

2025 Multicultural Adoption: Elementary

Themes	Title	Author	Lexile	Genre	Context	Synopsis
What Makes Us Who We Are	Aloha everything (Hawaiian language included)	Kaylin Melia George	940L	Contemporary fic	Hawaii	A young girl discovers the warmth of aloha through love, friendship, and cultural connections in Hawaii.
	100% Me: 100% Yo (Spanish/English bilingual)	Duane Carlos Crawford	N/A	Contemporary fic	US	The story is of a little Afro-Latino boy's journey into self-acceptance and self-love.
	A Dormir, A Sonar (Spanish/English bilingual)	Carisa Musialik	N/A	Contemporary fic		Everyone understands the reluctance to sleep at bedtime, and with some love from his mom and brother, Alejandro might just change his mind.
	A Letter for Bob	Kim Rogers; Jonathan Nelson	200L	Contemporary fic	South Dakota (Oglala Lakota)	A young girl expresses gratitude for her family's old truck and the memories and adventures it holds.
	Alma and how she got her name	Juana Martinez-Neal	490L	Contemporary fic	US	When Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela asks her father why she has so many names, she hears the story of her name and learns about her grandparents
	Anansi and the Colorful Kente Cloth (Ghanaian words included)	Jerry G. White	N/A	Folktale	Ghana	Told by the Griots (storytellers), the Anansi spider tales are believed to have originated from the Ashanti people in Ghana.
	Be a good ancestor	Leona Prince	N/A	Fic	Alaska/Canada (Tlingit)	Indigenous wisdom emphasizes environmental stewardship, kindness, and the impact of actions on future generations.
	Being home	Traci Sorell	450L	Contemporary fic	US (Cherokee)	A young Cherokee girl bids farewell to city life, documenting the changing landscape through drawings as her family moves to their ancestral land.
	Confucius: Great Teacher of China	Demi	N/A	Biography	China	Biography of a man whose philosophy shaped the course of Chinese history: the great teacher Confucius.
	Goodnight Ganesha	Madia Salomon	510L	Contemporary fic	India	Celebrate the nighttime rituals (Hinduism) of two young children visiting their grandparents in India.
	Homeland: my father dreams of Palestine	Hannah Moushabeck	970L	Autobiography	US/Palestine	At bedtime, three sisters snuggle as their father shares stories of their homeland, Palestine, inspiring dreams of its sights and smells.
	I Am American/Soy Mexicana Soy Me (Spanish/English bilingual)	Martha Alanis	N/A	Contemporary fic	Mexico/US	Martina's life changes unexpectedly when her dad announces a move to Mexico, leaving her uncertain about fitting in and learning to read in Spanish.
	In my mosque	M.O. Yuksel	N/A	Contemporary nonfic	Around the world	Readers are introduced to Islam, Muslims, and mosques worldwide, celebrating them as community centers of worship and friendship, with the welcoming "as-salaamu alaykum," plus back matter for further information.
	Keepunumuk: Weeachumun's thanksgiving story	Danielle Greendeer; Anthony Perry; Alexis Bunten; Garry Meeches Sr.	560L	Historical fic based on true events (Incorporate Wopanaak words)	Massachusetts/Rhode Island (Wampanoag tribe)	Native American perspective of Thanksgiving through the story of Weeachumun.
	Let's sleep. let's dream	Carisa Musialik	N/A	Contemporary fic		Alejandro resists bedtime but, with a little love from his mom and brother, he might change his mind.
	Luli and the language of tea	Andrea Wang	N/A	Contemporary fic	US	In preschool, immigrant children discover a surprising language connection and cultural bond when Luli brings a pot of tea to class.

WHO WE ARE

Marisol	Nury Castillo Crawford	N/A	Contemporary fic	US	Marisol is a young girls and, like many preteens, has a lot of responsibilities that she doesn't think she deserves.
Marisol (spanish)	Nury Castillo Crawford	N/A	Contemporary fic	US	Marisol is a young girls and, like many preteens, has a lot of responsibilities that she doesn't think she deserves.
Milloo's Mind: The Story of Maryam Faruqi, Trailblazer for Women's Education	Reem Faruqi	N/A	Biography	Pakistan	Maryam Faruqi, the founder of the Happy Home Schools, provided education to girls across Pakistan when girls weren't encouraged to go to school.
My city speaks	Darren Lebeuf	450L	Contemporary fic	US	A young girl, who is visually impaired, finds much to celebrate as she explores the city she loves.
My name is long as a river	Suma Subramaniam	640L	Contemporary fic	US	An Indian girl discovers the power of her name as she travels along the river she was named after.
My papi has a motorcycle (Spanish included)	Isabel Quintero	750L	Contemporary fic	US	As Daisy Ramona rides with her papi on his motorcycle, she recognizes her familiar neighborhood while noticing the rapid changes in her community.
Nana Akua goes to school	Tricia Elam Walker	830L	Contemporary fic	US	On Grandparents Day, Zura's Nana Akua shares a quilt with Ghanaian symbols, crossing cultural borders by explaining her family's traditions to the class.
Nana, Nenek & Nina Liza Ferneyhough	Liza Ferneyhough	540L	Contemporary fic	US/Malaysia/UK	Nina lives in San Francisco with her parents, and she loves visiting her two grandmas in Malaysia and UK.
Ohana means family	Ilima Loomis	710L	Contemporary fic	Hawaii	The land, weather, and wise hands highlight the interconnectedness of family, nature, and humanity.
Sankofa: A culinary story of resilience and belonging	Eric Adjepong	720L	Historical/contemporary nonfic	New York City	Inspired by chef Eric Adjepong's childhood, a young boy embarks on a culinary journey 400 years into the past to reconnect with his African roots and find his place in America.
Say My Name	Joanna Ho	N/A	Poetry	US	Celebrates the beauty and sounds of each name alongside their culture of origin.
Sofia and Vivi: A Big Sister (Spanish/English bilingual)	Nury Castillo Crawford	N/A	Contemporary fic	US	New to the USA, Sofia, her sister Vivi, and baby brother discover many differences, but their strong family love remains unchanged.
The story of Ukraine : an anthem of glory and freedom (Ukrainian and English bilingual)	Olena Kharchenko, Michael Sampson	910L	Informational	Ukraine	This bilingual picture book celebrates Ukraine through its national anthem, showcasing its people and culture with folklore-style illustrations that highlight their willingness to defend their country.
The walk	Winsome Bingham	540L	Contemporary fic	US	A grandmother takes her granddaughter out on the walk to vote with their community.
Watercress	Andrea Wong	610L	Autobiography	Ohio	In Ohio, a family forages wild watercress, and the girl learns to appreciate it after her mother shares a bittersweet story from their Chinese heritage.
Where three oceans meet	Rajani LaRocca	N/A	Contemporary fic	US/India	Sejal travels from Bangalore to southern India with her immigrant mother and Indian grandmother, experiencing language and cultural connections along the way.
Where wonder grows	Xelena Gonzalez	690L	Contemporary fic	Texas	Intergenerational story exploring our connections to nature, family, and traditions.
I talk like a river	Jordan Scott	480L	Contemporary fic	US	A boy's experiences and feelings related to his speech disability while highlighting his connection to nature and his cultural identity.

