

2022 Lone Star Texas Annotated Reading List



Alston, B. B. **Amari and the Night Brothers.** Balzar + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-06-297516-4

Amari never gave up hope her older brother would return even after everyone else did. Then she finds a ticking suitcase with an invitation to try out with the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, and she knows it's her chance to discover the truth. Now she's in a competition against kids who were born in the magical world. Plus, her magical ability is deemed illegal. The odds are definitely against her, but Amari won't give up until she finds her brother. **You might also like:**

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky, by Kwame Alexander

Cinders and Sparrows, by Stefan Bachmann

Maya and the Rising Dark, by Rena Barron

Anderson, Jodi Lynn. **Thirteen Witches: The Memory Thief.** Aladdin, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-48148-021-5

Rosie's mother never really pays much attention to her. She just sits in the attic, finishes her work, and sleeps. Rosie has always taken care of herself, but she longs for her mother's love and attention. When she learns her mother is cursed by an evil witch, she vows to defeat the witch and free her mother's memories. **You might also like:**

The Circus of Stolen Dreams, by Lorelei Savaryn

The Wide Starlight, by Nicole Lesperance

Shadow Weaver, by MarcyKate Connelly

Ansari, Rebecca K. S. **The In-Between.** Walden Pond Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-06-291609-9

Cooper is frustrated and angry because his father left, his mother has to work two jobs, and his little sister has health issues. The strange girl who moved in next door isn't helping. All she does is stare at him all the time. When his sister shows him pictures of unidentified children who have died in historical disasters, he realizes they are all wearing the same jacket as his new neighbor. Will disaster follow her to Cooper's neighborhood? **You might also like:**

Lost in the Sun, by Lisa Graff

The House that Wasn't There, by Elana K. Arnold

The Midnight Hour, by Benjamin Read

Behar, Ruth. **Letters from Cuba.** Nancy Paulson Books, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-525-51647-7

As Hitler's army marches toward Poland, many Jews decide to flee. Esther's family only has money to send her and her father. They leave everyone else behind while they work in Cuba to make money to help the rest of the family escape. Esther details the triumphs and struggles of their new life in a series of letters to her younger sister back in Poland. **You might also like:**

Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna, by Alda P. Dobbs

Refugee, by Alan Gratz

The Elephant in the Room, by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Blankman, Anne. **The Blackbird Girls**. Viking, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-984837-35-6

Oksana and Valentina have always been more enemies than friends. Oksana often bullies Valentina because of her Jewish heritage. The only thing they have in common is Chernobyl. Both of their fathers are working there when the nuclear power plant explodes, and now the girls are fleeing across Russia alone to find safety. In 1941 Rifka is on her own journey fleeing a Nazi invasion and hiding the truth of her Jewish identity. All three girls must rely on unexpected allies and their inner strength to survive. **You might also like:**

Chernobyl's Wild Kingdom: Life in the Dead Zone, by Rebecca L. Johnson

Resistance, by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Breaking Stalin's Nose, by Eugene Yelchin

Chadda, Sarwat. **City of the Plague God**. Disney-Hyperion, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-36805-150-7

Sik's world is turned upside down when Nergal, the god of plagues, shows up at his family's deli with a pack of demons demanding the key to eternal life. It turns out all the characters from the Epic of Gilgamesh are real, and Nergal is going to cause a plague to destroy the city unless Sik and his new friend Belet can stop him. **You might also like:**

Aru Shah and the End of Time, by Roshani Chokshi

The Serpent's Secret, by Sayantani DasGupta

The Storm Runner, by Jennifer Cervantes

Currie, Lindsay. **Scratch Scratch**. Sourcebooks Young Readers, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-72820-972-2

Claire has always been embarrassed by her dad's ghost tours. She is a scientist who believes in things you can prove. When she has to help her dad run the tour one night, everything changes. She sees a ghost who then follows her home. Now she is being haunted, and the only way to save herself is to solve the mystery of the ghost's death and figure out what he wants. **You might also like:**

Spirit Hunters, by Ellen Oh

One for Sorrow, by Mary Downing Hahn

The Screaming Staircase, by Jonathan Stroud

Fipps, Lisa. **Starfish**. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-984814-50-0

