Imagine Your Story

A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying
by Kelley Armstrong
As the oldest child, twelve-year-old Rowan is destined to be Queen, while her twin brother, Rhydd, the Royal Monster Hunter. Rowan would give anything to switch places. | Lexile: HL610L

The Storm Runner
by J. C. Cervantes
Zane has always enjoyed exploring the dormant volcano near his home in New Mexico, even though hiking it is challenging. He'd much rather hang out there with his dog, Rosie, than go to middle school where kids make fun of him for his one good leg. What Zane doesn't know is that the volcano is a gateway to another world. | CSLP
Lexile: 600L

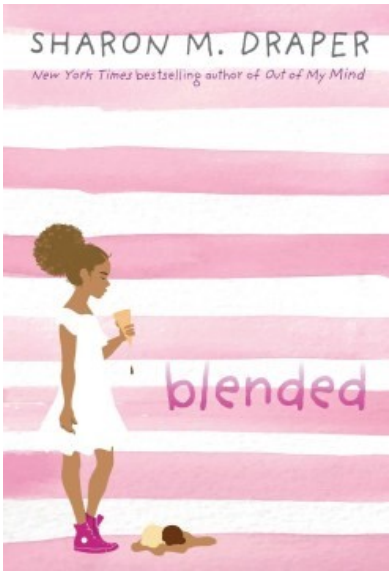
Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy tales, and True Tales *by Virginia Hamilton*
A collection of twenty-five African-American folktales focuses on strong female characters and includes "Little Girl and Bruh Rabby," "Catskinella," and "Annie Christmas." | ALA, CSLP
Lexile: 960L

Dragon Pearl *by Yoon Ha Lee*
Thirteen-year-old Min, comes from a long line of fox spirits. To keep the family safe, Min's mother insists that none of them use any fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Lexile: 780L

Public School Superhero
by James Patterson
Inner city middle school student Kenny Wright imagines himself as a superhero. But when he faces peer pressure and bullying, can he find his strength in real life? CSLP | Lexile: 560L

Fiction

I Can Make This Promise *by Christine Day*
Edie has always been curious about her Native American heritage, but since her mother was adopted by a white couple, she assumed that history was lost to her. When Edie and her friends discovered a photo of a woman who looks just like her, Edie has a flurry of questions. | ALA, NCTE
Lexile: HL610L



Blended *by Sharon Draper*
One week, she's Isabella living with her dad, and one of the only black families in their neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy living with her mom and her mom's boyfriend in a small house that's cozy and beloved. As her parents' arguing escalates, Isabella feels pulled in two. | NCSS | Lexile:610L

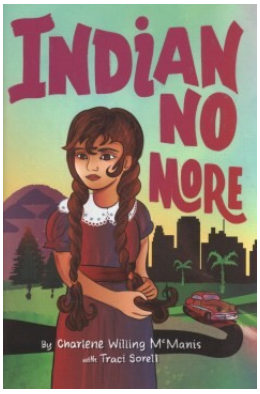
Hour of the Bees
by Lindsay Eagar
Carolina (Carol) will be spending her summer helping her parents move her grandfather into a home for people with dementia while her friends attend pool parties. As the summer carries on, Carol begins to see past her grandfathers gruff exterior and finds herself drawn to his seemingly crazy stories. As the end of the summer draws near, Carol must decide what it means to be true to your family history. ILA | Lexile: 670L

The Last Last-Day-Of-Summer
by Lamar Giles
Cousins Otto and Sheed are on the hunt to solve one last mystery before summer ends and the school bell rings. When a mysterious man who can freeze time appears, Otto and Sheed set their bickering aside and work together to save their small Virginian town before time stops for good. | Lexile: 740L

Fiction

For Black Girls Like Me
by Mariama J. Lockington

Makeda Kirkland is eleven years old, black, and was adopted by white parents. While Makeda knows that her family loves her, she often feels left out and different. When Makeda's family moves, she is forced to leave her friend Lena, the only other black girl adopted by a white family that she knows. As Makeda tries to adjust to her new home and the changes in her family dynamic, she can't help but wonder what it would be like to grow up in a family where everyone looks like her. Lexile: HL500L



