

2023 - 2024 William Allen White Master List

Grades 6 – 8

A Place To Hang The Moon by Kate Albus

It is 1940 and William, 12, Edmund, 11, and Anna, 9, aren't terribly upset by the death of the not-so-grandmotherly grandmother who has taken care of them since their parents died.



But the children do need a guardian, and in the dark days of World War II London, those are in short supply, especially if they hope to stay together. Could the mass wartime evacuation of children from London to the countryside be the answer?

It's a preposterous plan, but off they go-- keeping their predicament a secret, and hoping to be placed in a temporary home that ends up lasting forever. Moving from one billet to another, the children suffer the cruel trickery of foster brothers, the cold realities of outdoor toilets and the hollowness of empty stomachs.

But at least they find comfort in the village lending library-- a cozy shelter from the harshness of everyday life, filled with favorite stories and the quiet company of Nora Müller, the kind librarian. The children wonder if Nora could be the family they've been searching for. . . . But the shadow of the war, and the unknown whereabouts of Nora's German husband complicate matters.

Holiday House

[A.P.T.H.T.M. Book Trailer \(2:10\)](#)

Flight Of The Puffin by Ann Braden



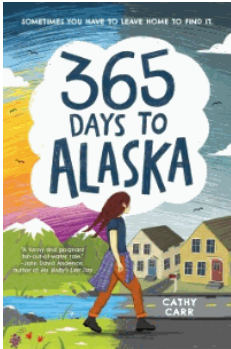
Libby comes from a long line of bullies. She wants to be different, but sometimes that doesn't work out. To bolster herself, she makes a card with the message *You are amazing*. That card sets off a chain reaction that ends up making a difference in the lives of some kids who could also use a boost—be it from dealing with bullies, unaccepting families, or the hole that grief leaves. Receiving an encouraging message helps each kid summon up the thing they need most, whether it's bravery, empathy, or understanding. Because it helps them realize they matter—and that they're not flying solo anymore.

Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Young Readers

[F.O.T.P. – Book Trailer \(3:20\)](#)

365 Days To Alaska by Cathy Carr

Eleven-year-old Rigel Harman loves her life in off-the-grid Alaska. She hunts rabbits, takes correspondence classes through the mail, and plays dominoes with her family in their two-room cabin. She doesn't mind not having electricity or running water—instead, she's got tall trees, fresh streams, and endless sky.



But then her parents' divorce, and Rigel and her sisters must move with their mom to the Connecticut suburbs to live with a grandmother they've never met. Rigel *hates* it in Connecticut. It's noisy, and crowded, and there's no *real* nature. Her only hope is a secret pact that she made with her father: If she can stick it out in Connecticut for one year, he'll bring her back home.

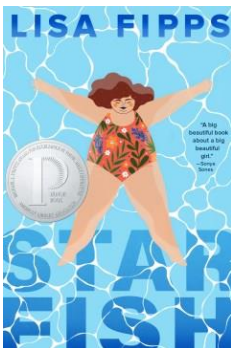
At first, surviving the year feels impossible. Middle school is nothing like the wilderness, and she doesn't connect with anyone . . . until she befriends a crow living behind her school. And if this wild creature has made a life for itself in the suburbs, then, just maybe, Rigel can too.

Abrams Publishing

[365.D.T.A. - Book Trailer \(1:20\)](#)

Starfish by Lisa Fipps

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like “no making waves,” “avoid eating in public,” and “don't move so fast that your body jiggles.” And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life—by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.



Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House

[Starfish - Book Trailer \(2:38\)](#)

Alone by Megan E. Freeman



When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone—left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned.

With no one to rely on, no power, and no working phone lines or internet access, Maddie slowly learns to survive on her own. Her only companions are a Rottweiler named George and all the books she can read. After a rough start, Maddie learns to trust her own ingenuity and invents clever ways to survive in a place that has been deserted and forgotten.

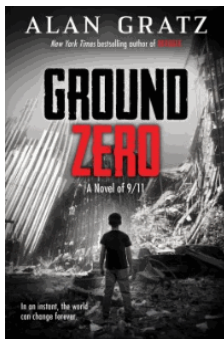
As months pass, she escapes natural disasters, looters, and wild animals. But Maddie's most formidable enemy is the crushing loneliness she faces every day. Can Maddie's stubborn will to survive carry her through the most frightening experience of her life?

Simon & Schuster

[Alone - Book Trailer \(1:09\)](#)

Ground Zero: A Novel of 9/11 by Alan Gratz

September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive—and escape?



