

Great Middle School Books

Adventure

Title	Author	Audience
Addison Cooke and the Treasure of the Incas	Stokes, Jonathan W.	9 to 12
After twelve-year-old Addison Cooke's uncle unearths ancient Incan secrets in Peru, he is kidnapped by a shadowy organization intent on stealing the treasure unless Addison and his friends can decipher the clues first.		
Catwoman: Soulstealer	Maas, Sarah J.	12 and up
Selina Kyle's coming-of-age-story as she claws her way to the top of Gotham City's criminal underbelly and becomes Catwoman.		
League of Archers	Howard, Eva	9 to 13
Ellie Dray has grown up idolizing Robin Hood but when the famous outlaw is killed right before her eyes--and she is accused of his murder--she finds herself questioning all she thought she knew.		
Max Helsing and the Thirteenth Curse	Jobling, Curtis	10 and up
Max is just your average kid growing up in Gallows Hill, a small town outside of Boston—well, except that he lives in a gothic mansion with an old former prizefighter, and his after-school job is carrying on the monster-hunting tradition of his family, the van Helsings.		
Stowaway	Withers, Pam	12 to 15
Owen's plan to sail away on an adventure puts him on a collision course with some very dangerous people.		
The 13th Continuum	Brody, Jennifer	12 to 18
One thousand years after a cataclysmic event leaves humanity on the brink of extinction, the survivors take refuge in continuums designed to sustain the human race until repopulation of Earth becomes possible. Against this backdrop, a group of young friends in the underwater Thirteenth Continuum dream about life outside their totalitarian existence, an idea that has been outlawed for centuries. When a shocking discovery turns the dream into a reality, they must decide if they will risk their own extinction to experience something no one has for generations, the Surface.		

Adventure

Title	Author	Audience
The Adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the Ghost Ship	Pullman, Philip	8 to 12
John Blake and his mysterious ship are doomed to sail between centuries. When he meets a shipwrecked girl named Serena he promises to help get her back to her time, but first they must stop the sinister and powerful Dahlberg Corporation.		
The Blackthorn Key	Sands, Kevin	10 to 14
In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend, Tom, try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart.		
The Mad Wolf's Daughter	Magras, Dinae	9 to 12
One dark night, Drest's sheltered life on a remote Scottish headland is shattered when invading knights capture her family, but leave Drest behind. Her father, the Mad Wolf of the North, and her beloved brothers are a fearsome war-band, but now Drest is the only one who can save them.		
Wild Blues	Kephart, Beth	10 to 14
This stunning novel from National Book Award finalist Kephart follows 13-year-old Lizzie on a harrowing journey through the wilds of the Adirondacks as she searches for her missing friend, who's been kidnapped by two escaped convicts.		

Fantasy

Addie Bell's Shortcut to Growing Up	Brody, Jessica	10 and up
"Seventh grader Addie Bell can't wait to grow up. Her parents won't let her have her own phone, she doesn't have any curves, and her best friend Grace isn't at all interested in makeup or boys. Then, on the night of her twelfth birthday, Addie makes a wish on a magic jewelry box to be sixteen--and wakes up to find her entire life has been fast-forwarded four years"--		
Amulet Series	Kazu, Kibuishi	8 to 12
After tragedy strikes their family, Emily and Navin move with their mother into the old, mysterious home of their great-grandfather. On their first night in the strange house, Emily and Navin's mom is kidnapped by a tentacled creature. Determined to rescue her, Emily and Navin are led into a world of robots, talking animals, flying ships, new friends... and enemies. Emily learns that she is a Stonekeeper and essential to the survival of this world, and that her incredible story is only just beginning.		

Fantasy

Title	Author	Audience
Beauty and the Beast: Lost in a Book	Donnelly, Jennifer	12 to 17
Smart, bookish Belle, a captive in the Beast's castle, has become accustomed to her new home and has befriended its inhabitants. When she comes upon Nevermore, an enchanted book unlike anything else she has seen in the castle, Belle finds herself transported to a world of glamour and intrigue. Can Belle trust her new companions inside the pages of Nevermore? Is Nevermore's world even real?		
Bob	Mass, Wendy	8 to 12
"New York Times"-bestselling authors Mass and Stead, two masterminds of classic, middle-grade fiction, come together to craft this magical story about the enduring power of friendship and a girl who helps an old friend find home		
City of Islands	Wallace, Kali	8 to 12
A dark and riveting middle grade fantasy from the critically acclaimed Kali Wallace about an archipelago of magical islands and one girl's dangerous discovery on the ocean floor. Perfect for fans of Holly Black and Kate Milford.		
The Cursed Queen	Fine, Sarah	12 to 17
Ansa has always been a fighter. As a child, she fought the invaders who murdered her parents and snatched her as a raid prize. She fought for her status as a warrior in her tribe, but the day the Krigere cross the great lake and threaten the witch queen of the Kupari, everything changes.		
The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart	Burgis, Stephanie	8 to 12
A chocolate-filled, girl-powered fantasy with a heroine who learns what it means to be a strong, fearsome human (and dragon).		
Dreaming the Bear	Thebo, Mimi	12 and up
Set in Yellowstone National Park, this novel follows teenager Darcy, who's moved with her family from England to the U.S. She's been sick and has strange dreams/visions. Then she finds an injured bear. The bear and Darcy need each other, but is Darcy well enough to take care of the bear, let alone herself?		
East	Pattou, Edith	11 to 15
A young woman goes to the ends of the earth--and beyond--to rescue the man she loves in this sweeping epic that was named an ALA Notable Book and "School Library Journal" Best Book of the Year.		

