worried about her, too.

Paul Dobbs, one of Ivy's schoolmates, is also having a crummy summer. Paul has always wanted to be an astronaut, and now that NASA's space shuttle program has been scrapped, it looks like his dream will never get off the ground.

Although Ivy and Paul are an unlikely pair, it turns out they are the perfect allies for a runaway road trip to Florida – to look for Mama, to kiss the Space Shuttle good-bye, and maybe, just maybe, regain their faith in the things in life that are most important.

Realistic Fiction

J SCH Schanen, Adriana Brad **Quinny and Hopper**

Two polar-opposite eight year olds who become summer best friends find their friendship threatened by the uncertainties of a new school year.

J SCH Schroeder, Lisa **Keys to the City**

Lindy can't believe she has homework this summer -- to find her "true passion." Does curling up with a good book count? Probably not. Luckily, Lindy has the help of a new friend, a happy dog, and a special journal, as she hits the streets of New York City to unlock her secret talents!

J SCH Schroeder, Lisa **My Secret Guide to Paris**

Nora loves everything about Paris, from the Eiffel Tower to chocolat chaud. Of course, she's never actually been there -- she's only visited through her Grandma Sylvia's stories. And just when they've finally planned a trip together, Grandma Sylvia is suddenly gone, taking Nora's dreams with her.

Nora is crushed. She misses her grandmother terribly, but she still wants to see the city they both loved. So when Nora finds letters and a Paris treasure map among her Grandma Sylvia's things, she dares to dream again . . .

She's not sure what her grandma wants her to find, but Nora knows there are wonderful surprises waiting for her in Paris. And maybe, amongst the croissants and macarons, she'll even find a way to heal her broken heart.

J SCH Schroeder, Lisa **Sealed With a Secret**

When Phoebe finds a beautiful antique at a flea market, she's not sure whether it's as valuable as it looks. But inside she discovers something truly amazing — a letter from WWII, from a young girl to her sister, who has been evacuated from London. The letter includes a “spell” for bringing people closer together, a list of clues leading all through the city. Each stop along the way adds up to magic.

Phoebe is stunned by the discovery. Not only is it an amazing piece of history, the letter is exactly what she needs — she is also separated from her sister, though not by distance. Alice will be leaving for university soon, and in the meantime, she seems to want nothing to do with Phoebe. They used to be so close! But now that Phoebe has this magical list — maybe she can try the spell herself, and make everything go back to the way it was!

J SLO Sloan, Holly Goldberg **Short**

Very short for her age, Julia grows into her sense of self while playing a munchkin in a summer regional theater production of The Wizard of Oz.

J SMI Smith, Yeardley **I, Lorelei**

In letters to her recently deceased cat Mud, eleven-year-old Lorelei chronicles the ups and downs of her sixth-grade year, during which her parents separate, she gets a part in the school play, and she becomes friends with the cutest boy in her grade. (Ages 8-12)

Realistic Fiction

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| J SON | Sonnenblick, Jordan | The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade |
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Maverick Falconer is just starting middle school and he wishes he were a hero like his father. Maybe then he could deal with his mother's drinking and series of abusive boyfriends, not to mention the kids who bully him in middle school (pretty much the same ones who bullied him in elementary school.) But as the year passes, he begins to realize that other kids have problems too, and maybe if they can all survive sixth-grade things will get better.

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| J SOU | Souders, Taryn | Dead Possums are Fair Game |
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The world would be a better place without math or messy roommates. At least, that's what Ella Hunter believes. Life is about keeping order and avoiding long division, fractions, or really anything with an equal sign.

As the end of the school year approaches, the fifth-grade teachers at Victor Waldo Elementary conclude there's not enough time to complete a new math unit before summer break. Great news for math-phobic Ella, right?

Wrong! The teachers decide instead to have their students host the first-ever Math Fair. And the fair project is worth two major math grades.

Add in one dead possum plus two horrible roommates who come to stay while their house is being renovated, and you have an equation for disaster. Ella is headed for summer school and math tutoring for sure. Can she stop her troubles from multiplying before it's too late?

