

## FICTION

## Adventure and Mystery

**Consider the Octopus**

by Nora Raleigh Baskin and Gae Polisner  
(Godwin Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-1-250-79351-5

A stowaway on a research vessel and the son of a scientist team up to publicize efforts to clean up a floating island of garbage in the Pacific Ocean. (11-14)

**Ghostlight**

by Kenneth Oppel  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-48793-8

Three friends join forces with a ghost to save the world from "the wakeful and wicked dead" in this suspenseful tale incorporating Canadian history. (12-15)

**The Patron Thief of Bread**

by Lindsay Eagar  
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-0468-1  
In medieval France, abandoned children pick pockets to survive. The youngest becomes a baker's apprentice to steal bread for her gang and finds herself torn between her two lives. (11-14)

**D Twelfth**

by Janet Key  
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)  
978-0-316-66931-3

Maren uses her quick wits to solve the *Twelfth Night*-linked clues that will save a theater camp. Characters include LGBTQIA+ youths and adults. Back matter on gender identity. (12-15)

**D Undercover Latina**

by Aya de León  
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2374-3  
Light-skinned Andréa, 14, and her Latinx family spy for a secret organization protecting people of color. Her first assignment: befriend a white supremacist's son. (12-15)

## Coming of Age

**D The Best Liars in Riverview**

by Lin Thompson  
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)  
978-0-316-27672-6

Aubrey and Joel, seventh graders, enjoy the freedom of a nearby Kentucky nature preserve. Societal expectations concerning sexual and gender identity weigh heavily on them and lead to the possibility of escape. (12-14)

**D Different Kinds of Fruit**

by Kyle Lukoff  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-593-11118-5

Rising seventh grader Annabelle deals with gender and sexual identities in her family and community—including learning that her much-loved father is trans. (12-14)

**D Green Eyes and Ham**

by Mary Penney  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-269693-9  
Homeschooled until eighth grade, Ham, adopted son of a minister, contends with a difficult, confusing social life in public school as he questions his sexual identity. (12-15)

**\* Hazard**

by Frances O'Roark Dowell  
(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-48142-466-0  
After Hazard acts violently during a football game, a writing assignment required by his psychologist reveals that Hazard's father lost a leg in Afghanistan. (12-14)

 **Manatee Summer**

by Evan Griffith  
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)  
978-0-06309491-8

Peter's best friend is moving, and his grandfather with memory loss now requires care. An injured local manatee becomes a cathartic rescue project for them, their neighbors, and friends. (11-13)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature



Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud



(4-6) Age Range

**\* Northwind**

by Gary Paulsen, illustrated by Joe Wilson  
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)  
978-0-374-31420-0

Told to head north after cholera strikes the fishing camp where he worked, Leif, 12, travels through Nordic fjords, struggling to survive. Occasional black-and-white illustrations. (11-12)

**D The Second Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls**

by James Bird  
(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-1-250-81156-1

Caught for shoplifting again, Benny is sent to live with his estranged father on a Minnesota Ojibwe reservation where the tribal leader's daughter is offering second chances. (12-15)

**D Sir Fig Newton and the Science of Persistence**

by Sonja Thomas  
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)  
978-1-5344-8492-4

Biracial Mira attempts to problem-solve with a creative, money-raising venture as she struggles with the serious illness of her beloved cat, family stress, and her best friend moving far away. (11-13)

**D They Call Her Fregona:****A Border Kid's Poems**

by David Bowles  
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-593-46257-7

Güero, a Mexican American boy, falls in love with "tough girl" Joanna (Fregona) and tries to help save her dad from deportation. Free verse. Glossary. Also available in Spanish (11-13)

## Contemporary Issues

**D \* Ain't Burned All the Bright**

by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jason Griffin  
(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$19.99) 978-1-5344-3946-7

A powerful look at the life of a Black family during what appears to be the COVID pandemic. Striking, impassioned mixed-media illustrations in Moleskine notebooks. (11-13)

**D Attack of the Black Rectangles**

by Amy Sarig King  
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-68052-2  
Mac's sixth-grade class, assigned an award-winning novel about the Holocaust, finds that words in the book are crossed out. Can he challenge the censorship while dealing with his dad's growing mental health issues? (11-14)

**D \* The Civil War of Amos Abernathy**

by Michael Leali  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-06-311986-4  
Amos, 13, a US Civil War reenactor, researches queer history and discovers gay and transgender figures. His friendship with Ben, from a conservative religious home, is threatened. Back matter. (11-14)

