

Worlds of Words 2021

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>Binny for Short</i> , Hilary McKay	680L 291 pp	HF 2013	UK	Binny struggles to cope with the loss of her father and dog, while she adjusts to a new home.
	<i>Forever Rose</i> , Hilary McKay	870L 291 pp	RF 2005		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	RF 2001		Saffy learns that she was adopted, and her family helps her return to Italy to visit where she was born.
	<i>The Skylark's War</i> , Hilary McKay	800 L, 324 pp	HF 2018	WW 1	Characters from Binny's world during WWI where Clarry longs for an education and life of her own.
	<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 2005	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 Crow-Girl</i> , Bodil Bredsdorff	810L (S) 155 pp	HF 1993	Denmark, Tr.	An orphaned, lonely girl gathers a new family of lost souls like herself. Sequels.
<i>The Dogs of Winter</i> , Bobbie Pyron	610L 311 pp	HF 2012	Russia 1990s	A young homeless boy is forced to steal to survive on the streets of Moscow, until he finds comfort and a home with a pack of dogs.
<i>The Eleventh Trade</i> , Alyssa Holingsworth	650 L RL 4. 3 288 pp	RF 2018	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>The Fox on the Swing</i> , Evelina Daciute, illus. Asura Kiudulaite	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>Hachiko Waits</i> , Leslea Newman, illus. Machiyo Kodaira	96 pp 770L (S)	HF 2004	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>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>My Fate According to the Butterfly</i> , Gail Villanueva	660 L RL 5.7 233 pp	RF 2019	Philippines	A girl tries to bring her estranged family together, convinced she will die soon when she sees a black butterfly. Set in Manila. Incorporates Tagalog phrases.
<i>Soldier Bear</i> , Bibi Dumon Tak, illus. Philip Hopman	790L (W) 145 pp	HF 2008	Itay, 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>The Stamp Collector</i> , Jennifer Lanthier, illus. Francois Thisdale	480L 23 pp	HF/PB 2012	China	A prisoner from the country and a prison guard form a unique friendship based on their love of stamps.

	<i>*Sweep, The Story of a Girl and Her Monster</i> , Jonathan Auxier	630 L (X) 344 pp	FAN 2018	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>The Tortoise and the Soldier</i> , Michael Foreman	RL 5.6 115 pp	HF 2015	England WWII	A British soldier is saved during a naval battle in Turkey by a tortoise who becomes his companion and troop mascot. Based on a true story. Watercolor vignettes.
	<i>The Turtle of Oman</i> , Naomi Shihab Nye	700 L 312 pp	RF 2009	Oman	Aref, upset about leaving Oman for the US, spends time with his grandfather, celebrating a mutual love for their country and culture.
	<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 Mischievous Came to Town</i> , Katrina Nannestad	930 L 179 pp	HF 2013	Denmark Tr 1911	An orphaned girl is sent to live with her grandmother on a remote island, finding a new family amidst her grief and changing the island.
	<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 oral Korean folklore.
Forced Journeys	<i>After the Ashes</i> , Sara Joiner	590 L 278 pp	HF 2015	Indonesia 1883 (Java)	A girl whose passion is science must survive when Krakatoa erupts, and a tsunami sweeps away family.
	<i>Aftershock</i> , Bernard Ashley	RL 5 139 pp	RF 2011	Greece & London	When an earthquake in Greece kills his father, Makis and his mother move to London. Soccer and music provide outlets from the trauma.
	<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 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>*Breaking Stalin's Nose</i> , Eugene Yelchin	670 L (X)	HF 2011	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 2019	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>Captain Rosalie</i> , Timothee de Fambelle	RL 4.7 64 pp	HF 2018	France Tr WWI	The consequences of war for a young girl are gradually revealed through her father's letters.
<i>Caravan to the North: Misael's Long Walk</i> , Jorge Argueta	630 L 111 pp	RF NV 2019	El Salvador Tr	First person account of a Salvadoran boy whose family joins a caravan heading north to the U.S., only to be met with a closed border.
<i>Escape in Time</i> , Ronit Lowenstein-Malz, illus. Laurie McGaw	RL 5.5 171 pp	RF/HF 2015	Israel Tr Hungary WWII	An Israeli girl uncovers her family's history in Hungary during the Holocaust/WWII through a packet of letters her grandmother shares with her.
<i>Fatty Legs and A Stranger at Home</i> , Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton	RL 5.5 104 pp 124 pp (T)	HF 2010/ 2011	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>*Do Fish Sleep?</i> Jens Raschke	RL 4.0 60 pp	RF 2019	German Tr	Jette wrestles with the death of her brother, recalling special times and his funeral and dealing with grief.
	<i>An Elephant in the Garden,</i> Michael Morpugo, illus. Michael Foreman	890 L (Y) 199 pp	HF 2010	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>I Lived on Butterfly Hill,</i> Marjorie Agosin	770 L 454 pp	HF 2014	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>In a Flash,</i> Donna Jo Napoli	390 pp RL 4.2 550L (X)	HF 2020	Japan Italy 1943	Two Italian sisters trapped in Japan in 1943, when Italy surrenders during WWII are sent to a starvation-level internment camp from which they escape in disguise.
	<i>The Island at the End of Everything,</i> Kiran M. Hargrave	770L (Y) RL 4.3 243 pp	HF 2017	Philippine Islands 1906	A girl, separated from her mother who lives on an island for lepers, makes a harrowing journey to return before her mother dies.
	<i>It Rained Warm Bread</i> Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet, Hope Anita Smith, illus. Lea Lyon	550 L 148 pp	HF 2019	Poland WWII	The experiences of a Polish Jew, Moishe, whose family try to survive in a ghetto and labor camp.
	<i>A Long Walk to Water,</i> Linda Sue Park	720L (W) 121 pp	HF 2010	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>The Midnight Zoo,</i> Sonya Hartnett	990 L 217 pp	HF/FAN 2010	Europe, WWII	Romani children fleeing bombs discover an abandoned zoo with animals who tell their stories. An allegorical tale of life and freedom. Historical Fantasy.

