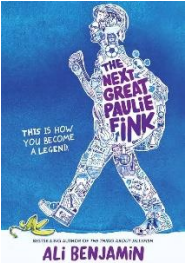
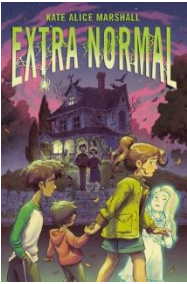


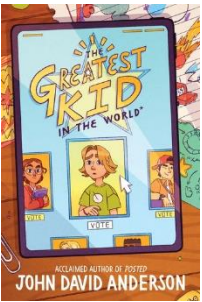
Miss Audrey's Fiction Picks!



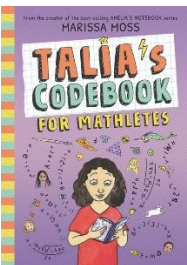
Benjamin, Ali: *The Next Great Paulie Fink*. When Caitlyn Breen enters the tiny Mitchell School in rural Mitchell, Vermont, she is a complete outsider: the seventh grade has just ten other kids, and they've known each other since kindergarten. Her classmates are in for a shock of their own: Paulie Fink--the class clown, oddball, troublemaker, and evil genius--is gone this year. As stories of Paulie's hijinks unfold, his legend builds, until they realize there's only one way to fill the Paulie-sized hole in their class. They'll find their next great Paulie Fink through a reality-show style competition, to be judged by the only objective person around: Caitlyn, who never even met Paulie Fink. Who was this kid, anyway—prankster, performance artist, philosopher, or fool?



Marshall, Kate Alice: *Extra Normal*. Charlie Greer is the only “normal” kid in her family, with adoptive siblings that include a sister who’s a ghost and brothers who are telekinetic and a werewolf. Both her mom, who has magic powers, and her dad, who does not, work for a paranormal investigative agency, and have been feeling increasingly burned out by their work and home responsibilities. Charlie has decided that her power is being the responsible one, so when her parents take off for a short vacation, she vows to leave them alone, even when a mysterious family moves in across the street and neighbors start to disappear. Soon it appears that all the Greer kids are in danger, leaving them to use their magic to save themselves, even Charlie, who discovers that even being normal can carry with it a certain superpower.



Anderson, John David: *The Greatest Kid in the World*. Zeke Stahls is not the *best* kid in the world. Some days he struggles just to be *good*. He'd rather be pulling pranks than doing extra credit, which is why Zeke and his entire family are shocked when they receive word that he has been selected as a contestant in an online competition to find the World's Greatest Kid. Zeke has no idea how he was chosen for this, and he knows that measuring up to the other nominees—a saintly lineup of selfless, charming, and talented do-gooders with photogenic smiles and hearts of gold—is hopeless. Still, with a \$10,000 cash prize on the line and Zeke's mom struggling to hold the family together on her single-parent salary, he decides to give it his best shot. As Zeke concocts various plots to show the world just how “great” he is, however, he finds himself wondering what that word even means and who gets to decide. And what kind of kid he wants—and needs—to be.



Moss, Marissa: *Talia's Codebook for Mathletes*. Talia has just started 6th grade and uses her codebook to figure out the new social rules of middle school. Dash, her best friend, tells her they can't be friends anymore since other boys are teasing him that she's his girlfriend. Talia hopes that both of them being on the school mathlete team will repair their friendship. But things don't go the way she plans. Using codes, doodles, and puzzles, Talia tries to navigate the pitfalls of middle school and find a way to be a good friend and successful mathlete, all at once.

