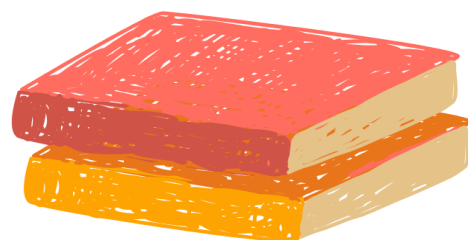




## 2025 YOUTH LITERATURE REVIEW



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*Welcome!*



M C MARIN COUNTY  
F L FREE **LIBRARY**

## *Children's Books Review*

# New and Upcoming Kid's Books

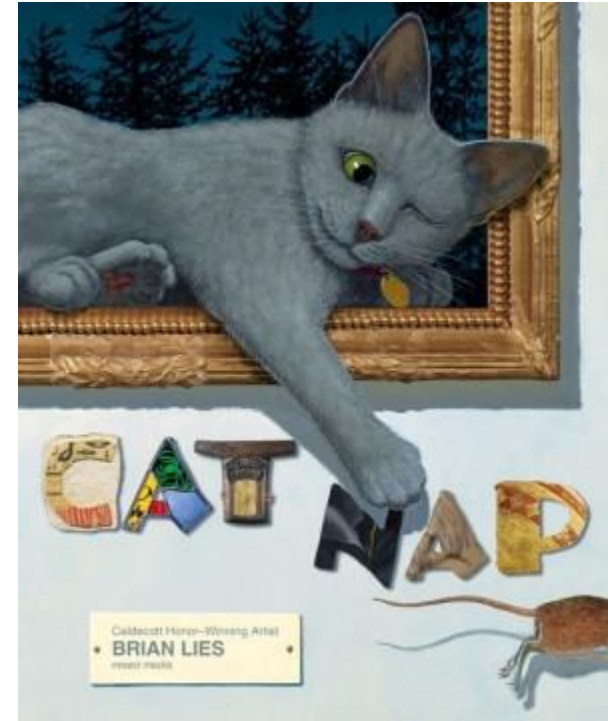
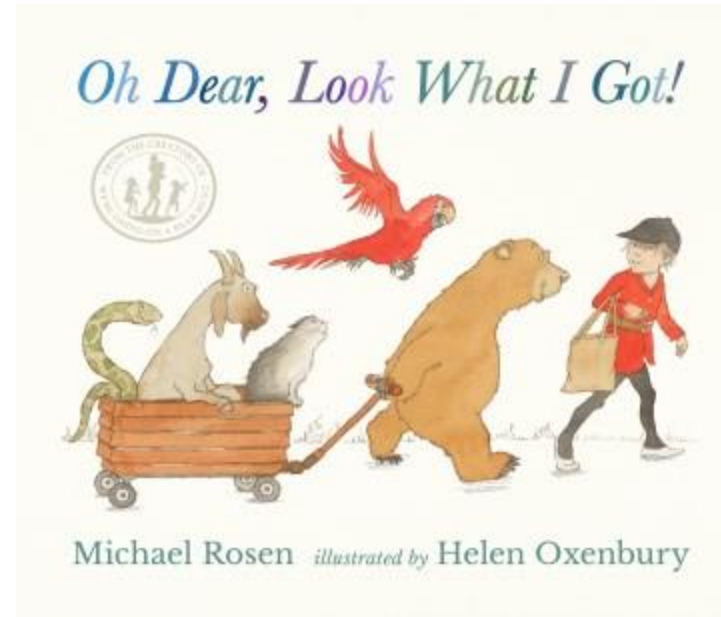
Clara McFadden,  
Collection Development Librarian II, Youth

2 0 2 5 - 2 0 2 6

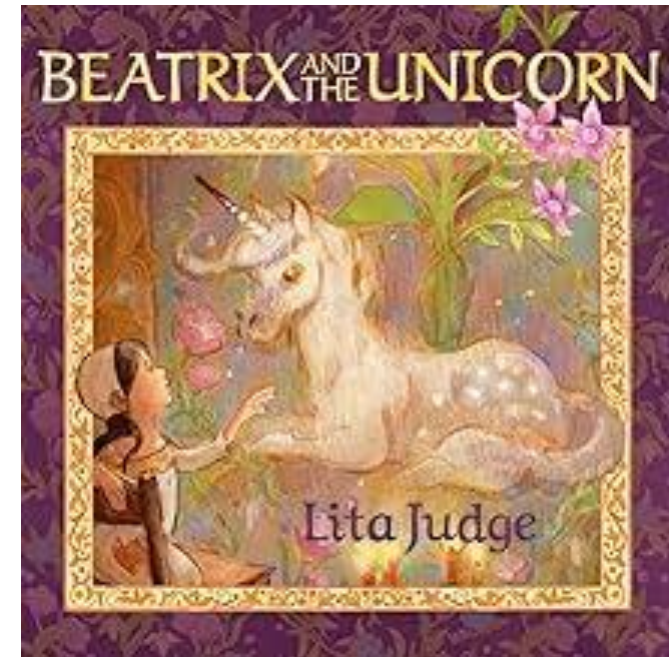
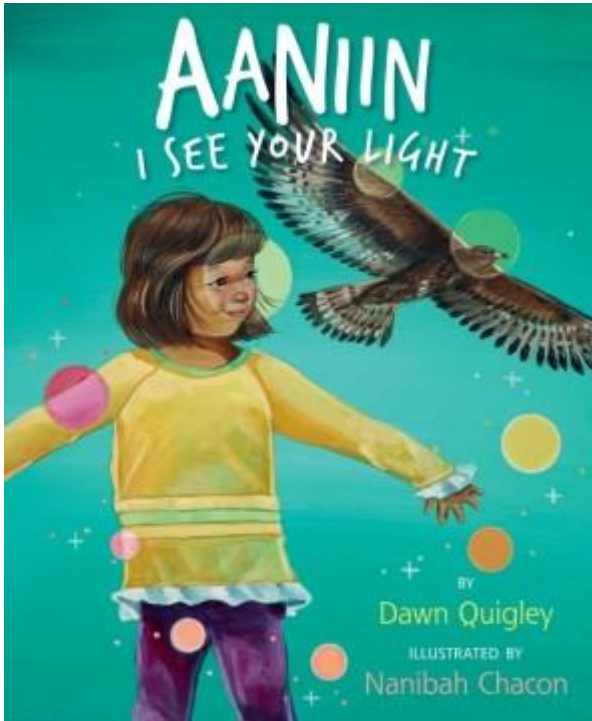


McFADDEN COUNTY  
LIBRARY

# Picture Books

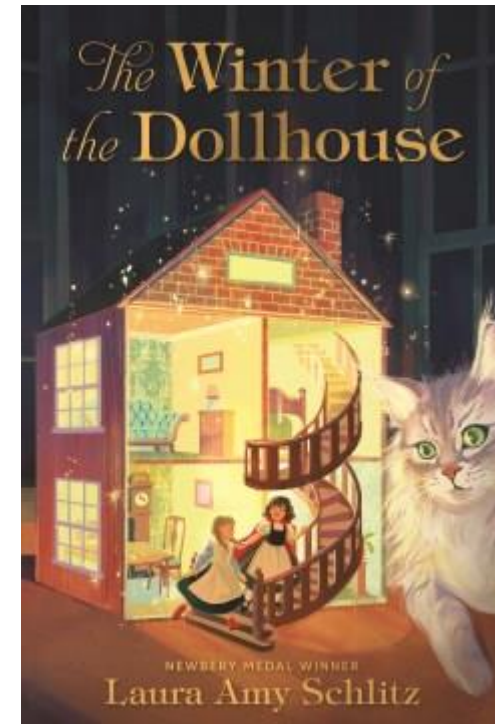
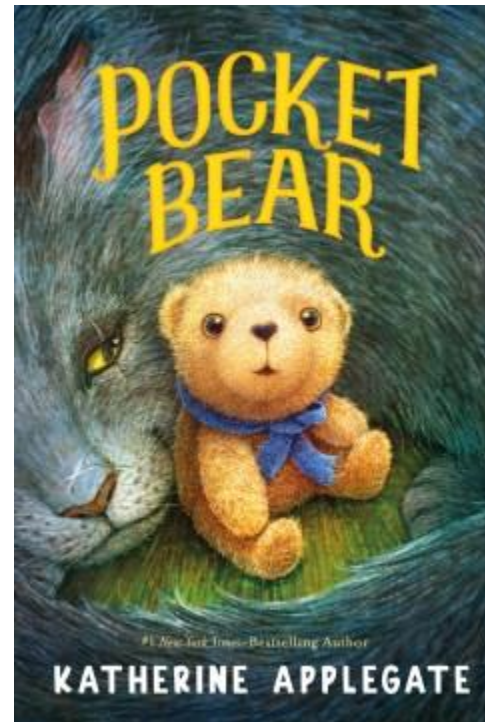
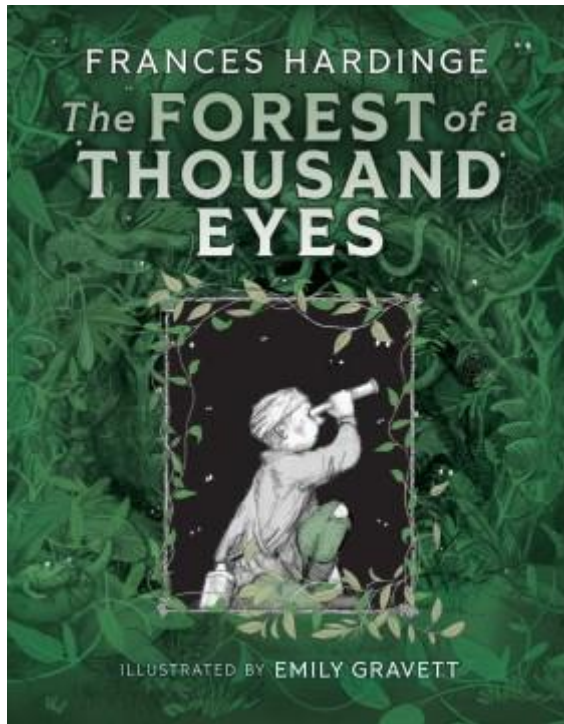


# Picture Books

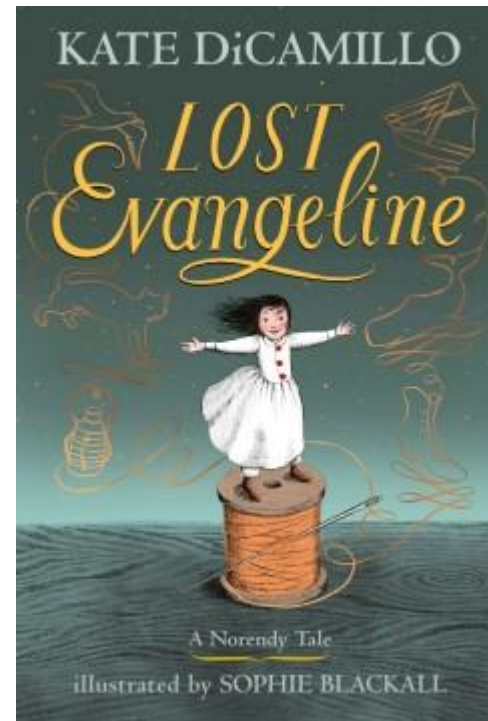




# Chapter Books

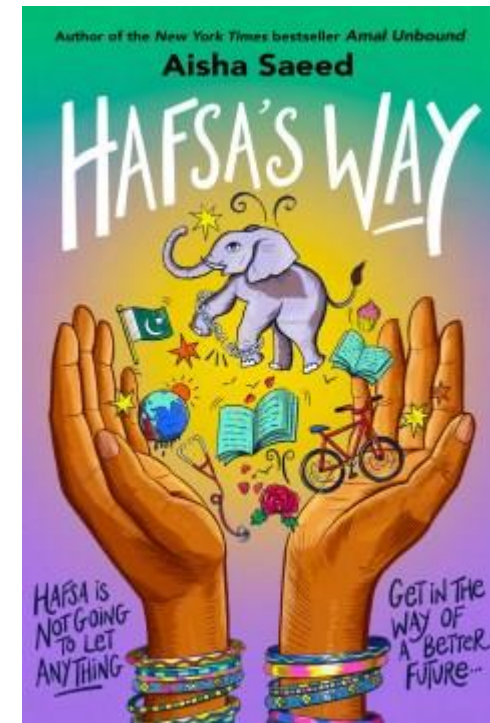
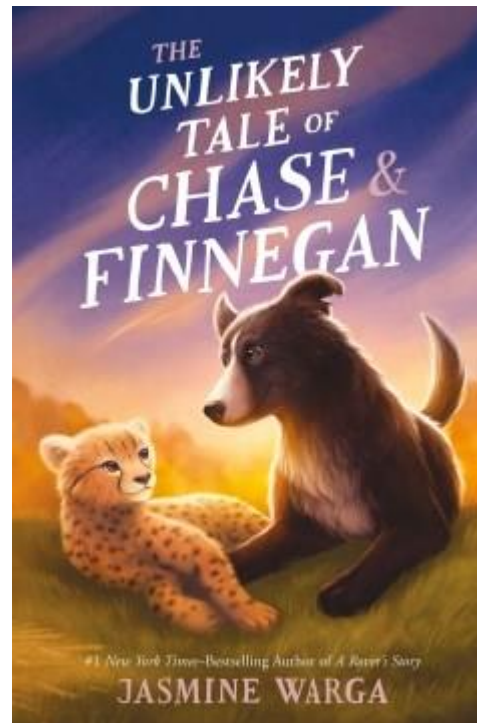


