Learn more: oppl.org/kids-lists
Feldman, Jacquetta Nammar. Wishing Upon the Same Stars. When twelve-year-old Yasmeen Khoury moves with her family to San Antonio, all she wants to do is fit in. But her classmates in Texas are nothing like her friends in the predominantly Arab neighborhood back in Detroit where she grew up. Almost immediately, Yasmeen feels like the odd girl out, and as she faces middle school mean girls and tries to make new friends, she feels more alone than ever before. Then Yasmeen meets her neighbor, Ayelot Cohen, a first-generation Israeli American. As the two girls grow closer, Yasmeen is grateful to know someone who understands what it feels like when your parents’ idea of home is half a world away.

Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mohamed. When Stars are Scattered (Graphic novel). Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when the opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonspeaking brother.

Nurrali, Siman. Sadig and the Green Thumbs (Paperback series). Sadig and his friends find their teacher, Mr. Kassim, strict and intimidating, but when Sadig finds out that Mr. Kassim has a injured shoulder he decides to volunteer to help with the gardening—and he convinces his friends to volunteer as well.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. The Turtle of Oman (series). Aref, a boy from Oman, has serious misgivings about temporarily moving from his homeland to Michigan. As he avoids packing his suitcase, Aref savors the familiar sights, sounds and scents of his hometown, Muscat.

Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices. A collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! Maybe it’s waking up to the sound of frying samosas or the comfort of bean pie, maybe it’s the pleasure of putting on a new outfit for Eid prayer, or maybe it’s the gift giving and holiday parties to come that day. Whatever it may be, for those who cherish this day of celebration, it’s all about joy.

Roy, Jennifer Rozines and Ali Fadhil. Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein: Based on a Real Life Story. For forty-two days in 1991, eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil and his family struggle to survive as Basra, Iraq, is bombed by the United States and its allies.

Saeed, Jamal. Yara’s Spring. Growing up in Aleppo, Yara’s childhood has long been shadowed by the coming revolution. Yara is pushed to her limits as she discovers how far she’ll go for her loved ones—and for a chance for freedom.

Warga, Jasmine. A Rover’s Story. Built to explore Mars, Resilience, aka Res, learns new things from the NASA scientists and begins to develop human-like feelings, especially when he arrives on the planet, where he is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration. Also by Jasmine Warga: Other Words for Home and The Shape of Thunder.

Yüksel, Básım. The Magical Reality of Nadia (series). Nadia is ready to start 6th grade with a bang! Fresh off summer vacation with her cousins in Egypt, Nadia is most excited about her school project celebrating the 100th anniversary of The Museum of American History. When one of her classmates starts making snide comments about her Egyptian heritage, Nadia ends up finding support from a magical source — her ancient necklace!

Alabed, Bana. My Name is Bana (BIO ALA). When seven-year-old Bana Alabed took to Twitter to describe the horrors she and her family were experiencing in war-torn Syria, her heartrending messages gave a voice to millions of innocent children. Written in Bana’s own words, this picture book offers a uniquely intimate child’s perspective on one of the biggest humanitarian crises in history. Bana has lost her best friend, her school, her home, and her homeland. But she has not lost her hope—for herself and for other children around the world who are victims and refugees of war.

Khalidi, Rodhan Al. The Three Princes of Serendip: New Tellings of Old Tales for Everyone (398.209 AL). Filled with wisdom about love and acceptance, and warnings against folly, these elegantly translated stories—many unknown in the United States—of donkeys and roosters, kings, sheikhs, and paupers are a rich and varied introduction to the world of Middle Eastern folklore.

Marwan, Zahra. Where Butterflies Fill the Sky: A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home (BIO MAR). Zahra lives in a beautiful place where the desert reaches all the way to the sea and one hundred butterflies always fill the sky. When Baba and Mama tell her that their family is no longer welcome here and they must leave, Zahra wonders if she will ever feel at home again—and what about the people she will leave behind?

Nye, Naomi Shihab. Everything Comes Next: Collected & New Poems (811 NYE). A treasure chest of Naomi Shihab Nye’s most beloved poems, celebrating her term as Young People’s Poet Laureate. Writing prompts and tips by the award-winning poet make this an outstanding choice for aspiring poets of all ages. Also by Naomi Shihab Nye: Cast Away: Poems for Our Time (811 NYE).

Sarsour, Linda. We’re in This Together: A Young Readers Edition of We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders (BIO SAR). Women’s March coorganizer and activist Linda Sarsour shares the memories that shaped her into the activist she is today, and how these pivotal moments in her life led her to being an organizer in one of the largest single-day protests in US history.


Yuksel, M.O. One Wish: Fatima Al-Fihri and the World’s Oldest University. (BIO AL) The story of Fatima al-Fihri, a trailblazing woman who founded the oldest existing and continually operating university in the world.