

Available Titles

Title	Series Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	DOP	Dewey	Genre	Alt Genre	RL	Gr / IL	Le:
ALMOST FLYING		ARLOW, JAKE MAIA	9780593112946	DIAL BOOKS	2023	FIC	Romance	Realistic	4.8	5-8	760

Tags: Diverse Family Structure, Judaism/Jewish, LGBTQIA+

Annotation: Dalia has watched a million point-of-view videos of people going on roller coasters, but has never been on one herself until her new the one driving them, and they haven't exactly seen eye to eye, but when Alexa's not-so-secret girlfriend joins the trip, it makes Dalia question sc

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Review May 2021 A 13-year-old Long Island girl thinks she has her summer plans figured out—until her life turns upside down. With point-of-view videos. Then she learns about Vanessa, her father's secret girlfriend. And that they are engaged and his fiancée has a colleg new swim-team friend, Rani, whom she's eager to get to know better. As the adults want the soon-to-be stepsisters to bond, Dalia, with R Along the way, Dalia keeps some of her own secrets—including growing and confusing feelings for Rani that have her brain spinning. This with the feelings of uncertainty around changing family dynamics and budding first crushes. While this book contains many elements the Jews; Vanessa is Colombian American, Rani is Persian American and Muslim, Dhruv is Indian American, and other characters default to W
- School Library Journal May 2021 Gr 5 Up—A delightful middle grade debut exploring first crushes and family relationships. Dalia is upset and her father were close, so this comes as a shock. But the worst part isn't Vanessa, her dad's fiancée; it's Vanessa's college-aged daught summer vacation to five amusement parks so she can bond with Dalia. Dalia, who is secretly obsessed with roller coasters (even though s lucky enough to bring her new friend, Rani. The trip gets off to a rocky start, but Dalia isn't too bothered, because she really enjoys spend guidance from Alexa and her friend Dhruv. Dalia's inner thoughts feel authentic, and most other characters are well developed. The relati Characters' skin tones are not described; Dalia and her father are Jewish, and Rani is Muslim. VERDICT A super sweet LGBTQ romance for
- Booklist April 2021 Grades 5-8 - "In theory, 13-year-old Dalia loves roller coasters. She's watched hours of POV movies online, but she has her divorced dad reveals that not only is he dating again, but he has gotten engaged. And to make it worse, the woman he is engaged to h friend Dhruv (Indian American), Dalia asks if she and her friend Rani (Persian American) can tag along. Along the way, secrets are revealea expected. In this debut novel, Arlow delves into the highs and lows of early adolescent relationships—platonic and romantic—through a c

*AMIRA & HAMZA : THE WAR TO SAVE THE WORLDS	AMIRA & HAMZA : 1	AHMED, SAMIRA	9780316540483	LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READE	2022	FIC	Fantasy	Action / Adventure	5	4-7	
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Tags: Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Islam/Muslim, Own Voices

Annotation: While attending a medieval exhibit on Islamic astronomy, twelve-year-old Amira's bored younger brother Hamza tampers with the siblings they have a role to play in stopping a civil war in the land of Qaf and if they don't succeed, the moon will split apart and the world they c:

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide November 2021 Twelve-year-old Amira and her younger brother Hamza, Muslim Indian American siblings in Chicago, ar Islamic folklore. When the children disturb an ancient artifact in a museum exhibit, two jinn appear, informing them that they are "chose intent on destroying both worlds. This is a refreshingly different take on the kids-must-save-the-world story in that Amira and Hamza are contrast with the seriousness of the task at hand. Dangerous encounters with monstrous foes challenge the two to believe in themselves engaging tale. Author's note and glossary not seen. Julie Hakim Azzam
- Booklist September 2021 Grades 5-7 - "Acclaimed author Ahmed draws on mythical legends of Islamic origin, the Hamzanama, for this m nonetheless packed with all the ingredients of a whirlwind adventure: spunky, problem-solving kids; gender-fluid shapeshifters made of siblings Amira and Hamza, who unexpectedly find themselves enmeshed in an ancient prophecy that foretold their role in saving the wor mercy of evil jinn and ghuls. Amid myriad twists and turns, Amira and Hamza emerge as smart, funny, likable protagonists with emotiona readers will be impatient for the stories to come."
- School Library Journal Starred September 2021 Gr 3–7—A middle grade fantasy that includes Islamic legends, magic, science, and the po both happen to touch a supposedly broken ancient artifact, the Box of the Moon, which sets an equally ancient prophecy in motion. Ever world of Qaf, Earth, and life as they know it. Amira loves science, so she has her doubts about fulfilling a mystical prophecy at 12, while H humor, action, doubt, and the belief that even the most unexpected individuals can save the world. Amira's questions will resonate with : believable, even as the siblings ride magical creatures to their next destination. Although some of the action might be intimidating for yo adaptation of Islamic legends. Sure to be a hit with fans of Yoon Ha Lee's Dragon Pearl and Sayantani DasGupta's The Serpent's Secret.—I
- Kirkus Reviews Starred August 2021 What will it take for two plucky kids from Chicago to save the universe from certain disaster? Courage taker, thriving in his active imagination. The night of a rare astronomical event brings out more than the moon and the stars when they ar moon, putting everyone else on Earth to sleep, and bringing an army of genderfluid jinn to meet them, the chosen ones. Led by Abdul Ra (who does not feel eager or ready to assume these duties) and Hamza (who can barely contain his delight) on their quest to protect Qaf b creative blend of science and magic, building a bridge from a familiar world to a new one. A blend of Indian culture, Islamic folklore, histc readers who don't believe in magic will find themselves wishing on a star. (map, author's note, glossary) (Fantasy. 9-13)

- Publishers Weekly July 2021 A budding astronomer and self-proclaimed “nerd,” 12-year-old Amira, this novel’s Muslim, Indian American is celebrating the coincidence of a supermoon, blood moon, and blue moon (a “celestial trifecta of awesomeness”) with an exhibition atten Box of the Moon—an ancient analogue computer made of unidentified alloys. A sibling tussle over the artifact restarts it, unleashing stag army of jinn spirits the siblings away, Amira and Hamza discover that it falls to them to save the world from a great battle between the re her more reckless and charming brother. The siblings’ relationship—characterized by equal amounts of affection and bickering—lends at

AMY CONEY

BARRETT :

SUPREME

ESSENTIAL LIVES

CONLEY, KATE

9781532195938

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COURT

JUSTICE

Annotation: Chronicles the life of Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett, and details her early life, law and judicial career, and nomination to

★ARTIE AND

THE WOLF

MOON

STEPHENS,
OLIVIA

9781728420202

GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE

2021 741.5

2.4 7-10 HL

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Diverse Family Structure, Friendship, LGBTQIA+, Own Voices

Annotation: Hoping to capture a photograph of a full moon with her late father's film camera, eighth grader Artie Irvin instead learns she's a werewolf.

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal September 2021 Gr 5–8—When Artie disobeys her mom and sneaks out after dark to photograph a full moon, she Artie can learn about her history. She soon realizes that there are things more sinister than werewolves and uncovers details about her fa teens struggling to find themselves and fit in. While Artie's quick acceptance that her mother is a werewolf seems a bit unbelievable, read forward. The complicated family history and dynamics among some of the adults are genuine and relatable. The full-color, realistic illustr VERDICT Fans of graphic novels, realistic fiction, and the paranormal will all find something to enjoy in this book. Suggest it to those who
- Kirkus Review July 2021 A girl discovers she comes from a family of werewolves, starting her on a path to discovering her own abilities an mocked and bullied. She devotes her time to developing photos she takes on her deceased father's old film camera, which helps her feel her mom for help, she instead sees her mother transform from wolf to human before her eyes. Soon after, her powers show themselves, a As Artie trains with them, she develops ties to those like her—and something more with her friend and crush, Maya. She also learns about stay alert. Stephens' art leaps off the page, from the beautiful scenery to the celebration of characters' Black features. Throughout, the pe looking for a story of discovery and healing wrapped in the paranormal will hit the jackpot. A stirring, eye-catching portrayal of growth. (C
- Booklist July 2021 Grades 6-8 - "In this coming-of-age story, Black girl Artemis Irvin deals with troubles that a lot of other eighth graders n one night Artie discovers a more unique challenge: she's descended from werewolves. While the story handles the traditional clash of we still haunt Artie's mom, and meeting other werewolves brings up old wounds. In the end, all the characters discover that they are stronge vampires, are cozy with moments between Artie and her new friend and crush, Maya. Stephens' use of color is particularly striking, using friendship, family, and forgiveness."

