

He Who Dreams

Melanie Florence

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Keywords: dance, soccer, culture clash

He Who Dreams offers readers a fast-paced story with realistic indigenous content, connecting the book to contemporary discussions about indigenous issues in Canada and across Turtle Island.



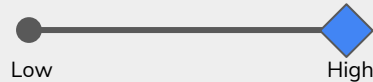
About the Author

Melanie Florence is an award-winning writer of Cree and Scottish heritage based in Toronto. She was close to her grandfather as a child, a relationship that sparked her interest in writing about Indigenous themes and characters.

Diverse Representation

Notable Features

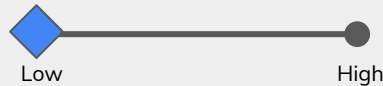
Race



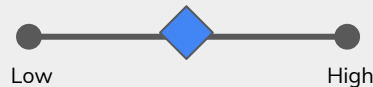
Gender



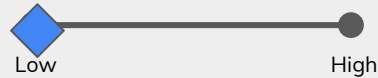
Sexual Orientation



Family Structure



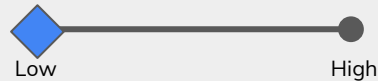
Language



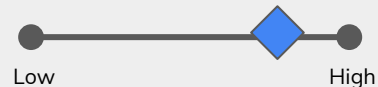
Violence



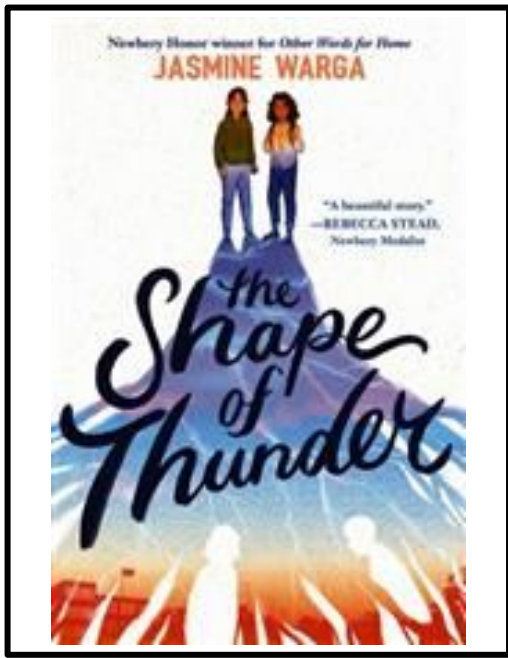
Romance



Cultural Practices



Juggling soccer, school, friends and family leaves John with little time for anything else. But one day at the local community center, following the sound of drums, he stumbles into an Indigenous dance class. Before he knows what's happening, John finds himself stumbling through beginner classes with a bunch of little girls, skipping soccer practice and letting his other responsibilities slide. When he attends a pow wow and witnesses a powerful performance, he realizes that he wants to be a dancer more than anything. But the nearest class for boys is at the Native Cultural Center in the city, and he still hasn't told his family or friends about his new passion. If he wants to dance, he will have to stop hiding. Between the mocking of his teammates and the hostility of the boys in his dance class, John must find a way to balance and embrace both the Irish and Cree sides of his heritage.



The Shape of Thunder

Jasmine Warga

Genre: Science Fiction

Keywords: school shooting, healing, friendship, time travel

A deeply moving story, told with exceptional grace, about friendship and loss—and how believing in impossible things can help us heal.

About the Author

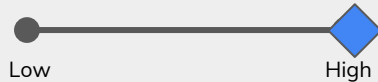
Jasmine Warga is the New York Times-bestselling and award-winning author of several middle grade and young adult novels. Warga was born in Cincinnati to an American mother and immigrant Jordanian father. After graduating college, Warga worked as a sixth grade science teacher in Texas. While still teaching, she began writing stories.



