

The CHOOSE KIND TOP 100 READING LIST



Dear Rising Classes 5-7:

Your teachers and librarians have been busy working on exciting back-to-school activities related to our summer reading program.

To make these activities work, we're asking you to read one of the books on this list as part of Chapin's three book minimum summer reading commitment. (There is no maximum, by the way - and the other two books are completely up to you. They don't even have to be on this list, though we do think this list is pretty great.)

As you read the book from this list, stop and jot a passage or a bit of dialogue that captures the spirit of our school's "Choose Kind" motto. Don't forget to include the book, page #, and your name. Then, bring it in the first day of school, neatly printed or typed.

Happy trails, and have a beautiful summer!

Ms. Natasha Goldberg,
Middle School Librarian

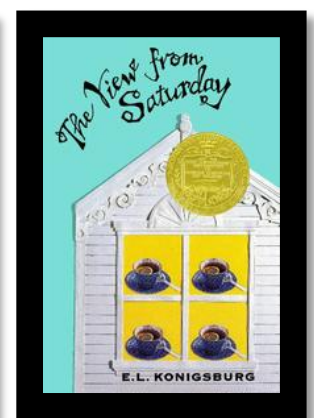
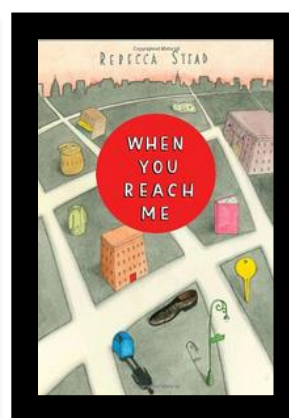
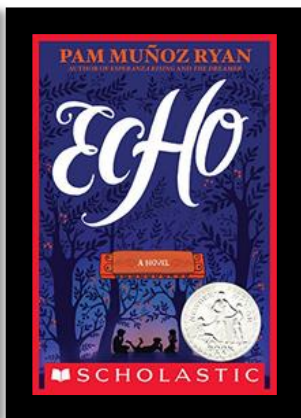
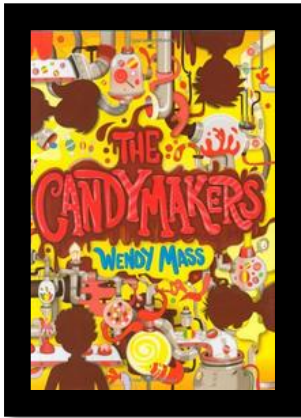
Still from the documentary, *The Island of All Together*, that Ms. Dibble discovered, and that Ms. Rafferty kindly introduced us to during Middle School News.

The Kindness of Intersections

Stories of
FATEFUL
meetings,
COINCIDENCES,
& connections.



A 'zebra' helps a young girl cross the road [in Bolivia]. The program has expanded to cover recycling, water conservation and bullying. Photograph from theguardian.com. For more, search for "Bolivian zebras"



The Candymakers by Wendy Mass. Set in a candy factory as tantalizingly fragrant as Willy Wonka's, this half-mystery, half-jigsaw-puzzle novel is a mild-mannered cousin to *The Westing Game* and *When You Reach Me*. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan. A grand narrative that examines the power of music to inspire beauty in a world overrun with fear and intolerance, it's worth every moment of readers' time. (*Historical fiction. 9-14*)

Nine, ten by Nora Raleigh Baskin. Four children of diverse ethnicities, unknown to one another, are at Chicago's O'Hare airport on Sept. 9, 2001. (*Historical fiction. 10-14*)

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead. Some might guess at the baffling, heart-pounding conclusion, but when all the sidewalk characters from Miranda's Manhattan world converge amid mind-blowing revelations and cunning details, teen readers will circle back to the beginning and say, "Wow...cool." (*Fiction 12 & up*)

The View from Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg. The large cast, looping plot line, and embedded stories with different narrators require careful sorting, but the effort is eminently worthwhile, and Konigsburg kindly provides answers at the end. (*Fiction. 11-13*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews.



KINDNESS TO
NEWCOMERS and
THOSE REJECTED
BY THEIR
COMMUNITY

The Unforgotten Coat by Frank Cottrell Boyce. Treading water in her last term of elementary school, Julie figures she's learned all there is to learn, when two Mongolian brothers in fur-lined coats (it's summer) arrive. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

Flying the Dragon by Natalie Dias Lorenzi. When her cousin unexpectedly moves from Japan to Virginia, a Japanese-American girl finds their cultural differences embarrassing until kite fighting unites them. (*Fiction. 9-12*)

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep. In the beginning, all is strangeness to Moon Shadow as he leaves the Middle Kingdom to join his father in the Tang people's quarter of San Francisco where the drunken "demons" often beat up Tang men... (*Fiction. No age range specified.*)

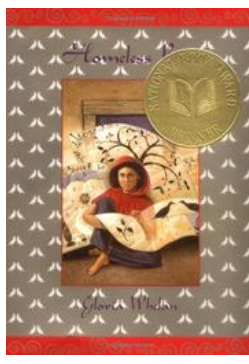
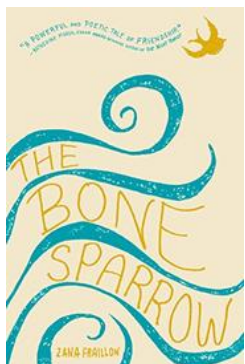
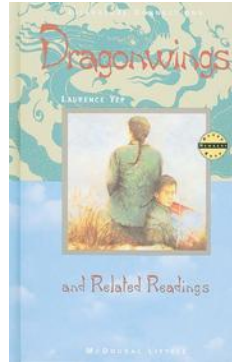
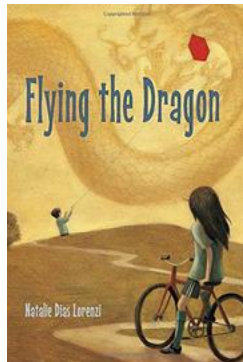
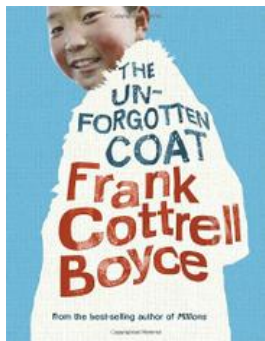
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon. In the Australian detention camp where he was born and still lives, Subhi, 10, a Rohingya boy, shares a crowded tent with his mother, sister, and other refugees and dreams of an unbounded world and the Night Sea. (*Fiction. 9-12*)

