



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# MPS READS!

*Selections for December, 2020*



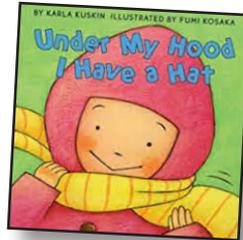
Help children get excited about reading! Each month, a list of featured books will be available to: Assist teachers, librarians, and families in finding quality books to encourage independent reading; offer titles that allow students to see themselves, explore other cultures, and discover more about the world in which they live; and ignite a passion for reading.

## PRESCHOOL

### *Under My Hood I Have a Hat*

by Karla Kuskin

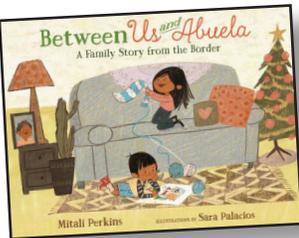
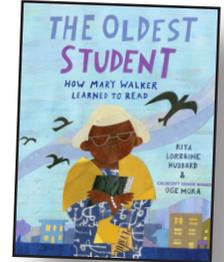
Winter is here and it's time to put on your gloves and mittens and scarf and hat. In this book, a child describes the many layers of clothing needed to brave the winter weather.



### *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*

by Rita Lorraine Hubbard

In 1848, Mary Walker was born into slavery. At age 15, she was freed, and by age 20, she was married and had her first child. By age 68, she had worked cooking, cleaning, babysitting, and selling sandwiches. At 114, she was the last member of her family. And at 116, she learned to read.



### *Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border*

by Mitali Perkins

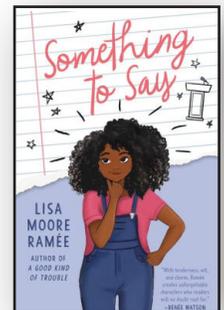
It's almost time for Christmas, and Maria is traveling with her mother and younger brother, Juan, to visit their grandmother on the border of California and Mexico. For the few minutes they can share along the fence, Maria and her brother plan to exchange stories and Christmas gifts with their grandmother. But when Juan's gift is too big to fit through the fence, Maria makes it into a kite that soars over the iron bars.

## INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 3 – 5)

### *Something to Say*

by Lisa Moore Ramée

When a new student shows up at school—a boy named Aubrey with fiery red hair and a smile that won't quit—Jenae can't figure out why he seems determined to be her friend. When the two are paired up for a class debate, Jenae worries their friendship is over. Aubrey is desperate to win a coveted spot on the debate team. Jenae would do almost anything to avoid speaking in front of an audience—including risking the first real friendship she's ever had.

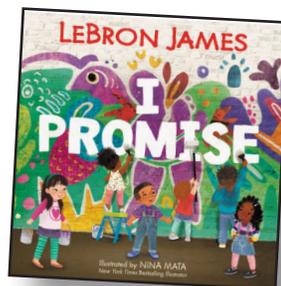


## PRIMARY (GRADES KINDERGARTEN – 2)

### *I Promise*

by LeBron James

This book follows a diverse group of children and encourages them to be resilient, respectful, imaginative, and true to themselves. No matter who you are or where you're from, kindness and acceptance can lead to excellence.



### *The Musician*

by Xuefeng Liu

On the night of the Moon Festival, a young musician named Yu Boya encounters a woodcutter who admires Boya's music. Their friendship deepens and Boya vows to play the song for his new friend every year on the festival night. Upon hearing of his friend's death, Boya smashes his instrument and never plays again. To this day, the word for "close friendship" means "understanding the music."

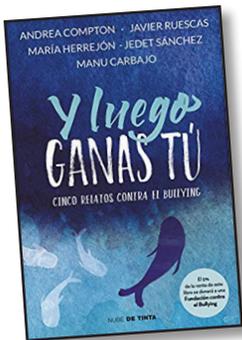
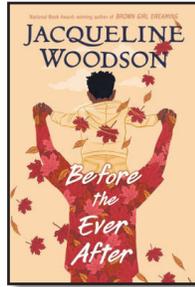


## MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6 – 8)

### ***Before the Ever After***

by Jacqueline Woodson

For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. But lately, his dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of the head injuries his dad sustained during his football career. ZJ can understand that—but it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. ZJ must figure out how to hold on to family traditions and memories of the glory days that his father is beginning to forget. Can those happy feelings ever be reclaimed when they are all so busy aching for the past?



### ***Y luego ganas tú: 5 historias contra el bullying***

by Varios autores

Uno de cada cinco niños en España sufrirá bullying a lo largo de su vida escolar.

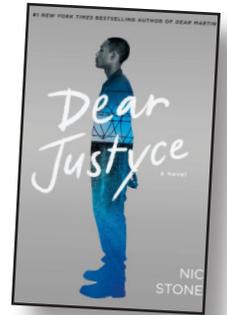
Cinco influencers de éxito se unen en este libro para contar cinco historias de superación del acoso, algunas de ellas autobiográficas.

## HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 – 12)

### ***Dear Justyce***

by Nic Stone

Vernell LaQuan Banks and Justyce McAllister grew up a block apart in Atlanta. Years later, Justyce walks the illustrious halls of Yale University and Quan sits behind bars at the Fulton Regional Youth Detention Center.

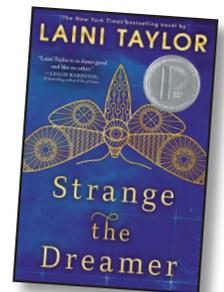


Through a series of flashbacks, vignettes, and letters to Justyce, Quan's story takes form. Troubles at home and misunderstandings at school give rise to police encounters and tough decisions. Then there's a dead cop and a weapon with Quan's prints on it. What leads a bright kid down a road to a murder charge? Not even Quan is sure.

### ***Strange the Dreamer/El soñador desconocido***

by Laini Taylor

The dream chooses the dreamer, not the other way around—and Lazlo Strange, war orphan and junior librarian, has always feared that his dream chose poorly. Since he was five years old, he's been obsessed with the mythic lost city of Weep, but it would take someone bolder than he to cross half the world in search of it. Then a stunning opportunity presents itself in the form of a hero called the Godslayer and a band of legendary warriors, and Lazlo must seize his chance or lose his dream forever.



What happened in Weep two hundred years ago to cut it off from the rest of the world? And who is the blue-skinned goddess who appears in Lazlo's dreams?

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