Social Issues

***Ask Me No Questions*** by Marina Budhos

Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

***If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period*** by Gennifer Choldenko

Kirsten and Walk, seventh graders at an elite private school, alternate telling how race, wealth, weight, and other issues shape their relationships as they and other misfits stand up to a mean but influential classmate, even as they are uncovering a long-kept secret about themselves.

***Summerlost*** by Ally Condie

Following the sudden deaths of her father and autistic younger brother, Cedar Lee spends the summer working at a Shakespearean theater festival, making a new friend, and coming to terms with her grief.

***Walk Two Moons*** by Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother’s route. Sal tells the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

***Out of My Mind*** by Sharon Draper

Considered by many to be mentally challenged, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

***The Absolute Value of Mike*** by Katherine Erskine

Mike, a fourteen-year-old boy with a math learning disability, is sent to work on an engineering project, and while his plans to impress his mathematician father fall flat, he learns much more valuable lessons while working with his eccentric, elderly aunt, a homeless man, and a punk rock girl as part of a town-wide effort to adopt a Romanian orphan.

***The Honest Truth*** by Dan Gemeinhart

A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau--but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on, nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading.

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***Silent to the Bone*** by E.L. Konigsburg

When he is wrongly accused of injuring his baby half-sister, thirteen-year-old Branwell loses his power of speech. Only his friend Connor is able to uncover the truth about what really happened.

***Rules*** by Cynthia Lord

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

***Rogue*** by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

An eighth-grade girl with Asperger's syndrome tries to befriend her new neighbor, facing many challenges along the way.

***Mustaches for Maddie*** by Chad Morris and Shelly Brown

Inspired by a true story. Maddie is a normal twelve-year-old, but when a CT scan reveals she has a brain tumor, it will take all her imagination, courage, and support from her friends and family to meet this new challenge.

***Freak the Mighty*** [Series] by Rodman Philbrick

At the beginning of eighth grade, learning-disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

***Slob*** by Ellen Potter

Picked on, overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed.

***Counting by 7s*** by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

***The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B*** by Teresa Toten

Adam not only is trying to understand his OCD, while trying to balance his relationship with his divorced parents, but he's also trying to navigate through the issues that teenagers normally face, namely the perils of young love.

***Save Me a Seat*** by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems--but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.