

LET'S READ

D65 Middle School Summer Reading - 2024



by Pedro Martin

Full of humor, heart, and a decent amount of gross-out moments, Martín's coming-of-age memoir hits all the right notes. Though the family's travels took place decades ago, the struggles with establishing identity, especially as a child of immigrants whose identity straddles two cultures, feel as current as ever. The vibrant, action-packed panels offer plentiful details for readers to pore over, from scenes of crowded family chaos to the sights of Mexico. A retro yet timeless story of family and identity.



by Dan Santat

Dan's always been a good kid. The kind of kid who listens to his teachers, helps his mom with grocery shopping, and stays out of trouble. But being a good kid doesn't stop him from being bullied and feeling like he's invisible, which is why Dan has low expectations when his parents send him on a class trip to Europe. At first, he's right. He's stuck with the same girls from his middle school who love to make fun of him, and he doesn't know why his teacher insisted he come on this trip. But as he travels through France, Germany, Switzerland, and England, a series of first experiences begin to change him--first Fanta, first fondue, first time stealing a bike from German punk rockers... and first love.

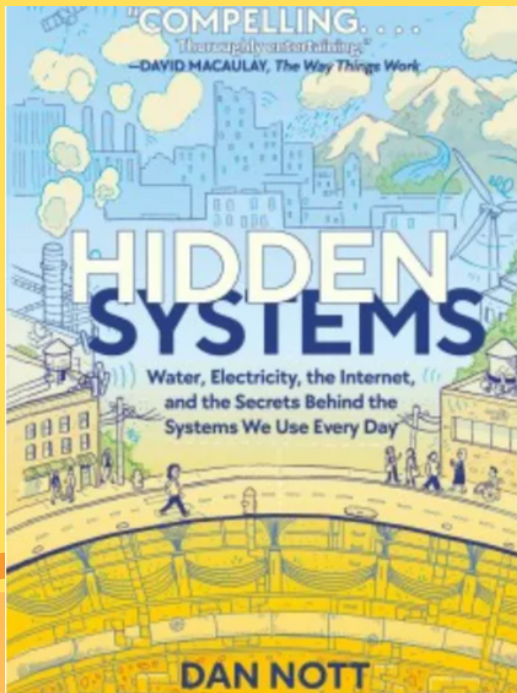
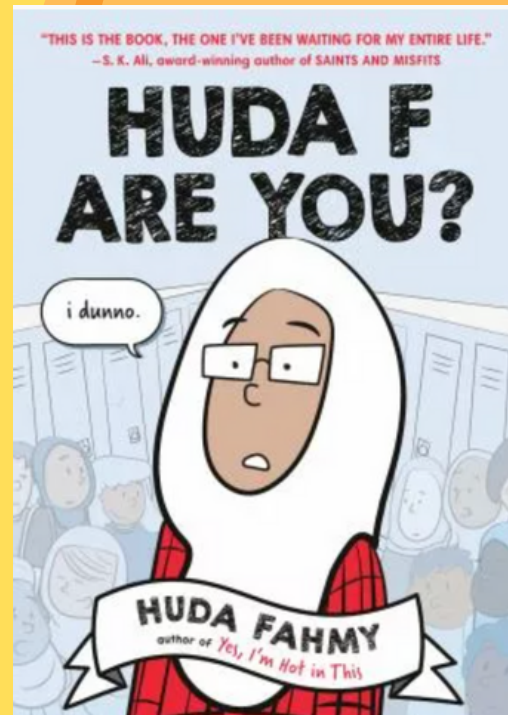


HUDA F ARE YOU?

by Huda Fahmy

Grades 6-8

Huda and her family just moved to Dearborn, Michigan, a small town with a big Muslim population. But Huda doesn't fit in—when everyone is Muslim, there's no Muslim clique like there was in her last town, and Huda's not a sporty hijabi or a fashionista hijabi or a gamer hijabi. She's just Huda, and she's not sure what that means. She tries on all kinds of identities and friends, but nothing fits quite right. Until she realizes she can get back to the basics.



HIDDEN SYSTEMS

by Dan Nott

Grades 6 and up

Separated into sections, broken into chapters, with each focusing on a smaller part that makes up a larger whole, this bold undertaking sets out to explain systems in our daily lives. From internet to electricity to water, our most complex systems and how they affect our environment come under scrutiny.



