Words on Fire
by Jennifer A Nielsen
JF Nielsen
Avoiding the occupying Cossack soldiers who would force everyone to become Russian, a farm girl from Lithuania helps her family preserve her culture, literature and religion when she is forced to leave her parents behind to escape with an important package.

Planet Earth Is Blue
by Nicole Panteleakos
JF Panteleakos
Autistic and nearly nonverbal, 12-year-old Nova is happy in her new foster home and school, but eagerly anticipates the 1986 Challenger launch, for which her sister, Bridget, promised to return.

A Slip of a Girl
by Patricia Reilly Giff
JF Giff
The experiences of a motherless girl who tries to protect her special-needs sibling during the Irish Land Wars.

Making Bombs for Hitler
by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch
JF Skrypuch
Lida loses her parents and is torn from her sister, even though she is not Jewish, by Nazis who place her in a brutal work camp with other Ukrainian children to make bombs for the German army.

Stone River Crossing
by Tim Tingle
JF Tingle
When Martha Tom crosses the Bok Chitto River into the slave-owning plantation in Mississippi territory, she meets Lil Mo, an enslaved boy whose mother is about to be sold, so Martha convinces Lil Mo’s family to cross the river and be free.

Beyond the Bright Sea
by Lauren Wolk
JF Wolk
Set adrift on the ocean in a small skiff as a newborn, 12-year-old Crow embarks on a quest to find the missing pieces of her history.

The Unsung Hero of Birdsong USA
by Brenda Woods
JF Woods
Forging a close friendship with an African-American World War II veteran who has recently returned to their unwelcoming Jim Crow community, a white boy worries for his heroic friend’s safety.
The Button War
by Avi
JF Avi
When Patryk finds an old button on the forest floor, Jurek devises an exciting dare among the seven boys in their pack: whoever steals the best military button will be the Button King.

I Love You, Michael Collins
by Lauren Baratz-Logsted
JF Baratz-Logsted
A student struggling with abandonment writes letters to Michael Collins, the only astronaut whose responsibilities prevented him from walking on the moon during the historic 1969 lunar landing.

Bronze and Sunflower
by Wenxuan Cao
JF Cao
Sunflower, an only child, is taken in by a poor family in her village after the death of her father. She bonds with the family's only child, Bronze, who has not spoken since being traumatized by a terrible fire.

The Many Reflections of Miss Jane Deming
by J. Anderson Coats
JF Coats
High-spirited Jane, who has been caring for a young sibling since her father's death, finds her grit and humor are her best attributes to meet the challenges in life.

The Journey of Little Charlie
by Christopher Paul Curtis
JF Curtis
Charlie agrees to track down a band of thieves only to confront a difficult moral choice when he learns the true identities and circumstances of his targets.

Some Kind of Courage
by Dan Gemeinhart
JF Gemeinhart
Losing his father to an accident, his mother and sister to illness and his horse to a cruel thief, young Joseph confronts deadly animals, dangerous men and the harsh elements to reclaim his horse.

Refugee
by Alan Gratz
JF Gratz
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, embark on journeys in search of refuge.

Everything Else in the Universe
by Tracy Holczer
JF Holczer
When her father is sent to Vietnam to serve as an Army doctor, Lucy is forced to move in with her quirky relatives and eagerly anticipates her father's return, only to find him changed.

Full of Beans
by Jennifer L Holm
JF Holm
It's the middle of the Great Depression, and there are no jobs, which means it's hard for a kid to make a cent. Luckily, Beans has a plan, even if it means breaking the rules.

A Sky Full of Stars
by Linda Williams Jackson
JF Jackson
In 1995 Stillwater, Mississippi, Rose Lee Carter wants to understand her place in the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement. Shorty wants to meet violence with violence; Hallelujah believes in peaceful protests. Can one girl make a difference?

Dash
by Kirby Larson
JF Larson
Forced to move with her family to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese-American Mitsi mourns her separation from her beloved dog and tries to keep up with the world with the help of a friendly neighbor back home.

The Book of Boy
by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
JF Murdock
Bullied and marginalized because of the hump on his back and his tendency to talk to animals, Boy is a servant to a pilgrim who takes him on an expedition across Europe to steal seven religious artifacts.