

Worlds of Words 2026

Grade 4-5 Recommended Global Fiction

Theme	Global Fiction	Level Info	Genre Date	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
Strength through Relationships	<i>Accidentally Trouble Magnet</i> , Zanib Mian	205 pp RL 4.3 820 L	RF 2020	UK	Omar, a British Pakistani boy, has a huge imagination and a supportive family that help him deal with anti-Muslim bullying and find a new friend. Series. Illustrated novel.
	<i>All Four Quarters of the Moon</i> , Shirley Marr	RL 5.8 860 L 359 pp	HF 2022	China Australia 1980s	Peijing and her family move to Australia, but when difficulties arise in her family, she must figure out how she fits in. Interweaves Chinese folktales.
	<i>Forever Rose</i> , Hilary McKay	870L 291 pp	HF 2009	UK	Rose is not happy when she realizes her sisters and brother are growing up and leaving her behind.
	<i>Saffy's Angel</i> , Hilary McKay	630L 152 pp	2003		When Saffy learns she is adopted, her family helps her return to Italy to where she was born. Casson Family
	<i>The Skylark's War</i> , Hilary McKay	800 L, 324 pp	2019	WW 1	Characters from Binny's world during WWI where Clarry longs for an education and life of her own.
	<i>Black Bird, Blue Road</i> , Sofiya Pasternack	313 pp RL 5.3	FAN 2022	E. Europe 11 th Century	A historical fantasy in which Zia tries to save her twin brother from his illness, running with him to escape the Angel of Death. Jewish empire of Khazaria.
	<i>Braver: A Wombat's Tale</i> , Suzanne Selfors	277 pp RL 4.9	FAN 2020	Australia	When her wombat parents are captured by traitorous Tassie devils, Lola embarks on a rescue mission with a swamp water rat and a baby penguin. Animal fantasy.
	<i>Bronze and Sunflower</i> , Cao Wenxuan	790 L 386 pp	HF 2019	China, Tr. Rural 1970s	Sunflower is taken in by a poor family after her father's death, leading to a close friendship. The power of love to overcome hardship.

	<i>The Cedarville Shop and the Wheelbarrow Swap</i> , Bridget Krone	176 pp RL 5.1	RF 2022	S. Africa	Boipelo lives in a poor community and is inspired when reading about a system of multiple trades of one item for another bigger item. Integrates isiXhosa language.
	<i>Countdown to Yesterday</i> , Shirley Marr	259 pp	Sci Fi 2024	Australia	Wanting to prevent his parent's divorce, James travels back in time to his six favorite memories, which may not be as perfect as he remembers.
	<i>Danny Chung Sums It Up</i> , Maisie Chan and Natelle Quek	232 pp RL 3.9 (T)	RF 2021	UK	When his Chinese grandmother comes to live with his family, Danny must share his bedroom with Nai Nai, who does not speak English, but they develop a relationship through math and art.
	<i>Dog Star</i> , Megan Shepherd	214 pp RL 4.5 730 L	HF 2021	Russia 1957	Nina, unsure of her role in a communist society, befriends a dog, Laika, who is being studied by her father's lab for the Soviet space program.
	<i>The Eleventh Trade</i> , Alyssa Holingsworth	650 L RL 4. 3 288 pp	RF 2020	Afghanistan U.S.	When the instrument his grandfather treasures is stolen, a young Afghan refugee begins a series of trades to return it to him.
	<i>Flying in Colors</i> , Pama Prasad Reddeppa	308 pp	HF 2025	India, 1970s Chennai	Vignettes in the life of a girl who searches for answers to her big questions about family, tradition, and healing.
	<i>The Fox on the Swing</i> , Evelina Daciute	RL. 4.0 32 pp	FAN PB 2018	Lithuania Tr	Paul befriends a wise fox who gives him space to think about what makes him happy and what friendship means. Batchelder Award.
	<i>From Memen to Mori</i> , Shinsuke Yoshitake. Ajani Oloye, Tr.	40 pp	RF PB 2025	Japan Tr	Reflective conversations between an older sister and her brother with big questions offer life lessons. 3 vignettes
	<i>Giant</i> , Judith McQuoid.	220 pp	HF 2025	Ireland 1908	A working class boy in Belfast is captivated by the stories of a wealthy friend as they create make-believe worlds with both facing hardships. Jacks is based on C. S. Lewis.

	<i>Hachiko Waits</i> , Leslea Newman	96 pp 770L (S)	HF 2008	Japan	A dog waits at the train station every day, continuing for 10 years after his owner's death. Also <i>Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog</i> by Pamela Turner
	<i>Isabel in Bloom</i> , Mae Respicio	363 pp	RF NV 2024	Philippines US	Isabel leaves her grandparents and her island to join her mother in a new place, missing the vibrant green of life.
	<i>Johnny, the Sea and Me</i> , Melba Escobar	115 pp	RF 2024	Colombia Tr Caribbean	A Colombian boy visits the Caribbean, getting lost and befriending a gruff islander descended from pirates.
	<i>Innocent Heroes: Stories of Animals in the First World War</i> , Sigmund Brouwer	870 L RL 6.4 198 pp	HF 2017	Europe Canada WWI	8 connected fiction stories about animals interacting with a Canadian platoon in WWI. Also contains informational sections about the real stories of animals.
	<i>It All Begins with Jelly Beans</i> , Nova Weetman	256 pp 720 L	RF 2022	Australia	Two girls form an unlikely friendship in the school nurse's office, one dealing with anxiety after her father's death and the other with diabetes.
	<i>The Last Mapmaker</i> , Christina Soontornvat	359 pp RL 5.6	FAN 2022	Thailand	High-seas adventure in a Thai-inspired fantasy world. Sai, a mapmaker's assistant, joins an expedition to chart the southern seas, facing secrets and class-based conflict.
	<i>Lifeling</i> , Kristy Applebaum	260 pp RL 4.0	FAN 2022	London UK	Larry can bring dying creatures back to life—in exchange for part of his own life. When he ventures into town, he must hide his abilities and comes to new realizations.
	<i>The Mailbox Tree</i> , Rebecca Lee	224 pp	FAN 2024	Australia Tasmania	Two girls communicate across time through a tree in future Tasmania, threatened by rising sea levels.
	<i>Manu!!</i> Kelly Fernandez	175 pp	GN/ FA 2021	Dominican Republic	After a prank goes wrong, Manu loses her power as a witch and uses a dangerous spell. Integrates Spanish.
	<i>The Many Assassinations of Samir, the Seller of Dreams</i> , Daniel Nayeri	216 pp RL 5.0	HF 2023	Silk Road Middle East	A boy travels the Silk Road with his guardian, Samir, a scammer who has assassins after him. If he saves Samir six times, he can pay off his debt and gain his freedom.

	<i>Our Own Little Paradise.</i> Marianne Kaurin	206 pp RL 4.6	RF 2022	Norway Tr.	Ina lies about her summer holiday plans, knowing she will be stuck at home. She and a new friend transform an empty flat into a tropical escape.
	<i>The Puffin Keeper,</i> Michael Morpurgo & Benji Davies.	90 pp RL 6.4 830 L	HF 2022	UK WWII era	Allen is saved as a child by a solitary lighthouse keeper. Years later, he returns and they nurse an injured puffin back to health and later Allen returns to heal from WWII.
	<i>Soldier Bear,</i> Bibi Dumon Tak	790L (W) 145 pp	HF 2013	Italy, WWII Dutch tr.	An orphaned bear is adopted by Polish soldiers and serves as their mascot in Iran and Italy during WWII. Based on a true story. Batchelder Award.
	<i>*Sweep, The Story of a Girl and Her Monster,</i> Jonathan Auxier	630 L (X) 344 pp	FAN 2020	London 1800s	Historical fantasy. A chimney sweep, who leads a dangerous hard life, experiences friendship and home with a golem of soot and ash.
	<i>Taming Papa,</i> Mylene Goupil	157 pp	RF 2024	Canada French Tr	Melie does not know how to relate to her father, a political prisoner just released after many years.
	<i>Through Sand and Salt,</i> Elizabeth Zunon	32 pp	RF 2025	Mali	Malik accompanies his father on a camel caravan through the Sahara with a load of salt to prove himself worthy of protecting such an important resource.
	<i>The Turtle of Oman,</i> Naomi Shihab Nye	700 L 312 pp	RF 2016	Oman	Aref, upset about leaving Oman, spends time with his grandfather, celebrating their country and culture.
	<i>The Turtle of Michigan</i>	RL 5.6 325 pp	RF 2022	Oman US	Aref is adjusting to his new life in Michigan but misses his grandfather who is afraid to travel to visit.
	<i>We Dream Medicine Dreams,</i> Lisa Bowen	32 pp 600 L	Trad 2021	Indigenous Canada Dene	Grandfather explains to his granddaughter how people connect to knowledge of ancestors through dreams, sharing teachings from Bear, Hawk, Caribou and Wolf.

