
‘Hoop kings SOAR
in kicks with wings.
Game so sweet
it's like bee stings.’

It's 1988. Charlie Bell is still mourning his father, and struggling to figure out how he feels for his best (girl) friend, CJ. When he gets into trouble one too many times, he's packed off to stay with his grandparents for the summer. There his cousin Roxie introduces him to a whole new world: basketball. A legend on the courts is born. But can Charlie resist when trouble comes knocking once again? From the New York Times-bestselling author Kwame Alexander, Rebound is a stunning coming-of-age novel in verse about basketball, family and staying true to yourself. A prequel to The Crossover, winner of the Newbery Medal. With comic-book illustrations from award-winning graphic novel artist Dawud Anyabwile.


A story of acceptance and community as told from the perspective of a wise 216-year-old northern red oak tree named Red. When a Muslim family moves into the neighborhood and faces the ugliest side of human nature, it is up to the tree to help the community see what really matters. Bravery, community, friendships, loyalty, acceptance and how things have always been are explored by the communities oldest resident, the tree. “Sometimes things happen that aren't so good. When they occur, I've learned that there's not much you can do except stand tall and reach deep.” The messages in this book are simple yet powerful. This is the book the world needs now!


How do you feel after you get a fresh haircut? In this rollicking rhythmic verse with bold and vibrant illustrations, a young boy shares his experience in a barbershop. After a fresh haircut, the change in his self-esteem is noticeable. His confidence rises. His pride is boosted. All it takes is a fresh haircut to change the way he sees himself. The swagger will flow through you after you read this book. You may even want to rush out to get your own fresh cut!


If you thought Mary Poppins or Nanny McPhee were the best nannies, you have not met Mr. Gedrick. Stanley Darrow's family has not been the same since his father has died. His mom is having a hard time maintaining a household, a job, and helping everyone deal with their own grief. Mom mentions getting a nanny and her son, Stanley is quick to submit an online request form for a nanny. Mr. Gedrick mysteriously appears and is quick to help the Darrow's in his own
magical way. Read this heartwarming tale that makes you laugh, cry, and make you wish you had a Mr. Gedrick in your life.

While Paloma’s mother completes a fellowship in Mexico City, biracial Paloma hopes to learn about the culture and heritage that connects her to her Mexican father, someone she doesn’t remember. Although she is not thrilled to be enrolled in summer school, Paloma soon makes friends with Gael and Lizzie and her time in Mexico quickly turns from boring to intriguing. Gael and Lizzie need Paloma’s help in finding a valuable missing ring that belonged to famed artist Frida Kahlo. Paloma wants to find and return the ring, but does she really know Gael and Lizzie as well as she thinks she does? Are they hiding secrets that will put her in real danger? Whom can she trust in this land that she is just discovering? Join Paloma as she uncovers this mystery in *Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring*.

Venus and Serena Williams are world famous tennis champions. Before they made it to the top, however, they had to start at the bottom. They woke up early six days a week, cleaned trash off the local tennis courts in order to play, and worked hard to become faster and stronger. Some welcomed them into the mostly white sport, while others booed. But Venus and Serena were unrelenting in their drive to be the best. Come back to the beginning to learn how these amazing, talented sisters got their start and how they became two of the greatest athletes in the world.

Connolly, MarcyKate. Shadow Weaver. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2018.
Isolated and lonely, Emmeline plays with the shadows around her. Soon her shadow, Dar, becomes her only friend. When her parents want to send her away to be “cured”, Dar convinces Emmeline to run away under the cloak of darkness. Now on the run from guards, Emmeline agrees to help her shadow become flesh in return for her help. Along the way, Emmeline begins to wonder if Dar is really her friend and how she can keep a secret from her own shadow. Connolly expertly weaves suspense and intrigue into this story that will keep audiences guessing.

Have you ever tried to save something but found that it might be impossible? Meet Louie, he feels like every animal he brings home is doomed until his dad brings home a premature donkey. Louie is determined that this donkey, that he named Winslow, is going to survive. This is a story of friendship, love, loss, and how to survive as a family when things get tough.
Sassy and Waldo are good dogs. They spend the day keeping their house safe. Has a squirrel ever gotten inside? NO! But every day their boy, Stewart, comes home from this terrible place called school smelling like anxiety and loose leaf paper. Sassy and Waldo decide to save Stewart. But they don't let dogs into school. So Sassy and Waldo decide to get creative. They put on an old trench coat, and now everyone at Bea Arthur Elementary thinks they are a new student...everyone except Stewart!

Carter performs a vanishing act from his con artist uncle and reappears in the small town of Mineral Wells. Drawn to the town's magic shop, Carter meets a crew of magnificent magicians-in-training. Can Carter and this band of misfits conjure up a way to save the town from the villainous B.B. Bosso and his clown henchmen? Full of friendship, family, hidden messages and magic tricks, this enchanting tale is sure to please all audiences.

