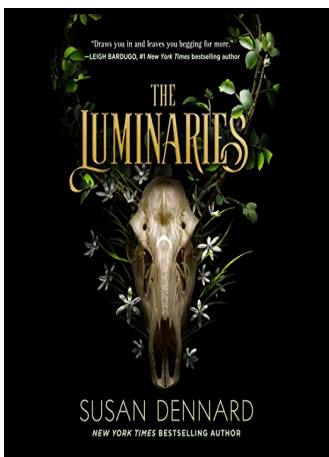


IMS Keeps Cool By Reading!

Looking for some good summer 2023 reads? IMS recommends...

Note: To access these books using Sora, our online book collection, please view [this document](#).

Book Suggestion

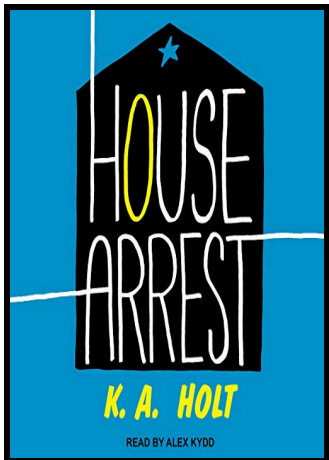


Hemlock Falls isn't like other towns. You won't find it on a map, your phone won't work here, and the forest outside town might just kill you. Winnie Wednesday wants nothing more than to join the Luminaries, the ancient order that protects Winnie's town—and the rest of humanity—from the monsters and nightmares that rise in the forest of Hemlock Falls every night. Ever since her father was exposed as a witch and a traitor, Winnie and her family have been shunned. But on her sixteenth birthday, she can take the deadly Luminary hunter trials and prove herself true and loyal—and restore her family's good name. Or die trying.

Recommended by Ms. Evanko (8th grade ELA): "A fantasy adventure that skillfully combines rich world building, complex characters, and thrilling twists. I was captivated from beginning to end."

[The Luminaries \(Susan Dennard\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

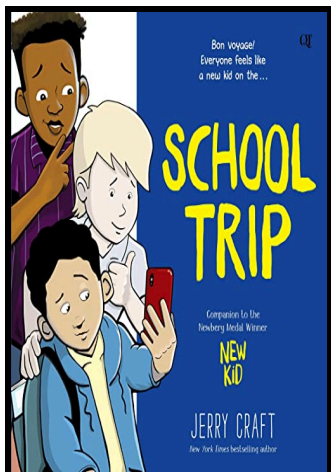


Timothy is on probation. It's a strange word - something that happens to other kids, to delinquents, not to kids like him. And yet, he is under house arrest for the next year. He must check in weekly with a probation officer and a therapist and keep a journal for an entire year. And mostly, he has to stay out of trouble. But when he must take drastic measures to help his struggling family, staying out of trouble proves more difficult than Timothy ever thought it would be.

Recommended by Ms. Meiseles (6th grade ELA): "I would recommend this book to IMS readers as it helps broaden the reader's perspective of the world. The protagonist is put under house arrest as he tries to steal medicine for his brother who is quite ill because his family does not have the medical insurance to help him."

[House Arrest \(K. A. Holt\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

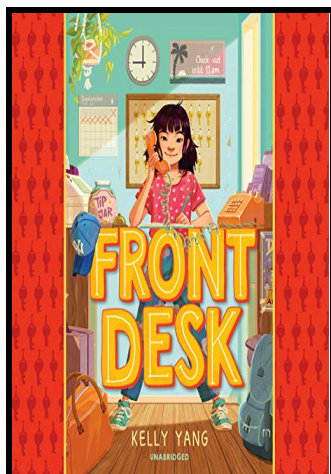


Jordan, Drew, Liam, Maury, and their friends from Riverdale Academy Day School are heading out on a school trip to Paris. As an aspiring artist himself, Jordan can't wait to see all the amazing art in the famous City of Lights. But when their trusted faculty guides are replaced at the last minute, the school trip takes an unexpected—and hilarious—turn. Especially when trying to find their way around a foreign city ends up being almost as tricky as navigating the same friendships, fears, and differences that they struggle with at home. Will Jordan and his friends embrace being exposed to a new language, unfamiliar food, and a different culture? Or will they all end up feeling like the “new kid”?

Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian): “This funny and realistic graphic novel follows the adventures of 8th graders Jordan and friends as they look ahead to high school and take an eventful school trip to Paris. This is the most recent book in a series that also includes New Kid and Class Act, also highly recommended.”

[School Trip \(Jerry Craft\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

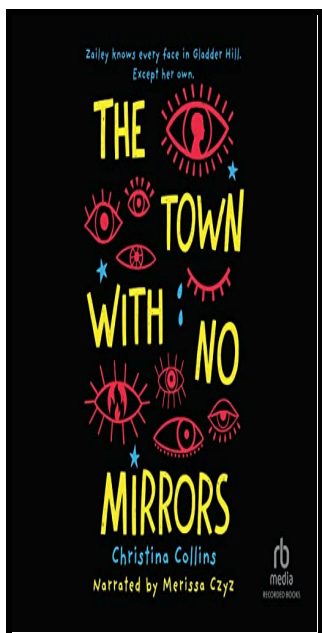


Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number one: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, 10-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number two: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number three: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

Recommended by Ms. Nadler (6th grade ELA): “This is a nice story about a feisty 10 year old girl named Mia whose family immigrated from China. It is full of challenges and successes, and the best part is there are a few sequels that have come out.”

[Front Desk \(Kelly Yang\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

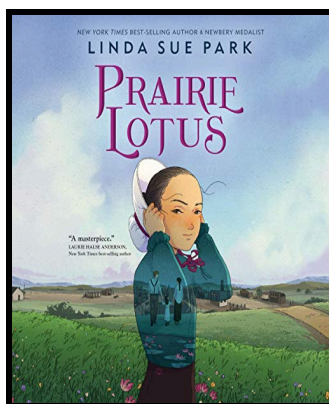


In a modern-day utopian community where mirrors, photos, and even words like beautiful and ugly are forbidden, a girl who has never seen her own face harbors a guilty curiosity about the outside world. A thoughtful exploration of self-image in a world familiar to listeners of *The Giver* and *The List*. 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?

Recommended by Dr. James (Librarian): "Twelve year old Zailey lives in a community where no mirrors are allowed, no photos or drawings exist and there are no such words as "ugly" or "beautiful". She has never seen herself. This book offers an opportunity for thoughtful discussion about body image and how we perceive ourselves and others."

[The Town With No Mirrors \(Christina Collins\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



Acclaimed, award-winning author Linda Sue Park has placed a young half-Asian girl, Hanna, in a small town in America's heartland, in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, which primarily means negotiating the townspeople's almost unanimous prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story. Told from the viewpoint of Hanna, the novel has poignant moments yet sparkles with humor, introducing a captivating heroine whose wry, observant voice will resonate with listeners.

Recommended by Ms. Griffin (6th grade ELA): "This is a powerful historical fiction novel about a young, half Asian girl who faces prejudice in her new small town and works to overcome it. Inspiring and uplifting!"

[Prairie Lotus \(Linda Sue Park\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

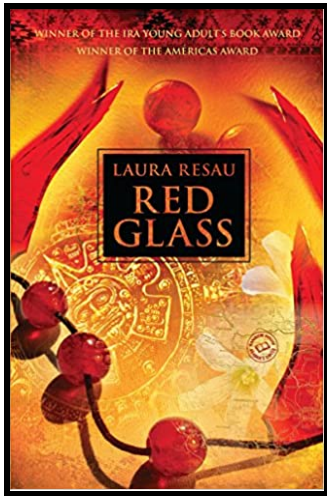


Welcome to a world made dangerous by the sea and by those who wish to profit from it. Where a young girl must find her place and her family while trying to survive in a world built for men. As the daughter of the most powerful trader in the Narrows, the sea is the only home seventeen-year-old Fable has ever known. It's been four years since the night she watched her mother drown during an unforgiving storm. The next day her father abandoned her on a legendary island filled with thieves and little food. To survive she must keep to herself, learn to trust no one and rely on the unique skills her mother taught her. The only thing that keeps her going is the goal of getting off the island, finding her father and demanding her rightful place beside him and his crew. To do so Fable enlists the help of a young trader named West to get her off the island and across the Narrows to her father.

