

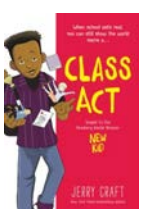
Top Realistic Fiction Books for 6th Grade



ZENOBIA BY MORTEN DURR

Zenobia was once a great warrior queen of Syria whose reign reached from Egypt to Turkey. She was courageous. No one gave her orders. Once she even went to war against the emperor of Rome.

When things feel overwhelming for Amina, her mother reminds her to think of Zenobia and be strong. Amina is a Syrian girl caught up in a war that reaches her village. To escape the war she boards a small boat crammed with other refugees. The boat is rickety and the turbulent seas send Amina overboard. In the dark water Amina remembers playing hide and seek with her mother and making dolmas (stuffed grape leaves) and the journey she had to undertake with her uncle to escape. And she thinks of the brave warrior Zenobia.



CLASS ACT (SERIES) BY JERRY CRAFT

Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying "You have to work twice as hard to be just as good." His grandmother has reminded him his entire life. But what if he works ten times as hard and still isn't afforded the same opportunities that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted? To make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids. He wants to pretend like everything is fine, but it's hard not to withdraw, and even their mutual friend Jordan doesn't know how to keep the group together. As the pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And most important, will he finally be able to accept himself?



THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH BY ALI BENJAMIN

Suzy lost her longtime best friend twice: first at the beginning of sixth grade, when Franny shifted away from her and into a clique of "pretty girls," and irrevocably during the following summer, when Franny drowned at the beach. Entering seventh grade and burdened by painful memories that she can neither express nor forget, Suzy almost entirely stops talking for many months. She becomes fascinated with jellyfish and intent on linking Franny's drowning to a sting. She secretly, meticulously plans a trip to Australia to consult a jellyfish specialist in hopes of finding answers to her questions about Franny's death. In the end, though, a conversation closer to home offers what she needs in order to deal with the experience and forgive herself.



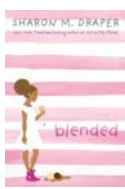
THE SEA IN WINTER BY CHRISTINE DAY

This book tells the story of a Native American girl struggling to find her joy again. It's been a hard year for Maisie Cannon, ever since she hurt her leg and could not keep up with her ballet training and auditions. Her blended family is loving and supportive, but Maisie knows that they just can't understand how hopeless she feels. With everything she's dealing with, Maisie is not excited for their family midwinter road trip along the coast, near the Makah community where her mother grew up. But soon, Maisie's anxieties and dark moods start to hurt as much as the pain in her knee. How can she keep pretending to be strong when on the inside she feels as roiling and cold as the ocean?



SAME SUN HERE BY SILAS HOUSE

Born in India, Meena, 12, lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Chinatown, New York. While preparing for the citizenship exam, her mother works as a nanny, and her father searches for work elsewhere, only returning home one weekend a month. In rural Kentucky, River, 12, faces hardship when his coal-miner father loses his job and has to move far away, and his depressed mother barely gets out of bed. His support is Mamaw, his half-Cherokee grandmother, who is a passionate local environmental activist. Through e-mails, and occasional snail mails, both kids help each other through painful family tensions and struggles, and both suffer community prejudice as "hillbillies and immigrants looking for a handout."



BLENDED BY SHARON M. DRAPER

Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves. Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And now that her parents are divorced, it seems their fights are even worse, and they're always about HER. Isabella feels completely stuck in the middle, split and divided between them more than ever. And she is beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad involves more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities.



WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU MANGOES BY KEREEN GETTEN

Clara lives on an island that visitors call exotic. But there's nothing exotic about it to Clara. She loves eating ripe mangos off the ground, running outside in the rain with her Papa during rainy season, and going to her secret hideout with Gaynah--even though lately she's not acting like a best friend. The only thing out of the ordinary for Clara is that something happened to her memory that made her forget everything that happened last summer after a hurricane hit. But this summer is going to be different for Clara. Everyone is buzzing with excitement over a new girl in the village who is not like other visitors. She is about to make big waves on the island.

NOTABLE MENTIONS

Restart by Gordon Korman, Go With The Flow by Lilly Williams, Millicent Min by Lisa Yee, Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly.

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Top Realistic Fiction Books for 5th Grade



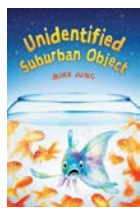
TWINS BY VARIAN JOHNSON

Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran -- a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. A girl who seems happy to share only two classes with her sister Maureen and Francine are growing apart and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?



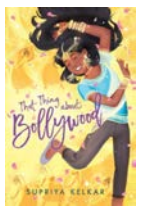
SNAPDRAGON BY KAT LEHR

There's something creepy about Jacks, the odd, gangly, one-eyed old white woman living in Snapdragon's town, but Snap's not afraid, especially after Jacks shows her how to take care of a litter of orphaned possums and what she's up to early in the morning with a wheelbarrow full of roadkill (it involves a very lucrative internet business for skeleton enthusiasts). Beyond their shared obsession with animals, though, Snap and Jacks have a much deeper connection based on family secrets, ghosts, and a touch of magic.



