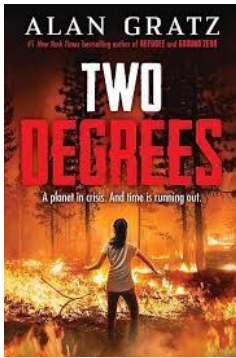




6th Grade Reads



Adventure and Survival



Gratz, Alan

Two Degrees

When three children endure separate climate change disasters, a wildfire in the California woods, a close encounter with a hungry polar bear in Canada, and a massive hurricane in Florida, they emerge from their experiences committed to changing the world.



Howell, Destiny

High Score

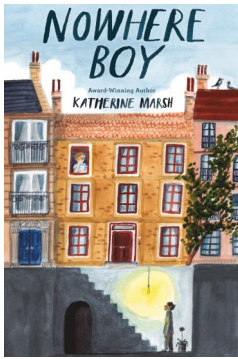
When his best friend is tormented by Lucky, a seventh-grade bully, Darius James, a con artist with a heart of gold, comes up with a plan to save his friend, and maybe the whole school from Lucky.



Johnson, Terry Lynn

Dog Driven

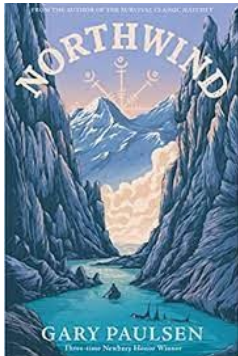
McKenna, fourteen, is losing her vision to Stargardt's disease, but that will not stop her from competing in a rigorous new sled dog race through the Canadian wilderness.



Marsh, Katherine

Nowhere Boy

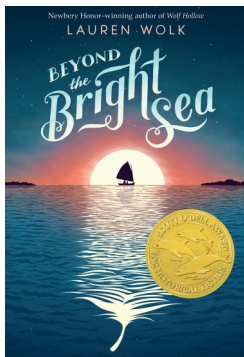
Fourteen-year-old Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, and thirteen-year-old Max, an American boy, are bound by a secret that sets them on the adventure of a lifetime.



Paulsen, Gary

Northwind

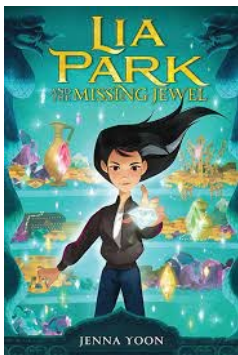
When sickness decimates his fishing village, an orphan named Leif flees north in a cedar canoe, journeying along a brutal but beautiful coastline.



Wolk, Lauren

Beyond the Bright Sea

Set adrift on the ocean in a small skiff as a newborn, twelve-year-old Crow embarks on a quest to find the missing pieces of her history.



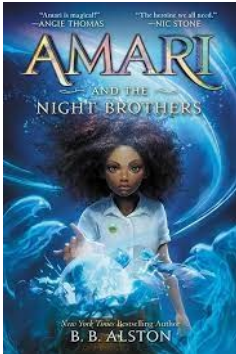
Yoon, Jenna

Lia Park and the Missing Jewel

Twelve-year-old Lia Park must venture to the undersea kingdom of the Dragon King in Korea to save her parents from an evil diviner.



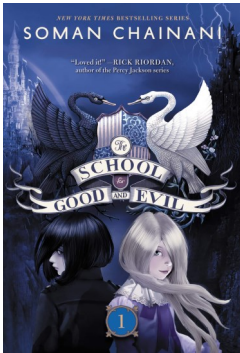
Fantasy



Alston, B.B.

Amari and the Night Brothers

Thirteen-year-old Amari, a poor Black girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.



Chainani, Soman

The School for Good and Evil

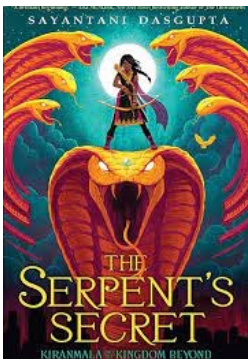
Best friends Sophie (princess wannabe) and Agatha (witchy loner) are headed to the School for Good and Evil, but their assumed destinies are reversed.



