



Orange County, CA

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7th and 8th Grade

Younger Teen - Upper Fiction

Abtahi, Olivia **Azar on Fire**

Azar has damaged vocal cords that make it difficult for her to speak, but she is eager to enter her school's Battle of the Bands.

Banas, Danielle **The Good for Nothings**

Cora leads a motley crew of space misfits on a dangerous (and funny) quest for a mysterious prize to secure her freedom.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn

The Inheritance Games

Orphan Avery inherits the entire fortune of billionaire Tobias when he dies. But it comes with a catch - Avery is only able to access the inheritance if she solves Tobias' puzzles inside his mansion.

Chim, Wai **Freedom Swimmer**

Ming is a field worker who has survived the Great Famine in China. He's skeptical of the city boys from the Communist Party until he forms a friendship with one of them.

Falksen, G.D. **The Secret Life of Kitty Granger**

Kitty has spent her whole life living in London's East End in the 1960s trying to hide her neurodivergence, but her quick thinking and eye for patterns catches the attention of Her Majesty's spies after she discovers a Russian spy ring.

Fraistat, Ann **What We Harvest**

Hollow's End is decimated by a blight which kills off their crops and transforms living things into shells of themselves. Wren is one of the few inhabitants left and she teams up with her ex to save their home.

Greenwald, Tommy **Dinged**

Caleb is the popular quarterback on his high school's football team, attracting the attention of college football recruiters. He faces a challenge when his dad experiences memory loss and irritability from playing football in his younger days.

Hanna Alkaf **Queen of the Tiles**

A year after Trina "the Scrabble Queen's" death, her Instagram account starts displaying cryptic messages and posts. This compels her best friend, 15-year-old Najwa, to investigate Trina's mysterious death.

Hur, June **The Forest of Stolen Girls**

In Medieval Korea, Min Hwani and her sister search for their missing father, who was investigating mysterious circumstances that resonate with past events in the girls' lives.

Little Badger, Darcie **Elatsoe**

Elatsoe lives in an alternate version of America, where the folklore of both indigenous and migrant people shape reality. She and her ghost-dog investigate the suspicious death of her cousin.

Lucas, Chad **Thanks a Lot, Universe**

For Brian, living in foster care worsens his anxiety. His friend, Ezra, wants to help, but doesn't want anyone to realize that he has a crush on Brian. It takes courage to develop an honest friendship, and Brian and Ezra just might have what it takes.



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Méndez, Alex V. **What the Jaguar Told Her**

In the shadow of 9/11, Jade meets a forest jaguar spirit named Itztli who tells her stories from Mexican folklore that bring her comfort when her grandmother becomes sick.

Mendoza, Paola **Sanctuary**

In the not-too-distant future, American citizens are chipped and tracked; when Vali's mother's counterfeit chip begins to malfunction, the undocumented family tries to flee to California.

Rains, Annie **The Matchbreaker Summer**

Paisley is hesitant about her mom's new boyfriend, but when she meets Hayden at summer camp, they hatch a plan to break up the relationship while building one of their own.

Riordan, Rick **Daughter of the Deep**

Ana is an aspiring scientist at the Harding-Pencroft Academy and undergoes a secretive underwater trial. She discovers a rivalry between her school and the Land Institute, which will soon erupt into war unless she takes action to stop it.

Romero, R. M. **The Ghosts of Rose Hill**

A tale of magical realism that follows Ilana Lopez, a biracial Jewish girl, who is sent to live with her aunt in Prague. As she tries to decide between the life her parents want for her and her dream of becoming a violinist, she discovers a hidden Jewish cemetery where she is pulled into a magical romance.

Schmidt, Gary D. **Just Like That**

For fans of *The Wednesday Wars* and *Okay for Now*: Meryl, mourning a good friend and trying to navigate the complicated life of a new boarding school, meets Matt, who is trying to avoid capture with a pillowcase of money lifted from a gang.

Spinelli, Jerry **Dead Wednesday**

One day each year, the 8th graders of Amber Springs, PA are assigned a teen who died a preventable death, and they spend the day being treated as though they are invisible to encourage them to ponder their future choices. Worm is looking forward to his quiet day of invisibility, but the ghost of Becca Finch (car crash) has other plans for him.

Wunsch, Sacha **Lies My Memory Told Me**

Enhanced Memory allows people to share each other's memories and experience anything they want. Nova's parents are the inventors, but Nova herself doesn't realize its dangers until a boy named Kade shows her a blog documenting its negative impact.

Yee, Betty G. **Gold Mountain**

Tam Ling Fan hopes to release her imprisoned father in China by working for the Central Pacific Railroad Company under her brother's contract. Dangerous conditions and prejudice from Americans make it difficult for her while she tries to hide her secret.