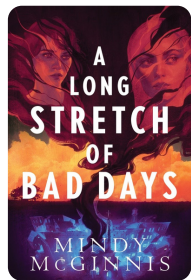


2024 Read Aloud Indiana

High School List

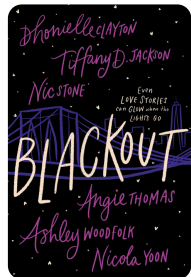


A Long Stretch of Bad Days by Mindy McGinnis



In order to graduate, Lydia needs a history credit. She teams up with a fellow classmate on her podcast to cover their town's history. Lydia and Bristol delve into what has been deemed the long stretch of bad days: a devastating tornado, a flood a few days later, an unsolved murder, and a missing woman.

Blackout by Dhonielle Clayton et. al.



Stories intertwine during a New York City heatwave. As the city is plunged into darkness, friends are made, love blooms, and secrets are revealed. This lighthearted collection was written by six critically acclaimed authors: Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon.

The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School by Sonora

Reyes



Sixteen-year-old Yamilet Flores fully intends to keep a low profile at her new, very white, very privileged Catholic school. Between helping her mom, trying to keep her brother in line, and hoping her ex-best friend and former crush doesn't out her to her family, Yami doesn't have time for love. Unfortunately for Yami's carefully laid plans, her new friend Bo is out and perfect. Or at least perfect for Yami? The Lesbiana's Guide flawlessly walks the line between being an unflinching portrayal of issues like privilege, racism, and homophobia and offering a simply sweet, aww-inducing girl meets girl story.

Promise Boys by Nick Brooks



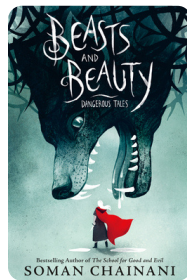
Who killed the principal? Three teen boys of color are suspects. They band together to investigate the murder before they're potentially arrested. All of them had means and a motive, but did one of them do it?

Some Kind of Hate by Sarah Darer Littmann



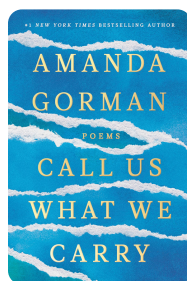
Declan, a star baseball player, severely injures his pitching arm in a stupid stunt. After surgery, Declan's life begins to fall apart--his friendships, his family, his hobbies--everything. He starts relying on his pain medication and video games to help numb the pain and frustration. When Declan begins making new friends online, he questions everything he thought he believed in and acts in ways that may change life as he knows it forever.

Beasts and Beauty: Dangerous Tales by Soman Chainani



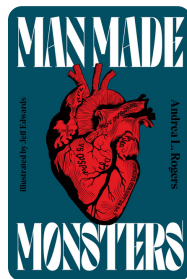
12 dangerous, familiar tales, twisted and dark in their retelling for a modern audience. You think you know these characters' stories, but you don't. A sacrificed girl outsmarts a werewolf to create a home for girls just like her, a prince falls in love with his supernatural captor, a sea witch exacts her revenge on the mer-king who rejected her, and Wendy falls in love with a pirate. These tales have a modern moral for today's teen audience, creating intriguing and engaging stories with sometimes sad or disheartening endings that challenge society's view of "happily ever after". Teens and adults alike who love a good fairytale twist are sure to love this modern take on the classic European fairytale.

Call Us What We Carry by Amanda Gorman



A collection of inspiring poetry that is simultaneously introspective and a voice for the future. Gorman reflects on the tumultuous pandemic without losing a timeless feel. This collection could be used for individual poems or as a whole. Unique style and originality reverberates through the poetry in this offering.

Man Made Monsters by Andrea L. Rogers



Zombies, check. Werewolves, check. Vampires, check. Deer woman and other Cherokee legends, double check. This eerie, but not gory, collection of interconnected short stories by Cherokee writer Andrea L. Rogers is perfect for reading story by story or in its entirety with an abundance of possibilities to tie in Cherokee culture, classic horror stories, and American history to lesson plans.