Clark, Zack Loran

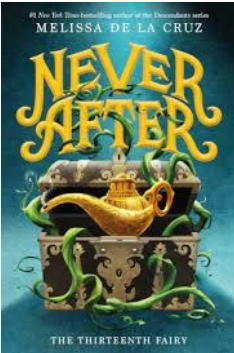
The Adventurers Guild

Conscripted into the dangerous Adventurers Guild, best friends Zed and Brock must defend what is left of humanity against terrible monsters in this epic fantasy.



DasGupta, Sayantani
The Serpent's Secret

When a rakkhosh demon attacks her family on the morning of her 12th birthday, Kiranmala discovers that her parents' fantastical stories about their ties to royalty are true, as she's whisked away by two crush-worthy princes to a parallel dimension filled with magic, winged horses, moving maps and talking birds.



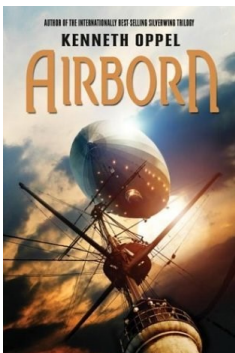
DeLa Cruz, Melissa
The Thirteenth Fairy

A bullied teen is summoned by a character from her favorite books into a magical world that is being threatened by an evil queen.



Mancusi, Mari
Dragon Ops

Twelve-year-old Ian is thrilled to beta test the mixed-reality version of his favorite game, but unless he, his sister, Lilli, and their cousin Derek defeat the dragon, it will be game over.



Oppel, Kenneth
Airborn

Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.



Historical Fiction



Draper, Sharon M.

Stella by Starlight

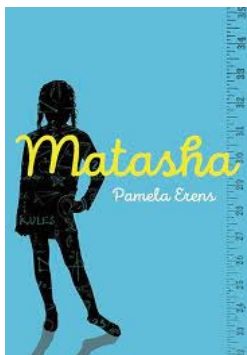
When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.



English, Karen

It All Comes Down to This

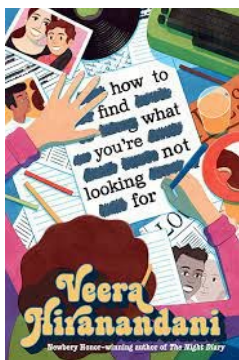
In the summer of 1965, Sophie's family becomes the first African Americans to move into their upper middle-class neighborhood in Los Angeles. When riots erupt in nearby Watts, she learns that life and her own place in it are a lot more complicated than they had seemed.



Erens, Pamela

Matasha

It's 1970's Chicago. None of Matasha's problems could have prepared her for her mother's sudden disappearance. When the letters start coming from Switzerland, she knows something is very, very wrong, but no one will tell her what's going on, so Matasha has to figure it all out for herself.



Hiranandani, Veera

How to Find What You're Not Looking For

Middle schooler Ariel Goldberg must find her own voice and define her own beliefs after her big sister elopes with a young man from India following the Supreme Court decision that strikes down laws banning interracial marriage.



Holt, Kimberly Willis

The Ambassador of Nowhere,

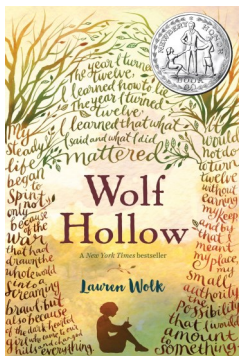
In 2001, seventh-grader Rylee Wilson and new student Joe, whose father was a New York City first responder on 9/11, decide to find Zachary Beaver and reunite him with Rylee's father, Toby. Companion book to: *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*



Ryan, Pam Muñoz

Esperanza Rising

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, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.



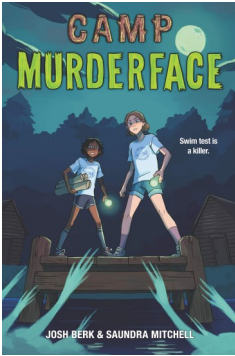
Wolk, Lauren

Wolf Hollow

Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.



Horror and Ghosts



Berk, Josh & Sandra Mitchell

Camp Murderface

Camp Sweetwater is finally reopening, three decades after it mysteriously shut down. Campers Corryn Quinn and Tez Jones are so ready to take their summer by storm, but before they can so much as toast one marshmallow, strange things start happening.