UNIDENTIFIED SUBURBAN OBJECT BY MIKE JUNG

The only Asian American at her school, Chloe Cho has learned to deal with remarks about her skills at violin playing and general academic work. Still, she can count on Shelley, her longtime best friend, to see beyond her cultural identity. At the beginning of seventh grade, their new social studies teacher doesn't just share Korean heritage with Chloe, they even like the same K-pop group. But an assignment to interview a parent and record a family story precipitates a crisis that lands Chloe in the principal's office at school and, worse, in a painful argument with Shelley. This well-paced chapter book portrays classroom dynamics and middle-school relationships perceptively.



THAT THING ABOUT BOLLYWOOD BY SUPRIYA KELKAR



You know how in Bollywood when people are in love, they sing and dance from the mountaintops? Eleven-year-old Sonali wonders if they do the same when they're breaking up. The truth is, Sonali's parents don't get along, and it looks like they might be separating. Sonali's little brother, Ronak, is not taking the news well, constantly crying. Sonali would never do that. It's embarrassing to let out so many feelings, to show the world how not okay you are. But then something strange happens, something magical, maybe. When Sonali gets upset during a field trip, she can't bury her feelings like usual--instead, she suddenly bursts into a Bollywood song-and-dance routine about why she's upset! The next morning, much to her dismay, Sonali's reality has shifted. Things seem brighter, almost too bright. Her parents have had Bollywood makeovers. Her friends are also breaking out into song and dance. And somehow, everyone is acting as if this is totally normal. Sonali knows something has gone wrong, and she suspects it has something to do with her own mismanaged emotions. Can she figure it out before it's too late?



THE UNTEACHABLES BY GORDON KORMAN

The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. Like Aldo, with anger management issues; Parker, who can't read; Kiana, who doesn't even belong in the class--or any class; and Elaine (rhymes with pain). The Unteachables have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117. Their teacher is Mr. Zachary Kermit, the most burned-out teacher in all of Greenwich. He was once a rising star, but his career was shattered by a cheating scandal that still haunts him. After years of phoning it in, he is finally one year away from early retirement. But the superintendent has his own plans to torpedo that idea--and it involves assigning Mr. Kermit to the Unteachables. The Unteachables never thought they'd find a teacher who had a worse attitude than they did. And Mr. Kermit never thought he would actually care about teaching again. Over the course of a school year, though, room 117 will experience mayhem, destruction--and maybe even a shot at redemption.



DRAMA BY RAINA TELGEMEIER

Callie loves the theater, even if she can't sing well enough to perform in her beloved musicals. But when drama and romance--both onstage and off--cause problems, Callie finds that set design may be the easiest part of putting on a play. She's the set designer for the drama department's stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen.

YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING, JILLY P!



BY ALEX GINO



"... when Jilly's sister, Emma, is born deaf, she realizes ... the world is going to treat Jilly, who is white and hearing, differently from Emma, just as it will treat them both differently from their Black cousins. A big fantasy reader, Jilly makes a connection online with another fantasy fan, Derek, who is a Deaf, Black ASL user. She goes to Derek for help with Emma but doesn't always know the best way or time to ask for it. As she and Derek meet in person, have some really fun conversations, and become friends, Jilly makes some mistakes ... but comes to understand that it's up to her, not Derek to figure out how to do better next time--especially when she wants to be there for Derek the most. Within a world where kids like Derek and Emma aren't assured the same freedom or safety as kids like Jilly, Jilly is starting to learn all the things she doesn't know--and by doing that, she's also working to discover how to support her family and her friends"

NOTABLE MENTIONS

Blubber by Judy Blume, Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo, Hoot by Carl Hiaasen, Next to Mexico by Jennifer Nails, The Last Invisible Boy by Evan Kuhlman.

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Top Realistic Fiction Books for 4th Grade



FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON BY JANAÉ MARKS

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. Everyone else thinks Zoe's worrying about doing a good job at her bakery internship and proving to her parents that she's worthy of auditioning for Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge. But with bakery confections on one part of her mind, and Marcus's conviction weighing heavily on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies.



AMINA'S VOICE (SERIES) BY HENA KAHN

Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? While Amina grapples with these questions, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. Amina's Voice brings to life the joys and challenges of a young Pakistani-American and highlights the many ways in which one girl's voice can help bring a diverse community together to love and support each other.



