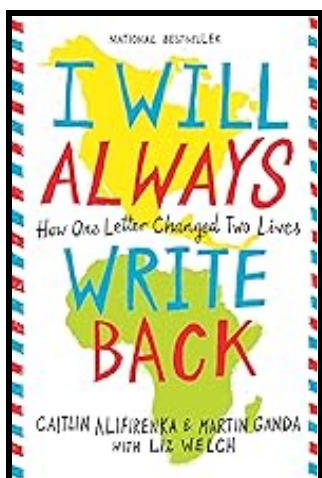


IMS Keeps Cool By Reading!

Looking for some good summer 2024 reads? IMS recommends...

Note: To access these books using Sora, our online book collection, please view [this document](#).

Book Suggestion

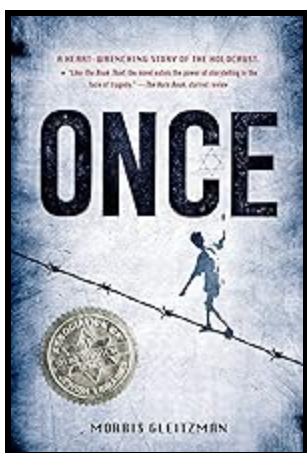


It started as an assignment. Caitlin had never even heard of Zimbabwe when everyone in her class was told to write a letter to an unknown student in a distant place. Excited for the first time about homework, she went home that night and wrote about her favorite color and what sports she played, and asked her mystery pen-pal about life in Zimbabwe. Martin had never heard of Pennsylvania when he read Caitlin's letter. He was lucky to even receive a pen-pal letter—his class only received ten letters for fifty kids! But as the top student, he got the first one. He wrote Caitlin back, talking about his siblings and soccer and saying he hoped she wrote again. These letters were the beginning of a correspondence that spanned six years and changed two lives. In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends—and better people—through their inspiring long-distance exchange.

Recommended by Ms. Nadler (6th grade ELA): "It is a true story of an amazing unexpected friendship that began with a class assignment."

[I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifrenka and Martin Ganda](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

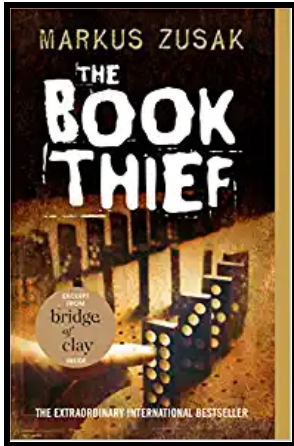


Felix, a Jewish boy in Poland in 1942, is hiding from the Nazis in a Catholic orphanage. The only problem is that he doesn't know anything about the war, and thinks he's only in the orphanage while his parents travel and try to salvage their bookselling business. And when he thinks his parents are in danger, Felix sets off to warn them—straight into the heart of Nazi-occupied Poland. To Felix, everything is a story: Why did he get a whole carrot in his soup? It must be a sign that his parents are coming to get him. Why are the Nazis burning books? They must be foreign librarians sent to clean out the orphanage's outdated library. But as Felix's journey gets increasingly dangerous, he begins to see horrors that not even stories can explain.

Recommended by Ms. Griffin (6th grade ELA): "Follow the journey of a young Jewish boy named Felix during World War II, as he escapes from a Catholic orphanage to search for his parents. Along the way, he encounters both kindness and cruelty, ultimately learning about the harsh realities of the Holocaust."

[Once by Morris Gleitzman](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)

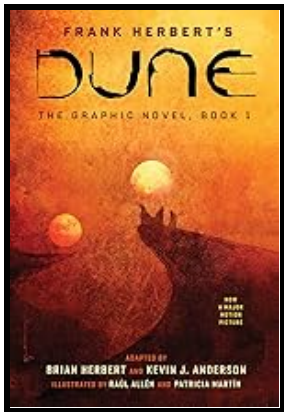


It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

Recommended by Ms. Schmertz (Art): "The last line of this book will always stay with me."