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| J SPI | Spinelli, Jerry | Another Day as Emily |
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Eleven-year-old Suzy just can't win. Her brother is a local hero for calling 911 after seeing their elderly neighbor collapse, and only her best friend was able to win a role in the play they both auditioned for. Feeling cast aside from all angles, Suzy sees a kindred spirit in Emily Dickinson, the subject of her summer project. Suzy decides to escape from her disappointments by emulating the poet's life of solitude: no visitors or phone calls (only letters delivered through her window), no friends (except her goldfish, Otilie), and no outings (except church, but only if she can wear her long white Emily dress).

But being a recluse is harder than Suzy predicted. Will she find a way to fold Emily into her life while also remaining true to herself?

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| J SPI | Spinelli, Jerry | Jake and Lily |
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Jake and Lily are twins and they have this kind of super power connection. Once when Lily was inside coloring, she yelled out loud "I'm stuck!" and it turned out that Jake was stuck under a fence in the yard. Another time Lily was about to run into the street chasing a ball, Jake yelled out "STOP!", but he was at the dentist five miles away. When they were younger Jake and Lily were best friends and always together. They called their special connection their "goombla." Their goombla starts to fade as the twins get older. Jake and Lily start to grow apart. Lily wants the goombla to stay, but Jake wants to grow up. Will the twins get their goombla back or will they learn to live their own lives?

Realistic Fiction

| J SPR | Springstubb, Trisha | Every Single Second |
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Twelve-year-old Nella Sabatini's life is changing too soon, too fast. Her best friend, Clem, doesn't seem concerned; she's busy figuring out the best way to spend the "leap second"-- an extra second about to be added to the world's official clock. The only person who might understand how Nella feels is Angela, but the two of them have gone from being "secret sisters" to not talking at all. Then Angela's idolized big brother makes a terrible, fatal mistake, one that tears apart their tight-knit community and plunges his family into a whirlwind of harsh publicity and judgment. In the midst of this controversy, Nella is faced with a series of startling revelations about her parents, friends, and neighborhood. As Angela's situation becomes dangerous, Nella must choose whether to stand by or stand up.

| J SPR | Springstubb, Trisha | Moonpenny Island |
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Moonpenny is a tiny island in a great lake. When the summer people leave and the ferries stop running, just the tried-and-true islanders are left behind. Flor and her best, her perfect friend, Sylvie, are the only eleven-year-olds for miles and miles – and Flor couldn't be happier. But come the end of summer, unthinkable things begin to happen. Sylvie is suddenly, mysteriously, whisked away to school on the mainland. Flor's mother leaves to take care of Flor's sick grandmother and doesn't come back. Her big sister has a secret, and Flor fears it's a dangerous one. Meanwhile, a geologist and his peculiar daughter arrive to excavate prehistoric trilobites, one of the first creatures to develop sight. Soon Flor is helping them. As her own ability to see her life on this little lump of limestone evolves, she faces truths about those she loves – and about herself – she never imagined.

| J SPR | Springstubb, Trisha | What Happened on Fox Street |
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Fox Street means everything to Mo Wren, who is nearly eleven, and so she is very upset when a land developer offers to buy her father's house, especially since she has not yet found the fox she is sure lives in the nearby ravine. (Grades 3 - 7)

| J STA | Stauffacher, Sue | Donuthead |
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Franklin Delano Donuthead, a fifth-grader obsessed with hygiene and safety, finds an unlikely friend and protector in Sarah Kervick, the tough new student who lives in a dirty trailer, bonds with his mother, and is as "irregular" as he is. (Grades 4 - 6)

| J STE | Stevenson, Nanci Turner | Georgia Rules |
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Magnolia Grace never wanted to leave Georgia. She never wanted to move with her mama to the farm her daddy owned before he died. But now here she is, in a tiny Vermont town where everybody sings the praises of the father Maggie never knew. Then Maggie meets the Parker family – two moms, six kids, plus a pony. The Parkers are loud and wild, ask lots of questions, and don't follow any of the rules Maggie grew up with in Georgia. Suddenly Maggie has questions too – questions about her father, and why Mama kept him away for so long.