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan. When her father-in-law dies, Koly is tricked and abandoned to Vrindavan, city of widows. (*Fiction. 9-12*)

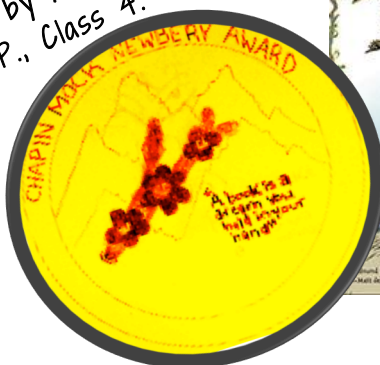
On Two Feet and Wings by Abbas Kazerooni. Abbas [a 9 year old refugee] doesn't speak Turkish; a promised helper fails him; the fleabag hotel he's deposited in is in a dangerous neighborhood. His intelligence, resilience and cocky charm help (though he owes more to luck and the kindness of strangers). He survives—barely. (*Memoir. 9-14*)

The Inquisitor's Tale Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz. This multiple-narrator fairy tale relates the adventures of Jeanne, a white Christian peasant girl who has prophetic visions; biracial white/black William, a Muslim-born monk-in-training with preternatural strength; and Jacob, a Jewish boy with incredible healing powers. (*Fantasy. 11 & up*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews.



winner of our 2016
Mock Newbery Award!
Medal art by Asha T. and
Annabel P., Class 4.



KINDNESS TO THOSE TRYING TO PUZZLE TOGETHER WHERE THEY FIT INTO THE UNIVERSE



Upside-Down Magic by Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle, Emily Jenkins. In a society where everyone has a neatly defined magical talent, Nory is a misfit. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

I Don't Know How the Story Ends by J.B. Cheaney. When her father returns home [from World War I] badly damaged, [the movie Isobel has been making with her cousin] becomes a way to express the family's love and grief. (*Historical fiction. 8-12*)

One Half from the East by Nadia Hashimi. Obayda's family moved to a rural village after a Kabul bomb blast took her father's leg and the family's livelihood; in a bid to attract good fortune, relatives persuade her mother to transform Obayda, 10, youngest of four daughters, into a bacha posh: a boy. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

The Truth About Twinkie Pie by Kat Yeh. When 12-year-old GiGi moves from a trailer park in South Carolina to an upscale community on Long Island, she decides to reinvent herself. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period by Gennifer Choldenko. Kirsten and Walk start the first day of seventh grade with one thing in common: They're both late. This earns them a detention together, and they strike up an easy friendship, which seems to make their mothers *uneasy* for some reason. Could it be that Walk is the only black kid at the very private school? (*Fiction. 11-14*)

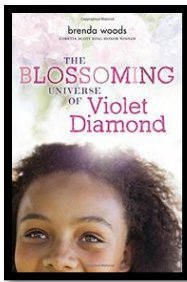
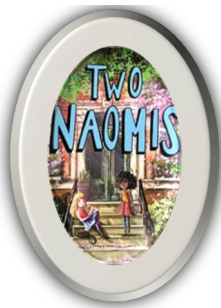
Speed of Life by Carol Weston. Sofia talks about her mother, boys, her changing body, and friend drama [to an advice columnist named Kate]. And Kate seems to really care. But things get tricky when the mystery woman her father has been seeing turns out to be Kate herself. (*Fiction. 11-14*)

Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson. Sixteen-year-old Jade dreams of success beyond her neighborhood despite the prejudices that surround her. (*Fiction 12 & up*)

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KINDNESS to ALL types OF FAMILIES and SIBLINGS

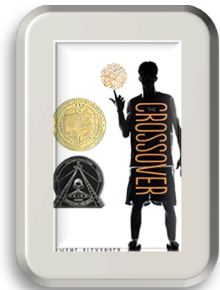
blended



bi-racial



sweet siblings,
two dads



competitive
twins



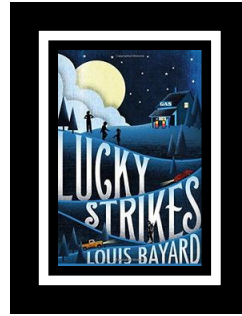
criminal twins!



