

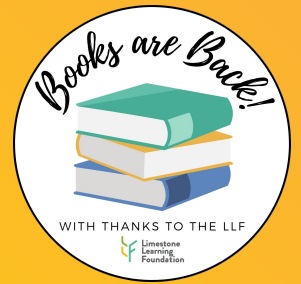


Books are Back!

Funded by the
Limestone Learning Foundation

- Intermediate Classrooms -

Phase III - Fall 2023



Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults - Authors: Robin Wall Kimmerer; adapted by Monique Gray Smith

Storyline highlights themes of: Indigenous Knowledge, Scientific Knowledge, Learning from Plant Relatives, Reciprocity

A Thousand Questions - Author: Saadia Farqui

Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Adversity, Classism, Divorce/Absentee Father

Ancestor Approved - A collection of works by various authors

Story highlights themes of: Hope, Joy, Resilience, and Strength in Indigenous communities and families. **Please add 'language awareness' sticker to inside cover of this book.**

New Kid - Author: Jerry Craft

Story highlights themes of: Fitting in, Classism, Diversity, Racism, Microaggressions

This is our Rainbow - A collection of works from various authors

Story highlights themes of: Hope, Joy, Resilience, LGBTQ+ perspectives, voices and experiences

The Power of Style - Author: Christina Allaire

Story highlights: Indigenous Knowledge, Hope, Joy, Resilience, and Strength in Indigenous communities.

Fish in a Tree - Author: Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Story highlights: Neurodiversity, Dyslexia, Friendship, Perseverance

Freestyle - Author: Gale Galligan

Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Ambition, Perseverance

The Wizenard Series - Authors: Kobe Bryant & Wesley King

Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Teamwork, Perseverance, Self-Doubt & Self-Discovery

Surviving the City (Vol. 1) - Author: Tasha Spillett-Sumner

Story highlights themes of: Overcoming Adversity, Allyship, Identity, and 2SLGBTQ+ perspectives, voices and experiences

Surviving the City (Vol. 2) - Author: Tasha Spillett-Sumner

Story highlights themes of: Overcoming Adversity, Allyship, Identity, and 2SLGBTQ+ perspectives, voices and experiences



***Different Kinds of Fruit* - Author: Kyle Lukoff**

Story highlights themes of: Family, Diversity, Transphobia, LGBTQ+ perspectives, voices and experiences

***The Serpent's Secret* - Author: Sayantani DasGupta**

Story highlights themes of: Perseverance, Self-Discovery, Overcoming Adversity

***Roll With It* - Author: Jamie Sumner**

Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Adversity, Classism, Resilience, Belonging

***City of Dragons: The Awakening Storm* - Author: Jaimal Yogis**

Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Belonging, Self-Discovery, Racism, Grief

***Thanks A Lot, Universe* - Author: Chad Lucas**

Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Self-Discovery, Anxiety/Mental Health, LGBTQ+ perspectives, voices and experiences

***I Can Make You This Promise* - Author: Christine Day**

*Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Self-Discovery, Racism, Indigenous experiences voices, and perspectives. **Please add 'language awareness' sticker to inside cover of this book.***

***The Best At It* - Author: Maulik Pancholy**

Story highlights themes of: Family, Friendship, Anxiety/Mental Health, LGBTQ+ perspectives, voices and experiences

***Clean Getaway* - Author: Nic Stone**

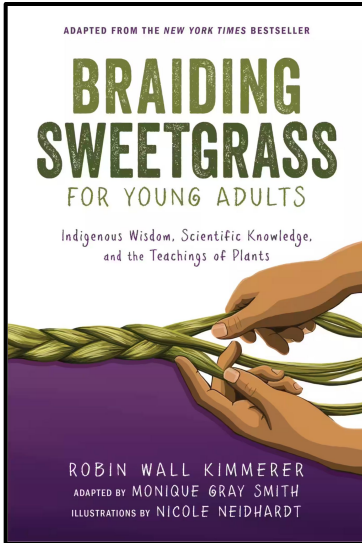
Story highlights themes of: Self-Discovery, Family, Racism, Terminal Illness/Grief

***Four Faces of the Moon* - Author: Amanda Strong**

Story highlights themes of: Highlights themes of Colonization, Indigenous Resurgence, Language [Four Faces of the Moon - FULL MOVIE](#) (video that can accompany)

***Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero* - Author: Saadia Farqui**

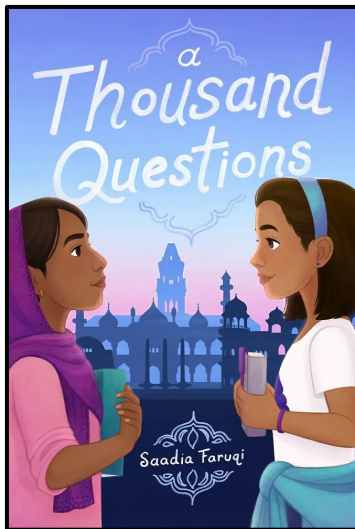
Story highlights themes of: Friendship, Teamwork, Racism, Islamophobia, the Importance of Community and Belonging



***Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults* - Authors: Robin Wall Kimmerer; adapted by Monique Gray Smith**

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults is the adaption of Robin Wall Kimmerer's best-selling book Braiding Sweetgrass. This book is adapted by Monique Gray Smith and illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt.

From her experiences as an Indigenous scientist, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book Braiding Sweetgrass. Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, this new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest teachers: the plants around us. With informative sidebars, reflection questions, and art from illustrator Nicole Neidhardt, Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults brings Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge, and the lessons of plant life to a new generation.

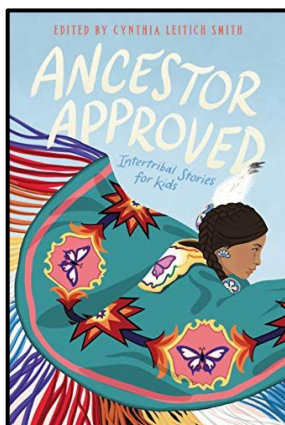


***A Thousand Questions* - Author: Saadia Faruqi**

Mimi is not thrilled to be spending her summer in Karachi, Pakistan, with grandparents she's never met. Secretly, she wishes to find her long-absent father, and plans to write to him in her beautiful new journal.

The cook's daughter, Sakina, still hasn't told her parents that she'll be accepted to school only if she can improve her English test score—but then, how could her family possibly afford to lose the money she earns working with her Abba in a rich family's kitchen?

Although the girls seem totally incompatible at first, as the summer goes on, Sakina and Mimi realize that they have plenty in common—and that they each need the other to get what they want most.

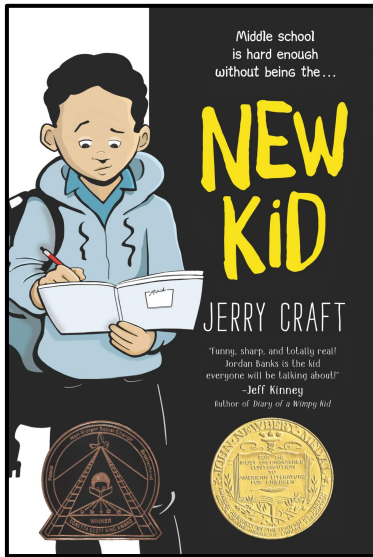


***Ancestor Approved* - A collection of works by various authors**

Indigenous families from Nations across the continent gather at the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In a high school gym full of color and song, people dance, sell beadwork and books, and celebrate friendship and heritage. Young protagonists will meet relatives from faraway, mysterious strangers, and sometimes one another (plus one scrappy rez dog).

They are the heroes of their own stories.

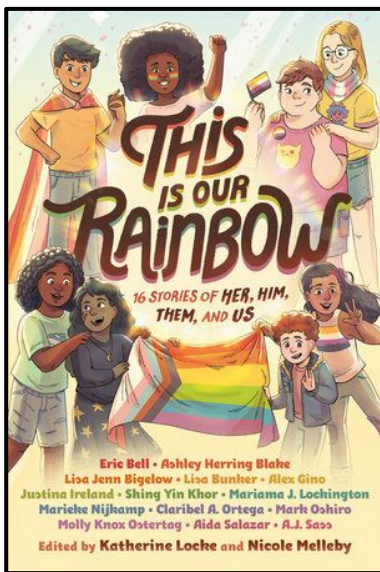


New Kid - Author: Jerry Craft

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

This middle grade graphic novel is an excellent choice for tween readers, including for summer reading.



