

2020 Notable Books by American Library Association

YOUNGER

Across the Bay. By Carlos Aponte. Illus. by the author. Penguin Workshop. In search of his father, Carlitos ferries from his serene home in Cataño to San Juan, taking in the vibrant sights and sounds of Puerto Rico's capital. (Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

Art This Way. By Tamara Shopsin. Illustrated by Jason Fulford. Phaidon. An interactive board book to help foster art appreciation in young children.

At the Mountain's Base. By Traci Sorell. Illus. by Weshoyot Alvitre. Penguin/Kokila. A lyrical story of a Cherokee family bonding through song and weaving as they celebrate a family member's service in the military.

B Is for Baby. By Atinuke. Illus. by Angela Brooksbank, Candlewick. The letter B is cleverly featured in this story of a baby's day in her African village.

The Balcony. By Melissa Castrillón. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. A whimsical, wordless picture book that shows a young girl making her new house a home.

Bear Came Along. By Richard T. Morris. Illus. by LeUyen Pham. Little, Brown. A bear's river journey accumulates a number of other animals, resulting in an amazing ride. (Caldecott Honor Book)

The Bell Rang. By James E. Ransome. Illus. by the author. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. A young enslaved girl's daily routine is altered by her brother's escape to freedom.

Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border. By Mitali Perkins. Illus. by Sara Palacios. Farrar. A family visits the border fence dividing California and Mexico to share gifts with their grandmother at La Posada.

A Big Bed for Little Snow. By Grace Lin. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. In spite of Mommy's warnings, Little Snow simply cannot resist jumping on his big, new feather bed.

The Bluest of Blues: Anna Atkins and the First Book of Photographs. By Fiona Robinson. Illus. by the author. Abrams. Anna Atkins' curiosity about science led her to experiment with the new art of photography, particularly cyanotypes.

Brown: My Alter Ego Is a Superhero. By Håkon Øvreås. Illus. by Øyvind Torseter. Tr. by Kari Dickson. Enchanted Lion. When bullies destroy his fort, Rusty dons superhero garb and seeks revenge. (Batchelder Award Book)

The Book Hog. By Greg Pizzoli. Illus. by the author. Disney/Hyperion. A beret-wearing pig who loves books as objects learns to love reading them, too. (Geisel Honor Book)

The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come. By Sue Macy. Illus. by Stacy Innerst. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. With dramatic art, this picturebook biography tells the story of Aaron Lansky's mission to save Yiddish literature.

Carter Reads the Newspaper. By Deborah Hopkinson. Illus. by Don Tate. Peachtree. This engaging nonfiction picturebook highlights the life and determination of little-known civil rights pioneer, Dr. Carter Woodson.

Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot! By Cece Bell. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. Chick (a baby chicken) instructs his friend Brain (underwear-clad human with an exposed brain) in good manners. (Geisel Honor Book)

Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln. By Margarita Engle. Illus. by Rafael López. Atheneum. This picture book biography follows young Venezuelan musician, Teresa Carreño, from her homeland to New York, famous concert halls, and a White House performance for President Lincoln. (Belpré Illustrator Award Book)

Dinosaur Feathers. By Dennis Nolan. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. This tongue-twisting, brightly illustrated poetry book introduces readers to a gaggle of dinosaurs.

Do Fish Sleep? By Jens Raschke. Illus. by Jens Rasmus. Tr. by Belinda Cooper. Enchanted Lion. Ten-year-old Jette comes to terms with her younger brother's death in this honest story about loss and the search for understanding. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Double Bass Blues. By Andrea J. Loney. Illus. by Rudy Gutierrez. Knopf. Aspiring musician Nic navigates two worlds—his suburban school and the bustling city streets of his home—in this picturebook about community, family, and the power of music. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Field Trip to the Moon. By John Hare. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Margaret Ferguson. When a child is left behind on a class field trip to the moon, an unexpected adventure unfolds.

Firefighters' Handbook. By Meghan McCarthy. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. Do you want to become a firefighter? Learn about their rigorous training in this informative picturebook.