Currie, Lindsay

The Peculiar Incident on Shady Street

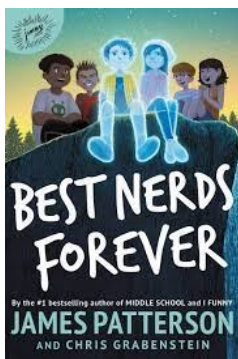
When lights start flickering and temperatures suddenly drop, twelve-year-old Tessa, sensing her new house may be haunted, recruits some new friends to help her unravel the mystery of who or what is trying to communicate with her and why.



Currie, Lindsay

Scratch Scratch

Reluctantly assisting her father on his latest ghost-themed Chicago bus tour, an avid young scientist glimpses a mysterious, sad-eyed boy in the back of the bus who disappears before she starts hearing and seeing bizarre phenomena.



Patterson, James

Best Nerds Forever

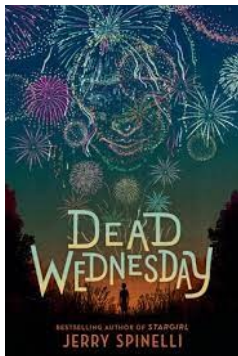
Rendered a ghost by a bicycle accident, young Finn McAllister teams up with fellow spirit Isabella Rojas to commit invisible pranks on the living, before discovering that they cannot move on to the afterlife.



Perry, Adam

Ghosts Come Rising

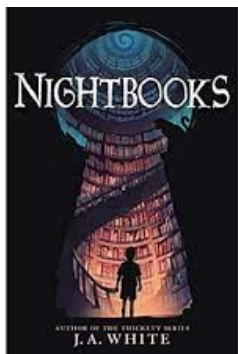
Hiding their gifts while staying at a Spiritualist commune in Pennsylvania, Liza Carroll and her brother, John, learn that they are at a Thin Place between the worlds of the living and the spirits, one that is threatening to break.



Spinelli, Jerry

Dead Wednesday

When the school assigns each eighth-grader the name of a teenager who died in the past year as a lesson in mortality, Worm Tarnauer, who thrives on being invisible, doesn't count on Becca Finch, the seventeen-year-old car crash victim who changes everything.



White, J.A.

Nightbooks

Imprisoned by Natacha, a witch, in a New York apartment, Alex must tell her a new scary story every night in order to stay alive.



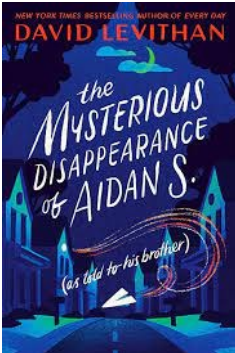
Mystery



Arguelles, Catherine

Flip Turns

Maddie just wants her classmate Lucas to leave her alone. He keeps asking her out, as if she hasn't already said no a thousand times! Focusing on her competitive swim team, Maddie tries to ignore him, hoping he'll stop harassing her. But then, when someone starts sabotaging Maddie's family-owned pool, Maddie worries it's her "admirer" trying to get even.



Levithan, David

The Mysterious Disappearance of Aidan S.

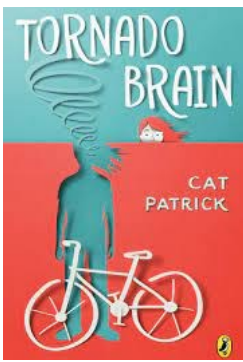
Aidan disappeared for six days, then reappeared just as suddenly as he vanished. The story he tells is impossible, but it's the story he's sticking to. His brother, Lucas, wants to believe him, but being on Aidan's side would mean believing in the impossible.



Makechnie, Amy

The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair

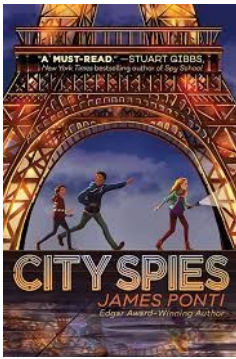
As ten-year-old Gwyn searches for a missing neighbor in her new town in Iowa, she learns much about her mother, who grew up there but has suffered from memory loss since Gwyn was four.