<i>A Million Shades of Gray</i> , Cynthia Kadhota	700 L 216 pp	HF 2010	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 2000	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 2016	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 2016	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 Athaida	600L RL 4.6 328 pp	HF 2019	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 Kadhota	RL 5.8 405 pp	HF 2019	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 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>Sister Heart</i> , Sally Morgan	RL 5.0 250 pp	HF NV 2015	Australia Aborigine	A novel in verse about an Aboriginal girl who is taken far from her home to an institution, making a life for herself, longing for home.
<i>The Sound of Freedom</i> , Kathy Kacer	750 L 250 pp RL 5.5	HF 2018	Poland 1936	A Jewish girl finds a way to help her family survive the Holocaust by escaping to Palestine.
<i>Stolen Girl</i> , Marsha G. Skrypuch	680 L RL 5.9 194 pp	HF 2019	Canada WWII, 1950	A Ukrainian girl kidnapped as a child and raised by a Nazi family is troubled by memories in her new life in Canada, unsure of her identity. Lida's sister.
<i>Making Bombs for Hitler</i> , Marsha G. Skrypuch	760 L 230 pp	HF 2012	Germany WWII	Lida, a Ukrainian girl, is sent to a labor camp in Germany where she is forced to make bombs.
<i>A Story Like the Wind</i> , Gill Lewis	750 L RL 4.4 80 pp	RF/FAN 2017	Middle East	Refugees adrift in a rubber dinghy, are given hope as one uses his violin to weave their stories together.
<i>The Story that Cannot Be Told</i> , Kasper Kramer	800 L 378 pp	HF 2019	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 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 is Over</i> , David Almond and David Litchfield	115 pp RL 4.1	HF 2020	UK 1918 WWI	While John's father fights in the war and his mother works in a munitions factory, John dreams of peace and encounters with a German child. Allegory.
<i>*The War that Saved My Life</i> , Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	580L (Z) RL 4.1 316 pp	HF 2015	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	HF		

