

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS 2025-2026

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Strengthen · Connect · Ignite

WHAT IS BATTLE OF THE BOOKS?

- Reading competition
- Aims to:
 - encourage reading for pleasure,
 - improve comprehension skills,
 - develop teamwork and sportsmanship
- Students read pre-determined books and answer questions
 - Content Questions (Middle School)
 - In Which Book Questions (Elementary and Middle School)



RULES

- All team members must be present in the room during the battles.
- No outside assistance in answering questions; this includes cell phone or tablet use.
- Wait to discuss and write answers until after the timer has started.
- Once the timer has ended, teams may finish writing but may not begin writing or change an answer.



TEAMS

- Teams consist of up to 6 members each.
- Each team needs a coach/sponsor.
- The number of teams schools can send to compete at the regional level will vary from year to year depending on the number of participants.
- Each region will only be able to send one team to the state competition.



SCORING

- In Which Book: Each question is worth two points, plus a possible bonus point for author
- Content Questions: Each question is worth two points; no possibility of bonus point for author.
- Points are not taken away for incorrect answers.



BATTLE PROCEDURES/FORMAT



JEOPARDY STYLE

- All teams compete against each other to answer the questions asked to the group.
- When ready to answer a question, teams buzz in.
- The first team to buzz in gets the first chance to answer.
- If that team answers incorrectly, then the question goes onto the next team that buzzed in.
- Each battle consists of 16 questions.



TEAM VS. TEAM

- Participants choose a writer for this round. This person will write the team's answer on a white board or piece of paper.
- The moderator reads the question and Team One has 20 seconds to discuss and answer. If they answer incorrectly or do not know the answer, Team Two can steal that question for bonus points or go onto the next question. (Either way, Team Two does get the next question.)
- If the question is stolen, Team Two will not be given extra time to discuss before answering.
- After Team Two has answered their question, Team Three has an opportunity to answer.
- This cycle continues until each team has had the chance to answer an equal number of questions.



QUIZ STYLE

- Participants choose a writer for this round. This person will write the team's answer on a white board or piece of paper.
- The moderator will read the question and give each team up to 60 seconds to discuss and write. Time can be called sooner if all teams are done before 60 seconds.
- Moderator will share the answers. Coaches will tell judge how many points to give each team.
- There will be 16 questions in this round.



ACADEMIC WHIZ KIDS

- Each team has a list of questions.
- Using a pen, Teammate One answers as many questions as they can in 90 seconds.
- After 90 seconds, Teammate Two answers as many questions as they can in 90 seconds.
- This continues until all the questions have been answered or each team has had six chances to answer.
- No speaking to teammates during this round! No changing teammates' answers to questions!
- There are 16 questions in this round.
- Answers will be given at the end of the round; coaches will tell the judge how many points to award.



RELAY STYLE

- Teams line up on one end of a field or gym.
- One at a time, students run to the opposite end of the building/field and are asked a question by their own judge.
- If they know the answer, they tell the judge at the table. If not, they run back to the team and discuss the question with their team members—they need to remember the question!
- If the team knows the proper answer the same team member returns to the judging table and tell the judge their answer.
- If the team does not know the answer, the next member of the team runs to the judging table and asks for the next question.
- Once one team gets to the final question all competition stops.



BOOK CLUB CHALLENGE

- One member is selected from each team. They will be asked 4 questions.
- The first participant to answer the question correctly gets points.
- After four questions are asked then a new set of team members will compete against each other for four new questions.
- If no students want to answer the question, move on to the next question, and if a student does not answer the question correctly, the other students does not have the option to answer the question correctly.



CHALLENGES

- Each team can challenge up to 3 times during Regionals.
- If a team wants to challenge an answer, they have 2 minutes to look it up in the book and bring their proof to the judge.
- The judge has the final say.



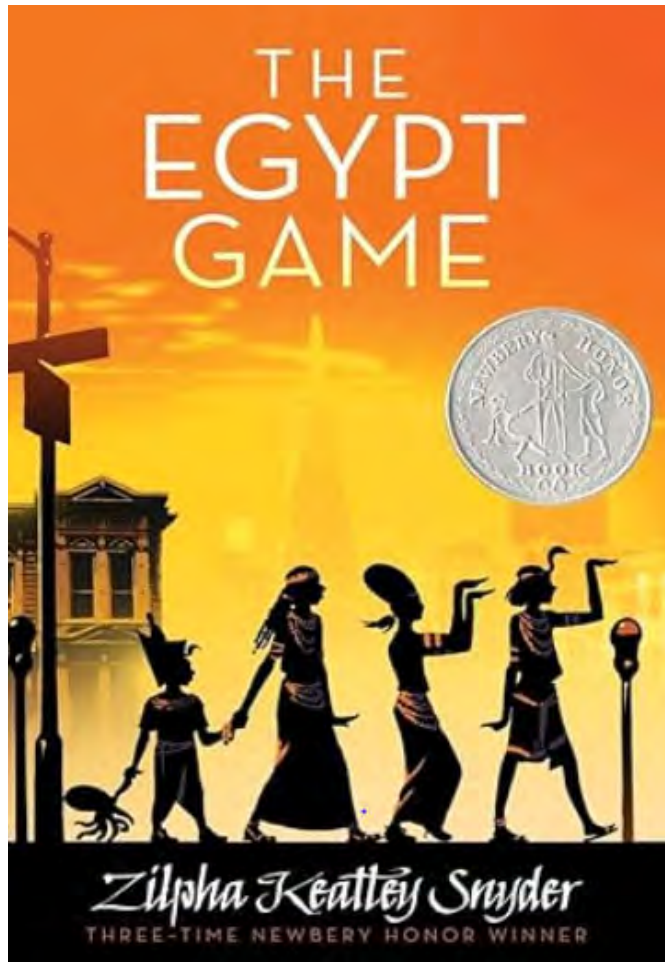
DATES

- Early September – Information emailed through Schlibtalk (Link to handbook, Book information)
- October 31 – Team registration closes
- Mid-November – Practice and School Competition questions emailed
- November through February – Practice and School Competitions
- March – Regionals (Virtual)
- April – State (Virtual)



ELEMENTARY TITLES





The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

The first time Melanie Ross meets April Hall, she's not sure they have anything in common. One look at April's upswept hair, false eyelashes, and ragged fox-fur collar is enough to convince Melanie that April won't have an easy time fitting in with the sixth graders at Wilson School.

But April has some surprises in store, like the fact that she enjoys reading and playing imagination games just as much as Melanie does. The two even discover that they both love anything to do with ancient Egypt! In a storage yard behind the A-Z Antiques and Curio Shop, Melanie and April start to play the Egypt Game.