STARGAZING BY JEN WANG

Initially, Christine isn't so sure about Moon and her mother, who just moved into the extra unit at Christine's family's house. Moon is loud, artistic, and confident, and she doesn't live under the same kind of rules as Christine does in her own Chinese American family. But despite these differences, they're soon spending nearly all their time together. Then trouble arises: Christine feels pressure from her baba to spend more time on her schoolwork than with her new friend, and Moon's popularity with their classmates starts to make Christine feel jealous. But when Moon's artistic thinking turns out to be more than just freewheeling creativity, Christine realizes how important Moon is to her.



FRONT DESK (SERIES) BY KELLY



Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?



THE FIRST RULE OF PUNK BY CELIA C. PEREZ

Malú isn't happy about her recent move to Chicago, because it meant leaving her dad (her parents are amicably divorced) and his record store behind. She tries to assume a brave punk attitude, but she can't help being anxious on her first day of school, especially when she gets on the wrong side of the class mean girl. When Malú learns about the upcoming Fall Fiesta talent show, she decides to form a band, with the hopes of finding "her people" in the process. While this plan hits a few snags, it results in friendships and a Mexican punk mentor. Like any good riot grrrl, Malú finds a creative outlet in making zines, several of which appear in the novel and call attention to Malú's passions, heritage (she is half Mexican), and private concerns.



BACK ON THE MAP BY LISA ANN SCOTT

With their mother long dead and their father unknown, eleven-year-old Penny Porter and her twin brother Parker have been bouncing around foster homes for as long as they can remember. Inspired by the historical figures in her favorite book, Penny likes to imagine who she could be related to. Sacagawea? Her genes would be good ones to have. Or maybe Gandhi, or Harriet Tubman. There are endless possibilities! But while Penny embraces the question marks in her family tree, she and Parker are both ready for a real home. Living with their aging, ornery Grauntie isn't easy, but it's better than other places they've been, and they don't want to get moved again--or worse, split up. Penny believes the key to keeping them from being bounced to another new home is getting their town of New Hope, North Carolina back on the state map.



DUMPLING DAYS BY GRACE LIN

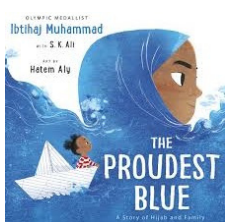
This summer, Pacy's family is going to Taiwan for an entire month to visit family and prepare for their grandmother's 60th birthday celebration. Pacy's parents have signed her up for a Chinese painting class, and at first she's excited. This is a new way to explore her art talent! But everything about the trip is harder than she thought it would be--she looks like everyone else but can't speak the language, she has trouble following the art teacher's instructions, and it's difficult to make friends in her class. At least the dumplings are delicious... As the month passes by, Pacy eats chicken feet (by accident!), gets blessed by a fortune teller, searches for her true identity, and grows closer to those who matter most.

NOTABLE MENTIONS

Just My Luck by Cammie McGovern, Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate, Good Dog, McTavish by Meg Rosoff, Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai, A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord.

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Top Realistic Fiction Books for 3rd Grade



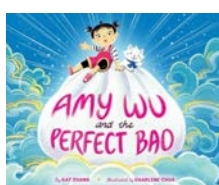
THE PROUDEST BLUE BY IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD



The first day of school is also the first day of hijab for little Faizah's sixth-grade sister, Asiya, who selects a beautiful shade of blue to wear. Faizah sees her sister as a princess, but not everyone shares her perspective. "What's that on your sister's head?" asks a classmate. At recess, someone shouts, "I'm going to pull that tablecloth off your head!" These moments teach Faizah to represent her culture with confidence: her whispered answers grow louder; she and her sister walk away from the bully.



AMY WU AND THE PERFECT BAO BY KAT ZHANG



Meet the funny, fierce, and fearless Amy Wu, who is determined to make a perfect bao bun today. Can she rise to the occasion?

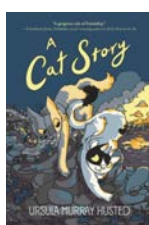
Amy loves to make bao with her family. But it takes skill to make the bao taste and look delicious. And her bao keep coming out all wrong.

Then she has an idea that may give her a second chance...Will Amy ever make the perfect bao?



SLUG DAYS BY SARA LEACH

On slug days Lauren feels slow and slimy. She feels like everyone yells at her, and that she has no friends. Today there is a different bus driver; Dan and Sachi are sitting in Lauren's seat on the bus; and Lauren's teacher interrupts her reading time. It is definitely a slug day. But not every day is like this. On butterfly days Lauren makes her classmates laugh, or goes to get ice cream, or works on a special project with Mom.