# Chapter Books



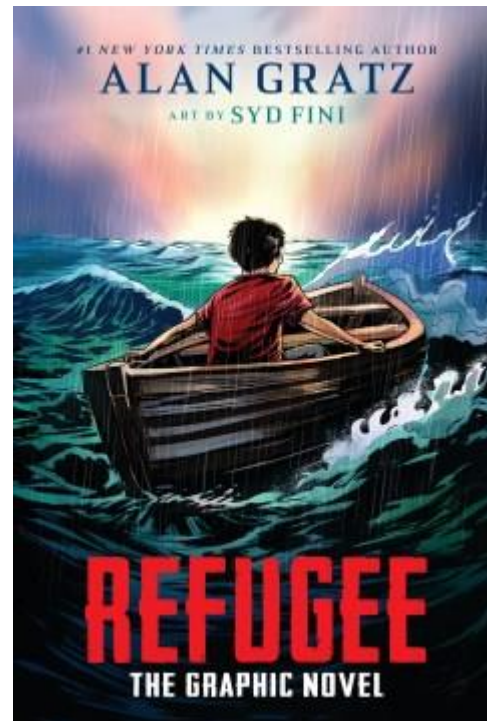
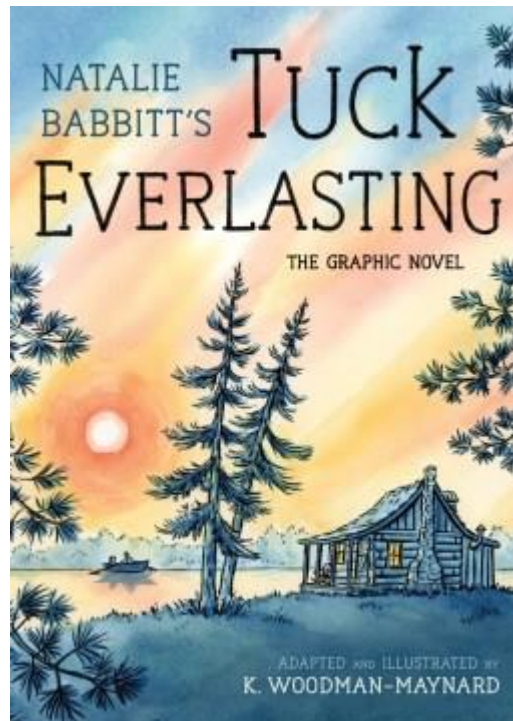


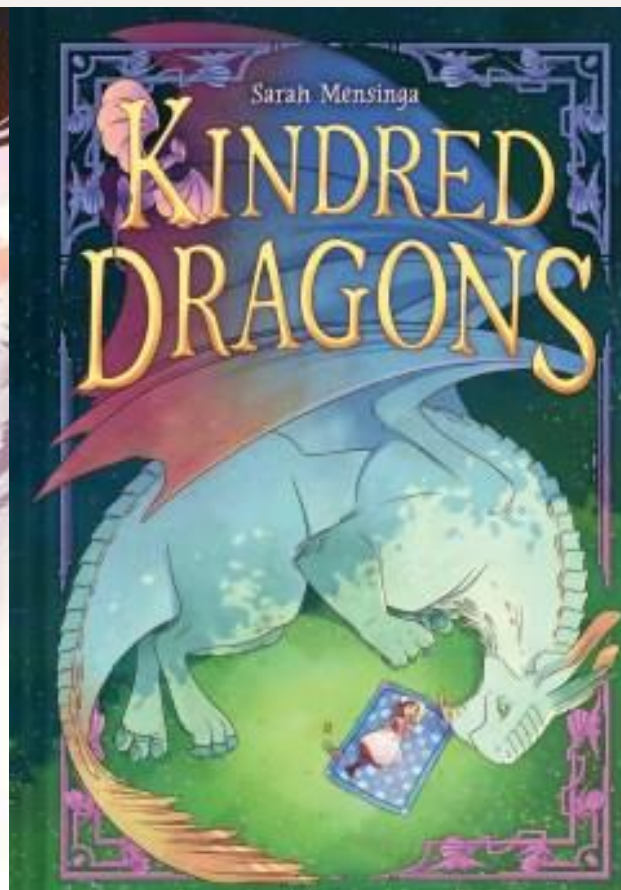
# Chapter Books





# Graphic Novel adaptations





## 2 GN Series Openers

# Picture Books for Library Programs

MATTIE IVY LEEDS,  
COMMUNITY LIBRARY SPECIALIST

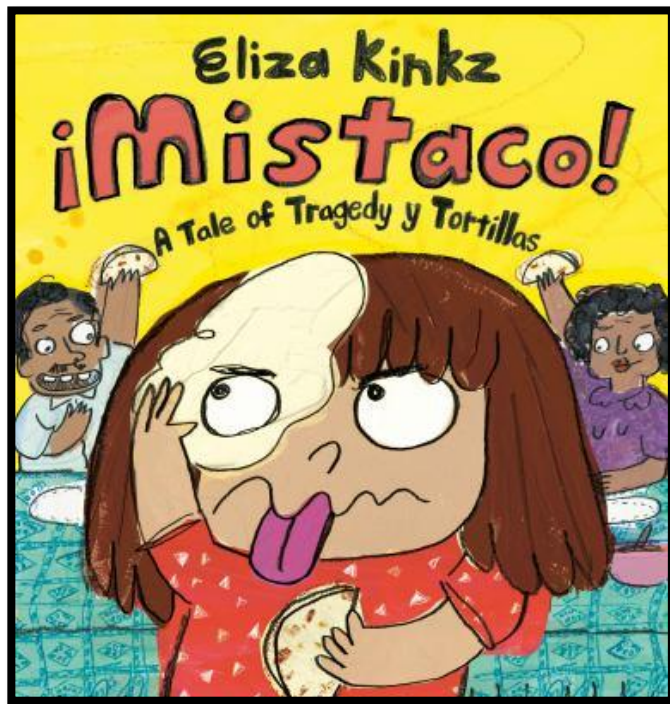
2025-2026





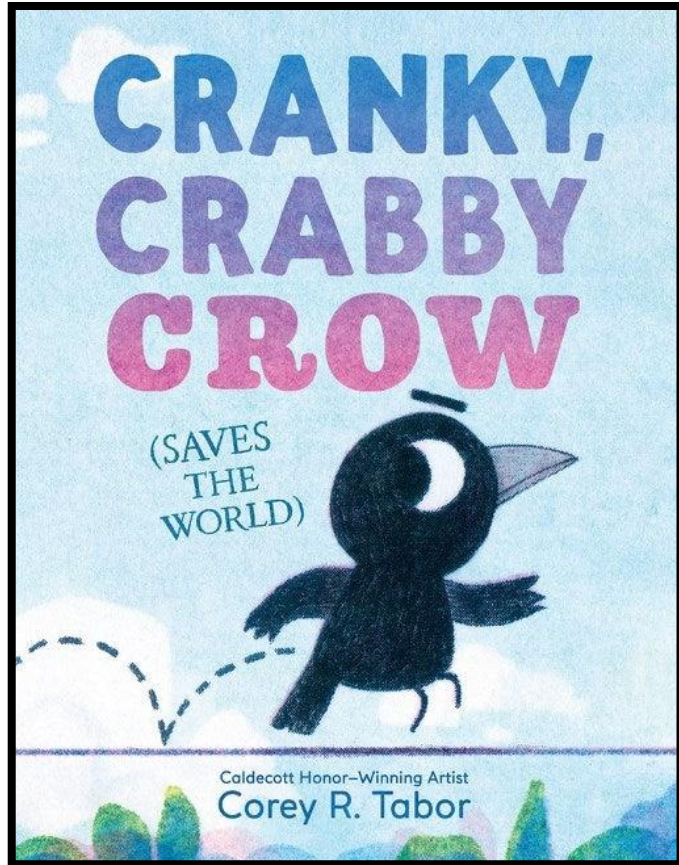
# ¡Mistaco! A Tale of Tragedy y Tortillas

