When a child first walks into 100 East End Avenue, it is our promise that she will leave Chapin with a greater sense of self and a deepened understanding of her potential within our community and our world. The development of one’s voice provides a way to define one’s life and to transform the lives of others.

In choosing our theme for this year, “Our Future, Our Voices,” we recognized the opportunity to explore further ways that we could advance Chapin’s mission to empower our scholars to become agents of change through the articulation of ideas and ideals.

– Dr. Patricia Hayot, Head of School, The Chapin School
CHAPTER 1: CAFETERIA VOICES

FINDING ONE’S VOICE AT SCHOOL

11 BEFORE 12

by Lisa Greenwald

Age Range: 9 - 12

Two BFFs tackle the anxiety-riddled transition to middle school by creating a list of 11 things to accomplish before their 12th birthdays in November.

[However, when one of the two girls,] Ari, connects with friends from Hebrew school and summer camp, the two BFFs fight. (Kirkus)

RESTART

by Gordon Korman

Age Range: 9 – 14

Will a bully always be a bully?

That’s the question eighth-grade football captain Chase Ambrose has to answer for himself after a fall from his roof leaves him with no memory of who and what he was. When he returns to Hiawassee Middle School, everything and everyone is new. (Kirkus)

BAN THIS BOOK

by Alan Gratz

Age Range: 9 - 11

[Following] the devastating discovery that her beloved From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler has been removed from the library…Amy Anne sets up a secret lending library of banned titles in her locker—a ploy that eventually gets her briefly suspended…(Kirkus)

THE PERFECT SCORE

by Rob Buyea

Age Range: 9 – 12

Natalie struggles with breaking rules and making friends, since her classmates think she's snobby. Scott seems to break rules even when he has the best intentions. Trevor, the class bully, has bad intentions, but even he latches on when Scott comes up with a plan for how all the students can ace the upcoming statewide assessment tests. When Scott's genius plan goes haywire, the class has to step up and admit the truth... (Kirkus)

BLACKBIRD FLY

by Erin Entrada Kelly

Age Range: 9 - 14

After her father’s death when she was very young, Apple and her mother moved to the United States. There is not much diversity in Apple’s small Louisiana town. Her classmates call her Chinese though she is Filipina and bully her with taunts of “dog-eater.” Apple’s self-esteem plummets when she learns she is on the Dog Log, the boys’ list of the ugliest girls, and her friends abandon her. (Kirkus) In the face of her classmates' casual racism and cruelty, Apple's efforts to make genuine friends and embrace the things that make her unique feel like a true triumph. (Publisher’s Weekly)
FORGET ME NOT
by Ellie Terry
Age Range: 10 - 13

Terry’s debut novel thoughtfully traces the fragile emotions of two seventh graders: Calliope, a girl painfully self-conscious about having Tourette syndrome, and Jinsong, a popular boy she meets in her new town. (Publisher’s Weekly) A rare treat—a beautiful story of middle grade friendship, crushes, accepting differences, and how to deal with the school bullies. Terry’s use of figurative language and symbolism is magical. (School Library Connection)

HURRICANE CHILD
by Kheryn Callender
Age Range: 8 - 12

Feeling unwanted by everyone, especially since the abrupt departure of her mom, Caroline leads a difficult life. She is bullied by those at her school in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands [until the] arrival of a new student from Barbados changes Caroline’s life...Also bullied, the exuberantly dreadlocked Kalinda becomes Caroline’s first and only friend, and soon Caroline’s feelings blossom into something more than [friendship]. (Kirkus)

THE FIRST RULE OF PUNK
by Celia C. Pérez
Age Range: 9 - 13

Malú wants to be totally punk at her new middle school, but her Mexican-American mother would prefer she learn to be a proper señorita.

Although she loves both of her amicably divorced parents, Malú—who favors Chuck Taylors and music T’s—feels closer to her laid-back, artsy white father than her supportive but critical academic mother, whom she calls “SuperMexican.” (Kirkus)

IVY ABERDEEN’S LETTER TO THE WORLD
by Ashley Herring Blake
Age Range: 8 - 14

After a tornado destroys her home, her notebook, filled with things Ivy isn’t ready to talk about or trust with anyone, goes missing, and she feels the last bit of her world drop out from under her. The images are telling; there can be no doubt that the girl with wild strawberry-blonde hair is 12-year-old Ivy or that she’s holding hands with a dark-haired white girl in every picture. When her drawings begin turning up in her school locker, Ivy’s biggest fear comes true: someone knows her secret. The mystery person encourages Ivy to come out, but whom can she trust? Is she even ready? (Kirkus)

