

are brujas and why she and her twin sister have varying degrees of “powers.” Secondary characters are South Asian.

SAEED, AISHA
Omar Rising

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2022
9780593108581

When Omar receives a scholarship to a prestigious private school, he is thrilled. He quickly learns that scholarship and nonscholarship students aren’t treated equally and works to make a difference.

VERNICK, SHIRLEY REVA
The Sky We Shared

CINCO PUNTOS, 2022
9781947627529

Nellie, who lives in Oregon, and Tamiko, in Japan, share the same wish: for the war to end. Told in alternating perspectives, Nellie and Tamiko depict the WWII casualties in the continental U.S. as their lives become linked by a paper balloon.

WEIR, IVY NOELLE
Anne of West Philly

Illus. by Myisha Haynes
LITTLE, BROWN, 2022
9780316459785

This graphic novel retelling of Anne of Green Gables follows a Black girl as she adjusts to a new family and joins the robotics club.

WEIR, IVY NOELLE
The Secret Garden on 81st Street

Illus. by Amber Padilla
LITTLE, BROWN, 2021
9780316459655

This graphic novel retelling of The Secret Garden focuses on urban farming, rooftop gardens, the impossibility of living without gadgets these days, and a casually diverse cast of characters.

WIND, LEE
No Way, They Were Gay?

ZEST, 2021
9781541581623

This nonfiction book explains that there is a new way to look at what we have always been told, as all history is skewed by who is recording it. Provided with primary sources about historical figures, readers are encouraged to make their own conclusions.

WOLO, MAMLE
The Kaya Girl

LITTLE, BROWN, 2022
9780316703932

Abena, a wealthy doctor’s daughter, is helping in her aunt’s shop in Accra for the summer when she meets Faiza, who works in the market as a porter. Their friendship must overcome differences in class, religion, and culture to thrive.

Día

El día de los niños/
El día de los libros
(Children’s Day/Book Day)

is a celebration of children and wonderful books. Día honors the cultures and languages of all children.

dia.ala.org

This **DÍA BOOKLIST** was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSA’s Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit
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Each Story
MATTERS
Every Child
COUNTS

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BOOKLIST

Grades 6–8

Each Story
MATTERS
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ALGORTA, ALEJANDRA
Neverforgotten

Illus. by Iván Rickenmann
LEVINE QUERIDO, 2021
9781646140947
One day, Fabio forgets how to ride a bike. In this short, dreamlike novel from Colombia, Algorta explores themes of truth, friendship, and letting go. *(Bilingual)*

BUTLER, CARON, AND JUSTIN A. REYNOLDS
Shot Clock

KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS, 2022
9780063069596
Tony loves basketball, and when his friend Dante is killed by a police officer, he is more motivated than ever to make Dante's former AAU team. He joins the team as a statistician, helping his team and community grow after a devastating loss.

CAMPER, CATHY
Lowriders to the Rescue

Illus. by Raúl the Third
CHRONICLE, 2022
9781452179483
Lupe, Flapjack, and Elirio team up once again to save a family of monarch butterflies trapped by a wildfire. This installment of the graphic novel series introduces themes of migration, Arab culture, and environmentalism.

CASTELLANOS, ALEXIS
Isla to Island

ATHENEUM, 2022
9781534469242
During Operación Pedro Pan in the 1960s, Marisol journeys from Cuba to live with foster

parents in Brooklyn, finding home through her love of books and nature, in this mostly wordless historical graphic novel.

CHARI, SHEELA
Karthik Delivers

AMULET, 2022
9781419755224
Set during the financial crisis, Karthik's family's Indian grocery store is in dire need of business. To help, Karthik is required to deliver groceries by bike during his summer break. What his family doesn't know is that, during his deliveries, he is also rehearsing to play a young Leonard Bernstein in a play.

CRAIGIE, GREGOR
Why Humans Build Up: The Rise of Towers, Temples and Skyscrapers

Illus. by Kathleen Fu
ORCA, 2022
9781459821880
What do tall buildings, castles, skyscrapers, and such mean for the health of the planet? Discover what history can tell us about the planet today and tomorrow in this book that explores how big ideas have shaped humanity.

