

The Best Worst Summer of Esme Sun

Wendy Wan-Long Shang

Summary

Award-winning author Wendy Wan-Long Shang dives in to the deep end of sportsmanship, prejudice, and the power of friendship in this funny, heartfelt story about two very different girls and one shared passion: swimming.

Esme Sun absolutely does *not* care about winning shiny trophies or finally receiving some of the praise her mother bestows so lavishly on her three older, brilliant sisters. But, actually... it would be nice to be good at *something*. So when Esme discovers on the first day of summer, opening day at the community pool, that her growth spurt over the winter has made her a really fast swimmer, she wonders if she just might have found that thing.

After Esme has an uncomfortable encounter at the pool with a new girl, Kaya, Esme worries she may have hurt Kaya's feelings. Then, embarrassed by Esme's awkwardness, her friend Tegan, the cool girl at school who seems to do everything perfectly, makes Esme promise that from now on, she'll be chill, not act so babyish and intense about things--especially not swim team.

But when their swim competitions begin, and Esme starts winning, sh...

Contributor Bio

Wendy Wan-Long Shang is the author of *The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*, which was awarded the Asian/Pacific American Award for Children's Literature; *The Way Home Looks Now*, an Amelia Bloomer Project List selection and a CCBC Choices List selection; *The Secret Battle of Evan Pao*, which received multiple starred reviews; *Bubble Trouble*; Sydney Taylor Honor Book *This Is Just a Test*, which she cowrote with Madelyn Rosenberg; and *Not Your All-American Girl*, a *Tablet* Magazine Best Children's Book, also cowritten with Madelyn Rosenberg. She lives with her family in the suburbs of Washington, DC.



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Juvenile Fiction / Girls & Women
JUV014000

8.3 in H | 5.5 in W

Best of All Worlds

Kenneth Oppel

Summary

From award-winning author Kenneth Oppel a startling, can't-wait-to-talk-about-it-with-someone novel that defies genre to create a survival thriller unlike any you've read before. For fans of *Leave the World Behind*, A.S. King, M.T. Anderson, and Margaret Atwood.

Xavier Oaks doesn't particularly want to go to the cabin with his dad and his dad's pregnant new wife, Nia. But family obligations are family obligations, and it's only for a short time. So he leaves his mom, his brother, and his other friends behind for a week in the woods. Only... one morning he wakes up and the house isn't where it was before. It's like it's been lifted and placed... somewhere else.

When Xavier, his dad, and Nia go explore, they find they are inside a dome, trapped. And there's no one else around...

Until, three years later, another family arrives.

Is there any escape? Is there a reason they are stuck where they are? Different people have different answers -- and those different answers inexorably lead to tension, strife, and sacrifice.

In this masterpiece, award-winning author Kenneth Oppel builds to a heart-st...

Contributor Bio

Kenneth Oppel is the bestselling author of *Skybreaker* and *Airborn*, a Printz Honor Book. He lives in Toronto with his family and can be found online at www.kennethoppel.ca.



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YAF062030

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Mecha-Ude: Mechanical Arms (Volume 1)

Yoshino Koyoka

Summary

An ordinary middle-school student's life takes a thrilling turn when he encounters a powerful mechanical being in this exciting new manga series for fans of *My Hero Academia* and *Spy x Family*.

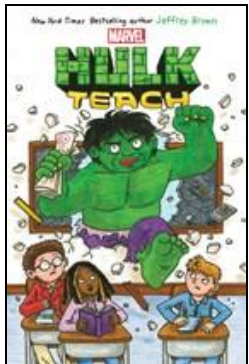
Kita-Kagami City is a pretty normal town... except that some people have gotten their hands on Mecha-Ude: powerful, sentient, mechanical beings that attach themselves to their human hosts and have awesome capabilities. When middle-school kid Hikaru accidentally activates Alma, a Mecha-Ude with no memory of its past, they must team up to uncover the mystery of Alma's identity and prevent the powerful Mecha-Ude from ending up in the wrong hands.

Contributor Bio

Yoshino Koyoka is a manga artist based in Tokyo. Her works include the manga adaptation of *Aria the Scarlet Ammo*. Loves: robots and tokusatsu films. Dislikes: raw eggs and raw fish (despite being Japanese).

