



Maple's Theory of Fun

by Kate McMillan

JF McMillan

When her best friend accuses her of being unfun and starts hanging out with a new group of friends, sixth grader Maple McNutt decides to become fun by doing some risky and groundbreaking research to save their friendship.

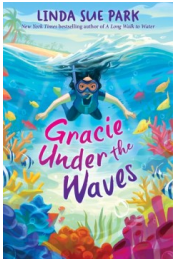


Puppy Love

by Gary Soto

JF Soto

After saving a puppy and dealing with a huge crush on his classmate Sierra, 13-year-old Jordan nurses the abandoned puppy back to health and wonders who threw her into the canal, and if there are more puppies needing rescue.

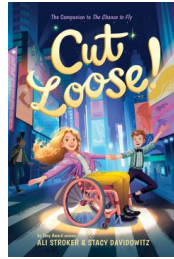


Gracie Under the Waves

by Linda Sue Park

JF Park

While in Roatan, Honduras, snorkeling with her family, Gracie loves floating underwater above all else. However, she is sidelined by an injury, and joins the cause to save the reef and fight climate change.

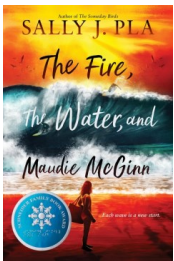


Cut Loose!

by Ali Stroker

JF Stoker

Starting eighth grade in a new middle school, wheelchair-bound Nat gets cast in the school production of *Footloose!* This puts her at odds with her best friend and boyfriend, and she wonders if theatre is worth doing without her friends.



The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn

by Sally J. Pla

JF Pla

Thirteen-year-old neurodivergent Maudie spends an eventful summer in California with her father, where she struggles with whether to share a terrible secret about life with her mom and stepdad.

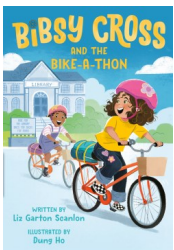


Be Real, Macy Weaver

by Lakita Wilson

JF Wilson

Determined to find a new best friend in Brynn, who's smart, kind, and beautiful, 11-year-old Macy turns one small lie into a whole new life to win her over until it all falls apart.

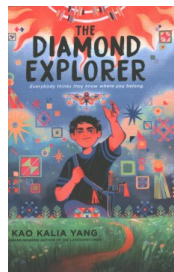


Bibsy Cross and the Bike-a-Thon

by Liz Garton Scanlon

JF Scanlon

When precocious 8-year-old Bisby's library hosts a bike-a-thon to raise money to buy books, she is determined to win the fundraiser.



The Diamond Explorer

by Kao Kalia Yang

JF Yang

The young child of Hmong refugees, Malcolm, a gifted collector of his family's stories and tireless seeker of his place within an evolving Hmong American culture, chronicles his journey to becoming a shaman like his grandparents before him.

Children

Realistic Fiction



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Juvenile Fiction



Something Like Home

by Andrea Beatriz Arango

JF Arango

Desperate to return home, Laura finds a puppy and decides that if she can train the puppy to become a therapy dog, she might be allowed to visit her parents, and then maybe things will go back to the way they should be.



Shot Clock

by Caron Butler

JF Butler

When the police officer who killed his best friend is back on the job, Tony, the statistician for the AAU basketball team, must deal with his own grief while leading his team to victory.



The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman

by Gennifer Choldenko

JF Choldenko

When his mom doesn't come home, 11-year-old Hank seeks out the stranger listed as his emergency contact. The consequences could separate his family for good, but Hank is determined to keep his family together.

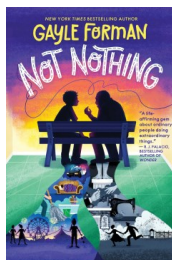


Learning To Fall

by Sally Engelfried

JF Engelfried

Reconciling with her alcoholic father, 12-year-old Daphne joins him weekly to skate, where she starts to believe in him and accept him.



Not Nothing

by Gayle Forman

JF Forman

Assigned to work at a nursing home for the summer, Alex meets Josey, a 107-year-old Holocaust survivor who stopped talking years before. While forming an unlikely bond, Alex starts to believe he can make a difference in the world.



All the Small Wonderful Things

by Kate Foster

JF Foster

Eleven-year-old Alex knows that middle school will be a big change, and for an autistic person, change can be scary. He is sure that having a friend by his side will help. However, finding a friend is harder than Alex thought.

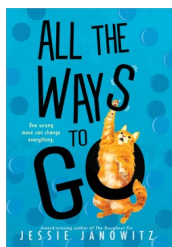


Flipping Forward Twisting Backward

by Alma Fullerton

JF Fullerton

Claire is the best gymnast on her team, but she cannot read. Now Claire must tackle her reading challenges so that she doesn't jeopardize her spot in the qualifiers.



All the Ways To Go

by Jessie Janowitz

JF Janowitz

As chess prodigy Milo grapples with anxiety, the last thing he needs is for a brand-new half sister, Roxie, to show up. Together, they learn a new game, Go. It's the only thing that makes sense, when everything is falling apart.



The Secret Language of Birds

by Lynne Kelly

JF Kelly

While trying to fit in at summer camp, Nina discovers a pair of endangered birds getting ready to lay eggs in the marsh behind one of the cabins and hatches a secret plan to help them.



Slugfest

by Gordon Korman

JF Korman

Forced to take PE Equivalency in summer school so he can maintain his spot on the football team, Yash recruits his fellow PE rejects to train with him and pass this course. It is a summer he'll never forget.

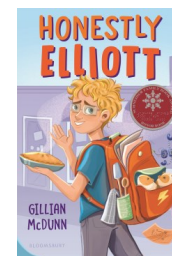


Tree. Table. Book.

by Lois Lowry

JF Lowry

Eleven-year-old Sophia endeavors to prevent her increasingly forgetful 88-year-old neighbor and best friend Sophie from entering assisted living, and in the process, uncovers unexpected stories of war, loss, and hope.



Honestly Elliott

by Gillian McDunn

JF McDunn

Struggling with ADHD, loneliness, and connecting with his divorced father who would rather see him embrace sports instead of cooking, sixth-grader Elliott finds an unlikely friend in popular, perfect Maribel when the two are paired in a school-wide contest.