

ELEMENTARY ONLY BOOKS

Ms. Bixby's Last Day

Author- John David Anderson

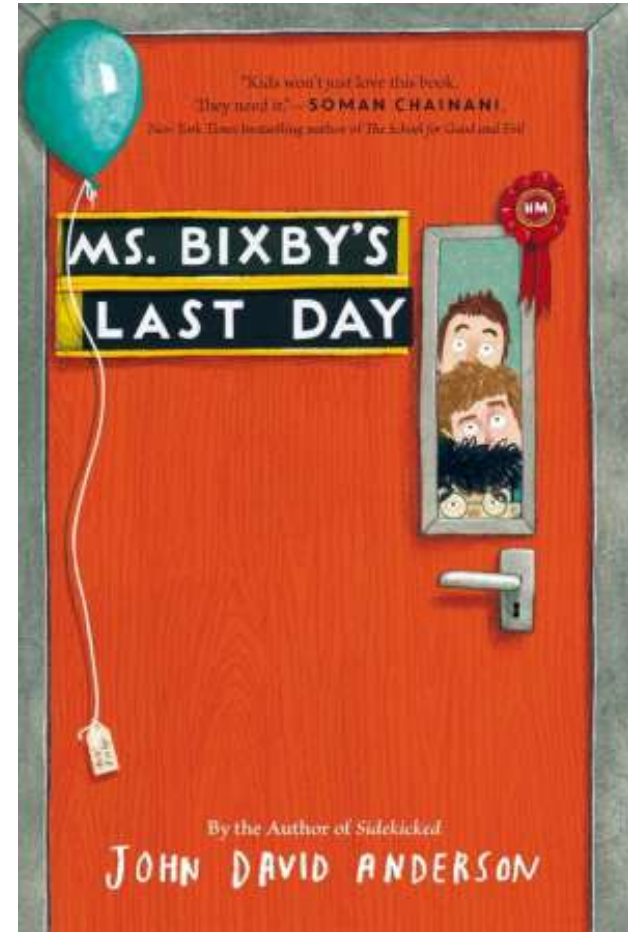
Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 800

Summary- Loving their gifted teacher, who makes them feel like the indignity of school is somehow worthwhile, three boys are dismayed when the teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories while cutting class and journeying across town together on a fateful day.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/ms-bixbys-last-day>



The Wild Robot

Author- Peter Brown

Genre- Science Fiction

Lexile- 740

Summary- Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Common Sense Media

Review-<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/the-wild-robot>



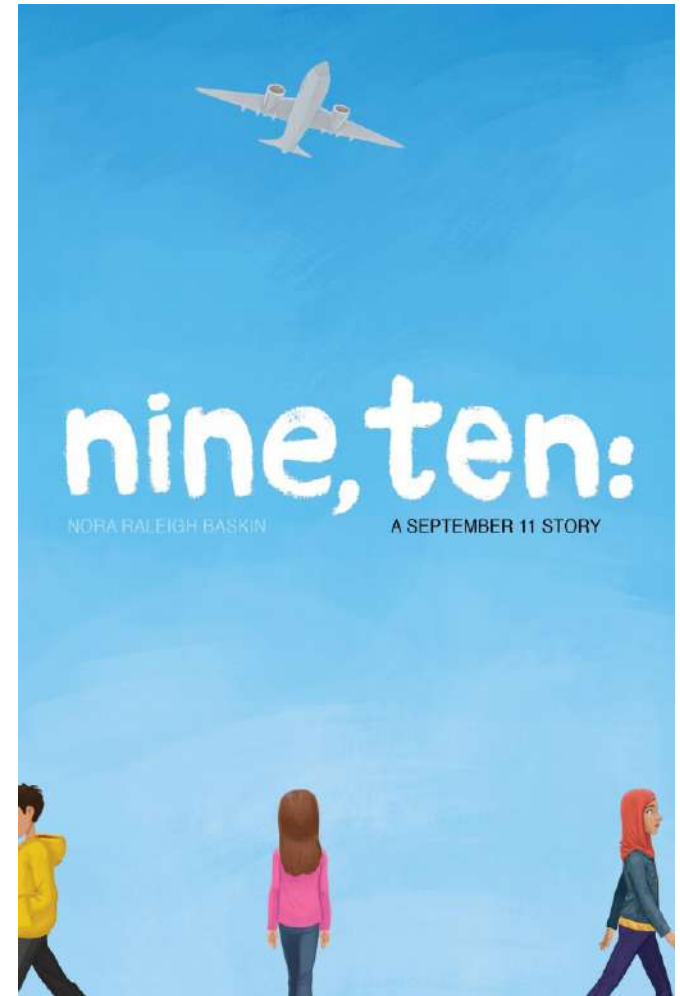
Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story

Author- Nora Raleigh Baskin

Genre- Historical Fiction

Lexile- 730

Summary- A touching look at the days leading up to the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and how that day impacted the lives of four middle schoolers. The story begins a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. These four don't know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined.



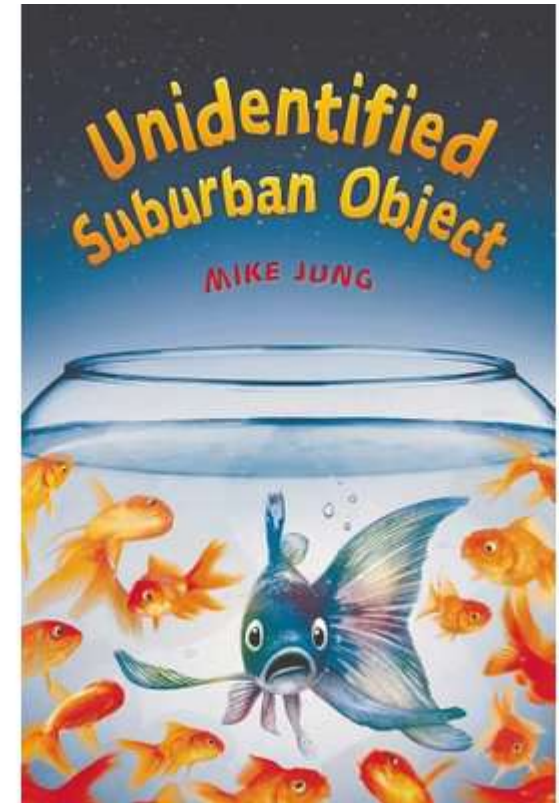
Unidentified Suburban Object

Author- Mike Jung

Genre- Science Fiction

Lexile- 830

Summary- Chloe Cho is a Korean American seventh-grader who would like to get in touch with many of the aspects of her heritage, but her parents are unwilling to talk about it--then when a class assignment forces Chloe to confront them directly, they finally tell her the truth about her family, which may just be too much for one girl to handle.



