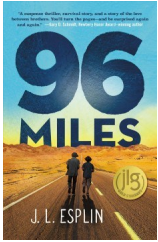




Junior Book Award

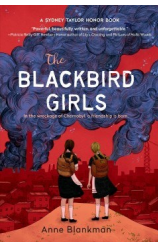
SC Association of School Librarians | 2021-2022 Book Award Nominees

Books geared towards grades 6th - 9th



96 Miles
J. L. Esplin

During a massive blackout in rural Nevada, two brothers struggle to survive without their self-reliance-obsessed dad and without enough water cross the desert for help.



The Blackbird Girls
Anne Blankman

On a spring morning, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Savchenko wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work-- Chernobyl -- has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother.



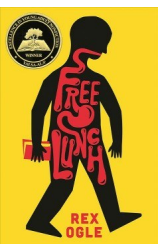
Black Brother, Black Brother
Jewell Parker Rhodes

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.



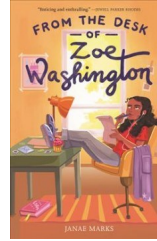
Efrén Divided
Ernesto Cisneros

While his father works two jobs, seventh-grader Efrén Nava must take care of his twin siblings, kindergartners Max and Mia, after their mother is deported to Mexico.



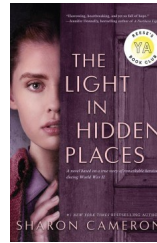
Free Lunch
Rex Ogle

Rex Ogle recounts his first semester in sixth grade in which he and his younger brother often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and were short of school supplies and he was on his school's free lunch program. Grounded in the immediacy of physical hunger and the humiliation of having to announce it every day in the school lunch line, Rex's is a compelling story of a more profound hunger-- that of a child for his parents' love and care.



From the Desk of Zoe Washington

Janae Marks
Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.



The Light in Hidden Places
Sharon Cameron

Sixteen-year-old Catholic Stefania Podgorska has worked in the Diamant family's grocery store for four years, even falling in love with one of their sons, Izio; but when the Nazis came to Przemysl, Poland, Stefania embarks on a dangerous course -- protecting thirteen Jews in her attic, and caring for her younger sister, Helena.



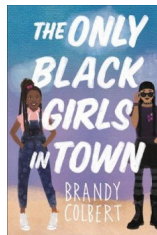
The Mystwick School of Musicraft
Jessica Khoury

Twelve-year-old Amelia gets the opportunity to attend a boarding school and learn how to use music to create magic, hoping to become a Maestro like her deceased mother.



Nightbooks
J. A. White

A boy is imprisoned by a witch and must tell her a new scary story each night to stay alive.



The Only Black Girls in Town
Brandy Colbert

In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to race relations in the past.

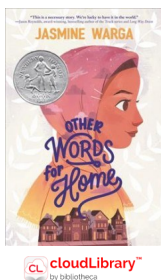


Books geared towards grades 6th - 9th

Other Words for Home

Jasmine Warga

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives ... The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US -- and her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before.



Summer of a Thousand Pies

Margaret Dilloway

After her father goes to jail, Cady Bennett, twelve, is taken from foster care to spend a summer with her estranged Aunt Michelle, trying to save her failing pie shop.



Things You Can't Say

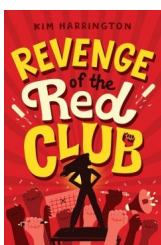
Jenn Bishop

Three years after his father's death by suicide, twelve-year-old Drew embarks on a journey toward understanding, forgiveness, and hope.

Revenge of the Red Club

Kim Harrington

When middle school journalist Riley Dunne learns that an important and beloved club is being shut down, she uses the power of the pen to instigate much-needed social change.



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

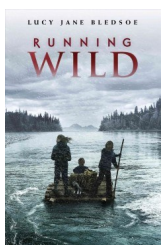
Kwame Mbalia

Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.

Running Wild

Lucy Jane Bledsoe

When living in the Alaskan wilderness with her survivalist father becomes intolerable, 12-year-old Willa sets out on a journey of escape with her younger brothers.



When Stars Are Scattered

Victoria Jamieson

Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

Searching for Lottie

Susan L. Ross

More than six decades after the end of World War II, twelve-year-old Charlie, a budding musician, searches for clues about her violin-prodigy namesake's fate.



Wildfire

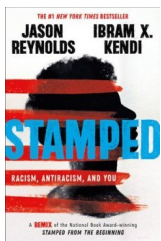
Rodman Philbrick

Flames race toward Sam Castine's summer camp as evacuation buses are loading, but Sam runs back to get his phone. Suddenly, a flash of heat blasts him as pine trees explode. Now a wall of fire separates Sam from his bus, and there's only one thing to do: Run for his life. Run or die.

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

Jason Reynolds

A history of racist and antiracist ideas in America, from their roots in Europe until today, adapted from National Book Award winner *Stamped from the Beginning*. Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas -- and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.



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