- Eliza Kinkz
- Published: 2025





# Cranky, Crabby Crow (Saves the World)

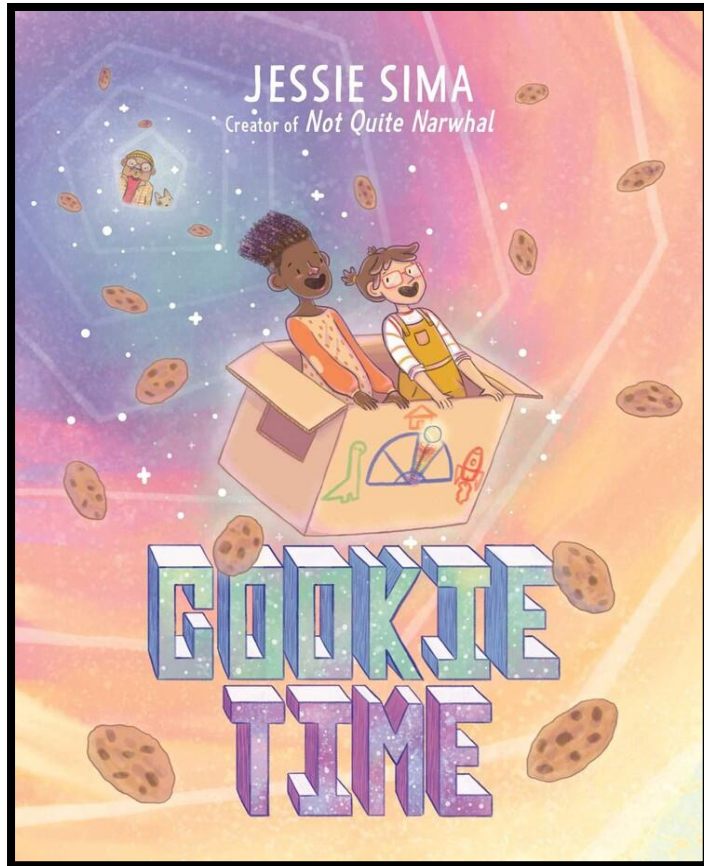


- Corey R. Tabor
- Published: 2025



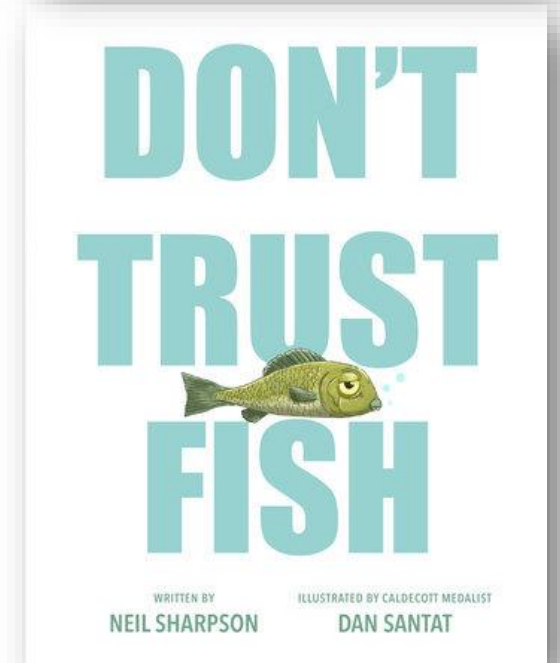
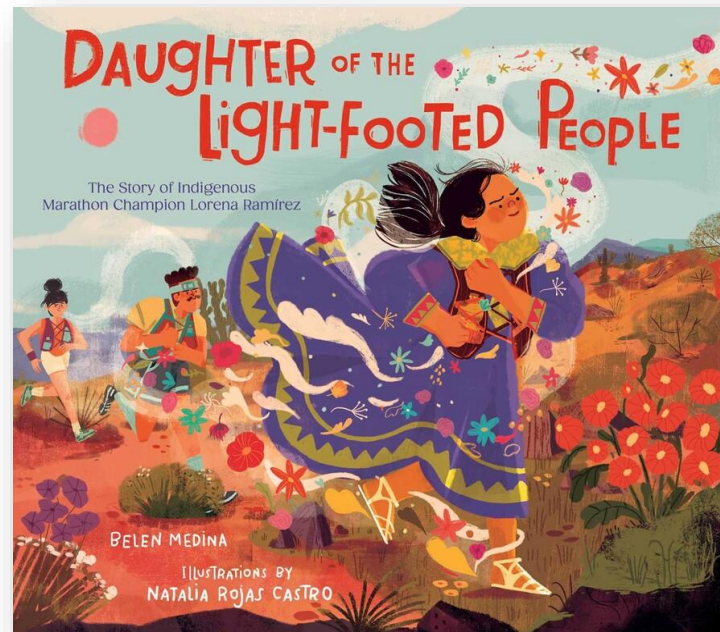
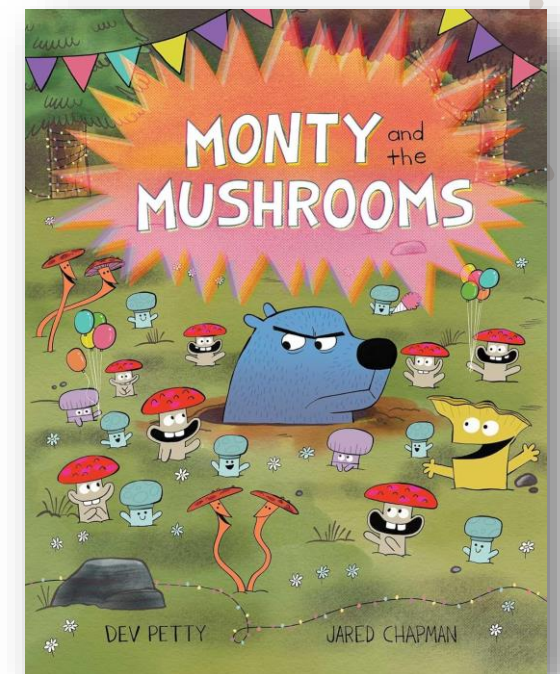
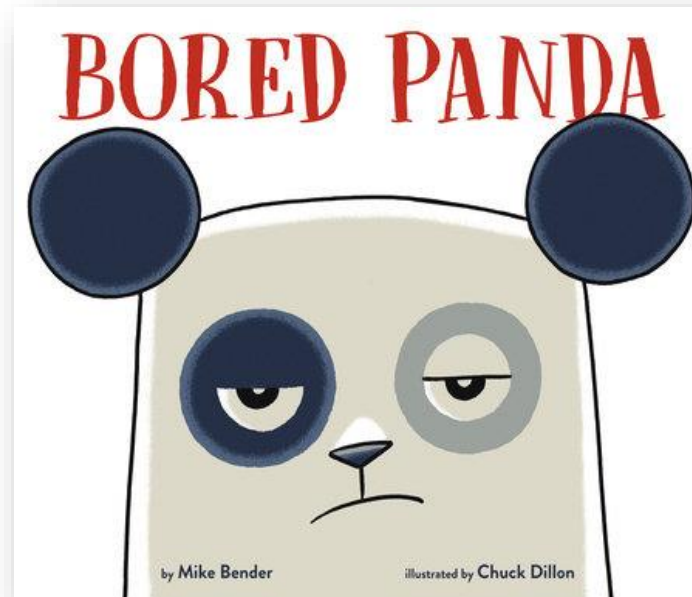
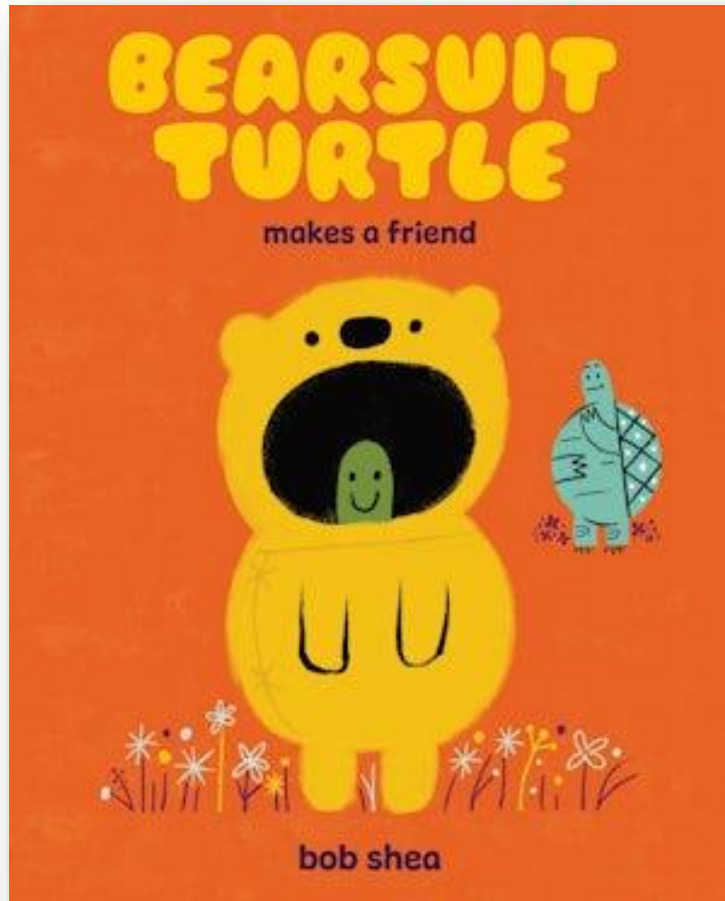
# Cookie Time

- Jessie Sima
- Published: 2024





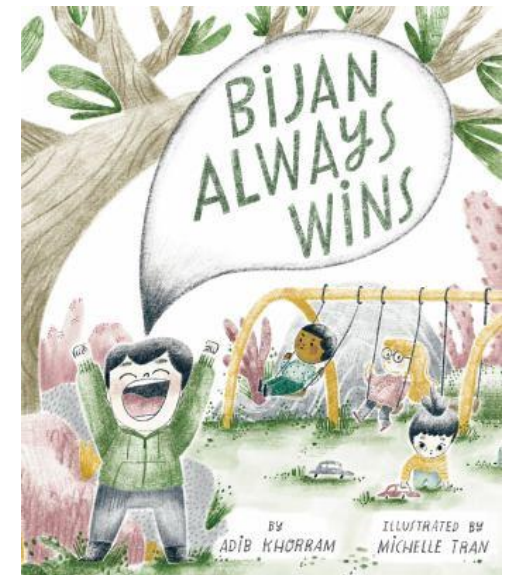
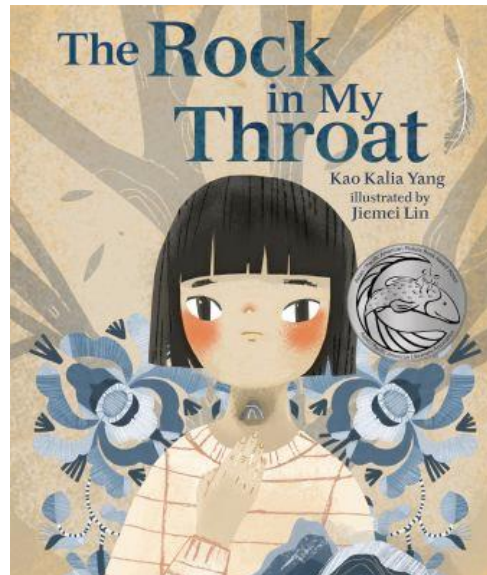
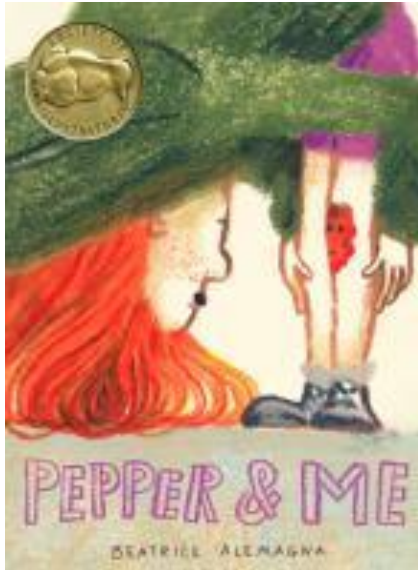
And more!



# Big Feelings and Big Hearts

Van Waring, Community Library Specialist

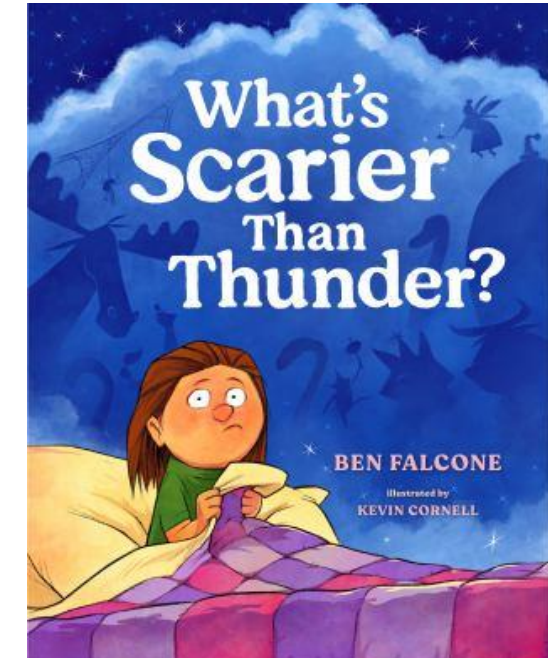
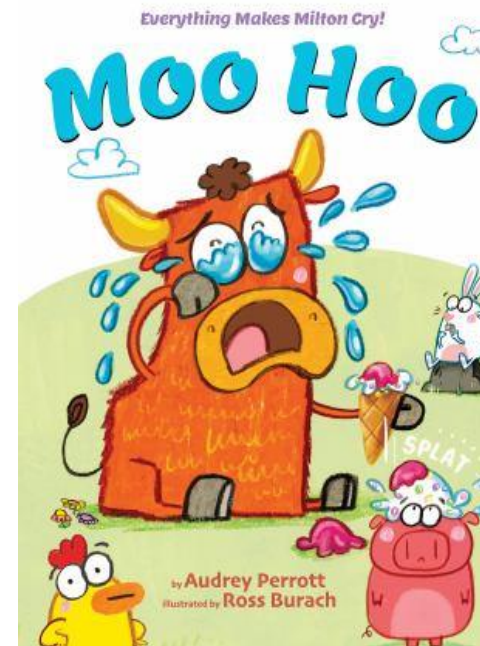
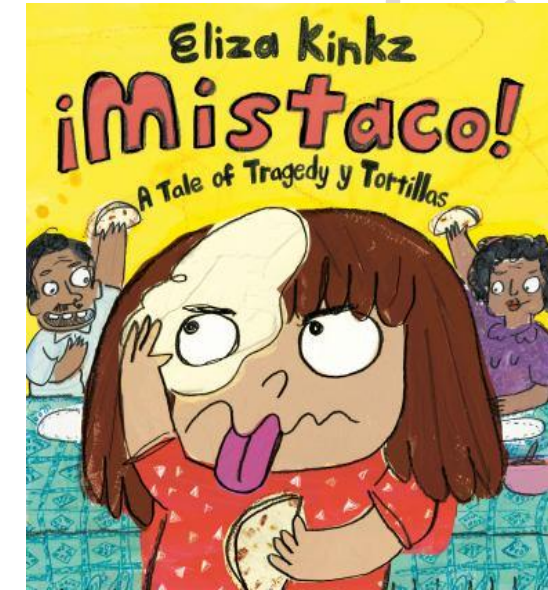
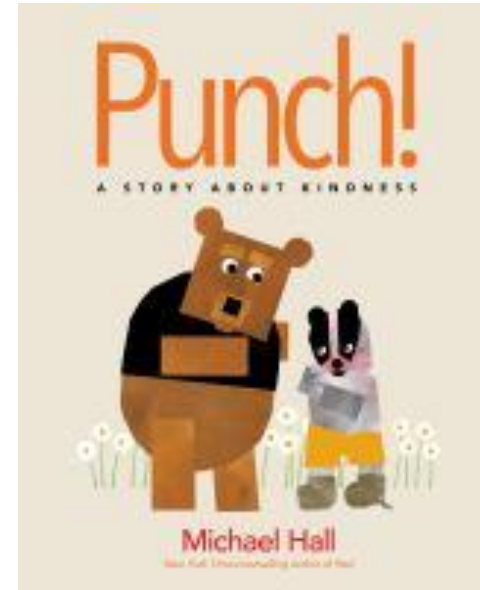
Picture books that strengthen social emotional learning,  
help build empathy and belonging.