DREIDEALS ON THE BRAIN
by Joel ben Izzy
Age Range: 10 - 15

Joel and his family are practically the only Jews in town, which makes him very nervous about the “Winter Holiday Assembly,” where they’re supposed to light the menorah in front of everyone. He suspects that—barring a miracle—the event will lead to further humiliation. (Kirkus Reviews)
CHAPTER 2: OUTSIDE VOICES / FINDING ONE’S VOICE IN THE WILD

CONNECT THE STARS
by Marisa de los Santos & David Teague
Age Range: 8 - 12

After various difficulties in their separate schools, Audrey’s and Aaron’s parents enroll them in a desert wilderness camp for 13- and 14-year-olds, where they hike a 200-mile route known as the Journey to Confidence. A satisfying read that strikes a good balance between emotional highs and page-turning adventure. (Kirkus)

A WORLD BELOW
by Wesley King
Age Range: 8 - 12

Brown-skinned, biracial Eric and Latina classmate Silvia each bring their own metaphorical baggage into the limestone caverns below the New Mexico desert, beyond their daypacks filled with water bottles and snacks. When an earthquake sends them and their classmates tumbling into the unexplored abyss below the famous Carlsbad Caverns, they not only face a challenge to survive, but must also do battle with their inner demons. (Kirkus)

THE WOLF KEEPERS
by Elise Broach illustrated by Alice Ratterree
Age Range: 8 - 12

African-American Tyler has run away from his foster home and has been living outdoors, behind the elephant house. Lizzie secretly hides him in the guest apartment right around the time that the first wolf of the seven at the new Wolf Woods exhibit sickens and dies. Lizzie feels stricken when her favorite wolf, Lobo, apparently suffers the same fate. Or does he?

A well-developed plot with likable characters. (Kirkus)

SCAR ISLAND
by Dan Gemeinhart
Age Range: 8 - 12

Twelve-year-old Jonathan Grisby has been sentenced to 10 weeks at Slabhenge Reformatory for Troubled Boys, an enormous, decaying fortresslike island prison off an unknown coast, formerly an insane asylum, for a crime that has him staggering under his own guilt. At Slabhenge, rats run wild, a monster lurks behind a locked door, and 15 boys ages 10 through 14 cower in damp cells under the sadistic control of the head. That is, until Jonathan's first morning there, when a bolt of lightning kills every grown-up in the place without harming a single boy. (Kirkus)

BEYOND THE BRIGHT SEA
by Lauren Wolk
Age Range: 9 - 13

“it is such a page turner, and is so good. I really enjoyed it.”
-DC, Class of 2025, Mock Newbery Club

Every chapter in the book has a new mystery to be solved: 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? But some readers will love Wolk’s use of language even more than the puzzles. (Kirkus)
# CHAPTER 3:
**DINNER TABLE VOICES: FINDING YOUR VOICE WITHIN YOUR FAMILY**

## PAPER CHAINS
**by** [Elaine Vickers](#)  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

Ana envies the attention Katie’s loving, white Christian parents lavish on her; Katie [a Russian-born adoptee] longs for a Babushka to explain and share her Russian heritage. As misunderstandings mount, the white girls’ friendship threatens to unravel. The complicated realities of adoption...are portrayed with insight rare in children’s fiction.

A well-told story celebrating the power of friendship to comfort and heal when families fall short. (Kirkus)

## THE SOMEDAY BIRDS
**by** [Sally J. Pla](#) ; **illustrated by** [Julie McLaughlin](#)  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

A widowed father of four is injured, leaving him hospitalized and his children without a parent. Though the siblings share the same light-brown skin and dark hair their Mexican mother had [when she was alive], each [child] faces the uncertain future differently. Autistic, 12-year-old Charlie loses himself in his obsession with birds and his rituals. Fifteen-year-old Davis finds solace in her quest for romance. Joel and Jake, 10-year-old twins, distract themselves with video games and wild antics. (Kirkus)

## FRENEMIES IN THE FAMILY
**Famous Brothers and Sisters Who Butted Heads and Had Each Other's Backs**  
**by** [Kathleen Krull](#) ; **illustrated by** [Maple Lam](#)  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

