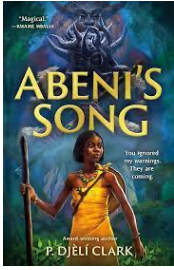


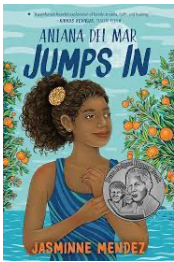
## AGES TEN TO FOURTEEN, 2024 Selections



### [ABENI'S SONG](#)

Clark, P. Djéli  
Starscape  
9781250825827

Abeni's unexpected apprenticeship with a witch may be the only thing that can save her village from the ghost ships. The world in this West African fantasy is filled with adventure and a side of spookiness.



### [ANIANA DEL MAR JUMPS IN](#)

Méndez, Jasminne  
Dial Books for Young Readers  
9780593531815

Aniana's whole life revolves around swimming. When she is diagnosed with juvenile arthritis, she works to balance her chronic illness and her love of the water.



### [THE DEADLANDS: HUNTED](#)

Melki-Wegner, Skye  
Henry Holt Books and Company  
9781250827692

What would have happened if the asteroid didn't wipe out the dinosaurs but made them human-level smart? This thriller is full of action, adventure, and friendships to keep you on the edge of your seat.



### [DEAR MOTHMAN](#)

Gow, Robin, Rebecca Harry (illustrator)  
Amulet Books  
9781419764400

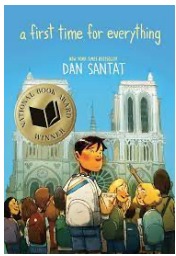
Autistic transgender sixth-grader Noah feels lost and alone after his best friend Lewis dies in a car accident. Noah fears he will never find another person he connects with in the same way, and he begins writing to Mothman, Lewis' cryptid obsession, in search of comfort and connection.



### [THE FIREFLY SUMMER](#)

Matson, Morgan  
Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers  
9781534493353

When Ryanna receives an invitation to join her estranged maternal grandparents at their summer camp in the Poconos, she isn't sure what to expect. At camp, she embarks on a scavenger hunt to discover the mother she never knew and finds a connection with the family she didn't know she was missing.



### [A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING: A TRUE STORY](#)

Santat, Dan

First Second

9781626724150

First love, a first taste of Fanta, and getting lost while riding a bicycle in Germany are just some of Dan's adventures in his summer before high school. An extensive author's note, photographs, and drawings complete this memorable graphic novel memoir.



### [HAZEL HILL IS GONNA WIN THIS ONE](#)

Horne, Maggie

Clarion Books

9780358664703

Ambitious loner Hazel finds unexpected connections and strength when she teams up with a former nemesis to stop a popular boy's online harassment. This exploration of gender, power, and social media in middle school is as observant and entertaining as its sharp protagonist.



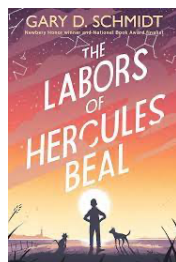
### [THE JAKE SHOW](#)

Levy, Joshua S.

Katherine Tegen Books

9780063248199

Tired of pretending to be the son he isn't for his divorced and polarized parents, twelve-year-old Jake stages an elaborate bluff with friends to attend a Jewish summer camp where he finally can be himself.



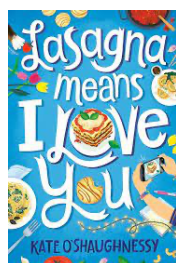
### [THE LABORS OF HERCULES BEAL](#)

Schmidt, Gary D.

Clarion Books

9780358659631

Seventh-grader Hercules Beal, grieving for his dead parents, is tasked with performing modern versions of the twelve labors of Hercules. As he works through the assignment, he discovers new friends (human and animal) and finds he may not have to go it alone.



### [LASAGNA MEANS I LOVE YOU](#)

O'Shaughnessy, Kate

Alfred A. Knopf

9781984893871

After the death of her grandmother, Mo is cast into New York City's foster care system and begins to search intently for family through heirloom recipes and blog posts.



