

Back to School Build Your Stacks: New and Notable Books to Engage Learners in Your Literacy Classroom (Grades 4-12)

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Picture Books for All Literacy Learners:

Barnett, M. (2022). *John's turn*. (K. Berube, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. John is ready for Sharing Gifts time at school, but isn't quite sure how his classmates will receive his "gift", but he knows that there is only one way to find out...take the stage.

Branam, L. (2021). *Monday*. (K. Barry, Illus.) Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press. Monday knows that he isn't anyone's favorite day of the week, so he sets out to find out to learn what it is that makes him special, just like all the other days.

Briseno, S. (2022). *The notebook keeper: A story of kindness from the border*.

(M. Mora, Illus.). New York, NY: Random House Studio. (pub: 6/28/22)

Noemi and Mama have fled their home in Mexico and find themselves at the US border eager to gain entrance into the US. There they find the "Notebook Keeper" – the person who records those who are waiting to cross. When the Notebook Keeper's number is called, she then looks for someone to take her place – to show kindness to those who are waiting and Noemi and her mother are chosen.

Chanani, N. (2021). *What will my story be?* New York, NY: Viking.

After listening to stories from her aunties about what their achievements, a young girl dreams of all the things that she can achieve if she just puts her mind to it!

Chen, E. (2022). *I am golden*. (S. Diao, Illus.). New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends.

A lyrical text that celebrates the immigration experience and the joy that found in Chinese American children throughout our country.

Davis, D. (2022). *to make*. (M. DeRoma, Illus.). New York, NY: Katherine Tegen Books.

To make – anything from a cake to a story – you gather, make, then wait. Sometimes the waiting can be the hardest part, but to make anything, it will take time. But when you make and wait, you can make wonderful things!

Donovan, M. L. (2022). *A hundred thousand welcomes*. (L. Cho, Illus.). New York, NY: Greenwillow.

There are thousands of ways to make someone feel welcome. Those ways represent almost as many people and languages there are on our planet. Making someone feel welcome is an important first step in making a new connection and even a new friend.

Erskine, K. (2021). *All of us*. (A. Boiger, Illus.). New York, NY: Philomel.

The whole world is a community is made up of individuals who are more similar than we are different. "Me can be We. YOU can come too."

Fan Brothers. (2022). *Lizzy and the cloud*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.

Lizzy finds the perfect pet...a cloud named Milo and he is just the right size. She cares for him just the way you would expect, she waters him and takes him for walks every day. But what happens when Milo gets too big for Lizzy to handle?

Fay, S. (2021). *The very true legend of the Mongolian death worms*. New York, NY: Henry Holt.

Scientists have searched the Gobi Desert for Giant Worms known as the Mongolian Death Worms...their skin is blood red, their fangs razor sharp, but are they real? Meet the Death Worm family: Beverly, Trevor, Neville and Kevin. They trying "make nice" but aren't having much luck. But, when disaster strikes, it's the Death Worm family to the rescue!

Fleming, M. (2022). *Wondering around*. (R. Jones, Illus.). New York, NY: Beach Lane.

Nature has a way of making all of us curious. From wondering about footprints on the sand, to wandering on a forest path, these can all be wonderful opportunities to stop and wonder about the world around us.

Fong, P. (2022). *Once upon a forest*. New York, NY: Random House Studio.

After a forest fire, a marmot and a bird friend decided to clean up their beloved home on their own. After cleaning up, they plant, and care for small trees until the trees can survive on their own.

Gianferrari, M. (2022). *Being a dog: A tail of mindfulness*. New York, NY: Harper.

A child and their dog enjoy the day from waiting up to falling asleep while experiencing mindful moments together, including barking, sniffing, and wagging.

Gilbert, L. (2021). *The perfect plan*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Children's Books.

Maya is planning on building a special fort where she can go to read, dream, and play. She creates a draft of a plan, gathers materials, but when she gets to the forest realizes that

she needs help. Luckily, her forest friends are there to help. But will her fort plans end up the way that she hoped or will she need to revise them just like great planners do?

Ho, J. (2022). *Eyes that speak to the stars*. (D. Ho, Illus.). New York, NY: Harper.
In the companion book to *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners*, a boy recognizes his own ability to change the future after an experience when a friend at school draws a hurtful drawing of him. As his family comforts him, he recognizes that his eyes are like those that came before (and after) him and hold great visions.

Hopkinson, D. (2021). *The story of a story*. (H. Hadley, Illus.). New York, NY: Neal Porter Books.

When you are writing a story, you may often find the process overwhelming, but remember that the world needs to hear your stories!

Johannes. S. (2021). *Theo Thesaurus: The dinosaur who loved big words*. (M. Moran, Illus.). New York, NY: Philomel.

Theo loves words and the bigger the better! He wants to share his big words with his new classmates, even if they don't quite understand him. But then after a few unexpected trip, based on a few unexpected misinterpretations, his friends help him understand that there are some things are a few things more important than big words!

Kendi, I. (2022). *Goodnight racism*. (C. Bayoc, Illus.). New York, NY: Kokila.

Bedtime is a special time for children all over the world. As the moon watches over them preparing for sleep, it also helps them prepare for dreaming. Dreaming gives them a chance to dream for a better world where things are fair, equality exists and racism has no place in anyone's life.

LaRocca, R. (2022). *I'll go and come back*. (S. Palacios, Illus.) Sommerville, MA: Candlewick.

Although there are many differences between her home in America and Sita Pati's home in India, Jyoti loved spending time with her there. When it came time for her to leave, they say "I'll go and come back." The next summer, they are reunited when Pati visit Jyoti in America making the same special memories as they spend time together again.

Larsen, R. & Gibson, B. (2021). *Uma Wimple charts her house*. New York, NY: Anne Schwartz Books.

Uma loves to make charts of everything, but when her teacher asks her to make a chart of her house, she faces a challenge. There are so many ways that she can show the appearance of her house. It isn't until she becomes upset and her brother Luke comforts her that she realizes what is really important about home.

Lloyd-Jones, S. (2021). *Tiny Cedric*. (R. Watkins). New York, NY: Anne Schwartz Books. Tiny Cedric is a king who does not like being small! So he decides to banish anyone who is bigger than he is...who he later realizes is almost everyone! Except for babies. Now he finds that babies are in charge of all the royal duties of his kingdom and things are a bit chaotic and not what he expected! Will all this chaos change his perspective?