Patrick, Cat

Tornado Brain

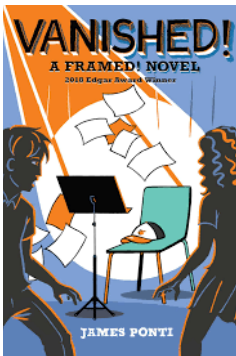
Seventh-grader Frankie, a neurodivergent, is determined to find her missing best friend, Colette, before it is too late.



Ponti, James

City Spies

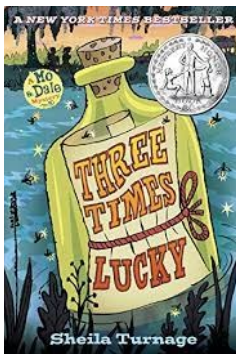
Sara Martinez is facing years in the juvenile detention system for hacking into the foster care computer system to prove that her foster parents are crooks. She gets a second chance when a mysterious man offers her a chance to join a group of MI6 affiliated spies.



Ponti, James

Vanished!

In Washington, D.C., twelve-year-old Florian Bates, a consulting detective for the FBI, and his best friend Margaret, must uncover the truth behind a series of private middle school pranks that may or may not involve the daughter of the President of the United States.

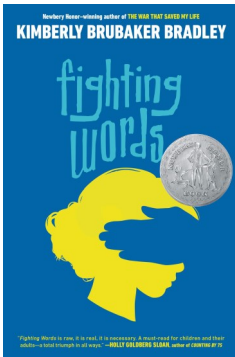


Turnage, Sheila

Three Times Lucky

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

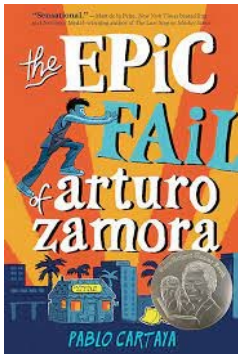
Realistic Fiction



Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

Fighting Words

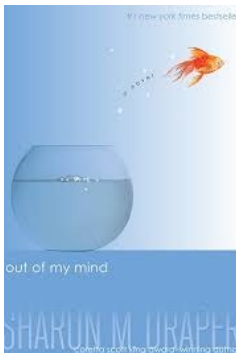
Ten-year-old Della has always had her older sister, Suki: When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki. When their mom's boyfriend took them in, Della had Suki. When that same boyfriend did something so awful they had to run fast, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's own wolf—her protector. But who has been protecting Suki?



Cartaya, Pablo

The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora

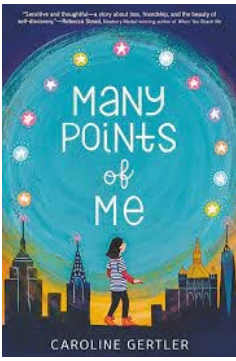
When his family's restaurant and Cuban American neighborhood in Miami are threatened by a greedy land developer, thirteen-year-old Arturo, joined by Carmen, a cute poetry enthusiast, fight back, discovering the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.



Draper, Sharon M.

Out of My Mind

Because she loves horses but is scared of them, Melody wants to conquer her fears, so she hopes a summer camp will be the place to welcome someone with cerebral palsy who wants to learn to ride.



Gertler, Caroline

Many Points of Me

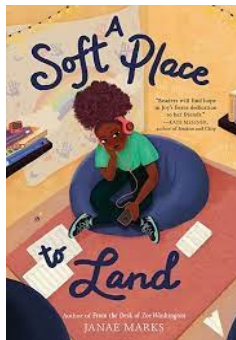
When Georgia finds a secret sketch her late father—a famed artist—left behind, the discovery leads her down a path that may reshape everything holding her family and friends together.



Hennessey, M.G.

The Other Boy

Shane is just a regular boy. He loves pitching for his baseball team, working on his graphic novel, and hanging out with his friend Josh. But Shane is keeping something private, something that might make a difference to his teammates, to Josh, and to his new crush, Madeline. When a classmate threatens to reveal his secret, Shane's whole world comes crashing down.



Marks, Janae

A Soft Place to Land

Twelve-year old Joy dreams of writing music for the movies, but first she has to survive her family's move into a small apartment when her father loses his job.



Sumner, Jamie

The Summer of June

Eleven-year-old June is determined to beat her anxiety and become the lion she knows she is, instead of the mouse everyone sees, and with the help of Homer Juarez, the poetry-reciting soccer star, she starts a secret library garden and hatches a plan to make her dreams come true.



