



Diversity

**Graphic Format** 



Mature



Outstanding Merit (4-6) Age Range

# **FICTION**

# Adventure and Mystery

#### \* Amber and Clay

by Laura Amy Schlitz (Candlewick Press, \$22.99) 978-1-5362-0122-2 Brought together by the gods of ancient Greece in the time of Socrates, an artistically inclined enslaved boy and an aristocratic girl with an untamed spirit fulfill each other's destinies. Meticulously researched. Endnotes, bibliography. (12-15)

## (D) Crossing the Stream

by Elizabeth-Irene Baitie (Accord/Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$17.95) 978-1-324-01709-7

Twelve-year-old Ghanaian Ato and his friends create an organic garden to win entry to a bird sanctuary as they battle an unscrupulous religious leader who opposes their community. (11-13)

# (D) Frankie & Bug

by Gayle Forman

(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S. \$17.99) 978-1-5344-8253-1

In 1987 Venice, California, biracial Bug's brother has no time for her. But with new trans friend Frankie, she solves a mystery and deals with issues of identity. (11-14)



written and illustrated by Nidhi Chanani (First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$21.99) 978-1-250-15636-5

Twelve-year-old Bangladeshi American Shaheen's music-obsessed dad is missing. Using a magical jukebox, Shaheen and her cousin time-travel to legendary concerts to find him. Vibrant digital art. (11-13)



# The Leak:

#### For the Love of Truth

by Kate Reed Petty, illustrated by Andrea Bell (First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$14.99) 978-1-250-21795-0

When 12-year-old Ruth discovers a toxic substance in her neighborhood lake, she uses her investigative journalist skills to uncover the source. Bright graphic illustrations. (11-14)

#### The Losers at the Center of the Galaxy

by Mary Winn Heider (Little, Brown/Hachette Book Group, \$16.99) 978-0-7595-5542-6

Middle school siblings find separate paths to wholeness following the disappearance of their father, an exfootball player with CTE. Poignant, yet sometimes laugh-out-loud funny. (11-13)

#### \* Pony

by R. J. Palacio

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-553-50811-6

In 1860s Ohio, a 12-year-old sets out to rescue his father from a counterfeiting gang—with the help of a ghost and an Arabian horse. (11-14)

# (D) The Secret Life of Kitty Granger

by G. D. Falksen

(Carolrhoda Lab/Lerner, \$18.99) 978-1-5415-9796-9 An autistic teen with uncanny observational and puzzle-solving skills is recruited by a spy organization to help foil a fascist coup in 1960s London. (12-15)

#### The Secret Starling

by Judith Eagle, illustrated by Jo Rioux (Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1365-2

An abandoned ballet slipper found in Braithwaite Manor leads Clara and her new friend Peter to revelations about her family's sinister secrets. Blackand-white full-page illustrations. (11-14)

# Anthologies and Collections

# (D) \* Ancestor Approved: **Intertribal Stories for Kids**

edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Heartdrum/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-286994-4

Stories at a powwow in a high school gym in Michigan bring together families from different tribal nations to celebrate their ancestors and their heritage. (11-14)





Diversity



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Outstanding Merit (4-6) Age Range

# **D** Every Body Shines:

### Sixteen Stories about Living Fabulously Fat

edited by Cassandra Newbould (Bloomsbury YA/Bloomsbury, \$18.99) 978-1-5476-0607-8

A math genius in space, a star hockey player, a fireman, a mermaid, and more are among those coping with attitudes about body size. (12-15)

# D Pity Party

by Kathleen Lane (Little, Brown/Hachette Book Group, \$16.99) 978-0-316-41736-5

An eclectic selection of short stories reveal the teeming inner thoughts of a relatable cast of characters as they face impending adulthood. (11-14)

# (D) \* Recognize!:

### An Anthology Honoring and Amplifying Black Life

edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson, illustrated by various artists

(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-38159-5

Poems, stories, essays, graphic format pieces, and fullcolor artwork celebrating Black life, produced from 2020 to 2021 by 30 authors, poets, and artists. Back matter includes biographies of contributors. (11-13)

# (D) \* This Is Our Rainbow: 16 Stories of Her, Him, Them, and Us

edited by Katherine Locke and Nicole Melleby (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-30394-8