[The Book Thief by Markus Zusak](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

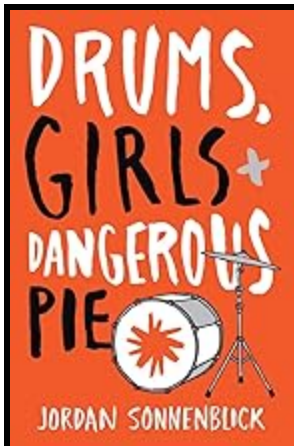


This epic science-fiction masterpiece set in the far future amidst a sprawling feudal interstellar society, tells the story of Paul Atreides as he and his family accept control of the desert planet Arrakis. A stunning blend of adventure and mysticism, environmentalism, and politics, *Dune* is a powerful, fantastical tale that takes an unprecedented look into our universe, and is transformed by the graphic novel format.

Recommended by Ms. Evanko (8th grade ELA): "Dune is a captivating and action-packed saga. A must read before watching the movies!"

[Dune by Frank Herbert](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)

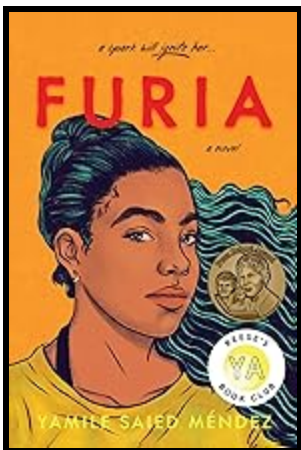


Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band (whose members call him the Peasant), has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!).

Recommended by Ms. O'Sullivan (7th grade ELA): "This book made me laugh and cry. This coming-of-age realistic fiction novel combines family, humor, love and heartfelt themes!"

[Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie by Jordan Sonnenblick](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)



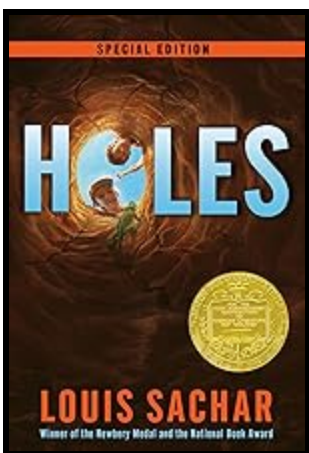
In Rosario, Argentina, Camila Hassan lives a double life. At home, she is a careful daughter, living within her mother's narrow expectations, in her rising-soccer-star brother's shadow, and under the abusive rule of her short-tempered father. On the field, she is La Furia, a powerhouse of skill and talent. When her team qualifies for the South American tournament, Camila gets the chance to see just how far those talents can take her. In her wildest dreams, she'd get an athletic scholarship to a North American university.

But the path ahead isn't easy. Her parents don't know about her passion. They wouldn't allow a girl to play fútbol—and she needs their permission to go any farther. And the boy she once loved is back in town. Since he left, Diego has become an international star, playing in Italy for the renowned team Juventus. Camila doesn't have time to be distracted by her feelings for him. Things aren't the same as when he left: she has her own passions and ambitions now, and La Furia cannot be denied. As her life becomes more complicated, Camila is forced to face her secrets and make her way in a world with no place for the dreams and ambition of a girl like her.

Recommended by Ms. Chillemi (8th grade ELA): "An Argentinian teen's exciting fight to reach her soccer dream. Presents a strong female lead breaking through barriers while struggling to navigate family / cultural pressures and expectations."

[Furia by Mary Cosola](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



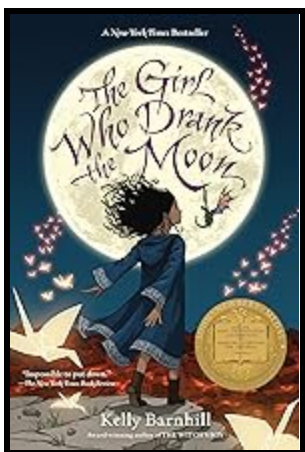
Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

Recommended by Ms. Meiseles (6th grade ELA): "This novel follows Stanley Yelnats, a boy who is sent to a juvenile detention camp where he and his fellow campers are forced to dig holes every day. As Stanley unravels the mystery of why they're digging, he discovers unexpected connections to his own family history."