**D \* Hazel Hill Is Gonna Win This One**

by Maggie Horne  
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-35-866470-3  
Hazel, 12, discovers that popular Tyler is sexually harassing many of their classmates, but the principal doesn't believe her. Can Hazel find another way to expose Tyler? (11-13)

**D She Holds Up the Stars**

by Sandra Laronde  
(Annick Press, \$17.95) 978-1-77321-066-7  
Twelve-year-old Misko, on the rez for vacation with her grandmother, protects a neighbor's abused horse and discovers connections to the land and her Ojibway roots. Glossary. (11-13)

**Where the Sky Lives**

by Margaret Dilloway  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-1-5362-1956-2  
Can 12-year-old amateur astronomer Tuesday Beals save the skies over Utah's Zion National Park from developers' light pollution? A discarded, old-fashioned camera may help. (12-15)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature



Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud



(4-6) Age Range

## Family/School/Community

### **D** **Air**

by Monica Roe

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-0-374-38865-2

Twelve-year-old daredevil Emmie, determined not to be defined by her disability, longs for a state-of-the-art sports wheelchair. Will a local fundraiser make her dream come true? (11-13)

### **D** **Answers in the Pages**

by David Levithan

(Alfred A. Knopf /Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-48468-5

White and Latinx kids, first loves, and homophobia are woven into a story about how fifth graders react to the attempt to ban an adventure novel featuring gay characters. (11-14)

### **D** **Be Real, Macy Weaver**

by Lakita Wilso

(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-593-46572-1

Lonely Black sixth grader Macy copes with an unexpected change of hometown and school. Then her secret interest in fashion design leads to collaboration with a new friend. Spot black-and-white art. (11-13)

### **D** **Booked (The Crossover series)**

by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile  
(Clarion Books and HarperAlley/HarperCollins, \$24.99)

978-0-35-816181-3

Dynamic, full-page illustrations showcase the inner turmoil of 12-year-old Nick, a middle school student who prefers soccer to scholarship, is bullied, and is too shy to approach his crush. (11-14)

### \* **Bright**

by Brigit Young

(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$16.99)

978-1-250-82211-6

Feeling inadequate compared to her high-achieving older sister, Marianne zones out in school. But then she is compelled to join the Quiz Quest team. Can she compete? (11-14)

### **D** **M** **Caprice**

by Coe Booth

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-93334-6

After spending the summer at a girls' leadership program, 12-year-old African American Caprice is forced to confront an overwhelming secret from her past. (11-14) Mature content

### **D** **Chester Keene Cracks the Code**

by Kekla Magoon

(Wendy Lamb Books, Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-1-5247-1599-1

Biracial Chester's defensive rigidity is challenged by a riddle his distant father has posed. A girl offers to help. A light-hearted adventure with a serious undercurrent. (11-13)

### **D** **Dream, Annie, Dream**

by Waka T. Brown

(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-301716-0

Kansas-born Annie loves basketball and theater; her loving Japanese parents, more aware of anti-Asian microaggressions, worry about her future and career. How will she negotiate middle school? (11-14)

### **D** **Fly**

by Alison Hughes

(Kids Can Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5253-0583-2

Inspired by Don Quixote's chivalrous ideals, 14-year-old Fly, a wheelchair user with cerebral palsy, exposes a school villain and protects an unwitting girl, gaining respect and self-discovery. Powerful free verse. (12-15)

### **The Fort**

by Gordon Korman

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-62914-9

Five boys discover a hidden fallout shelter. At first it's just the best clubhouse ever, but soon it's really needed as a refuge. (11-14)

### **D** **Golden Girl**

by Reem Faruqi, illustrated by Anoosha Syed

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-304475-3

Pakistani American Aafiyah's compulsion to steal is exacerbated when her father's detention and grandfather's illness strains their family finances. How can trust be regained? Free verse. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (11-14)

### **The Hike to Home**

by Jess Rinker  
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-1-250-81274-2

Lin, 12, must once again adjust to her family's traveling lifestyle, but solving a local mystery with two new friends creates a sense of rootedness. (11-13)

### **In Honor of Broken Things**

by Paul Acampora  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)  
978-1-984816-64-1

Three eighth-grade classmates deal with divorce, a sibling's death, and the transition from homeschooling. Working with clay in art class becomes a creative challenge, and their friendship grows. (11-13)

### **Invisible**

by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, illustrated by Gabriela Epstein  
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-19455-5  
Five Spanish-speaking students are called to their middle school principal's office to explain why their community service led them to break the rules. In Spanish and English. Bright, colorful illustrations. (11-13)