This entertaining compendium of 15 concise, chatty tales spotlights the relationships among siblings renowned for their achievements, foibles, eccentricities, or birthrights: Wilbur and Orville Wright, Serena and Venus Williams, the Jacksons, and others. Krull…opens with her most sensational entry, about Mary I and Elizabeth I, Henry VIII’s sparring daughters, revealing how Mary’s perpetuation of her father’s ruthless treatment of family and foes earned her the nickname Bloody Mary. (Publisher’s Weekly)

## THIS IS JUST A TEST
**by** [Madelyn Rosenberg & Wendy Wan-Long Shang](#)  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

Seventh-grader David Horowitz, who is Chinese and Jewish, is busy preparing for Jan. 21, 1984: when he’s “being bar mitzvahed in front of about a zillion people.” But that’s only if he lives that long, considering that after watching *The Day After*, he’s worried about what will happen if there’s a nuclear holocaust…

Meanwhile, at home, David’s grandmothers—Wai Po, who lives with them, and Granny M, who lives next door—seem constantly on the verge of starting World War III themselves, bickering over whose culture should take precedence in David’s and his younger sister’s lives. (Kirkus)
THE BEST MAN
by Richard Peck
Age Range: 8 - 12

The first scene—depicting a “train wreck” of a wedding in which six-year-old Archer performs ring bearer duties in a pair of muddy, too-tight shorts that have split open in the back—sets the stage for other hilarious mishaps. Whenever Archer flounders, there are people ready to help: his father, as good at fixing problems as he is at restoring vintage cars; his stylish Uncle Paul; and his dignified grandfather Magill. In fifth grade, Archer finds he can depend on someone new: his student-teacher Mr. McLeod, who accidentally causes a lockdown when he shows up at school in his National Guard uniform. (Publisher’s Weekly)

EFFIE STARR ZOOK HAS ONE MORE QUESTION
by Martha Freeman
Age Range: 8 - 13

When she meets two neighbor kids, [Effie] gets an inkling that some folks in this rural area are not fans of her family. Despite her many queries—and Effie is excellent at asking questions—the grown-ups are close-lipped about the tension between the families. After befriending the town’s only black resident, Effie reconstructs the murky history of her relatives. (Kirkus)

MACY MCMILLAN AND THE RAINBOW GODDESS
by Shari Green
Age Range: 9 – 12

Macy, a deaf sixth-grader who attends a mainstream school with an interpreter, faces enormous challenges, as her mother will soon marry, necessitating a move to her new stepdad’s house. Macy and her mother have always been a team of just two; adding Alan and his twin daughters is scary and distressing. [To complicate matters.] after a big fight with her BFF, Macy is deeply isolated, and in need of a friend…Macy’s life lessons are realistic and illuminating; that she is deaf adds yet another dimension to an already powerful tale. (Kirkus)

KIMCHI AND CALAMARI
by Rose Kent
Age Range: 9 - 13

Joseph was adopted from Korea. His parents are raising him in their Italian-American tradition. But though his favorite foods are calamari and eggplant parmesan, Joseph wonders about the sturdy Korean kid he sees in the mirror. (Kirkus)

THE WAR I FINALLY WON
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Age Range: 10 – 14

“If you want to learn about WWII, read this book!”
- AK, Class of 2026, Mock Newbery Club Member

Shortly after the events that closed [The War That Saved My Life], a successful surgery means overjoyed 11-year-old, white Ada no longer has a clubfoot. She can walk, run, and ride relatively pain-free, but pain returns in a different way: Ada’s abusive birth mother has been killed in an air raid. (Kirkus)
THE DOUGHNUT FIX
by Jessie Janowitz
Age Range: 8 - 10

Tristan, who loves to cook, like his chef mom, decides to start a business making and selling the supposedly mind-blowing chocolate-cream doughnuts once famous in Petersville but now no longer made. His business plan leads to adventures, new friends, and a sense of acceptance. (Kirkus)

THE PARKER INHERITANCE
by Varian Johnson
Age Range: 8 - 12

Summer is off to a terrible start for 12-year old African-American Candice Miller.