Before long, there are six Egyptians instead of two. They meet to wear costumes, hold ceremonies, and work on their secret code. Everyone enjoys the game until strange things begin to happen. Has the Egypt Game gone too far?



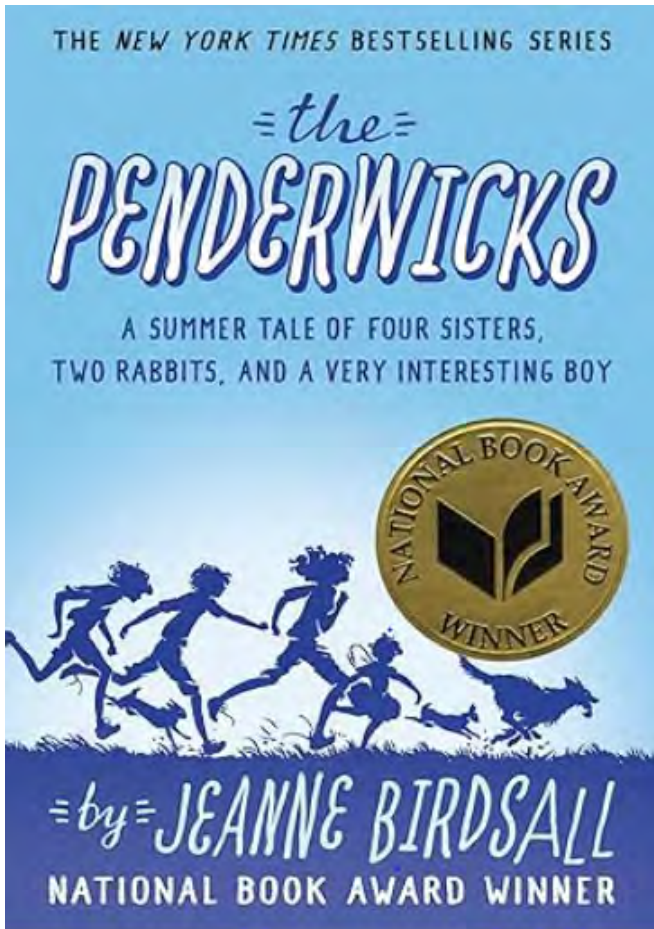
The Wild Robot

by Peter Brown

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.





The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy

by Jeanne Birdsall

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures. However, Jeffrey's mother, Mrs. Tifton, is not pleased with the Penderwicks. This is sure to be a memorable summer!

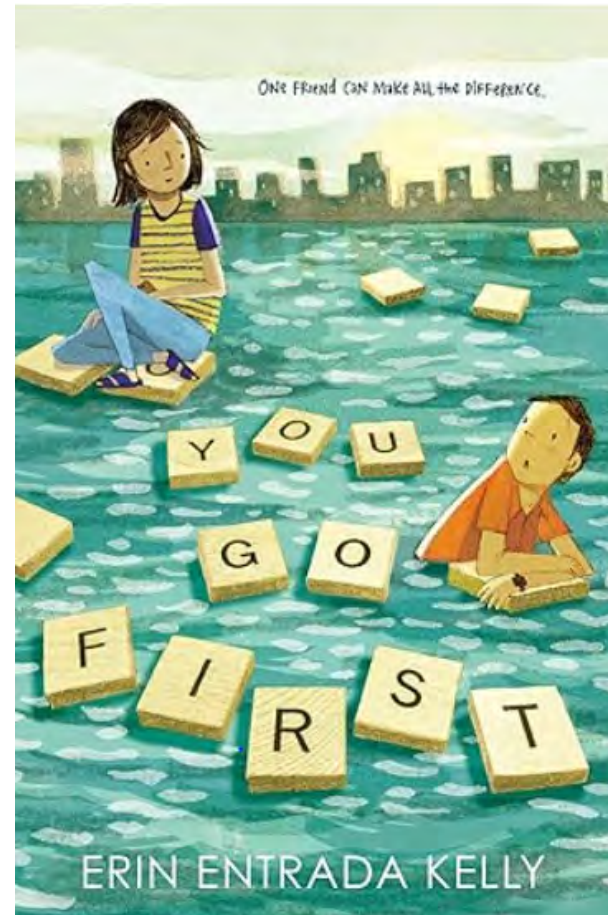


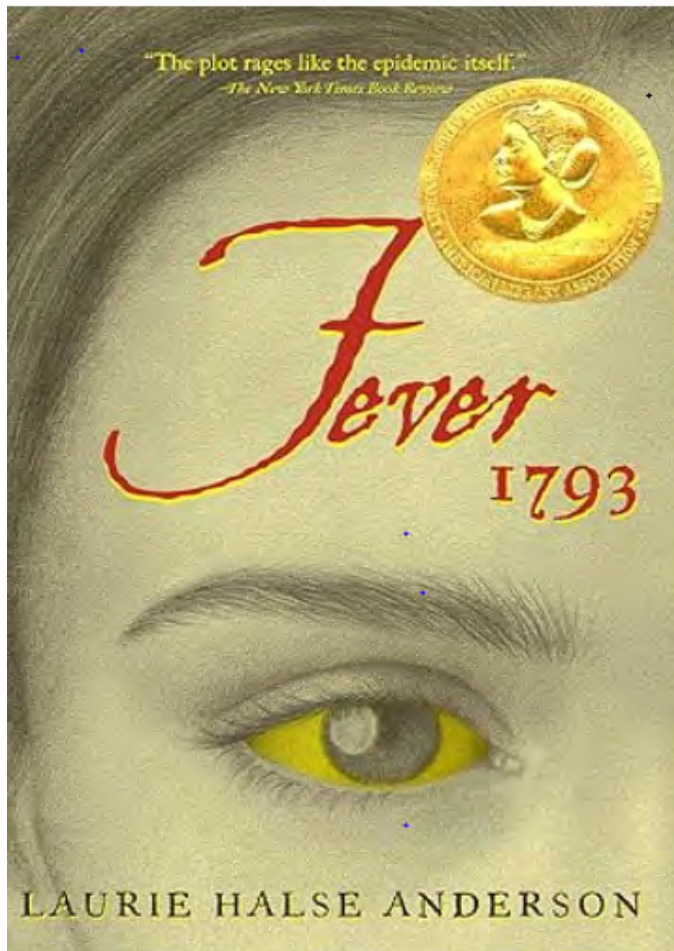
You Go First

by Erin Entrada Kelly

Twelve-year-old Charlotte Lockard and eleven-year-old Ben Boxer are separated by more than a thousand miles. On the surface, their lives seem vastly different.