A unique collection of stories, including a few in graphic format, with diverse characters—most at the beginning of adolescence—exploring their gender and sexual identity. (11-14)

# Coming of Age

# (D) Across the Pond

by Joy McCullough (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-7121-4 After Callie moves to an inherited castle in Scotland. she overcomes her unhappy American middle school experience, makes friends, and develops an interest in bird-watching. (12-14)

#### \* Alone

**Graphic Format** 

by Megan E. Freeman (Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6756-9

Maddie wakes from a canceled sleepover to find her Colorado town has been evacuated. Shuttling between the homes of her divorced parents, she struggles to survive. Free verse. (12-15)

### (D) Barakah Beats

by Maleeha Siddiqui (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-70206-4 Attending public school for the first time, Nimra joins a band despite her worry that it violates her Muslim faith. (11-14)

## (D) Both Can Be True

written and illustrated by Jules Machias (Quill Tree Books, HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-305389-2

Daniel and Ash initially bond over rescuing a dog; attractions form, but what will happen when Daniel discovers Ash is nonbinary? Alternate voices. Occasional black-and-white illustrations. (12-15)

# D Boys Run the Riot (Boys Run the Riot series)

written and illustrated by Keito Gaku, translated from the Japanese by Leo McDonagh (Kodansha Comics, P \$12.99) 978-1-64651-248-5 Ryo, nonbinary and transgender, doesn't want to stand out at school, until a new friend helps him turn his fashion tastes into a business. Sharp greyscale illustrations. (12-15)

# (D) Ciel in All Directions (Ciel series)

by Sophie Labelle, translated from the Canadian French by Andrea Zanin (Second Story Press, P \$11.95) 978-177260-203-6 Nonbinary transgender Ciel campaigns to become a class officer while completing a science project, managing a YouTube channel, and figuring out if a crush is reciprocal. Can they do it all? (12-15)

# (D) Clues to the Universe

by Christina Li

(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-300888-5

Two seventh grade students—Benji, a talented artist, and biracial Chinese American Ro, a gifted lover of science and invention—face social exclusion but dazzle everyone with an amazing science fair entry. (11-13)





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### \* The Deepest Breath

by Meg Grehan (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99) 978-0-358-35475-8

Stevie, 11, has a crush on her classmate, Chloe, and doesn't know how to handle her feelings. A supportive librarian helps her. In verse. (11-14)

## (D) The Elephant in the Room

by Holly Goldberg Sloan (Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-2994-5

Following her mother's forced return to Turkey, Sila becomes withdrawn, until an eccentric widower befriends her and her father, and they rescue a retired circus elephant. (11-14)

#### \* Jude Banks, Superhero

by Ann Hood

(Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-593-09407-5

When his beloved sister, Katie, dies, 12-year-old Jude and his parents are submerged in grief. Jude also struggles with a terrible secret: he believes he killed Katie. (12-15)

## (D) \* Middletown

by Sarah Moon

(Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-042-8 Thirteen-year-old Eli and her older sister, Anna, lean on each other to feign a life of normalcy when their single mother gets sent to rehab. (12-15)

# (D) Neverforgotten

by Alejandra Algorta, illustrated by Iván Rickenmann, translated from the Spanish by Aida Salazar (Em Querido/Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-094-7

Ten-year-old Fabio flies through the streets of Bogotá on his bike, until one day he forgets how. An allegory about loss, truth, and friendship. Detailed charcoal illustrations. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (11-14)

# (D) 🖄 Summer of Brave

by Amy Noelle Parks (Albert Whitman and Company, \$16.99) 978-0-8075-7660-1

Compliant Lilla has always done what her competitive, bickering, divorced parents wanted, but they have conflicting visions for her future. How can she forge a path for herself? (11-14)

## D Thanks a Lot, Universe

by Chad Lucas

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.99), 978-1-4197-5102-8 Brian's family's breakup does nothing to help his social anxiety. Queer, biracial Ezra, a fellow basketball team member, reaches out a hand in friendship—or maybe more. (11-14)

