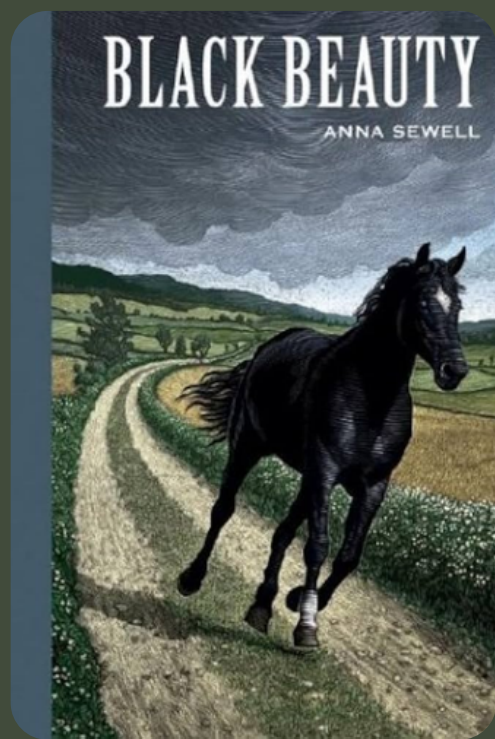


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Book Choices



BLACK BEAUTY BY ANNA SEWELL

Black Beauty spends his youth in a loving home, surrounded by friends and cared for by his owners. But when circumstances change, he learns that not all humans are so kind. Passed from hand to hand, Black Beauty witnesses love and cruelty, wealth and poverty, friendship and hardship . . . Will the handsome horse ever find a happy and lasting home?



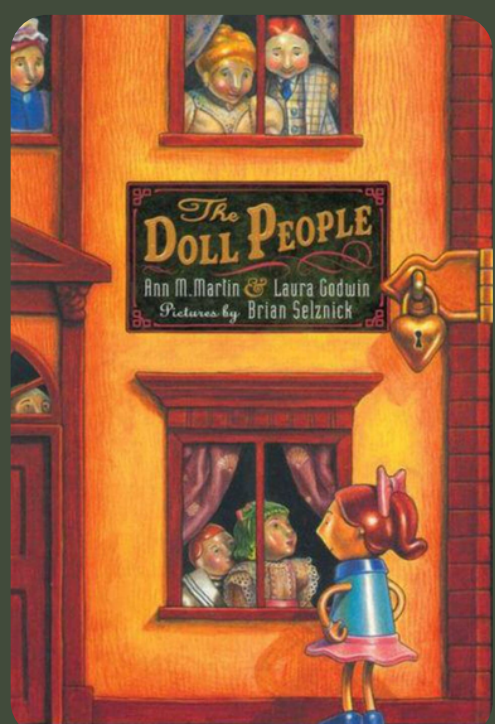
THE CAT, THE CASH, THE LEAP & THE LIST BY SUE CAMPBELL

It's her dream come true: Martha's cousins are about to come for a six-week summer visit. But instead of hustling to meet her parents and head to the airport to pick them up, she finds herself rescuing a pregnant cat from a garage sale free box. Things get messy when her parents find out—and even worse when the cat runs away before giving birth to the kittens.



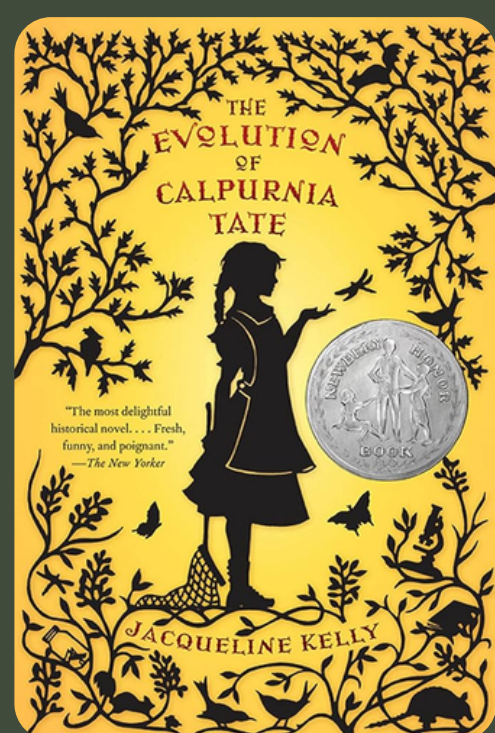
THE CHRISTMAS PIG BY J. K. ROWLING

Jack loves his childhood toy, Dur Pig. DP has always been there for him, through good and bad. Until one Christmas Eve something terrible happens- DP is lost. But Christmas Eve is a night for miracles and lost causes, a night when all things can come to life... even toys. And Jack's newest toy- the Christmas Pig (DP's replacement)- has a daring plan.



