How SEL Fuels the Future

SEL creates a better future for your students, school, and world! How? A national survey of teachers found that when you focus on the needs of each individual student:

- The student improves. At least 75% of the teachers said students become more interested in learning, academic performance is boosted, and behavior improves with SEL.

- The school improves. Of the teachers who said negative school climate was a problem, 80% identified SEL as a solution.

- The world improves. More than 80% of the teachers believed SEL would help with graduation, preparing for college, and good citizenship as adults.

A better world starts with SEL. A better world starts in your classroom.

"A bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz

Thanks to their dad, he and his twin brother, Jordan, are kings on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his

As their winning season unfolds, things begin to change. When Jordan meets a girl, the twins' bond unravels. Josh

and Jordan must grow up on and off the court and realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's

heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family. Told in dynamic verse, this fast and furious middle

grade novel bounces with rhythm and bursts with heart.

1. As students read or listen to this verse novel, encourage them to visualize each of the main characters and talk about what they look like and how they talk and the characters:

   • Dad: Chuck Bell ("Da Man"), a former professional

   • the boys' school (Reggie Lewis Junior High)

   Talk about how the twins are alike and how they are twins, but JB shaves his head bald and plays shooting

   guard and Josh has shoulder-length dreadlocks (at first)

2. This novel in verse is divided into six sections. Pause at the end of each section to talk about the main characters and what students are learning about JB and Josh in each sections:

   First Quarter

   Second Quarter

   Fourth Quarter

   Overtime

3. Several of Kwame Alexander's poems in this novel lend themselves to text in two parts: plain text and italicized text for two heroes. Invite the basketball coach or physical education teacher to collaborate with you in describing or demonstrating the game of basketball.

4. Set the stage by researching YouTube videos featuring as Kevin Durant, LeBron James, Chris Paul, Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan.

   • "The Last Shot" (pp. 221–222)

   • "Man to Man" (p. 59)

   • "The Show" (pp. 30–31)

   • "Filthy McNasty" (p. 10)

5. Several of the poems in this novel employ rhyme and rap. Invite volunteers to choose one of the poems for a new, visual representation digital interactive poster that pulls together images related to key words of the poems in a new, visual representation. Collaborate with students to use Glogster.com to create a quick glog, a digital interactive poster that pulls together images related to key words of the poems in a new, visual representation.

6. The poet also incorporates ten poems about "rules" that offer connections between basketball and life throughout the book.

   • "I run into Dad's room" (pp. 165–167)

   • "Phone Conversation (I Sub for JB)" (pp. 106–109)

   • "Mom calls me into the kitchen" (pp. 96–98)

   • "Dad Takes Us to Krispy Kreme and Tells Us His Story" (pp. 106–109)

   • "The inside of Mom and Dad's bedroom closet"

   • "Mom doesn't like us eating out" (pp. 41–42)

   • "The game is tied" (p. 36)

   • "Conversation" (pp. 17–19)

8. Finally, look online for examples of music from the novel, such as the song "Filthy McNasty" by Horace Silver, the track from the album "The Crossover" by Chino Holmes ft. Grammy award-winning rap artist Elzhi.

Don't have a FREE Titlewave account?
Foster empathy through SEL titles.

These social and emotional learning (SEL) titles can help build emotional awareness and understanding. From topics like bullying and overcoming adversity to special needs and prioritizing mental health, you will find books for all reading levels to help your students develop SEL habits for life.

Inside this catalog, you’ll find:

- Books that align to the CASEL SEL Framework
- Interviews with popular authors on how SEL has shaped their voices
- Resources to help support SEL discussion
- Informative blogs on supporting students in navigating their emotions

### Books

**Grades K-5**

- Self-Awareness: 5
- Self-Management: 16
- Social Awareness: 21
- Relationship Skills: 27
- Responsible Decision-Making: 33

**Grades 6-12**

- Self-Awareness: 37
- Self-Management: 39
- Social Awareness: 41
- Relationship Skills: 43
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Visit titlewave.com to find additional bindings. Published pricing (USD) and titles are subject to change. Always free shipping in the US and Canada.
The Anti-Book
Raphael Simon • Dial Books for Young Readers
2021 • IL 3-6
After filling a page with all the things and people he dislikes, Mickey finds himself in the anti-world where everything familiar is gone.
1900LM8 $16.65 HRD

Growing Pangs
Kathryn Ormsbee • Random House • 2022 • IL 3-6
Eleven-year-old Katie navigates life as a homeschooler, forms a better understanding of the OCD she experiences, and learns that growing apart from friends is sometimes part of growing up.
1619LX7 $23.99 HRD

BeYOUtiful: Radiate Confidence, Celebrate Difference, and Express Yourself
Shelina Janmohamed • Welbeck Children’s • 2022
IL 3-6
This book will empower young readers to think critically about the images they see, reflect upon their own inner and outer beauty, and find perspective in a harsh world.
1964EX5 $15.74 HRD

I Love My Body Because
Shelly Anand and Nomi Ellenson
S&S Books for Young Readers • 2022 • IL K-3
A gentle and poetic picture book for the youngest readers about celebrating your own body and all the different, wonderful bodies that make up our world.
1912JX1 $17.53 HRD

Bear Can’t Wait (Bear Books)
Karma Wilson • Margaret K. McElderry Books • 2021 • IL K-3
Bear tries his best to be patient in this newest addition to the best-selling Bear Books series.
Patience might be a virtue, but waiting is so hard! On a beautiful sunny afternoon, Bear can’t sit still because he’s got a surprise planned for his good friend Hare. He hustles and bustles and scuttles about. But when, in his excitement, he makes a mess of things, can he set it all right before Hare shows up?
1623PN1 $16.65 HRD

These books that follow the CASEL SEL Framework promote self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness from an early age. >>
Laney Dances in the Rain: A Wordless Picture Book About Being True to Yourself
Kenneth Willard • Free Spirit • 2023 • IL K-3
The vivid artwork in this wordless picture book tells the story of a little girl who loves to dance in the rain—no matter what anyone thinks.

Sad, Sad Bear
Kimberly Gee • Beach Lane Books • 2021 • IL K-3
Bear is very sad when Mommy must go to work and leave him at Cub Care, but his first day turns out to be a good one.

The Thoughtful Octopus: A Story About Building Self-Awareness
Vicky Bureau • Seahorse Publishing • 2022 • IL 3-6
Take a trip with Thoughtful Octopus to explore your sense of belonging, identify what makes you unique, and learn how you can shape your world through your actions, attitude, and self-awareness!

Will We Always Hold Hands?
Christopher Cheng • Random House Studio • 2022 • IL K-3
Through a series of questions and answers, Bear tells his friend Rat that best friends will always be together, in rain or shine, in good times and bad, forever and ever. A universal story about the everlasting bonds of friendship and love from two award-winning creators, this beautiful picture book offers a way for kids to think about how they can maintain a connection with someone who has moved away or died.

Worry? Choose Your Own Attitude
Gail Hayes, M.A. • Flowerpot Press • 2021 • IL K-3
This book guides readers through some examples of times when they may feel worried and shows just how Bubble and Slug guide each protagonist through their dilemmas.

The Tryout: A Graphic Novel
Christina Soontornvat • Graphix • 2022 • IL 3-6
A high-stakes, highly relatable graphic novel about courage and competition, friendship and belonging, and learning to feel comfortable in your own skin.