	<i>Weird Rules to Follow</i> , Kim Spencer	183 pp 730 L	HF 2022	Canada Indigenous 1980s	Short episodic chapters narrated by Mia about her experiences growing up Indigenous in British Columbia, racism, and her relationships with classmates.
	<i>When Life Gives You Mangos</i> , Kereen Getten	193 pp 720L (Y) RL 4.8	RF 2021	Jamaica	Clara loses her memory of an incident that leads to a fear of water, constant anger, and questions about her best friend. She must find a way to remember and move on.
	<i>*When the Sky Falls</i> , Phil Earle	312 pp RL 5.5	HF 2022	London WWII	An angry boy is sent to London to live with a gruff woman who teaches him how to care for the remaining animals in the city zoo, including a silverback gorilla.
	<i>*When You Trap a Tiger</i> , Tae Keller	297 pp RL 5.0	RF/FAN 2020	U.S./Korea	When Lily, her sister, and her mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal to heal her Halmoni. Integrates Korean folklore.
	<i>Wildful</i> , Kenge Kurimoto	213 pp	RF/GN 2024	UK	Poppy stumbles upon a forgotten forest and helps her grieving mother find beauty in nature.
Forced Journeys	<i>Beyond Me</i> , Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu	RL 4.9 290 pp	RF/NV 2021	Japan	A novel in verse about the 2011 tsunami and earthquake. Maya finds strength within herself to help others in small acts of kindness as aftershocks bring great fear.
	<i>*The Blackbird Girls</i> , Anne Blankman	560 L RL 5.7 340 pp	HF 2020	Ukraine 1980	Following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, two girls whose fathers worked at the power plant, are sent away to Leningrad, unsure who to trust or believe.
	<i>The Bluest Sky</i> , Christina Diaz Gonzalez	314 pp RL 6.0	HF 2022	Cuba 1980	Hector must decide whether to remain in Cuba under Castro's government and be labeled a traitor or join the Mariel boatlift to find his father in the U.S. Family story.

	<i>The Book of Boy</i> , Catherine Murdock	278 pp RL 4.7 930 L	HF/ FAN 2018	France 1350	A boy with a large hump is forced on a dangerous journey across Europe as the servant of a shadowy pilgrim. Gothic adventure, sly wit. Historical fantasy.
	<i>Born Behind Bars</i> , Padma Venkatraman	265 pp RL 4.0 720 L	RF 2021	India	After spending his life in jail with his mother, who is serving time for a crime she did not commit, Kabir is released and must survive on the streets of Chennai.
	<i>*Breaking Stalin's Nose</i> , Eugene Yelchin	670 L (X)	HF 2013	Soviet Union, 1900s	Sasha's love of Stalin is shaken when his father is unfairly arrested, and his worldview makes a dramatic shift. Black-and-white illustrations.
	<i>*The Bridge Home</i> , Padma Venkatraman	680 L RL 4.2 194 pp	RF 2020	India	Four homeless children escape abuse to find shelter under a bridge and create their own family as they face difficult challenges.
	<i>Brother's Keeper</i> Julie Lee	314 pp RL 4.7	HF 2020	N/S Korea 1950	Sora flees with her brother from N. Korea, struggling against traditional female roles and danger to get to S. Korea during the Korean War.
	<i>Cuba in My Pocket</i> , Adrianna Cuevas	275 pp 760 L RL 5.5	HF 2021	Cuba 1961	Based on author's family history. Cumba loves his life in Cuba but is sent to Miami to live with a new family due to the threat of military service for children.
	<i>Fatty Legs and A Stranger at Home</i> , Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton	RL 5.5 104 pp 124 pp (T)	HF 2017 2019	Canada Indigenous	An Inuit girl goes to a residential school, eager to read, but faces abuse and indoctrination. In second book, she experiences alienation when returning home. Based on author's life.
	<i>An Elephant in the Garden</i> , Michael Morpugo	890 L (Y) 199 pp	HF 2013	Germany, Dresden, WWII	A zookeeper hides an orphaned elephant in the family's garden. The elephant, in turn, saves the family during the Allied bombing.

	<i>Finally Seen</i> , Kelly Yang	298 pp 650 L	RF 2023	China/US	Lina has not seen her parents for 5 years since they left China for the US. When she finally joins them, she is hurt and angry and feels like she no longer knows her family.
	<i>I Lived on Butterfly Hill</i> , Marjorie Agosin	770 L 454 pp	HF2015	Chile 1970s	A girl in exile when her parents go into hiding during the military dictatorship of Pinochet. Sequel – <i>Map of Memory: Return to Butterfly Hill</i> .
	<i>It Rained Warm Bread</i> Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet	550 L 148 pp	HF 2021	Poland WWII	The experiences of a Polish Jew, Moishe, whose family try to survive in a ghetto and labor camp.
	<i>John the Skeleton</i> , Triinu Laan & Marja-Liisa Plats	890 L 58 pp	FAN 2024	Estonia Tr	For John, a retired classroom skeleton, life becomes exciting, full of adventures with Gramps. Batchelder
	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i> , Linda Sue Park	720L (W) 121 pp	HF 2011	Sudan	Two lives intersect across time--a Sudanese boy who flees civil war to the U.S. and a Sudanese girl who travels miles for water.
	<i>Lost in Peach Blossom Paradise</i> (Little Yu and the Treelings), Kim Xiong. Chloe G. Roberts, Tr.	81 pp	FAN GN 2026	China, Tr	A city girl, Little Yu, embarks on a forbidden journey when she enters an ancient forest, facing multiple trials with elves and dragon slayers. 7 book series.
	<i>A Million Shades of Gray</i> , Cynthia Kadhota	700 L 216 pp	HF 2011	Vietnam, 1975	A boy and his elephant take refuge in the jungle when Viet Cong attack his village. Truth as many shades of gray
	<i>Nory Ryan's Song</i> , Patricia Reilly Giff	600L (T) 148 pp	HF 2002	Ireland 1845	The blight on Ireland's potato crop, creates a dire situation of hunger for Nory and her family. Sequels
	<i>A Slip of a Girl</i> , Patricia Reilly Giff	RL 4.0 234 pp	HF NV 2019	Ireland 1879-1882	Anna must protect her special needs sister when the family is evicted from their farm during the Irish Land Wars after the Great Famine.

