



# Tails and Tales

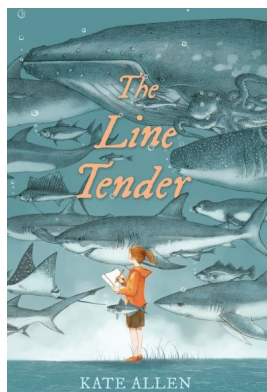
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## Tails and Tales

### **The Line Tender** by Kate Allen

When a dead great white shark is brought to the dock of their small Cape Cod town, Lucy, 12, and her best friend, Fred, are inspired to find out more about the work of Lucy's late mom, a shark researcher who died five years before. Although, Lucy is more interested in drawing the natural world than studying it, she becomes mildly intrigued by her mom's final research proposal to tag and track sharks.

Lexile: 710L



### **The Water Bears** by Kim Baker

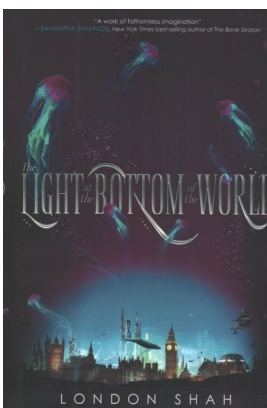
Newt Gomez has been obsessed with bears ever since he survived a bear attack. When he and his best friend Ethan find a bear statue with a wishbone attached, Ethan is convinced the wishbone grants wishes. Just as Newt gathers the courage to make his wish, everything changes. | Lexile: 650L



### **A Home for Goddesses and Dogs**

By Leslie Connor

It's a life-altering New Year for thirteen-year-old Lydia when she uproots to a Connecticut farm to live with her aunt. Aunt Brat and her jovial wife, Eileen, and their ancient live-in landlord, Elloroy, are welcoming and a little quirky. Lydia's struggle for a sense of belonging in her new family is highlighted when the women adopt a big yellow dog just days after the girl's arrival. Lexile: HL570L



### **Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen

Roy has just moved to Coconut Cove in South Florida. Soon after arriving, Roy teams up with teenage runaways Mullet Fingers and his sister Beatrice to save a nesting ground for burrowing owls, which is a proposed location for Mother Paula's All American Pancake House.

Lexile: 760L

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### **The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**

By Jacqueline Kelly

Calpurnia Virginia Tate is eleven years old in 1899 when she wonders why the yellow grasshoppers in her Texas backyard are so much bigger than the green ones. As Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century. | Lexile: 830L

### **Notes From the Dog** by Gary Paulsen

Finn is a loner who lives with his dad and his dog Dylan, hoping to find a job where he doesn't have to talk to anyone. When twenty-five year old Johanna moves in next door, she's cool, and treats Finn as an equal. When Johanna hires Finn to create a garden, he's not great at it, but he discovers a talent for connecting with people. | Lexile: 760L

### **The Light at the Bottom of the World**

by London Shah

In a time when sea creatures swim through the ruins of London, Leyla McQueen is chosen to participate in the city's prestigious annual marathon. The winner will be granted whatever their heart desires. Leyla hopes to save her father who has been arrested on false charges. | Lexile: 670L

### **Pax, Journey Home** by Sara Pennypacker

In this sequel to **Pax**, it's been a year since Peter and his pet fox, Pax, have seen each other. Once inseparable, they now lead very different lives. Pax and his mate, Bristle, have welcomed a litter of kits they must protect in a dangerous world. When one of Pax's kits falls desperately ill, he turns to the one human he knows he can trust.



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## Fiction

### **Raybearer** by Jordan Ifueko

Tarisai has always longed for the warmth of a family, because she was raised in isolation by an often absent mother known as The Lady. The Lady sends Tarisai to the capital of the global empire of Aritsar to compete with other children to be chosen as one of the Crown Prince's Council of 11. But The Lady has other ideas, including a magical wish that Tarisai is compelled to obey. Is Tarisai strong enough to choose a different path for herself?

### **Sanctuary**

by Paola Mendoza & Abby Sher

It's 2032, and in this near-future America, all citizens are chipped and everyone is tracked. It's almost impossible to survive as an undocumented immigrant, but that's exactly what sixteen-year-old Vali is doing. When Vali's mother's counterfeit chip starts malfunctioning and the Deportation Forces raid their town, they are forced to flee. When Vali's mother is detained, Vali must carry on with her younger brother across the country to make it to safety before it's too late.

### **Black Brother, Black Brother**

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Dante is one of the few African American kids in his school and sometimes wishes he were invisible. With a skin tone darker than his lighter-skinned brother Trey, Dante is bullied. Dante begins to find a place to belong at the local youth center when he meets a former Olympic fencer, and begins training as a competitive fencer. Dante then starts on an empowering path to finding his voice.



