2020 OLA Children’s Not Quite Sequoyah

Anderson, M.T. *Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2018. 544 p. (Grades 5-7) Elves and Goblins have been at each other for years with their own, different accounts of their tumultuous history. When the Elf Nation sends a representative, Brangwain Spurge, to deliver a historical relic to the Goblin archivist, Werfel, it sets off a chain of events that neither believe they will survive. Join the two enemies who must come together to survive the adventure to the Goblin capitol and beyond.

Becker, Heleine. *Counting on Katherine*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2018. 40 p. (Grades 1-3). As a young girl, Katherine Johnson loved to count. She loved learning and math. As she grew, her desire to learn also grew with her. She studied hard and was a gifted mathematician who finally obtained a job with NASA. When it became clear that the Apollo 13 mission was threatened, Katherine used her skills to calculate a safe landing, saving the mission and, more importantly, lives. This biographical story shares the life of an American woman who followed her dreams and made history.

Cervantes, Angela. *Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring*. New York: Scholastic, 2018. 220 p. (Grades 3-7). Paloma finds the artist Frida Kahlo’s work interesting. During her first visit to Mexico, Paloma hopes to learn more about her father’s culture and have some adventures. While her mother is occupied with work, Paloma befriends siblings, Lizzie and Gael. They know many interesting facts and secrets about Frida’s art museum and share the information with Paloma. Suddenly, the trio finds themselves in the middle of a mystery as they search for a missing peacock ring that once belonged to Kahlo. Will they find the thief and save a piece of Frida’s heritage, or will the ring be lost forever? Read to find out.

Connor, Leslie. *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*. HarperCollins, 2018. 336 p. (Grades 3-7). Mason Buttle may be the biggest kid in the seventh grade, but he struggles to read and write, is being bullied, and is dealing with grief and suspicion after the death of his best friend, Benny, who died under strange circumstances in the Buttle family orchard.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Louisiana's Way Home*. Candlewick, 2018. 240 p. (Grades 4-7). When Louisiana Elefante’s granny wakes her up in the middle of the night to tell her that the day of reckoning has arrived and they have to leave home immediately, Louisiana isn’t overly worried. After all, Granny has many middle-of-the-night ideas. But this time, things are different. This time, Granny intends for them never to return. Separated from her best friends, Raymie and Beverly, Louisiana struggles to oppose the winds of fate (and Granny) and find a way home. But as Louisiana’s life becomes entwined with the lives of the people of a small Georgia town —
including a surly motel owner, a walrus-like minister, and a mysterious boy with a crow on his shoulder — she starts to worry that she is destined only for good-byes.

Easley, Sean. *The Hotel Between*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018. 341 p. (Grades 4-7). When a hotel appears with doors that open to countries all over the world, twelve-year-old twins Cam and Cass, with only tree-etched coins as keepsakes of their parents, try to uncover the dangerous secrets the Hotel holds to the mystery of their missing parents. Cam constantly worries about his sister Cass, who is confined to a wheelchair due to spina bifida, and seeks to help her and find their long-lost parents with the help of the magical hotel where everything is possible.

Johnson, Varian. *Parker Inheritance*. New York. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018. 352 p. (Grades 3-7). When Candice finds a letter in an old attic in Lambert, South Carolina, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman, an injustice that happened decades ago, a mystery enfolding its writer, and the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle. So with the help of Brandon, the quiet boy across the street, she begins to decipher the clues. The challenge will lead them deep into Lambert's history, full of ugly deeds, forgotten heroes, and one great love; and deeper into their own families, with their own unspoken secrets. Can they find the fortune and fulfill the letter's promise before the answers slip into the past yet again?

Khan, Hena. *Power Forward*. Simon & Schuster, 2018. 144 p. (Grades 2-5). Fourth grader Zayd Saleem has one goal: to make it onto his school’s basketball “Gold Team.” He has potential but will need to practice every single day. The trouble is that his mother wants him to play violin instead and goes so far as to ban basketball. As if that wasn’t enough, he has to deal with the preparations for his Uncle Jamal Mamoo’s arranged marriage. How will Zayd achieve his goals while also honoring Mama’s wishes and his Pakistani-American family’s traditions?