The Silence That Binds Us by Joanna Ho



Maybelline Chen has a lot of questions--her biggest being why did her older brother commit suicide? In an unflinching analysis of the trials of high school, May searches for answers regarding race, class, and mental health. Along the way, she finds her own voice in order to fight back against the silence that binds us all.

Stateless by Elizabeth Wein



Pre-WWII Europe, 1937, is a tumultuous time for all involved, with Hitler ruling Germany and other countries on the verge of imploding. Young pilot Stella North enters a race across Europe for prize money. The race's main goal, however, is to promote peace among Europe's young pilots. When that peace turns to deadly interactions, Stella must try and unfold the mystery before she becomes a victim of the would-be assassin.

2024 Read Aloud Indiana



Middle Grade List

Air by Monica Roe



Emmie is a normal 12 year old kid who loves extreme sports. The only catch is that she is wheelchair bound. Her school isn't fully wheelchair accessible and does not support her wheel chair tricks and stunts. Emmie must figure out how to navigate her unwelcome 1:1 aide, a disingenuous fundraiser for the wheelchair she's always dreamed of, and strained family relationships. Soar with Emmie to new heights as she breaks through each and every barrier to her success and happiness.

The Clackity by Lora Senf



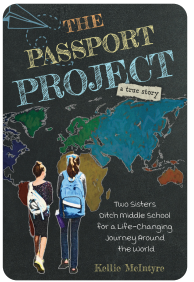
Ever since Evie Von Rathe's parents disappeared four years ago, she's been living with her Aunt Desdemona (a paranormal investigator) in Blight Harbor (one of the most haunted towns in America). Join Evie on her quest to save her Aunt Des from witches, monsters, and the ghost of a serial killer. Can she save Aunt Des and herself before time runs out?

Moongarden (Plotting the Stars #1) by Michelle A. Barry



Secret Garden 2.0! Myra is a student at a prestigious school on the Moon called the Scientific Lunar Academy of Magic. She hasn't discovered her magical ability yet but something resonates within her when she discovers a hidden garden at the school. The garden has plants in it that have been declared toxic, but Myra senses something different. Can she unravel the mystery, use her new talent, and save the colony?

The Passport Project: Two Sisters Ditch Middle School for a Life-Changing Journey Around the World by Kellie McIntyre



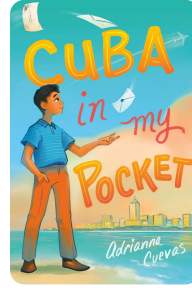
Sisters Delaney and Riley are about to have their lives turned upside down. Their parents have decided to pull them out of middle school for a 5-month world tour trip. The girls learn about countries, other cultures, and other religions all while they are navigating adolescence, self – discovery, and even their relationship with each other. Will they pass the “final exam” when they are in detention in a communist country? The author's memoir of her real experiences with her daughters is captivating and transformational.

Turtles of the Midnight Moon by María José Fitzgerald



What do you do when you visit your dad's side of the family in Honduras for the first time? You set out to solve a mystery, of course! When Abby travels with her father to Honduras for work she meets Barana, who has a passion for sea turtles. The problem? Someone has been poaching turtle eggs! The girls work to discover who the poachers are and stop them before it's too late. With a hint of magic, this story about friendship will warm your heart.

Cuba in My Pocket by Adrianna Cuevas



Adrianna Cuevas weaves together a masterpiece in this Historical Fiction offering just after the Bay of Pigs Invasion in Cuba, 1961. Cumba, the main character is chosen by his family to leave Cuba and go live in Florida, where he will be safe from the Cuban army recruiters. Cumba must learn a new language and new customs while trying to remember and honor his family. Note: the text is sprinkled with Spanish dialogue and phrases with English context clues.

