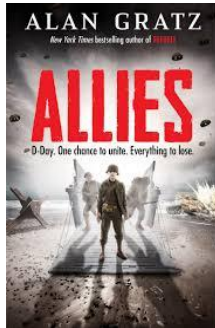


## 27th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 6-8 Fiction Nominee Annotations



\*Annotations and images from title entries on [https://lmac.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/metuchen/?](https://lmac.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/metuchen/?) .



**Title:** Allies

**Author:** Gratz, Alan, 1972-

**ISBN:** 9781338245721

**Summary:** It is June 6, 1944, D-Day, and Dee Carpenter (true name Dietrich Zimmermann), an underage private in the United States Army, is headed for Omaha Beach, seeking revenge for his uncle, who was arrested by Nazis when Dee was a little boy; meanwhile, Samira Zidano, an eleven-year old French-Algerian girl is looking for the French resistance, desperate to deliver the message that the invasion is about to begin, and get their help in freeing her mother--this is the most important day of the twentieth century, and both children want to fight, and survive.



**Title:** Broken Strings

**Author:** Walters, Eric, 1957-

Kacer, Kathy, 1954-

**ISBN:** 9780735266261

**Summary:** In 2002, Shirli Berman loses her beloved grandmother and lands a part in her junior high production of "Fiddler on the Roof," but when she is doing research in her attic and finds a violin, her Zayde gets incredibly angry.



**Title:** The Crossover (graphic nove)

**Author:** Alexander, Kwame.

Anyabwile, Dawud, 1965-

**ISBN:** 9781328960016

**Summary:** Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

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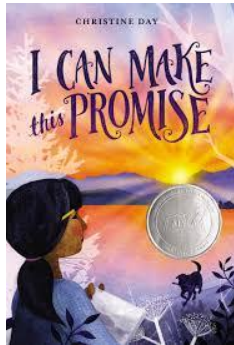


**Title:** Dear Sweet Pea

**Author:** Murphy, Julie, 1985-

**ISBN:** 9780062473073

**Summary:** "Thirteen-year-old Patricia, widely known as Sweet Pea, navigates her parents' unconventional divorce and finds herself in the unlikely role of her town's advice columnist"-- Provided by publisher.

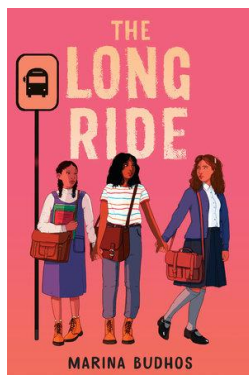


**Title:** I Can Make This Promise

**Author:** Day, Christine, 1993-

**ISBN:** 9780062871992

**Summary:** "When twelve-year-old Edie finds letters and photographs in her attic that change everything she thought she knew about her Native American mother's adoption, she realizes she has a lot to learn about her family's history and her own identity"-- Provided by publisher.



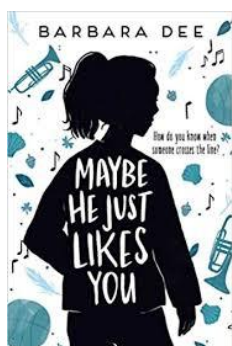
**Title:** The Long Ride

**Author:** Budhos, Marina Tamar,

**ISBN:** 9780553534221

**Summary:** In New York in 1971, Jamila and Josie are bused across Queens where they try to fit in at a new, integrated junior high school while their best friend, Francesca, tests the limits at a private school.

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**Title:** Maybe He Just Likes You

**Author:** Dee, Barbara,

**ISBN:** 9781534432376

**Summary:** When boys in her class start touching seventh-grader Mila and making her feel uncomfortable, she does not want to tell her friends or mother until she reaches her breaking point.