MILES MORALES SPIDER-MAN

by Jason Reynolds

Grades 6 and up

Miles Morales is an average teenager. Dinner every Sunday with his parents; chilling out, playing old-school video games with his best friend, Ganke; crushing on brainy, beautiful poet Alicia. He's even got a scholarship spot at the prestigious Brooklyn Visions Academy. Oh, yeah, and he's Spider-Man.

But lately, Miles's spidey sense has been on the fritz. When a misunderstanding leads to his suspension from school, Miles begins to question his abilities. After all, his dad and uncle were Brooklyn jack-boys with criminal records. Maybe kids like Miles aren't meant to be superheroes. Maybe Miles should take his dad's advice and focus on saving himself.

As Miles tries to get his school life back on track, he can't shake the vivid nightmares that continue to haunt him. Nor can he avoid the relentless buzz of his spidey sense every day in history class, amidst his teacher's lectures on the historical "benefits" of slavery and the modern-day prison system. But after his scholarship is threatened, Miles uncovers a chilling plot, one that puts his friends, his neighborhood, and himself at risk.

It's time for Miles to turn into a superhero.



THE MARVELLERS

by Dhonielle Clayton

Grades 3-7

Eleven-year-old Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute, a magic school in the clouds where Marvellers from around the world practice their cultural arts, like brewing Indian spice elixirs and bartering with pesky Irish pixies.

Despite her excitement, Ella discovers that being the first isn't easy—some Marvellers mistrust her magic, which they deem "bad and unnatural." But eventually, she finds friends in elixirs teacher, Masterji Thakur, and fellow misfits Brigit, a girl who hates magic, and Jason, a boy with a fondness for magical creatures.

When a dangerous criminal known as the Ace of Anarchy escapes prison, supposedly with a Conjuror's aid, tensions grow in the Marvellian world and Ella becomes the target of suspicion. Worse, Masterji Thakur mysteriously disappears while away on a research trip. With the help of her friends and her own growing powers, Ella must find a way to clear her family's name and track down her mentor before it's too late.



ALEBRIJES

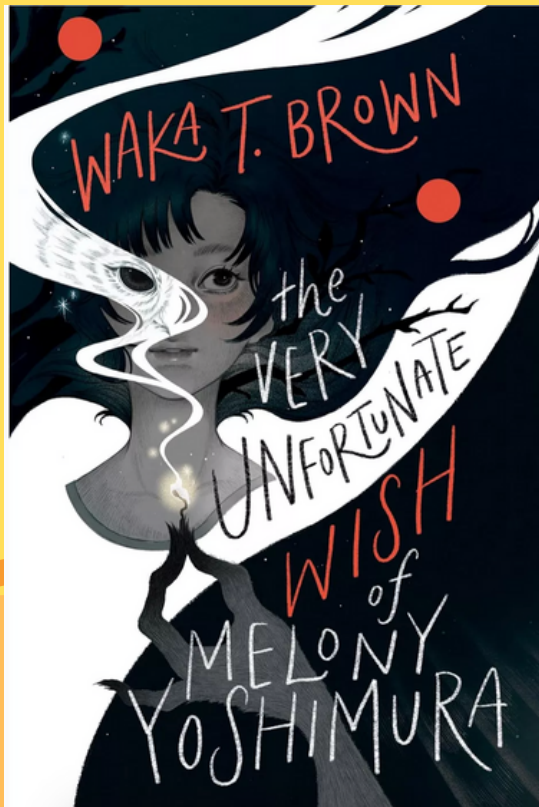
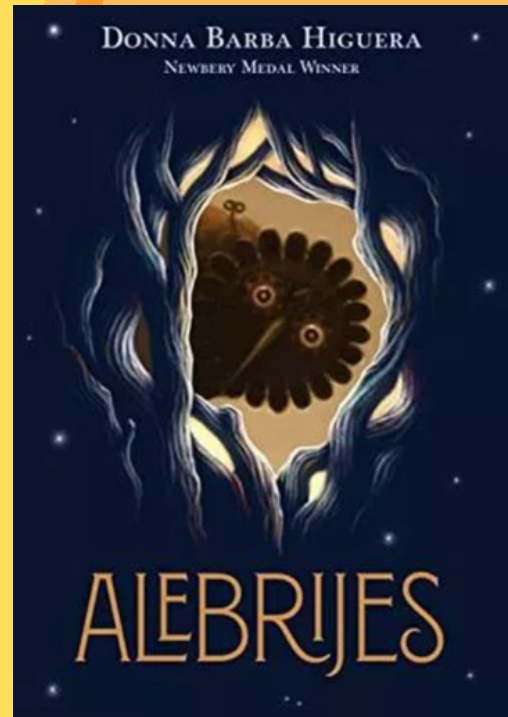
by Donna Barba Higuera