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Hulk Teach (Original Marvel Graphic Novel)

Jeffrey Brown

Summary

A hilarious original series filled with comics, mischief, and misadventure starring the Hulk! From the mind of *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator Jeffrey Brown.

Bruce Banner, AKA the Hulk, is a genius scientist and super hero whose rage-outs have led him to damage way too much public property. After his latest meltdown, Tony Stark arranges a PR move to smooth things over. Hulk will perform community service -- by teaching. Can Banner make it through the school year without destroying everything? And can middle school kids really learn anything when the HULK is their teacher?

This all-new middle grade graphic novel told with two-color artwork offers a laugh-out-loud take on middle school.

Contributor Bio

Jeffrey Brown is an Eisner Award winner and *New York Times* bestselling author-illustrator. Jeffrey has created dozens of graphic memoirs, humorous parodies, and cat books. He lives in Chicago with his wife, Jennifer, and his two sons.

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Middle Grade (WT)
8 in H | 5.5 in W

Braided Roots: The interweaving of history, family, and a father's love

Pasha Westbrook, Madelyn Goodnight

Summary

A stunning, poetic debut picture book from Pasha Westbrook about honoring one's roots and the unbreakable bond of familial love, brought to life with enchanting illustrations by Madelyn Goodnight.

Father braids my hair, just like his,

scented of coconut oil, the familiar tug of fingers on my scalp,

love in every twist...

As a young girl's father lovingly yet painstakingly braids her hair, he weaves a story about the strength and resilience of their ancestors, Freedmen who walked the Trail of Tears from Mississippi to Oklahoma.

In this enchanting picture book, past and present come together in a tale about endurance, history, and love. With beautiful, sweeping illustrations by Madelyn Goodnight and debut author Pasha Westbrook's lyrical writing, *Braided Roots* tenderly explores the unwavering love between a father and daughter.

Contributor Bio

Pasha Westbrook, a multiracial writer and a Chickasaw and Choctaw Freedmen descendant, lives among the Arizona cacti with her husband and three beautiful boys. When she's not voraciously reading, you'll find her penning poetry, nourishing her plant babies, concocting herbal remedies, and reveling in nature as often as possible.

Madelyn Goodnight is the award-winning illustrator of many children's books, including *Can You Hear the Plants Speak?* by Nicolas Hummingbird and Julia Wasson; *Powwow Day* by Tracy Sorell, an ALA Notable Children's Book; and *Rock Your Mocs!* by Laurel Goodluck, an American Indian Youth Literature Award Honor Book.

Madie's work greatly reflects her love of childhood and all the wonder and imagination that she still associates with it. She is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and endeavors to use a wide range of media and outlets for

Outside

Jennifer L. Holm

Summary

From three-time Newbery Honor winner Jennifer L. Holm, a chilling but heartfelt story of a girl being raised in a compound who doesn't understand how isolated and unusual her life is... until she must encounter the outside world.

Razzi has always been told: Don't go Outside. It isn't safe. There are people and creatures out there that will harm you. The walls of the Refuge will protect you from them.

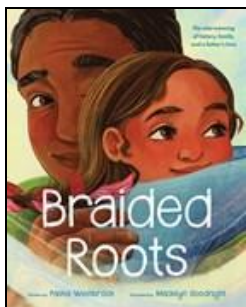
Razzi's friend Ollie was curious about Outside... and it led to his death. So Razzi is trying to be on her best behavior. She is the oldest kid left, the one the younger kids look up to. She has to follow the rules.

But Outside has a way of getting in, and Razzi, guided by a dog she has a strangely close connection with, wonders what it's like to run free beyond the walls.

If she steps away from everything she's ever known... what will she find?

Contributor Bio

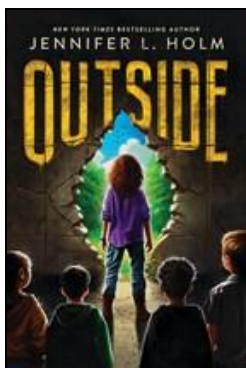
JENNIFER L. HOLM is the *New York Times* bestselling and three-time Newbery Honor-winning author of multiple novels for young readers. With her brother Matthew, Jennifer created the graphic novel series *Babymouse* and *Squish*. She lives in California.



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