Fantasy

Title	Author	Audience
For a Muse of Fire	Heilig, Heidi	13 to 17
A young woman with a dangerous power she barely understands. A smuggler with secrets of his own. A country torn between a merciless colonial army, a terrifying tyrant, and a feared rebel leader. The launch of a trilogy that weaves magic, simmering romance, and the deep bonds of family with the high stakes of epic adventure.		
Ghost Boys	Rhodes, Jewel Parker	9 to 12
After seventh-grader Jerome is shot by a white police officer, he observes the aftermath of his death and meets the ghosts of other fallen black boys including Historical figure Emmett Till in this heartbreaking and powerful story from the award-winning author of "Towers Falling."		
The Hidden Oracle	Riordan, Rick	10 to 14
After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. He finds he's a mortal 16-year-old and must earn his way back into Zeus' favor by restoring five oracles in Book One of this new series from the "storyteller of the gods"		
The House in Poplar Wood	Ormsbee, Katie	8 to 12
For as long as the Vickery twins can remember, Lee and his mother have served Memory, while Felix and his father assist Death. This is the Agreement. But one Halloween, Gretchen Whipple offers the boys a deal: help her solve the murder of a local girl and she'll help them break the Agreement.		
Icebreaker	Tanner, Lian	9 to 12
Twelve-year-old Petrel is an outcast, living on an ancient icebreaker that has been following the same ocean course for three hundred years. The ship's crew has forgotten its original purpose and has broken into three warring tribes. Everyone has a tribe except Petrel, whose parents were thrown overboard for alleged crimes. She has survived by living in the dark corners of the ship, and speaking to no one except two large rats, Mister Smoke and Mrs. Slink.		
The Key to Everything	Schmatz, Pat	8 to 12
For 11-year-old Tash, Cap'n Jackie isn't just the elderly next-door neighbor; she's family. When she disappears, only Tash holds the key that might bring her back.		
Lalani of the Distant Sea	Kelly, Erin Entrada	8 to 12
Twelve-year-old Lalani Sarita takes on the impossible task of traveling to the legendary Mount Isa, towering on an island to the north. Generations of men and boys have died on the same quest--how can a timid young girl in a tiny boat survive the epic tests of the archipelago?		

Fantasy

Title	Author	Audience
The Lost Girl	Ursu, Anne	8 to 12
The author of the acclaimed novels "Breadcrumbs" and National Book Award nominee "The Real Boy" returns with an unforgettable new contemporary fantasy about twin sisters, split apart, who have to find their way together again.		
Lumberjanes Vol. 1: Beware The Kitten Holy	Stevenson, Noelle	11 to 14
Five best friends spending the summer at Lumberjane scout camp defeating yetis, three-eyed wolves, and giant falcons: what's not to love?		
Mother Knows Best: A Tale of the Old Witch	Valentino, Serena	8 to 12
The fifth installment of Valentino's Villains series retells the story of Mother Gothel, the old witch who kept Rapunzel in a tower. Here is one version of the story that has remained untold for centuries--a tale of mothers and daughters, youth and dark magic.		
Princess Academy	Hale, Shannon	10 to 14
All the teenage girls from a small mountain village must attend the academy to learn how to become a princess. Miri soon finds herself confronted with a harsh academy mistress, bitter competition among the girls, and her own conflicting desires to be chosen.		
Queen of the Sea	Meconis, Dylan	10 to 14
All the teenage girls from a small mountain village must attend the academy to learn how to become a princess. Miri soon finds herself confronted with a harsh academy mistress, bitter competition among the girls, and her own conflicting desires to be chosen.		
Sal and Gabi Break the Universe	Hernandez, Carlos	9 to 12
The launch of a new duology set in a near-future Miami, where middle-school student Gabi discovers her friend Sal's ability to call forth things and people from other dimensions simply by meditating. There's one slight problem: their manipulation of time and space could put the entire universe at risk.		
The Serpent's Secret	DasGupta, Sayantani	9 to 12
On the morning of her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala is just a regular sixth grader living in Parsippany, New Jersey . . . until her parents mysteriously vanish and a drooling rakkhosh demon slams through her kitchen, determined to eat her alive. Turns out there might be some truth to her parents' fantastical stories-like how Kiranmala is a real Indian princess and how she comes from a secret place not of this world.		