Flubby Is Not a Good Pet! By J. E. Morris. Illus. by the author. Penguin Workshop. Flubby, a very lazy, but loveable, cat can always be counted on to bring comfort and kindness when they are needed most. (Geisel Honor Book)

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story. By Kevin Noble Maillard. Illus. by Juana Martinez-Neal. Roaring Brook. A sweetly illustrated account of the cultural and historical importance of fry bread to a Native American family. (Sibert Medal Book)

Going Down Home with Daddy. By Kelly Starling Lyons. Illus. by Daniel Minter. Peachtree. In this picture book homage to familial bonds, a boy contemplates the perfect way to honor his great-grandmother. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Grandpa's Top Threes. By Wendy Meddour. Illus. by Daniel Egnéus. Candlewick. Henry uses Grandpa's favorite game, "Top Three," to help his grandfather grieve.

Hey, Water! By Antoinette Portis. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. This early nonfiction book examines how the water cycle surrounds you every day. (Sibert Honor Book)

How to Read a Book. By Kwame Alexander. Illus. by Melissa Sweet. Harper. Bright collage illustrations and poetic imagery depict many of the countless ways to savor a book.

It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way. By Kyo Maclear. Illus. by Julie Morstad. Harper. This biography for young readers recounts the life of a trailblazing Japanese American picture book artist.

Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet. By Curtis Manley. Illus. by Jessica Lanan. Roaring Brook. An exploration of the solar system and humanity's search for another planet that can support life.

The Last Peach. By Gus Gordon. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook. Unfolding through animated dialogue comes a tale of two insects debating who gets to eat the last peach.

Let's Scare Bear. By Yuko Katakawa. Illus. by the author. Holiday. In a humorous story influenced by Japanese oral tradition, four small animals take a turn trying to scare a big bear.

Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons. By Laura Purdie Salas. Illus. by Mercè López. Lerner/Millbrook. A collection of haiku riddles that celebrates the cycle of the year's seasons.

Luca's Bridge/El Puente de Luca. By Mariana Llanos. Illus. by Anna López Real. Penny Candy. Llanos' bilingual book offers a glimpse into how some children affected by deportation find comfort in music.

The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh. By Supriya Kelkar. Illus. by Alea Marley. Sterling. Indian American Singh wears different color patkas to match his mood or occasion of the day.

A Map into the World. By Kao Kalia Yang. Illus. by Seo Kim. Carolrhoda/Lerner. A young Hmong girl comforts her new neighbor with a chalk drawing that reflects the past year's changes.

Moth. By Isabel Thomas. Illus. by Daniel Egnéus. Bloomsbury. Rich illustrations help describe the survival and evolutionary adaptations of the peppered moth.

My Footprints. By Bao Phi. Illus. by Basia Tran. Capstone. After facing school bullies, Thuy works through her emotions by using her imagination.

My Grandma and Me. By Mina Javaherbin. Illus. by Lindsey Yankey. Candlewick. Set in Iran, this picturebook honors the power of grandmothers as models of tradition, family, and love.

My Papi Has a Motorcycle. By Isabel Quintero. Illus. by Zeke Peña. Penguin/Kokila. Daisy enjoys exploring her changing neighborhood from the back of her papi's motorcycle. (Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

A New Home. By Tania de Regil. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. Two young children's families help them adjust to moving from Mexico City to New York City and vice versa.

Nya's Long Walk: A Step at a Time. By Linda Sue Park. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Clarion. In South Sudan, Nya must carry both her younger sister and the water they collected for the long journey home.

One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller. By Kate Read. Illus. by the author. Peachtree A hungry fox gets more than he expects in this suspenseful counting book.

Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist. By Julie Leung. Illus. by Chris Sasaki. Random/Schwartz & Wade. As a boy, Wong Geng Yeo assumed a fake identity to immigrate to the U.S., eventually becoming a Disney artist.