### (D) \* Treasure of the World

by Tara Sullivan

(G. P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-51696-5 Ana, 12, yearns to leave the Bolivian silver mine where her family works. A mining accident forces her to confront her fears and make dangerous choices. (11-14)

# Contemporary Issues

## D Boy, Everywhere

by A. M. Dassu

(Tu Books/Lee & Low, \$19.95) 978-1-64379-196-8 After a privileged life in Damascus, Syria, Sami's mother and sister suffer psychologically from a bomb attack, and his family become asylum-seekers in England. (12-14)

#### **Everywhere Blue**

by Joanne Rossmassler Fritz (Holiday House, \$17.99) 978-0-8234-4862-3 When Maddie's older brother runs away from college, she tries to solve the mystery of where he went. Her only clue—his concern about climate change. Free verse. (11-13)

# (D) The Golden Hour

written and illustrated by Niki Smith (Little, Brown/Hachette Book Group, P \$12.99) 978-0-316-54033-9

In a farming community, steadfast friends and a creative outlet-photography-help Manuel process trauma after he witnesses a school shooting. Vivid illustrations and archival photographs. PTSD resources. (11-14)

# (D) | Himawari House

written and illustrated by Harmony Becker (First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$24.99) 978-1-250-23556-5

A multinational group of roommates attending a Japanese language institute explore friendship, romance, and cultural identity. Multilingual text throughout. Illustrations mix realistic and manga conventions. (13-15)





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# (D) \* How Do You Live?

Japanese by Bruno Navasky (Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books/Workman Publishing, \$17.95) 978-1-61620-977-3 A fatherless 15-year-old Japanese boy experiences friendship, betrayal, self-discovery, and reflection while discussing values, ethics, Copernicus, Newton,

by Genzaburō Yoshino, translated from the

# (D) The Renegade Reporters

by Elissa Brent Weissman (Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-32303-8

Napoleon, and Buddha with his uncle. (11-14)

Three middle-school journalists discover that the company providing the school district's media software is secretly collecting students' personal data to sell to advertisers. (11-14)

### (D) \* Samira Surfs

by Rukhsanna Guidroz, illustrated by Fahmida Azim (Kokila/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-1619-1

Forced to flee Myanmar, a Rohingya family rebuilds their lives as refugees in Bangladesh. Surfing provides friends and empowerment. Free verse. Stark black-andwhite illustrations. Back matter. (11-14)

## (D) The Samosa Rebellion

by Shanthi Sekaran, illustrated by Shehzil Malik (Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-305153-9

In Mariposa, where Whites refer to themselves as "Butterflies" and to people of color as "Moths," Latinx and Asian residents join a besieged Indian family as they struggle to maintain their lives in the community. Black-and-white spot art. (12-14)

### **(D)** Sunny Days Inside: **And Other Stories**

by Caroline Adderson

(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$16.99) 978-1-77306-572-4

Children develop unexpected friendships as they deal with the frustrations and challenges of being cooped up in their apartments during the COVID-19 pandemic. (11-13)

# **Ecology**

#### **One Small Hop**

by Madelyn Rosenberg (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-56561-4 Global warming has created numerous shortages and destroyed much of the animal population. When young friends discover a single living male bullfrog, they try to sneak it into Canada where a female bullfrog awaits. (11-13)

# Family/School/Community

## (D) Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year

by Nina Hamza

(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-302489-2

Moving from Hawaii to Minnesota would be challenging for Ahmed even if his dad wasn't critically ill. The bullying neighbor assigned to his group project adds to his tension. (11-14)

## (D) Bea Is for Blended

by Lindsey Stoddard

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-287816-8 Challenges await Bea and her mother when they join a new stepfamily in Vermont. (11-13)

### **Breathing Underwater**

by Sarah Allen

(Farrar Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-31325-8

On a road trip from Knoxville to their former home in San Diego, 13-year-old photographer Olivia follows a secret plan to help Ruth, her depressed 16-year-old sister. (12-14)

## (D) Flight of the Puffin

by Ann Braden

(Nancy Paulsen Books/ Penguin Young Readers Group/ PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-984816-06-1

Seventh grader Libby creates inspiring postcards that reach three middle schoolers across the country. Whether it's about bullying, homelessness, or grief, the connection helps each feel supported. Told in four voices. (11-13)





