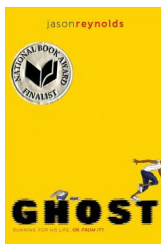


The Boy at the Back of the Class

by Onjali Q. Raúf

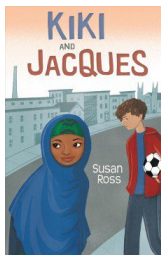
When a Syrian refugee boy joins their class, Mrs. Kahn's determined students learn the newcomer's sad story and concoct a plan to help him.



Ghost

by Jason Reynolds

Ghost is a talented runner with a troubled background. When he is recruited for an elite middle school track team, he must prove to his coach that he can overcome his problems and become a team player.



Kiki and Jacques

by Susan L. Ross

Jacques is contending with difficult family dynamics and pressure from an older boy to help him commit a crime. He is surprised to discover that he has much in common with Kiki, a Somali refugee who has immigrated to

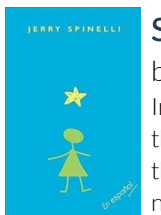
his Maine town.



Esperanza Rising

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

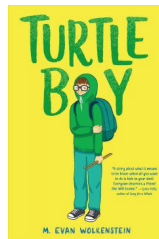
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their privileged life in Mexico to work in the Californian labor camps. There, they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Depression.



Stargirl

by Jerry Spinelli

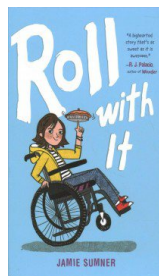
In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.



Turtle Boy

by M. Evan Wolkenstein

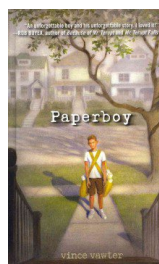
Will is struggling through a new school year marked by bullying. His bar mitzvah service project is to spend time visiting a terminally ill boy in the hospital, which leads to an unexpected friendship.



Roll With It

by Jamie Sumner

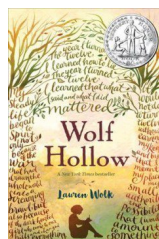
Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease



Paperboy

by Vince Vawter

Little Man's stutter complicates his ability to communicate with customers when he takes on a newspaper route. But the real trouble occurs when he is forced to deal with a dangerous situation.



Wolf Hollow

by Lauren Wolk

Growing up in the aftermath of two world wars, Annabelle confronts a bullying newcomer. Ultimately she must defend an eccentric World War I veteran who is implicated in the bully's disappearance.



Choose Kind:

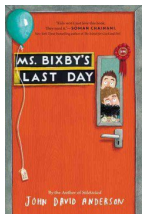
*Middle Grade
Books on
Friendship and
Kindness*



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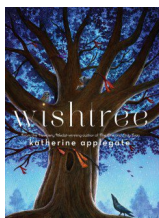


Ms. Bixby's Last Day

by John David Anderson

Three boys who love their gifted teacher are dismayed when she falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year. This situation compels them to share their stories, while cutting class and

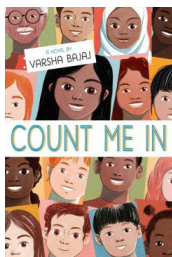
adventuring on a fateful day.



Wishtree

by Katherine Applegate

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

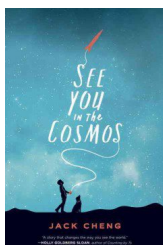


Count Me In : a Novel

by Varsha Bajaj

This story, told through two voices, follows the experiences of sixth-grade neighbors Karina and Chris. Their unlikely friendship is influenced by a hate crime that prompts them to lead their community's efforts to reject

racism.

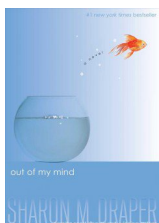


See You in the Cosmos

by Jack Cheng

Hoping to launch his iPod into space the way his hero, Carl Sagan, launched his Golden Record on Voyager, 11-year-old Alex documents a road trip to New Mexico as a record of what life is like on Earth. This endeavor

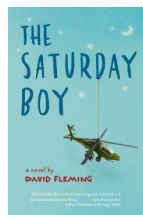
leads to unexpected friendships and truths.



Out of My Mind

by Sharon M. Draper

Considered by many to be mentally challenged, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

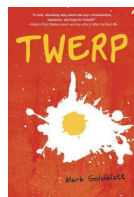


The Saturday Boy

by David Fleming

Every school day seems to bring more trouble for Derek, whose former best friend bullies him. Meanwhile, at home, he deals with the long absence of his father, a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, and

his mother's sudden moodiness.



Twerp

by Mark Goldblatt

Julian's English teacher suggests he keep a journal when he returns after a week of suspension. In it, Julian writes about the incident, which involved homemade fireworks, remaining the fastest kid in school, and writing a disastrous love letter for a friend.



Shine!

by Chris Grabenstein

A new student at a posh private school struggles with poor self-esteem, feeling that everyone else is more talented. Ultimately, she finds inspiration in the achievements of her astronaut

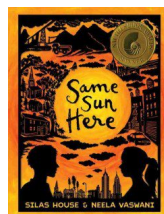
heroine.



Full Cicada Moon

by Marilyn Hilton

In 1969, Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont. There, Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider.



Same Sun Here

by Silas House

Meena, an Indian immigrant living in New York City, and River, the son of a Kentucky coal miner, become pen pals and overcome cultural misconceptions while sharing

respective hardships.



The Misfits

by James Howe

Four students, who do not fit in at their small-town middle school, decide to create a third party for the student council elections. It is intended to represent all students who have ever

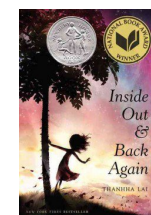
been called names.



Hello Universe

by Erin Entrada Kelly

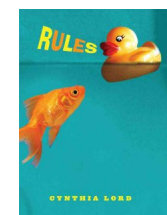
The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well. This prompts Valencia, Kaori, and Gen to band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.



Inside Out & Back Again

by Thanhha Lai

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

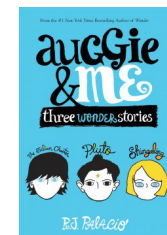


Rules

by Cynthia Lord

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence. However, her world is further complicated by a friendship

with a young paraplegic.



Auggie & Me : Three Wonder Stories

by R. J. Palacio

Collects three stories featuring Auggie Pullman, but told from Julian, Christopher, and Charlotte's perspectives.