

## School Capers, Friends and Family

### **The Apple Tart of Hope** By Sarah Moore Fitzgerald

Oscar Dunleavy, a teenager who used to make incredible apple tarts, has gone missing and everyone thinks he is dead, but Oscar's best friend Meg and his little brother Stevie, form a bond as they try to figure out what happened to him. (Also see [A Very Good Chance](#) By Sarah Moore Fitzgerald)

### **The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora** by Pablo Cartaya

Thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora is part of a large, Miami-based, Cuban American extended family. When a scheming real-estate developer proposes to build a mixed-use high-rise development that would close the family restaurant, the entire Zamora family mobilizes to win the neighborhood's support.

### **Finding Orion** By John David Anderson

Rion Kwik has grown up surrounded by quirks and craves normalcy. At the funeral for his grandfather, Papa Kwik, the family learns that they must embark on a scavenger hunt to find Papa Kwik's ashes. In the next 24 hours, the Kwik family eats 36 scoops of ice cream, climbs a 40-foot tree to retrieve a clue, and fights off thieves in a local museum. Along the way, they learn the truth behind much of Papa Kwik's behavior.

### **The Flip Side** by Shawn Johnson

Charlie wants desperately to be a normal teenage girl, so she hides her intense gymnastics training from her school friends. But Charlie's two worlds compete when she's asked to the prom--right before the Olympic trials.

### **Lily and Dunkin** By Linda Gephardt

Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth-grade. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. One summer morning, Lily meets Dunkin, and their lives forever change.

### **The Line Tender** by Kate Allen

Following a tragedy that further alters the course of her life, twelve-year-old artist Lucy Everhart decides to continue the shark research her marine biologist mother left unfinished when she died years earlier.

### **Love and Gelato** by Jenna Evans Welch

Lina is spending the summer in Tuscany because it was her mother's dying wish that she get to know her father. But what kind of father isn't around for sixteen years? But then Lina is given a journal that her mom had kept when she lived in Italy. Suddenly Lina's uncovering a magical world of secret romances, art, and hidden bakeries. (Also see [Love and Luck](#) By Jenna Evans Welch)

### **The Next Great Paulie** Fink by Ali Benjamin

A reluctant newcomer in a small Vermont town, Caitlyn joins 10 other seventh-graders at the Mitchell School, which resembles a haunted house. Though initially uncomfortable among her classmates, who often reminisce about Paulie Fink, a former student and legendary prankster, Caitlyn comes to enjoy mentoring a kindergartener and running a secret class contest to find "the next great Paulie Fink."

### **Payback Time** By Carl Dreuker

Through the eyes of a distinctly non-athletic protagonist—a fat high school journalist named Mitch—veteran sports novelist Deuker reveals the surprising truth behind a mysterious football player named Angel.

### **Slacker** by Gordon Korman

When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming--but before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon he finds himself president of the P.A.G., and involved in community service, so the boy who never cared about anything is now the center of everything, whether he likes it or not.

### **Something in Between** By Melissa de la Cruz

After learning of her family's illegal immigrant status, Jasmine realizes that college may be impossible and that deportation is a real threat, uncertainties that endure as she falls for the son of a congressman who opposes an immigration reform bill.

### **We Were Liars** by E. Lockhart

Spending the summers on her family's private island off the coast of Massachusetts with her cousins and a special boy named Gat, teenaged Cadence struggles to remember what happened during her fifteenth summer.

### **You Go First** by Erin Entrada Kelly

Told in alternate chapters, *You Go First* is the story of Charlotte Lock and Ben Boxer, who are united by their love of online Scrabble. Their friendship is a point of stability during a period of upheaval for both kids.

### **Zen and the Art of Faking It** by Jordan Sonnenblick

Meet San Lee, a (sort of) innocent teenager, who moves against his will to a new town. Things get interesting when he (sort of) invents a new past for himself, which makes him incredibly popular. In fact, his whole school starts to (sort of) worship him, just because he (sort of) accidentally gave the impression that he's a reincarnated mystic. When things start to unravel, San needs to find some real wisdom in a hurry. Can he patch things up with his family, save himself from bodily harm, stop being an outcast, and maybe even get the girl?

## Historical Fiction: Wars, Soldiers, Spies, Resistance Fighters and more

### **All the Broken Pieces** By Anne E Burg

Matt would like to forget: war torn Vietnam, and the terrible secret he left behind. But now that he is living with a caring adoptive family in the United States, he finds himself forced to confront his past. And that means choosing between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom.