Diverse Representation

Notable Features

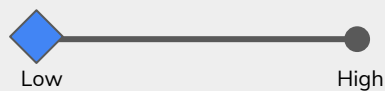
Race



Gender



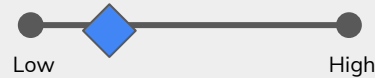
Sexual Orientation



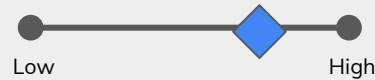
Family Structure



Language



Violence



Romance



School Shooting



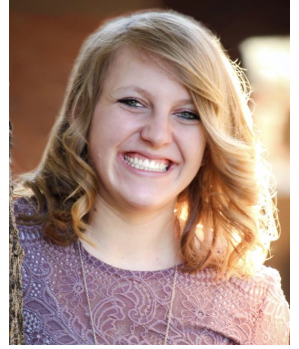
Cora hasn't spoken to her best friend, Quinn, in a year. Despite living next door to each other, they exist in separate worlds of grief. Cora is still grappling with the death of her beloved sister in a school shooting, and Quinn is carrying the guilt of what her brother did. On the day of Cora's twelfth birthday, Quinn leaves a box on her doorstep with a note. She has decided that the only way to fix things is to go back in time to the moment before her brother changed all their lives forever—and stop him. In spite of herself, Cora wants to believe. And so the two former friends begin working together to open a wormhole in the fabric of the universe. But as they attempt to unravel the mysteries of time travel to save their siblings, they learn that the magic of their friendship may actually be the key to saving themselves.

The Silence Between Us

Alison Gervais

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

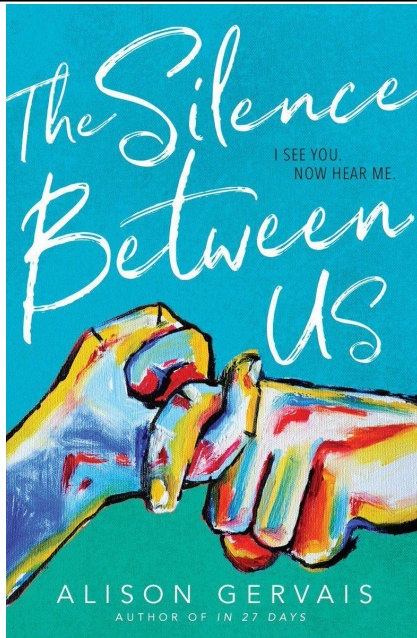
Keywords: Deafness, ASL, community, romance, family



Contemporary fiction fans will find it hard to put down this YA novel that doesn't shy away from issues including the challenges faced by those in the Deaf culture, relationship struggles, communication problems, and complicated families.

About the Author

Alison Gervais began writing at the age of five and gained recognition by posting her work on Wattpad in 2011. Alison self-identifies as hearing-impaired and currently lives on the East coast with her husband, their daughter, two cats, and one very mischievous German Shepherd.



Diverse Representation

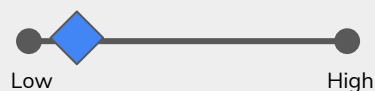
Race



Gender



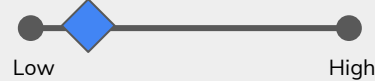
Sexual Orientation



Family Structure



Notable Features



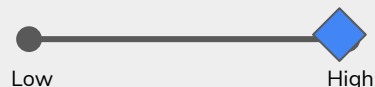
Language



Violence



Romance



Disability

Deaf teen Maya moves across the country and must attend a hearing school for the first time. As if that wasn't hard enough, she also has to adjust to the hearing culture, which she finds frustrating. As Maya looks past graduation and focuses on her future dreams, nothing, not even an unexpected romance, will derail her pursuits or cause her to question her own self worth.

Alison Gervais' *The Silence Between Us*, not only captures the anxiety most young people feel when they've been uprooted from their community of friends, but in Maya's case, it's exacerbated by the fact she is deaf and newly planted in a hearing school. As nervous as Maya is, her wonderful sense of humor enlivens the story for the reader. Gervais has a perfect grasp of the challenges facing Maya and fleshes them out empathetically. Her portrayal of Maya and the pitfalls she faces is spot on. More subtle is Maya's natural defensiveness even against those students who attempt to befriend her, throwing up barriers when she suspects pity as their motivation.

