



Grades 7-8 IMAGINE YOUR STORY

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Imagine Your Story

The Goose Girl by Shannon Hale

Ani, skilled in animal speech, feels more comfortable around animals than she does around people. When she's sent to marry a man she's never met, Ani knows she's in trouble. Now Ani must hide in plain sight while she works to discover her true power. | Josette Frank Award, Bank Street Award | Lexile: 870L

Seraphina by Rachel Hartman

When Seraphina looks around, it appears that humans and dragons can work in peace side by side, but she knows the truth. Below the surface there is tension and hostility. Seraphina will do whatever she must to hide her secret; she's half human, half dragon. | Morris Debut Award | Lexile: 760L

Far Far Away by Tom McNeal

Jeremy Johnson Johnson hears the voice of Jacob Grimm. Jacob does his best to watch over Jeremy, but then, Jeremy's friend Ginger appears to be bewitched. Nutmeg, ALA Notable | Lexile: 790L

Beasts Made of Night

by Tochi Onyebuchi

Taj is a sin-eater. He absorbs sin-beasts that spawn from feelings of guilt. When Taj eats a sin, he's left with not only a physical reminder, but a mental one as well. When Taj is called to eat the sin-beast of a member of the royal family, he discovers a dark conspiracy. | CSLP | Lexile: HL750L

The Grimm Legacy by Polly Shulman

Elizabeth's new job is at a strange and unusual library. Instead of books, the library houses magical objects from Brother's Grimm fairy tales. Nutmeg | Lexile: HL600L

The Epic Crush of Genie Lo

by F. C. Yee

When Genie Lo's hometown is attacked by Hellspawn from Chinese folklore, SAT prep takes a backseat. The fate of the Bay Area now rests in her hands and she must tap into the secret of a power she never knew she possessed. | Lexile: 720L

Retellings

Mechanica by Betsy Cornwell

A mechanic finds, and falls in love with her prince, and they both live happily ever after. But what is she to do when she realizes she doesn't want a traditional happily ever after? Amelia Bloomer Award | Lexile: 920L

Sea Witch by Sarah Henning

Alone and guilty in her small fishing town, Evie has been mourning the death of her best friend Anna. When a girl who looks a lot like Anna appears on the shore, Evie will do whatever she can to keep her new friend on two legs. | Lexile: 790L

A Curse So Dark and Lonely

by Brigid Kemmerer

Prince Rhen is cursed to repeat his eighteenth autumn over and over again waiting for a girl who can save him only by falling in love with him. | Lexile: HL580L

Heartless by Marissa Meyer

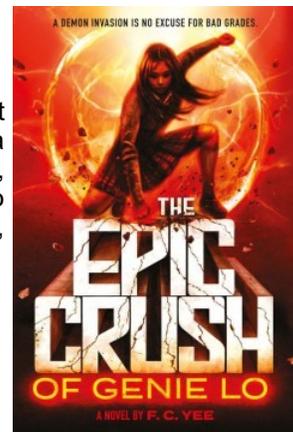
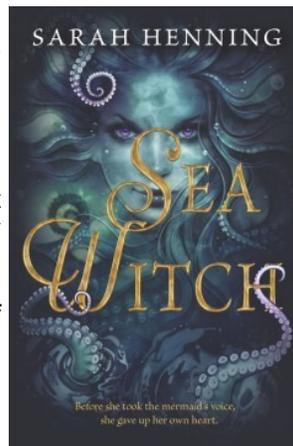
All Catherine wants to do is open a bakeshop with her best friend, but Cath's mother wants her to marry the King of Hearts. When Cath meets a mysterious Jester, she feels love for the first time, but doesn't get a happily ever after. Instead, she becomes the terror of Wonderland. | Lexile: 780L

Frogkisser! by Garth Nix

Princess Anya is not only forced to live with her evil stepfather, but she has this unfortunate ability to break curses with the proper kiss. Anya sets off on a quest with a unique band of travelers to understand her abilities. | ALA, ILA | Lexile: 840L

Sherwood by Meagan Spooner

Robin of Locksley is dead, but the people of Locksley still need a protector. Marian never intended to step into Robin's shoes, but it's time for her to become her own hero.