Markle, Sandra. *Snowy Owl Invasion!: Tracking an Unusual Migration*. Minneapolis: Millbrook P, 2018. 48 p. (Grades 3-6). In the winter of 2013-2014, snowy owls from the Arctic began appearing far south of their usual winter homes. An unusually large irruption of snowy owls, seen in huge numbers in eastern Canada, New England, and the mid-Atlantic coast and as far south as Florida, spurred observers to develop new techniques to track and learn more about this Arctic species. Using leg bands and small GPS transmitters, scientists followed the movements of specific birds, discovering new facts about a bird not previously well-studied.

Ormsbee, K. E. *The House in Poplar Wood*. Chronicle Books, 2018. 333 p. (Grades 4-6). This house was divided into two parts - East and West. The two brothers only shared a porch, and one would never see his mother and the other would never see his father. Both boys were to
be apprentices for Death and Memory. It was the Agreement. But, Gretchen Whipple says she can help the boys break the Agreement. All they have to do is help her solve the mystery surrounding the murder of local girl Essie Hasting. The Whipples are known as Summoners, and they have the “Book of Rites.” The purpose of a Summoner is to protect the townspeople. They also have the shade Passion living in the town. If Lee and Felix help Gretchen, she will get the Book of Rites and help them break the Agreement. If they break the Agreement, then they will be able to reunite their house.

Pearson, P. O’Connell. Fly Girls: The Daring American Women Pilots Who Helped Win WWII. New York. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2018. 198 p. (Grades 5-8). The true story of the female fighter pilots who answered our country’s call to serve alongside soldiers during World War II. When the U.S. Air Force faced a desperate need for skilled pilots, these women answered the call. During a time when women were given very little respect and responsibility, these American women stepped forward and were finally allowed to ferry planes from factories to bases, tow targets for live ammunition artillery training, test repaired planes and new equipment, and more. These women, who were civilian employees, risked everything to prove their patriotism and their desire to do good for others.

Savage, Melissa. The Truth About Martians. New York: Crown Books for Young Readers, 2018. 326 p. (Grades 4-7). Mylo, Dibs, and Gracie, along with a Cracker Jack membership card, a slingshot, and an American flag (for peace), set out to investigate the flying saucer crash that lands next to Mylo’s ranch in Roswell, New Mexico, because Mylo hears voices like someone is asking for his help. Based on facts and eyewitness reports of the UFO sighting that happened in 1947, Mylo learns courage by facing danger when he is afraid.

Seluk, Nick. The Sun Is Kind of a Big Deal. Scholastic, 2018. 40 p. (Grades PK-3). Did you know that our sun is a superstar? This book reads like a biography of the biggest star to ever have its own solar system. Learn all about what a BIG DEAL the sun is while his fellow planets try to convince you otherwise. A great scientific read that will have you expecting to see the center of our universe wearing sunglasses the next time you see him.

St. John, Lauren. Kat Wolfe Investigates: A Wolfe and Lamb Mystery. New York. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018. 304 p. (4-6 Grades). After a break-in in their London home, Katrina, AKA Kat Wolfe, and her veterinarian mom move to Bluebell Bay on the Jurassic coast of England. The town seems ideal for them at first with their home provided with the condition that they take care of wildcat Tiny, a very large Savannah. Kat starts a pet sitting service to earn money for a new laptop. Her first client disappears from his mansion and the mystery begins. This is an intriguing story filled with suspense and humor.
Turley, Beth. *If This Were a Story*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018. 256 p. (Grades 3-7). There’s a note in Hannah’s classroom that reads “Nobody Likes Hannah.” Her stuffed elephant Ambrose has started talking to her. Everyone is concerned, but is there a deeper mystery in Hannah’s life? Read along as Hannah tries to connect the threads as if it were a story.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk*. Scholastic, 2018. 286 p. (Grades 3-8). Mia Tang and her family are trying to live the American dream in California; as first generation immigrants, it is harder than it had seemed. After her parents take a job running a motel from the unscrupulous owner, Mia finds that her kindness and personal drive get her entangled in the lives of the guests and the often unfair treatment they receive.