

J
STEAD, R

The List of Things That Will Not Change

Rebecca Stead



Despite her parents' divorce, her father's coming out as gay, and his plans to marry his boyfriend, ten-year-old Bea is reassured by her parents' unconditional love, excited about getting a stepsister, and haunted by something she did last summer at her father's lake house.

J
RESP, M

The House That Lou Built

Longing for an escape from her extended Filipino family, Lou plans to build a tiny house on land she inherited from her father, but difficulties quickly arise.



J
WARG, J

Other Words for Home

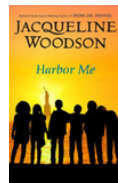
Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members who were left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.



J
WOOD, J

Harbor Me

When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world.



MORE REALISTIC FICTION

YOU MAY ENJOY:

That's What Friends Do | Barnhart

Efrén Divided | Cisneros

The Only Black Girls in Town | Colbert

Keep It Together, Keiko Carter | Florence

Get A Grip, Vivy Cohen! | Kapit

The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane

| O'Shaughnessy

Clean Getaway | Stone



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Recommended Reads

Realistic Fiction



Aurora
Public
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**J
BLAK, A**



The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James

Ashley Herring Blake

Twelve-year-old Sunny St. James must navigate heart surgery, reconnections with a lost mother, the betrayal of a former best friend, first kisses, and emerging feelings for another girl.

**J
KELK, S**



American as Paneer Pie

Supriya Kelkar

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
MESS, M**

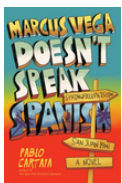


Chirp

Kate Messner

Moving to Vermont the summer after seventh grade, a young gymnast hides a secret as she makes new friends and investigates her grandmother's claim that someone is trying to destroy her cricket farm.

**J
CART, P**



Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish

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.

**J
KIM, J**



Stand Up, Yumi Chung!

Jessica Kim

When eleven-year-old Yumi Chung stumbles into a kids' comedy camp she is mistaken for another student, so she decides to play the part.

**J
PERE, C**



Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers

Celia Pérez

After Ofelia, Aster, Cat, and Lane fail to persuade a local girls club to change an outdated tradition, they form an alternative group that shakes up their sleepy Florida town.

**J
DAY, C**



I Can Make This Promise

Christine Day

When twelve-year-old Edie finds letters and photographs in her attic that change everything she thought she knew about her Native American mother's adoption, she realizes she has a lot to learn about her family's history and her own identity.

**J
MARK, J**



From the Desk of Zoe Washington

Janae Marks

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.

**J
RAMEE, L**



Something To Say

Lisa Moore Ramée

A friendless girl who has developed a knack for keeping her head down at school resists a red-headed newcomer who wants to make friends, before the two are paired for a class assignment that she hopes will secure her position on the debate team.

**J
GINO, A**



Rick

Alex Gino

Eleven-year-old Rick Ramsey has generally gone along with everybody, just not making waves. But now in middle school he discovers the Rainbow Spectrum club, where kids of many genders and identities can express themselves--and maybe among them he can find new friends and discover his own identity.

**J
MEDI, M**



Merci Suárez Changes Gears

Meg Medina

Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. And things aren't going well at home, either.

**J
SUMN, J**



Roll With It

Jamie Sumner

Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease.