

Worlds of Words 2025

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. |

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| | <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>The Crow-Girl</i> , Bodil Bredsdorff | 810L (S) 155 pp | HF 2006 | Denmark, Tr. | An orphaned, lonely girl gathers a new family of lost souls like herself. 4 books in Children of Crow Cove. |
| | <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>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 |

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| | <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>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. |

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| | <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>The Tortoise and the Soldier,</i> Michael Foreman | RL 5.6 115 pp | HF 2016 | 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 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. |

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| | <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 Mischief Came to Town</i> , Katrina Nannestad | 930 L 179 pp | HF 2018 | 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 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. |

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| | <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>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>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. |

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| | <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>*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 | 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>In a Flash</i> , Donna Jo Napoli | 390 pp RL 4.2 550L (X) | HF 2021 | 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>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. |

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| <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. |

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| | <i>Sister Heart</i> , Sally Morgan | RL 5.0 250 pp | HF NV 2016 | 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>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 Wirsen | 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>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. |

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| | <i>War</i> , Jose Jorge Letria & Andre Letria | 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>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 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>When Spring Comes to the DMZ</i> , Uk-Bae Lee | 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. |
| | <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. |

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| 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 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>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>Hitler's Canary</i> , Sandi Toksvig | 810L 186 pp | HF 2015 | Denmark WWII | Bamse and his Jewish friend, Anton, participate in the Danish Resistance in World War II. |

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| | <i>How War Changed Rondo</i> , Romana Romanyshyn & Andrii Leslev | RL 4.0 32 pp | FAN/PB 2021 | Ukraine Tr | The small town of Rondo is a joyful place until War arrives and nothing seems to stop the destruction and darkness, so the community takes action. Allegory |
| | <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>Letters to a Prisoner</i> Jacques Goldstyn | 32 pp | VN 2017 | France Tr | A peaceful protester is jailed, despairing until letters of support come from around the world |
| | <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. |

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| | <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>The Secret of Nightingale Wood</i> , Lucy Strange | 288 pp 730 L | HF/FAN 2019 | 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>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. |

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| | <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>The Star Outside My Window</i> , Onjali Rauf | 295 pp 890 L RL 5.1 | RF 2021 | UK | Aniyah and her brother are sent to foster care after their mother dies from domestic abuse. Aniyah is a star hunter and determined to name a star after her mother. |
| | <i>Ten: A Soccer Story</i> Shamini Flint | 185 pp 770 L RL 4.6 | RF 2019 | Malaysia | Maya trains and organizes a girls' soccer team despite gender barriers and family conflicts. Based on own story, biracial child. |
| | <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. |
| | <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. |

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| Locating Self in the World | <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 Apartment: A Century of Russian History</i> , Alexandra Litvina | RL 4.8 (Z) 64 pp | HF 2019 | 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 2017 | Norway Tr. | Bart has a hard life and must cope with bullies but gains a friend who appreciates his love of opera. |
| | <i>The Bird in Me Flies</i> , by Sara Lundberg | 120 pp 600 L | HF 2020 | Sweden 1920s | A fictionalized account of Swedish artist Bereta Hansson who grew up on a farm with little hope of accomplishing her dream of becoming an artist. |
| | <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>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. |

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| | <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>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 to the city to work for a family, desperate to find a way to return to the farm. |
| | <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 |

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| | <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>*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. |

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| | <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>The Pack</i> , Amanda Cley and Cecilia Ferri | 32 pp | PB 2022 | Italy Tr | A boy disguises himself as a wolf to feel part of the pack in school but loses part of himself. Conformity |
| | <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 | 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. |

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| | <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>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>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>Astrid the Unstoppable</i> , Maria Parr | 770 L RL 5.8 306 pp | RF 2020 | 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. |

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| | <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>Boat of Dreams</i> , Rogerio 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 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>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. |

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| | <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 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>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. |

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| 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 Elephant's Friend</i> , Marcia Williams | RL 4.0 (Q) 32 pp | GN COL Fables 2014 | India | Intricate artwork in a comic-book style retells 8 fables from ancient India. Panels use bright jewel-like tones of Indian art. |
| | <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 Rise of the Halfling King</i> , David Bowles & Charlene Bowles | GN 2020 | 63 pp | Mexico Maya | 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> | GN 2024 | 65 pp | | 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>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. |

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| | <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>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 2019 | 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>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 |

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| <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. |
| <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. |

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| | <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 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>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> |

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| <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. |

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| | <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. |

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| | <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>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>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>West of the Moon</i> , Margi Preus | 810 L 213 pp | FAN 2015 | 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> <i>Starry River of the Sky</i> | 810L (T) 278 pp 810 (T) 288 pp | FAN 2014 2014 | 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. |

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| | <i>When the Sea Turned to Silver</i> Grace Lin | 750L (U) 350 pp | 2017 | | |
| | <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> |
| Series Books | Treasure Chest Series, Ann Hood | RL 4.7 215 pp | Global | 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> . | |
| | Word Travelers Series Raj Halдар | 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> | |

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| | 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> . |
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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 |

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

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

8/17/2025