Grades 4-9

For 400 years, Earth has been a barren wasteland. The few humans that survive scrape together an existence in the cruel city of Pocatel - or go it alone in the wilderness beyond, filled with wandering spirits and wyrms. They don't last long.

Thirteen-year-old pickpocket Leandro and his sister Gabi do what they can to forge a life in Pocatel. The city does not take kindly to Cascabel like them - the descendants of those who worked the San Joaquin Valley for generations.

When Gabi is caught stealing precious fruit from the Pocatelan elite, Leandro takes the fall. But his exile proves more than he ever could have imagined -- far from a simple banishment, his consciousness is placed inside an ancient drone and left to fend on its own. But beyond the walls of Pocatel lie other alebrijes like Leandro who seek for a better world -- as well as mutant monsters, wasteland pirates, a hidden oasis, and the truth.



THE VERY UNFORTUNATE WISH OF MELONY YOSHIMURA

by Waka T. Brown

Grades 4 and up

Melony is sure life would be better if her strict, overprotective parents gave her the same freedoms as other kids, not to mention cool clothes and a new phone. So Melony fights back by being the opposite of the “good girl” she’s supposed to be. Unknowingly, this opens the door for an Amanjaku, a spirit who feeds on a person’s most base desires. At first, Melony is drawn in by its playful nature. But as time goes on, its horrifying true nature begins to sour everything good, including Melony herself. Can she realize the error of her ways and save her family and friends before it’s too late? Based on the Japanese folktale..



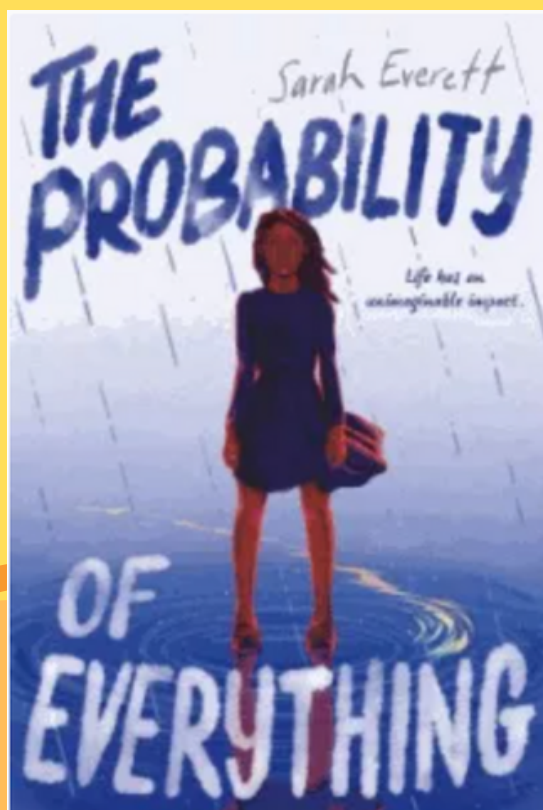
THE ONE AND ONLY RUBY

by Katherine Applegate

Grades 5 and up

Ruby's story begins a few months after the events of The One and Only Bob. She now lives in a wildlife sanctuary; her caretaker from the elephant orphanage in Africa where she grew up is visiting her at her new home. Seeing him again brings back a flood of memories both happy and sad of her life before the circus. Ruby recounts the time she spent in the African savannah to Ivan and Bob.

Read Katherine Applegate's The One and Only Ivan and The One and Only Bob to discover the beginnings of the friendship among this amazing trio!