Strength through Relationships

100 Chapatis,	Derek Mascarenhas & Shantala Robinson	N/A	Contemporary fic	India/Canada	A boy makes 100 chapatis with his grandfather while anxiously waiting for news of his new sibling's arrival.
Amah Faraway (Taiwanese included)	Margaret Chiu Greanias	670L	Contemporary fic	Taiwan/US	Nervous about visiting her Amah in Taiwan, Kylie gains confidence by seeing the country through her grandmother's eyes.
Areli is a dreamer	Areli Morales	550L	Contemporary nonfic	New York	Areli's experiences as an undocumented immigrant living in the United States, emphasizing her cultural background rooted in Mexican heritage.
Born ready: the true story of a boy named Penelope	Jodie Patterson	480L	Contemporary nonfic	US	Penelope, who identifies as a boy despite his name, expresses that gender isn't a big deal in his Twi culture, and when he shares his truth, he finds support from his community.
Circle of love	Monique Gray Smith	N/A	Contemporary fic	US (Various Indigineous tribes)	At the Intertribal Community Center, Molly and her family engage in dancing, gardening, and learning, celebrating gender and family diversity along with Indigenous identities.
Dancing hands: A story of friendship in Filipino sign language (Filipino Sign Language)	Joanna Que	N/A	Contemporary fic	Philippines	Celebrate the beauty of communication and connection through the story of two friends who bond over dancing and Filipino Sign Language.
Drawn together	Minh Lê	590L	Contemporary fic	US	A young boy & his Thai-speaking grandfather cross linguistic, cultural & generational borders through drawing action figures & sharing their imaginations.
Forever cousins	Laurel Goodluck	610L	Contemporary fic	Mandan, Hidatsa, and Dakota	Two Native American cousins navigate the changes in their friendship whe one moves to the city.
I am you: a book about Ubuntu	Zinelda McDonald	380L	Contemporary fic	South Africa	The complex African concept of ubuntu (shared humanity, compassion, and oneness) accessible for young readers.
I Have a Secret / Tengo un Secreto (Spanish/English bilingual)	Maritere Rodriguez Bellas	N/A	Contemporary fic		Worried that sharing his last name will reveal his secret, a boy happily starts school where only his first name is needed.
Just Ask!: Be different, be brave, be you	Sonia Sotomayor	710L	Contemporary fic	US	Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor celebrates the different abilities kids (and people of all ages) have.
Kindred spirits : shilombish ittibachvffa	Leslie Stall Widener	850L	Contemporary nonfic	US (Choctaw Nation, the Irish, the Navajo Nation, and the Hopi tribe)	This nonfiction picture book tells the heartwarming true story of how groups of people living on separate continents supported each other.
Maribel's year	Michelle Sterling	N/A	Contemporary fic based on true event	Us	In a new country and school, Maribel navigates friendships, but one thing remains certain: she won't forget her Papa, even from 8,000 miles away in the Philippines.
No mas Senora Mimi (Spanish/English bilingual)	Meg Medina	N/A	Contemporary fic	US	The relationship between a girl named Ana and her caregiver señora Mimi, when Mimi is no longer required to babysit.
Sitting Shiva	Erin Silver	610L	Contemporary fic	US/Multicultural	A little girl grieves the loss of her mother, but she can't grieve alone.
Spanish is the language of my family (Spanish included)	Michael Genhart	N/A	Contemporary fic	US	As Abuelita helps Manolo prepare for a spelling bee, her stories of Spanish being prohibited inspire pride in his language.
The Arabic Quilt	Aya Khalil	710L	Contemporary fic	US	Kanzi's family has moved from Egypt to America, and on her first day in a new school, what she wants more than anything is to fit in.

The big bad wolf in my house	Valerie Fontaine	570L	Contemporary fic	Canada	Using the "big bad wolf" as a metaphor for an abusive family member, the story explores the emotional impact of an unsafe home through the young protagonist's perspective, highlighting their journey toward safety and healing.
The day Saida arrived (Arabic included)	Susana Gómez Redondo	810L	Contemporary fic	US	The friendship between a little girl and her new classmate from Morocco deepens as they learn each other's language.
The day you begin	Jacqueline Woodson	980L	Contemporary fic	US	Empower children who feel different from others.
The legend of Gravity: A tall basketball tale	Charly Palmer	800L	Contemporary fic	US	This modern tall tale celebrates talent and teamwork as Gravity, the new kid known for defying gravity in streetball, rallies his team to win during the championships.
The talk	Alicia D. Williams	540L	Contemporary fic	US	Told through Jay's eyes, this story explores Black and Brown families' challenging conversations about staying safe in a racist world as their children grow older and more vulnerable.
The year we learned to fly	Jacqueline Woodson	A1010L	Contemporary fic	US	A brother and sister heed their grandmother's advice to honor their history and help others in their new community learn to fly.
Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott	Joyce Scott	870L	Biography	US/Multicultural	Judith Scott, born with Down syndrome and deaf, became a renowned artist after her sister Joyce enrolled her in an art class, leading to her work being displayed in museums worldwide.
When Lola visits	Michelle Sterling	750L	Contemporary fic	US	It's summer, evident by Lola's visit and her gentle songs in Tagalog and Ilocano filling the house.
When the stars came home	Brittany Luby	N/A	Contemporary fic	Oklahoma	The significance of the stars in her culture and the importance of community, family, and connection to the land.
Where butterflies fill the sky: a story of immigration, family and finding home	Zahra Marwan	700L	Contemporary fic based on true event	Kuwait/US	Zahra, surrounded by the desert and butterflies, is heartbroken when her family must leave their beautiful home, unsure if she'll ever belong again or what will happen to those left behind.
Coming home: A Hopi resistance story	Mavasta Honyouti	N/A	Historical fic based on true events (Incorporate Hopi language)	AZ (Hopi)	The story of his grandfather's experience at a residential boarding school and how he returned home to pass their woodcarving traditions down to future generations.
A Long Journey to Safety	Diep Nguyen	850L	Historical fic based on true events (Vietnamese/English bilingual)	Vietnam	This is a story of Vietnamese people who left their homeland in search of a safer land, one with more opportunities for survival and growth.
Ablaze with color: A story of painter Alma Thomas	Jeanne Walker Harvey	860L	Biography	US	The story of Alma Thomas, the first Black woman to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum in New York City and to have her work chosen for the White House collection.
Alicia and the Hurricane	Leslea Newman	660L	Contemporary fic based on true event (Spanish/English bilingual)	Puerto Rico	Alicia is afraid for the tiny coquis, little frogs that sing her to sleep, when a hurricane hits.
An American story	Kwame Alexander	760L	Historical nonfic/contemporary fic	US	A picture book in verse that threads together past and present to explore the legacy of slavery during a classroom lesson.
Bright star (Spanish included)	Yuyi Morales	750L	Contemporary fic	Southern US border	Yuyi Morales combines powerful language and rich imagery to tell the story of a fawn navigating a dangerous yet beautiful landscape, urged by a gentle voice to confront her fears and overcome obstacles.

