2023 OLA Intermediate Sequoyah Masterlist Annotations

Albus, Kate. *A Place to Hang the Moon*. New York: Holiday House, 2021, 303 p. (Grades 5 and up). William, Edmund, and Anna are orphans looking for a new family during WW2. They decide to put their trust in the British government and be placed with a family out in the country with the hopes of finding someone who will keep them forever. Albus’ characters are fun and realistic and her writing style is reminiscent of Lemony Snicket’s series.

Alston, B.B. *Amari and the Night Brothers*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2021. 416 p. (Grades 3-7). This fantasy interweaves natural and supernatural worlds. Amari struggles to find and save her undercover brother, Quinton. Amari grows into her new magic, gains confidence, and expands understanding. She loves her mom and brother, but she longs for more than life in the projects affords.

Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2021. 244p. (Grades 5-8). A heartbreaking and heart-warming book, this is the story of twelve-year old Ellie, who has been bullied and fat-shamed for most of her life by classmates, and sadly, members of her own family. With the help of a therapist and a couple of very good friends, Ellie begins to see herself as more than her weight and finds the confidence to stand up for herself.

Freeman, Megan E. *Alone*. New York: Aladdin, 2021. 404 p. (Grades 5-8). Freeman’s dystopian novel-in-verse shows just how lonely being all alone can get. When twelve-year-old Maddie plans a sneaky slumber party that no one else can attend, she wakes up to find her entire town mysteriously evacuated. Maddie must rely on herself for food, shelter, winter-survival, and entertainment for months - but can she survive long term, alone?

Gerber, Alyson. *Taking Up Space*. New York: Scholastic, 2021. 272 p. (Grades 5-8). Sarah loves basketball. She doesn’t love that puberty is affecting her agility on the court and that her mom often forgets to feed her. In an effort to help her game, Sarah begins to obsessively monitor her food intake. Gerber expertly captures the challenges of a young female athlete.

Gratz, Alan. *Ground Zero*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2021. 336 p. (Grades 4-7). Ground Zero is an authentic examination of the events of 9/11 and their lasting impact on American as well as Afghan citizens. Dual perspectives, a boy fighting to survive the collapse of the towers and a girl trying to survive an ongoing war, examine how one tragic event illuminates hope, but also leads to fear and revenge.

Jones, Ena. *Six Feet Below*. New York: Holiday House, 2021. 283p. (Grades 4-6). Rosie and Baker are hiding something big: a promise to pretend great-Grandma is alive until they find her missing will and get it in the right hands. The lies get bigger and bigger as the kids try to convince everyone that their great grandmother is still around. This unexpectedly touching, funny
read reminds us that families are weird and wonderful, even when they're missing their best parts.

Kessler, Liz. *When the World Was Ours*. New York: Aladdin, 2021. 337p. (Grades 5-8). A tale of friendship and heartbreak based on a true story during the time of the Holocaust. Leo, Elsa, and Max have no idea that their lives are about to change. When war breaks out, their friendship is put to the test as the three friends are separated. Each character shares their perspective of this fateful time in their life. Will they ever find each other again, or will they even want to?


Moulite, Maika and Maritza Moulite. *One of the Good Ones*. New York: Harlequin, 2021. 335 p. (Grades 7-12). After attending a social justice rally, Kezi is arrested and dies mysteriously. Her family is mourning and her sisters want to take the road trip Kezi dreamed of using The Negro Motorist Green Book. Along their journey, they begin to realize their memories of their sister may not be entirely accurate.

Nielsen, Susan. *Tremendous Things*. New York: Penguin Random House, 2021. 272 p. (Grades 7-9). This is a laugh out loud, deeply moving story of a teenage boy, Wilber, who is trying to navigate an unusual family life, friends and high school. He also wishes he could find someone special. Susin Nielsen writes about realistic high school drama and has us rooting for the underdogs.

Rivera, Kaela. *Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2021. 326 p. (Grades 3-8). When Cecelia’s older sister is kidnapped by El Sombreron, a spirit associated with death, Cecelia will do whatever it takes to get her back. Including leaving her village, working with spirits, and committing a terrible crime. Rivera builds an amazing world in this fantasy novel that is sure to have readers at the edge of their seats.

Royce, Eden. *Root Magic*. New York: Walden Pond Press, 2021. 352 p. (Grades 3-7). Eleven-year-old Jez Turner’s life has been difficult to say the least. Now, with the passing of her grandmother, Jez is learning how to do root work. Alongside her twin brother Jay, she must face the challenge of staying true to herself in spite of a racist deputy and a community who frowns on the use of root magic.

Sheinkin’s presentation of the Cold War will keep spy-thriller readers on the edge of their seats. For decades, the safety of the whole world was in the hands of the spies, bombs, and spacecraft of the United States and Russia, with their fingers on the trigger of mutual destruction the whole time.

Smith, Niki. *The Golden Hour*. New York: Little, Brown & Co, 2021. 352 p. (Grades 5-7). Struggling with anxiety after witnessing gun violence, Manuel Soto copes through photography. His days are a lonely, latchkey monotony until he's teamed with his classmates, Sebastian and Caysha, for a group project. His new friends help Manuel learn to open up, to confront his deepest fears, and to find first love.