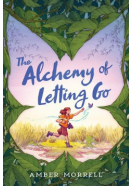






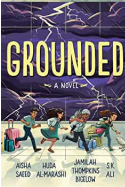















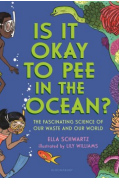











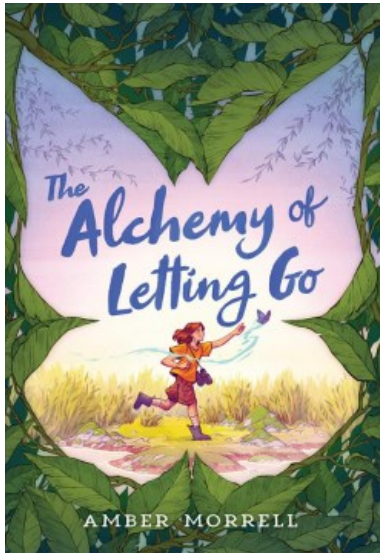


JLMS Summer Reading List 2023

Fiction



The Alchemy of Letting Go by Amber Morrell

Twelve-year-old Juniper Edwards can't stop chasing the endangered butterfly her sister died trying to catch. In her grief, Juniper finds comfort in her family's study of insects, because science is based on logic, order, and control. But then Juniper's search for the butterfly nearly kills her, too, and when she wakes up with newfound abilities, she discovers that the line between science and magic--and life and death--is not as solid as she thought. With the help of her mysterious neighbors, Juniper tries an experiment to change things back to the way they were. Its result will force her to face the fact that some things are way beyond her control. ⬆



Audrey Covington Breaks the Rules by Karina Evans

A grandmother-granddaughter duo set off on the Hollywood adventure of a lifetime in this funny middle-grade novel about breaking rules, growing up, and finding yourself--perfect for fans of Wendy Mass and Booki Vivat.

Audrey Covington's parents are the textbook definition of strict--they don't let Audrey stay up late or watch scary movies, and they definitely don't let her go anywhere unsupervised. Audrey knows it's best to just accept the way it is. But her friends decide her parents' rules are getting in the way of all their fun and unceremoniously disinvite her from their annual start-of-summer slumber party so they aren't tied down by boring Audrey.

Now Audrey is stuck helping her parents move her former-movie-star grandmother into a luxury retirement community. When she finally manages to sneak off to her parents' car to check her phone, her grandmother climbs into the driver's seat and speeds off--not realizing Audrey is still in the back seat! After startling each other, they come to a deal: Audrey promises not to tell her parents where her grandma is if Audrey can join in on one last grand adventure--no rules allowed. But as the two make their way across Hollywood, they realize that the life they think

they want might not be what they need. ⬆



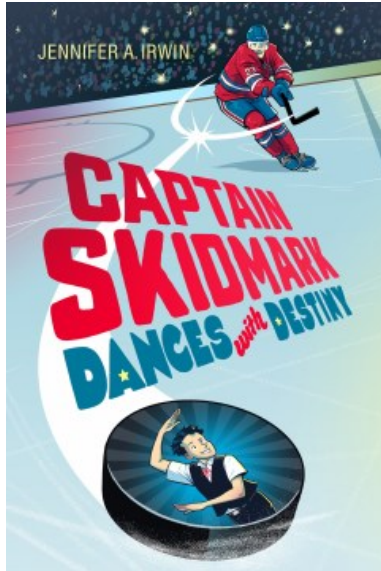
Bea and the New Deal Horse by L.M. Elliott

This lyrical middle grade historical novel set during the Great Depression from award-winning author L. M. Elliott is a moving tale of the spirit of American persistence, found family, and the magical partnership between girl and horse.

Bea wakes to Daddy's note in a hayloft, where he abandoned her with her little sister after the stock market crash took everything: Daddy's job at the bank, their home, Mama's health and life.

How is Bea supposed to convince the imposing Mrs. Scott to take in two stray children? Mrs. Scott's money and Virginia farm are drying up in a drought and the Great Depression, too. She might have to sell her beautiful horses, starting with a dangerous chestnut that has caused tragedy in the past and injures her stableman shortly after Bea arrives.

But wrestling with her own hurts and fears, Bea understands the chestnut's skittish distrust. She sees hope in the powerful jumper--if he can compete at horse shows, they might save the farm, and maybe Bea can even win a place in Mrs. Scott's heart. ⬆



***Captain Skidmark Dances with Destiny* by**

Jennifer Irwin

This laugh-out-loud middle-grade novel follows thirteen-year-old Will-- who hates hockey and loves dancing--as he navigates school, bullies, and his father's expectations.

Will is a Canadian eighth grader who hates hockey--and he stinks at it, too. Will is bullied at school, doesn't have any friends, and is generally miserable.

When Will's seventeen-year-old hockey-star cousin, Alex, arrives to stay with Will's family, Will and Alex quickly realize they can't stand each other. Then Will stumbles into a local dance school. He fights the urge to cha-cha, but he's good! When Will's dad finds out about the dancing, he basically forbids it. And Alex's dad refuses to listen to what Alex wants to do with his life.

