



Realistic Fiction

This genre consists of stories that could have actually occurred to people or animals in believable settings. The stories resemble real life, and fictional characters react similarly to real people. Also referred to as Contemporary Fiction.

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
	EASY	
PreK - 2	Alemagna, Béatrice. <i>On a Magical Do-Nothing Day</i> . New York: Harper, 2017. Sent outside by their mother on a rainy day, a child is dismayed when their handheld game falls into the pond before they encounter giant snails, wet mushrooms, and other elements that awaken them to the sensory aspects of nature.	E AL255O
K - 3	Barnes, Derrick D. <i>Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut</i> . Chicago, IL: Bolden, 2017. Celebrates the magnificent feeling that comes from walking out of a barber shop with newly-cut hair.	E B261C
K - 2	Boelts, Maribeth. <i>A Bike Like Sergio's</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2016. Ruben feels like he is the only kid without a bike. His friend Sergio reminds him that his birthday is coming, but Ruben knows that the kinds of birthday gifts he and Sergio receive are not the same. After all, when Ruben's mom sends	E B6333BI

him to Sonny's corner store for groceries, sometimes she doesn't have enough money for everything on the list. So, when Ruben sees a dollar bill fall out of someone's purse, he picks it up and puts it in his pocket. But when he gets home, he discovers it's not one dollar or even five or ten--it's a hundred-dollar bill, more than enough for a new bike just like Sergio's! But what about the crossed-off groceries? And what about the woman who lost her money?

Pre – K Castillo, Lauren. *Nana in the City*. Boston: Clarion Books, 2014. E
C2786N

A young boy is frightened by how busy and noisy the city is when he goes there to visit his Nana, but she makes him a fancy red cape that keeps him from being scared as she shows him how wonderful a place it is.

PreK - 12 Cole, Rachael. *City Moon*. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2017. E
C6761C

As they take a nighttime walk around their neighborhood looking for the elusive moon, a little boy asks his mother simple questions about it, and she patiently answers every one.

K - 2 Cooper, Floyd. *The Ring Bearer*. New York: Philomel Books, 2017. E
C7851R

Jackson's mom is getting married, and Jackson is nervous about his role and his new family.

PreK - 2 Cornwall, Gaia. *Jabari Jumps*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2017. E
C8164J

Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board. He's finished his swimming lessons and passed his swim test, and he's a great jumper, so he's not scared at all. "Looks easy," says Jabari, watching the other kids take their turns. But when his dad squeezes his hand, Jabari squeezes back. He needs to figure out what kind of special jump to do anyway, and he should probably do some stretches before climbing up onto the diving board. In a tale of overcoming your fears, Gaia Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy.

K- 3 Courgeon, Rémi. *Feather*. Brooklyn, NY: Enchanted Lion Books, 2017. E
C8341F

Paulina, nicknamed Feather, leaves her piano to take up boxing, showing her father and brothers that she will stand up for herself.

1 - 3 Daly, Cathleen. *Emily's Blue Period*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2014. E
D176E

After her parents get divorced, Emily finds comfort in making and learning about art.

K - 2	de la Peña, Matt. <i>Last Stop on Market Street</i> . New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2015.	E D3706L
	Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty -- and fun -- in their routine and the world around them.	
K - 3	Durango, Julie. <i>The One Day House</i> . Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2017.	E D9319O
	A little boy promises his beloved friend, an elderly lady, that one day he will fix up her old house--and his words inspire the other people in the neighborhood to pitch in and get it done.	
PreK - 1	Edwards, Karl Newsom. <i>I Got a New Friend</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2017.	E ED9695I
	As a little girl plays with her new puppy, they get to know one another. She learns how much work a puppy can be, but she also learns how to take care of it.	
PreK -2	Engle, Margarita. <i>All the Way to Havana</i> . New York: Godwin Books, 2017.	E EN35A
	A boy helps his father keep their very old car running as they make a trip to Havana for his newborn cousin's zero-year birthday.	
PreK - 1	Fogliano, Julie. <i>When's My Birthday?</i> New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2017.	E F689W
	Children excitedly discuss the details of their upcoming birthdays.	
K - 3	Godin, Thelma Lynne. <i>The Hula-Hoopin' Queen</i> . New York: Lee & Low Books Inc., 2014.	E G544H
	Kameeka yearns to continue her hula hooping competition with her rival, Jamara, rather than help prepare for Miz Adeline's birthday party, and "the itch" almost ruins the party before the girls learn who the real winner is.	
PreK - 2	Kraegel, Kenneth. <i>Green Pants</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2017.	E K8551G
	Jameson refuses to wear pants that are not green, until he has to choose between wearing his green pants and wearing a tuxedo with black pants so that he can be in his cousin's wedding.	