Ludwig, T. (2022). *Brave every day*. (P. Barton, Illus.). New York, NY: Knopf.
(pub: 6/28/22)

Camila hides when she worries and those worries have been coming more often now that her teacher has announced a field trip to the aquarium. But when a classmate asks her for help with his own worries, Camila realizes that she might be stronger than she realizes.

McKibben, B. (2022). *We are better together*. (S. Lewis, Illus.). New York, NY: Godwin.

When we work together, we can do great things. It allows us to share the responsibility to make our world a better place and protect our planet.

Medina, J. (2022). *I am! A book of reminders*. New York, NY: Versify.

I am! reminds the reader all the wonderful things that they can do and all the qualities that they have. A wonderful companion book to *I will!*

Medina, J. (2021). *I will! A book of promises*. New York, NY: Versify.

I will! Encourages the reader to make promises to themselves and to others to make the world a better place. A wonderful companion book to *I am!*

Miller, P. Z. (2022). *When I'm with you*. (E. Wheeler, Illus.). New York, NY: Little, Brown & Company.

A celebration of the relationships that we have with the special people who become our best friends. Sharing favorites — foods, colors, and songs are just some of the ways that we build a bond and share happiness that can last for many years.

Miller, P. Z. (2022). *In our garden*. (B. Crowton, Illus.). New York, NY: G. P. Putnam's Sons Books.

Millie has is new in town and misses her faraway home greatly, but what she misses most is the garden where her family used to grow food. One day she suggests to her classmates that they start their own garden and they do!

Petty, D. (2022). *Don't eat bees (Life lessons from Chip the Dog)*.

(M. Boldt, Illus.). New York, NY; Doubleday Books for Young Readers.

Chip the Dog is ready to share his wisdom to live life. After all, he is seven years old and he knows things! From what to eat and what not to eat...but be careful, sometimes he does get those mixed up!?!

Redniss, L. (2022). *Time capsule*. New York, NY: Make Me A World.

A young child gathers items from her everyday life, seals them in a jar, and buries them in the ground. Her time capsule becomes a gift from the present day to the future that tells a story about the past.

Sala, L. P. (2022). *We belong*. (C. Aguilera, Illus.). Minneapolis, MN:

Carolrhoda Books.

A celebration of community and those who are part of it. Creating a place where all are invited in, included, and celebrated is the goal of communities everywhere. This text shows and celebrates belonging for everyone, everywhere.

Schu, J. (2022). *This is a school*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

A school is more than just the building that bears its name. It is all the people who who and learn there everyday. It is a place for reading, wondering, and exploring. It is a place where community happens. It is a school.

Schulte, A. (2021). *Dancing with Daddy*. (Z. Chen, Illus.). New York, NY: Two Lions.

Elsie can't wait to go to the Daddy-Daughter Dance. She has been practicing spinning, swirling, and swaying in her wheelchair. She even has the perfect dress. When the big day comes, it looks like a bit winter storm will put an end to her dream. But, with a little help from her family, friends, and those her love her, her dream might just come true!

Simon, J. (2022). *Most perfect you*. (T. Anthony, Illus.). New York, NY:

Random House.

Irie compares herself to other girls and feels herself lacking. When she confides in her mother, her mother tells her the story of how she was wonderfully made of all of her mother's favorite things: sparkling eyes, bright smile, and a kind heart.

Stein, D. (2022). *Don't worry, Murray*. New York, NY: Balzer & Bray.

Murray worries about many things, from going out in the rain to other dogs barking at him to the sound of fireworks. But he learns that he can put on a raincoat, make friends with some of the barking dogs, and learn to be brave.

Talbott, H. (2021). *A walk in the words*. New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books.
Hudson loves words and drawing, but when those words are put into sentences as he begins to read, things definitely become much more challenging. Hudson fell behind and he became lost in the world of words. But his love for stories saved him as he realized that taking his time and learning to read at his own pace would help him find his own way!

Thompkins-Bigelow, J. (2022). *Abdul's story*. (T. Rose, Illus.). New York, NY: Salaam Reads.

Abdul loves to tell stories, but writing them down is hard for him. He decides that he isn't a writer, until a special visitor comes to his class room and shows him that ALL writer struggle. By doing this, he helps Abdul celebrate his story and realize that he IS a writer!

Thurman, B. (2022). *Fly*. (A. Cunha, Illus.). New York, NY: Atheneum.

Africa wants to compete in a double Dutch jump rope competition, but she has never done it before. She has some skills, but wonders if, with the help of family and friends, she has what it takes to become a double Dutch champion!

Tokuda-Hall, M. (2021). *Love in the library*. (Y. Imamura, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

After Pearl Harbor, Tama and many other Japanese Americans were sent to live in a War Relocation Center in the desert. Feeling like a criminal for being born Japanese, Tama finds peace in the camp's library. There she meets George who arrives every day with his arms filled with books. She wonders if he loves to read so much or is he there for some other reason?

Wang, A. (2022). *Luli and the language of tea*. (H. Yum, Illus.). New York, NY: Neal Porter Books.

When Luli comes into her classroom, it's quiet until she brings out her teapot and invites her classmates to tea. Each student share what the word "tea" is in their native language and comes to the table to share in the tradition. As they share a cup of tea and a cookie, they also begin to share conversation, and all of a sudden, the classroom isn't so quiet anymore!

Woodson, J. (2022). *The year we learned to fly*. (R. Lopez, Illus.). New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books.

A brother and sister hear their grandmother's advice: "Use those beautiful and brilliant minds of yours. Lift your arms, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and believe in a thing." This skill takes them back to the days before they were born when their ancestors shoed the world their strength and resilience. The children learn that this lesson will carry them through many challenges that they will face in their daily lives giving them the power to help make the world a better place.

Woodson, J. (2022). *The world belonged to us*. (L. Espinosa, Illus.). New York, NY: Nancy Paulsen Books.

It's summertime in the city and school is over! The kids on one Brooklyn block begin their rituals that take advantage of every moment that summer has to offer. From sunrise to sunset, they play double Dutch, tag, build forts, chase ice cream truck, but most of all, build enduring friendships. All while understanding that you can do it all over again...tomorrow!

Yoon, H. (2021). *Sheepish (Wolf under cover)*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

Wolf loves to eat sheep and can't wait for his next meal! He is so clever that he dresses up and moves in with the local sheep herd, virtually going unnoticed. He becomes such a part of the flock, that he begins to find the idea of a "sheep sandwich" a little less tasty!?!