Fantasy

Title	Author	Audience
The Storm Runner	Cervantes, Jennifer	10 to 14

To prevent the Mayan gods from battling each other and destroying the world, 13-year-old Zane must unravel an ancient prophecy, stop an evil god, and discover how the physical disability that makes him reliant on a cane also connects him to his father and his ancestry.

Sweep: the Story of a Girl and Her Monster	Auxier, Jonathan	8 to 12
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For nearly a century, Victorian London relied on "climbing boys," orphans owned by chimney sweeps, to clean flues. Eleven-year-old Nan Sparrow is one of the best--and a girl. During a near-deadly fire, a mysterious creature--a golem--saves Nan's life. Together, these two outcasts carve out a life together

Historical

Armstrong and Charlie	Nesbet, Anne	10 to 14
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During the pilot year of a Los Angeles school system integration program, Armstrong and Charlie learn to cope with everything from first crushes and playground politics to the loss of loved ones and racial prejudice in the 1970s.

The Bicycle Spy	McDonough, Yona Zeldis	9 to 12
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Twelve-year-old Marcel loves riding his bicycle, and dreams of competing in the Tour de France, but it is 1942 and German soldiers are everywhere, stopping him as he delivers bread from his parents' bakery around Aucoin-- then one day he discovers that it is not just bread he is delivering, and suddenly he finds himself in position of dangerous secrets about his parents and his new friend from Paris, Delphine.

Cloud and Wallfish	Frank, Steven B.	10 to 12
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Noah Keller has a pretty normal life until one wild afternoon when his parents pick him up from school and head straight for the airport, telling him on the ride that his name isn't really Noah and he didn't really just turn eleven in March ... As Noah, now 'Jonah Brown,' and his parents head behind the Iron Curtain into East Berlin, the rules and secrets begin to pile up so quickly that he can hardly keep track of the questions bubbling up inside him: who, exactly, is listening--and why?

Historical

Title	Author	Audience
The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel	Hopkinson, Deborah	10 and up
Part medical Mystery, part survival story, and part Dickensian adventure, this gripping novel, set during the 1854 London cholera epidemic, is a celebration of Dr. John Snow, a fascinating pioneer in public health considered as the father of modern epidemiology.		
Making Bombs for Hitler	Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk	8 to 12
When Lida and her friends are assigned to make bombs for the German army, Lida cannot stand the thought of helping the enemy. Then she has an idea. What if she sabotaged the bombs... and the Nazis? Can she do so without getting caught? And if she's freed, will she ever find her sister again?		
One True Way	Hitchcock, Shannon	10 to 12
Welcome to Daniel Boone Middle School in the 1970s, where teachers and coaches must hide who they are, and girls who like girls are forced to question their own choices. Presented in the voice of a premier storyteller, One True Way sheds exquisite light on what it means to be different, while at the same time being wholly true to oneself. Through the lives and influences of two girls, readers come to see that love is love is love. Set against the backdrop of history and politics that surrounded gay rights in the 1970s South, this novel is a thoughtful, eye-opening look at tolerance, acceptance, and change, and will widen the hearts of all readers.		
This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality	Boyce, Jo Ann Allen, Debbie Levy	10 to 12
In 1956, a year before the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, 12 black students in Clinton, Tennessee, integrated a public high school. Based on Boyce's experience as one of those students, this is the first children's book about a forgotten moment in history.		
Resistance	Nielsen, Jennifer A.	8 to 12
The "New York Times"-bestselling author of the Ascendence Trilogy tells the extraordinary story of a Jewish girl's courageous efforts to resist the Nazis during the occupation of Poland.		
Rory's Promise	MacColl, Michaela	8 to 12
Based on actual events, this is the first book in a three-part series that examines little-known moments in American history. This entry follows 12-year-old Rory and her younger sister, Violet, who travel from New York City to the Arizona Territory on the Orphan Train.		

