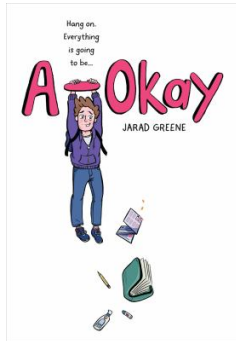


29th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 6-8 Fiction Nominees Annotations



*Annotations and images from title entries on https://mac.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/metuchen/?.



Title: A-Okay

Author: Jarad Greene

ISBN: 9780063032859

Summary: "When Jay starts eighth grade with a few pimples he doesn't think much of it...But when his acne goes from bad to worse, Jay's prescribed a powerful medication that comes with some serious side effects...Meanwhile, school isn't going exactly as planned. All of Jay's friends are in different classes; he has no one to sit with at lunch; his best friend, Brace, is avoiding him."

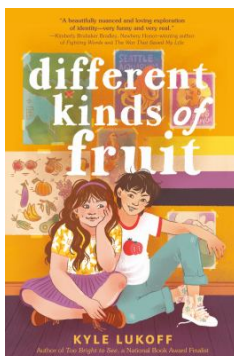


Title: Barakah Beats

Author: Maleeha Siddiqui

ISBN: 9781338702064

Summary: "Nimra Sharif has spent her whole life in Islamic school, but now it's time to go to "real school." Unfortunately...The teachers are mean, the schedule is confusing, and Jenna starts giving hijab-wearing Nimra the cold shoulder around the other kids. Desperate to fit in...Nimra accepts an unlikely invitation to join the school's popular 8th grade boy band, Barakah Beats. The only problem is...she knows her parents would be disappointed if they found out. So she devises a simple plan"



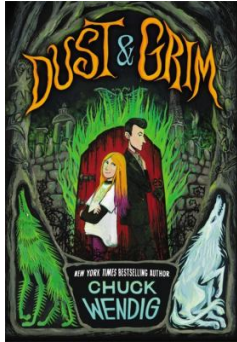
Title: Different Kinds of Fruit

Author: Kyle Lukoff

ISBN: 9780593111185

Summary: "When Annabelle learns that her father shares something big--and surprising--in common with her new nonbinary friend, she begins to see herself, and her family, in a whole new light."

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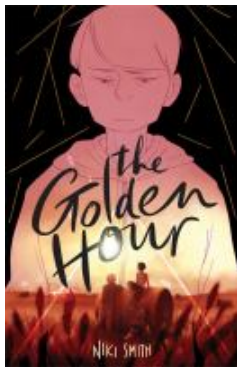


Title: Dust & Grim

Author: Chuck Wendig

ISBN: 9780316706230

Summary: "Soon after meeting her eighteen-year-old brother, Dustin, for the first time, thirteen-year-old Molly learns their shared inheritance, a mortuary business, serves monsters."



Title: The Golden Hour

Author: Niki Smith

ISBN: 9780316540339

Summary: "After witnessing a violent attack at school, Manuel struggles with anxiety but his cell phone camera helps him find anchors when he dissociates, and an unexpected friendship opens up new possibilities."



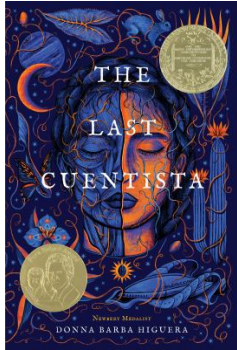
Title: Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone

Author: Tae Keller

ISBN: 9780593310526

Summary: "Mallory Moss knows the rules of middle school. The most important one? You have to fit in to survive. But then Jennifer Chan moves in across the street, and that rule doesn't seem to apply. Jennifer doesn't care about the laws of middle school...Then Jennifer goes missing. Using clues from Jennifer's journals, Mallory goes searching. But the closer she gets, the more Mallory has to confront why Jennifer might have run...and face the truth within herself."

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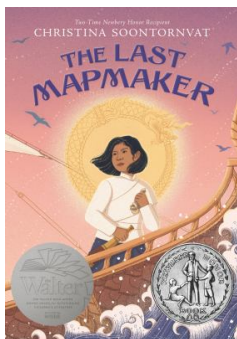


Title: The Last Cuentista

Author: Donna Barba Higuera

ISBN: 9781646140893

Summary: "Habaia una vez... There lived a girl named Petra Peäna, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children--among them Petra and her family--have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet--and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard--or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?"

