



Top 20 Suggested Books: 5th and 6th Grade

Baptiste, Kelly. **Isaiah Dunn is my hero.** J Fic Baptiste

Isaiah is now the big man of the house. But it's a lot harder than his dad made it look. Good thing Isaiah can count on his best friend, Sneaky, who always has a scheme for getting around the rules. When things get tough, there is Daddy's journal, filled with stories about the amazing Isaiah Dunn, a superhero who gets his powers from beans and rice.

Brown, Waka. **While I was Away.** J Fic Brown

When twelve-year-old Waka's parents suspect she cannot understand basic Japanese they speak to her, they make the drastic decision to send her to Tokyo to live for several months with her strict grandmother. In Japan, Waka struggles with reading and writing in kanji. Waka has never felt more like an outsider. She has always been the "smart Japanese girl" in America but is now the "dumb foreigner" in Japan, where is home?

Conklin, Melanie. **Every Missing Piece.** J Fic Conklin

Ever since her father died in a terrible accident, Maddy Gaines has worried a lot. She calls the police so often that she's on a first-name basis with the Sheriff. When a new boy moves to town, Maddy is convinced that he is not who he says he is—he's a boy who went missing six months ago. Maddy, her dog, her best friend, and her stepdad team up to see what he is hiding

Cotterill, Jo. **Jelly.** [TWEEN] J Fic Cotterill

Twelve-year-old Jelly hides her true self behind her humor and keeps her true thoughts and feelings locked away in a notebook. Can she find the courage to share who she really is?

Faruqi, Saadia. **A Thousand Questions.** J Fic Faruqi

Told in two voices, eleven-year-olds Mimi, who is visiting her wealthy grandparents in Karachi, Pakistan, for the first time and Sakina, daughter of the grandparents' cook, form an unexpected friendship

Fipps, Lisa. **Starfish.** J Fic Fipps

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

Going, K.L.. **The Next Great Jane.** [TWEEN] J Fic Going

Jane, a budding writer and Jane Austen fan, discovers the true secret to writing when a famous author and her cute, but annoying, son come to her small coastal town and play seemingly unwitting roles in affecting the custody battle between Jane's Hollywood mother and marine biologist father.

Kadhota, Cynthia. **Saucy.** J Fic Kadhota

Being a quadruplet can make it hard to stand out from the crowd. Becca's three brothers all have something that makes them ... them. Jake has his music and dancing, Jammer plays hockey, and K.C. thinks they're all living in a simulation and doesn't see the point of doing much of anything. Becca is the only one with nothing to make her special. However, when she finds a tiny, sick piglet on the side of the road, Becca knows this is it.

Kelker, Supriya. **American as Paneer Pie.** J Fic Kelkar

When a racist incident rocks her small Michigan town, eleven-year-old Lekha must decide whether to speak up or stay silent, even as she struggles to navigate her life at home, where she can be herself, and at school, where she is teased about her culture.

Morrison, Laurie. **Saint Ivy Kind.** J Fic Morrison

Ivy is determined to prove to herself that she's just as unselfish as she's always believed, and she gets the chance to do that when she receives an anonymous email from someone who needs her help. However, the more Ivy dives into helping this anonymous person, the further she gets from the people she loves--and from the person who she wants to be.

Perez, Celia. **Strange Birds A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers.** J Fic Perez

After Ofelia, Aster, Cat, and Lane fail to persuade a local girls club to change an outdated tradition, they form an alternative group that shakes up their sleepy Florida town. Includes tips for beginning birders, characteristics of crystals, a cookie recipe, and tips for aspiring journalists.

Rauf, Onjali. **The Boy at the Back of the Class.** J Fic Rauf

When quiet, nine-year-old Ahmet arrives in their classroom, a boy and his friends fail to draw him out but try a new plan after learning he is a Syrian refugee.

Reed Dwayne. **The Rhymin boy.** J Fic Reed

Chicago fifth-grader Simon, an aspiring rapper who lacks self-confidence, uses his rhymes to help bring his community together.

Royce, Eden. **Root Magic.** J Fic Royce

It's 1963, and things are changing for Jezebel Turner. Her beloved grandmother has just passed away. The local police deputy will not stop harassing her family. However, the biggest change comes when Jez and Jay turn eleven and their uncle, Doc, tells them he is going to train them in rootwork. Jez and Jay have always been fascinated by the African American folk magic that has been the legacy of their family for generations.

Rutter, Helen. **The Boy who Made Everyone Laugh.** J Fic Rutter

Billy Plimpton wants to be a famous comedian when he grows up. However his stutter is getting in the way, and right now he is so worried about being made fun of by the kids in his new school. He plans on not talking at all, but the plan backfires because his persistent silence only draws attention of the school bully.

Savage, Melissa. **Karma Moon Ghosthunter.** J FIC Savage

Karma Moon is a firm believer in everything "woo woo," as her dad calls it. So when she asks her trusty Crystal Mystic if the chance to create a ghost-hunting docuseries is her dad's break, it confirms: "All signs point to yes." Karma and her best friend Mags, join her dad's Totally Rad film crew at a famous haunted hotel in Colorado over her spring break. Their mission: find a ghost and get it on camera

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **The Boy Who Failed Show and Tell.** J Fic Sonnenblick

When everything goes wrong for fourth-grader Jordan, he finds ways to keep his cool through humor and banging on drums.

Stone, Nic. **Fast Pitch.** J FIC Stone

Shenice Lockwood dreams of leading the Fulton Firebirds to the U12 softball regional championship. But Shenice's focus gets shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a career-ending-and family-name-ruining-crime may have been a setup. It's up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family's past and fast before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever

Teague, David. **How Oscar Indigo Broke the Universe (and put it back together again).** J FIC Teague

Oscar Indigo has never been good at baseball, so naturally he's nervous when he has to fill in for his team's injured All-Star, Lourdes. Luckily, Oscar has a mysterious gold watch that can stop time, which he uses to fake a game-winning home run. Now Oscar's the underdog hero of his town and even Lourdes wants to be his friend.

Wolk, Lauren. **Echo Mountain.** J FIC Wolk

When twelve-year-old Ellie and her family lose livelihood and move to a mountain cabin in 1934, she quickly learns to be an outdoorswoman and, when needed, a healer.