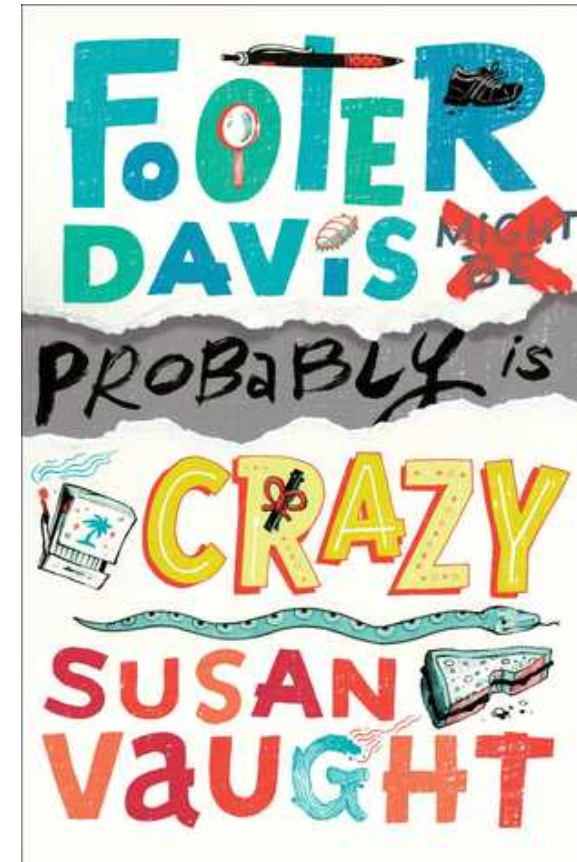
Footer Davis Probably is Crazy

Author- Susan Vaught

Genre- Mystery

Lexile- 800

Summary- Eleven-year-old Footer and her friends investigate when a nearby farm is burned, the farmer murdered, and his children disappear, but as they follow the clues, Footer starts having flashbacks and wonders if she is going crazy like her mother, who is back in a mental institution near their Mississippi home.



SHARED BOOKS FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

DROWNED CITY: HURRICANE KATRINA AND NEW ORLEANS

Author- Don Brown

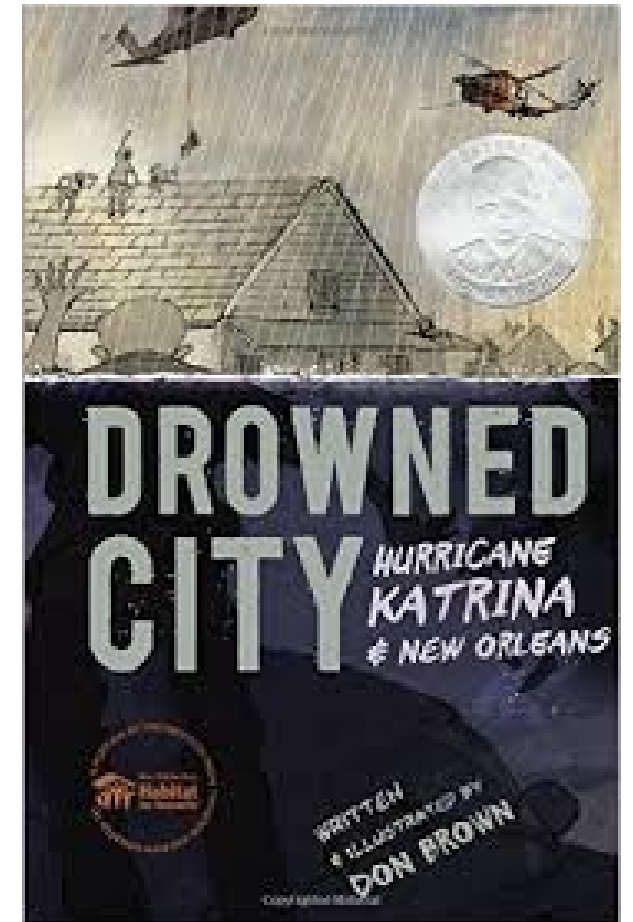
Genre- Narrative nonfiction, Graphic novel

Lexile- 790

Summary- On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. Don Brown's kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews/drowned-city-hurricane-katrina-new-orleans>



All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook

Author- Leslie Connor

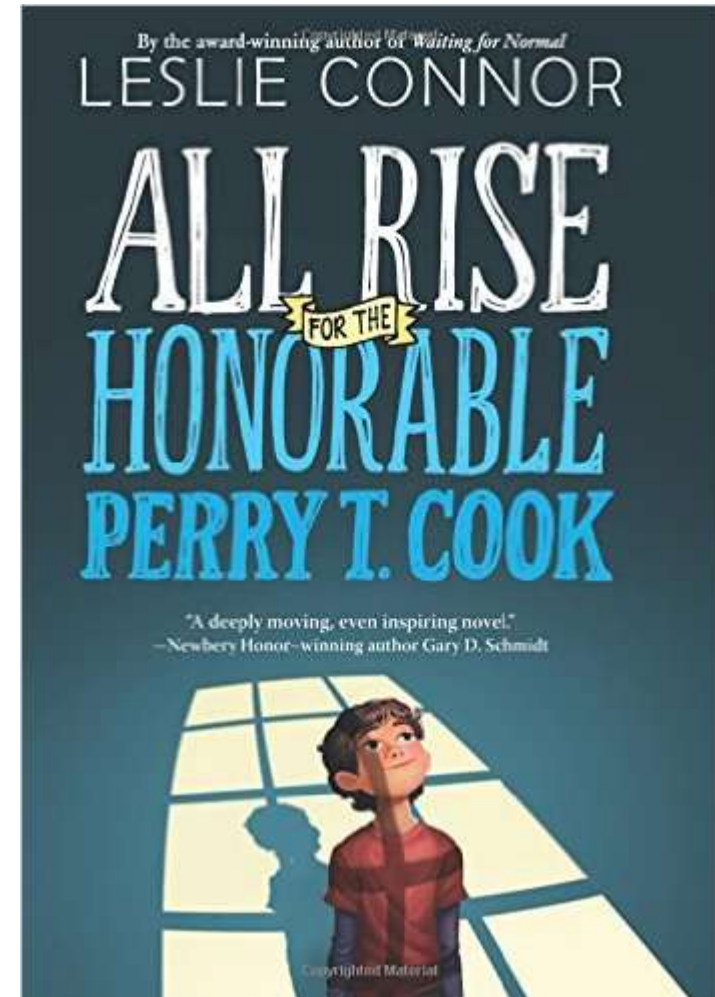
Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 540