Realistic Fiction

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| J TOL | Tolan, Stephanie S | Surviving the Applewhites |
| Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had. (Grades 5 - 8) | | |
| J TOU | Tougas, Shelley | Laura Ingalls is Ruining My Life |
| Charlotte struggles to adjust when her mother moves the family to Walnut Grove, Minnesota, the small, boring town where pioneer author Laura Ingalls Wilder grew up, in hopes of finding inspiration for her writing career. | | |
| J URB | Urban, Linda | A Crooked Kind of Perfect |
| Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life. (Ages 8-12) | | |
| J URB | Urban, Linda | Weekends with Max and His Dad |
| Max and his dad love their weekends together. Weekends mean pancakes, pizza, spy games, dog-walking, school projects, and surprising neighbors! Every weekend presents a small adventure as Max gets to know his dad's new neighborhood – and learns some new ways of thinking about home. | | |
| J VAI | Vail, Rachel | Justin Case: Rules, Tools, and Maybe a Bully |
| Embarking on a new school year filled with friends, tests, and other worries, Justin Case records the tribulations of fourth grade in his diary while struggling to outmaneuver a local bully. | | |
| J VAI | Vail, Rachel | Justin Case: Shells, Smells, and the Horrible Flip-Flops of Doom |
| Justin is going to start fourth grade – but first, he has to survive the summer. He “gets” to go to camp every day on a bus. He “gets” to experience all sorts of new things: Bugs. Mess hall food. Flip-flops (they hurt the space between his toes <i>and</i> they're hard to walk in). And (gulp!) swimming. Justin's little sister, Elizabeth, seems to deal with camp just fine. So do his friends. Justin is trying very hard not to be a worried kid anymore, especially when it comes to making friends at camp, including a new kid who is kind of . . . rough. After all, Justin is going to be in fourth grade. It's time to be brave. Right? | | |
| J VIV | Vivat, Booki | Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom |
| Nervous about middle school because her family does not get her and her friends know exactly what they want to do, Abbie Wu searches for her own passion before discovering a knack for leadership when injustices in the cafeteria come to light. | | |
| Sequel: <i>Ordinary Mishaps and Inevitable Catastrophes.</i> | | |

Realistic Fiction

J VRA Vrabel, Beth

Pack of Dorks

Lucy knows that kissing Tom Lemmings behind the ball shed will make her a legend. But she doesn't count on that quick clap of lips propelling her from coolest to lamest fourth grader overnight. Suddenly Lucy finds herself trapped in Dorkdom, where a diamond ring turns your finger green, where the boy you kiss hates you three days later, where your best friend laughs as you cry, where parents seem to stop liking you, and where baby sisters are born different.

Now Lucy has a choice: she can be like her former best friend Becky, who would do anything to claim her seat at the cool table in the cafeteria, or Lucy can pull up a chair among the solo eaters – also known as the dorks.

Soon Lucy finds her third option: creating a pack of her own, even if it is simply a pack of dorks.

J WAL Walker, Melissa

Let's Pretend We Never Met

Struggling to adapt when her family moves during the school year, Mattie makes friends with the girl next door during winter break only to confront unpopularity when she learns that her new friend is the weird girl in school who no one likes.

J WEE Weeks, Sarah

Honey

Melody has lived in Royal, Indiana, for as long as she can remember. It's been just her and her father, and she's been okay with that. But then she overhears him calling someone Honey -- and suddenly it feels like everyone in Royal has a secret. It's up to Melody and her best friend, Nick, to piece together the clues and discover why Honey is being hidden.

Meanwhile, a dog named Mo is new to Royal. He doesn't remember much from when he was a puppy . . . but he keeps having dreams of a girl he is bound to meet someday. This girl, he's sure, will change everything.

J WEE Weeks, Sarah

Save Me a Seat

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems--but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.

Realistic Fiction

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| J WEI | Weinberger, Justin | Reformed |
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Ian Hart has mastered the art of lying low. He might sometimes space out at the exact moment Mr. Dunford calls on him (it was field day!). And sure, he's a little clueless around the girls in his class. But Ian's nobody's fool. So how'd a kid like him get framed for pranking the new boy?

