

SPORTS; NOVEL IN VERSE Booked by Kwame Alexander

In Booked, soccer, family, love, and friendship take center stage. Twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Helping him along are his best friend Coby, and The Mac, a rapping librarian who gives Nick inspiring books to read.

REALISTIC FICTION The Secret Battle of Evan Pao by Wendy Wan-Long Shang

A fresh start. That's all Evan Pao wants as he, along with his mother and sister, move from California to Haddington, Virginia. But Haddington is a southern town steeped in tradition, and moving to a town immersed in the past has its own price. Although Evan quickly makes friends, one boy, Brady Griggs, seems determined to make sure that as a Chinese American, Evan feels that he does not belong. When Evan finds a unique way to make himself part of the school's annual Civil War celebration, the reaction is swift and violent. As all of his choices at home and at school collide, Evan must decide whether he will react with the same cruelty shown to him, or choose a different path.

FANTASY The Selkie's Daughter by Linda Crotta Brennan

Brigit knows all the old fisherman songs and legends by heart: sea goddess, warriors, and people who are not quite human. But Brigit also knows the truth. It's evident in the webbing between her fingers. She's the daughter of a selkie, and she must keep that a secret from everyone. But there is another secret growing in the Canadian village where she lives. To protect those she loves, Brigit must find a way to Sule Skerrie, the land of selkies, to confront the Great Selkie and bring the truth—all of it—into the light.

HISTORICAL FICTION Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk

Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar. One night a mysterious fire appears across the water, and an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.

GRAPHIC NOVEL Just Roll With It by Veronica Agarwal and Lee Durfey Lavoie

Maggie just wants to get through her first year of middle school. But between finding the best after-school clubs, trying to make friends, and avoiding the rumored monster on school grounds, she's having a tough time...so she might need a little help from her twenty-sided dice. But what happens if Maggie rolls the wrong number? A touching middle-grade graphic novel that explores the complexity of anxiety, OCD, and learning to trust yourself.

SHORT STORY COLLECTION A Little Bit Super: With Small Powers Come Big Problems

Big Problems by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, Remy Lai, Meg Medina, Daniel Nayeri, Linda Sue Park, Ibi Zoboi & others

The kids in these humorous short stories each have a minor superpower they're learning to live with. One can shape-shift—but only part of her body, and only on Mondays. Another can hear the thoughts of the animals in the pet store. In these stories, each super kid learns to "own" a power that contributes to their individuality, allows them to find their place in the world, and shows them a potential they might not have imagined.