Six months after her parents’ divorce, Candice and her mother leave Atlanta to spend the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, at her [dead] grandmother’s old house. Now, without any friends, a computer, cellphone, or her grandmother, Candice suffers immense loneliness and boredom. When she starts rummaging through the attic and stumbles upon a box of her grandmother’s belongings, she discovers an old letter that details a mysterious fortune buried in Lambert. After Candice befriends the shy… African-American kid next door… the pair set off investigating the clues. Each new revelation uncovers a long history of racism … in the small town and how one family threatened the black/white status quo. (Kirkus)

SLIDER
by Pete Hautman
Age Range: 12 - 14

Winning a competitive eating contest is David’s only hope of avoiding being grounded for life after he does something stupid with his mother’s credit card…

…Views of a family pulling together, of young people stumbling into adolescence, and of an entertaining if controversial pursuit…(Kirkus)

Congratulations! You've made it halfway through the Summer Reading List. Since we're celebrating everyone's voice, I bet you're wondering what books are going to be most popular. Here’s what our bookmark tallies indicated.

58 of you want to start Restart
52 of you must get your hands on Ban this Book
49 of you are interested in 11 Before 12
43 of you prefer The Perfect Score
38 of you connected with Connect the Stars
27 want to devour Slider
25 want to explore Beyond the Bright Sea
24 are wild for The Wolf Keepers
22 are eager to read A Wrinkle in Time
22 are x-cited about Betty Before X
20 want to explore See You in the Cosmos
CHAPTER 4: VOICES FROM OTHER REALMS

THE SERPENT'S SECRET
From the "Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond" series, volume 1
by Sayantani DasGupta ; illustrated by Vivienne To
Age Range: 8 - 12

Kiranmala is a regular sixth-grader in Parsippany, New Jersey, until her life is thrown out of whack when her parents are cast into another dimension as the result of an imploding spell. What follows is a roller-coaster adventure into The Kingdom Beyond the Seven Oceans and Thirteen Rivers, where Kiran and her friends seek help from a bird who enjoys bad jokes, flee from demon groupies, and face the formidable Serpent King. (Kirkus)

MISS ELILLCOTT'S SCHOOL FOR THE MAGICALLY MINDED
by Sage Blackwood
Age Range: 8 - 14

Tall and black, 13-year-old Chantel is the school’s most magical maiden, and she doesn’t give a hoot about deportment; she just wants to practice magic. After Miss Ellicott and the other sorceresses who keep the city safe disappear, Chantel finds that the remaining adults—all men—are useless. (Kirkus)

A WRINKLE IN TIME

An allegorical fantasy in which a group of young people are guided through the universe by Mrs. Who, Mrs. Which and Mrs. What -- women who possess supernatural powers. They meet and face evil and demonstrate courage at the right moment. Young Meg's willingness to face IT in the form of a black beast in order to save a dear friend is one sign of her growing awareness. (Kirkus)

THE TRIALS OF MORRIGAN CROW
From the "Nevermoor" series, volume 1
by Jessica Townsend
Age Range: 8 - 13

Morrigan Crow, a pale, white child, was born cursed. She’s the town scapegoat, blamed for everything bad that happens in Jackalfax. All cursed children are expected to live only for 12 years, and as Morrigan is about to turn 11… things look bleak, but then the letter arrives. It’s an invitation to compete for a coveted spot in the prestigious Wundrous Society. (Kirkus)

IMPYRIUM
by Henry H. Neff
Age Range: 10 - 14

Readers meet young Hazel Faeregine, who is not interested in her family’s royal position within Impyrium. It is not only her lack of interest in politics that sets her apart from her olive-skinned sisters; Hazel is an albino, the only one in a set of triplets, which caused speculation of possibly wicked sorcery and makes most uneasy in her presence. Alternating chapters turn to 13-year-old, nut-brown Hob Smythe, who works in the mines beneath the Sentries Mountains [and who is later chosen] to spy on the Faeregines to gain secrets that could possibly liberate the people under Impyrium rule. (Kirkus)
**VOICES FROM OTHER REALMS**

**PRISONER OF ICE AND SNOW**
by **Ruth Lauren**  
**Age Range:** 8 – 11

In order to free her sister, Valor deliberately gets herself arrested and sent to Tyur’ma. Valor relates the action-packed, suspenseful tale in present tense. Her first hours at the juvenile hall…convince her that she must trust a few other inmates to help with her breakout plans. (Kirkus)

**SPUTNIK'S GUIDE TO LIFE ON EARTH**
by **Frank Cottrell Boyce**  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

Prez Mellows lives with his increasingly forgetful grandfather until an incident that results in Granddad being sent away to be “sorted out.” Prez, electively mute, is taken in by the Blythes, a raucous farm family on Scotland’s southern border. Though the premise sounds grim, Boyce’s (The Astounding Broccoli Boy) story is anything but, and it’s kick-started by the arrival of Sputnik, a being visible to Prez as a “wee alien in a kilt and goggles,” and to everyone else as an adorable and exceedingly clever dog. (Publisher’s Weekly)