### **Audacity** by Melanie Crowder

Audacity is inspired by the real-life story of Clara Lemlich. Bucking the norms of both her traditional Jewish family and societal conventions, Clara refuses to accept substandard working conditions in the factories on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

### **The Book of Boy** Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Boy has always been relegated to the outskirts of his small village. With a large hump on his back, a mysterious past, and a tendency to talk to animals, he is often mocked by others in his town—until the arrival of a shadowy pilgrim named Secundus. Impressed with Boy's climbing and jumping abilities, Secundus engages Boy as his servant, pulling him into an action-packed and suspenseful expedition across Europe to gather the seven precious relics of Saint Peter.

### **Code Name Verity** by Elizabeth Wein

In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must do to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

### **Egg and Spoon** by Gregory Maguire

Elena lives in the poor Russian countryside. Her father is dead and her brothers have been forced into the Tsar's army. Her mother is dying, and there is no food. But then a train arrives carrying untold wealth, a cornucopia of food, and a noble family; a family that includes Ekaterina, a girl of Elena's age. When the two girls meet, an adventure is set in motion that includes mistaken identity, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and Baba Yaga, the witch of Russian folklore.

### **Hamilton and Peggy** By L.M. Elliott

"Peggy Schuyler has always felt like she's existed in the shadows of her beloved sisters: the fiery, intelligent Angelica and beautiful, sweet Eliza. But it's in the throes of a chaotic war that Peggy finds herself a central figure amid Loyalists and Patriots, spies and traitors, friends and family. (series)

### **Lafayette!** By Nathan Hale

About-to-be-executed spy Nathan Hale entertains his captors and readers by telling stories about U.S. history in this popular graphic novel series. In this installment, Hale returns to the setting of the American Revolution to focus on the early life of French aristocrat and Revolutionary War hero Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette.

### **Suspect Red** By L.M. Elliott

In 1950s Washington, D.C., teenaged Richard, a bookworm whose father works for the FBI, experiences effects of McCarthyism, beginning with book banning and ending with a threat to his half-Czech friend.

### **Prisoner B-3087** By Alan Gratz

Based on the life of Jack Gruener, this book relates his story of survival from the Nazi occupation of Krakow, when he was eleven, through a succession of concentration camps, to the final liberation of Dachau.

### **Projekt 1065** by Alan Gratz

It is 1943, and thirteen-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany in Berlin, is also a spy for the British Secret Service, so he has joined the Hitler Youth, and pretending that he agrees with their violence and book-burning is hard enough—but when he is asked to find out more about "Projekt 1065" both his and his parents' lives get a lot more dangerous.

### **Flygirl** by Sherri L Smith

During World War II, a light skinned African American girl "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

### **Full Cicada Moon** by Marilyn Hilton

In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider.

### **Two Times a Traitor** By Karen Bass

Reluctantly touring Halifax with his family, twelve-year-old Laz Berenger accidentally stumbles through a time tunnel to a 1745 war zone. Caught by English sailors from the American colonies, his only hope for freedom is to spy for them in the French fortification at Louisbourg. But finds himself torn in three directions when the commander at Louisbourg becomes closer than his own father.

### **The War I Finally Won** By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ada's first story, *The War that Saved My Life*, was a #1 New York Times bestseller and won a Newbery Honor. This second masterwork of historical fiction continues Ada's journey of family, faith, and identity, showing us that real freedom is not just the ability to choose, but the courage to make the *right* choice.

### **White Rose** by Kip Wilson

Tells the story of Sophie Scholl, a young German college student who challenges the Nazi regime during World War II as part of the White Rose, a non-violent resistance group. a searing indictment of silent complicity, White Rose shines a light on one remarkable young woman's insistence on the power of truth, no matter the cost.

## Just Do It - Sports Stories

### **The Boys in the Boat: An Epic Journey to the Heart of Hitler's Berlin**

(Young Reader's Edition) by Dan Brown

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

### **The Closer** (Young Reader's Edition) By Mariano Rivera

In this autobiography, Rivera describes how he went from a poor boy in a humble fishing village in Panama to one of the greatest New York Yankee baseball heroes through talent, faith, perseverance, and sportsmanship, with exciting play-by-play details that will particularly appeal to baseball aficionados.

### **Fierce** By Aly Raisman

Discover Aly Raisman's inspiring story of dedication, perseverance, and learning to think positive even in the toughest times on her path to gold medal success in two Olympic Games--and beyond.

