# Both Can Be True

9780063053892

Ash is a middle schooler who loves music, is a synesthete who can see sounds, and is figuring out their gender identity after being bullied at their last school for being a "flip flop freak." It doesn't help that Ash's dad is putting more and more pressure on them to just choose a gender and "stick with it." Then Ash meets Daniel at their new school. Daniel is a photography fan, kind, in-tune with his emotions, scared his parents are going to get a divorce, and mourning the loss of his dog. Read more about Both Can Be True

Submitted by Ginny H. on Mon, 2022-07-25 09:53 Both Can Be True
Animals   Bullying   Coming of Age   Diversity   Fiction   Inclusiveness   LGBTQ+   Read   Realistic   Staff Picks
Tween
Think Library   Kids   Reviews

# Lia & Luis Who Has More?

9781623541279

Brazilian American siblings explore math concepts while trying to figure out who has more of their favorite snack. This story includes Portuguese vocabulary along with various measuring terms such as more, less, heavier, lighter, and eventually...equal! This includes a glossary for the Portuguese words used and tips for exploring math concepts with children. Recommended for children ages 3–6.

Reviewed by Christa S.

Submitted by Ginny H. on Wed, 2021-09-29 16:57 Lia & Lui?s: Who Has More?
Early Literacy   Family   Fiction   Inclusiveness   Learn   Lifelong Learning   Literacy   Picture Book   Realistic
Siblings
Preschool
Think Library   Kids

# A Boy Called Bat

9780062445827

Bixby Alexander Tam (Bat, for short) loves all kinds of animals. When Bat's veterinarian mom brings home an orphaned newborn skunk, his focus and goal is to convince her that a skunk might just be a perfect pet. The only trouble is, she insists that the skunk can only stay with them for one short month, just long enough for the baby skunk to grow up enough to transition to a wildlife rehab center. Can Bat convince her to change her mind?   Read more about A Boy Called Bat

Submitted by Ginny H. on Wed, 2021-07-07 20:02 A Boy Called Bat
Animals   Diversity   Fiction   Inclusiveness   Read   Realistic   Staff Picks
Tween
Think Library   Kids   Reviews

# American As Paneer Pie

9781534439382

Eleven year old Lekha is the only Indian American girl in her school and definitely feels like an outcast in the mostly-white Detroit neighborhood she calls home. Her classmates make ignorant remarks about her family's culture, language, and tease her about her birthmark (that just so happens to be on her forehead, just like a Bindi). [Read more about American As Paneer Pie](#)

Submitted by Ginny H. on Fri, 2021-04-30 10:49 [American as Paneer Pie](#)
[Bullying](#)     [Diversity](#)     [Fiction](#)     [Friendship](#)     [Inclusiveness](#)     [Read](#)     [Realistic](#)
[Tween](#)
[Think Library](#)     [Kids](#)     [Reviews](#)

# [Birdie and Me](#)

9780399186776

Jack and her gender fluid brother, Birdie, are siblings who have to move in with their stoic and no-nonsense uncle after their eccentric uncle proves that he is not a good caretaker after their mother's sudden death. The constant upheaval, new scenery, school, and bullying in their new life throw them through a loop. Through grieving, confronting bullies, and confronting comfort zones -- Birdie, Jack, and both their uncles learn to love and accept each other for who they are. Together, the family creates a new sense of home together.  [Read more about Birdie and Me](#)

Submitted by Ginny H. on Wed, 2021-01-06 15:20 [Birdie and Me](#)
[Coming of Age](#)     [Diversity](#)     [Family](#)     [Inclusiveness](#)     [LGBTQ+](#)     [Read](#)     [Realistic](#)
[Tween](#)
[Think Library](#)     [Kids](#)     [Reviews](#)

# [Never Always Sometimes, Adi Alsaid](#)

9780373211548

Longtime best friends Dave and Julia are determined to live their lives authentically. Dead set against being cliché high school students they create a list of things they swore they'd never do. The list includes things like never dying your hair a wild color and never running for prom king and queen, to never date your best friend. But with two months left of their senior year and nothing left to prove, Julia convinces Dave to set out to break every rule on the list. Of course, things get complicated very quickly.

If you're looking for a book to help carry you through finals and the end of the school year, Sometimes Always Never is it! Full of crazy antics, charming characters, and a bit of romance, the book will have you looking at what rules you can break in your own life.

Submitted by Jen H. on Mon, 2016-05-02 16:40 [Never Always Sometimes](#)
[Realistic](#)
[Think Library](#)     [Teens](#)     [Reviews](#)