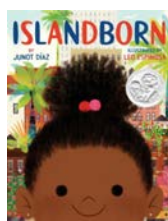
A CAT STORY BY URSULA MURRAY HUSTED

Cilla and Betto are two friends who need a place to call home. The docks in Valletta are too wet, and the scraps of food too scarce. The city's streets are too busy, and the humans too unreliable. But what about the quiet garden from old kitten tales--a place where all cats are welcome, and the humans are always kind? Could the stories really be true? As Cilla and Betto embark on a grand adventure to find out, they begin to spin a tale of their own--one that will take them through the art and stories of many journeyers who came before, and that will bring them to a surprising destination



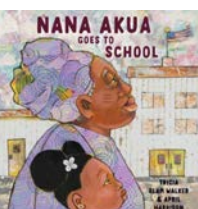
BOOK UNCLE AND ME BY UMA KRISHNASWAMI

Yasmin, nine, lives in India, and she loves to read. Book Uncle, with his stand of books he lends for free, is her main source for new reading material. Every day, Yasmin trades in the book she just read for a new one, usually one recommended by Book Uncle. Meanwhile, in school, she is learning about elections and how she can participate in issues, even if she can't vote. Then the mayor issues an order to shut down Book Uncle's corner stand, and Yasmin finds that even if she can't vote in the upcoming election, she and her friends and the adults in their lives can pool their resources, help Book Uncle, and create change.



ISLANDBORN BY JUNOT DIAZ

Lola attends a school in which the majority of students, whose skin tones range from tan to deep brown, are "from somewhere else." When the teacher instructs her class to draw a picture of what each child's original country looks like, the young girl is stymied. She was an infant when her family immigrated to the U.S. and has no memories of her birthplace. As Lola and her cousin walk home through their neighborhood, they discover that almost everyone is happy to share their memories of "the Island." The beaches, the music, the fruits, and the colors come alive for the youngster and create a feeling of pride in her heritage. Along with all the happy memories are remembrances of struggles after a hurricane and a defeated "monster," which adults may recognize as a former dictator.



NANA AKUA GOES TO SCHOOL BY TRICIA ELAM WALKER



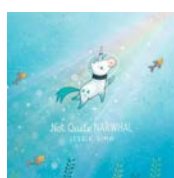
It is Grandparents Day at Zura's elementary school, and the students are excited to introduce their grandparents and share what makes them special. Aleja's grandfather is a fisherman. Bisou's grandmother is a dentist. But Zura's Nana, who is her favorite person in the world, looks a little different from other grandmas. Nana Akua was raised in Ghana, and, following an old West African tradition, has tribal markings on her face. Worried that her classmates will be scared of Nana--or worse, make fun of her--Zura is hesitant to bring her to school. Nana Akua knows what to do, though.

NOTABLE MENTIONS

Ellray Jake (Series) by Sally Warner, Rocket Says Look Up! by Nathan Bryon, Ramona and her Mother by Beverly Cleary, The Talented Clementine by Sara Pennypacker.

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Top Book Suggestions for 2nd Grade



NOT QUITE NARWHAL BY JESSIE SIMA

Growing up in the ocean, Kelp has always assumed that he was a narwhal like the rest of his family. Sure, he's always been a little bit different--his tusk isn't as long, he's not as good of a swimmer, and he really doesn't enjoy the cuisine. Then one night, an extra strong current sweeps Kelp to the surface, where he spots a mysterious creature that looks just like him! Kelp discovers that he and the creature are actually unicorns. The revelation leaves him torn: is he a land narwhal or a sea unicorn? But perhaps, if Kelp is clever, he may find a way to have the best of both worlds.



WHO WET MY PANTS? BY BOB SHEA



Reuben the bear's got donuts for everyone in his scout troop, but his friends are all staring at something else: there's a wet spot on Reuben's pants, and it's in a specific area. "WHO WET MY PANTS?" he shouts, and a blame game starts. His buddies try to reassure him there was no crime. Just an accident. It could happen to anyone. But as all the clues begin to point in Reuben's own direction as the culprit, Reuben must come to terms with the truth.

Who Wet My Pants? isn't a potty-training book. It's a witty and wise story about embarrassment and anger, empathy and acceptance, and ultimately...forgiveness.



ALFIE UND DER CLOWNFISCH BY DAVINA BELL

Der kleine Alfie möchte zu gerne zur Verkleidungsparty in der Schule gehen, sein Kostüm - ein Seestern - liegt schon bereit. Doch kurz davor verlässt ihn der Mut - er ist einfach zu schüchtern. Seine Mutter geht stattdessen mit ihm ins Aquarium, wo Alfie staunend vor der großen Glasscheibe steht und einen Clownfisch beobachtet, der sich kurz zeigt und dann gleich wieder zwischen den Korallen versteckt. »Manchmal müssen Clownfische sich einfach verstecken. So sind sie einfach«, sagt Alfies Mutter. »Menschen auch«, sagt Alfie.



YOUR NAME IS A SONG BY



Roll call can be difficult for a child with an unusual name. A young girl describes how her name "got stuck" in her teacher's mouth and kids "pretended to choke" or "seemed afraid" while hearing it or attempting to pronounce it. As they walk home, Mom reminds her that her "name is a song" and many other names are as well: "Olumide is a melody...Mamadou is a beat." She also imparts a lesson about descendants of enslaved Africans in the U.S.: "Their real names were stolen long ago so they dream up new ones." When the girl returns to school, she sings the names of her teacher and classmates, then her own name: Kora-Jalimuso.



