

Cherry, M., & Harrison, V. (2019). *Hair love*. London: Puffin.

This book is amazing. It is about a little girl and her father. The little girl's father is parenting on his own for awhile. There is no sign in the story where the mother is, but she is just away for the time being. The daughter is frustrated with her hair, and her father things "hair! Piece of cake!" There are a bunch of funny hairstyles, but the little girl and her dad work it out so she looks great when her mom walks in the door. It shows just how much moms as well as dads in raising their kid.

Korman, Gordon. *The Unteachables*. Balzer & Bray, 2018.

The Unteachables is about not selling someone out until you get to know them. The unteachables have been sequestered in room 117 for the entire year. They have been deemed unteachable. The teacher that has been sent to this room has also been labeled "a problem" ever since an unfortunate incident back in the day. The daughter of his former girlfriend is a new teacher, and now teaches in the classroom right next to his. She is idealistic and he is burned out. Mr. Kermit even has a student who just walked in and sat down one day. She isn't even enrolled in the school. Room 117 has a lot of interesting characters (Elaine the Pain: who it turns out just has a bad wrap), and Aldo the student with anger management issues. Read this to see if they can survive the school year.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. *Ghost Boys*. Little, Brown and Company, 2019.

Jerome is an African American boy who is 12. He is also dead. The police mistook a toy gun he was playing with for a real gun. This story is told from Jerome's perspective in the afterlife. The catch is the daughter of the white police officer who shot Jerome, can see him in the afterlife. He also interacts with Emmett Till and various other historical figures.

Cummings, Pat. *Trace*. Harper, an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2019.

Trace is a survivor. He survived the car wreck that killed his parents, miraculously. He now lives in New York with his free-spirited artist aunt. He is fitting in well at his new school. He is doing a group project with his group, and they all agree to meet up at the New York Public Library. Trace gets lost within the library. He ends up down in the stacks and hears a child crying. He runs into the child who is wearing tatters. He thinks he can see through the boy, but it must be his imagination. He runs to tell a guard, and the guard thinks he's stealing something: because he is African American. His Aunt shows up and he finds out that not only was the NYPL a site of an African American Orphanage that burned down, but he might be related to this ghost! Trace returns to investigate.

Anderson, John David. *Granted*. Walden Pond Press, an Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2019.

In Haven lives a fairy called Ophelia Delphinium Fidgets. Haven is where there is a protective shield around the fairy world. These fairies have a job: granting wishes. Whenever someone wishes on something it creates a hum. The hum is then followed by the granters of Haven. Ophelia has never granted anything before. She is ready for the job. It is not as easy as she thought it was. She meets a stray dog, chases the wish all over the city, and finally realizes that granting is very hard work.

Sumrow, Melanie. *The Prophet Calls*. Yellow Jacket, 2018.

Gentry Forrester is a child of a polygamous commune in the mountains of New Mexico. Once a week The Prophet calls from his jail cell in Texas. On one of these calls, someone rats out Gentry that she is being a little wild and extreme. She is 13 years old and asked to marry a 50+ year old man. She is unenthused to say the least. She also likes to play violin with her brother. The prophet says that no one is now allowed off of the commune and they cannot go to perform at the festival. They sneak off of the property and are caught. As Gentry becomes older she starts to question everything the prophet says and what he does. Especially when he outlaws music and says that all women are forbidden to leave. Families start disappearing and Gentry thinks it's because they have committed the vilest of sins. Read to find out what happens.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *You Go First*. Greenwillow Books, an Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2019.

This is the story of Lottie and Ben. It is told in alternating perspectives. Ben is picked on at his school, and doesn't really notice that he is picked on until middle school, and until it's too late. He wants to run for student body treasurer. The competitive girl in his grade is also running. It is about this time that his parents announce their divorce and Ben turns really bitter at his father. Lottie is going through hardships as well. Her dad, who is older than most, has a heart attack, her best friend ditches her and says horrible things, and she finally makes a friend and stands up for what is right. Ben and Lottie both don't know what they mean to the other.

Schwab, Victoria. *City of Ghosts*. Scholastic, 2018.

Cassidy Blake is behind a veil. This veil is between the living and the dead. Due to an unfortunate drowning incident, which almost cost Cassidy her life, she can see dead people. She can communicate with them and sometimes even cross over. Her parents are The Inspectors: a ghost hunting duo who do not know their daughter can see actual ghosts. They travel around the world, and Cassidy travels with her ghost friend. She travels to the UK where she meets another person like her. This person is less than friendly, though. See what trouble they get into in *City of Ghosts* by Victoria Schwab.

Bowling, Dusti. *24 Hours in Nowhere*. Sterling Children's Books, 2018.

Reminiscent of *Holes* by Louis Sachar. The story is about Gus and the town of Nowhere, Arizona. It is a typical desert town, except for the bully Bo Taylor. Bo tries to make Gus eat a

cactus, but Rossi (Gus's best friend who is a girl) trades her BMX bike, her favorite (and only) possession in to rescue Gus. Gus feels horribly guilty, so he decides to go look for the fabled gold treasure of Frenchman's mine. Rossi tags along. Along the way they battle bobcats, glowing shrimp, and a lake of bones.

Woods, Brenda. *The Unsung Hero of Birdsong, USA*. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019.