Will takes readers on a journey through noogies, awkward conversations, and epic farts. He worries, dances, and makes messes. Filled with humor, nuance, and emotion, this novel asks what makes a family and what makes a man. ⬆



***Cookie Monsters* by Erika Kendrick**

A 12-year-old girl finds her voice with the help of her community as she competes to sell the most cookies. Brooklyn Ace, a seventh grader at Valentine Middle School, is the reigning cookie queen. This year will be no different despite not having her biggest supporter in her corner to help her reach her goal of selling 5,000 boxes of World Scouts Alliance cookies and winning the Santa Monica district prize. Her biggest obstacle is Piper Parker, a new student who is already stealing away Brooklyn's regular customers with fancy tactics—and the help of lots of kids from their school eager to go to the pool party Piper is promising them if she wins. Brooklyn realizes that her mom, whose death she is grieving, did a tremendous amount of the groundwork for Brooklyn's record-breaking cookie sales. Even with the help of her therapist and supportive, scout squad—Lyric, Luciana, and Stella Rose—Brooklyn will need to reexamine her definition of winning as the fierce cookie competition nears its end. ⬆



***Pages & Co The Bookwanders* by Anna James**

Eleven year-old Tilly has lived above her grandparents' bookshop ever since her mother disappeared shortly after she was born. Like the rest of her family, Tilly loves nothing more than to escape into the pages of her favorite stories.

One day Tilly realizes that classic children's characters are appearing in the shop through the magic of 'book wandering' - crossing over from the page into real life.

With the help of Anne of Green Gables and Alice in Wonderland. Tilly is determined to solve the mystery of what happened to her mother all those years ago, so she bravely steps into the unknown, unsure of what adventure lies ahead and what dangers she may face. ⬆



Hands by Torrey Maldonado

Trev would do anything to protect his mom and sisters, especially from his stepdad. But his stepdad's return stresses Trev--because when he left, he threatened Trev's mom. Rather than live scared, Trev takes matters into his own hands, literally. He starts learning to box to handle his stepdad. But everyone isn't a fan of his plan, because Trev's a talented artist, and his hands could actually help him build a better future. And they're letting him know. But their advice for some distant future feels useless in his reality right now. Ultimately, Trev knows his future is in his hands, and his hands are his own, and he has to choose how to use them. ⬆



The Firefly Summer by Morgan Matson

The Penderwicks meets The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street in New York Times bestselling author Morgan Matson's middle grade debut about a young girl who gets to know her mom's side of the family and hunts for hidden treasure over the course of one chaotic summer.

For as long as Ryanna Stuart can remember, her summers have been spent with her father and his new wife. Just the three of them, structured, planned, and quiet. But this summer is different. This summer, she's received a letter from her grandparents--grandparents neither she nor her dad have spoken to since her mom's death--inviting her to stay with them at an old summer camp in the Poconos.

Ryanna accepts. She wants to learn about her mom. She wants to uncover the mystery of why her father hasn't spoken to her grandparents all these years. She's even looking forward to a quiet summer by the lake. But what she finds are relatives...so many relatives! Aunts and uncles and cousins upon cousins--a motley, rambunctious crew of kids and eccentric, unconventional adults. People who have memories of her mom from when she was Ryanna's age, clues to her past like a treasure map. Ryanna even finds an actual, real-life treasure map!

Over the course of one unforgettable summer--filled with s'mores and swimming, adventure and fun, and even a decades-old mystery to solve--Ryanna discovers a whole new side of herself and that, sometimes, the last place you expected to be is the place where you really belong.

The quotidian consequences of climate change are laid bare, impossible to ignore despite the creative team's adroit avoidance of proselytizing. The text is pointed and poignant, beautifully complemented by dynamic illustrations that bring the scenes to dramatic life. Backmatter does an excellent job summarizing global warming and its negative effects, which does cast a shadow over the somewhat-forced optimism of the story's ending, as it seems only a matter of time

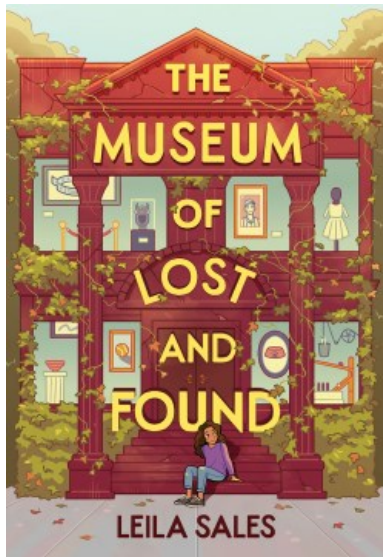
before the children's hard-won luck runs out again. Timely and boldly told. ⬆



***Grounded* by Aisha Saeed**

When a thunderstorm grounds all flights following a huge Muslim convention, four unlikely kids are thrown together. Feek is stuck babysitting his younger sister, but he'd rather be writing a poem that's good enough for his dad, a famous poet and rapper. Hanna is intent on finding a lost cat in the airport--and also on avoiding a conversation with her dad about him possibly remarrying. Sami is struggling with his anxiety and worried that he'll miss the karate tournament that he's trained so hard for. And Nora has to deal with the pressure of being the daughter of a

prominent congresswoman, when all she really wants to do is make fun NokNok videos. These kids don't seem to have much in common--yet. ⬆



The Museum of Lost and Found by Leila Sales

A warm, relatable middle-grade story about a friendship falling apart and the abandoned museum that becomes a shrine to lost connections

Vanessa isn't sure which happened first: finding the abandoned museum or losing her best friend Bailey. She doesn't know what to do with herself now that Bailey has left her behind--but when she stumbles upon an empty, forgotten museum, her purpose becomes clear. Vanessa starts filling the museum with her own artifacts and memories, hoping that perhaps, if she can find the right way to tell the story of her broken friendship, she can figure out how to make it whole again.