Forced and Chosen Journeys	Caged	Kao Kalia Yang	800L	Contemporary fic based on true event	Thailand	A young Hmong child in a Thai refugee camp feels that she lives in a cage but uses her imagination to travel beyond the borders of the walls—as a child of hope, not despair.
	Finding Papa	Angela Pham Krans	630L	Contemporary fic based on true event	Vietnam/US	Young Mai and her mother’s perilous journey from Vietnam to America to find Papa—who left ahead of them to start a better life for their family.
	Hear my voice: The testimonies of children detained at the southern border of the US (Spanish/English bilingual)	Warren Binford	870L	Contemporary nonfic	Southern US boarder	A devastating first-person account of children’s experiences in detention at the southern U.S. border.
	Love in the library	Maggie Tokuda-Hall	810L	Historical fic based on true events	US	Set in an incarceration camp where the United States cruelly detained Japanese Americans during WWII and based on true events, this moving love story finds hope in heartbreak.
	My powerful hair	Carole Lindstrom	580L	Historical/contemporary fic based on true event	US	A young Native American girl embraces her cultural heritage and identity by growing her hair long, reclaiming a significant family tradition.
	She persisted: Maria Tallchief	Christina Day	900L	Biography	US	Despite being told to change her Osage name to sound more Russian, Maria worked hard and became America’s first prima ballerina, proudly embracing her identity.
	Still dreaming	Claudia Guadalupe	N/A	Historical fic based on true events (Spanish/English bilingual)	US	A boy and his family leave their beloved home to avoid being separated by the government. (Mexican repatriation)
	The 1619 project: born on the water	Nikole Hannah-Jones	800L	Historical nonfic/contemporary fic	US	A young girl seeks Grandma’s counsel and learns about her ancestors, the consequences of slavery, and the history of Black resistance in the United States.
	The moon from Dehradun: A story of partition	Shirin Shamsi	900L	Historical fic based on true events	India/Pakistan	Azra’s family is drastically forced to leave their quiet home in India, jump into a packed train and cross Pakistan’s recently drawn borders during the Partition of British India.
	Traveling shoes : the story of Willye White, US Olympian and long jump champion	Alice Faye Duncan	N/A	Biography	US	Willye White’s inspiring journey as the first female athlete in five Olympic Games showcases her triumph over childhood hardships and discrimination as she became a world-class athlete and civil rights advocate.
	Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior	Carole Lindstrom	730L	Contemporary fic based on true event	US	Indigenous women have long cared for the land and water. Yet there was a time when their voices and teachings were nearly drowned out, leaving entire communities in danger.
	A life made by hand : the story of Ruth Asawa	Andrea D’Aquino	700L	Biography	US	Ruth Asawa (1926-2013) was an influential and award-winning Japanese American sculptor and devoted activist who advocated tirelessly for arts education.
	Barrio rising : the protest that built Chicano Park	Dolores Maria Aguila	950L	Historical fic	San Diego	Mexican-American community members unite to protest a police station on parkland, transforming it into a vibrant cultural hub with colorful murals celebrating their heritage.
	Best believe : the Tres Hermanas, a sisterhood for the common good	NoNieqa Ramos	NA	Biography	US	Three sisters who immigrated from Puerto Rico to New York City as children and became leaders in their Bronx community.
	Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement	Angela Joy	950L	Biography	US	Emmett Till channeled grief over her son’s death into a call to action for the civil rights movement.
	Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series	Traci Sorell; Arigón Starr	730L	Historical nonfic	Minnesota/California	Native American baseball players’ contributions to the sport and their shared dream of winning a World Series.

Taking Action

Emmanuel's dream: The true story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah	Laurie Ann Thompson	690L	Biography	Ghana	Emmanuel's journey across Ghana highlights his efforts to raise awareness about disabilities while overcoming physical challenges, emphasizing the country's cultural and social context.
Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann	Maryann Cocca-Leffler,	780L	Biography	US	Celebrate the life and work of disability rights activist and icon Judith Heumann, highlighting one of her landmark achievements—leading the historic 504 Sit-in in 1977.
Hidden figures: The true story of four black women and the space race	Margot Lee Shetterly	800L	Biography	US	Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, all skilled in math, contributed to some of NASA's greatest successes.
Ida B. Wells marches for the vote	Dinah Johnson	660L	Biography	US	Biography about Ida B. Wells and her life as a suffragist, with a focus on the Women's March of 1913.
Just wild enough : Mireya Mayor, primatologist	Marta Magellan	750L	Biography	US	Despite being told she didn't look like a scientist, Mireya forges a career as a primatologist and wildlife reporter.
King Sejong invents an alphabet (Korean included)	Carol Kim	740L	Biography	Korea	In 15th-century Korea, distressed by the complexity of Chinese characters that limited literacy to the wealthy, King Sejong secretly worked for years to create a new Korean alphabet for all.
Lion lights: My invention that made peace with lions	Richard Tuere	800L	Contemporary nonfic	Kenya	A young Maasai boy invented a ssytem of blinking lights that protexts farm animals from predators.
Mario and the hole in the sky: how a chemist saved our planet	Elizabeth Rusch	810L	Biography	Mexico/US	Mexican American Mario Molina is a modern-day hero who helped solve the ozone crisis of the 1980s.
One Wish: Fatima al-Fihri and the World's Oldest University	M.O. Yuksel	800L	Biography	Morocco	Fatima al-Fihri's love for learning drove her to establish a school that has served global students and scholars for over a thousand years.
Phenomenal AOC: the roots and rise of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	Anika Aldamuy Denise	950L	Biography	US	In 2019, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez became America's youngest congresswoman, rising as an unstoppable force in politics.
Playing at the border: A story of Yo-Yo Ma	Joanna Ho	730L	Biography	US	The story of Yo-Yo Ma highlights his efforts to challenge conventions and unite communities by staying true to himself, exemplified by his performance at the US-Mexico border at the Rio Grande on April 13, 2019.
Queen of Leaves : the story of botanist Ynes Mexia	Stephen Brisen	900L	Biography	US	Ynes Mexia overcomes a lonely childhood to become a self-taught botanist and adventurer.
Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom	Teresa Robeson	750L	Biography	China/US	Born in China 100 years ago when most girls did not attend school, Wu Chien Shiung's supportive parents nurtured her passion for science, allowing her to overcome sexism and racism to become the "Queen of Physics," as dubbed by Newsweek magazine.
Sharuko: Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello (Spanish/English bilingual)	Monica Brown; Elisa Chavarri	830L	Biography	Peru	Growing up in the late 1800s, Julio Tello, an Indigenous boy, spent time exploring the caves and burial grounds in the foothills of the Peruvian Andes
Sofia Valdez, future prez	Andrea Beaty	570L	Contemporary fic	US	When her Abuelo hurts his ankle at the landfill, Sofia decides to take on City Hall & maybe even become president.
Stacey Abrams and the fight to vote	Traci N. Todd	680L	Biography	US	Iconic African American social justice champions narrate the life of Stacey Abrams & her fight for voters' rights.
Swimming toward a dream : Yusra Mardini's incredible journey from refugee to Olympic swimmer	Reem Faruqi	860L	Biography	US	Yusra's harrowing true story recounts her journey from war-torn Syria across the Aegean Sea to safety, where she pursued her dream of competing in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The flying girl : how Aida de Acosta learned to soar	Margarita Engle	660L	Biography	US	Aída de Acosta became the first woman to fly a mechanized aircraft in 1903 when she piloted an airship.
The great banned-books bake sale	Aya Khalil	550L	Contemporary fic	US	Kanzi, an immigrant from Egypt, discovers that books about immigrant youth and children of color have been banned and organizes a bake sale to fund the purchase of diverse books.
The language of angels : a story about the reinvention of Hebrew	Richard Michelson	850L	Historica nonfic	Israel	Based on a true story, in 1880s Jerusalem Ben-Zion and his father work to revitalize Hebrew as an everyday language.
The little blue bridge	Brenda Maier	560L	Contemporary folklore	US	This modern twist on a classic tale blends folklore, feminism, STEM, and a Latinx cast into a delightful read-aloud that celebrates creativity and community.
Until someone listens : a story about borders, family, and one girl's mission	Estela Juarez	800L	Autobiography	Mexico/US	This is the true story of Estela Juarez, a young American girl who writes letters to her local newspaper, Congress, and the president, pleading for help to reunite her family after her mother's deportation.
We are still here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know	Traci Sorell	740L	Contemporary nonfic	US	Key historical and contemporary issues affecting Native American communities, using a classroom presentation format on topics such as assimilation are presented.
Wilma's way home: The life of Wilma Mankiller		740L	Biography	Cherokee Nation	Wilma Mankiller was the first woman elected to be Chief of Cherokee Nation.