THE CARDBOARD KINGDOM BY CHAD SELL

Vijay, the Beast, renounces his title after being bullied by neighborhood kids. No one—not his big sister Shikha or his friends—can seem to draw him back out of his shell. That very night is when it starts. At first, no one believes Nate, who breaks his leg trying to pursue what he saw from his bedroom window. But then there's another, and another. An unknown monster has been spotted roaming the Kingdom after dark. It's ghastly, it's quick, and it might even have giant tentacles. Or claws. Or wings. Okay, there might be some varied testimonies on what exactly this monster looks like. Forget Halloween—the newly minted Monster Mashers will go to any lengths to protect the Kingdom and uncover this mystery.



BIG BRIGHT FEELINGS (SERIES) BY TOM PERCIVAL



Meesha loves making things, but she finds it hard to make friends. Meesha doesn't know quite what to do, what to say, or when to say it, and she struggles reading and responding to social cues. But one day, she discovers that she has a special talent that will help her navigate challenging social situations and make friends.

A warm and affectionate look at the joys and difficulties of making and keeping friends, relating to others, and finding your place in the world, Meesha Makes Friends is an empowering and resonant new title in the Big Bright Feelings series.



OHNE DICH, DAS GEHT DOCH NICHT! BY SMRITI HALLS

Bär und Eichhörnchen sind die allerbesten Freunde. Und beste Freunde machen alles zusammen. Oder etwa nicht? Plötzlich hat Eichhörnchen die Nase gestrichen voll. Und Bär ist eingeschnappt. Oh je, das ist doch alles nicht so einfach ... Aber beste Freunde - die schaffen das!

NOTABLE MENTIONS

Swimmy by Leo Lionni, Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant, Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor, The Amazing Trail of Seymour Snail by Lynn E. Hazen.

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Top Book Suggestions for 1st Grade



DIE STREIT HORNCHEN BY RACHEL BRIGHT

Ganz oben am Baum hängt der letzte Tannenzapfen des Jahres – den muss Eichhörnchen Lenni unbedingt haben! Denn leider hat er versäumt, einen Vorrat für den Winter anzulegen, und nun ist sein Lager ganz und gar leer. Allerdings hat auch Eichhörnchen Finn es auf den allerletzten Zapfen abgesehen. Und schon stecken die beiden in einem wahnwitzigen Wettstreit. Denn der Tannenzapfen kann nur einem von ihnen gehören – oder?



A BIG MOONCAKE FOR LITTLE STAR BY GRACE LIN



Pat, pat, pat...

Little Star's soft feet tiptoed to the Big Mooncake.

Little Star loves the delicious Mooncake that she bakes with her mama. But she's not supposed to eat any yet! What happens when she can't resist a nibble? A gorgeous picture book that tells a whimsical origin story of the phases of the moon.



DIE KLEINE MOTTE BY EVA DAX

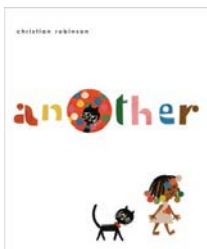


Die staubige, kleine Motte hat nur einen einzigen Wunsch: sie möchte ein Schmetterling sein! Dafür erscheint ihr keine Anstrengung zu groß. Sie bemalt ihre Flügel mit bunten Mustern, saugt ekligen Blütennektar und trainiert hart für einen eleganten Flugstil. Ja, sie verzichtet sogar auf die nächtlichen Ausflüge, wie sie Motten so lieben, um tagsüber fit wie ein Schmetterling zu sein! Auf Dauer ist das ganz schön anstrengend. Erst als all ihre Versuche scheitern, und sie – zutiefst deprimiert – eine Fledermaus trifft, gerät sie ins Grübeln: denn die Fledermaus wäre nichts lieber als eine Blaumeise ...



ZITRONEN KIND BY NELE BRÖNNNER

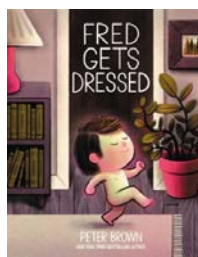
Die Zitronen am Baum sind reif und alle bester Laune. Nur das eine Zitronenkind Toni bleibt grün. Es hat seinen eigenen Kopf. Die Sicht vom Zitronenbaum aus genügt Toni. Wer will schon in die Welt hinaus? Aber dann hängt er ganz allein am Baum. Wird Toni den Sprung wagen? Ja, er tut es, und sein Mut wird belohnt.



