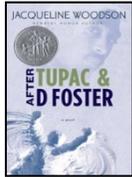




ENGAGE STUDENTS IN DISCUSSIONS ON BIAS AND BULLYING WITH DIVERSE MIDDLE GRADE BOOKS



After Tupac & D Foster. Jacqueline Woodson. (5 – 9) The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend’s lives, the world opens up for them. Through her, the girls see another side of life. They share a passion for the rap music of Tupac Shakur. They also deal with discrimination directed at the gay brother of one of the girls.



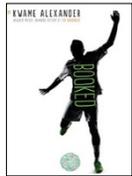
Also Known as Elvis. James Howe. (4 – 7) Skeezie’s got the leather jacket of a tough guy, but a heart of gold. While stuck at home for the summer helping out his mom, he navigates first crushes and tough choices about family and friends. Final book in **The Misfits** series.



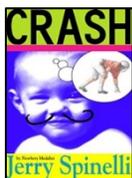
Amina’s Voice. Hena Khan. (4 – 7) A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family’s vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.



The Best Man. Richard Peck. (3 – 5) With humor and insight, Newbery Medalist, Richard Peck, follows a boy from elementary school to middle school navigating school and family dynamics. Starts with a wedding disaster and ends with a great one.



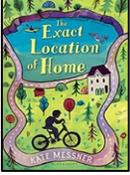
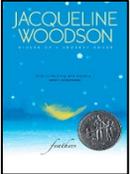
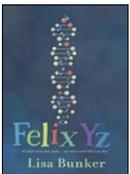
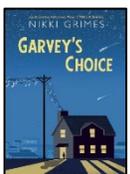
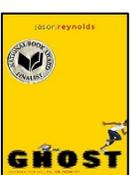
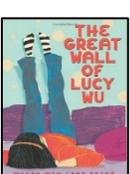
Booked. Kwame Alexander. (5 – 8) Soccer player, Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. Follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel, **The Crossover**.

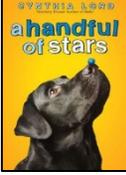
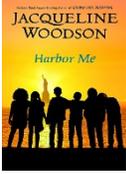
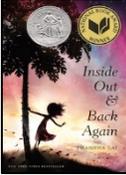
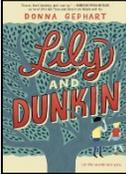
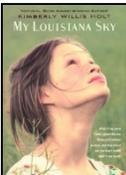


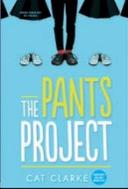
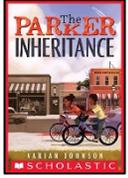
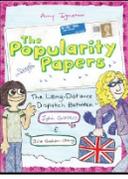
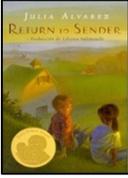
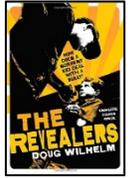
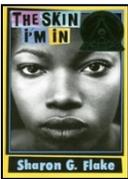
Crash. Jerry Spinelli. (4 – 7) Seventh-grader John “Crash” Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather’s stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family. Told from the bully’s point of view.

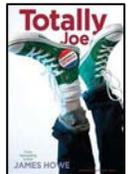
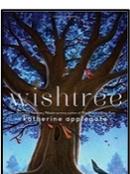
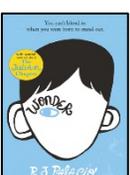


Eagle Song. Joseph Bruchac. (3 – 5) After moving to New York, the kids in Danny’s class tease him about being Native American—the thing that makes him most proud. Can he find the courage to stand up for himself?