Young, K. (2022). *Emile and the field*. (C. Ebinama, Illus.). New York, NY: Make Me a World.

Emile loves the field that is next to his house. He enjoys it in the spring, summer, and the fall, as it changes with the seasons. But he struggles in the winter, when he has to share it with other children..and their sleds...as they "mess" up what he has enjoyed so much!

Informational Books for Curious Learners:

Agostini, A. (2022). *The Juneteenth story: Celebrating the end of slavery in the United States*. (S. Cloud, Illus.). Bellevue, WA:becker&mayer! kids.

The first Juneteenth was known as "Jubilee Day" were families celebrated the news of their freedom from slavery, more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Jubilee Day celebration begin in Texas and as families moved to other parts of the country, so did this celebration and its traditions.

Armstrong, N. (2021). *Bok's giant leap: One moon rock's journey through time and space*. (G. Baker Smith, Illus.). New York, NY: Crown Books for Young Readers.

Bok is a very special moon rock who sees both the history of earth and the moon. As he observes both of these unique places, he sees them develop over time. One day, a stranger comes and bring him (and his stories) to Earth.

Baptiste, T. (2022). *Because Claudette*. (T. Engel, Illus.). New York, NY: Dial.

Claudette Colvin was learning about abolitionists, like Harriet Tubman in school, when she boarded a segregated bus in 1955, she had no idea that she was about to make history when she refused to give up her seat to a white woman. Later, Rosa Parks and others would inspire the Montgomery bus boycott which would influence the Supreme Court decision that Alabama bus segregation was unconstitutional.

Bellows, M. (2022). *Totally random questions: 101 wild and weird q & a*. (Volume 1 & 2). New York, NY: Random House.

A collection of questions and answers that will amaze readers with surprising facts to open the world a bit wider to anyone who picks up these books!!

Bharara, P. (2022). *Justice is...: A guide for young truth seekers*.

(S. Cornelison, Illus.). New York, NY: Crown Books for Young Readers.

A collection of historic justice seekers from Ida B. Wells to John Lewis demonstrate the attributes of asking questions, keeping an open mind, defending the truth, and using their voices to speak up for what is right. As young readers learn these attributes, young readers learn to fight for justice in their own lives and as they grow, create a better world.

Boxer, E. (2022). *One turtle's last straw: The real-life rescue that sparked a sea change*. (M. Alvarez Miguens, Illus.). New York, NY: Crown Books.

Scientists rescue an endangered sea turtle off the coast of Costa Rica. As they begin to study him, they discover something stuck something in his nose — a plastic straw!! Reminding us that even ONE plastic straw can cause damage to a living, endangered creature and a small change in our daily routine can make a BIG difference!

Clinton, C. (2022). *She persisted in science*. (A. Boiger, Illus.). New York, NY: Philomel.

Women were not welcomed into the field of science. They were told that they weren't smart enough and weren't able to handle the work involved in it. Meet women who refused to believe this false narrative and who persisted. Their skills allowed them to discover, invent, create, and explain.

Creek, PJ & J. (2021). *We the people and the President: An infographic look at the American presidency*. New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press.

An engaging look through infographics at the American presidency. From who the presidents were to how they are elected, readers learn about the presidents and how that information can be shared through engaging infographics.

Diggs, T. (2021). *Why?* (S. Evans, Illus.). New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends.

Why? Begins an important conversation between children of color and their parents, but one that all families should be having as children everywhere are wondering about what is happening in the world around them. *Why?* is the question that begins the conversation that starts the change that can bring peace to a tumultuous world.

Duster, M. (2022). *Ida B. Wells, voice of truth*. (L. Freeman, Illus.). New York, NY: Henry Holt.

Besides being an educator, journalist, and civil right activist, Ida B. Wells was a founder of the NAACP which was (and continues to be) a leading organization to help Black people. She used her voice to speak up against racism and sexism becoming a role model for many.

Emberley, M. (2021). *The message: The extraordinary journey of an ordinary text message*. New York, NY: Atheneum.

A text message goes on a remarkable journey to get from your brain to its final destination. Follow it from its inception to its reception, as it travels the air, ground, water, mountains in only seconds for your message to get to where it was going.

Fishman, S. (2022). *Up your nose: A world of germs is all around – and inside of you!* (I. Greenberg, Illus.). New York, NY: Greenwillow.

Do you ever wonder about the germs that are inside your nose? There are actually quadrillions of germs inside your nose, in addition to the billions of germs that are in the room around you. Learn about the five types of germs – bacteria, viruses, protozoa, fungi, and helminths and the human immune system that protect us from them.

Fleming, C. (2022). *The tide pool waits*. (A. Hevron, Illus.). New York, NY: Neal Porter Books.

Two times a day...every day. That's when the tide goes in and out. Creating an amazing world that is revealed in the tide pools that exist along the Pacific Coast filled with creatures and other living things that often go unnoticed unless you take the time to look closely for them.

Hannah-Jones, N. & Watson, R. (2021). *The 1619 Project: Born on the water*. New York, NY: Kokila.

A young girl receives an assignment to write about where her ancestors came from. She struggles with her family tree until her grandmother tells the story that 400 years ago in 1619, her ancestors were forcibly brought to America by white slave traders. She reminds her granddaughter that before that they had a history, a language and traditions that helped them survive when they came to this country. This is something that gives her an origin, an identity and something to be proud of.

Hannigan, K. (2022). *Blips on a screen: How Ralph Baer invented tv video gaming and launched a worldwide obsession*. (Z. O'Hora, Illus.). New York, NY: Knopf Books for Young Readers.

After returning from WW2, Ralph Baer was fascinated by television, but he wasn't satisfied by just watching it; he wanted to play with it. After a lot of tinkering and preserving, he invented the first television video game.

Heos, B. (2022). *I'm a virus*. (M. Ciccotello, Illus.). New York, NY: Crown Books for Young Readers.

How does a virus make us sick? How does it spread? What can people do to stop them? Who better to answer these questions than an actual virus? The virus that spreads the “common cold” (Rhinovirus) tells readers explains viruses, how they spread, and how we can slow the spread of viruses, even viruses, like COVID-19.

Hertz, H. (2021). *I am smoke*. (M. Lopez, Illus.). New York, NY: Tilbury House Publishers.