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré. By Anika Aldamuy Denise. Illus. by Paola Escobar. Harper. A riveting picture book biography of Pura Belpré that captures her professional life and legacy. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Pokko and the Drum. By Matthew Forsythe. Illus by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. When Pokko's dad sends her outside with her drum, she soon begins leading a band of forest animals.

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family. By Ibtihaj Muhammad with S. K. Ali. Illus. by Hatem Aly. Little, Brown. A back-to-school book that focuses on the beauty and symbolism of a young girl's hijab.

Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom. By Teresa Robeson. Illus. by Rebecca Huang. Sterling. The contributions of overlooked scientist Wu Chien Shiung are celebrated here, and the many obstacles she overcame acknowledged.

Saturday. By Oge Mora. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. Saturdays are when Mom and Ava do special things together, even when they don't go as planned.

Sing a Song: How "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Inspired Generations. By Kelly Starling Lyons. Illus. by Keith Mallett. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. This story behind the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," shows its impact over the generations.

Small in the City. By Sydney Smith. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. While searching for his cat, a child offers advice on how to survive the big city when you're small.

A Stone Sat Still. By Brendan Wenzel. Illus. by the author. Chronicle. A stone quietly sits as time passes, different creatures make use of it, and the world changes.

Stop! Bot! By James Yang. Illus. by the author. Viking. As a child's run-away bot drifts up past each floor of a skyscraper, the tenants attempt creative strategies to capture it, leading to a surprise and an ingenious rooftop rescue. (Geisel Medal Book)

Stormy: A Story about Finding a Forever Home. By Guojing. Illus. by the author. Random/Schwartz & Wade. Beautifully illustrated, this wordless story emotionally depicts the relationship between a woman and homeless dog.

Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me. By Eloise Greenfield. Illus. by Ehsan Abdollahi.

Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky. In narrative verse, a puppy named Thinker and his boy ponder life, play, and go about their day.

Todos Iguales / All Equal: Un Corrido De Lemon Grove / A Ballad of Lemon Grove. By Christy Hale.

Illus. by the author. Lee & Low. This bilingual picture book depicts the events of the Lemon Grove Incident, the first successful school desegregation case in the U.S.

¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market. By Raúl Gonzalez. Illus. by the author. HMH/Versify. Little Lobo and his trusty dog Bernabé deliver goods to the eclectic and bustling Mercado. (Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

What Is Given from the Heart. By Patricia C. McKissack. Illus. by April Harrison. Random/Schwartz & Wade. After his neighbors lose everything in a fire, a young child finds his own way to contribute to the community's response.

When Aidan Became a Brother. By Kyle Lukoff. Illus. by Kaylani Juanita. Lee & Low. A transgender boy and his parents prepare for a new baby.

When Spring Comes to the DMZ. By Uk-Bae Lee. Illus. by the author. Translated by Chungyon Won and Aileen Won. Plough. A grandfather brings his family to visit Korea's demilitarized zone, which inadvertently has evolved into a nature preserve with rich flora and fauna amid the barbed wire and warning signs. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Why? By Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. Bear answers rabbit's many questions in a thought-provoking picturebook.

MIDDLE

All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World. By Lori Alexander. Illus. by Vivien Mildenberger. HMH. With accessible language and illustrations, this biography introduces readers to the everyday man who invented a powerful microscope that could magnify the living world to an astonishing scale. (Sibert Honor Book)

The Beast Player. By Nahoko Uehashi. Illus. by Yuta Onoda. Tr. by Cathy Hirano. Holt/Godwin. In this complex fantasy, a young girl is caught (pitted?) between the welfare of animals with whom she can communicate and a warring kingdom that only she can save. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Because of the Rabbit. By Cynthia Lord. Scholastic. Emma helps her father rescue a pet rabbit that supports her socialization as she transitions into public school.

The Bridge Home. By Padma Venkatraman. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. Determined to escape their abusive father, Viji and her sister run away and make a new home on a bridge in Chennai, India.