		325 pp	2017	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 2019	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>What Elephants Know</i> , Eric Dinnerstein	790 L RL 5.7 273 pp	HF 2016	India Nepal 1970s	In a jungle between India and Nepal, an orphaned boy becomes an elephant driver. Sequel – <i>A Circle of Elephants</i> on threats of human greed to elephants.
	<i>*When My Name was Keoko</i> , Linda Sue Park	610 L 199 pp.	HF 2002	Korea WWII	A brother and sister face the oppressive occupation and suppression of Korean culture by Japan during WWII.
	<i>When Spring Comes to the DMZ</i> , Ok-Pae Yi	1070 L RL 3.0 32 pp	RF/PB 2019	Korea Tr	Grandfather returns each year to the demilitarized zone and the accidental nature preserve that separates N. and S. Korea.
Taking Action	<i>Angryman</i> , Svein Nyhus and Gro Dahle	470 L 32 pp	RF/PB 2019	Norway Tr	Boj's father often becomes an Angryman who hurts Boj and his mother until Boj reaches out to someone he trusts. Illustrations vividly convey strong emotions.
	<i>The Color of My Words</i> , Lynn Joseph	840L 138 pp	RF 2000	Dominican Republic	Ana Rosa has always depended on her brother and her ability to write but faces a crisis in her world.
	<i>The End of the Line</i> , Sharon E McKay	RL 5.9 119 pp	HF 2014	Netherlands WWII	Two engineers on a tram rescue a young Jewish girl from the Nazis after her mother is taken by force.
	<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>Gorilla Dawn</i> . Gill Lewis	670 L RL 4.4	RF 2015	Congo	Two children held by rebel soldiers work to return a captive baby gorilla to the forest. Eco-survival tale.

<i>Hitler's Canary</i> , Sandi Toksvig	810L 186 pp	HF 2005	Denmark WWII	Bamse and his Jewish friend, Anton, participate in the Danish Resistance in World War II.	
<i>The Inquisitor's Tale</i> , Adam Gidwitz, illus. Hatem Aly	620 L RL 4.5 263 pp.	HF/Fan 2016	Medieval France	3 children with magical powers on a quest to escape prejudice and save threatened texts. 1342. Rich, adventure-packed storytelling.	
<i>Iqbal: A Novel</i> , Francesco D'Adamo	730L (X) 120 pp	HF 2001	Pakistan Tr. French	A fictionalized account of a Pakistani child who led children in a protest of child labor in carpet mills.	
<i>Letters to a Prisoner</i> Jacques Goldstyn	32 pp	VN 2015	France Tr	A peaceful protester is jailed, despairing until letters of support come from around the world	
<i>The Little Black Fish</i> , Samad Bohrangi	RL 6.1 32 pp	FAN 1968	Iran Tr	Despite warnings and danger, a small fish wants to see what is at the end of his stream.	
<i>Moon Bear</i> , Gill Lewis	590L (X) 368 pp	RF 2013	Laos	Torn from their homes, a boy and a moon bear cub work on a farm where bears are cruelly caged and milked for their bile.	
<i>Outside In</i> , Jennifer Bradbury	730 L RL 5.1 278 pp	HF 2017	India	In the jungle, a street child discovers a hidden rock sculpture garden and befriends the creator, Nek, working to save it from destruction. Based on a true story.	
<i>Pandas on the Eastside</i> , Gabrielle Prendergast	730 L, RL 5.5, 172 pp	HF 2016	Canada 1973	Children and community members in Vancouver come to the aid of two stranded pandas, sent as gifts from China, but held up in a warehouse due to customs.	
<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 2014	Sudan	In a refugee camp in Darfur, a girl finds hope and possibility through writing and art. Novel in verse.
<i>Revolution is Not a Dinner Party</i> , Ying Chang Compestine	740 L (W) 248 pp	HF 2007	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 in author's experiences. Also <i>Red Scarf Girl</i> by Ji-li Jiang
<i>The Secret of Nightingale Wood</i> , Lucy Strange	288 pp 730 L	HF/FAN 2016	UK, 1919	Hen must find a way to save her family, with her father gone and her mother mentally ill. Allusions to fairy tales, poetry, and classics.
<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>Ten: A Soccer Story</i> Shamini Flint	185 pp 770 L RL 4.6	RF 2017	Malaysia	Maya trains and organizes a girls' soccer team despite gender barriers and family conflicts. Based in own story, biracial child.
<i>The Tin Snail</i> , Cameron McAllister	830 L (W) 274 pp	HF 2014	France WWII	A boy tries to save his father's job by inventing a special kind of car during Nazi occupation.
<i>Three Balls of Wool (Can Change the World)</i> , Henriqueta Cristine & Yara Kono	640 L 32 pp	HF/PB 2017	Portugal Tr Czech	Exiled from Portugal, a family is unhappy about the lack of freedom in a new country, including the colors children are allowed to wear, and find a way to resist.
<i>Toby Alone</i> , Timothee De Fombelle	760 L (Z) 384 pp	FAN 2006	France Tr.	A society of miniature people live in a tree, threatened by their own greed and political opportunists. A quest tale with a sequel, <i>Toby and the Tree of Secrets</i> .
<i>Tree of Dreams</i> , Laura Resau	850 L 316 pp	RF 2019	Ecuador	On a trip to the Amazon, a girl becomes aware of Indigenous and environmental issues.