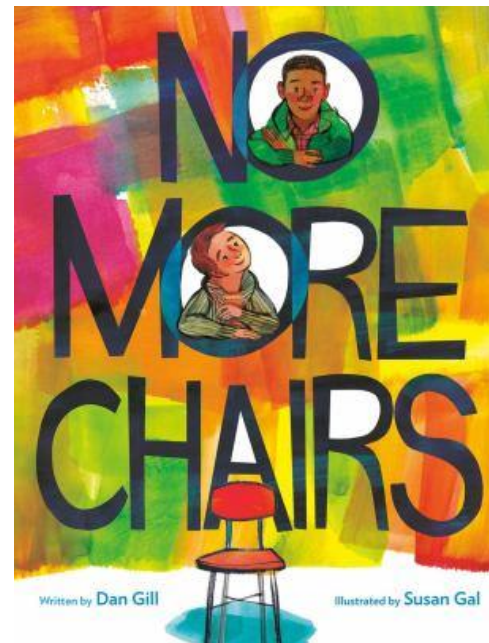
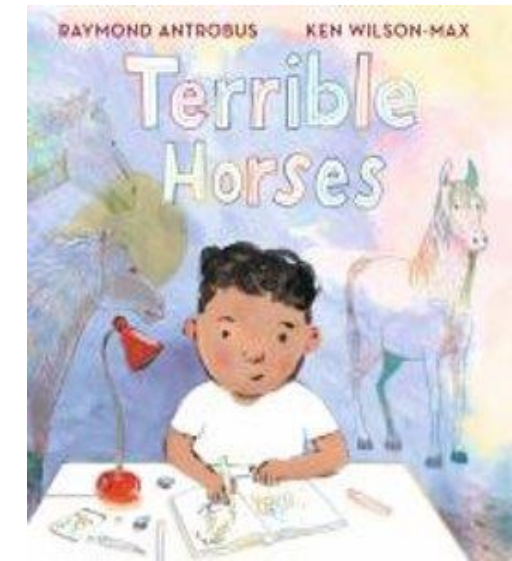
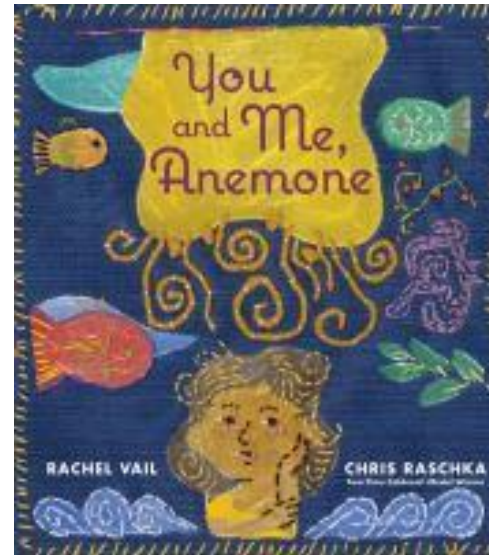


These Books can spark conversation and deeper understanding between educator/caregiver and child with topics that:

- Explore Big feelings and what to do with them-
- Teach mindfulness and other techniques to manage big feelings
- Encourage the development of healthy identities and feelings of belonging.
- Build empathy and maintain supportive relationships.
- Making responsible and caring decisions
- Deepen our understanding of the world around us with all its diversity of perspectives and cultures.



The power of storytelling can allow a child to see themselves as well as grow our respect and understanding of others.



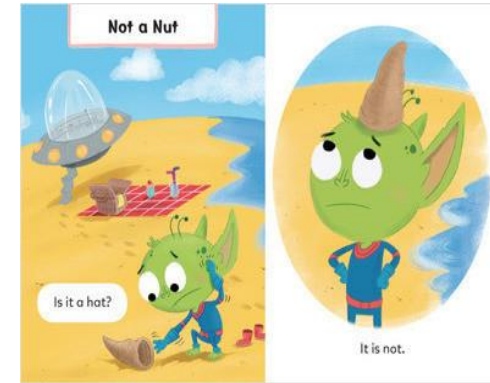
JUST WHAT TO DO



Award-winning author of *When Aidan Became a Brother*  
Kyle Lukoff 🍷 illustrated by Hala Tahboub

# Decodable books

Judi Evans, Youth Librarian



## What are Decodable books?

A series of books with **simple words** that help children understand the sounds letters make and blending them together to make a word

## Difference between Decodables and Easy Readers

- Emphasize different phonetic patterns that children have already learned
- Intended for caregivers to help children methodically decode: relating letters to sounds, blending sounds in a word, retrieving meaning, then using language skills to make sense of the sentence
- Provide practice so that this process becomes automatic

## Example

If a child has learned the sounds for **m, a, s, t**, a decodable book might have a sentence like "**Sam sat**" where only words with those sounds are used

## Why Decodables matter for children learning to read

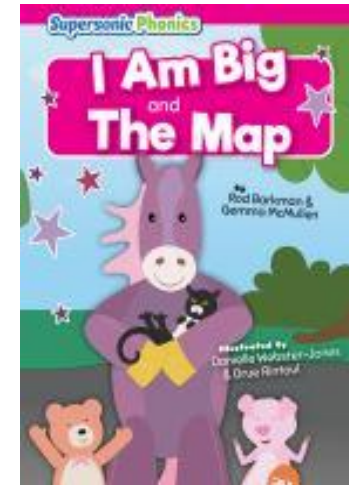
- Reduce **guesswork** and **memorization**
- Boost **confidence**, needing less reliance on visual cues over time
- Support students across **diverse backgrounds** and reduce risk of reading failure



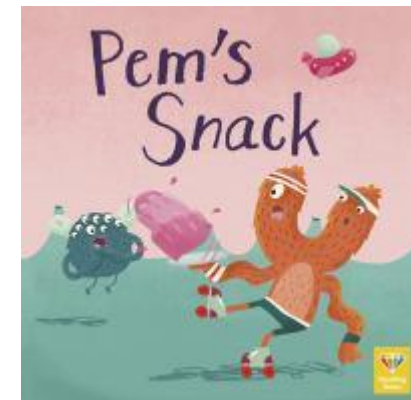
# Decodable series

***Supersonic Phonics***

(also Wonderbooks)



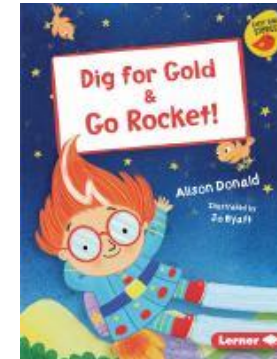
***Reading Gem Phonics***



# Decodable series

***My Decodable Readers "Little Honey"***

***Early Bird Stories***



# Decodable series

***DK Super Phonics  
My First Decodable Stories***



***My Big Book of Phonics***



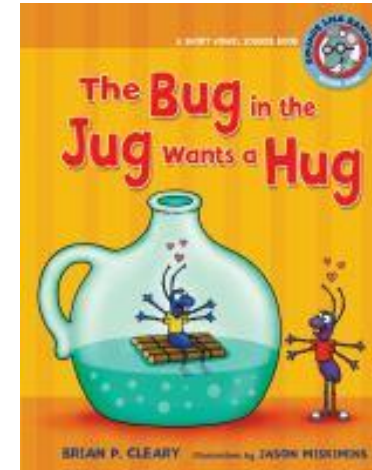
# Decodable series

*Sounds Like Reading*

Showcase!

- Separate from Easy Readers
- Highlight with signage
- Booktalk + explain

**MCFL Kids: Literature Review 2025:  
Decodable Books**





# Circulation Outcomes

Series name	Publisher	Stats 2-23-25	Stats 9-3-25
Supersonic Phonics	Bearport	145 (10)	305 (10)
Wonderbooks	Playaway	17 (3)	102 (6)
Reading Gem Phonics	Lerner	64 (3)	138 (3)
My Decodable Readers "Little Honey"	Crabtree	218 (10)	354 (10)
Early Bird Stories	Lerner	48 (3)	96 (3)
Super Phonics My First Decodable Series	DK	18 (1)	87 (3)
My Big Book of Phonics	DK		22 (1)
Sounds Like Reading	Lerner	66 (3)	119 (3)

# *Shout out!*

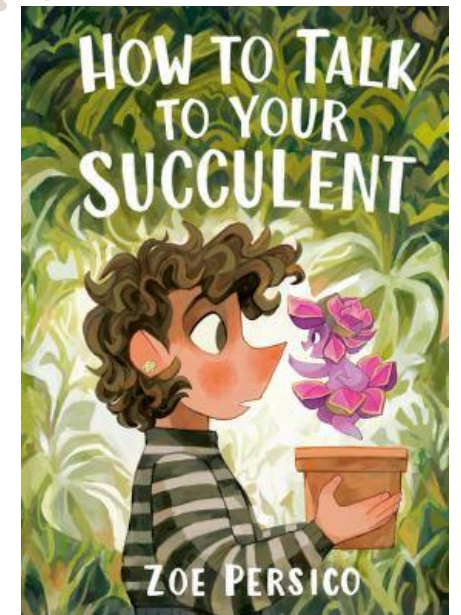
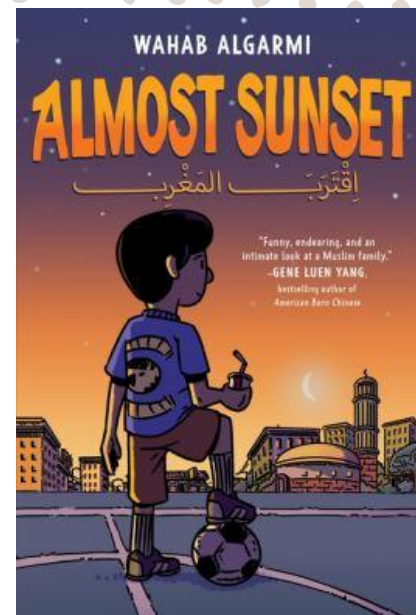
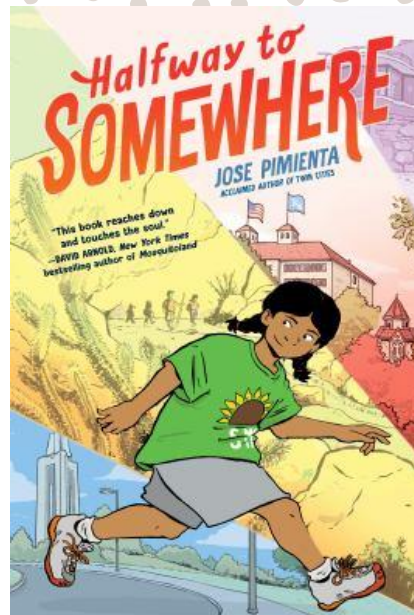
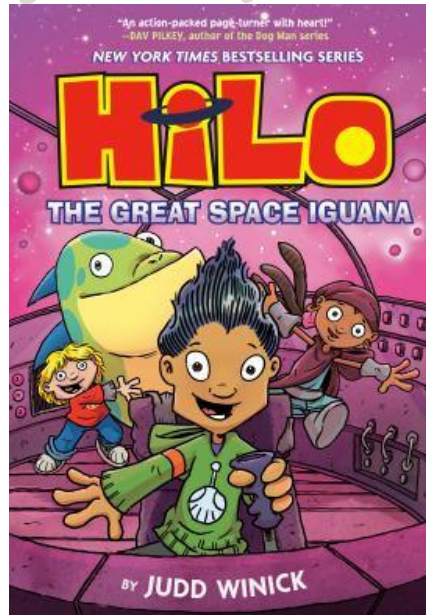
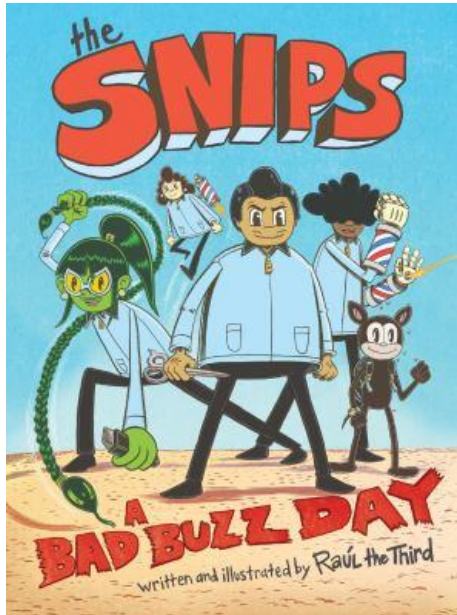
- Alex Porrata
- Brooklyn Swanson
- Carri Abrams
- Elisa Lacerda
- Clara McFadden



# Graphic Novels

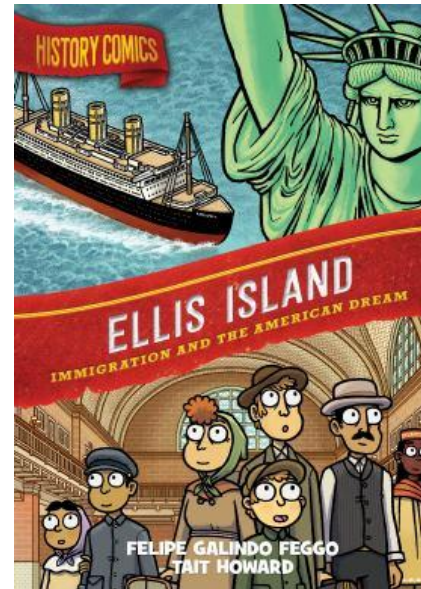
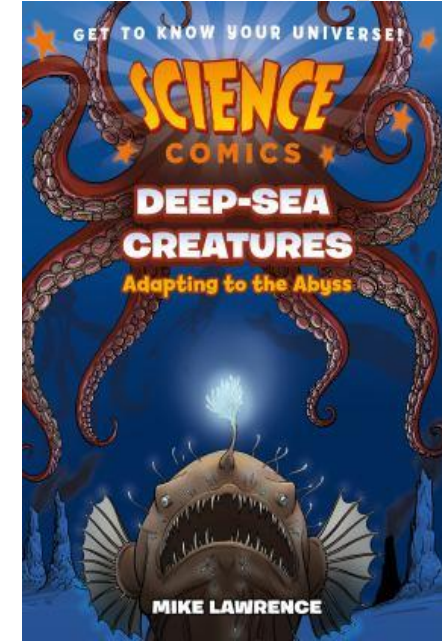
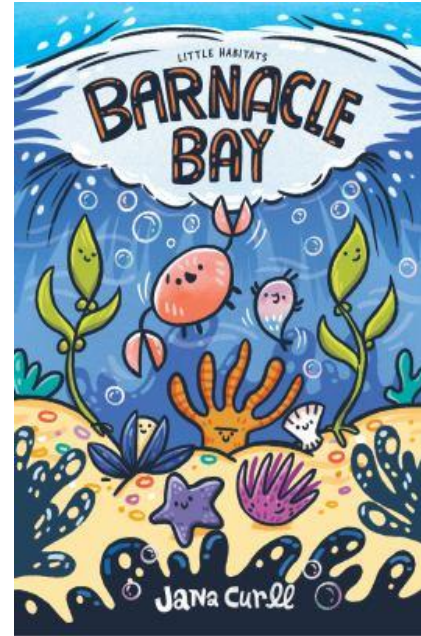
Van Waring, Community Library Specialist

- A good graphic novel can artfully blend visuals and words to help improve literacy skills, critical thinking as well as build empathy.
- They are a bridge in connecting with your child, providing useful tools for conversation starters.
- Guide young readers through challenging topics and/or with complex characters that might otherwise be above their reading level.

