Between Shades of Gray By Ruta Sepetys YA SEPETYS

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note.

Salt to the Sea By Ruta Sepetys YA SEPETYS

"As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers, only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull

All My Rage By Sabaa Tahir YA TAHIR

A family extending from Pakistan to California, deals with generations of young love, old regrets, and forgiveness.

This Place is Still Beautiful By XiXi Tian YA TIAN

Annalie is bubbly, sweet, and self-conscious, and passes for white, whereas her older sister Margaret is sharp, assertive, and looks just their Chinese mother. When their house is vandalized with a racial slur, Margaret tries to investigate while Annalie and their mother just want to move on. Their different approaches to dealing with the racism lead to friction and frustration.

We Are Not From Here By Jenny Torres Sanchez YA TORRES SANCHEZ

Crossing from Guatemala through Mexico, three teens follow the route of a perilous train system that might deliver them to a better life--if they survive the journey. With nothing but the bags on their backs and desperation drumming through their hearts, Pulga, Chico, and Pequeña know there is no turning back, despite the unknown that awaits them.

The Sun is Also a Star By Nicola Yoon YA YOON

Natasha, an immigrant from Jamaica, is a girl who believes in science and facts. Daniel has always been a good son and good student. But when he sees Natasha he forgets all that and believes there is something extraordinary in store for both of them.

American Street By Ibi Zoboi YA ZOBOI

When her mother is detained upon their arrival to the United States, Fabiola must navigate her loud American cousins, the grittiness of Detroit's west side, a new school, and a surprising romance all on her own.

Finding Refuge: Real-Life Immigration Stories From Young People By Victorya Rouse YA 305.9069 ROU

Victorya Rouse assembles a collection of true teen immigration stories essential for our times, complete with maps, context, and background on the refugees' home countries.

How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child By Sandra Uwiringiyimana YA 967.572 UWI

Uwiringiyimana recounts her escape from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where her mother and sister were gunned down, and Sandra herself barely escaped execution. With no home and no money, Sandra and her surviving family eventually made it to America, only to face yet another ethnic disconnect.

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Culture Shock: 'Tween and Teen Novels about Immigrants and Refugees

Galesburg Public Library Teen Scene



Love in English By Maria E. Andreu YA ANDREU

Ana moved to New Jersey from Argentina for her Junior year of high school. Though she is a poet and lover of language, she struggles with learning English. As her father accuses Ana of becoming too American, what does it mean when her feelings for her new friends Harrison and Neo start to change?

Home of the Brave By Katherine Applegate JFIC APPLEGATE

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

Watched By Marina Budhos YA BUDHOS

Far from the "model teen," Naeem moves fast to outrun the eyes of his hardworking Bangladeshi parents, their gossipy neighbors, and the other forms of surveillance in his immigrant neighborhood in Queens, but when his mistakes catch up with him and the police offer a dark deal, will Naeem be a hero or a traitor?

The Weight of Water By Sarah Crossan JFIC CROSSAN

Twelve-year-old Kasienka and her mother have immigrated to Coventry, England from Poland, searching for Kasienka's father, but everyone is unfriendly except for an African neighbor and a boy Kasienka meets at the swimming pool, which is her only refuge from an alien society.

Something in Between By Melissa de la Cruz YA DE LA CRUZ

After learning of her family's illegal immigrant status, Jasmine realizes that college may be impossible and that deportation is a real threat, uncertainties she endures as she falls for the son of a congressman who opposes an immigration reform bill.

Lobizona By Romina Garber YA GARBER

As an undocumented immigrant on the run from her father's Argentine crime-family, Manuela is confined to a small apartment and a small life in Miami. Then her surrogate grandmother is attacked, lifelong lies are exposed, and her mother is arrested by ICE. Without a home, without answers, Manu investigates the only clue she has about her past: a mysterious "Z" emblem.

Picture Us in the Light By Kelly Loy Gilbert YA GILBERT

Danny Cheng, a Chinese-American teen, grapples with a dangerous revelation about his parents' past, his plans for the future, and his feelings for his best friend, Harry Wong.

When You Ask Me Where I'm Going By Jasmin Kaur YA KAUR

Kiran flees a history of trauma and raises her daughter, Sahaara, while living undocumented in North America. Delving into current cultural conversations including sexual assault, mental health, feminism, and immigration, this narrative of resilience, healing, empowerment, and love will galvanize readers to fight for what is right in their world.

Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet By Laekan Zea Kemp YA KEMP

Penelope has always dreamed of opening her own pastelería next to her father's restaurant, Nacho's Tacos. But her traditional Mexican-American mom and dad have different plans. Xander is a new hire at Nacho's. For him, the job is an opportunity for a chance at a normal life, to settle in at his abuelo's, and to find the father who left him behind. When both the restaurant and Xander's immigrant status are threatened, he will do whatever it takes to protect his new found family and himself.

A Long Walk to Water By Linda Sue Park YA PARK

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan.

Rani Patel in Full Effect By Sonia Patel YA PATEL

Rani Patel, almost seventeen and living on remote Moloka'i island, is oppressed by the cultural norms of her Gujarati immigrant parents but when Mark, an older man, draws her into new experiences red flags abound.

The Red Pencil By Andrea Davis Pinkney JFIC PINKNEY

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder.

While You Were Dreaming By Alisha Rai YA RAI

Sixteen-year-old Indian American Sonia, who has undocumented family members, goes viral on TikTok after saving her crush James's life.

Shooting Kabul By N. H. Senzai JFIC SENZAI

Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.