Smoke introduces itself to readers through riddles and illustrations—“I lack a mouth, but I can speak...I lack hands, but I can push out unwanted guests...I'm gentler than a feather, but I can cause harm...”. Showing the magic, power, and danger of smoke, readers are left with an appreciation for something that is part of our daily lives.

Hood, S. (2021). *We are one: How the world adds up*. (L. Yan, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

One can be a whole or a sum of its parts. Think about a sandwich — it can be two slices of bread or a poem — it can be three lines of text. Some many things in our world are more than they seem, if we just stop and take them time to look. When we do, we have a better understanding of things that make up our world and the world itself.

Hopkinson, D. (2022). *Only one*. (C. Groenink, Illus.). New York, NY: Anne Schwartz Books.

Join one girl as she leads her friends on an explanation of the importance of our planet Earth. She reminds us of its place in the universe and how important it is for us to care for it because it is our “only one” home.

Jenkins, S. (2021). *Disasters by the numbers: A book of infographics*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

A peek inside the world of natural disasters organized into categories: earth, weather, life, and space. Told through infographics, we see the causes and outcomes of each better understanding their impact of the world that we live in.

Letts, E. (2022). *My blue-ribbon horse: The true story of The Eighty Dollar Champion*. (K. Harren, Illus.). New York, NY: Random House.

An inspirational Cold War era story of an unlikely pair of champions, Harry De Leyer and his champion horse, Snowman. But his horse didn't have the pedigree of a champion. Snowman began as a plow horse on a farm in Long Island. Seeing something in each other that was the “stuff” of champions become the story of a legend and an inspiration to horse lovers for generations to come.

McMullan, K. (2021). *This is the tree we planted*. (A. Friend, Illus.). New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

A class plants a tree on their playground and enjoy watching it grow and flourish. But along with the tree come a variety of animals and other creatures that help them learn about an entire ecosystem that surrounds the tree that have resulted from the tree that they planted!

McAnulty, S. (2022). *Our planet! There's no place like Earth*. (D. Litchfield, Illus.). New York, NY: Henry Holt.

Earth is an amazing and awesome planet! It is also home to all the planets, animals and people in the solar system! Unfortunately, the people of earth have moved climate change along a bit faster than we should have and need a bit of help slowing it down, but we can do that if we all pitch in to do the work together!

Michalak, J. & Florence, D. (2022) *Niki Nakayama: A chef's tale in 13 bites*. (Y. Jones, Illus.). New York, NY: Farrar Straus Giroux.

Using the structure of a kaiseki meal, Niki tells the story of becoming a chef despite those who told her that she couldn't in 13 "bites". From wonton wrapper that she used to make pizza when she was a child to yuzu-tomatillo sauce in her own restaurant, meet a girl who refused to give up on her dreams.

Miller, P. (2021). *What can you do with a rock?* (K. Kath, Illus.). Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks.

Rocks are a simple thing that you can find outside, but the things that you can do with them are endless. You can build with them, tell a story with them, and they even hold a bit of magic in them. So, go outside, go for a walk, find a few and see what you can do with a rock!

Novgorodoff, D. (2021). *Alexander von Humboldt: Explorer, naturalist, & environmental pioneer*. New York, NY: Crown.

Alexander traveled many places to observe nature. Whether he was observing plants, animals, land, sea, or people of various cultures, he looked for the connections between them rather than the differences. Because of this unique quality, he inspired many scientists and creative thinkers.

Pinkney, A. D. (2022). *Because of you, John Lewis: The true story of a remarkable friendship*. (K. Brown, Illus.). New York, NY: Scholastic Press.

Tybre Faw is so inspired by John Lewis's march across the Pettus Bridge for voting rights that he is determined to meet him. Tybre's grandmother's drive him to Selma to meet him and Lewis invites him to join him on the annual walk across the bridge. This begins a special friendship between the two that leads Tybre to his own life of activism inspired by the great John Lewis!

Rockliff, M. (2022). *Sweet justice: Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott*. (R. Gregory Christie, Illus.). New York, NY: Random House Studio.

Georgia was a cook and her fried chicken was famous. When the Montgomery Bus Boycott started, Georgia knew that she could help. When meetings were held by Dr. Martin Luther King her church, Georgia not only provided food for the volunteers, but also created meals to be sold to help raise money to help the important cause.

Rosenstock, B. (2022). *The mystery of the Monarchs: How kids, teachers, and butterfly fans helped Fred and Norah Urquhart track the Great Monarch Migration*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Fred loved insects, but his favorite was the Monarch butterfly. He wondered from the time that he was a child where the Monarchs went for the winter. When he grew up, he began tagging and tracking them. With the assistance of people from three countries, his “butterfly family” gathered information that would help him answer that question — where do the Monarchs go?

Slade, S. (2021). *June Almeida, virus detective! The woman who discovered the first human Coronavirus*. (E. Paganelli, Illus.). Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press.

June was fascinated by the connections between science and nature. While working at a lab in the local hospital, she began to understand how powerful the connection between a microscope and human cells was. While using the electron microscope, she discovered many viruses that affected humans, included the first coronavirus. Her work helps researchers today in the fight against many illnesses, including COVID-19.

Sotomayor, S. (2022). *Just help!: How to build a better world*. (A. Dominguez, Illus.). New York, NY: Philomel.

Mami asks Sonia every night, “How did you help today?” This question motivates her to find ways to help make her community a better place. Learning that small acts make a big difference, Sonia’s message inspires young activists to build a better world.

Valdez, P. (2022). *How to hear the universe: Gaby Gonzalez and the search for Einstein’s ripples in space-time*. (S. Palacios, Illus.). New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

In 1916, Albert Einstein had a theory about collisions in space creating sound waves. However, it was not a theory that he was able to prove during his lifetime. Almost 100 years later, Gaby Gonzalez, an immigrant scientist, sought to prove Einstein’s theory. Along with her team, not only followed in Einstein’s footsteps, but broke her own ground in space-time research.

Wade, J. (2022). *Nano: The spectacular science of the very (very) small.*

(M. Castrillon, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

Atoms are some of the smallest particles in matters. These materials can be manipulated to do some amazing things, like create self-washing window, make lighter airplanes, and other things that demonstrate the wonder of nano science.

Weatherford, C. B. (2021). *The faith of Elijah Cummings: The North*

Star of equal justice. (L. Freeman, Illus.). New York, NY: Random House Studio.