[Holes by Louis Sachar](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



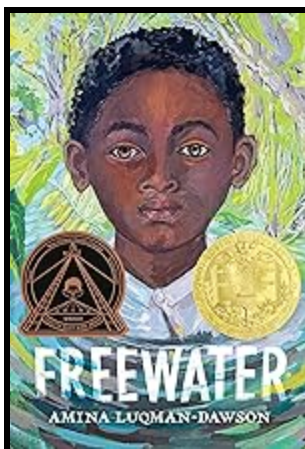
Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey.

One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge—with dangerous consequences. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Deadly birds with uncertain intentions flock nearby. A volcano, quiet for centuries, rumbles just beneath the earth's surface. And the woman with the Tiger's heart is on the prowl . . .

Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian): "This enchanting fantasy story follows Luna, a girl raised by a kind witch named Xan. Luna discovers her own magical abilities and joins forces with a brave boy named Antain to uncover the truth behind their village's dark traditions."

[The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



Under the cover of night, twelve-year-old Homer flees Southerland Plantation with his little sister Ada, unwillingly leaving their beloved mother behind. Much as he adores her and fears for her life, Homer knows there's no turning back, not with the overseer on their trail. Through tangled vines, secret doorways, and over a sky bridge, the two find a secret community called Freewater, deep in the swamp.

In this society created by formerly enslaved people and some freeborn children, Homer finds new friends, almost forgetting where he came from. But when he learns of a threat that could destroy Freewater, he crafts a plan to find his mother and help his new home.

Recommended by Ms. Kozak (7th grade ELA): "This past year, one of my reading goals was to read "award winners". Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson did not disappoint! Winner of both the Coretta Scott King Award in 2023 as well as the Newbery Medal, this story is about two enslaved children who run away from the plantation to live in a secret and highly protected community settled by former slaves. Deep in the Great Dismal Swamp in southeastern United States, "Freewater" is a community of Maroons hidden from the rest of society. Although this community is fictional, this inspirational story is based on real communities that lived during this time in history. One of my favorite things about this book is that the point of view changes throughout the story, so the reader gets to learn about the characters, their hopes, and their struggles."

[Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

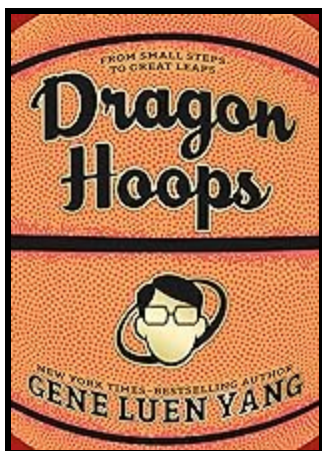


Anna Hunt may be the new girl at East Middle School, but she can already tell there's something off about her eighth-grade class. Rachel Riley, who just last year was one of the most popular girls in school, has become a social outcast. But no one, including Rachel Riley herself, will tell Anna why. As a die-hard podcast enthusiast, Anna knows there's always more to a story than meets the eye. So she decides to put her fact-seeking skills to the test and create her own podcast around the question that won't stop running through her head: What happened to Rachel Riley?

With the entire eighth grade working against her, Anna dives headfirst into the evidence. Clue after clue, the mystery widens, painting an even more complex story than Anna could have anticipated. But there's one thing she's certain of: If you're going to ask a complicated question, you better be prepared for the fallout that may come with the answer.

Recommended by Dr. James (Librarian): "This book tackles the challenges of harassment and bullying that girls face in middle school in a sensitive and well written manner."

[What Happened to Rachel Riley? by Claire Swinarski](#)



Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins.

