



Children's Booklist 2025: Upstairs, Downstairs

Tween Reads in Children's



It's All or Nothing, Vale

by Andrea Beatriz Arango

Valentina Camacho was the top athlete at her fencing gym until a life-changing accident, but now her body doesn't move the same and there's a new number one, in a story about a girl finding her way back to her passion.



Tear This Down

by Barbara Dee

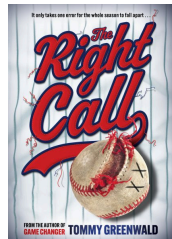
When twelve-year-old Freya discovers that her town's historical hero had problematic views towards women, she advocates to replace his statue with a lesser-known suffragette.



The Enemy's Daughter

by Anne Blankman

In 1915, Marta and her father are trying to get home to Germany when her father is detained and Marta is welcomed into an Irish family's home, in a story about friendship and learning to think for oneself.



The Right Call : A Game Changer Companion Novel

by Tommy Greenwald

Told through a combination of transcripts, articles, texts, and emails, star pitcher Cal must face the fallout after his father attacks an umpire during a game.



The Night War

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

In 1942, with the Nazis occupying much of France, 12-year-old Miriam, who is Jewish, escapes to a boarding school near the famous Chateau de Chenonceau where she is called upon to undertake a deadly task and encounters the person who will save her life and countless others.



The Age of Enchantment

by Anna James

In Whetherwhy, everyone has magic inside them--grown from the changing seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. But a rare few are Enchanters: people born with magic in their bones, who can wield all four seasons of magic. When Juniper discovers she is an Enchanter, she and her twin

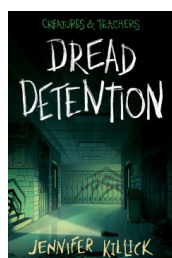
brother Rafferty begin having incredible adventures...



A Hero's Guide to Summer Vacation

by Pablo Cartaya

Thirteen-year-old Cuban American Gonzalo joins his estranged grandfather on road trip to promote his grandfather's fantasy book series.



Dread Detention

by Jennifer Killick

While in Saturday detention, Hallie, Angelo, Gustav and Naira must work together to survive when unspeakable horrors emerge from the shadows and the evil grows stronger by the minute.

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On Thin Ice

by Jessica Kim

Twelve-year-old fraternal twins Phoebe and Dexter Bae are opposites except for their love of the ice, and when Phoebe's figure skating partner gets injured and Dex is cut from his hockey team, they team up.



A Day at the Beach

by Gary D. Schmidt

This novel--told from multiple points of view-- follows a diverse cast of young people whose lives intersect in surprising and hilarious ways over the course of a summer day at the beach.



Benny on the Case

by Wesley King

Eleven-year-old Benny, a boy with Mosaic Down syndrome, navigates a new mainstream classroom, standing up to bullies, making new friends, and uncovering a government conspiracy threatening to close down the retirement home owned by his mother.



Take It from the Top

by Claire Swinarski

A contemporary realistic novel set at a camp over the course of six summers, the book follows the friendship and falling out of two girls from different backgrounds who thought they'd be friends forever.



Hikaru in the Light! Book 1

by Mai Matsuda

Middle-school student Hikaru Ogino sings as she cleans her family's bathhouse after school in Tokyo and gets the chance of a lifetime when best friend Ran invites her to try out for pop star survival camp together.



River of Spirits

by Shana Targosz

Caught between the realms of the Living and the Dead, Senka ferries departed souls into the afterlife, and when Poppy enters the Underworld pleading for help in finding her brother's ghost, Senka helps her and discovers secrets.



Spirit Service

by Sarena Nanua

A group of twelve-year-old girls start a small business helping their local neighborhood spirits pass on to the other side.



Band Nerd

by Sarah Clawson Willis

Twelve-year-old Lucy Carver must navigate life as a band nerd in a new school-- where the academics are strenuous and artistic expectations are high-- all while competing for a top flute soloist spot.



Will's Race for Home : a Western

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

In 1889, a young Black family hears about a land rush, so Will and his father set out from Texas to Oklahoma, racing thousands of others on a difficult journey to where land is free.



The Misfits: A Copycat Conundrum

by Lisa Yee

When one of their classmates starts receiving threatening notes, the Misfits investigate and uncover ties to an art forgery scheme.



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