### **Rebound** By Kwame Alexander

Before Josh and Jordan Bell were streaking up and down the court, their father was learning his own moves. In this prequel to Newbery Medal winner *The Crossover*, Chuck Bell takes center stage, as readers get a glimpse of his childhood and how he became the jazz music worshipping, basketball star his sons look up to.

### **Shoe Dog** (Young Reader's Edition) By Phil Knight

Phil Knight opens up about how he went from being a track star at an Oregon high school to the founder of Nike.

### **Sunny** By Jason Reynolds

Ghost. Patina. Sunny. Lu. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds, with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics. They all have a lot to lose, but they all have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves. (Also see [Ghost](#), [Lu](#) and [Patina](#).)

### **Game Seven** By Paul Volponi

Julio Jr.'s papi, a pitcher for the Cuban National Team, defected to the U.S. six years ago. Now sixteen, Julio's baseball future is hindered by the "traitor" label--until his Major League player father sends him an escape plan. Play-by-play action is set against a perilous ocean journey, as Julio battles the elements and family loyalty.

### **The Fastest Boy in the World** by Elizabeth Laird

Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run! The great athletes of the Ethiopian national team are his heroes and he dreams that one day he will be a gold-medal-winning athlete like them.

### **The Backfield Boys** by John Feinstein

When best friends Tom and Jason leave New York City for an elite, sports-focused boarding school in Virginia to play football, they find some coaches and teammates to be steeped in racism.

### **Outcasts United** by Warren St. John

This is a story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh. Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical southern town until it became a refugee resettlement center. The author explores how the community changed with the influx of refugees and how the dedication of Luma Mufleh and the entire Fugees soccer team inspired an entire community. (non-fiction)

### **The Prodigy** by John Feinstein

Seventeen-year-old golf prodigy Frank seems ready to blaze his way into Masters Tournament history, but his college plans are jeopardized by his father's sponsorship plans that threatens to ruin Frank's amateur status

### **Rising Above: How 11 Athletes Overcame Challenges in their Youth to Become Stars** by Gregory Zuckerman

Athlete after athlete in this book found discipline, hope, and inspiration on the playing field, rising above their circumstances. Filled with first-hand accounts from stars who exemplify the idea of enduring at all costs, 'Rising Above' will serve as a must-read source of inspiration for kids and sports fans of all ages

### **Rising Above: Inspiring Women in Sports** By Gregory Zuckerman

These are the inspirational real-life stories of female superstar athletes Serena and Venus Williams, Simone Biles, Carli Lloyd, and more -- role models all. For sports fans, aspiring athletes and readers of sports biographies.

### **Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip** by Jordan Sonnenblick

After an injury ends star-pitcher Pete's baseball career, he enters freshman year uncertain about his future. At school he focuses on photography (and classmate Angelika). Meanwhile, Pete's family won't admit there's something wrong with his grampa, who is showing signs of Alzheimer's.

### **Tumbling** by Caela Carter

Set at the USA Gymnastics Women's Olympic Trials where 12 elite athletes put everything on the line to vie for five available spots. The story spans the grueling two-day meet and is told from the alternating viewpoints of five fierce competitors.

### **Goldfish** by Nat Luurtsema

After coming in last at an Olympic qualifying swim meet, British teen Louise resigns herself to a dull year. Then three boys desperate to win a TV talent competition recruit her to train them in synchronized swimming. Things come humorously to a head at a local aquarium.

## Mystery, Action and Adventure

### **Enrique's Journey** By Sonia Nazario

Based on the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, this story recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers.

### **Airborn** By Kenneth Oppel

Matt Cruse is a cabin boy on the *Aurora*, a huge airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean, ferrying wealthy passengers from city to city. It is the life Matt's always wanted; convinced he's lighter than air, he imagines himself as buoyant as the hydrium gas that powers his ship. One night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies. It is only after Matt meets the balloonist's granddaughter that he realizes that the man's ravings may, in fact, have been true, and that the creatures are completely real and utterly mysterious.