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#### \* How to Become a Planet

by Nicole Melleby

(Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books/Workman Publishing, \$16.95) 978-1-64375-036-1

Fighting her diagnosis of depression and anxiety, Pluto rejects the help of most people as she tries to find some acceptance within herself. (11-14)

#### It All Begins with Jelly Beans

by Nova Weetman, illustrated by Federica Frenna (Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-5344-9431-2 Riley, a type 1 diabetic adjusting to a new school, and Meg, dealing with her widowed mother's deep depression, meet in the school nurse's office. Can they forge a friendship? Black-and-white spot art. (11-14)

## (D) A Kind of Spark

by Elle McNicoll

Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-37425-2

Eleven-year-old Addie fights to get her Scottish village board to memorialize local women who, centuries before, had been persecuted as witches. Could they have been autistic like her? (11-13)

#### The Mysterious Disappearance of Aidan S. (as told to his brother)

by David Levithan

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-1-9848-4859-8

Twelve-year-old Aidan vanishes. When he returns, he doesn't think anyone will accept the truth about where he's been—with good reason. Who would believe that another world exists? (11-13)

#### **An Occasionally Happy Family**

by Cliff Burke

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99)

978-0-358-32567-3

After an exhausting camping vacation ends in an unwelcome surprise, teenage Theo, his sister Laura, and their father finally contend with their grief at the loss of the children's mother. (11-14)

# (D) Polo Cowboy

by G. Neri, illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0711-8 When Cole, 14, remains in Philadelphia with his father and the Black cowboys, he also becomes a stable hand for an elite polo team. Can he navigate the two worlds? Striking black-and-white illustrations. (13-15)

## (D) \* The Shape of Thunder

by Jasmine Warga (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-295667-5

Before Cora's sister was killed by Quinn's brother in a school shooting, Cora and Quinn were best friends. Can they time-travel to prevent the tragedy? (12-14)

### (D) A Soft Place to Land

by Janae Marks

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-287587-7

Financial problems force African American Joy, 12, and her family to move from a much-loved home into a small apartment in a new area. Starting a dog-walking business with a friend helps, until one dog runs away. (11-13)

#### What about Will

by Ellen Hopkins

(G. P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-10864-2

Trace struggles to decide how best to help his beloved older brother, who has become addicted to pain medications. Free verse. (11-14)

#### (D) Worst-Case Collin

by Rebecca Caprara

(Charlesbridge, \$17.99) 978-1-62354-145-3 After his mother dies in an automobile accident, 12-year-old Collin deals with his father's increasingly serious mental illness and his own trauma and grief. Free verse. (11-13)

# **Fantasy**

#### The Broken Raven (Shadow Skye Trilogy)

by Joseph Elliott

(Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0748-4

Three unusual teens, Agatha, Jaime, and Sigrid, exhibit extraordinary bravery and ingenuity as they enable their clans to survive destructive wars waged by brutal rulers. (11-14)

#### (D) Fire with Fire

by Destiny Soria

(Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-0-358-32973-2

Two Mexican American sisters are on opposite sides of a war between humans and dragons—until a more dangerous enemy presents itself. (12-15)





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Outstanding Merit (4-6) Age Range

### The Legend of Hobart

by Heather Mullaly (Favored Oak Press, \$16.99) 978-1-73-647737-3 Bullied, beleaguered Hobart needs to perform heroic deeds to be eligible to be nominated to knight's school. He hurriedly sets out to prove himself worthy. But what is heroism? (11-14)

(D) \* My Contrary Mary (The Lady Janies series)

by Cynthia Hand, Brodi Ashton, and Jodi Meadows (HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-293004-0

A clever, humorous account of the intrigues and treacheries threatening the 16th-century Scottish queen, betrothed to Francis, heir to the French throne. This queen is sometimes a mouse! (12-15)

# (D) Once upon a Camel

by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-0643-8

In Texas in 1910, Zada, an elderly camel named for Scheherazade, protects two young kestrels by calming them with stories. Realistic greyscale oil paintings. (11-14)