During the course of one week, Charlotte and Ben—friends connected only by an online Scrabble game—will intersect in unexpected ways as they struggle to navigate the turmoil of middle school.





Fever 1793

by Laurie Halse Anderson

During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out.

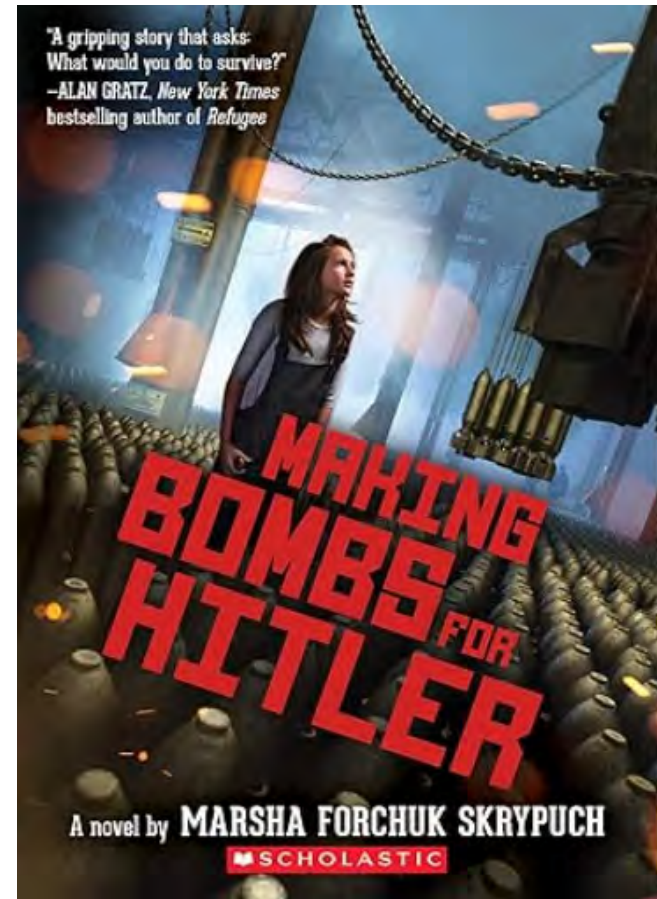
Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.

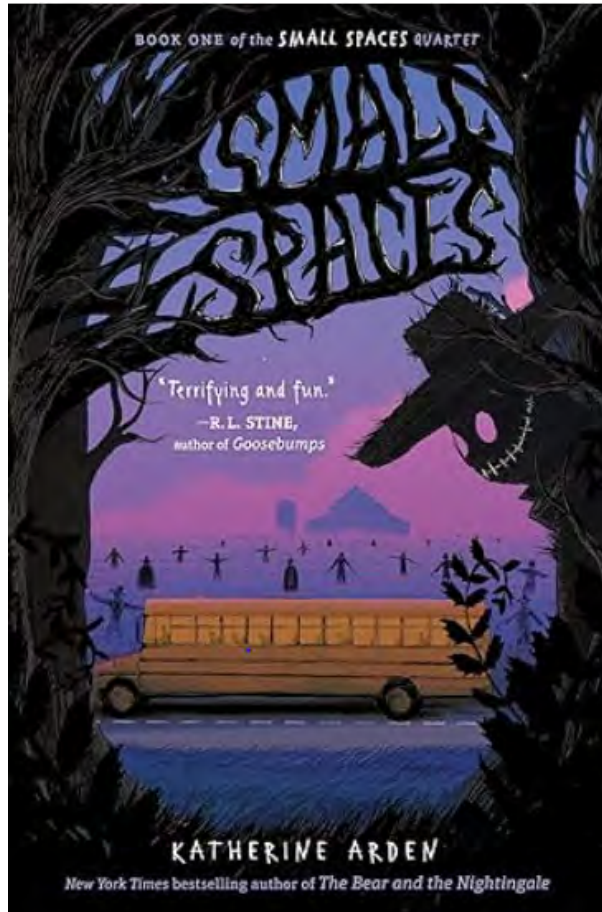


Making Bombs for Hitler

by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch

Lida thought she was safe. Her neighbors wearing the yellow star were all taken away, but Lida is not Jewish. She will be fine, won't she? Then, the Nazis take Lida to a brutal work camp, where she and other Ukrainian children are forced into backbreaking labor. Starving and terrified, Lida bonds with her fellow prisoners. When Lida and her friends are assigned to make bombs for the German army, Lida cannot stand the thought of helping the enemy. Then she has an idea. What if she sabotaged the bombs... and the Nazis? Can she do so without getting caught?





Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

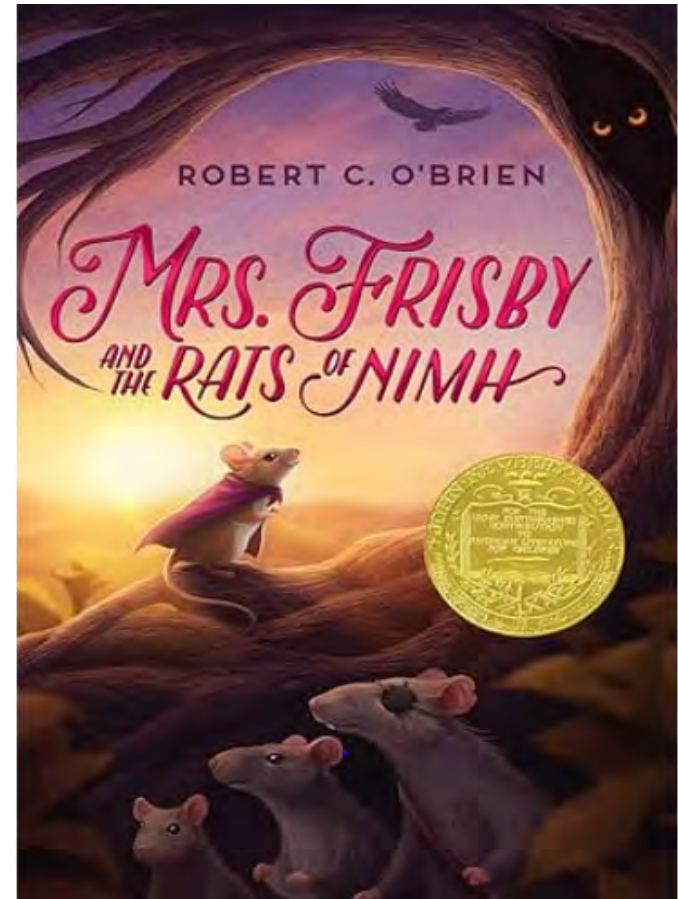
After seeing a crazed woman attempt to throw a book into the river, Ollie rescues the book and reads a chilling story of love, loss, and “the smiling man.” Is this tale just made up from the author’s imagination? Or, does this sinister creature really exist and is looking for a debt to be repaid?