### **J. R. Silver Writes Her World**

by Melissa Dassori, illustrated by Chelen Écija  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette \$16.99) 978-0-316-33145-6

While navigating thorny middle grade friendships, a sheltered sixth grader discovers that her response to the creative writing assignment given by her mysterious new teacher has come true. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

### **Karthik Delivers**

by Sheela Chari  
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-5522-4  
Making deliveries for his family's struggling grocery store unexpectedly leads South Asian American Karthik to act in a play about Leonard Bernstein. (13-15)

### \* **Lolo's Light**

by Liz Garton Scanlon  
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-79721-294-4  
The tragic sudden death of a neighbor's infant for whom she had been the babysitter leaves Millie, 12, dealing with feelings of grief, loss, and guilt. (11-14)

### **Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution**

by Sherri Winston  
(Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$16.99)  
978-1-5476-0846-1

Black 12-year-old Lotus Bloom, gifted violinist and normally a peace-loving free spirit, must summon the courage to fight against a racist dress code. (11-14)

### \* **Merci Suárez Plays It Cool**

by Meg Medina  
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1946-3  
A Cuban American eighth grader takes a few more steps toward adulthood, enduring changing friendships, unwanted responsibilities, and heart-breaking loss. Last volume of the trilogy. (11-14)

### \* **Moonwalking**

by Zetta Elliott and Lyn Miller-Lachmann, illustrated by David Cooper  
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-0-374-31437-8  
JJ, grandson of Polish immigrants, and Pierre, mixed-race straight-A student and secret graffiti artist, warily start a tentative friendship. Told in two voices. Various verse forms. Spot illustrations. Author's note and sources. (12-15)

### **The Not-So-Uniform Life of Holly-Mei**

by Christina Matula, illustrated by Yao Xiao  
(Inkyard Press/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-1-335-42488-4  
Moving from Canada to Hong Kong with her biracial, bicultural family challenges 12-year-old Holly. Balancing new friendships with her own goals is an adventure and growth opportunity. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

### **Nowhere Better Than Here**

by Sarah Guillory  
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$16.99)  
978-1-250-82426-4  
Forced to leave their tiny, flood-devasted town in Louisiana, Jillian, 13, and her friends are determined to preserve its history and the memories of their Cajun community, leading them to environmental activism. (11-13)

**D \* Omar Rising**

by Aisha Saeed  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,  
\$17.99) 978-0-593-10858-1  
Omar, a seventh-year student, wins a scholarship to a  
famous Pakistani boarding school but must fight hard  
to keep his place there. (11-13)

**D Rain Rising**

by Courtne Comrie  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-315973-0  
Black 13-year-old Rain struggles with low self-esteem,  
but when her beloved brother is beaten in a racial  
assault, she discovers her own worth. Free verse.  
(11-13)

**Repairing the World**

by Linda Epstein  
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)  
978-1-5344-9855-6  
After her best friend dies, Daisy feels only grief. But  
the first year of middle school brings a range of new  
emotions, new people, and a sense of wonder. (11-13)

**M \* The Road to After**

written and illustrated by Rebekah Lowell  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,  
\$16.99) 978-0-593-10961-8  
Forced to flee their abusive home, two young sisters  
and their mother learn to live without fear, make  
friends, and find solace in art and nature. Gentle black-  
and-white illustrations. Back matter. (11-14) Mature  
content

**\* Sardines**

by Sashi Kaufman  
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-99561-2  
Lucas, 11, and four diverse classmates in an after-  
school program bond through a game that inspires  
them to solve one another's problems. (11-13)

 **\* Smaller Sister**

written and illustrated by Maggie Edkins Willis  
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$22.99)  
978-1-250-76741-7  
Lucy copes with the challenges of a new school and  
critical classmates as well as her older sister's growing,  
serious eating disorder. Colorful illustrations. (11-13)

**A Song Called Home**

by Sara Zarr  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-304492-0  
When a guitar arrives on her 11th birthday, Lou,  
thinking it's from her alcoholic father, is determined to  
learn to play it. Authentic and compassionate. (11-13)

**D Sweet and Sour**

by Debbi Michiko Florence, illustrated by Jacqueline Li  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-67159-9  
Japanese Americans Mai, 12, and Zach, 13, were  
lifelong best friends until, two years ago, he humiliated  
her. Now he's back from Tokyo, and Mai is bent on  
revenge. Black-and-white spot art. (11-13)