The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree. By Paola Peretti. Illus. by Carolina Rabei. Tr. by Denise Muir. Atheneum. Fifth-grader Mafalda discovers what is important in life as she loses her sight to a degenerative disease in this thoughtful, coming-of-age novel. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Each Tiny Spark. By Pablo Cartaya. Penguin/Kokila. Emilia faces family challenges when her dad returns from overseas military service.

For Black Girls Like Me. By Mariama J. Lockington. Farrar. Makeda, adopted into a white family, struggles to fit in and find herself at home and in school.

The Forgotten Girl. By India Hill Brown. Scholastic. Two classmates discover an abandoned grave, launching a ghost story that brings the history of segregation to life.

Hector: A Boy, a Protest, and the Photograph That Changed Apartheid. By Adrienne Wright. Illus. by the author. Page Street. The true story of the dramatic photograph of a young boy's tragic death that became a symbol of the injustice of Apartheid.

Indian No More. By Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell. Lee & Low/Tu. In 1954, Regina and her family move from their reservation to Los Angeles after their tribe is terminated by the U.S. government.

It Rained Warm Bread: Moishe Moskowitz's Story of Hope. By Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet and Hope Anita Smith. Illus. by Lea Lyon. Holt/Christy Ottaviano. Spare poetry documents Moishe's struggle for survival during the Holocaust.

Lalani of the Distant Sea. By Erin Entrada Kelly. Illus. by Lian Cho. Greenwillow. A young girl sets out to save her island of Sanlagita, which is struggling with drought and sickness.

Let 'er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion. By Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Illus. by Gordon C. James. Carolrhoda/Lerner. George Fletcher's rise to fame as a rodeo champion is recounted with colorful language, à la old Westerns, and expressive oil paintings.

Lety Out Loud. By Angela Cervantes. Scholastic. While spending the summer volunteering in an animal shelter, English language learner Lety Muñoz learns to use her voice to stand up for others. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Pie in the Sky. By Remy Lai. Illus. by the author. Holt. Told with heart and humor, Jingwen adjusts to a new culture and language after his family immigrates to Australia.

Scary Stories for Young Foxes. Christian McKay Heidicker. Illus. by Junyi Wu. Holt. Two fox kits encounter a variety of terrifying episodes in this chilling and skillfully crafted horror book for children. (Newbery Honor Book)

Some Places More than Others. By Renée Watson. Bloomsbury. Amara copes with family tensions during a trip from her home in Oregon to visit her father's family in Harlem.

Stargazing. By Jen Wang. Illus. by the author. First Second. Despite opposite personalities, Moon and Christine develop an unlikely friendship in this lively graphic novel.

OLDER

Accused! The Trials of the Scottsboro Boys: Lies, Prejudice, and the Fourteenth Amendment. By Larry Dane Brimner. illus. Boyds Mills/Calkins Creek. The impeccably researched story of nine African American young men falsely accused of raping two white girls in 1931 Scottsboro, Alabama.

All the Greys on Greene Street. By Laura Tucker. Illus. by Kelly Murphy. Viking. Olympia must navigate both the disappearance of her father and her mother's growing struggle with depression.

Beverly, Right Here. By Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick. After the loss of her beloved dog, Beverly runs away from home and starts a new life.

Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race across America. By Steve Sheinkin. Illus. by Bijou Karman. Roaring Brook. The well-researched, compellingly written account of 20 aviators competing in the first all-female, cross-country air derby.

Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany. By Andrew Maraniss. illus. Philomel. This brief history of how basketball became an Olympic sport looks at the ethical issues surrounding the U.S. team's decision to participate in the 1936 Olympics.

Genesis Begins Again. By Alicia D. Williams. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. Painfully self-conscious about her dark skin, 13-year-old Genesis faces new challenges when her family moves to suburban Detroit and she starts a new school. (Newbery Honor Book)

I Can Make This Promise. By Christine Day. Harper. Twelve-year-old Edie discovers a box in her family's attic that reveals her mother's Suquamish/Duwamish heritage.

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People. By Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese. illus. Beacon. This unflinching adaptation makes crucial history accessible for children and teens.

Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from World War II to Peace. By Ashley Bryan. Illus. by the author. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. A moving memoir recounts the WWII experiences of an artistic young man through his contemporaneous writing and illustration on the front line.

Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks. By Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. What happens after school? These 10 interconnected stories will tell you, block by block.

Maybe He Just Likes You. By Barbara Dee. Aladdin. Mila, a seventh-grader, experiences sexual harassment and unwanted attention from a group of classmates.

New Kid. By Jerry Craft. Illus. by the author. Harper. A funny, thought-provoking graphic novel that details Jordan Banks' seventh-grade year as one of the few African American kids in an elite suburban school. (Newbery Medal Book)

Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir. By Nikki Grimes. WordSong. This distinguished memoir in verse highlights bestselling author and poet Nikki Grimes' formative years, detailing the people, places, and events that shaped her life. (Sibert Honor Book)

The Other Half of Happy. By Rebecca Balcárcel. Chronicle. A biracial girl explores her Guatemalan heritage and deals with family struggles, while navigating the realities of middle school. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Other Words for Home. By Jasmine Warga. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray. Themes of conflict, home, identity, the arts, and prejudice are interwoven in this powerful verse novel about a Syrian girl's new life in America. (Newbery Honor Book)

A Place to Belong. By Cynthia Kadohata. Illus. by Julia Kuo. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. After her Japanese American parents are released from an internment camp, twelve-year-old Hanako travels with her family to start a new life in post-war Japan.

The Poison Eaters: Fighting Danger and Fraud in our Food and Drugs. By Gail Jarrow. illus. Boyds Mills/Calkins Creek. From formaldehyde in your milk to borax in your beans comes this fun, informative exploration of the FDA and how it works to keep our food safe.

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe. By Carlos Hernandez. Disney/Hyperion. Sci-fi adventure and Cuban culture blend as Sal Vidón and his friend Gabi travel to parallel universes and try to survive middle school. (Belpré Author Award Book)

A Story about Cancer (with a Happy Ending). By India Desjardins. Illus. by Marianne Ferrer. Quarto/Frances Lincoln. In this illustrated book for older children, a teenage girl waits for test results and reflects on her five-year battle with leukemia.

Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers. By Celia C. Pérez. Penguin/Kokila. Four wildly different middle-school girls join together in social activism to protest an outdated tradition.

Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children. Ed. by Kath Shackleton. Illus. by Zane Whittingham. Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky. A compelling collection of six little-known, true stories of child Holocaust survivors, told in graphic novel format.

They Called Us Enemy. By George Takei, Justin Eisinger, and Steven Scott. Illus. by Harmony Becker. Top Shelf. A graphic memoir of a Japanese American family during the internment years in California.

This Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality. By Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy. illus. Bloomsbury. A first-person, verse account of the challenges faced by the first African American students to integrate into an American high school. (Sibert Honor Book)

Torpedoed: The True Story of the World War II Sinking of "The Children's Ship." By Deborah Heiligman. illus. Holt. The incredible, nonfiction tale of the German submarine attack on a ship carrying 100 child refugees during WWII.

Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky. By Kwame Mbalia. Disney/Hyperion. While visiting his grandparents in Alabama, Tristan enters into a parallel universe populated by characters from African and African American traditional stories.

Wait, What? A Comic Book Guide to Relationships, Bodies, and Growing Up. By Heather Corinna. Illus. by Isabella Rotman. Limerence. The founder of Scarleteen.com takes a head-on approach to discussing gender, sexuality, identities, and more.

We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls around the World. By Malala Yousafzai. Little, Brown. Yousafzai recounts her story of displacement and introduces refugee girls worldwide, putting faces and stories to the demographics of immigration.

Where the Heart Is. By Jo Knowles. Candlewick. Rachel negotiates a summer of changing friendships, family financial disaster, a new job, and a growing awareness of her sexual identity.

Words on Fire. By Jennifer Nielsen. Scholastic. Set during the nineteenth-century Russian occupation of Lithuania, Audra and her family smuggle books to save Lithuanian language and culture.