### **Terminal: A Virals Novel** By Kathy and Brendan Reichs

The Virals are back—but they're not the only pack in town anymore. *Terminal* finds Tory Brennan and the rest of the Morris Island gang tracking a pack of rogue Virals who call themselves the Trinity. The new pack was infected by a strain of supervirus created by Tory's nemesis and sometimes-crush, Chance Clayborne, who accidentally infected himself, too. These red-eyed Virals have openly challenged Tory's pack for domination of Charleston, and they'll stop at nothing to bring their rivals down—even if that means giving them up to a shadowy government agency intent on learning the secret to the Virals' powers. (series)

### **Ascent** By Roland Smith

After conquering the mountains in Afghanistan, Peak Marcello goes to Myanmar, a country that has been in the grips of a brutal military regime for more than fifty years, to visit Alessia. When he's invited to climb Hkakabo Razi, one of the most isolated mountains in the world, Peak can't pass up the opportunity. But getting to the mountain will involve a four-week trek through tropical rainforests rife with hazards—from venomous reptiles and leeches to corrupt police and military. In the end, summiting Hkakabo Razi may be the easiest thing Peak does. (trilogy)

### **Death Cloud** By Andrew Lane

In 1868, with his army officer father suddenly posted to India, and his mother mysteriously "unwell," fourteen-year-old Sherlock Holmes is sent to stay with his eccentric uncle and aunt in their vast house in Hampshire, where he uncovers his first murder and a diabolical villain. (series)

### **Etiquette & Espionage** By Gail Carriger

In an alternate England of 1851, spirited fourteen-year-old Sophronia is enrolled in a finishing school where, she is surprised to learn, lessons include not only the fine arts of dance, dress, and etiquette, but also diversion, deceit, and espionage. (series)

### **The False Prince** By Jennifer Nielson

In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war. (trilogy)

### **Hideout** By Watt Key

While exploring the swamp near his house, Sam discovers a boy named Davey who has been living alone. Determined to help, Sam brings Davey food and supplies and strikes up a friendship. But Davey has a secret that could put the boys' lives in danger.

### **Lottery Boy** By Michael Byrne

Twelve-year-old Bully has lost his mum and his old life. Living rough on the streets of London with his dog, Jack, he can't imagine a future. But one day he finds, tucked inside his most cherished possession—the last birthday card his mother ever gave him—a lottery ticket he bought her. And it's a winner. A *big* winner. Suddenly there's hope, if only he can get to his prize on time! But just as Bully's prospects open up, peril closes in. Now ruthless gangsters are in hot pursuit, and everyone wants a piece of him.

### **Michael Vey: Prisoner of Cell 25** By Richard Paul Evans

Fourteen-year-old Michael discovers he has special electrical powers and, with the help of his best friends, becomes aware that there are other teens with similar powers, but something or someone is hunting them and, after Michael's mother is kidnapped, he will need to rely on his powers and his friends to rescue his mom, protect himself, and save the others. (series)

### **Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb: Young Adult Edition** by Neal Bascomb

The invasion begins at night, with German cruisers slipping into harbor, and soon the Nazis occupy all of Norway. They station soldiers throughout the country. They institute martial rule. And at Vemork, an industrial fortress high above a dizzying gorge, they gain access to an essential ingredient for the weapon that could end World War II: Hitler's very own nuclear bomb. When the Allies discover the plans for the bomb, they agree Vemork must be destroyed. But after a British operation fails to stop the Nazis' deadly designs, the task falls to a band of young Norwegian commandos. Armed with little more than skis, explosives, and great courage, they will survive months in the snowy wilderness, elude a huge manhunt, and execute two dangerous missions. The result? The greatest act of sabotage in all of World War II.

## **Titles from Around the World**

### **90 Miles to Havana** by Enrique Floris-Galbis

In 1961, Operation Pedro Pan was responsible for the evacuation of children from Cuba, who then had to navigate a life away from their homeland. Based on his own childhood, Floris-Galbis's work explores harsh city life and the unasked-for independence of bullies, while also celebrating the kindness of strangers.

### **Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed

In Pakistan, Amal holds onto her dream of being a teacher even after becoming an indentured servant to pay off her family's debt to the wealthy and corrupt Khan family.

### **The Breadwinner** by Deborah Ellis

Conscious of the strict limitations imposed by the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana disguises herself as a boy in order to earn money so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

### **Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir** by Margarita Engle

Margarita is a girl from two worlds. Her heart lies in Cuba, her mother's tropical island country, a place so lush with vibrant life that it seems like a fairy tale kingdom. But most of the time she lives in Los Angeles, lonely in the noisy city and dreaming of the summers when she can take a plane through the enchanted air to her beloved island.. Then a revolution breaks out in Cuba. Margarita fears for her far-away family.

### **A Fierce and Subtle Poison** By Samantha Mabry

Spending the summer with his hotel-developer father in Puerto Rico, seventeen-year-old Lucas prefers to lose himself in the stories of the island - especially the one about the cursed house where a poisonous witch lived. When he hops over the walls and discovers a cloistered, ill girl living there, he realizes there is more to the stories than he imagined.