ANOTHER BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

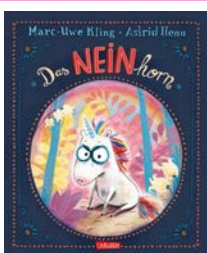


A small black cat wearing a red collar and an African American girl with colorful baubles in her hair take a peek into another dimension. The cat first notices a white oval that suddenly appears in the child's bedroom as she sleeps. In that oval is an image of an identical black cat wearing a blue collar that enters the girl's room and snaps up a toy mouse lying on the bedroom rug. The child wakes in time to see her pet follow its almost duplicate into the oval, and she, in turn, follows and immediately falls into a black hole, emerging in a topsy-turvy world where things are similar, but not exactly the same, as in her world.



FRED GETS DRESSED BY PETER BROWN

Fred is a little white boy with brown hair, an electric glow to his hot pink aura, and an undeniable joie de vivre. One way he expresses the latter is by cavorting in the nude. Smiling, he streaks across the living room as his parents read on the sofa. Brown's no slouch when it comes to letting loose (Mr. Tiger Goes Wild, 2013), but this story takes an interesting turn—into Fred's parents' closet. Of his own volition, Fred wanders in and looks over his dad's side of the closet (boring) and then his mom's (much more exciting), ultimately trying on one outfit from each. When Fred's happily wearing his mom's pink blouse as a dress and exploring his makeup and jewelry options, his parents walk in.



DAS NEINHORN BY MARC-UWE KLING

Im Herzwald kommt ein kleines, schnickeldischnuckeliges Einhorn zur Welt. Aber obwohl alle ganz lilalieb zu ihm sind und es ständig mit gezuckertem Glücksklee füttern, benimmt sich das Tierchen ganz und gar nicht einhornmäßig. Es sagt einfach immer Nein, sodass seine Familie es bald nur noch NEINHorn nennt. Eines Tages bricht das NEINHorn aus seiner Zuckerwattewelt aus. Es trifft einen Waschbären, der nicht zuhört, einen Hund, dem alles schnuppe ist, und eine Prinzessin, die immer Widerworte gibt. Die vier sind ein ziemlich gutes Team. Denn sogar bockig sein macht zusammen viel mehr Spaß!

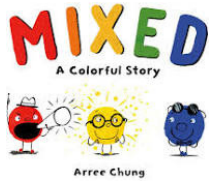
NOTABLE MENTIONS

The Adventures of Beekle by Dan Santat, Ella the Elegant Elephant by Carmelo D'Amico, The Pout-Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen.

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Top Book Suggestions for Pre-School

MIXED: A COLORFUL STORY BY AREE CHUNG



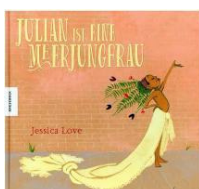
In the beginning, there were three colors. Reds, Yellows, and Blues.

All special in their own ways, all living in harmony -- until one day, a Red says "Reds are the best" and starts a color kerfuffle. When the colors decide to separate, is there anything that can change their minds?

A Yellow, a Blue, and a never-before-seen color might just save the day in this inspiring book about color, tolerance, and embracing differences.



JULIAN IST EINE MEERJUNGFRAU BY JESSICA LOVE



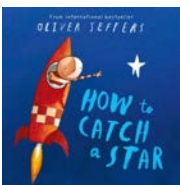
Julian liebt Meerjungfrauen – er wäre am liebsten selbst eine. Als er auf der Heimfahrt in der U-Bahn drei als Meerjungfrauen verkleidete Frauen mit farbenfroh aufgetürmten Haaren und schillernden Fischechwänzen sieht, ist der Junge völlig hingerissen. Auch zu Hause kann er an nichts anderes denken und verkleidet sich mit einem gelben Vorhang und Farnblättern selbst als Nixe. Und zum Glück hat er eine Großmutter, die ihn genauso akzeptiert, wie er ist!

WOLKENBROT BY BAEK HEE NA



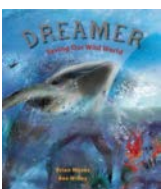
"Wir ahnten, dass heute etwas ganz Besonderes passieren würde." Ein Regentag, eine eingesammelte Wolke, zwei Geschwister und die Gewissheit, dass manchmal in Dingen mehr steckt, als man denkt. Das preisgekrönte Bilderbuch der koreanischen Illustratorin Baek Hee Na erzählt eine poetische Geschichte, die Kinder und Eltern gleichermaßen entzückt. Für die Bilder baute Baek Hee Na Modelle, die dann von Kim Hyang Soo abfotografiert wurden. Die so entstandenen Collagen lassen eine fantastische und dennoch greifbare Welt entstehen, die mit ihrer außergewöhnlichen Bildästhetik die kindliche Fantasie beflügelt.

HOW TO CATCH A STAR BY OLIVER JEFFERS



Once there was a boy, and that boy loved stars very much. So much so that he decided to catch one of his very own. But how? Waiting for them to grow tired from being up in the sky all night doesn't work. Climbing to the top of the tallest tree? No, not tall enough. The boy has a rocket ship . . . but it is made of paper and doesn't fly well at all. Finally, just when the boy is ready to give up, he learns that sometimes things aren't where, or what, we expect them to be.