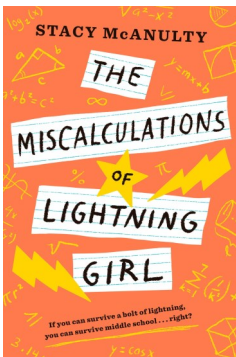
School Stories



Korman, Gordon

Ungifted

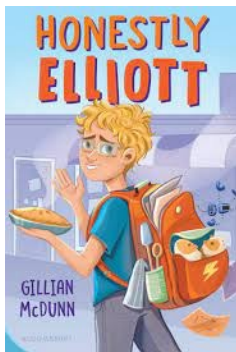
Due to an administrative mix-up after pulling a major prank at middle school, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special school for gifted and talented students.



McAnulty, Stacy

The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

A lightning strike made Lucy, twelve, a math genius but, after years of homeschooling, her grandmother enrolls her in middle school and she learns that life is more than numbers.



McDunn, Gillian

Honestly Elliott

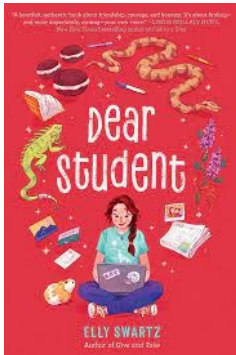
Struggling with ADHD, loneliness, and connecting with his divorced father who would rather see him embrace sports instead of cooking, sixth-grader Elliott finds an unlikely friend in popular, perfect Maribel when the two are paired in a school-wide contest.



Siddiqui, Maleeha

Barakah Beats

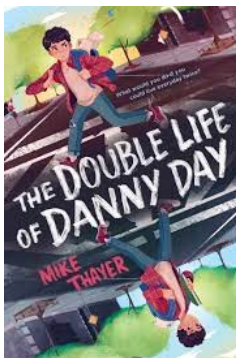
Leaving Islamic school to attend “real school,” twelve-year-old Nimra Sharif, joins the school’s popular eighth grade boy band, Baraka Beats, in an attempt to fit in, even though she was taught that music isn’t allowed in Islam, forcing her to make a difficult decision.



Swartz, Elly D.

Dear Student

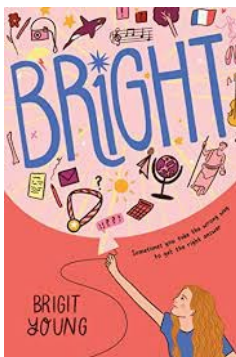
A girl with social anxiety becomes the secret voice of the advice column in her middle school newspaper.



Thayer, Mike

The Double Life of Danny Day

Danny Day, age eleven, lives every day twice, which allows him to skip class, play video games for hours, and try to bring down bullies at his new middle school.



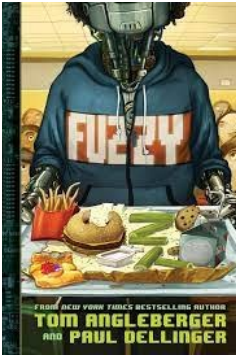
Young, Brigit

Bright

Marianne Blume, a self-described 'ditz,' tries out for her school's Quiz Quest team in a bid to prove she is smart.



Science Fiction



Angleberger, Tom

Fuzzy

When Max (Maxine Zealster) befriends her new robot classmate Fuzzy, she helps him navigate Vanguard Middle School and together they reveal the truth behind the Robot Integration Program.



Gibbs, Stuart

Space Case: A Moon Base Alpha Novel

Dashiell Gibson, who lives on Moon Base Alpha, has to solve a murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors.



Haddix, Margaret Peterson

Found

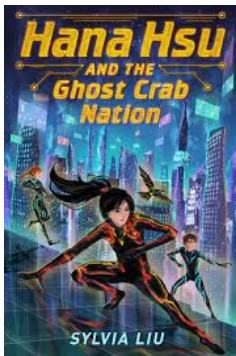
When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces.



Kuhlman, Evan

Brother From a Box

Sixth-grader Matt Rambeau finds out what it is like to have a brother when his father, a computer genius, creates a robot kid that goes to school with Matt, shares his feelings and ideas, plays, does chores, fights for his "life" when chased by spies, and becomes a part of the family.