**TIME STOPPERS**
From the "**Time Stoppers**" series, volume 1  
by **Carrie Jones**  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

Annie’s in her 12th foster home, having infuriated previous families with her pallor and her tendency to attract animals. This current family locks her in a frozen backyard with bloodthirsty wolf/dog hybrids. Jamie’s always lived in the same home, but after seeing his grandmother summon green-skinned monsters from the woods—and become one—he realizes his family’s lifelong threats to eat him weren’t jokes. (Kirkus)

**KEEPER OF THE LOST CITIES**
by **Shannon Messenger**  
**Age Range:** 10 - 12

Having felt like an outsider since a knock on the head at age 5 left her able to read minds, Sophie is thrilled when hunky teen stranger Fitz convinces her that she’s not human at all and transports her to the land of Lumenaria, where the ageless elves live. Taken in by a loving couple who runs a sanctuary for extinct and mythical animals, Sophie quickly gathers friends and rivals at Foxfire. (Kirkus)

**AKATA WITCH**
by **Nnedi Okorafor**  
**Age Range:** 11 - 13

Sunny lives in Nigeria after spending the first nine years of her life in New York. She can't play soccer with the boys because, as she says, "being albino made the sun my enemy," and she has only enemies at school. When a boy in her class, Orlu, rescues her from a beating, Sunny is drawn in to a magical world she's never known existed. Sunny, it seems, is a Leopard person, one of the magical folk who live in a world mostly populated by ignorant Lambs. Now she spends the day in mundane Lamb school and sneaks out at night to learn magic with her cadre of Leopard friends. (Kirkus)
**CHAPTER 5: A LUMP IN YOUR THROAT: FINDING YOUR VOICE AFTER TRAGEDY**

2017 Chapin Mock Newbery Club **Winner**

*The Ethan I Was Before*

**THE ETHAN I WAS BEFORE**

by Ali Standish  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

Coralee leads Ethan through strange adventures—investigating an abandoned house, stealing and restieving jewels—as narrator Ethan gradually relates his history: that he dared his best friend, Kacey, to climb a tree and she fell…

(Kirkus)

**SEE YOU IN THE COSMOS**

by Jack Cheng  
**Age Range:** 10 - 14

11-year-old Alex Petroski loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog Carl Sagan—named for his hero, the real-life astronomer. All he wants is to launch his golden iPod into space the way Carl Sagan (the man, not the dog) launched his Golden Record on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. From Colorado to New Mexico, Las Vegas to L.A., Alex records a journey on his iPod to show other lifeforms what life on earth, his earth, is like. But his destination keeps changing. And the funny, lost, remarkable people he meets along the way can only partially prepare him for the secrets he’ll uncover—from the truth about his long-dead dad to the fact that, for a kid with a troubled mom and a mostly not-around brother, he has way more family than he ever knew. (Publisher)

**THE TRUTH AS TOLD BY MASON BUTTLE**

by Leslie Connor  
**Age Range:** 9 - 14

Lt. Baird is sure seventh-grader Mason Buttle knows more about the death of Benny Kilmartin than the story he’s told over and over. Now he’s writing it, with the help of speech-recognition software in the school social worker’s office. Loyal and good-natured, Mason is large for his age, highly dyslexic, abnormally sweaty, and the regular target of bullying neighbor boys. He feels his emotions as colors—green for stress, shades of pink for happiness. There hasn’t been much pink in Mason’s life in the 16 months since Benny’s accidental death, but now there’s a new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, and the bullying neighbor’s dog, Moonie, who prefers Mason. Using Mason’s conversations with the detective and his voice-to-text storytelling, the author weaves the back story into a narrative of redemption chronicling his growing friendships. (Kirkus)

A VOICE FROM CHAPIN’S MOCK NEWBERY CLUB ADDS:

“I think [The Ethan I Was Before] is a great book about finding your true self in a time of sadness and a well written book that shows such a strong friendship. This book was my favorite that I have read all year and I think everybody in the world deserves to be able to read this amazing book.” - CM, Class of 2025
THE NOTATIONS OF COOPER CAMERON
by Jane O'Reilly
Age Range: 9 – 13