The Year We Fell from Space. By Amy Sarig King. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. As Liberty's family struggles with divorce and mental illness, her life begins to spin out of control.

ALL AGES

I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage. Ed. by Lee Bennett Hopkins. illus. Lee & Low. Sixteen illustrators and fourteen poets come together to address themes of culture, identity, and community.

Liberty Arrives!: How America's Grandest Statue Found Her Home. By Robert Byrd. Illus. by the author. Dial. This informational picture book introduces many people involved in Lady Liberty's journey from France to her final destination in New York Harbor.

A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech that Inspired a Nation. By Barry Wittenstein. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. Holiday/Neal Porter. A look at how Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream Speech" was written and the voices that shaped its message.

Soldier for Equality: José de la Luz Sáenz and the Great War. By Duncan Tonatiuh. Illus. by the author. Abrams. A fascinating picturebook biography of Mexican American José de la Luz Sáenz's fight for equality as a U.S. soldier during WWI. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Thanku: Poems of Gratitude. Ed. by Miranda Paul. Illus. by Marlena Myles. Lerner/Millbrook. Thirty-two diverse poets explore moments of gratitude found throughout the year.

The Undefeated. By Kwame Alexander. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. HMH/Versify. Alexander's poetry and Nelson's illustration pair wonderfully in this stunning ode to the courage and strength of African Americans. (Caldecott Medal Book, Newbery Honor Book)

You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks. By Evan Turk. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. Bold illustrations and poetic text showcase America's famous and lesser-known National Parks

YA Fiction

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager. By Ben Philippe. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray, . After his mother gets a new job as a professor at the University of Texas, Norris, a Black French Canadian who has lived in Montreal his whole life, has to adjust to high school in Austin, Texas.

Girls on the Verge. By Sharon Biggs Waller. Holt,. After learning she is pregnant from her first sexual encounter, Camille is forced to make a decision. When she runs out of options in her Texas hometown, she, Annabelle, and her disapproving best friend, Bea, set off on a road trip to get an abortion.

Heroine. By Mindy McGinnis. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen. After Mickey Catalan, a star athlete, is sidelined by a car crash, she relies on pain medicine to help her recover faster. When she discovers that it isn't enough, Mickey spirals out of control, and her need for relief leads her to lie, steal, and shoot up.

Like a Love Story. By Abdi Nazemian. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray. Three teens—an Iranian youth hiding his sexuality for fear of death, an openly gay photographer, and an aspiring fashion designer with an HIV-positive uncle—all find love, along with their voices, as activists in 1989 New York during the height of the AIDS crisis.

Lovely War. By Julie Berry. Viking. Aphrodite leads her legal self-defense in front of Hephaestus and Ares to justify her infidelity. Her proof? The love stories—that she helped create—of two couples during WWI. When her tale is done, both lives and love will be different in this beautiful book.

On the Come Up. By Angie Thomas. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray. Bri, an aspiring rapper who wants to step out of the shadow of her famous but dead father, helps her family survive after her mother loses her job.

Patron Saints of Nothing. By Randy Ribay. Penguin/Kokila. After Jay, a Filipino American high school senior gets word that his once-close cousin and pen pal Jun is dead, he travels to the Philippines to uncover the truth.

Pet. By Akwaeke Emezi. Random/Make Me a World. Pet lives in a world without monsters, or so she thinks. After a monster shows itself to her, she must work to uncover the secrets her world has been hiding and to protect people she loves.

The Stars and the Blackness between Them. By Junauda Petrus. Dutton, After Audre's relationship with a young woman is exposed, her mother sends her away from Trinidad to live with her father in Minneapolis. There she connects with Mabel, who is suffering from a life-threatening illness. Told in alternating viewpoints, this is a moving novel of discovering how to live and love.

With the Fire on High. By Elizabeth Acevedo. HarperTeen, As both a senior in high school and a mother, Emoni must balance her last year at school with her culinary aspirations, as well as also her obligations to her daughter and grandmother. When Malachi and a new cooking elective enter the picture, Emoni's strengths begin to shine bright.