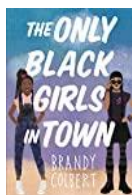


**Grades K-5 Realistic Fiction Reading List 2023**  
**Akron-Summit County Public Library**



Cisneros, Ernesto. **Falling Short**, 2022. JFIC

Best friends Isaac and Marco face various challenges in sixth grade, such as Isaac getting better grades, Marco winning a spot on the basketball team, and both seeing their efforts make a change in their respective family lives. They hope their friendship and support for one another will be enough to help them from falling short.



Colbert, Brandy. **The Only Black Girls in Town**, 2020. JFIC

In a predominately white California beach town, the only two black seventh-graders, Alberta and Edie, find hidden journals that uncover family secrets and speak to race relations in the past.



\*Dominguez, Angela. **Stella Diaz to the Rescue**, 2022. JFIC

Stella has some resolutions for the new year that will make it the best one ever. Along the way, she learns that sometimes the best way to help others is just to be there for them when times get tough.



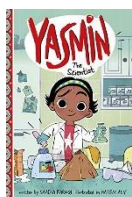
\*Draper, Sharon. **Out of My Heart**, 2022. JFIC

Because she loves horses but is scared of them, Melody wants to conquer her fears, so she hopes a summer camp will be the place to welcome someone with cerebral palsy who wants to learn to ride.



Evans, Karina. **Grow Up, Tahlia Wilkins!**, 2022. JFIC

Twelve-year-old Tahlia Wilkins has to deal with getting her first period just before the biggest pool party of the year.



\*Faruqi, Saadia. **Yasmin the Scientist**, 2021. JRDR

Everyone seems to have an idea for the science fair except for Yasmin, but after some failed experiments Yasmin's snack break with Nani inspires an idea.



Fipps, Lisa. **Starfish**, 2020. JFIC

Told in verse, Ellie lives by Fat Girl Rules to avoid being bullied, but with the support of her dad, her therapist, and her neighbor Catalina, can Ellie set aside these rules and just be herself?



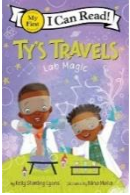
Harrell, Rob. **Wink**, 2020. JFIC

After being diagnosed with a rare eye cancer, twelve-year-old Ross discovers how music, art, and true friends can push him through treatment and survive middle school.



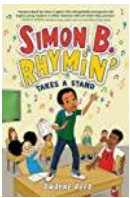
Lukoff, Kyle. **Different Kinds of Fruit**, 2022. JFIC

When Annabelle learns that her father shares something big--and surprising--in common with her new nonbinary friend, she begins to see herself, and her family, in a whole new light.



\*Lyons, Kelly Starling. **Ty's Travels: Lab Magic**, 2022. JRDR

Ty and Corey love to visit the museum. When they step through the doors, they become scientists. They study bugs and hunt for fossils. They catch the wind. When Ty can't participate in a lab activity because of his age, he uses his big imagination at home. Discovering new things is so much fun!



\*Reed, Dwayne. **Simon B. Rhymin' Takes a Stand**, 2022. JFIC

When Simon B. Rhymin' and his crew notice inequality in their school and neighborhood, they use rhymes to help bring their community together.



Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Black Brother, Black Brother**, 2020. JFIC

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former champion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place.



Stead, Rebecca. **The List of Things That Will Not Change**, 2020. JFIC

Despite her parents' divorce, her father's coming out as gay, and his plans to marry his boyfriend, ten-year-old Bea is reassured by her parents' unconditional love, excited about getting a stepsister, and haunted by something she did last summer at her father's lake house.



Sumner, Jamie. **The Summer of June**, 2022. JFIC

Eleven-year-old June is determined to beat her anxiety and become the lion she knows she is, instead of the mouse everyone sees, and with the help of Homer Juarez, the poetry-reciting soccer star, she starts a secret library garden and hatches a plan to make her dreams come true.



\*Watson, Renee. **Ryan Hart 3: Ways to Share Joy**, 2022. JFIC

Ryan is caught between two friends who both want to be her best friend, her brother ruins her latest baking project, and a classmate keeps teasing her at school, yet Ryan still looks for a way to see the bright side of things and not let anything steal her joy.



\*Yang, Kelly. **Front Desk 4: Key Player**, 2022. JFIC

The Women's World Cup is coming to Southern California, and everyone is soccer-crazy -- especially Mia Tang! The U.S. is playing China in the finals, and Mia feels like her two identities are finally coming together. As Mia aims for her goals, she'll have to face prejudice, discrimination, and her own fears. But if anyone can find a way to win, it's Mia Tang!