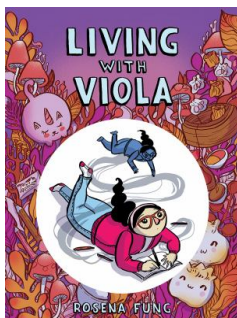


Title: The Last Mapmaker

Author: Christina Soontornvat

ISBN: 9781536204957

Summary: "Joining an expedition to chart the southern seas, twelve-year-old mapmaker's assistant Sai, posing as a well-bred young lady with a glittering future, realizes she's not the only one on board harboring secrets when she discovers the ship's true destination."



Title: Living with Viola

Author: Rosena Fung

ISBN: 9781773215488

Summary: "Heartbreakingly honest and quietly funny, this #ownvoices graphic novel from a debut creator is a refreshingly real exploration of mental health, cultural differences, and the trials of middle school. Livy is already having trouble fitting in as the new girl at school--and then there's Viola. Viola is Livy's anxiety

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brought to life, a shadowy twin that only Livy can see or hear. Livy tries to push back against Viola's relentless judgment, but nothing seems to work until she strikes up new friendships at school. Livy hopes that Viola's days are numbered. But when tensions arise both at home and at school, Viola rears her head stronger than ever. Only when Livy learns how to ask for help and face her anxiety does she finally figure out living with Viola. Rosena Fung draws on her own early experiences with anxiety and the pressures of growing up as the child of Chinese immigrant parents to craft a charming, deeply personal story that combines the poignancy of Raina Telgemeier's *Guts* with the wacky humor of *Lumberjanes*. Exuberant, colorful art brings Livy's rich imaginative world-filled with everything from sentient dumplings to flying unicorns-to life on the page"



Title: Manu!!: A Graphic Novel

Author: Kelly Fernández

ISBN: 9781338264197

Summary: "After a prank goes seriously wrong and she loses her powers, Manu uses a dangerous spell to restore them and learns that great power comes at a high price--one that she may not be able to pay."



Title: The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne

Author: Jonathan Stroud

ISBN: 9780593430361

Summary: "On the run from her latest bank robbery, Scarlett McCain comes to the rescue of Albert Browne, the sole survivor of a horrific accident, and soon learns he may be the most dangerous threat of all."

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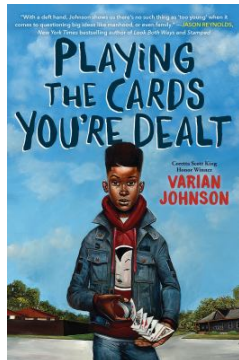


Title: The Patron Thief of Bread

Author: Lindsay Eagar

ISBN: 9781536204681

Summary: "Fished from the river as an infant and raised by a roving band of street urchins who call themselves the Crowns, eight-year-old Duck keeps her head down and her mouth shut. It's a rollicking life, always thieving, always on the run -- until the ragtag Crowns infiltrate an abandoned cathedral in the city of Odierne and decide to set down roots. It's all part of the bold new plan hatched by the Crowns' fearless leader, Gnat: one of their very own will pose as an apprentice to the local baker, relieving Master Griselde of bread and coin to fill the bellies and line the pockets of all the Crowns. But no sooner is Duck apprenticed to the kindly Griselde than Duck's allegiances start to blur. Who is she really -- a Crown or an apprentice baker? And who does she want to be? Meanwhile, high above the streets of Odierne, on the roof of the unfinished cathedral, an old and ugly gargoyle grows weary of waiting to fulfill his own destiny -- to watch and protect. Told in alternating viewpoints, this exquisite novel evokes a timeless tale of love, self-discovery, and what it means to be rescued."



Title: Playing the Cards You're Dealt

Author: Varian Johnson

ISBN: 9781338348538

Summary: "Hoping to measure up to his father's expectations at the card table, ten-year-old Anthony Joplin keeps his strategy a secret until he discovers his father has been hiding one that could tear their family apart."

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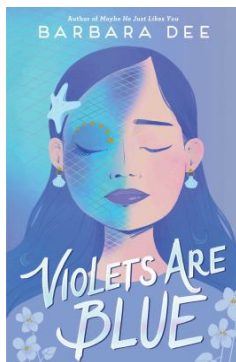


Title: This Is Our Rainbow: 16 Stories of Her, Him, Them, and Us

Author: Katherine Locke & Nicole Melleby

ISBN: 9780593303948

Summary: "Featuring contributions from Eric Bell, Katherine Locke and A.J. Sass, this first LGBTQA+ anthology for middle-grade readers presents stories of queer fantasy, historical and contemporary stories for every letter of the acronym."



Title: Violets Are Blue

Author: Barbara Dee

ISBN: 9781534469181

Summary: "Twelve-year-old Wren, who is learning special effects makeup, is thrilled to be makeup artist for her new school's production of Wicked, but her parents' divorce is seriously affecting her mother."