Ellie dreads going back to school at the end of summer. Her best friend moved, and now she will have to face the bullies who torment her about her weight alone. She is skeptical when she meets her new neighbor Catalina. She is afraid Catalina will be just another bully, but they quickly become friends. Plus, Catalina's whole family accepts Ellie as she is without a single comment about her weight. This is unexpectedly painful for Ellie since her own mother is one of her worst bullies. **You might also like:**

Dear Sweet Pea, by Julie Murphy

Chirp, by Kate Messner

Violets Are Blue, by Barbara Dee

Freeman Megan E. **Alone**. Aladdin, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-53446-756-9

It was supposed to be a harmless secret adventure. Maddie tells each of her parents she is staying at the other's house and makes plans to meet her friends at her grandparents' vacation apartment. No one else shows up and she spends the night alone. When she wakes up the town is empty, and there are signs of a rapid evacuation everywhere. She has no idea what happened, but now she is alone, and she will have to figure out how to survive on her own with no parents, no electricity, and no idea if she will ever be rescued. **You might also like:**

Canyon's Edge by Dusti Bowling

The Raft, by S. A. Bodeen

Dry, by Neal Shusterman

Getten, Kereen. **When Life Gives You Mangos.** Delacorte Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-593-31021-2

Clara loves life on her small Caribbean island, but things haven't been right lately. She has no memory of anything that happened last summer. Also, her best friend and cousin, Gayna, just wants to flirt with boys and treat Clara like a baby. What really happened last summer, and what does it have to do with Clara's friendship with Gayna? **You might also like:**

Ikenga, by Nnedi Okorafor

When You Trap a Tiger, by Tae Keller

The Year of the Buttered Cat: A Mostly True Story, by Susan Tyler Haas

Gratz, Alan. **Ground Zero.** Scholastic Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-33824-575-2

Brandon is trapped in an elevator with a group of strangers when an airplane hits the World Trade Center. His father is on the top floor, and he doesn't know how to find him. Now he will have to face multiple dangers as he tries to survive the disaster. Eighteen years later, Rashmina is in a struggle of her own as war ravages her Afghan village. Then she puts her village at risk when she saves a wounded American soldier. **You might also like:**

Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story, by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Code of Honor, by Alan Gratz

Towers Falling, by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Hermon, Daka. **Hide and Seeker.** Scholastic Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-33858-362-5

Zee was missing for a year, and now that he's back, he's not himself. He seems haunted by things he won't talk about. Justin and Zee's other friends play a game of hide and seek at his welcome home party, and things go terribly wrong. One by one, the kids disappear, claimed by creature called the Seeker for breaking the rules of the game. Now they are trapped in a nightmare world where they are forced to relive their worst fears. **You might also like:**

Small Spaces, by Katherine Arden

The Jumbies, by Tracey Baptiste

The Hiddenseek, by Nate Cernosek

Higuera, Donna Barba. **Lupe Wong Won't Dance.** Levine Querido, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-64614-003-9

Lupe loves baseball. Her goal is to become the first female pitcher in the MLB. Even when everything else is going wrong she can always count on sports and her PE class. Then her worst nightmare comes true when her coach announces they will soon learn to square dance. PE has always been her refuge, and now she will do anything to avoid it! **You might also like:**

Gabby Garcia's Ultimate Playbook, by Iva-Marie Palmer

Fast Pitch, by Nic Stone

Patina, by Jason Reynolds

Kessler, Liz. **When the World Was Ours.** Aladdin, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-53449-965-2

Leo, Max, and Elsa are best friends in Austria in 1936, but when Hitler's army invades, their lives go in very different directions. The three friends are quickly separated. Leo and Elsa are Jewish, and their families are focused on surviving. Max's father is a rising star in the Nazi party, and his rhetoric of hatred soon begins to take root in Max's mind. **You might also like:**

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, by John Boyne

The Girl in the Blue Coat, by Monica Hesse

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler, by Phillip Hoose

Kim, Graci. **The Last Fallen Star.** Disney Hyperion, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-36805-963-3

Because she is adopted, Riley can't perform magic like the rest of her family. They are part of the Gom clan of healers. She's learned all the healing spells, but she has no magical ability. When her sister, Hattie, tries a spell to share her magical ability with Riley, things go horribly wrong. They have violated the laws of the Godrealm, and now Riley will have to find the last fallen star or lose her sister forever. **You might also like:**

Dragon Pearl, by Yoon Ha Lee

The Dragon Warrior, by Katie Zhao

Paola Santiago and the River of Tears, by Tehlor Kay Mejia

Lucas, Chad. **Thanks a Lot, Universe.** Amulet Books, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-41975-102-8

