

# Diversity- Grades 5 & 6

\*Additional formats available from other libraries and/or downloadable from OverDrive.

**Alexander, Kwame**

*Crossover*

**YA Alexander, Kwame\***

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

**Applegate, Katherine**

*Crenshaw*

**+ Applegate, Katherine\*  
+ Audio Bk App**

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything?

**Behar, Ruth**

*Lucky Broken Girl*

**+ Behar, Ruth**

In 1960s New York, fifth-grader Ruthie, a Cuban-Jewish immigrant, must rely on books, art, her family, and friends in her multicultural neighborhood when an accident puts her in a body cast.

**Bell, Cece**

*El Deafo*

**+ GN Bell, Cece\***

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers!

**Cao, Wenxuan**

*Bronze and Sunflower*

**+ Cao, Wenxuan**

Taken in by a poor family in a rural village after the death of her father, Sunflower bonds with the family's only child, Bronze, who has not spoken since being traumatized by a terrible fire.

**Chanani, Nidhi**

*Pashmina*

**+ GN Chanani, Nidhi**

Priyanka Das has so many unanswered questions: Why did her mother abandon her home in India years ago? What was it like there? And most importantly, who is her father, and why did her mom leave him behind? But Pri's mom avoids these questions and the topic of India is permanently closed. For Pri, her mother's homeland can only exist in her imagination. That is, until she find a mysterious pashmina tucked away in a forgotten suitcase. When she wraps herself in it, she is transported to a place more vivid and colorful than any guidebook or Bollywood film.

**Chase, Paula**

*So Done*

**+ Chase, Paula\***

When best friends Metai and Jamila are reunited after a summer apart, their friendship threatens to combust from the pressure of secrets, middle school, and looming auditions for a potentially life-changing new talented-and-gifted program

**Chmakova, Svetlana**

*Brave*

**+ GN Chmakova, Svetlana**

In his daydreams, Jensen is the biggest hero that ever was, saving the world and his friends on a daily basis. But his middle school reality is VERY different - math is hard, getting along with friends is hard...Even finding a partner for the class project is a big problem when you always get picked last. And the pressure's on even more once the school newspaper's dynamic duo, Jenny and Akilah, draw Jensen into the whirlwind of school news, social experiment projects, and behind-the-scenes club drama.

**Dumas, Firoozeh**

*It Ain't So Awful, Falafel*

**+ Dumas, Firoozeh\***

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s

**Gephart, Donna**

*Lily and Dunkin*

**+ Gephart, Donna\***

Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth-grade. Norbert Dorfman, nicknamed Dunkin Dorfman, is bipolar and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change

**Gratz, Alan**

***Refugee***

**+ Gratz, Alan\*  
+ Audio Bk Gratz**

Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

**Grimes, Nikki**

***Garvey's Choice***

**+ Grimes, Nikki\***

Garvey's father has always wanted Garvey to be athletic, but Garvey is interested in astronomy, science fiction, reading anything but sports. Feeling like a failure, he comforts himself with food. Garvey is kind, funny, smart, a loyal friend, and he is also overweight, teased by bullies, and lonely. When his only friend encourages him to join the school chorus, Garvey's life changes. The chorus finds a new soloist in Garvey, and through chorus, Garvey finds a way to accept himself, and a way to finally reach his distant father by speaking the language of music instead of the language of sports.

**Hashimi, Nadia**

***One Half from the East***

**+ Hashimi, Nadia\***

Obayda's family is in need of some good fortune, and her aunt has an idea to bring the family luck--dress Obayda, the youngest of four sisters, as a boy, a bacha posh.

**Hiranandani, Veera**

***The Night Diary***

**+ Hiranandani, Veera\*  
+ Audio Bk Hir**

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.

**Jennings, Jazz**

***Being Jazz***

**Biography Jennings, Jazz YA\***

Teen activist and trailblazer Jazz Jennings--named one of "The 25 most influential teens" of the year by Time--shares her very public transgender journey, as she inspires people to accept the differences in others while they embrace their own truths.

**Khan, Hena**

***Amina's Voice***

**+ Khan, Hena\***

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school. After her local mosque is vandalized, she is devastated. Her friend Soojin is talking about changing her name. Does Amina need to become more "American" and hide who she really is?

**Lai, Thanhha**

***Listen, Slowly***

**+ Lai, Thanhha\***

Assisting her grandmother's investigation of her grandfather's fate during the Vietnam War, Mai struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar culture while redefining her sense of family.

**Pérez, Celia**

***The First Rule of Punk***

**+ Pérez, Celia**

Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

**Reynolds, Jason**

***Ghost***

**+ Reynolds, Jason**

*Track #1*

Aspiring to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school's track team, gifted runner Ghost finds his goal challenged by a tragic past with a violent father.

**Woodson, Jacqueline**

***Brown Girl Dreaming***

**+ 921 Woo\*  
+ Audio Bk Woo**

Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South