Summary- Born and raised in a prison where his mother is incarcerated, Perry T. Cook is taken to live with a foster family, where he feels trapped and out of place, and works to find a way to be reunited with his mother.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/all-rise-for-the-honorable-perry-t-cook>



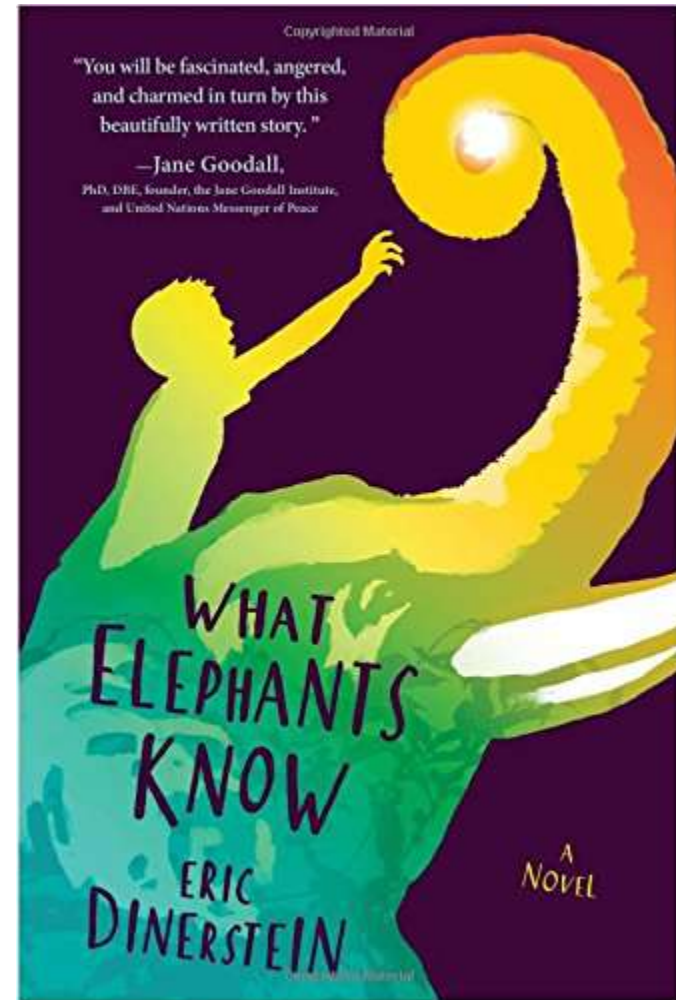
What Elephants Know

Author- Eric Dinerstein

Genre- Historical Fiction

Lexile- 790

Summary In the threatened jungle of the Borderlands between Nepal and India during the 1970s, an orphaned boy discovers his fate as a great elephant driver.



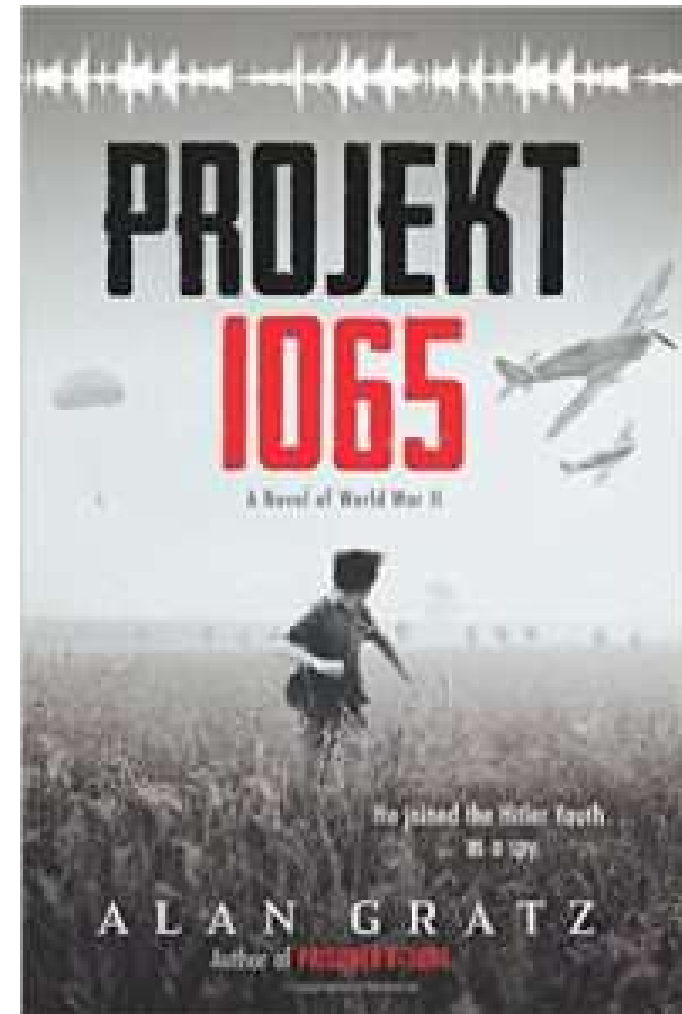
PROJEKT 1065: A NOVEL OF WORLD WAR II

Author- Alan Gratz

Genre- Historical Fiction, Spy Fiction

Lexile- 780

Summary- In 1943, thirteen-year-old Michael O'Shaunessey, son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany in Berlin, is also a spy for the British Secret Service, so he has joined the Hitler Youth, and pretending that he agrees with their violence and book-burning is hard enough--but when he is asked to find out more about "Projekt 1065" both his and his parents' lives get a lot more dangerous.



