2022 OLA Intermediate Sequoyah Masterlist Annotations

Blankman, Anne. **The Blackbird Girls.** New York: Viking, 2020. 340 p. (Grades 4-7). In 1986, neighbors Valentina and Oksana, must flee their homes because the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl has exploded. The narrative also includes interludes about a girl who flees Ukraine in 1941, running from the German army. The stories weave together to illustrate the power of friendship in difficult times.

Brubaker Bradley, Kimberly. **Fighting Words.** New York: Penguin Random House, 2020. 272 p. (Grades 5-6). Della could always count on her older sister, Suki. Through all the trauma in their lives, Suki protected Della. But Della wonders if there is anyone to protect Suki. Unimaginable neglect and abuse lead to unimaginable decisions, and now, it is time for Della to speak up and save her sister and herself.

Callender, Kacen. **King and the Dragonflies.** New York: Scholastic Press, 2020. 259 p. (Grades 3-9). After his brother’s unexpected death and the news that his former best friend is missing, King is questioning what he believes about himself, his brother, his friendship, and his sexuality while noticing signs that make him believe that his brother turned into a dragonfly to watch over their grieving family.

Cisneros, Ernesto. **Efren Divided.** New York City: Harper, 2020. 263 p. (Grades 5-7). Efren is living a happy and safe life stateside with his hardworking apa, siblings, and ama. One day, ama doesn't come home from work because she has been deported across the border into Tijuana. Efren must learn to be brave as he takes care of his siblings while ama is away.

Deuker, Carl. **Golden Arm.** New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020. 354 p. (Grades 5-9). Laz Weathers, a stand-out baseball pitcher that lives on the wrong side of the tracks, is given an opportunity to change his fate. He potentially ruins it in order to save his brother’s life. However, with some unexpected help, he gets the chance to fulfill his dream.

Donnelly, Jennifer. **Poisoned.** New York: Scholastic Press, 2020. 307 p. (Grades 8-12). They said Sophie was too kind and foolish to rule, and Sophie believed them. With the help of seven mysterious strangers, she finds a new inner strength to fight a terrifying enemy and prove them all wrong.

Esplin, J.L. **96 Miles.** New York City: Starscape, 2020. 271 p. (Grades 6-9). The young Lockwood brothers have all they need to survive in the middle of the Nevada desert. One summer day, while their dad is away on business, disaster strikes - the power goes out - and stays out. John and Stew must travel by foot 96 miles in just a few short days to try to get to safety.

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. **When Stars Are Scattered.** New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2020. 264p. (Grades 3-8). Omar and his younger brother Hassan are from Somalia, but had to flee their village. The brothers now live in a refugee camp in Kenya. Despite the conditions in the refugee camp, the brothers make friends and ultimately cling to the hope that they will be reunited with their mother.
Johnson, Kim. *This is My America*. New York: Random House Children’s Books, 2020. 406 p. (Grades 7-12). Seventeen-year-old Tracy’s father is on death row for a crime he did not commit. Things go from bad to worse when her brother is accused of killing a girl and goes on the run. Tracy embarks on a thrilling investigation to prove both her father’s and brother’s innocence.

Khoury, Jessica. *The Mystwick School of Musicraft*. Boston; New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020. 361 p. (Grades 4-8). Amelia Jones can weave spells with her music. More than anything, she wants to develop her craft at The Mystwick School for Musicraft. Unfortunately her audition goes awry. However, due to a case of mistaken identity, Amelia gets a chance to attend Mystwick. Amelia is determined to prove that she belongs.

O'Shaughnessy, Kate. *The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane*. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2020. 288 p. (Grades 5-7). Maybelle Lane is a collector of things very different from other collectors; she collects sounds. One day, she finds a new sound - the sound of her daddy’s voice on a voicemail on an old cell phone. Maybelle and her elderly neighbor, Mrs. Boggs, set off in the RV for a summer adventure to find Maybelle’s daddy.

Reynolds, Jason and Ibram X. Kendi. *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-Winning Stamped From the Beginning*. New York: Little, Brown, and Company, 2020. 294 p. (Grades 5-8). Starting with 1415 and the world’s first racist, this fast paced non-fiction book comes all the way into the present and racism today. It is a retelling of the National Book Award-winning *Stamped From the Beginning* in a format that is more engaging for teen readers.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Black Brother, Black Brother*. New York: Little Brown and Company, 2020. 239 p. (Grades 4-7). Dante faces bullying and unjust arrest at his school where he is one of a very few black students, but decides to learn to fence in order to face his biggest bully in competition.

Savaryn, Lorelei. *The Circus of Stolen Dreams*. New York: Penguin Group, 2020. 224 p. (Grades 4-8). Three years ago, Andrea’s little brother disappeared and she blames herself. As her family continues to crumble, she runs into the woods to escape. There, she finds a mysterious world where dreams come to life for a price. Andrea must decide if Reverie is a place to escape or be trapped.

Yang, Gene Luen. *Dragon Hoops*. New York: First Second, 2020. 444 p. (Grades 5-9). Mr. Yang discovers his love for basketball in retelling the story of his experience with the Bishop O’Dowd High School Dragons and their goal for a state championship. Along the way, he unfolds the history of basketball and the events that made it the game it is today.