Too bad he won't have the chance to find out. Tonight, Ian and his friends Ash and Alva will be sleeping with one eye open . . . at bully reform school, where the hijinks are rougher, the mean girls are meaner, and even the teachers refuse to play by the rules.

It'll take all the schemes and wits Ian, Ash, and Alva can muster if they want to make it out of this nightmare and into middle school. But they're ready for action. Even if it means forging a secret alliance with a world-class hacker. Even if it means . . . wearing a tutu.

Watch your back. Hide your underwear. In a place like this, only the fearless survive.

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| J WEL | Wells, Rosemary | Ivy Takes Care |
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Brokenhearted when her best friend departs for the summer, Ivy spends her own summer caring for animals in the mid-century Southwest, sharing her season of discovery with a stubborn pony, a mischievous puppy, and a scarred racehorse.

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| J WER | Wertheim, L. Jon | Rookie Bookie |
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New kid Mitch Sloan wants to fit in, but his nerdy love of statistics and making money isn't winning him any friends in his sports-loving town--until he finds the perfect way to attain instant popularity. But running a football betting ring at school eventually turns sour, and Mitch loses the only real friend he's made. He'll have to win her back by using his brainpower for good and helping the school football team achieve victory--if they'll listen to the advice of a former bookie!

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| J WES | Weston, Carol | Ava and Pip |
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When ten-year-old Ava uses her writing talents to help her older sister overcome her shyness, both girls learn the impact their words and stories can have on the world around them.

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| J WET | Wetzel, JoAnne | Playing Juliet |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|

For as long as she's been involved with the Oakfield Children's Theatre, Beth has dreamed of someday playing the role of Juliet. She knows she's not ready yet, but with a few more years of experience, she thinks she might have a chance. But she may not get a few more years of experience, because it's rumored that the theatre will have to close. Can Beth and her friends find a way to save the theatre -- or will her dream role remain only a dream?

Realistic Fiction

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| J WIL | Williams-Garcia, Rita | Clayton Byrd Goes Underground |
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Clayton feels most alive when he's with his grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and the band of Bluesmen – he can't wait to join them, just as soon as he has a blues song of his own. But then the unthinkable happens. Cool Papa Byrd dies, and Clayton's mother forbids Clayton from playing the blues. And Clayton knows that's no way to live.

Armed with his grandfather's brown porkpie hat and his harmonica, he runs away from home in search of the Bluesmen, hoping he can join them on the road. But on the journey that takes him through the New York City subways and to Washington Square Park, Clayton learns some things that surprise him.

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| J WIL | Willink, Jocko | Way of the Warrior Kid |
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Fifth grade was the worst year of Marc's life. He stunk at gym class, math was too hard for him, the school lunch was horrible, and his class field trip was ruined because he couldn't swim. But what was most awful thing about fifth grade? Kenny Williamson, the class bully, who calls himself the "King of the Jungle."

When Marc's mother tells him that his Uncle Jake is coming to stay for the whole summer, Marc can't wait. Uncle Jake is a for real, super-cool Navy SEAL. And Uncle Jake has a plan.

He's going to turn Marc into a warrior.

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| J WOO | Woodrow, Allan | Unschool |
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Fifth graders George and Lilly are best friends, but when they end up leading separate teams competing for the Spirit Week prize, it puts a strain on their friendship, especially when the competition generates a host of nasty pranks designed to sabotage their teams--and if Principal Klein finds out what is going on Spirit Week will be canceled and everybody concerned will spend the rest of the year in detention.

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| J YEH | Yeh, Kat | Way to Bea |
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Recently estranged from her best friend and weeks away from shifting from only child to big sister, seventh grader Beatrix Lee consoles herself by writing haiku in invisible ink and hiding the poems, but one day she finds a reply--is it the librarian with all the answers, the editor of the school paper who admits to admiring her poetry, an old friend feeling remorse, or the boy obsessed with visiting the local labyrinth?

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| J YOU | Young, Karen Romano | Doodlebug |
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Moving is tough. But the hardest thing of all about the move that Doreen "Dodo" Bussey's family is making is that she suspects it might be because of her. Her mother gives Dodo a blank notebook, which she uses to chronicle the move and the first days in a new city. (Grades 3 - 5)

Last updated: 11/18/2017