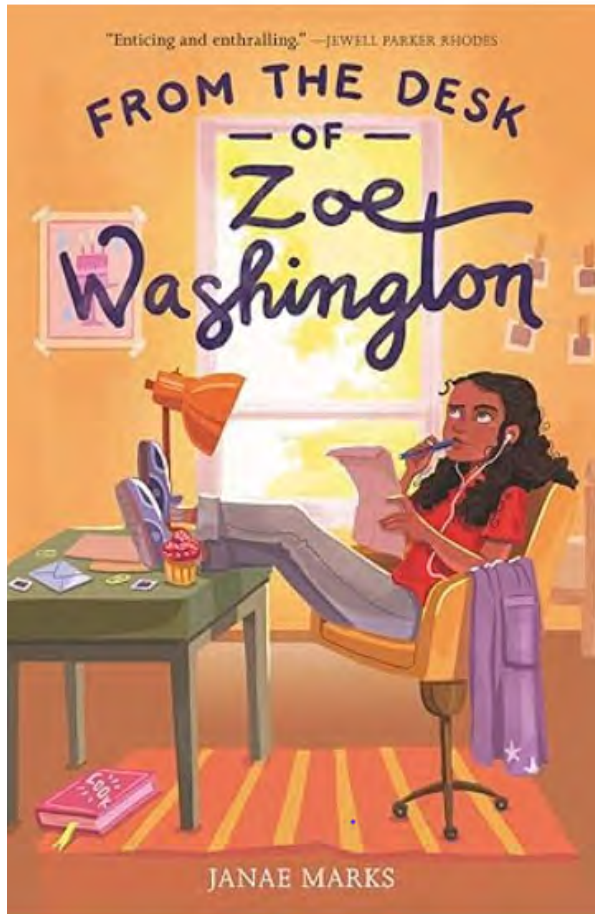


Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

by Robert C. O'Brien

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma.





From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write to her imprisoned father...who claims he is innocent of his crime.

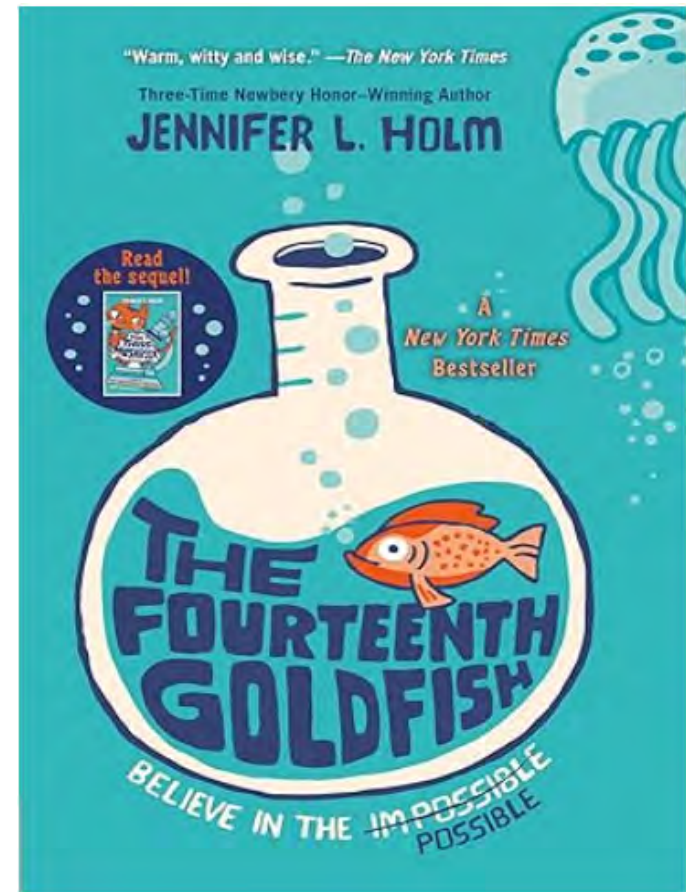
Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Can she balance hiding their communications, surviving middle school, and preparing to audition for the *Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge*?

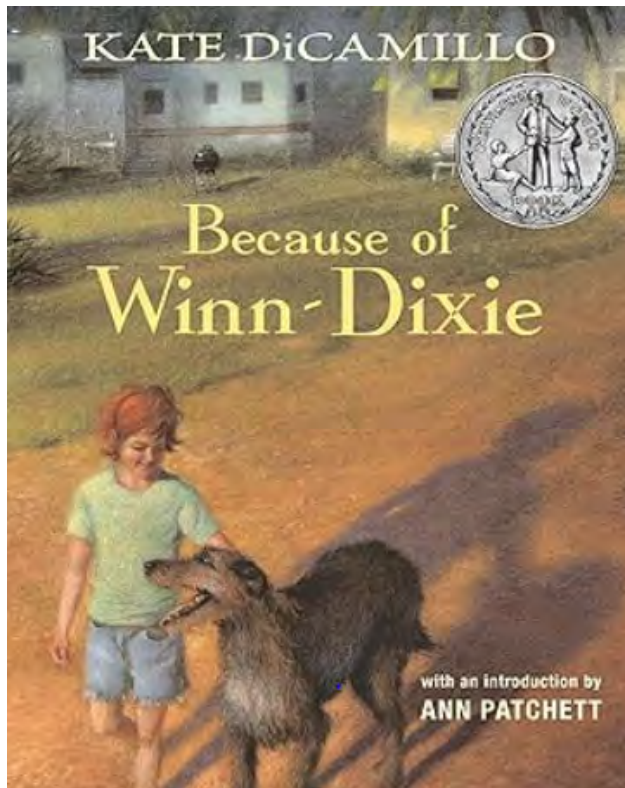


The Fourteenth Goldfish

by Jennifer L. Holm

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough . . . he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this gawky teenager really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?





Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

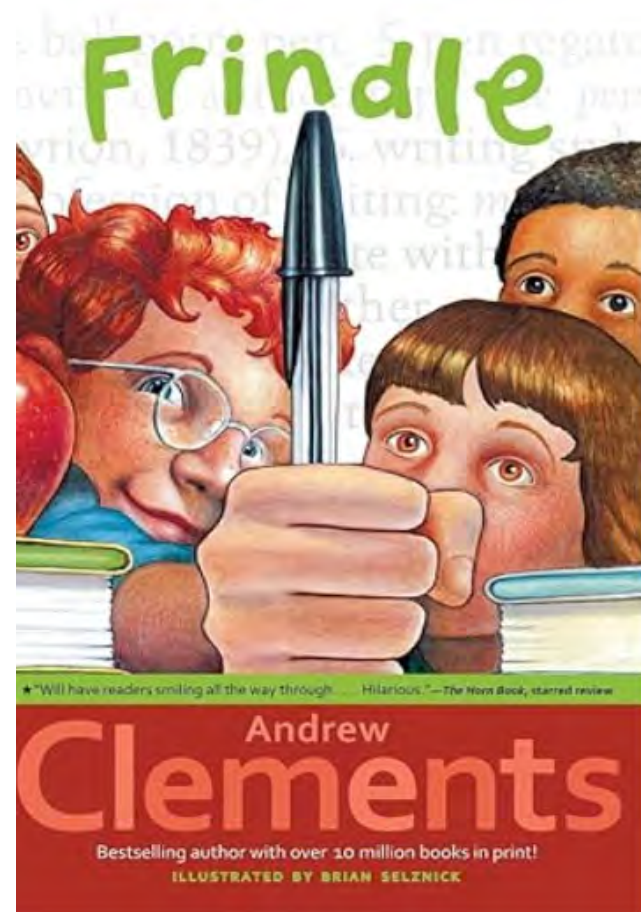
Opal, who just moved to a new town with her preacher father, finds a stray dog at the local supermarket. With the help of the dog's – Winn Dixie -- friendly nature, Opal forms connections and friendships with the members of her new home.



Frindle

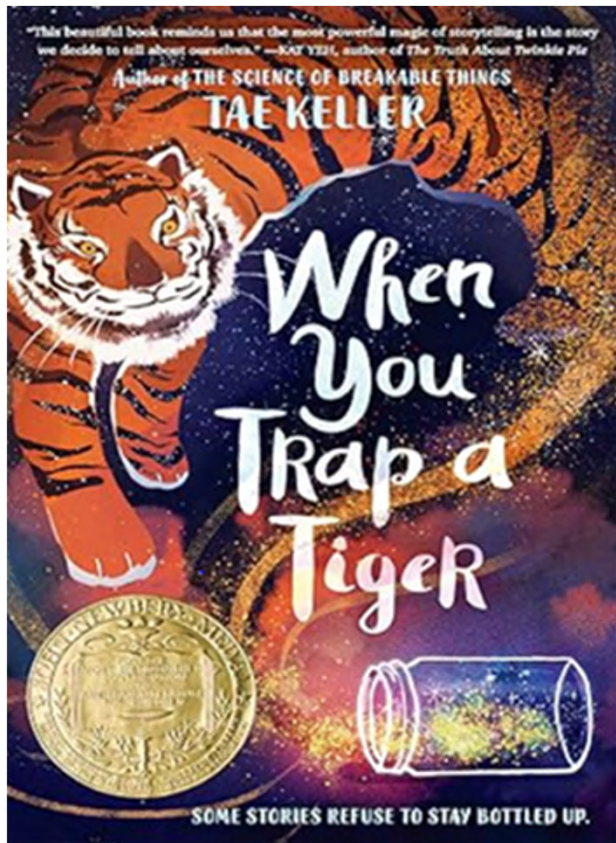
by Andrew Clements

Nick Allen really likes to liven things up at school -- and he's always had plenty of great ideas. When Nick learns how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero. His teacher wants Nick to put an end to all this nonsense, but the funny thing is frindle doesn't belong to Nick anymore. The new word is spreading across the country, and there's nothing Nick can do to stop it.



MIDDLE SCHOOL TITLES





When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller

Some stories refuse to stay bottled up...

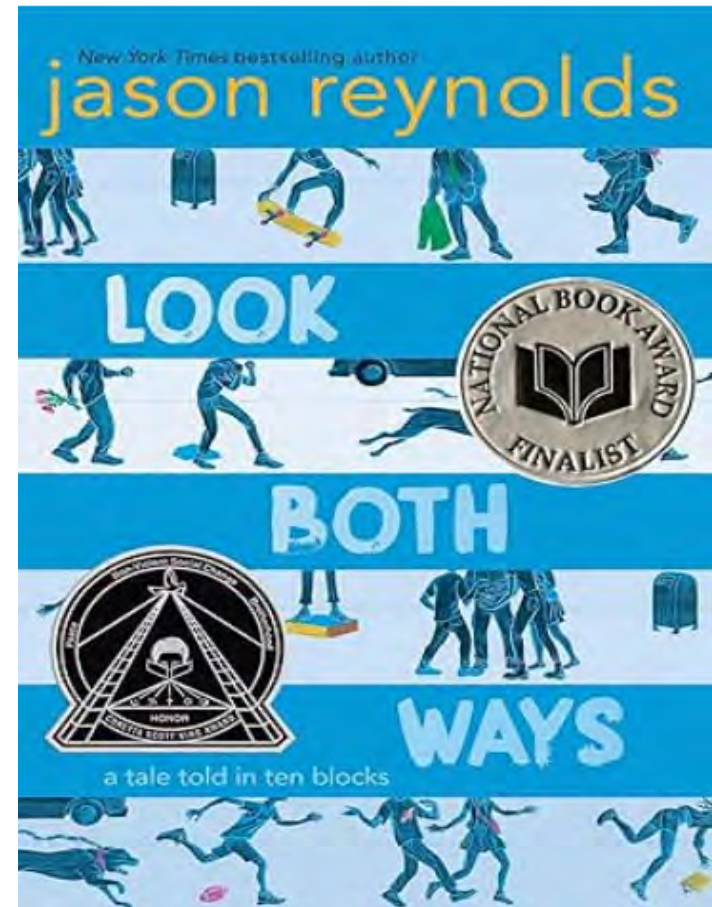
When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.