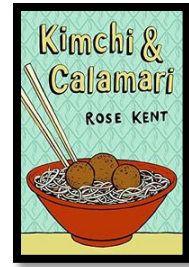
divorced



a very sick
sibling



improvised



Korean-
Italian

Two Naomis by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, Audrey Vernick. Two girls named Naomi build an unlikely friendship after their parents begin dating each other. A smart, endearing story. (*Fiction. 8-13*)

The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond by Brenda Woods. [Violet wouldn't have to explain she belongs] if her dad, an African-American doctor, hadn't died in a car accident before her birth. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

Misadventures of the Family Fletcher by Dana Alison Levy. Four lively adopted boys, two dads and a grouchy new neighbor star in this modern family comedy...The Fletcher family rules! (*Fiction. 8-12*)

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander. The twins experience their first major rift when JB is attracted to a new girl in their school, and Josh finds himself without his brother. (*Verse fiction. 9-12*)

Loot by Jude Watson. Feisty thieves-in-training Jules and March are faced with a daunting challenge after their father plunges to his death while committing a crime. (*Thriller. 10-14*)

Counting Thyme by Melanie Conklin. Her younger brother's critical illness and a transcontinental move create upheaval in 11-year-old Thyme's life. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

The Thing About Leftovers by C.C. Payne. [Fizzy, an aspiring chef] has struggled to fit in or feel normal since her parents' divorce, and now that they are both seriously involved with other people, Fizzy is left feeling like an unwelcome guest in both their houses. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

Lucky Strikes by Louis Bayard. Desperate to keep the family together after Mama dies, [fourteen-year-old Melia] hires a drunken hobo...to impersonate her parent. (*Historical fiction. 10-14*)

Kimchi and Calamari by Rose Kent. When his eighth-grade class is assigned to write about their ancestors' journey to America, Joseph Calderaro has a problem: Who are his ancestors? Joseph was adopted from Korea. His parents are raising him in their Italian-American tradition. (*Fiction. 9-13*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews.

AND what kind of list would be complete without KINDNESS to orphans & ABANDONED CHILDREN?



The Door by the Staircase by Katherine Marsh. Will bravery, kindness, and perceptiveness be enough to earn 12-year-old orphan Mary Hayes a permanent home with Madame Zolotaya, the elderly woman who rescues her from a terrible Buffalo orphanage? (*Fantasy. 8-12*)

Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo. Ten-year-old Raymie Clarke of Lister, Florida, has a plan to get her father to come back home. (*Historical fiction. 9-14*)

Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk. Why was Crow sent away in an old boat when she was a baby? Why is a fire burning on an abandoned island? Did Capt. Kidd really hide treasure nearby? (*Historical fiction. 9-13*)

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill. One year Xan (a kind witch) saves a baby girl with a crescent birthmark who accidentally feeds on moonlight and becomes "enmagicked." (*Fantasy. 10-14*)

A Drowned Maiden's Hair: A Melodrama by Laura Amy Schlitz. In this fast-paced story set in 1909, three seemingly caring elderly sisters adopt feisty, orphaned 11-year-old Maud Flynn. She soon discovers that they're spiritualistic con artists... (*Fiction. 10-14*)

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage. Rising sixth-grader Mo LoBeau leads the cast through a series of clues as the whole town tries to figure out who among them might be a murderer. (*Mystery. 10-14*)

Harlem Charade by Natasha Tarpley. [A boy's failed attempt to steal a loaf of bread] introduces him to two new, generous friends. When he shares that his grandfather fell into a coma after an attack in the community garden where a rare painting was found, the trio sets out to unearth the truth. (*Mystery. 8-12*)

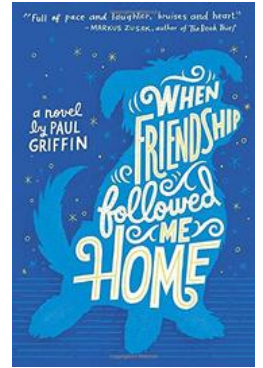
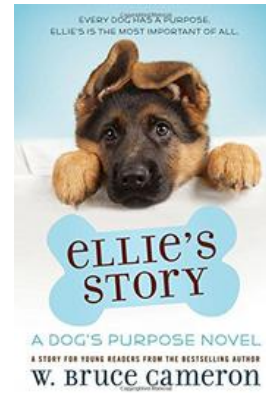
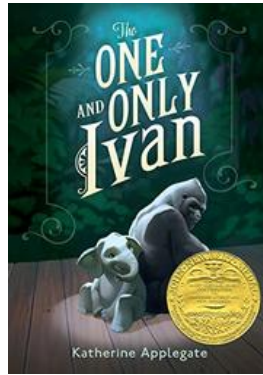
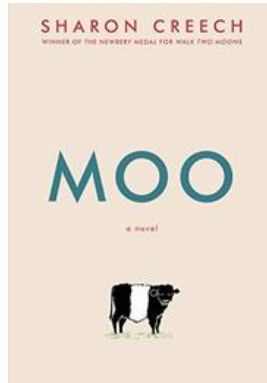
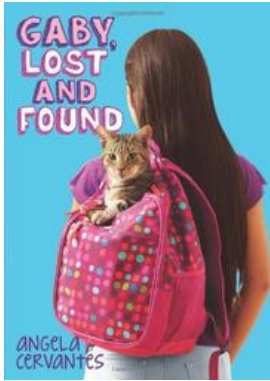
Paper Things by Jennifer Richards Jacobson. As Ari struggles to keep up with her classes, [she has to move] from place to place: friends' and acquaintances' homes, homeless shelters and even a car. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

Dicey's Song by Cynthia Voigt. With Momma in a mental hospital and local rumors that old Mrs. Tillerman is "crazy," it's a relief to find Grain, a wise and capable, if sometimes eccentric upbringer. (*Fiction. No age range specified.*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews. Image courtesy of GeoSafari Omega Refractor Kids Telescope advertisement.