### **A Game for Swallows: to Die, to Leave, to Return** By Zeina Abirached

Zeina's parents have not returned from visiting the other side of a divided Beirut during the Civil War in Lebanon. The neighbors in her apartment house create a world indoors for Zeina and her brother, where they can share cooking lessons and games and gossip. Together they try to make it through a dramatic evening in the one place they hoped they would always be safehome. (graphic novel)

### **I Lived on Butterfly Hill** by Marjorie Agosin

Inspired by events surrounding Pinochet's takeover of Chile in the late 1960s, this is the story of 11-year-old Celeste, whose parents send her to live in Maine while her country is in turmoil. Strong supporting characters and rich details bring to life Celeste's Chilean culture. Inspired by events surrounding Pinochet's takeover of Chile in the late 1960s, this is the story of 11-year-old Celeste, whose

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### **The Night Parade** by Kathryn Tanquary

During summer vacation thirteen-year-old Saki Yamamoto unintentionally invokes a death curse at her old family graveyard and now she must enter the dangerous spirit world of the Night Parade where three different guides will see if she can perform the deeds that will allow her to overcome the curse.

### **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 just might try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is

### **The Shadow Hero** By Gene Luen Yang

In the comics boom of the 1940s, a legend was born: the Green Turtle. He solved crimes and fought injustice just like the other comics characters. But this mysterious masked crusader was hiding something more than your run-of-the-mill secret identity... The Green Turtle was the first Asian American superhero.

### **Somewhere Among** By Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu

Ema, the daughter of a Japanese father and a white mother, finds herself between two worlds during the summer leading up to and through 9/11 and the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. A story about confusion, belonging, families and hope.

### **A Story Like the Wind** by Gill Lewis

Rami is in a small dinghy filled with strangers, all of them refugees seeking a safe harbor. But with no motor, no oars, and a rising tide, their situation looks bleak. So Rami pulls out the only thing he brought with him—a violin—and begins to tell his fellow refugees a story through his music. And his story, about an indomitable white stallion and its struggle for freedom, gives them all the strength to remember the past and hope for the future.

## Non Fiction

**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind** by William Kamkwamba  
African teenager William Kamkwamba explored science books in his village library when he was forced to drop out of school, and was able to change his family's life by creating a windmill to pump water for his family's farm.

**Chasing Space: an astronaut's story of grit, grace, and second chances Young Reader's Edition** By Leland Melvin

In this inspiring memoir, readers will get to learn about Leland Melvin's remarkable life story, from being drafted by the Detroit Lions to bravely orbiting our planet in the International Space Station to writing songs with will.i.am, working with Serena Williams, and starring in top-rated television shows like *The Dog Whisperer*, *Top Chef*, and *Child Genius*.

**Elon Musk and the Quest for A Fantastic Future** By Ashlee Vance  
A biography of businessman Elon Musk, discussing his childhood in South Africa, his immigration to the United States in 1992, and his involvement with PayPal, Tesla Motors, and SpaceX.

**Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral and Getting it Done** By Andrea Gonzales and Sophie Houser  
Perfect for aspiring coders everywhere, Girl Code is the story of two teenage tech phenoms who met at Girls Who Code summer camp, teamed up to create a viral video game, and ended up becoming world famous.

**I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives** by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda  
The true story of an all-American girl and a boy from Zimbabwe and the letter that changed both of their lives forever. It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. Martin was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter. There were only ten letters, and fifty kids in his class. But he was the top student, so he got the first one. That letter was the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives.

**Lion: A Long Way Home Young Readers Edition** By Saroo Brinley  
When Saroo Brinley used Google Earth to find his long-lost hometown half a world away, he made global headlines. Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a couple in Australia. Despite being happy in his new family, Saroo always wondered about his origins.

**Molly on the Range: Recipes from an Unlikely Life on a Farm** By Molly Yeh  
In 2013, food blogger and classical musician Molly Yeh left Brooklyn to live on a farm on the North Dakota-Minnesota border, where her fiancé was a fifth-generation Norwegian-American sugar beet farmer.

Like her award-winning blog My Name is Yeh, *Molly on the Range* chronicles her life through photos, more than 100 new recipes, and hilarious stories from life in the city and on the farm.

**The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Readers Edition** by Michael Pollan  
"What's for dinner?" seemed like a simple question—until journalist and supermarket detective Michael Pollan delved behind the scenes. From fast food and big organic to small farms and old-fashioned hunting and gathering, this young readers' adaptation of Pollan's famous food-chain exploration encourages kids to consider the personal and global health implications of their food choices.

