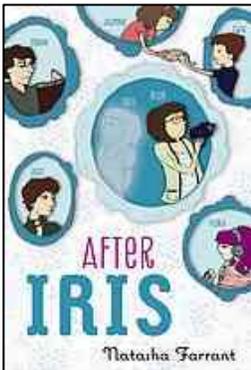


21st Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Annotated Ballot List: Grades 6-8 Fiction

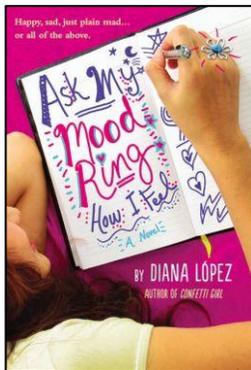


***After Iris* by Natasha Farrant**

"Twelve-year-old Bluebell Gadsby's written and video diary chronicles life in a rowdy London family, and how Zoran, the new au pair, and Joss, the troublemaking boy next door, help to pull her out of her shell and cope with the loss of her twin three years before." [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/after-iris-a-novel/oclc/812729433&referer=brief_results

Keywords: family life, grief, realistic fiction

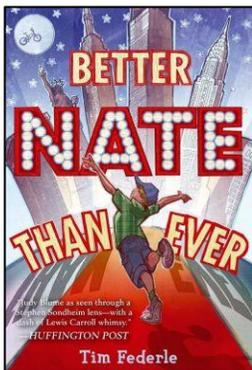


***Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel* by Diana Lopez**

"When thirteen-year-old Erica "Chia" Montenegro finds out her mother has breast cancer, she makes a promise to God to raise money for breast cancer awareness and discovers that when family and friends work together, miracles can happen." [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/ask-my-mood-ring-how-i-feel/oclc/809454942&referer=brief_results

Keywords: realistic fiction, diversity, family

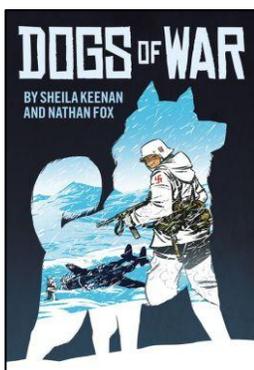


***Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Federle**

"An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T." [Source: WorldCat.org]

https://www.worldcat.org/title/better-nate-than-ever/oclc/775894203&referer=brief_results

Keywords: realistic fiction, LGBTQ, humor



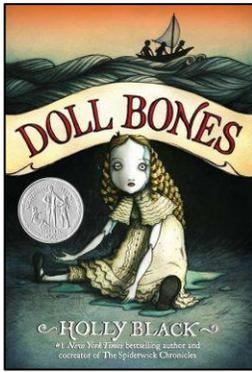
***Dogs of War* by Sheila Keenan**

"Three fictional stories, told in graphic novel format, about soldiers in World War I, World War II, and Vietnam who were aided by combat dogs."

[Source: WorldCat.org]

https://www.worldcat.org/title/dogs-of-war/oclc/711864537&referer=brief_results

Keywords: graphic novel, historical fiction, short stories

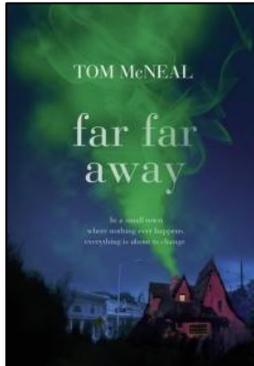


***Doll Bones* by Holly Black**

"Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl." [Source: WorldCat.org]

https://www.worldcat.org/title/doll-bones/oclc/795353826&referer=brief_results

Keywords: fantasy, ghost stories, adventure

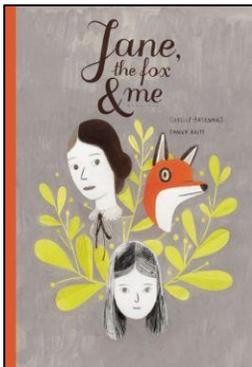


***Far, Far Away* by Tom McNeal**

"When Jeremy Johnson Johnson's strange ability to speak to the ghost of Jacob Grimm draws the interest of his classmate Ginger Boltinghouse, the two find themselves at the center of a series of disappearances in their hometown" [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/far-far-away/oclc/798131888&referer=brief_results

Keywords: fairy tale, mystery, ghost stories



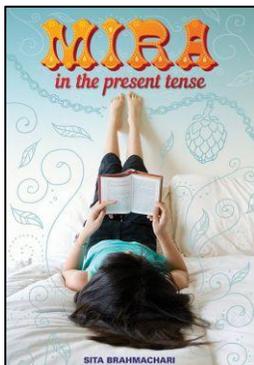
***Jane, the fox and me* by Fanny Britt (Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault)**

"Hélène has been inexplicably ostracized by the girls who were once her friends. Her school life is full of whispers and lies ... Her loving mother is too tired to be any help. Fortunately, Hélène has one consolation, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*...But when Hélène is humiliated on a class trip in front of her entire grade, she needs more than a fictional character to allow her to see herself as a person deserving of laughter and friendship."