When Elijah was a student in school, he struggled with reading and writing. His teachers thought that he asked too many questions. All of these experiences taught him to persevere, to have faith in working hard to achieve his goals, and to never give up. All of these lessons prepared him to become an advocate for equal opportunities for all and a champion for change throughout his life.

Zoboi, I. (2021). *The people remember.* (L. Wise, Illus.). New York, NY:

Balzer & Bray.

The story of the journey African descendants through the seven principles of Kwanzaa beginning in Africa when they are first taken from their homes. However, they take with them many of their cultural traditions and memories of their homeland to help them thrive in a new land.

Novels for Expanding the Worlds of Middle Grade Readers:

Arnold, E. (2022). *Just Harriet.* New York, NY: Walden Pond Press.

Harriet has just finished third grade and will be spending summer vacation away from her parents at a bed and breakfast owned by her Nanu. When she arrives on Marble Island, she learns that it is full of secrets and mysteries. One of them has to do with her father when he was a boy and she can't wait to figure out what it is!

Avi. (2022). *Loyalty.* New York, NY: Clarion.

It is 1774 and the tensions between the Colonies and Britain are escalating. Noah's family support the King, but because of a betrayal, they are driven from their home and they flee to Boston where they hope to find more Loyalists. Noah hopes to help his family by becoming a spy for the British, but as he commits to this, he begins to understand that hypocrisy exists on both sides of the conflict.

Baptist, K. (2021). *The swag is in the socks.* New York, NY: Crown Books.

Xavier would much rather play video games and watch the neighborhood kids talk outside his window. On his twelfth birthday, he receives a very special pair of socks and a challenge from his great-uncle. Get into the Scepter League — one of the most elite boys' clubs in town.

Xavier wonders if he has the confidence to become a part of this group, but the socks seem to give him a special kind of courage.

Barnhill, K. (2022). *The ogress and the orphans*. New York, NY: Algonquin Books for Young Readers.

A small mountain town has fallen on hard time and its inhabitants have forgotten what it means to treat each other with the kindness that they once knew. But the local children of the Orphan House and a Ogress are the only ones who see that the trouble is deeper than people see and try to make a difference.

Baskin, N. & Polishner, G. (2022). *Consider the octopus*. New York, NY: Henry Holt.

JB Barnes is looking forward to spending the summer relaxing before seventh grade, but his mother has other plans for him bringing him about the scientific research ship with her. Miles away, Sidney Miller is trying to come up with something else to do besides going to summer camp. Through a error on JB part, he accidentally invites Sidney to the ship thinking that she is a famous marine biologist. She decides to sneak about ship causing chaos for everyone, but creating a unforgettable summer for two middle schoolers.

Cho, J. (2022). *Troublemaker*. New York, NY: Little, Brown and Company.

Jordan struggles with living up to the expectations that his family has for him. One afternoon, he finds himself at home trying to hide his suspension from school, but around him Los Angeles is in chaos because of the acquittal of police officers in the beating of Rodney King. As the violence escalates, his father leaves to check on the family store endangering himself and sending Jordan on a journey to help him. All while coming face to face with the racism that exists in their community.

Cisneros, E. (2022). *Falling short*. New York, NY: Quill Tree Books.

Isaac and Marco expect middle school to change their lives, but they know that it will never change their friendship. Isaac is a basketball star, but struggles with schoolwork. Marco is a star student, but would love to play basketball as a way to get his father's approval. Will their friendship be the way to help them each achieve their goals?

Clayton, D. (2022). *The marvellers*. (K. Khatib, Illus.). New York, NY: Henry Holt.

Ella Durand is the first Conjuror to attend the Arcanum Training Institute where Marvellers are trained. Unfortunately, she isn't welcome there. She does find a mentor, Masterji Thakur and friends, Brigit and Jason who will help her navigate her home away from home. When a dangerous criminal escapes and poses a danger to Institute, it's up to Ella and her friends to stop the Ace of Anarchy before its too late and clear her family's name at the same time.

Collier, N. (2022). *Just right Jillian*. New York, NY: Versify.

Jillian wants to fit in. She has decided that the best way to do it in fifth grade is to keep quiet, even when she knows the answer...until it is time for the school's biggest academic competition. But she discovers that breaking out of her shell may be as challenging as watching the chicks that are hatching in her classroom. Luckily, she has good advice and her grandmother to see her through this time. Inspiration always comes through at just the right time...doesn't it?

Connor, L. (2022). *Anybody here seen Frenchie?* New York, NY: Katherine Tegen Books.

Aurora and Frenchie are best friends, but Frenchie has never spoken a word to her. That's okay, Aurora is a "big old blurter" and talks enough for both of them. At school, they have always been in class together until sixth grade where they are to be in separate classes and Aurora worries who will look after him. One day after being dropped off at school, Aurora makes it to class, but Frenchie doesn't. Aurora blames herself, so she begins looking for him ...along with the rest of the town...while all wondering: has anyone seen Frenchie?

Costner, A. (2022). *Confessions of a class clown*. New York, NY: Random House.

Jack Reynolds loves to make people laugh. He does this through his MyTube channel, but to promote his channel, he needs a collaborator. Unfortunately, he doesn't have friends. So he finds himself in an afterschool club, "Speed Friendshiping." There are quite a few kids in the group who are potential collaborators who might help him. But who might be his best choice?

Culley, B. (2022). *The natural genius of ants*. New York, NY: Crown Books.

Harvard's father has gotten quieter since his has made a mistake at the hospital where he works. He has made a decision to take both Harvard and his brother, Roger to Maine for the summer. While there, they experience the death and life of an ant farm, all while learning about themselves through the process that changes them in ways that they never expected.

Draper, S. (2021). *Out of my heart*. New York, NY: Atheneum.

Melody and her new Medi-talker is own her way to summer camp. She has found a camp for differently-abled kids where she can go, be on her own, and exist without her parents. There she experiences campfires, thunderstorms, unexpected creatures, and her first crush! Through all of this, she learns how truly brave and strong she is!

Faruqi, R. (2022). *Golden girl*. New York, NY: Harper.

Aafiyah loves playing tennis and hanging out with her best friend, Zaina. But she has a bad habit — when she sees pretty things, she "borrows" them. When her father is falsely accused of a crime is taken away, she devises a perfect plan to get him back. Unfortunately, her plan includes "borrowing" pretty things and if she gets caught, then her perfect plan might not work at all.