### [A LONG TIME COMING: A LYRICAL BIOGRAPHY OF RACE IN AMERICA FROM ONA JUDGE TO BARACK OBAMA](#)

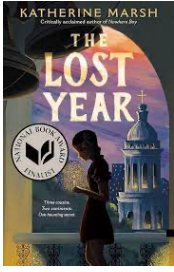
Shepard, Ray Anthony

R. Gregory Christie (illustrator)

Calkins Creek

9781662680663

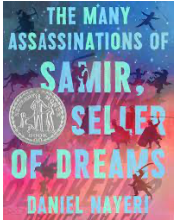
Six notable freedom fighters - Ona Judge, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barack Obama - are celebrated in verse in these caring and compelling portrayals.



### [THE LOST YEAR](#)

Marsh, Katherine  
Roaring Brook Press  
9781250313607

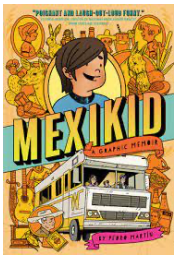
Matthew, stuck at home and bored due to COVID lockdowns, discovers the family secrets his century-old great grandmother has been keeping about her childhood in 1930s Soviet Ukraine. This historical mystery, told through alternating timelines, examines the lines that divide, the ties that bind, and the struggle to survive.



### [THE MANY ASSASSINATIONS OF SAMIR, THE SELLER OF DREAMS](#)

Nayeri, Daniel  
Daniel Miyares (illustrator)  
Levine Querido  
9781646143030

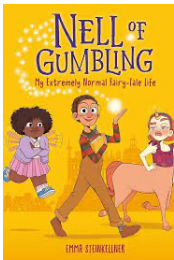
A monk delivers a memorable account of the trials and tribulations of the would-be merchant and scallywag who rescued him while traveling on the Silk Road. Their banter is lively, their adventures livelier, and the life lessons memorable.



### [MEXIKID: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR](#)

Martin, Pedro  
Dial Books for Young Readers  
9780593462294

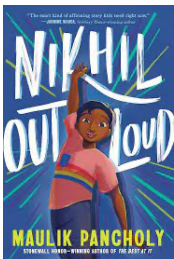
Pedro's parents decide to take the whole family (eleven altogether) to Mexico in a Winnebago to bring his legendary Abuelito back to live with them in California. A clever, hilarious, and heartwarming graphic memoir.



### [NELL OF GUMBLING: MY EXTREMELY NORMAL FAIRY-TALE LIFE](#)

Steinkellner, Emma  
Labyrinth Road  
9780593570692

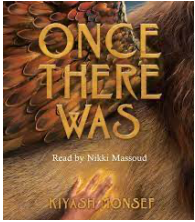
Along with her two best friends—a fairy with too-small wings and a thumbkin named Gil—Nell navigates life's challenges and sets out to save their beloved home of Gumbling from being turned into a fancy resort. A perfect, cozy graphic novel adventure.



### [NIKHIL OUT LOUD](#)

Pancholy, Maulik  
Balzer + Bray  
9780063091924

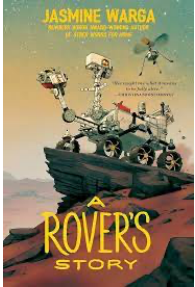
Nikhil's life changes quickly when he goes from being a celebrity voice actor in California to just another middle schooler in Ohio. Friendships and self-expression help him navigate struggles with perfectionism, homophobia, and tensions in his Gujarati American family.



### [ONCE THERE WAS](#)

Monsef, Kiyash  
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers  
9781665928502

Marjon learns that magical animals are real and that she has a special connection with them after her veterinarian father is murdered. Now she is expected to take his place, despite many dangers.



### [A ROVER'S STORY](#)

Warga, Jasmine  
Balzer + Bray  
9780063113923

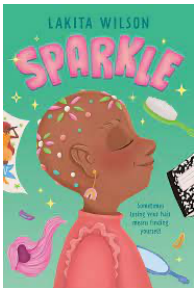
Res, a Mars Rover, and Fly, his drone, prepare for their time on Mars. With letters from the lead engineer's daughter to Res sprinkled throughout, this story will capture the attention of fans of space, sci-fi stories, and real adventures.



### [SIMON SORT OF SAYS](#)

Bow, Erin  
Disney Hyperion  
9781368082853

Simon and his unconventional parents move to a National Quiet Zone following a horrific incident at Simon's elementary school. A heartbreaking and simultaneously hilarious take on trauma, grief, new friendships, and how one family copes in the aftermath of unimaginable loss.