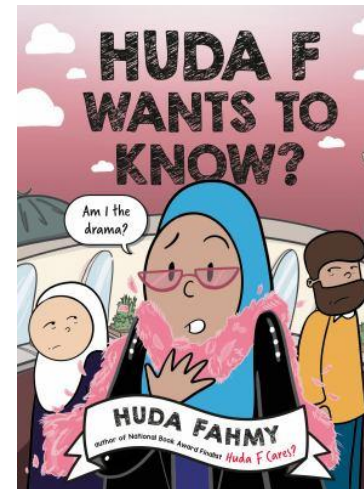
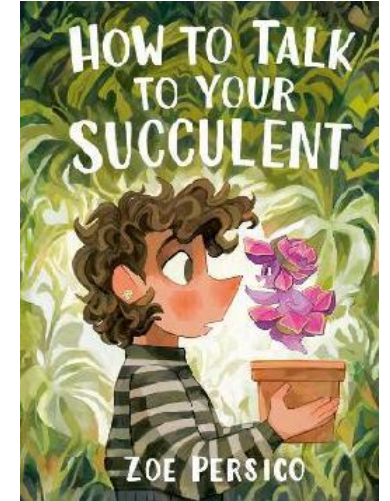
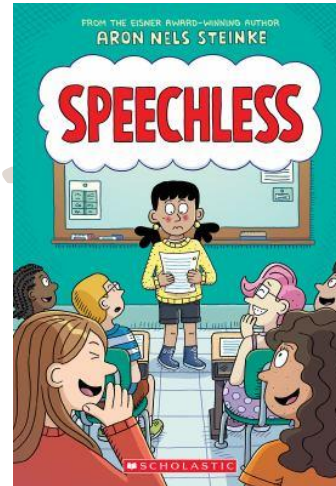




Graphic Novels can be an engaging way to explore many genres from science to history!



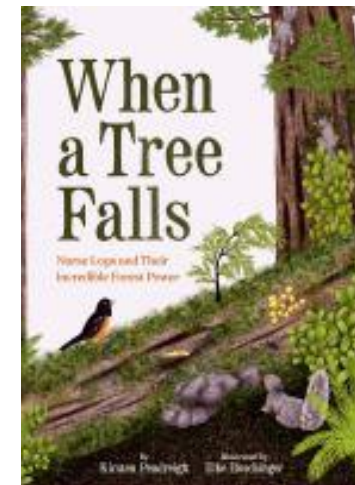
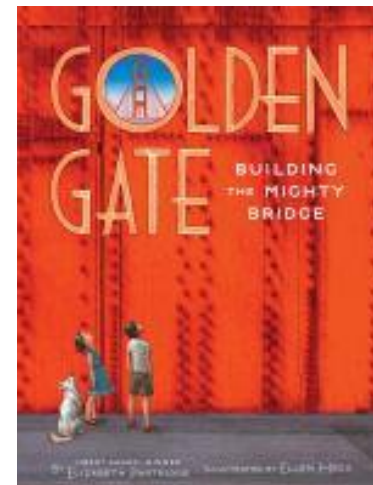
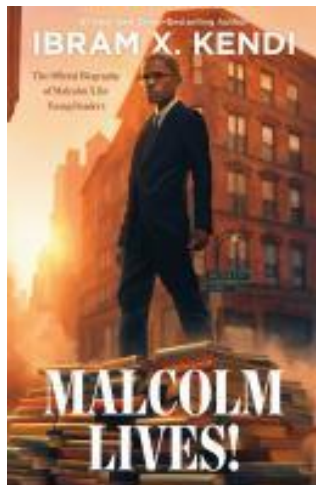
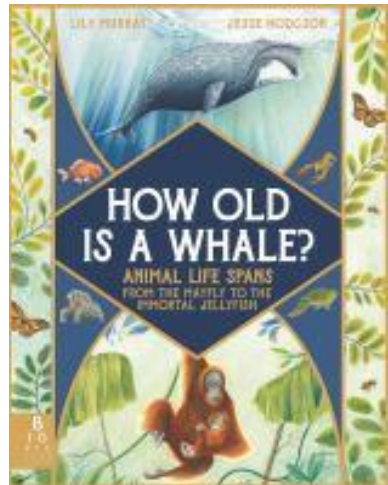
Whether fantasy or realistic fiction, these narratives give a plethora of perspectives on common themes of growing up.





# New Kids Non-Fiction

Iris Meinolf, Children's Services Librarian

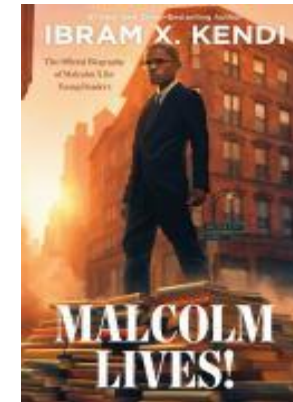
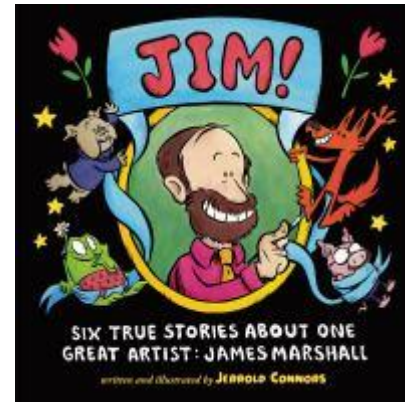
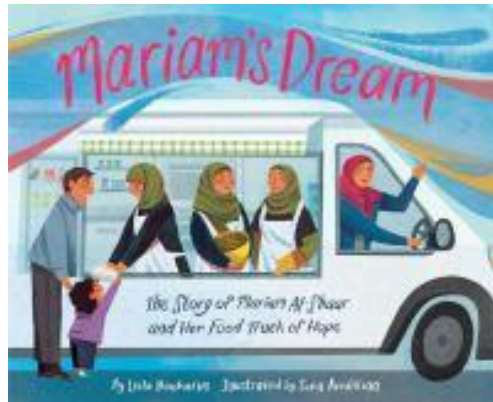




# Biographies

"We read history and biography not just to educate ourselves, but also to form connections with the past and to see ourselves reflected in the history of what we read in some way. Sometimes we need to draw on our histories in order to recharge in a sense, especially when things seem to be at their worst."

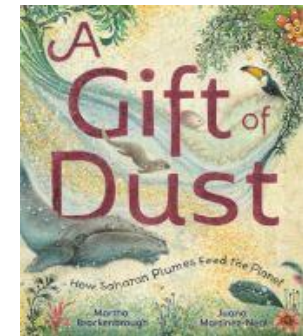
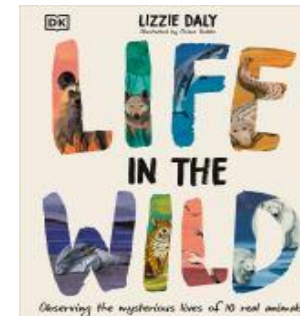
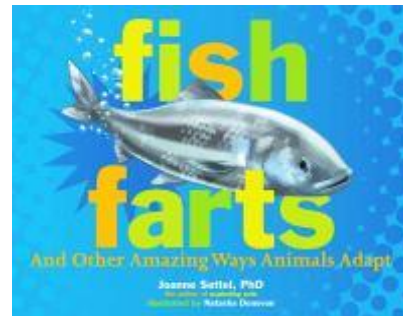
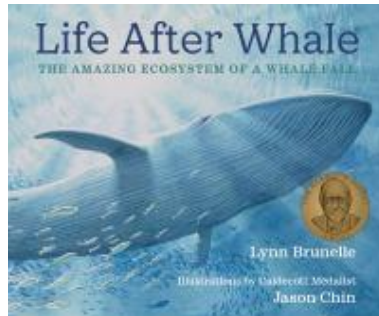
Summer Loomis, [bookriot.com](http://bookriot.com)



# The Natural World

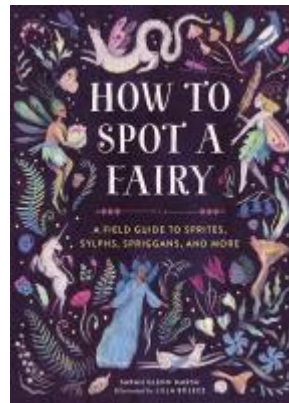
"A book about nature opens up the natural world for young readers,  
and invites them in."

Author Michael Girard Bauer



# The Importance of Non-Fiction

- "A study published in the Journal of Literacy Research found that more than 80 percent of first-graders chose nonfiction when picking their own book, the *Washington Post* reports." (From nea.org)
- According to a statement from the National Council of Teachers of English, "A just and equitable educational system that values and empowers all learners is one in which every [student] has the space to explore their curiosities, interests, and identities. With so much to offer young people as readers and thinkers, nonfiction should play a far more robust role in the reading and learning lives of young people in and out of school."







**M C** MARIN COUNTY  
**F L** FREE **LIBRARY**

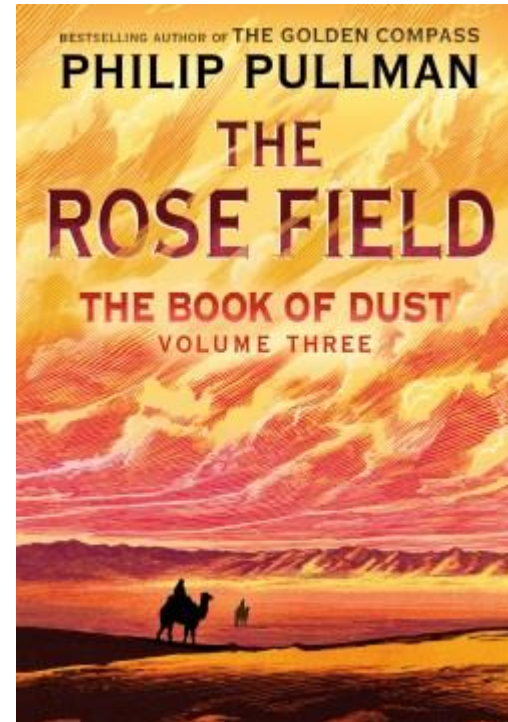
## *Teen Review*

# Teen Titles to Look For in 2025/26

Clara McFadden,  
Collection Development Librarian II, Youth

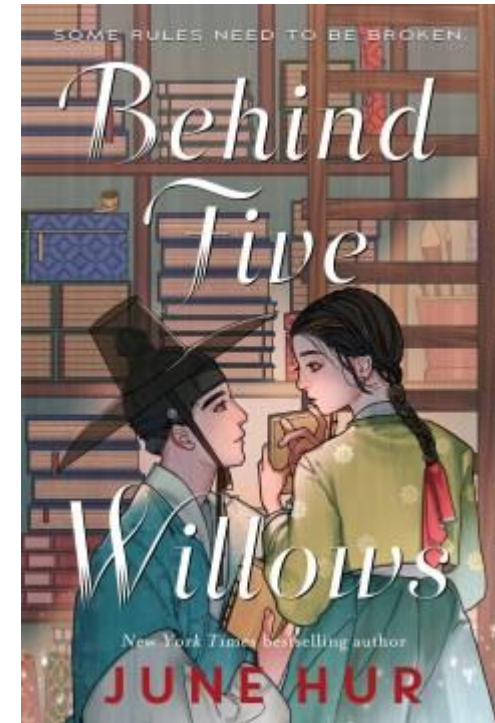
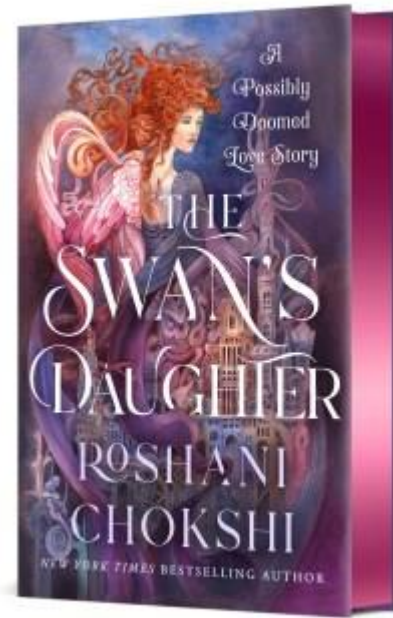
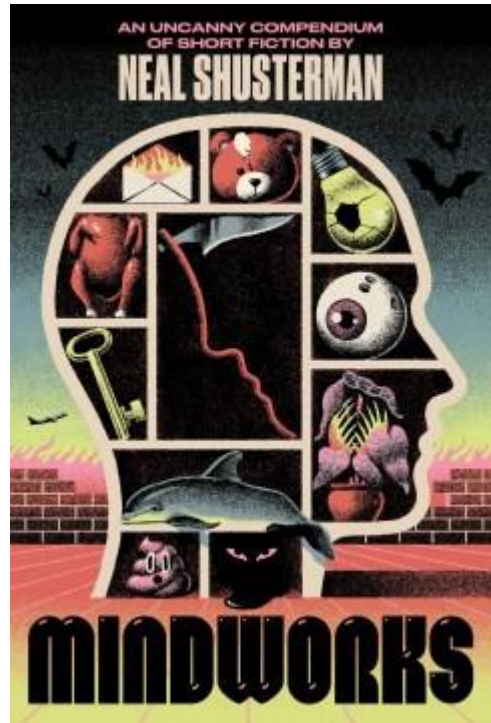


