GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS presents

Ten books.
One champion team.
Are you ready, fifth grade?



How It Works

01

Read.

Read as many of the 10 books as you can between now and November. Read for fun — but read with a detective's eye.

02

Read closely.

Watch for unforgettable lines, repeated phrases, surprising twists, key characters, and big moments. These are the clues.

03

Remember.

Memorize every book's title and author. When a question is read, you'll need to name the book the line came from.

What Does a Question Look Like?

Each question is a line — or two, or three — of text from one of the ten books. Your job: name the book it came from.

> *"Ah, there you are," the man said. "I can see that you are listening now. Your head was broken. I fixed it. I brought you back from the world of the dead."*

from THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE by Kate DiCamillo

Pro tip: titles and authors count. Memorize both!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Timeline for the Competition

NOVEMBER

3rd Week

The Qualifying Quiz

Every fifth grader takes a qualifying quiz. The top five scorers in each homeroom become the team that represents your homeroom in the semifinals.

DECEMBER

3rd Week

School Champions

Homeroom teams compete in a live school-level competition. The winning team is crowned the 2026–2027 School Champion and advances to the District Finals.

JANUARY

3rd Week

District Finals

Each school sends its winning team to the District Competition — and one team is crowned the 2026–2027 District Battle of the Books Champion!

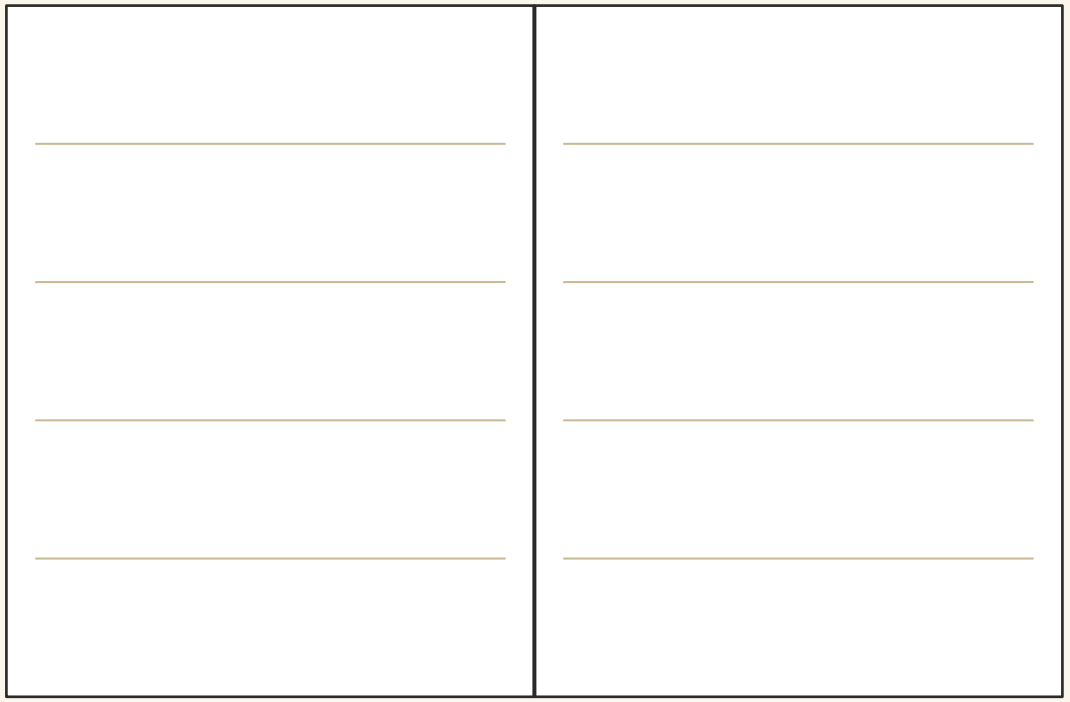
MEET THIS YEAR'S LINEUP

Your Ten Books

These are your 2026–2027 Battle of the Books selections. Mysteries, magic, friendship, robots, and witches with chicken-legged houses — there's something for every reader.

