



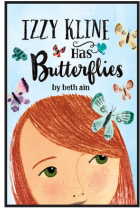
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Hot Titles - Spring 2017 - Chapter Books & Elementary Novels



Ain, Beth Levine. *Izzy Kline Has Butterflies: A Novel In Small Moments*. (047493) Random. Ages 7-10. In a free verse format, a fourth grade girl chronicles her school year, which includes developing a new friend, trying to get into the school play, and worrying about how her parents are split up. She is a very sweet likeable girl and the focus is mainly on what goes on at school not at home. Ain's first four novels were the *Starring Jules* series and were moderately popular. That series was noticeably set in New York City but this book could be anywhere in America. [Good reviews by Kirkus, SLJ, Booklist and Horn Book](#). [161 pp.] **\$19.61**

Carter, Caela. *Forever, Or A Long, Long Time*. (196177) Harper. Ages 8-12. This is a pretty long novel with some very emotional challenges so this may be better for a middle school reader. An adopted brother and sister remember the foster homes they've been in but they are permanently adopted now and really hope that there are no more foster homes. The sister is in fourth grade and the brother is in third grade. The sister has a speaking disability that makes it hard for her to get her feelings across and the two siblings have their own shorthand language that only they understand. But the situation starts getting complicated when their adoption mother is suddenly pregnant and their adopted father's daughter from his first marriage is visiting and causing trouble. Carter's first middle school novel, *My Life With The Liars* in 2016, was a complicated psychological minefield too, only about a girl living in a cult. [Good reviews by Kirkus+, SLJ+, Booklist+ and Horn Book](#). [309 pp.] **\$19.61**



Emerson, Kevin. *Last Day On Mars*. (309748) Walden Pond. Ages 8-12. In the distant future, mankind has taken refuge from the overheating Sun by moving to Mars. Now, the scientists say the Sun is going nova soon and everyone needs to leave Mars for a new home in deeper space. A boy and a girl have some adventures in the last few days on Mars and then, as they are traveling to their new home, start to find there are perhaps people from other planets involved in this solar crisis. This is the first book in a series called *The Chronicle Of The Dark Star*. A former science teacher, Emerson also wrote the science fiction novel *The Fellowship For Alien Detection* in 2013. [Good reviews by Kirkus+, SLJ and Booklist+](#). [325 pp.] **\$19.61**



Gerber, Alyson. *Braced*. (375552) Scholastic. Ages 8-12. This author's debut novel is about a seventh grade girl in Massachusetts who has to start wearing a brace to fix her curved spine. This interferes with her soccer dreams, her possible first boyfriend, and her general self-esteem. The plot actually revolves mainly around the soccer angle. Realistically, there are some disappointments for the girl, but some victories too. The author herself went through the same ordeal when she was in school. [Good reviews by Kirkus+, SLJ and Booklist+](#) [287 pp.] **\$19.61**

Graff, Keir. *Matchstick Castle*. (390584) Putnam. Ages 8-12. An energetic adventurous boy from Massachusetts is forced to spend his summer after fifth grade with his girl cousin in Illinois. They are forced to test out his nerd uncle's computerized education program all day. But, when they find a strange house, filled with an even stranger family, in the nearby woods, his summer ends up being quite exciting and fun. Graff is the editor of *Booklist* at the American Library Association. His first children's novel was *Other Felix* in 2011. [Good reviews by Kirkus, SLJ, Booklist and Bulletin](#). [278 pp.] **\$19.61**



Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello Universe*. (512263) Greenwillow. Ages 8-12. A Filipino American boy spends the summer after sixth grade trying to deal with his first crush, a bully, and his own shyness, with the help of his know-it-all folktale-spouting Filipino grandma. There is a side plot with a hearing-impaired girl and a Japanese American girl who has a fortune-telling business. The book is long but the language and plot is fine for upper elementary readers. Kelly's mother is a Filipino so she has used Filipino American characters in her other books too, *Blackbird Flies* in 2015 and *Land Of Forgotten Girls* in 2016. [Good reviews by Kirkus+, SLJ+, Booklist+ and Horn Book](#). [313 pp.] **\$19.61**