**\* Those Kids from Fawn Creek**

by Erin Entrada Kelly, illustrated by Celia Krampien  
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$17.99)  
978-0-06-297035-0  
Mysterious, seemingly worldly Orchid arrives at a rural  
middle school, impacting the lives of all 13 of her fellow  
seventh graders. Greyscale illustrations. (11-13)

**D  Unfadeable**

by Maurice Broaddus  
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-279634-9  
Homeless, street-smart, biracial Bella, 13, is determined  
to get funding for an art project for her neglected  
neighborhood. With a mysterious mentor's help, she  
battles powerful entrenched interests. (12-14)

**D Wishing upon the Same Stars**

by Jacquetta Nammar Feldman  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-303438-9  
Will it be possible for seventh graders Yasmeen,  
Palestinian American, and Ayelet, a Jewish Israeli  
American, to overcome parental prejudices and  
classroom bullying to form a friendship? (11-13)

**Worser**

by Jennifer Ziegler  
(Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, \$17.99)  
978-0-8234-4956-9  
Introverted Worser, 12, has always lost himself in  
words. After his mother has a stroke that leaves her  
nonverbal, he must learn new ways to navigate his  
world. (11-14)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature



Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud



(4-6) Age Range

## Fantasy

### **Black Bird, Blue Road**

by Sofiya Pasternack

(Versify/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-35-857203-9

To save her twin who has leprosy, Ziva, 12, sets out to defeat the Angel of Death. Rich exploration of Jewish culture and mythology in the ancient empire of Khazaria. Historical notes. (11-13)

### \* **Healer & Witch**

by Nancy Werlin

(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-1956-2

In 1551 Sylvie, 15, a healer, makes a tragic mistake and then leaves her small French town, seeking to learn how to use her special powers less destructively. (11-14)

### **Lifeling**

by Kristy Applebaum

(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-1-250-3175-3

As a lifeling, 12-year-old Lonny can revive dying animals and humans, but at an irreparable cost to himself. How long can this remain a secret? (11-14)

### \* **Medusa**

by Jessie Burton, illustrated by Olivia Lomenech Gill

(Bloomsbury, \$19.99) 978-1-5476-0759-4

Perseus—son of Zeus—must seek and behead beautiful Medusa, whose flowing hair was transformed into serpents by enraged Athena. Lush full-color illustrations. (11-13)

### \* **The Ogress and the Orphans**

by Kelly Barnhill

(Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books, \$19.95)

978-1-64375-074-3

In a once-lovely town, a houseful of orphans teams up with a misunderstood ogress to reveal the mayor's perfidy and restore goodwill among the townspeople. (11-14)



### \* **Shuna's Journey**

written and illustrated by Hayao Miyazaki, translated from the Japanese by Alex Dudok de Wit

(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$27.99)

978-1-259-84652-5

When Prince Shuna leaves his devastated village in search of golden grain to feed his people, he meets two kind sisters in the brutal society he encounters. Soft pastel illustrations. (11-14)

### **Sparrows in the Wind**

by Gail Carson Levine

(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-303907-0

After Apollo curses Cassandra, no one believes her visions, but she never stops trying to avert the tragic future she sees for her beloved Troy. (12-15)



### **Squire**

by Sara Alfageeh and Nadia Shammam, illustrated by Sara Alfageeh

(Quill Tree Books and HarperAlley/HarperCollins, P \$14.99) 978-0-06-294585-3

In the Middle East, Aiza joins the conquerors' army for a higher position in society and learns pride, loyalty, and fighting skills. Dramatic, deeply colored panels. Excellent back matter. (12-15)



### **A Thousand Steps into Night**

by Traci Chee

(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)

978-0-358-46998-8

Miuko, an innkeeper's daughter in a Japanese-inspired fantasy world, is cursed by a demon. She befriends tricksters, shape shifters, and magical creatures to end the curse. (12-15) Mature content



### **Tiger Honor (A Thousand Worlds series)**

by Yoon Ha Lee

(Rick Riordan Presents/Disney-Hyperion, \$16.99)

978-1-368-05554-3

Nonbinary 13-year-old Sebin, a cadet on a Thousand Worlds spaceship, must choose between allegiance to their Juhwang Clan or dedication to the larger good. Korean folklore woven throughout. (11-14)



### **The Well**

by Jake Wyatt, illustrated by Choo

(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck,

\$24.99) 978-1-250-81652-8

On an imagined Chinese archipelago, a girl with magical abilities steals three coins from a wishing well. Her punishment: fulfill the wishes. Dramatic Chinese motif illustrations. (12-15)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