Liu, Sylvia

Hana Hsu and the Ghost Crab Nation

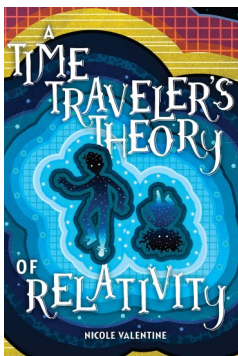
In a near future where most adults are connected to the multiweb through neural implants, a twelve-year-old uncovers a corporate plot to genetically manipulate her classmates, and her scientist mother may be involved in the conspiracy.



McCulloch, Amy

Jinxed

After fourteen-year-old Lacey Chu repairs a highly advanced smartphone/robotic pet companion, or baku, called Jinx, the baku gets her into her dream school, Profectus, where she is exposed to dangerous secrets.



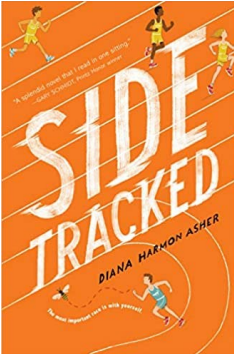
Valentine, Nicole

A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity

Days before his thirteenth birthday, science-lover Finn learns that the women of his family are time travelers and he is expected to help locate his missing mother.



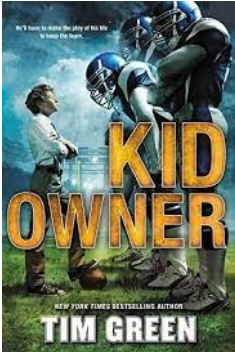
Sports



Asher, Diana Harmon

Sidetracked

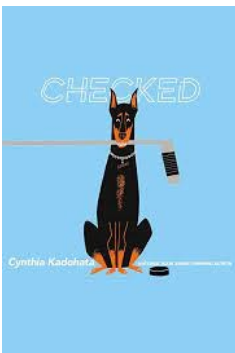
Joseph Friedman is friendless and puny, with ADD to boot. He spends most of his time avoiding the class bully and hiding out in the Resource Room, but the Resource Room teacher encourages him to join the school cross country team where he meets Heather, a new student who's tough, athletic and refuses to be pushed around by anybody.



Green, Tim

Kid Owner

When Ryan learns his estranged father left him the Dallas Cowboys in his will, it is all Ryan can do to keep his dad's other son from snatching the team away.



Kadohata, Cynthia

Checked

To help his dog through cancer treatment, Conor gives up hockey and finds himself considering who he is without the sport that has defined him, and connecting more with his family and best friend.



Kapit, Sarah

Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!

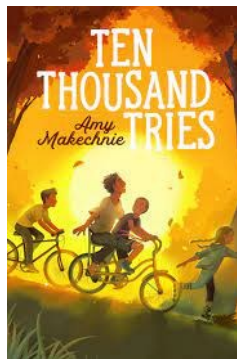
Eleven-year-old knuckleball pitcher Vivy Cohen, who has autism, becomes pen pals with her favorite Major League baseball player after writing a letter to him as an assignment for her social skills class.



Lupica, Mike

Lone Stars

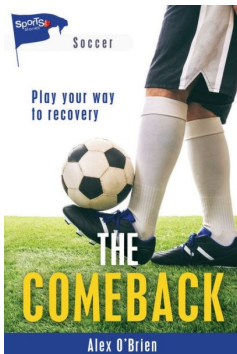
When Coach Coop, a former star player for the Dallas Cowboys, starts exhibiting side effects from the many concussions he suffered while playing professionally, twelve-year-old wide receiver Clay Hollis becomes determined to help him get through the football season until Thanksgiving.



Makechnie, Amy

Ten Thousand Tries

Twelve-year-old Golden Maroni starts eighth grade determined to be master of his universe, but learns he cannot control everything on the soccer field, in his friendships, and especially in facing his father's incurable disease.



O'Brien, Alex

The Comeback

On the surface, Chris is pretty average, playing hockey and having friends. Underneath it all, Chris is depressed. He quits his hockey team, feeling he has let them down, but his doctor suggests he try another sport. Chris starts playing soccer, and the positive benefits start to take effect.



Compiled by Suzie Gregorovius
April 2023

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