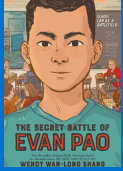


J
SHAN, W

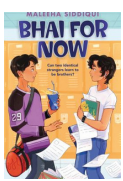
The Secret Battle of Evan Pao
Wendy Wan-Long Shang



Evan Pao and his family move to Haddington, Virginia in hopes of keeping his father's notoriety a secret, but a small southern town is not an easy place for a Chinese-American boy to fit in, and one kid, Brady Griggs, seems determined to make things difficult.

J
SIDDI, M

Bhai for Now
Maleeha Siddiqui



When Ashar and Shaheer meet, they quickly discover they're twins and will stop at nothing to get to know the parent they've been separated from, learning along the way that they may not like each other, but they definitely need each other!

J
WILS, L

Be Real, Macy Weaver
Lakita Wilson



Determined to find a new best friend in Brynn, who's smart, kind, and beautiful, eleven-year-old Macy turns one small lie into a whole new life to win her over until everything falls apart.

J
YEE, L

Maizy Chen's Last Chance
Lisa Yee



Eleven-year-old Maizy Chen visits her estranged grandparents, who own and run a Chinese restaurant in Last Chance, Minnesota; as her visit lengthens, she makes unexpected discoveries about her family's history and herself.

MORE REALISTIC

FICTION BOOKS:

I Can Make This Promise | J Day

A Place at the Table | J Farqui

Take Back the Block | J Giles

Playing the Cards You're Dealt

| J Johnson

A Soft Place to Land | J Marks

Omar Rising | J Saeed

One Kid's Trash | J Sumner



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That's okay! We all read at our own pace and have our own likes and dislikes. A librarian can help you find a book that you will love. Ask us!

Recommended Reads

Realistic Fiction



Aurora
Public
Library
District

J
BAJA, V

Thirst
Varsha Bajaj



A heroic girl named Minni fights for her belief that water should be for everyone, even at the risk of her job or even her life to expose water mafia bosses that are stealing water from the poorest people in Mumbai.

J
GETT, K

If You Read This
Kereen Getten



When Brie was younger, her mama used to surprise her with treasure hunts around their island town. After she died three years ago, these became Brie's favorite memories. Now, on her twelfth birthday, her mama has another surprise: a series of letters leading Brie on one last treasure hunt.

J
OTHE, E

Sofia Acosta Makes a Scene
Emma Otheguy



Sofia Acosta, a fifth grader trying to fit into her ballet-obsessed Cuban American family and her affluent suburban New York community, learns to speak up for herself and others when she mistakenly reveals a visiting dancer's plan to defect to the United States.

J
DIMO, E

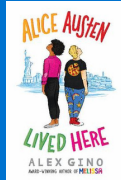
Turn the Tide
Elaine Dimopoulos



Moving to Wilford Island, Florida is a big change for Mimi. When her teacher shows her class a TED Talk by the Wijisen sisters, she learns that at ages twelve and ten, they lobbied to ban single-use plastic bags on the island of Bali--and won. Their story strikes a chord for Mimi. Could a kid like her make such a big change in a place that she's not yet sure feels like home?

J
GINO, A

Alice Austen Lived Here
Alex Gino



Sam is comfortable with their nonbinary identity, and their family has accepted it too. So when their history teacher assigns a project of coming up with a proposal for the new statue honoring a historical Staten Islander, they and their friend TJ decide to focus on Alice Austen. But they have to overcome the presumption on the part of their teacher that only straight males are eligible.

J
PANC, M

Nikhil Out Loud
Maulik Pancholy



Nikhil, the famous voice actor for Raj Reddy, is now living in a small town to help take care of his sick grandfather. When his fame lands him the lead in the school musical, he's terrified that everyone will realize he's a fraud once they find out he can't sing. Add on homophobic local parents and puberty, life on earth is way more complicated than life on television.

J
DOWN, E

When Life Gives You Lemons, Make Peach Pie
Erin Soderberg Downing



Lucy, Freddy, and Herb are shocked to find out that one of the inventions their mom came up with before she passed away has sold, and now they're millionaires! To live out one of their mom's dreams, they will be spending the summer traveling the country selling pies. But a crucial fact is that none of them knows how to bake...

J
HAWES, L

Big Rig
Louise Hawes



Life on the road with her Dad is as good as gets for Hazmat. Together, they've been taking jobs and crisscrossing the US for years. Now he's talking about putting down roots, so Hazmat hatches a plan to make sure that never becomes a reality.

J
RESP, M

How to Win a Slime War
Mae Respicio



After moving to Sacramento to take over his grandparent's Filipino market, sixth-grader Alex seeks popularity by selling homemade slime at school, while his father insists he join a soccer team.

J
FLOR, D

Sweet and Sour
Debbi Michiko Florence



Eleven-year-old Mai has been contemplating revenge on her former best friend Zach ever since he humiliated her two years ago, but while spending time together for the summer, Mai has noticed a change in Zach, forcing her to decide if she can forgive him, even if she can never forget.

J
KELL, E

Those Kids from Fawn Creek
Erin Entrada Kelly



When a racist incident rocks her small Michigan town, eleven-year-old Lekha must decide whether to speak up or stay silent, even as she struggles to navigate her life at home, where she can be herself, and at school, where she is teased about her culture.

J
ROE, M

Air
Monica Roe



Emmie is working to raise money for a tricked-out wheelchair to get serious about WCMX, when a mishap on a poorly designed ramp at school throws her plans into a tailspin. She can't shake the feeling that her goals--and her choices--suddenly aren't hers anymore.