KINDNESS TO CATS,

DOGS, gorillas, & COWS



Gaby, Lost and Found by Angela Cervantes. Like her mom, Gaby is an animal lover, and she develops her writing talent by crafting adoption profiles for the cats and dogs. Although bullies torment her with taunts of “illegal” and “alien,” caring adults in the community and strong friendships empower the resilient Gaby to find her voice. Readers from many backgrounds will empathize with Gaby’s struggle to do what is right for the animals she has come to love at Furry Friends, as well as with her suffering, as she wonders if and when her mother will make the journey back to the United States. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

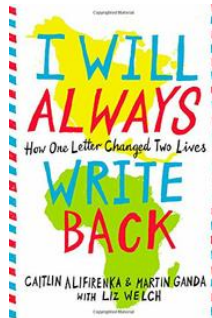
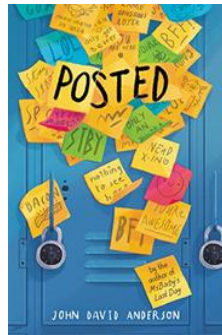
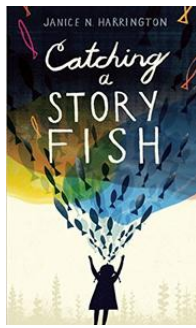
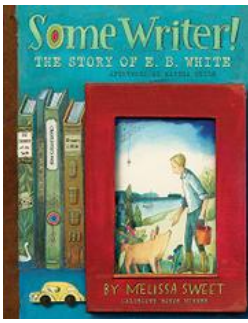
Moo by Sharon Creech. When 12-year-old Reena’s parents lose their newspaper jobs in the big city, they decide to change the flight plan of their lives and move to a small coastal town in Maine. Reena and her brother, Luke, “a seven-year-old complexity,” are volunteered by their mother to help Mrs. Falala, an elderly and ostensibly cantankerous woman whose menagerie of animals includes a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna, and the ornery, stubborn, slobbering, bellowing cow, Zora. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate. A gorilla stoically endures the cruelty of humans until Ruby the baby elephant is abused. Utterly believable, this bittersweet story, complete with an author's note identifying the real Ivan, will inspire a new generation of advocates. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

Ellie’s Story by W. Bruce Cameron. Ellie tells the story of her training and life as a search and rescue dog. Ellie’s view of the world is spot-on, feeling just like the thoughts dogs must have, particularly her disdain for cats (not worth training) and her anxious concern for people who aren’t busy playing with her (“It was too bad. They had nothing to do.”) (*Fiction. 9-14*)

When Friendship Followed Me Home by Paul Griffin. Twelve-year-old Ben, who has taken most of his life lessons from reading Star Wars stories, is the adoptive son of a loving and understanding but elderly lesbian. The charming mite of a stray dog that adopts the white boy is also old. [Meanwhile,] Halley, his fully rounded new best friend ... is undergoing chemotherapy. What could go wrong here? (*Fiction. 10-14*)

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Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White. Sweet offers an affectionate tribute to White in a sumptuous volume, focusing especially on his three children's classics: *Stuart Little* (1945), *Charlotte's Web* (1952), and *The Trumpet of the Swan* (1970). Chapters...offer fascinating glimpses into the origins of the tales. (Biography. 7-12)

Catching a Storyfish by Janice N. Harrington. When Keet's family moves from Alabama and the "brown arms" and "brown legs" of her friends to Illinois and the classmates with "faces like sour grapefruits" and "eyes like measuring tape" who tell her that she "sounds funny," she silences her storytelling voice. She slowly befriends Allegra, a Spanish-speaking girl who lives in the neighborhood, with whom she bonds after telling Allegra where her cockatoo escaped. (Verse novel. 8-12)

Same Sun Here by Silas House, Neela Vaswani. A very modern cross-cultural story narrated by way of an old-fashioned pen-pal correspondence. (Fiction. 9-13)

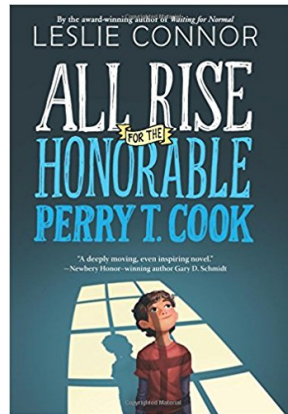
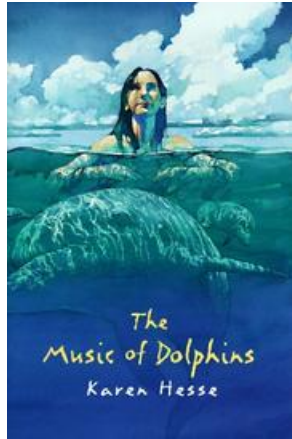
Sticks and Stones by Abby Cooper. Due to a rare condition called cognadivisibilitis, anything people say about 11-year-old Elyse appears on her arms and legs—part temporary tattoo, part eczema. (Fiction. 9-13)

This is All Your Fault, Cassie Parker by Terra Elan McVoy. When Fiona's diary is stolen by the most popular girl in seventh grade, she braces herself for the worst summer ever. (Fiction. 9-14)

Posted by John David Anderson. When cellphones are banned from Branton Middle School, the student population is thrown into a frenzy, which only increases when kids find a new way of communicating throughout the day—Post-it notes. It turns out, the Post-it notes can be even crueler than social media updates, and everyone is affected. (Fiction. 10-14)

I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifrenka, Martin Ganda, Liz Welch. A pen-pal correspondence between an American girl and a Zimbabwean boy blossoms into a lifelong friendship. The top student in his class, Martin dreams of studying at an American university, but even just continuing high school in Zimbabwe seems like a long shot. Caitlin, not recognizing the extent of Martin's poverty, sends some of her babysitting money with her letters, and Martin's family uses it for food. (Memoir. 12 & up.)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews.



