

# Finding Diverse Books for Kids 2022

## GRADES 6-8

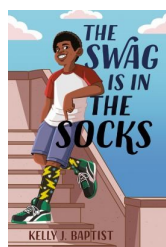


**Asher, Diana Harmon**

### Upstaged

Painfully shy seventh-grader Shira Gordon is cast in a small role in The Music Man and also as understudy for the lead, played by diva Monica Manley, who becomes the victim of a prankster.

*Religion: Jewish*



**Baptist, Kelly J.**

### The Swag Is in the Socks

Twelve-year-old Xavier Moon gets the courage to step out of the shadows when his great-uncle gives him some outlandish socks and some even stranger requests.

*Race & Ethnicity: Black*



**Faruqi, Reem**

### Unsettled

Young Nurah reluctantly moves with her family from Karachi, Pakistan, to Peachtree City, Georgia, but, after some ups and downs, begins to feel at home.

*Citizenship Status*

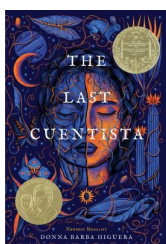


**Florence, Debbie Michiko**

### Just Be Cool, Jenna Sakai

Jenna tries to keep her feelings bottled up after a breakup, until a personal essay assignment and a cute—but slightly annoying—boy force her to rethink her strategy.

*Race & Ethnicity: Asian & Pacific Islander*



**Higuera, Donna Barba**

### The Last Cuentista

Twelve-year-old storyteller Petra Peña escapes the destruction of Earth on a cryogenic spaceflight and awakens hundreds of years in the future to discover she's the only person on the ship who remembers life before.

*Race & Ethnicity: Latinx*

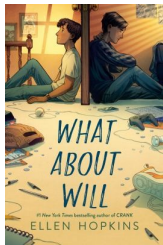


**Higuera, Donna Barba**

### Lupe Wong No Baila / Lupe Wong Won't Dance

Lupe Wong, who dreams of being the first female pitcher in Major League Baseball, risks a trip to meet her idol Fu Li Hernandez when she protests the square dancing requirement in her PE class.

*Language (Spanish)*



**Hopkins, Ellen**  
**What About Will**

Trace tries to cover for his beloved older brother, Will, after a brain injury during a football game—and an addition to pain medication—changes Will's mood and behavior.

*Disability*



**Lukoff, Kyle**  
**Too Bright to See**

In the summer before middle school, eleven-year-old Bug must contend with best friend Moira suddenly caring about clothes, makeup, and boys; a ghost haunting; and the truth about Bug's gender identity.

*Gender Identity & Sexuality*



**Mercado, Yehudi**  
**Chunky**

Hudi would rather practice his stand-up comedy routines, but (unsuccessfully) tries a variety of sports to address his doctor's concerns about his weight and live up to his athletic dad's expectations.

*Intersectionality*



**Paulsen, Gary**  
**How To Train Your Dad**

Fed up with his dad's single-minded pursuit of off-the-grid living and worried about what his classmates think of him, Carl tries to change his dad's behavior using tips from a puppy-training manual.

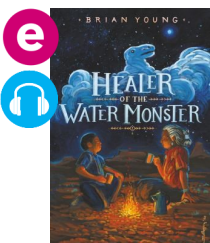
*Income Inequality*



**Siddiqui, Maleeha**  
**Barakah Beats**

After years of attending an Islamic school, Nimra has trouble adjusting to public school until she joins an eighth-grade Muslim boy band—despite the fact that her family's Islamic traditions forbid making music.

*Religion: Muslim*



**Young, Brian**  
**Healer of the Water Monster**

Nathan, a seemingly ordinary Navajo boy, must save the life of a Water Monster—and help his uncle suffering from addiction—by discovering his own bravery and boundless love.

*Race & Ethnicity: Indigenous*



**e-book  
available**



**audiobook  
available**



**graphic  
novel**



**Spanish**