1. **Impossible Creatures**
   by Katherine Rundell
2. **Looking Up**
   by Stephan Pastis
3. **Ms. Bixby's Last Day**
   by John David Anderson
4. **The Beast and the Bethany**
   by Jack Meggitt-Phillips
5. **The House with Chicken Legs**
   by Sophie Anderson
6. **The Labors of Hercules Beal**
   by Gary D. Schmidt
7. **The Last Human**
   by Lee Bacon
8. **The Night Librarian**
   by Christopher Lincoln
9. **The Queen of Ocean Parkway**
   by Sarvenaz Tash
10. **The Umbrella House**
    by Colleen Nelson

Keep a Reading Journal



Champion readers take notes.

A journal is your secret weapon. Jot down each book's title and author, characters you don't want to forget, lines that surprised you, and the moments that made you gasp, laugh, or cry.

- ✓ Title & author (always!)
- ✓ Main characters and how to tell them apart
- ✓ Memorable lines or repeated phrases
- ✓ The big problem and how it gets solved

WATCH: How to keep a Battle of the Books journal

Now meet the books.

Ten books. Ten worlds. Pick the one that grabs you first — then read them all.

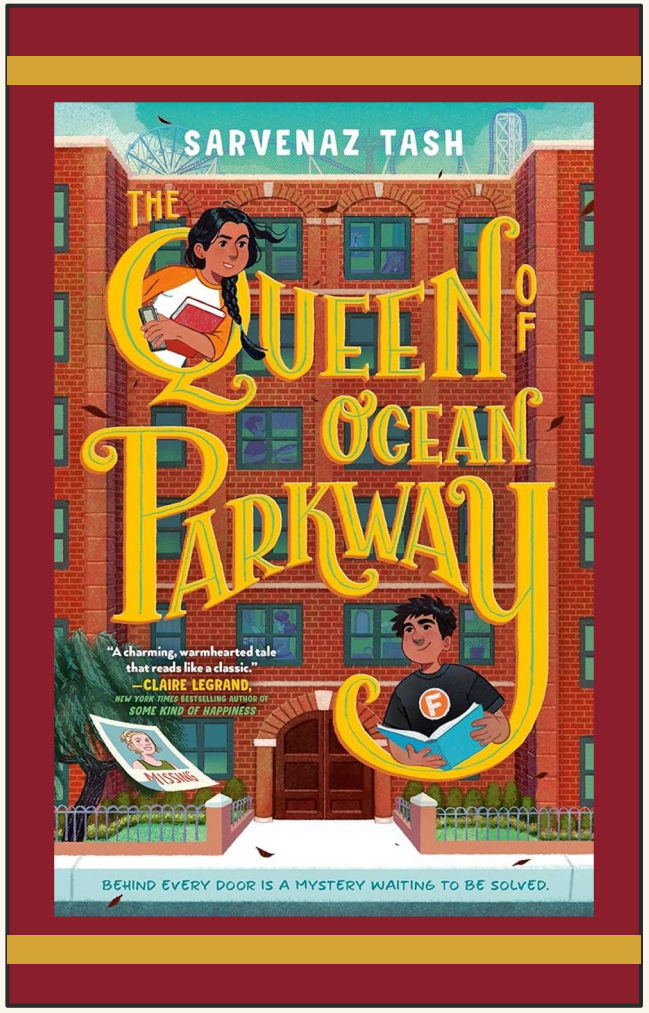
✦ ✦ ✦

BOOK 1 OF 10

MYSTERY

The Queen of Ocean Parkway

by Sarvenaz Tash



THE STORY

Eleven-year-old podcaster-turned-sleuth Roya teams up with the new kid in her building, Amin, when their neighbor goes missing. The clues lead somewhere bigger than either of them imagined.

READ THIS IF...

