



# Grades 5-6 Imagine Your Story

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## Imagine Your Story

### A Royal Guide to Monster Slaying by Kelley Armstrong

As the oldest child, twelve-year-old Rowan is destined to be Queen, while her twin brother, Rhydd, the Royal Monster Hunter. Rowan would give anything to switch places. | Lexile: HL610L

### The Storm Runner by J. C. Cervantes

Zane has always enjoyed exploring the dormant volcano near his home in New Mexico, even though hiking it is challenging. He'd much rather hang out there with his dog, Rosie, than go to middle school where kids make fun of him for his one good leg. What Zane doesn't know is that the volcano is a gateway to another world. | CSLP Lexile: 600L

### Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy tales, and True Tales by Virginia Hamilton

A collection of twenty-five African-American folktales focuses on strong female characters and includes "Little Girl and Bruh Rabbit," "Catskinella," and "Annie Christmas." | ALA, CSLP Lexile: 960L

### Dragon Pearl by Yoon Ha Lee

Thirteen-year-old Min, comes from a long line of fox spirits. To keep the family safe, Min's mother insists that none of them use any fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Lexile: 780L

### Public School Superhero by James Patterson

Inner city middle school student Kenny Wright imagines himself as a superhero. But when he faces peer pressure and bullying, can he find his strength in real life? CSLP | Lexile: 560L

## Fiction

### I Can Make This Promise by Christine Day

Edie has always been curious about her Native American heritage, but since her mother was adopted by a white couple, she assumed that history was lost to her. When Edie and her friends discovered a photo of a woman who looks just like her, Edie has a flurry of questions. | ALA, NCTE Lexile: HL610L



### Blended by Sharon Draper

One week, she's Isabella living with her dad, and one of the only black families in their neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy living with her mom and her mom's boyfriend in a small house that's cozy and beloved. As her parents' arguing escalates, Isabella feels pulled in two. | NCSS | Lexile:610L

### Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar

Carolina (Carol) will be spending her summer helping her parents move her grandfather into a home for people with dementia while her friends attend pool parties. As the summer carries on, Carol begins to see past her grandfathers gruff exterior and finds herself drawn to his seemingly crazy stories. As the end of the summer draws near, Carol must decide what it means to be true to your family history. ILA | Lexile: 670L

### The Last Last-Day-Of-Summer by Lamar Giles

Cousins Otto and Sheed are on the hunt to solve one last mystery before summer ends and the school bell rings. When a mysterious man who can freeze time appears, Otto and Sheed set their bickering aside and work together to save their small Virginian town before time stops for good. | Lexile: 740L



## Fiction

### For Black Girls Like Me

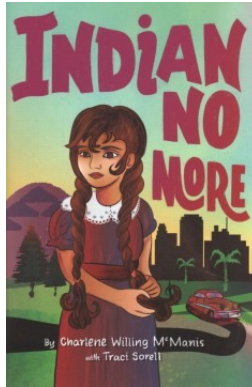
by Mariama J. Lockington

Makeda Kirkland is eleven year old, black, and adopted by white parents. While Makeda knows that her family loves her, she often feels left out and different. When Makeda's family moves, she is forced to leave her friend Lena, the only other black girl adopted by a white family that she knows. As Makeda tries to adjust to her new home and the changes in her family dynamic, she can't help but wonder what it would be like to grow up in a family where everyone looks like her. Lexile: HL500L

### Indian No More

by Charlene Willing McManis  
with Traci Sorell

Regina's family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles due to a federal law that says her Umpqua tribe no longer exists. She then goes on a quest to understand her identity. | ALA, CL/R SIG Lexile: 720L



