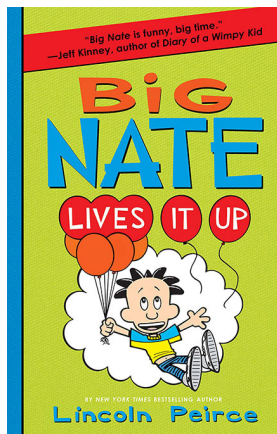


***Aani and the Tree Huggers* | Jeannine Atkins**

Aani lives in a village that is protected and sustained by a forest. When loggers show up to cut down the trees, she throws her arms around her favorite tree, and the women of the village follow her lead, saving the forest. This book is based on a true story.

**LEXILE:** 650

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Problem Solving

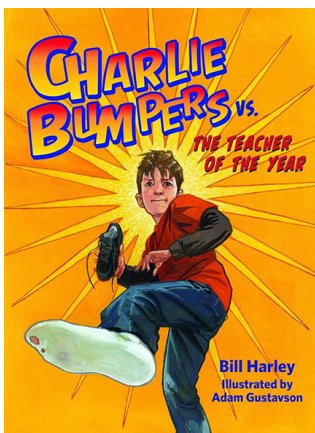


***Big Nate Lives it Up* | Lincoln Peirce**

Principal Nichols asks Nate—you may recognize him from the Big Nate comic strip—to look after the new kid. Breckenridge Puffington III is no fun at all. But there seems to be something strange and familiar about him.

**LEXILE:** 520

**THEMES:** Compassion, Emotion Management, Empathy, Feelings, Friendship, Problem, Solving, Understanding Perspectives



***Charlie Bumpers vs. the Teacher of the Year* | Bill Harley**

Charlie starts fourth grade convinced his teacher is just waiting for him to fail: His new teacher has a reputation for being strict—and is the same one he accidentally hit with a shoe the year before.

**LEXILE:** 510

**THEMES:** Compassion, Consequences, Empathy, Understanding Perspectives



***El Deafo* | Cece Bell**

Cece is self-conscious about her huge hearing aid. Then she discovers she can listen in on teachers' conversations, and her deafness starts to feel like a superpower! Will it help her to conquer her loneliness and find a real friend?

**LEXILE:** 420

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Emotion Management, Feelings, Friendship

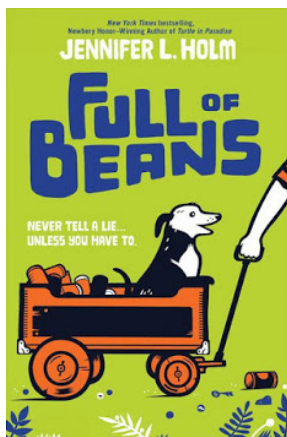


***Fish in a Tree* | Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

Ally can't read, but none of her teachers have noticed. Until now, she's fooled everyone by changing schools and disrupting class. But her new teacher sees how bright she is, and helps her understand and cope with her dyslexia.

**LEXILE:** 550

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Emotion Management, Feelings, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives



***Full of Beans* | Jennifer L. Holm**

Beans Curry is a mischievous kid trying to help support his family during the Great Depression. He has been known to bend the law a little, but when he comes across some grown-ups who don't tell the truth, things change for Beans.

**LEXILE:** 490

**THEMES:** Consequences, Feelings, Friendship, Problem Solving

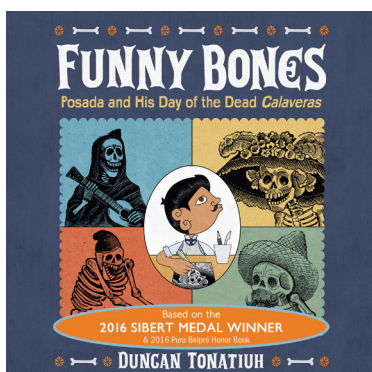


***Full Cicada Moon* | Marilyn Hilton**

In this novel written in verse, a girl spends her eighth-grade year struggling to fit in. She's half black and half Japanese, living in a predominately white town in Vermont in 1969—and dreams of being an astronaut.

**LEXILE:** 790

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Compassion, Empathy, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives

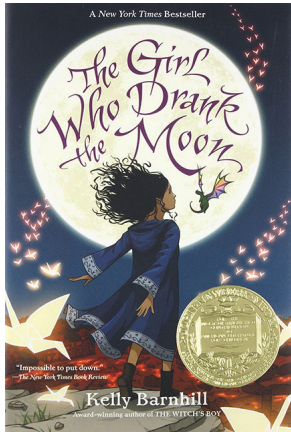


***Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras* | Duncan Tonatiuh**

Lupe Posada drew political cartoons in Mexico in a time when the country was not known for free speech. Along the way he created the skeleton (calaveras) drawings that have become so strongly associated with Mexico's Day of the Dead celebrations.