If you love mysteries, podcasts, or detective stories you can't put down.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Booklist • *Kirkus* • *Publishers Weekly* • *School Library Journal*

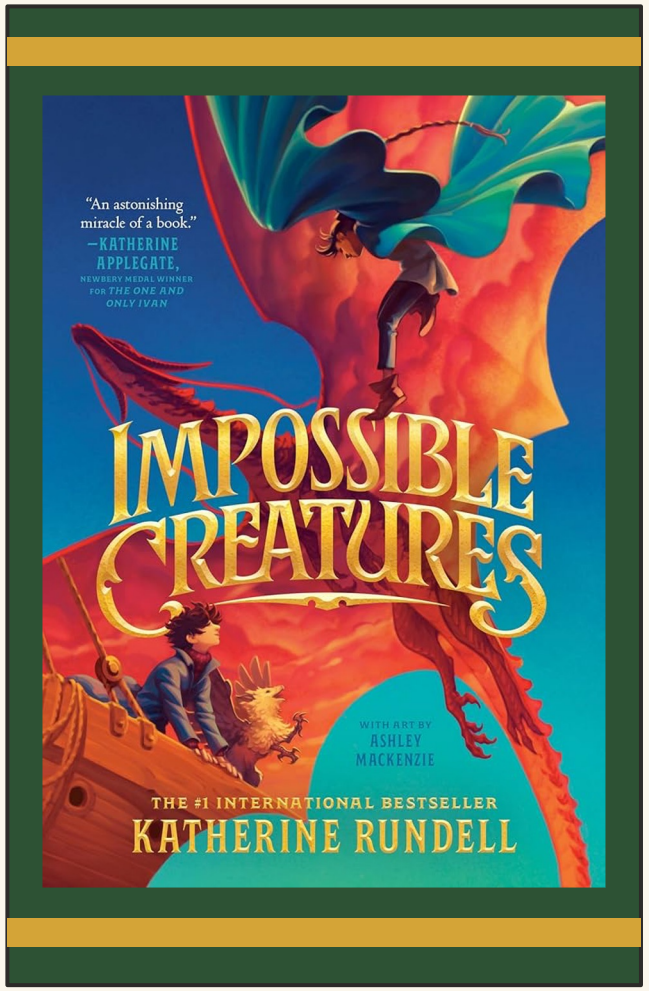
BOOK TRAILER

BOOK 2 OF 10

FANTASY

Impossible Creatures

by Katherine Rundell



THE STORY

Christopher discovers the Archipelago — a hidden world where mythological creatures have lived for centuries. But the creatures are dying, and only Christopher and a girl named Mal can save both their worlds.

READ THIS IF...
If Narnia, Percy Jackson, or His Dark Materials live on your bookshelf.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Kirkus ★ • *Publishers Weekly* ★ • *School Library Journal* ★ • *Horn Book*

BOOK TRAILER

BOOK 3 OF 10

DARK COMEDY

The Beast and the Bethany

by Jack Meggitt-Phillips



THE STORY

Handsome Ebenezer Tweezer has lived comfortably for nearly 512 years by feeding the magical beast in his attic whatever it wants. But when the beast demands a child... they're not prepared for Bethany.

READ THIS IF...

If you love Roald Dahl, Lemony Snicket, and stories that are funny AND a little bit creepy.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Booklist • Kirkus • Publishers Weekly • School Library Journal

BOOK TRAILER

BOOK 4 OF 10

SCI-FI

The Last Human

by Lee Bacon



THE STORY

Long after machines took over Earth, a twelve-year-old robot named XR_935 discovers something that's not supposed to exist anymore: a human girl. Together they confront everything XR_935 was taught to believe.

READ THIS IF...