Indian No More
by Charlene Willing McManis
with Traci Sorell

Regina's family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles due to a federal law that says her Umpqua tribe no longer exists. She then goes on a quest to understand her identity. | ALA, CL/R SIG | Lexile: 720L

A Good Kind of Trouble
by Lisa Moore Ramee

Shayla does her best to stay out of trouble, but her best friends begin to change before her very eyes. Her stomach turns when people at school says she's not black enough, and as she finally begins to understand the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and wears an armband in support the of the movement, trouble seems to be everywhere. | Lexile: 720L

Ghost Boys
by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by police when they mistake his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, Jerome meets another ghost, Emmett Till. Emmett helps Jerome by taking him on a journey towards an understanding of the historical racism that may have lead to his death. | ALA, NCTE, Walter Award, Jane Addams Award | Lexile: HL360L

A Blind Guide to Stinkville
by Beth Vrabel

When she lived in Seattle, Alice didn't think about her albinism or her visual impairment. However, when her family moves to Sinkville, or Stinkville as it's called, it's the first time she feels different. Her brother wants to move back to Seattle, her mother is sinking into a depression, and Alice's parents want to ship her away to school for the blind. Alice is determined to prove that her blindness is just a part of who she is, but not all of who she is. | ILA, CT Author
Lexile: 670L

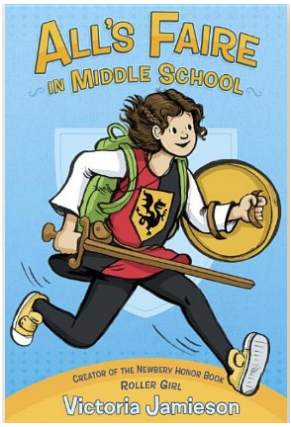
Other Words for Home
by Jasmine Warga

As the unrest in Syria grows, Jude and her mother leave their home and journey to American to live with relatives. As she begins to learn English, making friends grows easier, but the ugliness of Islamophobia makes an appearance forcing Jude to question the strength she holds to face this new challenge. | ALA, CL/R SIG, NCTE | Lexile: 930L

Graphic Novels

Brave *by Svetlana Chmakova*

In his daydreams, Jensen is a hero and the best in every way. In reality, he struggles. Jensen struggles with friends, class work, and he's always picked last. While Jenson only wants to live in his daydreams, real life is about to come crashing in. | Lexile: GN360



All's Faire in Middle School
by Victoria Jamieson

Imogene (Impy) can't wait to begin training as a squire for the Renaissance Faire. To prove her bravery, she'll be going to a public school for the first time! | ALA Notable | Lexile: GN460

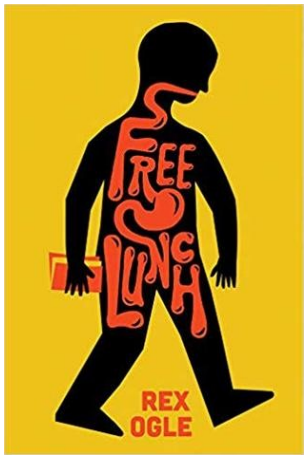
Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: *American Library Association* (ALA), *Children's Literature & Reading and Special Interest Group* (CL/R SIG), *Collaborative Summer Library Program* (CSLP), *American Indian Library* Association (AILA), *International Literacy Association* (ILA), *National Council for the Social Studies* (NCSS), *National Council of Teachers of English* (NCTE), *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics* (NCTM), *National Science Teachers Association* (NSTA), *American Association of the Advancement of Science* (AAAS), *United States Board on Books for Young People* (USBBY). Other awards as noted.

Nonfiction

Martin & Anne, The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Anne Frank
by Nancy Churnin
Martin Luther King and Anne Frank were born in the same year worlds apart. Both countered prejudice and hatred with love and faith. | ALA Notable, Children's Literature Assembly Lexile: 800L

Dreams from Many Rivers: A Hispanic History of the United States Told in Poems *by Margarita Engle*
Various people from eighteenth century slaves to present day students depict their experiences as Latinos in the United States. | ILA | Lexile: NP

Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America *by Gail Jarrow*
In March of 1900 San Francisco's China Town was struck by what came to be known as the Bubonic Plague. Doctor's were desperate to fight it and politicians were desperate to hide it. NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 1000L