**LEXILE:** ≈ 900

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Empathy, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives



***The Girl Who Drank the Moon* | Kelly Barnhill**

This lyrical fantasy novel tells the story of a girl who, after being abandoned by her village, is being raised by the good witch who accidentally gave her some troublesome magical powers.

**LEXILE:** 640

**THEMES:** Consequences, Emotion Management, Feelings, Problem Solving

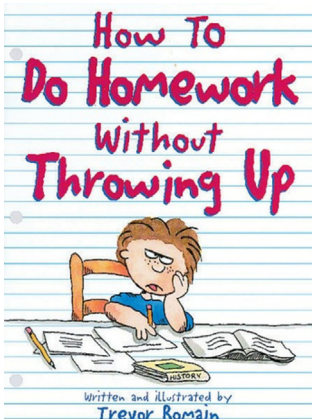


***Hello, Universe* | Erin Entrada Kelly**

Four very different middle schoolers' lives become entwined when one of them gets stuck in the bottom of a well. Filipino folklore figures prominently in this suspenseful story.

**LEXILE:** ≈ 1000

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Friendship, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives

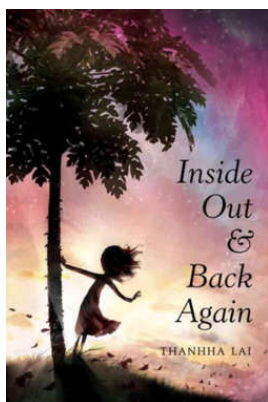


***How to Do Homework Without Throwing Up* | Trevor Romain**

Homework is a serious subject, but this is a funny book. And the best part is that while it acknowledges that no kid likes the stress and strain, there are practical solutions to the problem.

**LEXILE:** 760

**THEMES:** Problem Solving, Skills for Learning

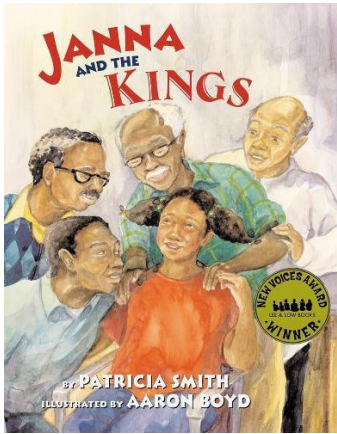


***Inside Out and Back Again* | Thanhha Lai**

Hà flees Saigon with her family during the Vietnam war. Her life as a refugee is strange and frightening, but her bond with her family is strong. The story is told in verse, and is based on the author's experience.

**LEXILE:** 800

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Emotion Management, Feelings

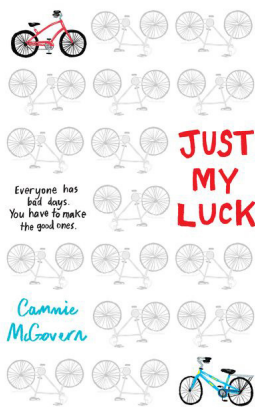


***Janna and the Kings* | Patricia Smith**

Janna spends every Saturday with Granddaddy, and her favorite part is their visit to the barbershop. There, Granddaddy and his friends look like kings on their thrones. When Granddaddy dies, Janna fears she’s lost all the kings.

**LEXILE:** 830

**THEMES:** Compassion, Emotion Management, Feelings, Friendship

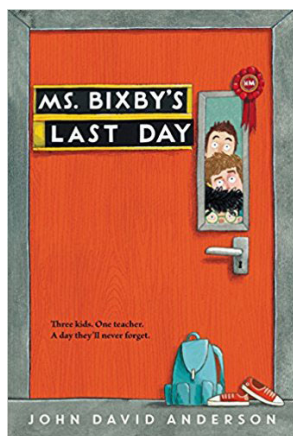


***Just My Luck* | Cammie McGovern**

Nothing seems to be going well for Benny: He can’t keep up with his brother on his bike, he has trouble making new friends, and he’s worried about his dad. But his mom helps him learn a moving, helpful lesson about caring for others.