Two years after the death of his grandfather and the onset of intrusive thoughts about death and his family’s endangerment, Cooper develops patterns and behaviors to ensure their protection, such as reading the words, lines, and pages of books three times over, washing his hands in invisible water, and closely observing everything. (Kirkus)

BLOOMING AT THE TEXAS SUNRISE MOTEL
by Kimberly Willis Holt
2017 Chapin Mock Newbery Honor Book
Age Range: 10 – 13

“...What was really my favorite part of the book were the characters and all the different connections and emotions they felt; they were really strong.” - HM, Class of 2025, Mock Newbery Club Member

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. As she meets her grandfather, his employees, and the disabled couple who permanently occupies one of the run-down motel’s rooms, Stevie rises to the occasion of forging a new life for herself, partly by using her gardening skills. She processes her grief and her new relationships with a winning combination of grace, mistakes, humor, contemplation, and determination. (Kirkus)

SIREN SISTERS
by Dana Langer
Age Range: 10 – 14

Lolly’s mother, a member of the Penobscot nation, recently died in an accident, and her Jewish father is unmoored in his grief, playing his folk songs late at night and living in the apartment above the family’s diner while the girls manage on their own. When not in school or running the diner, Lolly’s three beautiful older sisters are under the control of the Sea Witch, a centuries-old outsider from Barbados who calls the girls to wreck ships. Lolly contends not only with a mean girl and a budding romance, but also with the bright green scales swirling up her legs and her hair turning platinum. (Kirkus)

WHEN FRIENDSHIP FOLLOWED ME HOME
by Paul Griffin
Age Range: 10 – 14

After he discovers his dead mom on the floor, Ben’s remote but well-intentioned aunt and abusive, bumbling uncle, the pair constantly at odds, become his reluctant new parents. What resilient, generous Ben, in a lifetime of foster care punctuated by loss, hasn’t learned is how to believe in the lasting power of love. It’s [his new friend] Halley and her gentle parents who teach him how to cope with loss.

Entrancing, magical, tragic, and uplifting. (Kirkus)
CHAPTER 6: VOICES ON CORNERS:
FINDING YOUR VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

THE VANDERBEEKERS OF 141ST STREET
by Karina Glaser
Age Range: 8 - 12

A few days before Christmas the Vanderbeeker family finds out they will have to leave their beloved brownstone by the end of the month—or will they?

When their landlord, Mr. Beiderman, decides not to renew their lease, the Vanderbeeker kids—12-year-old twins Isa and Jessie, 9-year-old Oliver, 6-year-old Hyacinth, and 4 (and ¾)—year-old Laney—spring into action to make him change his mind.

A heartwarming story about family and community that will appeal to readers who also enjoy an old-fashioned feel. (Kirkus)

MIDNIGHT IN THE PIAZZA
by Tiffany Parks
Age Range: 8 - 12

Moving to Rome unexpectedly would be hard for any 13-year-old, but via a series of mysterious synchronicities, Beatrice Archer soon finds herself embroiled in international art intrigue as well.

One night Beatrice witnesses a (bronze) turtle theft from her bedroom window overlooking the Fontana di Tartarughe (Turtle Fountain) in the Piazza Mattei. While her father, who heads the history department at the American Academy of Rome, is skeptical of what she saw, soon redheaded, white Beatrice is drawn into the legend behind the sculpture…(Kirkus)

UNDER THE BOTTLE BRIDGE
by Jessica Lawson
Age Range: 8 - 12

Twelve-year-old woodcraft legacy Minna Treat hopes the mysterious messages she finds in bottles under the bridge her mother died on will lead her to her unknown biological father.

MIDNIGHT WITHOUT A MOON
by Linda Williams Jackson
Age Range: 10 - 12

Rose Lee Carter, a thirteen-year-old African-American girl, dreams of life beyond the Mississippi cotton fields during the summer of 1955, but when Emmett Till is murdered and his killers are unjustly acquitted, Rose is torn between seeking her destiny outside of Mississippi or staying and being a part of an important movement. (Publisher)

FLYING LESSONS & OTHER STORIES
Edited by Ellen Oh
Age Range: 8 – 12

From basketball dreams and family fiascos to first crushes and new neighborhoods, this anthology, written by award-winning children's authors, celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us. (Publisher)
Voices on the Corner: Your Voice in Your Community