### [SPARKLE](#)

Wilson, Lakita  
Viking  
9780593465752

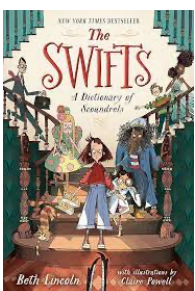
Sparkle wants to be a star just like her famous father. When she starts to lose her hair and is diagnosed with alopecia, Sparkle tries to figure out how to keep shining brightly.



### [THE SPIRIT GLASS](#)

Chokshi, Roshani  
Disney Hyperion  
9781368093392

This fantastic stand-alone adventure quest is based on Filipino mythology and includes a blood-thirsty gecko sidekick who steals the show.

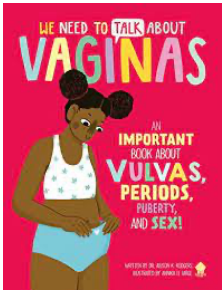


### [THE SWIFTS: A DICTIONARY OF SCOUNDRELS](#)

Lincoln, Beth  
Claire Powell (illustrator)  
Dutton Children's Books  
9780593533239

A killer, a long-lost treasure, and a family with names chosen from the dictionary all play a part in a mystery full of twists, turns, and a unique cast of characters.

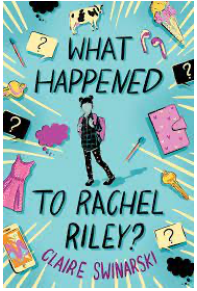




### [WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT VAGINAS: AN IMPORTANT BOOK ABOUT VULVAS, PERIODS, PUBERTY AND SEX!](#)

Rodgers, Allison K.  
Annika Le Large (illustrator)  
Neon Squid  
9781684492848

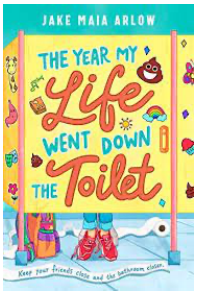
In straightforward text and illustrations, the authors present factual information that young women might be afraid to discuss openly, including vaginal care and healthy sexual activity.



### [WHAT HAPPENED TO RACHEL RILEY?](#)

Swinarski, Claire  
Quill Tree Books  
9780063213098

A mix of texts, emails, podcast transcripts, passed notes, and traditional texts will have you on the edge of your seat as this mystery about the formerly most popular girl at middle school unfolds.



### [THE YEAR MY LIFE WENT DOWN THE TOILET](#)

Arlow, Jake Maia  
Dial Books for Young Readers  
9780593112960

Between her recent Crohn's diagnosis and her first big crush, middle school just keeps getting more mortifying for Al. Anyone who has been overwhelmed by the weird, messy reality of having a body will connect with this funny and poignant novel.

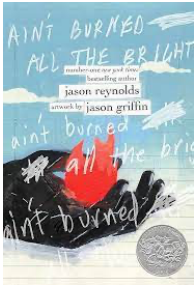


### [YOU ARE HERE: CONNECTING FLIGHTS](#)

Oh, Ellen (editor)  
Allida  
9780063239081

Fast-paced short stories by East and Southeast Asian American writers explore identity and belonging through overlapping perspectives, as young travelers pass through the Gateway International Airport in Chicago.

## AGES TEN TO FOURTEEN, 2023 Selections



### [AIN'T BURNED ALL THE BRIGHT](#)

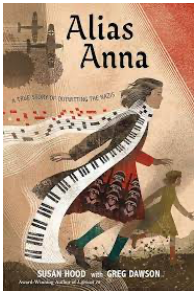
Reynolds, Jason

Jason Griffin, illustrator

Atheneum / Caitlyn Dlouhy Books

978-1534439467

In three heaving “breaths,” this powerful conversation between strung text poetry and bold mixed-media collage addresses current social events from a child’s perspective. Reynolds also offers a captivating audio rendition, but the art is not to be missed.



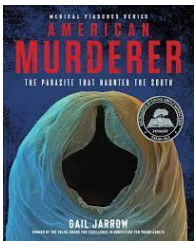
### [ALIAS ANNA: A TRUE STORY OF OUTWITTING THE NAZIS](#)

Hood, Susan and Greg Dawson

HarperCollins

978-0063083899

Poetry weaves a moving account of resilience and bravery in this biography in verse.