Kindness WHEN you
FIND YOURSELF in
different
REALITY



a
fish
out of
water

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown. A sophisticated robot—with the capacity to use senses of sight, hearing, and smell—is washed to shore on an island, the only robot survivor of a cargo of 500. (*Science fiction/fantasy. 7-11*)

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor. The Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in Surprise, Nebraska, is the only home the sixth-grader has ever known. His official foster parent, the warden of the minimum security facility, has let him stay with his birth mother there for nearly 12 years. When an ambitious district attorney yanks him out and delays Jessica Cook's parole application, Perry has to use his jail-honed skill of focusing on the positive to cope with his new foster placement with the DA's family and to get his mother released. (*Fiction. 9-13*)

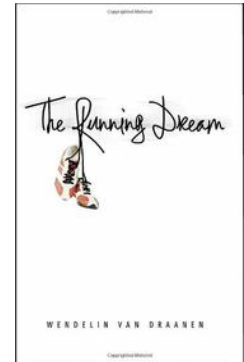
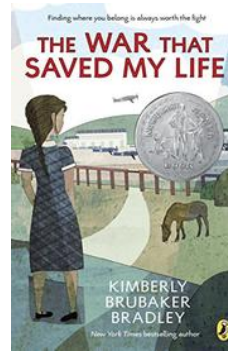
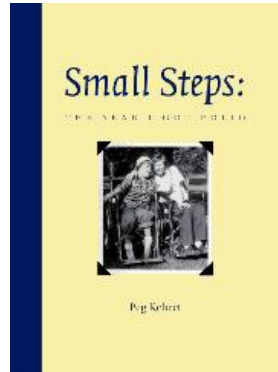
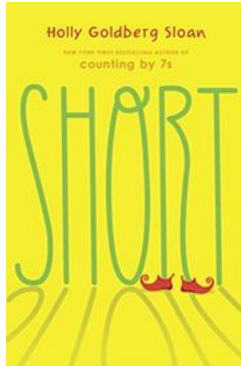
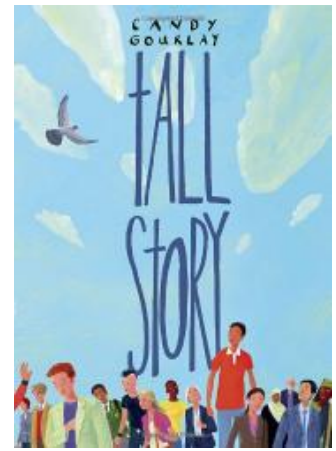
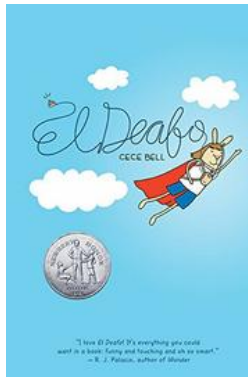
The Music of Dolphins by Karen Hesse. The rescuers who find her on a key off the coast of Cuba dub her Mila--Spanish for "miracle"--for although she weighs barely 100 pounds and bears sucker and barnacle scars, she is healthy and alert, human in form but with strange gestures, sounds, and behavior she learned from the dolphins with whom she has lived for at least 10 years. (*Fiction. 9-12*)

Schooled by Gordon Korman. Thirteen-year-old Capricorn "Cap" Anderson has only left the Garland Farm Commune (founded 1967) with his grandmother ("Rain") a few times for supplies. He doesn't know what TV is like, and he's never held money in his hand. When Rain falls from a plum tree and has to spend two months in the hospital, Cap gets his first real taste of the confusing, "real" world of 2007. (*Fiction. 9-14*)

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements. Fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up invisible one morning... A readable, thought-provoking tour de force, alive with stimulating ideas, hard choices, and young people discovering bright possibilities ahead. (*Fiction. 11-15*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews.

Kindness to Every BODY AND ABILITY



El Deafo by Cece Bell. A humorous and touching graphic memoir about finding friendship and growing up deaf. (*Graphic memoir. 8 & up*)

Maxi's Secrets by Lynn Plourde. Maxi—a huge, deaf Great Pyrenees—[helps Timminy] to make friends and cope with a bully after starting middle school in a new town as a "shrimpy kid." Walking with Maxi, he meets Abby: the "blindest" and "blackest" kid in school, who has no patience for his troubles. (*Fiction. 9-12*)

Tall Story by Candy Gourlay. Ever since he began to grow—he's now 8 feet tall—some villagers believe he is the returned legendary giant Bernardo Carpio, who saved San Andres from being crushed long ago. [After he immigrates from the Phillipines and arrives in London,] Bernardo [begins to] experience, the first real clothes that fit his tall body, the sister and parents who love him. (*Fiction. 9-13*)

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan. Always considered short for her age, Julia is used to being picked last for sports teams in school, even by her closest friends, and ... she never uses the dreaded S-word. Her outlook changes... when she is cast as the lead Munchkin dancer. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

Small Steps by Peg Kehret. A moving memoir about a 12-year-old who got polio in 1949 in Austin, Minnesota. Kehret describes the disease, the diagnosis, the severe symptoms, treatments, physical therapy, slow recovery, and return home with walking sticks--and how she was forever changed. (*Memoir. 8-13*)

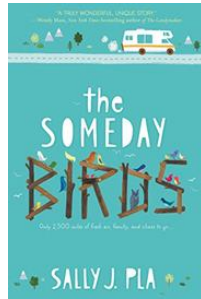
The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Crippled by an untreated club foot and imprisoned at home by Mam, Ada has survived, but she hasn't thrived. (*Historical fiction. 8-12*)

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen. Sixteen-year-old Jessica lives to run. She's a track star, but she loses her leg when an uninsured driver hits her school bus. The tale follows Jessica's initial despair and growing confidence as she struggles to cope with her disability. (*Fiction. 12 & up*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews.