	<p>The Exact Location of Home. Kate Messner. (3 – 5) Zig’s dad canceled his last visit with no explanation. Zig and his mom struggle financially including becoming homeless. Zig sets out to find his dad with a GPS and clues around town.</p>
	<p>Feathers. Jacqueline Woodson. (5 – 8) A new boy’s arrival in sixth-grade helps Frannie recognize the barriers that separate people, and the importance of hope as a bridge. Frannie starts seeing a lot of things in a new light—her brother Sean’s deafness, her mother’s fear, the class bully’s anger and her own desire for “the thing with feathers.”</p>
	<p>Felix Yz. Lisa Bunker. (5 – 8) When Felix Yz was three he is accidentally fused with a fourth-dimensional being. Now he’s on the brink of a risky procedure that will free him. With an awkward crush on a boy at school, a gender fluid grandparent and a Bi mom, family, bullying and identity are woven into the story.</p>
	<p>Garvey's Choice. Nikki Grimes. (4 – 7) Since Garvey’s father has always wanted him to be athletic, he has felt like a failure even though he’s kind, funny and smart. When he joins the chorus, he literally finds his voice. An emotional novel written in short verse about a young black boy choosing to be true to himself.</p>
	<p>George. Alex Gino. (5 – 6) When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George really wants to play Charlotte in Charlotte’s Web. Will she be able to?</p>
	<p>Ghost. Jason Reynolds. (4 – 8) Ghost has a natural talent for running. But can he run fast enough to get away from his past. He has to figure out how to deal with it and his raw emotions. Bullied at school, Ghost reacts in both bad and good ways. Sequels: Patina, Sunny and Lu.</p>
	<p>Gracefully Grayson. Ami Polonsky. (5 – 7) Grayson has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: "he" is a girl on the inside. Will new strength from an unexpected friendship and a caring teacher’s wisdom be enough to help Grayson step into the spotlight she was born to inhabit?</p>
	<p>The Great Wall of Lucy Wu. Wendy Wan Long Shang. (3 – 6) A humorous and heartwarming story about split cultural identities, and the way life doesn’t go as planned for sixth-grader Lucy Wu – especially when her great-aunt comes for an extended visit from China.</p>

	<p>A Handful of Stars. Cynthia Lord. (3 – 6) Explores a friendship between a small-town girl being raised by her grandparents and the daughter of migrant workers. Tackles themes of prejudice and friendship, loss and love.</p>
	<p>Harbor Me. Jacqueline Woodson. (5 – 6) Six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. They discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them—from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes.</p>
	<p>Hurricane Child. Kheryn Callender. (4 – 6) Feeling lonely and bullied daily with cruel remarks about her dark skin tone, Caroline finally befriends a new student, Kalinda. As Caroline develops a crush on Kalinda, they work together to find Caroline's mother.</p>
	<p>Inside Out and Back Again. Thanhha Lai. (4 – 7) Hà has only known life in Saigon, but when the Vietnam War has reached her home, she is forced to flee, ending up in Alabama. One girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing as she journeys from one country to another, one life to the next.</p>
	<p>The Liberation of Gabriel King. K. L. Going. (4 – 5) In Georgia in 1976, Gabriel, a white boy, and Frita, an African American girl, overcome their fears of bullying and prejudice together as they enter 5th grade.</p>
	<p>Lily and Dunkin. Donna Gephart. (5 – 8) As 8th grade begins both Lily and Dunkin are trying to establish new identities for themselves. Everyone sees Lily as Timothy, but she is ready for the real her to be known. Dunkin just moved to town and wants to leave his past behind.</p>
	<p>The Misfits. James Howe. (6 – 9) Four friends try to survive seventh grade in the face of frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence and sexual orientation/gender expression. The characters are not cast as victims, but as self-empowered agents of change. Also see: Totally Joe, Addie on the Inside, and Also Known as Elvis.</p>
	<p>My Louisiana Sky. Kimberly Willis Holt. (4 – 6) Tiger Ann wants nothing more than to get out of her rural town—away from her mentally disabled mother, her “slow” father, and her classmates who tease her. But when she has a chance, she has to make hard decisions about her life and family.</p>

