

Becoming Muhammad Ali
Kwame Alexander & James Patterson

J PATTERSON

This illustrated fictionalized biography of Cassius Clay's first 17 years alternates between page-turning free verse stories and sections narrated by Cassius' best friend, Lucky. This authorized account of Ali's Kentucky childhood portrays the consistent hard work (and quick wit) that helped make him a boxing champion.

The Bridge Home
by Padma Venkatraman

J VENKATRAMAN

J CD VENKATRAMAN
When runaway sisters arrive on the streets of Chennai,

India, they are barely surviving until two homeless boys become their allies and an abandoned bridge becomes their home. This family of children survives as trash scavengers, until something goes wrong and the sisters must seek help from the society beyond their bridge.

City Spies and Golden Gate
by James Ponti

J PONTI

Meet the kids who were chosen as agents for Britain's MI6 to solve mysteries using their special skills in math, hacking, planning operations, and generally "spy stuff". These fast-paced thrillers offer exciting adventures with mysteries and teamwork.

Cleo Porter and the Body Electric
by Jake Burt

J BURT

In this timely sci-fi adventure, 12-year-old Cleo and her parents are sealed in an apartment complex to keep

them safe from a disease that nearly destroyed the human population decades ago. But when a drone brings medicine for someone else to their apartment, Cleo feels compelled to deliver the medicine herself, even though she has no idea what the outside world contains.

Earthsea series
by Ursula Le Guin

J LE GUIN

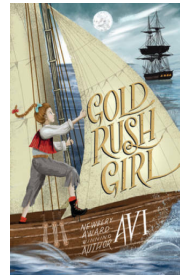
Ged is the undisputed greatest sorcerer in all of Earthsea. But when he was young, he didn't know the powerful magic that lay within him. This classic fantasy series chronicles Ged's coming of age and magical adventures.

Fighting Words
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

J BRADLEY

This moving story of 10-year-old Della and her older sister, Suki, includes their incarcerated mother, foster care, mental crises, and the aftermath of abuse. While not explicit, tough content is

at the heart of this story, and the reality is heartbreaking yet hopeful, offering an essential perspective for middle grade readers.



Gold Rush Girl
by Avi

J AVI

It's the 1840s, and Victoria (Tory) Blaisdell's father sails from Rhode Island to California with his young son to find gold—with Tory as a stowaway. Life in San Francisco is dangerous, and when her brother disappears, Tory begins a treacherous search on land and sea, relying on new friends, and her newfound independence to keep her family together.

Greystone Secrets series
by Margaret Haddix

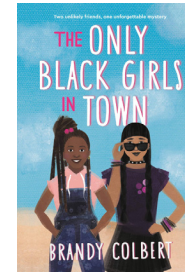
J HADDIX

In this intense mystery trilogy, the three Greystone siblings start to worry when their dependable and always-present mom might be in serious danger. Their adventures take exciting turns and lead readers into other dimensions to find the missing pieces to their puzzles.

One Came Home
by Amy Timberlake

J TIMBERLAKE

In 1871 in the town of Placid, Wisconsin, 13-year-old Georgie Burkhart is a sharpshooter and a straight talker. But when Georgie's older sister, Agatha, takes off, the sheriff declares that Agatha is dead. Georgie rejects that notion, and hits the trail to solve the mystery of Agatha's disappearance in this suspenseful western adventure.



The Only Black Girls in Town
by Brandy Colbert

J COLBERT

Twelve-year-old surfer Alberta has lived in her California beach town her whole life, and she's always been the only Black girl. But when a Black family moves in across the street, Alberta struggles to find common ground with Edie from Brooklyn. Both girls face the challenges of middle school, and the must-solve mystery about Edie's new home.

Show Me a Sign
by Ann Clare LeZotte

J LEZOTTE

Set in 1805 on Martha's Vineyard, 11-year-old Mary Lambert lives in a community where one in four residents

is deaf, and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. Mary must rely on her own sharp senses when an opinionated scientist comes to the island to study her unique community.



Small Spaces and Dead Voices
by Katherine Arden

J ARDEN

This horror series set in Vermont features 11-year-old Ollie, who finds a mysterious book about a local family's tragedy. When a school field trip and a ski vacation put Ollie and friends into the path of the frightening "smiling man" and ghosts that haunt their dreams, be ready to be properly scared.

Take Back the Block
by Chrystal Giles

J GILES

When a real estate developer starts buying the homes in Wes Henderson's neighborhood, the 6th grader turns to his teacher and some friends for strategic help. Once he learns about gentrification, community, and social justice, Wes and his supporters are prepared to take back the block.

Time Castaways series
by Liesl Shurtliff

J SHURTLIFF

When Mateo and twins Corey and Ruby break their parents' rule of NEVER taking public transportation on their own, they time travel from the New York subway to a sailing warship in 1911—in Paris. The race to untangle the truth of their family's history and how to escape the past involves pirates, excitement, and lots of twists and turns.