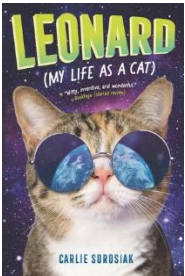


Dee, Barbara: *Maybe He Just Likes You*. For seventh-grader Mila, it starts with some boys giving her an unwanted hug on the school blacktop. A few days later, at recess, one of the boys (and fellow trumpet player) Callum tells Mila it's his birthday, and asks her for a “birthday hug.” He's just being friendly, isn't he? And how can she say no? But Callum's hug lasts a few seconds too long, and feels...weird. According to her friend, Zara, Mila is being immature and overreacting. Doesn't she know what flirting looks like? But the boys don't leave Mila alone. On the bus. In the halls. During band practice—the one place Mila could always escape. It doesn't feel like flirting—so what is it?



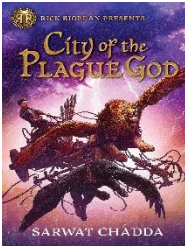
Badua, Tracy: *The Takeout*. In *The Takeout*, 12-year-old Mila Pascual still feels like an outsider in Coral Beach even though she moved months ago. The only place she feels like herself is at The Banana Leaf, her dad's Filipino-Indian food truck. When Chip and Chaz Darlington -- of the famous Fab Foodie Brothers -- open a restaurant in town, Mila is thrilled to meet her favorite celebrity chefs. But her excitement turns to suspicion when she notices that they're serving the same food as The Banana Leaf. With the help of her friend Ajay, she does everything she can to prove that the Fab Foodie Brothers stole the recipes, including using some of Mila's Filipino folk magic. Will Mila and Ajay find a way to save The Banana Leaf

before it's too late?



Sorosiak, Carlie: *Leonard (My Life as a Cat)*. The cat that Olive rescues from a flood has a secret: he's not really a cat at all, but an alien who crashed to Earth on a beam of light. The cat, whom Olive names Leonard, was prepared to visit the planet as a human—but something went wrong. Now Leonard may never know what it's like to hold an umbrella, go bowling, or host a dinner party. While Olive worries about whether she will have to move after her mom and her new boyfriend get back from their summer vacation, Leonard tries to figure out how to get from South Carolina to Yellowstone National Park, because if he's not there at the end of the month, he'll miss his ride home. But as Olive teaches Leonard about the beautiful and

confusing world of humans, he starts to realize how much he cares about this particular one.

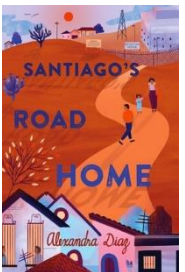


Chadda, Sarwat: *City of the Plague God*. Thirteen-year-old Sikander Aziz has to team up with the hero Gilgamesh in order to stop Nergal, the ancient god of plagues, from wiping out the population of Manhattan in this adventure based on Mesopotamian mythology.



Shang, Wendy Wan-Long: *Bubble Trouble*. How many problems can a delicious cup of bubble tea cause? Plenty, if you're Chloe Wong. For starters, Chloe wants to go on the class trip to Broadway -- an expense Chloe's not sure she and her dad can afford since her mom passed away -- and those yummy cups of boba cost money. And then there's the fact that the incorrigible Henry Lee is the bobamaster at Tea Palace, and when he's not annoying Chloe, he's usually coming up with the perfect drink for every occasion. For Chloe, lover of neatness and control, the arrival of bubble tea is nothing but trouble! But bubble tea really wreaks havoc when Chloe finds herself banned from Tea Palace (for dumping boba on someone who really deserved it!). She comes up with the idea to make her own boba and sell it, with the help of

her best friend Sabrina, her inventor dad and (whether she wants it or not) her rescue dog.



Diaz, Alexandra: *Santiago's Road Home*. The coins in Santiago's hand are meant for the bus fare back to his abusive *abuela's* house. Except he refuses to return; he won't be missed. His future is uncertain until he meets the kind, maternal María Dolores and her young daughter, Alegría, who help Santiago decide what comes next: He will accompany them to *el otro lado*, the United States of America. They embark with little, just backpacks with water and a bit of food. To travel together will require trust from all parties, and Santiago is used to going it alone. None of the three travelers realizes that the journey through Mexico to the border is just the beginning of their story.