If you devoured The Wild Robot or love stories about robots with feelings.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Booklist • *Kirkus* • *Publishers Weekly* • *School Library Journal*

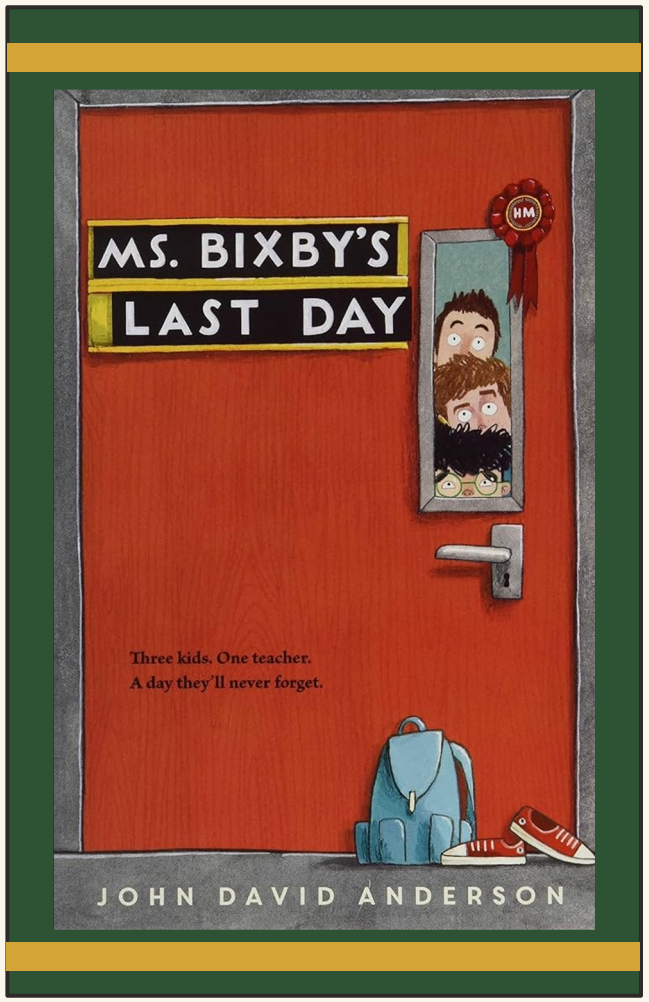
BOOK TRAILER

BOOK 5 OF 10

REALISTIC FICTION

Ms. Bixby's Last Day

by John David Anderson



THE STORY

When Ms. Bixby announces she's very sick and won't finish the school year, three of her students — Topher, Brand, and Steve — hatch a daring plan to give her the perfect last day, and to tell her what she means to them.

READ THIS IF...

If you want a book that makes you laugh out loud and tear up on the same page.

CRITICS' CHOICE

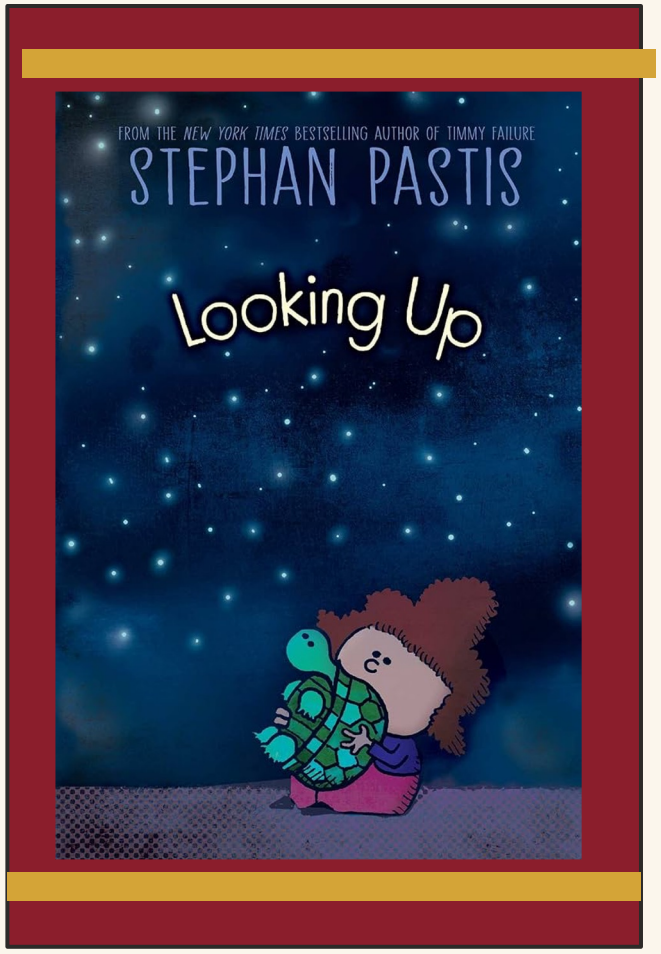
ALA Notable • Booklist ★ • Kirkus ★ • Publishers Weekly ★ • SLJ ★

