

—

**IF YOU ONLY  
LISTEN TO  
WHAT  
OTHERS  
SAY, YOU'LL  
NEVER HEAR  
YOURSELF  
THINK.**

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 **West Linn Public Library**

**YOUNG TEENS**

# SCHOOL LIFE



## Air

by *Monica Roe (YT ROE, M)*

When her wheelchair motocross dreams get shattered, 12-year-old Emmie finds the community rallying around her, but cannot shake the feeling that her goals are no longer her own and must take a stand for what she wants.

## Alice Austen Lived Here

by *Alex Gino (YT GINO, A)*

Middle school student Sam is comfortable with their nonbinary identity, and their family has accepted it too (as long as they do their homework and chores), so when their history teacher assigns as a project coming up with a proposal for the new statue honoring a historical Staten Islander (there is a contest involved) they and their friend TJ decide to focus on Alice Austen, a lesbian photographer, whose house on Staten Island is a museum--but they have to overcome the presumption on the part of their teacher that only straight males are eligible.



## The Best at It

by *Maulik Pancholy (YT PANCHOLY, M)*

Twelve-year-old Rahul Kapoor, an Indian-American boy growing up in small-town Indiana, struggles to come to terms with his identity, including that he may be gay.

## Code Red

by *Joy McCullough (YT MCCULLOUGH, J)*

Suspended from school, Eden volunteers at the food bank where she witnesses how low-income people with periods struggle to afford menstrual products, inspiring her to join the advocacy work, which puts her at odds with her mom, whose company produces period products.

## Confessions of a Class Clown

by *Ariane Costner (YT COSTNER, A)*

A dedicated but misfit young comedian who aspires to make a viral video searches for a partner in a school friendship club before weighing the risks of getting famous and making strangers laugh at the expense of others.

## Dear Student

by *Elly Swartz (YT SWARTZ, E)*

Starting middle school after her best friend moves away, Autumn, the secret voice of the "Dear Student" letters, doesn't know what to do when she makes new friends who don't like each other until the unthinkable happens.



## Dress Coded

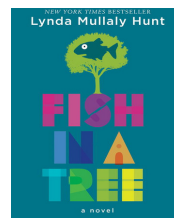
by *Carrie Firestone (YT FIRESTONE)*

Fed up with sexist dress codes and unfair conduct standards at a school where girls' bodies are considered a distraction, Molly starts a podcast to protest the school's disciplinary inequality before her small rebellion swells into a full-blown empowerment revolution.

## Fish in a Tree

by *Lynda Mullaly Hunt (YT HUNT, L)*

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn't know how to read.



## Free Lunch

by *Rex Ogle (YT OGLE)*

A sixth grader from an economically disadvantaged family struggles in a new school where he is forced to endure humiliation over his secondhand clothing and public daily requests for his school's free lunch program.

## Ghost

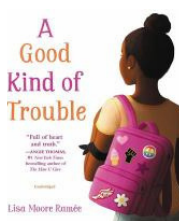
by *Jason Reynolds (YT REYNOLDS)*

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.

## Good Different

by *Meg Eden Kuyatt (YT KUYATT, M)*

Neurodivergent girl Selah, who always tries to keep her feelings in check—especially her anger—explodes at school one day, hitting a fellow student, and must figure out more about who she is in order to understand that different doesn't mean damaged.



## A Good Kind of Trouble

by *Lisa Moore Ramée (YT RAMEE, L)*

Strictly following the rules to pursue her junior-high ambitions, 12-year-old Shayla is forced to choose between her education and her identity when her sister joins the Black Lives Matter movement in the wake of a powerful protest.

## Hazel Hill is Gonna Win This One

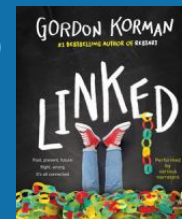
by *Maggie Horne (YT HORNE, M)*

When she discovers her nemesis, Ella Quinn, is being harassed by golden boy Tyler Harris, seventh grader Hazel Hill is determined to prove it, since no one believes he would do such a thing, even if it means risking everything.

## Linked

by *Gordon Korman (YT KORMAN, G)*

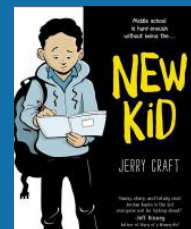
When swastikas begin appearing all over town, Link, Michael and Dana, the only Jewish girl in town, must face crimes both past and present to find the truth.



## Merci Suárez Changes Gears

by *Meg Medina (YT MEDINA)*

Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suárez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between in a resonant new novel from Meg Medina.



## New Kid

by *Jerry Craft (YT GN CRAFT)*

Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, "New Kid" is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real.

## Posted

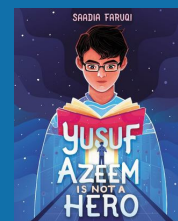
by *John David Anderson (YT ANDERSON, J)*

When cell phones are banned at their school, Frost and his friends start communicating through sticky notes left all over the school before other kids start following their example, triggering a wave of bullying activities in the wake of a new girl's arrival.

## Sorceline

by *Sylvia Douyé (YT GN SORCELINE #1)*

Mystified by her fellow humans, Sorceline, a student at Professor Archibald Balzar's prestigious school of cryptozoology, clashes with her fellow students until one of her rivals suddenly disappears and Sorceline joins in the quest to find her.



## Yusuf Azeem is Not a Hero

by *Saadia Faruqi (YT FARUQI, S)*

Yusuf is excited to start middle school in his small Texas town, but with the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks coming up, suddenly it feels like the country's same anger and grief is all focused on his Muslim community.

## Zenobia July

by *Lisa Bunker (YT BUNKER)*

Moving from her father's home in Arizona to live with her aunts in Maine, a transgender girl uses her elite coding and hacking skills to identify the anonymous poster of hateful memes on her new school's website, a mystery that helps her find the courage to live openly.