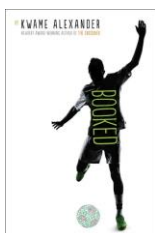


## Contemporary Realistic Fiction



[Booked](#) by Kwame Alexander.

Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Grades 3 – 6. (J Ale)



[Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret](#) by Judy Blume.

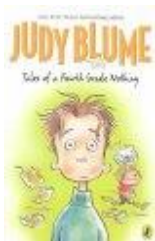
Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private god. Grades 3-6 (J BLU)



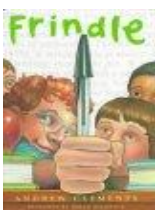
[Hold Fast](#) by Blue Balliett. On a cold winter day in Chicago, Early's father disappeared, and now she, her mother and her brother have been forced to flee their apartment and join the ranks of the homeless-- and it is up to Early to hold her family together and solve the mystery surrounding her father. Grades 3- 6. (J Bal)



[The Thing About Jellyfish](#) by Ali Benjamin. Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson wades through her intense grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death. Grades 3 -6. (J Ben)

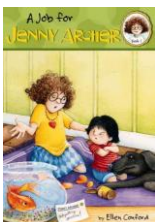


[Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing](#) by Judy Blume.  
Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever increasing problem.  
Grades 3-5 (J BLU)



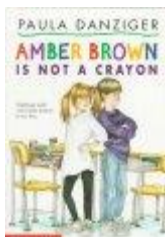
[Frindle](#) by Andrew Clements.

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control. Grades 2-5 (J CLE)



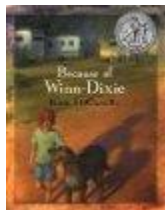
[A Job for Jenny Archer](#) by Ellen Conford.

Convinces that her family is poor because her parents refuse to get her a horse or a swimming pool, nine-year-old Jenny Archer follows her own path to making money, including a plunge into real estate that puts her house on the market. Grades 3-5 (J CON)



[Amber Brown is Not a Crayon](#) by Paula Danziger.

The year she is in the third grade is a sad time for Amber because her best friend Justin is getting ready to move to a distant state. Grades 2-4 (J DAN)



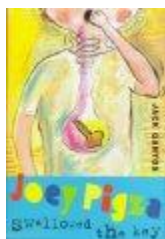
[Because of Winn-Dixie](#) by Kate DiCamillo.

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. Grades 4-6 (J DIC)



[Monkey Island](#) by Paula Fox.

Forced to live on the streets of New York after his mother disappears from their hotel room, eleven-year-old Clay is befriended by two men who help him survive. Grades 5-7 (J FOX)



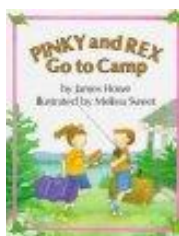
[Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key](#) by Jack Gantos.

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired. Grades 5-8 (J GAN)



[Just Juice](#) by Karen Hesse.

Realizing that her father's lack of work has endangered her family, nine-year-old Juice decides that she must return to school and learn to read in order to help their chances of surviving and keeping their house. Grades 3-5 (J HES)

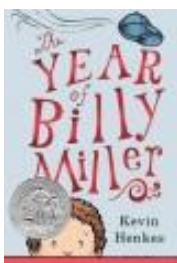


[Pinky and Rex Go to Camp](#) by James Howe.

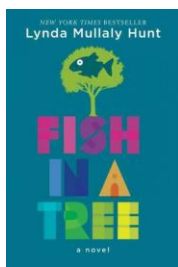
Although his best friend Rex is excited about going to camp, Pinky is afraid of leaving home. Grades 1-3 (J HOW)



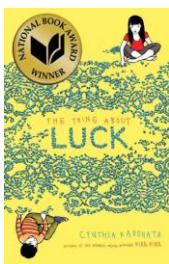
[Absolutely Almost](#) by Lisa Graff. Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself. Grades 4 -6 (J Gra)



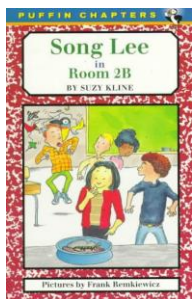
[The Year of Billy Miller](#) by Kevin Henkes. Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons. Grades 4 -6 (J Hen)



[Fish in a Tree](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read. Grades 4- 6 (J HUN)



[The Thing About Luck](#) by Cynthia Kadohata. Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers. Grades 3 – 6 (J Kad)



[Song Lee in Room 2B](#) by Suzy Kline.

Spring becomes a memorable time for Miss Mackle's second grade classroom because of the antics of Horrible Harry and the special insights of shy Song Lee. Grades 2-4 (J KLI)



[The View From Saturday](#) by E. L. Konigsburg.

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Grades 4-6 (J KON)

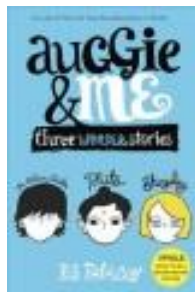


[Half a chance](#) by Cynthia Lord. Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small rural community in New Hampshire, and with her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see. Grades 4 – 6 (J Lor)

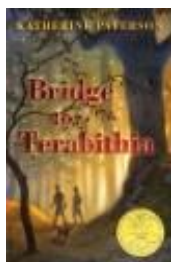


[White fur flying](#) by Patricia MacLachlan. A sad and silent nine-year-old boy finds his voice when he moves next to a family that rescues dogs. Grades 3 – 6 (J Mac)



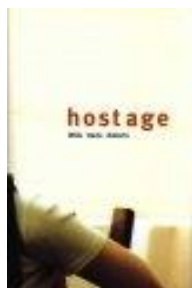


[Auggie and me: three Wonder stories](#) by R.J. Palacio. Three stories that are an extra peek at Auggie before he started at Beecher Prep and during his first year there. Readers get to see him through the eyes of Julian, the bully; Christopher, Auggie's oldest friend; and Charlotte, Auggie's new friend at school. Grades 4-6 (J Pal)



[Bridge to Terabithia](#) by Katherine Paterson.

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. Grades 4-6 (J PAT)



[Hostage](#) by Willo Davis Roberts.

When eleven-year-old Kaci interrupts burglars in the process of robbing her house, she and her nosy elderly neighbor Mrs. Banducci are kidnapped and held hostage by the desperate and ruthless criminals. Grades 3-6 (J ROB)

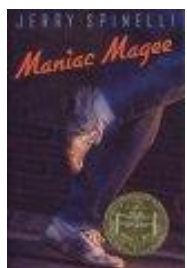


[Missing May](#) by Cynthia Rylant.

After the death of the beloved aunt who raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living. Twelve-year-old Summer, her classmate Cletus and her grieving Uncle Ob set off across West Virginia in search of a "Small Medium at Large" in fond hopes of reaching Aunt May beyond the grave. Their journey is heartening, funny, and altogether unforgettable. Grades 5-8 (J RYL)



[Crash](#) by Jerry Spinelli. Seventh-grader John “Crash” Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather’s stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family. Grades 4-6 (J SPI)



[Maniac Magee](#) by Jerry Spinelli. After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee’s life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. Grades 3-6 (J SPI)