Look Both Ways

Jason Reynolds

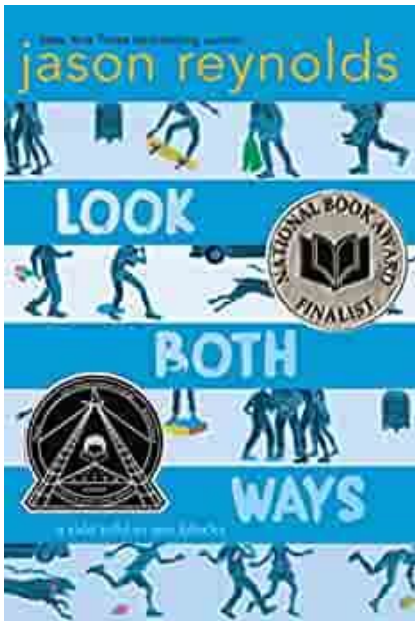
Genre: Short stories

Keywords: neighborhood, friends, school

Jason Reynolds conjures ten tales (one per block) about what happens after the dismissal bell rings, and brilliantly weaves them into one wickedly funny, piercingly poignant look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.

About the Author

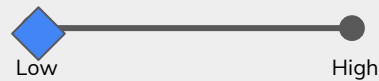
Jason Reynolds is an award-winning, internationally-celebrated author of young adult books. He wasn't into reading or writing as a boy, but that changed when he discovered his love for the lyrics and flow of Hip Hop.



Diverse Representation

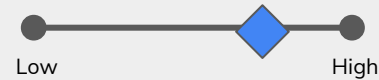
Notable Features

Race



Language

Gender



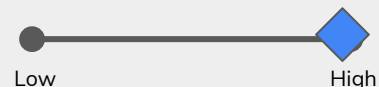
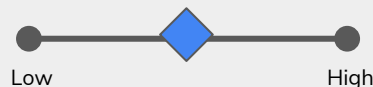
Violence

Sexual Orientation



Romance

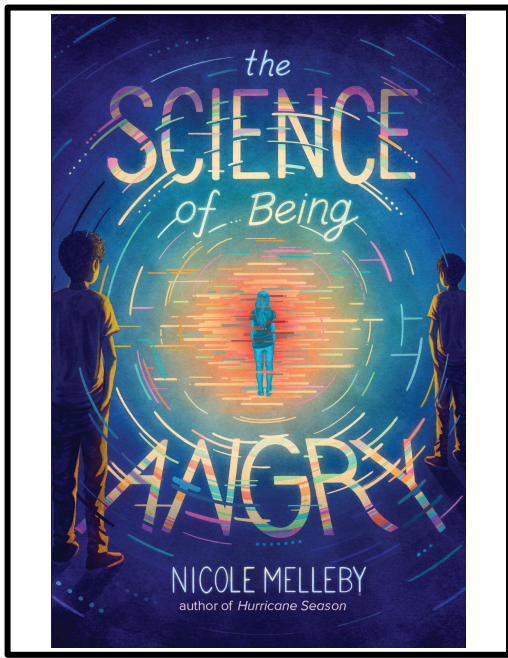
Family Structure



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This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy—

Talking about boogers.
Stealing pocket change.
Skateboarding.
Wiping out.
Braving up.
Executing complicated handshakes.
Planning an escape.
Making jokes.
Lotioning up.
Finding comfort.
But mostly, too busy walking home.



The Science of Being Angry

Nicole Melleby

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Keywords: adoption, genetics, emotions



The Science of Being Angry is a heartwarming story about what makes a family and what makes us who we are.

About the Author

Nicole Melleby, a Jersey native, is the author of highly praised middle-grade books, including the Lambda Literary finalist *Hurricane Season* and ALA Notable Children's book *How to Become a Planet*. She currently teaches at the Fairleigh Dickinson MFA Creative Writing program and lives with her wife and their cats, whose needs for attention oddly align with Nicole's writing schedule.