Recommended by Mme Tessler (6th - 8th grade French): "Strong female characters and such an engaging story over the two books."

[Fable: A Novel \(Adrienne Young\)](#) and [Namesake: A Novel \(Adrienne Young\)](#)

[Sora Link 1](#) [Sora Link 2](#) (ebooks and audiobooks)

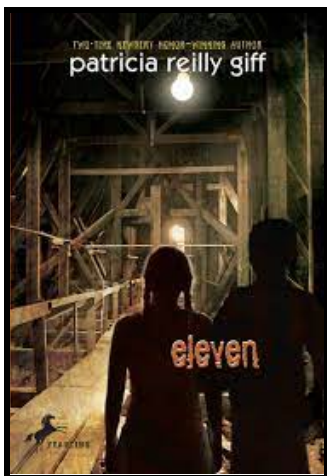


One night Sophie and her parents are called to a hospital where Pedro, a six-year-old Mexican boy, is recovering from dehydration. Crossing the border into Arizona with a group of Mexicans and a coyote, or guide, Pedro and his parents faced such harsh conditions that the boy is the only survivor. Pedro comes to live with Sophie, her parents, and Sophie's Aunt Dika, a refugee of the war in Bosnia. Sophie loves Pedro—her *Principito*, or Little Prince. But after a year, Pedro's surviving family in Mexico makes contact, and Sophie, Dika, Dika's new boyfriend, and his son must travel with Pedro to his hometown so that he can make a heart wrenching decision.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "This was a book recommended to me by my niece who is a voracious middle school reader. This is a wonderful story that highlights the challenges and dangers of immigration through the experiences of the main character who helps a little boy back to his family."

[Red Glass by Laura Resau](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



Sam is almost 11 when he discovers a locked box in the attic above his grandfather Mack's room, and a piece of paper that says he was kidnapped. There are lots of other words, but Sam has always had trouble reading. He's desperate to find out who he is, and if his beloved Mack is really his grandfather. At night he's haunted by dreams of a big castle and a terrifying escape on a boat. Who can he trust to help him read the documents that could unravel the mystery? Then he and the new girl, Caroline, are paired up to work on a school project, building a castle in Mack's woodworking shop. Caroline loves to read, and she can help. But she's moving soon, and the two must hurry to discover the truth about Sam.

Recommended by Ms. Meiseles (6th grade ELA): "The characters and plot are so well developed and young adults will relate to the interactions and conflicts that emerge."

[Eleven \(Patricia Reilly Giff\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

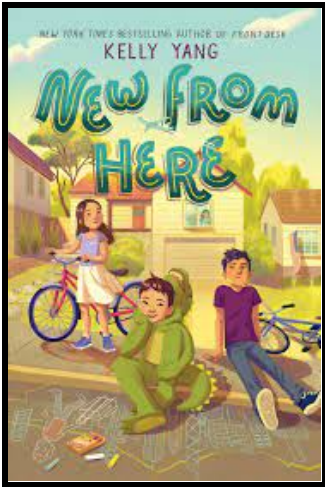


Linus Baker is a by-the-book caseworker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.

Recommended by Ms. Evanko (8th grade ELA): "Such a heartwarming venture into the world of magic. A must read if you enjoy fantasy."

[The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California, where they think they will be safe. Suddenly, Knox has two days to prepare for an international move—and for leaving his dad, who has to stay for work. At his new school in California, Knox struggles with being the new kid. His classmates think that because he's from Asia, he must have brought over the virus. At home, Mom just got fired and is panicking over the loss of health insurance, and Dad doesn't even know when he'll see them again, since the flights have been canceled. And everyone struggles with Knox's blurting-things-out problem. As racism skyrockets during COVID-19, Knox tries to stand up to hate, while finding his place in his new country. Can you belong if you're feared; can you protect if you're new? And how do you keep a family together when you're oceans apart? Sometimes when the world is spinning out of control, the best way to get through it is to embrace our own lovable uniqueness.

Recommended by Ms. Griffin (6th grade ELA): "This book allows readers to connect to the experiences of ten year old Knox as he grapples with the effect of COVID-19 on his family. Readers can also empathize as he attempts to make sense of and understand his learning difference."

