

Grades 9-12 IMAGINE Your Story



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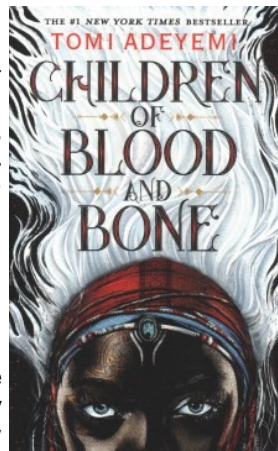
Imagine Your Story

Fiction

Children of Blood and Bone

by Tomi Adeyemi

Zélie has one chance to bring back magic, but in order to do so, she must implore the help of her brother and a seemingly useless princess. As they fight for the return of magic, a ruthless prince is only a step behind, and he'll do anything to keep magic at bay. ALA Notable, CSLP Lexile: HL670L



A Very Large Expanse of Sea

by Tahereh Mafi

In the year after 9/11, Shirin, a Muslim girl, is struggling. People are rude, they stare, and she's even experienced violence due to the hijab she wears and loves. Shirin keeps her guard up, until she meets Ocean. | Lexile: 1080L

Hearts Unbroken

by Cynthia Smith

Louise Wolfe is entering her senior year of high school, newly single after her boyfriend made disrespectful comments about Native people. When the high school musical director's inclusive cast list reaches the public, the community is not happy. Long held prejudices are brought to light in the mostly white middle-class, Kansan community. | AILA | Lexile: HL760L

The Girl From Everywhere

by Heidi Heilig

For the past sixteen years, Nix, her father, and their crew have used her father's ship, The Temptation, to travel through time and possibly make changes to the past. Nix wonders how making changes to the past, especially her mother's death in childbirth, could change her present. Lexile: 750L

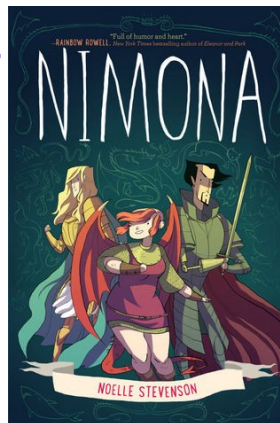
A Thousand Beginnings and Endings: 15 Retellings of Asian Myths and Legends

by Ellen Oh and Elise Chapman (Editors)
Readers will find stories of folklore, mythology, romance, fantasy, and tales of revenge written by fifteen East Asian and South Asian authors. NCSS | Lexile: 840L

A Quiet Kind of Thunder

by Sara Barnard

Steffi has selective mutism and doesn't speak. Rhys is deaf, but he seems to hear her. Steffi feels invisible, but Rhys sees her. As Steffi begins to gain more confidence, she has to confront questions about her identity and who she wants to be as a person. | NCSS | Lexile: HL680L



Sadie

by Courtney Summers

Told in the form of a serial like podcast, Sadie has had a rough life. Her mother left, and Sadie did her best to raise her younger sister, Mattie, in their trailer park. When Mattie is found dead, Sadie is convinced she knows the culprit, and she's going to track him down and make him pay. | Edger Allen Poe Awards | Lexile: HL750L

Nimona

by Noelle Stevenson

In this graphic novel, Nimona is a young shape shifter who has paired up with Lord Blackheart for villainy. Soon, however, Lord Blackheart learns that Nimona can't be controlled and her wild side might be more dangerous than he can handle. ALA, Nutmeg, CSLP | Lexile: GN350L

Monster

by Walter Dean Myers and Christopher Myers

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken. | National Book Award for Young People's Literature | ALA | Lexile: 670L



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Nonfiction

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People

by *Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz; Adapted by Debbie Reese and Jean Mendoza*

Author Dunbar-Ortiz, an Indigenous human rights activist, reveals the impact of colonialism and Indian genocide on the Native community. The text includes discussion topics, archival images, and original maps. | ALA Notable, NCSS Lexile: 1220L

How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child by *Sandra Uwiringiyimana*

This powerful memoir walks readers through the authors fight against genocide and journeying to American where she and her remaining family faced new challenges as immigrants. | NCSS | Lexile: HL790L

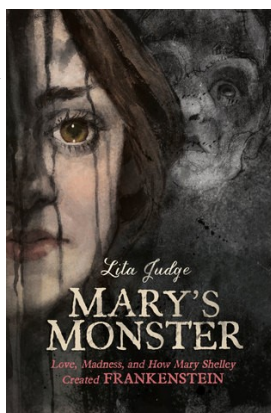
They Called Us Enemy

by George Takei

Takei takes readers on a journey through his experience in a relocation camp in 1942. Takei's graphic novel forces readers to question what it means to be an American, and who gets to decide. | ALA Notable | Lexile: GN680

