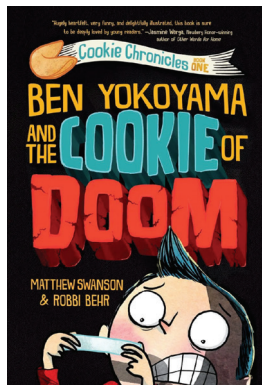


NWS Battle Of The Books

Book List 2026



Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom

Swanson & Behr | Lexile 630L

When Ben reads his fortune-cookie fortune, he's alarmed and inspired. Immediately, he begins drafting a bucket list (finish his 1000-piece model of the Taj Mahal, eat an entire cake, etc....). As Ben dashes through his bucket list, he gets in and out of trouble with his family, friends, and neighbors...and sparks them to pursue their dreams. The clock is ticking. Will Ben get it all done in time?

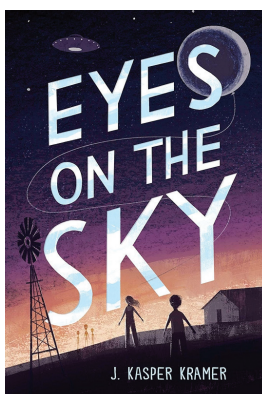
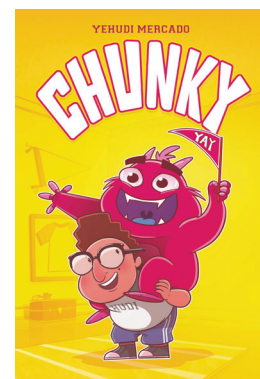
[2 e-books and 2 e-audio on Libby.](#) [1 Read-along.](#)

Chunky

Mercado | Lexile N/A

Hudi needs to lose weight, according to his doctors. His parents push him to try out for sports, where he meets Chunky, his imaginary friend and mascot. With Chunky by his side, Hudi has found the cheerleader he never had. Together they try baseball, then soccer, then swimming. The sports do not go well, but the two friends have a great time drawing and making jokes. Chunky encourages him to pursue his true love—comedy. But when Hudi's dad loses his job, it gets harder for Hudi to chart his own course, even with Chunky's guidance. Can Chunky help Hudi find his way?

[2 e-books on Libby.](#) [E-book on Hoopla.](#)



Eyes on the Sky

Kramer | Lexile N/A

Nothing ever happens in Roswell, New Mexico. Dorothy has lived her whole life on a rural ranch nearby, surrounded by difficult memories of the Great Depression. Her older brother Dwight is home safe from the war, but is no better to talk to than her pet sheep, Geraldine. Thankfully Dorothy has her experiments, like launching rockets off the top of her windmill. One night, she sends a gigantic weather balloon into the stratosphere. Suddenly, all the newspapers feature a flying saucer in their headlines, and Roswell is alight with gossip. When FBI agents start asking questions, Dorothy wonders whether she caused an incident or whether there is something really out there.

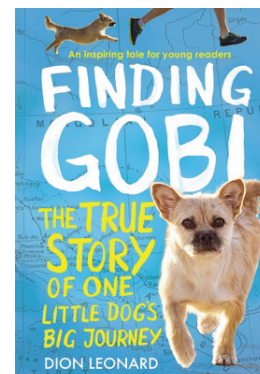
[2 e-books and 2 e-audio on Libby.](#)

Finding Gobi

Dion Leonard | Lexile 680L

This is the miraculous tale of Dion Leonard, an ultramarathon runner, who crosses paths with a stray dog while competing in a 155-mile race through the Gobi Desert in China. The lovable pup appeared and followed Dion for 77 miles—over the Tian Shan mountains and across massive sand dunes. However, just when Dion is planning to give her a new home, the newly-named Gobi goes missing! Dion, with the help of strangers and a viral outpouring on the internet, tries to reunite with the dog that changed his life.

[Young Readers edition: 1 e-book and 1 e-audio on Libby.](#) [E-book and e-audio on Hoopla.](#)





Gregor the Overlander

Collins / Lexile 690L

Get ready for adventure! When Gregor falls through a grate in his apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland, where rats, bats, and cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans. This world is on the brink of war, and a prophecy foretells that Gregor has a role to play in Underland's future. Gregor wants no part of it—until he realizes it's the only way to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance. Reluctantly, Gregor embarks on a dangerous journey that will change both him and the Underland forever.

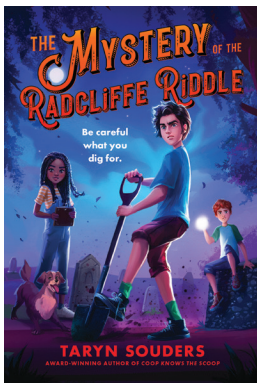
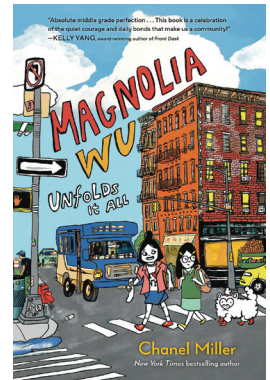
1 CD audiobook. Concurrent e-book and 2 e-audio on Libby. E-book on Hoopla.

Magnolia Wu Unfolds it All

Miller / Lexile 850L

In the heart of New York City, Magnolia Wu sits inside her parents' laundromat. She has pinned every lost sock from the laundromat onto a bulletin board in hopes that customers will return for them. But no one seems to have noticed the socks—or Magnolia. When Iris, a new girl from California, arrives, they set off across the city to solve the mystery of each missing sock. As Magnolia and Iris play detective, they find such interesting people but can they find their way to a new friendship?

2 e-books, 2 audio books on Libby. 1 Playaway.



The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle

Souders / Lexile 680L

Grady and his dad learn that the town oddball, Eudora “Kooky” Klinch, left them an old scrap of cloth in her will. Grady thinks that getting a weird piece of fabric from the 1700s is pretty lame, but the cloth may have a secret. The cloth comes with a note saying, “This is no ordinary piece of needlework. It's a treasure map. Riddles and Clues. To the victor go the riches.” With the help of his friends Thad, Clemmie, and the town dog Ophelia, Grady is determined to find the treasure. But when someone tries to break into his house one night, Grady realizes that he's not the only one who knows about the treasure map.

3 e-books and concurrent e-audio on Libby. E-book and e-audio on Hoopla.

The Wrong Way Home

O'Shaughnessy / Lexile 640L

Fern's lived at the Ranch, an off-the-grid, sustainable community in upstate New York, since she was six. The work is hard, but Fern admires the Ranch's leader, Dr. Ben. So when Fern's mother sneaks them away in the middle of the night and says Dr. Ben is dangerous, Fern doesn't believe it. Thrust into the outside world, Fern devises a plan to get back home. As time goes by, Fern sees good things in her new life—the library, a new friend, the ocean—and realizes some things she learned at the Ranch were not true. Should she stick with her plan to go home?

2 e-books and 2 audio books on Libby. 1 Playaway. 1 Read-along.



NWS Battle of the Books

A National Writers Series program
in partnership with Traverse Area District Library

battleofthebooksgt.org

Book Handout & Battle Kickoff: Jan. 17, 2026
Traverse Area District Library ~ Woodmere

Battle of the Books Tournament: Apr. 11, 2026
Traverse City West High School
(Not a TCAPS sponsored event)