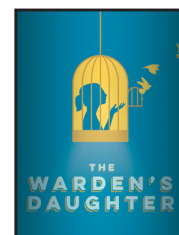


Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice*. (516469) Simon. Ages 8-12. A sixth grade girl in Milwaukee is a second generation Muslim from Pakistan and her best friend is a second generation Korean. She is taken aback when her best friend wants to switch to an American name and becomes friendly with one of the girls in class who used to make fun of them for being different. Then, to make life even more difficult, her uncle from Pakistan comes to visit and is shocked at her family's lax attitude about the rules of Islam. Khan herself is a Pakistani American born and raised in Maryland. Her previous book was also aimed at introducing everyday Muslim Americans to young readers, *Golden Domes And Silver Lanterns* in 2012. This title is issued by a new imprint of Simon & Schuster, Salaam Reads, that is meant to specialize in titles about Muslim American life. [Good reviews by Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [197 pp.] **\$19.61**

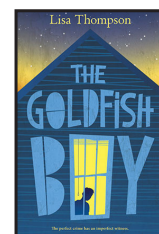


King, A.S. *Me And Marvin Gardens*. (518521) Scholastic. Ages 8-12. A sixth grade boy discovers a previously unknown plastic-eating dog/pig creature in a creek near his home in Pennsylvania and tries to protect him from the outside world. There are also the contrasting issues of pollution and real estate development vs. feeling a connection with the land mixed in to this ecological tale. King's work has been for an older crowd until now, such as *Reality Boy* in 2013 and *Ask The Passengers* in 2012. [Good reviews by Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist](#), [Bulletin](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [243 pp.] **\$19.61**

Spinelli, Jerry. *Warden's Daughter*. (840326) Knopf. Ages 9-12. A thirteen-year-old girl lives with her father, the warden, in a small prison in Pennsylvania in 1959. She has suddenly reached the age where she really wants a mother but the only candidates she's considering are among the prison inmates. Additional drama comes along when a child killer arrives at the prison and creates quite a sensation. The setting is quite interesting, similar to Choldenko's *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, and the characters are well developed. Spinelli has a great reputation in fiction for several different age groups but his last book at this age level was *Jake and Lily* in 2012. [Good reviews by Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist](#) and [Bulletin+](#) [343 pp.] **\$19.61**



Thompson, Lisa. *Goldfish Boy*. (855968) Scholastic. Ages 8-12. This English author's debut is about a germophobic boy who has withdrawn from society and spends the day in his room watching what is going on in his suburban London neighborhood. The disappearance of a small boy from the neighborhood forces him to slowly reengage with his neighbors and classmates and eventually to go to therapy to get to the event that started his obsession with cleanliness. The plot kind of reminds me of the old Hitchcock movie, *Rear Window*. [Good reviews by Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist](#) and [Bulletin](#). [313 pp.] **\$19.61**



Trevayne, Emma. *House Of Months And Years*. (890030) Simon. Ages 8-12. A haunting tale of a girl who moves into a house inhabited by an evil magical creature who lives off people's memories. Trevayne specializes in scary fantasies such as *Flights And Chimes And Mysterious Times* in 2014 and *Accidental Afterlife Of Thomas Marsden* in 2015. This one might tend more toward middle grade because of the length and the scariness. [Good reviews by Kirkus](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist](#), [Bulletin](#) and [Horn Book](#). [274 pp.] **\$19.61**



Wenxuan, Cao. *Bronze And Sunflower*. (933913) Candlewick. Ages 9-12. During the Cultural Revolution in China in the 1960s, a girl comes with her artist father from the city when he is sent to be reeducated in the countryside. Her father dies in an accident and the girl is taken in by the poorest family in the nearby village and develops a very close relationship with their mute son. A very detailed look at daily life in an exotic time and place. Wenxuan is one of the most highly respected children's authors in China. This book was first published in China and it obviously had to meet the government guidelines that require the poor peasant to be portrayed as heroic, content and virtuous. [Good reviews by Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#) and [Booklist+](#) [386 pp.] **\$19.61**

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