Amos, Shawn. **Cookies and Milk.** Little Brown Books for Young Readers: 2022. 320 p. (Grades 3-7). Ellis Bailey Johnson is expecting to have a relaxing summer, but his dad has other plans. Ellis instead has to help his dad open the world’s first chocolate chip cookie store. With help from their community, the father and son duo will begin an epic business journey together and learn a lot about one another in the process.

Applebaum, Kirsty. **Lifeling.** New York: Henry Holt and Company: 2022. 288 p. (Grades 2-6). Lonny Quicke is a twelve year old with a secret ability that if anyone knew they might try and take advantage. Lonny is put to the true test when he ventures off to a nearby town to find a way to help his family, but can he keep his ability a secret? As he makes new friends he is tempted to reveal his secret and his true test is revealed. When presented with a choice would you risk your life to save another?

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. **The Ogress and the Orphans.** Chapel Hill, North Carolina: Algonquin Young Readers: 2022. 400 p. (Grades 4-8). *The Ogress and the Orphans* by Kelly Regan Barnhill tells the story of the town of Stone-in-the-Glen where natural disasters have taken what makes their city home: the library, school, and even their sense of neighborliness. When one of the town’s orphans goes missing, the mayor points to the local Ogress to blame. How will the orphans convince their town that the Ogress is the charming and generous friend that they have grown to love?

Bolden, Tonya. **Going places: Victor Hugo Green and his glorious book.** HarperCollins Children's Books: 2022. 40 p. (Grades 3-6). Victor Hugo Green was a man who felt the effects of Jim Crow Laws and Segregation in a pre Civil Rights- Era world very deeply. During this time in American history, it was very difficult to travel if you were a person of color. Various laws and rules in cities made it dangerous for weary travelers to stop and rest. Green changed this by creating a Green book with lists of safe places to stop, eat, and enjoy. A riveting historical account of a man who risked his livelihood to help his fellow man.

Cisneros, Ernesto. **Falling Short.** Quill Tree Books, New York: 2022. 292 p. (Grades 3-6). Isaac has the basketball skills, and Marco has the brains, however, both boys wish that they could succeed at what their friend does. School work is not Isaac’s thing and Marco does not have the height to be a baller, unless of course they lean on their friendship which is strong enough to handle anything sixth grade throws at them. Between mishaps and bullies, these two may fall short in their big plans. You will have to read Falling Short to find out.

Connor, Leslie. **Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?** New York. Katherine Tegen Books, 2022. 336 p. (Grades 3-7). Aurora is a loud and impulsive 11-year-old with a best friend who has never spoken a word to her. Frenchie, who is non-verbal, knows Aurora is his person and enjoys spending time with her. One morning, Frenchie never makes it to school and Aurora blames
herself for his sudden disappearance. The whole town works to find Frenchie, a boy who makes a difference in so many lives without saying a word.

Eagle, Judith. *The Pear Affair*. Candlewick Press: 2022. 288p. (Grades 4-7). Nell has absolutely horrid parents who are completely obsessed with building and maintaining their own wealth - at any cost. Her only friend is her au pair, who was suddenly fired and even more suddenly missing in Paris, where the story takes place. The children are heroic, the villains dastardly. A delightfully fast-paced mystery.

Glaser, Karina Yan. *A Duet for Home*. Clarion Books, New York. 2022. 347 p. (Grades 3-7). June finds herself and her family living in a homeless shelter after her father’s tragic death and her mother’s subsequent depression. There she meets long-term resident Tyree and other characters around the shelter while struggling with her new circumstances. This novel deals with government bureaucracies, families in crisis, and friendships in a well-developed and heartfelt way.

Howell, Destiny. *High Score*. New York: Scholastic: 2022. 304 p. (Grades 5-7). At his old school, Darius James, or D.J., was the guy to go to when problems needed solved. That was his old school though, at his new school, he is lying low. This changes when an old friend comes to his school and gets into a bind that only D.J. ’s special heist skills can fix. Will D.J. be able to pull off the biggest job yet? Or will it all crash down on him and his friend?

Lewis, Caryl. *Seed*: New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2022; 216 p. (Grades 3-6). Life is tough for Marty, but he finds bits of happiness with his entrepreneurial grandfather at the local community garden. After being given a seed for his birthday, more than just a plant grows as Marty makes a friend, finds hope, and a plan unfolds to make more than one dream come true.

McCullough, Joy. *Not Starring Zadie Louise*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers: 2022. 247p. (Grades 3-7) 10 year old Zadie Louise’s summer is not going as she had planned. Money is tight and instead of attending science camp she is spending her summer at the Bainbridge Youth Theater with her mom and sister, Lulu. Trying to make the best of it, Zadie quickly finds herself drawn to the behind the scenes jobs. However, every time she “helps” she makes it worse and the new stage manager has it out for her. Can Zadie survive this summer where everything seems to be going wrong and find her place at the theater?

Morrell, Christyne. *Trex*. Delacorte Press, New York. 2022. 288 p. (Grades 3-7). Nearly killed in a car accident as a toddler, 12-year-old Trex was saved by a cutting edge operation that left him with a head full of metal and unusual powers. In this science fiction mystery, Trex works to blend into his new middle school while keeping his body from shocking anyone around him. Ladened with bullies, spies, and quirky neighbors, Trex finds his way to the truth.

Nannestad, Katrina. *We Are Wolves*. New York. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2022. 304 p. (Grades 5-9). As World War II comes to an end, East Prussians begin fleeing a USSR-occupied Germany. The Wolf family flees into the night, attempting to escape. Liesel,
Otto, and Mia are soon separated from their mother and have nowhere to go. The Wolf children, alone and homeless, embark on a fight for their survival.

Soontornvat, Christina. *The Last Mapmaker*. Candlewick Press, 2022. 355 p. (Grades 3-7). In this high-seas adventure twelve year old Sai plays the part of a well-bred young lady despite her ancestry lacking a higher social position. After becoming an apprentice with a great mapmaker, she boards a ship setting sail for the southern seas. Then discovers the crew is headed toward a fabled land inhabited by dragons, dangers, and riches beyond imagination.

Theule, Larissa. *Concrete: From the Ground Up*. Candlewick Press: 2022. 48 p. (Grades 1-5). A nonfiction account of the history of concrete. The information, definition and vocabulary are presented in a way that is interesting, bolstered by detailed but charming illustrations and topped off with clever dialogue bubbles that add a touch of light humor.