	<i>Tsunami!</i> , Kimiko Kajikawa, illus. Ed Young	620L 32 pp	HF/PB 2009	Japan	A wealthy man sets fire to his rice fields to warn villagers of an approaching tsunami.
	<i>Tua and the Elephant</i> , R.P. Harris, illus. Tae-eun Yoo	790L (U) 202 pp	RF 2012	Thailand	Tua saves an elephant from abusive owners by stealing the animal to take it to a sanctuary.
	<i>Waiting for the Biblioburro</i> , Monica Brown	880 L (M) 32 pp	HF/PB 2011	Colombia	When a man brings burros loaded with books to a remote village, he inspires Ana to write a book.
	<i>War Games</i> , Audrey Couloubis, Akila Couloubis	710L 232 pp	HF 2009	Greece WWII	When the Germans invade Greece, the games that Petros plays suddenly become life and death.
	<i>*A Wish in the Dark</i> , Christina Soontornvat	375 pp	FAN 2020	Thailand	Fantasy with a boy on the run and a girl determined to find him. Privilege, protest, and justice. Based on Les Miserables.
Locating Self in the World	<i>The Apartment: A Century of Russian History</i> , Alexandra Litvina	RL 4.8 (Z) 64 pp	HF 2018	Russia Tr	Illustrated depiction of the story of a six-room apartment and the family living there as their stories reflect events in Russia over a 100-year period from 1902 to 2002.
	<i>The Ballad of a Broken Nose</i> , Arne Svingen	560L 214 pp	RF 2012	Norway Tr.	Bart has a hard life and must cope with bullies but gains a friend who appreciate his love of opera.
	<i>The Bone Sparrow</i> , Zana Fraillon	RL 5.6 228 pp	RF 2016	Australia	In an Australian detention camp, a Rohingya boy from Burma lives a life of bleakness and abuse as well as of imagination through story.
	<i>The Boy with the Butterfly Mind</i> , Victoria Williamson	RL 6.1 253 pp.	RF 2019	UK	Jamie Lee and Ellie want to be “normal,” but their lives are in chaos, dealing with ADHD and divorce.
	<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 2018	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 2018	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>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>The Grand Plan to Fix Everything</i> , Uma Krishnaswami	770 L (U) 266 pp	RF 2011	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.
<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 2012	Italy WWII	Paolo must figure out if he has what it takes to be a hero during the Nazi occupation of Florence.
<i>How to Bee</i> , Bren Macdibble	212 pp RL 4.3 (X) 810L	Sci Fi 2020	Australia	In a world where bees are extinct, children pollinate flowers by hand. Peony is taken away to the city to work for a family, desperate to find a way to return to the farm and the world she loves.
<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>No Ordinary Day</i> , Deborah Ellis	580L W 159 pp	RF 2011	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 2009	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>*Other Words for Home</i> , Jasmine Warga	930 L RL 6.3 342 pp	RF NV 2019	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>*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>Questions Asked</i> , Jostein Gaarder	RL 4.0 66 pp	RF 2012	Norway Tr	A boy asks questions about love, loss, grief, friendship, and what it means to be human after the loss of a sibling. Philosophical.
<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 2013	Haiti	Serafina lives in poverty and struggles to keep her dream of being a doctor alive after an earthquake.
<i>A Single Shard</i> , Linda Sue Park	920L (U) 152 pp	HF 2001	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 2017	Australia	A young boy struggles with isolation and anxiety, shown as tiny creatures that eat away at him. Powerful visual portrayal of anxiety and depression.