WHEN FRIENDSHIP FOLLOWED ME HOME

Author- Paul Griffin

Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 590

Summary- Seventh-grader Ben, always an outsider, is led into a deep friendship with Halley, who is being treated for cancer, by the special dog he and his adoptive mother take in.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/when-friendship-followed-me-home>



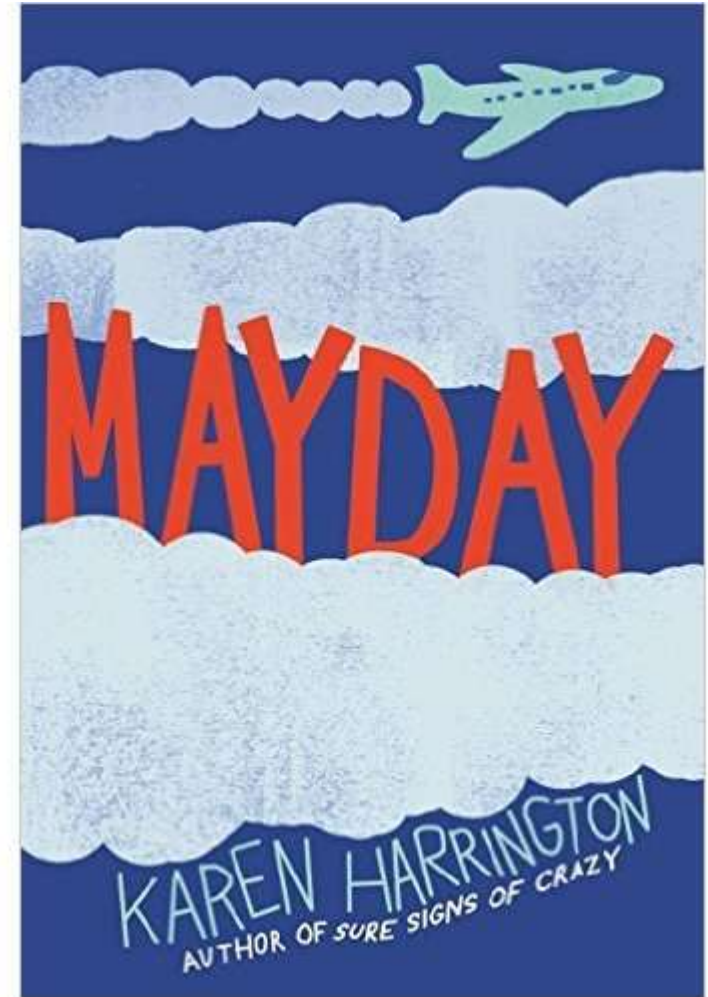
Mayday

Author- Karen Harrington

Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 590

Summary- Twelve-year-old Wayne Kovok loses his uncle to war and his voice to a plane crash in the same year and must learn to speak up as he navigates relationships with his father, grandfather, and new friend, Denny Rosenblatt.



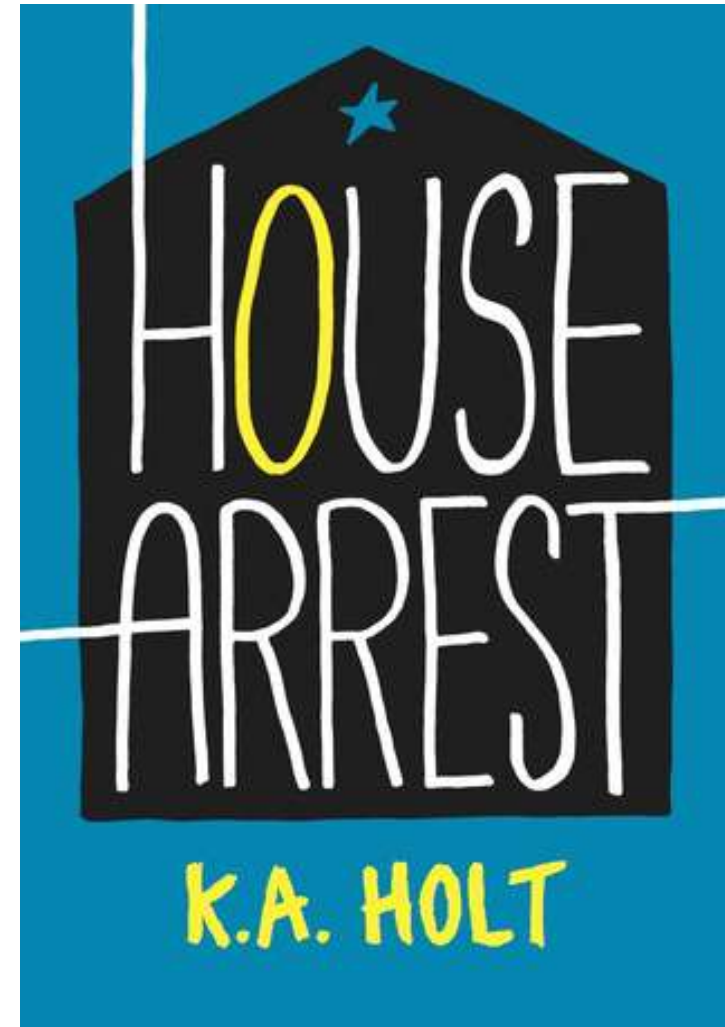
House Arrest

Author- K. A. Holt

Genre- Realistic Fiction, Novels in Verse

Lexile- 610

Summary- Young Timothy is sentenced to house arrest after impulsively stealing a wallet, and he is forced to keep a journal into which he pours all his thoughts, fears, and frustrations.