# (D) Pahua and the Soul Stealer

by Lori M. Lee

(Rich Riordan Presents/Disney Hyperion, \$16.99) 978-1-368-06824-6

Take a deep dive into Hmong culture, folklore, and cosmology along with Pahua, who has only three days to rescue her brother's soul from the spirit world. (11-13)

#### The Republic of Birds

by Jessica Miller

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-3675-9 When 12-year-old Olga's family is exiled from the capital of Tsaretsvo, she is happy to escape the city until her sister is kidnapped. (11-13)

# (D) The Wild Huntsboys

by Martin Stewart

(Viking Children's Books, \$17.99) 978-0-593-11613-5 In a war-torn city, Luka bonds with brainy Hazel and muscular Max to combat offended faeries threatening their lives and the life of Luka's young sister. (11-13)

# Folklore and Fairy Tales

# D The Legend of Auntie Po

written and illustrated by Shing Yin Khor (Kokila/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$22.99) 978-0-525-55488-2

Mei, 13, narrates life in an 1885 logging camp, using Paul Bunyan stories with Chinese matriarch Auntie Po as protagonist. Bold digital pencil and watercolor art. (11-14)

# D Living Ghosts & Mischievous Monsters: **Chilling American Indian Stories**

by Dan Sasuweh Jones, illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre (Scholastic Press, \$26.99) 978-1-338-68162-8 Thirty-two shivery tales, both contemporary and traditional, reflecting the diversity of Native American folklore. Pen and ink artwork. Detailed background and sources. (11-14)

### (D) \* The Sea-Ringed World: **Sacred Stories of the Americas**

by María García Esperón, illustrated by Amanda Mijangos, translated from the Spanish by **David Bowles** 

(Em Querido/Levine Querido, \$21.99) 978-1-64614-015-2

Creation stories, cautionary tales, and more from the many Indigenous peoples who lived in the Americas thousands of years before Europeans arrived. Striking digital black, white, and blue illustrations. Excellent back matter. (11-14)

# **Historical Fiction**

# Between Shades of Gray: The Graphic Novel

by Ruta Sepetys, adapted by Andrew Donkin, illustrated by Dave Kopka, color by Brann Livesay (Philomel/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-20416-0

In 1941 Lina, 15, and her family are arrested by the Soviet secret police and sent to Siberia. Their crime: they are Lithuanian. Detailed full-color artwork. (12-15)





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Outstanding Merit (4-6) Age Range

# (D) Dawn Raid

by Pauline Vaeluaga Smith, illustrated by Mat Hunkin (Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-041-1 Biracial Sofia's diary entries and pencil sketches chronicle her struggles at school and her growing awareness of the unjust treatment of Pacific Islanders in 1976 New Zealand. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)

## (D) Freedom Swimmer

by Wai Chim

(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-65613-8 After famine kills his parents during the harsh reign of Chairman Mao, Ming, surviving as a field worker, bonds with Li, a city boy brought to Ming's village to be "re-educated." (13-15)

# (D) \* How to Find What You're Not Looking For

by Veena Hiranandani

(Kokila/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55503-2

In 1967 when Ariel Goldberg's Jewish parents oppose her big sister Leah's plan to marry a man from India, the older girl disappears. (11-13)

# (D) Red, White, and Whole

by Rajani LaRocca

(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-304742-6

Reha. 13. feels torn between two worlds: American at school and Indian at home. Then her mother is diagnosed with leukemia and everything changes. Free verse. (11-14)

# (D) Soul Lanterns

by Shaw Kuzki, translated from the Japanese by **Emily Balistrieri** 

(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/ PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-17434-0

In Hiroshima every August 6th, people float paper lanterns down the river, each one commemorating someone they've lost. Nozomi's mother always leaves one lantern unnamed. Whose could it be? (11-13)

# (D) Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame

by Supriya Kelkar

(Tu Books/Lee & Low, \$21.95) 978-1-64379-040-4 In 1857 colonial India, child-bride Meera flees her home to escape a cruel custom. Then, as a servant to a British official, she realizes she has traded one form of subservience for another and fights back. Historical notes, time line, glossary. (12-14)

## (D) View from Pagoda Hill

by Michaela MacColl (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills & Kane, \$17.99)