[New From Here \(Kelly Yang\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

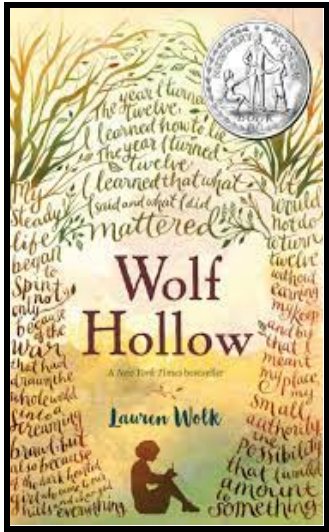


Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

Recommended by Ms. Kozak (7th grade ELA): "Although this book isn't 'new,' it is still great! Author Alan Gratz presents three young refugees, each fleeing from a different world conflict—Nazi Germany in WWII, Cuba in the 1990s, and modern day Syria. A master at creating cliffhangers, Gratz keeps you reading as each chapter shifts to a new story and protagonist. This book is a journey through history and humanity."

[Refugee \(Alan Gratz\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

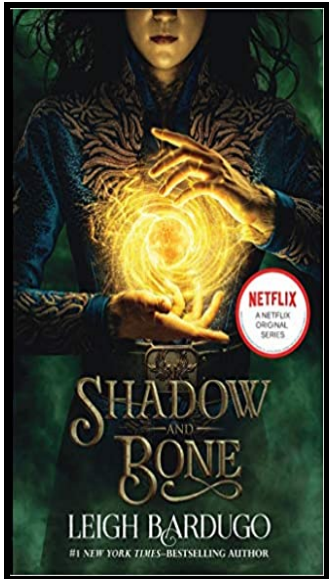


Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and though her bullying seems isolated at first, it quickly escalates. Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran, soon becomes the target of Betty's attacks. While others see Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. And as tensions mount in their small community, Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice. The brilliantly crafted debut of Newbery Honor– and Scott O'Dell Award–winning author Lauren Wolk (*Beyond the Bright Sea*, *Echo Mountain*), *Wolf Hollow* is a haunting tale of America at a crossroads and a time when one girl's resilience, strength, and compassion help to illuminate the darkest corners of history.

Recommended by Ms. Kozak (7th grade ELA): "A beautifully written book, this story pulls you right into Annabelle's small town world as she deals with bullying while finding the strength to stand up for a friend. It is a story about kindness, courage, and a bit of mystery!"

[Wolf Hollow \(Lauren Wolk\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

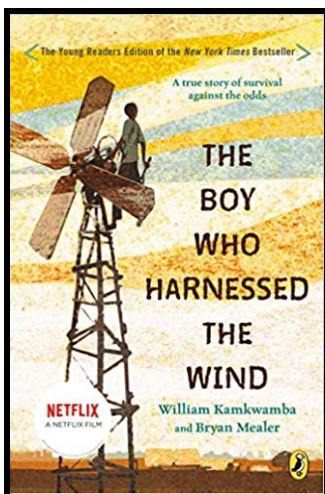


Soldier. Summoner. Saint. Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold—a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed. Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite—and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling. He believes Alina can summon a force capable of destroying the Shadow Fold and reuniting their war-ravaged country, but only if she can master her untamed gift. As the threat to the kingdom mounts and Alina unlocks the secrets of her past, she will make a dangerous discovery that could threaten all she loves and the very future of a nation. Welcome to Ravka . . . a world of science and superstition where nothing is what it seems.

Recommended by Ms. Chillemi (8th grade ELA): "I was immediately captivated while reading this series (broken into three mini series to cover different parts and time periods of her fantasy world). Leigh Bardugo takes the idea of those who have power and those who do not, and runs with it in a way that makes you want to keep reading and reading. Also...it was turned into a Netflix series - I always recommend reading the books first."