Grades K-5: Self-Awareness

SHOP SERIES >>

Education does not begin nor end with kids learning about new words or how to multiply numbers. It also includes things like helping children grow and better understand the world around them. One great way to help children is to implement social and emotional learning (SEL). Books are an exceptional way to implement this form of learning. With books, kids can learn valuable tools like empathy and self-acceptance.

In *Happy!*, readers can understand how they can approach realistic situations and get to know the impact their choices can have on themselves and those around them. Happiness might seem like an emotion that we aren’t in control of, and sometimes that’s true, but often it’s not! The way we think about our situations can change both the outcome and the way we feel about that situation.

Getting in the habit of using positive thinking to handle problems rather than getting bogged down with negative thoughts is a useful skill for children to use. *Happy! and the Choose Your Own Attitude* series explore these ways of thinking with the help of Bubble and Slug. Bubble represents choosing a bright, positive outlook in any situation, while Slug shows the impact negative thoughts can have on situations and ourselves.

One example from the book shows a character who has a big day ahead of her. She got up early to take the bus, she has a lot of schoolwork to do, and then after school, she has soccer practice. No matter what, it was going to be a busy day, but it was up to her to decide what to think about. That’s where Bubble and Slug come in! The character – and the reader – can choose whether to engage in positive thinking with Bubble or negative thinking with Slug.

When the character listens to Slug, she starts her day in a bad mood. Slug tells her there’s just way too much going on and it was unfair that it was happening to her. So, listening to Slug, she’s upset about getting up early to catch the bus. During her presentation in class, she can only concentrate on how much she wishes she didn’t have to present at all. Then, at soccer practice, she is too tired to even practice. After her dad picks her up at the end of the day, she’s in an even worse mood than when her day started.

*Choose Your Own Attitude* is a series of books that she hopes will help address issues and feelings frequently encountered in her practice. Gail focuses primarily on a cognitive behavioral approach to therapy and many of the techniques implemented by Bubble are the same techniques her clients have found most useful over the years. She hopes to inspire Bubble thinking as a self-driven approach to the challenges in children’s lives.

Gail Hayes has a master’s degree in counseling psychology and a bachelor’s degree in psychology and child studies. She has been working with youth her whole career – including over 15 years in private practice. *Choose Your Own Attitude* is a series of books that she hopes will help address issues and feelings frequently encountered in her practice. Gail focuses primarily on a cognitive behavioral approach to therapy and many of the techniques implemented by Bubble are the same techniques her clients have found most useful over the years. She hopes to inspire Bubble thinking as a self-driven approach to the challenges in children’s lives.
Implementing SEL with Books
Happy! A Choose Your Own Attitude Book
Gail Hayes, M.A.

When the character listens to Bubble, she is told that a busy day can be exciting! She has a lot going on, but that just means it will be a productive day. Starting her day in a good mood, she has a lot of fun with her friends on the bus. Then, following Bubble’s advice, she does her best to give her presentation for the class, and it goes well! Finally, near the end of the day, the character is getting tired, but Bubble reminds her how much she loves soccer, so she keeps going. She learns a lot of new techniques and ends up having a lot of fun. When her dad picks her up from practice, she’s reflecting on just how great her day was. Even though she’s tired, she realizes how much she accomplished.

By giving readers the option to see either or both outcomes, they can start to realize how to use these techniques in their own lives and the impact these ways of thinking can have. The next time they’re presented with a difficult choice, they can think about how Bubble and Slug would decide to handle the situation.

Happy! is just one way to implement SEL into the classroom, but no matter how SEL is used in schools, its effect is very impactful. Always remember that engaging with children emotionally is as important as engaging with them intellectually.
An Interview with Author

Jessie Sima

Jessie Sima is an author and illustrator living and working in New York City. They grew up in a small town in southern New Jersey, unaware that they were a storyteller. Once they figured it out, they told their family and friends, who took it quite well. They are the author of several notable titles, including their latest book, *Perfectly Pegasus*. The story follows Nimbus, a one-of-a-kind pegasus who feels lonely in her uniqueness. She finds a fallen star to make a wish on and wishes for friends who are just like her. Along the way, she meets a unicorn named Kelp, and a host of other creatures who might just open her eyes to something other than what’s up in the sky.

What was it like for you to come back to your character, Kelp, in a new way and from a new perspective in *Perfectly Pegasus*?

It was a really comforting experience. As my first published book, *Not Quite Narwhal* holds a special place in my heart. I hoped I would find a way to return to Kelp and his sparkly, rainbow world, but I only wanted to do it for the right story. *Not Quite Narwhal* has meant a lot to me, and to many readers, so I wanted to be mindful and respectful of that. Once I discovered Nimbus, I realized that I could continue the story by following this new character who had her own dreams, struggles, and personality. Getting to build out Kelp’s character through his interactions with a new friend his own age was really gratifying. In writing *Perfectly Pegasus*, I got to check in on how Kelp has been doing, and expand on who he is, without having to center on him exclusively. And I was happy to make a story where Kelp could demonstrate that his ability to make new friends and create a welcoming atmosphere is not limited to creatures who have horns or tusks.

continued...
What advice do you have for readers who may be lonely like Nimbus, or who feel like they don’t quite fit in with those around them, like Kelp in Not Quite Narwhal?

My advice for both of these situations is pretty similar. First, know that you are not the only one who feels these sorts of feelings. It’s good to know that you aren’t alone in that way. It can sometimes be scary to talk to new people, but you never know who could be a potential new friend. Try reaching out and making connections with others as your authentic self. Lots of people feel like they don’t fit in for one reason or another, so if you are able to be your own unique self, it may help others feel more comfortable being their own unique selves, too. Creating an environment where everyone is accepted and celebrated is a great way to make friends and form community.

Nimbus doesn’t try to hide how different she is from Kelp and his friends when she arrives on their island. What do you hope readers take away from Perfectly Pegasus about being unique?

Nimbus has grown up alone in the clouds and has never had to hide who she is from anyone. Unlike Kelp in Not Quite Narwhal, she is already secure in her identity. Instead, her journey is about understanding the concept of friendship. For me, it was important to introduce a character who connected with Kelp through their differences instead of their similarities. Of course, they are both mythological horse creatures, but when they first meet, Kelp is impressed by Nimbus’ wings, and Nimbus is amazed by Kelp’s horn. Then, on their journey to find the star, Kelp and Nimbus use their abilities, to fly and to swim, respectively, to further the search. They find common ground and enjoy each other’s company, but they both admire the other’s unique abilities and self. I hope readers see that having differences can be a strength, and that being true to themselves can help others do the same.

When Nimbus and Kelp can’t find the fallen wishing star together, Kelp turns to his friends to join in their search. Why was it important for you to show your characters asking for and receiving help?

While I always want my main characters to work toward solutions to their own problems, I don’t want them to think that turning to others for help is a weakness or a form of admitting defeat. Other characters (or people, in real life) may have unique skills, experiences, and ideas that they can share. And whether the help from others leads to a solution or not, the process of collaborating may still bring characters together. I think about this a lot while creating picture books. There are so many people involved throughout the whole process, and the finished books would not be what they are without their help.
Rose's Asperger syndrome makes everyday tasks, like building relationships with her peers, a struggle. Rose loves rules, homonyms, and her dog, Rain, a gift from her dad. (Yes, she named her dog “Rain Reign” after the homonyms.) Rose has grown up believing her differences are what caused her mother to leave. She has lived alone with her father, Wesley, since she was two. He wants to care for Rose, but he just doesn’t understand her, and he spends too much time at the local bar. Luckily, Rose has a great relationship with her Uncle Weldon, her dad's brother.