Historical

Title	Author	Audience
Snakes and Stones	Fowler, Lisa	8 to 12
<p>Twelve-year-old Chestnut Hill's daddy stole her and the triplets away from their mama. At least, that's how Chestnut remembers it. It's 1921, and after nearly two years on the road with his traveling elixir show, Daddy's still making no move to go back to Kentucky and buy Mama that house. So Chestnut is forced to come up with her own plan to get home.</p>		
Sources of Light	McMullan, Margaret	12 and up
<p>It's 1962, a year after the death of Sam's father--he was a war hero--and Sam and her mother must move, along with their very liberal views, to Jackson, Mississippi, her father's conservative hometown. Needless to say, they don't quite fit in. People like the McLemores fear that Sam, her mother, and her mother's artist friend, Perry, are in the South to "agitate" and to shake up the dividing lines between black and white and blur it all to grey.</p>		
This Is Just a Test	Rosenberg, Madelyn	8 to 12
<p>In 1983 seventh-grader David Da-Wei Horowitz has a lot to worry about--his bar mitzvah's coming soon, his Jewish and Chinese grandmothers argue about everything, his teammates for the upcoming trivia contest, Scott and Hector, don't like each other, he's beginning to notice girls, and Scott's persuaded him to begin digging a fallout shelter just in case the Cold War heats up.</p>		
An Uninterrupted View of the Sky	Crowder, Melanie	12 and up
<p>In Bolivia in 1999, when their father is unjustly arrested and their mother leaves, Francisco, seventeen, and his sister Pilar, eight, must move to the dirty, dehumanizing, and corrupt prison.</p>		
Wolf by Wolf	Graudin, Ryan	13 to 17
<p>In this alternate history the year is 1956, and the Axis powers of the Third Reich and Imperial Japan rule. To commemorate their Great Victory, they host the Axis Tour: an annual motorcycle race across their conjoined continents. The prize? An audience with the highly reclusive Adolf Hitler at the Victor's ball in Tokyo. Yael, a former death camp prisoner, has witnessed too much suffering, and the five wolves tattooed on her arm are a constant reminder of the loved ones she lost. The resistance has given Yael one goal: win the race and kill Hitler.</p>		
A Year Down Yonder	Peck, Richard	8 to 12
<p>The winner of the 2001 Newbery Medal continues the story begun in the Newbery Honor Book "A Long Way from Chicago." Now 15-years old, Mary Alice is going to spend an entire year with her unpredictable Grandma Dowdel--a woman well known for shaking up her neighbors.</p>		

Mystery/Horror

Title	Author	Audience
Bad Machinery Vol. 1: Case of the Team Spirit	Allison, John	9 to 12
In Tackleford, England, three girls and three boys--all aspiring crime solvers and grammar school students--clash while running separate investigations, but a mutual solution could be achieved if they would just work together.		
Doll Bones	Black, Holly	10 to 14
Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl		
One for Sorrow: A Ghost Story	Hahn, Mary Downing	10 to 12
During the 1918 influenza epidemic, new girl at school Annie is claimed as best friend by Elsie, a classmate who is a tattletale, a liar, and a thief. Soon Annie makes other friends and joins them in teasing Elsie. Elsie dies from influenza, but then she returns to reclaim Annie's friendship and punish all the girls who bullied her.		
A Pocket Full of Murder	Anderson, R. J.	9 to 12
In Tarreton, where the rich have all the magic they wish and the poor can barely afford a spell to heat their homes, twelve-year-old Isaveth's father is accused of murdering an influential citizen and Isaveth, aided by eccentric street boy Quiz, tries to solve the magical murder mystery before her father is executed.		
The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place	Berry, Julie	10 to 14
There's a murderer on the looseNbut that doesn't stop the girls of St. Etheldreda's from attempting to hide the death of their headmistress in this smart, hilarious Victorian romp, full of outrageous plot twists, mistaken identities, and mysterious happenings.		
Under Locker and Key	Hymas, Allison K.	9 to 13
Eleven-year-old Jeremy Wilderson teams up with his rival crime fighter to stop the stealing spree that's wreaking havoc on Scottsville Middle School.		
York: The Shadow Cipher	Ruby, Laura	9 to 12
In an alternate history of New York, three kids try to solve a modern-world puzzle and complete a treasure hunt laid into the streets and buildings of the city.		

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
After Tupac and D Foster	Woodson, Jacqueline	11 to 15
Newbery Honor winner Jacqueline Woodson's compelling and inspiring story shows us how music touches our lives, how much life can be lived in a short time, and how all--too--brief connections can touch us to the core and remain a part of us forever.		
All Summer Long	Larson, Hope	10 to 12
Thirteen-year-old Bina faces her first summer without her best friend, Austin, who has left for soccer camp.		
Awkward	Chmakova, Svetlana	10 to 13
After shunning Jaime, the school nerd, on her first day at a new middle school, Penelope Torres tries to blend in with her new friends in the art club, until the art club goes to war with the science club, of which Jaime is a member		
The Backstagers Vol. 1	Tynion IV, James	13 to 18
When Jory transfers to an all-boys private high school, he's taken in by the only ones who don't treat him like a new kid, the lowly stage crew known as the Backstagers. Not only does he gain great, lifetime friends, Jory is also introduced to an entire magical world that lives beyond the curtain. With the unpredictable twists and turns of the underground world, the Backstagers venture into the unknown, determined to put together the best play their high school has ever seen.		
The Benefits of Being an Octopus	Braden, Ann	8 to 12
Seventh-grader Zoey has her hands full as she takes care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. At least there's Lenny, her mom's boyfriend—they all get to live in his nice, clean trailer. This moving debut novel explores the cultural divides around class and the gun debate through the eyes of one girl, living on the edges of society, trying to find her way forward.		
Best Friends	Hale, Shannon	8 to 11
When she becomes part of the in-crowd, Shannon begins to question whether she wants to remain there, in this autobiographical graphic novel about popularity, first boyfriends, and finding a path in life.		