Ferruolo, J. & Mwilelo, N. (2022). *Each of us a universe*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. Cal Scott's mother is fighting cancer, her father has abandoned them, and her classmates don't understand her. So, Cal runs toward Mt. Meteorite, where some say a magical meteorite crashed fifty years ago and her ultimate plan is to summit it. Then she meets Rosine Kanambe who has her own plan for the mountain and its magic. Together they decide to summit the mountain combining both their strength and their courage. Hoping that the magic will be what they need to make their lives better.

Getten, K. (2022). *If you read this*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press. (pub: 8/16/22) Brie loved the treasure hunt that her mother always surprised her with on her birthday, but it is one of the things that she misses most since her mother died three years ago. But now on her twelfth birthday, she discovers that her mother has planned one final surprise – one last treasure hunt: a series of letters that will take Brie to a secret place that will change her life forever.

Grabenstein, C. (2022). *Mr. Lemoncello's very first game*. New York, NY: Random House.

Luigi loves games and puzzles, but most of his family and his friends don't understand this. When the carnival comes to town, he meets a kindred spirit and mentor, Professor Marvelmous who offers him a chance to work for him. When the carnival moves on, the Professor leaves a puzzle box with a clue that sends Luigi and his friends on a hunt for a prize that could change their lives (and their town) – if they can find it!

Henkes, K. (2022). *Oh, Sal*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books. (pub: 9/27/22) A companion book to *The Year of Billy Miller* where the Miller family has welcomed their new baby and are getting ready to celebrate the holiday season. Billy's little sister, Sal is excited about Uncle Jake coming to visit and getting ready for Santa, but is annoyed by the new baby. She is especially concerned that Mom hasn't decided on a name for the baby. Life is changing and Sal wonders where she will fit in in, especially since she isn't the "baby" anymore.

Higuera, D. (2021). *The last cuentista*. New York, NY: Levine Querido. Petra dreams of being a storyteller, just like her grandmother. But earth is being destroyed by a comet and only a few hundred scientists are being evacuated to a new planet, including Petra and her family. When Petra awakes hundreds of years later, she realizes that she is the only one that has survived and carries with her the memories of Earth. Will she be able to bring the memories, the stories to this new planet giving them the opportunity to live again?

Holt, K. A. (2022). *This is not a drill*. New York, NY: Scholastic. Ava is having a bad day. Her parents are divorcing, she's having a fight with her best friends, and the battery in her phone is almost gone. While she is in the bathroom at lunch, the alarm goes off in school notifying students that it is a lockdown drill. Ava knows what to do,

but she quickly finds out that it is not a drill, that there is an intruder in the building. Now everything that she has learned must be changed to help keep herself and her friends safe.

Johnson, V. (2021). *Playing with the cards you're dealt*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

Anthony Joplin is finally ten years old and is finally old enough to play in the spades tournament that every Joplin man in his family seems to have won. So while every other fifth grade boy is worrying about fifth grade things, he is worrying about how to win at the card table. But getting to the card table may be harder than he thought and once he gets there, he may learn more about his family than he ever thought that he would!

Keller, T. (2022). *Jennifer Chan is not alone*. New York, NY: Random House Books for Young Readers.

Mallory has learned that you have to fit in to survive middle school, but then Jennifer Chan moves in across the street. Jennifer seems oblivious to that rule. Not only that, but she believes in aliens and has a plan to find them. One day Jennifer goes missing and Mallory feels responsible. So, using clues from Jennifer's journals, goes looking for her. As she searches, she realizes that she might just find the truth about where Jennifer is, aliens, and even herself.

Kelly, E. (2022). *Those kids from Fawn Creek*. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books.

The twelve kids in seventh grade at Fawn Creek Middle School have been together for as long as they can remember, until the new girl arrives and everything changes. Orchid is everything that is different from Fawn Creek. She was born in New York and just moved from Paris. Everyone is fascinated or frightened by her. She almost seems "too good to be true."

Korman, G. (2021). *Linked*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

A middle school is shocked when someone sneaks in and paints a swastika on the wall. Who would do this and how will the students respond? Link, Michael and Dana are all invested in not only trying to figure out who did it, but also finding a way to respond to the hate crime in a way that creates a positive environment in the school. While doing all of this, not only the school, but the community is forced to not only look at the act of hate that has occurred in the present, but acts of hate that occurred in the past.

Leali, M. (2022). *The civil war of Amos Abernathy*. New York, NY: Harper.

Amos loves history. He loves it so much that he is a historical reenactor, but when he likes a cute new volunteer that comes to the Living History Park, Amos wonders if there were other LGBTQ+ people in history and why their stories are missing. When he discovers Albert D. J. Cashier, a Civil War soldier who might have identified as a trans man, he thinks that the world needs to hear his story .. and decides that he needs to tell it.

Leviathan, D. (2022). *answers in the pages*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

When Donovan's mother finds his copy of *The Adventurers* on the counter, she reads the last page and suddenly the entire town is in an uproar. Soon, there is a group trying to get the book removed from the school curriculum and the students in Mr. Howe's class don't understand why. Does it matter whether or not the boys in the book are gay or not and who decides if they are? Either way does it matter? The book shouldn't be banned and the students decide that they have to do something.

McDunn, G. (2022). *Honestly Elliott*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Children's Books.

Elliott has been struggling since his father remarried and his new wife is expecting a baby. He also struggles in school because he is always forgetting things. But there is one thing that he doesn't struggle with and that is cooking because with that he has some control. When he finds himself paired with Maribel for a school project, it becomes an opportunity for him to excel at something and show who he really is!

Magoon, K. (2022). *Chester Keene cracks the code*. New York, NY: Wendy Lamb Books. (pub: 7/5/22)

Chester enjoys the secret messages that he receives from his dad, who must be a spy on covert missions, because he has never met him. While working on a puzzle with his classmate, Skye, Chester finds himself in the process of actually stopping a heist. But as he and Skye are cracking this code, Chester may find out that things are more than they appear.

Saeed, A. (2022). *Diana and the journey to the unknown*. New York, NY: Random House.

Diana is always underestimated because she is a girl. But then the opportunity comes for Diana to save a group of children kidnapped by an evil one who plans of stealing their power for his own use, she takes the chance. But in taking the chance, she doesn't realize that she will end up in the world of humans...but what while she is there kids record her using her powers and post it on Tik Tok?!? What will happen to her now??

