

Realistic Fiction

For Older Readers



Things Seen from Above

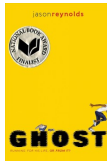
by Shelley Pearsall

A tale told from alternating viewpoints, April, a 6th grader who supervises 4th grade recess to avoid bullying, observes a student on the fringes making bird's-eye drawings in the playground dirt. **750 Lexile @**

* Ghost

by Jason Reynolds

Aspiring to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school's track team, gifted runner Ghost finds his goal challenged by a tragic past with a violent father. **730 Lexile @**



Towers Falling

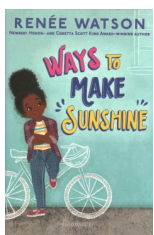
by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Three 5th-graders who were born after 9/11 work together on a project about how communities grow together, discovering how the attacks still affect their families and their neighborhood. **410 Lexile @**

Save Me a Seat

by Gita Varadarajan

Two boys, one white, one Indian-American, gain strength from each other from afar as they struggle to navigate middle school, family relationships and friendships. **780 Lexile @**



Ways to Make Sunshine

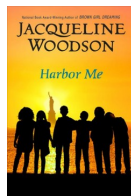
by Renée Watson

The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones. **Grades 4-8 @**

Harbor Me

by Jacqueline Woodson

When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk without adults, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. **630 Lexile @**



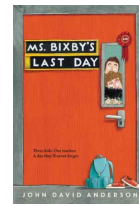
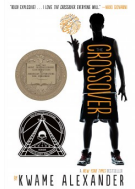
* Indicates part of a series

@ Electronic book or audiobook available

The Crossover

by Kwame Alexander

This novel in verse follows the experiences of twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan, who struggle with challenges on and off the court while their father ignores his declining health. **750 Lexile @**



Ms. Bixby's Last Day

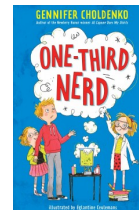
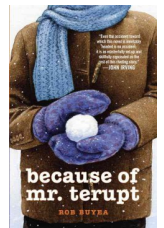
by John David Anderson

Three boys are dismayed when their beloved gifted teacher falls ill and has to resign. They share their stories while cutting class and journeying across town together on a fateful day. **800 Lexile @**

* Because of Mr. Terupt

by Rob Buyea

An energetic new teacher brings order and fun to a fifth-grade class where he also helps seven troubled students work through their challenges until an accident on a snowy day changes everything they believe. **560 Lexile @**



One-Third Nerd

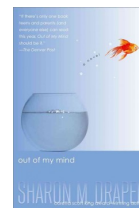
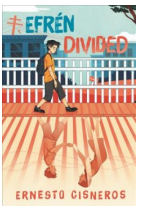
by Gennifer Choldenko

Fifth-grader Liam, his shy sister Dakota and his popular sister, Izzy, a girl with Down syndrome, put their minds together to figure out how to afford a trip to the veterinarian to save their faithful German shepherd. **540 Lexile @**

Efrén Divided

by Ernesto Cisneros

Worrying about his undocumented parents, who have worked hard to secure a safe life for their family, a young Mexican American struggles to find his inner courage when his beloved mother is arrested and deported. **710 Lexile @**



Out of My Mind

by Sharon M. Draper

Melody is mistaken as mentally challenged by those who cannot see beyond her cerebral palsy, impelling her to discover a way to communicate. **700 Lexile @**

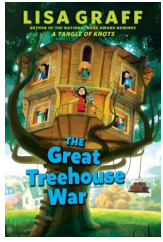


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The Great Treehouse War

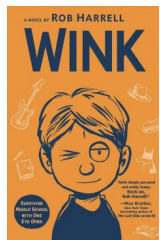
by Lisa Graff

A difficult custody arrangement in the aftermath of a divorce compels Winnie to barricade herself in a treehouse, where she is joined by friends who have grievances of their own. **890 Lexile @**

Ban This Book

by Alan Gratz

When her favorite book in the school library is banned, Amy Anne and her friends start a secret banned books locker library, trying to ban every book in the library to make a point. **690 Lexile @**



Wink

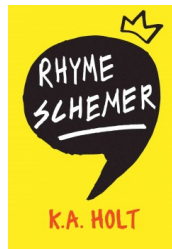
by Rob Harrell

Ross just wants to be a normal 7th grader. But with his diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table. Based on the author's experience, this novel is heartbreaking and hilarious, an uplifting story of survival and finding the magic and laughter in life's weirdness. **580 Lexile @**

Rhyme Schemer

by K. A Holt

A novel in verse about Kevin's journey from bully to being bullied reveals how he learns about friendship, family and his talent for poetry. **520 Lexile @**



Fish in a Tree

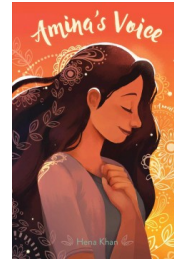
by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

While trying to hide her inability to read from her new teacher, Ally discovers that her dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of & gains new confidence as she finds alternative ways to learn. **550 Lexile @**

Hello Universe

by Erin Entrada Kelly

Two boys and two girls explore views about courage and being different in the wake of a prank that traps one of them at the bottom of a well and compels the others to embark on a search-and-rescue mission. **690 Lexile @**



Amina's Voice

by Hena Khan

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school in the wake of a community tragedy. **800 Lexile @**

* Ungifted

by Gordon Korman

Donovan is sent in error to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted students, after pulling a major prank at his middle school. **730 Lexile @**



From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

Receiving an unexpected letter on her 12th birthday from her incarcerated father, a young baker prepares for a cooking-show competition while scrambling to determine her father's innocence. **660 Lexile @**

Rain Reign

by Ann M. Martin

Rose, who has Asperger's, shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels. **720 Lexile @**



Everything Sad Is Untrue

by Daniel Nayeri

In a middle school classroom in Oklahoma, a boy named Khosrou tries to tell a story. His story. But no one believes a word he says. But his stories are beautiful, and terrifying, from his family fleeing Iran in the middle of the night from the secret police to the refugee camps of Italy, **800 Lexile @**

Wish

by Barbara O'Connor

Charlie Reese is sent to live with a family she barely knows, but with the help of a skinny stray dog who captures her heart and a neighbor boy named Howard, she learns what the real meaning of family may be. **850 Lexile @**