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
Best. Night. Ever.: A Story Told from Seven Points of View	Alpine, Rachele	9 to 13
On the night of a middle school dance, excitement yields to complications for seven students, some who perform with their rock band, some who attend, and some who have other obligations.		
Better Nate Than Ever	Federle, Tim	10 to 14
An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."		
Brave	Chmakova, Svetlana	10 to 13
In his daydreams, Jensen is the biggest hero that ever was, saving the world and his friends on a daily basis. But his middle school reality is very different: math is hard, getting along with friends is hard, even finding a partner for the class project ...		
Breakout	Messner, Kate	10 to 14
When two inmates break out of the maximum security prison in Nora Tucker's town's, everyone is on edge, and fear brings out the worst in some people Nora has known her whole life. This thrilling novel is told in letters, poems, text messages, news stories, and comics--documents Nora collects for a community time capsule.		
The Bridge Home	Venkatraman, Padma	10 and up
Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in India, in the stirring middle-grade debut by the author of "A Time to Dance."		
Camp Average	Battle, Craig	8 to 12
In the first book in a new series, campers fight to lose like never before		
Close to Famous	Bauer, Joan	10 and up
Twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother escape from her mother's abusive boyfriend and end up in the small town of Culpepper, West Virginia, where they use their strengths and challenge themselves to build a new life, with the help of the friends they make there.		

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
Count Me In	Bajaj , Varsha	10 and up
Told from two viewpoints, sixth-graders Karina and Chris use social media to stand up to racism in Houston, Texas, after an attack puts Karina's Indian American grandfather in the hospital.		
Counting to Perfect	LaFleur, Suzanne M.	8 to 12
Ignored by her parents since her "perfect" older sister, Julia, had a baby, Cassie, twelve, foregoes her summer plans to join Julia and baby Addie on a road trip.		
The Courage Test	Preller, James	9 to 12
Will is dragged along on a family vacation to explore where Lewis and Clark went, and he hates every minute of it until a test of courage arises.		
Crush	Chmakova, Svetlana	10 to 13
When the group dynamic among Jorge's friends starts to shift, he must learn to balance what his friends expect of him and what he really wants.		
Darius the Great Is Not Okay	Khorram, Adib	12 and up
Darius Kellner is a Fractional Persian--half, his mom's side. He's anxious about his upcoming first-ever trip to Iran. Then he meets the boy next door, and everything changes. Khorram's brilliant debut is for anyone who's ever felt not good enough, then met a friend who makes them feel so much better than okay.		
The Dollar Kids	Jacobson, Jennifer Richard	10 to 14
After a family buys a house in a struggling town for just one dollar, they're hoping to start over. But have they traded one set of problems for another? From the author of "Small as an Elephant" comes a heart-tugging novel about guilt and grief, family and friendship, and, above all, community.		
Dear Sweet Pea	Murphy, Julie	8 to 12
Thirteen-year-old Patricia, widely known as Sweet Pea, navigates her parents' unconventional divorce and finds herself in the unlikely role of her town's advice columnist.		

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
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Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie
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Sonnenblick , Jordan

11 to 15

Thirteen-year-old Steven plays drums in the all-star jazz band, has a crush on the hottest girl in the school, and is constantly annoyed by his five-year-old brother, Jeffrey. But when Jeffrey is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven's world is turned upside down.

Each Tiny Spark

Cartaya, Pablo

10 and up

Sixth-grader Emilia Torres struggles with ADHD, her controlling abuela, her mother's work commitments, her father's distance after returning from deployment, evolving friendships, and a conflict over school redistricting.

El Deafo

Bell, Cece

8 to 12

The author recounts in graphic novel format her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower."

Finding Perfect

Swartz, Elly

8 to 12

With some help from her siblings and friends, Molly is able to face her OCD and be strong enough to get help for it.

First Rule of Punk

Pérez, Celia C.

9 to 12

"Roller Girl" meets "School of Rock" in this illustrated novel about identity, friendship, and riot-grrrl power.

For Black Girls Like Me

Lockington, Mariama

9 to 11

Eleven-year-old Makeda dreams of meeting her African American mother, while coping with serious problems in her white adopted family, a cross-country move, and being homeschooled.

Forget Me Not

Terry, Ellie

10 to 13

When her mother breaks up with yet another boyfriend, Calliope meets Jinsong at her latest middle school, who becomes her friend despite her Tourette Syndrome and the embarrassment it can cause.