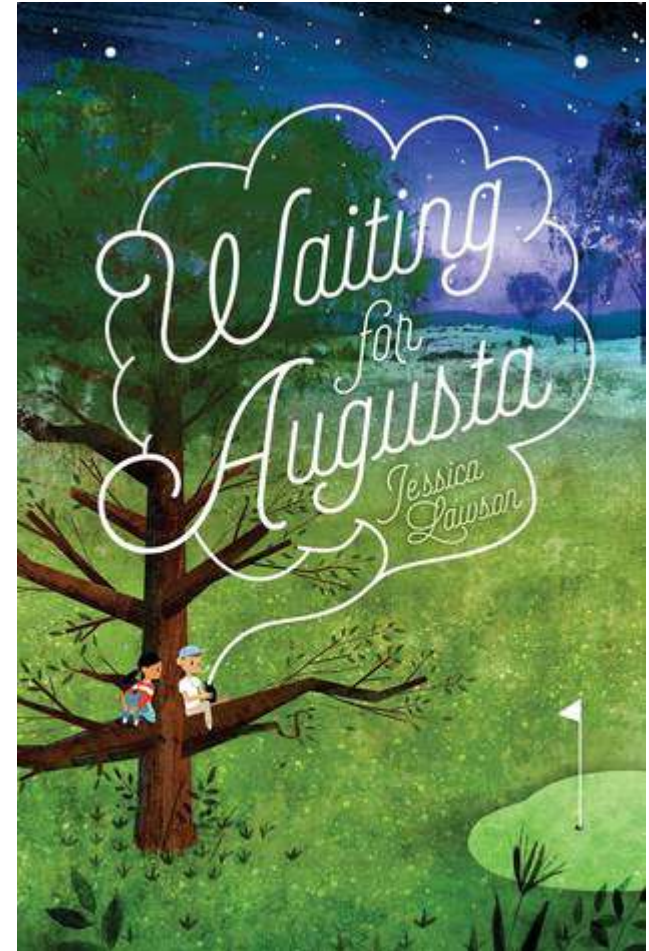
Waiting for Augusta

Author- Jessica Lawson

Genre- Historical Fiction

Lexile- 830

Summary- In early 1970s Alabama, eleven-year-old Ben, carrying an urn with his father's ashes, sets out on an eventful journey to the Augusta National, "the Sistine Chapel of golf courses," to make peace with his father.



The Best Man

Author- Richard Peck

Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 540

Summary Archer has four important role models in his life--his dad, his grandfather, his uncle Paul, and his favorite teacher, Mr. McLeod. When Uncle Paul and Mr. McLeod get married, Archer's sixth-grade year becomes one he'll never forget.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/the-best-man>



PAX

Author- Sara Pennypacker

Genre- Adventure

Lexile- 760

Summary When his father enlists in the military and makes him return his beloved pet fox to the wild, Peter, who has been sent to live with his grandfather hundreds of miles away, embarks on a journey filled with astonishing discoveries in order to be reunited with his fox

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/pax>



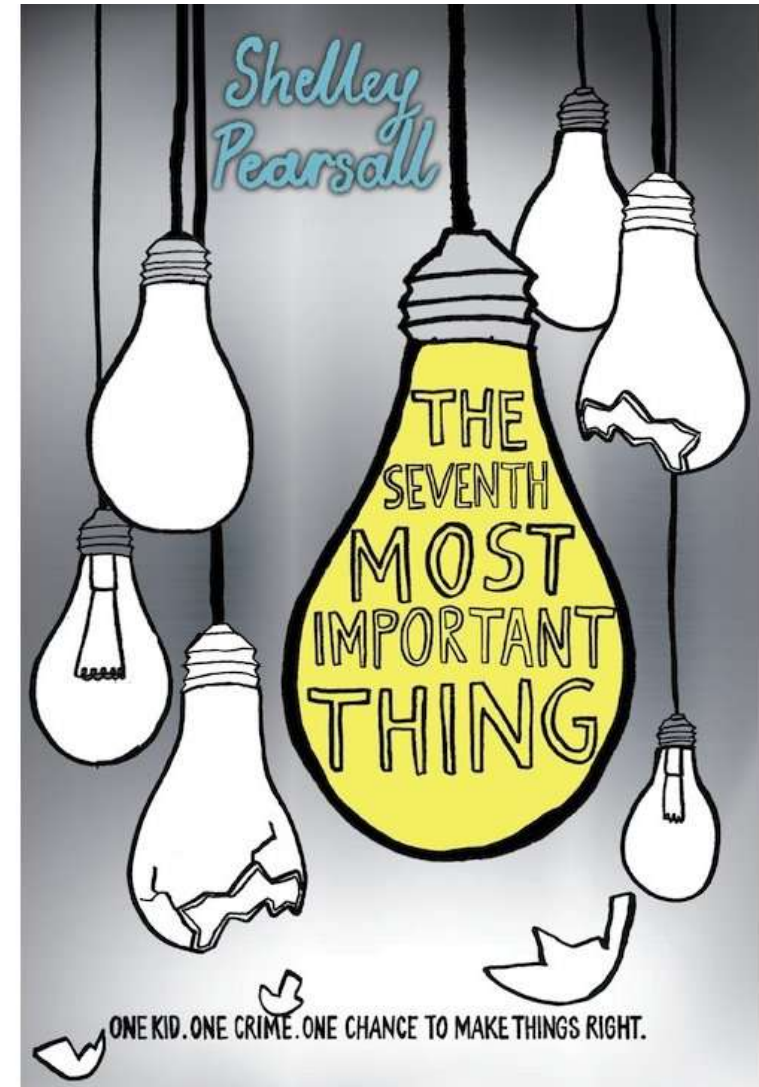
The Seventh Most Important Thing

Author- Shelley Pearsall

Genre- Historical Fiction

Lexile- 760

Summary- In 1963, 13-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after he throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage. The junk he collects might be more important than he suspects. Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton



As Brave As You

Author- Jason Reynolds

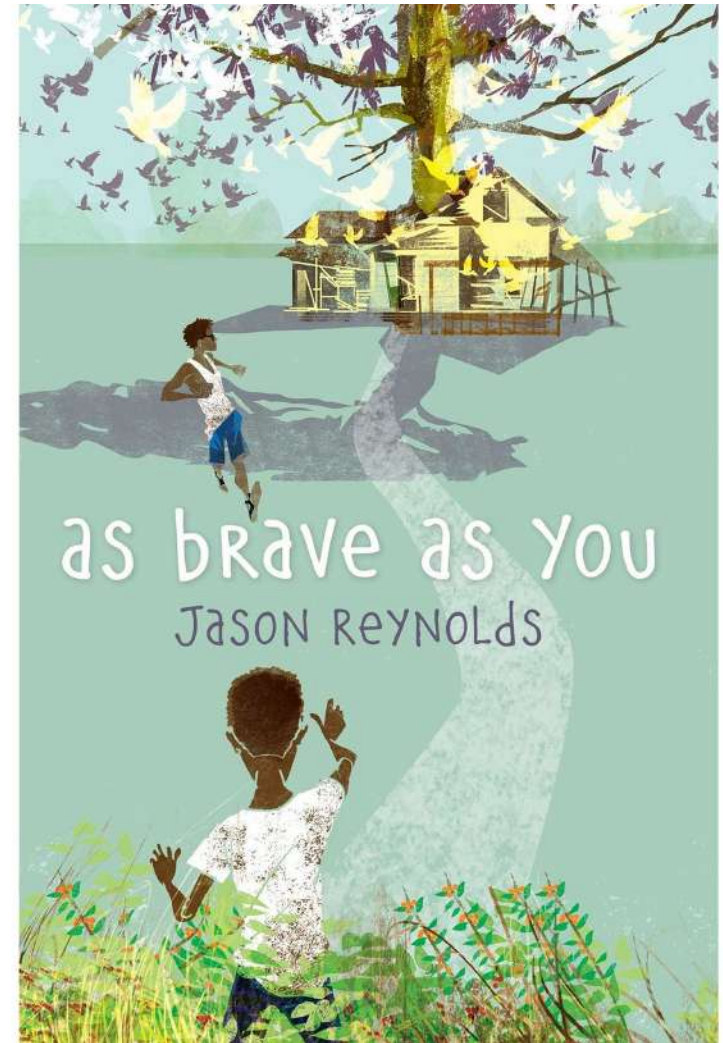
Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 750

Summary- Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck and—being a curious kid—Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he covers it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans).

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/as-brave-as-you>



Once Was a Time

Author- Leila Sales

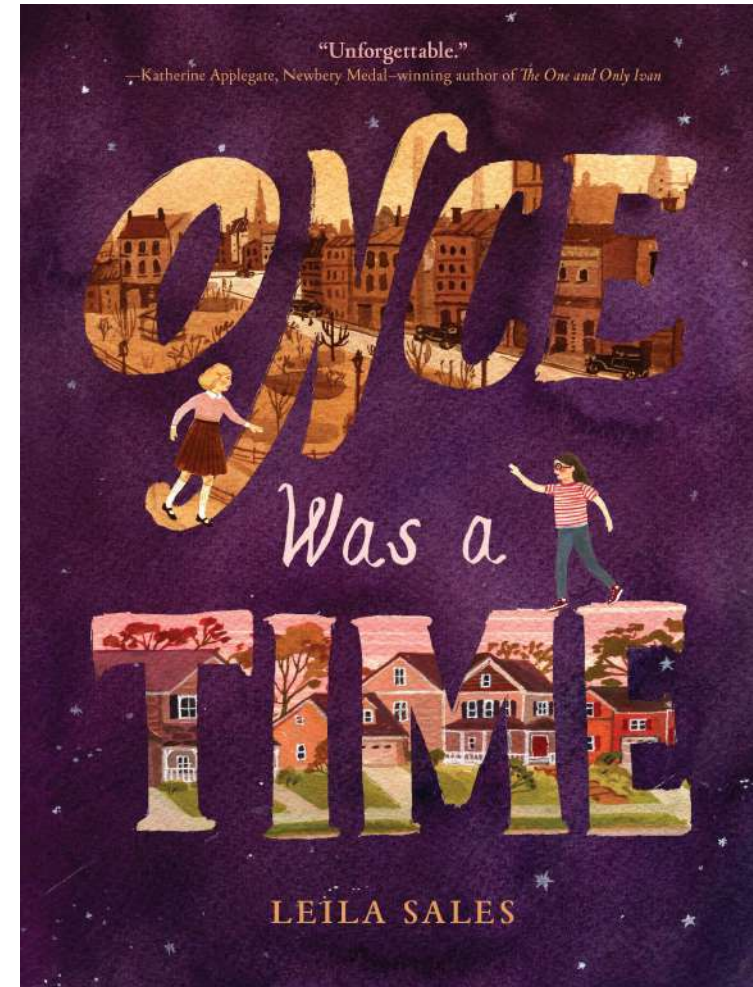
Genre- Fantasy Fiction

Lexile- 760

Summary- In World War II England, ten-year-old Lottie is transported via a portal to present day Wisconsin, where she must find her way back to her family and her best friend, Kitty.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/once-was-a-time>