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Fiction

Hurricane Child by Kheryn Callender

Caroline's life is full of bad luck. She's bullied, sees things, and her mother left one day and didn't return. However, Caroline's luck begins to change when a new student named Kalinda arrives. | ALA
Lexile: 1010L

The Not So Boring Letters of Private Nobody by Matthew Landis

When top student Oliver is assigned to work with slacker girl Ella, he thinks he's doomed to fail his assignment on a random soldier, Private Raymond Stone from the Civil War. Ella is different from what he expected, and so is Private Stone. There's a mystery buried in Private Stone's past. | ILA
Lexile: HL580L

Batman: Nightwalker by Marie Lu

After a run-in with police, Bruce Wayne is forced to do community service at Arkham Asylum where he meets a brilliant girl, Madeline, and must play her game of intrigue and deception to locate the Nightwalkers who still roam free terrorizing Gotham City. Lexile: 800L

Resistance by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Chaya Lindner is Jewish in Nazi-occupied Poland, and hiding in plain sight. Determined to make a Difference, she smuggles food, papers, and people while working as a courier. When Chaya receives chilling news, she embarks on her largest mission yet. | Lexile: 820L

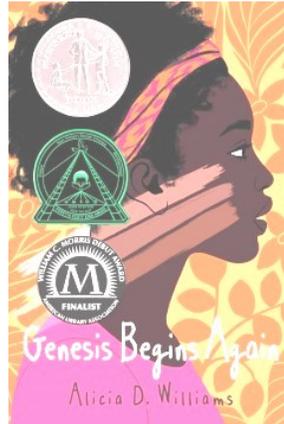
Apple in the Middle by Dawn Quigley

Apple Starkington turned her back on her Native heritage the instant she was called an ethnic slur. When her white father turns his back on her, Apple agrees to visit the home of her deceased, Native mother. As Apple makes an array of mistakes throughout the summer of her visit, she learns about her heritage and herself. | AILA | Lexile: 760L

Genesis Begins Again

by Alicia Williams

Genesis must overcome internalized racism that stems from hearing verbally abusive comments from people, even her own family, about her dark brown skin. She is so blinded by her insecurities that despite encouragement from her choir teacher and new friends, she can't imagine joining the talent show and performing in front of so many people. ALA, The Kirkus Prize
Lexile: 670L



Graphic Novels

Wonder Woman: Warbringer

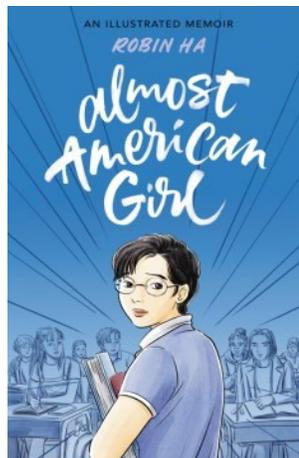
by Leigh Bardugo

Wanting only to prove herself to her warrior sisters, Diana may have ruined her chances when she breaks Amazon law to save a mortal. Lexile: 750L

Almost American Girl

by Robin Ha

When what should have been a vacation for Robin and her mom turns into a permanent relocation from Seoul, Korea to Alabama, Robin struggles to learn the language and keep up. Lexile: 925L-1185L



Cheshire Crossing by Andy Weir

After returning from Wonderland, Neverland, and Oz, our three heroines, who meet at a boarding school for girls, must learn to harness their magical powers that can take them from universe to universe. | Lexile: 1095L-1410L

Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: *American Library Association (ALA)*, *Children's Literature & Reading and Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG)*, *Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)*, *American Indian Library Association (AILA)*, *International Literacy Association (ILA)*, *National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)*, *National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)*, *National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)*, *National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)*, *American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*, *United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY)*. Other awards as noted.



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Nonfiction

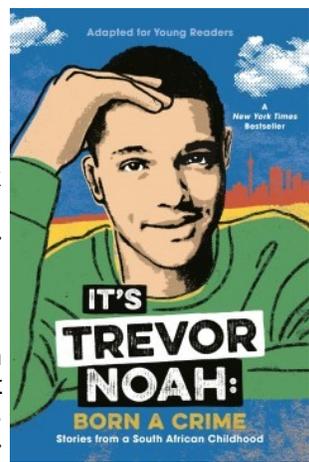
#NotYourPrincess by Lisa Charleyboy
Readers of this gripping novel will encounter a collection of poems, essays, interviews, and more by women from Native American communities that share their experiences of humiliation, stereotyping, and strength. | ALA | Lexile: 910L

The Book of Blood: From Legends and Leeches to Vampires and Veins by H. P. Newquist
Take a deep dive into the world of blood. Learn of vampires, plagues, ancient history, and modern science. | NSTA | Lexile: 850L-1155L

The Great Nijinsky: God of Dance by Lynn Curlee
Dancer Vastav Nijinsky took the dance world by storm while remaining unencumbered by gender norms before beginning to battle mental illness. ALA | Lexile: 1095L-1295L

