2020 Read Alouds: Upper Elementary

**Amal Unbound** by Aisha Saeed
Amal is a Pakistani girl who, after one incident, is forced to work as an indentured servant. It will take all of Amal’s courage, resources and education to expose her evil employer.

**Front Desk** by Kelly Yang
There are a lot of things about Mia Tang’s immigrant family and life that she does not reveal to others, such as helping her parents at the motel where they work. She has a dream of becoming a writer someday. This book is about her strength and kindness that help her to get through the year and hopefully someday fulfill her dreams.

**Holes in the Sky** by Patricia Polacco
This inspiring story is about Patricia Polacco’s babushka; her grandmother. Trisha is sad when her babushka passes away. She is inspired by the thought of her grandmother watching over her through the “holes in the sky” when her family has to move to California. There she meets a truly incredible person who helps her get through the hurt of losing her grandmother.

**My Father’s Words** by Patricia MacLachlan
After losing their father, Finn and Fiona O’Brien look for comfort by volunteering at an animal shelter, spending time with two dogs who are also in need of comfort.

**Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow** by Jessica Townsend
Morrigan Crow believes that she will die on her 11th birthday. Instead, she is rescued and taken to a place called Nevermoor. In Nevermoor she must compete with other children to be in an organization named the Wondrous Society. If she fails she will die.

**Saving Winslow** by Sharon Creech
When Louie’s father brings home a sick mini donkey, Louie tries everything he can to save the poor animal. This is a story about love and determination that will make you realize how strong the bond is between Louie and Winslow.

**Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster** by Jonathan Auxier
Set in nineteenth century England, young Nan Sparrow must take the dangerous job of a “climbing boy” with a chimney sweeper after her father leaves her, with only a hat and a char-a lump of mysterious charcoal. One night Nan is caught in a fire, and to her amazement, the char turns into a golem. Nan names the golem Charlie. Charlie and Nan become friends and in the process save their own lives.

**The Day You Begin** by Jacqueline Woodson
This beautifully illustrated book reminds us it’s ok to be different. Sometimes we might feel like there is no one quite like you. This book encourages us to feel strong and to start sharing our own stories with others.

**The Lost Girl** by Anne Ursu
Identical twins, Iris and Lark, are not in the same class this school year—the first time they have been separated. There is also a new antique shop in their Minneapolis neighborhood, with an owner who claims he can do magic. Things are going missing from the Twins’s home, a mysterious giant crow is following the girls home and a dark secret will be revealed that could separate the twins forever.

**To Night Owl From Dogfish** by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Two girls discover that their gay fathers have fallen in love. Both fathers plan on sending the girls to the same camp so they can meet and hopefully become friends. Things don’t work out as planned and after their fathers breakup, the girls must find a way to get them back together. This book is told through letters, emails and text.