2025 Multicultural Adoption: Middle School

Themes	ELA Curriculum Unit Theme Alingment	Title	Author	Lexile	Genre	Context	Synopsis
What Makes Us Who We Are	G6 Q1: Growing Up G7 Q1: Rites of Passage G8 Q1: Rites of Passage	Native Mascots, Myths and Misrepresentation: Battling Indigenous Stereotypes	Cayla Bellanger DeGroat	NA	Contemporary nonfic	Mavajo, Lakota, Cherokee, Mohawk, and many others	The MC department sees the book as a tool to educate students on harmful Native American stereotypes.
		Ancestor Approved: Intertribal stories for kids	Cynthia Leitch Smith	820	Anthology and folktales	Navajo, Ojibwe, Lakota, Cherokee, and Coast Salish nations and more	This intertribal tale collection celebrates Indigenous traditions, wisdom, and diversity, highlighting shared experiences, cultural interconnectedness, and storytelling's role in preserving heritage and fostering understanding.
		Barakah Beats	Maleeha Siddiqui	790	Contemporary fic	US	Twelve-year-old Nimra Sharif has spent her whole life in Islamic school, but now it's time to go to "real school."
		Bright stars: Great artists who died too young	Kate Bryan	850	Biography	India, Austria, Neitherlands, US	Influencial artists who made a laasting impact before their early deaths.
		Finally seen	Kelly Yang	660	Contemporary fic	China/US	Lina struggles to adjust after emigrating from China, feeling invisible compared to her assimilated younger sister.
		Hands	Torrey Maldonado	690	Contemporary fic	US	Twelve-year-old Trevor takes up boxing to protect his family, though he'd rather pursue drawing.
		Ida in the middle	Nora Lester Murad	770	Historical Fic	Palestina	Ida, a young Palestinian girl, navigates identity and resilience in a novel depicting her authentic experience.
		Just Jerry : how drawing shaped my life	Jerry Pinkney	950	Memoir	US	Caldecott Medalist Jerry Pinkney shares his childhood journey and the development of his artistic talent.
		Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir	Pedro Martin	560	Memoir	US/Mexico	A Mexican American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their abuelito back from Mexico.
		Samira surfs	Rukhsanna Guidroz	670	Contemporary fic verse novel	Bangladesh	Eleven-year-old Rohingya refugee Samira finds strength and sisterhood in a girls' surf club in Bangladesh.
		Star child: A biographical constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler	Ibi Zoboi	860	Biography poem/prose	US	the young life of the visionary storyteller Octavia E. Butler in poems and prose.
		The door is open : stories of celebration and community by 11 Desi voices	Veera Hiranandani and more	890	Contemporary fic	US	This warm-hearted novel explores fear, triumph, and celebration through interconnected South Asian American community stories.
		The other half of happy	Rebecca Balcarcel	710	Contemporary fic	US	Quijana's Guatemalan cousins arrive, and her dad feels ashamed of her limited knowledge of their heritage.
		The woman in the woods and other North American stories	Kate Ashwin	NA	Folktales graphic novel	Navajo, Cree, Ojibwe, Cherokee, Sioux	This collection explores Indigenous myths, legends, and experiences, highlighting connections among people, nature, and heritage.
		They call me guero: A border kid's poems	David Bowles	830	Poetry	Texas	Twelve-year-old Güero, a bilingual Mexican American, starts 7th grade with a teacher who makes poetry cool.
		Ultraviolet	Aida Salazar	830	Contemporary fic	US	Thirteen-year-old Elio navigates first love, heartbreak, friendship, and masculinity while challenging a culture of toxicity.
		A first time for everything	Dan Santat	610	Contemporary nonfic graphic novel	US/Europe	Bullied and feeling invisible, Dan has low expectations for his class trip to Europe—until everything changes.
		A Little Bit Super: With Small Powers Come Big Problems	Gary D. Schmidt	650	Contemporary fic	Southwest	A young superhero discovers that even minor powers bring challenges, teaching responsibility and wise use of abilities.
		Aniana del Mar jumps in	Jasminne Mendez	740	Contemporary fic verse novel	Texas	Aniana del Mar loves swimming, but she and Papi hide her practices from Mami's painful past.
		Before the ever after	Jacqueline Woodson	670	Contemporary fic	Brooklyn	A boy struggles with his father's fading legacy and memory loss while navigating family and life changes.

Strength through Relationships	G6 Q3: Taking a Stand / Imaigned World G7 Q3: Taking a Stand / Human Intelligence G8 Q3: Taking a Stand / Human Intelligence	Blood Brothers	Rob Sanders	700	Contemporary fic verse novel based on true event	Florida	This heartbreaking verse novel, based on a true story, follows three hemophiliac brothers with HIV in 1987.
		Healer of the water monster	Brian Young	740	Contemporary fic	US	Inspired by Navajo culture, this novel follows a boy's summer shaped by his uncle's addiction and a sacred encounter.
		Heroes of the water monster	Brian Young	640	Contemporary fic Navajo myth	Southwest	Young Indigenous boy Ayo embarks on a journey to save his friends, discovering culture, courage, and friendship.
		I can make this promise	Christine Day	710	Contemporary fic	Canada	Twelve-year-old Edie discovers letters and photos revealing truths about her Native mother's adoption, reshaping her identity.
		Look both ways : a tale told in ten blocks	Jason Reynolds	720	Contemporary fic	US	A collection of ten short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school.
		Mani Semilla finds her quetzal voice	Anna Lapera	720	Contemproary fic	US	Before a trip to Guatemala, Mani discovers letters that spark questions about her family's past and departure.
		Merci Suarez changes gears	Meg Medina	750	Contemproary fic	Florida	Merci Suárez navigates sixth grade, balancing scholarship challenges, family responsibilities, and fitting in at her private school.
		Not an easy win	Chrystal D. Giles	770	Contemporary fic	US	twelve-year-old Lawrence struggles after his Pop leaves, but discovering chess helps turn his life around.
		Red, White, and Whole	Rajani LaRocca	710	Contemporary fic verse novel	Masachusetts	An Indian American girl whose life is turned upside down when her mother is diagnosed with leukemia.
		Remember us	Jacqueline Woodson	900	Contemporary fic	Brooklyn	During a transformative Brooklyn summer, twelve-year-old Sage navigates identity, friendship, loss, and new beginnings alongside Freddy.
		School trip (series #2)	Jerry Craft	710	Contemporary fic graphic novel		Eighth grader Drew Ellis recognizes that he isn't afforded the same opportunities, no matter how hard he works.
		Stargazing	Jen Wang	380	Contemporary fic graphic novel	US	Perfectionist Christine and free-spirited Moon form an unlikely friendship, tested by jealousy, social pressures, and illness.
		The circuit	Andrew Rostan	760	Memoir graphic novel	Mexico/US	Jiménez's adult memoir highlighting his childhood immigrating from Mexico to California
		The Kaya girl	Mamle Wolo	770	Contemporary fic	Ghana	Wolo invites readers into a Ghanaian marketplace where two girls overcome language and class barriers.
		The lost year: A survival story of the Ukrainian famine	Katherine Marsh	720	Contemporary/historical fic based on true event	Ukraine	A 13-year-old uncovers his great-grandmother's past, linking the 2020s pandemic to 1930s Ukraine's Holodomor.
		The playbook : 52 rules to aim, shoot, and score in this game called life	Kwame Alexander	730	Contemporary nonfic poetry	US	Kwame Alexander shares poetry, life lessons, and inspiring quotes from athletes and leaders in this motivational book.
		The Probability of Everything	Sarah Everett	740	Contemporary fic	Minnesota	Eleven-year-old Kemi Carter sees life through probability, believing she beat the odds with her incredible family.
		The sea in winter	Christine Day	740	Contemporary fic	WA (Makha)	Injured ballerina Maisie reluctantly embarks on a midwinter road trip to her mother's Makah community.
		Tumble	C Celia Perez	720	Contemproary fic	New Mexico	Before accepting her stepfather's adoption, twelve-year-old Adela reconnects with her estranged luchador father and wrestling family.
		Two tribes	Emily Bowen Cohen	670	Contemporary fic	Tucson AZ / Oklahoma (Aistling/Jewish girl from Navajo)	Two girls from different cultures navigate friendship, identity, and the challenges within their communities.
		We still belong	Christine Day	630	Contemporary fic	Pacific Northwest (Upper Skagit Tribe)	Young Native girl Kimi embarks on a journey of self-discovery, reconnecting with heritage, family, and community.
		When you trap a tiger	Tae Keller	670	Contemporary fantasy with Korean folktale	US	When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni.
		Wishing upon the same stars	Jacquetta Nammar Feldman	730	Contemporary fic	Michigan/Texas	The Israeli-Palestinian conflict shapes this middle-grade novel as Arab American Yasmeen Khoury faces moving from Detroit to Texas.
		You are here : connecting flight	Ellen Oh	730	Contemproary fic	US	This book examines Asian American passengers at an airport, highlighting microaggressions they experience while navigating toward their gates.
		A place to belong	Cynthia Kadohata	710	Historical fic	US/Japan	Twelve-year-old Hanako's family, after internment, renounces citizenship and moves to Hiroshima, devastated by war.