THE PROBABILITY OF EVERYTHING

by Sarah Everett

Grades 4-7

When an asteroid has an 84.7% chance of colliding with the Earth in four days, eleven-year-old Kemi, who loves scientific facts and probability, assembles a time capsule to capture her family's truth as she tries to come to terms with saying goodbye.



RELIT: 16 LATINX REMIXES OF CLASSIC STORIES

Edited by Sandra Proudman

Grades 7-9

These sixteen stories by award-winning and bestselling YA authors center a Latinx point of view in an empowering anthology that reimagines classics through fantasy, science fiction, and with a dash of magic.

In classic stories remixed, Latinx characters take center stage: *Pride and Prejudice* is launched into outer space, *Frankenstein* is plunged into the depths of the ocean and *The Great Gatsby* floats to an island off the coast of Costa Rica.

A shape-shifter gives up her life to save the boy she loves from an evil bruja. La Ciguapa covets a little mermaid's heart of gold. Two star-crossed teens fall in love while the planet burns around them. Whether characters fall in love, battle foes, or grow through grief, each story will empower readers to see themselves as the heroes of the stories that make our world.



DEATH SET SAILS

by Robin Stevens

Grades 6 and up

Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are in Egypt taking a cruise along the Nile. They are hoping to see some ancient temples and a mummy or two...What they get instead is murder.

Also travelling on the SS Hatshepsut is a mysterious society called the Breath of Life: a group of genteel English ladies and gentlemen who believe themselves to be reincarnations of the ancient pharaohs. Three days into the cruise their leader, Theodora Miller, is found dead in her cabin, stabbed during the night. It soon becomes clear to Daisy and Hazel that Theodora's timid daughter, Hephzibah, who is prone to sleepwalking, is being framed. After all, within the society, everyone has a reason to want Theodora dead. Daisy and Hazel leap into action to investigate, but this will prove to be their most difficult case yet. And with more danger than ever all around, this time only one of the Detective Society will make it home alive...

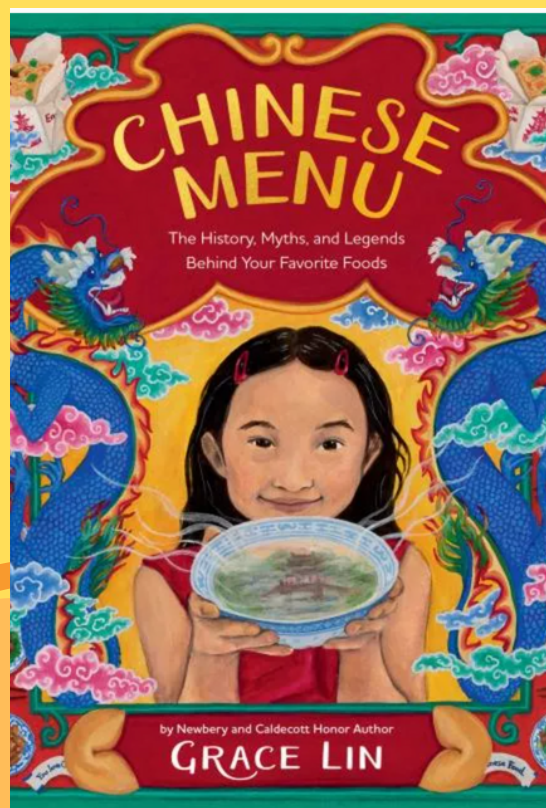
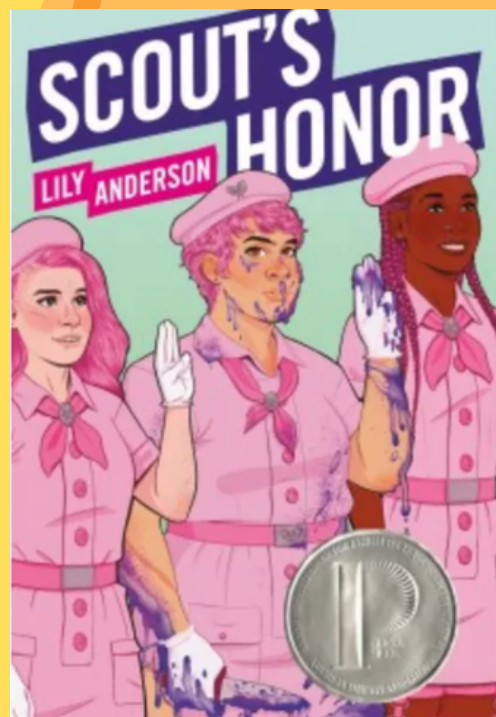


