

## **Juvenile Realistic Fiction**

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things (Alvin Ho series; book 1)

Look, Lenore

A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. [Check library catalog.](#)

Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart Williams, Vera B.

A series of poems tells how two sisters help each other deal with life while their mother is working and their father has been sent to jail. [Check library catalog.](#)

Anything But Typical Baskin, Nora Raleigh

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. [Check library catalog.](#)

Because of Winn-Dixie DiCamillo, Kate

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. [Check library catalog.](#)

Becoming Naomi Leon Ryan, Pam Munoz

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father. [Check library catalog.](#)

Big Nate: In a Class By Himself Pierce, Lincoln

Supremely confident middle school student Nate Wright manages to make getting detention from every one of his teachers in the same day seem like an achievement. [Check library catalog.](#)

Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet (Calvin Coconut series; book 1) Salisbury, Graham

Nine-year-old. Calvin catches the attention of the school bully on the day before he starts fourth grade, while at home, the unfriendly, fifteen-year-old daughter of his mother's best friend has taken over his room. [Check library catalog.](#)

Clementine (Clementine series; book 1) Pennypacker, Sara

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building. [Check library catalog.](#)

A Crooked Kind of Perfect Urban, Linda

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life. [Check library catalog.](#)

Defiance Hobbs, Valerie

While vacationing in the country, eleven-year-old Toby, a cancer patient, learns some important lessons about living and dying from an elderly poet and her cow. [Check library catalog.](#)

Deliver Us From Normal Klise, Kate

With a mother who buys Christmas cards in August and a younger brother who describes the Trinity as a toasted marshmallow on a graham cracker, life for eleven-year-old Charles Harrisong is anything but normal in Normal, Illinois. [Check library catalog.](#)

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree (sequel Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love) Tarshis, Lauren

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus finds some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers. [Check library catalog.](#)

Everything on a Waffle Horvath, Polly

Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea. [Check library catalog.](#)

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup Creech, Sharon

With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door. [Check library catalog.](#)

Greetings from Nowhere O'Connor, Barbara

In North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains, a troubled boy and his mother, a

happy family seeking adventure, a man and his lonely daughter, and the widow who must sell the run-down motel that has been her home for decades, meet and are transformed by their shared experiences. [Check library catalog.](#)

Happy Birthday, Sophie Hartley Greene, Stephanie

A girl in a large family is looking forward to her first "double digit" birthday, but soon discovers that growing up brings some unwanted changes. [Check library catalog.](#)

Heads or Tails: Stories from the Sixth Grade (Jack Henry series; book

1) Gantos, Jack

Jack's diary helps him deal with his problems which include dog-eating alligators, a terror for an older sister, a younger brother who keeps breaking parts of himself, and next-door neighbors who are really weird. [Check library catalog.](#)

The Homework Machine Gutman, Dan

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments. [Check library catalog.](#)

How Tia Lola Came to Stay Alvarez, Julia

Although ten-year-old Miguel is at first embarrassed by his colorful aunt, Tia Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother, his sister, and him after his parents' divorce, he learns to love her. [Check library catalog.](#)

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period Choldenko, Gennifer

Kirsten and Walk, seventh-graders at 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 uncover a long-kept secret about themselves. [Check library catalog.](#)

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (Joey Pigza series; book 1) Gantos, Jack

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired. [Check library catalog.](#)

Just Grace (Just Grace series; book 1) Harper, Charise Mericle

Misnamed by her teacher, seven-year-old Just Grace prides herself on being

empathetic, but when she tries to help a neighbor feel better, her good intentions backfire. [Check library catalog.](#)

Lawn Boy Paulsen, Gary

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business. [Check library catalog.](#)

The Lemonade War Davies, Jacqueline

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars. [Check library catalog.](#)

Listen! Tolan, Stephanie

During her solitary convalescence from a crippling accident, twelve-year-old Charley finds a wild dog, and the arduous process of training him leads her to explore her feelings about her mother's death two years earlier. [Check library catalog.](#)

Loser Spinelli, Jerry

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself. [Check library catalog.](#)

Maniac Magee Spinelli, Jerry

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. [Check library catalog.](#)

No Talking! Clements, Andrew

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest. [Check library catalog.](#)

Olive's Ocean Henkes, Kevin

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer. [Check library catalog.](#)

Paint the Wind Ryan, Pam Munoz

After her overprotective grandmother has a stroke, Maya, an orphan, leaves her

extremely restricted life in California to stay with her mother's family on a remote Wyoming ranch, where she discovers a love of horses and encounters a wild mare that her mother once rode. [Check library catalog.](#)

The Penderwicks (sequel The Penderwicks on Gardam Street) Birdsall, Jeanne  
While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. [Check library catalog.](#)

Project Mulberry Park, Linda Sue  
While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more. Between the chapters are short dialogues between the author and main character about the writing of the book. [Check library catalog.](#)

Locomotion Woodson, Jacqueline  
In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school. [Check library catalog.](#)

Mockingbird Erskine, Kathryn  
Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father. [Check library catalog.](#)

Moving Day (Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls series; book 1) Cabot, Meg  
Nine-year-old Allie Finkle has rules for everything and is even writing her own rule book, but her world is turned upside-down when she learns that her family is moving across town, which will mean a new house, school, best friend, and plenty of new rules. [Check library catalog.](#)

Out of My Mind Draper, Sharon  
Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a device that will allow her to speak for the first time. [Check library catalog.](#)

Replay Creech, Sharon  
While preparing for a role in the school play, twelve-year-old Leo finds an autobiography that his father wrote as a teenager and ponders the ways people change as they grow up. [Check library catalog.](#)

Rules Lord, Cynthia

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. [Check library catalog.](#)

Saffy's Angel (Casson family series; book 1) McKay, Hilary

After learning that she was adopted, thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy where she was born to find a special momento of her past. [Check library catalog.](#)

Sand Dollar Summer Jones, Kimberly

When twelve-year-old Lise spends the summer on an island in Maine with her self-reliant mother and bright--but oddly mute--younger brother, her formerly safe world is complicated by an aged Indian neighbor, her mother's childhood friend, and a hurricane. [Check library catalog.](#)

Scat Hiaason, Carl

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing. [Check library catalog.](#)

Seaglass Summer Banerjee, Anjali

While spending a month on an island off the coast of Washington helping in her Uncle Sanjay's veterinary clinic, eleven-year-old Poppy Ray soon questions her decision to follow in her uncle's footsteps. [Check library catalog.](#)

Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time Yee, Lisa

After flunking sixth-grade English, basketball prodigy Stanford Wong struggles to pass summer-school, keep his failure secret from his friends, and satisfy his demanding father. [Check library catalog.](#)

A Step From Heaven An, Na

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America. [Check library catalog.](#)

Touch Blue Lord, Cynthia

When the state of Maine threatens to shut down their island's one-room schoolhouse because of dwindling enrollment, eleven-year-old Tess, a strong believer in luck, and her family take in a trumpet-playing foster child, to increase the school's population. [Check library catalog.](#)

Surviving the Applewhites Tolan, Stephanie

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had. [Check library catalog.](#)

Wild Girl Giff, Patricia Reilly

When twelve-year-old Lidie leaves Brazil to join her father and brother on a horse ranch in New York, she has a hard time adjusting to her changed circumstances, as does a new horse that has come to the ranch. [Check library catalog.](#)

The Year of the Dog Lin, Grace

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life. [Check library catalog.](#)