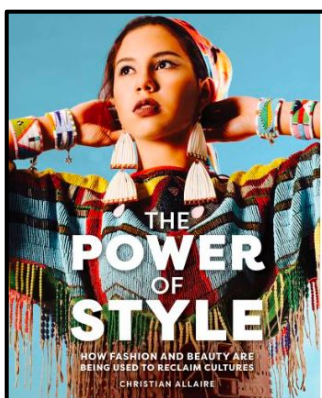
This is our Rainbow - A collection of works from various authors

The first LGBTQA+ anthology for middle-graders featuring stories for every letter of the acronym, including realistic, fantasy, and sci-fi stories.

A boyband fandom becomes a conduit to coming out. A former bully becomes a first-kiss prospect. One nonbinary kid searches for an inclusive athletic community after quitting gymnastics. Another nonbinary kid, who happens to be a pirate, makes a wish that comes true—but not how they thought it would. A tween girl navigates a crush on her friend's mom. A young witch turns herself into a puppy to win over a new neighbor. A trans girl empowers her online bestie to come out.

From wind-breathing dragons to first crushes, *This Is Our Rainbow* features story after story of joyful, proud LGBTQA+ representation.

Note: Says "Dead-Ass" (as in, "Dead-ass serious")



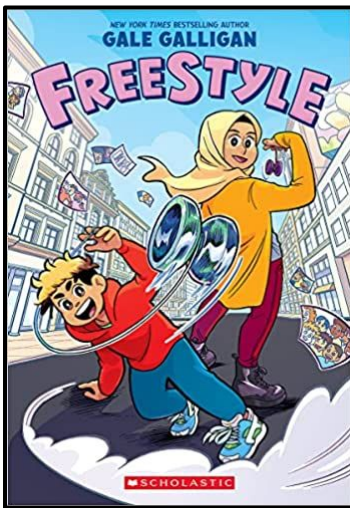
The Power of Style - Author: Christina Allaire

The Power of Style How Fashion and Beauty Are Being Used to Reclaim Cultures is by Christian Allaire, Ojibwe, of Nipissing First Nation. In *The Power of Style*, style is not just the clothes on our backs - it is self-expression, representation, and transformation. As a fashion-obsessed Ojibwe teen, Christian Allaire rarely saw anyone that looked like him in the magazines or movies he sought out for inspiration. Now the Fashion and Style Writer for *Vogue*, he is working to change that - because clothes are never just clothes. Allaire takes the reader through boldly designed chapters to discuss additional topics like cosplay, make up, hijabs, and hair, probing the connections between fashion and history, culture, politics, and social justice.



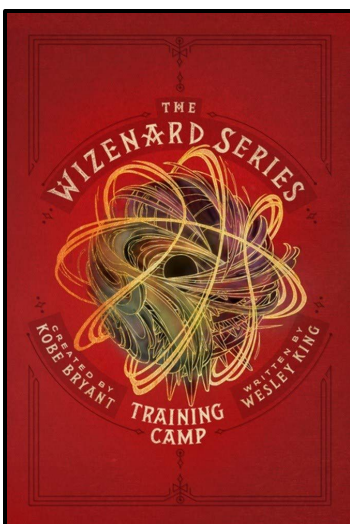
***Fish in a Tree* - Author: Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.



***Freestyle* - Author: Gale Galligan**

Cory's dance crew is getting ready for a major competition. It's the last one before they graduate eighth grade and go their separate ways to high schools all over New York City, so they have to make it count! The group starts to have problems as their crew captain gets increasingly intense about nailing the routine, and things go from bad to worse when Cory's parents ground him for not taking his grades seriously. He gets stuck with a new tutor, Sunna, who he dismisses as a boring nerd... until he catches her secretly practicing cool yo-yo tricks. Cory wants to learn the art of yo-yo, and as his friendship with Sunna grows, he ends up missing practice and bailing on his crew -- and they are not happy about it. With mounting pressure coming from all sides, how is Cory supposed to balance the expectations of his parents, school, dance, and his new friend?

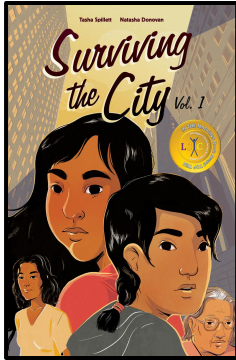


***The Wizenard Series* - Authors: Kobe Bryant & Wesley King**

THE GAME WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

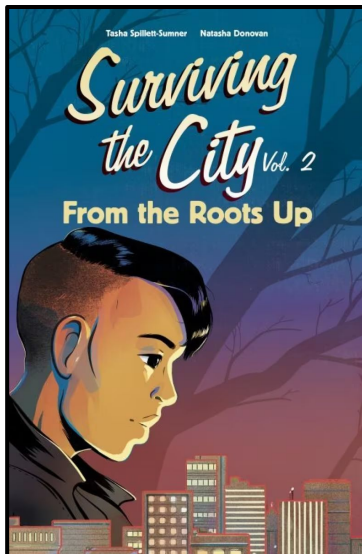
Magic doesn't seem possible for the West Bottom Badgers. They're the lowest-ranked basketball team in their league, and they live in the poorest neighborhood in Dren. Nobody expects them to succeed at anything. Plus, every kid on the team has secret struggles of his own.