<i>One Half from the East</i> , Nadia Hashimi	RL 3.8 256 pp	HF 2018	Afghanistan	Obayda dresses as a boy, a bacha posh, to help her family and enjoys freedom but knows it's temporary.
<i>The Only Road</i> , Alexandra Diaz	830 L RL 5.1 308 pp	RF 2012	Guatemala	Jaimie makes a treacherous journey to the US due to drug cartel violence. See <i>The Crossroads</i> on his life as an undocumented immigrant.
<i>Orange for the Sunsets</i> , Tina Athaide	600L RL 4.6 328 pp	HF 2020	Uganda 1972	Two friends, one from Uganda and the other from India, experience difficult times when Indians are suddenly expelled from Uganda. Told in alternating voices to raise issues of colonialism, nationalism, and refugees.
<i>A Place to Belong</i> , Cynthia Kadohata	RL 5.8 405 pp	HF 2020	Japan 1940s	A disillusioned Japanese American family moves to Japan after WWII, experiencing cultural dislocation and lack of belonging in a place where they are not welcome.
<i>A Place to Hang the Moon</i> , Kate Albus	RL 4.5 (Y) 309 pp	HF 2021	UK London 1940	Three orphaned siblings are evacuated from London to the countryside where they face cruelty in a search for a permanent home, finding refuge in books at the library.
<i>Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad</i> , James Rumford	830L 32 pp	HF/PB 2008	Iraq	As bombs and missiles fall, a boy uses calligraphy to distance himself from the horrors of war.
<i>Stealing Home</i> , J. Torres	111 pp RL 4.6	HF /GN 2021	Canada WWII	Sandy loves to play baseball in 1940s Vancouver, until Pearl Harbor results in his Japanese Canadian family being incarcerated in a camp.
<i>A Story Like the Wind</i> , Gill Lewis	750 L RL 4.4 80 pp	RF/FAN 2018	Middle East	Refugees adrift in a rubber dinghy are given hope as one uses his violin to weave their stories together.
<i>The Story of Bodri</i> , Heidi Fried & Stina Wirsén	610 L (S) 32 p	HF/PB 2021	Romania Swedish Tr	A young Jewish girl plays with her friends and dog until Nazi soldiers take her family away, while her dog Bodri awaits her return.

	<i>The Story that Cannot Be Told</i> , Kasper Kramer	800 L 378 pp	HF 2020	Romania 1989	In the final months of Communist leader Ceausescu, Ileana and her family deal with danger and spies. Her story is intertwined with her namesake folktale.
	<i>*The Teacher of Nomad Land</i> , Daniel Nayeri - National Book Award	181 pp	HF 2025	Iran WWII 1941	Although Iran is neutral, British, Soviet, and German forces are everywhere as two orphaned children flee across mountains as a way to survive with nomad tribes.
	<i>To the Other Side</i> , Erika Meza	32 pp	RF 2023	Mexico	A girl reframes the dangerous border crossing as a game to help her brother through the journey. Unaccompanied children's voices are highlighted.
	<i>Viewfinder</i> , Christine Chung & Salwa Majoka	32 pp GN VN	Sci Fi 2024	Canada	Arriving on an Earth devoid of people, a space traveler finds a viewfinder that reveals what used to be.
	<i>The Village Beyond the Mist</i> , Sachiko Kashiwaba	144 pp 730 L	FAN 2025	Japan Tr	A wind gust leads Lina down a secret path to a hidden valley and a strange world with a dark side.
	<i>*The Wanderer</i> , Peter Van den Ende	96 pp	VN FAN 2020	Global Dutch Tr	In this wordless fantasy for older readers, a small paper boat journeys across the ocean all alone, facing wonders and terrifying sea monsters and storms.
	<i>War</i> , Jose Jorge Letria & Andre Letrla	RL 4.3 590 L 32 pp	FAN/PB 2021	Portugal Tr	This depiction of war uses surreal illustrations to reveal the many sides of war-- where it comes from, how it creeps up on and how it destroys.
	<i>*The War that Saved My Life</i> , Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	580L (Z) RL 4.1 316 pp	HF 2016	England, WWII	An abused child with a clubfoot is evacuated to the countryside with her brother, finding new life away from the war and her abusive mother.
	<i>How I Finally Won the War</i>	520 L 325 pp	HF 2018	England, WWII	Sequel -- Deals with Ada's struggle to heal from multiple traumas and to gain confidence in herself and others.

	<i>We're Not from Here</i> , Geoff Rodkey	740 L (V) RL 4.5	Sci Fi 2020	Outer space	A boy and his family migrate to a new planet where the mosquito-like inhabitants dislike the new immigrants, who must prove they can contribute to society.
	<i>*When My Name was Keoko</i> , Linda Sue Park	610 L 199 pp.	HF 2012	Korea WWII	A brother and sister face the oppressive occupation and suppression of Korean culture by Japan during WWII.
	<i>What Rosa Brought</i> , Jacob W. Weinstein & Eliza Wheeler	32 pp	HF PB 2023	Vienna 1938	As a Jewish family witnesses increasing persecution, a young girl wonders what she'll be able to bring with her.
	<i>The Wildcat Behind Glass</i> , Alke Zee	840 L 223 pp	HF 2024	Greece Tr 1936	A fresh translation of an acclaimed novel about the rise of fascism in pre-WWII Greece. Children play at the seaside and tell stories about the stuffed wildcat in the parlor as increasing oppression occurs around them.
Taking Action	<i>The Callers</i> , Kiah Thomas	223 pp RL 5.1 710 L	FAN 2022	Australia	Quinn is from a family of Callers who can summon objects. He does not have the gift and discovers that the objects are not conjured but taken from another land.
	<i>The Color of My Words</i> , Lynn Joseph	840L 138 pp	RF 2019	Dominican Republic	Ana Rosa has always depended on her brother and her ability to write but faces a crisis in her world.
	<i>Crossing the Stream</i> , Elizabeth-Irene Baitie	220 pp RL 6.6 690 L	RF 2021	Ghana	Ato enters a competition to win a visit to a bird sanctuary established by his late father. But something is wrong in the community connected to a "Prophet" his mother follows.
	<i>Flying Up the Mountain</i>	233 pp 670 L	RF 2023	Ghana	Ato and his friends win a visit to the bird sanctuary where he gradually becomes aware that something is threatening the sanctuary and violates his father's plan.
	<i>Evie and Rhino</i> . Neridah McMullin	263 pp	HF 2025	Australia 1891	A girl grieving the loss of her parents bonds with a shipwrecked rhino, taking action to avoid the rhino being taken into captivity in a zoo.

<i>Flight for Freedom: The Wetzel Family's Daring Escape from East Germany</i> , Kristen Fulton & Torben Kuhlmann	1010 L (R) 32 pp	HF/PB 2020	Germany 1979	Many people attempted and failed to escape over the Berlin Wall. This true story follows a boy and his family escaping from East Berlin in a homemade hot air balloon.
<i>The Go-Between</i> , Jennifer Maruno	208 pp	HF 2024	Canada 1926	A Japanese Canadian girl dealing with racism becomes a go-between for striking workers, finding courage.
<i>Gorilla Dawn</i> , Gill Lewis	670 L RL 4.4	RF 2018	Congo	Two children held by rebel soldiers work to return a captive baby gorilla to the forest. Eco-survival tale.
<i>The Inquisitor's Tale</i> , Adam Gidwitz	620 L RL 4.5 263 pp	HF/Fan 2018	Medieval France	3 children with magical powers on a quest to escape prejudice and save threatened texts. 1342. Adventure
<i>Ink Girls</i> , Marieke Nijkamp	288 pp	FN GN 2023	Italy Tr	Two neurodivergent girls join forces to fight censorship and protect the people they love. Renaissance Italy.
<i>Iqbal: A Novel</i> , Francesco D'Adamo	730L (X) 120 pp	HF 2005	Pakistan Tr. French	A fictionalized account of a Pakistani child who led children in a protest of child labor in carpet mills.
<i>Ludwig and the Rhinoceros</i> , Noemi Schneider	32 pp	FAN PB 2023	German Tr Switzerland	Ludwig claims there is a rhinoceros in the house and must prove that something can be there even if you can't see it. Philosophical.
<i>Lotería</i> , Karla Valenti	310 pp 740 L (V)	FAN 2021	Mexico	In Oaxaca City, Life and Death discuss free will as they play a game of Lotería, while Clara searches for her lost cousin and the right to shape her own destiny.
<i>Moon Bear</i> , Gill Lewis	590L (X) 368 pp	RF 2017	Laos	Torn from their homes, a boy and a moon bear cub work on a farm where bears are cruelly caged for their bile.