1 - 2	McDonald, Megan. <i>Jessica Finch in Pig Trouble</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014.	E M14572J
	With her birthday coming up, Jessica hopes that, just maybe, her present will be a real-live potbellied pig. Jessica can hardly wait for her party with Judy Moody and all their friends. But Judy Moody is acting like a pig-head, and Jessica UN-invites her from the party. To make matters worse, Jessica has snooped around the house and has found zero sign of a pig present. Could her birthday be any more of a disaster?	
1 - 3	McNamara, Margaret. <i>A Poem in Your Pocket</i> . New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015.	E M2325PO
	Elinor is used to doing very well in school, but as Poem in Your Pocket Day approaches, bringing an opportunity to meet areal poet, her struggle to write a perfect poem causes Elinor's confidence to falter, despite Mr. Tiffin's guidance and reassurance.	
PreK - K	O'Neill, Alexis. <i>The Recess Queen</i> . New York: Scholastic, 2002.	E ON26R
	Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until a new girl arrives and challenges Jean's status as the Recess Queen.	
PreK - 2	Peete, Holly Robinson. <i>My Brother Charlie</i> . New York: Scholastic Press, 2010.	E P3475M
	A girl tells what it is like living with her twin brother who has autism and sometimes finds it hard to communicate with words, but who, in most ways, is just like any other boy.	
PreK - 3	Santat, Dan. <i>Are We There Yet?</i> New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2016.	E SA593AR
	A boy goes on a long car ride to visit his grandmother and discovers time moves faster or slower depending on how bored he is.	
PreK - 2	Sarah, Linda. <i>Big Friends</i> . New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2016.	E SA7135B
	Best friends Etho and Birt love going up Sudden Hill and sitting in simple cardboard boxes imagining they are kings, soldiers, astronauts, or pirates until Shu asks to join them, and their "two-by-two rhythm" is disturbed.	
K - 2	Snyder, Laurel. <i>Charlie & Mouse</i> . San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books,	E

2017.

SN926CH01

Charlie and Mouse, two young brothers, enjoy a day out together, attending an imaginary party and collecting rocks.

K - 2

Spinelli, Eileen. *When No One is Watching*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2013.

E
SP46WH

When alone, a young girl enjoys dancing, singing, growling, and cheering but when anyone other than her best friend is watching, she is quiet and shy.

FICTION

9 - 12

Bennett, Jenn. *Alex, Approximately*. New York: Simon Pulse, 2017.

F
B4395A

Seventeen-year-old Bailey moves to California to live with her father and, perhaps, finally meet an online friend and fellow film buff, but soon finds herself attracted to an annoying co-worker.

8 - 12

Benway, Robin. *Far From the Tree*. New York: HarperTeen, 2017.

F
B447F

Grace, adopted at birth, is raised as an only child. At sixteen she's just put her own baby up for adoption, and now is looking for her biological family. She discovers Maya, her loudmouthed younger bio sister who was also adopted; and Joaquin, their stoic older bio brother, who has no interest in bonding over their shared biological mother after seventeen years in the foster care system. Grace struggles between cautious joy at having found them, and the true meaning of family in all its forms.

5 - 8

Dooley, Sarah. *Ashes to Asheville*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2017.

F
D7207A

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.

1 - 3

Henkes, Kevin. *The Year of Billy Miller*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2013.

F
H3893Y

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons.

- 9 - 12 Tamani, Liara. *Calling My Name*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2017. F
T1509C
- Taja Brown, growing up in a conservative and tightly knit African American family, battles family expectations to discover a sense of self and find her unique voice and purpose.
- 3 - 5 Tan, Susan. *Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2017. F
T1536C
- A half-Chinese, half-Caucasian girl's 'memoir' about a new sibling, being biracial, and her path to literary greatness
- 5 - 8 Wolk, Lauren. *Beyond the Bright Sea*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2017. F
W8347B
- Twelve-year-old orphan Crow embarks on a journey to discover who her parents were and why they abandoned her as an infant.
- 9 - 12 Zoboi, Ibi Aanu. *American Street*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2017. F
Z71A
- On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find une belle vie -- a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola's mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit's West Side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?

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