★AS THE
CROW FLIESGILLMAN,
MELANIE

9781945820069

IRON CIRCUS
COMICS

2017 741.5

2.7 6-8

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Christianity, LGBTQIA+, Own Voices, Transgender/Nonbinary

Annotation: Thirteen-year-old Charlie Lamonte is stuck on an girls only Christian youth backpacking trip designed to teach a lesson on pioneering camper, Sydney.

Full Text Reviews:

- Publishers Weekly Starred December 2017 Gillman's brutally honest and wrenchingly beautiful story of friendship explores the simultane believes to be a sign from God, but she has a crisis of faith after she discovers she's the only black girl in attendance and the camp staff st mountains. On the way, Charlie meets Sydney, a transgender girl who's just as fed up with their privileged counselor and oblivious peers, examination of how solidarity among white, cisgender women can harm others. Charlie's pain is palpable, as are Sydney's alienation and Gillman's meticulously realized colored pencil landscapes remain impeccable. This book radiates love and melancholy in equal measure.
- School Library Journal Starred November 2017 Gr 6 Up—Charlie, 13, is excited to embark on an all-girls Christian camp's backpacking trip unwittingly racist and homophobic, and Charlie, who is black and queer, grapples with self-doubt. She confides in God, wondering if a fe trans girl who feels similarly alienated. This contemplative graphic novel, taken from Gillman's ongoing webcomic, perceptively explores thoughtful Charlie's inner turmoil as she yearns to voice her opinions. Scenes in which she appears on the periphery of panels or crowd yet achingly relatable moments as Charlie and Sydney's friendship slowly develops. The book subtly folds in lessons about identity and t stimulating, and sure to spark discussion about feminism's often less than inclusive attitudes toward marginalized groups. For all graphic
- Booklist Starred Reviews September 2017 *Starred Review* When 13-year-old Charlie, a black, queer girl, embarks on a feminist Christiari spotlight the majesty of creation, but Charlie's the only black girl, and the hike leader's whitewashed understanding of spirituality and fe moments of grace: her new friendship and solidarity with Sydney, a trans girl keeping her identity a secret to avoid scorn; the attractive d Gillman's lush, warm artwork, rendered entirely in colored pencil, brings the gorgeous scenery lovingly to life. The soft, luminous scenes interactions with the other people on the trip, from snickering over outdated concepts with Sydney to bringing up uncomfortable topics i webcomic, sensitively explores religion, spirituality, feminism, and friendship and perfectly balance thought-provoking moments with he

BEN
YOKOYAMA
AND THE
COOKIE OF
PERFECTION

COOKIE CHRONICLES : 3	SWANSON, MATTHEW	9780593126899	YEARLING	2023	FIC	Humor	4.4	4-6	610
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Tags: High Interest

Annotation: Ben receives a fortune cookie that tells him "practice makes perfect," and he realizes that all the negative aspects of his life--from hi who may be a superhero, Ben delves into his new quest. However, when pursuing perfection means giving up things he loves and his friends, he

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal December 2021 Gr 3-5—When third grader Ben Yokoyama receives a fortune cookie from his best friend Janet, the burnt to a crisp and why the jersey his dad washed is covered in Chapstick grease, but also why Ben can't hit every baseball during his ga (secretly a superhero), he realizes that not only is perfection possible, but if he just practices more, he can be perfect himself. His quest fo Using a similar style to Dave Kinney and Lincoln Peirce, this highly illustrated novel will have middle grade readers laughing out loud. The almost every page. Careful layouts keep the plot moving at a quick pace. Among the high jinks are some tender moments as well, includi are given a generous dose of laughter and a reminder that perfection is only attainable when you are the best version of yourself. VERDIC collections.—Louie Lauer, Jefferson Elem. Sch., Fargo, ND Copyright 2021 Reed Business Information.
- Kirkus Review October 2021 A fortune cookie sets Ben on the road to perfection. One morning, after Ben Yokoyama's mom burns the pan and anger. So, when his fortune cookie says "practice makes perfect," Ben decides that everyone in his life, including himself, just needs i extraordinarily accomplished alter ego, Darbino. Darbino gives Ben lessons in being perfect, and at first, Ben is overjoyed. But reaching p even if he can't do it perfectly. And when Ben's pursuit for perfection ends in deceit and near disaster, he realizes that maybe being perfe predecessors. Silly black-and-white illustrations and dramatic analogies fill the pages. Japanese and White Ben tackles challenges like ac concept of kintsugi—the art of repairing broken pottery with gold seams—is woven into the story. Another delightful, sidesplitting chroni

★THE CIVIL
WAR OF AMOS
ABERNATHY

	LEALI, MICHAEL	9780063119871	HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS	2023	FIC	Realistic	4.7	5-8
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Tags: LGBTQIA+, Own Voices, White

Annotation: History loving middle schooler Amos Abernathy loves working at the Living History Park in his Illinois town where he and others ree people like them aren't represented in history. Delving into his past, Amos learns about Civil War trans soldier Albert D.J. Cashier and begins writ the park exhibits more diverse.

Full Text Reviews:

- Publishers Weekly July 2022 In an earnest debut that explores representation in the past and present, a gay 13-year-old history fan in Illin park that his mother runs, white Amos Abernathy feels like "the nineteenth century is in my blood," though he acknowledges that "life ba homeschooled boy from a religious family, he's drawn in by Ben's grasp of Lincoln facts. A crush follows, and then ongoing "complete anc in Amos learning about Union soldier and trans man Albert D.J. Cashier—Amos's best friend, Chloe Thompson, works to become the park 2022 events, Leali's slow-moving narrative proves a sometimes didactically rendered but still engaging contribution to the canon of histo Properties. (June)

- School Library Journal Starred June 2022 Gr 5 Up—A well-written coming-of-age novel that encompasses many valuable topics—discrimination, Amos, who is white, volunteers as a reenactor at the Living History Park along with his best friend, Chloe, who is Black. There they meet E challenges, including Ben's religious family. Amos tells his story from his own point of view interspersed with letters to Albert D.J. Cashier researching LGBTQIA+ Americans throughout history, seeking representation of people like him from the past and hoping to win the Livir project to fruition. Leali's character development is superb. The story begins in the present day, but readers learn of the events of the past insightful, the time shifts may prove slightly confusing to some readers. VERDICT Overall, an entertaining and engaging read with diverse importance of centering marginalized history.—April Crowder Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.
- School Library Connection May 2022 Twelve-year-old Amos Abernathy spends his spare time at Chickaree County Living History Park where during the Civil War who was born Jennie Irene Hodgers and lived as a man. Through these letters the reader learns who Amos is: a boy who overcomes various obstacles in his life. The group decides to propose a reenactment at the park to recognize those in history that were LGBTQ, only to do so in a unique way by treating the reader to a history lesson woven throughout the story. Well-researched and candid, the story challenges that LGBTQ individuals face both in society and within their own families. Light-hearted but serious, the author conveys the plot and carries the story with a steady, rhythmic, author Michael Leali delivers a homerun that is appropriate for middle and high school students. Book club material.
- Booklist Starred Reviews April 2022 Grades 5-8 - "Starred Review" Thirteen-year-old Amos Abernathy, who is white and has been out as gay, meets a new volunteer Ben Oglevie, and they become friends. Along with Amos' best friend, Chloe, who is Black, the kids soon become a close trio. "Stories of the Nineteenth Century." Meanwhile, Ben has sorta kinda come out to Amos, but when Ben's homophobic parents learn about it, following August. Amos and Ben are still not speaking, but Amos and Chloe are now secretly planning a way to tell the stories of all people. Leali has done an excellent job of telling an exceedingly timely story. If it occasionally comes dangerously close to being didactic, the book adds to the still-slender body of middle-school literature with queer content."
- Kirkus Review March 2022 A middle schooler connects with the past and his present. Amos Abernathy is a history buff. He loves working on a novel that takes place in the latter months of 2021 (minus Covid) using the form of letters that Amos writes to Albert D.J. Cashier, a 19th-century blacksmith who takes place over the course of one day in 2022 as Amos, who is White; his Black best friend, Chloe (a straight girl training as a blacksmith) and a welcoming. The execution of the plot, which revolves around a stalled romance and kids planning a presentation, reads less as an organized effort to redeem yourself. Amos, who consistently names the identifiers of major and cameo characters alike, often feels more like a model for good audiences may yearn for more story and fewer lessons. An educational title that may appeal to young historians. (author's note, photos, illustrations)

DISASTER TRAIL MG VERSE GRANT, KATY 9781978596887 WEST 44 BOOKS 2023 FIC Action / Adventure 5-8

Tags: Diverse Family Structure, High-Low, In Verse, Judaism/Jewish, North America, White

Annotation: Oliver loves mountain biking with his much older half-sister Morgan. One summer evening, he tries to impress Morgan by leading her on a bike ride up the steep trail. Things take a dangerous turn when Morgan injures her ankle, and with no cell service and daylight fading, it's up to Oliver to save the day.