DREAMER BY BRIAN MOSES



Once I had a dream, a special dream, a dream about our world." So begins a young boy's night of dream visits to regions around the world where animals and habitats are threatened or spoiled by human activity. I dreamt I was a whale...and no hunters/chased after me." Sometimes the boy is an animal—a seal, an elephant, a panda. At other times, he dreams of the earth itself. "I dreamt I was a lake.../and no one filled me/with junk."

AVOCADO ASKS BY MOMOKO ABE



Avocado is feeling just fine in the produce section at the supermarket until a young customer asks a difficult question: "Is an avocado a fruit or a vegetable?" Avocado doesn't know the answer either, and the question won't seem to go away! Soon, avocado is in the midst of a full-on identity crisis. Laugh along as Avocado hunts for answers in each aisle of the grocery store, chatting with fish, cans of beans, sausages, and finally a tomato, who confides to Avocado that he doesn't know what HE is either, adding "And. I. Don't. Care."

VELLIECHT BY KOBI YAMADA



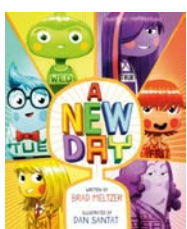
Diese Geschichte möchte dir zeigen, wie viele Begabungen in dir schlummern. Lerne dich kennen, träume und lass dich von dir und dem Leben überraschen. Vielleicht, ja vielleicht, wirst du deine kühnsten Träume übertreffen ...

NOTABLE MENTIONS

I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont, Alex and Lulu by Lorena Siminovic, Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers, The Spiffiest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson.

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Top Book Suggestions for Kindergarten



A NEW DAY BY BRADLEY MELTZER



To the consternation of the other six days of the week, Sunday quits in protest, tired of being unappreciated for her consistent delivery of a weekly “beautiful free day.” Sunday’s abrupt decision prompts the others to look for her replacement with an advertisement inviting auditions before the remaining six days. The competition quickly grows increasingly fierce as ideas are broached for DogDay, Big-BurpDay, PieDay, Band-AidDay, and, ridiculously, FirepoleSlidingIntoPoolsOfCottonCandyDay. Amid all this boisterous and frenzied rivalry, a little girl approaches the misunderstood Sunday with a small plant to say thank you and to suggest “simply a nice day.”



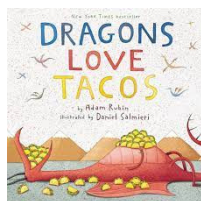
SUPERKAUZ BY SEAN TAYLOR

Superkauz ist kein gewöhnlicher Kauz: Kometengleich saust er durch die kalte, schwarze Nacht, er hat Grips, und vor allem kann er sich – darauf ist er stolz – supergut verkleiden. So ist keine Beute vor ihm sicher! Erspäht er ein leckeres Kaninchen, verkleidet er sich zum Beispiel als Karotte. Klappt nicht, macht ihm aber gar nichts! Denn Superkauz hat schon ein neues Opfer im Visier: eine köstliche Taube. Trotz raffinierter Verkleidung (als, nun ja, Vogeltränke) funktioniert es wieder nicht.



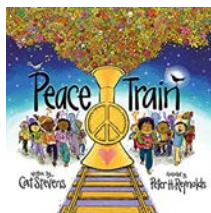
DAS EI BY ERIC BATTUT

Drei schwarze Ameisen finden auf dem Heimweg ein schönes frisches Ei. Gleichzeitig kommen drei rote Ameisen, auch sie möchten es gerne haben. Eine Parabel darüber, dass alles besser geht, wenn man sich verbündet.



DRAGON LOVES TACOS BY ADAM RUBIN

Dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos, and teeny tiny tacos. So if you want to lure a bunch of dragons to your party, you should definitely serve tacos. Buckets and buckets of tacos. Unfortunately, where there are tacos, there is also salsa. And if a dragon accidentally eats spicy salsa . . . oh, boy. You're in red-hot trouble.



PEACE TRAIN BY CAT STEVENS

Readers are invited to hop on the PEACE TRAIN and join its growing group of passengers who are all ready to unite the world in peace and harmony.

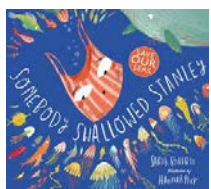
Featuring the timeless lyrics of Cat Stevens’s legendary song and illustrations by New York Times bestselling artist Peter H. Reynolds, this hopeful picture book inspires tolerance and love for people of all cultures and identities.



HÄSCHEN TRÖSTET BY CORI DOERRFELD



Charlie baut einen Turm aus Bauklötzen, doch plötzlich stürzt er ein! Oh weh! Ein Freund nach dem anderen probiert das Kind aufzumuntern, doch nichts hilft. Bis ein kleiner Hase auftaucht und sich still dazu setzt – und Charlie all die Gedanken und Gefühle ordnen kann...