When a new coach named Professor Wizenard arrives on the first day of training camp, the Badgers can't explain the magical-seeming things they see and hear. Every player experiences unique and strange visions—visions that challenge everything they thought they knew about basketball, and about their lives and their secrets off the court. To survive the increasingly intense ordeals of training, the Badgers will need to take unimaginable risks, learn to trust their teammates, and confront the darkness within themselves.



Surviving the City (Vol. 1) - Author: Tasha Spillett-Sumner

Miikwan and Dez are best friends. Miikwan is Anishinaabe; Dez is Innineew. Together, the teens navigate the challenges of growing up in an urban landscape—they're so close, they even completed their Berry Fast together. However, when Dez's grandmother becomes too sick, Dez is told she can't stay with her anymore. With the threat of a group home looming, Dez can't bring herself to go home and disappears. Miikwan is devastated, and the wound of her missing mother resurfaces. Will Dez's community find her before it's too late? Will Miikwan be able to cope if they don't?



Surviving the City (Vol. 2) - Author: Tasha Spillett-Sumner

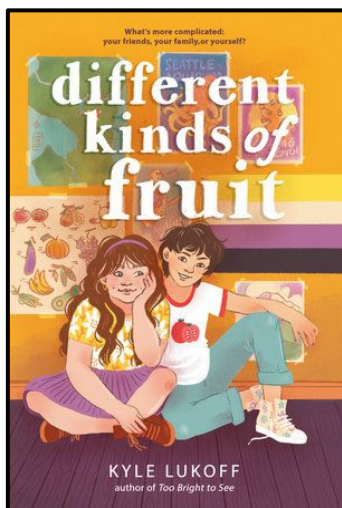
Dez and Miikwan's stories continue in this sequel to *Surviving the City*...

Dez's grandmother has passed away. Grieving, and with nowhere else to go, she's living in a group home. On top of everything else, Dez is navigating a new relationship and coming into her identity as a Two-Spirit person.

Miikwan is crushing on the school's new kid Riel, but doesn't really understand what Dez is going through. Will she learn how to be a supportive ally to her best friend?

Elder Geraldine is doing her best to be supportive, but she doesn't know how to respond when the gendered protocols she's grown up with that are being thrown into question.

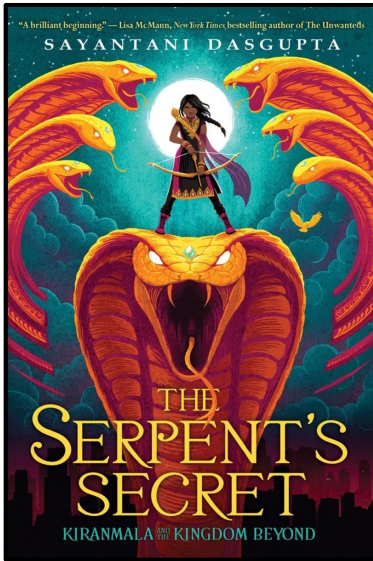
Will Dez be comfortable expressing her full identity? And will her community relearn the teachings and overcome prejudice to celebrate her for who she is?



Different Kinds of Fruit - Author: Kyle Lukoff

Annabelle Blake fully expects this school year to be the same as every other: same teachers, same classmates, same, same, same. So she's elated to discover there's a new kid in town. To Annabelle, Bailey is a breath of fresh air. She loves hearing about their life in Seattle, meeting their loquacious (and kinda corny) parents, and hanging out at their massive house. And it doesn't hurt that Bailey has a cute smile, nice hands (how can someone even have nice hands?) and smells really good.

Suddenly sixth grade is anything but the same. And when her irascible father shares that he and Bailey have something big—and surprising—in common, Annabelle begins to see herself, and her family, in a whole new light. At the same time she starts to realize that her community, which she always thought of as home, might not be as welcoming as she had thought. Together Annabelle, Bailey, and their families discover how these categories that seem to mean so much—boy, girl, gay, straight, fruit, vegetable—aren't so clear-cut after all.