It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime; Stories from a South African Childhood; Young Readers Edition by Trevor Noah

Bravo! Poems About Amazing Hispanics by Margarita Engle
The astounding people featured in this book hail from different countries and backgrounds, and these poems celebrate all of their accomplishments. | Lexile: NC1150L



Noah discusses growing up as a mixed-race child in South Africa during a time when his existence was illegal. His memoir mixes drama, comedy, and tragedy to explain the day-to-day challenges he surmounted, creating a promising future for himself. | Lexile: 780L

Hey, Kiddo by Jarrett Krosoczka
Jarrett chronicles his life with a mom who's an addict, and a father who's name he doesn't know. Jarrett goes through life expressing his thoughts and feeling through art. | ALA Notable | Lexile: HL510L

For Every One by Jason Reynolds
Reynolds presents us with a book of letters, poems, and dreams for everyone. While some of Reynold's dreams have been realized, others are still on the horizon. | NCSS | Lexile: 980L

Very, Very, Very Dreadful: The Influenza Pandemic of 1918 by Albert Marrin
In 1918 during World War I, a highly contagious and deadly pandemic tore through the world. NSTA, NCSS | Lexile: 1040L

Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time by Tanya Lee Stone
Inspired by the documentary, Girl Rising, this book profiles nin gilrs and the barriers to their education. Lexile:1050L

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek by Maya Van Wagenen
Van Wagenen recounts the eighth grade when she followed a 1950s popularity guide. | ALA | Lexile: 730L

Book Series

- An Ember in the Ashes** by Sabaa Tahir
- Divergent** by Veronica Roth
- Insignia** by S.J. Kincaid
- Legend** by Marie Lu
- Ranger's Apprentice** by John Flanagan

- Red Queen** by Victoria Aveyard
- Shiver** by Maggie Stiefvater
- The Lunar Chronicles** by Marissa Meyer
- The Princess Diaries** by Meg Cabot
- Uglies** by Scott Westerfeld

Nutmeg Award Nominees

Find the Nutmeg lists at <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.



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Classics and Popular Titles

City of Orphans by Avi

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a newsboy, teams up with Willa, a homeless girl, to clear his older sister, Emma, from charges that she stole from the brand new Waldorf Hotel, where she works. Includes historical notes. Lexile: 570L

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the American south, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. | Lexile: 980L

Standing Against the Wind by Traci L. Jones

As she tries to escape her poor Chicago neighborhood by winning a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school, shy and studious eighth-grader Patrice discovers that she has more options in life than she previously realized. | Lexile: 780L

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community, and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. | Lexile: 760L

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

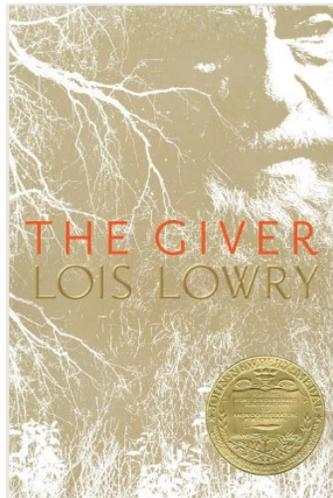
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given to him by his mother, while learning to survive his parents' divorce. Lexile: 1020L

The River Between Us by Richard Peck

During the early days of the Civil War, two mysterious young ladies who have fled New Orleans to St. Louis by steamboat, are taken in by the Pruitt family during a lengthy stopover in Illinois. | Lexile: 740L

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. | Lexile: 590L



Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind by Suzanne Fisher Staples

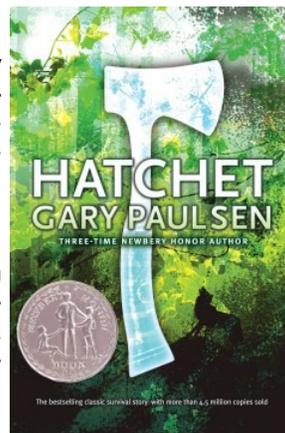
When young Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes. | Lexile: 970L

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

A black family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination, which their children don't understand. Lexile: 920L

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. | Lexile: 1000L



Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones

In a land that is considered to be a misfortune, Sophie, the eldest of three sisters, is resigned to her fate as a hat shop apprentice until a witch turns her into an old woman and she finds herself in the castle of the greatly feared wizard Howl. | Lexile: 800L

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

This historical novel narrated by the male voice, Death, tells the story of Liesel, a young German girl coming of age in Nazi Germany during World War II, and her foster family. | Lexile: 730L