As Vanessa's museum grows, it seems like the place might have the answers to other questions, too. Like why a mysterious work of art was left behind. Or how to deal with a military dad who's trying to parent from thousands of miles away. Or why Vanessa's bad habit is getting harder and harder to quit. Or even, maybe, how to set the past to rest and find a way to move forward.

Moving and charming, *The Museum of Lost and Found* is about how we grow apart from some people as we grow up--and how sometimes we can find new pieces of ourselves in the aftermath. ⬆



***Nightmare Island* by Shakirah Bourne**

Twelve year-old Serenity Noah has never told anyone about her recurring nightmares -- the haunting images of silver butterflies whose flapping wings drive away all sound, leaving only suffocating silence in their wake. Her parents already favor her "perfect" younger brother, Peace, and she doesn't want to be seen as the "problem" child.

Instead, Serenity's found a productive way to channel her fears: creating a horror movie as scary as her nightmares.

When Peace suddenly becomes afraid of the dark and refuses to sleep alone, their parents take him away for "treatment" on Duppy Island. Serenity has a very bad feeling about the mysterious island and the facility's creepy leader, Dr. Whisper. And when she sees a silver butterfly from her nightmares in the forbidden forest she realizes that something is seriously, dangerously awry.

But nothing could've prepared Serenity for the truth: the island is home to douens -- faceless children with backward feet who are trapped in limbo between the world of the living and the land of the dead. And unless Serenity acts soon, her brother is going to join their ranks... ⬆



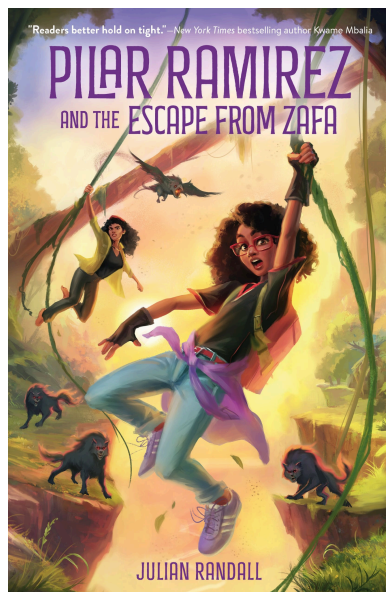
***Iceberg* by Jennifer A. Nielsen**

Hazel Rothbury is traveling all alone from her home in England aboard the celebrated ship Titanic. Following the untimely death of her father, Hazel's mother is sending her to the US to work in a factory, so that she might send money back home to help her family make ends meet.

But Hazel harbors a secret dream: She wants to be a journalist, and she just knows that if she can write and sell a story about the Titanic's maiden voyage, she could earn enough money to support her family and not have to go to a sweatshop. When Hazel discovers that mother didn't send her with enough money for a ticket, she decides she must stow away onboard the storied ship.

With the help of a porter named Charlie and a sweet first-class passenger named Sylvia, Hazel explores the opulent ship in secret, but a haunting mystery quickly finds her. The danger only intensifies when calamity strikes, and readers will be caught up in the terror and suspense

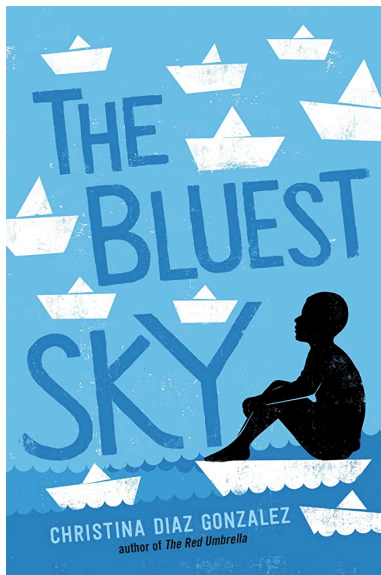
alongside Hazel as she fights to save her friends and herself. ⬆



Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa by Julian Randall

Magic awaits around every corner in Zafa. Pilar Ramirez grew up hearing stories of the Dominican boogeyman El Cuco—alongside accounts of dictator Rafael Trujillo, whose ruthlessness forced her abuela to flee the country with Mami long before Pilar was born. A sharp-tongued resident of Chicago living in a neighborhood that seems to be gentrifying overnight, Pilar aspires to be a documentary filmmaker and share untold stories of silenced voices, including that of her cousin Natasha, who vanished in 1957 during the Trujillo regime. Pilar can't believe her luck when Lorena, her annoyingly perfect college student sister, arranges for her to interview a sociology professor who happens to be studying missing persons from this era. Pilar arrives at the professor's office, notices a file folder with her missing cousin's name on it, and before you can blink an ojo, she is magically pulled into the file and whisked away to the supernatural island of Zafa. Pilar must team up with its scrappy, otherworldly inhabitants to unravel the mystery of Natasha's disappearance and help save the island from dark forces. Spanish words and phrases are woven into the English text in ways that enhance the character development and anchor the Dominican culture that permeates the story. Pilar's humorous, authentically tweenage voice shines as she makes astute observations about the world around

her. Nonstop action and plenty of heart create a story worth escaping into. ⬆



The Bluest Sky by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

A boy and his family must decide whether to remain in Cuba under a repressive government or risk everything for the chance of a new beginning in this gripping story from the award-winning author of *The Red Umbrella*.

There are two versions of Hector: the public and the private. It's the only way to survive in communist Cuba--especially when your father was exiled to the U.S. and labeled an enemy of the people. Hector must always be seen as a fierce supporter of the regime, even if that means loudly rejecting the father he still loves.

