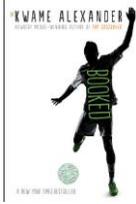


## GREAT BOOKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL—REALISTIC FICTION



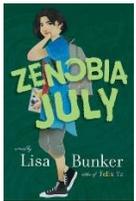
### ***Booked*** by Kwame Alexander

Soccer, family, love, and friendship, take center stage as Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home and with sports, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.



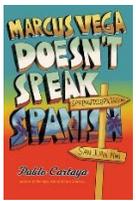
### ***Drumroll, Please*** by Lisa Jenn Bigalow

Melly only joined the school band because her best friend, Olivia, begged her to. But to her surprise, quiet Melly loves playing the drums. Now she and Olivia are going to Camp Rockaway, jamming under the stars in the Michigan woods. But this summer brings a lot of big changes for Melly: her parents split up, her best friend ditches her, and Melly finds herself unexpectedly falling for another girl at camp.



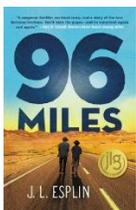
### ***Zenobia July*** by Lisa Bunker

Zenobia is starting a new life. She's moved to Maine with her aunts. She used to have no friends and spend all her time computer coding and hacking, now she's actually making friends. People used to tell her she was a boy; now she's able to live openly as the girl she always knew she was. When someone anonymously posts hateful memes on her school's website, Zenobia knows she's the one with the abilities to solve the mystery.



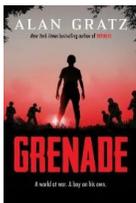
### ***Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish*** by Pablo Cartaya

After a fight at school leaves Marcus facing suspension, Marcus's mother takes him and his younger brother, who has Down syndrome, to Puerto Rico to visit relatives they do not remember or have never met, and while there Marcus starts searching for his father, who left their family ten years ago and is somewhere on the island.



### ***96 Miles*** by J.L. Esplin

Lockwood brothers are supposed to be able to survive anything. Their dad, a hardcore believer in self-reliance, has stockpiled enough food and water at their isolated Nevada home to last for months. But when they are robbed of all their supplies during a massive blackout while their dad is out of town, John and Stew must walk 96 miles in the stark desert sun to get help in this story of survival.



### ***Grenade*** by Alan Gratz

On April 1, 1945 with the battle of Okinawa beginning, native Okinawan Hideki, drafted into the Blood and Iron Student Corps, is handed two grenades and told to go kill American soldiers; small for his age Hideki does not really want to kill anyone, he just wants to find his family, and his struggle across the island will finally bring him face-to-face with Ray, a marine in his very first battle--and the choice he makes then will change his life forever.



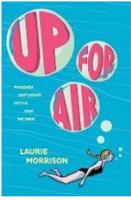
### ***Every Shiny Thing*** by Cordelia Jensen & Laurie Morrison

Seventh-grader Lauren begins stealing to help children who, like her brother, are on the autism spectrum, and Sierra, in foster care in Lauren's neighborhood, fears that given her past, she will get caught and be blamed Lauren's lawbreaking.



### ***It Wasn't Me*** by Dana Alison Levy

When Theo's photography project is vandalized, the five students nearby all claim it was not them, so Theo's favorite teacher suggests they all spend vacation week together and get to the truth.



**Up For Air** by Laurie Morrison

Learning disabilities make school painful for Annabelle, thirteen, but a summer of swimming with the high school team is fantastic until a prank goes wrong, spoiling everything.



**Words on Fire** by Jennifer Nielsen

In 1893 Audra lives on a farm in Lithuania, and tries to avoid the soldiers who enforce the Russian decrees that ban Lithuanian books, religion, culture, and even the language; but when the soldiers invade the farm Audra is the only one who escapes and, unsure of what has happened to her parents or who to trust, she embarks on a dangerous journey, risking her life carrying the smuggled Lithuanian books that fuel the growing resistance movement.



**No Fixed Address** by Susin Nielsen

Felix has a knack for trivia. His favorite game show is *Who What Where When*; he even named his gerbil after the host. Felix's mom, Astrid, is loving but can't seem to hold on to a job. So when they get evicted from their latest shabby apartment, they have to move into a van, Astrid swears him to secrecy. But when things go from bad to worse, will trivia be their saving grace?



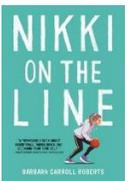
**I Am Princess X** by Cherie Priest

Years after writing stories about a superheroine character she created with a best friend who died in a tragic car accident, sixteen-year-old May is shocked to see stickers, patches, and graffiti images of the superheroine appearing around Seattle—a superheroine that only her friend could have known about.



**Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks** by Jason Reynolds

This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy—talking about boogers, stealing, skateboarding, braving up, planning an escape, making jokes and more as ten tales weave together in what happens after school.



**Nikki on the Line** by Barbara Carroll Roberts

Nikki, thirteen, dreams of being a great basketball player but struggles on her new, elite team while also juggling school stress, her non-traditional family, and revelations about her biological father.



**Genesis Begins Again** by Alicia D. Williams

There are ninety-six things Genesis hates about herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list. Like #95: Because her skin is so dark, people call her charcoal and eggplant—even her own family. And #61: Because her family is always being put out of their house, belongings laid out on the sidewalk for the world to see. When your dad is a gambling addict and loses the rent money every month, eviction is a regular occurrence. Will Genesis ever find a stable home and learn to like herself?