	<i>The Night Bus Hero</i> , Onjali Rauf	RL 5.3 243 pp 840 L	RF 2020	UK	Hector's prank on a homeless man backfires and leads him to take action to change himself from a bully into someone who helps others.
	<i>Nour's Secret Library</i> , Wafa' Tamowska & Vali Mintzi	RL 5.6 32 pp	HF/PB 2022	Syria	In a Syrian city plagued with bombings, Nour and her cousin build a secret underground library. Based on the author's life. The power of books to heal.
	<i>Oasis</i> , Guojing	151 pp GN	Sci Fi 2025	China Dystopia	Two children survive alone in a barren desert, while their mother works in Oasis City. Everything changes when they find an abandoned robot.
	<i>Razia's Ray of Hope</i> , Elizabeth Suneby	680 L 32 pp	RF/PB 2013	Afghanistan	Razia wants to attend a girls' school, but first she must get her father's and brother's permission.
	<i>*The Red Pencil</i> , Andrea Pinkney	630L (Y) 308 pp	HF/NV 2015	Sudan	In a refugee camp in Darfur, a girl finds hope and possibility through writing and art. Novel in verse.
	<i>The Republic of Birds</i> , Jessica Miller	279 pp RL 4.1	FAN 2021	Russia	When her family is exiled, Olga must use her wits and forbidden magic to rescue her sister and return from the Republic of Birds. Inspired by Russian folklore.
	<i>Revolution is Not a Dinner Party</i> , Ying Chang Compestine	740 L (W) 248 pp	HF 2009	China 1972	Ling struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution and the impact on her family and her desire to excel in school. Based on author's experiences. Also <i>Red Scarf Girl</i> by Ji-li Jiang
	<i>Safiyyah's War</i> , Hiba Noor Khan	329 pp	HF 2024	Paris WWII	Safiyyah uses her protection as a Muslim during the brutal Nazi occupation of Paris to join the resistance and provide sanctuary for hundreds of Jews in the mosque.
	<i>Scout and the Rescue Dogs</i> , Dianne Wolfer	213 pp	RF 2025	Australia	Scout spends the summer in a big rig with her father, delivering donations of dog food to rescue shelters, made more dangerous when they encounter wildfires.

	<i>Sit</i> , Deborah Ellis	720 L 138 pp	RF 2017	Global	Short stories, centered on a chair, where children face a difficult choice, make a decision, and act.
	<i>Step</i> , Deborah Ellis	RL 4.7 145 pp	RF 2022	Global	Short stories of children around the world who turn eleven and take a step in the future.
	<i>Small Mercies</i> , Bridget Krone	223 pp RL 5.2 820 L	RF 2020	South Africa	Mercy lives in Pietermaritzburg with her elderly foster aunts, trying to escape notice so social workers will not take her away, learning to stand up for herself.
	<i>Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs</i> , Pam Muñoz Ryan	190 pp RL 6.4	FAN 2022	Mexico	Princess Solimar uses her determination and a bit of magic to save her kingdom and the forests that shelter migrating monarchs. Environmental themes
	<i>Tree of Dreams</i> , Laura Resau	850 L 316 pp	RF 2022	Ecuador	On a trip to the Amazon, a girl becomes aware of Indigenous and environmental issues.
	<i>Turtles of the Midnight Moon</i> , Maria Jose Fitzgerald	312 pp RL 6.5	RF 2023	Honduras	Eco-mystery about two girls trying to stop the sea turtle egg poaching in their coastal Honduran village
	<i>Two Pieces of Chocolate</i> , Kathy Kacer & Gabrielle Grimard	32 pp 690 L	HF 2024	German 1945	In a Nazi prison camp, Francine's mother has hidden 2 pieces of chocolate, waiting for the day they need them.
	<i>Waiting for the Biblioburro</i> , Monica Brown & John Parra	880L (M) 32p	HF/PB 2011	Colombia	When a man brings burros loaded with books to a remote village, he inspires Ana to write a book.
Locating Self in the World	<i>*A Wish in the Dark</i> , Christina Soontornvat	375 pp	FAN 2021	Thailand	Fantasy with a boy on the run and a girl determined to find him. Privilege, protest, and justice. Based on Les Misérables.
	<i>Aarzu All Around</i> , Marzieh Abbas	357 pp	RF NV 2025	Pakistan	A cricket-loving Pakistani girl stifled by patriarchal expectations disguises herself as a boy to pay for her sister's medical bills. Range of poetic forms.

<i>The Ballad of a Broken Nose</i> , Arne Svingen	560L 214 pp	RF 2017	Norway Tr.	Bart has a hard life and must cope with bullies but gains a friend who appreciates his love of opera.
<i>Brown (My Alter Ego is a Superhero)</i> , Hakon Ovreas	530 L 124 pp	RF 2020	Norway Tr	Rusty and his friends dress as superheroes to stop bullies, guided by his grandfather's ghost. Trilogy
<i>The Distance between Me and the Cherry Tree</i> , Paola Peretti	740 L RL 6.1 215 pp	RF 2020	Italy Tr	Mafalda will go blind in 6 months and needs the help of family and friends to retain what is essential to her.
<i>Ebb & Flow</i> , Heather Smith	227 pp	RF/NV 2021	Canada	In Newfoundland, a boy who becomes a bully after his father's imprisonment is sent to live with his grandmother to find his way. Free verse.
<i>Fibbed</i> , Elizabeth Agyemang	243 pp	FA/GN 2022	Ghana	Nana is sent to live with family in Ghana, where she joins forces with the trickster Anansi to prevent corrupt contractors from destroying the forests.
<i>Fly on the Wall</i> , Remy Lai	336 pp	RF 2020	Australia Singapore	Diary-style novel about a Chinese boy who goes on a forbidden solo adventure to prove his independence to his overprotective family.
<i>A Glasshouse of Stars</i> , Shirley Marr	246 pp 870L RL 5.1	FAN 2021	Australia	Meixing and her Chinese family have moved to a New Land, and she struggles to find her place of belonging, retreating to the magical space of a greenhouse.
<i>The Grand Plan to Fix Everything</i> , Uma Krishnaswami	770 L (U) 266 pp	RF 2013	India	A family move to India from the U.S. immerses Dini in a search for her heritage as she enjoys Bollywood adventures and misses her friend. Sequel.
<i>Handbook for Dragon Slayers</i> , Merrie Haskell	770L 324 pp	FAN 2013	Europe Medieval	Considered cursed due to her lame foot, Princess Matilda escapes an evil cousin to set off on an adventure with old friends to hunt dragons. Historical fantasy.

	<i>Hero on a Bicycle</i> , Shirley Hughes	880L 213 pp	HF 2017	Italy WWII	Paolo must figure out if he has what it takes to be a hero during the Nazi occupation of Florence.
	<i>Hokusai's Daughter/Hokusai no musume</i> . Sunny Seki	39 pp	HF 2024	Japan 1800s	Bilingual. The daughter of a famous artist refuses to believe that only men can create great works of art.
	<i>If You Read This</i> , Kereen Getten	168 pp 760 L	RF 2022	Jamaica	Brie receives a birthday gift from her deceased mother, leading her on a treasure hunt to unlock a secret that transforms her sense of self.
	<i>Lily and the Night Creature</i> , Nick Lake. Illus. by Emily Gravett.	234 pp RL 5.9	FAN 2022	UK	Lily, who is chronically ill, must rid her home of demons who are alternate versions of her parents
	<i>Living with Viola</i> , Rosean Fung	267 pp	RF/GN 2021	Canada Hong Kong	Livy creates a twin sister in her mind who voices her fears in a new school after her family moves from Hong Kong. Microaggressions and mental health issues.
	<i>Look Up</i> , Azul Lopez. David Shook, Tr.	32 pp	RF 2025	Mexico Tr	A man loses his curiosity as he joins others in everyday survival, until one day he rediscovers the joy of pausing to notice the beauty around him.
	<i>*Mañanaland</i> , Pam Muñoz Ryan,	650 L (V) 247 pp	FAN 2020	Latin America	Max sets out to find his mother guided by the legend his grandfather tells him of a mythical gatekeeper who guides travelers to safety.
	<i>Marshmallow & Jordan</i> . Alina Chau	365 pp	GN 2021	Indonesia	A paralyzed basketball player encounters a mysterious little elephant who helps her discover a new sport, water polo. Strong portrayal of diversity within Indonesia.
	<i>The Moth Keeper</i> , Kay O'Neill	257 pp	GN/FA 2023	New Zealand	Kit is excited to prove her worth as a Moth-Keeper, protector of lunar moths and the Night-Lily flowers but finds nights in the desert lonely and long.