But in the summer of 1980, those two versions are hard to keep separate. No longer able to suppress a public uprising, the Cuban government says it will open the port of Mariel to all who wish to leave the country--if they can find a boat. But choosing to leave comes with a price. Those who want to flee are denounced as traitors by family and friends. There are violent acts of repudiation, and no one knows if they will truly be allowed to leave the country or not.

So when Hector's mother announces that she wants the family to risk everything to go to the United States, he is torn. He misses his father, but Cuba is the only home he has ever known. All his dreams and plans require him to stay. Can he leave everything behind for an unknown future?

In a summer of heat and upheaval, danger and deadly consequences, Hector's two worlds are on a collision course. Will the impact destroy him and everything he loves? ⬆



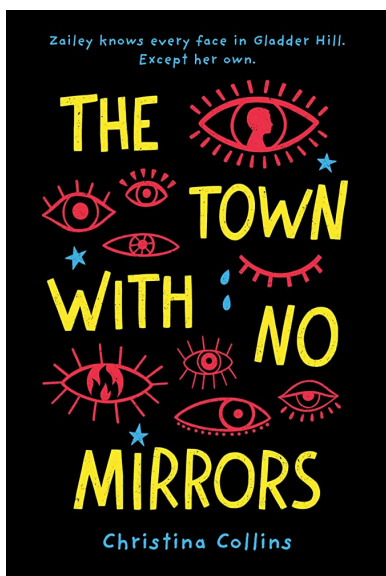
***What Happened to Rachel Riley?* By Claire**

Swinarski

Anna Hunt may be the new girl at East Middle School, but she can already tell there's something off about her eighth-grade class. Rachel Riley, who just last year was one of the most popular girls in school, has become a social outcast. But no one, including Rachel Riley herself, will tell Anna why.

As a die-hard podcast enthusiast, Anna knows there's always more to a story than meets the eye. So she decides to put her fact-seeking skills to the test and create her own podcast around the question that won't stop running through her head: What happened to Rachel Riley?

With the entire eighth grade working against her, Anna dives headfirst into the evidence. Clue after clue, the mystery widens, painting an even more complex story than Anna could have anticipated. But there's one thing she's certain of: If you're going to ask a complicated question, you better be prepared for the fallout that may come with the answer. ⬆



***The Town With No Mirrors* by Christina Collins**

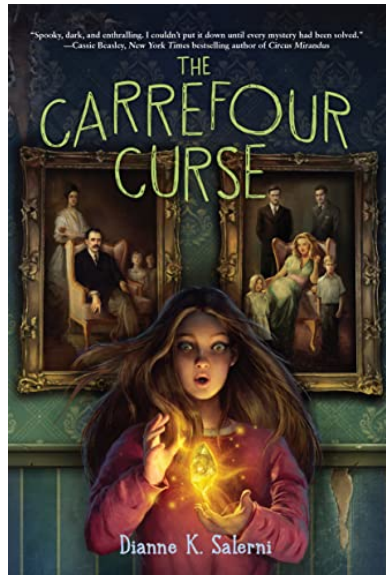
Zailey has never seen her own face. She's never seen her reflection, or a photo of herself, or even a drawing. In the special community of Gladder Hill, cameras and mirrors are forbidden: it's

why everyone's happier here. Nobody talks about anyone else's appearance. You're not supposed to even think about what other people look like, or what you look like.

But Zailey does.

She knows her superficial thoughts are wrong, and her sketchbook, filled with secret portraits of her classmates and neighbors, could get her in trouble. Yet she can't help but think those thoughts, and be curious about the outside world where she once lived, years ago. Most of all, she wonders what it's like to see herself--her own face.

When Zailey suddenly finds herself beyond the gates of her town, she has a chance to see if what she's been taught about the outside world is true and search for the mother she barely remembers. Only then will she find out the real story about Gladder Hill. But is she prepared for the truth? ⬆



***The Carrefour Curse* by Dianne K. Salerni**

Twelve-year-old Garnet regrets that she doesn't know her family. Her mother has done her best to keep it that way, living far from the rest of the magical Carrefour clan and their dark, dangerous mansion known as Crossroad House.

But when Garnet finally gets summoned to the estate, it isn't quite what she hoped for. Her relatives are strange and quarrelsome, each room in Crossroad House is more dilapidated than the last, and she can't keep straight which dusty hallways and cobwebbed corners are forbidden.

Then Garnet learns the family secret: their dying patriarch fights to retain his life by stealing power from others. Every accident that isn't an accident, every unexpected illness and unexplained disappearance grants Jasper Carrefour a little more time. While the Carrefours squabble over who will inherit his role when (if) he dies, Garnet encounters evidence of an even deeper curse. Was she brought to Crossroad House as part of the curse . . . or is she meant to break it? ⬆



Leeva at Last by Sara Pennypacker

What are people for?

That's the burning question on the mind of Leeva Spayce Thornblossom.

Fame! says Leeva's mom, the mayor of Nutsmore.

Money! says her dad, the town treasurer.

With the help of an orphaned badger, a risk-averse boy in a hazmat suit, and the town's librarians, Leeva sets off to discover her own answer--setting off a chain of events that will change Nutsmore forever. ⬆



The Talent Thief by Mike Trayer

Tiffany Tudwell is cursed. She once tripped over a backpack and fell face-first into a trashcan. She had pink eye on picture day. One time she tried to hold back a sneeze and farted on the cutest boy in class. She longs for the spotlight, but it's safer to stay hidden in the shadows where the curse can't reach her and no one can make fun of her.

