

Realistic Fiction

For Older Readers



* 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** @

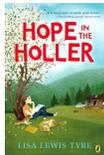


Counting by 7s

by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. **770 Lexile** @

Hope in the Holler

by Lisa Lewis Tyre
Sent to live with scheming relatives after the death of her mother, Wavie struggles to follow the list left by her mother in order to find a loving guardian. **660 Lexile**

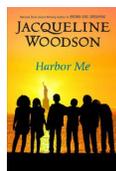


Save Me a Seat

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** @

Harbor Me

by Jacqueline Woodson
When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, 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** @



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* Indicates first in a series
@ Available as electronic book or audiobook

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
Loving their gifted teacher, three boys are dismayed when the 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** @



I, Emma Freke

by E. J. Atkinson
Growing up near Boston with her free-spirited mother and old-world grandfather, twelve-year-old Emma has always felt out of place but when she attends her father's family reunion in Wisconsin, she is in for some surprises. **750 Lexile** @



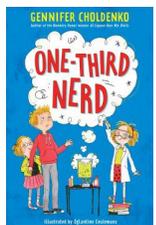
Close to Famous

by Joan Bauer
12 year-old Foster & her mom escape from her mom's abusive boyfriend and settle in a small town where they challenge themselves to build a new life. **540 Lexile** @



One-Third Nerd

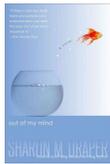
by Gennifer Choldenko
Fifth-grader Liam, his shy science-loving sister Dakota and his popular sister, Izzy, a girl with Down syndrome, put their minds together to figure out how to afford a trip to the veterinarian to save their faithful German shepherd. **540 Lexile** @



The Friendship War

by Andrew Clements
When Grace takes boxes of old buttons from a building her grandfather bought, she starts a fad at school that draws her closer to one friend, but further from another. **770 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 @**



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 @**

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 @**



* 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 @**



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 @**



* Alvin Ho : Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things

by Lenore Look
A second-grader Alvin Ho becomes a force to be reckoned with at home when he transforms himself into the loud, talented, and fearless Firecracker Man! **600 Lexile @**

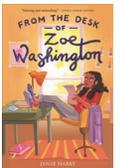
Rhyme Schemer

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 @**



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 @**



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 @**



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 @**

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 @**



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 @**