# Teen Fiction



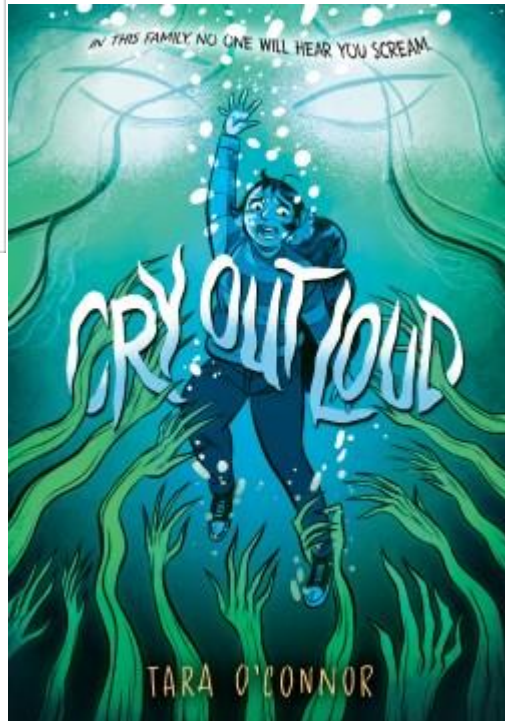


# Teen Fiction

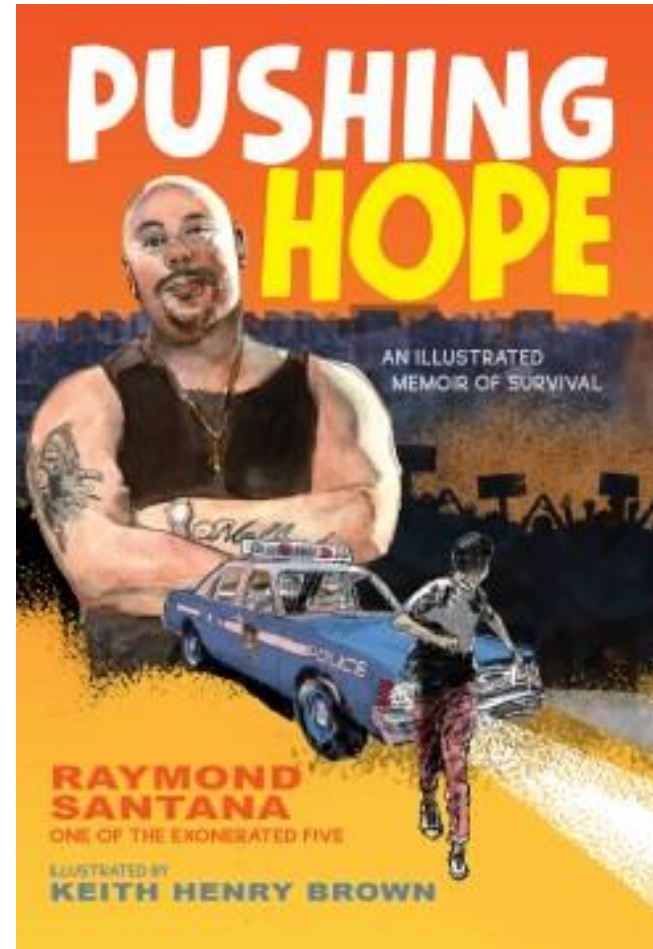




# Teen Graphic Novels



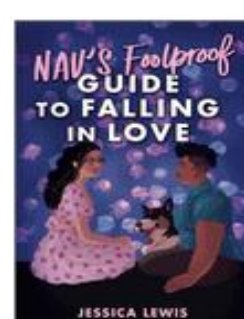
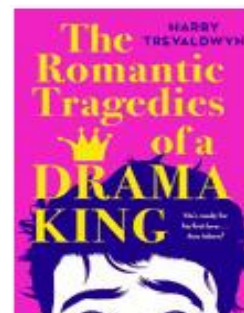
# Teen NonFiction





# MCFL TEEN: Literature Review 2025 : LGBTQIA+ Romance

Brian Campbell-Miller, Youth Services Librarian – South Novato





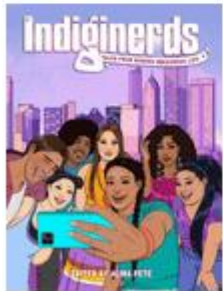
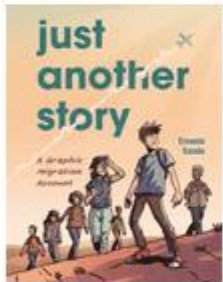
- Ages 12 and Up. Explore Rome and Young love over the summer with the beauty of the city captured in pencil drawings. Is the city alive can it fall in love?



- Age 12 and up. A trippy graphic novel set on a human colony on a far-flung world, a transgender protagonist with vivid dreams that might be a superpower. Romance pops up with a dream figure from the past that might be more than they seem.

# Teen Graphic Novels

Carrie Stotts, Youth Services Librarian, Novato



MARIN COUNTY  
FREE **LIBRARY**



## Romance

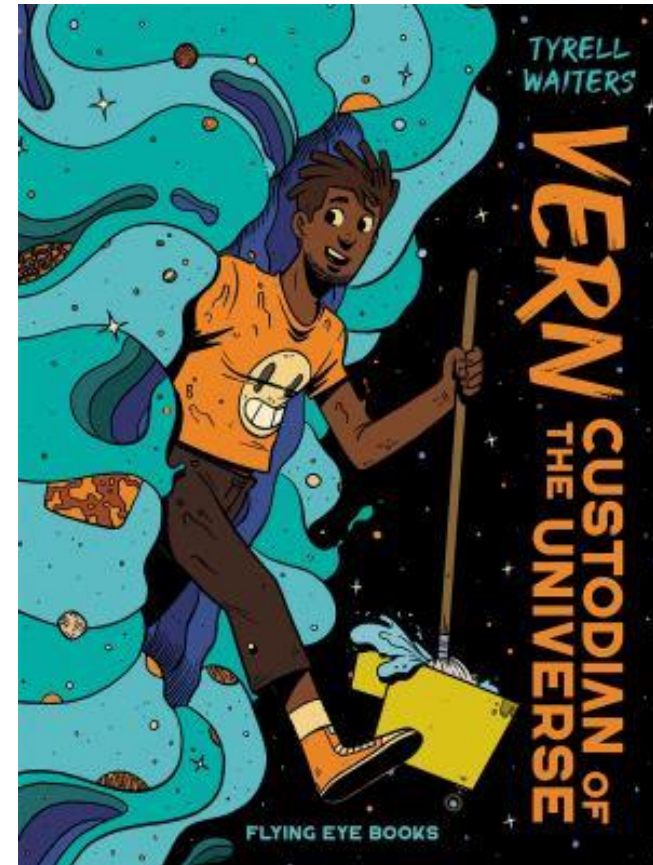
- Title: Rainbow! Volume 1,
- Author: Sunny Funkhouser
- Illustrator: Gloomy aka Angel
- Ages 13+





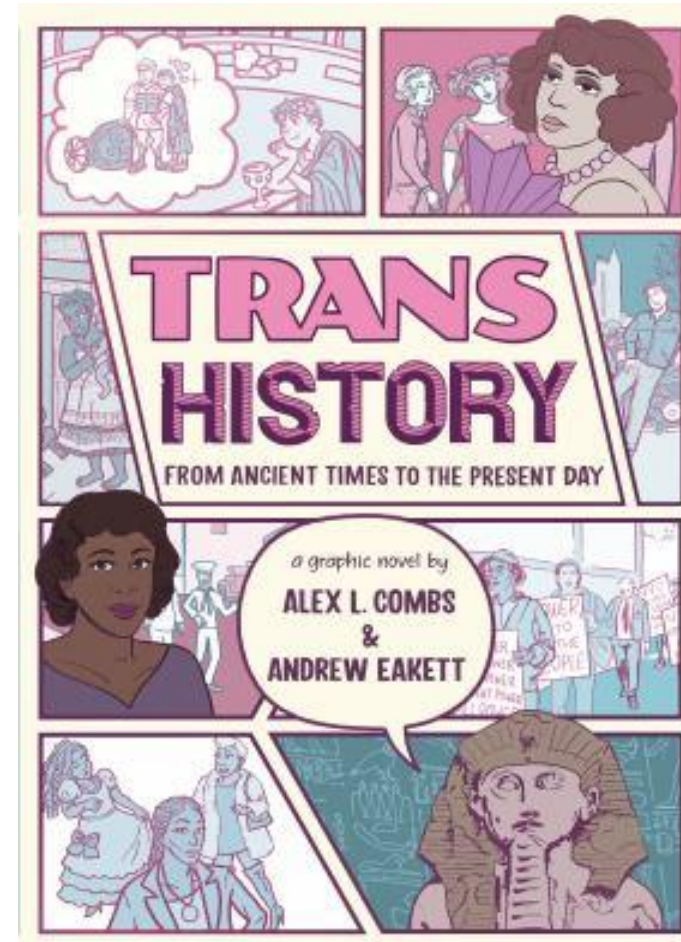
## Sci-Fi

- Title: Vern, Custodian of the Universe
- Author / Illustrator: Tyrell Waters
- Ages 14+



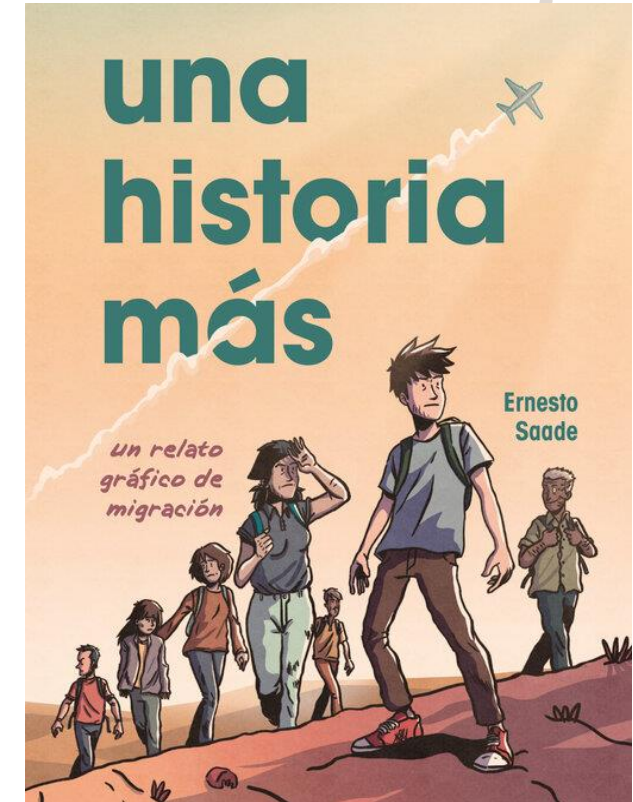
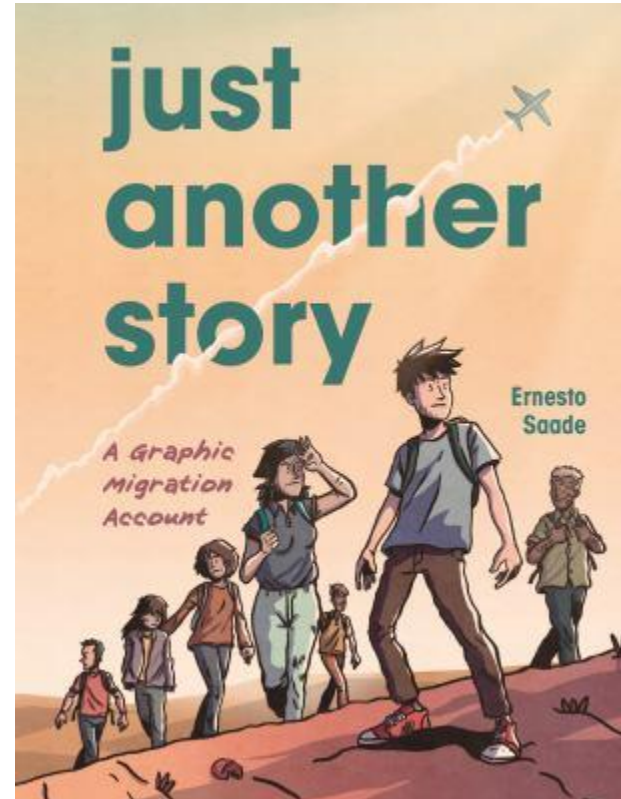
# Nonfiction