Until the night two meteors collide over her backyard giving Tiffany the ability to steal people's talents for a day--like stealing mean girl Candace's beautiful singing voice in the middle of play

rehearsal, or drawing an incredible self-portrait after borrowing the teacher's pencil. Her power even gets the attention of the most popular boy in school, the smooth-talking Brady Northrup.

But her powers can't solve everything--or can they? When a local philanthropist announces a fundraiser contest, Tiffany, with Brady's help, decides to use her powers to save her dad's failing planetarium. And maybe discover her own talent along the way... ⬆



A Green Velvet Secret by Vicki Grant

It's always hard to lose a friend, but for Yardley O'Hanlon it's devastating. Her best friend is her wild and wonderful grandmother Gidge. They're two fashionable peas in a quirky little pod. They spend all their time together sewing and crafting and creating beautiful things -- until Gidge dies, and Yardley loses her for good.

Or does she?

Yardley isn't convinced. Gidge was a big believer in reincarnation. She promised she'd never leave Yardley, and Gidge always kept her promises. So when a stylish older woman walks into the Over Easy Vintage Emporium where Yardley is helping out, Yardley is sure it's her grandmother, back from the dead. But her happiness doesn't last long, as the woman runs away in terror and no one else believes she was Gidge reincarnated. It's only with the help of a beautiful green velvet dress, a series of letters from "the other side" and an irritating twelve-year-old buttinsky named Harris that Yardley discovers there's more to the mystery woman -- and Gidge -- than she ever imagined. ⬆

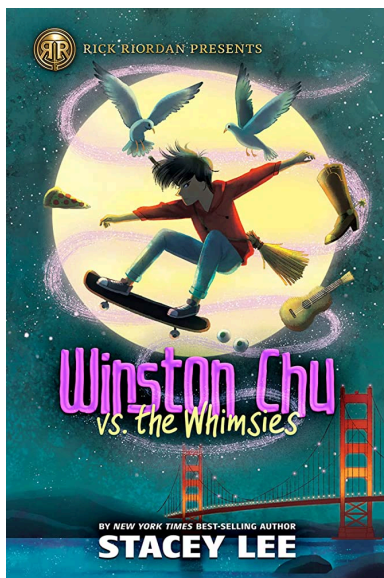


***You Are Here Connecting Flights* by Oh+**

An incident at a TSA security check point sows chaos and rumors, creating a chain of events that impacts twelve young Asian Americans in a crowded and restless airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross and collide, they encounter fellow travelers--some helpful, some hostile--as they discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, the importance of the right word at the right time, and the unexpected significance of a blue Stratocaster electric guitar.

Twelve powerhouse Asian American authors explore themes of identity and belonging in the entwined experiences of young people whose family roots may extend to East and Southeast

Asia, but who are themselves distinctly American. ⬆



***Winston Chi vs. the Whimsies* by Stacey Lee**

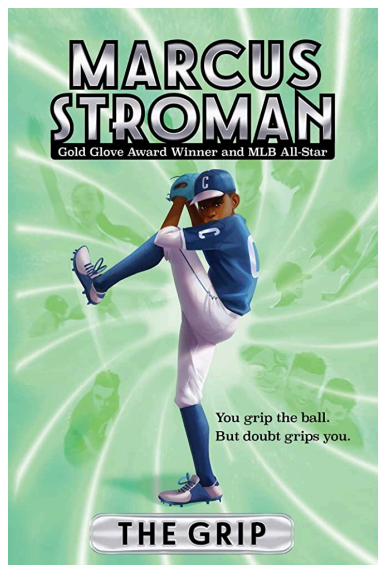
Twelve-year-old Winston Chu is supposed to learn impulse control at the cooking academy his mom enrolled him in. But learning to think before he acts won't happen overnight.

While skateboarding home with a pie in hand, Winston inadvertently stops a robbery at Mr. Pang's Whimsies, an oddities shop in Chinatown. As a reward, Mr. Pang invites Winston to choose any item in the store. But the strange old man warns Winston to browse carefully, for the first thing Winston touches will be the thing he gets. Before Winston can decide, a magpie flies under a shelf, and he impulsively grabs an old broom to sweep it out.

Mr. Pang hands him the broom, along with a dustpan. "Two for one. Congratulations."

Deflated, Winston returns home, determined to put the broom incident behind him. Or at least in the closet. But when some of his most beloved possessions go missing, all Winston can think about are the broom and dustpan. Did they somehow take his stuff? And what--or who--will they dispose of next?

It's time to break into Mr. Pang's Whimsies, where clearly there's more going on than meets the far-seeing eyeball. It's time to fight magic with magic. And this time, Winston better have a plan.



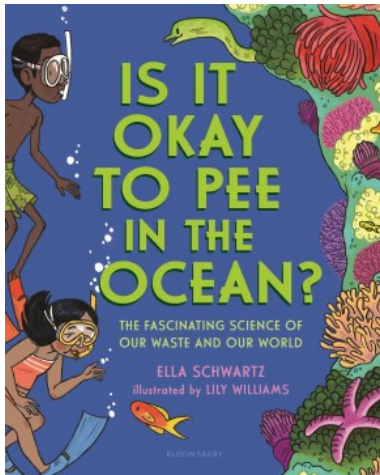
***The Grip* by Marcus Stroman**

Young Marcus Stroman is determined to make it to the highest playing level he can, despite every coach telling him he's not tall enough to become a "real" pitcher. He'll show them...with some struggling and a whole lot of learning.

