

VA READS Middle Grade Selections 21-22

Amari and the Night Brothers. By B.B. Alston. Balzer + Bray. (9780062975164)

Thirteen-year-old Amari, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids. edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith. Heartdrum. (9780062869944)

This collection of intersecting stories by both new and veteran Native writers bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride.

Before the Ever After. By Jacqueline Woodson. Nancy Paulsen Books. (9780399545436)

In this novel in verse, 12-year-old ZJ leans on his community for support as his football-star father experiences alarming medical symptoms and dramatic changes as a result of the sport (later revealed to be CTE).

Brother's Keeper. By Julie Lee. Holiday House. (9780823444946)

Sora and her family flee Communist North Korea during the Korean War in 1950. When the family becomes separated, Sora fights for her brother's survival as they travel south.

Clean Getaway. By Nic Stone. Crown Books for Young Readers. (9781984892973)

William Lamar, known as "Scoob," goes on a road trip through the South with his grandmother in her recreational vehicle, visiting some of the major sites in the Civil Rights movement and learning about how people like him have been treated.

Efren Divided. By Ernesto Cisneros. Quill Tree Books. (9780062881687)

When his mother is deported to Mexico, seventh grader Efrén is the only one who can cross the border to bring his mother home.

Girl Giant and Monkey King. By Van Hoang. Roaring Brook Press. (9781250240415)

Mysteriously, and almost overnight, eleven-year-old Thom Ngho became strong--strong enough to kick a soccer ball through the net and break doors. Though it's hard, she's been able to hide her ability from those at her mostly white new school in Georgia. When the Monkey King, a mythical creature from Vietnamese folklore, shows up in her bedroom, she makes a bargain with him to take her abilities away in exchange for helping him find his magical staff.

List of Things That Will Not Change. By Rebecca Stead. Wendy Lamb Books. (9781101938096)

Despite her parents' divorce, her father's coming out as gay, and his plans to marry his boyfriend, ten-year-old Bea is reassured by her parents' unconditional love, excited about getting a stepsister, and haunted by something she did last summer at her father's lake house.

Starfish. by Lisa Fipps. Crown Books for Young Readers. (9781984814500)

Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

We Could Be Heroes. By Margaret Finnegan. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
(9781534445253)

Fourth-graders Maisie and Hank, who is on the autism spectrum, become friends as they devise schemes to save a neighbor's dog, Booler, from being tied to a tree because of his epilepsy.