

Romance

Sweet reads for kids

Fiction

Acampora, Paul. ***Danny Constantino's First (And Maybe Last?) Date***. Between going to the middle school dance with his celebrity crush and watching his mom campaign to be the next town mayor, Danny has a lot to learn about life and love in the spotlight.

Baker, E.D. ***Fairy-Tale Matchmaker*** (series). Cory Feathering has abandoned the tooth fairy guild she was born into in favor of choosing her own path as a matchmaker, and now decides to fight for what she believes in: love.

Bigelow, Lisa Jenn. ***Drum Roll, Please***. Quiet Melly loves playing the drums—it's the only time she doesn't feel like a mouse. Now she is at music camp and finds herself unexpectedly falling for another girl. Will she be able to make music from all the noise in her heart?

Blake, Ashley Herring. ***Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World***. Twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school.

Bowles, David. ***They Call Her Fregona: A Border Kid's Poems*** (series). Thirteen-year-old Güero and first girlfriend Joanna are navigating first kisses and family dinners, and then he must stand by and support her after her father is suddenly deported.

Cartaya, Pablo. ***The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamoya***. For Arturo, summertime in Miami means basketball, mango smoothies, and maybe a few shifts at Abuela's restaurant. But this summer also includes Carmen, a poetry enthusiast who moves into Arturo's apartment complex and turns his stomach into a deep fryer. Arturo and Carmen discover the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí.

Cleary, Beverly. ***Fifteen***. Much to Jane's surprise, the school's most popular boy has asked her out—is she ready?

Day, Christine. ***We Still Belong***. Wesley's hopeful plans for Indigenous Peoples' Day (and asking her crush to the dance) go all wrong—until she finds herself surrounded by the love of her Indigenous family and community at the intertribal powwow.

Dee, Barbara. ***Starcrossed***. When Mattie is cast as Romeo in an eighth-grade play, she is confused to find herself increasingly attracted to Gemma, a new classmate who is playing Juliet, because she has also found herself crushing on a boy named Elijah. Is it possible to have a crush on both boys AND girls? Things backstage at the production are starting to rival any Shakespearean drama!

Ellen, Tom. ***Never Evers***. Mouse has to go on her new school's ski trip basically knowing no one. Jack is going and can only think about how to successfully get his first kiss. When Jack catches Mouse's eye in the at the ski resort, he's smitten. Add a music star and a week in the snow is about to get complicated...

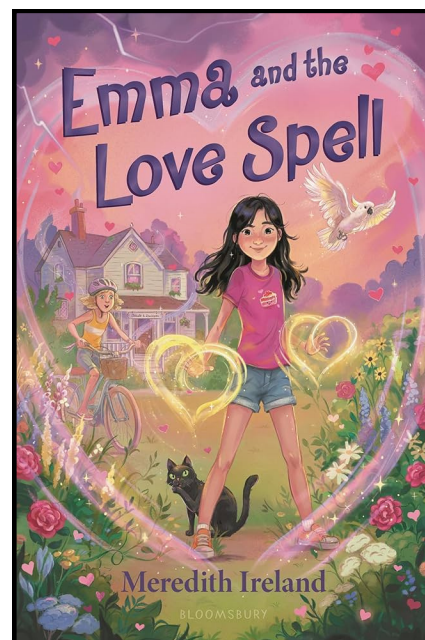
Florence, Debbi Michiko. ***Just Be Cool, Jenna Sekai*** (series). When Jenna gets dumped over winter break, she decides to be totally heartless this semester—no boys, just books. But then cute-but-incredibly-annoying Rin keeps showing up and Jenna is starting to realize that being a loner is kind of lonely. Letting people in might just be a risk worth taking.

Garland, Taylor. ***Secret Snowflake***. Riley Archer gets to be her crush's Secret Snowflake during her seventh grade class gift exchange—but is he her Secret Snowflake, too?

Gerber, Alyson. ***Taking Up Space***. Twelve-year-old Sarah is used to being the star on her basketball team, but suddenly she finds that her body is changing, she can't keep up on the court, and her mom is getting weird about food. When her crush Benny offers to teach her how to cook and suggests she partners with him in a cooking competition, she starts to find a way to stand up for herself and change her life for the better.