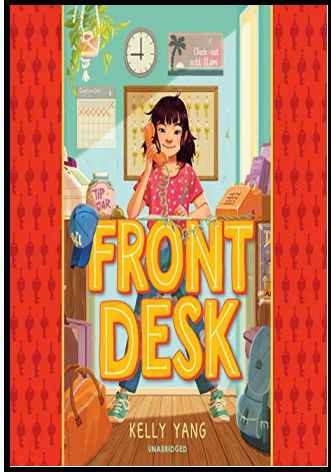
But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships.

Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons's lives, but his own life as well.

Recommended by Ms. Chillemi (8th grade ELA): "A nonfiction graphic novel that chronicles a California's high school team's championship season. Yang captures the energy on the court and delves into the psychology of the team's players while navigating through tough conversations about systemic racism and microaggressions."

[Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)

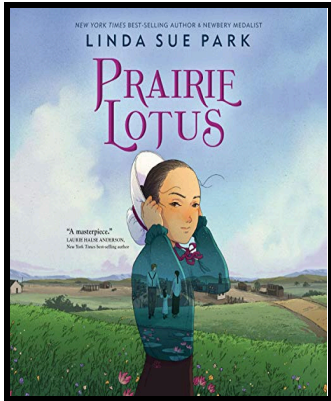


Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number one: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, 10-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number two: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number three: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

Recommended by Ms. Nadler (6th grade ELA): "This is a nice story about a feisty 10 year old girl named Mia whose family immigrated from China. It is full of challenges and successes, and the best part is there are a few sequels that have come out."

[Front Desk by Kelly Yang](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

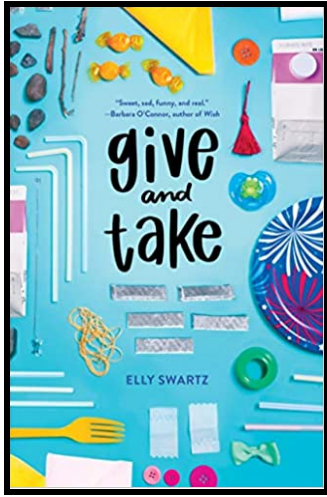


Acclaimed, award-winning author Linda Sue Park has placed a young half-Asian girl, Hanna, in a small town in America's heartland, in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, which primarily means negotiating the townspeople's almost unanimous prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story. Told from the viewpoint of Hanna, the novel has poignant moments yet sparkles with humor, introducing a captivating heroine whose wry, observant voice will resonate with listeners.

Recommended by Ms. Griffin (6th grade ELA): "This is a powerful historical fiction novel about a young, half Asian girl who faces prejudice in her new small town and works to overcome it. Inspiring and uplifting!"

[Prairie Lotus \(Linda Sue Park\)](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



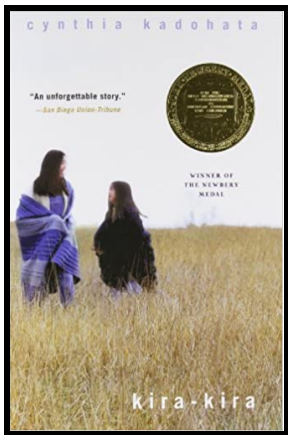
Family has always been important to twelve-year-old Maggie: a trapshooter, she is coached by her dad and cheered on by her mom. But her grandmother's recent death leaves a giant hole in Maggie's life, one which she begins to fill with an assortment of things: candy wrappers, pieces of tassel from Nana's favorite scarf, milk cartons, sticks . . . all stuffed in cardboard boxes under her bed.

Then her parents decide to take in a foster infant. But anxiety over the new baby's departure only worsens Maggie's hoarding, and soon she finds herself taking and taking until she spirals out of control. Ultimately, with some help from family, friends, and experts, Maggie learns that sometimes love means letting go.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "I read this book as part of a book club with several of my amazing nieces. We had a terrific discussion about the anxieties we all grapple with and how we can all learn to let go a bit."

