

## Differing Abilities

### The War That Saved My Life

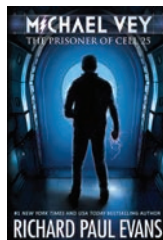
**Bradley, Kimberly**

A young girl with club foot and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

### Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25

**Evans, Richard Paul**

Michael Vey, a 14-year-old with Tourette's syndrome who possesses special electric powers, discovers that a cheerleader at his school also has special powers. As he discovers more kids like him, it draws the attention of a powerful group who wants to control them.



### Mascot

**John, Antony**

After a terrible car accident where he lost his dad, Noah Savino has been stuck in a wheelchair for months. He hates how people treat him now as if he's helpless and misses playing basketball. He's scared he'll never feel like his old self again.

### Tune It Out

**Sumner, Jamie**

Lou has the voice of an angel, so her mother is determined to make her a star. But Lou also has a sensory processing disorder. She's terrified of crowds, loud noises and even high fives. When a crisis separates her from her mother, she has to start all over again at a new school where music might just be her savior.



### The Goldfish Boy

**Thompson, Lisa**

Crippled by OCD, Matthew rarely leaves his room in London where he passes the day people-watching from his window. When a toddler next door disappears, Matt becomes the key to solving the mystery and possibly saving the child's life, that is if he can manage to step out of the safety of his home.

## LGBTQIA+

### Almost Flying

**Arlow, Jake Maia**

Dalia is forced to bond with her new stepsister, Alexa, on an amusement park road trip. She decides to invite Rani, the new girl at school for company but then, Alexa's girlfriend joins the trip. And keeping Alexa's secret makes Dalia realize she might have more-than-friend feelings for Rani too.



### Zenobia July

**Bunker, Lisa**

Zenobia July is starting a new life. People used to tell her she was a boy but now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone starts posting hateful memes on her school's website, it's up to her to use her computer hacking skills to solve the mystery while staying true to herself.

### Both Can Be True

**Machias, Jules**

Some days, Ash is undoubtedly a girl but other times, 100 percent guy. When Ash joins forces with Daniel to save a dog about to be euthanized, they start catching feelings for each other. Things get complicated because Daniel thinks Ash is all girl but how will he react when he finds out there's more to Ash's story?

### The Best At It

**Pancholy, Maulik**

Rahul Kapoor is starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade in a small town in Indiana. His grandpa's advice is to find something you're good at and become the BEST at it. Then maybe he won't be worried about staring too long at his classmate, Justin Emery. But what if he discovers he isn't the best at anything?



### The Fabulous Zed Watson!

**Sylvester, Basil**

Nonbinary tween, Zed Watson loves a few things: their name, their big rambunctious family, and monsters. When Zed discovers the mystery surrounding an unpublished novel called the Monster's Castle, they are completely hooked. Now Zed is a member of a small but dedicated legion devoted to finding the missing text.

## Race & Culture

### Two Roads

**Bruchac, Joseph**

In 1932, 12-year-old Cal is sent to a government boarding school for Native Americans, where he begins learning about his history and heritage as a Creek Indian. Even in the harsh conditions of the school, Cal finds strength among a group of friends who have nothing beyond each other.

### A Place To Belong

**Kadohata, Cynthia**

Hanako and her Japanese-American family, reeling from their confinement in an internment camp by the U.S. government, give up their American citizenship to move back to Hiroshima, unaware of the devastation wreaked by the atomic bomb dropped by Americans.

### Paola Santiago and the River of Tears

**Mejia, Tehlor Kay**

Tired of her mother's superstitions, Pao has always relied on hard science to make sense of the world, that is until she and her best friends Dante and Emma take a walk through a haunted cactus field and Emma disappears. What if her mother's stories about the monstrous La Llorona were true?



### As Brave As You

**Reynolds, Jason**

It's Genie's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and Grandpop says to become a man, you have to learn how to shoot a gun. Genie thinks that is AWESOME until he realizes his older brother, Ernie has absolutely no interest. Genie is left to wonder if becoming a man is only about proving something, or is it just as brave to own up to what you won't do?

### Daughter of the Deep

**Riordan, Rick**

Inspired by Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," Ana Dakkar, a freshman at a top academy in marine science and naval warfare, makes astounding discoveries about her heritage and puts her leadership skills to the test against deadly enemies from a rival school.



# Socioeconomic

## The Benefits Of Being An Octopus Braden, Ann

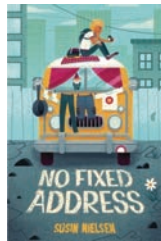
Zoey and her family live in a trailer. She takes care of three younger siblings while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Easier to stay unnoticed in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Zoey avoids her rich classmates at school until her fascination with octopuses gets her on the debate team and she begins to speak out.

## Find Layla Elison, Meg

Layla Bailey isn't used to being noticed except by mean girls who tweet about her ragged appearance. All she wants is to indulge in her love of science, so when a school competition calls for a biome, Layla makes a video of her own home. It goes viral and Layla must figure out how to stay whole while the world sees the truth behind how she lives.

## No Fixed Address Nielsen, Susin

After being evicted from their latest shabby apartment, Felix and his mom have to move into a van. Felix navigates being homeless by using the bathroom at school and eating his meals there. Then, he gets a chance to be on his favorite game show. Winning the cash prize could change everything.



## Free Lunch Ogle, Rex

Rex Ogle takes us through his first semester of 6<sup>th</sup> grade in this heartbreaking memoir where his life is riddled with abusive parents and poverty. Secondhand clothes, the free lunch program, and profound hunger are only a few of his daily struggles.

## Genesis Begins Again Williams, Alicia

13-year-old Genesis, forced to attend a new mostly-white school in Detroit, becomes convinced that her dark skin is the root of her family's financial troubles. So she tries again and again to lighten her black skin before discovering reasons to love herself as she is.



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## #Representation Matters

5<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



## Body Image

### The Skin I'm In Flake, Sharon

Maleeka has extremely dark skin and is regularly bullied for it by her classmates. Then, she meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and discovers how to love who she is and what she looks like.



### Good Enough Petro-Roy, Jen

Riley suffers from anorexia and records her days in a journal while receiving treatment and therapy at the hospital. She rediscovers her love of art and other hobbies but worries about relapsing once home.

### Husky

#### Sayre, Justin

As questions of sexuality enter his mind, Davis worries that people only see him as "husky." Meanwhile, he has to navigate the changing relationships around him when his single mom starts dating again and his peers only want to hang out with the popular kids.