Wolf Hollow

Author- Lauren Wolk

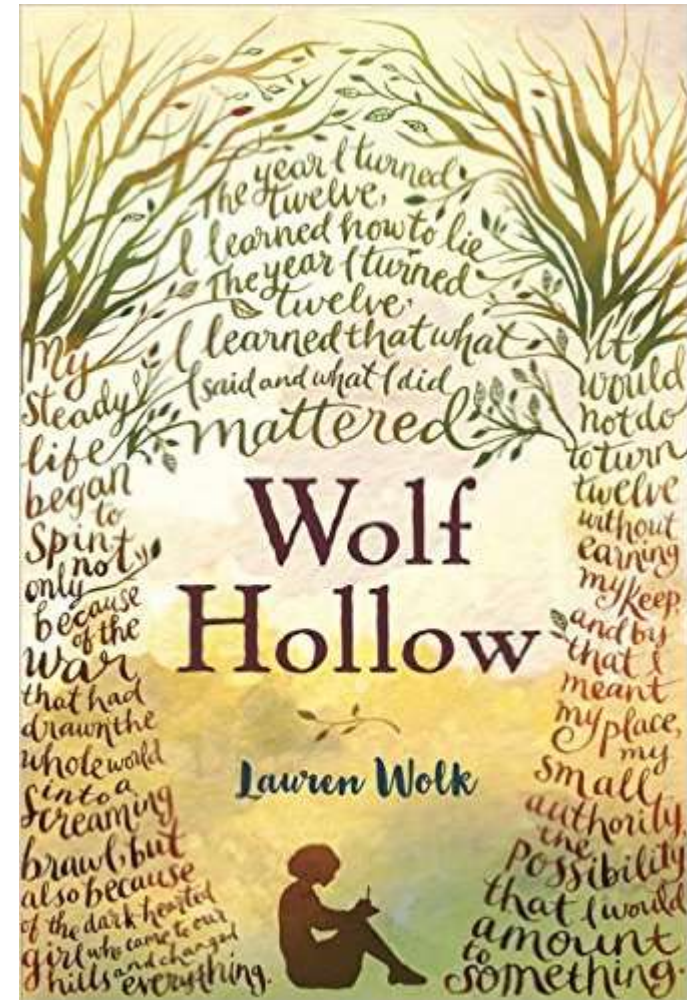
Genre- Historical Fiction

Lexile- 800

Summary- Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/wolf-hollow>



Lily and Dunkin

Important Note: This book will only be included at the Middle School level for the PCSD bowl, however it will be included at both the Elementary and Middle levels for the Regional bowl. If your team goes to Regional's, they will be expected to answer questions on this book. It is the responsibility of the coach to make sure the team is prepared for the regional bowl.

Author: Donna Gephart

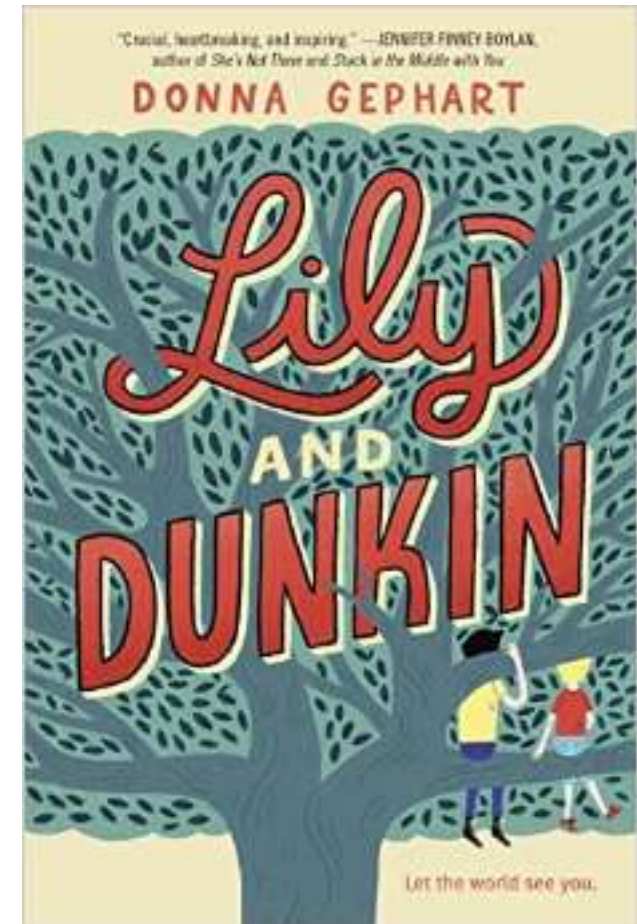
Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 680

Summary- Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar and has just moved from the Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews/lily-and-dunkin>



MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY BOOKS

Booked

Author- Kwame Alexander

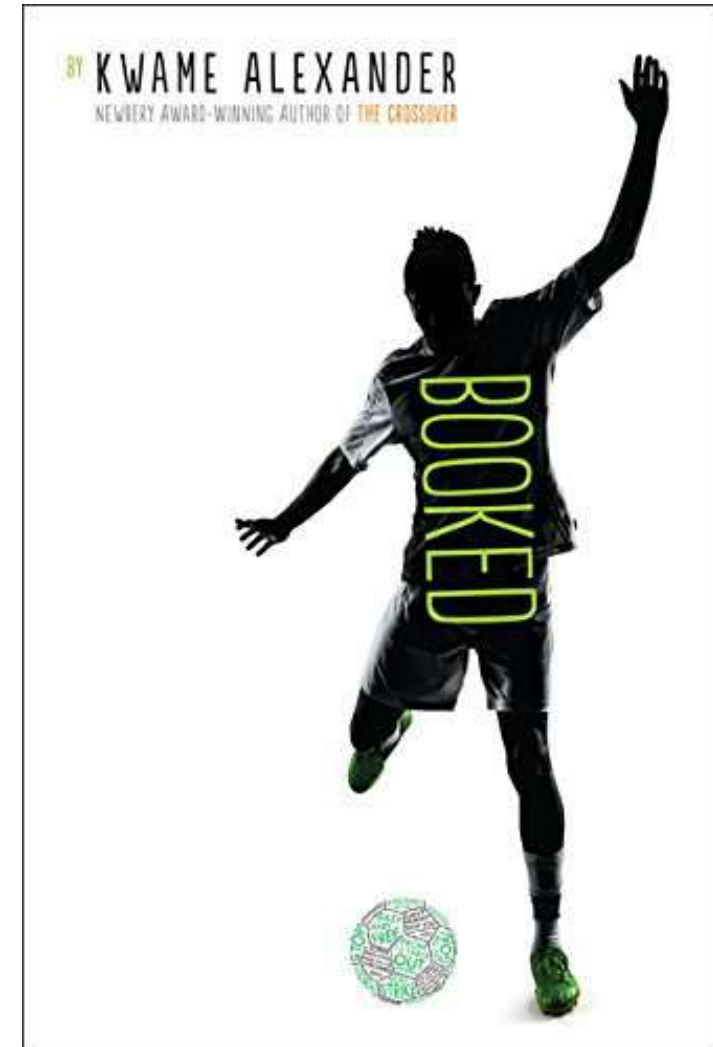
Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 660