Strangers Assume My Girlfriend Is My Nurse by *Shane Burcaw*

Shane Burcaw, author, blogger, and entrepreneur, shares a hilarious and at times, cringe-worthy essay collection about living his life with muscular dystrophy. | Lexile: 1080L

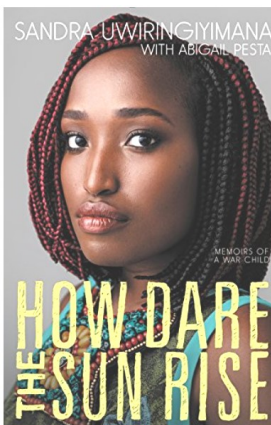


Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir by *Nikki Grimes*

At six years old, with no family to trust or depend upon, Nikki Grimes poured her pain onto paper and discovered writing. This memoir will resonate with teens and adults alike. | ALA Notable | Lexile: 840L

Mary's Monster: Love, Madness, and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein by *Lita Judge*

While some may know that Mary Shelley began to write the famous novel Frankenstein because of a dare, this biography uncovers the true grief and pain that was present in her life, which greatly influenced her writing. | NCSS | Lexile: 1335L-1385L



Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice (Young Adult Adaptation) by *Bryan Stevenson*

This autobiography tells the story of the author's fight to protect basic human rights for vulnerable people, and bring justice to those who have been wrongfully imprisoned. | NCSS | Lexile: 1040L

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood By *Marjane Satrapi*

Using black-and-white comic strip images in her memoir, Satrapi shares the story of her life in Tehran, Iran, where she lived from ages six to fourteen as the country came under control of the Islamic regime. | Lexile: 380L

Book Series

Daughter of Smoke and Bone by *Laini Taylor*

Divergent by *Veronica Roth*

Earthsea by *Ursula K. Le Guin*

The Darkest Minds by *Alexandra Bracken*

The Finishing School by *Gail Carriger*

The Folk of the Air by *Holly Black*

The Hunger Games by *Suzanne Collins*

The Maze Runner by *James Dashner*

The Mortal Instruments by *Cassandra Clare*

The Raven Cycle by *Maggie Stiefvater*

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by *Jenny Han*

Weetzie Bat by *Francesca Lia Block*



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Popular Titles

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. | Lexile: 690L

Feed by M. T. Anderson

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble. | Lexile: 770L

The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood

Set in the near future, Offred tells her story as one of the unfortunate Handmaids living under a new social order based on a monolithic theocracy. | Lexile: 750L

Love in the Time of Global Warming

by Francesca Lia Block

Penelope has lost her home, parents, and brother in an earthquake. She navigates a dark world, refusing to be defeated, holding hope and love in her hands. | Lexile: 850L

Kindred by Octavia Butler

A young African-American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time, leading to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past. Lexile: 580L

The House on Mango Street

by Sandra Cisneros

A Young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago, ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment, and evaluates her relationships with family and friends. Lexile: 870L

Midwinterblood

by Marcus Sedwick

Seven linked vignettes unfold on a remote Scandinavian island, inhabited through various time periods by Vikings, vampires, ghosts, and a curiously powerful plant. | Lexile: 770L

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

by Betty Smith

Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic nature and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 810L

Buried Onions by Gary Soto

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a neighborhood in Southeast Fresno, California. | Lexile: 850L

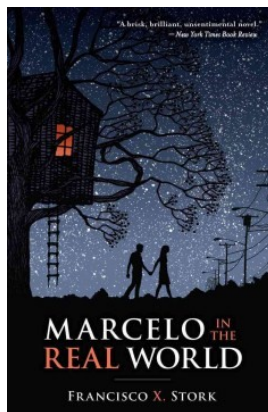
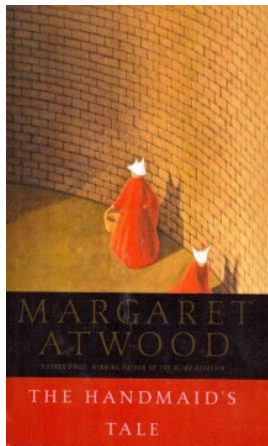
Marcelo in the Real World

by Francisco X. Stork

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy described by doctors as having an unidentified autism-like impairment, learns about romance and injustice when he goes to work in his father's corporate law firm in the mailroom. | Lexile: 700L

Copper Sun by Sharon M. Draper

Two fifteen-year-old girls, one a slave and the other an indentured servant, escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves. | Lexile: 820L



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.