It's easy to forget that for every professional sports player there was a kid just learning that sport, dealing with nerves during try-outs, dropping the ball when all their teammates are counting on them, and learning how to stay friends with someone who doesn't make the team. These hard lessons are universal whether in the majors or on a school playing field, and so are

teamwork, competition, and believing in yourself. 

NonFiction



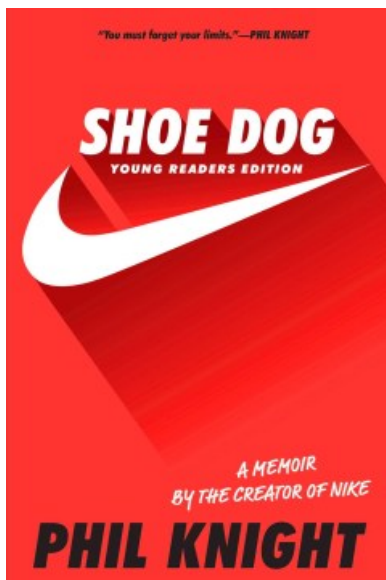
Is It Okay to Pee in the Ocean? By Ella Schwartz
Illustrated by Lily Williams

Get the facts you'll really want to know when you really need to go.

Why do we pee? Is pee just yellow water? Is the ocean a giant toilet bowl (eww!)? If you've ever wondered about your body's waste . . . urine luck! This book is all about pee: from why and how we do it, to its effects on our world.

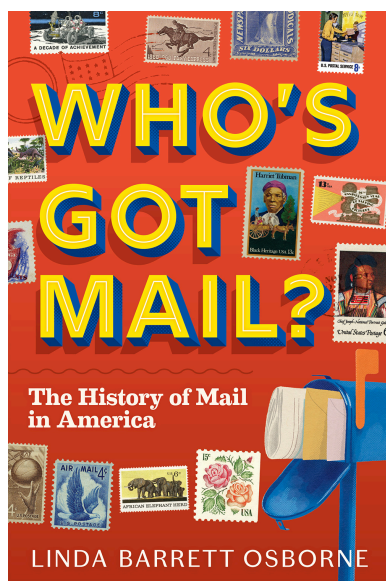
Explore the human systems that make pee happen, tackle environmental questions about the impacts of human waste, discover surprising uses of urine throughout history-like in mouthwash and skin creams-and even try out at-home, hands-on experiments (with no bodily fluids required, of course!).

With engaging black-and-white-illustrations and just enough ick-factor, this engrossing (and sometimes a little bit gross) book gets to the bottom of an oft-ignored part of the science of life.



Shoe Dog by Phil Knight

A sanitized retrospective on the days before Nike was Nike. In 1962, Phil Knight is 24 years old, an MBA living in his parents' house again, searching for a direction for his life. While on a run, he returns to an idea he had in college: importing Japanese track and field shoes and selling them in America. Knight heads to Japan and a meeting with the Onitsuka shoe company, makers of the Tiger flat—a term Knight never explains. Through luck and moxie, he forms a partnership with Onitsuka and names his company Blue Ribbon Sports. With the help of dedicated employees, over the next 10 years Blue Ribbon sells more and more shoes, held back only by bankers and Onitsuka itself. Knight is personally successful, too, falling in love, getting married and having a child. When Blue Ribbon is renamed Nike, it is a turning point that concludes the memoir. A final chapter covers the next eight years, detailing some of Nike's successes and setbacks. This memoir is more focused on 1960s accounting practices and interpersonal dynamics than the shoes—and what else would you want to read about when it comes to Nike? Only for the most dedicated fans of the company. ⬆

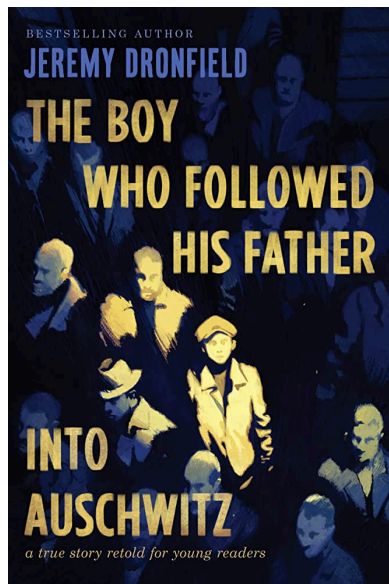


Who's got Mail? The History of Mail in America
by Linda Barrett Osborne

"In America, one of the first things done in a new State is to have the mail come." —Alexis de Toqueville, 1835

Who's Got Mail? is an intriguing and fact-filled look at how the mail has been delivered in the United States since before the Constitution was even signed. In the United States, the spread of the postal service went hand in hand with the spread of democracy and transportation. As settlement spread west, communication became even more important to let distant residents feel that they were American; no part of the country was too far away, no village or farm too small to have access to the post. Moreover, the Post Office has always been a public service—it was not originally designed to make a profit or act like a business, but to deliver letters, medical supplies, packages ordered online, and all the things that Americans need at a reasonable cost. Over the centuries, it has also been one of the largest employers in the United States, particularly as a means for African Americans and women to secure stable, middle-class jobs.

Full of eccentric characters, great stories, and technological achievements, this fun middle-grade narrative nonfiction from author Linda Barrett Osborne celebrates one of the oldest and strongest institutions, and is a true testament to the spirit of American democracy. ⬆



The Boy Who Followed His Father Into Auschwitz by Jeremy Dronfield

Fritz Kleinmann was fourteen when the Nazis took over Vienna. Kurt, his little brother, was eight. Under Hitler's brutal regime, their Austrian-Jewish family of six was cruelly torn apart.

