**HURRICANE CHILD**  
*Author: Kheryn Callender*  
Twelve-year-old Caroline Murphy’s life certainly has plenty—her mother disappeared, she’s bullied by classmates and teachers, and is haunted by a spirit. When a new student arrives, Kalinda, Caroline soon strikes up a friendship and eventually realizes that she is interested in her romantically. The pair set out on an adventure to find Caroline’s mother.

**LIKE VANESSA**  
*Author: Tami Charles*  
Vanessa Martin, a thirteen-year-old African American girl dreams of following in the footsteps of the first African American Miss America, Vanessa Williams; but the odds are against her until a new teacher at school organizes a beauty pageant and encourages Vanessa to enter.

**EPIC FALL OF ARTURO ZAMORA**  
*Author: Pablo Cartaya*  
Funny and poignant, *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* is the vibrant story of a family, a striking portrait of a town, and one boy’s quest to save both.

**THE NIGHT DIARY**  
*Author: Veera Hiranandani*  
Told through Nisha’s letters to her mother, *The Night Diary* is a heartfelt story of one girl’s search for home, for her own identity…and for a hopeful future.

**SMALL SPACES**  
*Author: Katherine Arden*  
Ollie Adler steals a book and is given a warning: “Avoid large places at night...Keep too small.” Soon she is wrapped up in the book’s haunting story of loss and a deal made with a being known as “the smiling man.”

**GHOST BOYS**  
*Author: Jewell Parker Rhodes*  
The *Towers Falling* author once again tackles a timely yet difficult subject. In Chicago, 12-year-old black youth Jerome is shot and killed by a white police officer who mistakes a toy gun for a real one. As a ghost, Jerome witnesses the aftermath gripping both his family and that of the police officers. Jerome also meets another ghost—that of Emmett Till, a black boy murdered in 1955.

**UNFRIENDED**  
*Author: Rachel Vail*  
As the title suggests, the topic of this book is a current situation with teen friendships and social media. The characters are extremely believable, as is the drama in which they find themselves.

**BROWN GIRL DREAMING**  
*Author: Jacqueline Woodson*  
Jacqueline Woodson, one of today’s finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

**THE VAN GOGH DECEPTION**  
*Author: Deron Hicks*  
Dan Brown meets Jason Bourne in this riveting middle-grade mystery thriller. When a young boy is discovered in Washington DC’s National Gallery without any recollection of who he is, so begins a high-stakes race to unravel the greatest mystery of all: his identity.
THE FIRST RULE OF PUNK
Author: Celia C. Perez

_The First Rule of Punk_ is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one’s watching.

FROGKISER
Author: Garthnix

Poor Princess Anya. Forced to live with her evil stepmother’s new husband, her evil stepfather. Plagued with an unfortunate ability to break curses with a magic-assisted kiss.

KALAHARI
Author: Jessica Khoury

_Kalahari_ starts as an action adventure and as the story’s main characters weave across the Kalahari Desert, the story bends more towards a survival sci-fi novel. Review by Mrs. Shimko.

CLICK’D
Author: Tamara Ireland Stone

New York Times best-selling author Tamara Ireland Stone combines friendship, coding, and lots of popcorn in her fun and empowering middle-grade debut.

SHORT
Author: Holly Goldberg Sloan

Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of _The Wizard of Oz_, she’ll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. She hasn’t ever thought of herself as a performer, but when the wonderful director of Oz casts her as a Munchkin, she begins to see herself in a new way.

REBOUND
Author: Kwame Alexander

This novel in verse is a companion book to _Crossover_. In _Rebound_, readers go back in time to meet the teenaged Charlie Bell, the father of Jordan and Josh, during a critical summer in his life. Charlie has just experienced a heartbreaking loss and is getting into trouble, so he is sent to live with his no-nonsense grandparents for the summer. For readers who want to know the backstory of the Bell family, this is a great read.

DRUMS, GIRLS & DANGEROUS PIE
Author: Jordan Sonnenblick

Steven’s world gets turned inside out. This realistic read is filled with humor that helps the characters get through tough times.

ICEBREAKER
Author: Lian Tanner

Nicknamed the Nothing Girl, Petrel is an outcast on a ship that has been sailing for 300 years. The three warring tribes on the ship are reaching a breaking point when suddenly they see a boy abandoned on an iceberg. Will bringing him aboard bring the tribes together, or drive them even further apart?

RESTART
Author: Gordon Korman

From the #1 bestselling author of _Swindle and Slacker_, _Restart_ is the spectacular story of a kid with a messy past who must figure out what it means to get a clean start.

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