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
The Harlem Charade	Tarpley, Natasha	8 to 12
Seventh-graders Jin, Alexandra, and Elvin come from very different backgrounds and circumstances, but they all live in Harlem, and when Elvin's grandfather is attacked they band together to find out who is responsible--and the search leads them to an enigmatic artist whose missing masterpieces are worth a fortune, and into conflict with an ambitious politician who wants to turn Harlem into an historic amusement park.		
Game Changer	Greenwald, Tom	10 to 14
Thirteen-year-old Teddy Youngblood is in a coma after an unspecified football injury at training camp. Told through dialogue, texts, newspaper articles, transcripts, an online forum, and Teddy's inner thoughts, this novel explores the joyous thrills and terrifying risks of America's most popular sport.		
Genesis Begins Again	Williams, Alicia D.	9 to 13
Thirteen-year-old Genesis tries again and again to lighten her black skin, thinking it is the root of her family's troubles, before discovering reasons to love herself in this deeply sensitive and powerful debut novel.		
Ghost	Reynolds, Jason	10 to 13
Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.		
Girl of the Southern Sea	Kadariusman, Michelle	9 to 12
A 14-year-old girl living in the Jakarta slums who longs to be a writer sees an opportunity to raise money for school fees when she survives a minibus accident and the locals begin saying she has magical good luck. But when the crowd turns against her and she discovers her father's plan to marry her off to an older man, she must summon courage and conviction to write her own story.		
Golden Boy	Sullivan, Tara	10 and up
A shocking human rights tragedy is brought to light in a story of heartbreak and triumph about an Albino Tanzanian boy who finds himself the ultimate outsider, hunted because of the color of his skin.		

Realistic

Title

Author

Audience

Goodbye Stranger

Stead, Rebecca

10 and up

Long ago, best friends Bridge, Emily, and Tab made a pact: no fighting. But it's the start of seventh grade, and everything is changing.

Guts

Telgemeier, Raina

8 to 12

Raina wakes up one night with a terrible upset stomach. Her mom has one, too, so it's probably just a bug. Raina eventually returns to school, where she's dealing with the usual highs and lows: friends, not-friends, and classmates who think the school year is just one long gross-out session. It soon becomes clear that Raina's tummy trouble isn't going away--and it coincides with her worries about food, school, and changing friendships. What's going on?

Hope in the Holler

Tyre, Lisa Lewis

10 and up

The poignant--and funny--story of a 12-year-old girl trying to be brave and find her place in the world after she's sent to live with scheming relatives, from the author of "Last in a Long Line of Rebels."

How Tia Lola Came to (Visit) Stay

Alvarez, Julia

8 to 12

Moving to Vermont after his parents split, Miguel has plenty to worry about. Tia Lola, his quirky, "carismatica, " and maybe magical aunt makes his life even more unpredictable when she arrives from the Dominican Republic to help out his Mami.

I Represent Sean Rosen

Baron, Jeff

10 to 14

Sean Rosen makes funny videos you can watch online. He also has ideas for movies, TV shows, and games that he knows are good enough to be produced by the biggest studios in Hollywood. The only problem is, he's a kid. And he's busy with school. And he lives far from Los Angeles or New York City. But Sean does have a laptop and a phone, and he's smart. He's about to have the ride of a lifetime as he discovers the ins and outs--and dos and don'ts--of becoming one of the youngest movie moguls the world's ever known.

Illegal

Colfer, Eoin

10 to 14

Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life—the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach Europe. Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his family.

Realistic

Title

Author

Audience

Insignificant Events in Life of a Cactus

Bowling, Dusti

8 to 12

Aven Green was born without arms. After her dad takes a job running a dying Western theme park in Arizona, she bonds with a classmate named Connor, who has his own disability to conquer. The two soon find themselves immersed in a mystery at the park.

Invisible Emmie

Libenson, Terri

8 to 12

Crushes, humiliation, drama: middle school. This is the story of two totally different girls--quiet, shy, artistic Emmie and popular, outgoing, athletic Katie--and how their lives unexpectedly intersect one day when an embarrassing note falls into the wrong hands.

It Wasn't Me

Levy, Dana Alison

10 and up

"The Breakfast Club" meets middle school with a prank twist in this hilarious and heartwarming story about six very different seventh graders who are forced to band together after a vandalism incident.

Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to World

Blake, Ashley Herring

8 to 12

Following a tornado that destroyed her house, 12-year-old Ivy begins to develop feelings for another girl in this stunning novel that "captures the confusion, thrills and heartache of a first crush so perfectly that you will hold this book close to your heart."

Line Tender

Allen, Kate

10 and up

Following a tragedy that further alters the course of her life, 12-year-old Lucy Everhart decides to continue the shark research her marine biologist mother left unfinished when she died five years earlier

Lord of the Mountain

Kidd, Ronald

9 to 12

When Nate's music-hating preacher father catches the 13-year-old hanging around such musicians as Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family in downtown Bristol, Tennessee, he comes down hard on him. So Nate sets out in search of himself and the song he thinks will heal his family.

Lost in the Sun

Graff, Lisa

10 and up

As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on.

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
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Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish	Cartaya, Pablo	10 and up
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After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, his mother takes him and his younger brother to Puerto Rico. While there Marcus starts searching for his father, who left their family 10 years ago and is somewhere on the island.

Me and Marvin Gardens	King, Amy Sarig	8 to 12
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Obe Devlin spends a lot of his time cleaning up the creek that runs through what little is left of his family's once extensive farmland, and worrying about what the developers are doing nearby, and the pollution it is causing--but one day he finds a strange creature by his creek that eats plastic, and soon the animal he calls Marvin Gardens becomes his personal secret, which he believes needs to be protected from pretty much everybody.

Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James	Blake, Ashley Herring	8 to 12
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Twelve-year-old Sunny St. James must navigate heart surgery, reconnections with a lost mother, the betrayal of a former best friend, first kisses, and emerging feelings for another girl in this stunning, heartfelt novel from the acclaimed author of "Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World."

My Fate According to Butterfly	Villanueva, Gail D.	8 to 12
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In one week Sabrina will be eleven-years-old and she would really like to get her estranged parents and her older sister Nadine together for the celebration, especially since the black butterfly landing on her locket has convinced her that she is going to die; Sabrina and her friend Pepper come up with a bucket list, and enlist Nadine's help--but aspiring reporter Nadine is working on a story about the Philippines' war on drugs, and she has uncovered something that may endanger them all, and prove the butterfly is indeed a harbinger of death in Manila.

Never Evers	Ellen, Tom	10 and up
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For fans of "Jacky Ha-Ha" comes a hilarious, tween-friendly story about a middle-school ski trip full of friendship, crushes, and the mishaps and misunderstandings that are bound to occur in seventh grade.

Next Great Paulie Fink	Benjamin, Ali	8 to 12
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Inspired by new student Caitlyn, seventh-graders at a tiny rural school in Vermont create a reality-show inspired competition to determine who will replace the school's legendary class clown, Paulie Fink.

Realistic

Title

Author

Audience

Nowhere Boy

Marsh, Katharine

10 to 14

Newly arrived in Brussels, Belgium, 14-year-old Ahmed fled war-torn Syria and lost his father on the perilous journey to Europe. Now Ahmed's struggling to get by on his own, and starting to lose hope. Then he meets Max, a 13-year-old American boy. And with one startling discovery, Max and Ahmed's friendship begins to grow.

One Half from the East

Hashimi, Nadia

8 to 12

In modern-day Afghanistan, 10-year-old Obayda is a bacha posh, a girl dressed as a boy. She has more freedom than she would as a girl, and makes a good friend of another bacha posh, but must find a way to remain free when she returns to life as a girl.

Other Words for Home

Warga, Jasmine

8 to 12

In modern-day Afghanistan, 10-year-old Obayda is a bacha posh, a girl dressed as a boy. She has more freedom than she would as a girl, and makes a good friend of another bacha posh, but must find a way to remain free when she returns to life as a girl.

Pay Attention, Carter Jones

Schmidt, Gary D.

10 to 12

Sixth-grader Carter must adjust to the unwelcome presence of a know-it-all butler who is determined to help him become a gentleman, and also to deal with burdens from the past.

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

Birdsall, Jeanne

8 to 12

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures.

The Perfect Score

Buyea, Rob

10 and up

The whole school is in a frenzy with test time approaching—kids, teachers, the administration. Everyone is anxious. When one of the kids has a big idea for acing the tests, they're all in. But things get ugly before they get better, and in the end, the real meaning of the perfect score surprises them all.

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
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A Possibility of Whales	Rivers, Karen	8 to 12
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Twelve-year-old Natalia Rose Baleine Gallagher dreams of seeing whales on the beach near her new home, and is consumed with the prospect that her mother who abandoned her as a child loves and misses her, and wants Nat to find her.

Real Friends	Hale, Shannon	8 to 12
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Newbery Honor author Shannon Hale and New York Times bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham join forces in this graphic memoir about how hard it is to find your real friends and why it's worth the journey."

Refugee	Gratz, Alan	9 to 12
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Newbery Honor author Shannon Hale and New York Times bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham join forces in this graphic memoir about how hard it is to find your real friends and why it's worth the journey."

Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise	Gemeinhart, Dan	9 to 12
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Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father rush to Poplin Springs, Washington, in their old school bus to save a memory box buried in a park that will soon be demolished in this novel about grief and love from the critically acclaimed author of "Good Dog."

Same Sun Here	House, Silas	9 to 12
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A 12-year-old Indian immigrant girl in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism. Illustrations.

Scarlet Ibis	Lewis, Gill	10 to 14
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When a fire leaves 12-year-old Scarlet in a different foster home than her autistic little brother, she tracks a bird to find her way back to him in this deeply moving illustrated novel from the author of "Moon Bear."

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
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Shouting at the Rain	Hunt, Lynda Mullaly	10 and up
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From the author of the acclaimed, "New York Times" bestseller "Fish in a Tree" comes a compelling story about a young girl raised by her kindhearted grandmother who now looks at their life with new eyes and wishes she could have a "regular family."

So Done	Chase, Paula	10 to 13
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When best friends Tai and Mila are reunited after a summer apart, their friendship threatens to combust. In her middle-grade debut, Chase delivers a memorable story about a complex friendship between two very different African-American girls and the importance of speaking up.

Star-Crossed	Dee, Barbara	9 to 13
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When Mattie's cast as Romeo in an eighth-grade play, she's confused to find herself increasingly attracted to Gemma, a new classmate who's playing Juliet.

Summerlost	Condie, Ally	10 and up
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Following the sudden deaths of her father and autistic younger brother, Cedar Lee spends the summer working at a Shakespearean theater festival, making a new friend, and coming to terms with her grief.