Taken to Buchenwald concentration camp, Fritz and his Papa, Gustav, underwent hard labor and starvation. Meanwhile, Kurt made the difficult voyage, all alone, to America, to escape the war.

When Papa was ordered to the infamous Auschwitz concentration camp, Fritz--desperate not to lose his beloved father--insisted he must go too. Together, they endured countless atrocities to survive.

Seventh grader Henrietta Weldon gets to switch schools--finally! She'll be "mainstreaming" into public school, leaving her special education school behind. She can't wait for her new schedule, new friends, and new classes.

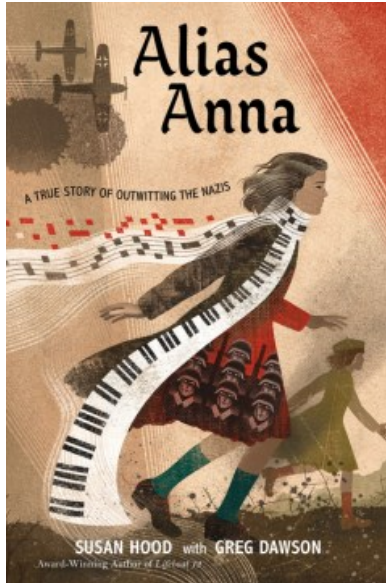
Henri's dyscalculia, a learning disability that makes math challenging to process and understand, is what she expects to give her problems. What she doesn't expect is a family feud with her sister over her new friends, joining the girls' soccer team, and discovering poetry. Henri's tutor and new friend, Vinnie, reminds her to take it slow. One problem at a time.

If Henri Weldon has twenty-four hours in a day, and she has two siblings who dislike her four new friends, two hours of soccer practice, seven hours of classes, and three hours of homework . . . she has:

A. No free time

B. No idea how to make everyone happy

C. No time to figure it out, Henri Weldon! ⬆

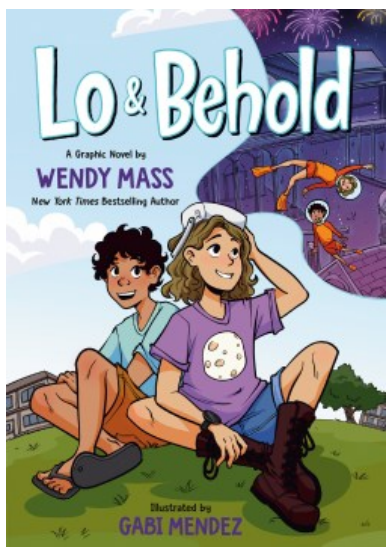


Alias Anna by Susan Hood with Greg Dawson

She wouldn't be Zhanna. She'd use an alias. A for Anna. A for alive.

When the Germans invade Ukraine, Zhanna, a young Jewish girl, must leave behind her friends, her freedom, and her promising musical future at the world's top conservatory. With no time to say goodbye, Zhanna, her sister Frina, and their entire family are removed from their home by the Nazis and forced on a long, cold, death march. When a guard turns a blind eye, Zhanna flees with nothing more than her musical talent, her beloved sheet music, and her father's final plea: "I don't care what you do. Just live." ⬆

Graphic Novels



Lo & Behold by Wendy Mass Illustrated by Gabi

Mendez

A young girl avoids a troubling family matter by escaping into virtual reality. Addie Brecker had the perfect life: a devoted mom who shared her love of tortoises and a caring dad who worked

as a futurist. But after her mom had a terrible cycling accident, she changed. Addie takes her time with sharing exactly what happened as her mother fell into painkiller addiction, but Mass' story gathers steam when Addie and her dad take a road trip to Spring Haven University, where they will be staying for six weeks while he works on a virtual reality project. At Spring Haven, Addie meets quirky and fun-loving neighbor boy Mateo Vargas, who has his own secrets. Not yet ready to open up about her mom, Addie spends much of her time helmeted in VR, beta-testing her dad's students' work. But she comes to realize that she can let people in and enjoy the real and virtual worlds equally. This artfully rendered graphic charmer is carefully nuanced and adroitly paced, exploring such issues as addiction, grief, and technology's role in our lives. As the stories of Addie's mom's struggles and a tragic event in Mateo's family unfold, readers are granted admittance into their lives alongside the characters. The Breckers read White; the Vargas family is cued Latine, and there is racial diversity in the supporting cast. An

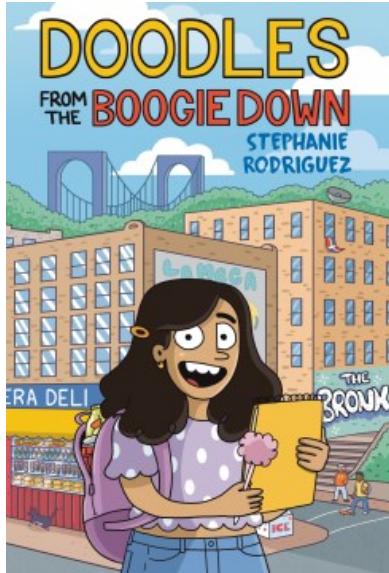
affecting examination hitting many contemporary notes.