[Give and Take by Elly Swartz](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)

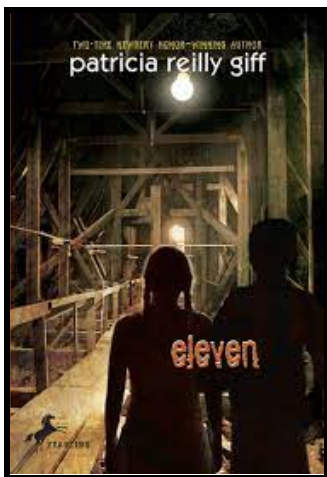


kira-kira (kee ra kee ra): glittering; shining Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is *kira-kira* because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is *kira-kira* for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- *kira-kira* -- in the future.

Recommended by Ms. Kennedy (ENL): "This is a story about a Japanese-American family who live in Georgia. The daughters face prejudices at school and watch their parents endure hardships to make ends meet in a predominantly white culture."

[Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



Sam is almost 11 when he discovers a locked box in the attic above his grandfather Mack's room, and a piece of paper that says he was kidnapped. There are lots of other words, but Sam has always had trouble reading. He's desperate to find out who he is, and if his beloved Mack is really his grandfather. At night he's haunted by dreams of a big castle and a terrifying escape on a boat. Who can he trust to help him read the documents that could unravel the mystery? Then he and the new girl, Caroline, are paired up to work on a school project, building a castle in Mack's woodworking shop. Caroline loves to read, and she can help. But she's moving soon, and the two must hurry to discover the truth about Sam.

Recommended by Ms. Meiseles (6th grade ELA): "The characters and plot are so well developed and young adults will relate to the interactions and conflicts that emerge."

[Eleven \(Patricia Reilly Giff\)](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

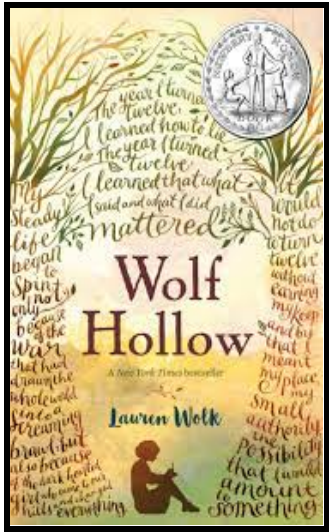


Linus Baker is a by-the-book caseworker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. *The House in the Cerulean Sea* is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours.

Recommended by Ms. Evanko (8th grade ELA): "Such a heartwarming venture into the world of magic. A must read if you enjoy fantasy."

[The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook)

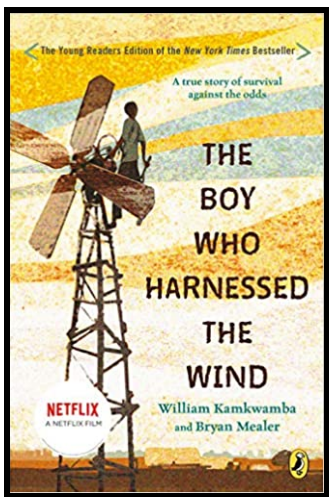


Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and though her bullying seems isolated at first, it quickly escalates. Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran, soon becomes the target of Betty's attacks. While others see Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. And as tensions mount in their small community, Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice. The brilliantly crafted debut of Newbery Honor- and Scott O'Dell Award-winning author Lauren Wolk (*Beyond the Bright Sea*, *Echo Mountain*), *Wolf Hollow* is a haunting tale of America at a crossroads and a time when one girl's resilience, strength, and compassion help to illuminate the darkest corners of history.

Recommended by Ms. Kozak (7th grade ELA): "A beautifully written book, this story pulls you right into Annabelle's small town world as she deals with bullying while finding the strength to stand up for a friend. It is a story about kindness, courage, and a bit of mystery!"

