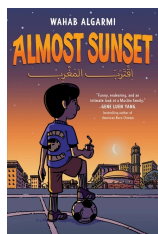




Children's Booklist 2025: Realistic Fiction

Fiction for Grades 4-5



Almost Sunset

by Wahab Algarmi

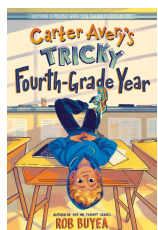
Hassan faces a hectic month of homework, soccer and gaming while fasting every day for the holy month of Ramadan, in a story about balancing family traditions and secular middle school life.



Rick Kotani's 400 Million Dollar Summer

by Waka T. Brown

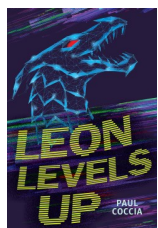
Rick Kotani is looking forward to playing summer baseball at home, but must move to help his Grandpa. After the two bond over a Japanese folktale about personal values, Rick joins a super competitive baseball league and must decide what he values most.



Carter Avery's Tricky Fourth-Grade Year

by Rob Buyea

Having a hard time sitting still and not blurting stuff out, Carter Avery finally gets a teacher who understands him. When people try to get Ms. Krane fired, he embarks on a secret mission to save her while navigating an especially tricky school year.



Leon Levels Up

by Paul Coccia

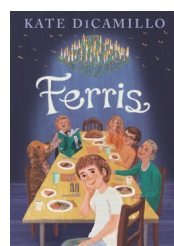
Leon loves video games, and is shocked when Nico, the coolest kid ever and the son of a video-game developer, invites him over to test out the newest game - where they are submerged in giant tanks filled with interactive nanobots. It sounds perfectly safe...but is it?



Two Tribes

by Emily Bowen Cohen

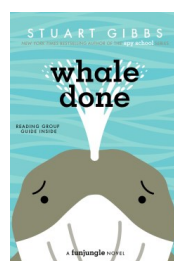
Mia is still getting used to living with her mom and stepfather, and to the new role their Jewish identity plays in their home. Feeling out of place at home and at school, Mia makes a plan to take a bus to visit her Muscogee father in Oklahoma--without telling her mom.



Ferris

by Kate DiCamillo

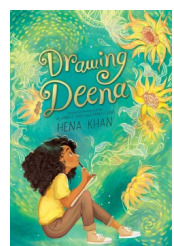
During the summer before fifth grade, Ferris Wilkey has her hands full with her little sister terrorizing the town, her Aunt Shirley moving into their basement and her grandmother seeing a ghost—one who has wild, impractical and illuminating plans.



Funjungle: Whale Done

by Stuart Gibbs

While in Malibu with his girlfriend Summer, Teddy Fitzroy helps the head vet from FunJungle investigate a blown-up whale and the theft of tons of beach sand, determined to uncover the truth in a glittering world where nothing is as it seems. Book 8.



Drawing Deena

by Hena Khan

When young Pakistani -American artist Deena promotes her mom's business, which takes off and makes her anxiety unmanageable, she must learn the importance of asking for help and that, with the right support, she can create something truly beautiful.

Realistic Fiction

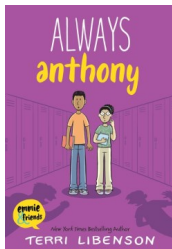
Fiction for Grades 4-5



Slugfest

by Gordon Korman

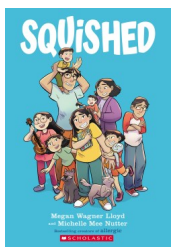
Forced to take Physical Education Equivalency, aka "Slugfest," in summer school so he can maintain his star spot on the JV football team, Yash recruits his fellow PE rejects to train with him and pass this course, an endeavor that turns into a summer he'll never forget.



Emmie & Friends: Always Anthony

by Terri Libenson

When TPFW (too popular for words) Anthony and super-shy nerd Leah witness one of his teammates bullying a sixth grader, they each grapple with the incident as they become unlikely friends. Book 8.



Squished

by Megan Wagner Lloyd

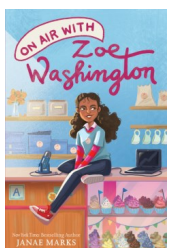
Tired of feeling squished by her six siblings, 11-year-old aspiring artist Avery Lee hatches a plan to finally get her own room until everything around her gets complicated, especially when she finds out her family might move across the country.



The Beautiful Game

by Yamile Saied Mâendez

When she gets her first period while wearing white shorts during the State Cup semifinal, which unexpectedly eliminates her team, 13-year-old Valeria is relegated to a girls' team for the first time, and with the next tournament fast approaching, she must learn to play like a girl.



On Air with Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

While building a relationship with her newly exonerated birth father, who is having a hard time re-entering society, Zoe starts a podcast to shed light on the struggles exonerees experience and to fundraise for his lifelong dream of opening his own restaurant.



The Trouble with Secrets

by Naomi Milliner

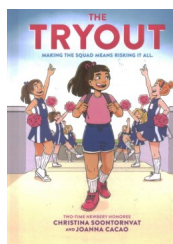
Twelve-year-old Becky is preparing for her bat mitzvah, but playing the flute causes her to keep a secret from her parents, and after discovering her "perfect" sister has a bigger secret, Becky wishes things would return to how they were,



Operation Sisterhood

by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

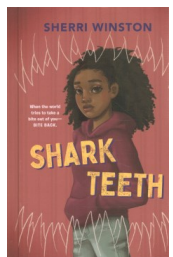
Eleven-year-old Bo is used to it being just her and her mom in their cozy New York apartment, but when her mom gets married, Bo must adjust to her new sisters and a music-minded blended family that is much larger, louder, and more complex than she ever imagined.



The Tryout

by Christina Soontornvat

As one of the only Asian Americans in her school, Christina confronts both well-meaning ignorance and cruel racism, but in middle school fitting in is important, which is why she and her best friend Megan are both excited and nervous to try out for the popular cheerleading squad.



Shark Teeth

by Sherri Winston

Seventh-grader Sharkita "Kita" embarks on a tumultuous journey to keep her family together while handling the consequences of her mother's alcoholism.



Finally Seen

by Kelly Yang

Arriving in America to live with her parents and sister after five years apart, 10-year-old Lina Gao struggles to fit in with her family and at her new school until she learns about the power of friendship, family and finally being seen.



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