When Hurricane Susan comes through their rural town, they are left without power, and then Rain goes missing. It feels as if the storm hit them twice. Rose believes her dog is safe with her uncle, and she's excited about being able to help him. Rose and Uncle Weldon set out to find Rain. After calling several animal shelters, they learn that a dog fitting Rain’s description has shown up at Happy Tails. Rose and Rain are reunited, but then the vet tells Rose that Rain has a heart condition that might prevent her from returning home. Rose is devastated, and Wesley is absolutely furious.

There are even more difficult truths and choices in store for Rose when her father abruptly takes her to live with her uncle, but she soon learns that changes in her routine can be a very good thing.

Rain Reign is an astounding book that will break your heart and patch it back together piece by piece until the very end.

“Making a mistake is accidental. Breaking a rule is deliberate.” – Rose Howard

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UNDERSTANDING YOU

6 Titles • Grades Kindergarten-3

Becoming an upstanding member of the community involves many different things. In this series about social and emotional learning, young readers will be introduced to six qualities of good character. They are explained in simple, easy-to-understand examples.

SERIES HARDCOVER: A599049
An Interview with Author

ERIN ENTRADA KELLY

What is the name of your book?

Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey

How much do you have in common with Marisol?

so much! I was a thoughtful worrier, just like Marisol. I loved cats and silent movies. And I had a really smart BFF. I didn’t wear pigtails much, though. That’s one difference!

Marisol has a cat named Beans. Do you have any pets?

yes! I have 2 rescue dogs and one hedgehog.

What’s your favorite thing about being a writer?

I love hearing from readers.

Do you have any advice for young writers?

Good writers are good readers. Also: Revision is part of the writing process.

This is the first book you’ve illustrated. Have you always loved to draw?

yes! I’ve always loved to draw. Mostly doodles.
Marisol Rainey’s mother was born in the Philippines. Marisol’s father works and lives part-time on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. And Marisol, who has a big imagination and likes to name inanimate objects, has a tree in her backyard she calls Peppina – but she’s way too scared to climb it. This all makes Marisol the only girl in her small Louisiana town with a mother who was born elsewhere and a father who lives elsewhere – most of the time – the only girl who’s fearful of adventure and fun.

Will Marisol be able to salvage her summer and have fun with Jada, her best friend? Maybe. Will Marisol figure out how to get annoying Evie Smythe to leave her alone? Maybe. Will Marisol ever get to spend enough real time with her father? Maybe. Will Marisol find the courage to climb Peppina? Maybe.

Told in short chapters with illustrations by the author on nearly every page, Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey is an illustrated novel about summer, friendship, and overcoming fears, told with warm humor and undeniable appeal.

**Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey**

*Erin Entrada Kelly • Greenwillow Books • 2021 • IL 3-6*

Marisol Rainey’s mother was born in the Philippines. Marisol’s father works and lives part-time on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. And Marisol, who has a big imagination and likes to name inanimate objects, has a tree in her backyard she calls Peppina – but she’s way too scared to climb it. This all makes Marisol the only girl in her small Louisiana town with a mother who was born elsewhere and a father who lives elsewhere – most of the time – the only girl who’s fearful of adventure and fun.

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Told in short chapters with illustrations by the author on nearly every page, Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey is an illustrated novel about summer, friendship, and overcoming fears, told with warm humor and undeniable appeal.
Blackbird Fly
Erin Entrada Kelly • Greenwillow Books • 2015 • IL 5-8
Future rock star or friendless misfit? That’s no choice at all. In this acclaimed novel, 12-year-old Apple grapples with being different, with friends and backstabbers, and with following her dreams.

Lalani of the Distant Sea
Erin Entrada Kelly • Greenwillow Books • 2019 • IL 3-6
A young girl embarks on a quest normally reserved for boys in the hope of saving her village from life-threatening hazards, including a deadly plague affecting her mother.

The Land of Forgotten Girls
Erin Entrada Kelly • Greenwillow Books • 2016 • IL 3-6
In this acclaimed novel from a Newbery Medalist, two sisters from the Philippines, abandoned by their father and living in impoverished circumstances in Louisiana, fight to make their lives better.

Those Kids from Fawn Creek
Erin Entrada Kelly • Greenwillow Books • 2022 • IL 3-6
When graceful Orchid Mason arrives, with exotic clothes and glorious hair, the other 12 seventh graders who’ve been together all their lives do not know what to think.

We Dream of Space
Erin Entrada Kelly • Greenwillow Books • 2020 • IL 3-6
Time travel to 1986 and meet the unforgettable Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas in this pitch-perfect middle grade novel about family, friendship, science, and exploration.

You Go First
Erin Entrada Kelly • Greenwillow Books • 2018 • IL 3-6
Funny and poignant, this title from a Newbery Medalist and New York Times best-seller is an exploration of family, bullying, word games, art, and the ever-complicated world of middle school friendships.
Don't forget about your own SEL. Access these tools, including printable activities and idea builders, to help faculty and staff engage in impactful self-improvement. >>

**Beautifully Me**
*Nabela Noor • S&S Books for Young Readers*
2021 • IL K-3
A Bangladeshi family realizes they’ve passed on their negative body image when their normally happy daughter, Zubi, declares at dinner that she is on a diet.

1919DS1 $16.65 HRD

**Don't Worry, Murray**
*David Ezra Stein • Balzer + Bray • 2022 • IL K-3*
Murray worries – about lots of things. But gradually he learns that he can put on a raincoat. He can make new friends. He can be brave.

1772SX0 $16.65 HRD

**Fifty-Four Things Wrong with Gwendolyn Rogers**
*Caela Carter • Quill Tree Books • 2022 • IL 3-6*
A moving own-voices story that shines a light on how one girl’s learning differences are neither right nor wrong – just perfectly individual.

1795KZ9 $14.98 FBG

**Jordan and Max, Field Trip!**
*Suzanne Sutherland • Orca Book Publishers • 2022 • IL K-3*
During the class field trip to the museum, friends Jordan and Max run wild until after dark, when finding themselves in a strange neighborhood, they watch a winter solstice celebration!

2063VA7 $7.82 PAP

**This Story Is Not About a Kitten**
*Randall de Sève • Random House Studio • 2022 • IL K-3*
Contrary to what you may believe, this story is not about a kitten, hungry, dirty, scared, alone, needing a home. It is also not about the dog who heard the kitten meowing sadly. It’s even less so about the woman and child walking the dog, who stopped when their dog heard the kitten. Nor is it about the friends who brought a box for the kitten, or the man who offered it some milk. No, this story is not about a kitten at all – well, maybe a little – but more importantly, this is a story about community, compassion, and generosity.