Ten: A Soccer Story	Flint, Shamini	10 to 12
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Goal-oriented Maya has two main concerns: getting support and permission for girls' soccer and keeping her unpredictable biracial family together. At the same time she's trying to fit in at school, figure out who her true friends are, and dodge the criticisms of her traditional East Indian grandmother and the other relatives who say girls should be quiet and obedient.

There's Something About Sweetie	Menon, Sandhya	13 to 17
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The irresistible companion to the "New York Times" bestseller "When Dimple Met Rishi," which follows Rishi's brother, Ashish, and a confident fat athlete named Sweetie as they both discover what love means to them.

Realistic

Title	Author	Audience
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The Thing About Jellyfish	Benjamin, Ali	10 to 13
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Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death.

They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems	Bowles, David	10 to 14
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This collection of narrative poetry explores a year in the life of a Mexican-American boy: caring, talented, and irrepressibly mischievous.

Tight	Maldonado, Torrey	10 and up
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After his quick-tempered father gets in a fight and is sent back to jail, quiet and thoughtful sixth-grader Bryan snaps and follows new friend Mike into trouble. The acclaimed author of "Secret Saturdays" delivers a fast-paced, insightful, dynamic story capturing urban community life.

To Night Owl From Dogfish	Sloan, Holly Goldberg	10 and up
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Unhappy about being sent to the same summer camp after their fathers start dating, Bett and Avery, both 11 years old, eventually begin scheming to get the couple back together after a breakup in this moving, exuberant, laugh-out-loud novel about friendship and family, told entirely in emails and letters.

Totally Middle School: Tales of Friends, Family, and Fitting in	Groban, Betsy	9 to 12
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From such literary masterminds as Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, Karen Cushman, Gregory Maguire, and others comes a timeless and inspirational anthology about the sometimes-challenging, always-rewarding coming-of-age years: middle school.

Truth as Told by Mason Buttle	Connor, Leslie	8 to 12
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The acclaimed author of "Waiting for Normal" presents a deeply poignant and beautifully crafted story about self-reliance, redemption, and hope in which young Mason Buttle struggles in school and is suspected of having done something wrong to cause his best friend's death.

Well, That Was Awkward	Vail, Rachel	10 and up
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There are unexpected consequences when thirteen-year-old Gracie sends texts pretending to be her bashful best friend Sienna, and their friend Emmett starts texting back pretending to be shy A.J.

Realistic

Title

Author

Audience

Why Can't I Be You?

Walker, Melissa

8 to 12

Claire Ladd and her two best friends, Ronan and Brianna, are turning 12 this summer. Claire has always been happy with her life just as it is, but as the summer wears on and the issues with her friends start to grow, she can't help but wonder if everything be better if she could just be someone else.

Science Fiction

Title

Author

Audience

Cinder

Meyer, Marissa

13 to 17

Cinder is 16 years old and works as a mechanic. Her past is a mystery. You would think her present could not be worse but her stepmother is constantly denigrating her. Everything changes when she meets Prince Kai. She finds herself caught in the middle of an intergalactic war and an impossible love. She doesn't know whether to choose freedom or victimization. After all, she is special. She's the only hope...just like in fairy tales...

Felix Yz

Bunker, Lisa

10 to 14

Thirteen-year-old Felix Yz chronicles the final month before an experimental procedure meant to separate him from the fourth-dimensional creature, Zyx, with whom he was accidentally fused as a young child.

The Quest to the Uncharted Lands

Johnson, Jaleigh

10 to 13

Stella's parents are on the first expedition to the uncharted lands of Solace, but Stella doesn't want to be left behind. Stowing away aboard the ship, she finds a mysterious boy who is also hiding, and he's keeping a very big secret. She must decide whether to trust him or risk the fate of the expedition.

Railhead

Reeve, Philip

12 to 18

In a world of drones and androids Zen Starling is a human thief, but mostly he just likes to ride the Interstellar Express, the sentient trains that travel through the K gates from planet to planet, something only the Guardians understand--but now the mysterious Raven wants him to steal the Pyxis, an object that could either open up a new gate, challenging the Guardians, or put the entire gate system, and the universe itself in danger.

Science Fiction

Title

Author

Audience

Shattered Warrior

Shinn, Sharon

13 to 17

It's been eight years since Colleen Cavanaugh's home world was invaded by the Derichets, a tyrannical alien race bent on exploiting the planet's mineral resources. Most of her family died in the war, and she now lives alone in the city. Aside from her acquaintances at the factory where she toils for the Derichets, Colleen makes a single friend in Jann, a member of the violent group of rebels known as the Chromatti. One day Colleen receives shocking news: her niece Lucy is alive and in need of her help.

Space Boy Volume 1

McCranie, Stephen

8 to 12

A sci-fi drama of a high-school-aged girl who belongs in a different time, a boy possessed by emptiness as deep as space, an alien artifact, mysterious murder, and a love that crosses light years.