<i>Neverforgotten</i> , Alejandra Algorta Illus. Ivan Rickenmann	114/228 pp RL 5.5	RF 2021	Colombia Tr Bilingual	Fabio flies through the streets of Bogota on his bicycle, until one day he forgets how to ride, losing his sense of self, until he connects with an elderly neighbor.
<i>No Ordinary Day</i> , Deborah Ellis	580L W 159 pp	RF 2014	India	Valli finds out that she has leprosy and rejects help, beginning an uncertain life on the streets.
<i>No Such Things as Dragons</i> , Philip Reeve	920 L 186 pp	FAN 2010	UK medieval	A mute boy apprenticed to a dragon-slayer, a con artist, finds his voice when they stumble upon a real dragon, overcome with loneliness.
<i>Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy</i> , S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed	263 pp	RF 2021	Muslim world	Collection of short stories that showcase Muslim voices writing about the joyful holiday, Eid, in various formats.
<i>*Other Words for Home</i> , Jasmine Warga	930 L RL 6.3 342 pp	RF NV 2021	Syria US	Novel in verse of a girl who flees the Syrian war with her mother to the U.S, facing prejudice, fearing for her brother, and longing for home.
<i>Our Castle by the Sea</i> Lucy Strange	820 L RL 4.7 319 pp	HF 2019	UK 1939 WWII	Lucy's life on a lighthouse is torn apart by war and the imprisonment of her German mother, leading her to doubt herself and her family.
<i>Peter Lee's Notes from the Field</i> , Angela Ahn and Julie Kwon.	305 pp 650 L RL 6.1	RF 2021	Canada	Korean Canadian Peter's plan to become a paleontologist falls apart and he is no longer sure who he is. Book is structured as field note entries.
<i>*Pie in the Sky</i> , Remy Lai	720 L RL 5.6 380 pp	RF 2019	Australia Singapore	A Chinese boy from Singapore moves to Australia after his father's death, facing loneliness and grief, and deeply resenting having to learn English.
<i>Rosa by Starlight</i> , Hilary McKay	160 pp	FAN 2025	UK, Venice	A lonely girl is abandoned in Venice by her cruel aunt and uncle but makes magical connections with street cats.

	<i>Samira Surfs</i> , Rukhsanna Guidroz	411 pp RL 4.0	RF/NV 2021	Rohingya Bangladesh	A Rohingya Muslim refugee from Myanmar wants to help her family survive in Bangladesh and prove girls can contribute. Learns to surf as a way to earn money.
	<i>Serafina's Promise</i> , Ann E. Burg	590L 299 pp	RF 2015	Haiti	Serafina lives in poverty and struggles to keep her dream of being a doctor alive after an earthquake.
	<i>Show Us Who You Are</i> , Elle McNicoll	286 pp RL 5.8	Sci Fi 2022	UK (London)	A neurodiverse girl is shown amazing technology that gives her a chance to talk with a friend she lost but discovers the dark secrets behind the science.
	<i>A Single Shard</i> , Linda Sue Park	920L (U) 152 pp	HF 2011	Korea 1100s	Homeless Tree-ear becomes an apprentice to a master potter, a difficult but talented mentor.
	<i>Small Things</i> , Mel Tregonning	37 pp	VN/RF 2021	Australia	A boy struggles with isolation and anxiety, shown as tiny creatures that eat away at him. Powerful visual portrayal of anxiety and depression.
	<i>The Treasure of Tei Maresha</i> , Tammar Stein	108 pp	RF/HF 2024	Israel	Told in alternating voices, two girls living 2000 years apart in Israel, struggle to find their voices and deal with the changes in their lives. Archeological dig.
	<i>An Unexpected Light</i> , Jose Saramago	32 pp	RF 2024	Spain Tr	Quiet, poetic story of a childhood memory of simple joy in a trip to the market with his uncle.
	<i>The Silence of Water</i> , Jose Saramago	32 pp	RF 2024		While fishing on a river bank, a boy experiences growing awareness of the world around him.
	<i>We Go to the Park</i> , Sara Strideberg & Beatrice Alemanga	32 pp	RF 2024	Sweden Tr	Invites readers to remember their childhood adventure in the park and experiences of possibility and imagination.
	<i>What if a Fish</i> , Anika Fajardo	231 pp RL 6.2	RF 2020	Colombia US	Biracial Eddie struggles with his identity and bullying and so is excited to spend the summer in Colombia with his older half-brother. Magical realism

	<i>Wolfstongue</i> , Sam Thompson	195 pp RL 5.5	FAN 2022	Ireland	A boy with speech problems enters a hidden world of talking animals, including enslaved wolves and scheming foxes. Voice and the power of words to harm or heal. Fable based in medieval European folklore. Trilogy.
	<i>A Year Without Mom</i> , Dasha Tolstikova	690 L 167 pp	HF/GN 2020	Russia	Graphic novel memoir of a girl in Moscow after her mother leaves for America in the early 1990's.
Adventure and Mystery	<i>The Adventures of Cipollino</i> , Gianni Rodari & Dasha Tolstikova. Anthony Shugaar, Tr.	243 pp	FAN 2025	Italy Tr.	A young onion sets out into the world to study scoundrels and fights the tyrannical Prince Lemon. High political drama with characters as fruits, vegetables, and animals.
	<i>Akissi, Tales of Mischief</i> Marguerite Abouet	183 pp	RF/GN 2018	Ivory Coast French Tr	Comic strips of the antics of Akissi and her friends around town in the Ivory Coast. Slapstick humor. Sequel.
	<i>The Blackthorn Key</i> , Kevin Sands	630 L 371 pp	FAN 2016	England, 1600s	An orphaned boy, an apothecary's apprentice, must solve puzzles and decipher codes to solve a secret that could destroy the world. Historical fantasy series.
	<i>The Book of Stolen Dreams</i> , David Farr	364 pp RL 4.2	FAN 2023	UK	When their father gives them a stolen book, two children must protect the book and defeat a tyrannical ruler.
	<i>The Bookwanderers</i> , Anna James	870 L RL 6.4 283 pp	FAN 2020	UK	Tilly Pages finds comfort in her grandparents' bookshop after her mother disappears, realizing that she can bookwander into any story. Series, literary connections.
	<i>The Boy Who Met a Whale</i> , Nizrana Farook	191 pp RL 5.0	RF 2022	Sri Lanka	Razi becomes involved in a dangerous adventure after rescuing a shipwrecked boy, Zheng, with a secret.
	<i>The Case of Windy Lake</i> , Michael Hutchinson	670L (V) RL 6.5 146 pp	RF 2019	Canada Indigenous	The Mighty Muskrats, a group of cousins, take on a mystery involving a mine on tribal land. Series set on Windy Lake, a fictional First Nations peoples.

