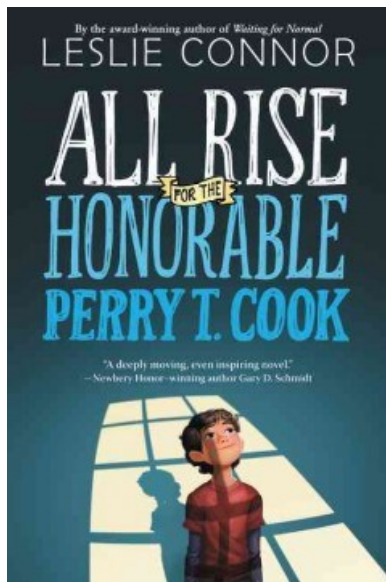


# READING INCARCERATION

*A book list for those impacted by incarceration or wanting to know more*

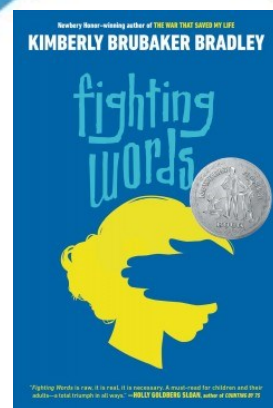
## MIDDLE GRADE



### [All Rise for the Honorable Perry Cook](#)

by Leslie Connor

Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. That is, until a new district attorney discovers the truth--and Perry is removed from the facility and forced into a foster home. When Perry moves to the "outside" world, he feels trapped. Des-



### [Fighting Words](#) By Kimberly Bradley

Depending on an older sister who protected her when their mother went to prison and their mother's boyfriend committed a terrible act, 10-year-old Della tries to figure out what to do when her older sister

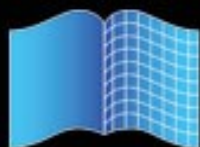


### [From the Desk of Zoe Washington](#) by Janae Marks

Avid baker Zoe Washington receives a letter on her twelfth birthday from her biological father, who is in prison for a terrible crime.

### [Land of the Cranes](#) by Aida Salazar

A heart-wrenchingly beautiful, this story told in verse is about a young Latinx girl who learns to hold on to hope and love even in the darkest of places: a family detention center for migrants and refugees.



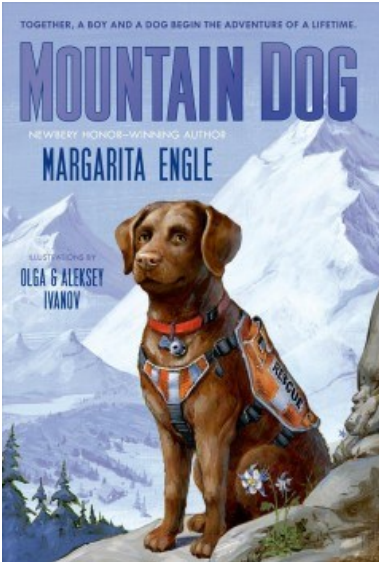
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## MIDDLE GRADE

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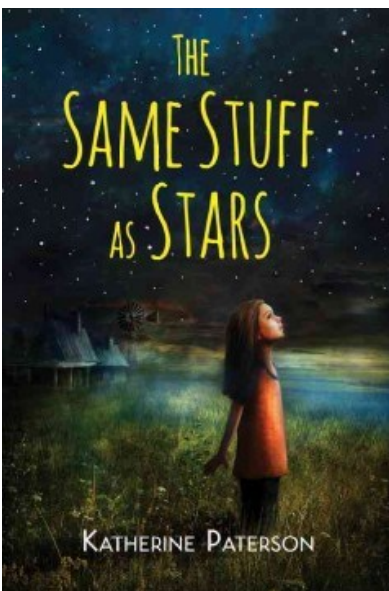


### [Mountain Dog](#) by Margarita Engle

When his mother is sent to jail in Los Angeles, eleven-year-old Tony goes to live with his forest ranger great-uncle in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where Tony experiences unconditional love for the first time through his friendship

### [Pieces of Why](#) by K. L. Going

Twelve-year-old Tia lives in a slum in New Orleans with her mother, and her whole world revolves around singing in the gospel choir with her best friend, Keisha--but when practice is interrupted by a shooting outside the church, and a baby is killed, Tia finds that she cannot sing, and she is forced to confront her feelings about her incarcerated fa-

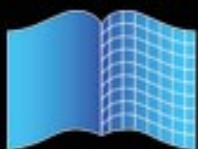


### [Ruby on the Outside](#) by Nora Baskin

Ruby's mom is in prison, and to tell anyone the truth is to risk true friendship in this novel that accurately and sensitively addresses a subject too often overlooked.