Finally Seen by Kelly Yang



After 5 years apart from her family, Lina leaves Beijing and her grandmother to join them in America. Lina quickly finds that living in America is not as easy as the postcards from her parents led her to believe. This realistic fiction story takes you on a journey of guilt and school and family struggles, to Lina discovering her voice that helps her find courage and resilience.

Once There Was by Kiyash Monsef



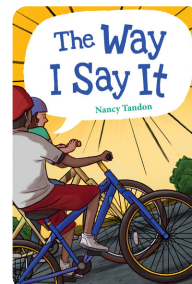
Marjan is a typical 15 year-old dealing with high school life when her Dad suddenly dies, leaving her to take over his veterinarian practice. But she soon finds out that this is no ordinary animal hospital. She discovers that her Dad helped heal mythical creatures and now she is thrust into this unbelievable world too! Where is the line between reality and fantasy, and how will she keep her sanity? What will she uncover about her dad's mysterious death? This novel will take you on surreal journey, interwoven with Iranian folklore.

Small Town Pride by Phil Stamper



When 13-year-old Jake comes out to his parents, they're over-the-top supportive. However, some in their small Ohio town would rather not talk about uncomfortable things, and Jake's idea to host Barton Springs's first ever pride parade ruffles more than a few feathers. An age appropriate and hopeful story about kids using their voices for change in their community.

The Way I Say It by Nancy Tandon



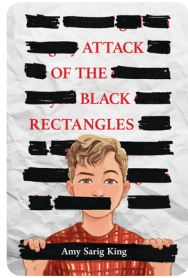
A story of friendship, bullying, and reconciliation. Rory and Brent are best friends until Brent makes friends with the Lacrosse team and they like to spend their time humiliating Rory for his speech impediment. Then the world turns upside when Brent has a horrible accident and is faced with his own challenges and bullies. Will Rory stand up for the friend who betrayed him and help him recover?

2024 Read Aloud Indiana

Upper Elementary List



Attack of the Black Rectangles by A.S. King



Sixth grader Mac has already has plenty going on with a dad who thinks he's a space alien and a crush on one of his best friends, but when he finds that his assigned classroom copy of *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen has been edited by a sharpie wielding teacher, he decides to fight back. A timely and nuanced look at the issue of censorship in schools.

A Duet for Home by Karina Yan Glaser



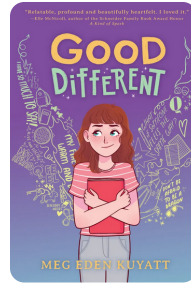
June is used to being the responsible one in her family, but moving into a homeless shelter is testing her patience. Tyrell, who has lived at Huey House long term, shows her the ropes and helps hide her contraband viola. June and Tyrell must join forces to speak out against government officials trying to close the space that is becoming home to June.

The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field by Scott Riley



Join a determined group of boys on a tiny island off the coast of Thailand as they form a soccer team. Their biggest challenge: figuring out where to play soccer on a tidal island where everything is built on stilts! This true story is a fascinating peek into perseverance, ingenuity, and creating solutions out of seemingly nothing.

Good Different by Meg Eden Kuyatt



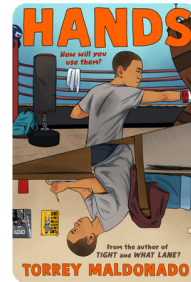
Selah is different, but she has her own rules for normal that work for her. She keeps her own feelings locked inside until one day, they explode and she hits a fellow student. This tender novel in verse shares a first person perspective on neurodiversity and how different can be good.

The Grave Thief by Dee Hahn



Spade is a grave robber, along with his father and brother. After he and his brother get caught in the recently deceased baron's grave, Spade and the queen's niece, Ember, set upon a quest to solve the mystery of the monster that stalks the castle, the Woegan.

Hands by Torrey Maldonado



Trev has a complicated relationship with his stepdad. But when his stepdad gets into a fight with his mom and hits her, Trev knows he has gone too far. Trev wants to protect his mom, but what can he do? Follow Trev's journey as he gets advice from his friends, his uncles, and others. How will he decide to use his hands?