Gabriel is the proud owner of a new bike. He accidentally rides it into traffic. He is brought to safety by Meriwether and African American man. Meriwether fixes the bike and Gabe gets him a job at his dad's as a mechanic. Some people at the shop are not as welcoming as Gabe's father. They cause trouble and try to run Meriwether off.

Magoon, Kekla. *Season of Styx Malone*. Random House Children's Books, 2018.

Caleb and Bobby Gene are brothers, and their father is extremely overprotective. His father never wants to go into the city. He is content to just live his small town existence. Caleb and Bobby Gene are bored and ready for adventure. Enter Styx Malone. Styx Malone just appears one day. He is very mysterious and charismatic. It turns out Styx Malone is in a foster home in the woods. He tried to hide it from the boys. Caleb and Bobby Gene's mother did not want them hanging out, but they also wanted adventure, and a bicycle. They found a bicycle downtown, but it was expensive. Styx Malone taught them about trading to get what you want. He was obsessed with this story of how this guy traded a paperclip and in the end received a house. On one of their trading expeditions, the boys hop a train going into the next town. Bobby Gene and Caleb's parents finds out and his parents are livid. To find out what happens read *Season of Styx Malone* by Kekla Magoon.

Jarrow, Gail. *Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and the War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America*. Calkins Creek, an Imprint of Highlights, 2018.

An interesting picture book-type non fiction story on how the controversial radio broadcast almost brought down the entire United States.

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*. Penguin Random House, 2018.

Merci Suarez isn't having the best of years. She is a scholarship student at a ritzy private school, but this doesn't bother her. What bothers her is the fact that her dad has to do odd jobs around the school. The most popular girl in the grade finds out and starts treating Merci differently. Combine this with the fact that her grandfather is becoming super forgetful and absentminded. Almost like he is losing his memory. To find out what happens read *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*.

Charbonneau, Joelle. *Time Bomb*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018.

A group of teens is hurt and trapped in a school that was bombed in their city. This was before school starts and evidently one of the bombers is trapped in the school with them. The book tries to make it seem like each student could have been the bomber. There is Diana: “The senator’s princess,” Frankie: “the All Star Quarterback,” Tad: “Bi-racial and part of the LGBTQ community,” and Cas: “the girl who came to the school looking for a way out: the hard way.” Rashid is also there. He is the one everyone thinks did it because he is Muslim. Find out who REALLY did it, in *Time Bomb*.

Dwinell, Kim. *Surfside Girls*. Top Shelf Productions, an Imprint of IDW Publishing, a Division of Idea and Design Works, LLC, 2017.

*Surfside Girls* has received numerous mixed reviews, but I thought it was perfect for people that like diversity, mystery, ghost stories, and treasure. This graphic novel was about Jade and Samantha. Jade is growing up and noticing boys, and Sam’s number one priority is surfing. She starts to feel a little left out. Then she starts seeing ghosts. Not scary ghosts per se, just ghosts that need help. Their sleeping ground is being bulldozed for a hotel development. One of the ghosts take a liking to Sam and shows her where treasure is buried (in a shipwreck). Sam and Jade get a lead that the PO box of the development is being fraudulently used. They stake out the post office and learn who the real mystery person is, and who is to blame for the development. They all band together as towns people to talk about the development. The thief and crook is found out.

Tamaki, Mariko, and Rosemary Valero-OConnell. *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking up with Me*. Groundwood Books, 2019.

Moderately Young Adult. For your older readers. LGBTQIA+. Laura Dean is a player. She keeps breaking up with Frederica Riley. Frederica is head over heels for Laura Dean. It does not help that Laura Dean is the most popular girl at school. Laura Dean gets caught cheating on Frederica, but keeps leading her on. Frederica visits a fortune teller for advice on how to proceed with this conundrum.

Venable, C. A. F., & Crenshaw, E. T. (2019). *Kiss number 8*. New York: First Second, an imprint

Of Roaring Brook Press.

Mads doesn’t know what the big deal with kissing is. Everyone seems to put it above all else. Mads has been kissed, or kissed, seven times. The 8th kiss was the one to end all kisses. Not only does that kiss mean more than most, but her dad has something to hide that could possibly change the family dynamics forever. Drama, drama, drama throughout this graphic novel.

Messner, K. (2019). *Breakout*. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.

There are not many job opportunities, or changes, within the town of Wolf Creek. Nora, a seventh grader, is collecting articles and various other messages for the Wolf Creek time capsule. A new girl comes to Wolf Creek. Rumor has it that her father is incarcerated at the town jail. When two inmates break out, the whole town is on standby, and on edge. Wolf Creek used to be a safe place. Can it ever be safe again?

Braden, A. (2019). *The benefits of being an octopus*. Waterville, ME: Thorndike Press.

Zoey is a seventh grader and she has the perfect life! Not! Her mom is always working and she has to live in her mom's boyfriend Lenny's trailer with Lenny's grumpy dad. Lenny isn't that nice, either. He is mean to Zoey's mom and is very demanding and controlling. One day while sitting on the washing machine, Zoey has finally had enough. She finally stands up for what is right. In the mean time, a teacher tries to teach Zoey how much power she has by joining the debate team. See if Zoey actually finds her voice