### [The Same Stuff As Stars](#) by Katherine Paterson

Angel Morgan needs help. Daddy is in jail, and Mama has abandoned her and her little brother, leaving them with their great-grandmother. Grandma is aged and poor, and doesn't make any attempt to care for the children—that's left up to Angel, even though she is not yet twelve. The only bright spot in Angel's existence is the Star Man, a mysterious stranger who appears on clear nights and teaches her all about the stars and planets and constellations. "We're made out of



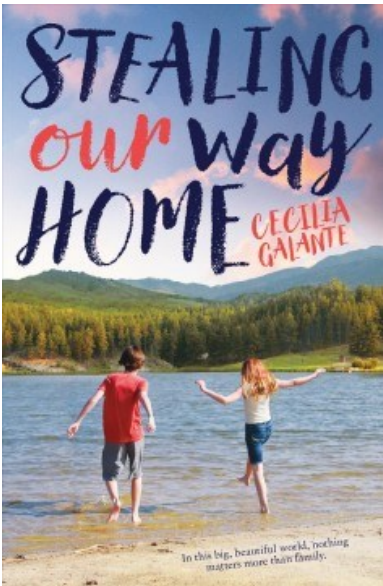
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# READING INCARCERATION

# MIDDLE GRADE

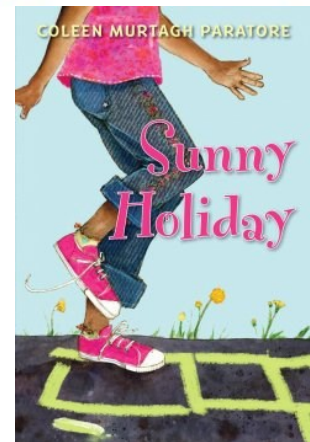
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## [Stealing Our Way Home](#)

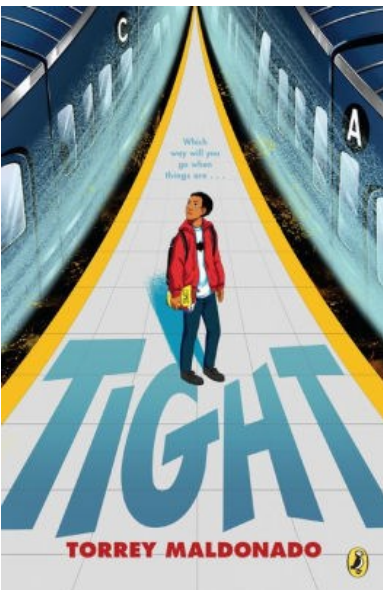
by Cecilia Galante

When Pippa and Jack's mother died of cancer their world seemed to fall apart: Pippa stopped talking altogether, and Jack started picking fights, and neither of them knows how to cope with the painful and awkward sympathy from their friends and classmates--but when they learn that their father's business is failing and he is growing desperate for money they realize that there is a pos-



## [Sunny Holiday](#) by Coleen Paratore

Spunky third-grader Sunny Holiday tries to make the best out of every situation, and even though her father is in prison, she and her

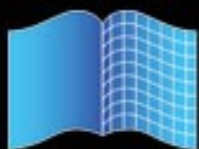


## [Tight](#) by Torrey Maldonado

After his quick-tempered father gets in a fight and is sent back to jail, sixth-grader Bryan, known for being quiet and thoughtful, snaps and follows new friend Mike into trouble.

## [What Do I Say About That?](#) by Julia Cook

This book takes a unique look at the internal struggles with which



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MIDDLE  
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## The Year The Swallows Came Early

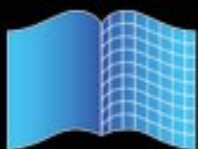
by Kathryn Fitzmaurice

After her father is sent to jail for gambling away the inheritance she planned to use for culinary school, eleven-year-old Groovy Robinson must decide if she can forgive the failings of someone she loves.



## Zebra Forest by Adina Gewirtz

When eleven-year-old Annie first started lying to her social worker, she had been taught by an expert: Gran. She told Annie and her little brother, Rew, the one thing they know about their father: that he was killed in a fight with an angry man who was sent away. Annie tells stories, as she and Rew laze under the birches and oaks of Zebra Forest -- stories about their father the pirate, or pilot, or secret agent. But then something shocking happens to unravel all their stories: a rattling at the back door, an escapee from the prison holding them hostage in their own home, four lives that will never be the same. Driven by suspense and psychological intrigue, this novel deftly portrays an unfolding standoff of truth against family secrets, and offers an affecting look at two re-



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