<i>Cousins in the Time of Magic</i> , Emma Otheguy.	228 pp	FAN 2025	Mexico 1862	3 cousins travel through time to 1862 Mexico to deliver their aunt's mysterious sword to General Zaragoza in time for the Battle of Pueblo.
<i>The Dragon Egg Princess</i> , Ellen Oh	244 pp RL 6.1	FAN 2020	Korea	Inspired by Korean folklore, a magicless prince and a lost princess join forces to save their world from foreign forces and a long-forgotten evil lurking in the forest.
<i>The Girl Who Lost a Leopard</i> , Nizrana Farook	223 pp	FAN 2023	Sri Lanka	Selvi is pitted against smugglers out to capture a magnificent leopard but finds out that her family is connected to the illegal trade of rare animals.
<i>The Girl Who Stole an Elephant</i> , Nizrana Farook	230 pp RL 4.3	FAN 2021	Sri Lanka	Chaya steals to help the impoverished in her village but jeopardizes the lives of her family and friends as she is chased through the jungle by the King's guards.
<i>The Golden Necklace</i> , Mitali Perkins	128 pp	RF 2026	Nepal	A Nepali girl works to solve the mystery of missing gold jewelry. Raises issues of gender and social class.
<i>The Inkberg Enigma</i> , Jonathan King	125 pp	GN FAN 2020	New Zealand	Set in a fictional New Zealand fishing town, Miro and Zia notice strange happenings connected to a journal of an ill-fated 1930s Antarctic expedition. Graphic fantasy.
<i>Inkheart</i> , Cornelia Funke	780L (W) 548 pp	FAN 2005	Germany Tr.	Maggie's father can "read" characters to life, leading Maggie on a dangerous adventure to save his life. Trilogy
<i>The Labyrinth of Lost and Found</i> , Jordan Lees	378 pp	FAN 2024	UK	A door in a bookstore basement takes Benjamin into the perilous world of Wreathenword to join Elizabeth in a quest to find her missing brother. Whisperwicks series.
<i>The Land of Roar</i> , Jenny McLachlan	284 pp RL 4.8	FAN 2020	UK	An imaginary world created by two children when they were young, suddenly comes alive and lures them inside to rescue their grandfather. Series.

	<i>Me, Frida and the Secret of the Peacock Ring.</i> Angela Cervantes	220 pp 710 L RL 5.3	RF 2019	Mexico	Paloma helps her cousins search for a ring belonging to Frida Kahlo stolen from her home in Mexico City.
	<i>The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli,</i> Karina Yan Glaser	420 pp	HF 2025	China U.S.	Two parallel stories in 731 China and 1931 Chinatown follow two girls who venture out into the larger world and perilous adventure to save what they most love.
	<i>Temple Alley Summer,</i> Sachiko Kashiwaba	620 L RL 4.9 232 pp	FAN 2021	Japan Tr.	A mystery involving a ghost girl and a temple that supposedly can bring people back to life leads Kazu into an investigation to determine the temple's power.
	<i>The Thief Lord,</i> Cornelia Funke	700 L (V) 349 pp	HF 2010	Venice German Tr.	Two orphaned brothers run away to Venice, joining a secret community of street thieves. Historical fiction with a touch of magical realism.
	<i>The Time of Green Magic,</i> Hilary McKay	229 pp 750 L RL 5.0	FAN 2021	UK	Abi moves into an eerie old house with her new blended family and discovers that the house and books are a portal to magic, both good and bad.
	<i>Vanya and the Wild Hunt,</i> Sangu Mandanna	277 pp	FAN	India & UK	A British Indian girl with ADHD discovers her parents have secrets that involve monsters. She is whisked away to a magical school to stop the Wild Hunt. Book 1
Mythological Quests	<i>Abeni's Song,</i> P. Djéli Clark	336 pp	FAN 2023	W. Africa	When everyone in her village is kidnapped, Abeni is saved by an elderly witch and learns of her hidden abilities, setting off to find the stolen children. Series
	<i>Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans,</i> Isi Hendrix	339 pp RL 5.1	FAN 2023	W. Africa	Afrofantasy about a girl apprenticing in the kitchens of an Academy of Shamans who must join forces with a snarky goddess and warrior to save the kingdom. Trilogy.
	<i>Anya and the Dragon,</i> Sofiya, Pasternack	720L (Y) RL 5.7 394 pp	FAN 2019	Russia 10 th century	In an alternate 10 th century, Anya protects the dragon that saved her life, putting her family at risk. Russian and Jewish traditions. Historical fantasy series

<i>Aru Shah and the End of Time</i> , Roshani Chokshi	355 pp 630 L RL 4.7	FAN 2018	India/US	Aru Shah, known to stretch the truth, frees an ancient demon and goes on a quest to save her friends and mother. Hindu mythology. Series, 2018-2022
<i>Bea Wolf</i> , Zach Weinersmith	181 pp	GN/FA 2023	Old English poem	Retelling of Beowulf, featuring a group of troublemaking kids who must defend their tree house from a fun-hating adult who can instantly turn children into adults.
<i>Beyond the Doors</i> , Maureen McQuerry	740L 375 pp	FAN 2021	Celtic mythology	When mythical creatures appear, Timothy, Sarah, and Jessica must defeat the powers of the Darkness. Trilogy
<i>Blackberry Fox</i> , Kathrin Tordasi	340 pp RL 5.4	FAN 2024	Wales German Tr	A boy goes through a door that opens a dangerous portal between worlds, unleashing evil. Welsh mythology
<i>The Boy, the Mountain, and the Serpent Who Ate the Moon</i> , Chris A. Cruz	309 pp RL 4.7	FAN 2025	Philippines	3 Filipino children must find their way through a mystical land of monsters and gods from Filipino folklore, navigating dangers to find their way back home.
<i>A Brush with Magic</i> , Flora Ahn	730 L 285 pp	FAN 2024	Korea	Yumi finds a magic ink brush in the attic that summons a dokkaebi, leading to an adventure and family secrets.
<i>The Crossbow of Destiny</i> , Brandon Hoang	240 pp	FAN 2024	Vietnam	Freddie searches for her grandfather and an ancient magic crossbow before it can be used for evil.
<i>Curse of the Night Witch</i> , Alex Aster	330 pp RL 5.3	FAN 2020	Colombia	Tor Luna tries to change his fate but instead receives a curse and must visit the notorious Night Witch, using an old book of stories based in real Colombian folklore.
<i>The Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejia</i> , Alexandra Alessandri	213 pp RL 4.5	FAN 2023	Colombia	To save their father's life, a brother and sister must journey into a land of magical beings from Colombian folklore to find the Madremonte.

	<i>Farrah Noorzad and the Ring of Fate</i> , Deeba Zargarpur	324 pp	FAN 2024	Afghanistan US	Farrah discovers her true jinn heritage when she traps her father and must go on a quest to free him. Islamic legend and Persian mythology.
	<i>Felice and the Wailing Woman</i> , Diana Lopez	274 pp RL 4.5	FAN 2023	Mexico	Felice discovers her mother is La Llorona and travels to Tres Leches to reunite with her mother and save the town from its magical curses. Munstruos series
	<i>The Gate, the Girl and the Dragon</i> , Grace Lin	352 pp RL 5.2	FAN 2025	China	A Stone lion cub and a girl must open a portal between the spirit and human worlds. Chinese folklore.
	<i>The Girl Who Speaks Bear</i> , Sophie Anderson	286 pp RL 5.8	FAN 2020	Russia	Abandoned as a baby, Yanka does not feel she belongs in her village. When her legs are transformed into bear legs, she embarks on a dangerous journey of discovery.
	<i>The House with Chicken Legs</i> , Sophie Anderson	770 L RL 4.6 262 pp	FAN 2020	Russia	A girl training to become the next Yaga, like her grandmother, is lonely and longs for a friend. Baba Yaga.
	<i>The Island of Forgotten Gods</i> , Victor Pinerio	289 pp	FAN 2025	Puerto Rico Taino	Nico and his cousins encounter the legendary chupacabra, a cult, and the gods who created the island. Connections to Taino mythology.
	<i>Josephine Against the Sea</i> , Shakirah Bourne	293 pp RL 4.6 810 L	FAN 2021	Barbados	In a small village in Barbados, Jo accidentally calls up a sea spirit who enchants her widowed father and she must break the spell. Afro-Caribbean mythology.
	<i>Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom</i> , Sangu Mandanna	334 pp. RL 5.8 830 L	FAN 2021	India/UK	Drawn into a mystical world, Kiki must battle her fear and anxiety to save her real and imagined worlds from an ancient Hindu deity. <i>Kiki Kallira Conquers a Curse</i> .
	<i>Lalani of the Distant Sea</i> , Erin Entrada Kelly	R.L. 5.9 400 pp	FAN 2020	Philippines	Lalani goes on an ocean quest to save her mother and island from a horrible fate. Fantasy with Filipino folklore.