[Source: Amazon.com]

<http://www.amazon.com/Jane-Fox-Me-Fanny-Britt/dp/1554983606>

Keywords: bullying, graphic novels, realistic fiction

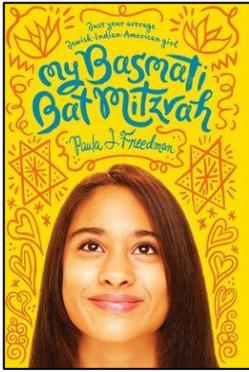


***Mira in the Present Tense* by Sita Brahmachari**

"Twelve-year-old Mira comes from a chaotic, artistic, and outspoken family in which it's not always easy to be heard. As her beloved Nana Josie's health declines, Mira begins to discover the secrets of those around her and also starts to keep some of her own...As Mira is experiencing grief for the first time, she is also discovering the wondrous and often mystical world around her." [Source: WorldCat.org]

https://www.worldcat.org/title/mira-in-the-present-tense/oclc/829989719&referer=brief_results

Keywords: diaries, grief, coming-of-age

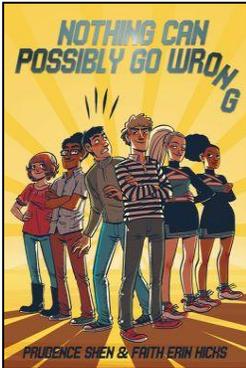


***My Basmati Bat Mitzvah* by Paula J. Freedman**

“Tara Feinstein, proud of both her East Indian and Jewish heritage, questions what it means to have a bat mitzvah and deals with her own doubts about her faith.” [Source: WorldCat.org]

https://www.worldcat.org/title/my-basmati-bat-mitzvah/oclc/826293873&referer=brief_results

Keywords: realistic fiction, diversity, coming-of-age

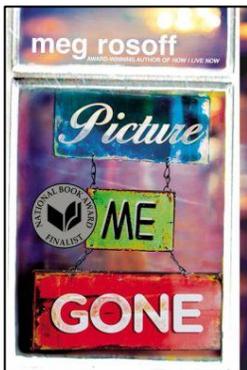


***Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong* by Prudence Shen**

“Charlie is the laid-back captain of the basketball team. Nate is the neurotic, scheming president of the robotics club. Their unlikely friendship nearly bites the dust when Nate declares war on the cheerleaders and they retaliate by making Charlie their figurehead... Bad sportsmanship? Sure. Chainsaws? Why not. Running away from home on Thanksgiving? Nothing can possibly go wrong.” [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/nothing-can-possibly-go-wrong/oclc/810122869&referer=brief_results

Keywords: realistic fiction, boy appeal, humor

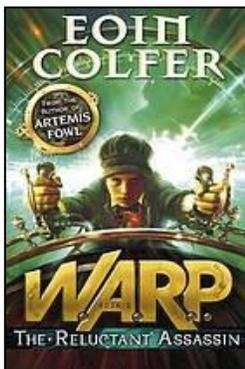


***Picture Me Gone* by Meg Rosoff**

“Twelve-year-old Mila travels with her father to upstate New York to visit friends and family, who may lead them to clues to the whereabouts of her father's best friend, who has gone missing” [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/picture-me-gone/oclc/823504056&referer=brief_results

Keywords: realistic fiction, mystery, coming-of-age

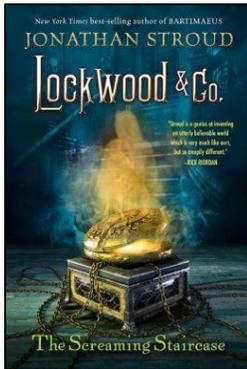


***The Reluctant Assassin* by Eoin Colfer**

“In Victorian London, Albert Garrick, an assassin-for-hire, and his reluctant young apprentice, Riley, are transported via wormhole to modern London, where Riley teams up with a young FBI agent to stop Garrick from returning to his own time and using his newly acquired scientific knowledge and power to change the world forever.” [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/reluctant-assassin/oclc/811006471&referer=brief_results