Free Lunch *by Rex Ogle*
This biography tells the story of a middle school student who wore secondhand clothes, didn't have the necessary school supplies, and was a recipient of his school's free lunch program. Rex lived with the shame of hunger, especially for that of his parents' love and care. | ALA | Lexile: HL540L

Limitless: 24 Remarkable American Women of Vision, Grit, and Guts *by Leah Tinari*
Readers will learn about a list of female trailblazers who foraged paths that will have impacted generations to come. Women portrayed in this book include Shirley Chisholm, Ellen DeGeneres, Carrie Fisher, Dolly Parton, Sojourner Truth, and many more. | NCSS | Lexile: 900L

Big Top Burning: The True Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and the Greatest Show on Earth
by Laura Woollett
This nonfiction novel takes readers through the true story of the 1944 Hartford, Connecticut circus fire. As readers journey through this historical account of the circus fire, readers will wonder if it was an act of arson. | ILA, Eureka Children's Book Honor | Lexile: 810L-1000L

Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story
by Sandra Neil Wallace
Readers will follow the journey of George Washington De Long and his crew on the *USS Jeannette* to the North Pole. When his ship became locked in ice, they drifted for nearly two years. | NCSS | Lexile: 1050L

Orphan Train: Taking the Rails to a New Life
by Rebecca Langston-George
Readers will be taken through the account of seven children and their lives and experience on an orphan train. NCSS | Lexile: 850L

Book Series

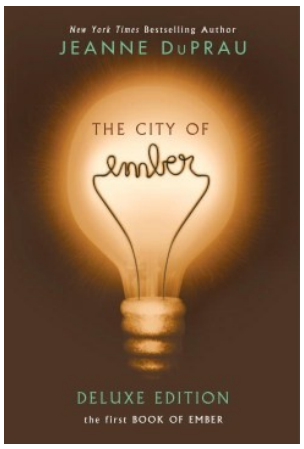
Dale & Mo Mysteries by Sheila Turnage
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Enchanted Forest Chronicles by Patricia Wrede
John Bellairs Mysteries by John Bellairs
Percy Jackson & the Olympians by Rick Riordan
Redwall by Brian Jacques
Shadow Children by Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Baby-Sitters Club by Raina Telgemeier
The Chronicles of Prydain by Lloyd Alexander
The Dark is Rising by Susan Copper
The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
The Unicorn Chronicles by Bruce Coville
Track Series by Jason Reynolds

Nutmeg Award Nominees

Find the Nutmeg lists at https://www.nutmegaward.org/.

Classics and Popular Titles

The Secret Garden
by Frances Hodgson Burnett
A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers the mysteries of a locked walled garden. | Lexile: 970L

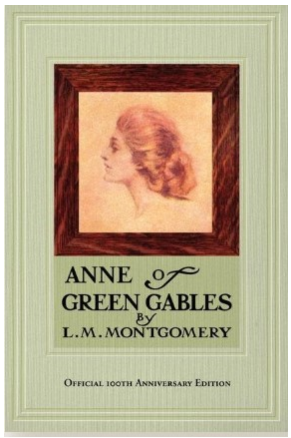


The City of Ember *by Jeanne DuPrau*
In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to and becomes a messenger, running to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. | ALA | Lexile: 680L

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm
by Nancy Farmer
In the year 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. | ALA | Lexile: 660L

Harriet the Spy *by Louise Fitzhugh*
Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author, keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her afterschool spy route. When some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760L

Number the Stars *by Lois Lowry*
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friends from the Nazis.
ALA | Lexile: 670L



Anne of Green Gables
by L. M. Montgomery
Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.
Lexile: 550L

A Single Shard *by Linda Sue Park*
Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics. | Lexile: 920L

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. | Lexile: 810L

Tom's Midnight Garden
by Philippa Pearce
While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night where he meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860L

Ninth Ward *by Jewell Parker Rhodes*
In New Orleans' Ninth ward, twelve-year-old Lanesha, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother, have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | ALA | Lexile: HL470L

Esperanza Rising
by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California. They must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers during the Great Depression. | ALA | Lexile: 750L

One Crazy Summer
by Rita Williams-Garcia
In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn, New York to Oakland, California to spend time with their mother, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome. Their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, would rather send the girls to a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | ALA | Lexile: 750L