\*

Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud



(4-6) Age Range

## Folklore and Fairy Tales

### Goblin Market

by Diane Zahler

(Holiday House, \$17.99 978-0-8234-5081-7

Lizzie's love and special abilities save her older sister from marrying a trickster goblin whose beauty and professed love are illusory, poisonous, and destructive. (12-15)

## Historical Fiction

### \* **Alte Zachen/Old Things**

by Ziggy Hanaor, illustrated by Benjamin Phillips

(Cicada Books, \$22.99) 978-1-8006-6022-9

Shopping in New York with Bubbe Rosa for Shabbat dinner, Benji, 11, learns about his grandmother's past in Nazi Germany, lost love, and immigration. Soft, stylized watercolor illustrations. (11-14)

### **A Blanket of Butterflies (The Spirit of Denendeh series)**

by Richard Van Camp, illustrated by

Scott B. Henderson, color by Donovan Yaciuk

(HighWater Press/Portage &amp; Main Press, P \$21.95)

978-1-77492-040-4

Shinobu traces his grandfather's samurai sword and armor to remote Fort Smith of the Dene Nation in Canada. Dynamic full-color illustrations. Back matter. (12-15)

### **The Bluest Sky**

by Cristina Diaz Gonzalez

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH,

\$17.99) 978-0-593-37279-1

In 1980 Héctor, 11, must leave Cuba for political reasons, though he longs to compete in the International Math Olympiad for his country. Spanish-English glossary. (11-13)

### **Cinder & Glass**

by Melissa de la Cruz

(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-593-32665-7

Cendrillon, ingenue of the court of France, struggles with her father's death and the loss of stature and freedom under her stepmother's treacherous guardianship. (12-14)

### \* **The Door of No Return**

by Kwame Alexander

(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-44186-5

Eleven-year-old West Africa Asante Kingdom villager Kofi fights for his survival when he is betrayed by a neighboring village. Extensive back matter. (11-13) Mature content



### \* **Louisa June and the Nazis in the Waves**

by L. M. Elliott

Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-305656-5

When a German submarine kills her older brother, Louisa June is determined to do what she can, from her Virginia home, to battle the Nazis. (11-13)

### **Mordechai Anielewicz: No to Despair (They Said No series)**

by Rachel Hausfater, translated from the French by Alison L. Strayer

(Triangle Square/Seven Stories Press, \$14.95)

978-1-64421-132-8

In 1943, against all odds, Mordechai Anielewicz led a revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto from which the Nazis deported most of the nearly 400,000 Jews living there to concentration camps. Extensive back matter. (12-15) Mature content

### **The Star That Always Stays**

by Anna Rose Johnson

(Holiday House, \$17.99) 978-0-8234-5040-4

After her mother's remarriage in 1914, Norvia and her siblings move to a Michigan city where divorce and her Ojibwe heritage set her apart. Back matter. (11-14)

### **Troublemaker**

by John Cho, with Sara Suk

(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)

978-0-7595-5447-4

Twelve-year-old Korean American Jordan is caught up in struggling between friends and family honor during the 1992 LA riots following the Rodney King verdict. (11-14) Mature content

### **We Are Wolves**

by Katrina Nannestad, illustrated by Martina Heiduczek

(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon &amp;

Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-66590-422-3

During World War II, when the Russian Army invades East Prussia, three siblings, separated from their mother, live in the woods to survive. Somber black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)

**D We Own the Sky**

by Rodman Philbrick  
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-73629-8  
In 1924 Maine, two orphaned children get to live and work with daring stunt pilots. But the real danger is on the ground: the hate-spewing KKK. Back matter. (12-15)

**D  When Winter Robeson Came**

by Brenda Woods  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$16.99) 978-1-5247-4158-7  
On the cusp of the Watts race riots of 1965, a Black family hosts a young out-of-town cousin seeking his father, who disappeared ten years earlier. Free verse. (11-13)

**D The Wind Rises (Alma Series)**

by Timothée de Fombelle, illustrated by François Place, translated from the French by Holly James  
(Europa Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-60945-787-7  
The lives of a young African girl and a young European stowaway on board a slave ship in 1786 intertwine. Meticulously written. Finely detailed black-and-white illustrations. (12-15)

**D \* The Year the Maps Changed**

by Danielle Binks  
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06321-160-5  
In 1999, 11-year-old Winifred, aka Fred, sees her nuclear family expand as Australia starts to receive Albanian refugees from Yugoslavia. (11-14)

## Magical Realism

**D Code Name:**

**Serendipity**  
by Amber Smith  
(Razorbill/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-20491-7  
Misunderstood by her brother and two moms, Sadie meets a stray dog with whom she can communicate telepathically. But adopting him becomes a problem. (11-14)