1719EZ7 $17.53 HRD

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**Grades K-5: Self-Management**
Not Yet, Yeti
Bethany V. Freitas • Clarion Books • 2022 • IL K-3
It’s Yeti’s first day of school, and there are so many new things to try! Maybe he can’t do everything he wants to do perfectly just yet, but he can always try again!
1613YV7 $16.65 HRD

A Sled for Gabo
Emma Otheguy • Atheneum Books for Young Readers 2021 • IL K-3
Gabo, shy with other children and having no sled or winter clothing, yearns to go sledding. One day, his neighbor’s granddaughter, Isa, helps him find a way.
1798UD0 $16.65 HRD

Sometimes I Grumblesquinch
(A Big Feelings Book)
Rachel Vail • Orchard Books • 2022 • IL K-3
A sweet and touching exploration of the scariness of big feelings and overcoming the pressures to do everything just right, in this companion title to best-selling picture book Sometimes I’m Bombaloo.
1743TV1 $17.53 HRD

The Star
Linda Ragsdale • Flowerpot Press • 2020 • IL K-3
Through a shimmering evening encounter with a star, Benni learns the power of self-love and self-confidence, and wakes up the next morning feeling as bright as the star she spotted in the sky.
1990DB9 $15.77 HRD

A Very Big Fall
Emmy Kastner • Clarion Books • 2022 • IL K-3
New situations can be scary but also thrilling, as three autumn leaves, surprised by their turning colors and the promise of the fall to come, discover in this funny and heartwarming story.
1613GV6 $16.65 HRD

Zara’s Rules for Record-Breaking Fun
(Zara’s Rules)
Hena Khan • Salaam Reads • 2022 • IL 3-6
Meet Zara Saleem, the queen of the neighborhood. Zara’s in charge of it all – she organizes the games, picks the teams, and makes sure everyone has a good time. When a new family moves in across the street, suddenly Zara’s reign is threatened by Naomi, who has big ideas of her own about how the neighborhood kids can have fun. To get everyone to notice her again, Zara decides she’s going to break a Guinness World Record – if her little brother Zayd doesn’t mess things up. But when she finds herself increasingly alone in her record-breaking quest, Zara starts to wonder if sharing the crown and making a new friend might end up being the best rule of all.
1885BVX $14.18 FBG

Our SEL resources are great for developing character, empathy, and emotional intelligence. >>
June has a lot of anxieties and personal struggles in the novel, and they’re not all magically gone by the end of the book, despite her progress. Why was it important to you to show June’s struggle and process?

People often talk about “beating” anxiety or “overcoming” depression, but for many, me included, it’s more about understanding how your own mind works and developing coping skills to help you trust yourself. This is what June is learning, and it’s messy and full of loop-de-loops, but in all the dips, she gets stronger. There is no perfect ending. To pretend there is would be a disservice to those who identify with June’s story. We learn. We grow. And hopefully, we become wiser and more empowered through our struggles.

Which was your favorite character to write?

I loved creating June’s therapist so much – her yacht rock, her farting rescue dog, her paint-swatch mood test! She really gets June, and most importantly, June trusts her and feels safe in her presence. She is exactly the kind of compassionate but firm adult figure I would want for anyone struggling to understand themselves.
All of your novels have been so different; what inspires your writing, and what comes first, plot or character?

Character comes first for me. I suppose that’s why I can’t stick to an outline no matter how hard I try! I typically have a general idea of where I’m heading in the story, but that is always based on the character’s inner journey, and ultimately, that’s what leads me forward. The character’s voice comes to me before anything. I hear it in my head before I can see the person in my mind. I do think the through line for all my stories, however, is that the main character feels like an outsider and learns to recognize the beauty in being different.

What do you most hope readers will take away from June’s story?

June is fierce and a fighter. But ultimately, she learns that it’s not about the fight; it’s about embracing how she was made and letting people in so that they can love her. I hope the reader walks away feeling brave enough to show weakness so they can be accepted as they are. It’s scary not always putting on a perfect front, but that’s when we draw our forever people to us – the ones who will be in our lives no matter what. I also hope it makes everyone take a trip to their local library, because the library is magic!
DJ Corchin

Watch author DJ Corchin read *A Thousand NO’s*, his award-winning book about perseverance and innovation. Readers will learn that even great ideas sometimes get a no – but a no can help great ideas become the best ideas!

**Watch Video**

Download the educator guide. >>

Popular authors discuss their books and share how to incorporate them into classroom plans. 

*Explore more Author Takeovers.* >>
Abdul’s Story
Jamila Thompkins-Bigelow • Salaam Reads
2022 • IL K-3
Abdul loves telling stories but thinks his messy handwriting and spelling mistakes will keep him from becoming an author, until Mr. Muhammad visits and encourages him to persist.
1868RV4 $16.65 HRD

Be Your True Self (Social Justice and You)
Maribel Valdez Gonzalez • Capstone Press • 2022 • IL 3-6
With kid-friendly explanations of key ideas and relevant scenarios, this text will help young kids explore their identities – like racial or gender identity – and how it shapes their experience.
1681FZ7 $22.04 HRD

Be a Bridge
Irene Latham and Charles Waters
Carolrhoda Books • 2022 • IL K-3
In this upbeat picture book, acclaimed authors Irene Latham and Charles Waters bring key themes from their earlier collaborations (Can I Touch Your Hair? and Dictionary for a Better World) to a young audience. Rhyming verse describes different ways in which readers “can be a bridge,” from welcoming a new student and listening respectfully when someone else is talking to standing up to a bully and comforting a classmate who is upset. Nabila Adani’s cheerful illustrations depict a diverse group of students, including young versions of Charles and Irene. An ideal book to share with students in the fall to set the tone for the whole school year!
1966CZX $15.04 HRD

The Greatest in the World!
(Tater Tales, Book 1)
Ben Clanton • S&S Books for Young Readers
2022 • IL K-3
Two spud siblings face off in a series of epic challenges in this first installment of a new and hilariously silly graphic novel chapter book series from a best-selling author.
1909YXX $12.25 HRD

Leonard (My Life as a Cat)
Carlie Sorosiak • Walker Books • 2021 • IL 3-6
The cat that Olive rescues from a flood has a secret – he’s not really a cat at all, but an alien who crashed to Earth.
1999MM1 $16.65 HRD

Grades K-5: Social Awareness
Many Ways to Be a Family
(Sesame Street® Celebrating You and Me)
Christy Peterson • Lerner Publications
2023 • IL K-3
Every family is unique, but all families have people who love and care for one another. Join favorite Sesame Street characters in celebrating the many ways to be a family!
1980BZ5 $21.04 HRD

Keeping the City Going
Brian Floca
Atheneum Books for Young Readers
2021 • IL K-3
We are here at home now, watching the world through our windows. Outside we see the city we know, but not as we’ve seen it before. The once hustling and bustling streets are empty. Well, almost empty. Around the city there are still people, some, out and about. These are the people keeping us safe. Keeping us healthy. Keeping our mail and our food delivered. Keeping our grocery stores stocked. Keeping the whole city going.
Brian Floca speaks for us all in this stirring homage to all the essential workers who kept the essentials operating so the rest of us could do our part by sheltering in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.
1622PN5 $16.65 HRD

Step
Deborah Ellis • Groundwood Books • 2022 • IL 3-6
In this powerful collection of short stories, children around the world turn 11 and take a step into their futures.
1958RXX $14.89 HRD

A Thousand Questions
Saadia Faruqi • Quill Tree Books • 2022 • IL 5-8
Told in two voices, 11-year-olds Mimi, who is visiting her wealthy grandparents in Karachi, Pakistan, for the first time, and Sakina, daughter of the grandparents’ cook, form an unexpected friendship.
1784RX1 $7.85 PAP

Weird Rules to Follow
Kim Spencer • Orca Book Publishers • 2022 • IL 3-6
Mia knows her family is very different than her best friend’s. Everyone seems to have decided who Mia is without getting to know her, and it’s starting to affect their friendship.
2085FA4 $17.88 FBG

Whale Feels Worried (Emotion Ocean)
Katie Woolley • Lerner Publications • 2023 • IL K-3
Whale wants her schoolwork to be perfect, so she erases the paper until it rips! This relatable story helps kids identify their feelings and provides useful tools for managing emotions.
1973CZ6 $22.04 HRD

Grades K-5: Social Awareness
Insights at a Glance

Follett Tags help you quickly find only the best, most relevant materials, handpicked by our team of educators. Explore by genres, cross-curricular applications like SEL, topics, themes, and more.