SOMEBODY SWALLOWED STANLEY BY SARAH ROBERTS



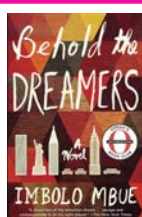
“Plastic bags don’t belong in the sea!” Everybody has a taste for Stanley, but he is no ordinary jellyfish. Most jellyfish have dangly-gangly tentacles, but Stanley has two handles... Other jellyfish have a magical glow, but Stanley has stripes... A powerful message about plastic pollution from environmental expert Sarah Roberts.

NOTABLE MENTIONS

The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers, Crankenstein by Samantha Berger, Good Night World by Willa Perlman, The Crocodile and the Dentist by Taro Gomi.

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BEHOLD THE DREAMERS BY IMBOLO MBUE

Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the United States to provide a better life for himself, his wife, Neni, and their six-year-old son. In the fall of 2007, Jende can hardly believe his luck when he lands a job as a chauffeur for Clark Edwards, a senior executive at Lehman Brothers. Clark demands punctuality, discretion, and loyalty—and Jende is eager to please. Clark's wife, Cindy, even offers Neni temporary work at the Edwardses' summer home in the Hamptons. With these opportunities, Jende and Neni can at last gain a foothold in America and imagine a brighter future.

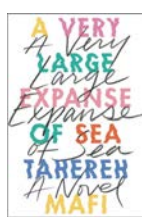
However, the world of great power and privilege conceals troubling secrets, and soon Jende and Neni notice cracks in their employers' façades.

When the financial world is rocked by the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Jongas are desperate to keep Jende's job—even as their marriage threatens to fall apart. As all four lives are dramatically upended, Jende and Neni are forced to make an impossible choice.



CRYING IN H-MART BY MICHELLE ZAUNER

This is a memoir about growing up Korean American, losing her mother, and forging her own identity. In this story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up the only Asian American kid at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food. As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band--and meeting the man who would become her husband--her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal pancreatic cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.



A VERY LARGE EXPANSE OF SEA BY TAHEREH MAFI

It's 2002, a year after 9/11. It's an extremely turbulent time politically, but especially so for someone like Shirin, a sixteen-year-old Muslim girl who's tired of being stereotyped.

Shirin is never surprised by how horrible people can be. She's tired of the rude stares, the degrading comments - even the physical violence - she endures as a result of her race, her religion, and the hijab she wears every day. So she's built up protective walls and refuses to let anyone close enough to hurt her. Instead, she drowns her frustrations in music and spends her afternoons break-dancing with her brother.

But then she meets Ocean James. He's the first person in forever who really seems to want to get to know Shirin. It terrifies her - they seem to come from two irreconcilable worlds - and Shirin has had her guard up for so long that she's not sure she'll ever be able to let it down.



WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING BY ALYSSA COLE

Sydney Green is Brooklyn born and raised, but her beloved neighborhood seems to change every time she blinks. Condos are sprouting like weeds, FOR SALE signs are popping up overnight, and the neighbors she's known all her life are disappearing. To hold onto her community's past and present, Sydney channels her frustration into a walking tour and finds an unlikely and unwanted assistant in one of the new arrivals to the block--her neighbor Theo.

But Sydney and Theo's deep dive into history quickly becomes a dizzying descent into paranoia and fear. Their neighbors may not have moved to the suburbs after all, and the push to revitalize the community may be more deadly than advertised.

When does coincidence become conspiracy? Where do people go when gentrification pushes them out? Can Sydney and Theo trust each other--or themselves--long enough to find out before they too disappear?

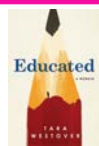


THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY BY MATT HAIG

Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be if you had made other choices . . . Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?

A dazzling novel about all the choices that go into a life well lived, from the internationally bestselling author of Reasons to Stay Alive and How To Stop Time.

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?



EDUCATED BY TARA WESTOVER

Tara Westover was 17 the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her "head-for-the-hills bag". In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. Her father forbade hospitals, so Tara never saw a doctor or nurse. Gashes and concussions, even burns from explosions, were all treated at home with herbalism. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. Then, lacking any formal education, Tara began to educate herself. She taught herself enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University, where she studied history, learning for the first time about important world events like the Holocaust and the civil rights movement. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home.



KLARA AND THE SUN BY KAZUO ISHIGURO

Klara and the Sun, the first novel by Kazuo Ishiguro since he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, tells the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her.

Klara and the Sun is a thrilling book that offers a look at our changing world through the eyes of an unforgettable narrator, and one that explores the fundamental question: What does it mean to love?

NOTABLE MENTIONS

With *The Fire On High* by Elizabeth Acevedo, *Cultish* by Amanda Montell, *They Both Die At The End* by Adam Silvera, *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi.

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