**The Red Bandana Young Reader's Edition** by Tom Rinaldi  
The story of Welles Crowther, whose actions on 9/11 offer a lasting lesson on character, calling and courage.

**Unbroken Young Reader's Edition** by Lauren Hillenbrand  
The famous Olympian's harrowing odyssey from delinquent to decorated athlete and bombardier castaway to defiant prisoner of war is retold in this middle-grade work replete with photos, first-hand correspondence and maps.

**Unbored: The Essential Guide to Serious Fun** By Joshua Glenn  
Vibrantly designed, lavishly illustrated, brilliantly walking the line between cool and constructive, Unbored is crammed with activities that are not only fun and doable but also designed to get kids engaged with the wider world.

**The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia** by Candace Fleming  
If truth is stranger than fiction, the Romanovs still get some kind of prize. Any teen who claims history is boring should get their hands on this book. (Adults should, too!) Fleming writes about Russia's last royal family and its downfall in a gripping way, covering every spot of doom in its gilded halls (while also tending to the lives of the poor Russian masses).

**The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century** by Sarah Mill  
In a compelling, linear narrative, Miller takes readers along as she investigates a brutal crime: the August 4, 1892, murders of wealthy and prominent Andrew and Abby Borden. The accused? Mild-mannered and highly respected Lizzie Borden, daughter of Andrew and stepdaughter of Abby. Most of what is known about Lizzie's arrest and subsequent trial (and acquittal) comes from sensationalized newspaper reports; as Miller sorts fact from fiction, and as a legal battle gets under way, a gripping portrait of a woman and a town emerges.

## Social Justice

**Betty Before X** By Ilyasah Shabazz, with Renee Watson  
Raised by her aunt until she is six, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement.

**Dreamland Burning** By Jennifer Latham  
When Rowan finds a skeleton on her family's property, investigating the brutal, century-old murder leads to painful discoveries about the past. Alternating chapters tell the story of William, another teen grappling with the racial firestorm leading up to the 1921 Tulsa race riot, providing some clues to the mystery.

**Sylvia & Aki** By Winifred Conkling  
Sylvia and Aki never expected to know one another, until their lives intersect on a Southern California farm and change the country forever. Based on true events, this book reveals the remarkable story of Mendez vs. Westminster School District, the California court case that desegregated schools for Latino children.

**Fire from the Rock** by Sharon Draper  
Sylvia Patterson's life changes with the integration of Little Rock's Central High in 1957 when she is selected to be one of the first black students to attend the previously all white school.

**The Freedom Summer Murders** by Don Mitchell  
Looks at how the disappearance and murders of civil rights workers Mickey Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, and James Chaney would help bring about civil rights and social justice. (non-fiction)

**Ghost Boys** By Jewel Parker Rhodes  
Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing.

**Midnight Without a Moon** By Linda Williams Jackson  
Rose Lee Carter, a thirteen-year-old African-American girl, dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields during the summer of 1955, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are unjustly acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny outside of Mississippi or staying and being a part of an important movement.

**Night on Fire** By Ronald Kidd  
When Billie hears about a group calling themselves the Freedom Riders passing through Anniston to protest segregation on buses, she thinks change could be coming. But instead of embracing change, Billie's town responds with violence, and she finds herself at Forsyth & Sons Grocery watching a bus burn. Shocked by the actions of people she thought she knew, she realizes that freedom has a cost. But is she brave enough to stand up and fight for it?"

**The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights** by Steve Sheinkin  
Describes the fifty black sailors who refused to work in unsafe and unfair conditions after an explosion in Port Chicago killed 320 servicemen, and how the incident influenced civil rights. (non-fiction)

**Things Too Huge to Fix by Saying Sorry** By Susan Vaught  
Buried truths about Mississippi's segregated past bubble to the surface in this evocative novel featuring a tenacious biracial 12-year-old who wants to know more about her African-American grandmother's history.

**Uprising** By Margaret Haddix  
Haddix depicts the early-twentieth-century labor struggle through the eyes of three girls from very different backgrounds whose lives intersect at New York's infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. The story culminates in the tragic factory fire that claimed the lives of hundreds of workers.

**The Only Road** By Alexandra Diaz  
Jaime is sitting on his bed drawing when he hears a scream. Instantly, he knows: Miguel, his cousin and best friend, is dead. Everyone in Jaime's small town in Guatemala knows someone who has been killed by the Alphas, a powerful gang that's known for violence and drug trafficking. Anyone who refuses to work for them is hurt or killed—like Miguel. With Miguel gone, Jaime fears that he is next. There's only one choice: accompanied by his cousin Ángela, Jaime must flee his home to live with his older brother in New Mexico.