Forced and Chosen Journeys	G6 Q4: Extraordinary People G7 Q4: Pushing Boundaries G8 Q4: Pushing Boundaries	Across so many seas	Ruth Behar	800	Historical fic	Miami/Spain/TurkyCuba	Spanning five centuries, this novel follows four girls from different generations of a Jewish family, many forced to flee their homeland and start anew.
		Borders	Thomas King	810	Contemporary fic graphic novel	US/Canada border (Blackfoot Nation (Siksika Nation))	A Native mother and son face identity and belonging struggles when denied U.S. entry at the border.
		Cece Rios and the desert of souls	Kaela Rivera	700	Fantasy		When a powerful desert spirit kidnaps her sister, Cece Rios must learn forbidden magic to get her back
		Drawn across borders: True stories of human migration	George Butler	810	Contemporary nonfic	Middle east, Europe, Africa, Asia	George Butler's portraits depict migrants and refugees, highlighting the complex reasons people leave their homes.
		Eagle drums	Nasugraq Rainey Hopson	740	Myth	Alaska	A young hunter climbs a deadly mountain for obsidian and faces the powerful eagle god, Savik.
		Finding Langston	Lesa Cline-Ransome	690	Historical fic	Alabama/Chicagoo	In 1946, after his mother's death, Langston moves away, leaving behind family, friends, and cherished memories.
		In the tunnel	Julie Lee	740	Historical fic	Korea	During the Korean War, Myung-gi embarks on a perilous journey to find his father and survive.
		Indian no more	Willing Charlene McManis	580	Historical fic	Oregon/LA	Regina struggles to maintain her Indian identity after her Umpqua tribe's termination forces relocation to L.A.
		Land of the Cranes	Aida Salazar	720	Contemporary fic verse novel	US/Mexico	A young Mexican girl clings to hope and love while enduring life in a family detention center.
		Lei and the Fire Goddess	Malia Maunakea	680	Contemporary Fantasy/Myth	Hawaii	Lei embarks on a daring journey to confront the Fire Goddess and protect her island.
		Lupe Wong won't dance	Barba Donna Higuera	670	Contemporary fic	US	Lupe Wong knows she's going to play in the majors someday, but for now, she just has to get straight As so she can meet baseball player Fu Li Hernandez.
		Prairie totus	Linda Sue Park	730	Historical fic based on true event	Dakota territory	In 1880s Dakota Territory, half-Chinese Hanna and her father face racism while building their home.
		Safiyah's war	Hiba Noor Khan	820	Historical fic based on true event	France	As war engulfs Paris, Safiyah bravely navigates danger to aid the Resistance and save her father.
		Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal About the Japanese American Incarceration	Elizabeth Partridge	970	Historical nonfic	Manzanar in CA	Powerful images of the Japanese American incarceration captured by three photographers.
		Sing it like Celia	Monica Mancillas	750	Contemporary fic	US	Mexican American singer Celia learns to find her voice with the help of her role model and icon, Celia Cruz.
		Stone River crossing	Tim Tingle	630	Historical fic	Choctaw	Martha Tom, a Choctaw girl, befriends Lil Mo, an enslaved boy, after crossing the Bok Chitto River.
		The blackbird girls	Anne Blankman	640	Historical fic	Ukraine	Two fifth-grade adversaries become best friends while enduring Chernobyl's aftermath, abuse, anti-Semitism, and Soviet oppression.
		The Eagle Huntress	Aisholpan Nurgaiv	890	Nonfic	Mongolia	A thirteen-year-old Kazakh girl named Aisholpan Nurgaiv tells the story of her journey to become the first female eagle huntress in Mongolia.
		The first state of being	Entrada Erin Kelly	820	Contemporary fantasy	US	Trapped in 1999, time traveler Ridge befriends lonely Michael, altering both their lives forever.
		Unsettled	Reem Faruqi	800	Contemporary fic verse novel	Pakistan/Georgia	A girl who moves from Karachi, Pakistan, to Peachtree City, Georgia, and must find her footing in a new world.
		When stars are scattered	Victoria Jamieson	530	Contemporary nonfic graphic novel	Kenya	Omar must choose between attending school or caring for his nonverbal brother in a refugee camp.
		Your heart my sky	Margarita Engle	710	Contemporary fic verse novel based on true event	Cuba	During the 1991 Havana Pan-Am Games, young lovers plan their escape from hunger and oppression.
		A Seed in the Sun	Aida Salazar	670	Historical fic verse noval based on true event	US	A farm-working girl with big dreams meets activist Dolores Huerta and joins the 1965 protest for workers' rights