978-1-62979-782-3

In 1878 a Chinese American girl struggles when she is forced to leave Shanghai to go live with her American father's parents, who she barely knows. (11-14)

## (M) When the World Was Ours

by Liz Kessler

(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-9965-2

On the verge of World War II, three nine-year-old German friends—two Jewish and one a future Nazi find their lives torn apart. (11-14) Mature content

### D 🖄 World in Between:

### **Based on a True Refugee Story**

by Kenan Trebinčević and Susan Shapiro (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99) 978-0-358-43987-5

During the 1992 Serbian invasion of Bosnia and the ensuing massacre of Muslims, Kenan, 11, and his family flee. A moving and hopeful look at the vicissitudes of building a new life in the United States. (11-14)

# Magical Realism

## (D) Amari and the Night Brothers (Supernatural **Investigations series**)

by B. B. Alston, illustrated by Godwin Akpan (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-297516-4

Brave and resourceful Amari, bullied for being Black and determined to find her long-missing brother, receives an invitation in his handwriting to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)

#### \* Hollow Chest

by Brita Sandstrom, illustrated by Dadu Shin (Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-287074-2

In 1945, when Charlie's brother comes home to London from the war, he is not the same. Charlie embarks on a quest to find his brother's heart, eaten by mysterious wolves. Delicate full-page black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)





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## Leonard (My Life as a Cat)

by Carlie Sorosiak (Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0770-5

Leonard, an alien, is sent to earth for a sabbatical, but in a mix-up, he arrives as a cat in need of rescue. Elevenyear-old Olive finds him. (11-13)



#### **Second Sleep**

by Diane Stanley (Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-265803-6

At their grandmother's cabin by the lake, Max and Rosie start to have identical dreams that contain clues to their mother's past and disappearance. (11-14)

## (D) Temple Alley Summer

by Sachiko Kashiwaba, illustrated by Miho Satake, translated from the Japanese by Avery Fischer Udagawa (Restless Books, \$18.00) 978-1-63206-303-8 Fifth grader Kazu realizes the new girl in his class is a spirit, whose existence is threatened by local elders. What should he do? Evocative spot illustrations. (11-14)

# Science Fiction

# (D) Daughter of the Deep

by Rick Riordan, illustrated by Lavanya Naidu (Disney Hyperion/Buena Vista, \$19.99) 978-1-368-07792-7

In this homage to 20,000 Leagues under the Sea, Ana leads a diverse team of fellow teen scientists and warriors on a mission to prevent powerful technologies from becoming tools of destruction. Black-and-white spot art. (12-15)

# **Sports**

## (D) \* Fast Pitch

by Nic Stone, illustrated by Noa Denmon (Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-9301-7

Twelve-year-old Shenice, captain of a pioneering all-Black softball team, is determined to clear her greatgrandfather's name and restore him to his rightful place in baseball history. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (11-13)

# **POETRY**

# (D) Burying the Moon

by Andrée Poulin, illustrated by Sonali Zohra, translated from the French by Andrée Poulin

(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$19.99) 978-1-77306-604-2

The women of a rural Indian village use a distant field at night for sanitation, until Latika speaks up. Rich, violethued illustrations. (11-14)

# (D) \* Legacy:

#### Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance

by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by 19 female Black artists (Bloomsbury, \$18.99) 978-1-6811-9944-3 Utilizing the golden shovel poetic form, Grimes creates contemporary poetry using lines borrowed from poetry written by women during the Harlem Renaissance. Bold stylized illustrations. (12-13)

#### \* The Seventh Raven

by David Elliott, illustrated by Rovina Cai (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-0-358-25211-3

When his daughter is born dying, a father curses his seven sons, who turn into ravens. Haunting black-andwhite illustrations. Back matter on the varied poetic forms used. (12-15)

# INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

# Biography and Memoir

# (D) Accused:

# My Story of Injustice (I, Witness series)

by Adama Bah

(Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$16.95) 978-1-324-01663-2

Bah, who was born in Guinea and grew up in New York City, didn't know she was not American until 9/11. Then suddenly she was falsely accused of being a suicide bomber. (13-15)





