**KALEIDOSCOPE LIST OF CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE GRADE TITLES**

**Alone in the Woods by Rebecca Behrens** - Jocelyn and Alex are lost in the woods and will have to overcome their fractured friendship if they’re going to make it out alive.

**Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed** -Twelve-year-old Amal’s dream of becoming a teacher is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village’s ruling family and as punishment is forced to leave her home to go work at their estate.

**Amina’s Voice** by Hena Khan – This novel brings to life the joys and challenges of a young Pakistani American and highlights the many ways in which one girl’s voice can help bring a diverse community together to love and support each other

**Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson** -ZJ’s friends help him cope when his father, a beloved professional football player, suffers severe headaches and memory loss that spell the end of his career.

**Brother’s Keeperby Julie Lee** - A powerful story that captures the fearful culture of North Korea, the marginalization of females, and the bond between siblings.

[**Click’d**](http://amzn.to/2vore72) **by Tamara Ireland Stone** - At coding camp, Allie makes an app to help kids find new friends. When she returns to school, she releases it only to discover it has a major glitch.

[**Closer to Nowhere**](https://amzn.to/3iRe5wi) **by Ellen Hopkins** - A story in verse of struggle and unconditional love for a child with challenging behaviors.

**Clues to the Universe by Christina Li** - Ro and Benji couldn’t be more different but become close friends and face bullying, grief, and their own differences as they try to piece together clues to some of the biggest questions in the universe.

**The Crossover** **by Kwame Alexander** -A novel in verse about basketball and its impact on a young Black boy’s growth.

**Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt** - Ally thinks she’s dumb because she can’t read, but with help from a new teacher she discovers all the creative things she *can* do, as well as the true reason she has difficulty reading.

**Freakling by Lana Krumweide** -Everyone in twelve-year-old Taemon Houser’s mountain city has the gift of psi—an ability to move things with the mind--and when Taemon loses that ability, his life takes a dramatic turn.

**Ground Zero by Alan Graz** -A novel of 9/11 in two storylines—a boy in the towers and an Afghan girl who finds an injured American soldier in her village.

[**Harbor Me**](https://amzn.to/2NBULay) **by Jacqueline Woodson** - The story is about six diverse children and tackles issues including race, immigration, bullying, learning differences, friendship, and forgiveness.

**Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada** **Kelly** - An engrossing neighborhood adventure told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—and celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner *bayani* (hero).

**Hoot by Carl Hiaasen** -A mystery/suspense novel, set in Florida, where new arrival Roy makes two oddball friends and one bad enemy, and joins an effort to stop construction of a pancake house which would destroy a colony of owls.

**I Can Make this Promise by Christine Day** -Inspired by her family’s history, the author tells the story of a girl who uncovers her family’s secrets and finds her own Native American identity.

**King and the Dragonflies by Kacen Callender** - A Black boy in a small but turbulent Louisiana town copes with the recent death of his older brother by imagining that his sibling has returned as adragonfly.

**Linked by Gordon Korman** - This novel combines serious issues with the author’s trademark humorous characters and tackles very sensitive issues like casual racism, anti-Semitism, the impact of the Holocaust, and the messiness of going viral.

**Listen Slowly by Thanhha Lai** -Mia must forgo her summer on the beach with girlfriend Montana and instead embark on a journey to current-day Vietnam with her Vietnamese-born father and grandmother.

**Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds** - Each chapter focuses on a student or group of students who attend Latimer Middle School and are dealing with issues of acceptance, bullying and negative stereotypes.

**Lostman’s River by Cynthia DeFelice** -Greed and profit have brought great danger into the swampland where Tyler’s family lives and when they dare to trust a stranger, they learn to their horror that they have jeopardized not only the land and all who live there, but their own future.

**Maizy Chang’s Last Chance by Lisa Yee** - When her grandfather falls ill, eleven-year-old Maizy travels from Los Angeles with her single mom to spend the summer in Last Chance, Minnesota, to help with the family’s Chinese restaurant, the Golden Palace.

**MacKenzie’s Last Run by Gayle Rosengren** - Thirteen-year-old MacKenzie can’t stop blaming himself for his father’s death in a mass shooting and runs away from home only to end up seriously injured, miles from home, with no way to call for help.

**Melt by Ele Fountain** - A boy who lives in a remote, snow-bound village, and a girl whose father works for an oil company, find themselves together in a desperate search for survival, and for the truth.

**Melissa’s Story by Alex Gino** - Everyone thinks Melissa is a boy but she knows she’s a girl and in this novel she finds a way to show everyone who she really is once and for all.

**Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina** -Mercedes "Merci" Suárez is a sixth-grade scholarship student at an elite private school in South Florida who faces struggles at school and at home.

**Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani** -Half-Muslim, half-Hindu, twelve-year-old Nisha doesn’t know who she is or where she belongs when the government forces her family to take a dangerous journey to a new home where she hopes she can finally feel whole.[Veera Hiranandani](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/142207/veera-hiranandani)

**Once There Were Wolves by Charlotte McConaghy** - A young girl leads a project to reintroduce wolves to the Highlands, the mountainous region of northern Scotland. (Based on a true story.)

[Veera Hiranandani](https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/142207/veera-hiranandani)

**The One Safe Place by Tania Unsworth** - A dark, twisting, thrilling read set in a world plagued by drought.

**The Only Black Girls in Town by Brandy Colbert** - In a predominately white California beach town, the only two Black seventh graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to race relations in the past.

**The Other Half of Happy by Rebecca Balcarcel** - Twelve-year-old Quijana likes to say that she used to be Pangaea--unsplit. Nothalfwhite orhalf Latina. But that was before her Guatemalan cousins moved to town.

**Out of Range by Heidi Lang** - A novel about three sisters who went from being best friends to mortal enemies but will have to rely on each other when disaster strikes and they’re lost in the wilderness.

**The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson** - Twelve-year-old Candice sets out to find a mysterious treasure, exonerate her wrongly accused grandmother, and expose an injustice once committed against an African American family in a South Carolina town.

**Roll With It by Jamie Summer** -An irrepressible girl with Cerebral Palsy, Ellie’s life takes an unexpected turn when she moves to a new town.

**Small Town Pride by Phil Stamper** -A young gay boy seeks acceptance in his small town.

**So Done by Paula Chase** - A story about the complex friendship between two very different African American girls.

[**Soul Lanterns**](https://amzn.to/37xPv0o) **by Shaw Kuzki** - A multi-layered story of a Japanese girl’s understanding of Hiroshima, grief, family, and the healing power of sharing stories.

**Stranded by Amy Laundrie** - Ex-best friends fight for survival on a remote island inhabited by wild horses. They think they’re alone but discover a mysterious stranger has been watching them.

**Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers by Celia C. Perez** -After Ofelia, Aster, Cat, and Lane fail to persuade a local girls club to change an outdated tradition, they form an alternative group that shakes up their sleepy Florida town.

**Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage** - Eleven-year-old Mo LoBeau and best friend Dale turn detective when her adopted parent, the Colonel, is implicated in a murder.

**Turtle Under Ice by Juleah del Rasario** -A teen navigates questions of grief, identity, and guilt in the wake of her sister’s mysterious disappearance in this novel-in-verse.

**You Go First by Erin Entrada Kelly** - A story about family, bullying, word games, art, and the ever-complicated world of middle school friendships.

**Yusuf Azeem Is Not a Hero by Sassdia Faruqi** - A boy experiences rising hostility to his Muslim community as the 20th anniversary of the Twin Towers attack approaches.