ELLIOTT, ZETTA, AND LYN MILLER-LACHMANN
Moonwalking

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX, 2022
9780374314378
This novel in verse alternates chapters chronicling the lives and burgeoning friendship of two protagonists: young punk

rocker JJ, who is trying to find his place as one of the few white kids in his new school, and Pie, a Basquiat-loving graffiti artist coping with his mother's mental illness.

FAJARDO, KAT
Miss Quinces

GRAPHIX, 2022
9781338535587
Sue wishes to attend sleepaway camp with her friends but first must visit her family in Honduras. She didn't expect or want a quinceañera but is surprised by her mother, while in Honduras, that she is having one. To get to go to camp, she will first have to navigate the frilly dresses and dancing.

FARUQI, SAADIA
A Thousand Questions

QUILL TREE, 2020
9780062943200
Set in Karachi, Pakistan, it's a summer of self-discovery and growing friendship told through the alternating perspectives of Mimi, an American girl who is spending the summer visiting her grandparents, and Sakina, a Pakistani girl who works in the grandparents' house and has big dreams.

GONZALEZ, CHRISTINA DIAZ
Invisible

Illus. by Gabriela Epstein
GRAPHIX, 2022
9781338194555
In this bilingual graphic novel, five students are forced to do community service together

in their school cafeteria. They think they have nothing in common until they find a cause to work together on and end up changing one family's circumstances. *(Bilingual)*

KELLER, TAE
Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone

RANDOM HOUSE, 2022
9780593310526
Mallory has finally found a way to keep her head down and fit in, but then Jennifer Chan moves in across the street, and Mallory's ideas about friendship, loyalty, and the universe itself are challenged.

LITTLE BADGER, DARCI
Elatsoe

Illus. by Rovina Cai
LEVINE QUERIDO, 2020
9781646140053
Ellie is Lipan Apache and has the ability to raise the spirits of dead animals. Using her powers and her dog, Kirby, she works to solve the mystery of who killed her cousin.

LOCKINGTON, MARIAMA J.
In the Key of Us

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX, 2022
9780374314101
In this dual-perspective novel, Andi and Zora meet at Harmony Music Camp, where they deal with grief, pressure, and growing feelings for one another.

LUQMAN-DAWSON, AMINA

Freewater

LITTLE, BROWN, 2022
9780316056618
Siblings Homer and Ada escape from the plantation where they are enslaved and reach Freewater, a hidden community of formerly enslaved and freeborn people. However, danger still lurks, and they must work with their friends to protect their new home.

MCKISSACK, PATRICIA C., AND FREDRICK L. MCKISSACK JR.

Best Shot in the West: The Thrilling Adventures of Nat Love—the Legendary Black Cowboy!

Illus. by Randy DuBurke
CHRONICLE, 2022
9781797212517
Born into slavery, Nat Love, aka Deadwood Dick, grew up to become the most famous African American cowboy in the Old West. He traveled many of the major western trails, sometimes working in dangerous situations, including battles and fighting off rustlers and bandits.

MERBERG, JULIE
"Nice" Jewish Girls

Illus. by Georgia Rucker
DOWNTOWN BOOKWORKS, 2021
9781950587094
Bite-size biographies of thirty-six iconic Jewish women from the worlds of entertainment, politics, and activism, ranging from Anne Frank to Ruth

Bader Ginsburg, Ilana Glazer to Diane von Furstenberg.

REYNOLDS, JASON
Ain't Burned All the Bright

Illus. by Jason Griffin
CAITLYN DLOUHY BOOKS, 2022
9781534439467
Beautiful art brings the poetry alive as a young Black protagonist describes feeling trapped and working his way through to hope to see a way out. There is always a way out.

RHUDAY-PERKOVICH, OLUGBEMISOLA
Operation Sisterhood

CROWN, 2022
9780593379899
Nigerian American Tokunbo and her mom move in with her mom's new boyfriend and his family in Harlem. Lives clash when Tokunbo must learn to live with a big family including new siblings.

RYON, LORIEL
Into the Tall, Tall Grass

MARGARET K. MCELDERRY BOOKS, 2020
9781534449671
A half Mexican, half white girl embarks on a last-ditch journey before her grandmother dies to figure out how and why her family