**Revolution** By Deborah Wiles  
It's 1964, and Sunny's town is being invaded. Or at least that's what the adults of Greenwood, Mississippi, are saying. All Sunny knows is that people from up north are coming to help people register to vote. They're calling it Freedom Summer. Meanwhile, Sunny can't help but feel like her house is being invaded, too. She has a new stepmother, a new brother, and a new sister crowding her life, giving her little room to breathe. (Also see [Countdown](#), and [Anthem](#) )

**Trell** By Dick Lehr  
Determined to clear her father of the wrongful conviction for a gang-related crossfire death, thirteen-year-old Trell persuades a reporter and a lawyer to investigate the case and uncover the truth.

**Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice** by Bryan Stevenson  
Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization. Through this adaptation, young people of today will find themselves called to action and compassion in the pursuit of justice.

## Take Me Away: Realms of Fantasy

### **Sal and Gabi Break the Universe** by Carlos Hernandez

Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents a brilliant sci-fi romp with Cuban influence that poses this question: What would you do if you had the power to reach through time and space and retrieve anything you want, including your mother, who is no longer living (in this universe, anyway)?

### **The Girl from Everywhere** By Heidi Heilig

As the daughter of a time traveler, Nix has spent sixteen years sweeping across the globe and through the centuries aboard her father's ship. Modern-day New York City, nineteenth-century Hawaii, other lands seen only in myth and legend—Nix has been to them all. But when her father gambles with her very existence, it all may be about to end. (recommended for 8th grade)

### **House of the Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer

Matteo Alacrán was not born; he was cloned/harvested to give a ruthless dictator, El Patron, immortality. Carefully watched and nurtured by “eejits” controlled by computer chips to keep them docile, can Matteo branch out on his own to save the land of Opium? (Also see [The Lord of Opium](#).)

### **I am Number Four** by Pittacus Lore

For the uninitiated, I Am Number Four, The Power of Six, The Rise of Nine, and the six related novellas may sound like a superfun math series. Fans, though, know just what to expect by now: insanely brave teens, überevil Mogadorian alien invaders, various mystical gadgets, a dash of romantic tension, and lots and lots of explosions. (series)

### **League of Seven** By Alan Gratz

When an alternate 1875 steam-driven America rediscovers electricity, the lifeblood of the Mangleborn monsters, and the secret society to protect humanity from the Mangleborn is compromised, twelve-year-old Archie must assemble a team of seven young heroes to save the world. (trilogy)

### **Leviathan** By Scott Westerfield

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek, on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery, forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn who, disguised as a boy to join the British Air Service, is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts. (series)

### **The Cerulean** by Amy Ewing

Sera Lighthaven has always felt as if she didn't quite belong among her people, the Cerulean, who live in the City Above the Sky. Chosen as the sacrifice needed to break the tether that holds her city in the sky to the planet below, Sera feels betrayed, and as things don't go

as planned, she finds herself not only fighting for her own life, but the lives of other people as well.

### **The Blood Spell** by C. J. Redwine

A dark and romantic epic fantasy retelling of the Cinderella story, about a girl who must team up with the prince she despises to defeat an evil creature threatening their kingdom.

### **The List** By Patricia Ford

Letta, charged with collecting and saving words, uncovers a sinister plan to suppress language, robbing the people of Ark of the power of speech, and realizes she must also save the culture itself.

### **The Princess Bride** By William Goldman

What's it about? Fencing. Fighting. True Love. Strong Hate. Harsh Revenge. A Few Giants. Lots of Bad Men. Lots of Good Men. Five or Six Beautiful Women. Beasties Monstrous and Gentle. Some Swell Escapes and Captures. Death, Lies, Truth, and Miracles.

### **Rook** by Sharon Cameron

In the Sunken City that was once Paris the guillotine rules again, while Sophia Bellamy from the Commonwealth across the Channel Sea tries to rescue as many of the revolution's victims as she can smuggle out, and some prisoners disappear from their cells, with a red-tipped rook feather left in their place--but who is the mysterious Red Rook and where does Sophia's wealthy fiancé, René Hasard, fit in?

### **Seraphina** by Rachel Hartman

In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

### **The Reader: Book One of Sea of Ink and Gold** By Traci Chee

Set in a world where reading is unheard-of, Sefia makes use of a mysterious object to track down who kidnapped her aunt Nin and what really happened the night her father was murdered.