Global by Eoin Colfer illustrated by Andrew Donkin

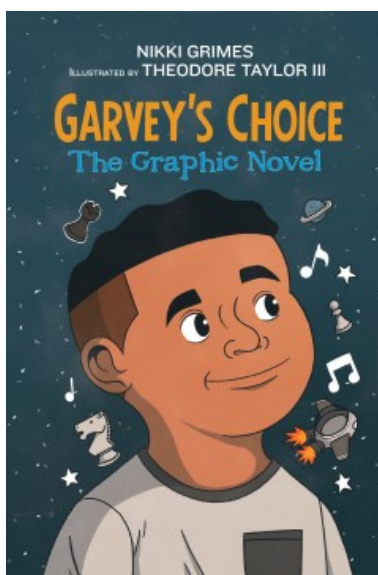
The creators of the acclaimed graphic novel *Illegal* (2017) take on climate change. Twelve-year-old Sami lives with his grandfather in a fishing village on the Bay of Bengal. Every day, survival becomes more difficult as the sea rises, cyclones buffet the coast with increasing ferocity, and the two bring in fewer and fewer fish. Thousands of miles away, in Northern Canada, in the Arctic Circle, Yuki, a 14-year-old girl cued as Inuit is determined to save the emergent and struggling grolar bears (a polar bear–grizzly hybrid), which brings her face to face with nature at its most primal. Their stories mirror each other, pitting individuals and communities against themselves, each other, and nature itself as their worlds change faster and more drastically than they can adapt to. The decision to depict two mostly disparate, highly personal narratives from vastly different communities works surprisingly well to heighten relatability for young readers who might otherwise feel worlds away from the events of the story.





Doodles from the Boogie Down by Stephanie Rodriguez

In Rodriguez's quasi-memoir, eighth grade finds 13-year-old Steph at a crossroads in the Bronx circa 2000. Even though high school's fast approaching, Steph can't quite shake off her overprotective mom, who insists on walking her to school every morning and expects Steph to come straight home after school. How embarrassing! To pursue her dreams of becoming an artist, Steph decides to apply to LaGuardia High School, an art school in Manhattan. Only one problem: Her mom does NOT want her to go to a public school. Undeterred in her artistic ambitions, Steph preps to get into LaGuardia with the help of Ms. Santiago, her art teacher. The young artist, however, keeps her plans mostly a secret, stirring up a web of lies for her mom, Ms. Santiago, and even her best friends, Tiff and Ana. Meanwhile, cracks start forming in her once-solid friendships with Tiff and Ana. While Tiff derides Steph's art goals, Ana gets chummy with Steph's schoolyard bullies. Will Steph get into LaGuardia in one piece? ⬆



Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes illustrated by Theodore Taylor III

Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in astronomy, science fiction, reading—anything but sports. Feeling like a failure, he comforts himself with

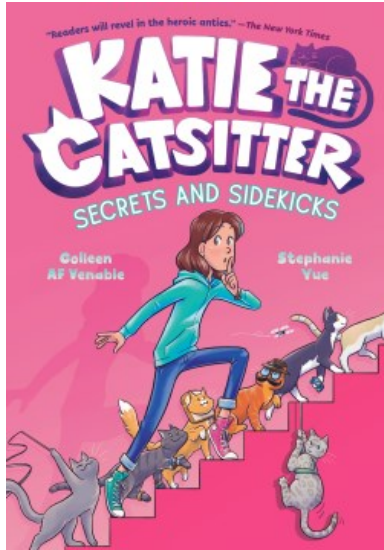
food. Garvey is kind, funny, smart, a loyal friend, and he is also overweight, teased by bullies, and lonely. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes. The chorus finds a new soloist in Garvey, and through chorus, Garvey finds a way to accept himself and a way to finally reach his distant father—by speaking the language of music instead of the language of sports. ⬆



***School Trip* by Jerry Craft**

The Riverdale Academy Day School crew is back and ready for an adventure to the City of Lights. This newest installment in Craft's groundbreaking middle-grade graphic novel series finds eighth grade African American boy Jordan facing a milestone all too familiar to many teenagers: the arrival of a school admissions letter. Attending art school is Jordan's dream come true, but getting one's heart's desire comes with a fresh set of worries. Going to a different school means leaving his best friends behind and becoming the new kid once more; worst of all, he only has a few weeks to make up his mind about whether to accept the offer. A school trip to Paris, something that is both exciting and nerve-wracking, stands as a metaphor for the life changes that Jordan is facing, and his friends are on hand to help him make the most of things. At the heart of Craft's series are the three-dimensional relationships forged among the diverse cast of characters in Jordan's orbit, and this novel fully delights on that score. From Jordan's dad, who insists on the family's watching *Bon Voyage*, *Charlie Brown* (and *Don't Come Back!!*) on VHS; to Andy, his obtuse nemesis who secretly longs for acceptance; and Ramon, the hardworking Nicaraguan classmate for whom this is the trip of a lifetime, readers will love this European escapade with characters who reflect the richness and multiculturalism of modern America.

Another triumph of storytelling filled with heart and wonder. ⬆



Katie the Catsitter Secrets and Sidekicks by Colleen AF Venable and Stephanie Yue

Still training to be a sidekick, Katie protects the city against mysterious robot attacks--while trying not to feel like an outsider within her own friend group. ⬆



Rosa Parks & Claudette Colvin Civil Right Heroes by Tracey Baptiste and Shauna J. Grant

A Black woman who refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus sparked a bus boycott and became part of one of the most iconic moments in American history. Yet, few know that Rosa Parks had actively worked toward social justice her whole life. And even fewer know that the seeds of the statewide bus boycott were first planted by a teenager named Claudette Colvin, who was arrested on similar charges months earlier. Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin inspired a nation, showing how positive change can start with a single defiant act. Their actions have become the stuff of legend, but there is so much more to their lives, their stories, and the movement they began. ⬆