

2023 Books for Tweens



Just Roll With It

by Lee Durfey-Lavoie

Having a tough time during her first year in middle school, Maggie needs some help from her 20-sided dice but fears she may roll the wrong number, in this contemporary novel that explores the complexity of anxiety and OCD.



Iveliz Explains It All

by Andrea Beatriz Arango

Twelve-year-old Iveliz is trying to manage her mental health and advocate for the help and understanding she deserves, but in the meantime her new friend calls her crazy and her abuela Mimi dismisses the therapy and medicine Iveliz needs to feel like herself.



Wild Bird

by Wendelin Van Draanen

When her behavior escalates out of control, fourteen-year-old Wren is taken away to a wilderness therapy camp where she is forced to develop new skills, including the courage to ask for help.



Alice Austen Lived Here

by Alex Gino

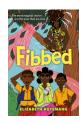
Entering his town's contest for a new statue, nonbinary Sam delves into the history of his subject, photographer Alice Austen, and discovers a rich queer history that they are part of—one they must stand up for.



Ophie's Ghosts

by Justina Ireland

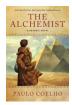
Twelve-year-old Ophie uses her ability to see ghosts to help a spirit whose life ended suddenly and unjustly pass on to the other side, but soon discovers more secrets than she bargained for



Fibbed

by Elizabeth Agyemang

While spending the summer in Ghana with her grandmother, Nana, a girl who doesn't lie but whom no one believes, comes face-to-face with a trickster spider of legend who needs her help to stop those intent on draining the forest of magic.



The Alchemist : A Graphic Novel

by Paulo Coelho

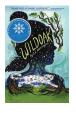
Offers an adaptation in graphic novel format of a modern classic about the globe-trotting spiritual journey of a humble shepherd boy



Watch Hollow

by Gregory Funaro

Journeying to an isolated small town to help their father repair a mysterious cuckoo clock in a once-grand manor, Lucy and Oliver discover that the magic within the house, and the animal guardians charged with protecting it, are in dire need of help



Wildoak

by C. C. Harrington

Agreeing to spend a few weeks in the fresh air of Wildoak Forest, visiting a grandfather she hardly knows, Maggie encounters an abandoned snow leopard cub, and facing danger head on, vows to keep it safe from those

who hunt it.



Attack of the Black Rectangles

by A. S. King

When his classroom copy of *The Devils Arithmetic* contains blacked out words, Mac, who was raised to call out things that are wrong, takes a stand against censorship and intolerance.

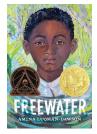
Books for Tweens: Summer 2023

Thank you to Michael Benedict from Sloatsburg Public Library for contributing to this list



We dream of space

by Erin Entrada Kelly 7th-grade siblings Cash, Fitch, and Bird Nelson Thomas, each dealing differently with their tense and unpredictable household, are changed and united in unexpected ways by the fateful launch of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986,



Freewater

by Amina Luqman-Dawson Fleeing Southerland Plantation with his little sister, 12-year-old Homer finds a secret community called Freewater, created by formerly enslaved people, but when he learns of a threat that could destroy this place, he crafts a plan to help his new home.



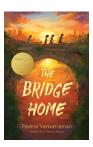
Tumble

by Celia C. Pérez While trying to make a life-changing decision, 12-year-old Adela Ramirez searches for her birth father, which leads her to the legendary Bravos, professional wrestlers who teach her what it really means to be part of a family.



Ain't burned all the bright

by Jason Reynolds
This smash-up of art and text visually
captures what it is to be Black in America
and what it means to REALLY breathe.



The bridge home

by Padma Venkatraman Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Chennai, India



When the sea turned to silver

by Grace Lin

When her grandmother is kidnapped, Pinmei, accompanied by her friend Yishan, embarks on a search for the Luminous Stone That Lights the Night, which she intends to give the cruel Tiger Emperor in exchange for her grandmother



Frizzy

by Claribel A. Ortega; illustrated by Rose Bousamra

Dominican American middle schooler Marlene, who's tired of spending Sundays at the salon so that her curls can be painfully straightened into her family's idea of "good hair."



Black bird, blue road

by Sofiya Pasternack

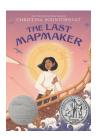
To save her sick twin brother from the Angel of Death by taking him to find doctors who can cure him, Ziva accidentally frees a half-demon boy instead, who leads them to a fabled city where no one dies.



A wolf called Wander

by Rosanne Parry

A young wolf travels one thousand miles across the Pacific Northwest after being separated from his family, navigating through forest fires, avoiding hunters, and struggling with hunger before finding a new home



The last mapmaker

by Christina Soontornvat Joining an expedition to chart the southern seas, 12-year-old mapmaker's assistant Sai, posing as a well-bred young lady with a glittering future, realizes she's not the only one on board harboring secrets when she discovers the ship's true destination.

