
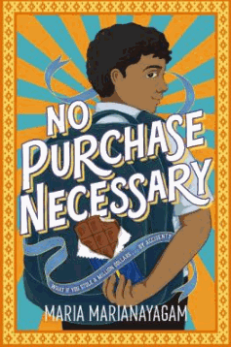
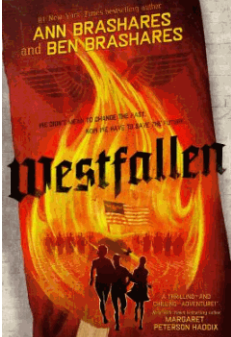


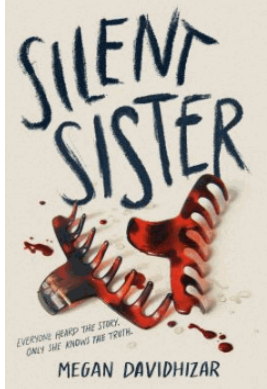
Battle of the Books 2025-2026

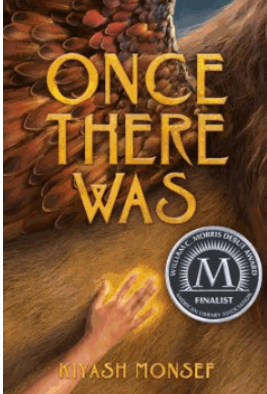
All descriptions from Destiny Discover.

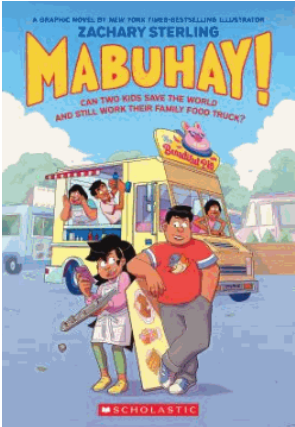
The Last Dragon on Mars	Scott Reintgen	Fantasy/Sci-Fi
	<p>Thirteen-year-old Lunar Jones was born on Mars, with every day a struggle, until he stumbles into a restricted military zone where he learns dragons are real and a new dragon has chosen him as a rider--a role he needs to embrace quickly because this dragon could save the Martian colony.</p>	

No Purchase Necessary	Maria Marianayagam	Realistic Fiction
	<p>Ajay Anthonipillai has a million-dollar problem. Ajay has lived his life dutifully following the rules set by his Tamil parents. Rules like, 'straight A's only' (rule #3), 'no such thing as a no-homework day' (rule #5), and 'never watch scary movies' (rule #10). But moving to a new school gives Ajay a new rule to follow: get on seventh grade all-star Jacob Underson's good side. When Jacob asks him to steal a Mercury bar from Scary Al's convenience store, Ajay feels this is his chance to finally 'get cool' and gain real friends. Maybe even stop eating lunch alone. But Jacob rejects the stolen chocolate bar, leaving Ajay to unwrap it and discover that it contains Mercury's 25th Anniversary Grand Prize: one million dollars! Faced with an extreme dilemma, Ajay will have to bear the weight of his actions and battle his conscience in deciding whether or not to claim the prize that may change the life of his family forever.</p>	

Westfallen	Ann Brashares & Ben Brashares	Sci-Fi
	<p>Told in alternating voices and timelines, twelve-year-old Henry and his two friends unknowingly alter the outcome of World War II when they communicate over radio with three kids from 1944 and must now work together to change it back.</p>	

Silent Sister	Megan Davidhizar	Mystery
	<p>Found injured after a school trip, with her sister Maddy's blood on her clothes, Grace must piece together what happened with the help of her sister's notebook and the classmates who know more than they're telling the police about that tragic night.</p>	

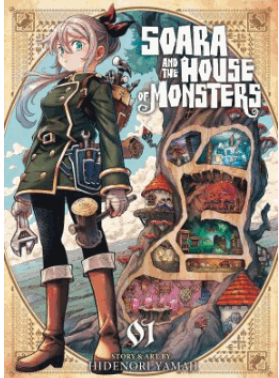
Once There Was	Kiyash Monsef	Fantasy
	<p>When fifteen-year-old Iranian American Marjan discovers her murdered father was secretly a veterinarian to magical creatures, she realizes she must take up his mantle, despite the many dangers.</p>	