Gibbs, Stuart. ***Whale Done*** (series). While visiting his girlfriend Summer in Malibu, Teddy stumbles upon two mysteries involving a blown-up whale explosion and a string of beach sand thefts, but his investigation is sidetracked by a rumor that his girlfriend is dating a celebrity, leading him to question their relationship.

Going, K.L. ***The Next Great Jane***. Jane, a budding writer and Jane Austen fan, discovers the true secret to writing when a famous author and her cute, but annoying, son come to her small coastal town and play seemingly unwitting roles in affecting the custody battle between Jane's Hollywood mother and marine biologist father.



Greenwald, Lisa. ***Sweet Treats and Secret Crushes***. When a snowstorm keeps thirteen-year-old best friends Olivia, Kate, and Georgia inside their Brooklyn, New York, apartment building on Valentine's Day, they connect with their neighbors by distributing homemade fortune cookies and uncover one another's secrets along the way.

Hitchcock, Shannon. ***One True Way***. From the moment she met Samantha, star of the school basketball team, Allison Drake felt she had found a friend, something she needs badly. As their friendship grows, it begins to evolve into a deeper emotion, and in 1977 North Carolina, it is not easy to discover that you might be gay.

Ireland, Meredith. ***Emma and the Love Spell***. Twelve-year-old Korean American adoptee Emma Davidson has a problem. Two problems. Okay, three: 1. She has a crush on her best friend, Avangelina, that she hasn't been able to share. 2. Avangelina now has to move out of their town because her parents are getting a divorce. 3. Oh, and Emma is a secret witch who can't really control her powers.

Jones, Nashae. ***Courtesy of Cupid***. When thirteen-year-old Erin discovers she is the daughter of the love god Cupid, she uses her newfound ability to sabotage her rival Trevor by making him fall in love with her, but she soon realizes love has a funny way of complicating things.

Kann, Claire. ***Harmonies and Heartbreak***. Living in the penthouse suite of San Francisco's Hotel Coeur, matchmakers-in-training Rose and Cora learn how to use magic to bring about love connections and must perfect their charms and enchantments to pass a test that will determine their future.

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Fiction, cont.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***Fairest***. When Aza becomes lady-in-waiting to the new queen, a magic mirror, a charming prince, a jealous queen, palace intrigue, and an injured king twine into a maze that she must penetrate to save herself and her beloved kingdom.

Lovelace, Maud Hart. ***Emily of Deep Valley***. After graduating from high school, Emily Webster longs to go off to college with everyone else, but she must stay home and take care of her grandfather, a veteran. But it is at home that she discovers many new adventures, including love.

Medina, Meg. ***Merci Suárez Can't Dance*** (series). Seventh grade is going to be a real trial for Merci Suárez. She's been assigned to co-manage the tiny school store with Wilson Bellevue, a boy she barely knows, but whom she might actually like. And she's tangling again with classmate Edna Santos, who is bossier and more obnoxious than ever now that she is in charge of the annual Heart Ball. One thing is for sure, though: Merci Suárez can't dance—not at the Heart Ball or anywhere else.

Meyerhoff, Jenny. ***Playing Cupid***. Clara starts a matchmaking service for her classmates to fulfill a class assignment, but she does not know what to do when she starts receiving notes and gifts from a secret admirer.

Montgomery, L.M. ***The Blue Castle***. Valancy has never been in love, and it seems romance has passed her by. Until, for the first time in her life, Valancy does and says exactly what she wants and discovers a surprising new world, full of love and adventures far beyond her most secret dreams.

Oppel, Kenneth. ***Airborn*** (series). Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

Paulsen, Gary. ***Liar, Liar: The Theory, Practice, and Destructive Properties of Deception*** (series). Kevin Spencer has a history of big ideas going completely awry. Mostly things he's done to impress Tina Zabinski, the World's Most Beautiful Girl.

Pancholy, Maulik. ***Best at It***. 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.