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An Interview with Author
Kelly Yang

Kelly Yang is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Front Desk*, which won the 2019 Asian/Pacific American Award for Children's Literature as well as numerous other honors from *The Washington Post, Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal*, and more. Her latest book, *New from Here*, was an instant *New York Times* best-seller. This timely and compelling book highlights the hope and resilience shown by an Asian American boy fighting to keep his family together while standing up to racism during the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Knox and his family go through a lot of emotional highs and lows throughout *New from Here*. Why was it important for you to show this family and these characters in these emotionally vulnerable positions at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?

It was important to me that this book capture the full range of emotions of this unprecedented time, from the hilarious moments to the universal fears of not being able to see loved ones. This pandemic has shaped all our lives, especially children’s. It took great courage for them to get through this time, to navigate distance learning, and find the light through the uncertainty, and I wanted this book to be both a mirror and a sliding door for future generations.
Throughout the book, Knox learns that he stands out in his class because he has ADHD, and his family stands out when they move to California because they’re one of the very few Asian families in the area. How do these realizations help Knox grow and adapt to his new environments?

The moment when Knox finally realizes he has ADHD, you can almost feel his relief because he’s able to put a word to it. And that means he’s finally able to talk about it. The same is true for being Asian American – having that realization and language is so important because then we can share experiences and ultimately feel proud of who we are. That’s why I think books are so important – they’re conversation starters that help build empathy in children.

One of the big themes of *New from Here* is the strength we can find in our families, despite whatever hardships are affecting individuals. What do you hope readers of all ages see in the Wei-Evans family, and what lessons would you like them to take into hardships they experience in their own lives?

My biggest hope with this book is that it can unite us. We’ve all been through something historic together, and whether you live in the US or Hong Kong, you have a lot more in common than you think. I hope that in reading about the Wei-Evans family, kids see themselves and each other on the pages.
Alien Nate
Dave Whamond • Kids Can Press • 2020 • IL 3-6
When Alien Nate’s ship crashes down on Earth during a winter storm, he’s befriended by Fazel, who takes him to school and introduces him to human life.

1533WY3 $14.01 HRD

Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?
Leslie Connor • Katherine Tegen Books • 2022 • IL 3-6
When her best friend Frenchie, who is autistic and doesn’t speak, disappears in the woods, Aurora feels that she’s to blame and does everything she can to find him.

1874GU6 $15.77 HRD

Lion Is Nervous: A Book About Feeling Worried (Behavior Matters)
Sue Graves • Franklin Watts • 2021 • IL K-3
The class field trip is coming up, and Lion worries about the weather, the rides, everything. His anxiety also makes him clumsy, which causes his friends to worry about him.

1943GR3 $18.80 HRD

A Place to Hang the Moon
Kate Albus • Holiday House • 2021 • IL 3-6
In World War II England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund, and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.

1829PN9 $16.65 HRD

I’m Sorry (The I’m Books, Book 4)
Michael Ian Black • S&S Books for Young Readers 2021 • IL K-3
In this fourth book in the series from New York Times best-selling author Michael Ian Black and celebrated illustrator Debbie Ridpath Ohi, a flamingo and a very sorry potato learn how to mend hurt feelings.

Flamingo is upset. Very upset. Potato is sorry. Very sorry. In fact, he is the sorriest. But he doesn’t know how to tell Flamingo. He would rather run away to the South Pole and live with penguins. He’d rather wear a disguise for the rest of time. But will that be enough to fix their friendship? Will they ever go back to being a girl, a potato, and a flamingo again?

1926LS6 $16.65 HRD

Emotions can be hard to navigate with your students. Learn how books can help. >>
Singing with Elephants
Margarita Engle • Viking • 2022 • IL 3-6
A powerful novel in verse from an award-winning author about the friendship between a young girl and the poet Gabriela Mistral that leads to healing and hope for both of them.

1638UX7 $15.77 HRD

A Sweet New Year for Ren
Michelle Sterling • Paula Wiseman Books 2022 • IL K-3
Celebrate the Lunar New Year through a young girl’s family traditions in this charming picture book featuring illustrations by New York Times best-selling artist Dung Ho.

1864NY4 $17.53 HRD

Unlikely Friends (Beak & Ally, Book 1)
Norman Feuti • Harper Alley • 2021 • IL 3-6
Ally the alligator is perfectly happy being alone—until one day a noisy bird named Beak lands on her snout and won’t stop bugging her!

1786CD1 $12.25 HRD

What If, Pig?
Linzie Hunter • Harper Alley • 2021 • IL K-3
When Pig gets the brilliant idea to throw a party for Mouse and their friends, he can’t help but think of everything that could possibly go wrong.

1744VN7 $16.65 HRD
As schools continue working through the current pandemic, lots of conversation turns to the challenges of the time and the difficulty students have experienced related to trauma. However, let’s be perfectly clear – prior to the pandemic, many of our students were facing challenging and stressful home lives. As school leaders, we can instill in our staff an understanding of the importance of noticing changes in our children and working together to address these changes.

Let’s see how one principal has instilled this value in her teaching teams:

Cassia, a sixth-grade student, has been in trouble for the last two years in school. In early elementary school, teachers commented about how attentive and interested she was in learning. All of that changed at the end of her fourth-grade year. She suddenly became withdrawn and quiet. She stopped turning in assignments and kept to herself a lot. Since it was the end of the school year, Cassia’s teacher thought something had changed, but didn’t want to pry into her family situation.

During fifth grade, all the classes were departmentalized. Cassia didn’t make a meaningful connection with her teachers there and did just enough to get by.

For sixth grade, Cassia attended Floyd Middle School. At this school, the team members met every week to discuss the students and their educational progress. Floyd Middle School had adopted the care factor as a central component of its school culture. Principal Raul Haven had aligned resources to help teachers focus on students first. Teachers met in collaborative teams and structured each meeting based on the unique needs of the students and teachers.

At their third weekly team meeting, the team focused on student welfare. Team members could complete a referral and discuss student concerns at this meeting. The team members listened as Cassia’s homeroom teacher, Ms. Deacon, shared her concerns about Cassia.
After listening to her concerns, team members developed a plan to study the situation to better understand what was happening. They adopted the following elements in their plan:

- As a sixth-grade team, they decided it would be important for each of them to develop a better relationship with Cassia.
- Ms. Deacon would keep a log of Cassia’s classroom behaviors to see if patterns had emerged.
- The collaborative team leader would keep Principal Haven informed about the data they had gathered so she could be ready to provide additional resources once the team better understood the problem.