[Wolf Hollow \(Lauren Wolk\)](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

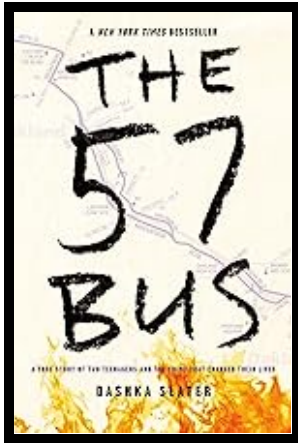


When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: he could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land. Retold for a younger audience, this exciting memoir shows how, even in a desperate situation, one boy's brilliant idea can light up the world. Complete with photographs, illustrations, and an epilogue that will bring readers up to date on William's story, this is the perfect edition to read and share with the whole family.

Recommended by Ms. Panitz (6th grade science): "This book portrays science in the real world" and Ms. Griffin (6th grade ELA): "I recommend this book because it is a true story that shows the power of perseverance, the importance of following dreams, and the impact that the love and support of family and friends can have."

[The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind \(Young Readers' Edition\) \(William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer\)](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



Two ends of the same line. Two sides of the same crime.

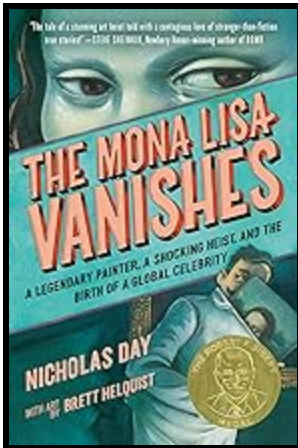
If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a Black teen, lived in the economically challenged flatlands and attended a large public one.

Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment.

Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "My 8th grade nephew shared this was his favorite book of the year which motivated me to read it. This heartbreaking story made me think and rethink about what justice really means..."

[The 57 Bus by Dashka Slater](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



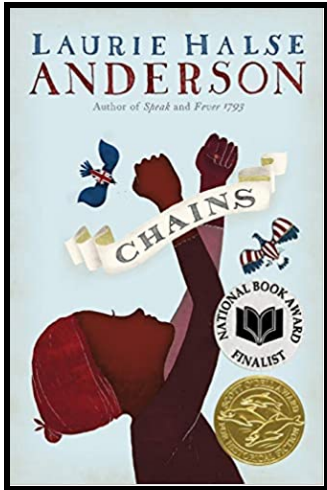
On a hot August day in Paris, just over a century ago, a desperate guard burst into the office of the director of the Louvre and shouted, La Joconde, c'est partie! The Mona Lisa, she's gone!

No one knew who was behind the heist. Was it an international gang of thieves? Was it an art-hungry American millionaire? Was it the young Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, who was about to remake the very art of painting?

Recommended by Dr. James (Librarian): "This is the story of the Mona Lisa being stolen from the Louvre Museum in 1911. It is funny, it has mystery, and it's fun to read!"

[The Mona Lisa Vanishes by Nicholas Day](#)

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)

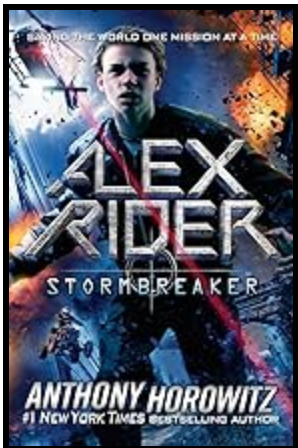


As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.

Recommended by Ms. Mitchell (7th grade Social Studies): "Historical fiction is one of my favorite genres. "Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson is about the experiences of a 13 year old enslaved girl, Isabel, living in New York City during the American Revolution. It's well-written and a compelling story about freedom. A page turner!"

[Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson](#) *Note: This book is the first in the "Seeds of America" trilogy

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)



[Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz](#)

Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian): "The first in the Alex Rider series, Stormbreaker jumps right into action when fourteen-year-old Alex is recruited by the British spy agency MI6 after his uncle's mysterious death. This book is a page turner from start to finish"

Available on [Sora](#) (ebook, audiobook)