**D Etta Invincible**

by Reese Eschmann, illustrated by Gretel Lusky  
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6837-5  
When Etta's superhero alter-ego battles the fear of a disability diagnosis while on a magical train journey, her friend Eleazar's puppy helps her find hope. Dramatic black-and-white panel illustrations. (12-15)

**D \* Every Bird a Prince**

by Jenn Reese  
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-250-78344-8  
Recruited by birds to protect animals and humans against creatures who weaponize doubt, seventh grader Eren Evers must find her inner truths in order to succeed. (11-14)

**Hither and Nigh (Hither and Nigh series)**

by Ellen Potter  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-66591-038-5  
Seventh grader Nell's brother disappeared three years ago, and only she still believes he'll be found. Finding herself in a dangerous parallel New York, she searches for him. (11-14)

**D Moonflower**

by Kacen Callender  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-63659-8  
Struggling with depression, Black, nonbinary Moon finds themself having to learn love and hope to protect the spirit world. (11-14)

## Science Fiction

**D Hana Hsu and the Ghost Crab Nation**

by Sylvia Liu  
(Razorbill/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-35039-3  
Hana can't wait to be meshed to the multiweb at Start-Up. Slowly she begins to notice that friends are becoming sick and that the technology is problematic. (12-14)

**Operation Do-Over**

by Gordon Korman  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-303274-3  
Best friends Mason and Ty are estranged when they both crush on Ava. Then 17-year-old Mason wakes up as his 12-year-old self and changes history. (12-15)





Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature



Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud



(4-6) Age Range

**The School for Whatnots**

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-283849-0

A whatnot—a robot—tells the story of Max, a coddled rich boy, and Max's best friend, clever adventuresome Josie. Is she real or a whatnot? (11-13)

## POETRY

**D \* Book of Questions/Libro de las preguntas**

by Pablo Neruda, illustrated by Paloma Valdivia, translated from the Spanish by Sara Lissa Paulson (Enchanted Lion Books, \$22.95) 978-1-59270-322-7  
 Profound thought-provoking musings by the Chilean Nobel Laureate poet. Dreamlike, folkloric illustrations. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (12-15)

**Ode to a Nobody**

by Caroline Brooks DuBois

(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-823451-56-2

Eighth grade underachiever Quinn suddenly finds her life completely leveled by a tornado. Will she use this trauma to build a different life? Free verse. (11-14)

**On the Move:****Home Is Where You Find It**

by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Quentin Blake (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1810-7  
 The Polish-Jewish poet explores his childhood in postwar London, his family's experiences of World War II, the fate of missing relatives, and migration today. Free verse. Blue-wash watercolor illustrations. (12-15)

**D Rima's Rebellion:  
Courage in a Time of Tyranny**

by Margarita Engle

(Atheneum BFYR/Simon &amp; Schuster, \$18.99)

978-1-5344-8693-5

In 1920s Cuba, multiracial Rima, illegitimate and shunned, fights to pass laws to protect and empower women. Free verse. Historical back matter. (13-15)

**D Wave**

by Diana Farid, illustrated by Kris Goto

(Cameron Kids, \$18.99) 978-1-951836-58-0

In 1980s Southern California, surfing with Phoenix is the only time Ava, a Persian American teen, feels she belongs. Then . . . Free verse and concrete poetry. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (11-14)

## INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

## Activities

**D \* The Complete Cookbook for Teen Chefs:  
70+ Teen-Tested and Teen-Approved Recipes to  
Cook, Eat, and Share**

by America's Test Kitchen Kids, photographed by Kevin White, Joe Keller, and Steve Klise

(America's Test Kitchen, \$21.99) 978-1-948703-95-6

A mouth-watering collection, for both novices and experienced cooks, of recipes for main meals and snacks. Global cuisines and vegetarian dishes featured. Includes cooking and safety tips. Color photos. (13-15)

## Arts

**D \* Crafting Change:  
Handmade Activism, Past and Present**

by Jessica Vitkus

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, P \$24.99)

978-0-374-31332-6

Full-color photographs accompany a history of craftivists, artistic social justice advocates who create empowering, inspiring, and sometimes iconic objects through mediums such as embroidery, architecture, sculpting, and knitting. (12-15)

## Biography and Memoir

**D Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round:  
My Story of the Making of Martin Luther King Day**

by Kathlyn J. Kirkwood, illustrated by Steffi Walthall

(Versify/Houghton Mifflin/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-358-38726-8