	<i>The Last Fallen Star</i> , Graci Kim	320 pp RL 5.2	FAN 2021	Korea	When Hattie Oh casts a dangerous spell so her adopted sister can share her inherited magic, Riley must go on a quest to save Hattie's life. Urban fantasy based on Korean mythology. Sequel - <i>The Last Fallen Moon</i>
	<i>The Last Rabbit</i> , Shelley Moore Thomas	RL 5.8 610L (V) 279 pp	FAN 2021	Ireland	4 Irish sisters, orphaned during WWII, are sent to an island where they are turned into rabbits. Now the island is sinking, and Albie must decide what to do. Celtic mythology. Family, loss, and redemption.
	<i>Lei and the Fire Goddess</i> , Malia Maunakea	298 pp RL 5.6	FAN 2023	Hawai'i	Biracial Anna must dig deeply into her Hawaiian roots to save her best friend and her island when she angers Pele the fire goddess. Hawaiian mythology.
	<i>Lia Park and the Missing Jewel</i> , Jenna Yoon	346 pp RL 5.8 590 L	FAN 2022	Korea	When her parents are kidnapped, Lia must go to into the undersea kingdom of the Dragon King to save them from an evil diviner. Series. Integrates Korean words.
	<i>Lola</i> , Karla Valenti	247 pp	FAB 2024	Mexico	To save her brother from the Darkness, Lola follows mythical creatures into a secret world. Magical realism.
	<i>The Lords of Night: A Shadow Bruja Novel</i> , Jennifer Cervantes	RL 4.7 311 pp	FAN 2022	Mexico Maya & Aztec	Renata is both a girl with a blog on alien sightings and a powerful bruja who must stop rogue demigods from awaking Aztec Lords of the Night. Duology.
	<i>The Magicians</i> , Blexbolex	182 pp	FAN 2023	France Tr	Magic gives 3 children power to change their appearance and reinvent a world even as they are being hunted. Full-page illustrations bring readers into this imaginative world, intricate design is reminiscent of an ancient book.
	<i>Marikit and the Ocean of Stars</i> , Caris A. Cruz	RL 4.4 700 L 320 pp	FAN 2022	Philippines	Marikit is swept from the human world into a world inspired by Filipino folklore on a quest to find the key to saving her family—if she avoids being eaten alive.

	<i>Momo Arashima Steals the Sword of the Wind</i> , Misa Sugiura	377 pp RL 6.1 740 L	FAN 2023	Japan	Momo wants an ordinary life but finds out she is half goddess and must use her powers to save her mother and fight evil spirits. Japanese mythology. <i>Momo Arashima Breaks the Mirror</i> (2024) involves a dangerous new enemy, a mean girl, in the Sky Kingdom.
	<i>Mulan: Before the Sword</i> , Grace Lin	820 L RL 5.0 374 pp	FAN 2020	China	Inspired by the legend of Mulan Hua, the female warrior, but occurring earlier when Mulan goes on a quest to save her sister.
	<i>Mwikali and the Forbidden Mask</i> , Shiko Nguru	RL 4.9 730 L 222 pp	FAN 2022	Kenya	Mwikali moves to a new school in Nairobi, learns she is from an ancient line of Kenyan warriors, and finds herself in a battle with dark magic. First book in a series.
	<i>Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun</i> , Tola Okogwu	RL 4.9 710 L 298 pp	FAN 2022	Nigeria	Onyeka, who is British Nigerian, discovers she is a Solari, a secret group of Nigerian people with superpowers. Her power involves her hair, and she goes to Nigeria to train with her father in an elite academy. Trilogy
	<i>Pahua and the Soul Stealer</i> , Lori Lee	423 pp RL 5.1	FAN 2021	Hmong	A lonely Hmong girl sets out on a quest to save her little brother from an angry spirit, discovering she is the reincarnation of a legendary shaman warrior. <i>Pahua and the Dragon's Secret</i> (2024) continues her quest.
	<i>The Selkie's Daughter</i> , Linda Crotta Brennan	204 pp	FAN 2024	Canada Celtic myth	In this historical fantasy, a girl with selkie heritage goes on a quest to save her village. Nova Scotia, Celtic myth.
	<i>The Serpent's Secret</i> , Sayantani DasGupta	338 pp 730 L	FAN 2019	India	Kiranmala is swept into another dimension of magic she must sort out to find her parents and save the world. Integrates Bengali folklore. Kingdom Beyond series.
	<i>Force of Fire</i>	341 pp RL 6.1 790 L	FAN 2022	India	A new series in the Kingdom Beyond universe about a demon who must embrace her bad to serve the greater good. Pinki goes on a quest for belonging and freedom.

	<i>Secrets of the Sky series- The Chaos Monster, The Poison Waves, The Ghost Forest</i>	205-220 pp. RL 5.2	FAN 2023-2024	India – Bengali	A Sky Kingdom series that combines Bengali folklore and environmental mysteries as bees, water, and trees disappear and two Bengali brothers must save the world.
	<i>*Sona and the Golden Beasts,</i> Rajani LaRocca	385 pp	FAN 2024	South Asia	Although music has been outlawed by their colonizers, Sona hears music, putting her in danger and sending her on a quest to save a wolf pup. Folklore, letters, and songs are interwoven, creating a rich fantasy world.
	<i>Song of the Yellow Dragon,</i> Ying Ping Low	269 pp	FAN 2026	China	Chinese-inspired fantasy world in which a boy emperor and orphan girl race to find a mysterious magic before they turn 13 and when magic stops being real.
	<i>Splinter & Ash,</i> Marieke Nijamp	368 pp	FAN 2024	Netherlands Dutch Tr	A medieval fantasy in which Princess Ash who walks with a cane is kidnapped and her friend Splinter goes in search. Boundary-defying heroines. Trilogy.
	<i>The Spirit Glass,</i> Roshani Chokshi	293 pp RL 6.9	FAN 2023	Philippines	Corazon must go on a quest when her soul key is stolen, threatening the fate of the world and her plan to bring her parents back to life. Filipino mythology.
	<i>Storm Singer,</i> Sawat Chadda	358 pp	FAN 2025	Indian folklore	Nargis forms an alliance with a prince to use her power as a singer to control the elements to save the kingdom and to bring back to the desert. <i>Crow's Revenge</i> is Book 2.
	<i>Theo Tan and the Fox Spirit,</i> Jesse Sutanto	308 pp RL 4.8	FAN 2022	China/US	A Chinese American boy learns to embrace his heritage and work with a spirit fox, Kai, to solve the mystery of his brother's death. Chinese mythology. <i>Theo Tan and the Iron Fan</i> (2024) takes the quest to hell/Diyu. Duology.
	<i>Three Tasks for a Dragon,</i> Eoin Colfer & Patrick Lynch	104 pp RL 6.9	FAN 2023	Ireland	Illustrated quest of a studious prince sent to rescue a maiden from a dragon – and who asks for 3 tasks to perform rather than killing the dragon.