AND KINDESS TO ALL TYPES OF MINDS

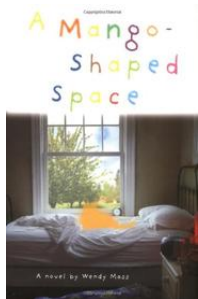
OCD (obsessive compulsive)



Finding Perfect by Elly Swartz. If your parents are separating, your mother leaves home for a job elsewhere, and your best friend is about to move away, how can you gain control of your life? (*Fiction. 8-12*)

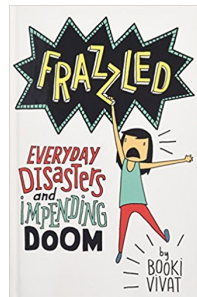
The Someday Birds by Sally J. Pla. While serving as a journalist in Afghanistan, a widowed father of four is injured, leaving him hospitalized and his children [including one with OCD] without a parent. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

A Mango-Shaped Space by Wendy Mass. A young teen whose world is filled with colors and shapes that no one else sees copes with the universal and competing drives to be unique and to be utterly and totally normal. (*Fiction. 9-13*)



synesthesia

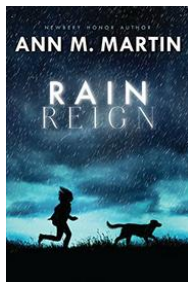
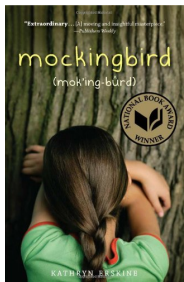
anxious



Frazzled: Everyday Disasters and Impending Doom by Booki Vivat. Abbie Wu, Chinese-American preteen and worrywart, is doomed. (*Fiction. 8-13*)

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine. A fifth-grade girl with Asperger's syndrome...is frustrated by her inability to put herself in someone else's shoes [after her brother] has been killed in a school shooting. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

on the autism spectrum



Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin. Jason is autistic. He hates art class and PE, where there's too much space and unorganized time, but he feels at home...writing stories on the Storyboard website. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin. Rose has a diagnosis of Asperger's, and her world of comforting homonyms, rules and prime numbers is repeatedly challenged by social interactions of which she has no innate understanding. (*Fiction. 8-12*)

The Red Blazer Girls by Michael D. Beil. Clad in their red high-school blazers, three friends become amateur sleuths who decipher an intricate puzzle leading to the priceless Ring of Rocamadour. (*Mystery. 10-14*)

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan. Willow Chance has a hard time making friends since her mishmash of interests, including the number 7, doesn't appeal to her fellow middle-grade students. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

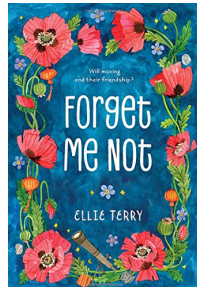
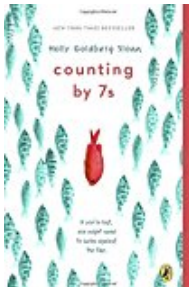
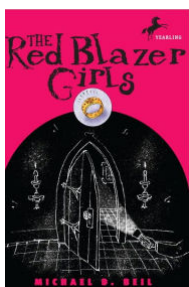
Forget Me Not by Ellie Terry. "Terry's narrative deftly represents the reality of Tourette's Syndrome in its fullness." -SLJ

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews, except for *Forget Me Not* (SLJ).

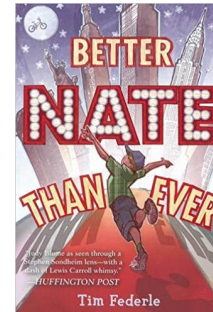
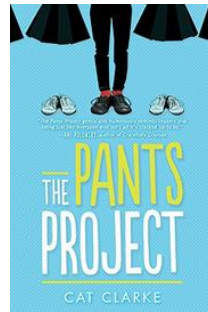
problem-solving

genius

Tourette's Syndrome



OVER THE RAINBOW



George by Alex Gino. George, a fourth-grader who knows she is a girl, despite appearances, begins to tell her secret. Warm, funny, and inspiring. (*Fiction. 9-12*)

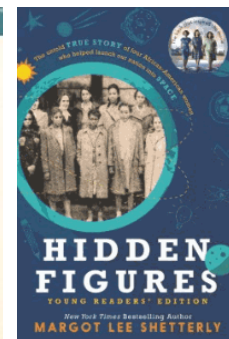
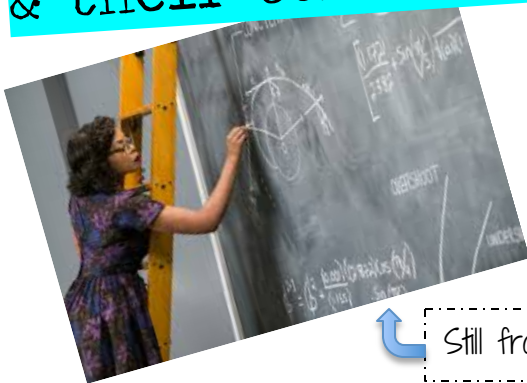
Star-Crossed by Barbara Dee. A sweet story of young love amid middle school theatrics. While the plot revolves around Shakespeare's famous tragedy, this story is far from one. (*Fiction. 9-13*)

The Pants Project by Cat Clarke. In a few months, Liv effects a major change in his new middle school's antiquated dress code while simultaneously acquiring the courage to come out as transgender. (*Fiction. 9-12*)

Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle. Nate is a quirky and endearing leading man from the start, and anyone who has ever felt out of place will easily identify with him. It's a joy to watch him fall head over heels for a city that couldn't care less about him—in the best possible way. (*Fiction. 9-13*)

Queer, There, and Everywhere by Sarah Prager. Offers 23 short biographies of individuals who changed their world and ours. (*Nonfiction. 12-18*)

The kindness of GEEKS & their CONTRIBUTIONS



Still from the movie, *Hidden Figures*. © 20th Century Fox (via arstechnica.com)

Elon Musk and the Quest for a Fantastic Future: Young Readers' Edition by Ashlee Vance. "He almost hypnotizes you," says an associate. "He gives you the crazy eye, and it's like, yes, we can get to Mars." (*Biography. 11-14*)

Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition by Margot Lee Shetterly. "Middle-schoolers will find their story, here in a young readers' edition of Shetterly's 2016 adult book, engaging and inspirational." — Booklist

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of publisher or Kirkus Reviews, with the exception of *Hidden Figures: A Young Readers' Edition*.

WHEN KINDNESS=RESISTANCE



Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper. Stella Mills... witness[es] the Ku Klux Klan burning a cross late one starry night, setting off a chain reaction that leaves their entire community changed. *(Historical fiction, 9-13)*

The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine. To Marlee's dismay, Liz suddenly vanishes from school, and the rumor is that she has been passing for white [in the deeply segregated community of Little Rock, AR.] *(Historical fiction, 10-14)*

Audacity by Melanie Crowder. Newly arrived in New York from Russia, [Clara] finds employment in a sweatshop, where young immigrant girls toil in dangerous conditions, cheated...by bosses, earning pennies for long hours of work. *(Historical fiction/poetry. 12-18)*

Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina by Misty Copeland, Brandy Colbert. Copeland was named the first African-American principal ballerina at ABT. As Copeland fiercely reminds herself, 'This is for the little brown girls'—and any reader in need of inspiration. *(Biography. 11-16)*

Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls by Tonya Bolden. The pageant of fascinating historical characters [includes] a magician, a physician, a female Civil War spy, a pioneer, a concert singer, a race car driver, a mathematician, a cartoonist, & others. *(Nonfiction. 10-14)*

Undeclared by Steve Sheinkin. Most students at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania were shocked by the treatment they received under superintendent Richard Henry Pratt, who believed white American culture was superior and to “help” his students meant to “kill the Indian in him, and save the man.” *(Nonfiction, 10-16)*

All Heart: My Dedication and Determination to Become One of Soccer's Best by Carli Lloyd. Not for lovers of soccer only... *(Memoir. 10-14)*

Growing Up Pedro: How the Martínez Brothers Made It from the Dominican Republic All the Way to the Major Leagues by Matt Tavares. Hall of Famer Pedro Martínez acknowledges his brother's encouragement as a major factor in his success. *(Picture book/biography. 8-12)*

Strong Inside (Young Readers' Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line by Andrew Maraniss. The inspirational true story of the first African American to play college basketball in the deeply segregated Southeastern Conference. *(Nonfiction.)*

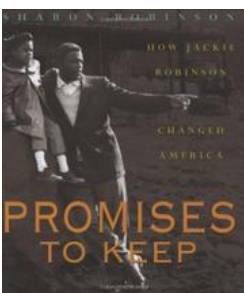
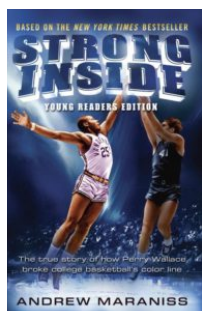
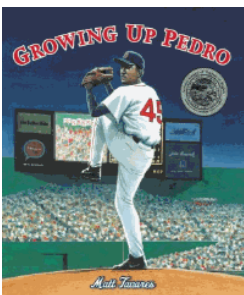
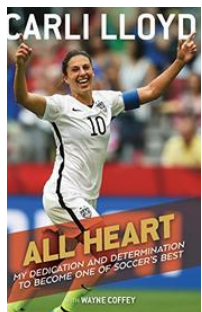
Promises to Keep by Sharon Robinson. Illustrated with copious photographs and letters from the family's private collection, this is a unique perspective on a man whose story has become...the stuff of legend. *(Biography. 9-12)*

Note: All book descriptions/age ranges (with the exception of Strong Inside) courtesy of Kirkus. Strong Inside's information courtesy of the publisher.

BLAZING NEW TRAILS



AND CHANGING THE WAY THE GAME IS PLAYED



Kindness
of old.

Kindness
to old.

*Kindness
that
knows no
age.*



When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin. When her grandmother's kidnapped, a shy girl living in ancient China embarks on a magical journey to find her. (*Fantasy. 8-12*)

Under the Egg by Laura Marx Fitzgerald. Theodora, who has spent her life living with her emotionally incapacitated mother and her crusty, artistic, capable grandfather, knows she must follow [his dying words] in order to become the family's next breadwinner. (*Mystery. 9-13*)

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar. Carol bonds with [her grandfather] Serge over his fairy tales about Sergio and Rosa's centuries-old love story sustained by a magical life-giving tree. (*Fiction. 10-14*)

Blooming at the Texas Sunrise Motel by Kimberly Willis Holt. Thirteen-year-old Stevie thought her mother's father was dead—until her parents' unexpected deaths result in her traveling from New Mexico to her grandfather's motel in Texas. (*Fiction. 10-13*)

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata. Summer, her brother and their grandparents must take on the whole burden of working the harvest and coping with one emergency after another. She writes a journal chronicling the frightening and overwhelming events... (*Fiction. 10-14*)