SCOUT'S HONOR

by Lily Anderson

Grades 8 and up

Prudence Perry is a legacy Ladybird Scout, born to a family of hunters sworn to protect humans from mulligrubs. Masquerading as a prim and proper ladies' social organization, the Ladybirds brew poisons masked as teas and use knitting needles as daggers. Three years ago, Prue's best friend was killed during a hunt, so she kissed the Scouts goodbye. But old monster-slaying habits die hard and Prue finds herself falling back into the fold. When her town is hit with a mysterious wave of demons, Prue knows it's time to confront the most powerful monster of all: her past.



CHINESE MENU

by Grace Lin

Grades 3-7

From fried dumplings to fortune cookies, here are the tales behind your favorite foods.

Do you know the stories behind delectable dishes like the fun connection between scallion pancakes and pizza? Or, how dumplings cured a village's frostbitten ears? Or, how wonton soup tells about the creation of the world?

Separated into courses like a Chinese menu, these tales-based in real history and folklore—are filled with squabbling dragons, magical fruits, and hungry monks. This book will bring you to far-off times and marvelous places, all while making your mouth water. And, along the way, you might just discover a deeper understanding of the resilience and triumph behind this food, and what makes it undeniably American.

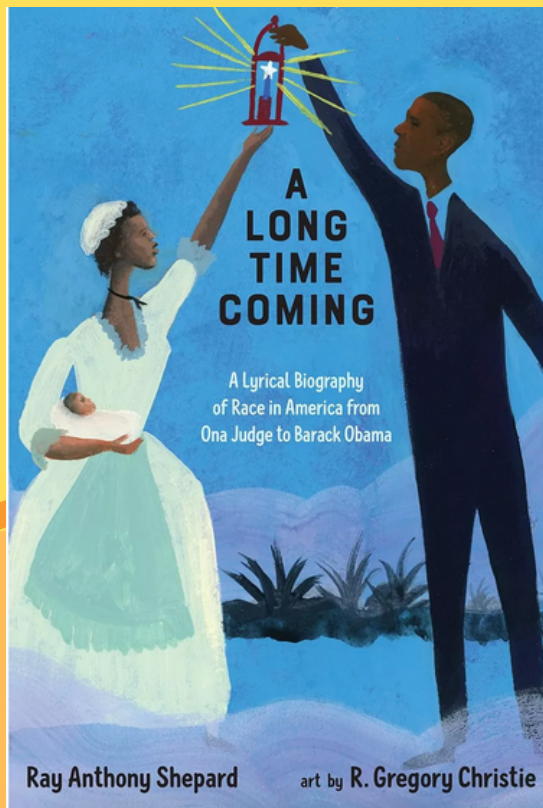
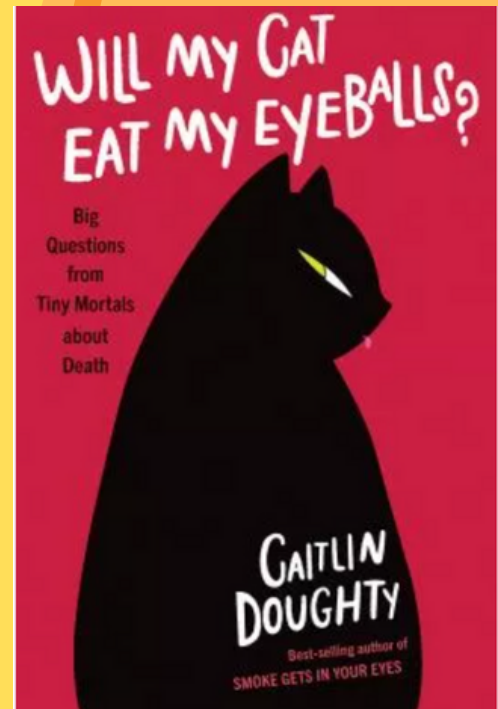