THE DOLL PEOPLE BY ANN M. MARTIN & LAURA GODWIN

The Doll family, beautifully crafted china dolls, has been passed down through four generations of girls in one American family. Annabelle Doll is eight years old and has been for over 100 years. Not a lot has happened to her, cooped up in the dollhouse, with the same doll people, day after day, year after year...until the Funcrafts move in.

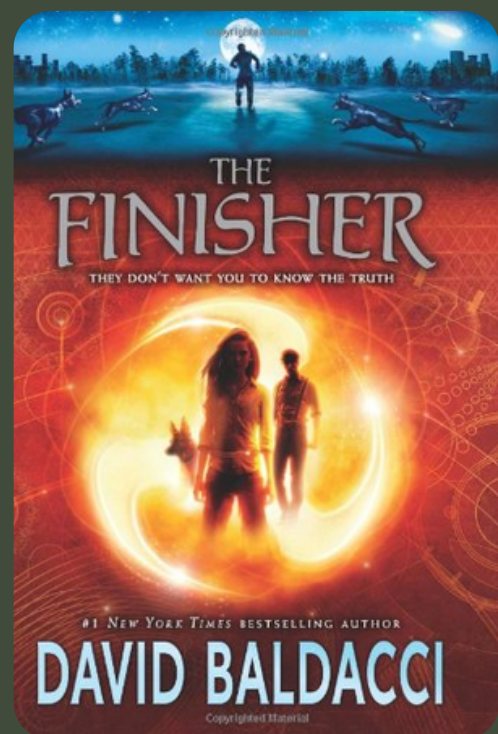


THE EVOLUTION OF CALPURNIA TATE BY JACQUELINE KELLY

Calpurnia Virginia Tate is eleven years old in 1899 when she wonders why the yellow grasshoppers in her Texas backyard are so much bigger than the green ones. With a little help from her notoriously cantankerous grandfather, an avid naturalist, she figures out that the green grasshoppers are easier to see against the yellow grass, so they are eaten before they can get any larger.

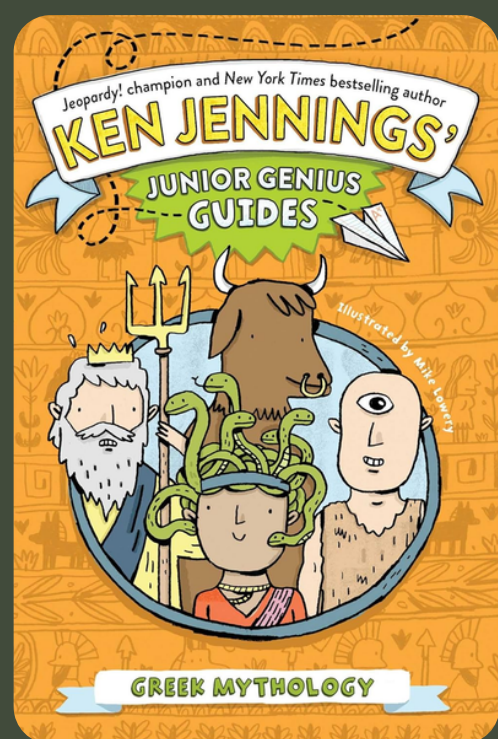
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THE FINISHER BY DAVID BALDACCII

Vega Jane was always told no one could leave the town of Wormwood. She was told there was nothing outside but a forest filled with danger and death. And she always believed it -- until the night she saw Quentin Herms run away. Vega knows Quentin didn't just leave -- he was chased. And he left behind a trail of clues that point to a dark conspiracy at the heart of Wormwood.