By implementing the plan, team members were able to develop a relationship with Cassia. As a result of this relationship, they were better able to determine the patterns in her behavior while also helping her to feel more comfortable and engaged in each classroom. After gathering more information, the sixth-grade collaborative team would meet again and develop a plan for implementing strategies to help Cassia get back on track. The process would take some time, but the team knew Cassia needed that to become comfortable with them (Eller & Hierck, 2022, pp. 1-2).

In this brief example, we see how the sixth-grade team at Floyd Middle School worked to gather data to understand the issue, then implemented a plan to begin to address the situation. Rather than try to question Cassia about what had been bothering her, they decided to first build a foundational relationship with her. They knew building this relationship would take time, but they also knew that building a relationship would help to form a trusting bond between them and Cassia. The relationship itself could make a huge difference in how Cassia felt and responded.

“Rather than try to question Cassia about what had been bothering her, they decided to first build a foundational relationship with her. They knew building this relationship would take time, but they also knew that building a relationship would help to form a trusting bond between them and Cassia. The relationship itself could make a huge difference in how Cassia felt and responded.”
Principal Haven has effectively built the foundation of trauma-sensitive instruction in her staff. She has invested time and energy in helping her teachers understand trauma and how it can impact their students. She has also instituted a focus on building relationships with all students. This high level of relationship-building has paid off with lower levels of conflict in the classroom and fewer referrals to the office. Now, when teachers encounter off-task behavior, they first try to understand what could be behind the behavior rather than just reacting. A second highly productive behavior Principal Haven has developed with her staff is an approach to how they resolve concerns. As a team, they get together to problem-solve when teachers see a pattern of behavior. They approach student behavior issues in a manner similar to academic concerns – they gather data and study the issue before developing a plan. In the scenario above, they began to focus on building a relationship with Cassia while gathering more information because they knew about the power of relationships in teaching. Once more data is gathered, a more detailed plan is developed.

Principal Haven has been successful in leading her teachers to become more trauma-sensitive in their approach to children. The teachers have embraced a process that allows them to feel supported while also supporting their students. We know trauma will not disappear in a post-pandemic world; the strategies we develop as school teams are necessary not only during this time but also as we continue to move forward and further develop a trauma-sensitive approach.

Encouraging students to keep pushing forward when things get tough is an important part of building a culture of growth at your school. Inspire persistence and resilience with SEL-themed posters, free to print and share! Not only will they send positive messages to students, but they’ll also look great in classrooms, hallways, or libraries.

Download and share. >>
Bernice Buttman, Model Citizen
Niki Lenz • Random House • 2019 • IL 3-6
Bernice Buttman is tired of being labeled a “bully,” so when her mom leaves her with her aunt, who is a nun, Bernice decides to become a model citizen.
1410HS0 $15.77 HRD

Healthy as a Dragon!
(Learning with Fairy Tales)
Štěpánka Sekaninová • Albatros Media
2022 • IL K-3
Fearless princess and a whining dragon? It sounds like a fairy tale, but really this title is a fully illustrated self-care guide for kids.
1949VZ6 $13.98 HRD

I Forgive Alex:
A Simple Story About Understanding
Kerascoët • Random House Studio • 2022 • IL K-3
This wordless picture book is a good reminder that it’s important to take responsibility for a mistake but that it’s equally important to be ready to forgive.
1618CX5 $16.65 HRD

Keep Your Head Up
Aliya King Neil • S&S Books for Young Readers
2021 • IL K-3
Teach little ones that it’s okay to have a bad day in this brightly illustrated, gently affirmative picture book about keeping our heads up and letting things pass.
1919WSX $16.65 HRD

Lizzy and the Cloud
The Fan Brothers • S&S Books for Young Readers
2022 • IL K-3
From the critically acclaimed, award-winning creators of Ocean Meets Sky and The Night Gardener comes a whimsical and sweet tale of a young girl who cares for her pet cloud as it grows. It’s a little out of fashion to buy a pet cloud, but Lizzy doesn’t mind. She’s not looking for a big one or a fancy one, just one that’s right for her. And she finds it in Milo. Soon, she’s taking Milo out on walks with her family, watering Milo right on schedule, and seeing Milo grow and grow. But what happens when her pet cloud gets too big for Lizzy to handle?
1911UX5 $17.53 HRD

These SEL resources teach students empathy and how to impact their community positively. >>

Grades K-5: Responsible Decision-Making
**Love, Love**
*Victoria Chang • Sterling Children’s Books • 2020 • IL 3-6*
In this beautiful novel in verse, a Chinese American girl contends with school bullies, tries to solve the mystery of her sister’s strange illness, and finds strength and validation at the local tennis court.

1224LZ9 $15.74 HRD

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**Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued**
*Peter Sis • Norton Young Readers • 2021 • IL 3-6*
The story of 29-year-old Nicholas Winton, who saved the lives of almost 700 children trapped in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia in 1938.

1801ED5 $18.38 HRD

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**Sanctuary: Kip Tiernan and Rosie’s Place, the Nation’s First Shelter for Women**
*Christine McDonnell • Candlewick Press 2022 • IL 3-6*
Relates the story of social activist Kip Tiernan and her efforts to open Rosie’s Place, the nation’s first homeless shelter for women, in Boston.

1753AU0 $17.53 HRD

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**Sylvie**
*Jean Reidy • Atheneum Books for Young Readers 2022 • IL K-3*
A surreptitious spider gathers the courage to help the neighbors she has watched over from afar – among them a promising painter, a proper little lady, a brave girl, and her exceptionally brave tortoise.

1911GX3 $17.53 HRD

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**You Got a Phone! (Now Read This Book)**
*Elizabeth Englander • Free Spirit • 2022 • IL 3-6*
Kids learn about the super awesome powers of their phones – and how to use them safely.

1858BX9 $17.42 FBG

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**Tell the Truth, Pangolin**
*Melinda Beatty • Anne Schwartz Books 2022 • IL K-3*
In this delightful, thoroughly entertaining picture book about the importance – and difficulty – of telling the truth, the queen’s trusty servant, a pangolin, breaks the royal swing and doesn’t know what to tell her. This story is a wonderful introduction to the important values of truth-telling and courage that all children should hear. At once delightful, charming, and silly, this is a wonderful addition to classrooms and reading circles.

1715TZ0 $17.53 HRD

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**Grades K-5: Responsible Decision-Making**
Some of the most common requests I see in conversations from those looking for new picture books for #ClassroomBookADay read-alouds are related to social and emotional topics. Let’s be real: we’re all working with children in confined settings, so there are bound to be interpersonal issues that arise. It’s the nature of what we do as educators. Along with that, it is part of our job to help those same children figure out how to handle these types of situations. And that is when I turn to books.

But what does social and emotional learning really mean? What books should we be looking for to support these life skills? The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) defines social and emotional learning (SEL) as “The process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions, and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.”

Clearly these are also goals for our classrooms, and several are goals I established early on for #ClassroomBookADay: building community, developing empathy, and helping process emotions and reactions.
Soon after I committed to reading aloud a picture book each day, back when I was teaching Grades 7-8, I started to see the community being built around the stories that we were sharing. Not only that, but I saw how fluid and targeted I could be with my book selection as I was able to immediately respond to things I saw happening in the classroom, the hallways, the school, the town, the country, and the world. Small and big, those things that happened could be addressed by the books I chose to share.

Whether trauma or drama; celebration or grieving; needing to be brave or needing to deal with emotions, history, or current events, there was a book I could choose to help my students, and sometimes myself, work through it.

Picture books are valuable because they become the extra teacher in our classroom. They are the lessons to be learned about life. They are the lens through which we can see ourselves more clearly.

CASEL delineates five core competencies for SEL: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Many picture books, since they are targeted for younger children as a general rule, deal with SEL topics because picture books are designed to teach through story, and young children (and the not so young) then have a less intimidating way to learn them.

SEL is about figuring out how to be human. And with these 20 picture book recommendations, I hope they will help your students as much as they have helped my students, and myself as well.
**Between Perfect & Real**
Ray Stoeve • Amulet Books
2021 • IL YA
A moving YA debut about a trans boy finding his voice and himself.
1768NN5 $17.53 HRD

**Birdie and Me**
J.M.M. Nuanez
Kathy Dawson Books
2020 • IL 5-8
In the wake of their mother’s death 10 months ago, 12-year-old Jack and her gender creative nine-year-old brother, Birdie, must confront grief, prejudice, and loss while exploring what home really means.
1245ZS0 $15.77 HRD

**Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls**
Kaela Rivera • Harper
2021 • IL 5-8
Privately questioning her remote community’s superstitions about dangerous, powerful spirits in their Devil’s Alley home, Cecelia Rios experiments with the forbidden art of brujeria to rescue her kidnapped sister.
1986QM6 $15.77 HRD

**On the Hook**
Francisco X. Stork
Scholastic Press • 2021 • IL YA
Stuck in a reform school along with his enemy, Hector has to choose whether he’s going to lose himself to anger and seek revenge, or get back to the hard work of living.
1727YP3 $16.65 HRD

**We Are All Constellations**
Amy Beashel
Oneworld Publications
2022 • IL YA
A heartbreaking but hope-filled tale about the stories we tell ourselves to survive.
1873KY1 $11.37 PAP

**The Silence That Binds Us**
Joanna Ho • HarperTeen • 2022 • IL YA
Maybelline Chen isn’t the Chinese Taiwanese American daughter her mother expects her to be. May’s beloved brother, Danny, on the other hand, has just been admitted to Princeton. But Danny secretly struggles with depression, and when he dies by suicide, May’s world is shattered. In the aftermath, racist accusations are hurled against May’s parents for putting too much pressure on him. May’s father tells her to keep her head down. Instead, May challenges these ugly stereotypes through her writing. Yet the consequences of speaking out run much deeper than anyone could foresee. Who gets to tell our stories, and who gets silenced? It’s up to May to take back the narrative. Joanna Ho masterfully explores timely themes of mental health, racism, and classism.
1837ZW8 $16.65 HRD

Don’t forget about your own SEL. Access these tools, including printable activities and idea builders, to help faculty and staff engage in impactful self-improvement. >>

**Grades 6-12: Self-Awareness**

LISTEN TO THE FIRST CHAPTER READ BY JOANNA HO >>
Books do more than tell stories. They support growth, empathy, and responsibility – the heart of social and emotional learning. #AllBooksForAllKids is about spreading a love of reading.

Stay in the know.
Sign up to receive updates for the latest on our exciting plans for both students and teachers – giveaways, book recommendations, and more!

Check out our website!
- Links to blog posts and webinars
- Free downloadables
- Book selections that will boost student achievement, improve prosocial behavior, and reduce stress in the classroom

Get on the list. >>
Chill Out: Practicing Calm (Just Breathe)
Virginia Loh-Hagan
45th Parallel Press
2020 • IL 5-8
In this high-interest book written with a lower level of complexity to help struggling readers, students will discover how to practice slowing down and responding thoughtfully to everyday situations.
1131VZ3 $21.05 HRD

Dad’s Girlfriend and Other Anxieties
Kellye Crocker
Albert Whitman & Company
2022 • IL 5-8
Anxiety has always made Ava avoid the slightest risk, but plunging headfirst into danger might be just what she needs.
1636ZZ7 $16.65 HRD

Find Layla: A Novel
Meg Elison • Skyscape
2020 • IL YA
A neglected girl’s chaotic coming-of-age becomes a trending new hashtag in a novel about growing up and getting away, by an award-winning author.
1830QA8 $15.77 HRD

Free from Panic: A Teen’s Guide to Coping with Panic Attacks and Panic Symptoms
Monika Parkinson, Kerstin Thirlwall and Lucy Willett
Jessica Kingsley Publishers
2022 • IL YA
Panic symptoms and panic attacks can feel overwhelming and frightening. This book guides teens through the isolation and worry of living with panic symptoms or panic disorder.
1645QX4 $17.50 PAP

Living with Viola
Rosena Fung • Annick Press
2021 • IL 5-8
Only when Livy learns how to ask for help does she finally figure out how to live with Viola – Livy’s anxiety brought to life as a shadowy twin.
1840TT0 $21.02 HRD

Every Variable of Us
Charles A. Bush • Flux • 2022 • IL YA
After Philly teenager Alexis Duncan is injured in a gang shooting, her dreams of a college scholarship and pro basketball career vanish in an instant. To avoid becoming another Black teen trapped in her poverty-stricken neighborhood, she shifts her focus to the school’s STEM team, a group of self-professed nerds seeking their own college scholarships. Academics have never been her thing, but Alexis is freshly motivated by Aamani Chakrabarti, the new Indian student who becomes her friend (and crush?). Alexis begins to see herself as so much more than an athlete. But just as her future starts to reform, Alexis’s own doubts and old loyalties pull her back into harm’s way.
1689SVX $16.65 HRD
Christine Day

*The Sea in Winter* is an evocative and heartwarming novel that tells the story of a Native American girl struggling to find her joy again. Watch author Christine Day read the first chapter of her insightful, stirring read about healing and resilience.

Watch Video

Need First Chapter Friday tips? Read our blog. >>
Grades 6-12: Social Awareness

Ain’t Burned All the Bright
Jason Reynolds • Atheneum • 2022 • IL YA
Prepare yourself for something unlike anything: A smash-up of art and text for teens that viscerally captures what it is to be Black in America, right now. New York Times best-selling and award-winning author Jason Reynolds and his best bud, Jason Griffin, had a mind meld. And they decided to tackle, in one fell swoop, in about 10 sentences and 300 pages of art, this piece, this project about oxygen, and all of the symbolism attached to that word, especially now. And so for anyone who didn’t know what it means to not be able to really breathe for generations, now you know. And those who already do, you’ll be nodding, saying, “Yep, that is exactly how it is.”
1739GU1 $18.41 HRD

Final Cut (Orca Anchor)
Marty Chan • Orca Book Publishers 2022 • IL YA
Determined to get revenge on the bullies who have tortured him, Mason films them and edits the footage to humiliate them. But when it goes viral, the bullies vow to get even.
1686PY3 $16.38 FBG

Flip Turns
Catherine Arguelles • Jolly Fish Press • 2022 • IL 5-8
A string of vandalism breaks out at 13-year-old Maddie’s community pool. Worried it’s her “admirer” getting even after being rejected, Maddie and her friend Ez launch their own investigation.
1927NZ4 $22.08 FBG

The Many Meanings of Meilan
Andrea Wang • Kokila 2021 • IL 5-8
A family feud before the start of seventh grade propels Meilan from Boston’s Chinatown to rural Ohio, where she must make a new place for herself.
1638JQX $16.65 HRD

One of the Good Ones
Maika Moulite and Maritza Moulite • Ink Yard Press 2021 • IL YA
A shockingly powerful exploration of the lasting impact of prejudice and the indomitable spirit of sisterhood that will have readers questioning what it truly means to be an ally.
1989AM9 $17.53 HRD

The Legend of Auntie Po
Shing Yin Khor • Kokila 2021 • IL 5-8
Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the camp foreman’s daughter, and telling stories about Paul Bunyan – reinvented as Po Pan Yin (Auntie Po), an elderly Chinese matriarch.
1900TM6 $21.16 HRD

These SEL titles will prepare students to positively impact their communities and the world. >>
Teaching Self Awareness from PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

What the Fireflies Knew
KAI HARRIS
978-0-593-18534-6 Hardcover

Acceptance
EMI NIETFELD
978-0-593-48947-5 Hardcover

Salt in My Soul
MALLORY SMITH
978-1-984855-44-2 Trade Paperback

Klara and the Sun
KAZUO ISHIGURO
978-0-593-31129-5 Trade Paperback

True Biz
SARA NOVIC
978-0-593-24150-9 Hardcover

Crying in H Mart
MICHELLE ZAUNER
978-0-525-65774-3 Hardcover

Visit titlewave.com • Free Shipping in the US and Canada
Bad Best Friend
Rachel Vail • Viking
2020 • IL 5-8
Eighth grader Niki’s friend dumps her just as life at home is becoming more complicated by her brother Danny’s behavior and her mother’s refusal to admit Danny is on the autism spectrum.
1167SZ6 $16.65 HRD

Finding Her Edge
Jennifer Iacopelli • Razorbill
2022 • IL YA
A romantic new novel that follows elite ice dancer Adriana Russo as she finds herself drawn to both her old dance partner and her new one.
1914LU4 $17.53 HRD

Flight of the Puffin
Ann Braden
Nancy Paulsen Books
2022 • IL 5-8
One small act of kindness ripples out to connect four kids in this stirring novel by the author of the beloved The Benefits of Being an Octopus.
1912GY8 $15.78 FBG

Saltwater Secrets
Cindy Callaghan • Aladdin
2020 • IL 5-8
From the acclaimed author of Just Add Magic – now a hit streaming original series – comes a story of two sisters, one summer vacation, and one big mystery for them to solve.
1585KX8 $17.53 HRD

Union
Sara Cassidy
Orca Book Publishers
2022 • IL YA
Tuck navigates new love, past trauma, and standing up for what’s right in this novel in verse.
2085CA2 $17.88 FBG

A Year to the Day
Robin Benway • HarperTeen • 2022 • IL YA
Leo can’t remember what happened the night of the accident. All she knows is that she left the party with her older sister, Nina, and Nina’s boyfriend, East. And now Nina is dead. East, who loved Nina almost as much as Leo did, is the person who seems to most understand how she feels, and the two form a friendship based on their shared grief. But as she struggles to remember what happened, Leo discovers that East remembers every detail of the accident – and he won’t tell her anything about it. In fact, he refuses to talk about that night at all. As the days tumble one into the next, Leo’s story comes together while her world falls apart.
1777QWX $17.53 HRD

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Tell us a little bit about What the Fact?! and the story of how you came to write this timely and informative book focused on media literacy.

What the Fact?! is a map for navigating the murky worlds of misinformation and disinformation and a how-to guide for protecting yourself against lies and myths. It includes evidence-backed ways to effectively debunk those annoying and sometimes dangerous myths and conspiracy theories that friends and family can fall for. The book came to be because of the glaring need for a fun and easy-to-read guide that empowers readers by showing them that while we’re all vulnerable to believing falsehoods, we can all learn how to separate fact from fiction. In fact, false information doesn’t have to go viral – it can stop with us.
You study the spread of falsehoods about health and science and are considered an expert in misinformation and disinformation. Was there anything that surprised you during the research phase of writing *What the Fact?!*

Even though I’ve been deep in this world for over a decade, I still get shocked by some of the myths and hoaxes that spread! “Covid-19 vaccines give you magnetic superpowers” was one lie that stopped me in my tracks for a second because it was wild; another was the record number of cellphone towers that were set on fire in Europe during the pandemic because people believed the coronavirus was spread via 5G waves.

You explain in the book how false information travels faster and farther than the truth. Why is that?

False information – particularly in the case of disinformation – is often engineered to go viral. It’s packaged in a way that exploits the vulnerabilities of the human brain. For example, it can make grandiose claims about “cures” or “100% effectiveness”; it’s designed to come across as novel and trigger emotions, and it’s often wrapped around a kernel of truth, which makes it difficult to separate the fact from the fiction.

The problem of false information going viral seems overwhelming and impossible to get a handle on, and that makes some people doubtful of absolutely everything. Is skepticism a helpful approach?

What’s more useful is the critical-thinking approach described in the book as well as the system of updating your beliefs based on the best available evidence and assigning a strength (or level of credence to your belief) so that you don’t make up your mind once and refuse to reassess your beliefs.
Air
Monica Roe • Farrar Straus Giroux
2022 • IL 5-8
An action-packed, empowering middle grade novel about a girl who has to speak up when her wheelchair motocross dreams get turned upside down.
1893CT3 $15.77 HRD

Counting Scars
(Orca Soundings)
Melinda Di Lorenzo
Orca Book Publishers
2022 • IL YA
When 16-year-old Adele Reimer is forced to spend two weeks at a youth reform camp, she has no idea it will lead to a complicated and dangerous love triangle.
1686UYX $16.38 FBG

Dear Student
Elly Swartz • Delacorte Press
2022 • IL 5-8
When Autumn becomes the secret voice of the advice column in her middle school newspaper, she faces a dilemma – can she give fair advice to everyone while keeping her identity a secret?
1888FUX $15.77 HRD

Dress Coded
Carrie Firestone
G.P. Putnam’s Sons
2022 • IL 5-8
In this middle grade girl-power friendship story, an eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress-code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.
1638ZX3 $8.73 PAP

More Than Stress: Understanding Anxiety Disorders
(Healthy Living Library)
Cherry Pedrick, RN, Bruce M. Myman, PhD, Tabitha Moriarty
Twenty-First Century Book
2022 • IL YA
Many teens struggle with anxiety disorders. The prevalence of anxiety disorders among teens makes this a timely, informative, and helpful book for readers to learn about the causes, symptoms, and diagnosis of anxiety disorders as well as coping strategies and treatments.
1989RZ9 $28.04 HRD

Aristotle and Dante Dive Into the Waters of the World
(Aristotle and Dante, Book 2)
Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Simon & Schuster BFYR • 2021 • IL YA
Ari has spent all of high school burying who he really is, staying silent and invisible. But something in him cracked open when he fell in love with Dante, and he can’t go back. Suddenly he finds himself reaching out to new friends, standing up to bullies of all kinds, and making his voice heard. And, always, there is Dante, who can get on Ari’s nerves and fill him with desire all at once. The boys are determined to forge a path for themselves in a world that doesn’t understand them. But when Ari is faced with a shocking loss, he’ll have to fight like never before to create a life that is truly, joyfully his own.
1930HS4 $18.41 HRD
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