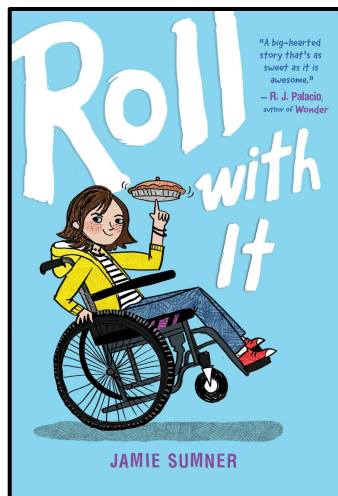


The Serpent's Secret - Author: Sayantani DasGupta

On the morning of her twelfth birthday, Kiranmala is just a regular sixth grader living in Parsippany, New Jersey... until her parents mysteriously vanish and a drooling rakkhosh demon slams through her kitchen, determined to eat her alive. Turns out there might be some truth to her parents' fantastical stories-like how Kiranmala is a real Indian princess and how she comes from a secret place not of this world.

To complicate matters, two crush-worthy princes ring her doorbell, insisting they've come to rescue her. Suddenly, Kiran is swept into another dimension full of magic, winged horses, moving maps, and annoying, talking birds. There she must solve riddles and battle demons all while avoiding the Serpent King of the underworld and the Rakkhoshi Queen in order to find her parents and basically save New Jersey, her entire world, and everything beyond it.

Note: Says "Crap!" (Chapter 8)



Roll With It - Author: Jamie Sumner

Ellie's a girl who tells it like it is. That surprises some people, who see a kid in a wheelchair and think she's going to be all sunshine and cuddles. The thing is, Ellie has big dreams: She might be eating Stouffer's for dinner, but one day she's going to be a professional baker. If she's not writing fan letters to her favorite celebrity chefs, she's practicing recipes on her well-meaning, if overworked, mother.

But when Ellie and her mom move so they can help take care of her ailing grandpa, Ellie has to start all over again in a new town at a new school. Except she's not just the new kid—she's the new kid in the wheelchair who lives in the trailer park on the wrong side of town. It all feels like one challenge too many, until Ellie starts to make her first-ever friends. Now she just has to convince her mom that this town might just be the best thing that ever happened to them!



City of Dragons: The Awakening Storm - Author: Jaimal Yogis

When Grace moves to Hong Kong with her mom and new stepdad, her biggest concern is making friends at her fancy new boarding school. But when a mysterious old woman gifts her a dragon egg during a field trip, Grace discovers that the wonderful stories of dragons she heard when she was a young girl might actually be real--especially when the egg hatches overnight.

The dragon has immense powers that Grace has yet to understand. And that puts them both in danger from mysterious forces intent on abusing the dragon's power. And now it's up to Grace and her school friends to uncover the sinister plot threatening the entire city!

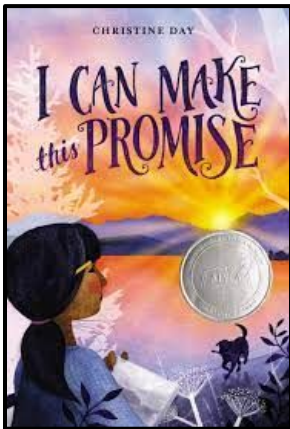


Thanks A Lot, Universe - Author: Chad Lucas

Brian has always been anxious, whether at home, or in class, or on the basketball court. His dad tries to get him to stand up for himself and his mom helps as much as she can. But after he and his brother are placed in foster care, Brian starts having panic attacks. And he doesn't quite know if there's something wrong with him . . .

Ezra's always been popular. He's friends with most of the kids on his basketball team—even Brian, who doesn't talk to many people. But now, some of his friends have been acting differently, and Brian seems to be pulling away. Ezra wants to help, but he worries if he's too nice to Brian, his friends will realize that he has a crush on him . . .

But when Brian and his brother run away, Ezra has no choice but to take the leap and reach out to Brian. And Brian realizes that he could really use a friend right now. As the two get closer, they'll have to decide if they're willing to risk being vulnerable with each other and share parts of themselves they'd rather hide from the world. But if they can be brave, they might just find the best in themselves—and each other. With a lively voice and moving story, *Thanks A Lot, Universe* is about finding your community and learning to trust your heart.