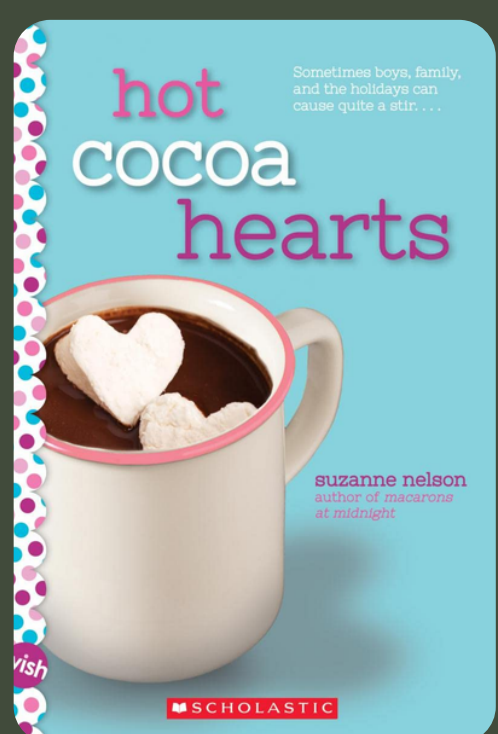
GREEK MYTHOLOGY BY KEN JENNINGS

With this Junior Genius Guide to Greek mythology, you'll become an expert and wow your friends and teachers with all the best ancient stories: how Prometheus outsmarted the gods, how Achilles's heel led to his death, and how we mere mortals always seem to get mixed up in so many misadventures.



HOMEROOMS & HALL PASSES BY TOM O'DONNELL

In their free time, our heroes—Thromdurr the mighty barbarian, Devis the shifty thief, Vela the noble paladin, Sorrowshade the Gloom Elf assassin, and Albiorix the (good!) wizard—need to relax and unwind. That's why they meet up once a week to play Homer Rooms & Hall a role-playing game where they assume the characters of average American eighth graders.



HOT COCOA HEARTS BY SUZANNE NELSON

Emery Mason is not a fan of the holidays. She's so over the tinsel, the shopping, and all the other trappings of the season. Unfortunately, this year, Em is forced to work -- as an elf! -- at her parents' Santa photo booth at the mall. There, Em meets Alejandro Perez, who works at the hot cocoa shop next door and is always full of holiday spirit.

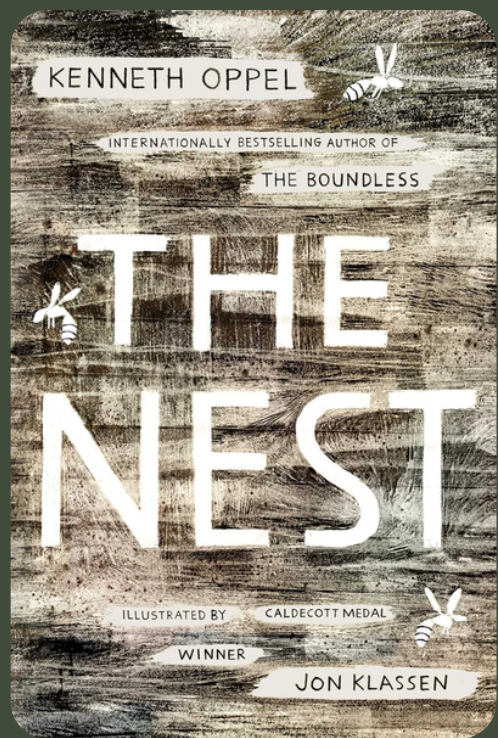


THE ISLAND BY MAX BROOKS

Washed up on a beach, the lone castaway looks around the shore. *Where am I? Who am I? And why is everything made of blocks?* But there isn't much time to soak up the sun. It's getting dark, and there's a strange new world to explore!