- Title: Trans History
- Authors: Alex L. Combs & Andrew Eakett
- Illustrator: Alex L. Combs
- Ages 12+



# Memoir

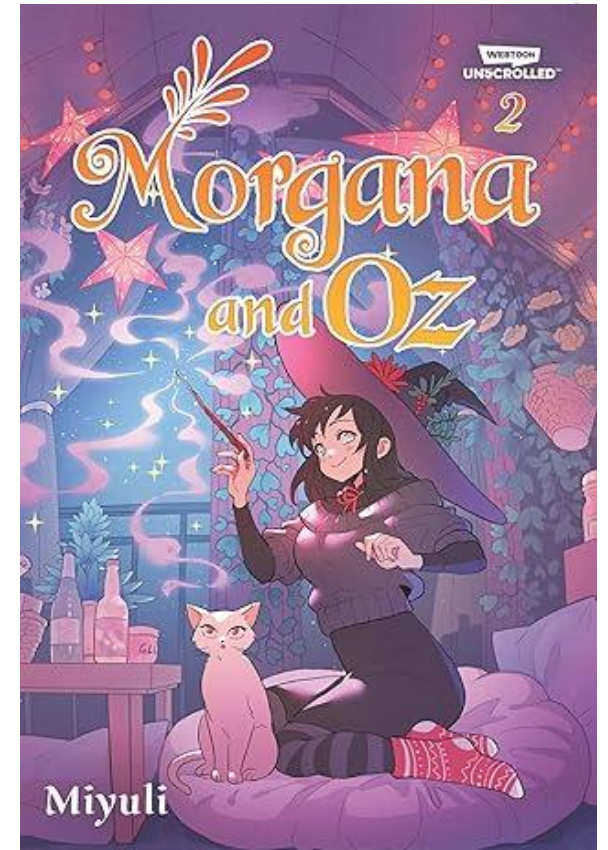
- Title: Just Another Story / Una Historia Más
- Author / Illustrator: Ernesto Saade
- Ages 14+





## Manga

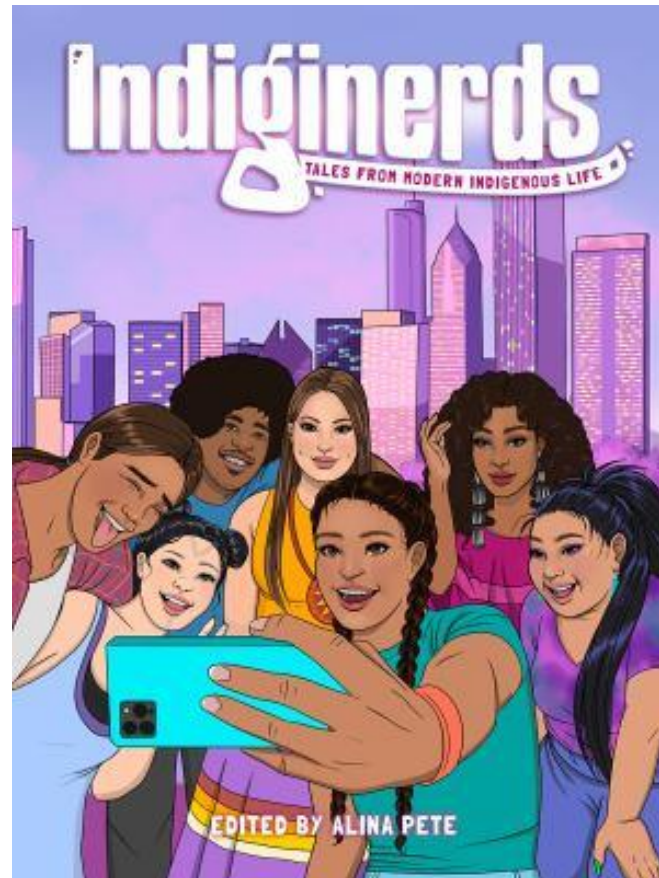
- Title: Morgana and Oz, Volume 1
- Author: Miyuli
- Ages 12+





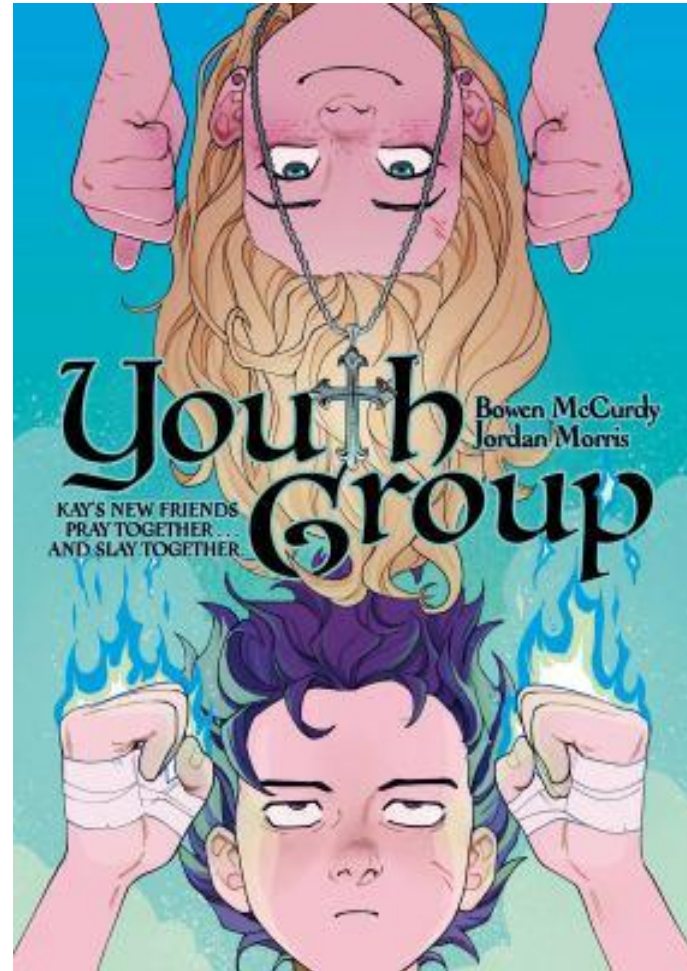
## Realistic Fiction / Coming of Age

- Title: Indiginerds
- Editor: Alina Pete
- Ages 12+



# Horror

- Title: Youth Group
- Author: Jordan Morris
- Illustrator: Bowen McCurdy
- Ages 14+



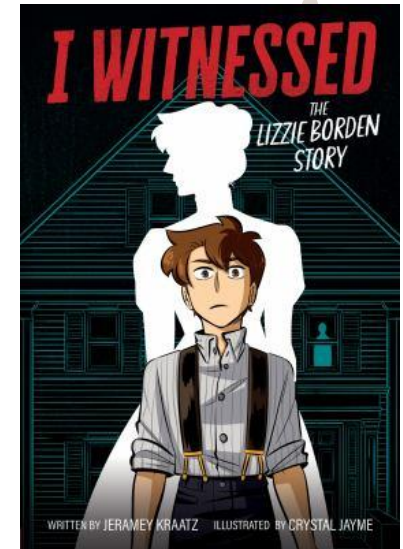
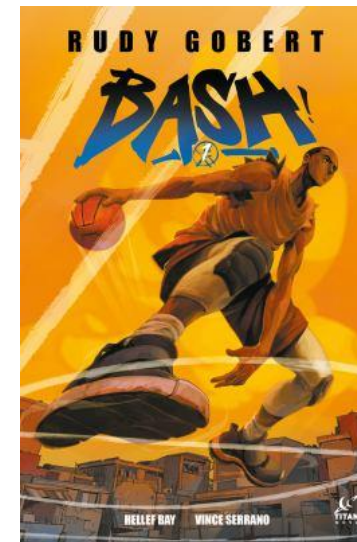
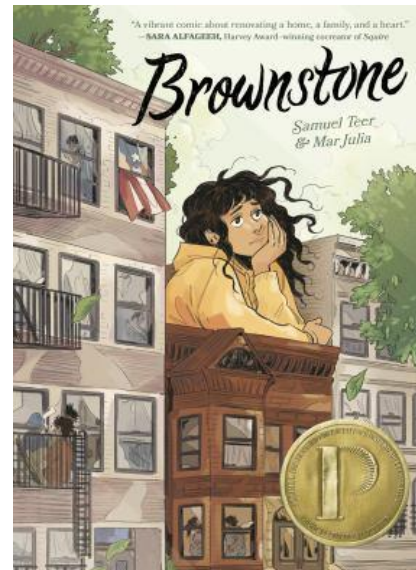
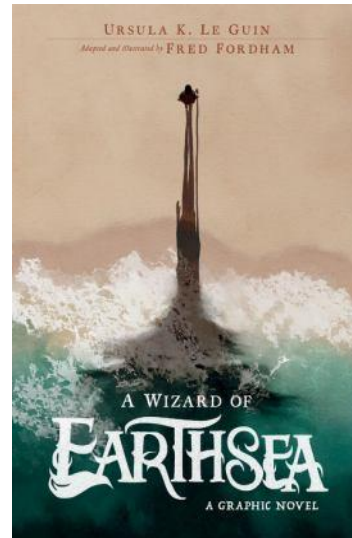
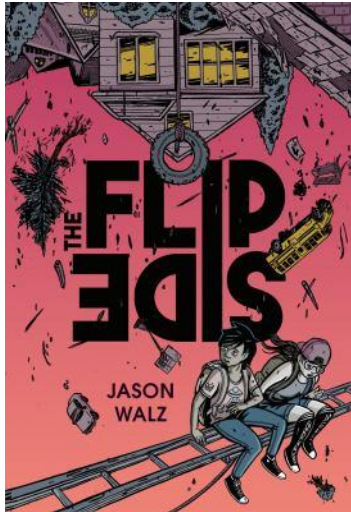
## Fantasy

- Title: The Deep Dark
- Author / Illustrator: Lee Knox Ostertag
- Ages 14+





## Honorable Mentions



# YA Titles for Younger Teens

S A R A H   B U T T S

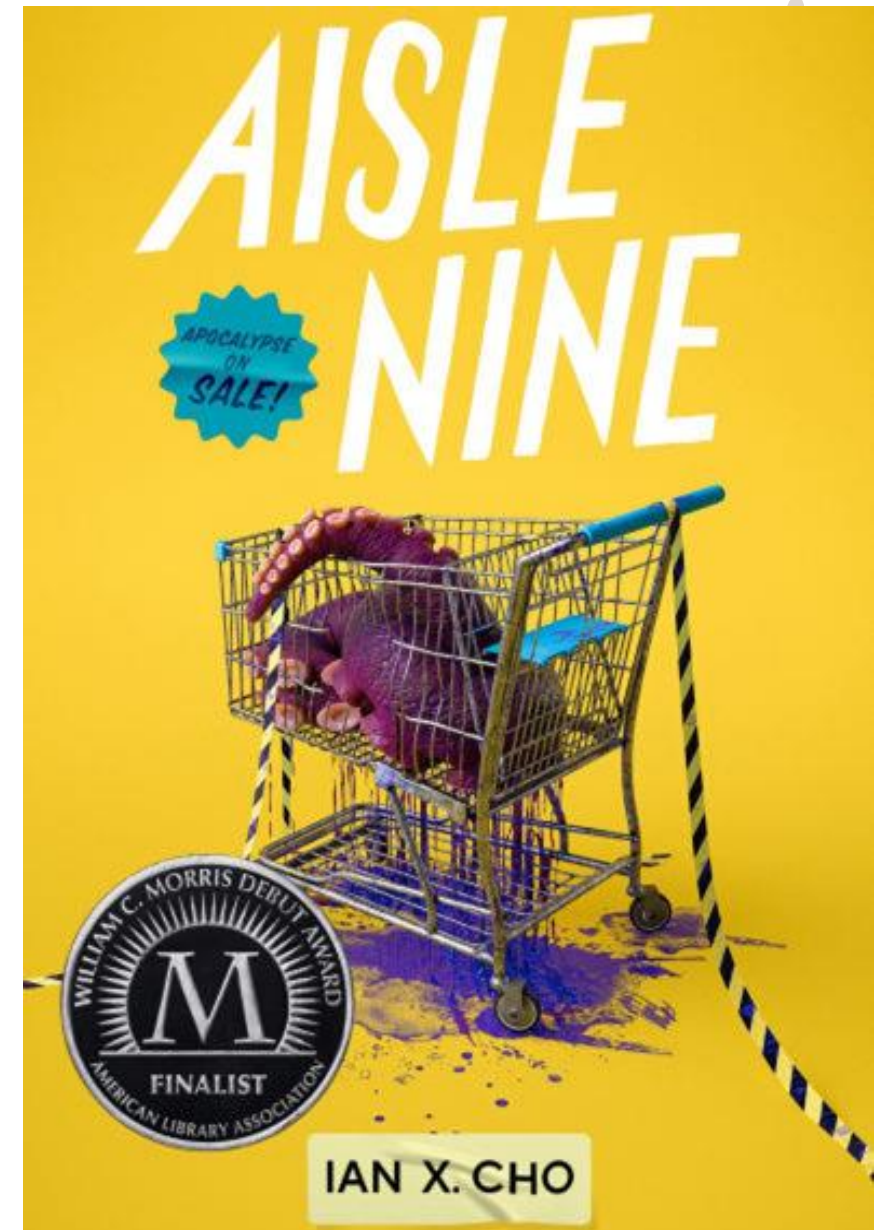
Y O U T H   S E R V I C E S ,   C O R T E   M A D E R A   L I B R A R Y