Brian's anxiety intensifies when his father leaves to avoid being arrested. His mother is hospitalized for depression, and Brian and his younger brother go into foster care. Ezra and Brian aren't best friends, but they play basketball together, and Ezra can tell something is wrong. When Brian and his little brother disappear, Ezra may be the only one who can find them. **You might also like:**

King and the Dragonflies, by Kacen Callender

Fighting Words, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

My Life in the Fish Tank, by Barbara Dee

Makecknie, Amy. **Ten Thousand Tries.** Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-53448-229-6

Golden is convinced he can become perfect at anything if he practices 10,000 times. That's how he's going to become a soccer star like his idol Messi. His father used to be a professional soccer player, too, but now his ALS diagnosis is taking all his skills away. Golden thinks if his dad just keeps trying, he can beat an incurable disease.

You might also like:

Before the Ever After, by Jacqueline Woodson

Crossover, by Kwame Alexander

Final Season, by Tim Green

Marks, Janae. **From the Desk of Zoe Washington.** Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-06-287585-3

When Zoe finds a letter from her father on her birthday, it seems like a sign. She's never met Marcus, and her mother refuses to talk about him because he's in prison. Zoe decides to write back in secret, and Marcus tells her he is innocent. Should she believe him? **You might also like:**

Stand Up, Yumi Chung, by Jessica Kim

Clean Getaway, by Nic Stone

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook, by Leslie Connor

Martin, Laura. **Glitch.** Harper an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-06-289435-9

Regan and Elliot have always been rivals. They both have the time travel gene and are training to become Glitchers. Regan is the daughter of the head of the agency, and Elliot is a prodigy. They are in constant competition until Regan's future self violates a major rule by sending a letter into the past. Now Regan and Elliot will have to team up and break all the rules or the future will be lost.

You might also like:

Invictus, by Ryan Graudin

Throwback, by Peter Lerangis

The Reluctant Assassin, by Eoin Colfer

McAnulty, Stacy. **Millionaires for the Month.** Random House, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-593-17525-5

When Benji and Felix find a wallet belonging to a tech billionaire, they think she won't notice if they "borrow" \$20 before returning it. She does. That's when she makes a deal with them. They have to spend a little over five million dollars in a month, and she will give them each ten million to keep. Of course, there are rules. They

can't buy real estate, invest the money, or give it away. Secrecy is the worst rule. They can't tell anyone, not even their parents! **You might also like:**

Death by Toilet Paper, by Donna Gephart
The Boys in the Back Row, by Mike Jung
Slacker, by Gordon Korman

McBride, Lish. **Curses.** G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-984815-59-0

When Merit refuses to marry the much older man her mother has chosen for her, a fairy curses her into the form of a beast. If she doesn't marry someone her mother approves of by her eighteenth birthday, she will be a beast forever and lose her humanity. Tevin is a con artist who is used to getting out of trouble. When his parents face a harsh punishment, he offers his services in exchange for their freedom. He will investigate all Merit's potential suitors to find the one who can meet her mother's and her own approval. **You might also like:**

Gold Spun, by Brandie June
A Curse So Dark and Lonely, by Brigid Kemmerer
Among the Beasts and Briars, by Ashley Poston

Paulsen, Gary. **Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood.** Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-374-31415-6

The boy knows what it is like to be alone. His father is gone to war, and his mother only uses him to get attention from other men. When he is sent to live with an aunt and uncle in the Canadian wilderness, he finally finds love and acceptance. He also learns to love and appreciate nature, but his time there is brief, and he will face many other trials as he grows up in challenging circumstances. But he will never lose his love of the woods.

You might also like:

Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen
I Am Still Alive, by Kate Alice Marshall
Four-Four-Two, by Dean Hughes

Piñeiro, Victor. **Time Villains.** Sourcebooks Young Readers, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-72823-049-8

Everyone at Javi's school has the same homework assignment at some point: write about the three people you would invite to dinner and prepare a meal for them. It's an interesting assignment that takes a wild turn when Javi's antique dining table actually brings his guests to the present. Now Blackbeard the Pirate is loose in the present, and Javi and his friends don't know how to stop him. **You might also like:**

The Last Last-Day-of-Summer, by Lamar Giles
Abigail Adams Pirate of the Caribbean, by Steve Sheinkin
Saving Fable, by Scott Reintgen