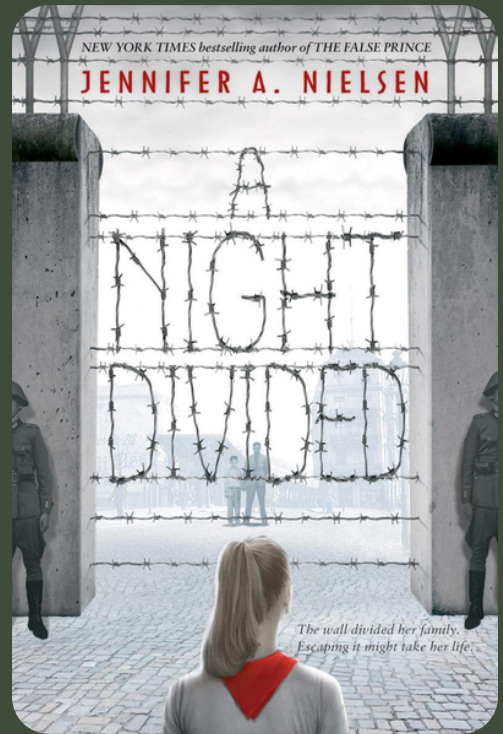
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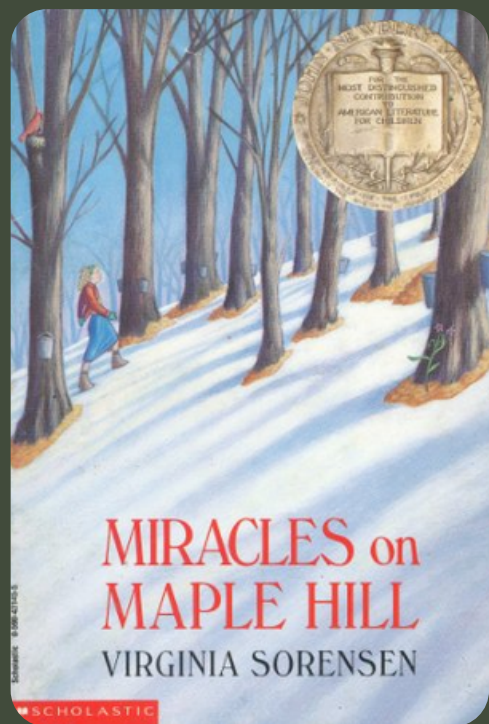
THE NEST BY KENNETH OPPEL

For some kids summer is a sun-soaked season of fun. But for Steve, it's just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother who is fighting to survive, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the wasp's nest looming ominously from the eaves.



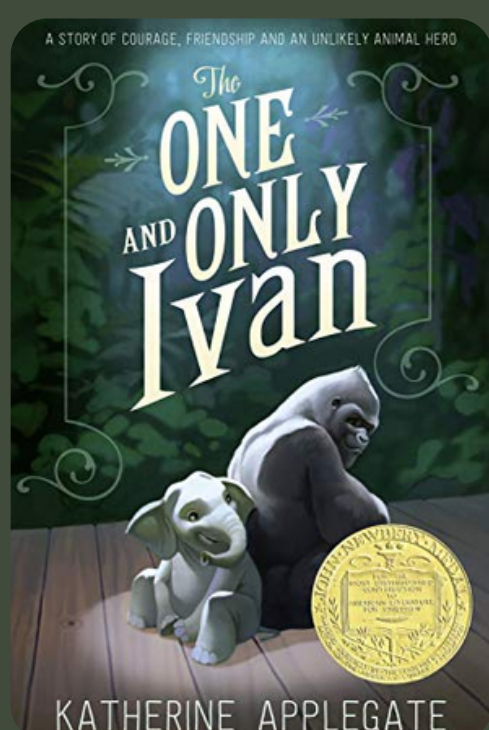
A NIGHT DIVIDED BY JENNIFER A. NIELSEN

With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself.



MIRACLE ON MAPLE HILL BY VIRGINIA SORENSEN

A warm family story of ten-year-old Marly and her family during the year when they move from Pittsburgh to Maple Hill in a quiet corner of Pennsylvania. There, not only the miracles of the changing seasons occur, but also the miracle of her father's return to normalcy after the years he had spent in a prison camp.



THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN BY KATHERINE APPELEGATE

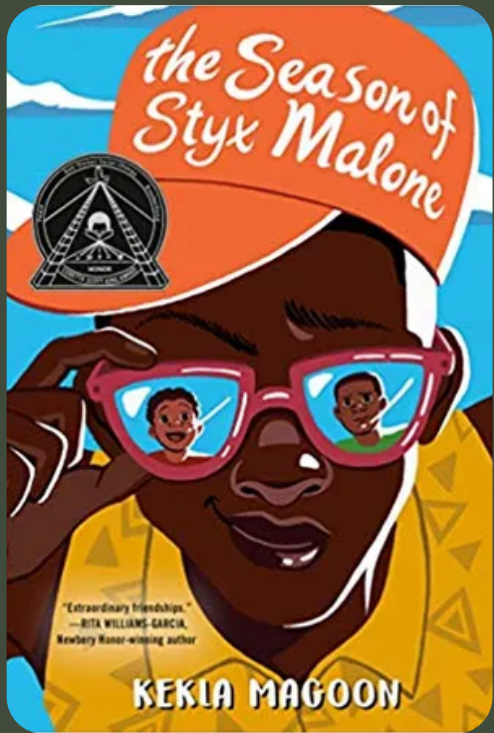
Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.