Diversity



Mature



**Graphic Format** 

Outstanding Merit (4-6) Age Range

# (D) Defiant:

### **Growing Up in the Jim Crow South**

by Wade Hudson

Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-12635-6

A warm detailed look about how family and teachers shaped Hudson's journey from curious and rambunctious child to civil rights activist. Back matter includes historical notes. (11-14)

## (D) Living the Confidence Code

by Katty Kay, Claire Shipman, and Jillellyn Riley, illustrated by Nan Lawson, Catherine Lee, Julie Lerche, and Jessica Nordskog

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$14.99) 978-06-295411-4 Short bios focus on interviews with capable girls the world over who are making a difference. Graphic format art, spot illustrations, and photos. Back matter. (11-14)

# (D) One Life

by Megan Rapinoe, with Emma Brockes, adapted by Sarah Surand

(Razorbill/Penguin Young Readers Group, PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-20341-5

Rapinoe's honesty shines through in this sports memoir that shows how her family and experiences as a gay person shaped her career and activism. Archival and family photos. Young readers edition. (13-15)

# (D) \* The Other Talk:

#### **Reckoning with Our White Privilege**

by Brendan Kiely, introduction by Jason Reynolds (Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-9404-6

Through relatable personal anecdotes, statistics, and history, the author explores White privilege and what White people can do to combat racism. Author's note, endnotes, bibliography. (12-15)

# Robert Smalls (Tales of the Talented Tenth) series)

written and illustrated by Joel Christian Gill (Chicago Review Press, P \$23.95) 978-1-68275-066-7 In 1862 an enslaved African American man who was an experienced sailor and expert navigator smuggled 13 compatriots to freedom by commandeering a Confederate supply ship. Evocative artwork. (11-14)

### (D) Rolling Warrior:

### The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution

by Judith Heumann, with Kristen Joiner (Beacon Press, P \$14.95) 978-0-8070-0359-6 Heumann, paralyzed at 18 months after falling ill with polio, has engaged in an inspiring lifelong fight for people with disabilities to be treated as equal citizens. (12-15)



written and illustrated by Sylvie Kantorovitz (Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-1-5362-0762-0

Silvie's joyful childhood in the French school where her father was principal gave her the tools to pursue art and carve her own life path. Cartoon-like art. (11-14)

## **D** While I Was Away

by Waka T. Brown (Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-301711-5

Waka, 12, details her difficult school experiences and life with her standoffish grandmother during an extended stay in Japan in 1984. (12-15)

#### \* The Woman All Spies Fear: **Code Breaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman and Her Hidden Life**

by Amy Butler Greenfield (Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-12719-3 A pioneer in the field of cryptography, Friedman developed code-breaking techniques along with her husband, saving thousands of lives from World War I to the 1960s. Photographs. Extensive back matter. (13-15)

## (D) \* Wonder Women of Science: **Twelve Geniuses Who Are Currently Rocking** Science, Technology, and the World

by Tiera Fletcher and Ginger Rue, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport, diagrams by Rita Csizmadia (Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-0734-7 Engaging portrayals of twelve extraordinary women and their accomplishments in engineering, computer game development, climate science, and more. Colorful full-page portraits, photographs, and diagrams. Back matter. (13-15)





Diversity

**Graphic Format** 



Mature



Outstanding Merit (4-6) Age Range

# **Ecology**

#### **Hothouse Earth:**

### The Climate Crisis and the Importance of Carbon **Neutrality**

by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson (Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, \$37.32) 978-1-5415-7917-0

An account of the work of scientists and environmental activists worldwide that advances our understanding of the causes and consequences of climate change. Source notes, photos, charts, maps. (12-15)

# Health

#### Welcome to Your Period! (Welcome to Your Body series)

by Yumi Stynes and Melissa Kang, illustrated by Jenny Latham

(Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1476-5

A health writer and a doctor provide practical advice and scientific information about menstruation. Colorful, informative illustrations. Glossary. (11-14)

# History

### **Ensnared in the Wolf's Lair:** Inside the 1944 Plot to Kill Hitler and the Ghost **Children of His Revenge**

by Ann Bausum

(National Geographic Kids/National Geographic, \$19.99) 978-1-4263-3854-0

The Valkyrie plot to assassinate Hitler and the retribution suffered by the children of the perpetrators are grippingly recounted. Meticulously researched. Complete source notes. (12-13)