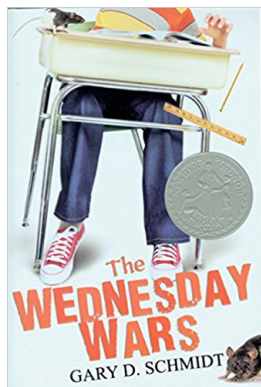
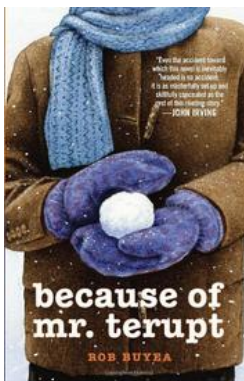
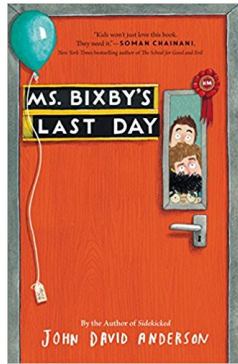
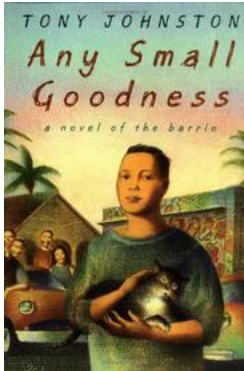
The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm. What would it be like if your grandfather turned up in your house as a 13-year-old boy? Appealing and thought-provoking, with an ending that suggests endless possibilities. (*Science fiction. 10-14*)

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt. Protected Winnie, the ten-year-old heroine, is not immortal, but when she comes upon young Jesse Tuck drinking from a secret spring in her parents' woods, she finds herself involved with a family who, having innocently drunk the same water some 87 years earlier, haven't aged a moment since. (*No age range specified.*)

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin. [Liz Hall's] sudden death in a hit-and-run accident puts an end to her life on earth—and that's when the story begins. (*Fiction. 12+*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of publisher or Kirkus Reviews

AND LET'S NOT FORGET the kindness of TEACHERS



Any Small Goodness by Tony Johnston. Arturo's close-knit family, who arrived from Mexico only three years ago, stands together against the ugliness of the world. "In L.A. there's bad. Druggies. Gangs. Thieves, lifting stuff from houses like army ants." But as Arturo's father says, "In life there is *bueno* and there is *malo*. If you do not find enough of the good, you must yourself create it." (Fiction. 9-13)

Fish in Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. [Ally] doesn't know why, but letters dance and give her headaches. When a creative new teacher, Mr. Daniels, steps in, the plot turns more uplifting. (Fiction. 10-12)

Ms. Bixby's Last Day by John David Anderson. Determined to give their hospitalized teacher a worthy "last day," three sixth-grade boys skip school and persevere on an impossible quest, deepening their friendship and discovering inner courage they didn't know they had. (Fiction. 8-12)

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea. During a school year in which a gifted teacher who emphasizes personal responsibility among his fifth graders ends up in a coma from a thrown snowball, his students come to terms with their own issues and learn to be forgiving. (Fiction. 9-12)

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt. It's 1967, and on Wednesdays, every Jewish kid in Holling Hoodhood's class goes to Hebrew School, and every Catholic kid goes to Catechism. Holling is Presbyterian, which means that he and Mrs. Baker are alone together every Wednesday—and she hates it just as much as he does. What unfolds is a year of Wednesday Shakespeare study, which, says Mrs. Baker, "is never boring to the true soul." Holling is dubious, but trapped. (Fiction. 10-14)

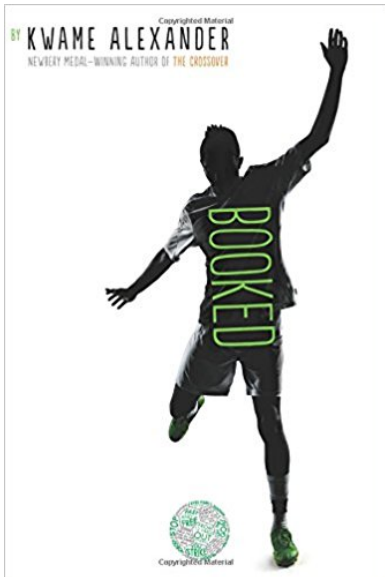
Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of Kirkus Reviews.



Ms. Frizzle, along with her students, embark on some incredible learning adventures! @ Scholastic Inc. and retrieved from National Wildlife Federation BLOG

& FINALLY, the kindness of LIBRARIANS (INCLUDING *rapping* librarians)

Booked by Kwame Alexander. Nick senses something is going on with his parents, but their announcement that they are separating is an unexpected blow: “it’s like a bombshell / drops / right in the center / of your heart / and it splatters / all across your life.” The stress leads to counseling, and his life is further complicated by injury and emergency surgery. His soccer dream derailed, Nick turns to the books he has avoided and finds more than he expected. A satisfying, winning read. (*Fiction. 10-12*)



Okay for Now by Gary D. Schmidt. Readers of the Newbery Honor-winning *The Wednesday Wars* (2007) will remember Doug, now less edgy and gradually more open to the possibilities of life in a small town. Each chapter opens with a print of a John James Audubon painting, and Mr. Powell, the town librarian, teaches Doug to paint and see the world as an artist. He meets pretty Lillian Spicer, just the feisty friend Doug needs, and a whole cast of small-town characters opens Doug to what he might be in the world. (*Historical fiction. 10-14*)

Note: All book descriptions and age ranges courtesy of publisher or Kirkus Reviews.



cool librarian character (not a rapper, though)

rapping librarian alert!



Hi! My name is Melvil Dewey!