September 11, 2001, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz—and put herself and her family in mortal danger?

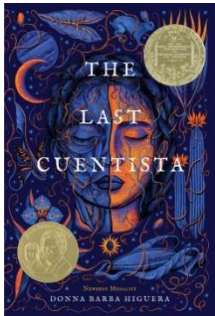
Two kids. One devastating day. Nothing will ever be the same.

Scholastic Press

[G.Z.A.N.O.9.11.- Book Trailer \(2:25\)](#)

***The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera**

There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita.



But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children — among them Petra and her family — have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet — and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard — or purged them altogether.

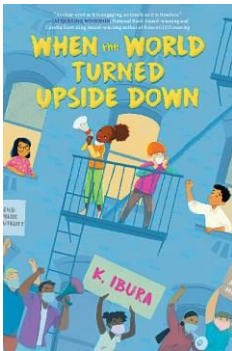
Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

Levino Querido

[T.L.C. - Book Trailer \(3:28\)](#)

***When The World Turned Upside Down* by K. Iburg**

Nobody expected a tiny little virus to change the whole world in such a big way, especially not Shayla, Liam, Ai, and Ben. But when school closes to keep everyone safe, their lives turn upside down. It is one thing to learn that the outside world isn't safe, but why does it seem that the virus is causing trouble inside their homes too?

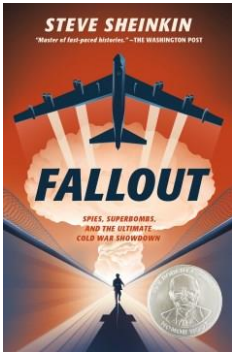


As they each struggle to adjust to life in quarantine, they discover they are not alone: their apartment building is full of people who need their help. Working together, they begin to see that there is power in numbers. When they cooperate, they can ease each other's challenges and help their neighbors through tough times. It's a lesson they'll need when protests explode in the streets. Soon, each friend has to decide what it means to be part of a community and how much they're willing to do to make this world safer for everyone.

Scholastic Press

[W.T.W.T.U.D- Book Trailer \(1:38\)](#)

Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, And The Ultimate Cold War Showdown by Steve Sheinkin



As World War II comes to a close, the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as the two greatest world powers on extreme opposites of the political spectrum. After the United States showed its hand with the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, the Soviets refuse to be left behind. With communism sweeping the globe, the two nations begin a neck-and-neck competition to build even more destructive bombs and conquer the Space Race. In their battle for dominance, spy planes fly above, armed submarines swim deep below, and undercover agents meet in the dead of night.

The Cold War game grows more precarious as weapons are pointed towards each other, with fingers literally on the trigger. The decades-long showdown culminates in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the world's close call with the third—and final—world war.

Roaring Brook Press

[F.S.S.A.T.U.C.W.S.- Book Trailer \(1:10\)](#)

Fast Pitch by Nic Stone

Shenice Lockwood, captain of the Fulton Firebirds, is hyper-focused when she steps up to the plate. Nothing can stop her from leading her team to the U12 fast-pitch softball regional championship. But life has thrown some curveballs her way.

Strike one: As the sole team of all-brown faces, Shenice and the Firebirds have to work twice as hard to prove that Black girls belong at bat.

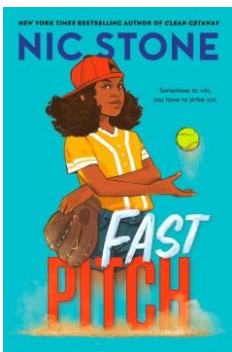
Strike two: Shenice's focus gets shaken when her great-uncle Jack reveals that a career-ending—and family-name-ruining—crime may have been a setup.

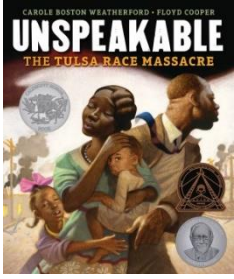
Strike three: Broken focus means mistakes on the field. And Shenice's teammates are beginning to wonder if she's captain-qualified.

It's up to Shenice to discover the truth about her family's past—and fast—before secrets take the Firebirds out of the game forever.

Penguin Random House

[F.P.- Book Trailer \(1:54\)](#)





Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre by Carole Boston Weatherford

This book is a powerful look at the Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history. The book traces the history of African Americans in Tulsa's Greenwood district and chronicles the devastation that occurred in 1921 when a white mob attacked the Black community.

Lerner Press

[U.T.T.R.M.- Book Trailer \(1:49\)](#)