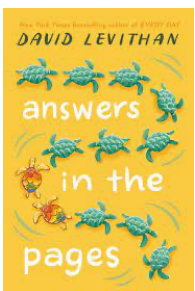
### [AMERICAN MURDERER: THE PARASITE THAT HAUNTED THE SOUTH](#)

Jarrow, Gail

Astra Publishing House / Calkins Creek

978-1684378159

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, people in the Southern United States were dying or severely anemic. Parasitologist Charles Stiles sets out to solve this medical mystery. Primary documents, magnified microscopic images, and extensive source notes make the content thoroughly engaging.



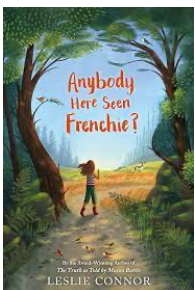
### [ANSWERS IN THE PAGES](#)

Levithan, David

Knopf Books for Young Readers

978-0593484685

A book in fifth grade language arts ignites debate and division in a small Pennsylvania town. Interwoven narratives of two middle school boys falling in love and selections from the fictional adventure at the center of the controversy highlight the painful relevance of this story to today’s attempts to remove LGBTQIA+ books from library shelves across the country.



### [ANYBODY HERE SEEN FRENCHIE?](#)

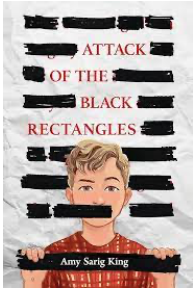
Connor, Leslie

HarperCollins / Katherine Tegen Books

978-0062999368

Aurora, a boisterous quirky eleven year old, is best friends with Frenchie, a silent, introspective autistic boy. She always knows his needs and wants and is never shy to speak up for him, and when Frenchie goes missing, Aurora never gives up on finding her friend.

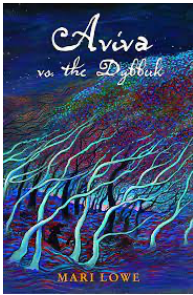
### ATTACK OF THE BLACK RECTANGLES



King, A.S.  
Scholastic Press  
978-1338680522

When he realizes that certain words in their copies of *The Devil's Arithmetic* have been blacked out, Mac rallies his friends to confront a tradition of censorship in their school, in this compassionate exploration of a timely topic.

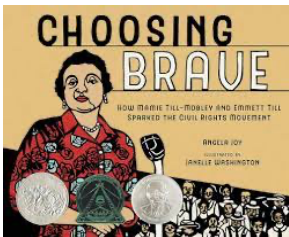
### AVIVA VS. THE DYBBUK



Lowe, Mari  
Chronicle / Levine Querido  
978-1646141258

A mischievous dybbuk causes havoc in Aviva's life, but she's the only one who can see it. Readers are immersed in contemporary Orthodox Jewish culture as they learn more about community tensions, family grief, and healing friendships.

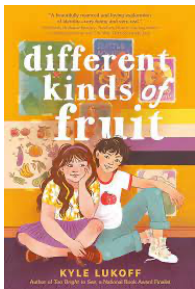
### CHOOSING BRAVE: HOW MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY AND EMMETT TILL SPARKED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



Joy, Angela  
Janelle Washington, illustrator  
Macmillan / Roaring Brook Press  
978-1250220950

Mamie Till-Mobley became a leading voice in the struggle for Civil Rights after the horrifying tragedy that changed the course of her life. A powerful, heartbreaking account.

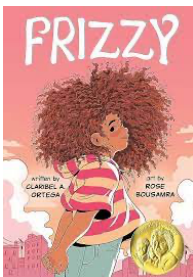
### DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRUIT



Lukoff, Kyle  
Penguin Young Readers / Dial Books for Young Readers  
978-0593111185

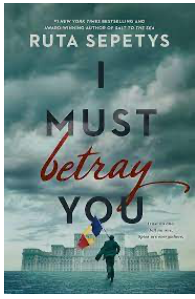
Annabelle thinks sixth grade will be the same as every other year, but her friendship with new student Bailey, a non- binary tween, is transformative. The labels that she has always known—boy, girl, gay, straight—may not be as definitive as she'd thought.

