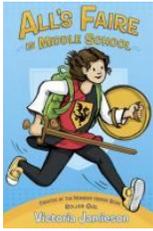
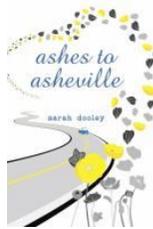


## 25th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 6-8 Fiction Nominee Annotations



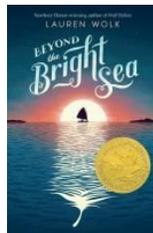
***All's Faire in Middle School* by Victoria Jamieson**  
**9780525429982**

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.



***Ashes to Asheville* by Sarah Dooley**  
**9780399165047**

Twelve-year-old Fella is swept away on a wild road trip by her older sister Zany to fulfill their late mother's dying wish.



***Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk**  
**9781101994856**

Set adrift on the ocean in a small skiff as a newborn, twelve-year-old Crow embarks on a quest to find the missing pieces of her history.



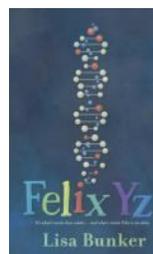
***Bob* by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead**  
**9781250166623**

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.



***The Cardboard Kingdom* by Chad Sell**  
**9781524719371**

Follows the adventures of a group of neighborhood children who create costumes from cardboard and use their imagination in adventures with knights, robots, and monsters.



***Felix Yz* by Lisa Bunker**  
**9780425288504**

Thirteen-year-old Felix Yz chronicles the final month before an experimental procedure meant to separate him from the fourth-dimensional creature, Zyx, with whom he was accidentally fused as a young child.

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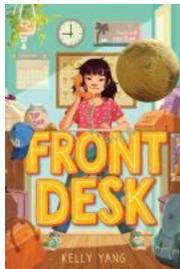
***The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez**  
**9780425290408**

Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.



***Flying Lessons & Other Stories* Edited by Ellen Oh**  
**9781101934593**

From basketball dreams and family fiascos to first crushes and new neighborhoods, this anthology, written by award-winning children's authors, celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.



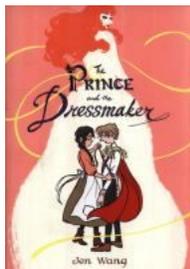
***Front Desk* by Kelly Yang**  
**9781338157796**

Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.



***Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly**  
**9780062414151**

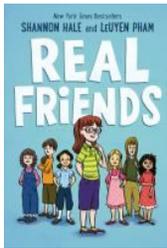
Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.



***The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang**  
**9781250159854**

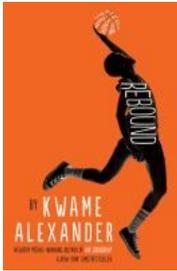
Prince Sebastian is looking for a bride--or rather, his parents are looking for one for him. Sebastian is too busy hiding his secret life from everyone. At night he puts on daring dresses and takes Paris by storm as the fabulous Lady Crystallia--the hottest fashion icon in the world capital of fashion!

## 25th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 6-8 Fiction Nominee Annotations



***Real Friends* by Shannon Hale**  
**9781626724167**

Real Friends captures the emotional roller coaster ride of friendship, from navigating the tricky waters of cliques and bullies to her never-ending struggle to stay in "The Group." Shannon's honest and heartfelt story reminds us of how hard it was to learn what real friends are--and why finding them is worth the journey.



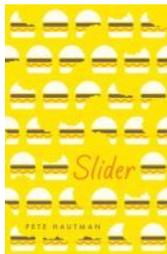
***Rebound* by Kwame Alexander**  
**9780544868137**

In the summer of 1988, twelve-year-old Chuck Bell is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.



***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**  
**9780545880831**

Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.



***Slider* by Pete Hautman**  
**9780763690700**

Hoping to win a cash prize in a pizza eating contest after racking up a tab on his mother's credit card, David must juggle his competitive eating training with the responsibility of looking after his autistic younger brother.



***Thornhill* by Pam Smy**  
**9781626726543**

Parallel plotlines set in different times, one told in text and one in art, inform each other as a young girl unravels the mystery of a ghost next door.



***Well, That Was Awkward* by Rachel Vail**  
**9780670013081**

There are unexpected consequences when thirteen-year-old Gracie sends texts pretending to be her bashful best friend, Sienna, and their friend Emmett starts texting back pretending to be shy A.J.

## 25th Annual Garden State Teen Book Awards Grades 6-8 Fiction Nominee Annotations



***Whichwood* by Tahereh Mafi**

**9781101994795**

Laylee, thirteen, is nearly worn out from washing and packaging corpses for the Otherwhere and being shunned by villagers when two strangers, Alice and Oliver, arrive determined to help.

\*Annotations from title entries on [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org), [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com), or *Novelist*.