**LEXILE:** 790

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Compassion, Empathy, Feelings, Problem solving

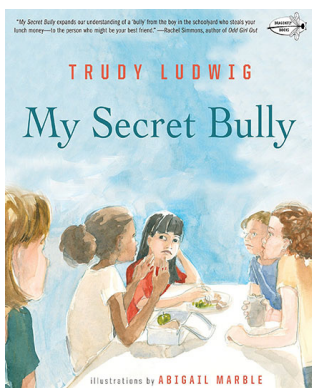


***Ms. Bixby's Last Day* | John David Anderson**

Topher, Brand, and Steve are stunned to learn their favorite teacher is seriously ill and leaving school right away. They go to extraordinary lengths to give her the best possible last day, and learn a valuable lesson about cherishing ordinary joys in the process.

**LEXILE:** 800

**THEMES:** Compassion, Empathy, Feelings,

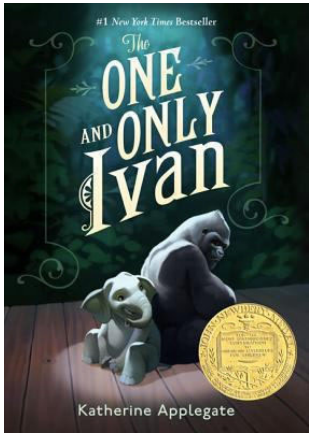


***My Secret Bully* | Trudy Ludwig**

Monica’s friend Katie is wonderful when she’s nice. But sometimes Katie calls her names and leaves her out of activities. Monica begins to blame herself, but finds a solution with some help from her mom.

**LEXILE:** 630

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Consequences, Feelings, Problem Solving

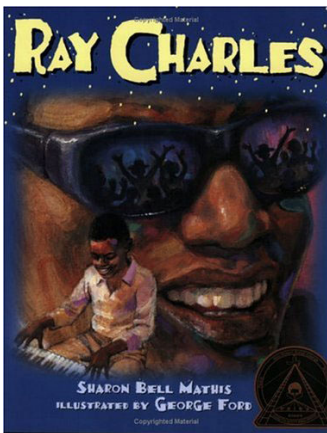


***The One and Only Ivan* | Katherine Applegate**

Ivan, a gorilla, was captured in a jungle he barely remembers, and has been plodding through his lonely life in a glass cage in a shopping mall for 27 years. When he finds himself charged with caring for a baby elephant, he’s finally inspired to make a change.

**LEXILE:** 570

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Empathy, Feelings, Friendship, Problem Solving

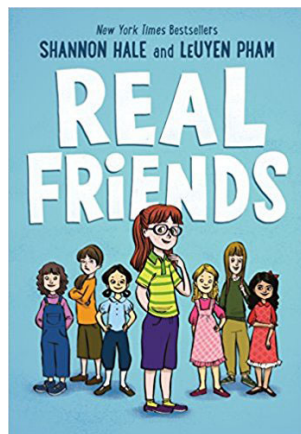


***Ray Charles* | Sharon Bell Mathis**

You know Ray Charles was one of the greatest jazz pianists ever. But do you know the story of how he lost his sight, and learned to read music in Braille? Or that he refused to play for segregated audiences? This biography traces the rise of a legend.

**LEXILE:** N/A

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Emotion Management, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives



***Real Friends* | Shannon Hale**

Shannon’s best friend, Adrienne, has been hanging out with the most popular girl in the most popular group in class. And some of those girls bully others. What will happen to Shannon and Adrienne’s friendship?

**LEXILE:** 900

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Feelings, Friendship, Problem Solving

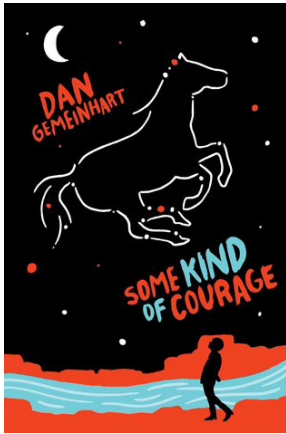


***Same Sun Here* | Neela Vaswani & Silas House**

An Indian immigrant girl and the son of a Kentucky coal miner become pen pals—and forge an extraordinary, empathetic relationship across the miles. This powerful story is told in two distinct voices.