Lauren Ingalls is Ruining My Life

By Shelley Tougas
Age Range: 8 - 12

Charlotte’s mom’s always had a job—[but] now they’re in Walnut Grove, Minnesota, [Laura Ingalls’] former hometown, and Mom’s counting on their meager savings lasting until she can finish her book. [Before long.] Charlotte’s even drawn into volunteering at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum...[When] the museum is vandalized, Charlotte is blamed—and the resulting fallout teaches her to recognize the truth about herself, her family, and her friends. (Kirkus)

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora

By Pablo Carteya
Age Range: 10-up

In a vibrant debut novel about family, friendship, and community, Cartaya introduces 13-year-old Arturo Zamora, whose mother runs the family’s busy Miami restaurant, which overflows with cousins and customers. Complications ensue with the arrival of Carmen, a family friend from Spain who stirs romantic feelings in Arturo, and after Arturo learns that the restaurant is being threatened by a developer’s plans to build an upscale multi-use high-rise. (Publisher’s Weekly)

Chasing Secrets

By Gennifer Choldenko
Age Range: 8 – 14

Even though 13-year-old Lizzie Kennedy attends the prim and proper Miss Barstow’s School for Young Women...She longs to follow in her father’s footsteps, unheard of for a girl and unlike her grouchy older brother, Billy. To ease her school loneliness, Lizzie relies on Jing, her family’s beloved cook, who never fails to make her smile. As rumors about the plague infecting San Francisco abound, only Chinatown is put under quarantine. When Jing fails to return home, Lizzie fears he may be stuck in Chinatown. (Kirkus)

Viva, Rose!

By Susan Krawitz
Age Range: 9 - 12

Rose is 13 and living in El Paso, Texas, in 1915 when she sees a newspaper photograph of Pancho Villa. This is not unexpected for the times; the surprise is that her brother Abraham is in the picture. Rose’s family has immigrated from Czarist Russia, but unlike so many other Jews, they settled in the West. Abraham had told his family that he wanted to be a cowboy. Instead, Rose sees that he has “gone off to be a low-life bandit in a cowboy hat ‘...Rose is a determined character who gains a more mature understanding of her family and faith, her fellow townspeople, and Pancho Villa through her adventures. (Kirkus)

Piecing Me Together

By Renée Watson
Age Range: 12 & up

For two years, Jade has been a scholarship student at a predominantly white private high school where she is one of few African-American students—the only one from her “bad” neighborhood in Portland, Oregon. At school, Jade has many opportunities, stepping stones to move beyond her neighborhood someday, maybe even travel the world. But sometimes these opportunities and her white guidance counselor make Jade feel like a charity case. (Kirkus)
CHAPTER 7: VOICES IN RECOVERY: IN SICKNESS, AND IN HEALTH

**BUBBLE**
by Stewart Foster  
**Age Range:** 9 – 13

“I wish my real world was as big as the one in my head,” 11-year-old Joe says, with good reason. He suffers from Severe Combined Immunodeficiency, which means that stepping outside his sterile environment could kill him. Aside from his older sister, Beth, medical staff are his only company. (Kirkus)

**HALFWAY NORMAL**
by Barbara Dee  
**Age Range:** 8 - 12

Norah Levy is 12 and entering seventh grade, but she hasn’t been in school for the past two years: she’s been busy fighting acute lymphoblastic leukemia, and now she’s figuring out how to re-enter the “normal” world.

Norah has difficulty making the transition from cancer patient to normal middle schooler. Everyone in her grade knows her as “The Girl Who,” and Norah is tired of people treating her differently. (Kirkus)

**LUCKY BROKEN GIRL**
by Ruth Behar  
**Age Range:** 10 - 13

After Papi’s Oldsmobile is involved in a fatal multicar collision, Ruthie’s leg is severely broken. The doctor opts to immobilize both legs in a body cast that covers Ruthie from chest to toes. Bedridden and lonely, Ruthie knows she’s “lucky” to be alive, but she’s also “broken.” She begins collecting stories from her [Jewish Cuban] grandparents; her fellow young immigrant friends, Belgian Danielle and Indian Ramu; her “flower power” tutor, Joy; and her vibrant Mexican neighbor, Chicho, an artist who teaches her about Frida Kahlo. (Kirkus)

**NOT AS WE KNOW IT**
by Tom Avery  
**Age Range:** 11 - 16

Twins Jamie and Ned have always explored their seaside world together, but now Ned is dying of cystic fibrosis, and Jamie has to learn how to forge ahead without him.

