Applegate, Katherine. *Crenshaw*. New York: Feiwel and Friends/MacMillan, 2015. 256 p. (Grades 4-6). Ten year old, Jackson’s imaginary friend, Crenshaw, a large black and white cat, appears again after several years when Jackson’s family faces hard times and the possibility of living in their van. Crenshaw provides Jackson with comfort and support as he tries to save his family from adversity.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War That Saved My Life*. New York: Puffin Books, 2015. 316 p. (Grades 3-6). After evacuating World War II London with her younger brother, Jamie, Ada challenges the belief she will only ever be a cripple and creates a new life for herself. But, will her mother ruin the new life Ada has worked so hard to create?

Coville, Bruce. *Diary of a Mad Brownie*. New York: Random House Children’s Books, 2015. 241p. (Grades 3-7). When Angus’ elderly human dies, he goes to the only available female relative and discovers she is extremely messy. Will he be able to survive modern American life and save the family from a centuries-old curse while keeping his temper?

Coy, John. *Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2015. 32 p. (Grades 3-6). In 1944, two basketball teams, one made of white students from the Duke University Medical School and one made of black students from the North Carolina College of Negroes; meet in segregated North Carolina for an illegal game of basketball.

Draper, Sharon. *Stella by Starlight*. New York: Atheneum, 2015. 288 p. (Grades 4-8). Stella sneaks out late one night and discovers a Klan meeting which promises danger for her family and community. Can Stella and her neighbors find the strength to fight back against prejudice in a segregated South?

Hilton, Marilyn. *Full Cicada Moon*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015. 389 p. (Grades 4-7). It’s 1969 and Mimi’s family moves to Vermont. Her mixed-race background and interest in science makes it difficult for her to fit in with her peers. She befriends another girl with similar interests and together this novel in verse tells a story of how they overcome the expectations of others.


Jones, Kelly. *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015. 216 p. (Grades 3-6). When twelve year old Sophie and her parents move from Los Angeles to a small farm once owned by her great uncle. She soon discovers that the chickens left on the farm have unusual talents to disappear, lay glass eggs, and even move objects with their minds. When a local farmer tries to steal the chickens, Sophie becomes determined to learn all she can so she can protect them.
Pyron, Bobbie. *Lucky Strike*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2015. 263 p. (Grades 3-6). When lightning strikes Nate Harlow, unluckiest kid on the planet, on his eleventh birthday, he survives and becomes lucky, popular, and the center of attention with no time anymore for his scientific and logical best friend, Gen, or her efforts to save the turtles on Paradise Island. With things so different now, is he really so lucky after all? Can he and Gen save their friendship and the island?

Sachar, Louis. *Fuzzy Mud*. New York: Random House Children’s Books, 2015. 192 p. (Grades 5 and up). What begins as a normal day ends up with a walk through the woods, where a company conducts dangerous and secret medical testing. Strange things start to happen when Tamaya falls down into mud and a rash that won’t go away begins to spread to other townspeople.

Shang, Wendy Wan Long. *The Way Home Looks Now*. New York: Scholastic, 2015. 250 p. (Grades 4-6). Peter’s family is shattered by the death of his older brother. His plans to join a Little League team are slightly foiled when his strict Japanese father decides to coach the team. However, Peter hopes his involvement in baseball will help his awaken his mother from deep depression.

Surovec, Yasmine. *My Pet Human*. New York: Roaring Book Press, 2015. 106 p. (Grades 1-5). Oliver is a cat who loves his independent life. When he discovers a little girl and her family living in his favorite empty house, Oliver decides that having someone to give him treats might be nice. But when he becomes attached to the family he must choose to stay with his new “pet” or return to the streets.


Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Funny Bones: Posada and his Day of the Dead Calaveras*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015. 40 p. (Grades K-4). This is the story of José Guadalupe Posada and his art showing skeletons performing everyday tasks. What started out as political cartoons is now widely known and often associated with Mexico’s Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

Tate, Don. *Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton*. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2015. 36 p. (Grades 2-5). When he was a young, George Moses Horton taught himself to read and then turned his mind to poetry. Despite being enslaved, he finds time to learn to write and eventually published his own books.

Yep, Laurence. *A Dragon’s Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans*. New York: Crown Books for Young Readers, 2015. 152 p. (Grades 3-5). When an energetic little girl named Winnie interrupts Ms. Drake’s afternoon tea, life for the centuries old dragon will never be the same, especially when Winnie’s magical animal drawings come to life. Can Ms. Drake put all the animals back in the sketchbook before it’s too late while adjusting to life with her new human pet?