### A Good Kind of Trouble

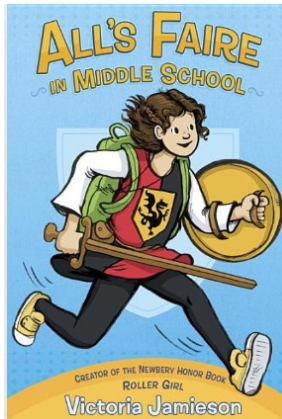
by Lisa Moore Ramee

Shayla does her best to stay out of trouble, but her best friends begin to change before her very eyes. Her stomach turns when people at school says she's not black enough, and as she finally begins to understand the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and wears an armband in support of the movement, trouble seems to be everywhere. | Lexile: 720L

### Ghost Boys

by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by police when they mistake his toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, Jerome meets another ghost, Emmett Till. Emmett helps Jerome by taking him on a journey towards an understanding of the historical racism that may have lead to his death. | ALA, NCTE, Walter Award, Jane Addams Award | Lexile: HL360L



# Imagine Your Story

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### A Blind Guide to Stinkville

by Beth Vrabel

When she lived in Seattle, Alice didn't think about her albinism or her visual impairment. However, when her family moves to Stinkville, or Stinkville as it's called, it's the first time she feels different. Her brother wants to move back to Seattle, her mother is sinking into a depression, and Alice's parents want to ship her away to school for the blind. Alice is determined to prove that her blindness is just a part of who she is, but not all of who she is. | ILA, CT Author Lexile: 670L

### Other Words for Home

by Jasmine Warga

As the unrest in Syria grows, Jude and her mother leave their home and journey to American to live with relatives. As she begins to learn English, making friends grows easier, but the ugliness of Islamophobia makes an appearance forcing Jude to question the strength she holds to face this new challenge. ALA, CL/R SIG, NCTE | Lexile: 930L

## Graphic Novels

### Brave by Svetlana Chmakova

In his daydreams, Jensen is a hero and the best in every way. In reality, he struggles. Jensen struggles with friends, class work, and he's always picked last. While Jensen only wants to live in his daydreams, real life is about to come crashing in.

Lexile: GN360

### All's Faire in Middle School

by Victoria Jamieson

Imogene (Impy) can't wait to begin training as a squire for the Renaissance Faire. To prove her bravery, she'll be going to a public school for the first time! | ALA Notable | Lexile: GN460

Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: 2 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

### **Martin & Anne, The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Anne Frank**

by Nancy Churnin

Martin Luther King and Anne Frank were born in the same year worlds apart. Both countered prejudice and hatred with love and faith. | ALA Notable, Children's Literature Assembly  
Lexile: 800L

foraged paths that will have impacted generations to come. Women portrayed in this book include Shirley Chisholm, Ellen DeGeneres, Carrie Fisher, Dolly Parton, Sojourner Truth, and many more. | NCSS | Lexile: 900L

### **Dreams from Many Rivers: A Hispanic History of the United States Told in Poems**

by Margarita Engle  
Various people from eighteenth century slaves to present day students depict their experiences as Latinos in the United States. | ILA | Lexile: NP

### **Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America**

by Gail Jarrow  
In March of 1900 San Francisco's China Town was struck by what came to be known as the Bubonic Plague. Doctor's were desperate to fight it and politicians were desperate to hide it. NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 1000L

### **Free Lunch**

by Rex Ogle  
This biography tells the story of a middle school student who wore secondhand clothes, didn't have the necessary school supplies, and was a recipient of his school's free lunch program. Rex lived with the shame of hunger, especially for that of his parents' love and care. | ALA | Lexile: HL540L

### **Limitless: 24 Remarkable American Women of Vision, Grit, and Guts**

by Leah Tinari  
Readers will learn about a list of female trailblazers who



### **Big Top Burning: The True Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and the Greatest Show on Earth**

by Laura Woollett

This nonfiction novel takes readers through the true story of the 1944 Hartford, Connecticut circus fire. As readers journey through this historical account of the circus fire, readers will wonder if it was an act of arson. | ILA, Eureka Children's Book Honor | Lexile: 810L-1000L

### **Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story**

by Sandra Neil Wallace

Readers will follow the journey of George Washington De Long and his crew on the USS *Jeannette* to the North Pole. When his ship became locked in ice, they drifted for nearly two years. | NCSS | Lexile: 1050L