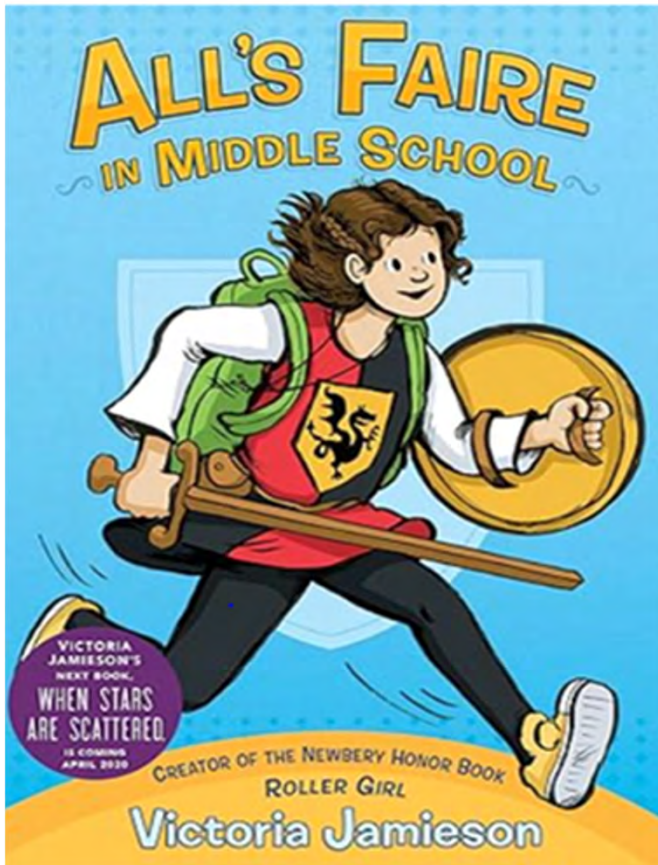


Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks

by Jason Reynolds

This story was going to begin like all the best stories...with a school bus falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy walking themselves home from school. Jason Reynolds spins ten tales – one per block – to see what happens after the bell rings and show just how multi-faceted people really are.





All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

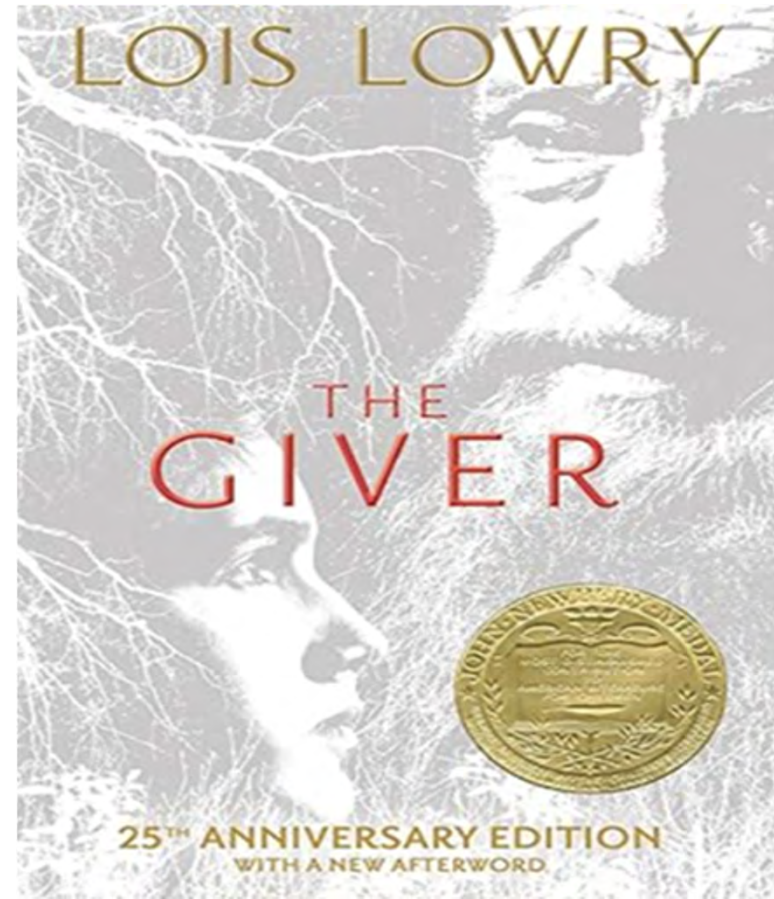
Eleven-year-old Imogene (Impy) has grown up with two parents working at the Renaissance Faire, and she's eager to begin her own training as a squire. First, though, she'll need to prove her bravery. Luckily Impy has just the quest in mind—she'll go to public school after a life of being homeschooled! But it's not easy to act like a noble knight-in-training in middle school. Impy falls in with a group of girls who seem really nice (until they don't) and starts to be embarrassed of her thrift shop apparel, her family's unusual lifestyle, and their small, messy apartment. Impy has always thought of herself as a heroic knight, but when she does something really mean in order to fit in, she begins to wonder whether she might be more of a dragon after all.

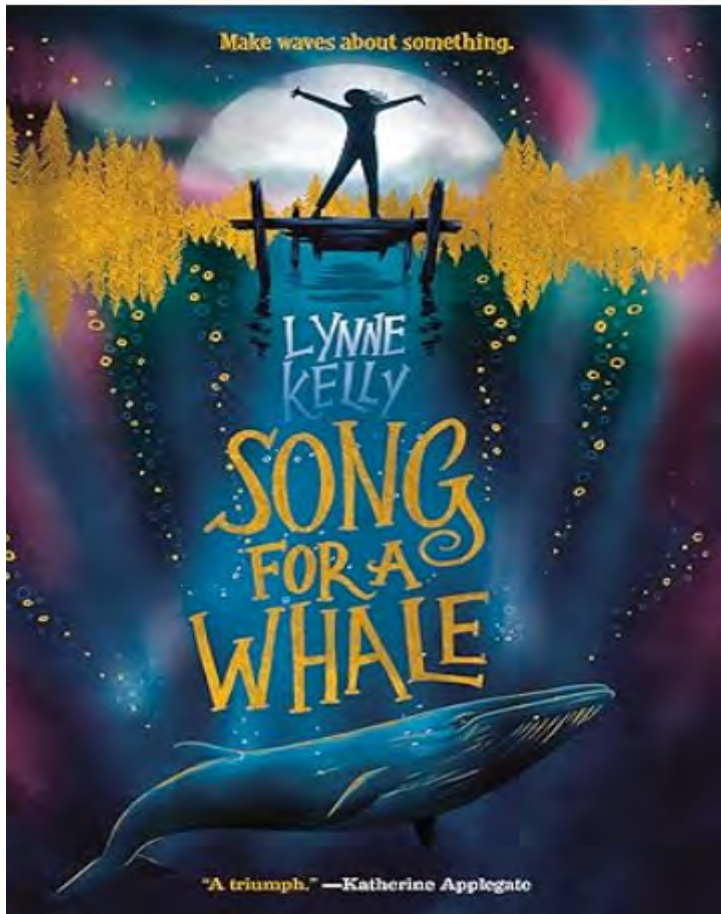


The Giver by Lois Lowry

Life in the community where Jonas lives is idyllic. Designated birthmothers produce new children, who are assigned to appropriate family units. Citizens are assigned their partners and their jobs. No one thinks to ask questions. Everyone obeys. Everyone is the same. Except Jonas.

Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community. Gradually Jonas learns that power lies in feelings. But when his own power is put to the test—when he must try to save someone he loves—he may not be ready. Is it too soon? Or too late?