Keywords: time travel, assassins, science fiction

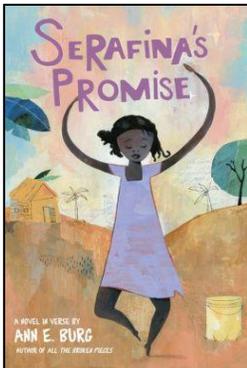


***The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud**

"[This story] follows three young operatives of a Psychic Detection Agency as they battle an epidemic of ghosts in London." [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/screaming-staircase/oclc/851442555&referer=brief_results

Keywords: paranormal, mystery, adventure



***Serafina's Promise* by Ann E Burg**

"In a poor village outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Serafina works hard to help her family, but dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor--then the earthquake hits and Serafina must summon all her courage to find her father and still get medicine for her sick baby brother as she promised."

[Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/serafinas-promise-a-novel-in-verse/oclc/818466388&referer=brief_results

Keywords: novel-in-verse, realistic fiction, recent historical fiction

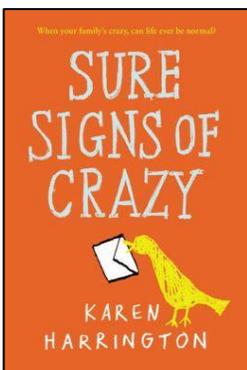


***Steelheart* by Brandon Sanderson**

"At age eight, David watched as his father was killed by an Epic, a human with superhuman powers, and now, ten years later, he joins the Reckoners--the only people who are trying to kill the Epics and end their tyranny." [Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/steelheart/oclc/822028608&referer=brief_results

Keywords: science fiction, superheroes, adventure

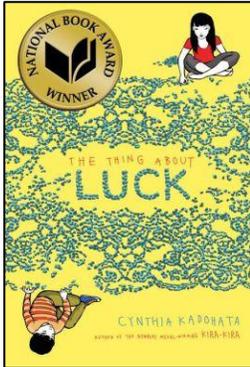


***Sure Signs of Crazy* by Karen Harrington**

"Twelve-year-old Sarah writes letters to her hero, *To Kill a Mockingbird's* Atticus Finch, for help understanding her mentally ill mother, her first real crush, and life in her small Texas town, all in the course of one momentous summer." [Source: WorldCat.org]

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/811337373>

Keywords: coming-of-age, mental illness, dysfunctional families

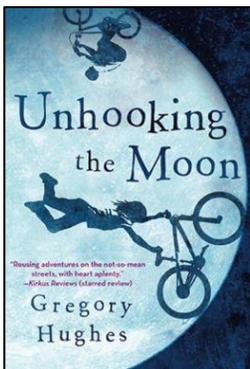


***The Thing About Luck* by Cynthia Kadohata**

"Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers." [Source: WorldCat.org]

<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/798437800>

Keywords: realistic fiction, diversity, farm life



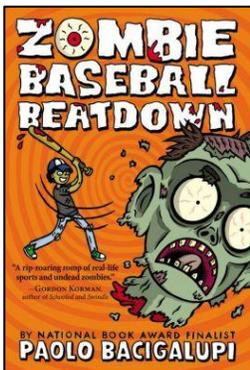
***Unhooking the Moon* by Gregory Hughes**

"Marie Claire, aka the Rat, is a dancing, soccer-playing, fearless ten-year-old, often protected by her brother Bob. When their father dies, the two leave home in Winnipeg, Canada and head for New York determined to find their uncle in America and discover a new life for themselves."

[Source: WorldCat.org]

http://www.worldcat.org/title/unhooking-the-moon/oclc/826076729&referer=brief_results

Keywords: adventure, family, mental illness



***Zombie Baseball Beatdown* by Paolo Bacigalupi**

"While practicing for their next baseball game, thirteen-year-old friends Rabi, Miguel, and Joe discover that the nefarious activities of the Delbe, Iowa, meatpacking plant have caused cows to turn into zombies."

[Source: WorldCat.org]

https://www.worldcat.org/title/zombie-baseball-beatdown/oclc/816317594&referer=brief_results

Keywords: diversity, horror humor, boy appeal



Compiled for your convenience by the 2015 Garden State Teen Book Award Committee

For more information on the Garden State Teen Book Awards visit:

<http://njlamembers.org/yasection>