Benway, Robin. *Far From the Tree*. New York: HarperTeen, 2017. 374 p. (Grades 8 and up). After choosing adoption for her own baby, 16-year-old Grace is inspired to find her own biological mother. She meets her loud and snarky bio sister Maya, who is angry at their birth mom and searching for her own place in her adoptive family, and their quiet older bio brother Joaquin, who is scarred from a life spent bouncing from one foster home to the next. Together, they discover the quiet battles they’re all fighting and what it means to be a family.


Grimes, Nikki. *One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance*. 120 p. (Grades 4-9). Using the Golden Shovel Method, Grimes presents and then borrows from the poems of the Harlem Renaissance to create her own modern, powerful poetry. The illustrations done by some of today’s best African American artists make this book pop. One Last Word will not be enough. You will want to read and write your own.

Hardinge, Frances. *Skinful of Shadows*. New York: Amulet Books, 2017. 415p. (Grades 6-9) Makepeace can see ghosts, but that is only the beginning. Orphaned and sent to live with family and a half brother she has never met, Makepeace begins to discover that things are not what the seem in the Fellmotte family.

Hicks, Deron R. *The Van Gogh Deception*. New York: HMH Books, 2017. 322 p. (Grades 4-6). Who is Art and why does he not remember anything about his past but everything about Van Gogh paintings? Learn with him as he is chased and kidnapped for the knowledge he has stored in his brain.

Marquardt, Marie. *The Radius of Us*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin 2017. 304 p. (Grades 8-12). When Phoenix, an immigrant from El Salvador, meets Gretchen, a junior that was mugged in a parking lot, they form a bond that helps them thru the struggles in their life. This is a story of how two unlikely people with different thoughts and ideas can come together and help erase the scars of their past.

Odhiambo, Eucath. *Auma’s Long Run*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2017. 293p. (Grades 7-12). Thirteen-year-old Auma doesn’t remember a time when she walked. She always ran. Her love of running is the driving force to help her reach her ultimate goal: to become a doctor one day. In the 1980s, the spread of AIDS is hitting every country, city, and town equally hard, including Kenya and Auma’s small community. Tragedy after tragedy befalls her family, and Auma faces a decision to either sacrifice her future to help her family now, or gather the strength she needs to fulfill her dream and provide a brighter future.

Pérez, Celia C. *The First Rule of Punk*. New York: Viking, 2018. 304 p. (Grades 3-6). Spunky Malâu O’Neill-Morales is a fan of all things punk rock, from her looks to her music choices. However, her life is rocked in a different way when her mother moves them to Chicago and Malâu is forced to face dress codes, making new friends, and deciding who she truly wants to be.
Roe, Robin. *A List of Cages*. New York: Disney-Hyperion, 2017. 320 p. (Grades 8 and up). Adam is good looking and popular Senior. Sophomore Julian wears dirty clothes and hides in a closet at lunch. But years ago, Adam and Julian were foster brothers, brought together by the accident that killed Julian’s parents. As Adam tries to get to know Julian all over again, he discovers that something sinister is happening in Julian’s house, and it could put the lives of both boys in terrible danger.

Rosenberg, Madelyn and Wendy Wan-Long Shang. *This is Just a Test*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2017. 243 p. (Grades 5-8). David likes to think of himself as a normal seventh grader, but being in a multicultural family is anything but easy. His Chinese and Jewish grandmas argue about everything, especially his upcoming bar mitzvah. And if that is not enough, things are difficult at school too. One of his friends dislikes the other friend on his academic team. His free time is spent trying to help his friend Scott build a fallout shelter so they can survive a nuclear war. Despite everything, David finds a way to balance it all in this humorous tale.


Standish, Ali. *The Ethan I Was Before*. New York City: Harperscollins Childrens Books, 2018. 368 p. (Grades 4-6). Distraught after losing his best friend in a horrible accident, Ethan and his family move to a small town to live with his Grandpa. After meeting the precocious Coralee, Ethan begins to heal from his grief, until mystery, tall-tales, and family secrets begin to take over his new life.

Strange, Lucy. *The Secret of Nightingale Wood*. New York: Chicken House, 2017. 288 p. (Grades 3-7) Henry and her family move from busy London to a quieter life at Hope House after the death of her brother. Her mother is ill with grief and her father travels abroad for work leaving Henry with her Nanny, Jane and younger sister, Piglet. She spends her time wandering the woods and getting caught up in stories. What she finds there could help her whole family heal.

Terry, Ellie. *Forget Me Not*. New York: Fiewel & Friends. 328 Pages (Grades 6 and up)
Another new school? When will mom realize just how hard it is to move when you are different? Calliope tries again to reinvent herself and hide just how different she is. With the help of new friends looking beyond the odd noises and body movements she starts to fit in. But, mom breaks up with boyfriend number 50 million. Does this mean starting over again?

Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2017. 464 p. (Grades 8 and up). Sixteen-year old Starr Carter lives a very complicated life, her days spent at a largely white, private school in an affluent neighborhood and then travels back to her own urban neighborhood. After she witnesses the death of her cousin, Khalil at the hands of a white police officer, Starr finds herself trying to understand the outrage from her community while attempting to navigate the racial tensions that beginning to appear at her school and within its community. As the only witness to Khalil’s death, how Starr deals with growing racial tensions could have last consequences for everyone.
Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Wild Bird.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2017. 311p. (Grades 8 and up). A series of poor decisions by Wren force her parents to send her to wilderness therapy camp in the Utah desert. Here she is forced to face her poor life choices, must rely on other campers even the most basic tasks, and is taken on a quest where every decision Wren makes could make the difference between success and failure, even life or death.

Walton, K.M. *Ultimatum.* Illinois: Sourcebooks 2017. 300 Pages (Grades 7 and up) Oscar and Vance. Two very different brothers. Three years ago they lost their mom in a car accident. Can they survive as brothers when their dad becomes ill? The brothers look around and see nothing is ever just one-sided.

Yee, F.C. *The Epic Crush of Genie Lo.* New York: Amulet Books 2017. 320 pages (Grades 7 and up). Being a 16-year-old, college-bound student can be stressful enough, but for Genie Lo things get kicked up a notch when she finds out she’s a reincarnation of the all-powerful magical staff of the Monkey King from Chinese Mythology. With the lives of her family and friends in danger from an onslaught of demons, Genie gets a crash course in fighting from The Monkey King who has taken on the form of a hot exchange student named Quinton.

Zoboi, Ibi. *American Street.* New York: Balzer + Bray 2017. 336 p. (Grades 9 and up). After being separated from her mother on their way to America, Haitian immigrant Fabiola Toussaint comes to live with her street-smart cousins and aunt in Detroit. Missing her mother, Faniola must not only navigate American culture, but also the brutal violence, and struggle for survival of her Detroit neighborhood.