



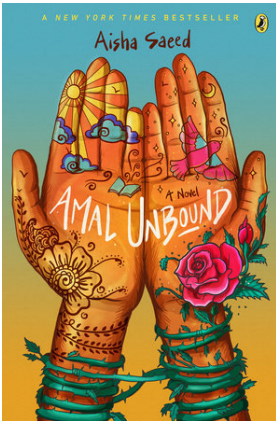
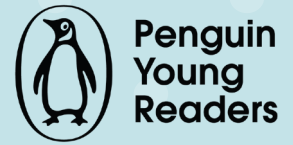
17 Books

Every 5th Grader Should Read



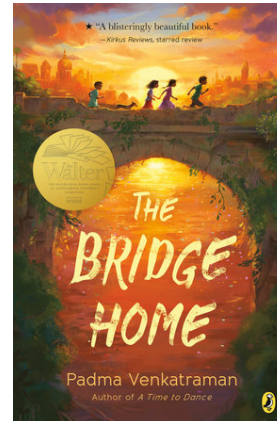
17 Books

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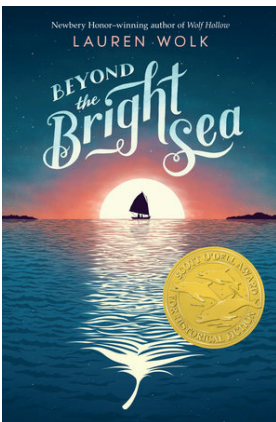


Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed. Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment, she must leave her family behind and go work as a servant for the ruling family. Amal

realizes she is going to need to use all her courage if she plans to keep her family safe and win her freedom.

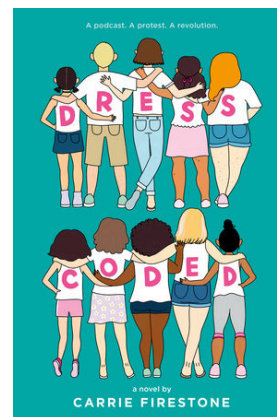


The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman. Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves on the streets of Chennai, India, in this beautifully written novel about young people who must use their instincts and grit to survive.



Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk. Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. When a mysterious fire appears across the water, the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an

unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.



Dress Coded by Carrie Firestone. A middle-grade girl-power friendship story. Perfect for fans of *Moxie*, an eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.

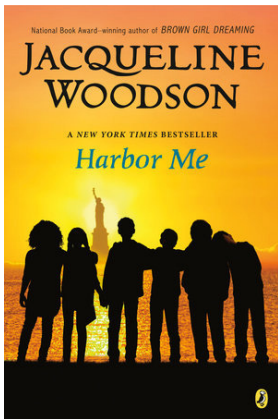


The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Pérez. A wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.



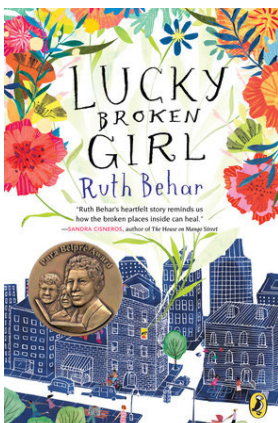
Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she can hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. Things change, however, when Ally's new teacher recognizes her dyslexia. With his help, Ally sees that

there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.



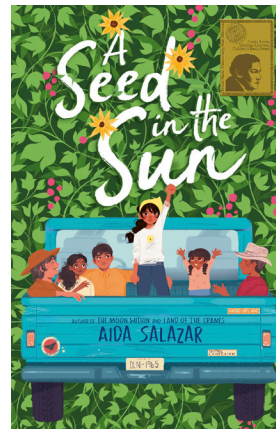
Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson. It all starts when six kids must meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. When they are together, they can express the feelings and fears they must hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of

their lives.

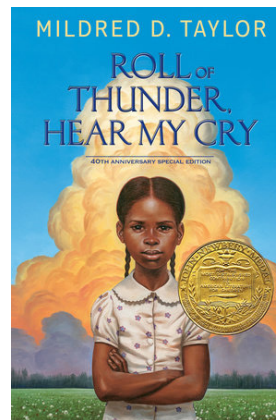


Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar. Based on the author's childhood in the 1960s—a young Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl is adjusting to her new life in New York City when her American dream is suddenly derailed. Ruthie's plight will intrigue readers, and her powerful story of strength and resilience, full

of color, light, and poignancy, will stay with them for a long time.



A Seed in the Sun by Aida Salazar. A farm-working girl with big dreams meets activist Dolores Huerta and joins the 1965 protest for workers' rights in this tender-hearted novel in verse.



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor. Set in Mississippi at the height of the Depression, this is the story of one family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride, and independence in the face of racism and social injustice.



Stand Up, Yumi Chung! by Jessica Kim. One lie snowballs into a full-blown double life in this irresistible story about an aspiring stand-up comedian.



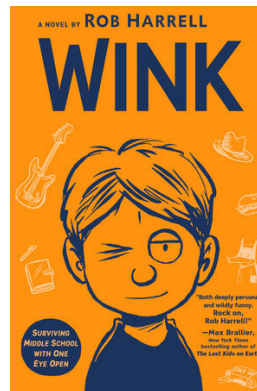
Mexikid by Pedro Martín. An unforgettable graphic memoir about a Mexican American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their *abuelito* back from Mexico.



[Lei and the Fire Goddess](#)

by Malia Maunakea. Twelve-year-old Anna dismisses her grandmother's Hawaiian folktales until a visit to Hawai'i leads to accidentally offending the fire goddess Pele. When her best friend is kidnapped by a giant hawk, Anna must confront mythical creatures and

embrace her Hawaiian heritage to break the curse and discover her true self.



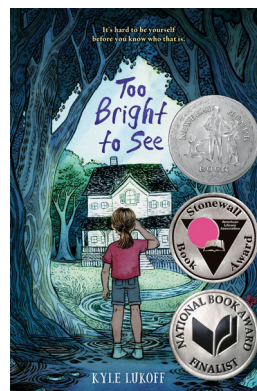
[Wink](#) by Rob Harrell. A hilarious and heart-wrenching story about surviving middle school—and an unthinkable diagnosis—while embracing life's weirdness. Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who

don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table.



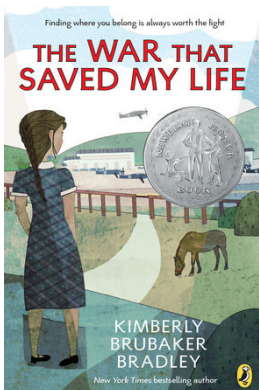
[The Unsung Hero of Birdsong USA](#)

by Brenda Woods. The moving story of the friendship between a young white boy and a Black WWII veteran who has recently returned to the unwelcoming Jim Crow South.



[Too Bright to See](#) by Kyle Lukoff. Bug's haunted house has a new visitor and is trying to tell Bug something about friendship, identity, and family. This Newbery Honor and Stonewall Book Award-winner is a spooky and haunting ghost story about navigating grief, growing up, and growing into a new

gender identity.



[The War That Saved My Life](#)

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So, when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.



[And Then, Boom!](#)

by Lisa Fipps. Joe's life is a series of challenges, from an unstable home life to losing his grandmother and their home. Struggling to survive, he finds solace in a stray dog and her pups as a tornado approaches, setting the stage for unexpected changes.



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