Soontornvat, C. (2022). *The last mapmaker*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

Sai is an assistant to Mangkon's most famous mapmaker. She pretends to be a well-bred lady with a future, but the truth is that her father is a conman and she is terrified that she will be found out. When given the chance to join an expedition to chart the southern seas, she finds out that she isn't the only one with secrets. But this is chance that she can't miss because finding the fabled Sunderlands could be the ticket to her dreams!

Standish, A. (2022). *Yonder*. New York, NY: Harper Collins.

Danny's hero has been Jack Bailey every since Jack saved two small children from drowning during the Great Flood of 1940. Now that Danny's father is fighting in WW2, Danny needs Jack's friendship more than ever. When Jack goes missing, Danny is determined to find him, but wonders if Jack's abusive father has anything to do with his disappearance. But then

remembers a story that Jack once told about a magical place called “Yonder.” Could that be where Jack has gone and can Danny find Yonder in an attempt to reconnect with Jack?

Swartz, E. (2022). *Dear student*. Delacorte Press.

Autumn is worried about starting middle school, especially since her best friend that she has known all through elementary school has just moved. As she struggles to connect with her classmates, she looks for ways to fit in. When she is picked to be the secret voice of the Dear Student letters in the newspaper, she finds herself in the middle of everyone’s problems (and business). What happens if her identity is revealed?

Varnes, A. (2021). *Say it out loud*. New York, NY: Random House Books for Young Readers.

Charlotte is quiet and she is quite happy that way. When she doesn’t speak, people can’t make fun of her stutter when she speaks. But her silence creates conflict, when she witnesses bullying at school and doesn’t say anything. On top of that, her parents decide to sign her up for musical theater. During that experience, she realizes that she doesn’t stutter when she sings. But then the program is cut. How will Charlotte continue to express herself? So, she begins to write...notes to her fellow students, letters to school board, an essay about her friendship...and is doing so, finds her voice.

Yang, K. (2022). *New from here*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

When COVID hits Hong Kong, Knox and his family (without his dad) move to California where they hope to be safe. At their new school in California, Knox and his siblings struggle because they are from Asia and many believe that they carry the virus. His parents are struggling too because mom has lost her job and dad doesn’t know when he will be able to come to America with all the travel restrictions. But the only way to get through a crisis is pull together, so that’s what Knox and his siblings do – and they find a way to get through one of the most difficult times in their lives. (One that will resonate with many readers, since it is based on real life events in author, Kelly Yang’s life during the pandemic).

Yee, L. (2022). *Maizy Chen’s last chance*. New York, NY: Random House Books for Young Readers.

Maizy finds herself spending her summer in Last Chance, Minnesota, not what she planned, but her grandparents need her and her mother. As she spends more time at The Golden Palace - the restaurant that has been in their family for generations - she learns more about their family history. She also learns that it can be challenging to be the only Asian American family in town. But the longer she stays, the more she comes to love Last Chance, the more she learns about the history of the Golden Palace.

Zarr, S. (2022). *A song called home*. New York, NY: Balzer & Bray.

Lou and her family live in an apartment in the city. Their life is happy there, except for Dad's drinking. But one day mom decides that she has had enough and moves to a house with her new boyfriend, Steve. But on her last night in the city, she finds a mysterious gift, a guitar left by the front door. She decides that she will learn to play it and create a connection to her past life and maybe to her dad.

Zhao, X. (2022). *Zachary Ying and the dragon emperor*. New York, NY: Margaret K. McElderry Books.

Zachary Ying is anxious as he prepares to host the spirit of the First Emperor of China for a vital mission, but unfortunately the mission takes a terrible wrong turn when the emperor tries to possess Zack's body and attaches to Zack's AR gaming headset instead which leads to a battle where his mom gets taken by evil spirits. Now, he has to journey across China gather artifacts and defeating figures from history to stop the creatures from the underworld and save his mother.

Graphic Novels to Expand the Minds of EVERY Reader:

Barnett, M. (2022). *The first cat in space ate pizza*. (S. Harris, Illus.). New York, NY: Katherine Tegen Books.

Rats are eating the moon and there is only one hero for the job...a cat!!! The First Cat in Space journeys across the lunar landscape to save our planet. Accompanied by Moon Queen and LOZ 4000, a toenail clipping robot, will he be able to do it in time?

Christmas, J. (2022). *Swim team*. New York, NY: Harper Alley.

Bree is looking forward to middle school, until she finds herself in swim class. She is terrified of swimming until Etta, an elderly occupant of her building decides to help her overcome her fear. With some training and a boost of confidence, she finds herself sought after to join the school's swim team. Helping take them to a winning season for the first time in years is her dream and the dream of the community, but Bree wonders if she has what it takes to do it.

Hosler, J. (2021). *The way of the hive: A honey bee's story*. New York, NY: Harper Alley.

Nyuki is a honeybee that is new to the hive and has so many questions about life there. However, her biggest question is about the voice that she hears that tells her to leave the hive and head out to into the world for adventure.

Knisley, L. (2022). *Apple crush*. New York, NY: Random House Graphic.

In the sequel to *Stepping Stones*, Jen's story continues as she adjusts to life on the farm with her stepsisters, Andy and Reese. As the school year starts, she faces more changes as she navigates new friends and challenges.

Lai, R. (2022). *Rainbow the koala. [Surviving the Wild]*. New York, NY: Henry Holt.

Rainbow is ready to head off and live on his own, but he is scared about doing it. He struggles to find a tree to call his very own home. As the weather warms up to a scorching heat, he faces his biggest challenge on his own, surviving a life-threatening bush fire.

Lai, R. (2022). *Star the elephant. [Surviving the Wild]*. New York, NY: Henry Holt.

Star and his herd are searching for a new home, but Star become separated from the herd and must make the journey on his own. On this journey, he run across giant spiders, the ocean beyond his island, and strange humans who might be a danger to Star.

Ormsbee, K. (2022). *Growing pangs*. (M. Brooks, Illus.). New York, NY: Random House Graphic.

Katie is different that most of the girls her age – she’s homeschooled, she has freckles, and her teeth are crooked. But these things don’t matter to her best friend, Kacey. But when they are at summer camp, things begin to change. Katie begins to worry about why things are changing between the two of them. As the worrying gets worse, she worries that not only will Kacey not want to be friends with her, but no one else will be either.

Turnbloom, L. (2022). *Steve L. McEvil*. New York, NY: Random House Graphic.