Long Lost by Jacqueline West



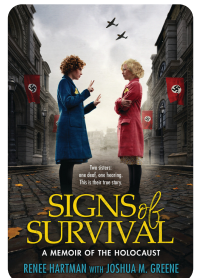
11 year old Fiona has left her world behind in Pittsfield, Massachusetts to move to Lost Lake, where her older sister Arden's new figure skating training facility is located. Fiona ditches her sister's practices to explore Lost Lake's public library: an old mansion, full of hidden passageways, rooms not open to the public, and secrets concealed within its walls... including a dark green book with a new chapter written in it everytime Fiona picks it up to read. But even stranger? The story inside the book seems eerily similar to the legends surrounding Lost Lake. Will Fiona solve the mystery of the book in time to save herself and the ghosts from its past?

The Road to After by Rebekah Lowell



This novel-in-verse will give you hope and faith in healing. Lacey doesn't realize how trapped she and her family are until the day her grandparents arrive to aid them in fleeing her abusive father. As she discovers the world around her she learns to let go of her past and trust in her future. Spending time with nature and new friends allows her own mind and world to blossom into a great new beginning.

Signs of Survival: A Memoir of the Holocaust by Renee G. Hartman



In her memoir, Renee shares her unique story of growing up in a family of deaf parents and a deaf sister who happen to be Jewish during the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia. After their parents are taken away it is up to her to help take care of her sister Herta. When they both end up in the camps, it was sign-language that helped them survive. This book handles heavy content in a way that is accessible for elementary readers and its images help to humanize this time-period remembered for dehumanizing others.

Tumble by Celia C. Pérez



Addie is faced with the decision of having her step-father adopt her. Before making this life changing decision, she wants to know who her dad is and why he left. Addie sets out to find and get to know her dad while also starring in her school's upcoming production of *The Nutcracker*. When she finds her dad, she also finds a world of wrestling and a family she never knew.

2024 Read Aloud Indiana

Primary List

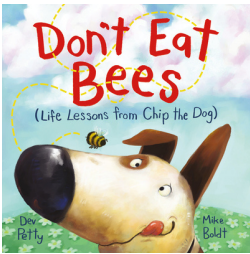


Aven Green Sleuthing Machine by Dusti Bowling, Gina Perry



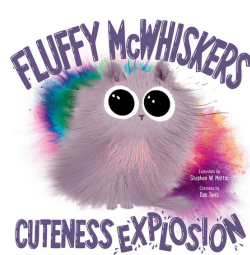
Quirky, brilliant, third grader Aven Green is on the case to solve the mystery of her teacher's missing lunch box when her great-grandma's dog also goes missing! Join Aven and her friends in this laugh-out-loud adventure as they try to find what's missing. This is the first in the series that is sure to be a beginning chapter book hit!

Don't Eat Bees: Life Lessons from Chip the Dog by Dev Petty, Mike Boldt



Chip is quite the smart dog, even if Mittens the cat doesn't think so, and he is willing to share his wisdom and advice for anyone who might need it. This adorable and silly story will entertain the kids but also has humor for the adults too!

Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion by Stephen W. Martin, Dan Tavis



Fluffy McWhiskers is a cat. She lives a lonely life. Her cuteness is a problem, Causing the town much strife.

Anything that looks her way, Is met with a great surprise. "Aww look at that cute kitty!" KABOOM... they meet their demise.

So Fluffy sails to a land alone, To ensure the explosions will stop. Until one day, she hears a noise. Could it be? A friend who...

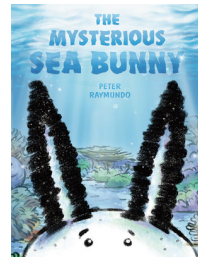
KABOOM!!!!
Sorry, my fault. I looked at the cover of this book. Fluffy is just so cute!
KABOOM!!!!
Take caution when reading Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion.