BOOK TRAILER

HUMOR

Looking Up

by Stephan Pastis



THE STORY

Saint is upset that her neighborhood is being torn down and replaced by fancy condos and coffee shops. With a new friend named Daniel, she hatches a plan to save what's left of her beloved hometown.

READ THIS IF...

If you can't stop reading Timmy Failure or anything that makes you snort-laugh.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Booklist • *Kirkus* • *Publishers Weekly* • *School Library Journal*

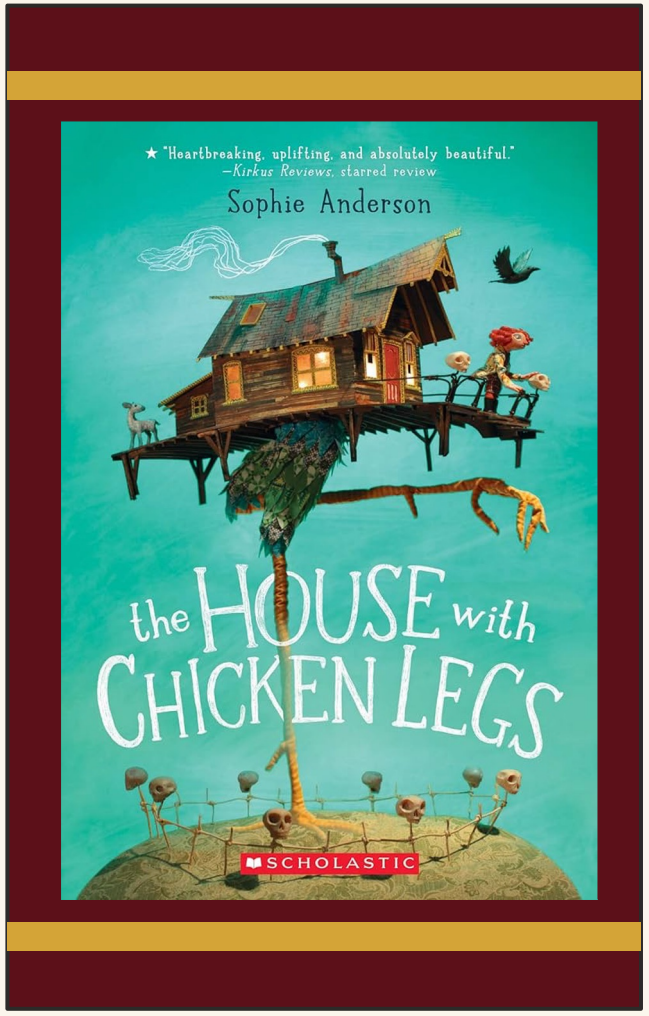
LOOKING UP

BOOK 7 OF 10

FOLKLORE FANTASY

The House with Chicken Legs

by Sophie Anderson



THE STORY

Marinka's grandmother is a Yaga — a guardian who guides the dead into the afterlife — and their house has actual chicken legs that walk wherever they please. All Marinka wants is a normal friend. But fate has other plans.

READ THIS IF...