Steve L. McEvil is the greatest supervillain in the world, but it is difficult to take over the world when you have a bedtime. His grandpa is helping teach him how to pull off the most evil schemes, although there seems to be a problem. Someone else is going around time scheming...and that scheming seems to be nice!

Novels for Growing the Minds of Young Adult Readers:

Ahmadi, A. (2021). *How it all blew up*. New York, NY: Viking Books for Young Readers. Amir Azadi decides that taking a trip to Rome after coming out to his Muslim is the best option to get some space and perspective. But now he is faced with telling his story to a US Customs officer or lose his freedom as he returns home. As he faces his story and the truth that will truly “set him free,” he learns about his true identity and will find his way home.

Arnold, M. (2021) *I rise*. New New York, NY: Versify. (8/2/22)

Ayo’s mother leads one of the biggest civil rights movements in NYC called “See Us.” It’s main focus is police brutality and racial brutality. Her mother is looking forward to Ayo becoming an activist like her and becoming the heir apparent to the movement, but Ayo has other plans. But then her mother suffers a a life-threatening injury during a protest and Ayo finds herself thrust into the role of leader seeking justice for her mother.

Chee, T. (2022). *A thousand steps into night*. New York, NY: Clarion Books.

Miuko life is quiet and ordinary as an innkeeper's daughter in the realm of Awara. But her life changes when she is cursed and begins the transformation into a demon. The only way to reverse the curse is to begin a quest with only the aid of a magpie spirit. When she is transformed, she has power and freedom that allows her choices that may lead her beyond the life that she led before...but what will she do?

DasGupta, S. (2022). *Debating Darcy*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

In a unique reinterpretation of *Pride and Prejudice*, Leela and Firoze are both fiercely competitive and meet up in the state league debating competition. As Leela prepares, she realizes that she may have underestimated her competition, including Firoze and it may cost her the win...and her heart!

Forna, N. (2022). *The merciless ones*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

In a sequel to *The Gilded Ones*, Deka has freed the goddesses in the ancient kingdom and knows her true identity. Unfortunately, a war rages across the kingdom because there is a dark force growing and Deka must stop it.

Glasgow, K. & Lawson, L. (2022). *The Agathas*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

After Alice Olgivie's basketball-star boyfriend dumped her, she disappeared for five days. After she returned, she was silent about where she was or what happened to her, but the bigger mystery is that another of Steve's girlfriends has vanished and it doesn't look like she is coming back. Iris is Alice's tutor and together they decide to find out what happened to Brooke to prove Steve's innocence. Armed with the works of Agatha Christie, they are prepared to solve the mystery and collect the reward money offered by Brooke's family, but they may be walking in to more that Agatha prepared them for in her books.

Higuera, D. (2021). *The last cuentista*. New York, NY: Levine Querido.

Petra dreams of being a storyteller, just like her grandmother. But earth is being destroyed by a comet and only a few hundred scientists are being evacuated to a new planet, including Petra and her family. When Petra awakes hundreds of years later, she realizes that she is the only one that has survived and carries with her the memories of Earth. Will she be able to bring the memories, the stories to this new planet giving them the opportunity to live again?

Kiely, B. (2021). *The other talk: Reckoning with our white privilege*. Atheneum.

Kids of color are used to conversations about racism. They have had "The Talk" about surviving in a racist world. But it is not a conversation that white kids are used to or comfortable having, but that needs to change because not talking about racism doesn't help it go away. Not talking about white privilege doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Beginning the conversation, helps empower kids to begin to help make the world better for kids of color...making it a more just and less racist...a better place for everyone.

Lockhart, E. (2022). *Family of liars*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

In the prequel to “We Were Liars,” we welcome back the Sinclair family and learn that lying is a generational curse. On the private island off of Massachusetts, the sisters return for the summer, but meet a group of unpredictable boys, one of whom will change their lives and bind them together with a secret.

McBride, A. (2021). *Moth*. New York, NY: Feiwel & Friends.

Moth lives with her aunt because she has lost her family in a tragic accident. Then she meets Sani, a boy who is looking for his own family and an understanding of who he is. Moth feels if she can help him, then maybe she can help herself heal and understand what she is carrying around inside of her. As Moth and Sani go on an unforgettable road trip, they both find that what is inside of you is powerful, surprising, and unforgettable.

Reynolds, J. (2022). *Ain't burned all the bright*. (J. Griffin, Illus.). New York, NY: Atheneum.

In words and art, we see visual representation of oxygen. We begin to understand, relate, or know what it is like to not be able to breathe for generations, the reality of what it is like to be Black in American....then and NOW.

Van Draanen, W. (2022). *The peach rebellion*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Ginny and Peggy Rose have been best friends who love picking peaches on summer days for years, even those Peggy's family owned the farm and Ginny Rose's family were pickers. Now, almost ten years and a world war later, Ginny Rose is back and she feels even more out of place when she meets Peggy Rose's new friend, Lisette. But, as the girls friendship develops, they learn that their families are divided because of their financial differences and the girls decide that they are going to do something about it.

Poetry for Pondering the World Around Us:

Frost, H. (2022). *Wait — and see*. (R. Lieder). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press.

Through words and photographs, the reader is invited to “stop and look” at nature in the outdoors. When we stop and see what is there, and wait, amazing things unfold in the world around us.

Heard, G. (2021). *My thoughts are clouds: Poems for mindfulness*.

(I. Roxas, Illus.). New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press.

Poems are a wonderful way to see the world in a mindful way. They allow us to observe beauty, attend to our inner thoughts, and see the world in more mindful ways.

Kooser, T. & Wanek, C. (2022). *Marshmallow clouds: Two poets at play among figures of speech*. (R. Jones, Illus.). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press..

A journey through images and metaphor, four elements and figures of speech, all of which will engage readers in magical wordplay through a collection of unforgettable poems.

VanDerwater, A. (2022). *If this bird had pockets: A Poem in Your Pocket Day collection*. (E. Virjan, Illus.). New York, NY: Wordsong.

In preparation for Poem in Your Pocket Day, a child imagines the poems animals might carry in their pockets. Would these poems “match” the animals that carry them? Of course they would!

Short Story Collection to Inspire Hope in All:

Brock, R. (2022). *Hope wins: A collection of stories for young readers*.
New York, NY: Philomel.

Where does hope live? In a collection of stories for some of our favorite children’s authors, we are reminded that hope lives all around us – in family restaurant, on an empty road, during a classroom celebration – even (or even) during the dark times. No matter what, Hope wins!