# Looking for a sad story? These will tug at your heart...

so keep the kleenex handy!



#### The Someday Suitcase

by Corey Ann Haydu (REALISTIC J HAYDU)

Clover is devestated when best friend is Danny falls mysteriously ill, visiting doctor after doctor, while Clover uses her own scientific method to prove she is his best medicine and must be by his side.



#### The Stars Beneath our Feet

by David Barclay Moore (REALISTIC JR HIGH MOORE)

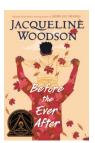
Struggling to move on after his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly finds an outlet constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center.



#### Red, white, and whole

by Rajani LaRocca (HISTORICAL JR HIGH ROCCA)

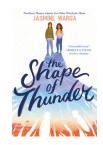
Told in verse, Reha, is dealing with being the only Indian American student in middle school, trying to balance her roots and her American life, when she finds out her mother has leukemia.



#### Before the Ever After

by Jacqueline Woodson (REALISTIC J WOODSON)

The son of an idolized pro-football star must adjust to his loving father's increasingly angry, forgetful behavior-all difficult symptoms that stem from his father's numerous head injuries playing football.



#### The Shape of Thunder

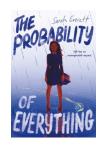
by Jasmine Warga (REALISTIC J WARGA) Estranged from the best friend whose brother killed her sister in a school shooting, a grieving Cora receives a message on her twelfth birthday from her friend, asking for her help with creating a time portal to prevent the tragedy.



#### Counting by 7s

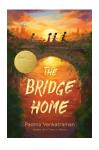
by Holly Goldberg Sloan (REALISTIC J SLOAN)

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her loving adoptive parents are killed in a car accident.



#### The Probability of Everything

by Sarah Everett (REALISTIC J EVERETT) When an asteroid has an 84.7% chance of colliding with the Earth in four days, 11-year-old Kemi, who loves scientific facts and probability, assembles a time capsule to capture her family for posterity, as she tries to come to terms with saying goodbye.



#### The Bridge Home

by Padma Venkatraman (REALISTIC JR HIGH VENKATRAMAN) After two sisters run away from a dangerous home situation to live on the harsh streets of Chennai, they find shelter, friendship and support on an abandoned bridge with two homeless boys.

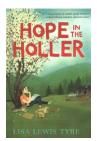


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#### Hope in the Holler

by Lisa Lewis Tyre (REALISTIC J TYRE) Upon her mother's death, Wavie Conley, eleven, must learn to lean on the community around her when she has to move in with a scheming aunt in the Kentucky town her mother left behind.



## The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

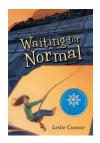
by Dan Gemeinhart (REALISTIC J GEMEINHART)

Twelve-year-old Coyote and her father live off the grid meandering across the U.S. in a converted school bus, even picking up people in need, when Coyote makes an important life-changing decision.



#### When Friendship Followed Me Home

by Paul Griffin (REALISTIC J GRIFFIN) After losing his foster mother, seventhgrader Ben, finds a deep friendship with Halley, who is being treated for cancer, and the special homeless dog that chooses him.



#### Waiting for Normal

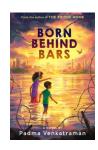
by Leslie Connor (REALISTIC J CONNOR) Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother live in a trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.



#### Ms. Bixby's Last Day

by John David Anderson (REALISTIC J ANDERSON)

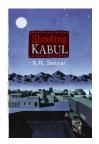
Three boys are devastated when their gifted teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, compelling them to cut class and present her a memorable day.



#### **Born Behind Bars**

by Padma Venkatraman (REALISTIC J VENKATRAMAN

In Chennai, India, after spending his whole life in jail with his mother, who is serving time for a crime she did not commit, nine-year-old Kabir is suddenly released and has to figure out how to survive on his own in the outside world.



#### **Shooting Kabul**

by N. H. Senzai (HISTORICAL J SENZAI) Unable to forget his missing six-year-old sister who didn't make it out of Kabul with the family, Fadi struggles to adjust to a new life and school in the United States in the wake of September 11.



## A Home for Goddesses and Dogs

by Leslie Connor (REALISTIC JR HIGH CONNER)

13 year-old Lydia moves in with her mother's older sister and wife after her mother dies. She struggles to bond with her new family, the community and a difficult but loving rescue dog.



#### The Line Tender

by Kate Allen (REALISTIC JR HIGH ALLEN) Twelve-year-old Lucy is trying to adjust to life without her marine biologist mother when another personal tragedy strikes in their sleepy coastal town causing her to examine her mother's unfinished shark research.



#### Maybe a Fox

by Kathi Appelt (REALISTIC J APPELT) When her sister Sylvie goes missing on a snowy morning and is never seen again, Jules refuses to believe she is gone forever, Meanwhile, in the shadow world, a shadow fox is born.