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Suggested Reading for Children Grades 3-6



A Duet for Home **by Karina Yan Glaser**

It's June's first day at Huey House, and as if losing her home weren't enough, she also can't bring her cherished viola inside. Before the accident last year, her dad saved tip money for a year to buy her viola, and she's not about to give it up now. Tyrell has been at Huey House for three years and gives June a glimpse of the good things about living there: friendship, hot meals, and a classical musician next door. Can he and June work together to oppose the government, or will families be forced out of Huey House before they are ready?

Can I Touch Your Hair by Irene Latham

Two classmates reluctantly pair up on a poetry-writing project and reflect on their identities, relationships, and the role race plays in their lives, in more than 30 candid, thought-provoking poems.

Curtain Up! by Lauren O'Hara

On opening night of *The Nutcracker*, the magnificent red velvet curtain is about to rise. The ballet dancers, singers, actors and musicians of the Royal Opera House are warming up in the wings and in the orchestra pit. Backstage, the crew prepares the lights, sets, props and costumes. Open this book and join Figaro the theater cat on a special backstage tour; where--from wigs and hats to scenery painting, ballet rehearsals to the orchestra pit, you'll find out how everyone works together to bring a performance to life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: the Teacher Who Became a Spy **by Molly Frye Wilmington**

Not every hero story includes a world war a cruel enemy, daring secret missions and a hidden code to uncover. This one does; in this unique picture book, Shep the sheepdog puppy narrates a powerful tale and true story of how one man stayed true to himself during a dark time in history. Hear how he warned his people of danger, used clever thinking and codes to defy the Nazis even when it cost him his life.

Drawn Together by Minh Lê

A boy and his grandfather cross a language and cultural barrier using their shared love of art, storytelling, and fantasy.

El Deafo by Cece Bell

Starting a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest. At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here she is different. She is sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends. Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom, but anywhere her teacher is in the school -- in the hallway ... in the teacher's lounge ... in the bathroom! This is power, maybe even superpower. Cece is on her way to becoming El Deafo, listener for all. But the funny thing about being a superhero is that it's just another way of feeling different ... and lonely. Can Cece channel her powers into finding the thing she wants most, a true friend?



Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Mia Tang and her parents expected to work hard when they came to the United States, but they had no idea how difficult things would be. After a year or two struggling to make ends meet, they find themselves managing a motel for a cruel and exploitive owner. The work is exhausting and the problems are many, but the Tangs approach their new responsibility with determination, creativity, and compassion, making friends everywhere and sheltering a trickle of immigrants in worse straits than themselves.

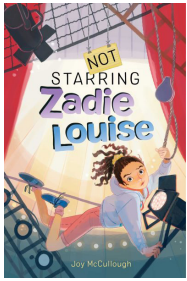
Hello by Aiko Ikegami

In this wordless picture book, an alien visits Earth, makes friends with a little girl, and returns to his home planet to share his experiences.

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Jordan Banks is anxious about being the new kid at Riverdale, especially since he'd rather be going to art school. He's even more nervous when he realizes that, unlike in his Washington Heights neighborhood, at Riverdale, he's one of the few kids of color. Despite some setbacks, Jordan eventually makes a few friends and chronicles his experiences in his sketch pad. This is more than a story about being the new kid—it's a complex examination of the micro- and macroaggressions that Jordan endures from classmates and teachers. He is regularly mistaken for the other black kids at school. A teacher calls another black student by the wrong name and singles him out during discussions on financial aid. Even

Jordan's supportive parents don't always understand the extent of the racism he faces. This book opens doors for additional discussion.



Not Starring Zadie Louise
by Joy McCullough

10-year-old Zadie Louise Gonzalez is an aspiring astronaut who loves tae kwon do. But as she heads into summertime freedom, her parents reveal that money's tight, and that neither she nor her sister, 12-year-old Lulu, can participate in their usual activities. Instead, their Guatemalan father will join the gig economy as a Ryde driver, and the siblings will take part in a local youth theater production of Spinderella—headed by its artistic director, their mother, who reads as white. Budding diva Lulu takes happily to the boards, but stage-averse Zadie flees her audition, heading straight for the catwalk before learning that the venue doesn't allow minors to work in tech theater—and that the cool new stage manager won't let kids into her booth. Zadie nevertheless rallies, doing her level best to put her science and technology skills to good use.

Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

Fourteen-year-old Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, and thirteen-year-old Max, an American boy, are bound by a secret that sets them on the adventure of a lifetime.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

On Cue by Cristy Watson

Randi wants to be an actress and is excited about practicing her craft in drama class. So she is devastated to learn the program has been cut. When her friends put together a successful proposal to have drama class taught as an extracurricular activity, Randi is thrilled—until reality sinks in. Extracurriculars are scheduled after school, and after school, Randi is expected to take care of her brother, Toby, who is autistic. Will Randi have to choose between her passion and her family?