Taking Action	G6 Q2: Natural Allies / Taking a Stand G7 Q2: Resilience / Taking a Stand G8 Q2: Resilience / Taking a Stand	Becoming Muhammad Ali	James Patterson	650	Biographical verse novel	US	Before fame, Cassius Clay faced struggles, racism, and school challenges before discovering boxing in his youth.
		Call and Response: The Story of Black Lives Matter	Veronica Chambers	1050	Contemporary/historical nonfic	US	Explore Black Lives Matter through striking photographs, in-depth reporting, stunning visual timelines and graphics, and compelling quotes.
		Crazy Horse and Custer : born enemies	S. D. Nelson	800	Biography	US	With vivid images, this dual biography explores two enemies whose conflict profoundly shaped American history.
		Evicted! : the struggle for the right to vote	Faye Alice Duncan	880	Historical nonfic	Tennessee	This book explores Tennessee's 1950s Tent City Movement and the fight for voting rights.
		Finally seen	Kelly Yang	720	Contemporary fic	US	When a parent challenges a book, Lina bravely speaks up, defending its impact on her.
		Finish the fight: the brave and revolutionary women who fought for the right to vote	Veronica Chambers	980	Biography/Memoir poems	US	Untold stories of diverse heroines who fought for the 19th Amendment, shaping women's and voting rights.
		Flood City	Daniel Jose Older	750	Science fic	US	Water shortages and conservation
		Grasping mysteries : girls who loved math	Jeannine Atkins	860	Biography verse novel	US	This book highlights seven groundbreaking women in math and science who made remarkable contributions.
		I'm from here too	Kashmira Sheth	790	Contemporary fic	US	Anoop's patka draws unwanted attention, sparking reflection on faith, identity, belonging, family, and rising Sikh attacks.
		Indigenous ingenuity: A celebration of traditional North American knowledge	Deidre Havrelock	890	Biography	Various Indigenous tribes in US	Discover Indigenous North Americans' innovations in transportation, engineering, hunting, astronomy, medicine, architecture, and agriculture.
		Little by little: You can change the world	Sonya Ballantyne	790	Contemporary fic graphic novel	Canada	The power of small actions in making a positive impact on their communities and the world.
		Mamie Takes a Stand: The true story of Mamie Tape, a Chinese American girl's fight for school rights	Marie Chan	860	Historical nonfic	San Francisco	Eight-year-old Mamie Tape's fight for education challenges San Francisco's exclusion of Chinese American students.
		Mascot	Charles Waters	720	Contemporary fic verse novel	US	the story of a middle school student confronting the complex issues of racism, identity, and community after his school's mascot is challenged for being offensive.
		Miles Morales: Shock waves	Justin A-Reynolds	680	Contemporary fic graphic novel	Brooklyn	Miles Morales balances school and heroism while organizing a fundraiser for Puerto Rico after an earthquake.
		One life	Sarah Durand	820	Biography	US	This memoir of a soccer star and queer activist inspires young readers to stand up for their beliefs.
		Rima's Rebellion: Courage in a Time of Tyranny	Margarita Engle	680	Historical fic verse novel based on true event	Cuba	A girl falling in love for the first time while finding the courage to protest for women's right to vote in 1920s Cuba.
		Rolling warrior : the incredible, sometimes awkward, true story of a rebel girl on wheels who helped spark a revolution	Judith Heumann	890	Memoir	US	A memoir of Jewish disability rights activist Judith Heumann, who led the longest sit-in protest in US history.
		Singing with elephants	Margarita Engle	860	Contemporary fic verse novel	Santa Barbara	Eleven-year-old Cuban-born Oriol struggles to belong while helping her parents care for injured animals.
		Solimar : the sword of the Monarchs	Pam Muñoz Ryan	740	Fantasy	Mexico	Ryan brings to life a captivating story set in Mexico where a Princess with Spanish & Indigenous heritage must fight for her people.
		Spare parts : four undocumented teenagers, one ugly robot, and the battle for the American dream	Joshua Davis & Reyna Grande (adapter)	960	Nonfic	Phoenix	Four undocumented Mexican secondary students living in Phoenix, AZ win a national robotics competition despite having few resources.
		The Djinn's apple	Djamila Morani	780	Historical fic	Baghdad	Set in the Abbasid period, Nardeen escapes an attack on her home and seeks justice.
		Turtles of the midnight moon	Jose Maria Fitzgerald	740	Contemporary fic	Honduras	Eco-mystery about two girls trying to stop sea turtle poaching in their coastal Honduran village.
		We're in this together : a young readers edition of We are not here to be bystanders	Linda Sarsour	930	Memoir	US	This memoir traces Palestinian American Sarsour's journey to activism, organizing historic U.S. protests for justice.

2025 Multicultural Adoption: High School

Themes	ELA Curriculum Unit Theme Alingment	Title	Author	Lexile	Genre	Context	Synopsis
What Makes Us Who We Are	G9 Q1: Personal Identity G10 Q2: Imagination and Fear G11 Q2: Navigating Identity G12 Q1: Shaping Humanity	A queer history of the United States for young people	Michael Bronski	NA	Nonfic	US	A broad history of LGBTQI+ people in the United States over the past 400 years including many biographical narratives.
		Black enough: stories of being young & Black in America	Various	800	Contemporary fic		A collection of coming-of-age short stories that reflect on the African American teenage experience in America.
		Braiding sweetgrass for young adults : indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the teachings of plants	Robin Wall Kimmerer	880	Nonfic	US	An Indigenous lesson on how listening to plants can foster ecological awareness and cultivate deep gratitude.
		Creeboy	Teresa Wouters	NA	Contemporary fic	US (Cree)	Josh, 16, grapples with family loyalty as his brother takes over their father's gang while his mother rejects that life.
		Everything you wanted to know about Indians but were afraid to ask	Anton Treuer	NA	Nonfic		An essential Q&A book for young readers, exploring Indigenous culture, history, and identity.
		From here	Luma Mufleh	NA	Nonfic	Jordan/US	Zainab, a refugee, navigates displacement and seeks belonging in a new country while discovering her resilience.
		Furia	Yamile Saied Mendez	790	Contemporary fic	Argentina	Camila lives under her mother's strict expectations, her brother's shadow, and her father's abuse, but dreams of earning a soccer scholarship.
		I'd rather burn than bloom	Shannon C.F.	NA	Contemporary fic	US	A Filipina-American teen who tries to figure out who she really is in the wake of her mother's death.
		Killing the Wittigo: Indigenous culture-based approaches to waking up, taking action, and doing the work of healing : a book for young adults	Suzanne Methot	NA	Nonfic	US/Canada	This book addresses colonization's impact on Indigenous youth, promoting healing and mindfulness.
		Living beyond borders : growing up Mexican in America	Margarita Longoria	820	Nonfic (short stories, comics, essays, poems)	US	An anthology of short stories, essays, poetry, and comics about the Mexican American experience.
		Patron saints of nothing	Randy Ribay	730	Contemporary fic	Michigan/Philippines	Jay travels to the Philippines to uncover the truth behind his cousin Jun's death, discovering family secrets and his identity.
		Slay	Brittney Morris	840	Contemporary fic		Seventeen-year-old Keira, an honors student, creates and plays Slay, a game celebrating Black culture, until her worlds collide.
		The firekeeper's daughter	Angeline Boulley	830	Contemporary fic	Michigan (Sault St. Marie Chippewa, Ojibwe)	Daunis, a biracial, unenrolled tribal member, grapples with identity, family, and Indigenous experiences.
		The heartbeat of Wounded Knee : life in Native America	David Treuer	1010	Nonfic	US	David Treuer blends personal stories, history, and modern issues to offer a nuanced view of Native America.
		The moonlit vine	Elizabeth Santiago	NA	Contemporary fic	US (Taina Puerto Rican)	14-year-old Taina learns she's descended from Taino women and seeks to bring peace and justice to her family and community.
		The power of style: how fashion and beauty are being used to reclaim cultures	Christian Allaire	970	Nonfic	US (Ojibwe)	Christian Allaire explores how fashion and beauty reclaim culture, identity, and social justice.
		Where you see yourself	Claire Forrest	690	Contemporary fic	NYC	Effie, a high school senior, struggles with identity, love, and the consequences of her choices.
		Abuela, don't forget me	Rex Ogle	760	Autobiography verse novel		In this heartfelt collection, Ogle preserves the gratitude and affection he has for his abuela, whose memories are affected by dementia.
		Ain't burned all the bright	Jason Reynolds/Jason Griffin	NA	Contemporary fic graphic novel	US	A smash-up of art and text for teens that viscerally captures what it is to be Black.