[Shadow and Bone \(Leigh Bardugo\)](#) **Note: This book is the first in an extended series including "Shadow and Bone" (trilogy), "Six of Crows" (duology), and "King of Scars" (duology)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook)

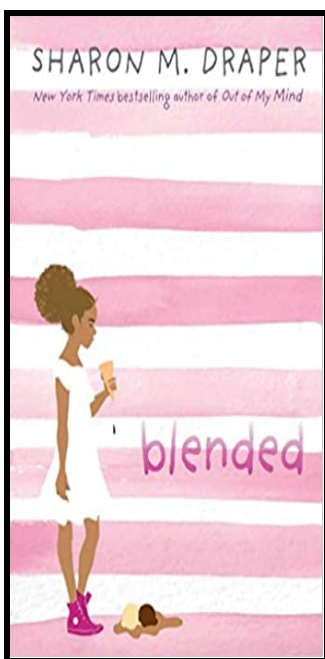


When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land. Retold for a younger audience, this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world. Complete with photographs, illustrations, and an epilogue that will bring readers up to date on William's story, this is the perfect edition to read and share with the whole family.

Recommended by Ms. Panitz (6th grade science): "This book portrays science in the real world" and Ms. Griffin (6th grade ELA): "I recommend this book because it is a true story that shows the power of perseverance, the importance of following dreams, and the impact that the love and support of family and friends can have."

[The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind \(Young Readers' Edition\) \(William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

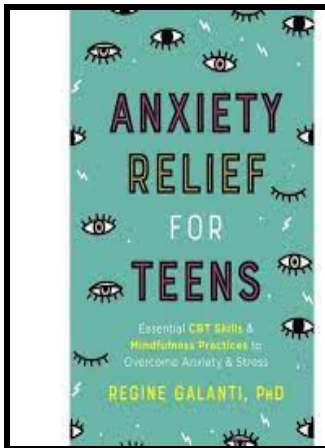


Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves. Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And now that her parents are divorced, it seems their fights are even worse, and they're always about HER. Isabella feels even more stuck in the middle, split and divided between them than ever. And she's beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad is more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting: "You're so exotic!" "You look so unusual." "But what are you really?" She knows what they're really saying: "You don't look like your parents." "You're different." "What race are you really?" And when her parents, who both get engaged at the same time, get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn't just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole? It seems like nothing can bring Isabella's family together again—until the worst happens. Isabella and Darren are stopped by the police. A cell phone is mistaken for a gun. And shots are fired.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "Izzy's voice really shines through in this story about a girl who feels divided. Her strong, resilient personality is inspirational."

[Blended \(Sharon M. Draper\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

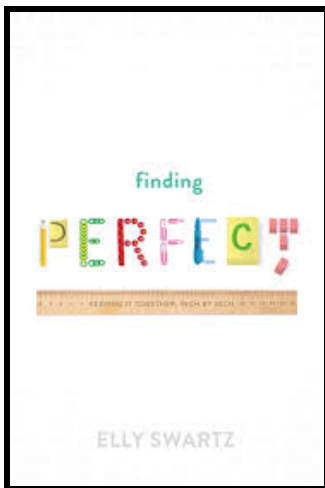


Getting good grades, keeping up with social media, maintaining friendships... you have a lot on your plate and it's more difficult when you add anxiety to the mix. You may even be avoiding situations, events, or people that could trigger your anxiety. So, how do you stop yourself from missing out on life? With *Anxiety Relief for Teens*, Dr. Regine Galanti teaches you how CBT-based skills and mindfulness techniques can help you manage your anxiety and reverse negative patterns. Through simple and effective exercises that help you change your thoughts, behaviors, and physical reactions, this helpful guide gives you the tools you need to navigate all of life's challenges.

Recommended by Ms. Evanko (8th grade ELA): "This is an informative read for students experiencing anxiety as well as individuals interested in the basics of psychology."