WILL MY CAT EAT MY EYEBALLS?

by Caitlin Doughty

Grades 6-8

Everyone has questions about death. In *Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?*, best-selling author and mortician Caitlin Doughty answers the most intriguing questions she's ever received about what happens to our bodies when we die. In a brisk, informative, and morbidly funny style, Doughty explores everything from ancient Egyptian death rituals and the science of skeletons to flesh-eating insects and the proper depth at which to bury your pet if you want Fluffy to become a mummy. Now featuring an interview with a clinical expert on discussing these issues with young people—the source of some of our most revealing questions about death—*Will My Cat Eat My Eyeballs?* confronts our common fear of dying with candid, honest, and hilarious facts about what awaits the body we leave behind.



A LONG TIME COMING

by Ray Anthony Shepard

Grades 7 and up

This collective biography told through the "story poems" explores the lives of six important Black Americans and their work fighting for racial justice. With illustration that bring to life the figures and the times they lived in, it's a compelling work that includes extensive back matter.



REFUGEE

by Alan Gratz

Grades 5-7

Three different kids.

One mission in common: ESCAPE.

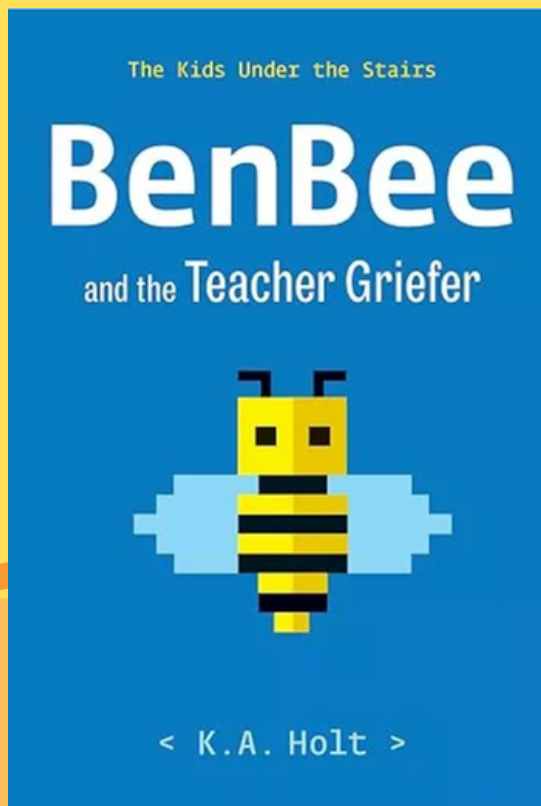
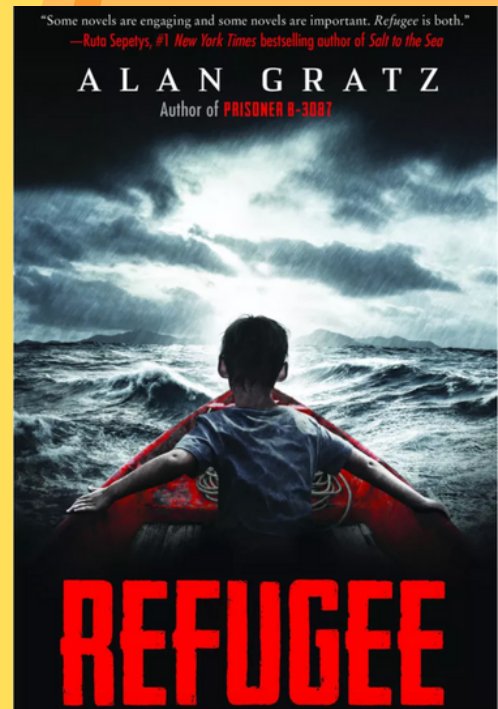
Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America...

Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge.

All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.