## Nonfiction

### **One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters Are Treated Equally**

by Carol Anderson

After the election of President Barack Obama, a rollback of voting rights occurred, punctuated by a 2013 Supreme Court decision that undid the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This allowed districts with a history of racial discrimination to change voting requirements without approval from the Department of Justice. This book follows the stunning aftermath of that ruling, and explains how voter suppression works, from photo ID requirements to gerrymandering to poll closures.

It also explores the resistance: the organizing, activism, and court battles to fully restore the basic right to vote to all Americans.

## Graphic Novels

### **Teen Titans: Beast Boy**

by Kami Garcia and Gabriel Pico

Gar Logan has spent his entire life being overlooked. He wants to know what it feels like to be one of the popular kids. When he accepts a wild dare, he finally impresses the popular kids. Then, almost overnight, he grows six inches, his voice drops and it looks like he's going to get everything he's ever wanted, but at what cost.



### **The Last Halloween, Vol. 1: Children**

by Abby Howard

In a grisly gothic adventure at the end of the world, ten-year-old Mona and her motley crew of good-hearted ghouls must stop an invading horde of monsters, or this will be The Last Halloween!

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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## Featured Authors



**Natasha Friend**

Natasha Friend's books have won such awards as the Milkweed Prize for Children's Literature, the Rhode Island Teen Book Award, the Isinglass Teen Read Award, and the Golden Sower Award; they have appeared on the Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers List, Junior Library Guild Selections, and the Rainbow List. Natasha lives in Connecticut with her family and two crazy dogs. When she isn't writing, she is reading, washing baseball pants, and wishing she was in a talent show.

**Book Titles:**  
**How We Roll**  
**Where You'll Find Me**  
**Perfect, Lush, and Bounce**



**Jake Burt**

Jake Burt loves writing so much that when he's not doing it, he's teaching it to students in Connecticut. He also teaches math, social studies and ecology, but writing is his favorite subject. In fact, if you thought of Jake as a one-dimensional guy who ate, breathed, and dreamed stories, he'd be fine with that.

**Book Titles:**  
**Greetings From Witness Protection**  
**The Right Hook of Devlin Velma**  
**The Tornado**  
**Cleo Porter and the Body Electric**



**Beth Vabrel**

Beth Vabrel wrote her first story just for herself—not because it was an assignment for school—when she was in fourth grade. She remembers her mom reading it and saying, "Some day, Beth, you're going to write a story and it's going to be published." Looking back, Beth can't help but wonder what would've happened if her mom had just said, "That's nice, Beth".

**Book Titles:**  
**The Newspaper Club**  
**The Humiliation of Papi McGee**



**Janae Marks**

In high school, Janae thought she wanted to pursue musical theater. She loved being on stage, but eventually realized that she cared more about the stories than the performances. While getting her undergraduate English degree, she switched her focus to creative writing, and never looked back.

**Book Titles:**  
**From the Desk of Zoe Washington**  
**A Soft Place to Land (September 14, 2021)**



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### Nutmeg Award Winners

#### What is the Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award?

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in Grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite book from a list of ten nominated titles. There are four divisions: Elementary (Grades 2-3); Intermediate (Grades 4-6); Middle School (Grades 7-8); and High School (Grades 9-12). Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL), the selection committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of the sponsoring organizations, as well as students. For more information visit <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.

#### Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling

#### The Benefits of Being an Octopus by Ann Braden

#### Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya

#### Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

#### Charlie Thorne and the Last Equation by Stuart Gibbs

#### Snapdragon by Kat Leyh

#### Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia

#### The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Pérez

#### Good Enough by Jen Petro-Roy

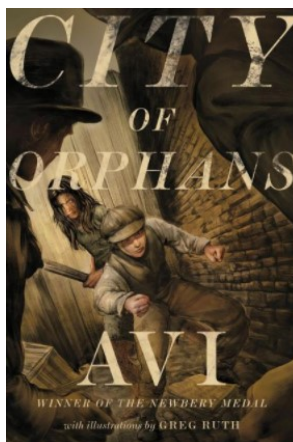
#### Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams

### Classics and Popular Titles

#### City of Orphans by Avi

In 1893 New York, thirteen-year-old Maks, a news-boy, 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



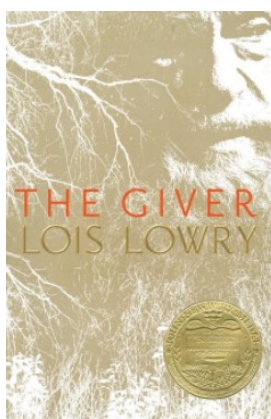
#### Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

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