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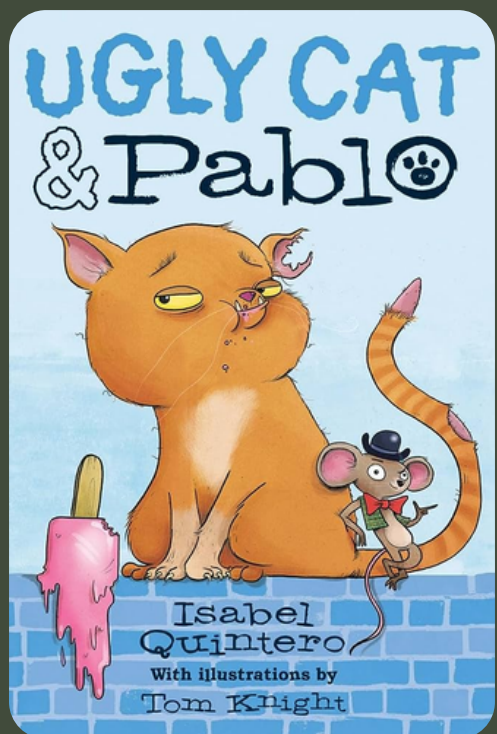


THE SEASON OF STYX MALONE BY KEKLA MAGOON



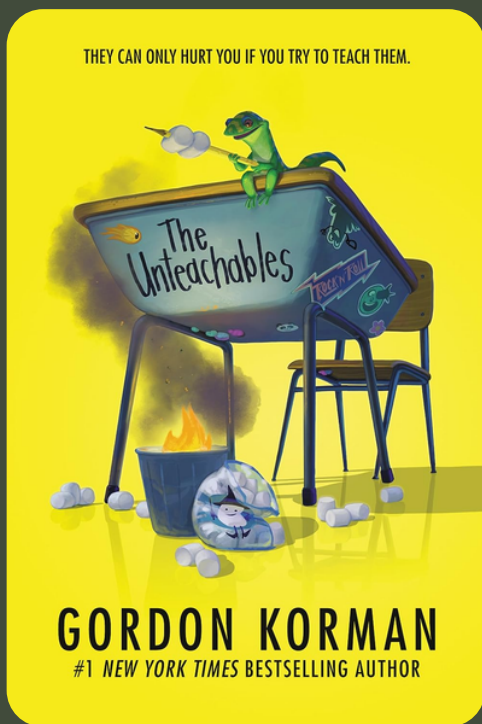
Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene are excited to have adventures in the woods behind their house. But Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town. Then Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade--exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream.

UGLY CAT & PABLO BY ISABEL QUINTERO



Ugly Cat is dying for a paleta, or ice pop, and his friend Pablo is determined to help him get one by scaring a little girl who is enjoying a coconut paleta in the park. Things go horribly wrong when, instead of being scared, the little girl picks Pablo up and declares that he would make a great snack for her pet snake. Oh and there's also the small problem that Ugly Cat may have inadvertently swallowed Pablo in all of the commotion!

THE UNTEACHABLES BY GORDON KORMAN



The Unteachables are a notorious class of misfits, delinquents, and academic train wrecks. Like Aldo, with anger management issues; Parker, who can't read; Kiana, who doesn't even belong in the class—or any class; and Elaine (rhymes with pain). The Unteachables have been removed from the student body and isolated in room 117.

WILD RIVER BY RODMAN PHILBRICK



Daniel Redmayne is fast asleep on the first night of a white water rafting trip, when he's awoken by screams. The dam has failed. The river is surging, and their camp will be under water in a matter of moments. As the shrieking roar of the river rushes closer, the kids scramble to higher ground. They make it; their counselors do not.