Diverse Representation

Notable Features

Race



Gender



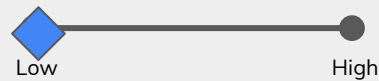
Sexual Orientation



Family Structure



Language



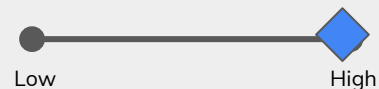
Violence



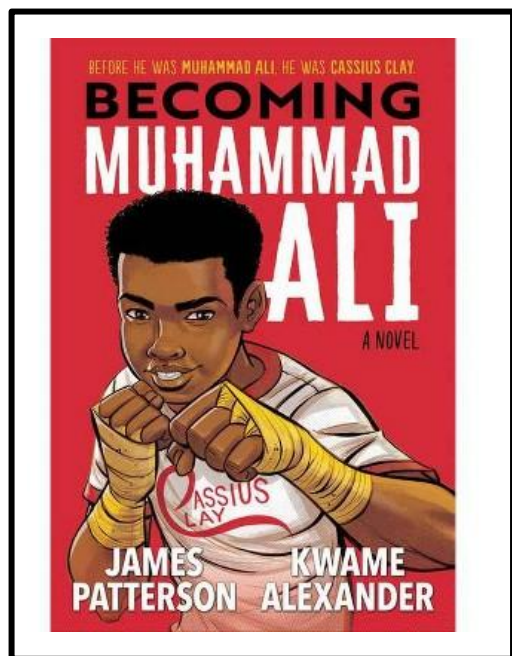
Romance



Emotions



Eleven-year-old Joey is angry. All the time. And she doesn't understand why. She has two loving moms, a supportive older half brother, and, as a triplet, she's never without company. Her life is good. But sometimes she loses her temper and lashes out...After a meltdown at Joey's apartment building leads to her family's eviction, Joey is desperate to figure out why she's so mad. A new unit in science class makes her wonder if the reason is genetics. Does she lose control because of something she inherited from the donor her mothers chose?

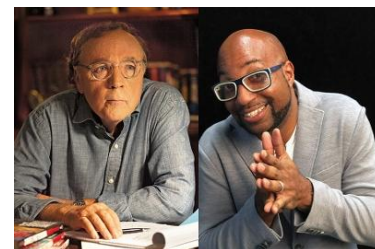


Becoming Muhammad Ali

James Patterson and Kwame Alexander

Genre: Biography/Historical Fiction

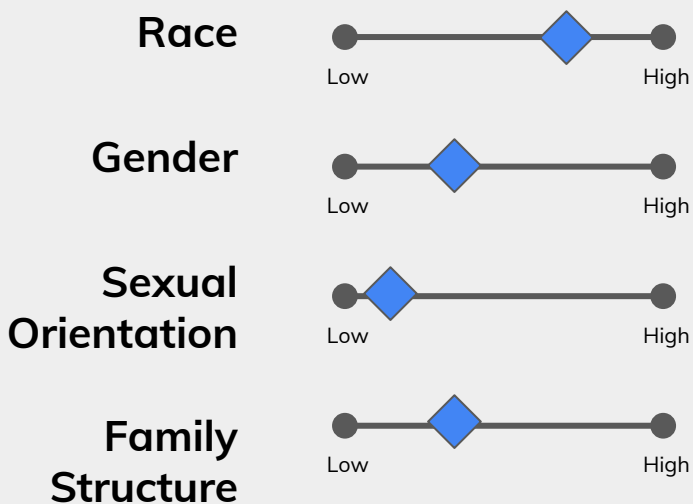
Keywords: sports, athlete, history, adolescence



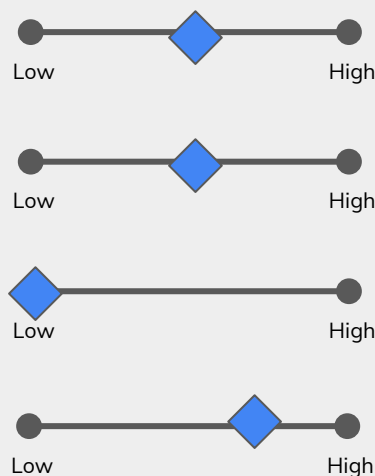
About the Authors

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, producer and #1 New York Times bestselling author of 39 books. In 2018, he opened the Barbara E. Alexander Memorial Library and Health Clinic in Ghana, as a part of LEAP for Ghana, an international literacy program he co-founded. James Patterson is one of the best-known and biggest-selling writers of all time. James is passionate about encouraging children to read. Inspired by his own son who was a reluctant reader, he also writes a range of books for young readers.