A cunning woman who wields a magic wand and slays a dragon, a woman who falls in love with a rat and doesn’t know what to do when he falls into a pot of soup, and a son who loves sleep but yet works smarter than his brothers. These are the three Latin American folktales in this comic-style book. Read this book to follow a long line of traditional storytelling.

Would you feel nervous going to a new middle school and you know no one? Lucy Callaghan is a math genius and has an obsessive compulsive disorder. She has been homeschooled for her entire school career. Lucy’s only friends are friends from an online math chat forum. Her grandmother states she must attend middle school for one year, and make one friend in order to go college. Can Lucy succeed in middle school? Find out and read this heartwarming story, The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl.

Orphaned twins, Vick and Tara, do not have much they can count on. They are homeless and eke a living by digging through trash. But they know one thing, that their robot dog Daisy is special, and that Tara created her. When a local crime boss gets wind of Tara’s special way with tech and robots, she hunts the twins down, not realizing that they are determined to do things their own way. Vick protects Tara because he knows her autism can sometimes make situations complicated, but it also means she thinks about things differently, and in this case her abilities will help them make Daisy into the biggest, baddest watchdog on the block.

Puller, J.S. Captain Superlative. Disney Hyperion, an imprint of Disney Book Group, 2018.
An unknown seventh grade, girl superhero dressed in a red mask, blue wig, silver swimsuit, rubber gloves, torn tights, high top sneakers and a cape arrives on the scene at Deerwood Park Middle School exclaiming, "Have no fear, citizens! Captain Superlative is here to make all troubles disappear." The journey through middle school is often riddled with bullies, feelings of inadequacy and a desire to fly under the radar. The girl with the secret identity makes it impossible for anyone to live a normal middle school life. Introverted Janey, is overcome with a desire to find out the true identity behind the mask. The answer draws Janey into the role of sidekick, a place she had never considered before. Can Janey overcome her personality and join Captain Superlative in her campaign of goodness? Captain Superlative is a book that shows the incredible power of kindness to change lives.

Jerome knows that he is dead and that he was killed by a police officer. At first he is scared, confused and lonely but he is reassured by a new friend and fellow ghost, Emmett Till. Together, Emmett and Jerome walk through Emmett’s story and in doing so Jerome realizes that he is not the first (nor will he be the last) victim of racially-motivated violence. The one living person able to interact with Jerome is the police officer’s daughter, Sarah. While rocky at the beginning, this relationship begins to guide Jerome and Sarah towards eventual peace and understanding.

Have you ever seen El Chupacabras, that terrifying beast who sucks the blood of goats and other livestock? Carla has. Carla is a young bicycle-riding girl who lives on a goat farm with her father, Hector. One morning when she finds one of their goats flat as a pancake, she and her father know exactly who the culprit is. Follow Carla and Hector in this hilarious bilingual tale as they use magic to try to protect their precious goats from El Chupacabras, a beast who is perhaps not as terrifying as once thought.

The Sorceress. The Robot. The Gargoyle. The Mad Scientist. Characters from a fantasy or science fiction tale? No, just sixteen kids trying to have the best summer ever. With cardboard, tape, and anything else they can find, these neighborhood friends design costumes and turn their backyards into an amazing kingdom. Their vivid imaginations take them into a world where they face their fears. Together, they battle monsters, bullies, knights, and rogues in their cardboard kingdom before summer is over and school starts again. Grab your own cardboard box and join the fun in this delightful graphic novel.

Uss, Christina.  The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle. Margaret Ferguson Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2018
Meet Bicycle, a unique girl with an equally unique name. Sister Wanda feels she is lacking friends her own age and is determined to send her to a school that will guarantee she will come back with some friends but Bicycle has her own ideas. She embarks on a cross country bicycle journey to meet her idol in the hopes that he will become her friend and satisfy Sister Wanda. A unique story with funny and heartfelt characters.


“Ouch! Boo-Hoo! Argh!” Josephine is accident prone and seems to cut herself all the time. Luckily, her husband, Earle, has a father who is a doctor so Earle knows a thing or two about boo-boos. Earle also works for a company that manufactures hospital supplies. Earle imagines a solution for his wife: the Band-Aid. The end. But wait, there’s more. The band-aids didn’t fly off the shelves. Find out how the Band-Aid finally became a world-wide success. Really!

Woodson, Jacqueline. Harbor Me. Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers Group, 2018

Six fifth- and sixth-grade students meet weekly, on Friday afternoon, to talk in the ARTT (A Room to Talk) room. Here they build friendships and find a safe place to discuss personal issues like a father’s deportation, a father’s imprisonment, racial profiling, and dramatic family changes. These students learn that “if the worst thing in the world happens, they will protect someone else”. They will harbor each other. After reading this heartwarming and compassionate middle grade novel, will you consider being a safe harbor to someone?