### FRIZZY



Ortega, Claribel A  
Rose Bousamra, illustrator  
Macmillan / First Second  
978-1250259639

Marlene loves books, her Tia Ruby, and her best friend, Camilia. What she hates is going to the salon every Sunday to straighten her curly "wrong" hair, in this gorgeous graphic novel with its look at oppressive beauty standards and internalized racism.



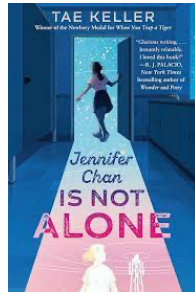
### [I MUST BETRAY YOU](#)

Sepetys, Ruta

Penguin Young Readers / Philomel Books

978-1984836038

As Communist regimes crumble in 1989, Cristian Florescu is one of many Romanians struggling in isolation and under constant surveillance by dictator Nicholas Ceaușescu. Blackmailed into becoming an informant, Cristian works with other young people to spark a movement to free themselves. Maps and photographs in this meticulously researched thriller bring history to life.

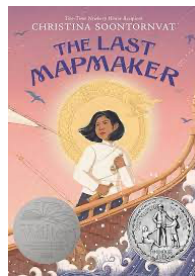


### [JENNIFER CHAN IS NOT ALONE](#)

Keller, Tae

978-0593559994

Mallory understands that middle school is a series of unwritten rules by which new girl Jennifer Chan refuses to abide. When Jennifer goes missing, Mallory steals Jennifer's journals to figure out where she could have gone, then must confront her own role as a bully.



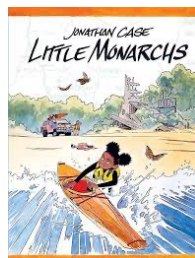
### [THE LAST MAPMAKER](#)

Soontornvat, Christina

Candlewick Press

978-1536204957

In a world where ancestors determine social status, Sai is desperate to escape her past with her con man father and climb the ranks of society. She joins an expeditionary voyage to gain wealth and status but learns about treachery, greed, and betrayal. A vivid and suspenseful seafaring fantasy rooted in Thai culture.



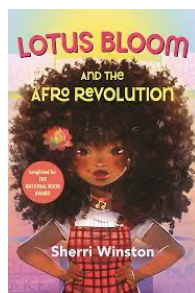
### [LITTLE MONARCHS](#)

Case, Jonathan

Holiday House / Margaret Ferguson Books

978-0823442607

Ten-year-old Elvie and biologist Flora may be the only ones who can prevent the extinction of people in a futuristic world. Facts about butterfly migration and survival skills alongside an environmental crisis figure in this vibrant graphic novel adventure.



### [LOTUS BLOOM AND THE AFRO REVOLUTION](#)

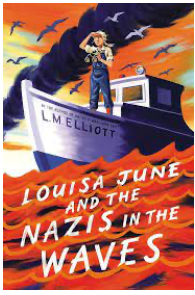
Winston, Sherri

Bloomsbury

978-1547611812

Violin prodigy Lotus is the concertmaster at her new school and loves her Afro. When a parent uses Lotus' hairstyle as an excuse to get her expelled, she must decide whether to stay silent or stand up for her rights.



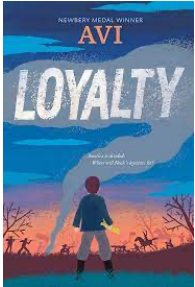


### [LOUISA JUNE AND THE NAZIS IN THE WAVES](#)

Elliott, L.M.  
HarperCollins / Katherine Tegen Books  
978-0063056565

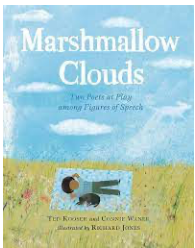
This moving story of a family's loss and a young girl's hope on the homefront, set on the Virginia coast during World War II, is perfect for fans of *The War That Saved My Life*.

### [LOYALTY](#)



Avi  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt / Clarion Books  
978-0358248071

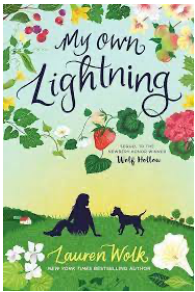
When his father is killed by neighbors for proclaiming loyalty to the King and England, Noah begins spying for the British in pre-Revolutionary Boston. He gradually discovers the dishonesty and brutality on both sides through the eyes of co-worker Jolla, a free Black man.