In free verse, Kirkwood relates her lifelong involvement with the civil rights movement and the establishment of the national holiday honoring Dr. King. Greyscale drawings. Archival photographs and documents. (11-14)

**D Alias Anna:  
A True Story of Outwitting the Nazis**

by Susan Hood, with Greg Dawson, illustrated by the Balbusso Twins

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-308389-9

Two Ukrainian Jewish sisters, both piano prodigies, used their wits and the help of heroic strangers to hide in plain sight in Nazi-occupied Europe. Greyscale illustrations. Maps, photos, letters, sources. (12-15)

**D Hidden Powers:****Lise Meitner's Call to Science**

by Jeannine Atkins

(Atheneum BFYR/Simon &amp; Schuster, \$17.99)

978-1-66590-250-2

An Austrian-Swedish Jewish physicist whose research led to the discovery of nuclear fission endured persecution under the Nazi regime and lifelong gender discrimination. Free verse. Extensive back matter. (11-14)

**D Islands Apart:****Becoming Dominican American**

by Jasminne Mendez

(Piñata Books/Arte Público Press, P \$14.95)

978-1-55885-944-9

A young girl in a Dominican American family living on various U.S. army bases narrates her conflicting feelings about growing up in two cultures. (12-15)

**\* The Lady and the Octopus:****How Jeanne Villepreux-Power Invented Aquariums and Revolutionized Marine Biology**

written and illustrated by Danna Staaf

(Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, \$27.99)

978-1-7284-1577-2

In 19th-century France, when women weren't accepted as scientists, Villepreux-Power studied live marine creatures by building an aquarium. Archival illustrations and photographs. Extensive sourcing. (12-15)

**D  \* Maybe an Artist:****A Graphic Memoir**

written and illustrated by Liz Montague

(Random House Studio/PRH, \$24.99)

978-0-593-30781-6

For a Black girl, growing up in predominantly white suburbs can be complicated. Could Montague be an athlete and an artist? Expressive illustrations with soft color palette. (12-15)

**D Speak UP, Speak OUT!:****The Extraordinary Life of "Fighting Shirley Chisholm"**

by Tonya Bolden, foreword by Stacey Abrams

(National Geographic Kids/National Geographic,

\$17.99) 978-1-4263-7236-0

A fiery Black activist from Brooklyn entered politics, achieved many "firsts" in her elected positions, and became a role model for those who followed. Archival photographs. Sources. (11-13)

** Star Child:****A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler**

by Ibi Zoboi

(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-399-18738-4

Direct quotes, background and historical information, archival photographs, prose passages, and poetry create a vivid portrait of this Black author who was influential in shaping the science fiction genre. Well documented. Personal notes. (11-14)

**D  \* Victory. Stand!:****Raising My Fist For Justice**

by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

(Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$22.95)

978-1-324-00390-8

A track-and-field champion's raised fist on the medal podium at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico became an iconic image of the struggle against racial injustice. Stirring black-and-white panels. (11-12)

**D We're in This Together**

by Linda Sarsour

(Salaam Reads/Simon &amp; Schuster, \$17.99)

978-1-5344-3929-0

A Palestinian Muslim American grew up as a child of immigrants in Brooklyn, New York, and became an activist and organizer. Informational sidebars, glossary, endnotes. Young readers edition of *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders*. (11-13)

**D \* The Woman Who Split the Atom:  
The Life of Lise Meitner**

written and illustrated by Marissa Moss

(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-5853-9

In 1938, despite misogyny and antisemitism, Lise Meitner discovered how to split uranium and revolutionized nuclear science. Pen and ink graphic inserts, archival photographs. Back matter. (11-13)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

\*

Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud



(4-6) Age Range

## Contemporary Issues

**D** **You Are More Than Magic:  
The Black and Brown Girls' Guide to Finding Your  
Voice**

by Minda Harts  
(Dial Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-593-32661-9  
Hart's unrelentingly positive push to aid Black and brown girls achieve personal, academic, and professional success is matter-of-fact and sensitive. (11-14)

## Ecology

**Where Have All the Birds Gone?:  
Nature in Crisis**

by Rebecca E. Hirsch  
(Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, \$37.32)  
978-1-72843-177-2  
Tall glass buildings, plastic trash, and widespread planting of nonnative plant species that don't support insects that native birds feed on are among the many threats to birds' survival. Maps, photos, and archival images. Sources, glossary, suggested reading. (11-13)

## History

**\* Duet:  
Our Journey in Song with the Northern Mockingbird**

by Phillip Hoose  
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$24.99)  
978-0-374-38877-5  
The centuries-long connection between these brilliant mimics, known as "kings of song," and humans is explored. Photos and archival images. Bibliography, source notes, index. (12-15)