### (D) Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians but Were Afraid to Ask

by Anton Treuer (Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-045-9 An Ojibwe scholar debunks stereotypes of Native peoples of the current-day United States and Canada. FAQ format. Archival photographs. Back matter. Young readers edition. (13-15)

### In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years after the 9/11 Attacks

written and illustrated by Don Brown (Etch/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$19.99) 978-0-358-22357-3

Moving stories from 9/11 survivors engender an understanding of this tragedy as more than just a date in history. Pen and ink illustrations with digital paint. Extensive back matter. (12-15)

# (D) \* Picturing a Nation:

#### The Great Depression's Finest Photographers **Introduce America to Itself**

by Martin W. Sandler

(Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-1-5362-1525-0 Renowned photographers, including Gordon Parks, Dorothea Lange, and Walker Evans, documented everyday life during the 1930s Great Depression. Black-and-white and color photos. Photographer profiles. Source notes. (12-15)

#### Race to the Bottom of the Earth: **Surviving Antarctica**

by Rebecca E. F. Barone (Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, \$19.99) 978-1-250-25780-2

Accounts of the races between Scott and Amundsen in 1911 and Rudd and O'Brady in 2018 to reach the South Pole. Archival photographs. Sourced quotes, maps, and social media posts. (12-15)

### (D) We Must Not Forget: **Holocaust Stories of Survival and Resistance**

by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-3382-5577-5

Profiles of 12 Jewish children and teens from countries occupied by the Nazis in World War II, and the different ways they were able to survive. Archival photographs. Back matter. (11-14)





Diversity

**Graphic Format** 



Mature



Outstanding Merit (4-6) Age Range

# Language

# (D) You Can't Say That!:

Writers for Young People Talk about Censorship, Free Expression, and the Stories They Have to Tell

compiled and edited by Leonard Marcus (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-0-7636-9036-6 Heather Has Two Mommies, Captain Underpants, and The Hate U Give are among the books that have been challenged or banned. Find out why. Source notes, selected reading. (12-15)

# Law and Justice

# (D) Separate No More:

The Long Road to Brown v. Board of Education

by Lawrence Goldstone (Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-59283-2

A meticulous, step-by-step account of the incremental progress in the fight against racial segregation in the United States. Archival photographs. (12-15)

## **D** Threads of Peace:

### How Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. **Changed the World**

by Uma Krishnaswami (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$19.99) 978-1-4814-1678-8 The comparison of the lives and approaches of these champions of nonviolent struggle illuminates the influences they had on their countries and the world. Photographs. Glossary, sources. (12-15)

# STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

(11-14)

# Beneath the Waves:

#### Celebrating the Ocean through Pictures, Poems, and **Stories**

by Stephanie Warren Drimmer (National Geographic Kids/National Geographic, \$24.99) 978-1-4263-3916-5 Explore the ocean, the waters that cover more than 70% of Earth's surface and are home to 99% of the inhabitable space on the planet. Outstanding photos.

#### \* Do Animals Fall in Love?

by Katharina von der Gathen, illustrated by Anke Kuhl, translated from the German by Shelley Tanaka (Gecko Press, \$18.99) 978-1-776572-91-5 An illuminating and frank compendium of all the weird and wonderful ways the animal kingdom courts and reproduces, and then cares for their offspring. Detailed, labeled, and often witty illustrations. (11-14)

#### \* Fungarium

by David L. Hawksworth, Laura M. Suz, Pepijn W. Kooij, Kare Liimatainen, Tom Prescott, Lee Davies, and Ester Gaya, illustrated by Katie Scott (Big Picture Press, \$35.00) 978-1-5362-1709-4 An explanation of how life on Earth depends on fungi, organisms more closely related to animals than to plants. Lush botanical illustrations. Index, resources. (13-15)

## World

# **D** Finding Refuge:

**Real-Life Immigration Stories from Young People** written and edited by Victorya Rouse (Zest Books/Lerner, \$35.82) 978-1-5415-8156-2

Rouse's ESL students wrote these affecting stories of difficult situations around the world and their families' decisions to come to the United States. Includes country facts and histories. Black-and-white photos. Back matter. (12-15)