Polonsky, Ami. ***Spin with Me***. Thirteen-year-old Essie is feeling glum about starting a new school after her dad takes a position in a new town. Then she meets Ollie: delicate, blue eyes, short hair, easy smile, not a boy or a girl, but gender non-binary. Meanwhile, Ollie is experiencing a crush of their own... on Essie.

Shang, Wendy Wan Long. ***Bubble Trouble***. Chloe loves musicals and is desperate to go on the class trip to Broadway, so she and her best friend decide to earn money by making and selling boba tea. Now Chloe will have to contend with the complications of running her own business and maybe the messiness of admitting that she actually... like-likes someone?

Staniszewski, Anna. ***I'm with Cupid***. When Marcus, a supernatural matchmaker, and Lena Perris, a soul collector, kiss at a party on a dare, they soon realize their powers have swapped. Now logical-minded Lena finds herself with the love touch, and ultra-emotional Marcus has death at his fingertips—and setting things right has become a matter of love and death.

Taylor, Will. ***The Language of Seabirds***. Jeremy is not excited about the prospect of spending the summer with his dad and his uncle in Oregon, but on his first day takes a walk on the beach and finds himself intrigued by a boy his age running by. Eventually, he and Evan meet—and what starts out as friendship blooms into something neither boy is expecting...but what both have been secretly hoping for.

Vail, Rachel. ***Well, That was Awkward***. There are unexpected consequences when Gracie sends texts to A.J., pretending to be her bashful best friend, Sienna, and their friend Emmett starts texting back pretending to be shy A.J.

Yun, Erin. ***Crush at First Sight*** (series). Pippa Park is trying to balance basketball, school, family, friends, and Eliot, the cutest boy at school, who is finally paying attention to her. Pippa sets out to host a party, find the perfect dress, pick the right boy, and stay true to her real self.

Graphic Novels

Chmakova, Svetlana. ***Crush***. When the group dynamic among Jorge's friends starts to shift, he must learn to balance what his friends expect of him and what he really wants.

Gros, Kathleen. ***Anne: An Adaptation of Anne of Green Gables (Sort Of)***. Anne moves into the Avon-Lea with new foster family the Cuthberts and meets kindred spirit Diana Barry...who she starts to develop more-than-friends feelings for. A new foster home, a new school, and a first-time crush—it's a lot all at once!

Gros, Kathleen. ***Jo: An Adaptation of Little Women (Sort Of)***. Eighth grader Jo March decides it's time to get serious about her writing and joins the school newspaper with new friend Freddie cheering her on. Things get complicated when the new boy next door tells Jo he has feelings for her. Feelings that Jo doesn't have for him...or for any boy. Feelings that Jo might have for Freddie.

O'Neill, Katie. ***Princess Princess Ever After***. When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, neither expects to find a true friend in the bargain.

Ostertag, Molly Knox. ***The Girl From the Sea***. Morgan has a secret: She can't wait to escape the perfect little island where she lives. Until she is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl named Keltie, who has some secrets of her own. As the girls start to fall in love, everything they're each trying to hide will find its way to the surface...whether Morgan is ready or not.

Telgemeier, Raina. ***Drama***. Callie is determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together? Not to mention the onstage AND offstage drama that occurs once the actors are chosen. When two cute brothers enter the picture, things get even more confusing!

Nonfiction

Alko, Selina. ***The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage***. The story of interracial couple Mildred and Richard Loving, who got married in Washington, D.C., and were arrested after they returned to Virginia, and took their legal case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. (J 306.846 ALK)

Holyoke, Nancy. ***Crushes: Dating, Rejection, and Other ♥ Stuff***. Get advice about crushes, dating, breaking up, being yourself and more from the creators of the American Girl magazine. The book includes quizzes and tips. (J155.433 HOL)

Reef, Catherine. ***Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life***. Explores the tumultuous lives, marriage, and work of Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. (JB Kahlo)

Sanders, Rob. ***Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America's First Gay Wedding***. Two wedding cake toppers tell the love story of the men they represent, Michael McConnell and Jack Baker, and their difficult journey to become the first married gay couple in the United States. (J 306.76 SAN)