

**The theory of hummingbirds**  
by Michelle Kadarusman

Alba is strengthening her left leg after a final surgery to correct her congenital clubfoot. Her friendship with intellectual classmate Levi is threatened when he scoffs at Alba's plans to run in an upcoming cross-country race, and she responds by scorning his theory that the school librarian has discovered a worm-hole in her office.



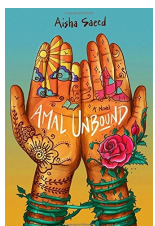
**The Jumbies** by Tracey Baptiste

Corinne La Mer claims she isn't afraid of anything. Not scorpions, not the boys who tease her, and certainly not jumbies. They're just tricksters made up by parents to frighten their children. Then one night Corinne chases an agouti all the way into the forbidden forest, and shining yellow eyes follow her to the edge of the trees. They couldn't belong to a jumbie. Or could they?



**Belly up** by Stuart Gibbs

Twelve-year-old Teddy investigates when a popular Texas zoo's star attraction--Henry the hippopotamus--is murdered.



**Amal unbound** by Aisha Saeed

The compelling story of a girl's fight to regain her life and dreams after being forced into indentured servitude.

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- Looking for other novels written by the authors featured in this brochure.
- Searching our online catalogue for "middle school" or "teenagers" at [crhslibrary.weebly.com](http://crhslibrary.weebly.com)
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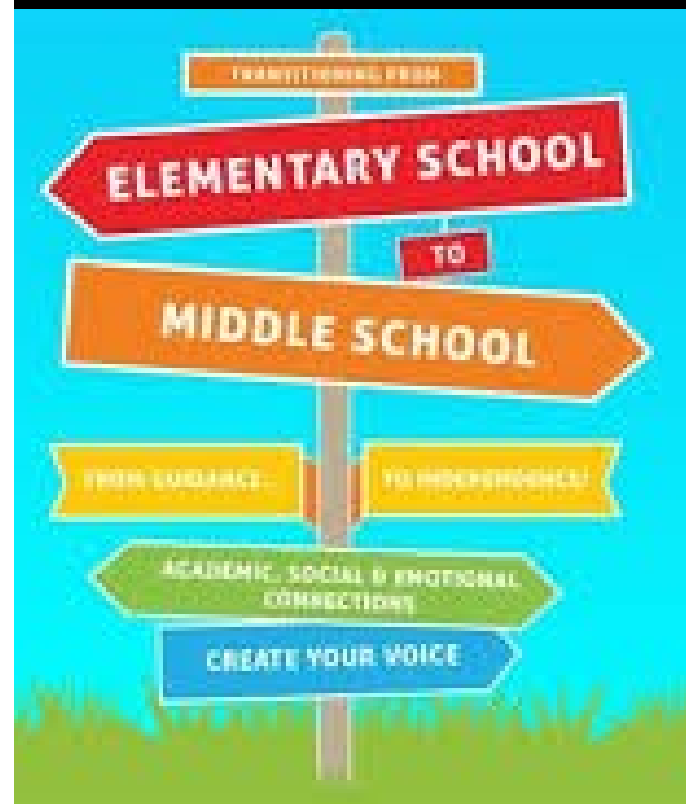


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# Suggested Middle School YA Novels 2020



## Centennial Regional High School Library

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## **The fourteenth goldfish** *by Jennifer L. Holm*

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager--which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter.



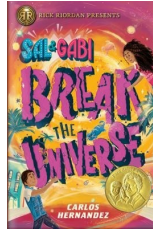
## **The science of breakable things** *by Tae Keller*

When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, Natalie thinks that this might be the perfect solution to all of her problems. There's prize money, and if she and her friends wins, then she can fly her botanist mother to see the miraculous Cobalt Blue Orchids--flowers that survive against impossible odds. Natalie's mother has been suffering from depression, and Natalie is sure that the flowers' magic will inspire her mom to love life again. Which means it's time for Natalie's friends to step up and show her that talking about a problem is like taking a plant out of a dark cupboard and giving it light.



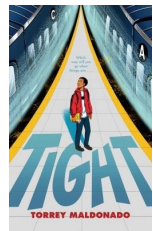
## **BOB** *by Wendy Mass*

Visiting her grandmother in Australia, Livy, ten, is reminded of the promise she made five years before to Bob, a strange, green creature who cannot recall who or what he is.



## **Sal & Gabi break the universe** *by Carlos Hernandez*

In order to heal after his mother's death, Sal learned how to meditate. But no one expected him to be able to take it further and 'relax' things into existence. Turns out he can reach into time and space to retrieve things from other universes.



## **Tight** *by Torrey Maldonado*

After his quick-tempered father gets in a fight and is sent back to jail, sixth-grader Bryan, known for being quiet and thoughtful, snaps and follows new friend Mike into trouble.



## **The benefits of being an octopus** *by Scott Bragden*

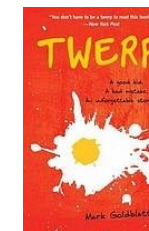
Seventh-grader Zoey has her hands full as she takes care of her much younger siblings after school every day while her mom works her shift at the pizza parlor. Not that her mom seems to appreciate it. Zoey thinks how much easier everything would be if she were an octopus: eight arms to do eight things at once. Incredible camouflage ability and steady, unblinking vision. Powerful protective defenses.



**Bad magic**  
*by Pseudonymous Bosch*  
Magic is BAD. As in fake. Cheesy. Unreal. At least, that's what Clay, who has seen one magic show too many, thinks. When words from his journal appear mysteriously on his school wall as graffiti, he never imagines that magic might be to blame. And when the same graffiti lands him at Earth Ranch, a camp for "troubled" kids on a remote volcanic island, magic is the last thing he expects to find there.



**Sparrow**  
*by Sarah Moon*  
Fourteen-year-old Sparrow Cooke of Brooklyn has always been the kind of child who prefers reading books to playing with friends (not that she has many of those) and since fifth grade the one person who seemed to understand her was the school librarian--so when Mrs. Wexler was killed in an accident Sparrow's world came apart, and when she was found on the edge of the school roof everyone assumed that it was a suicide attempt, which Sparrow denies, but cannot find the words to explain.



**Terp**  
*by Mark Goldblatt*  
In Queens, New York, in 1969, twelve-year-old Julian Twerski writes a journal for his English teacher in which he explores his friendships and how they are affected by girls, a new student who maybe is as fast as Julian, and especially an incident of bullying.