### **York: The Clockwork Ghost** By Laura Ruby

Sequel to *The Shadow Cipher*. Picking up shortly after the destruction of their building by developer Darnell Slant, Jewish twins Tess and Theo Biederman and their best friend, Trinidadian-Cuban Jaime Cruz, are still on the trail of the treasure promised by the Morningstarr Cipher.

## RECOMMENDED FOR 8th GRADE

### **After the Shot Drops** by Randy Ribay

Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when *Wallace* is in trouble. When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision—maybe a dangerous one. Told from alternating perspectives, *After the Shot Drops* is a heart-pounding story about the responsibilities of great talent and the importance of compassion.

### **Caraval** By Stephanie Garber

A fantasy-romance about two sisters running away from their father to an enchanted island where, for one week, they're part of an immersive magical game. (Also see [Legendary](#) and [Finale](#).)

### **How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of A War Child** By Sandra Uwiringiyimana

This profoundly moving memoir is the remarkable and inspiring true story of Sandra Uwiringiyimana, a girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who tells the tale of how she survived a massacre, immigrated to America, and overcame her trauma through art and activism. Sandra was just ten years old when she found herself with a gun pointed at her head. She had watched as rebels gunned down her mother and six-year-old sister in a refugee camp. Remarkably, the rebel didn't pull the trigger, and Sandra escaped. Thus began a new life for her and her surviving family members. With no home and no money, they struggled to stay alive. Eventually, through a United Nations refugee program, they moved to America, only to face yet another ethnic disconnect. Sandra may have crossed an ocean, but there was now a much wider divide she had to overcome. And it started with middle school in New York.

### **Land of Permanent Goodbyes** By Atia Abawi

In a country ripped apart by war, Tareq lives with his big and loving family . . . until the bombs strike. His city is in ruins. His life is destroyed. And those who have survived are left to figure out their uncertain future. Tareq's family knows that to continue to stay alive, they must leave. As they travel as refugees from Syria to Turkey to Greece, facing danger at every turn, Tareq must find the resilience and courage to complete his harrowing journey.

### **Lucy and Linh** By Alice Pung

Life is not easy for Lucy Lam. Her immigrant mother and father work seemingly never-ending hours to make life bearable for her and her young brother in suburban Stanley, Australia. Lucy can't help but compare herself to her more outgoing friends, especially Linh, who always seems to come out on top with her easy retorts and spunky attitude. When she and her classmates learn of a contest for a full ride scholarship to the most prestigious private school in the area, all

the girls try out. To everyone's surprise, Lucy gets the spot and quickly feels the pressure to assimilate to the glamorous lifestyle of the school. At first, leaving her old life seems like the perfect plan, and she soon loses touch with everyone, including Linh.

### **Lost Boys** By Darcey Rosenblatt

In 1982, twelve-year-old Reza has no interest in joining Iran's war effort against Iraq. But in the wake of a tragedy and at his mother's urging, he decides to enlist. War does not bring the glory the boys of Iran have been promised, and Reza soon finds himself held in a prisoner-of-war camp in Iraq, where the guards not only threaten violence—they act upon it. Will Reza make it out alive?

### **Piecing Me Together** By Renee Watson

Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.

### **The Sun is Also a Star** By Nicola Yoon

This is the story of how two teens meet and spend 12 fateful hours together in New York City: Jamaican-American Natasha Kingsley has 24 hours until her family of four is deported to their native Jamaica, and Korean-American Daniel Bae wants to be a poet but feels forced to make his parents happy and attends a college interview with a Yale alum.

### **Truly Devious** By Maureen Johnson

True-crime aficionado Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, a famous private school in Vermont for the brightest thinkers, inventors, and artists. Shortly after the school opened, the founder's wife and daughter were kidnapped. The only real clue was a mocking riddle listing methods of murder, signed with the frightening pseudonym "Truly, Devious." It became one of the great unsolved crimes of American history. Stevie has an ambitious plan: She will solve this cold case.

### **I Love You So Mochi** by Sarah Kuhn

Kimi Nakamura loves a good fashion statement. She's obsessed with creating bold outfits that make her and her friends feel like the Ultimate versions of themselves. But her mother disapproves, and when they get into an explosive fight, Kimi's entire future seems on the verge of falling apart. So when a surprise letter comes in the mail from Kimi's grandparents, inviting her to Kyoto for spring break, she seizes the opportunity.. When she arrives in Japan, she's met with a culture both familiar and completely foreign to her. She loses herself in the city's outdoor markets, art installations, and cherry blossom festival--and meets Akira, a cute aspiring med student who moonlights as a costumed mochi mascot.