**D \* Peace Is a Chain Reaction:  
How World War II Japanese Balloon Bombs Brought  
People of Two Nations Together**

by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Yumeno Furukawa  
(Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-0-7636-7686-5  
Through "truth and transparency," Yuzuru John Takeshita was instrumental in healing two communities touched by war. Black-and-white illustrations. Archival images and photos. Abundant back matter. (13-15)



**Seen and Unseen:**

**What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and  
Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal about the  
Japanese American Incarceration**

by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki  
(Chronicle Books, \$21.99) 978-1-4521-6510-3  
The divergent backgrounds and motivations of these photographers produced widely varied portraits of the mass internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Vivid ink, pencil, and digital illustrations and archival photos. Discussion of historic and legal background. Biographies, footnotes. (11-14)

**Trapped in Terror Bay:  
Solving the Mystery of the Lost Franklin Expedition**

by Sigmund Brouwer  
(Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0345-6  
Ten detailed episodes analyze what happened to Sir John Franklin's ill-fated 1845 exploration of the Arctic's Northwest Passage. Maps, photos, and archival images. Copious back matter. (12-15)

**\* Unbreakable:  
The Spies Who Cracked the Nazis' Secret Code**

by Rebecca E. F. Barone  
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$19.99)  
978-1-250-81420-3  
Before and during World War II, the heroic efforts of many Poles, French men and women, and Britishers accomplished the impossible: cracking the complex encoded messages sent among the Nazi military. Back matter. (12-15)


**Underground Fire:  
Hope, Sacrifice, and Courage in the Cherry Mine  
Disaster**

by Sally M. Walker, maps and diagrams by  
Rita Csizmadia  
(Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-1-5362-1240-2  
A harrowing minute-by-minute account of a 1909 coal mine disaster in Illinois and the attempt to rescue the miners. Greyscale maps and diagrams. Archival photos and images. (12-15)

## Law and Justice

**D** **The Antiracist Kid:**  
**A Book about Identity, Justice, and Activism**  
by Tiffany Jewell, illustrated by Nicole Miles  
(Versify/HarperCollins, \$14.99) 978-0-358-62939-9  
This primer on equity work encourages readers to reflect on themselves, examine power and bias issues, and become change advocates. Boldly colored spot illustrations. Extensive back matter. (11-14)

## Religion

 **Dionysos:**  
**The New God (Olympians series)**  
written and illustrated by George O'Connor  
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck,  
\$21.99) 978-1-62672-530-0  
Hestia, goddess of the hearth, tells the story of Dionysos's trials and tribulations as a human until he ascends to Godhood. Dramatic, detailed panels. Bibliography, notes, and reading suggestions. (11-13)

## Sports

**D** **Hardcourt:**  
**Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association**  
by Fred Bowen, illustrated by James E. Ransome  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster,  
\$19.99) 978-1-5344-6043-0  
A lively history of how the game evolved from using peach baskets as hoops. Painterly portraits bring greats such as Bird and Chamberlain to life. (11-13)

**The Race of the Century:**  
**The Battle to Break the Four-Minute Mile**  
by Neal Bascomb  
(Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$18.99)  
978-1-338-62846-3  
In the 1950s, three men competed to achieve the impossible: run a four-minute mile. Original interviews inform the gripping narrative. Meticulous sourcing. (11-14)

## STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

**How to Build a Human:**  
**In Seven Evolutionary Steps**  
by Pamela S. Turner, illustrated by John Gurche  
(Charlesbridge, \$21.99) 978-1-62354-250-4  
Recent scientific discoveries, combined with updated theories, shine a light on modern humans' evolutionary journey. Dramatic illustrations by a paleoartist. Maps. Extensive back matter. (12-15)

**M** **Save the People!:**  
**Halting Human Extinction**  
by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by Nicole Miles  
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)  
978-0-7595-5394-1  
Take a whirlwind journey through the history of planet Earth, concluding with today's climate emergency and presenting actions to take right now. Engaging black-and-white drawings. Extensive back matter. (11-14)  
Mature content

## World

**D** \* **Sky Wolf's Call:**  
**The Gift of Indigenous Knowledge**  
by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger, illustrated by various artists  
(Annick Press, \$24.95) 978-1-77321-629-0  
Interconnected teachings in science, culture, history, and stewardship, along with legends and biographies of Indigenous leaders. Paintings by Indigenous artists, photographs. Back matter. (12-15)