	<i>*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky</i> , Kwame Mbalia	680 L RL 6.2 482 pp	FAN 2020	West Africa U.S.	Combines W. African and African American folklore in a quest by a boy who has accidentally torn a hole in the sky. Trilogy.
	<i>*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> <i>Starry River of the Sky</i> <i>When the Sea Turned to Silver</i> Grace Lin	810L (T) 278 pp 810 (T) 288 pp 750L (U) 350 pp	FAN 2014 2014 2017	China	Three companion books of characters on quests in beautifully illustrated novels. The adventures are interwoven with magical characters who tell stories from traditional Chinese folklore.
	<i>Winston Chu vs. the Whimsies</i> , Stacy Lee	357 pp RL 5.6	2023	China	Winston stops a robbery at Chinatown oddities shop and is gifted with a broomstick that sweeps away important stuff, like his baby sister, leading to a quest.
	<i>Wrath of the Rain God</i> , Karla Valenti	136 pp	2024	Mexico Indigenous	First book in the Legendarios series in which twins move to Mexico and are given a book of Mexican legends by their grandmother that transport them into the story. See also <i>The Beginning of All Things</i> , <i>The Child King of Uxmal</i> , <i>The Heron Princess</i>
Traditional Literature	<i>Arab Fairy Tale Feasts</i> , Karim Alrawi & Nahid Kazemi	143 pp RL 5.9	Fables 2021	Arab world	Uses short Arabic fables, morality tales, to present traditional foods from the Middle East and North Africa. Includes recipes and sidebars of information.
	<i>The Beasts Beneath the Winds: Tales of Southeast Asia's Mythical Creatures</i> , Hanna Aikaf, Ed. & Jessica Wibowo, illus.	340 pp	COL 2025	S.E. Asia	Folktale collection of 17 stories by various authors that showcases the mythical creatures of Southeast Asia and the ordinary children who encounter these creatures.

	<i>Dragons: Legendary Monsters of Mythology</i> , Calt Stevenson & Cinthya Alvarez	80 pp	Myth 2025	Global	A guide to the history and mythology of dragons from around the world, including fire-breathing monsters from Europe, water gods from Asia, and dragon-slayers.
	<i>Filipino Folktales for Children</i> , Zarah Gagatiga & C. Albano	80 pp	Trad Lit 2025	Philippines	Bilingual in English and Tagalog, 7 exciting tales of magical creatures and captivating gods and goddesses.
	<i>Folktales for a Better World: Stories of Peace and Kindness</i> , Elizabeth Laird	56 pp RL 4.3	Trad Lit 2023	Global	7 tales celebrating peace, kindness and forgiveness from Ethiopia, Sudan, Palestine, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, and Uighur (China).
	<i>The Gift of the Little People</i> , William Dumas	32 pp	Trad Lit 2021	Canada Cree	An illustrated short story told by a Rocky Cree storyteller about the power of community in the face of adversity. Integrates Asiniskaw Ithiniwak words.
	<i>Greeking Out: Epic Retellings of Classic Greek myths</i> . Kenny Curtis and Jillian Hughes	191 pp RL 6.3 870 L	Myths 2023	Greece	Humorous retellings of 20 classic Greek myths along with real info on ancient Greece. Illustrated.
	<i>The Hero Twins in the Realm of Fright</i>	70 pp	GN 2026	Mexico Maya	Twins must use their magic of song to travel to the land of the dead and rescue their parents.
	<i>The Rise of the Halfling King</i> , David Bowles & Charlene Bowles	63 pp	GN 2020		Retelling of the adventures of a magical boy, a halfling child who challenges a cruel king. Maya mythology
	<i>The Hero Twins and the Magic of Song</i>	65 pp	GN 2024		Demigod twins use the magic of song to rescue their father and restore cosmic justice. Spanish ed.
	<i>The Legend of Hong Kil Dong, the Robin Hood of Korea</i> , Ann S. O'Brien	680 L RL 4.7 48 pp	PB GN 2008	Korea 1600s	Graphic novel retelling of a boy who is denied his birthright and sets out to right injustices and to claim his destiny as a leader.

	<i>Lore of the Wild: Folklore & Wisdom from Nature</i> , Claire Cock-Starkey & Aitch	77 pp RL 5.5	COL 2021	Global	An illustrated collection of global nature legends, creation stories, and traditional tales organized by categories– animals, birds, bugs, plants, weather, etc.
	<i>Mythical Monsters of Greenland</i> , Maria Kreutzmann & C. A. Lynge	95 pp	Myth 2023	Greenland Inuit	A guide to encountering mythical creatures that have survived the ravages of time in the Arctic.
	<i>Night Stories: Folktales from Latin America</i> , Liniers	48 pp	GN 2024	Latin America	Graphic novel that weaves together 3 folktales full of thrills and chills. Includes background on the tales.
	<i>Not One Damsel in Distress</i> , Jane Yolen	RL 4.0 116 pp	COL 2018	Global	A collection of traditional tales from around the world with brainy and brave heroines.
	<i>A Pond, A Poet and Three Pests</i> , Caroline Adderson & Lauren Tamaki	32 pp	Fable 2025	Japan	A modern tale about artistic creation and chasing fame based on a famous haiku by Basho about a frog.
	<i>Tales of Ancient Egypt</i> , Hugo Cook & Sona Avedikian	160 pp 920 L	COL 2024	Egypt	Combines historical stories and myths from ancient Egypt. Carefully researched to bring ancient Egypt alive.
	<i>Wisdom Stories of Tibet</i> , Laura Burges & Wen Hsu	135 pp	COL 2025	Tibet	Collection of 14 Buddhist-themed folktales based on the wisdom traditions of Tibet with life lessons.

Series Books	Treasure Chest Series, Ann Hood	RL 4.7 215 pp	Global	Historical fantasy series in which twins travel through time to a different place in the world to meet a famous historical figure. Includes a short biography of that person. Titles include <i>Anastasia Romanov: The Last Duchess</i> , <i>Leonardo da Vinci: Renaissance Master</i> , <i>Queen Liliuokalani: Royal Prisoner</i> . <i>Harry Houdini: Prince of Air</i> , <i>Pearl Buck: Jewel of the East</i> .
	Time Warp Trio, Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith	RL 4.0-5.7 55-70 pp	Global	Three boys time travel to different locations through a magic book that transports them to a new place in history for an adventure. Titles include, <i>It's All Greek to Me</i> , <i>Knights of the Kitchen Table</i> , <i>See You Later Gladiator</i> , <i>Tut Tut</i> , <i>The Not-So-Jolly Roger</i> , <i>Marco? Polo!</i>
	Time Travel Guides Linda Bailey	RL 4.8 58 pp	Global	A magical travel agency transports children to ancient civilizations. Their escapes are presented in comic-book style, while the travel guide sections provide historical information. Titles include <i>On the Run to Ancient China</i> and <i>Game on in Ancient Greece</i> .
	Word Travelers Series Raj Haldar	112 pp	Global	New series explores etymology and world cultures using action-packed mysteries. Book 1, <i>Mystery of the Taj Mahal Treasure</i> , Book 2, <i>Big Chase in Paris</i> , Book 3, <i>Missing Mexican Mole</i>
	Time Jumpers series, Wendy Mass	RL 3.3 590 L 90 pp	Global	Book 2, <i>Escape from Egypt</i> . Two children are transported in time to the day that King Tut's tomb is discovered. Includes other titles, <i>Stealing the Sword</i> .

Examples of Possible Pairings of Classic Novels with Global Literature

Theme	Classic Novel	Global Literature
Secrets and friendships Orphans	<i>The Secret Garden</i> , Frances Hodgson Burnett	<i>Bronze and Sunflower</i> , Cao Wenxuan <i>The War that Saved My Life</i> , Kimberly Brubaker Bradley <i>The Bridge Home</i> , Padma Venkatraman <i>When the Sky Falls</i> , Phil Earle

Treatment of animals	<i>The Black Stallion</i> , Walter Farley	<i>Tua and the Elephant</i> , R. P. Harris <i>Moon Bear</i> , Gill Lewis <i>Turtles of the Midnight Moon</i> , Maria Jose Fitzgerald
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Tr = translated from that language and country into English

Under Levels, the letters, e.g. (O), in parentheses are Fountas and Pinnell levels

8/12/2026