Polar Bear Island by Lindsay Bonilla

"Welcome to Polar Bear Island. NO OTHERS ALLOWED!" Parker is the mayor of this peaceful, predictable island, and he wants to keep it just the way it is. But Kirby, a penguin, thinks the place is paradise, and she wants to stay. Parker says no, but the other polar bears love Kirby --and soon they're begging Parker to let Kirby (and her family) move in. Will Parker agree . . . and make the island fun for EVERYONE? With its gentle message of inclusivity, this playful and lighthearted story will delight children of all ages.

Shante Keys and the New Years Peas
by Gail Piernas-Davenport

When Shanté is sent to find black-eyed peas for her family's New Year's celebration, she learns about each of her neighbor's New Year's traditions in their home countries.

Something Happened in Our Town
by Marianne Celano

Following a police shooting, two families—one White and one Black—discuss the event, its aftermath, and what they can do to help. Includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers that provides general guidance about addressing racism with children, child-friendly vocabulary definitions, conversation guides, and a link to additional online resources for parents and teachers.

Stand Up, Yumi Chung by Jessica Kim

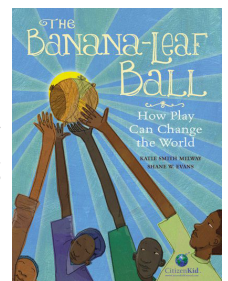
Yumi, 11, has plenty on her plate. She helps out at her parents' restaurant in L.A.'s Koreatown, she's taking prep classes to win a scholarship her private school offers, and almost every moment involves living up to her parents' high expectations. Yumi's passion, however, is comedy, and when she accidentally finds herself in a kids' comedy class—taught by her YouTube idol, no less—she decides to take full advantage. This, of course, leads to a web of lies from which Yumi tries to untangle herself with varying degrees of effort.

Thank You, Omu! by Oge Mora

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?

The Banana-Leaf Ball: How Play Can Change the World
by Katie Smith Milway

Separated from his family when they were forced to flee their home, a young East African boy named Deo lives alone in the Lukole refugee camp in Tanzania. With scarce resources at the camp, bullies have formed gangs to steal what they can, and a leader named Remy has begun targeting Deo. Then one day a coach gathers all the children to play soccer. Though Deo loves soccer and has even made his own ball out of banana leaves, he's unsure at first about joining in when he sees Remy on the field. But as Deo and the other boys get drawn into the game, everything begins to change. Their shared joy in playing provides the children --- including Remy--with a sense of belonging.

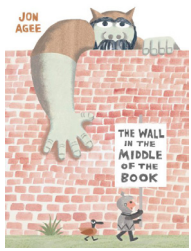


The Chance to Fly by Ali Stroker

An aspiring actor who uses a manual wheelchair is determined to land a part in a community theater production.

The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles by Michelle Cuevas

The whimsical story of a man who has spent his life delivering the messages found in ocean bottles and the day he receives a message that turns out to be a party invitation. The underlying message about learning to see the worth of every person is a treasure.



The Wall in the Middle of the Book by Jon Agee

There's a wall in the middle of the book, and our hero--a young knight--is sure that the wall protects his side of the book from the dangers of the other side--like an angry tiger and giant rhino, and worst of all, an ogre who would gobble him up in a second!

But our knight doesn't seem to notice the crocodile and growing sea of water that are emerging on his side. When he's almost over his head and calling for help, who will come to his rescue? An individual who isn't as dangerous as the knight thought--from a side of the book that might just have some positive things to offer after all!

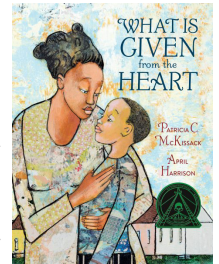
Twelfth by Janet Key

Twelve-year-old Maren is sure theater camp isn't for her. Theater camp is for loud, confident, artsy people: people like her older sister, Hadley—the last person Maren wants to think about—and her cinema-obsessed, nonbinary bunkmate, Theo. But when a prank goes wrong, Maren gets drawn into the hunt for a diamond ring that, legend has it, is linked to the camp's namesake, Charlotte “Charlie”

Goodman, a promising director in Blacklist Era Hollywood. When Maren connects the clues to Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, she and her new friends are off searching through lighting booths, orchestra pits and costume storages, discovering the trail and dodging camp counselors. But they're not the only ones searching for the ring, and with the growing threat of camp closing forever, they're almost out of time.

What is Given From the Heart by Patricia McKissack

A boy who has little learns that he can still give. James Otis and his mama have fallen on hard times. His father died, and they had no suit in which to bury him; they lost their farm, their new "run-down shotgun house in the Bottoms" flooded, and his dog ran away. Though they have very little, his mama says, "Long as we have our health and strength, we are blessed." As Valentine's Day approaches, their pastor announces that "love boxes" will be delivered to the needy in the community, including a mother and daughter who have lost everything in a fire. He reminds them that "what is given from the heart reaches the heart." Mama gets right to work sewing her best tablecloth—the one nice thing she owns—into an apron that she hopes will please the mother, Irene. But James Otis can't think of anything he has that the little girl would want. Finally, he comes up with a plan, and what he gives from the heart, little Sarah cherishes.



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