	<i>A Year Without Mom</i> , Dasha Tolstikova	690 L 167 pp	HF GN 2015	Russia	Graphic novel memoir of a girl in Moscow after her mother leaves for America in the early 1990's.
	<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
Adventure and Mystery	<i>Akissi, Tales of Mischief</i> Marguerite Aboutet	183 pp GN	RF 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>Astrid the Unstoppable</i> , Maria Parr	770 L RL 5.8 306 pp	RF 2009	Norway Tr	Astrid, the only child in a mountain village, enjoys many adventures and deals with change brought by a new family and a stranger.
	<i>The Blackthorn Key</i> , Kevin Sands	630 L 371 pp	FAN 2015	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>Boat of Dreams</i> , Rogero Coelho	80 pp	VN 2017	Brazil Tr	An old man on an island communicates with a boy and his cat in an empty city, who sends a flying boat.
	<i>The Bookshop Girl</i> , Sylvia Bishop	730L (T) RL 5.9 136 pp	FAN 2017	UK	Abandoned at birth, Property Jones thwarts two greedy villains when her family wins a book emporium full of magical rooms.
	<i>The Bookwanderers</i> , Anna James	870 L RL 6.4 283 pp	FAN 2018	UK	Tilly Pages finds comfort in her grandparent's bookshop after her mother disappears, realizing that she can bookwander into any story. Series, literary connections.
	<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>The Hidden Star</i> , Sello Duiker	RL 5.4 234 pp	RF 2018	South Africa	Nolitye lives in a shack and finds a stone with the power to make people happy. Combines township life with folklore and magical realism.
<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 2003	Germany Tr.	Maggie's father can "read" characters to life, leading Maggie on a dangerous adventure to save his life. Sequels-- <i>Inkspell</i> , <i>Inkdeath</i> .
<i>Into the Woods</i> , Lyn Gardner and Mimi Grey	930L (W) 427 pp	FAN 2006	UK	Three orphaned sisters flee into the woods encountering danger and adventures as well as familiar fairy tale characters. <i>Out of the Woods</i>
<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>Lily the Thief</i> , Janne Kukkonen	400 L 279 pp	FAN GN 2016	Finland Tr	A female thief tries to enter a secret male society and discovers a plot that threatens the world.
<i>Me, Frida and the Secret of the Peacock Ring</i> . Angela Cervantes	220 pp 710 L RL 5.3	RF 2018	Mexico	Paloma helps her cousins search for a ring belonging to Frida Kahlo stolen from her home in Mexico City.
<i>Nightlights and Hioctea</i> by Lorena Alvarez	53 pp 530 L	GN FAN 2019	Colombia	Two graphic novel fantasies. In the first Sandy's drawings reflect her nighttime interactions with magical creatures and in the second, she discovers a world in a turtle shell.
<i>Sky Chasers</i> , Emma Carroll	640 L RL 4.8 278 pp	HF 2018	France 1783	Maggie, a master thief and homeless child, gets involved with a family determined to be the first to fly in a hot air balloon.

	<i>The Thief Lord</i> , Cornelia Funke	700 L (V) 349 pp	HF 2000	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>Withering-by-Sea</i> , Judith Rossell	670L 260 pp	FAN 2014	England 1800s	Stella gets the adventure of her dreams when she is forced to run from an evil magician. Sequel is <i>Wormwood Mire</i> on dark family secrets.
Traditional Literature	<i>Amazonia</i> , Daniel Munduruku, illus. Nikolai Popov	RL 6.5 (S) 95 pp	COL 2013	Brazil Tr.	Tales set in the Amazon rainforest from 7 Indigenous tribes, focus on humor, death, and shapeshifters. Luminous full-page illustrations.
	<i>The Cat from Hunger Mountain</i> , Ed Young	32 pp 870 L RL 4.4	Fable PB 2016	China	An original fable about Lord Cat whose wastefulness leads to ruin, loss of power, and eventual redemption. Visually rich collages.
	<i>Chinese Fables: Timeless Tales of Wisdom</i> , Shiho Nunes	810 L RL 5.4 64 pp	COL Fables 2013	China	19 fables, including the Dragon Slayer, that contain ancient folk wisdom about pride, vanity, and dishonesty. Introduces traditional Chinese culture and lore.
	<i>The Elephant's Friend</i> , Marcia Williams	RL 4.0 (Q) 32 pp	GN Fables COL 2012	India	Intricate artwork in a comic-book style retells 8 fables from ancient India. Panels use bright jewel-like tones of Indian art.
	<i>A Grain of Rice</i> , Helena Pittman	780 L, RL 6 100 pp	Novel of tale 1986	China	A farmer's son wins the hand of a treasured Chinese princess by outwitting her father, the Emperor.

<i>The Hungry Coat: A Tale from Turkey</i> , Demi	920L 34 pp	PB 2004	Turkey	After being forced to change to a fancy new coat for a party, a fool tries to feed his dinner to the coat.
<i>The Legend of Hong Kil Dong, the Robin Hood of Korea</i> , Ann S. O'Brien, illus. Anne Sibley	680 L RL 4.7 48 pp	PB GN 2006	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>The Legend of Lao Tzu and the Tao Te Ching</i> , Demi	42 pp 820 L	PB 2007	China	Combines legend and fact on the life and teachings of a Chinese philosopher, who founded Taoism and Tao Te Ching.
<i>Not One Damsel in Distress</i> , Jane Yolen	RL 4.0 116 pp	COL 2000	Global	A collection of traditional tales from around the world with brainy and brave heroines.
<i>The Ogress and the Snake</i> , Elizabeth Laird	RL 4.4 95 pp	COL 2009	Somalia	Traditional Somalian folktales collected from living storytellers. Set in desert, black-and-white sketches
<i>Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings</i> , Elizabeth Laird	RL 4.2 129 pp	COL 2006	Iran	A collection of ancient stories and myths, written as an epic poem. Classic of Persian literature
<i>Stories from the Billabong</i> , James Marshall, illus. Francis Firebrace Jones	760 L 61 pp	COL 2009	Australia	Origin and pourquoi tales from the Yorta-Yorta, an Aboriginal tribe, with illustrations using Aboriginal symbols and bright colors.
<i>The Storyteller</i> , Evan Turk	870 L 32 pp	PB 2016	Morocco	A storyteller and a boy weave a tale to thwart a Djinn's sandstorm from destroying the city. Exquisite illustrations. Original tale.
<i>Straw into Gold: Fairy Tales Re-Spun</i> , Hilary McKay	720 L RL 6.5 283 pp	COL 2017	Europe	Traditional fairytales are retold by recasting the characters in later events, giving glimpses into ever afters, both happy and not so happy.

Mythological Quests	<i>Anya and the Dragon</i> , Sofiya, Pasternack	720L (Y) RL 5.7 394 pp	FAN 2019	Russia 10 th century	A Jewish girl meets dragons. In an alternate 10 th century, Anya tries to protect the dragon that saved her life, putting her family at risk. Mixture of 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, 2018-2021
	<i>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>Beyond the Door</i> , Maureen McQuerry	740L 375 pp	FAN 2014	Celtic mythology	When mythical creatures appear, Timothy, Sarah, and Jessica must defeat the powers of the Darkness.
	<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 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 2018	Russia	A girl training to become the next Yaga, like her grandmother, is lonely and longs for a friend. A reimagining of Baba Yaga.
	<i>Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom</i> , Sangu Mandanna	334 pp. RL 5.8	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>Lalani of the Distant Sea</i> , Erin Entrada Kelly	R.L. 5.9 400 pp	FAN 2019	Philippines	Lalani goes on an ocean quest to save her mother and island from a horrible fate. Fantasy with Filipino folklore.
<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>Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit</i> , Nahoko Uehashi	840 L 288 pp	FAN 1996	Japan Tr.	A female warrior protects a young prince from a monster and the prince's father. Japanese mythologies and ethnic conflicts. Series.
<i>Odd and the Frost Giants</i> , Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell, illus. Brett Helquist	820L (T) 119 pp	FAN 2008	Norway	A Norwegian boy leads Norse gods in attempt to outwit the evil Frost Giants. Weaves legend and adventure with black-and-white artwork.
<i>The Serpent's Secret</i> , Sayantani DasGupta	338 pp 730 L	FAN 2018	India	Kiranmala is swept into another dimension of magic she must sort out to find her parents and save the world. Integrates Bengali folklore. Series.
<i>*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky</i> , Kwame Mbalia	680 L RL 6.2 482 pp	FAN 2019	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. Sequel.
<i>West of the Moon</i> , Margi Preus	810 L 213 pp	FAN 2014	Norway 1800s	Weaves fiction with myth and folktale as girl is desperate to escape a cruel aunt and join her faraway father.
<i>*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> , Grace Lin	810L (T) 278 pp	FAN 2009	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>Starry River of the Sky</i>	810 (T) 288 pp	FAN 2012		

	<i>When the Sea Turned to Silver</i> Grace Lin	750L (U) 350 pp	FAN 2016		
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Series Books	Treasure Chest Series, Ann Hood	RL 4.7 215 pp	Global 2012	historical fantasy series in which twins time travel 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> .
	World 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>
	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
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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> , Kimberely Brubaker Bradley <i>The Bridge Home</i> , Padma Venkatraman
Mistreatment of animals	<i>The Black Stallion</i> , Walter Farley	<i>Tua and the Elephant</i> , R. P. Harris <i>Moon Bear</i> , Gill Lewis

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

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

9/5/2021