Fiction

The Night Diary, Veera Hiranandani
2019 Newbery Honor Book
School Library Journal Best Books of 2018
Historical Fiction; 700 Lexile
Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon, Kelly Barnhill
2017 Newbery Medal Award Winner
School Library Journal Best Books of 2016
Adventure/Fantasy; 640 Lexile
An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a perfectly tiny dragon who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Masterminds (any book in series), Gordon Korman
Booklist starred review 2015
New York Times Starred review 2015
Science fiction/mystery; 730 Lexile
Eli Frieden lives in the most perfect town in the world-no crime and honesty and integrity are valued above all else. Until, one day, when Eli bikes to the edge of the city limits, and something so crazy and unexpected happens that changes everything.

The Wild Robot (any book in series), Peter Brown
American Library Association Notable Book for Children 2016
School Library Journal Best Books of 2016
Science Fiction; 740 Lexile
Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle, Leslie Connor
National Book Award Finalist 2018
ALA Schneider Family Book Award 2019
Realistic Fiction; 310 Lexile
Mason is a kid whose learning disabilities are compounded by grief- his best friend just turned up dead in his family’s orchard. When Mason finally makes a new friend, he turns up missing too. Mason is desperate to figure out what happened to his two friends, but will anyone believe him?

Grenade, Alan Gratz
2019 YALSA Pick for Young Readers
2019 Audie Award Finalist
Historical Fiction/Adventure; 740 Lexile
It’s 1945, and the world is in the grip of war. Two young men on opposite sides of the war find themselves in Okinawa, Japan fighting their way across the island. But when the two of them collide in the middle of a battle, the choices they make in that instant will change everything.
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus, Dusti Bowling
School Library Journal Starred Review 2017
2017 Reading the West Book Award for Children’s Books
Realistic Fiction; 700 Lexile
Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she’ll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It’s hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven’s about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.

The Storm Runner, J.C. Cervantes
School Library Journal Starred Review 2018
Booklist Starred Review 2018
Fantasy; 600 Lexile
Zane Obispo thinks his life is ordinary—until he discovers the ancient volcano in his backyard has a terrible secret. Mixed with Mayan mythology, monsters and magic, Zane finds himself on a quest that will take him far from home and test him to his very core.

The Season of Styx Malone, Kekla Magoon
School Library Journal Starred Review 2018
Realistic Fiction; 510 Lexile
It is a regular summer until Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade—exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. But as the trades get bigger, the brothers soon find themselves in over their heads.

No Slam Dunk, Mike Lupica
New York Times Best Seller 2018
Realistic Fiction/Sports; 770 Lexile
Wes is ready to play his best on his basketball team but finds not everyone on the team has the same idea. As he learns lessons on and off the court, he finds that giving your best is the surest way to victory.

Aru Shah and the End of Time (any book in series), Roshani Chokshi
Publishers Weekly Starred Review 2018
Adventure/Fantasy; 630 Lexile
12-year old Aru never should have lit the ancient lamp—but as she does she awakens an ancient sleeper and is launched into a world of mythical creatures. Aru must enter The Kingdom of Death and destroy the sleeper—will she be able to do it?

Nonfiction
Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America, Gail Jarrow
School Library Journal Best Books of 2018
2019 Robert F. Siebert Informational Honor Book; 1000 Lexile
On the night of October 30th, 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that martians had invaded the Earth. What appeared to be real was actually a radio drama—see how this “fake news” took place and what happened in the aftermath.

George Washington’s Secret Six (Young Readers Adaptation), Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger
New York Times Best Seller 2018; 1070 Lexile
When George Washington realized he couldn’t beat the British in the American Revolution with just military might, he recruited a secretive network of spies to help him turn the tide of the war. Read about these unknown heroes and what they accomplished to turn the war in the American’s favor.