[Anxiety Relief for Teens \(Regine Galanti, PhD\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

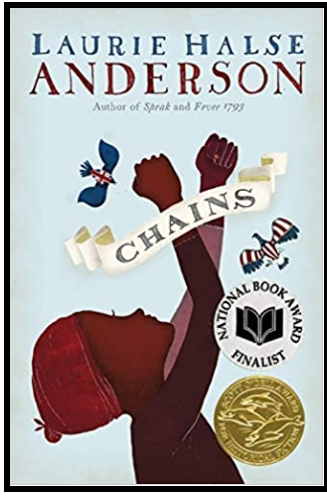


To twelve-year-old Molly Nathans, perfect is the number four, the tip of a newly sharpened No. 2 pencil, a crisp white pad of paper, and her neatly aligned glass animal figurines. What's not perfect is Molly's mother leaving the family to take a faraway job with the promise to return in one year. Molly knows that promises are sometimes broken, so she hatches a plan to bring her mother home: Win the Lakeville Middle School Poetry Slam Contest. The winner is honored at a fancy banquet with white tablecloths. Molly is sure her mother would never miss that. Right...? But as time passes, writing and reciting slam poetry become harder. Actually, everything becomes harder as new habits appear, and counting, cleaning, and organizing are not enough to keep Molly's world from spinning out of control. In this fresh-voiced debut novel, one girl learns there is no such thing as perfect.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "If you enjoyed 'Give and Take', then you will love one too! It is about a middle schooler who is struggling with OCD."

[Finding Perfect \(Elly Swartz\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

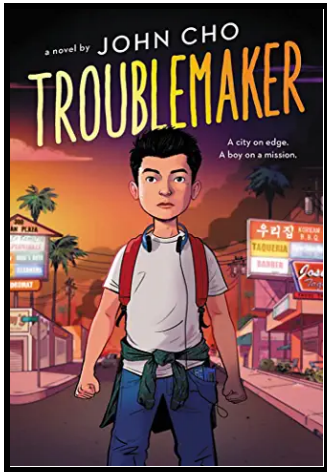


As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

Recommended by Ms. Mitchell (7th grade Social Studies): "Historical fiction is one of my favorite genres. "Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson is about the experiences of a 13 year old enslaved girl, Isabel, living in New York City during the American Revolution. It's well-written and a compelling story about freedom. A page turner!"

[Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson](#) *Note: This book is the first in the "Seeds of America" trilogy

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

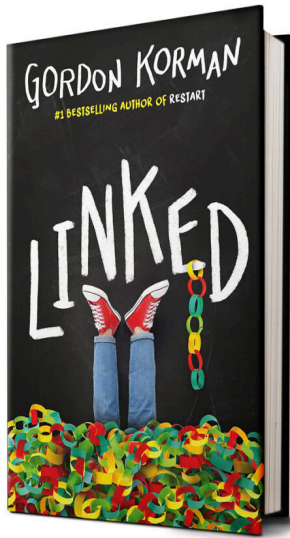


12-year-old Jordan feels like he can't live up to the example his older sister set, or his parent's expectations. When he returns home from school one day hoping to hide his suspension, Los Angeles has reached a turning point. In the wake of the acquittal of the police officers filmed beating Rodney King, as well as the shooting of a young black teen, Latasha Harlins by a Korean store owner, the country is at the precipice of confronting its racist past and present. As tensions escalate, Jordan's father leaves to check on the family store, spurring Jordan and his friends to embark on a dangerous journey to come to his aid, and come to terms with the racism within and affecting their community.

Recommended by Dr. James (Librarian): "This book is about one day in the life of Jordan, a 12 year old Asian American boy who lives in Los Angeles. That one day is the first day of the 1992 Los Angeles riots after the Rodney King verdict. The story follows Jordan as he tries to get to his father at the family store and deliver a gun, which he was told not to touch. Several important themes, including family dynamics, model minority myth, and racism are presented in the language and perspective of a sixth grader."

[Troublemaker \(John Cho\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Nobody can believe it. How could such a symbol of hate end up in the middle of their school? Who would do such a thing? Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever. The mystery deepens as more swastikas begin to appear. Some students decide to fight back and start a project to bring people together instead of dividing them further. The closer Link, Michael, and Dana get to the truth, the more there is to face-not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past. With *Linked*, Gordon Korman, the author of the acclaimed novel *Restart*, poses a mystery for all readers where the who did it? isn't nearly as important as the why?

Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian): "Gordan Korman, a favorite author here at IMS, has written a timely book about students facing a disturbing mystery in the present that unearths the complex past of their community. Lots of twists and turns and plenty to think about in this story which is told from multiple perspectives."

[Linked \(Gordan Korman\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)