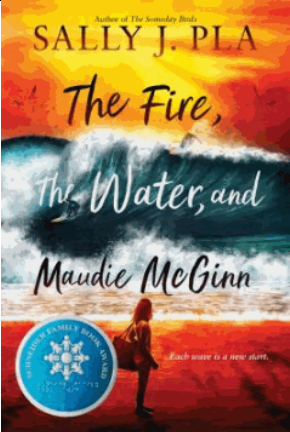
Mabuhay!	Zachary Sterling	Graphic novel
	<p>First-generation Filipino siblings, JJ and Althea, struggle to belong at school. JJ wants to fit in with the crowd, while Althea wants to be accepted as she is. But between the leftover Filipino food their mom packs for their lunches to having a last name that nobody can pronounce, any sense of belonging seems like a long shot. To make matters worse, they have to help their parents run the family food truck, dressing up as a dancing pig and passing out samples. Ugh! And their parents are always drawing parallels between their poor work ethic and lazy characters from Filipino folklore -- stories they've heard again and again. But when witches, ogres, and other creatures from those same stories appear in their town and threaten their family, JJ and Althea realize that the myths their parents have always told them may be more real than they'd suspected. Can JJ and Althea embrace who they really are and save their family?</p>	

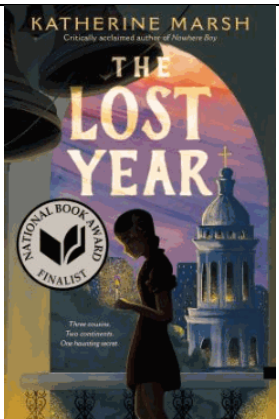
Bye Forever, I Guess	Jodi Meadows	Realistic/Romance
<p data-bbox="711 331 1414 506">Eighth-grader Ingrid runs a popular blog anonymously and has online personal more popular than she is, but when a wrong-number text message offers her a chance at connection, Ingrid opens herself to the opportunity to make a real live friend.</p>		

Ghostlight	Kenneth Oppel	Horror
<p data-bbox="711 787 1414 1262">Rebecca Strand and her father fell to their deaths from the top of the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse in 1839. Just how they fell--or were they pushed?--remains a mystery. And their ghosts haunt the lighthouse to this day. . . Gabe tells this story every day when he gives the ghost tour on Toronto Island. He tries to make it scary enough to satisfy the tourists, but he doesn't actually believe in ghosts until he finds himself face to face with Rebecca Strand. The true story of her death is far more terrifying than any ghost tale Gabe has told. Rebecca reveals that her father was a member of the Order, a secret society devoted to protecting the world from "the wakeful and wicked dead", malevolent spirits like Viker, the ghost responsible for their deaths. But the Order has disappeared, and Viker's ghost is growing ever stronger. Now Gabe and his friends must find a way to stop Viker before they all become lost souls.</p>		

The Enigma Girls	Candace Fleming	Nonfiction
<p data-bbox="711 1444 1414 1829">Bletchley Park was a well-kept secret during World War II, operating under the code name Station X. The critical work of code-cracking Nazi missives that went on behind its closed doors could determine a victory or loss against Hitler's army. Amidst the brilliant cryptographers, flamboyant debutantes, and absent-minded professors working there, it was teenaged girls who kept Station X running. Some could do advanced math, while others spoke a second language. They ran the unwieldy bombe machines, made sense of wireless sound waves, and sorted the decoded messages. They were expected to excel in their fields and most importantly: know how to keep a secret.</p>		

Soara and the House of Monsters	Hidenori Yamaji	Manga
	<p>Soara is a young orphan girl who was raised by knights and trained to fight against marauding monsters. By the time Soara is old enough to join the fray, her blade is no longer needed, as peace has been declared with monsters. Searching for a new calling, Soara stumbles upon Kirik the dwarf, Architect of the Monster World. Suddenly, instead of fighting monsters, Soara finds herself working alongside Kirik to build comfortable homes for monsterkind! In the course of her new career, will Soara find a home for herself?</p>	

The Fire, The Water, and Maudie McGinn	Sally J. Pla	Realistic Fiction
	<p>Follows thirteen-year-old neurodivergent Maudie during an eventful summer in California with her father, where she struggles with whether to share a terrible secret about life with her mom and stepdad.</p>	

The Lost Year	Katherine Marsh	Historical Fiction
	<p>In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, thirteen-year-old Matthew discovers a shocking secret about his great-grandmother's past as he learns about her life during the Holodomor famine in Soviet Ukraine.</p>	