BENBEE AND THE TEACHER GRIEFER

by K.A. Holt

Grades 3-7

In this heartfelt, laugh-out-loud funny middle grade novel, Ben Bellows and his classmates learn they aren't dumb, they're divergent thinkers. Each chapter is told through the perspective of one of the four students, who each write in a different style (art, verse, stream of consciousness). The first in a series of complementary storylines, this is an honest, heartfelt book about friendship, video games, and learning to love yourself

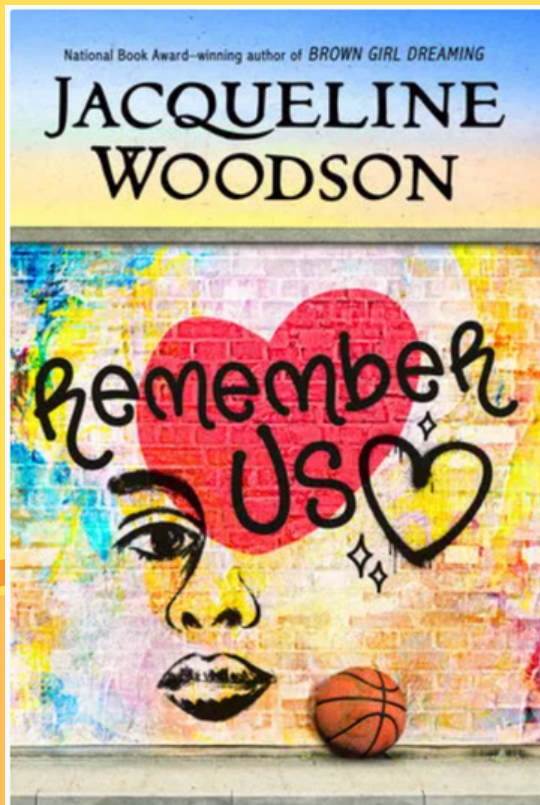
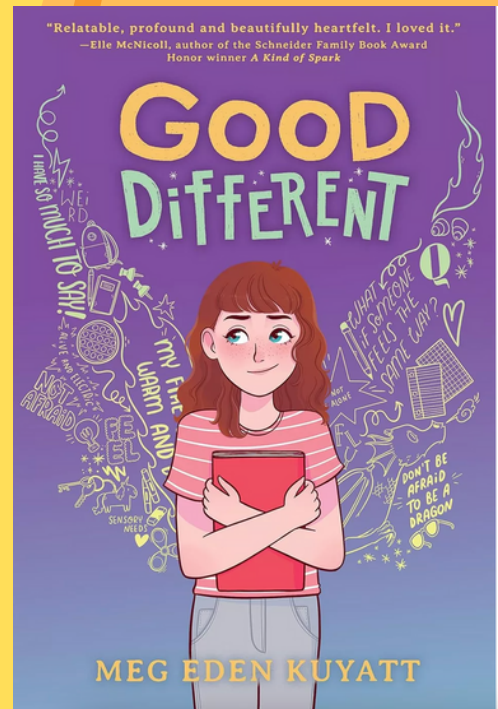


GOOD DIFFERENT

by Meg Eden Kuyatt

Grades 5 and up

Selah's rules for being normal have always protected her, but when things become too much and she lashes out, she has to confront her differences. This novel in verse opens a door into the experience of living with autism, both the challenges and the joys.



REMEMBER US

by Jacqueline Woodson

Grades 5 and up

It seems like Sage's whole world is on fire the summer before she starts seventh grade. As house after house burns down, her Bushwick neighborhood gets referred to as "The Matchbox" in the local newspaper. And while Sage prefers to spend her time shooting hoops with the guys, she's also still trying to figure out her place inside the circle of girls she's known since childhood. A group that each day, feels further and further away from her. But it's also the summer of Freddy, a new kid who truly gets Sage. Together, they reckon with the pain of missing the things that get left behind as time moves on, savor what's good in the present, and buoy each other up in the face of destruction. And when the future comes, it is Sage's memories of the past that show her the way forward. *Remember Us* speaks to the power of both letting go . . . and holding on.



THIS GOLDEN STATE

by Marit Weisenberg

Grades 8 and up

Seventeen-year-old Poppy doesn't know why she and her family have been living on the run her whole life. All she knows is not to use real names, her family means everything, and not to ask her parents any questions, since not knowing the truth protects the family. As Poppy approaches her 18th birthday, she becomes increasingly curious about her parents' past as well as what her future holds beyond her secretive life. Her quiet world quickly spirals out of control as she unravels the truth and breaks her rule of getting too close to someone outside of family.