During their shared adventures they’ve collected the flotsam that’s washed up on the shore. After a storm, the boys find in the seaweed a strange creature…bring the injured animal home, and hide it in a tub in the garage. They quickly realize it may be a merman. (Kirkus)

**BREATHING ROOM**
by Marsha Hayles  
**Age Range:** 10-14

Thirteen-year-old Evvy Hoffmeister has tuberculosis and feels abandoned by her family when she’s sent to the sanitarium to be cured. The cold nurses, strict rules, mind-numbing routines, and endless bed rest are dispiriting for Evvy and her roommates: kind Beverly, glamorous Pearl, and defensive Dena. “Trying to stay alive at Loon Lake felt like it was killing me already,” says Evvy. Nonetheless, the girls find strength in each other and discover creative ways to bring cheer. (Publisher’s Weekly)
CHAPTER 8: FINDING YOUR VOICE IN TROUBLED TIMES

BETTY BEFORE X
by Ilyasah Shabazz & Renée Watson
Age Range: 10 – 14

A passion for social justice blossoms during the middle school years for the girl who grew up to become Dr. Betty Shabazz. Loved but unwanted by her mother, 11-year-old Betty...[is]...swept up in the fervor and demand for social justice that would become a movement. (Kirkus)

UNBOUND
by Ann E. Burg
Age Range: 9 - 12

Written in clipped verse, [Unbound] follows nine-year-old Grace, who is called up from the slave cabins to work in the Big House.

When Grace talks back to the Missus, causing her mother and younger brothers to be sent to the auction block, Grace and her family flee the plantation and go deep, seeking refuge in the Great Dismal Swamp. (Publisher’s Weekly)

AHIMSA
by Supriya Kelkar
Age Range: 8 - 12

Although Kelkar’s debut novel takes place in the 1940s, when Indian citizens were fighting for independence from British rule, it is uncannily timely: 10-year old Anjali grapples with issues of social justice in many of the same ways young people are today.

When Anjali’s mother quits her job to become a freedom fighter, Anjali is reluctant to join the struggle... But as her relationship with her mother evolves, her experience of and commitment to activism change as well. (Kirkus)

THE ENDLESS STEPPE: GROWING UP IN SIBERIA
by Esther Hautzig
Age Range: 10 & up

Ten-year-old Esther Rudomin movingly describes "the end of my lovely world" when her family is arrested in 1941 and taken from their home and exiled to Siberia. (Publisher’s Weekly)

Enjoy the below title on a Playaway

FAREWELL TO MANZANAR
by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston & James D. Houston
Age Range: 10 & up

During World War II, a community called Manzanar was hastily created in the high mountain desert country of California, east of the Sierras. Its purpose was to house thousands of Japanese Americans. One of the first families to arrive was the Wakatsukis, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and take with them only the belongings they could carry. For Jeanne Wakatsuki, a seven-year-old child, Manzanar became a way of life in which she struggled and adapted, observed and grew...(Book Cover)
CHAPTER 9: PLAYAWAY VOICES

STRONG VOICES (LITERALLY) WHISPERED INTO YOUR EAR

THE STORY OF MY LIFE
by Helen Keller
Age Range: 10 & up
Graceful, authoritative memoir from the country’s first Hispanic Supreme Court justice.

Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, in 1880, Helen Keller lived the first two years of her life as any normal seeing and hearing person might. Then, one dreary February, Helen was stricken with a mysterious illness that left her blind and deaf. It wasn’t until the age of six, when Miss Sullivan – “Teacher” - entered her life, that Helen acquired the means to communicate with those she loved. (Publisher)

MY BELOVED WORLD
by Sonia Sotomayor
Age Range: 10 & up
Graceful, authoritative memoir from the country’s first Hispanic Supreme Court justice.

As a child in South Bronx public housing, Sotomayor was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. Her Puerto Rican parents’ struggles included a father’s battle with alcoholism that would claim his life when Sotomayor was 9, leaving her mother, a former Women’s Army Corps soldier turned nurse, to raise her. Time spent with her cousin, Catholic school friends and her beloved grandmother helped to calm the chaos of life in the projects. (Kirkus)

NOTORIOUS RBG
The Life And Times Of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik
Age Range: 10 & up
You can't spell truth without Ruth.
Only Ruth Bader Ginsburg can judge me.
The Ruth will set you free.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg never asked for fame she was just trying to make the world a little better and a little freer. But along the way, the feminist pioneer’s searing dissents and steely strength have inspired millions. (Publisher)

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