Song for a Whale

by Lynne Kelly

Twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart.

When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him?

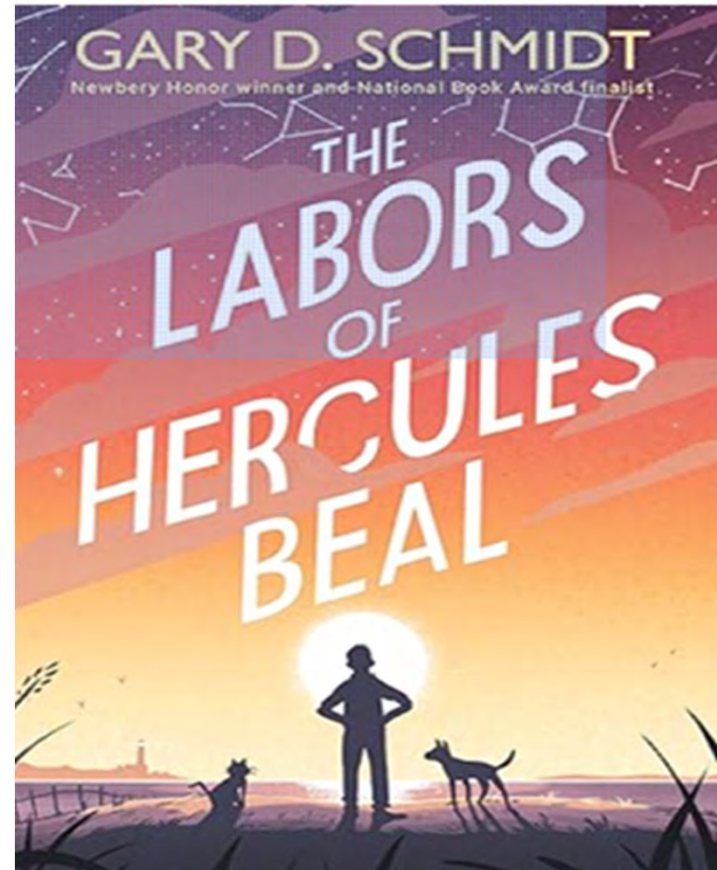
Full of heart and poignancy, this affecting story by sign language interpreter Lynne Kelly shows how a little determination can make big waves.

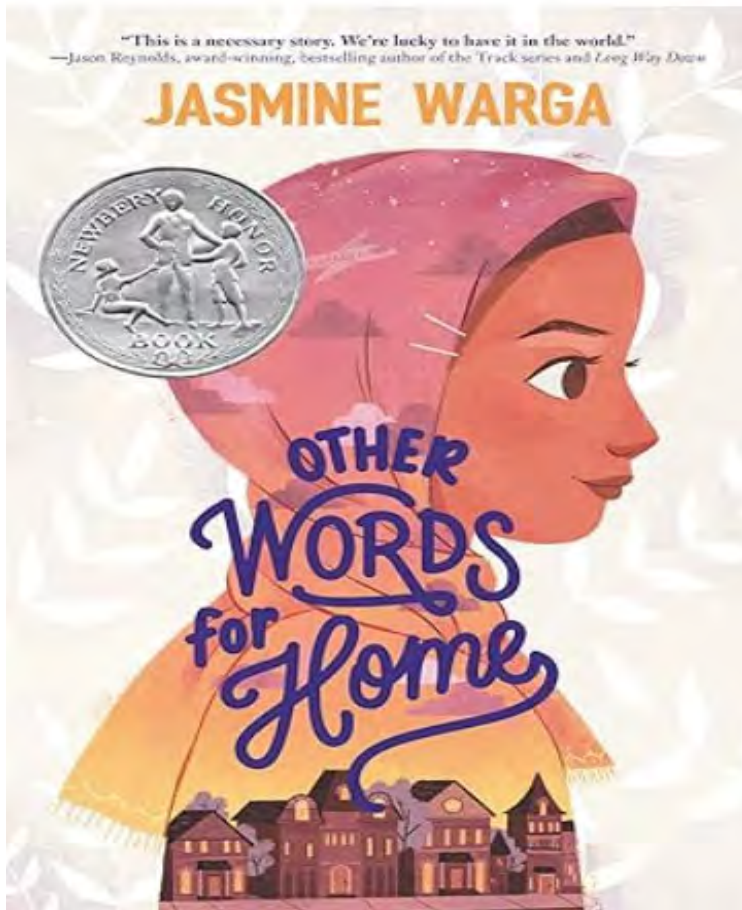


The Labors of Hercules Beal by Gary D. Schmidt

Herc Beal knows who he's named after—a mythical hero—but he's no superhero. He's the smallest kid in his class. So when his homeroom teacher at his new middle school gives him the assignment of duplicating the mythical Hercules's amazing feats in real life, he's skeptical. After all, there are no Nemean Lions on Cape Cod—and not a single Hydra in sight.

Missing his parents terribly and wishing his older brother wasn't working all the time, Herc figures out how to take his first steps along the road that the great Hercules himself once walked. Soon, new friends, human and animal, are helping him. And though his mythical role model performed his twelve labors by himself, Herc begins to see that he may not have to go it alone.





Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives.

At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US - and her new label of "Middle Eastern", an identity she's never known before.

But this life also brings unexpected surprises - there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

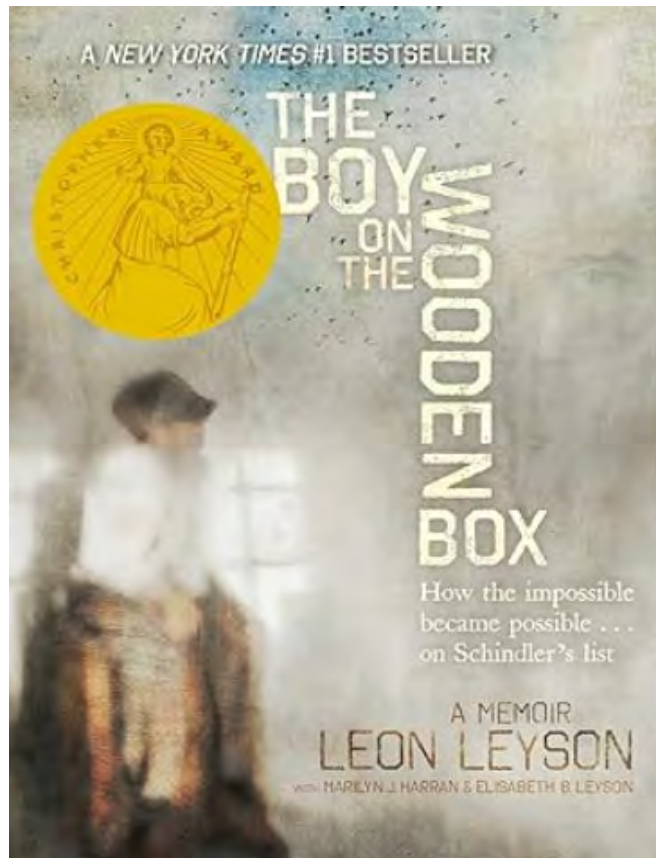


Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and she loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball.

