



## The List of Things That Will Not Change

by Rebecca Stead (she /her) - J STEAD

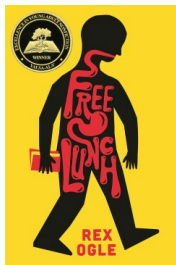
Despite her parents' divorce, her father's coming out as gay, and his plans to marry his boyfriend, ten-year-old Bea is reassured by her parents' unconditional love, excited about getting a stepsister, and haunted by something she did last summer at her father's lake house



## Snapdragon

by Kat Leyh (she/her) - JG LEYH

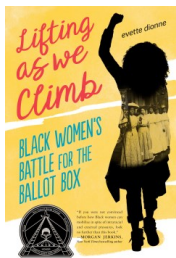
Befriending an eccentric but savvy older woman who suggests that they help each other while raising a litter of orphaned baby opossums, a young girl discovers that the woman may possess real magic and a possible connection to her family. Simultaneous.



## Free Lunch

by Rex Ogle (he/him) - J 362.7 OGLE

A sixth grader from an economically disadvantaged family struggles in a new school where he is forced to endure humiliation over his secondhand clothing and public daily requests for his school's free lunch program.



## Lifting as We Climb : Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box

by Evette Dionne (she/her) - J 323.3 DIONNE

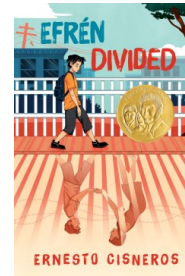
Explores the lesser-known efforts of such black suffrage activists as NAACP founder Mary Church Terrell, education advocate Anna Julia Cooper and journalist Ida B. Wells in helping African American women obtain the same rights as their white feminist counterparts.



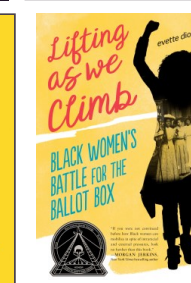
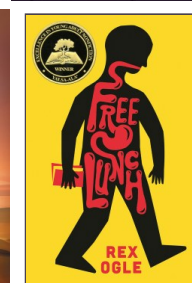
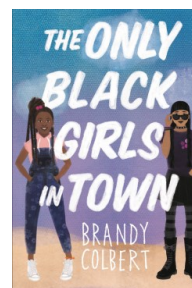
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# Middle School Reads



Updated 2/11/2021



## Maya and the Rising Dark

by Rena Barron (she/her) - J BARRON

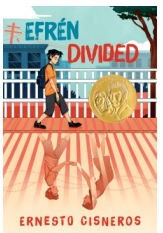
Struggling to understand why nobody else in her South Side Chicago neighborhood can see strange phenomena, 12-year-old Maya discovers that her missing father has been protecting a supernatural boundary between worlds.



## King and the Dragonflies

by Kacen Callender (they/their) - J CALLENDER

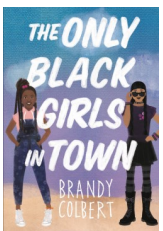
A 12-year-old boy spends days in the mystical Louisiana bayou to come to terms with a sibling's sudden death, his grief-stricken family and the disappearance of his former best friend amid whispers about the latter's sexual orientation. By the award-winning author of Hurricane Child. Simultaneous eBook. Illustrations.



## Efrén Divided

by Ernesto Cisneros (he/him)- J 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.



## The Only Black Girls in Town

by Brandy Colbert (she/her) - J COLBERT

Ecstatic to hear that another African American family has moved into town, surfer Alberta attempts to make friends with homesick newcomer Edie, who helps her uncover painful local secrets in a box of old journals.



## Rick

by Alex Gino (they/their) - J GINO

Eleven-year-old Rick Ramsey has generally gone along with everybody, just not making waves, even though he is increasingly uncomfortable with his father's jokes about girls, and his best friend's explicit talk about sex; but now in middle school he discovers the Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities can express themselves--and maybe among them he can find new friends and discover his own identity, which may just be to opt out of sex altogether.



## The Girl and the Ghost

by Hanna Alkaf (she/her) - J HANNA ALKAF

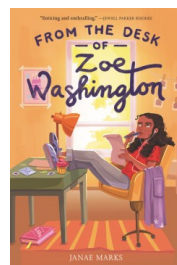
A middle grade debut inspired by a Malaysian folktale follows the story of a witch's granddaughter who receives the gift of a ghost servant from her grandmother before discovering its dark, all-consuming nature.



## Stand Up, Yumi Chung!

by Jessica Kim (she/her) - J KIM

Reworking mortifying memories about her perpetual shyness and cross-cultural realities into comedy gold, an aspiring comedienne accidentally lands in a comedy camp under the instruction of a favorite celebrity.



## From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks (she/her) - J MARKS

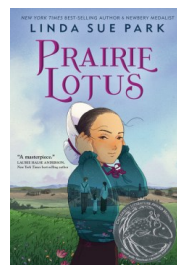
Receiving an unexpected letter on her 12th birthday from the incarcerated father she has never met, a courageous young baker prepares for a cooking-show competition while scrambling to determine her father's innocence.



## Paola Santiago and the River of Tears

by Tehlor Kay Mejia (she/her) - J MEJIA

Carefully avoiding a local river where a schoolmate drowned a year earlier, a space-loving 12-year-old and her best friends organize a night of telescope stargazing before spotting a being who superstitious locals believe to be a malevolent ghost.



## Prairie Lotus

by Linda Sue Park (she/her) - J PARK

A young half-Asian girl arriving in 1880s America struggles to adjust to new surroundings while navigating the almost unanimous prejudice of the townspeople in her heartland community.