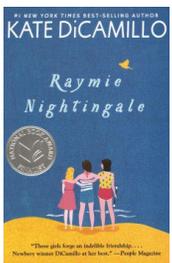




Crenshaw

by Katherine Applegate

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. . 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?



Raymie Nightingale

by Kate DiCamillo

Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into an unlikely friendship with a drama queen and a saboteur.



The Dollar Kids

by Jennifer Jacobson

Lowen Grover is still reeling from the shooting death of his friend when he stumbles across an article about a former mill town giving away homes for just one dollar. An opportunity for his mum to run her very own business. The homes are in horrible shape, and the locals are less than welcoming.



Fish in a Tree

by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

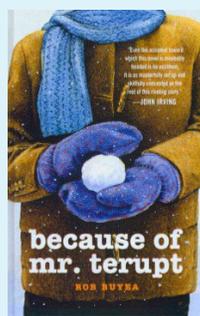
Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.



Tight

by Torrey Maldonado

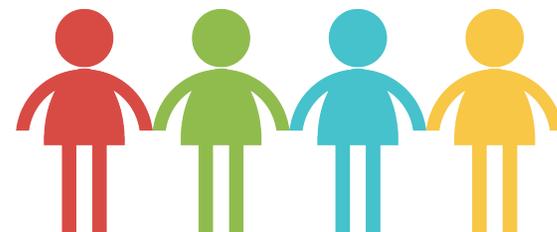
After his quick-tempered father gets in a fight and is sent back to jail, sixth-grader Bryan, known for being quiet and thoughtful, snaps and follows new friend Mike into trouble.



Because of Mr. Terupt

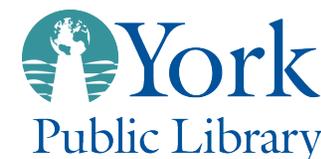
by Rob Buyea

Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt.



Realistic Fiction

Chapter Books
Staff Picks





Ways to Make Sunshine

by Renee Watson

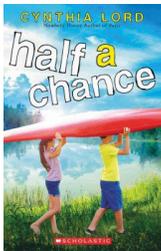
The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones.



Merci Suarez

by Meg Medina

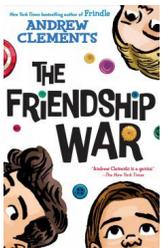
Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos' jealousy.



Half a Chance

by Cynthia Lord

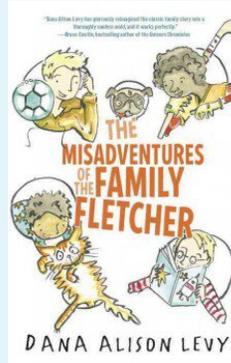
Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small rural community in New Hampshire, and with her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.



The Friendship War

by Andrew Clements

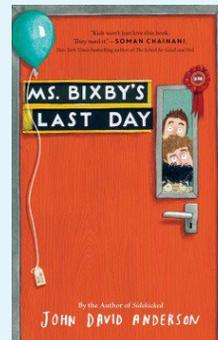
When Grace takes boxes of old buttons from a building her grandfather bought, she starts a fad at school that draws her closer to one friend, but further from another.



The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher

by Dana Alison Levy

Relates the adventures of a family with two fathers, four adopted boys, and a variety of pets as they make their way through a school year and deal with a grumpy new neighbor.



Ms. Bixby's Last Day

by John David Anderson

Loving their gifted teacher, three boys are dismayed when the teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories while cutting class and journeying across town together on a fateful day.



Song for a Whale

by Lynne Kelly

Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.



You Go First

by Erin Kelly

Charlotte, twelve, and Ben, eleven, are highly-skilled competitors at online Scrabble and that connection helps both as they face family issues and the turmoil of middle school.



Front Desk

by Kelly Yang

Ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a motel in Southern California. The owner, Mr. Yao exploits them; Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants.



Pay Attention Carter Jones

by Gary D. Schmidt

Sixth-grader Carter must adjust to the unwelcome presence of a know-it-all butler who is determined to help him become a gentleman, and also to deal with burdens from the past.