Strength through Relationships

G9 Q3: Relationships
G10 Q4: Materialism and Possessions
G11 Q4: Identity, Isolation, and Communities
G12 Q3: Fate versus Free Will

All that it ever meant	Blessing Musariri	NA	Contemporary fic	UK/Zimbabwe	Family, grief, ghosts, and a mystery: this clever and compelling young adult novel heralds a masterful new voice from Zimbabwe.
An impossible thing to say	Arya Shahi	NA	Contemporary verse novel	Tucson	An Iranian-American teen uses poetry and rap to connect with his grandfather and navigate post-9/11 prejudice.
Brownstone	Samuel Teer	NA	Contemporary fic graphic novel		Almudena reconnects with her estranged Guatemalan father as they spend time together in his brownstone, working to rebuild their relationship.
Canto contigo	Jonny Villa Garza	NA	Contemporary fic	US	Rafie joins a new high school, where his old flame leads the mariachi band, and he must compete for the lead singer role.
Dancing at the pity party : a dead mom graphic memoir	Tyler Felder	NA	Memoir graphic novel	US	This graphic memoir takes readers on the journey of Felder's mother's initial cancer diagnosis to life as a motherless young adult.
Elatsoe	Darcie Little Badger	730	Fantasy	US (Apache)	In a world shaped by magic and monsters, Elatsoe navigates mystery, magic, and everyday life.
Everything Sad Is Untrue	Daniel Nayeri	840	Autobio	Oklahoma	A young Iranian refugee shares his family's escape from Iran, blending personal history with Persian folklore as he navigates life in the US.
Frankly in love	David Yoon	730	Contemporary fic	CA	High school senior Frank Li defies his parents to pursue a girl, only to question love and his identity as his plans fall apart.
Guava and grudges	Alexis Castellanos	NA	Contemporary fic	LA	Cuban American teen Ana Maria finds herself falling for Miguel, the son of her family's rival baking business.
Hearts of fire and snow	David Bowles	NA	Contemporary fantasy Aztec tale		Blanca and Greg discover they've been lovers in every lifetime, in a reimagining of the Aztec tale of Popoca and Itzac.
High spirits	Camille Gomera-Tavarez	NA	Contemporary fic	US	Kathy, a Dominican-American teen, navigates identity, relationships, and grief in a multicultural world.
How Moon Fuentes Fell in Love with the Universe	Raquel Vasquez Gilliland	850	Contemporary fic	US	A Mexican American teen embarks on a road trip, discovering love and life-changing truths along the way.
In Limbo	Deb JJ Lee	NA	Memoir graphic novel	New Jersey/South Korea	A Korean-American girl faces mental health struggles, friendship changes, and academic challenges while split between New Jersey and Seoul.
Keeping it real	Paula Chase	740	Contemporary graphic novel	US	Marigold joins a fashion program at her family's business but struggles with fitting in and tension with a fellow trainee.
Looking for smoke	A.K. Cobell	NA	Contemporary fic	US (Blackfeet Indian)	Four teens on the Blackfeet Reservation become suspects after a classmate is murdered during Indian Days celebrations.
Louder than hunger	John Schu	NA	Memoir verse novel	US	The author's experience - destructive voices inside, managing and articulating pain, and embracing self-acceptance, support, and love.
Lunar New Year love story	Luen Gene Yang	NA	Contemporary fic graphic novel	US	Val, believing she's cursed in love, starts to reconsider after meeting two lion dancers, wondering if true love is possible for her.
Miles morales: spider-man	Jason Reynolds	590	Contemporary fic	Brooklyn	Miles Morales questions his abilities and identity as Spider-Man after a school suspension.
My Name is Jason. Mine too: Our story, Our way	Jason Reynolds/Jason Griffin	NA	Graphic autobiography	US	Two Jasons—one Black, one white—pursue their dreams in New York, navigating their artistic journeys as poet and artist.
The life and crimes of Hoodie Rosen	Issac Blum	880	Contemporary fic	US	Hoodie's entire Orthodox Jewish community relocates to a small, non-Jewish town that becomes unsafe for Jews.
The Summer of Bitter and Sweet	Jen Ferguson	740	Contemporary fic	US	Lou works at her family's ice-cream shack with her ex and former best friend, King, forcing her to confront her past.
The voting booth	Brandy Colbert	790	Contemporary fic	US	Marva and Duke face activism, friendship, and personal challenges while fighting voter suppression in a high-stakes election.

		This light between us : a novel of World War II	Xia Andrew Fukuda	740	Historical fic	Washington/France	In 1935, Alex Maki and his pen pal, Charlie Levy, form a lifelong friendship that survives WWII and the challenges of internment and occupation.
		Those pink mountain nights	Jenny Ferguson	NA	Contemporary fic	US	Three teens spend a weekend at Pink Mountain Pizza, confronting their hurts and realizing how much they need each other to stay strong.
		Trigger	C.G.Moore	NA	Contemporary nonfic (fictionalized) verse novel	Ireland	Jay wakes up beaten, realizing he was raped and may have been betrayed by his ex-boyfriend. With Rain's support, he seeks justice.
		We deserve monuments	Jas Hammonds	760	Contemporary fic	DC/Georgia	Avery moves to her mother's southern hometown, uncovering family secrets and racial trauma.
		Where I belong	Marcia Argueta Mickelson	740	Contemporary fic	Texas	Milagros "Millie" Vargas, a Guatemalan American senior, juggles school, family, and her mom's job as a housekeeper in Corpus Christi, Texas.
		Where wolves don't die	Anton Treuer	NA	Contemporary fic	Minneapolis (Ojibwe)	A taut thriller and tender coming-of-age story about an Ojibwe boy learning self-love through his family's support.
		With love, Echo Park	Taylor Laura Namey	800	Contemporary fic	LA	Cuban teens Clary and Emilio clash over Echo Park's future as Clary's family florist shop, one of the last Cuban businesses, faces a threat.
Forced and Chosen Journeys	G9 Q4: Growth and Discovery G10 Q3: Ethical Dilemmas G11 Q3: Place, Perseverance and Opportunity G12 Q2: Growth through Adversity	Stealing Little Moon: The Legacy of the American Indian Boarding Schools	Dan Sasuwah Jones	NA	Historical nonfic	US	This book examines the painful history of American Indian boarding schools and their lasting impact on children forced to abandon their culture for assimilation.
		83 days in Mariupol : a war diary	Don Brown	NA	Contemporary nonfic graphic novel	Ukraine	A graphic novel documenting Mariupol's 2022 defiance against Russian attacks.
		Apple: Skin to the Core	Eric Gansworth	780	Memoir verse novel	Upstate new york (Onondaga)	An Onondaga-Tuscarora family grapples with boarding school legacies, internal struggles, and a young artist's fight to find balance.
		Black star (#2)	Kwame Alexander	NA	Historical fic verse novel	US	In The Door of No Return's sequel, 12-year-old Charley, a talented pitcher in segregated Lee's Mill, dreams of pro baseball despite the challenges of being a Black girl in the Great Migration South.
		Breathe and count back from ten	Natalia Sylvester	730	Contemporary fic	Florida	Peruvian-American teen Verónica, with hip dysplasia, auditions as a mermaid, navigating first love and body image.
		Freedom swimmer	Wai Chim	820	Historical fic based on true event	China	During China's Cultural Revolution, orphan Ming and his friend Li plan a daring swim to Hong Kong for freedom.
		Grenade	Alan Gratz	700	Historical fic	Okinawa	During the Battle of Okinawa, 14-year-old Hideki is drafted and given grenades. His search for family intersects with Marine Ray, forcing a life-changing choice.
		Himawari house	Harmony Becker	NA	Contemporary fic graphic novel	Tokyo	Three foreign exchange students and the pleasures, and difficulties, of adjusting to living in Japan.
		Hurdles in the dark	K Elvira Gonzalez	NA	Autobiography	South Texas	The life of Elvira Gonzalez, a Mexican American track star who grew up amid the drug war in South Texas and became one of the top U.S. athletes.
		Man made monsters	Andrea L. Rogers	NA	Historical/Contemporary/Futuristic fic	Oklahoma (Cherokee)	A horror collection blending classic monsters with the real terrors of colonialism, domestic violence, and displacement.
		Okinawa	Susumy Hlga	NA	Historical fic graphic novel based on true event	Japan	Okinawan spirituality, US military occupation, and the senselessness of war collide.
		Only this beautiful moment	Abdi Nazemian	840	Contemporary fic	Tehran, Iran/US	Three generations of Iranian men grapple with family secrets, identity, and cultural legacy across time and countries.
		Rez Ball	Byron Graves	NA	Contemporary fic graphic novel	US (Ojibwe)	A Native American reservation high school basketball team battles personal struggles and strives for success on and off the court.
		Saints of the household	Ari Tison	NA	Fiction	Costa Rica	Bribri American brothers Max and Jay survive an abusive home by sticking to a strict routine and staying under the radar.

