Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Esperanza and her family were once wealthy ranchers until they had to flee Mexico and try to make a new life as migrant workers in California.

Boys Without Names by Kashmira Sheth

Gopal and his family decide to move to busy Mumbai with his uncle, but Gopal gets kidnapped into a sweatshop with little hope for escape. Can he find a way out?

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

Three sisters from New York City are sent by their father out to California to spend time with their estranged mother. They learn about the Black Panthers and their poet mother during the heated summer of 1968.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Wood-

son In free verse poems, Woodson describes her life growing up in both South Carolina and New York City in the 1960s and 1970s.

Breaking Stalin's Nose by Eugene Yelchin

In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, tenyear-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs

Dragon's Gate by Laurence Yep

In 1867, a Chinese boy is sent to meet his father and uncle in America, where they are digging a tunnel through Sierra Nevada mountain to build the transcontinental railroad.

This list created by Noelle Boc, 2017 Updated by Kat Lewin, 2020

In the Early Chapter Book Section

The No. 1 Car Spotter by Atinuke

When the cart breaks down and the villagers can't get their goods to market, Oluwalase Babatunde Benson, otherwise known as the No. 1 car spotter in his village, comes up with a brilliant solution.

Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business by Lyla Lee Mindy's new friend, Sally, makes her favorite seaweed snacks seem totally delicious to her new classmates, so they decide to start the Yummy Seaweed Business to try and raise money for a puppy.

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things by Lenore Look

It's tough for Alvin, who lives in Concord, Massachusetts, to make friends when he is afraid of everything! But he loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmerwarriors, so he needs to try.

Away West by Pat McKissack

In 1879, 13 year old Everett runs away from his hard home life to St. Louis, where he learns to work with horses. Then he lights out for the all black town of Nicodemus, Kansas.

Juana & Lucas by Juana Medina

A spunky young girl from Colombia loves playing with her dog and resists boring things, especially learning English. Until her family tells her they have a trip planned...somewhere they speak English!

Sadiq and the Fun Run by Siman Nuurali Eightyear-old Sadiq wants to try out for the youth football team like his friends, but his parents feel he is too young, and instead suggest that he take up running and join the track club--Sadiq feels that running is wimpy, but the coach convinces him that running races can be fun as well.



Diverse Voices:

Multicultural stories by diverse authors

All titles found in the J Fiction section by author's last name



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

African-American twins Josh and Jordan are basketball stars on the court, but struggle with new relationships and family troubles off the floor.

Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez

After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.

The Winter People by Joseph Bruchac

Saxso, a 14 year old Abenaki boy, pursues the English rangers who captured his mother and sisters in 1759

Vanished by Sheela Chari

When Neela's rare but cursed veena—a classical Indian instrument—goes missing, Neela must unravel the mystery of its disappearance.

The Year of Impossible Goodbyes by Sook Nyul Choi

A young girl tries to escape the oppressive governments of both Japan and Russia when they occupy North Korea, and attempts to reach the safety of South Korea.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Watson family decides to leave their Flint, Michigan home and travel down to Alabama to visit relatives in 1963, only to find life is very different there.

Bollywood Babes by Narinder Dhami

The Dhillon sisters hatch a brilliant plan to get an ex-Bollywood star to move in with them and make an appearance to raise money for their school. Unfortunately, things work out a little differently than planned.

Sees Behind Trees by Michael Dorris

Walnut is a near-sighted Native American boy who fears he will not pass his rituals into adulthood due to his poor vision, but he finds he has other skills that more than make up for what he lacks.

Forest World by Margarita Engle

When Edver is sent to Cuba to visit the father he hardly knows, he is surprised to find a half-sister, Luza. Luza has a plan to lure their mother to Cuba, but then the plan turns terribly dangerous.

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich

Omakayas, an Ojibwa girl, chronicles her life and adventures on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-yearold Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes.

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata

Summer and her family help with seasonal harvest workers around the country. But when an emergency causes her parents to return to Japan, Summer is left with her little brother and her demanding, oldfashioned, elderly grandparents. Can Summer make her own good luck happen?

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanha Lai

Há and her family must flee Saigon when the Vietnam War hits too close to home. When they arrive in America, everything is difficult, but she discovers her family is stronger than she knew.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

Minli and her family live in a very poor village. One day Minli meets a magic fish who sends her off on a quest across China to ask an allimportant question to the Old Man in the Moon.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord

Shirley and her family move from China to Brooklyn in 1947, and she slowly learns to love America with the help of Jackie Robinson and the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball team.

Shadows of Sherwood: A Robyn Hoodlum Adventure by Kekla Magoon

When Nott City is taken over by a harsh governor, Ignomus Crown, and her parents disappear, twelve-year-old Robyn Loxley flees for her life and joins a group of children trying to take back what is rightfully theirs in this futuristic retelling of Robin Hood.

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor

12 year old Sunny and her family move back from America to Nigeria, where Sunny learns she has magical powers. Sunny and her new magical friends band together to try and stop a killer.

The Kite Fighters by Linda Sue Park

Two brothers in Korea in 1473 band together to try and win the New Year's kite fighting competition.

Tiger Boy by Mitali Perkins

After a tiger cub escapes a reserve in India, Neel sets out to try and rescue her before others find her to sell on the black market.