Alek Khederian should have guessed something was wrong when his parents took him to a
restaurant. Everyone knows that Armenians never eat out. Why bother, when their home
cooking is far superior to anything these Americans could come up with? Between bouts of
interrogating the waitress and criticizing the menu, Alek's parents announce that he'll be
attending summer school in order to bring up his grades. Alek is sure this experience will
be the perfect hellish end to his hellish freshmen year of high school. He never could've
predicted that he'd meet someone like Ethan. Ethan is everything Alek wishes he were:
confident, free-spirited, and irreverent. When Ethan gets Alek to cut school and go to a
Rufus Wainwright concert in New York City's Central Park, Alek embarks on his first
adventure outside the confines of his suburban New Jersey existence. He can't believe a
guy this cool wants to be his friend. And before long, it seems like Ethan wants to be more
than friends. Alek has never thought about having a boyfriend--he's barely ever had a
girlfriend--but maybe it's time to think again. Michael Barakiva's One Man Guy is a
romantic, moving, laugh-out-loud-funny story about what happens when one person cracks
open your world and helps you see everything--and, most of all, yourself--like you never
have before.
One More Step
Sheree Fitch

Fourteen-year-old Julian's parents separated when he was a baby and he is still angry and hurt. His mother has had relationships since -- all of which have ended disastrously -- but this time it seems serious. Jean-Paul looks like he might be the real thing. Julian is wary and critical as he comes to terms with the fact that he and his brother may have to let down their defenses and allow their mother to find happiness. On a road trip with his mother and her new beau, Julian finds that love and happiness come in many guises. In the end, he realizes that it is not blood that determines true family, but the willingness to stand together.

One of the Problems of Everett Anderson
Lucille Clifton

Everett Anderson wonders how he can help his friend Greg, who appears to be a victim of child abuse.

One Word from Sophia
Jim Averbeck

Sophia tries varied techniques to get the giraffe she wants more than anything in this story about the nuances of negotiation. Sophia has one true desire for her birthday. But she has Four Big Problems in the way: Mom, Dad, Uncle Conrad ... and Grand-mama. Will her presentations, proposals, and pie charts convince them otherwise? Turns out, all it takes is one word.

Only the Lonely
Laura Dower

Madison Finn uses her computer journal and the Internet to cope with many changes as she starts seventh grade--her parents' divorce, the arrival of a new girl in town, and separation from her two best friends.

Openly Straight
Bill Konigsberg

Tired of being known as "the gay kid," Rafe Goldberg decides to assume a new persona when he comes east and enters an elite Massachusetts prep school--but trying to deny his identity has both complications and unexpected consequences.

Orbiting Jupiter
Gary D. Schmidt

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.

Oscar's Half Birthday
Bob Graham

To celebrate his half birthday, Oscar, his parents, and his sister go out for a picnic. Oscar is six months old today, but the truth is that no one can wait for his whole birthday. So there's nothing else for Mom and Dad to do but pack some sandwiches, park Oscar in his stroller,
and take older sister Millie-handmade fairy wings attached to the “half country” of their urban park for a half-birthday party.

Otis And Alice
Ariane Bertouille
Uncle Dan brought his nephew Otis a very special gift: a mouse with super-long, expressive whiskers! Otis can’t believe his eyes. He has wanted a pet mouse forever! But, how long can he keep Alice? Can he convince his cat Rocket and his two moms to keep the little mouse, so full of imagination and energy? The daily lives of many families—are often very much alike. Can Alice the mouse fit into Otis’s family?

Our Baby from China: An Adoption Story
Nancy D’Antonio
An American couple goes to China to adopt a baby.

Our Gracie Aunt
Jacqueline Woodson
When a brother and sister are taken to stay with their mother’s sister because their mother neglects them, they wonder if they will see their mother again.

Our Own Private Universe
Robin Talley
Fifteen-year-old Aki Simon has a theory. And it’s mostly about sex. No, it isn’t that kind of theory. Aki already knows she’s bisexual, even if, until now, it’s mostly been in the hypothetical sense. Aki has dated only guys so far, and her best friend, Lori, is the only person who knows she likes girls, too. Actually, Aki’s theory is that she’s got only one shot at living an interesting life—and that means she’s got to stop sitting around and thinking so much. It’s time for her to actually do something. Or at least try. So when Aki and Lori set off on a church youth-group trip to a small Mexican town for the summer and Aki meets Christa—slightly older, far more experienced—it seems her theory is prime for the testing. But it’s not going to be easy. For one thing, how exactly do two girls have sex, anyway? And more important, how can you tell if you’re in love? It’s going to be a summer of testing theories, and the result may just be love.

Out of My Mind
Sharon M. Draper
Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory. She can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom, the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged, because she cannot tell them otherwise. Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy, and she’s determined to let everyone know it, somehow.

Out of the Blue
S. L. Rottman
After moving to Minot, North Dakota, with his mother, the new female base commander, Air Force dependent Stu Ballentyne gradually becomes aware that something terrible is going on in his neighbor’s house.
Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale
Karen Katz
A loving couple dream of a baby born far away and know that this is the baby they have been waiting to adopt.

Over The River and Through the Woods: A Holiday Adventure
Linda Ashman
The classic song gets a fresh new twist! The fun begins when Grandma and Grandpa send invitations to their far-flung, modern, and multiracial family: Come to our house for the holidays! As each family faces an obstacle that delays their trip, they learn that sometimes the most old-fashioned form of transportation works best... neigh!

Over You
Amy Reed
A novel about two girls on the run from their problems, their pasts, and themselves. Max and Sadie are escaping to Nebraska, but they'll soon learn they can't escape the truth.

Owning It: Stories About Teens with Disabilities
Donald R. Gallo
Presents ten stories of teenagers facing all of the usual challenges of school, parents, boyfriends and girlfriends, plus the additional complications that come with having a physical or psychological disability.

Pablo Finds a Treasure
Andrée Poulin
Pablo and his sister spend every day at "Treasure Mountain," the local dump. There, they rummage through the mounds of garbage looking for items that their mother can sell in order to provide food for the family. Occasionally, they find a "real" treasure like some still-edible food, or a picture book, which Pablo delights in, even though he can't read. The work is exhausting, and sometimes not very lucrative, but the worst thing they have to contend with is Filthy-Face, a brutish bully who steals the finds of all the children. But one day, Pablo discovers a real treasure. Will he be able to keep it from falling into the hands of Filthy-Face?

Papa's Backpack
James Christopher Carroll
Illustrations and rhyming text portray a bear cub who understands that because Papa is a soldier, he sometimes must go, but imagines what it would be like to stay near by riding in Papa's backpack.
Parrotfish

Ellen Wittlinger

Grady, a transgendered high school student, yearns for acceptance by his classmates and family as he struggles to adjust to his new identity as a male.

Peace, Locomotion

Jacqueline Woodson

Through letters to his little sister, who is living in a different foster home, sixth-grader Lonnie, also known as “Locomotion,” keeps a record of their lives while they are apart, describing his own foster family, including his foster brother who returns home after losing a leg in the Iraq War.

Peas and Carrots

Tanita S. Davis

After her mother is arrested, fifteen-year-old Dess is sent to live with the foster family that took in her baby brother several years before, and although she and her new foster sister, Hope, clash immediately, they soon realize they have much in common.

Pecan Pie Baby

Jacqueline Woodson

When Mama's pregnancy draws attention away from Gia, she worries that the special bond they share will disappear forever once the baby is born