		The best we could do	Thi Bui	810	Autobiography	US	Thi Bui describes her family's experiences as they immigrate to the United States from their war-torn home in Vietnam.
		The door of no return (#1)	Kwame Alexander	870	Historical fic verse novel	Ghana/US	An Asante boy who is captured and taken from his village during the 19th century.
		The Guava Tree	Andrew Diaz Winkelmann	NA	Historical Fiction	Cuba	In 1967 Cuba, the Diaz family is forced to leave. Ines's childhood keepsakes trigger memories that form the novel's heart.
		The picture bride	Lee Geum-yi	NA	Historical fic based on true event	Korea/Hawaii	Early 20th-century Korean immigration and arranged marriages in Hawaii, exploring cultural identity, hardship, and the immigrant experience.
		This place : 150 years retold	Tara Audibert	NA	Science fic		This Place retells 150 years through Indigenous creators' eyes, offering emotional stories of survival, wonder, and time travel since Contact.
		Torch	Lyn Miller-Lachmann	740	Historical fic based on true event	Czechoslovakia	In 1969 Czechoslovakia, a teen's fatal protest sparks a brutal government investigation into his friends.
		Ukraine remember also me	George Butler	NA	Historical/Contemporary nonfic	Ukraine	Personal testimonies and accounts from the war in Ukraine, providing a powerful perspective on the impact of conflict.
		We Are Not Free	Traci Chee	820	Historical fic based on true event	US	1940s: Japanese Americans face discrimination and incarceration, focusing on youth losing their lives.
		We are not from here	Jenny Torres Sanchez	810	Contemporay fic	Guatemala/Mexico/US	Three Guatemalan teens face a perilous journey to the US, seeking a better life.
		With the fire on high	Elizabeth Acevedo	700	Contemporary fic		Teen mother Emoni Santiago struggles with the challenges of finishing high school and her dream of working as a chef.
		Worm: A Cuban American Odyssey	Edel Rodriguez	NA	Memoir verse novel	Cuba/US	Artist Edel Rodriguez reflects on his Cuban childhood and the Mariel boatlift, told through his illustrations.
Taking Action	G9 Q2: Culture, Conflict, Change G10 Q1: Power and Society G11 Q1: Words as Catalysts for Change G12 Q4: Challenging Norms	A chorus rises	Bethany C. Morrow	NA	Fantasy fic	US	Morrow's second book blends Black siren myths with harsh modern realities for Black people.
		A land with a people: Palestinians and Jews confront zionism	Esther Farmer	NA	Nonfic	Palestine/Israel	Explore the historical and contemporary dynamics between Palestinians and Jews regarding Zionism.
		A song below water	Bethany C. Morrow	650	Fantasy fic	US	African mermaid/siren stories with commentary on current-day antiblackness.
		All rise: resistance and rebellion in South Africa 1910-1948: A graphic history	Richard Conyngham	NA	Historical nonfic	South Africa	Six court cases illuminate the fight for equality in pre-apartheid South Africa, showcasing marginalized lives through illustrations and documents.
		Amazona	Canizales	NA	Fic graphic novel	Columbia	A YA graphic novel depicting the forced displacement of Indigenous Colombians, exploring human rights and environmental justice through striking art.
		Banned book club	Hyun Sook Kim	NA	Historical fic based on true event graphic novel	South Korea	1983 South Korea: Under a repressive regime, freshman Kim Hyun Sook finds solace in books amidst censorship and political turmoil.
		Burn down, rise up	Vincent Tirado	NA	Contemporary fic	Bronx	Mysterious disappearances, an urban legend, and friends determined to save their city.
		Death's country	R.M. Romero	NA	Fantasy	Miami	In Miami, Brazilian teen Andres makes a deal with Death and must travel to the underworld to save his girlfriend.
		Disability visibility : 17 first-person stories for today	Alice Wong	NA	Contemporary nonfic	US	17 first-person narratives challenge disability stereotypes and amplify marginalized voices.
		Forever is now	Mariama J. Lockington	NA	Contemporary fic verse novel	US	Sadie navigates anxiety, trauma, and activism, grappling with racial injustice and police violence while finding her voice.
		Fugitive dreams: Chronicles of occupation and resistance	Ramsey Hanhan	NA	Fictionalized memoir	Palestine/US	In post-9/11 America, a Palestinian man confronts human rights abuses and becomes an activist for his daughter's future.
		Indigenous cultures today: Protecting Native families and practicing cultural traditions	Cayla Bellanger DeGroat	NA	Nonfic	US	Explores how advocates preserve Native families and traditions—languages, religions, ceremonies, and values—in modern Indigenous communities.
		Monumental: Oscar Dunn and His Radical Fight in Reconstruction Louisiana	Brian K. Mitchell	NA	Biography graphic novel	Louisiana/New Orleans	From slavery to Louisiana's first Black lieutenant governor, Oscar James Dunn championed suffrage, civil rights, and integrated schools.

Soldiers unknown	Chag Lowry	NA	Historical fic based on true event	CA (Yurok and Maidu tribes)	Follows three Yurok cousins in 1918, called to serve in World War I despite their people's history of mistreatment by the nation.
The making of Yolanda la bruja	Lorraine Avila	NA	Contemporary fic	Bronx	Bronx high school student Yolanda Alvarez navigates friendship, romance, and her family's bruja tradition.
The silence that binds us	Joanna Ho	800	Contemporary fic	US	Accused of pressuring May, her parents tell her to lay low. Instead, May challenges racist stereotypes through her writing.
The sum of us : how racism hurts everyone	Heather McGhee	NA	Nonfic	US	This book is a call to action for a new understanding of how racism impacts all people through economic policy & more.
Victory. Stand: Raising my fist for justice	Dawud Anyabwile	NA	Biography graphic novel	Mexico/US	1968 Olympics: Smith and Carlos's protest against racial injustice sparked ostracism, threats, and hardship.
Warrior girl unearthed	Angeline Boulley	NA	Contemporary fic	Michigan (Ojibwe)	Ojibwe teen Daunis navigates identity, family, and community while uncovering heritage secrets and addressing preservation.
When you look like us	Pamela N. Harris	740	Contemporary fic	Virginia US	Jay searches for his missing sister, Nicole, confronting misperceptions, privilege, and the fight for justice.