### **Orphan Train: Taking the Rails to a New Life**

by Rebecca Langston-George  
Readers will be taken through the account of seven children and their lives and experience on an orphan train. NCSS | Lexile: 850L

## Book Series

- Dale & Mo Mysteries** by Sheila Turnage
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid** by Jeff Kinney
- Enchanted Forest Chronicles** by Patricia Wrede
- John Bellairs Mysteries** by John Bellairs
- Percy Jackson & the Olympians** by Rick Riordan
- Redwall** by Brian Jacques
- Shadow Children** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

- The Baby-Sitters Club** by Raina Telgemeier
- The Chronicles of Prydain** by Lloyd Alexander
- The Dark is Rising** by Susan Copper
- The Moffats** by Eleanor Estes
- The Unicorn Chronicles** by Bruce Coville
- Track Series** by Jason Reynolds

## Nutmeg Award Nominees

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



## Classics and Popular Titles

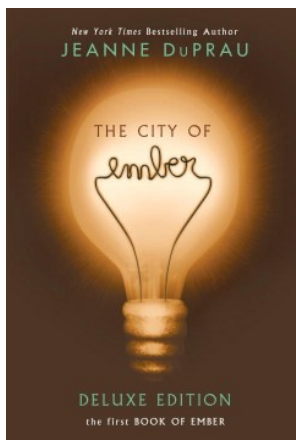
### **The Secret Garden**

by *Frances Hodgson Burnett*

A ten-year-old orphan comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers the mysteries of a locked walled garden. | Lexile: 970L

### **The City of Ember** by *Jeanne DuPrau*

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to and becomes a messenger, running to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. ALA | Lexile: 680L



lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics. | Lexile: 920L

### **Bridge to Terabithia**

by *Katherine Paterson*

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm. | Lexile: 810L

### **The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm**

by *Nancy Farmer*

In the year 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. | ALA | Lexile: 660L

### **Tom's Midnight Garden**

by *Philippa Pearce*

While staying with his aunt and uncle, Tom discovers a beautiful garden that is visible only at night where he meets a little girl from the Victorian era with whom he travels back in time. | Lexile: 860L

### **Harriet the Spy** by *Louise Fitzhugh*

Eleven-year-old Harriet, who is a spy and plans to be an author, keeps a secret notebook filled with thoughts and notes on her schoolmates and people she observes on her afterschool spy route. When some of her classmates read the notebook, they seek revenge. | Lexile: 760L

### **Ninth Ward** by *Jewell Parker Rhodes*

In New Orleans' Ninth ward, twelve-year-old Lanessa, who can see spirits, and her adopted grandmother, have no choice but to stay and weather the storm as Hurricane Katrina bears down upon them. | ALA | Lexile: HL470L

### **Number the Stars** by *Lois Lowry*

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friends from the Nazis. ALA | Lexile: 670L

### **Esperanza Rising**

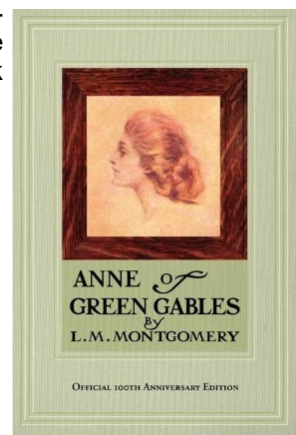
by *Pam Muñoz Ryan*

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California. They must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers during the Great Depression. | ALA | Lexile: 750L

### **Anne of Green Gables**

by *L. M. Montgomery*

Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely, middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her. Lexile: 550L



### **One Crazy Summer**

by *Rita Williams-Garcia*

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn, New York to Oakland, California to spend time with their mother, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome. Their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, would rather send the girls to a nearby Black Panther summer camp. | ALA | Lexile: 750L

### **A Single Shard** by *Linda Sue Park*

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea,