

Stuck in the Middle with You: Books for Middle Grade Readers



[Bird](#)

Angela Johnson

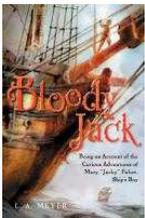
Devastated by the loss of a second father, thirteen-year-old Bird follows her stepfather from Cleveland to Alabama in hopes of convincing him to come home, and along the way helps two boys cope with their difficulties.



[Black Flame](#)

Gerelchimeg Blackcrane

The adventurous life story of Black Flame, a Tibetan Mastiff.

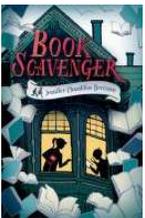


[Bloody Jack](#)

L.A. Meyer

Series: [Bloody Jack](#)

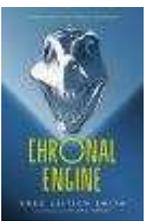
Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.



[Book Scavenger](#)

Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

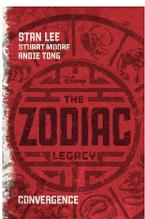
Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets.



[Chronal Engine](#)

Greg Leitich Smith

Eighth-grader Max, his older brother Kyle, and new friend Petra travel in time to the Cretaceous period to rescue Kyle's twin, Emma, who was kidnapped from their grandfather's Texas ranch. Includes author's notes about the facts behind the story.

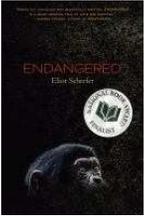


[Convergence](#)

Stan Lee, Stuart Moore

Series: Zodiac Legacy

Follows the experiences of a Chinese-American teen who is thrown in- to the middle of an epic global chase involving the release of twelve magical superpowers.



[Endangered](#)
Eliot Schrefer

Sophie is not happy to be back in the Congo for the summer, but when she rescues an abused baby bonobo she becomes more involved in her mother's sanctuary--and when fighting breaks out and the sanctuary is attacked, it is up to Sophie to rescue the apes and somehow survive in the jungle.



[Fish in the Sky](#)
Fridrik Erlings

Josh Stephenson's thirteenth year starts with a baffling sequence of events, including an odd gift from his estranged father, the arrival of his flirty seventeen-year-old female cousin, locker-room teasing about certain embarrassing anatomical changes, and wondering if dreams of love can ever come true.



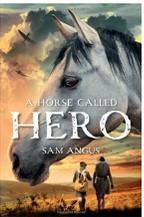
[The Forget-Me-Not Summer](#)
Leila Howland

When their parents go off on summer projects, Marigold, Zinnia, and Lily must visit their Great Aunt Sunny in Cape Cod.



[Geek Fantasy Novel](#)
E. Archer

Ralph is asked to spend the summer with his strange British relatives at their old manor house in order to set up their Wi-Fi network. And thus begins his strange adventure.



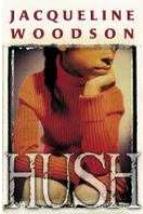
[A Horse Called Hero](#)
Sam Angus

On the brink of World War II, a family is forced out of their London home and into the countryside. Wolfie and his older sister Dodo are devastated to leave behind everything they've ever known, but they slowly settle into their new life. One day they come across an orphaned foal, which they raise as Hero, a strong and beautiful horse who lives up to his name when he saves the children from a fire. Wolfie and Dodo find comfort in their new life, but the war is escalating quickly and horses are needed for combat. One night, Hero is stolen, and the children are shattered. Years go by and there's no sign of Hero returning. It's only when Wolfie becomes a stable hand that he discovers Hero has ended up working in the mines under terrible conditions. Then and there, Wolfie resolves to save Hero, even if it puts his own life in danger. Together, they will survive.



[The Hour of the Bees](#)
Lindsay Eagar

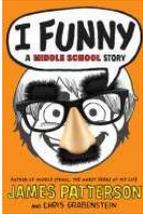
At first, twelve-year-old Carol is not happy to be spending the summer helping her parents move her grandfather to an assisted living home, but as the summer wears on, she finds herself drawn to him, fascinated by his amazing stories.



Hush

Jacqueline Woodson

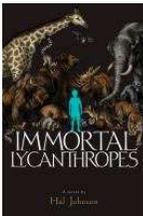
Twelve-year-old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.



I Funny

James Patterson

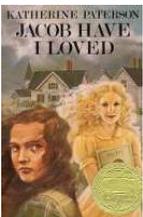
Resolving to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian despite less-than-funny challenges in his life, wheelchair-bound middle school student Jamie Grimm endures bullying from his mean-spirited cousin and hopes he will be fairly judged when he enters a local comedy contest.



Immortal Lycanthropes

Hal Johnson

Horribly disfigured thirteen-year-old Myron Horowitz discovers that he is the first immortal lycanthrope, a were-mammal, born since time began, that can switch from a human to an animal.



Jacob Have I Loved

Katherine Paterson

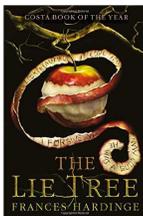
Feeling deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to fight back.



Laugh with the Moon

Shana Burg

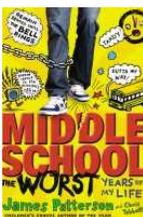
Massachusetts thirteen-year-old Clare, grieving after her mother's recent death, reluctantly travels with her father to spend nine weeks in a remote village in Malawi, where new friends and experiences help open her mind and heart.



The Lie Tree

Frances Hardinge

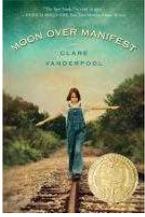
On an island off the south coast of Victorian England, fourteen-year-old Faith investigates the mysterious death of her father, who was involved in a scandal, and discovers a tree that feeds upon lies and gives those who eat its fruit visions of truth.



Middle School: the worst years of my life

James Patterson

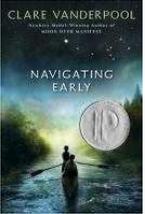
When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.



[Moon Over Manifest](#)

Clare Vanderpool

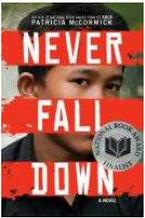
Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.



[Navigating Early](#)

Clare Vanderpool

Odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters.



[Never Fall Down](#)

Patricia McCormick

Cambodian child soldier Arn Chorn-Pond defied the odds and used all of his courage and wits to survive the murderous regime of the Khmer Rouge.



[Omega City](#)

Diana Peterfreund

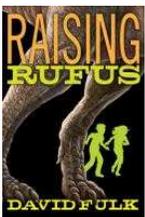
Gillian Seagret doesn't listen to people who say her father's a crackpot. His conspiracy theories about the lost technology of Cold War-era rocket scientist Dr. Aloysius Underberg may have cost him his job and forced them to move to the middle of nowhere, but Gillian knows he's right and plans to prove it.



[The Perfect Place](#)

Teresa E. Harris

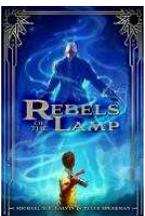
Twelve-year-old Treasure Daniels and her younger sister must move in with Great-aunt Grace until their mother sorts herself out, but life in Black Lake, Virginia, where segregation lingers, is hard and Grace is a nightmare--at least on the surface.



[Raising Rufus](#)

David Fulk

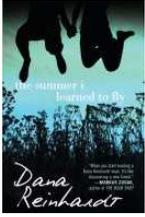
A lonely 11-year-old science nerd named Martin discovers an ancient egg and soon finds himself "surrogate mom" to a very outlandish pet--a T. rex. But when his secret gets too big to keep from the world, Martin must find his inner hero to save the one thing he's come to really care about.



[Rebels of the Lamp](#)

Michael M.B. Galvin

Parker Quarry is only twelve years old, and he's about to enter a war that has been brewing for centuries. When his mother sends him to New Hampshire to stay with his cousin, Theo, Parker expects to be bored out of his mind. But then he stumbles across an ancient container--with a real genie inside--and life for Parker gets way more exciting.



[The Summer I Learned to Fly](#)

Dana Reinhardt

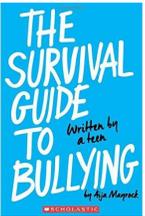
Thirteen-year-old Drew starts the summer of 1986 helping in her mother's cheese shop and dreaming about co-worker Nick, but when her widowed mother begins dating, Drew's father's book of lists, her pet rat, and Emmett, a boy on a quest, help her cope.



[Summer on the Moon](#)

Adrian Fogelin

Thirteen-year-old Socko and his mother leave their cramped, unsafe inner city apartment and move to a house in a new suburban development where they plan to care for Socko's crotchety great-grandfather, but when they arrive they discover that the rest of the homes are unfinished, they are the only residents of Moon Ridge Estates, and that trouble has followed them.

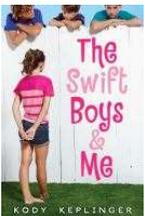


[The Survival Guide to Bullying: written by a teen](#)

Aija Mayrock

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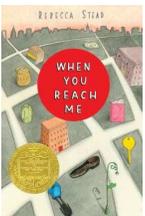
NEW, updated edition! Written by a teenager who was bullied throughout middle school and high school, this kid-friendly book offers a fresh and relatable perspective on bullying. Along the way, the author offers guidance as well as different strategies that helped her get through even the toughest of days. The Survival Guide to Bullying covers everything from cyber bullying to how to deal with fear and how to create the life you dream of having.



[The Swift Boys & Me](#)

Kody Keplinger

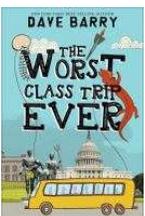
Nola Sutton has always been friends with the Swift boys, Cannan, Brian, and Kevin, but when their father leaves them without saying good-bye the boys start to change, and her long-time friends begin to pull away from her at a time when she needs them more than ever.



[When You Reach Me](#)

Rebecca Stead

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.



[The Worst Class Trip Ever](#)

Dave Barry

When the eighth grade civics class of Miami's Culver Middle School goes on a trip to Washington, D.C., Wyatt Palmer finds himself in deep trouble before the plane even lands because his best friend Matt's decided the men sitting behind them are terrorists--and it's up to the boys to stop them.