- [Log in](#) to post comments

# [Shine by Lauren Myracle](#)

9781455879595

Warning: this book contains Serious Issues. You've also been warned that there aren't any angels, zombies, vampires, demons, or changelings. No one has supernatural superhero powers. It isn't set in the future and there

has not been an apocalypse. Still interested? Yes! I loved this. *Shine* by Lauren Myracle is a realistic, gritty and powerful coming of age story that is raw and emotional but also completely worthwhile.
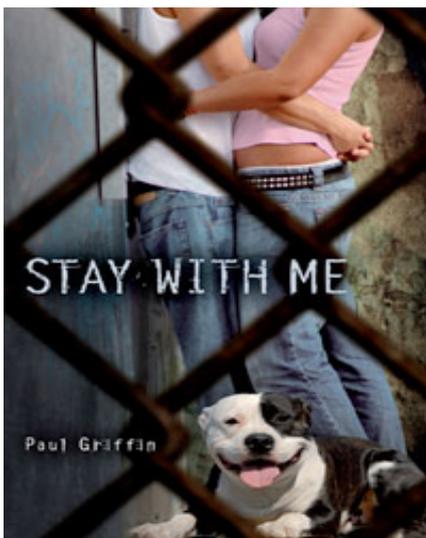
After Cat's friend Patrick is brutally assaulted, marked with a gay slur, and left for dead at a gas station in their hometown of Black Creek, NC she decides to figure out who could have done something so horrible. The sheriff is investigating, but seems sure that it was outsiders - just someone passing through. At face value, this book is a mystery. Cat sets out to interview people who were with Patrick the night of the attack to establish a timeline and she tries to determine motive. Patrick was friends with many people in town who were also uncomfortable to some degree with his homosexuality.

But really the heart of this book isn't so much figuring out who did it, but how the characters come to terms with the resolution. Cat also has to face her own demons in this process.  I liked that she wasn't a superhero, but a girl who got kind of messed up and is really trying to do the right thing.  Read more about Shine by Lauren Myracle

Submitted by sbowman on Mon, 2013-05-06 11:03 Shine
Award Winner    Coming of Age    Fiction    LGBTQ+    Realistic
Think Library    Teens    Reviews

- Log in to post comments

## Acid, Projects, and Pit Bulls: Fiction by Paul Griffin



There are plenty of Young Adult books that portray the difficulties of being a teenager. Some are funny, some serious, and some are pretty dark. There's even a name for ones that focus on a specific issue -- the problem novel (you've got your teen pregnancy, drug abuse, suicide -- you name it). Some are great, but often times the more one topic takes center stage, the less realistic these books seem. It's never just one problem in real life, is it? For pretty much anyone at this age, times are hard all around. Paul Griffin writes about hard times. Read more about Acid, Projects, and Pit Bulls: Fiction by Paul Griffin

Submitted by Chris H. on Mon, 2012-12-10 14:36 Animals    Family    Friendship    Mystery    Realistic
Relationships
Think Library    Teens    Reviews

- Log in to post comments

## SO B. IT

9780064410472

**So B. It** is a very special novel by Sarah Weeks.  Heidi, a twelve year old girl lives in Reno, Nevada with her mentally disabled mother and a quirky neighbor.  Homeschooled by her neighbor, Bernadette, Heidi lives a very unconventional life.  Her mother has a vocabulary of only 23 words,  Bernadette is afraid to leave her apartment, and Heidi's one friend, Zander, is overweight, loves junk food,  and lives in a world of made up stories.

The mysteries of how Heidi and her mother arrived at the apartment, who pays for their apartment, and what her mother's strange word "soof" means,  haunt the reader as well as Heidi.   When Heidi finds a roll of film and has the photos developed they reveal her mother at a Christmas party held at Hilltop Home in Liberty, New York.   Heidi simply cannot rest until she pieces together Mama's past.  She decides she must travel there alone in order to discover who her mother is, and, in the journey she discovers a great deal about herself.  This book is about identity, asking questions, and living both with and without the answers.  A memorable and unusual story,  **So B. It** would be great for ages 9 and up.

*Selected as an ALA Best Book for Young Adults.*

Submitted by jlambert on Wed, 2012-04-25 19:30 So B. It: A Novel
Realistic
Kids

- Log in to post comments

# Split by Avasthi

 9780375895265

Some of the best fiction books take a situation of which you have very little first-hand knowledge and through sympathetic characters and solid storytelling create some sort of understanding of what living that life would be like.  Swati Avasthi's first Young Adult novel about domestic violence and abuse, Split, is a great example. Avasthi is able to allow the reader to care about the main character and his struggles with both the violence of his father and the legacy he is hoping to avoid.

Teenage Jace leaves his parents' house with almost nothing after a particularly brutal fight with his father.  He sets off from Chicago with his camera and the New Mexico address of his older brother who disappeared several years earlier.  Jace's brother Christian is less than thrilled to see him with a bruised face despite having come from and escaped the same back ground.  Their transition is rocky and a lesser book would have trivialized this time. Instead their difficulties felt genuine.

Read more about Split by Avasthi

Submitted by sbowman on Wed, 2012-04-11 15:39 Split
Family    Coming of Age    Realistic
Think Library    Teens    Reviews

- Log in to post comments

## Pages

- 1
- 2
- next ›
- last »

Subscribe to our newsletters

chat loading...
(function() { var x = document.createElement("script"); x.type = "text/javascript"; x.async = true; x.src = (document.location.protocol === "https:" ? "https://" : "http://") + "libraryh3lp.com/js/libraryh3lp.js?14734"; var y = document.getElementsByTagName("script")[0]; y.parentNode.insertBefore(x, y); })();

 Ask a Librarian
 Contact Us
 Hours & Locations
 Parking
 Support the Library
 Careers
 Library Budget
 Wireless Printing
 COVID-19 Resources