# Horror

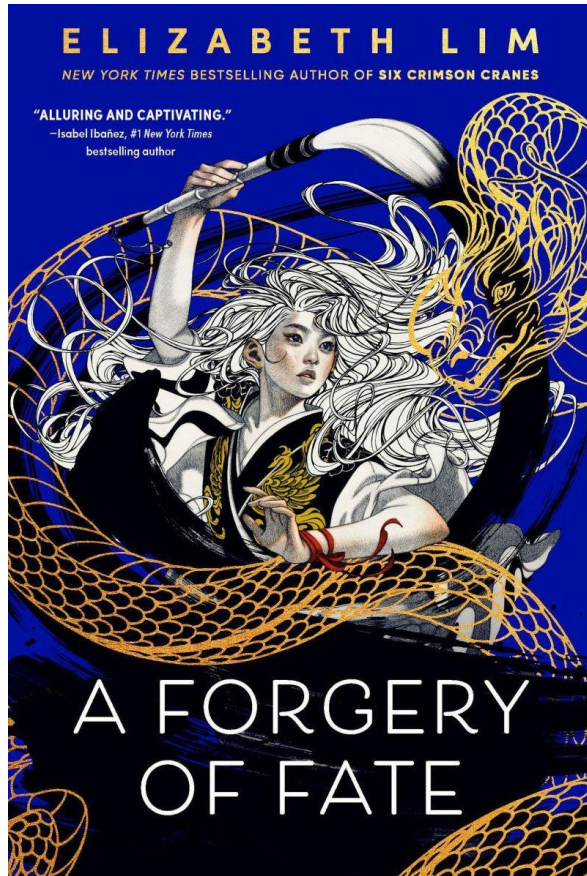
*Aisle Nine*, by Ian X. Cho

Even an apocalypse won't keep the superstores down!

- Horror, Humor, Dystopia, Romance
- Monster gore, swearing







# Fantasy

## *A Forgery of Fate*, by Elizabeth Lim

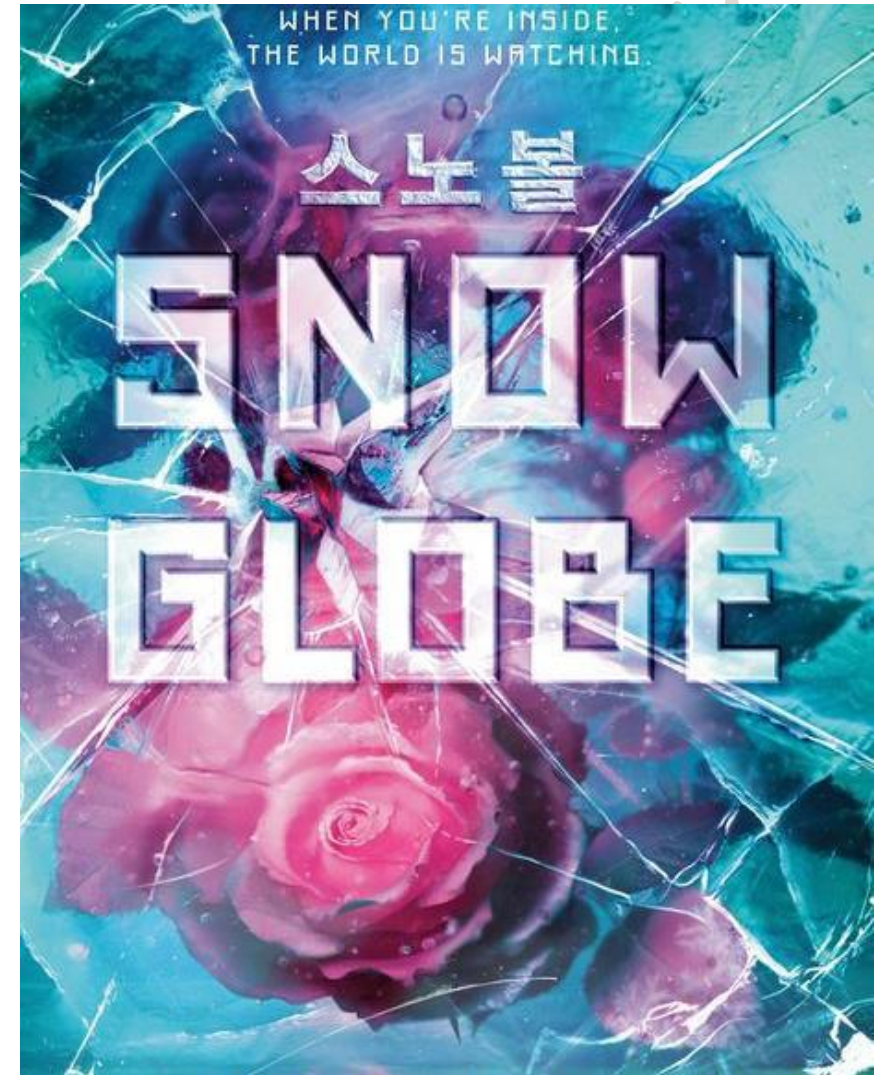
A master of art forgeries allies herself in a loveless marriage to a dragon lord in order to save her family and find her missing father.

- Elements of Asian mythologies and Beauty and the Beast

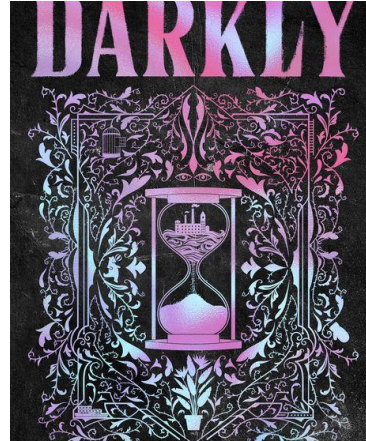
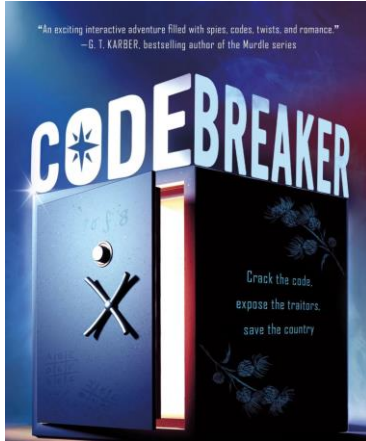
# Sci-Fi / Dystopia

*Snowglobe*, by Soyoung Park

Reality television exposes the worst of a classist society, where most people live in a frozen wasteland, watching the fabulous lives of the rich and famous in the warm dome of the Snowglobe.



# Mystery / Thriller

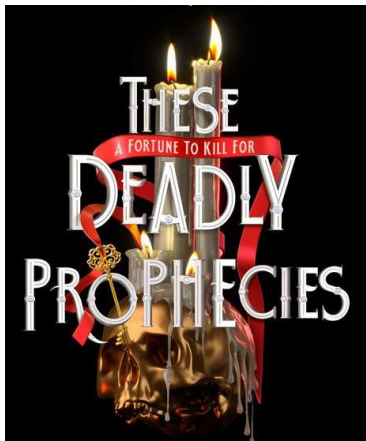


## ***Codebreaker*, by Jay Martel**

An interactive mystery full of espionage and chases through Washington DC. Includes lots of historical references and interactive puzzles and ciphers.

## ***Darkly*, by Marisha Pessl**

7 teens are drawn into a dangerous real-life version of a famous game-designer's puzzle.



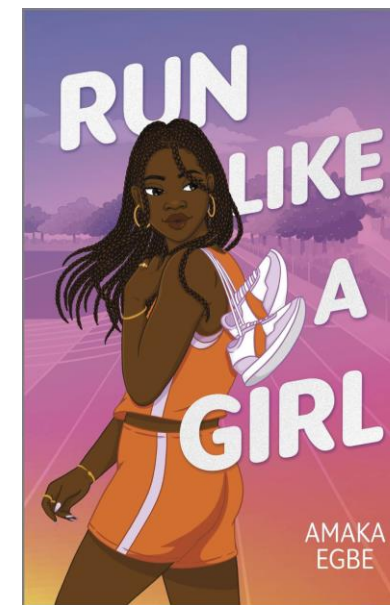
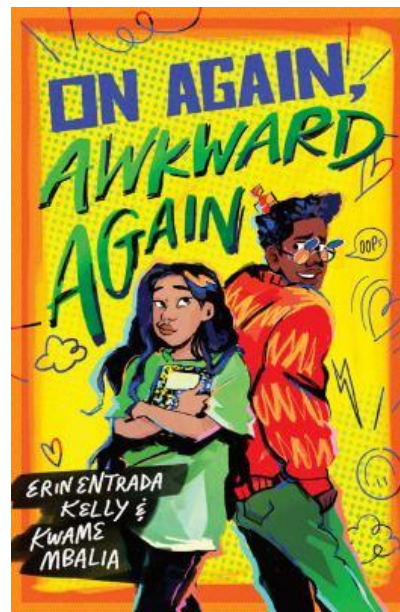
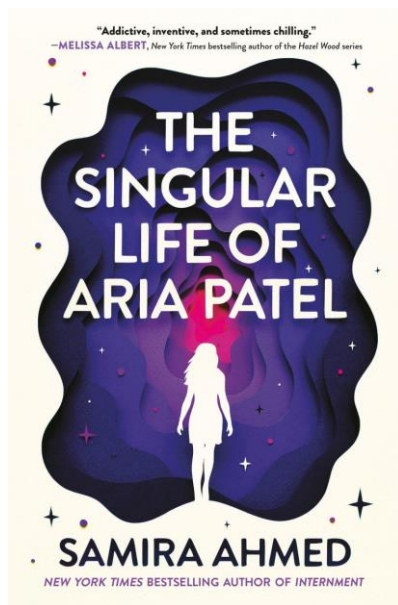
## ***These Deadly Prophecies*, by Andrea Tang**

The apprentice to a fortune-telling sorcerer must solve the mystery of his violent death, a death he predicted himself.

## ***The Steps*, by Wendelin Van Draanen**

The backstabbing machinations of her wealthy family in the wake of a family tragedy take their toll on Ruby, especially when her grandmother's 3 million dollar ring gets stolen and everyone is a suspect.





## Romance

### ***The Singular Life of Aria Patel*, by Samira Ahmed**

Science-afficionado Aria explores the bounds of the multiverse as she tries to find her way back to her own reality, her mom, and the boy she loves.

### ***On Again, Awkward Again*, by Erin Entrada Kelly and Kwame Mbalia**

Told in alternating perspectives, this tale of love at first sight happens in spite of the awkward, stubborn, and clumsy efforts of its two protagonists. Funny and sweet.

### ***Run Like a Girl*, by Amaka Egbé**

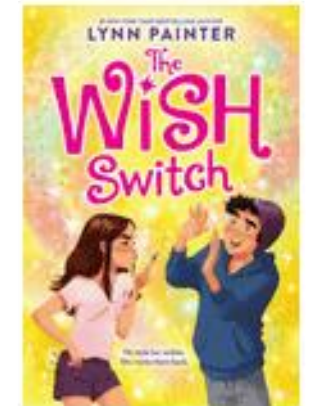
A persistent track runner pushes through bullying, aloof parents, and the lack of a girl's track team to pursue her dreams.

# J Fic

## Love and Friendship for a Middle School Audience

A list by Laura Kennett

For tweens and younger teens looking for  
safe romances in the kids' room.





THANKS FOR COMING!

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*All lists will be available in Bibliocommons.*