If you loved Coraline or anything with a little magic and a lot of heart.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Kirkus ★ • *School Library Journal* ★ • *School Library Connection* ★

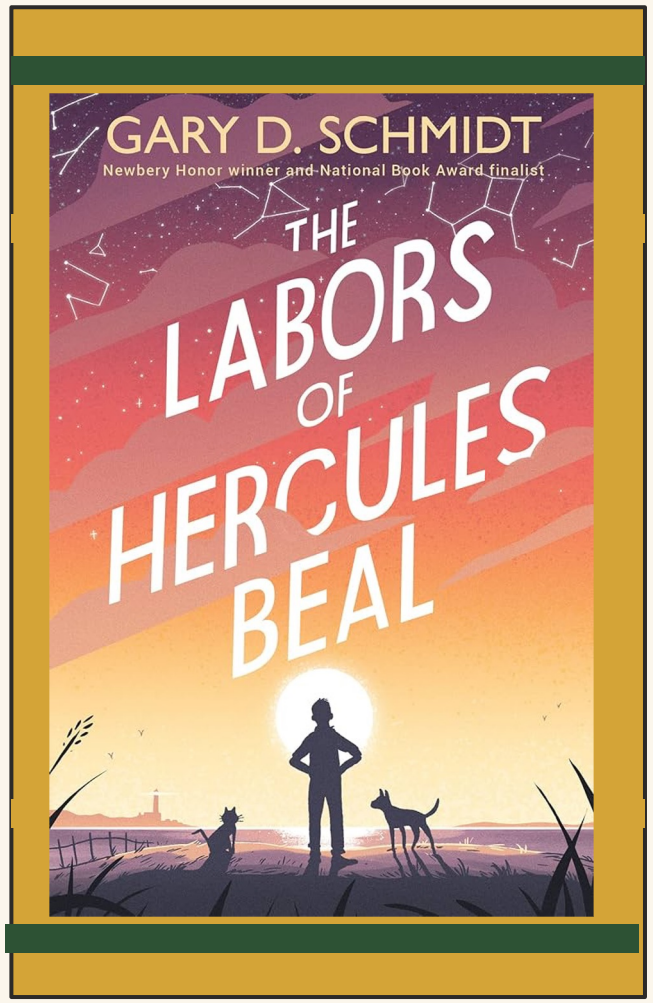
BOOK TRAILER

BOOK 8 OF 10

REALISTIC FICTION

The Labors of Hercules Beal

by Gary D. Schmidt



THE STORY

Recently orphaned Hercules Beal is the shortest kid in his class — and his eccentric teacher just assigned him to recreate the twelve labors of his mythological namesake. The results are funny, surprising, and deeply moving.

READ THIS IF...

If you love Greek mythology, Wednesday Wars, or stories about real kids being heroes.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Booklist ★ • *Kirkus* ★ • *Publishers Weekly* ★ • *SLJ* ★ • *NYT*