Full Text Reviews:

- Publishers Weekly July 2023 In this hi/lo verse novel, Grant (Three Shots) presents a harrowing survival adventure in which a teen must rescue his half sister Morgan, whom he's previously only seen during short visits, moving into their father's house to save money on rent. The two travel to their northern Arizona home. Oliver is ecstatic about the new trail he discovers for them to traverse with the family dog Digby, but when they are faced with an arduous climb out of the gorge, Oliver and Morgan steel themselves for the treacherous hike. Upon realizing that Morgan has been hiding her relationship with Oliver, the unfolding sibling relationship and Oliver's burgeoning self-confidence with tenderness and heart, while unadorned first-person verse for

*ESSIE! ?OTRA STORYTELLING VEZ? = AGAIN, MATH : LACIKA, JENNY 9781623542214 CHARLESBRIDGE PUBLISHING 2022 E PS-1 AD
ESSIE? (SPANISH/ENGLISH)

Tags: Latine/Hispanic

Annotation: In this bilingual Spanish-English picture book, Rafael is tired of his sister Essie always knocking over his toys. While she takes a nap and packing boxes, he completes the wall just as Essie is waking up. Soon enough, Essie zeroes in on the structure, however, Rafael learns that his wall is stronger than he thought.

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal Starred November 2022 PreS-Gr 2—Rafael's little sister, Essie, is always running after him and knocking over his toys. He collects numerous boxes of different sizes—cereal and puzzle boxes, shipping and Kleenex boxes, file organizers and a cooler—and gets tired of her. As she approaches, Essie easily knocks over the wall. Rafael realizes all she wants is to play with him, and soon they are working together to build a wall. The book features English and Spanish text narrates each step of Rafael's careful plan. Essie's presence is known as the text becomes larger with each crash. In the background, this bilingual picture book provides a fun view of how math and problem-solving skills can be applied in the everyday world.
- Kirkus Review October 2022 A young Latine boy builds a wall out of a shoe box and other items to protect his toys from his toddler sister. He uses a packing box, a shoe box, a puzzle box, a cooler, and more to construct his Essie-proof wall. His goal: to fit, flip, and stack the boxes to shield them. But it doesn't stop his sister, Essie, who comes barreling in with a mighty "¡CRASH!" An idea strikes Rafael to build a wall "without using his hands." He takes a siesta. He collects a packing box, a shoe box, a puzzle box, a cooler, and more to construct his Essie-proof wall. His goal: to fit, flip, and stack the boxes to shield them. But it doesn't stop his sister, Essie, who comes barreling in with a mighty "¡CRASH!" An idea strikes Rafael to build a wall "without using his hands." He takes a siesta. He collects a packing box, a shoe box, a puzzle box, a cooler, and more to construct his Essie-proof wall. His goal: to fit, flip, and stack the boxes to shield them. Full of clean, solid linework, Martínez's bright, colorful illustrations feature big, legible shapes and patterns. (This book was reviewed digitally.) A playful tale to encourage spatial awareness and creativity. (author's note, glossary, activity)

FROM 1940 TO 1990-MILES HISTORY'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSICIANS GORLINSKI, GINI 9781499475036 BRITANNICA EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING 2023 920 9-12

- point of view that allows for an intimate connection with primary readers. Smith's illustrations, often sweeping double-page spreads, are matter includes author and illustrator notes and a glossary, whose terms are highlighted in red throughout the story. Eboni Njoku
- Publishers Weekly October 2022 In an autobiography told through a child's eyes, Ruby Bridges (b. 1954) recounts her experience as the first Black child to desegregate a school in the South. Bridges as she contemplates "how much I didn't even like my name" and starts out "at a regular school with lots of other kids to play with marshals to the door as an escort. "Who told them I needed a ride to school anyway?" says Bridges, seemingly unaware of the context before her: "Who cares what colors we are?... School is just school and kids are just kids." Smith's vigorous digital brushwork portrays Ruby, in School Library Journal Starred August 2022 K-Gr 2—Autobiographies for young elementary students are a rare find. This jewel of a book, experience as she recalls her six-year-old self. As a child, Bridges was curious about so much and had a sense of what world events were going on. She doesn't explain the momentous change she was a part of. What mattered to her was going to school and making new friends. While there is much to be learned from honoring the children who will read this story. VERDICT Any picture book collection tackling the Civil Rights Movement has to start here. It is a world impact our youngest citizens.—John Scott Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.
- Kirkus Review July 2022 The New Orleans school child who famously broke the color line in 1960 while surrounded by federal marshals is Ruby Bridges Goes to School, but here the sensibility is more personal, and the sometimes-shocking historical photos have been replaced with contemporary ones. Smith writes. Unfrightened by the crowd of "screaming white people" that greets her at the school's door (she thinks it's like Mardi Gras) but surprised by her act as (in Smith's illustration) she compares a small personal photo to the all-White class photos posted on a bulletin board and sees the world differently. Smith's illustrations lead into classes in her wake to friendly greetings from lighter-skinned classmates ("School is just school," she sensibly concludes, "and kids are just kids.") A unique angle on a watershed moment in the civil rights era. (author and illustrator notes, glossary) (Autobiographic

IF YOU PLANT A SEED

NELSON, KADIR 9780062298898 BALZER + BRAY 2015 E

1 K-2 AD

Tags: Relationship Skills

Annotation: While gardening, a rabbit and a mouse learn the importance of planting seeds of kindness rather than selfishness.

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide October 2015 Speaking directly to readers, an unseen narrator shows the destructive power of selfishness and compares it to a rabbit and a mouse grappling with the consequences of their choices, makes this both a useful and entertaining contribution to social-emotional learning.
- School Library Journal April 2015 PreS-Gr 2—A fuzzy, brown rabbit and a tiny notch-eared mouse plant tomato, carrot, and cabbage seeds. Readers will notice the sky beginning to fill with birds, which the rabbit and mouse don't see until the fruits—or vegetables—of their labor are ready. They try to protect their bounty from the intruders. A verbal argument and scuffle ensue until they all reach an understanding. After the seed of kindness is planted, the illustrations skillfully show the passage of time and humorously accurate emotions and body language. The textures shown in the fur and the birds are clearly read in the illustrations, is a universal truth—you reap what you sow and when shared with others, your joy will be magnified. VERDICT A delightful story. Copyright 2015 Reed Business Information.
- Publishers Weekly Starred March 2015 In a skillfully crafted story about the literal and allegorical fruits of the seeds we plant, Nelson (Balzer + Bray) uses emphatic sentences stretch across multiple pages, underscoring the patience necessary to see seeds mature into plants: "If you plant a tiny seed, it will grow." A small brown rabbit and an even smaller brown mouse, painted in warm realistic detail, are the devoted farmers here, and a work of art. Five birds descend, their silent intentions very clear. A food fight, the result of a "seed of selfishness," leaves the garden in ruins, but a final message of hope. Nelson adeptly balances whimsical, naturalistic, and instructional ideas to create a story that satisfies on multiple levels. Ages 4–8.

★IN THE KEY OF US

LOCKINGTON, MARIAMA J 9780374314101 FARRAR STRAUS GIROUX (BYR)

2022 FIC Realistic 5 5-8

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Death & Grief, Diverse Family Structure, LGBTQIA+, Own Voices

Annotation: Zora and Andi meet at a prestigious summer music camp where they're the only two black kids at camp. Andi is still grieving the loss of his demanding parents, Zora plays the flute, but secretly wants to be a dancer. Together, the girls and their Filipino American friend Christopher, offer each other support with their secrets and make discoveries about themselves along the way.

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide May 2022 Thirteen-year-old Andi Byrd is a talented trumpeter, constantly encouraged by her supportive mother. After her mother's death, she finds a spot at a prestigious music camp, but the inspiration still isn't there -- until Andi meets Zora. A regular attendee of the camp, Zora has a reputation for being the only Black kid at a predominantly white camp, Zora and Andi are initially reluctant to be lumped together but soon discover they are just what the other needs. As they grow closer, the girls begin to apply these lessons to other areas of their lives: Zora acknowledging her own fears, Andi finding her voice. The novel is told in alternating first-person accounts (separated by free verse written from the viewpoint of the camp itself), and the themes of self-harm and anxiety are geared toward a middle-school audience; a list of resources appears in the author's note. Eboni Njoku
- School Library Journal Starred May 2022 Gr 5–8—With lyricism and emotional honesty, Lockington tells the story of two girls who find their voices. Zora is creative and at times erratic force, died in a tragic accident. Now living with her much more pragmatic aunt and uncle, Andi can't help but feel like Zora would much rather be dancing, but her family has mapped a very narrow path for her as a flutist, and she is beginning to break under the weight of anxiety that she releases through self-harm. As two of the only Black kids at camp, Andi and Zora are frequently thrown together by student body issues, and losses, and dreams, they actually begin to develop a real friendship, and maybe more. Andi and Zora share the narration, and each section is set in a different setting. VERDICT Navigating sensitive topics like body image, mental health, racism, grief, and healthy relationships with a gentle hand, this is a powerful story. Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.
- Booklist March 2022 Grades 4-8 - "Andi's mother was an artist, and she encouraged Andi's passion for music. For years, it was just Andi and her uptight aunt and uncle in a world that wouldn't accept her. Still grappling with grief, Andi decides to go to Harmony Music Camp for the summer. There, she meets Zora, a girl who is the only Black kid at a camp where the other kids are mostly white. Zora is a flutist, and Andi is a trumpeter. Together, they find their voices and make discoveries about themselves along the way. VERDICT A powerful story of friendship and self-discovery. Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.

- think was possible. Lockington's novel takes readers on a breathtaking, lyrical journey of the complexities of Black girlhood in a story about the flaws of her main characters in such a way that makes readers weep for each misstep and rejoice with each measure of success. A strong recommendation.
- Publishers Weekly Starred March 2022 Ten months after the death of her artist mother, 13-year-old Andrea "Andi" Byrd, who lives with her predominantly white Harmony Music Camp, the rising seventh grader feels like an outsider, not used to the rigid schedule or the competition. Andi is often grouped with the only other Black camper: 12-year-old Zora Lee Johnson, a flautist who struggles to meet her perfectionist mother's true passion—they start to trust each other with insecurities, secrets, and moments of self-discovery. Alternating the two perspectives with microaggressions with a love letter to music, the importance of representation, and the work of sticking up for the person one dreams of being.
- Kirkus Reviews Starred March 2022 Following her mother's death, rising eighth grader Andrea "Andi" Byrd is grieving and missing the trust she's expecting their first child, Andi feels like she's in the way of their growing family and has lost the magic she once felt when playing the trumpet and mostly White campers—she's sure that going is a mistake. However, soon she finds friendship with Christopher Flores, a quirky Filipino boy, the only other Black girl there. Zora seemingly couldn't be more different: Her clothes are sparkly, and she's bubbly and groomed for perfection according to her parents' plans. Over time, the girls come to realize how much they have in common. Told in Andi's and Zora's alternating perspective: sensitively explores topics such as racism and self-harm and offers a touching portrayal of young queer love. An author's note includes more on the worthwhile read. (Fiction. 10-14)

★THE
INQUISITOR'S
TALE: OR, THE
THREE
MAGICAL
CHILDREN AND
THEIR

GIDWITZ, ADAM 9780142427378 PUFFIN BOOKS 2018 FIC Fantasy Adventure 4.5 4-7 620
Historical

Tags: Europe, Judaism/Jewish

Annotation: Are they saints? Or frauds? Or worst of all, in league with the devil? The year is 1242. The weary travelers in the inn are discussing their boy with healing powers—and their resurrected dog, Gwenforte. The travelers cannot say for sure what the children are, but they know that stray prejudice, fight persecution, and save holy texts from burning, culminating in a final showdown at Mont Saint-Michel. "A well-researched and rare

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide Starred April 2017 In thirteenth-century France, peasant Jeanne has visions of the future; William, illegitimate son of a count. Together they try to thwart King Louis's plan to burn all the Jewish texts in France. An ambitious mash-up of medieval saints' lives, the Journey of the Magi, and the legend of the Holy Grail, this epic story is a tour de force. In the end, the children, Jeanne, Jacob, and William, and one miraculous dog, Gwenforte, came to travel together and the harrowing yet amazing adventure. They find the Holy Grail, and save some precious books from being burned. Readers will be shocked at the main narrator's role when he finally enters the story. The book explores how religion, class, and gender played during the middle ages. The tone is a bit less snarky and the humor a bit more sophisticated than the author's previous work.
- School Library Connection November 2016 Adam Gidwitz spent six years researching and writing this epic story set in Medieval France. In the end, the children, Jeanne, Jacob, and William, and one miraculous dog, Gwenforte, came to travel together and the harrowing yet amazing adventure. They find the Holy Grail, and save some precious books from being burned. Readers will be shocked at the main narrator's role when he finally enters the story. The book explores how religion, class, and gender played during the middle ages. The tone is a bit less snarky and the humor a bit more sophisticated than the author's previous work.
- School Library Journal Starred August 2016 Gr 5–10—What is a miracle? Is a miracle what happens when, faced with murderous bandits, a cranky innkeeper is so moved by a little girl's friendliness that he risks his life to help her and her companions flee a posse of armed knights? This book combines the epic with the personal, aiming for that heart-stopping moment when characters readers have come to care about find themselves strongly invested in the moral questions that plague bandit-killing monk and friendly peasant girl alike—along with every other character. It is left to the titular Inquisitor to discover the truth behind the legend as each facet is revealed. VERDICT This book appeals to the heart, to the mind, and to any reader's appetite for action: read it for the philosophies, and moments of doubt. Read it for the palaces and monasteries and the unbelievable descriptions of food. But read it.—Patricia
- Booklist Starred Reviews August 2016 *Starred Review* Gidwitz leaves the fairy-tale realm of his Grimm trilogy behind and plunges into a world of miracles and saints, of fiends and dragons, all of which Gidwitz has meticulously teased from legends and histories of the Middle Ages. Jeanne, a peasant girl with visions of the future; William, an African oblate with incredible strength; Jacob, a Jewish boy with healing powers. Their beliefs come into conflict and the children's potential for sainthood is debated. It also triggers an act of defiance against the king that makes the tale taut, inspired adventure. Though final artwork was unseen, the book will be fittingly illuminated with illustrations and marginalia. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Also: the national tour, the floor display, and all that.
- Publishers Weekly Starred July 2016 In 1242 France, weary travelers at an inn trade stories about three miraculous children and their dog: an oblate of partial African heritage with uncanny strength; and Jacob, a Jewish boy with the power to heal the sick and injured—are the subjects of a well-researched and rambunctiously entertaining story that has as much to say about the present as it does the past. The tale describes their encounters with the children to produce the whole story. Amid mugs upon mugs of ale, the tale that comes into focus is one that continues to have no problem mixing high and low. Final art not seen by PW. Ages 10–up. Author's agent: Sarah Burnes, Gernert Company

★KAPAEMAHU

WONG-KALU, HINALEIMOANA 9780593530061 KOKILA 2022 398.2 3.3 2-5 AD

Tags: Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Indigenous Peoples, LGBTQIA+, Own Voices, Transgender/Nonbinary

Annotation: Based on the authors' animated short film of the same name, this dual-language Olelo Niihau-English picture book retells the indigenous story of a young girl who possesses a special healing gift, and they become beloved by the islanders for their gentle ways and miraculous cures. In gratitude, the islanders imbue the stones with their powers as a parting gift before they disappear.