Richmond, Caroline Tung. **The Great Destroyers.** Scholastic Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-33826-674-0

In this alternate history, nuclear bombs were never invented. Instead, nations rely on mechas, giant robotic suits of armor, to fight their wars. The mechas helped to end WWII, but now the Cold War is going strong. Jo loves mecha fighting, and her last-minute substitution in the Pax Games is a dream come true. Fighting in this international competition is not what she thought it would be. Participants have been poisoned, and the evidence points to Jo. Can she stay alive long enough to win the games and prove her innocence? **You might also like:**

Wolf by Wolf, by Ryan Graudin
Live in Infamy, by Caroline Tung Richmond
The Hunger Games, by Suzanne Collins

Rivera, Kaela. **CeCe Rios and the Desert of Souls.** Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-06-294755-0

CeCe's desert village is surrounded by criaturas, dangerous magical creatures. Brujas are the only people who consort with spirits by trapping and controlling them, and bruja is a crime. When her older sister is kidnapped by El Sombrerón, a powerful dark spirit, CeCe must become a bruja herself in order to save her sister from the evil criatura. **You might also like:**

Charlie Hernandez and the League of Shadows, by Ryan Calejo

The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez, by Adrianna Cuevas

Root Magic, by Eden Royce

Salisbury, Melinda. **Hold Back the Tide**. Scholastic Press, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-33868-130-7

Everyone knows Alva's father murdered her mother. Alva saw him fire the gun, but no one can prove it. That's why she's been saving every penny she can to move away and begin a new life. She's tired of living in fear and of the judgmental stares from the people in the village. She is on the verge of leaving when a scream rips through the night and changes everything she thought she knew. **You might also like:**

Small Favors, by Erin A. Craig

The Bone Houses, by Emily Lloyd-Jones

The Forrest of Hands and Teeth, by Carrie Ryan

Wallace, Matt. **Bump**. Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-06-300798-7

MJ has been struggling since her father died. She even quit gymnastics because the other girls bullied her all the time, but her mother doesn't understand why she would give up something she has a talent for. The only thing she is interested in is watching Lucha Dominion videos. Her mom doesn't get why she would be so interested in a "fake" sport. When MJ discovers her new neighbor actually owns a wrestling school, her mission is to join the school and become a luchador. **You might also like:**

Maximilian and the Lucha Libre Club, by Xavier Garza

Life in the Balance, by Jen Petro-Roy

Chirp, by Kate Messner

Warga, Jasmine. **The Shape of Thunder**. Balzar + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-06-295667-5

Cora and Quinn have always been best friends, but everything changes the day Quinn's older brother takes a gun to school. Now both of their siblings are gone, and their friendship is over. Quinn has an idea for how she can fix everything, but she will need Cora's logical mind to make it happen. Can they really go back in time and stop the disaster from happening? **You might also like:**

Other Words for Home, by Jasmine Warga

The Lost Things Club, by J Puller

What Comes Next, by Rob Buyea

Wolkenstein, M. Evan. **Turtle Boy**. Delacorte Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-593-12157-3

Seventh grade is a disaster. Kids at school bully Will because of his facial deformity. They call him turtle boy because his jaw and chin resemble a turtle's. He really is obsessed with turtles and he's "liberated" several from the wooded area behind his school, but when his science teacher finds out, she tells him he has to return them. Plus, he's supposed to visit this kid in the hospital as a service requirement leading up to his bar mitzvah. He hates hospitals ever since his dad died unexpectedly there. But when he meets RJ and begins completing the items on his bucket list, Will's life begins to change. **You might also like:**

Wink, by Rob Harrell

The World Ends in April, by Stacy McAnulty

A Boy Called Bat, by Elana K. Arnold

Yen, Jennifer. **A Taste For Love**. Razorbill, 2021. ISBN: 978-0-593-11752-1

Liza is trying to make peace with the idea she will always be a disappointment to her mother. She'll never be as good as her older sister, and her mother hates anyone Liza wants to date. Every year her parents' Chinese bakery hosts a junior baking competition, and this year Liza decides to help. She's mortified when she learns her mother has turned the whole thing into a dating competition where the prize is a date with Liza. She wants to be mad, but she has to admit, one guy in particular might not be so bad. **You might also like:**

I'll Be the One, by Lyla Lee

There's Something About Sweetie, by Sandhya Menon

A Match Made in Mehendi, by Nandini Bajpai