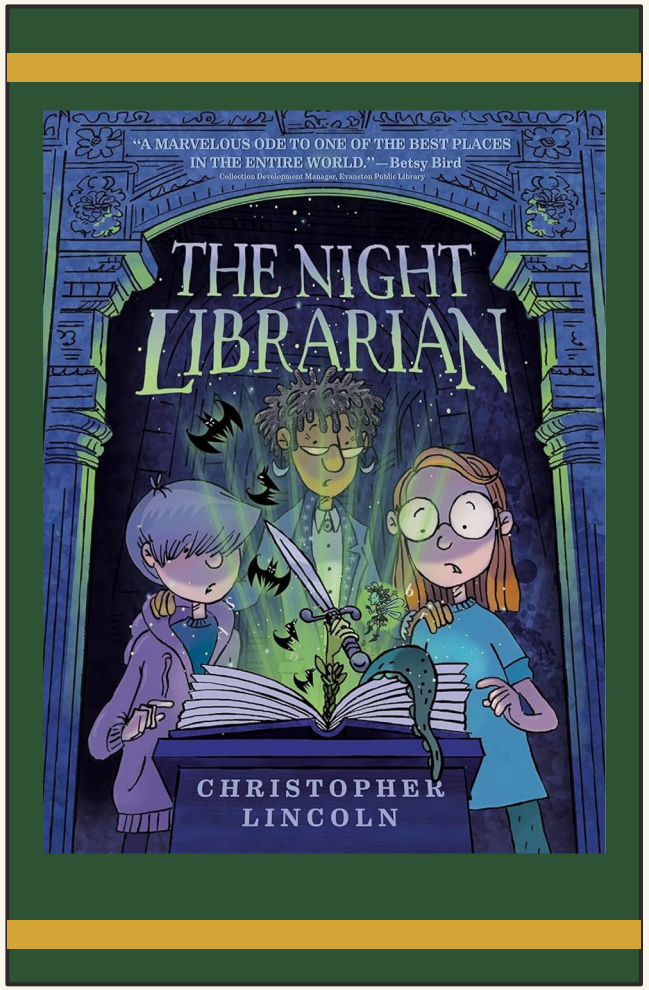
BOOK TRAILER

BOOK 9 OF 10

MAGICAL ADVENTURE

The Night Librarian

by Christopher Lincoln



THE STORY

Twins Page and Turner discover their beloved NYC library has a Night Librarian — and that famous heroes (and villains!) can break free from classic books. Now they have to save the library from total destruction.

READ THIS IF...

If you live for libraries, graphic novels, or any book with a secret world inside it.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Kirkus ★ • *Publishers Weekly* ★ • *Booklist* • *SLJ*

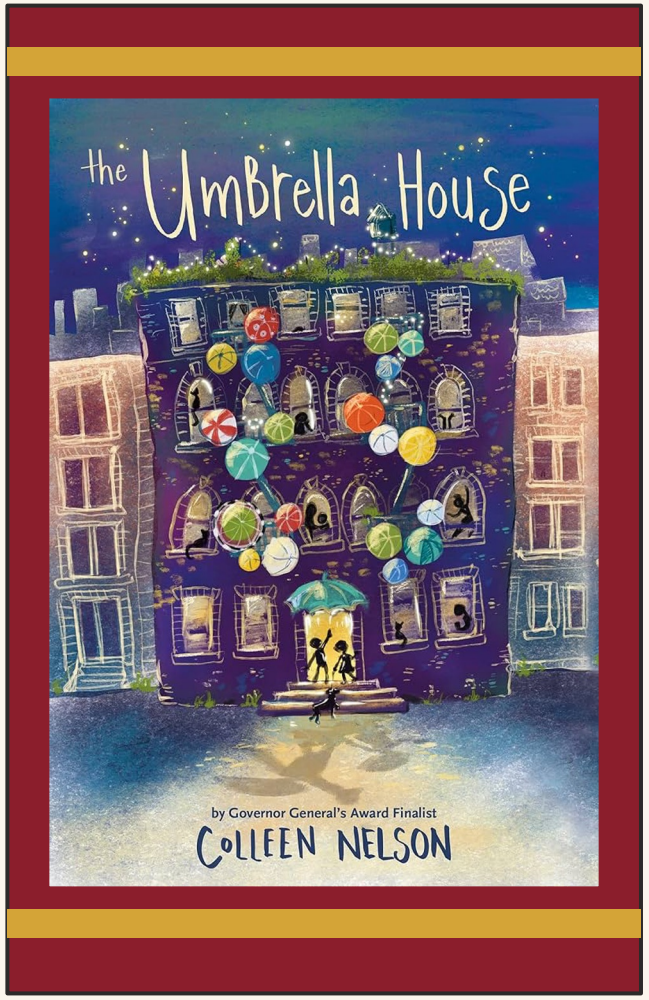
BOOK TRAILER

BOOK 10 OF 10

REALISTIC FICTION

The Umbrella House

by Colleen Nelson



THE STORY

Ruby and her friend Scout team up to stop a real-estate mogul from tearing down their NYC apartment building. Armed with cameras, video skills, and a mystery muralist, they fight to save their neighborhood.

READ THIS IF...

If you love stories about real kids changing the world around them.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Booklist • *Kirkus* • *Publishers Weekly*

BOOK TRAILER

Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world.

— Jeanette Winterson

✦ ✦ ✦

Now go open some doors.

HAPPY READING, FIFTH GRADE!