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal Starred August 2022 Gr 3–5—Kapaemahu, a reference to the four healing stones found on Waikiki Beach, is a Hawaiian legend that took to settle in Ulukou on Waikiki. Each of the four leaders—Kapaemahu, Kapuni, Kinohi, and Kahaloa—possessed a special healing power and brought boulders to their beach. This book is best suited for elementary students at the intermediate level due to its advanced vocabulary; the illustrations are also incredibly important as a story for children to connect with regarding gender identity ("The visitors were tall and deep in voice yet gentle to any culture being studied or observed in school or at home and provides a great lesson in acceptance and love in a diverse world. Few know their history beautifully, while still giving appropriate attention to the suppression of native people and the need to honor those who can contribute in conjunction with a history lesson on Hawaii, its people, their language, and the colonization that occurred.—Kerra Mazzariello Copyright 2022")
- Booklist June 2022 Grades K-3 - "According to legend, four dual-spirited travelers (known as mahu) journeyed from Tahiti to Hawaii, bringing their healing powers to Waikiki Beach, and the mahu transferred their healing powers to the stones. Revered for generations, the stones were forgotten during the 19th-century picture book (Olelo Niihau and English) attempts to reacquaint readers with this traditional Hawaiian story, promote Olelo Niihau (the orator revered in Hawaiian culture. Sousa's dreamy illustrations—taken from the film—reflect the text's thoughtful tone. Legendary characters and shades predominate, with ochre used prominently in the magical scenes. Author and source notes are appended."
- Kirkus Reviews Starred April 2022 A rich retelling of an ancient Indigenous Hawaiian legend. Long ago, four mahu (spirits) traveled from Tahiti to Hawaii with "skill in the science of healing." Their leader, Kapaemahu, "healed by laying on hands." Kapuni "possessed great spiritual power." Kinohiia shared wisdom with the islanders, who, in turn, erected a monument in their honor; four enormous boulders were moved down a mountain and the stones remained on Waikiki Beach; times changed, and eventually the monument lay forgotten under the city. It has since been recovered. The authors' Academy Award–shortlisted animated short, underscores the importance of preserving sacred spaces and is a powerful reminder that the story pays homage to Indigenous Hawaiian healing traditions and affirms two-spirit people. The fascinating backmatter provides background information to the power of hidden Indigenous histories. (author's note, glossary) (Picture book. 7-12)

*KING AND
THE
DRAGONFLIES

CALLENDER,
KACEN 9781338129342 SCHOLASTIC 2022 FIC Realistic 4.9 4-7 830

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Death & Grief, LGBTQIA+, North America, Own Voices, Social Justice

Annotation: After twelve-year-old Kingston "King" James's brother, Khalid, passes away, King thinks he comes back to visit him in the shape of a dragonfly. Then Sandy goes missing and King suspects Sandy's abusive, racist father is to blame. He then finds Sandy hiding in his backyard, and the next day, after a traumatic experience, King is forced to confront his ideas on his own identity and the truth behind his brother's death.

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide Starred April 2020 In their second middle-grade novel (Hurricane Child, rev. 5/18), set in contemporary small-town Louisiana, twelve-year-old King copes with the sudden death of his beloved older brother, Khalid, who used to talk in his sleep while dreaming about trying to keep Khalid close by remembering the dreaming Khalid's philosophical musings ("There's no such thing as happiness. No such thing as a friend. Sandy has run away from an abusive father (the town's sheriff), and King is sheltering him; Sandy is gay, and so, King gradually becomes more complicated by racial prejudice (King is African American; Sandy is white). Callender's portrayal of tween angst and awakening—including characters who are believable and relatable in a story line that addresses serious issues with unreserved honesty and heightened sensitivity.
- School Library Connection Star January 2020 Death, homophobia, and adolescent emotions set the tone for this middle-grade novel. King visits his brother in his dreams. His biggest secret is that he's gay, something his father wouldn't approve of, but King needs to be true to himself and after Sandy confides that he, too, is gay. Sandy has secrets of his own: his father is physically abusive. Sandy runs away from home and King harbored him and why, the storyline takes a more understanding turn. The main characters display typical adolescent behaviors and attitudes and emotions we'd expect from middle graders. As the storyline develops the characters evolve in their maturity and understanding of others and LGBTQ+, dealing with negative responses, handling peers, as well as the grieving process and some ways to handle those emotions. Kristina
- School Library Journal Starred January 2020 Gr 4–9—Although the bayou of Louisiana suggests something slow and gentle, 13-year-old King's medical causes, leaving his small family reeling. Three months later, King's mom still isn't cooking and his typically stoic dad has stunned enough but then his ex-friend Sandy goes missing. Despite a relatively simple set of events, the story delivers emotional depth via the colorful heartstrings, adding a romantic poetry to an already potent mix. Callender tackles some serious issues—racism, being gay, child abuse, and a powerful middle grade and YA author, even without following on the heels of the well-awarded Hurricane Child. VERDICT An intense, gripping all middle grade collections.—Erin Reilly-Sanders, University of Wisconsin-Madison Copyright 2020 Reed Business Information.
- Booklist Starred Reviews January 2020 Grades 4-7 - *Starred Review* This incredible middle-grade follow-up to Callender's debut novel follows King's family. King, a Black child living by the bayous of Louisiana, is dealt the double blow of losing his beloved older brother while the local sheriff, runs away, the weight of expectations and secrets leads King to examine everything he thinks he knows about being brave, but a cohesive whole and a dynamic tale that will resonate with children struggling to reconcile who they are with what they think society wants. King's doubts about his place in his family is wonderfully affirming for children of all identities. Strongly recommended for all children's collections.
- Publishers Weekly Starred December 2019 Callender (Hurricane Child) returns to middle grade in this powerful tale of grief, intersectionality before this book's start, though King believes Khalid has become a dragonfly and visits nightly in his dreams. When Charles "Sandy" Sanchez ponders his obligation to tell anyone; King knows Sandy is a victim of domestic abuse and suspects Sandy's father is the perpetrator. Finally, he wants anyone to think you're gay, too, do you?") and their Louisiana town's homophobia as he decides to help Sandy and explores his own family. If some side characters feel underdeveloped, it's because King himself shines wholly real as a black child learning to negotiate his world. Zacker Literary Agency. (Feb.)
- Kirkus Review December 2019 In the wake of his brother's death, a black boy struggles with grief and coming out. When Kingston's white mother, King wouldn't want people to think he was gay too. And then Khalid died. Their mom wants him to see someone, but King refuses because he's coming every time he thinks of Khalid. But King knows that his brother is not really gone: Khalid "shed his skin like a snake" and is now a dragonfly. King knew the truth—King is gay. Every day after school King walks to the bayou searching for Khalid, wondering if he can ever share who he is

vivid descriptions of the rural area King calls home are magical; readers will feel the heat and the sweat, see the trees and the moss. This memory. Elegiac and hopeful. (Fiction. 8-12)

LEGIONS OF ROME	TIME EXPLORERS : 1	ORTIZ, JORDI	9788418664182	EDITORIAL EL PIRATA	2023 FIC	Action / Adventure	Historical	4-7
THE MURDER MYSTERY RACE		COHEN, ANDREW S	9781637588260	PERMUTED PRESS	2023 FIC			

Annotation: In 2054, eleven-year-old Andrew Mikaelson's hometown is being terrorized by a killer named The Knife Thrower. He enters a contest the Knife Thrower receives one million dollars. Andrew makes friends and enemies as he follows clues to catch the murderer.

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Review May 2023 Nine days at sea, 16 contestants, and one killer. Welcome to the Murder Mystery Race, in which the person who u has been terrorizing a small New Jersey town with a vicious murder spree. Ten-year-old Andrew Mikaelson has been selected as one of th the cruise out of Palm Beach. All the contestants are kids under age 18 who qualified through solving a series of puzzles. Andrew, the you teens. Andrew leaves the safety of home for a cruise filled with both fun and deadly games as he and his new friends piece together clues needs better pacing and editing. It has a very slow buildup, as the initial chapters set up the world and introduce the characters, and the be White. A precocious boy enters the race of his life in this work that doesn't live up to its promise. (Thriller. 12-16)

*NIKHIL OUT LOUD		PANCHOLY, MAULIK	9780063091931	BALZER + BRAY	2023 FIC	Realistic		4.1 5-8
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Tags: Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Diverse Family Structure, LGBTQIA+, Own Voices

Annotation: A thirteen-year-old voice actor for the children's animated show "Raj Reddy in Outer Space," Nikhil Shah moves with his mother for family tensions between his mother and grandparents at home, Nikhil quickly becomes a celebrity among his peers and easily wins the lead role parents protest his involvement in the production. In addition to the controversy, Nikhil realizes that his voice is changing and his time on "Raj R stand beside him to reject the homophobia.