**Title:** My Jasper June

**Author:** Snyder, Laurel,

**ISBN:** 9780062836625

**Summary:** The school year is over, and it is summer in Atlanta. The sky is blue, the sun is blazing, and the days brim with possibility. But Leah feels lost. She has been this way since one terrible afternoon a year ago when everything changed. Since that day, her parents have become distant, her friends have fallen away, and Leah's been adrift and alone. Then she meets Jasper, a girl unlike anyone she has ever known. There's something mysterious about Jasper, almost magical. And Jasper, Leah discovers, is also lost. Together, the two girls carve out a place for themselves, a hideaway in the overgrown spaces of Atlanta, away from their parents and their hardships, somewhere only they can find. But as the days of this magical June start to draw to a close, and the darker realities of their lives intrude once more, Leah and Jasper have to decide how real their friendship is, and whether it can be enough to save them both.-- Publisher's description.



**Title:** Changeling

**Author:** Ritter, William, 1984-

**ISBN:** 9781616208394

**Summary:** Twelve-year-olds Tinn and Cole, raised as human twins in sleepy Endsborough, risk their lives in the Wild Wood, Oddmire Swamp, and the Deep Dark to learn which is a goblin changeling with an important mission.

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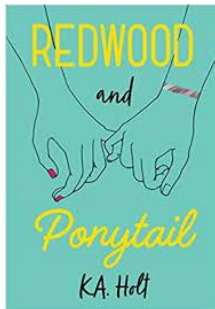
**Title:** The Okay Witch

**Author:** Steinkellner, Emma,

**ISBN:** 9781534431461

**Summary:** "Thirteen-year-old Moth Hush loves all things witchy. But she's about to discover that witches aren't just the stuff of movies, books, and spooky stories. When some eighth-grade bullies try to ruin her Halloween, something really strange happens.

It turns out that Founder's Bluff, Massachusetts, has a centuries-old history of witch drama. And, surprise: Moth's family is at the center of it all! When Moth's new powers show up, things get totally out-of-control. She meets a talking cat, falls into an enchanted diary, and unlocks a hidden witch world. Secrets surface from generations past as Moth unravels the complicated legacy at the heart of her town, her family, and herself."--Provided by publisher.



**Title:** Redwood and Ponytail

**Author:** Holt, K. A.,

**ISBN:** 9781452172880

**Summary:** Told in verse in two voices, with a chorus of fellow students, this is a story of two girls, opposites in many ways, who are drawn to each other; Kate appears to be a stereotypical cheerleader with a sleek ponytail and a perfectly polished persona, Tam is a tall, athletic and frequently mistaken for a boy, but their deepening friendship inevitably changes and reveals them in ways they did not anticipate.



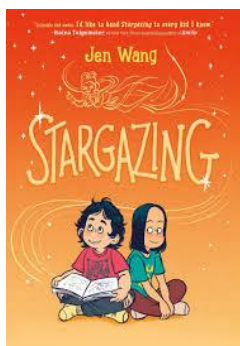
**Title:** Some Places More Than Others

**Author:** Watson, Renée,  
Strickland, Shadra,

**ISBN:** 9781681191089

**Summary:** Amara visits her father's family in Harlem for her twelfth birthday, hoping to better understand her family and herself, but New York City is not what she expected.

## 27th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 6-8 Fiction Nominee Annotations



**Title:** Stargazing

**Author:** Wang, Jen, 1984-

**ISBN:** 9781250183873

**Summary:** Growing up in the same Chinese-American suburb, perfectionist Christine and artistic, confident, impulsive Moon become unlikely best friends, whose friendship is tested by jealousy, social expectations, and illness.



**Title:** Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

**Author:** Mbalia, Kwame,

**ISBN:** 9781368039932

**Summary:** Seventh-grader Tristan Strong tumbles into the MidPass and, with allies John Henry and Brer Rabbit, must entice the god Anansi to come out of hiding and seal the hole Tristan accidentally ripped in the sky.



**Title:** White Bird :

**Author:** Palacio, R. J.,

Czap, Kevin,

**ISBN:** 9780525645535

9780525645542

**Summary:** Tells the story of Julian's Grandmère's childhood as she, a Jewish girl, was hidden by a family in a Nazi-occupied French village during World War II and how the boy she once shunned became her savior and best friend.