Diverse Representation



Notable Features



Language

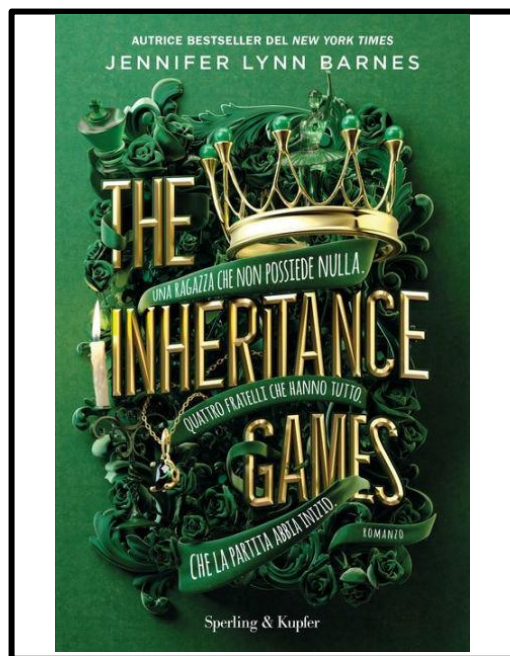
Violence

Romance

Racism

Before he was a household name, Cassius Clay was a kid with struggles like any other. Kwame Alexander and James Patterson join forces to vividly depict his life up to age seventeen in both prose and verse, including his childhood friends, struggles in school, the racism he faced, and his discovery of boxing. Readers will learn about Cassius' family and neighbors in Louisville, Kentucky, and how, after a thief stole his bike, Cassius began training as an amateur boxer at age twelve. Before long, he won his first Golden Gloves bout and began his transformation into the unrivaled Muhammad Ali.

Fully authorized by and written in cooperation with the Muhammad Ali estate, and vividly brought to life by Dawud Anyabwile's dynamic artwork, *Becoming Muhammad Ali* captures the budding charisma and youthful personality of one of the greatest sports heroes of all time.



The Inheritance Games

Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Genre: Mystery/Suspense

Keywords: puzzles, fortune, adventure

Don't miss this New York Times bestselling "impossible to put down" (Buzzfeed) novel with deadly stakes, thrilling twists, and juicy secrets.



About the Author

Jennifer Lynn Barnes is the author of more than a dozen critically acclaimed young adult novels. She has advanced degrees in psychology, psychiatry, and cognitive science. Jen wrote her first published novel when she was nineteen-years-old. Jen has also written original pilot scripts for television networks like USA and MTV, and she is one of the world's leading experts on the psychology of fandom and the cognitive science of fiction and the imagination more broadly.

Diverse Representation

Race



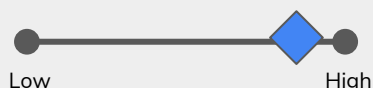
Gender



Sexual Orientation



Family Structure



Notable Features



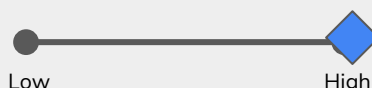
Language



Violence



Romance



???

Avery Grambs has a plan for a better future: survive high school, win a scholarship, and get out. But her fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why -- or even who Tobias Hawthorne is.

To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch -- and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, Hawthorne House is also occupied by the family that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed. This includes the four Hawthorne grandsons: dangerous, magnetic, brilliant boys who grew up with every expectation that one day, they would inherit billions. Their apparent Grayson Hawthorne is convinced that Avery must be a conwoman, and he's determined to take her down. His brother, Jameson, views her as their grandfather's last hurrah: a twisted riddle, a puzzle to be solved. Caught in a world of wealth and privilege with danger around every turn, Avery will have to play the game herself just to survive.