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal December 2022 Gr 5 Up—After the Kids' Cartoon Awards, 13-year-old Indian American voice actor Nikhil Shah lear him. On the first day of eighth grade, Nikhil meets DeSean, who is Black, and is welcomed into the Sycamore Middle School theater crowd musical, Nikhil reveals to the school newspaper that he's gay. Soon a homophobic community member threatens to protest the play if Ni place for hate in school. Nikhil's cup is full to the brim with complex family relationships, puberty, and his burgeoning community activism but perhaps that's the point. Ultimately, Nikhil and his loved ones learn that running away from challenges doesn't make them go away—much representation matters.—Dana West Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.
- Booklist October 2022 Grades 5-8 - "Indian American cartoon voice actor Nikhil's eighth-grade year is not going as planned. He's living in i can't sing. Staring down puberty, local homophobes, and generational differences, Nikhil has got to find his voice. This upper-middle-gra sophomore novel will resonate with queer readers of color as well as fans of theater, and both will find a warm welcome in the overlap. W emerging teens, and anyone who needs a little extra push to use their voice, and it will be an especially powerful read in conjunction with Federle's *Better Nate than Ever* (2013) will appreciate this."
- Publishers Weekly August 2022 Actor Pancholy (*The Best at It*) draws upon his experience as a voice actor in this sophomore novel about becomes ill, the rising eighth grader and his mother travel from Los Angeles to Ohio to help. Though Nikhil is able to remotely record his l his future on the show feels uncertain when his voice begins to change. Loath to confide in his mother, who is navigating tensions with he Korean American Monica, and shy Mexican American skateboarder Mateo—on whom Nikhil quietly crushes. After Nikhil is cast as the sch production, but the cast provides public heartwarming support as Nikhil considers options around using his voice. Told in Nikhil's earns the support needed to grow into oneself. Ages 8–12. (Oct.)
- Kirkus Reviews Starred August 2022 Eighth grade theater kids rise up against homophobia in their community. A grandparent's sickness t in a new school gives Nikhil anxiety, but he quickly befriends a crew: DeSean (who is Black), Monica (who is Korean American), and Matec classmates' delight, a catchphrase from *Raj Reddy in Outer Space*, the animated show he works on, but gets cast as the lead in the school that he is gay. The overwhelming support is overshadowed by his Nana's negative reaction and a community member's homophobic lett statement. Pancholy's sophomore effort is a layered coming-of-age tale, melding puberty's woes with familial expectations and grief. Unr other but also pave the way for some truly tender moments. The sweet, peck-on-the-cheek-level romance is delightfully middle school—13)

*NIMBUS		ELDREDGE, JAN	9780062680372	BALZER + BRAY	2023 FIC	Fantasy		4-7
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Tags: White

Annotation: Nimbus the cat was rescued by the boy Fletcher when she was an injured kitten and while spending Fletcher's Spring Break with his the goblin, but Aunt Caroline thinks Fletcher's injuries are from Nimbus and she abandons the feline. Befriending an old witch named Agatha, he return to Fletcher, especially when she learns the goblin could return.

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Reviews Starred August 2023 A loyal black kitten's boy is under supernatural attack. Eleven-month-old Nimbus loves Fletcher, the opens it, releasing a terrible goblin, loyal Nim protects Fletcher, taking heavy damage in the process. But Fletcher's aunt, who's caring for befriends injured Nim and leads her to a witch's house. While the witch cares for Nim, the witch's cats (maternal Fern, bookish Rochester, ability: In destroying one eye of the nightmare demon in the fight to protect Fletcher, Nim gained its "dream sight." But she also learns it r the witch's home is nice and magic itself seems to be telling her to stay put, Nim wants to find a way back to Fletcher. As a hero, Nimbus i: pets on hand to hug—all the way through the magical, action-packed finale. Fletcher and the witch read white. A deeply imaginative jour
- Publishers Weekly July 2023 In this affecting tale by Eldredge (Evangeline of the Bayou), a cat struggling to make it home to her owner fin attacked by a strange monster that he accidentally frees from a jar, Nimbus defends him. Both boy and feline are hurt in the fray; Fletcher fashion-conscious, would-be actor rat named Rhett, and takes refuge with Agatha, a reclusive human witch whose four cats reluctantly ai Fletcher, Nimbus soon realizes that her destiny may lie elsewhere. Fanciful, optimistic, and filled with a gentle humor, this heartrending t Nimbus discovers the tragic circumstances that brought each of her new friends to live with Agatha, she confronts her own fears and tum Properties. (Sept.)

✦THE OCEAN

CALLS : A

HAENYEO

CHO, TINA

9781984814869 KOKILA

2020 E

3.2 K-3

MERMAID

STORY

Tags: Asia, Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Gender Issues, Own Voices, Social Justice

Annotation: Dayeon, a young Korean girl, wants to be a haenyeo, a free diver, like her grandmother, but she's afraid of a scary encounter she had to experience the wonder of the ocean.

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide October 2020 Young Korean girl Dayeon admires her diver grandmother ("You are like a treasure-hunting mermaid") an flippers, and a mask to dive deep into the sea and collect treasures that can be sold, saved, or eaten. Dayeon has tried to dive, but after a splashing her flippers, then slowly builds up the courage to wade a bit further into the water and finally to dive deep with Grandma. This slice of life that will be new and fascinating to many readers. Cho's text is accessible and informative. Snow's illustrations carry Dayeon fr shadow, and color evoke all the sensations of the divers' experiences. Details about the haenyeo tradition and history shared in the after relationships so beautifully portrayed in the story.
- School Library Journal July 2020 Gr 2–4—The haenyeo are Korean women who dive for shellfish to sell or eat. They dive as deep as 20 me and a diving belt, and practice holding their breath for a long time. The plot is simple, but the story is abundant with themes of passing d digital and hand-painted art, most of which span two full pages. The women are lovingly depicted, with a familial resemblance between i reflections of light off the seawater at stunning sunrise to a breathtaking sunset. A variety of perspectives are smartly employed to enhan behind our characters on their walk toward the ocean. VERDICT This expressive story is a must-have for any collection. As a bonus, the ba Lee Joyner, Haverhill P.L., MA Copyright 2020 Reed Business Information.
- Publishers Weekly Starred June 2020 Grandma is part of an island community of haenyeo—South Korean deep-sea divers. She and her fe Dayeon, her granddaughter, wants to be a haenyeo ("You're like a treasure-hunting mermaid," she says admiringly), but she's scared. Afte patience and faith as she listens to her granddaughter's anxiety, then responds: "Can't you hear what the waves are saying? They're callir contrast between the sun's citrus hues and the ocean's blues, and the bounty of sea life. In one spread, Snow shows grandmother and gra (Rice from Heaven) highlights a segment of Korean society whose women preserve a vibrant tradition of enterprise, stamina, and cooper: granny mermaids." Ages 5–8. Author's agent: Adria Goetz, Martin Literary Management. Illustrator's agent: Wendi Gu, Janklow & Nesbit A:
- Booklist Starred Reviews May 2020 Grades K-3 - *Starred Review* This beautifully illustrated picture book is set on Jeju Island in South Kc Grandma, but is afraid of getting water up her nose or being eaten by some scary underwater creature. Grandma is patient, and just like l and deeper. A sudden swarm of dolphins is a warning that hungry sharks are headed their way. Grandma and Dayeon swim as fast as the ocean treasures. Swirling blues and purples are juxtaposed against brilliant oranges and yellows, depicting rich vistas, and back matter e confidence to support STEM units on weather and tides, sea life, and ecology (the haenyeo are model conservationists). This engaging str
- Kirkus Reviews Starred May 2020 As the granddaughter of a haenyeo diver, young Dayeon yearns to learn this honorable trade from her g who dive up to 30 meters underwater to gather shellfish. Without using any oxygen masks, the haenyeo divers harvest abalone, octopuse this work are described as "indigenous marine biologists." Many of them are over 70 years old. Dayeon understands the dangers involved handed down along with diving skills helps her relax and reach the treasures at the bottom of the sea. The vibrant illustrations in cool, de proportions, befitting Dayeon's perception that they are mermaids. The captivating endnotes provide more information on the tradition, are given only to the worthy—which takes practice, courage, and a grandmother's love. The sea, with equal parts danger and thrill, make:

ONE WHO

LOVES YOU

MOST

MEDINA

9781646140909

LEVINE

QUERIDO

2022 FIC

Realistic

5-7

Tags: Adoption/Foster Care, LGBTQIA+, Latine/Hispanic, Transgender/Nonbinary

Annotation: Twelve-year-old Gabriela doesn't feel like they fit in anywhere, at school, in their own family, and in their own body. But a new scho

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Connection September 2022 Gabriela is 12, in middle school, and has been ad­opted from Honduras into an all-white Combined with a single mom who suffers from depression, Gabriela's life is one of struggle interlaced with beauty. In this coming-of-age

- exultation as Gabriela learns about the LGBTQ+ community and where they might find freedom to be their best self within it. This book is the premise behind this idealized scenario made the story easier to enjoy. No longer did the swaggering identity confidence and deep compassionate interaction. This story presents the kind of world author Medina hopes LGBTQ+ individuals could experience. In contrast, the overall voice of the book is almost poetic, evoking powerfully beautiful and troubling images within its narrative. This is a work with its characters. However, Gabriela's path to they/them is one which we should have hope will someday become reality. Michelle Hudson Publishers Weekly May 2022 Music-loving Honduran American adoptee Gabriela Ricci, 12, isn't sure how to write about their "authentic self places I was increasingly becoming more and more uncomfortable about." But with supportive new friends—Indian- and Peruvian-American Gabriela discovers new words to describe herself, such as nonbinary and asexual. While establishing the confidence to express themselves their first romantic relationship with their crush. Though the supporting cast's characterizations feel thin, and the motivations behind a friend's and mother's unconditional support, and Medina empathetically approaches difficult topics such as one person's experience with a notion of queer identity. Ages 8–14. Agent: Marietta B. Zacker, Gallt & Zacker. (May)
- Booklist March 2022 Grades 5-8 - "This debut novel by Medina follows middle-schooler Gabriela as they learn to find joy in being their authentic self makes them more and more self-conscious and uncomfortable. As an adoptee to a white mother, Gabriela, who has a Honduran birth mother, feels the fuzzy nervous feeling they can't seem to shake when they are near their classmate Maya. With the help of a new group of friends who touches on various sensitive topics not often seen in middle-grade texts, such as transphobia, homophobia, and depression. An informative story for readers who are on their own personal journey."
- Kirkus Review March 2022 An uplifting narrative about the freedom and clarity labels can offer. Gabriela is a middle schooler on a journey to find their community. But things start to change when Abbie and Héctor enter their school. Abbie is an Indian and Peruvian American trans student, and Héctor is a trans student in Queer 101, they invite Gabriela to start exploring words that could fit them. Though Gabriela's crush on Maya is a sweet addition and love, Gabriela navigates middle school classes and turmoil, their mother's depression, and a world that isn't always welcoming to queers. A moving story that can serve as a guide for adults to explore the LGBTQ+ lexicon with young people and help middle-grade readers discover their story with a happy ending. A sweet book that's sure to spread love and hopefulness. (resources) (Fiction. 9-14)

*PRIDE : AN
INSPIRATIONAL
HISTORY OF
THE LGBTQ+
MOVEMENT

CALDWELL, STELLA	9780593382943	PENGUIN WORKSHOP	2022 306.76	8.4 6-8 11
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Tags: LGBTQIA+

Annotation: Offers a history of the LGBTQ movement, following the earliest known historical references of gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals seeking equal treatment. Features profiles of famous queer people and essays from queer activists, discussing why they are proud of who they are.

Full Text Reviews:

- Publishers Weekly June 2022 Caldwell's wide-ranging, clearly contextualized account of LGBTQ history, told across seven chapters, begins with a primer details LGBTQ rights over time, including periods of advancement and backlash, Pride's beginnings, and the HIV/AIDS crisis, among others. Additional boxes provide one-line biographies of lesser-known figures, while first-person interstitials from queer people provide a spread that juxtaposes a cartoon image of barbed wire with a 1938 photograph of gay concentration camp prisoners. Nevertheless, this book is a diversity to be visible, proud, and safe." Includes a foreword by actor Layton Williams and back matter with a glossary, index, and further reading.
- Kirkus Reviews Starred May 2022 There's pride everywhere! This stirring work affirms that LGBTQ+ people have existed for centuries. Call it a queer people throughout history—Oscar Wilde, Lili Elbe, and Audre Lorde, for example—who have embraced their authentic selves. "Having been an activist Cecilia Chung (b. 1935), former drag performer and political activist José Sarria (1922-2013), and openly lesbian suffragette Letitia Stetter of the LGBTQ+ community. Moments of history are explored in brief vignettes that range in length from a paragraph to approximately two pages. Pride flags decorate the pages. As a whole, the information provided is far from exhaustive, but it serves to inspire, educate, and bolster queer role models. The pride of any bookshelf, this is a delightful introduction to LGBTQ+ history. (timeline, glossary, index, further reading) (Nonfiction. 9-14)
- School Library Connection May 2022 It's no secret that the LGBTQ+ community has historically been one of the most poorly treated groups in the United States: the Stonewall Riots, the AIDS epidemic, and the fight for marriage equality. In addition, there are numerous profiles of famous and lesser-known people discussed were not comfortable "coming out" at all, and it was only through unfortunate circumstances that their true feelings were revealed. Readers will be amazed to learn how old the concept of drag shows is and horrified by the amount of people who were killed just because of their sexual orientation in United States history the punishment for male homosexuality was death. They will also learn that "pride" has many meanings in the history of the LGBTQ+ community. This readable historical text using frank, matter-of-fact language and colorful illustrations. This important and timely nonfiction book will be a valuable addition to any library.
- School Library Journal Starred April 2022 Gr 6 Up—A short but global view of LGBTQIA+ milestones and important figures, this vibrant book is a gem. Lines, and notable quotations add visual interest, while one-page profiles of notable figures such as Oscar Wilde, Audre Lorde, and Marsha P. Johnson societies across the globe and moving through the centuries to today, this bird's eye view of LGBTQIA+ history will help young people find their place. Truths about the hate and violence that many folks have faced throughout history; however, the major notes are positive, affirming, and full of hope. A breath at the end of each chapter. VERDICT A highly accessible, entertaining, and visually engaging nonfiction book that is a recommendation for all libraries.
- Booklist February 2022 Grades 6-9 - "First published in the UK, this informative history of the LGBTQ+ movement is international in scope and includes a survey, no issue—except AIDS—is explored in depth, but Caldwell has done an excellent job of synopsis, especially of the AIDS crisis, Harvey Milk, actor Rock Hudson, and more. In a nice touch, she also includes contributions from twentysomethings writing about what they have learned from the revelation to today's youth, for whom much of the pre-twenty-first-century material will be ancient history. They will, however, be familiar with the struggles queer people have made over the centuries will, indeed, be inspirational for readers, whatever their age may be."

RAIN SCHOOL	RUMFORD, JAMES	9780547243078	HOUGHTON MIFFLIN	2010 E	2.5 PS-2 AD
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HARCOURT (HM)

Annotation: Living in a rural village in the African nation of Chad, a young boy named Thomas is eager to finally begin school. Following a group the teacher tells the students, and so Thomas and the others work together to construct the school's mud-brick walls and thatched roof. Eventua the school – until next year. “Without a heavy message, this moving offering will leave kids thinking about the daily lives of other young people a

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2011 In a small village in Chad, students and their teacher build their classroom from mud, grass, and saplings. Aft Rumford's energetic art, with its vibrant textured surfaces and deft black line, helps convey his characters' enthusiasm for learning.
- School Library Journal October 2010 K-Gr 3—“In the country of Chad, it is the first day of school. The dry dirt road is filling up with childre bombarding them with eager questions. “Will they give us a notebook? Will they give us a pencil? Will I learn to read like you?” When the c frame, a few bricks, and a thatch roof and walls. With that completed, they have their classes. Nine months go by and rain clouds begin to away. Come September, the process will begin again. The final illustration features a smiling confident Thomas at the forefront, with eag background color and as part the dry, sandy, and hot landscape. The message of the story is clear—while the school structure may be ten of the world.—Mary N. Oluonye, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH Copyright 2010 Reed Business Information.