Summary- Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/booked>



Some Kind of Happiness

Author- Claire Legrand

Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 580

Summary- Finley Hart is sent to her grandparents' house for the summer, but her anxiety and overwhelmingly sad days continue until she escapes into her writings which soon turn mysteriously real and she realizes she must save this magical world in order to save herself.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/some-kind-of-happiness>



Echo

Author- Pam Muñoz Ryan

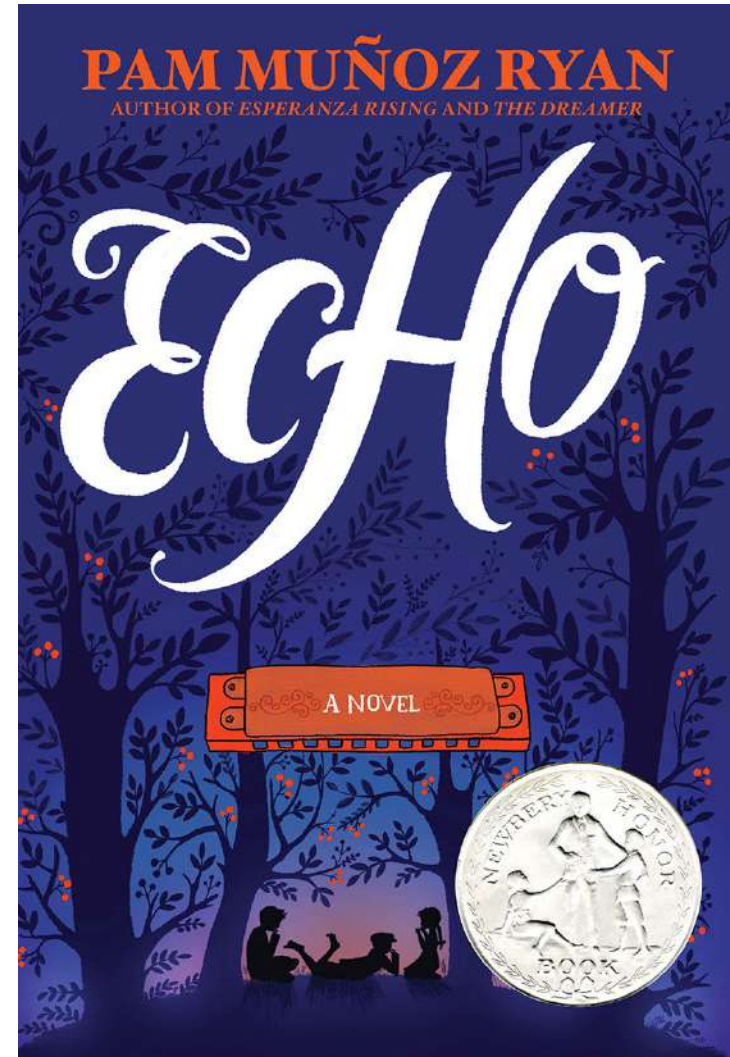
Genre- Historical Fiction/Fantasy

Lexile- 680

Summary- Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica– and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.common Sense Media.org/book-reviews/echo>



Orbiting Jupiter

Author- Gary Schmidt

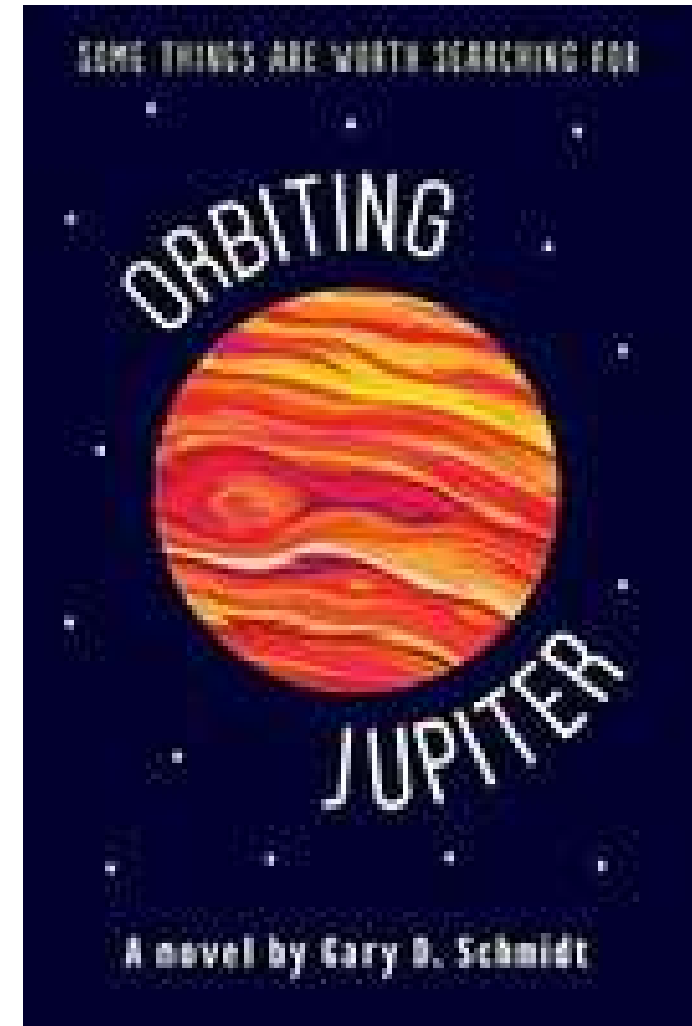
Genre- Realistic Fiction

Lexile- 740

Summary- Jack, 12, tells the gripping story of Joseph, 14, who joins his family as a foster child. Damaged in prison, Joseph wants nothing more than to find his baby daughter, Jupiter, whom he has never seen. When Joseph has begun to believe he'll have a future, he is confronted by demons from his past that force a tragic sacrifice.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews/orbiting-jupiter>



Salt to the Sea

Author- Ruta Sepetys

Genre- Historical Fiction

Lexile- 560

Summary- Titanic. Lusitania. Wilhelm Gustloff. All major maritime disasters, yet the last is virtually unknown. Told in short snippets, Salt to the Sea rotates between four narrators attempting to escape various tragedies in 1945 Europe. Powerful and haunting, heartbreaking and hopeful- a must read.

Common Sense Media Review-

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/book-reviews/salt-to-the-sea>