I Can Make You This Promise - Author: Christine Day

All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Indigenous heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn't have any answers. Until the day when she and her friends discover a box hidden in the attic—a box full of letters signed "Love, Edith," and photos of a woman who looks just like her.

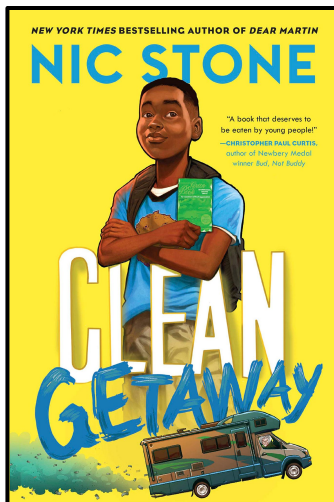
Suddenly, Edie has a flurry of new questions about this woman who shares her name. Could she belong to the Indigenous family that Edie never knew about? But if her mom and dad have kept this secret from her all her life, how can she trust them to tell her the truth now?



The Best At It - Author: Maulik Pancholy

Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: *Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it.*

Those four little words sear themselves into Rahul's brain. While he's not quite sure what that special thing is, he is convinced that once he finds it, bullies like Brent Mason will stop torturing him at school. And he won't be worried about staring too long at his classmate Justin Emery. With his best friend, Chelsea, by his side, Rahul is ready to crush this challenge.... But what if he discovers he isn't *the best* at anything



Clean Getaway - Author: Nic Stone

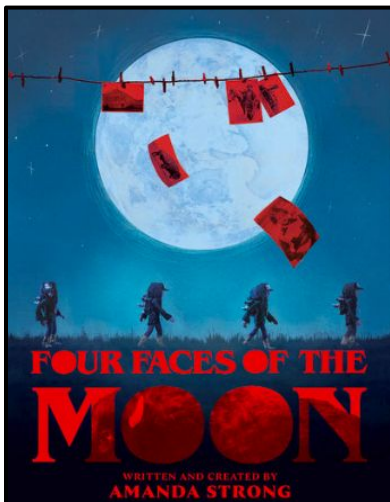
How to Go on an Unplanned Road Trip with Your Grandma:

- Grab a Suitcase: Prepacked from the big spring break trip that got CANCELLED.
- Fasten Your Seatbelt: G'ma's never conventional, so this trip won't be either.
- Use the Green Book: G'ma's most treasured possession. It holds history, memories, and most important, the way home.

What Not to Bring:

- A Cell Phone: Avoid contact with Dad at all costs. Even when G'ma starts acting stranger than usual.

Take a trip through the American South with the *New York Times* bestselling author Nic Stone and an eleven-year-old boy who is about to discover that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--his G'ma included.

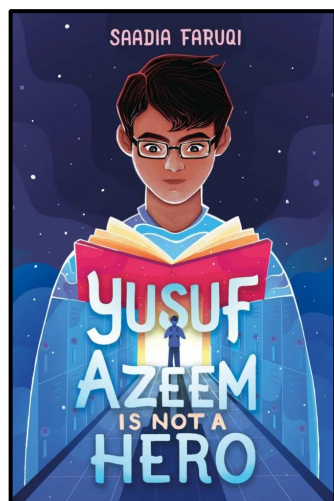


Four Faces of the Moon - Author: Amanda Strong

On a journey to uncover her family's story, Spotted Fawn travels through time and space to reclaim connection to ancestors, language, and the land in this essential graphic novel.

In the dreamworld, she bears witness to a mountain of buffalo skulls, a ghostly monument to the slaughter of the buffalo—a key tactic to starve and contain the Indigenous People onto reservations.

Spotted Fawn must travel through her own family history to confront the harsh realities of the past and reignite her connection to her people and the land. Her darkroom becomes a portal, allowing her glimpses into the lives of her relatives. Guided by her ancestors, Spotted Fawn's travels through the past allow her to come into full face—like the moon itself.



Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero - Author: Author: Saadia Faruqi

Yusuf Azeem has spent all his life in the small town of Frey, Texas—and nearly that long waiting for the chance to participate in the regional robotics competition, which he just *knows* he can win.

Only, this year is going to be more difficult than he thought. Because this year is the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, an anniversary that has everyone in his Muslim community on edge.

With “Never Forget” banners everywhere and a hostile group of townspeople protesting the new mosque, Yusuf realizes that the country's anger from two decades ago hasn't gone away. Can he hold onto his joy—and his friendships—in the face of heartache and prejudice?