I Want My Book Back by Viviane Elbee, Nicole Miles



Daryl loved only one book. He spent day after day playing with this book, imagining himself as the many different dinosaurs inside. Daryl renewed this book from the library again and again and again, until he couldn't renew the book anymore. When Daryl's mother tries to explain to him that they need to return the book so other kids can read it, Daryl decides to use all his newly learned dinosaur expertise to try and get his favorite book back. When things don't go Daryl's way, a friendly librarian shows Daryl a way he can share his love for his favorite book with others.

The Mysterious Sea Bunny by Peter Raymundo



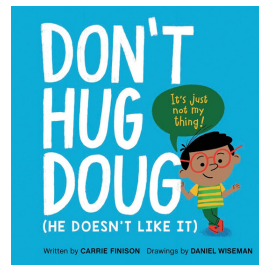
What's adorable, fuzzy-looking, and breathes from its butt? A sea slug! This conversational nonfiction picture book is so fun that listeners may not even notice the plethora of information it contains. Guaranteed to make kids want to learn more about these amazing underwater creatures.

The Color Collector by Nicholas Solis, Renia Metallinou



In this sweet story of friendship, a boy notices a new girl picking up random items as she walks. The pictures begin in black and white with color being added as the story progresses. The boy asks the girl about the items one day and she shows him the wall in her house where she has created a mural using all the things she's collected; the mural reminds her of home.

Don't Hug Doug by Carrie Finison, Daniel Wiseman



Doug does not like hugs. It's simple. No birthday, hello, goodbye, comforting, or anything hugs. Doug helps us to learn that it's okay to say no to things and to set boundaries. The simplest way to know if someone likes hugs? Just ask them! A great story about consent and body autonomy that helps kids understand in a fun way.

Hardly Haunted by Jessie Sima



House really wants a family to call her "home". There's only one problem: House might be haunted! Her boards creak and crack. The wind causes the trees to scritch and scratch against her windows. Maybe if she tries to be really quiet, someone will choose her to be their forever home. House knows she'd be perfect for a family, but what kind of family would want to live in a haunted house?

Monster! Hungry! Phone! by Sean Taylor, Fred Benaglia



Monster looks in his refrigerator for food, but it's empty. What's he gonna do? Good thing he has a phone so he can call the pizza place. But hold on, why does he keep getting a wrong number? Get ready for lots of giggles and a surprise ending, too!

The Thingy-Jig by Kathleen Doherty, Kristyna Litten



One quiet evening, Bear strolls through town and finds the most amazing thing ever--a Thingy-Jig! The Thingy-Jig is big and awkward; bear needs help to bring it home to the forest. When his friends refuse to help, Bear must improvise by creating other inventions in his quest for his Thingy-Jig. Join Bear on his adventure in this fun wordplay!

2024 Read Aloud Indiana



Ageless List

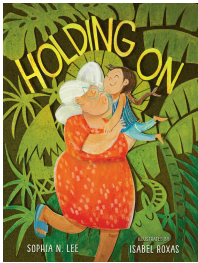
100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli by David

LaRochelle, Lian Cho



This story starts out with 100 dragons, but as the story goes on, more and more dragons leave in fun and surprising ways! Come along for a reading adventure full of quirky characters, beautiful illustrations, math computations, and a surprise ending!

Holding On by Sophia N. Lee, Isabel Roxas



As we age often times our memory fades. While everyone is different, for many music may help keep that connection to our family and friends longer. Lola has taught her granddaughter all of her favorite songs and reminds her, "If you want to hold on, you gotta sing your songs." This helps her granddaughter to hold onto her when they are apart. And when Lola's memory begins to fade, her granddaughter helps her to hold on by playing their songs .

