2017-18 Young Hoosier Middle Grade Book Award
Grace Blakely is absolutely certain about three things:

1. She is not crazy
2. Her mother was murdered
3. Someday she is going to find the killer and make him pay

There are many powerful people along Embassy row who want Grace to block out all her unpretty thoughts. But Grace will not stop until she finds out who killed her mother and make the killer pay.
Arctic Code by Matthew Kirby

The Earth is in the grip of a new Ice Age, and when twelve-year-old Eleanor’s scientist mother disappears in the arctic, Eleanor sets off on a dangerous journey to find her—and uncovers a mystery, a crime, and evidence that Earth has been visited by extraterrestrials.
Kamran Smith has it all and he can’t wait to enlist in the army like his big brother, Darius. Although Kamran’s mother is from Iran he has always felt 100% American. And then everything implodes. Darius is accused of being a terrorist. Kamran refuses to believe it but Darius has been filmed making threats against his country, hinting an upcoming attack.
Orphan Jax Aubrey doesn’t expect much on his thirteenth birthday, but when he discovers there’s an extra day squeezed between Wednesday and Thursday whose origins are rooted in the Arthurian legend, it’s clear that his life will never be the same.
Even though technology and inventions have been outlawed in the mountain city of Cove, in order to save the city Trenton and Kallista must follow a set of mysterious blueprints to build a creature to protect them from the dragons outside their door.
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there’s a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don’t always think alike.
When her grandfather develops dementia, sixteen-year-old Tess, who has been barely keeping his Montana ranch going, is whisked away to Washington, D.C., by a sister she barely knows and thrown into a world of politics, power, wealth, love triangles, and family secrets.
Bridge is an accident survivor who’s wondering why she’s still alive.

Emily has new curves and an almost-boyfriend who wants a certain kind of picture.

Tabitha sees through everybody’s games. Or so she tells the world.

They’re best friends with one rule: no fighting. Can it get them through seventh grade?
Best friends Libby and May invented Princess X when they were in fifth grade, but when the car Libby is in goes off a bridge, she is presumed dead, and the story came to an end-- except now, three years later, Princess X is suddenly everywhere, with a whole underground culture focused on a webcomic, so May believes her friend must be alive.
In 1945, twelve-year-old Patrick and his younger brother Teddy stowaway on the U.S.S. Indianapolis in a desperate attempt to get back to the Philippines where they last saw their parents, just before the Japanese invasion-- but when the ship is sunk they find themselves clinging to a piece of debris without food or water-- and with hungry sharks circling below.
Mark of the Thief by Jennifer Nielsen

When Nic, a slave in the mines outside of Rome, is forced to enter a sealed cavern containing lost treasures of Julius Caesar, he finds himself in possession of an ancient amulet filled with magic once reserved for the Gods, and becomes the center of a conspiracy to overthrow the emperor and destroy Rome.
Night on Fire by Ronald Kidd

When Billie hears about a group calling themselves the Freedom Riders passing through Anniston to protest segregation on buses, she thinks change could be coming, until her town responds with violence, and she realizes that freedom has a cost. But is she brave enough to stand up and fight for it?
No Place by Todd Strasser

When Dan and his parents can no longer pay their mortgage, they end up homeless and living in a local tent city. It’s a bad situation, and it only gets worse when the leader of the tent city is brutally beaten. Who is trying to shut down the tent city, and why?
Sixth grade was supposed to be the year that Jack Callahan leads his team to a record-shattering season and the Little League World Series, but after the death of his brother he loses interest in baseball and only Cassie, star of the girls’ softball team, seems to understand.
Jack, 12, tells the gripping story of Joseph, 14, who joins his family as a foster child. Damaged in prison, Joseph wants nothing more than to find his baby daughter, Jupiter, whom he has never seen. When Joseph has begun to believe he’ll have a future, he is confronted by demons from his past that force a tough sacrifice.
In 1963, thirteen-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at an old man’s head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects may be more valuable than he expects.
Terror at Bottle Creek by Watt Key

When a hurricane hits the Gulf Coast, thirteen-year-old Cort is trapped in the lower Alabama wilderness with two other survivors and finds the skills he learned from his hunting and swamp lore father put to the ultimate test.
Sixteen-year-old Malencia (Cia) Vale is chosen to participate in The Testing to attend the University; however, Cia is fearful when she figures out that her friends do not pass The Testing are disappearing.
A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War Two, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.
Lee Westfall, a young woman with the magical ability to sense the presence of gold, must flee from people who would abuse her powers, so when her best friend Jefferson heads out across Gold Rush-era America to stake his claim, she disguises herself as a boy and sets out on her own dangerous journey.

* Book blurbs compiled from Destiny, Goodreads, and Barnes and Noble websites