ROMA	HISTORIA PARA NINOS : 1	SAURA, MIGUEL ANGEL	9788418664236	EDITORIAL EL PIRATA	2023 937			3-6
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Annotation: Explores the history, culture, and religion of ancient Rome, and profiles famous events and people in the history of the Rome. Includ

SEEKING FORTUNE

DURING THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH : AN INTERAC	YOU CHOOSE : SEEKING HISTORY	DOEDEN, MATT	9781669032540	CAPSTONE PRESS INC	2023 FIC	Historical	Action / Adventure	3-5
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Tags: North America

Annotation: Presents a choose-your-own-adventure story with forty-one choices and eighteen possible endings in which the reader, a fortune se glossary, a timeline, discussion questions, and additional resources.

*THANKS A LOT, UNIVERSE	THANKS A LOT, UNIVERSE : 1	LUCAS, CHAD	9781419751035	AMULET PAPERBACKS	2022 FIC	Realistic		3.8 6-8
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Tags: Adoption/Foster Care, African/Black/African-American, Caribbean, LGBTQIA+, Mental Health/Illness, North America

Annotation: Seventh-grader Brian suffers from social anxiety that only gets worse when his father leaves the family and his mother attempts sui uncharted waters. Ezra, a boy on his basketball team, notices Brian's isolation and reaches out to him, even though he's worried Brian might re growing up in the midst of turmoil.

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal Starred July 2021 Gr 5–8—Author Lucas scores big with this debut. Readers follow Brian, who is white, and Ezra, w attempt to avoid legal repercussions at his job and his mother attempts suicide. As Brian and his little brother find themselves in foster ca share his sexuality with folks important to him. As the boys' bond grows, they truly see and uplift each other, illustrating the importance c lightened with frequent laugh-out-loud moments. The diverse cast of characters demonstrates the complexity of friendship and navigati and positivity are infectious. Readers can learn a great deal from these characters. VERDICT Painfully real and radiantly hopeful, this is a r in both collections, and certainly on middle school shelves.—Taylor Worley, Springfield P.L., OR Copyright 2021 Reed Business Informatio
- Kirkus Reviews Starred April 2021 Two boys in Halifax, Nova Scotia, grow close as they encounter adolescent struggles and life changes. C about as badly as a birthday can go: His father leaves home, possibly on the run from the police, and his mother attempts suicide in resp in the aftermath, Brian can't quite keep it all together. Thankfully, he isn't completely alone: Ezra, an open-hearted fellow member of thei support for one another as they come of age and try to find their best selves amid the turbulent times of seventh grade. Featuring snappy commentary found here are gentle and organic—never heavy-handed—and the plot's antagonists are far from two-dimensional, expertly White, and the supporting characters have a broad range of racial backgrounds. Tenderhearted and bold. (Fiction. 10-13)

WE THE FUTURE		LEWIS, CLIFF	9781631636967	JOLLY FISH PRESS	2023 FIC	Science Fiction		4-7
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Tags: Chronic Illness, Social Awareness, Social Justice

Annotation: Twelve-year-old climate activist Jonah Kaminski meets Sunday Turner when she hands him an inhaler on a mountainside where he stage an intervention that will help preserve humanity's future. The only problem is, he'll need to enlist the help of everyone in his school before

Full Text Reviews:

- Publishers Weekly February 2023 Environmental justice themes buoyed by friendship and community care infuse Lewis's impassioned, li to educate his YouTube following about the apocalyptic consequences of climate change, Jonah climbs a mountain trail and starts a live wearing a pink astronaut suit, who hands him an inhaler and says she's from the year 2100. Believing Jonah's environmental activism ha: back to save him. With Jonah's help, Sunny plans to confront a Pennsylvania senator on what she mysteriously terms “Zero Hour,” an eve

- future scientists pursuing Sunny for the time machine, dampen the novel's important messaging regarding contemporary climate emerg
- Jen Nadol, Unter Agency. (Apr.)
- Kirkus Review February 2023 Can the power of friendship and political organizing change the course of the climate crisis? Following a ne video about the dangers of fossil fuels, calling out the polluting power plant in his Pennsylvania town, he passes out. Jonah thinks he's d plan to save the world. With just 31 days to accomplish this task, Jonah, Sunny, and their newly formed crew race to combine their variou humorous tone; however, the writing style undermines this by telling rather than showing. Time travel is used to deliver deus ex machina the plot. Most of the cast members, including Jonah, are assumed White; Sunny reads Black. There is some disability and racial diversity distractions, like eliminating plastic straws, and instead become part of the worldwide climate activism movement pushing for significan

WE WERE THE
FIRE :
BIRMINGHAM,
1963 : (LARGE
PRINT)

MOSES, SHELIA P 9798885790062 YOUTH LARGE PRINT 2023 FIC Historical 4.2 4-8

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Own Voices

Annotation: Determined to stand up for their rights, eleven-year-old Rufus, a Black boy, and his friends participate in the 1963 civil rights protest

WORDS TO
MAKE A FRIEND
: A STORY IN
JAPANESE AND
ENGLISH

NAPOLI, DONNA JO 9780593122273 RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO 2021 E 0.9 PS-3

Tags: Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Friendship

Annotation: A young girl meets her new neighbor while playing outside in the snow. Although they don't speak the same language, the girls hav Japanese throughout the day.

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide January 2022 In this bilingual book, a child moving into a new home sees the girl next-door frolicking in the snow and j "Konnichiwa" in response, followed by "Let's play!" and "Asobou!" Many of their words are onomatopoeic: they hear a woodpecker and i "Shiver shiver" / "Buru buru," it's time to head inside. The girls dry off, fold origami, and have some tea ("Huu huu" / "Blow blow"). Back t rev. 7/20) uses mixed-media on plywood to create cozy pictures of the children's play, both indoors and out. Inside, the wood is cleverly l round heads, with simple dots for eyes, resemble those in the books of Gyo Fujikawa, known for her early inclusion of non-white charact back on their own experiences with language and friendship. Minor quibbles: a pronunciation guide would have been helpful, and the Ja
- School Library Journal December 2021 PreS-Gr 1—This deceptively simple book celebrates communication and friendship through lumir home during a snowstorm. As the little girl unpacks, she sees the neighbor girl outside playing. She puts on her coat and boots, and head words of their own language, finally heading inside for origami and snacks, ending with their sharing of the universal language of laughte illustrations tell the rest of the story here. Mixed-media illustrations, created on plywood and finished digitally, depict a beautiful snowy s while the protagonist has straight black hair framing her paler face. The girls are painted simply, in a style reminiscent of the work of Ezra friendship despite differences. A lovely book.—Amy Lilien-Harper, Wilton Lib., CT Copyright 2021 Reed Business Information.
- Kirkus Review October 2021 A day in the snow for two kids in two languages. Readers might be tempted to flip past the frontmatter to the blue and white house in a snowy landscape. An adult and a child, both with pale skin and black hair, are standing on the porch, about to neighbors a gift of food. Like many friendships, this story builds slowly, one interaction at a time, urging readers to savor each moment. T by snowy-day play and bilingual conversation. Eventually the cold pushes them inside to enjoy Japanese tea, a treat, and origami. Stoop striking against a pastel snowy scene. Napoli's spare text trusts primarily English-speaking readers to derive sufficient meaning from the l and illustrator each offer depth and background as well as insight into their artistic partnership. A simple tale of building a friendship anc
- Booklist October 2021 Preschool-Grade 1 - "There are lots of picture books about the challenges of moving to a new place, but this one in new neighbor playing outside in the snow. She bundles up and heads out to meet the girl, and as they build a snow creature, they exchar language divide, and soon, they're peas in a pod, having a blast. Napoli manages to tell the story only in the girls' exchange of words in s English and Japanese. This sweet read about finding a sense of belonging in a new place emphasizes openhearted friendship and how le
- Publishers Weekly July 2021 Spare, dialogue-only text by Napoli allows Stoop's detailed textural vignettes, done in mixed media on plyw the language barrier on a snowy day. As a Japanese child in a Fair Isle sweater unpacks boxes in a new bedroom, they see a brown-skinne enchanting spread surveys the duo from above as they approach each other over a layered white expanse of snow. Color-coded speech b counterparts as the duo builds a snow creature—and a friendship—in this sweet bilingual tale. Ages 4–8. (Oct.)