	<p>The Other Boy. M. G. Hennessey. (5 – 9) Shane, a transgender boy, has moved to a new school where people only know him as a boy. He loves playing baseball and hanging out with his best friend. But an older boy undermines Shane's privacy. Show's Shane's range of emotions from anxiety to happiness and courage. Discusses hormone treatments..</p>
	<p>The Pants Project. Cat Clarke. (3 – 6) Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy but he hasn't told anyone—not even his moms yet. His new school has a terrible dress code, he can't even wear pants. Only skirts. The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself. But this isn't just a mission to change the policy—it's a mission to change his life.</p>
	<p>The Parker Inheritance. Varian Johnson. (3 – 6) Candice discovers a mysterious letter that describes an injustice that happened decades ago. Along with Brandon, a quiet and often bullied boy, she begins to decipher the clues with a story that leads them deep into their South Carolina town's history—a history full of ugly deeds, forgotten heroes, and one great love. Includes LGBT characters.</p>
	<p>Playground: A Mostly True Story of a Former Bully. Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Laura Moser. (6 – 9) Looks at bullying from the perspective of an urban young teen boy in middle school. Looks at the boy's feelings as both a target of bullying and as a perpetrator of bullying. Touches on divorce and gay parenting. Some explicit language.</p>
	<p>The Popularity Papers: Book Two: The Long-Distance Dispatch Between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. (4 – 6) Julie and Lydia are in different schools, each dealing with what it means to be popular and with bullying. Graphic novel. Second in a series of seven books.</p>
	<p>Return to Sender. Julia Alvarez. (4 –7) After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm. Can Tyler and Mari find a way to be friends despite their differences? Full of hope, but no easy answers.</p>
	<p>The Revealers. Doug Wilhelm. (5 – 7) At Parkland Middle School, three bullied seventh graders start an e-mail forum to publicize their experiences. Many other kids come forward with similar troubles. It's clear that the problem at their school is larger than anyone knew. In one email, a student tells his troubles of being called gay.</p>
	<p>The Skin I'm In. Sharon G Flake. (5 – 7) Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. But the new teacher's attitude surprises Maleeka. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?</p>

	<p>The Stars Beneath Our Feet. David Barclay Moore. (5 – 9) A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother’s death. Then Lolly’s mother’s girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos.</p>
	<p>Sugar and Ice. Kate Messner. (3 –5) For Claire Boucher, life is all about skating on the frozen cow pond until a Russian skating coach offers her a scholarship to train in Lake Placid. Tossed into a world of mean girls on ice, can she find the strength to stand up to the people who want to see her fail and the courage to decide which dream she wants to follow?</p>
	<p>Totally Joe. James Howe. (6 – 9) Joe navigates middle school while questioning gender expectations and traditional roles as he realizes he is gay. He has supportive family and friends while dealing with name-calling and controversy. One of four in The Misfits series.</p>
	<p>Violet in Bloom: A Flower Power Book. Lauren Myracle. (4 – 6) In a single, eventful week each girl makes discoveries about herself and others. Includes blog posts, IMs, and video scripts. Touches on topics of friendship, dealing with fears, family, feeling powerful and bullying. One of the girls has two moms. Sequel to Luv Ya Bunches.</p>
	<p>Wishtree. Katherine Applegate. (3 – 7) Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories.... An oak tree and a crow help two children and their neighbors embrace their differences and handle bullying and hate speech.</p>
	<p>Wonder / La Lección de August. R.J. Palacio. (5 – 7) Auggie was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school until 5th grade. Told from multiple perspectives that highlight different struggles with empathy and acceptance. English and Spanish editions.</p>
	<p>Wrinker. Jerry Spinelli. (5 – 7) As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a “wringer” at his town’s annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it. Can spark discussion concerning the perils of peer pressure.</p>
	<p>You Go First. Erin Entrada Kelly. (3 – 6) On the surface, Charlotte’s and Ben’s lives seem vastly different. Over the course of a week, only by an online Scrabble game, their lives will intersect in unexpected ways. An exploration of family, bullying and the ever-complicated world of middle school friendships. Written by the winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature.</p>