### [MARSHMALLOW CLOUDS: TWO POETS AT PLAY AMONG FIGURES OF SPEECH](#)

Kooser, Ted and Connie Wanek Richard Jones, illustrator / Candlewick Press  
978-1536203035

Figurative language and meditative illustrations invite readers to stretch their imagination and look at the natural world in new ways.



### [MY OWN LIGHTNING](#)

Wolk, Lauren  
Penguin Young Readers / Dutton Children's Books  
978-0525555599

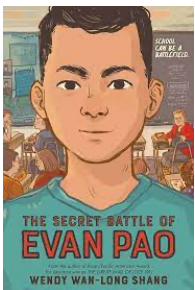
In this splendid sequel to *Wolf Hollow*, Annabelle still struggles with past events when she is struck by lightning and saved by a mysterious stranger. As she recovers, she becomes aware of the feelings of animals, especially mistreated dogs, and of the changes in once bully Andy.



### [THE OGRESS AND THE ORPHANS](#)

Barnhill, Kelly  
Workman / Algonquin Young Readers  
978-1643750743

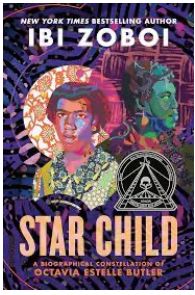
When a kindly ogress gets blamed for all the things going wrong in Stone-in-the-Glen, it's up to a family of fifteen orphans to stand against the wicked and powerful and save the day in this brilliantly woven tale.



### [THE SECRET BATTLE OF EVAN PAO](#)

Wan-Long Shang, Wendy  
Scholastic Press  
978-1338678857

When Evan Pao moves to the Civil War-obsessed town of Haddington, Virginia, he hopes to blend in, despite being the only Asian American kid. However, Evan's participation in treasured traditions is met with cruelty and threats. This thoughtful novel explores racism, masculinity, friendship, and reconciliation with complexity and care.



## **STAR CHILD: A BIOGRAPHICAL CONSTELLATION OF OCTAVIA ESTELLE BUTLER**

Zoboi, Ibi  
Penguin Young Readers / Dutton Children's Books  
978-0399187384

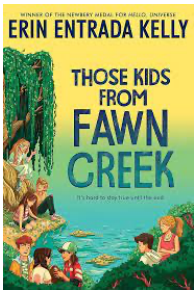
A visually stunning middle grade collection of poems and prose, dotted with ephemera, shows how Butler's shy, solitary childhood influenced her trajectory as an author, and how her imagination fueled her award-winning writing.



## **SWIM TEAM**

Christmas, Johnnie  
HarperCollins / HarperAlley  
978-0063056770

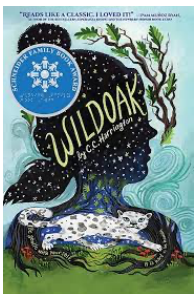
Bree is excited to start middle school until she finds that she got stuck in Swim 101 when she is terrified to swim. Luckily for Bree, her elderly neighbor agrees to be her coach and help her overcome her fear. A gorgeously illustrated contemporary story with a touch of historical fiction.



## **THOSE KIDS FROM FAWN CREEK**

Kelly, Erin Entrada  
HarperCollins / Greenwillow Books  
978-0062970350

A charming but enigmatic newcomer shakes up a tiny seventh grade class in small town Louisiana, in this gentle, empathetic story about being one's true and best self.



## **WILDOAK**

Harrington, C. C.  
Scholastic Press  
978-1338803860

A young girl with a debilitating stutter finds her "voice" as she tries to rescue a young snow leopard cub discarded in an English countryside.



## **WINDSWEPT**

Preus, Margi  
Armando Veve, illustrator  
Abrams / Amulet Books  
978-1419758249

Children who go outside disappear into swirling snow. Can Tag and a group of "Youngers" find them before it is too late? The swiftly moving fantasy is enhanced by captivating language and an expertly woven world built upon Norwegian folklore.

Still haven't found a summer reading choice? You can try other age ranges in the Capitol Choices lists (age 6-9 or age 15 and up—but discuss with a parent or guardian about choices for teens and if they are appropriate for you.) Or, try older lists. The Capitol Choice lists go all the way back to 2015! You can find them all [here](https://capitolchoices.org/past-lists/) on the Capitol Choices website:

<https://capitolchoices.org/past-lists/>.