When she rescues a mistreated cockatoo, mute Rowena finds herself in more trouble than usual, but her actions finally reveal her true concern, that her new mother's impending baby is a replacement for her because she isn't perfect.

Stranded in Boringsville

Catherine Bateson

Following her parents' separation, twelve-year-old Rain moves with her mother to the country, where she befriends the unpopular boy who lives next door and also seeks a way to cope with her feelings toward her father and his new girlfriend.

Strawberry Moon

Karen English

While driving to Auntie Dot's house, Junie tells her children about spending fifth grade there during her parent's separation many years earlier, when finding a best friend seemed almost as important as seeing her mother again.

Strider

Beverly Cleary

Strider has a new habit. Whenever we stop, he places his paw on my foot. It isn't an accident because he always does it. I like to think he doesn't want to leave me. Can a stray...
dog change the life of a teenage boy? It looks as if Strider can. He's a dog that loves to run; because of Strider, Leigh Botts finds himself running — well enough to join the school track team. Strider changes Leigh on the inside, too, as he finally begins to accept his parents’ divorce and gets to know a redheaded girl he's been admiring. With Strider's help, Leigh finds that the future he once hated to be asked about now holds something he never expected: hope.

Sunshine Picklelime

*Pamela Ferguson*

PJ Picklelime can talk to birds, hear bells ringing in a woman's curls, and spot moonbows in the night sky, but when a close friend dies and her parents separate, she searches for understanding and a way to recover her sunshine.

Sweethearts of Rhythm

*Marilyn Nelson*

A look at a 1940's all-female jazz band, that originated from a boarding school in Mississippi and found its way to the most famous ballrooms in the country, offering solace during the hard years of the war.

Switch

*Ingrid Law*

Gypsy Beaumont's magical savvy switches to its opposite when she learns that her mean and decidedly non-magical grandma has Alzheimer's and is going to move in with her family.

T4: A Novel in Verse

*Ann Clare LeZotte*

When the Nazi party takes control of Germany, thirteen-year-old Paula, who is deaf, finds her world-as-she-knows-it turned upside down, as she is taken into hiding to protect her from the new law nicknamed T4.

Take Me with You

*Carolyn Marsden*

Raised in an Italian orphanage in the years following World War II, a biracial girl named Susanna and her best friend Pina want to be adopted but fear being separated.

Tan to Tamarind: Poems About the Color Brown

*Malathi Michelle Iyengar*

Poems in celebration of brown skin color.
Feeling scared and powerless when her father's anger escalates and her parents separate, twelve-year-old Anna spends the summer with her grandmother and decides to make a difference when she sees what seems to be a girl held against her will.

Joan Bauer

The 12 Dares of Christa

Marissa Burt

Thirteen-year-old Christa's plans for her favorite holiday are derailed when her parents announce their divorce and Christa spends Christmas in Europe with her mom, but even though her dad remains in Chicago, he sends Christa on a scavenger hunt made up of dares that send her all over Florence, Paris, and London.

The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister

Charlotte Agell

India, an unusual nine-and-a-half-year-old living in small-town Maine, has a series of adventures which bring her closer to her artist-mother, strengthen her friendship with a neighbor boy, and help her to accept the man for whom her father moved away.

The Ballad of Knuckles McGraw

Lois J. Peterson

After Kevin's mother abandons him, he takes refuge in his fantasy of becoming a cowboy, but his reality is a foster home and grandparents he doesn't know.

The Berenstain Bears and the Wheelchair Commando

Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain

Harry, a new student at Bear Country School who is disabled and uses a wheelchair, has trouble making friends until the others discover that he is really very much like them.

The Big House

Carolyn Coman

When Ivy and Ray's parents are sent to jail, and they are left in the custody of their parent's accusers, they decide to look for evidence that will "spring" their parents.

The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond

Brenda Woods

A biracial girl finally gets the chance to meet the African American side of her family.
Phoebe Stone

A story about a wounded girl and the boy who won't give up on her. 7th grader Louise should be the captain of her school's gymnastics team - but she isn't. She's fun and cute and should have lots of friends - but she doesn't. And there's a dreamy boy who has a crush on her - but somehow they never connect. Louise has everything going for her - so what is it that's holding her back? Phoebe Stone tells the winning story of the spring when 7th grader Louise Terrace wakes up, finds the courage to confront the painful family secret she's hiding from - and finally get the boy.

The Case of the Stolen Scarab

Nancy Garden

After the Taylor-Michaelson family buys an old inn in Vermont, they attempt to solve a case involving a stolen scarab.

The Cook's Family

Laurence Yep

As her parents' arguments become more frequent, Robin looks forward to the visits that she and her grandmother make to Chinatown, where they pretend to be an elderly cook's family, giving Robin new insights into her Chinese heritage.

The Crazy Man

Pamela Porter

It is 1965, and 12-year-old Emaline, living on a wheat farm, must deal with a family that is falling apart. When her dog, Prince, chases a hare into the path of the tractor, she chases after him, and her father accidentally runs over her leg, leaving her with a long convalescence and a permanent disability. Even worse, from Emaline's point of view, is that in his grief and guilt, her father shoots Prince and leaves Emaline and her mother on their own. Despite the neighbors' disapproval, Emaline's mother hires Angus, a patient from the local mental hospital, to work their fields. Angus is a red-haired giant whom the local children tease and call "the gorilla." Though the small town's prejudice creates a cloud of suspicion around Angus that nearly results in tragedy, he just may hold the key to Emaline's coming to grips with her injury and the loss of her father.

The Day Joanie Frankenhauser Became a Boy

Frances Lin Lantz

Tired of gender stereotyping at home, in the classroom, and especially on the football field, ten-year-old Joanie pretends to be a boy when her family moves to a new town, but soon finds there are unexpected consequences.

The Detective's Assistant

Kate Hannigan

In 1859, eleven-year-old Neil goes to live with her aunt, Kate Warne, the first female detective for Pinkerton's National Detective Agency. Neil helps her aunt solve cases, including a mystery surrounding Abraham Lincoln, and the mystery of what happened to Neil's own father. Includes author's note and bibliographic references.

The Fairies of Nutfolk Wood

Barb Bentler Ullman

After her parents divorce and she moves to the country with her mother, fourth-grader Willa
Jane, anxious and unhappy with the changes in her life, discovers a world of little people called Nutfolk living in the woods around her new home.

The Friends

Kazumi Yumoto

Curious about death, three sixth-grade boys decide to spy on an old man waiting for him to die, but they end up becoming his friends.