**LEXILE:** 890

**THEMES:** Empathy, Friendship, Understanding Perspectives

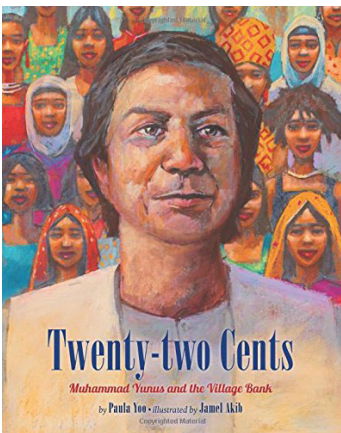


### ***Some Kind of Courage* | Dan Gemeinhart**

Joseph Johnson lost his father in an accident, and he lost his mother and sister to illness. Then someone takes away the only thing he has left that he loves, his pony, Sarah. Joseph has to summon the courage to go after her.

**LEXILE:** 760

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Emotion Management, Feelings, Problem Solving

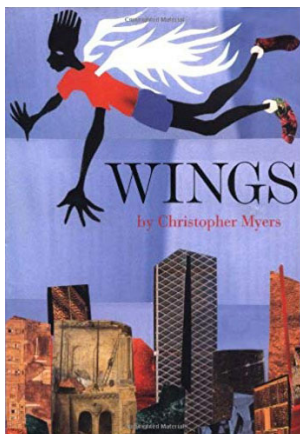


### ***Twenty-Two Cents* | Paula Yoo**

When an economics professor in Bangladesh meets a young craftswoman whose life has been derailed over a tiny sum of money, he has an idea. The bank he founds helps millions of people change their lives with tiny loans that make a big difference.

**LEXILE:** 1010

**THEMES:** Compassion, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives



### ***Wings* | Christopher Myers**

It's hard enough to be the new kid in school, but Ikarus also is the only one with wings. When the other kids make fun of him, one girl speaks up for him, changing her life, too.

**LEXILE:** 630

**THEMES:** Being Assertive, Consequences, Empathy, Feelings, Friendship, Understanding Perspectives

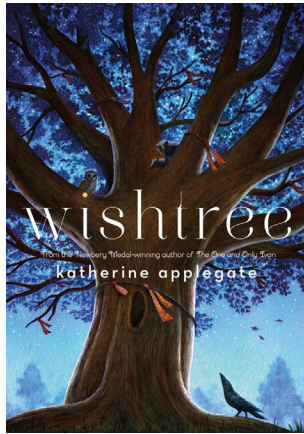


### ***Wish* | Barbara O'Connor**

Charlie's dad is in jail and her mom is sick. The secret wish she makes every day isn't to go live with relatives in the Blue Ridge Mountains. But things change when she meets a stray dog and friendly neighbor.

**LEXILE:** 850

**THEMES:** Compassion, Emotion Management, Empathy, Feelings, Friendship

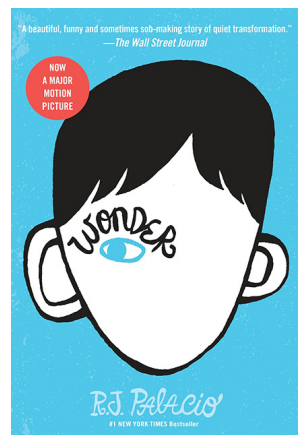


***Wish Tree* | Katherine Applegate**

Red, a 216-ring-old oak, is a wishtree: Every year on the first of May people tie wishes to her. She has seen all manner of human behavior, but has never seen anything like the anger directed at a Muslim family in the neighboring yard.

**LEXILE:** 590

**THEMES:** Compassion, Empathy, Feelings, Friendship, Problem Solving, Understanding Perspectives

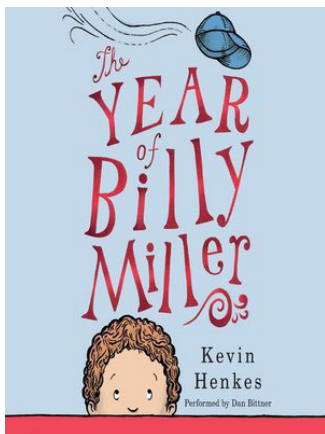


***Wonder* | R. J. Palacio**

Augie has some very noticeable facial deformities, and has been home-schooled all his life—until fifth grade, when he starts his sister’s school. Immediately, he’s bullied. He struggles, and eventually finds a way to stand out apart from his appearance.

**LEXILE:** 790

**THEMES:** Emotion Management, Empathy, Feelings, Understanding Perspectives



***The Year of Billy Miller* | Kevin Henkes**

Right before he starts second grade, Billy Miller has a fall that leaves him with a lump on his head. He’s afraid the blow has affected him, and that he won’t make it through the school year. This warmly funny book ends with Billy enjoying a fresh appreciation for his family.

**LEXILE:** 620

**THEMES:** Consequences, Emotion Management, Feelings, Problem Solving