The Last Straw: Kids vs. Plastics by Susan Hood,

Christiane Engel



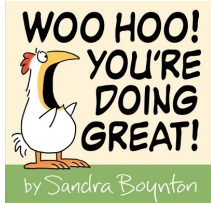
Plastic is a huge environmental concern. Through a series of poems, children will learn about plastic, its negative impacts on the environment, and what they can do to make a difference. This colorful, must-read is sure to inspire children and educate them about plastic pollution.

Pizza! A Slice of History by Greg Pizzoli



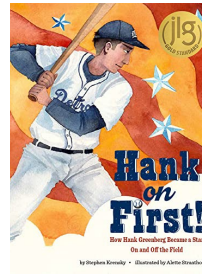
Who doesn't love pizza? Did you know that people in the United States eat 350 slices of pizza every second? Travel through time to discover the history of a food that is eaten all over the world. Learn where it came from, fun facts from different countries, and enjoy a family-friendly recipe included in the book.

Woo Hoo! You're Doing Great! by Sandra Boynton



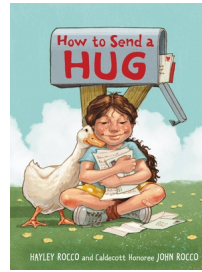
"There's surely nothing more fantastic than someone who's enthusiastic!" And that's exactly what we are about a full-sized picture book by fan favorite Boynton that reminds listeners of all ages that they're doing great. Even when they make mistakes!

Hank on First! How Hank Greenberg Became a Star On and Off the Field by Stephen Krensky, Alette Straathof



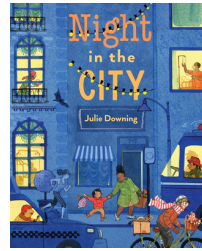
In 1934, Hank Greenberg played for the Detroit Tigers. Unlike other Jewish baseball players at the time, Hank did not change his name or try to hide the fact that he was Jewish. This didn't always play in his favor, with fans sometimes heckling him because of his religion. But Hank stayed focused and played as hard as he could, becoming an essential part of the team. When Hank chose to miss a game in order to celebrate Yom Kippur, his team could not win without him, causing the team's fans to blame Hank for the loss. But others began to stand up for Hank, making people realize what an inspirational and integral person Hank Greenberg really was. This book is an excellent introduction to Hank Greenberg's story and the antisemitism in sports that existed at the time. It will leave readers wanting to know more about "Hammerin' Hank", one of the greatest hitters in baseball history.

How to Send a Hug by Hayley Rocco, John Rocco



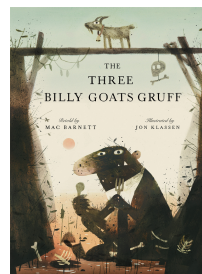
This sweet story takes us back to the time of snail mail. Young readers today may have never received or written a letter. This story follows the journey of Artie's loving letter to her grandmother and of the joy of receiving the reply. This is a great opportunity to accompany teaching letter writing!

Night in the City by Julie Downing



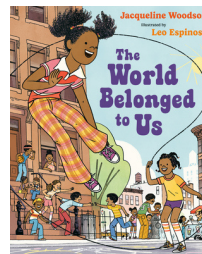
What happens in a city when children are sleeping? This story follows eight different people as they start their busy day as we are ending ours. Who works while we sleep? Follow a nurse, film tech, baker, museum security guards, and more on a normal night in the city.

The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Mac Barnett; Jon Klassen



The retelling of this classic folktale enhances the drama of the hungry troll living under the bridge with delicious recipes for goats. This beautifully illustrated book will keep readers engaged with a classic ending that will not disappoint.

The World Belonged to Us by Jacqueline Woodson, Leo Espinosa



Jacqueline Woodson and Leo Espinosa together paint a picture of a simpler time of the Summer in Brooklyn in the 1970's. The kids on the block share a day in the life of letting the fire hydrants go, double Dutch, tag, hide and seek, ice cream trucks and believing anything is impossible when the world was theirs to own.