They aren't friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.





The Boy on the Wooden Box By Leon Leyson

This memoir, published by a former Schindler's list child, captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto.

Ultimately, it was the generosity and cunning of one man, Oskar Schindler, who saved Leon Leyson's life, and the lives of his mother, his father, and two of his four siblings, by adding their names to his list of workers in his factory—a list that became world renowned: Schindler's list.

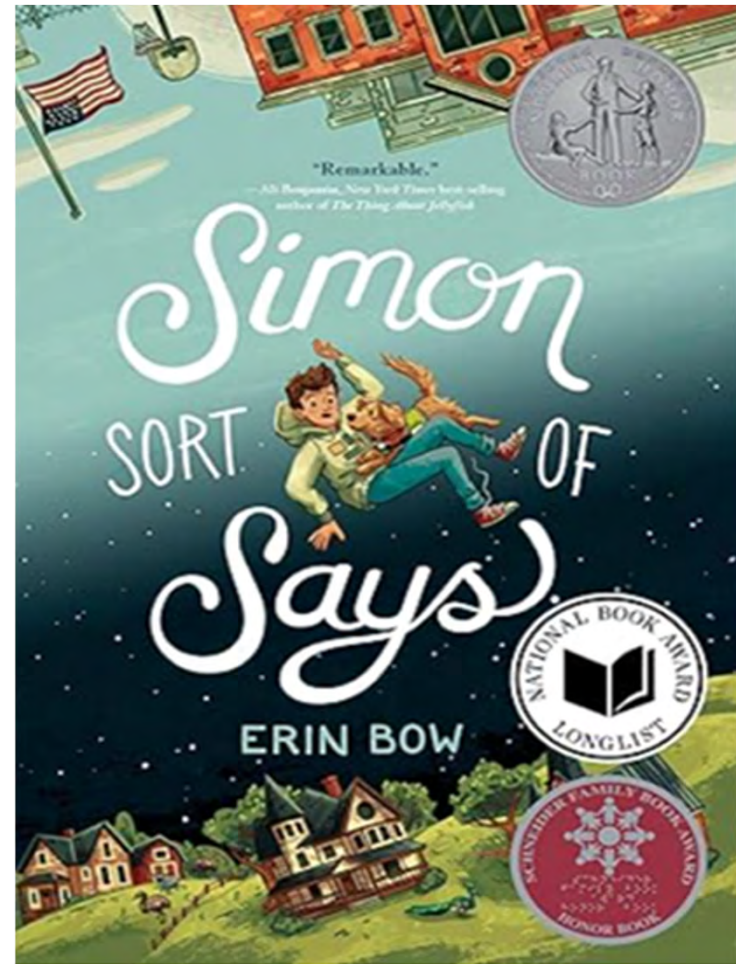


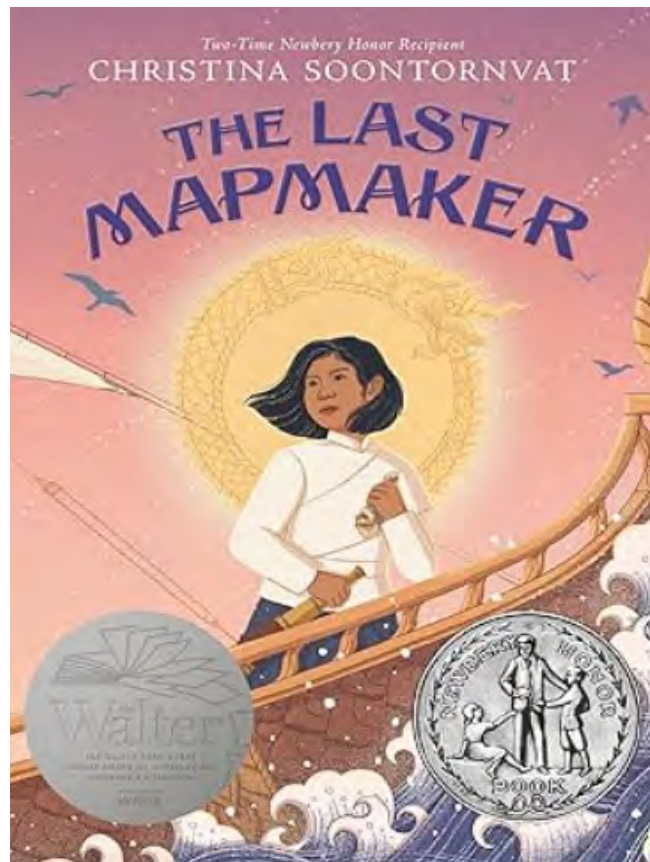
Simon Sort of Says

by Erin Bow

Simon O'Keeffe's biggest claim to fame should be the time his dad accidentally gave a squirrel a holy sacrament. Or maybe the alpaca disaster that went viral on YouTube. But the story the whole world wants to tell about Simon is the one he'd do anything to forget: the one starring Simon as a famous survivor of gun violence at school.

Two years after the infamous event, twelve-year-old Simon and his family move to the National Quiet Zone—the only place in America where the internet is banned. Instead of talking about Simon, the astronomers who flock to the area are busy listening for signs of life in space. And when Simon makes a friend who's determined to give the scientists what they're looking for, he'll finally have the chance to spin a new story for the world to tell.





The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat

This Thia-inspired adventure follows twelve-year-old Sai in her quest to unburden herself from her past and chart into a new and successful future. After given an opportunity to leave behind her con father and create her own destiny, Sai might choose between what is right and riches beyond imagination. This vivid and suspenseful tale focuses on identify and integrity set-in old-world travel.



The Secret Library

by Kekla Magoon

Since Grandpa died, Dally's days are dull and restricted. She's eleven and a half years old, and her single mother is already preparing her to take over the family business. Dally discovers an envelope Grandpa had earmarked for her. The map she finds inside leads straight to an ancient vault, a library of secrets where each book is a portal to a precise moment in time. As Dally "checks out" adventure after adventure, she begins to dive deep into her family's hidden history. But the library has secrets of its own. Equal parts mystery and adventure, this masterful middle-grade fantasy rivets with crackling prose, playful plot twists, and timeless themes.



QUESTIONS?



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