








# Sakura 2020 Middle School Checklist

	<b>Bernice Buttman, Model Citizen</b>	Niki Lenz	Bernice Buttman is tired of being labeled a bully, so when her mom leaves her with her aunt, who is a nun, Bernice decides to mend her ways and become a model citizen. But she might still have a few pranks up her sleeve.	Realistic Fiction
	<b>Class Action</b>	Steven B. Frank	With the help of his older sister, his three best friends, and his elderly neighbor, sixth grader Sam Warren brings a class action suit against the Los Angeles School Board, arguing that homework is unconstitutional, and his case goes all the way to the Supreme Court.	Realistic Fiction
	<b>Dragon Pearl</b>	Yoon Ha Lee	Min, a thirteen-year-old girl with fox-magic, stows away on a battle cruiser and impersonates a cadet in order to solve the mystery of what happened to her older brother in the Thousand World Space Forces. A sci-fi adventure with the underpinnings of Korean mythology.	Science Fiction/Korean Mythology
	<b>The Extinction Trials</b>	S.M. Wilson	In Stormchaser and Lincoln's ruined world, the only way to survive is to risk everything. To face a contest more dangerous than anyone can imagine. And they will do ANYTHING to win. But in a land full of monsters--both human and reptilian--they can't afford to trust anyone. Perhaps not even each other.	Science Fiction
	<b>The Final Six</b>	Alexandra Monir	When Leo and Naomi are drafted, along with twenty-two of the world's brightest teenagers, into the International Space Training Camp, their lives are forever changed. With Earth irreparably damaged, the future of the human race rests on their shoulders. In a cutthroat atmosphere, surrounded by strangers from around the world, Naomi finds an unexpected friend in Leo. As the training tests their limits, Naomi and Leo's relationship deepens with each life-altering experience they encounter. But it's only when the finalists become fewer and their destinies grow nearer that the two can fathom the full weight of everything at stake: the world, the stars, and their lives.	Science Fiction
	<b>The Flight of Swans</b>	Sarah McGuire	A girl does not speak for six years to save her brothers' lives in this riveting retelling of the Brothers Grimm's Six Swans. Princess Andaryn's idyllic life with her six older brothers comes to a disturbing end when a mind-controlling enchantress marries her father. When the enchantress turns her brothers into swans, Andaryn promises silence for six years in order to free them. Over those six years, Andaryn goes on the run to escape the enchantress-queen's army, sees her brothers in their human forms on full moons, and figures out how to defeat the enchantress.	Fairy Tale Adaptation
	<b>Harbor Me</b>	Jacqueline Woodson	When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. No one will let Spensa forget what her father did, yet fate works in mysterious ways. Flight school might be a long shot, but she is determined to fly. And an accidental discovery in a long-forgotten cavern might just provide her with a way to claim the stars.	Realistic Fiction
	<b>It Wasn't Me</b>	Dana Alison Levy	When Theo's photography project is vandalized, the five students nearby all claim it was not them, so Theo's favorite teacher suggests they all spend vacation week together and get to the truth.	Realistic Fiction
	<b>My Brigadista War</b>	Katherine Paterson	When thirteen-year-old Lora tells her parents that she wants to join Premier Castro's army of young literacy teachers, her mother screeches to high heaven, and her father roars like a lion. Nora has barely been outside of Havana. Why would she throw away her life in a remote shack with no electricity, sleeping on a hammock in somebody's kitchen? But Nora is stubborn: didn't her parents teach her to share what she has with someone in need? Surprisingly, Nora's abuela takes her side, even as she makes Nora promise to come home if things get too hard. But how will Nora know for sure when that time has come?	Historical Fiction
	<b>The Night Diary</b>	Veera Hiranandani	Shy twelve-year-old Nisha is forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India. She tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.	Historical Fiction

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	<b>The Plot to Kill Hitler</b>	Patricia McCormick	A biography of pastor, activist, and spy Dietrich Bonhoeffer with emphasis on his participation in a plan to assassinate Adolf Hitler.	Biography
	<b>Renegades</b>	Marissa Meyer	The Renegades are human, but with extraordinary abilities. They emerged from the ruins of a crumbled society and established peace and order where chaos reigned. As champions of justice, they remain a symbol of hope and courage to everyone...everyone except the villains they once overthrew. Nova has a reason to hate the Renegades, and is on a mission for vengeance. Adrian is a Renegade boy who believes in justice--and in Nova. But Nova's allegiance is to a villain who has the power to end them both.	Science Fiction
	<b>Sea Prayer</b>	Khaled Hosseini	On a moonlit beach a father cradles his sleeping son as they wait for dawn to break and a boat to arrive. When the sun rises, they and those around them will gather their possessions and embark on a perilous sea journey in search of a new home.	Realistic Fiction
	<b>Seafire</b>	Natalie C. Parker	Follows Caledonia Styx, captain of her own ship, the Mors Navis, and its all-female crew as they strive to defeat the powerful fleet of Aric Athair, the vicious warlord who has taken their homes and families.	Fantasy & Adventure
	<b>Shadow Weaver</b>	Marcy Kate Connolly	Twelve-year-old Emmeline possesses the unique ability to manipulate shadows. When her magical powers are threatened by a noble family she desperately turns to Dar, her shadow friend, who offers to save her if Emmeline makes Dar flesh again. But this bargain only puts Emmeline's life in further jeopardy.	Fantasy/Creepy
	<b>Skyward</b>	Brandon Sanderson	Spensa's world has been under attack for decades. Now pilots are the heroes of what's left of the human race, and becoming a pilot has always been Spensa's dream. Since she was a little girl, she has imagined soaring skyward and proving her bravery. But her fate is intertwined with her father's--a pilot himself who was killed years ago when he abruptly deserted his team, leaving Spensa's chances of attending flight school at slim to none.	Science Fiction
	<b>The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle</b>	Leslie Connor	Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?	Realistic Fiction
	<b>The Way to Bea</b>	Kat Yeh	Recently estranged from her best friend and weeks away from shifting from an only child to a big sister, 7th grader Beatrix Lee consoles herself by writing haiku in invisible ink and hiding the poems. One day she finds a reply. Is it the librarian with all the answers? Is it the editor of the school paper who admits to admiring her poetry? May be it's an old friend feeling remorse or the boy obsessed with visiting the local labyrinth?	Realistic Fiction
	<b>Who Let the Gods Out?</b>	Maz Evans	Twelve-year-old Elliot Hooper has many problems: his mother has been behaving strangely, they are in danger of losing their farm to a mean-spirited developer, and he is failing at school. So when he finds a girl in the cowshed, and she announces that she is Virgo, an immortal constellation, it just seems part of the normal chaos. But soon he is swept up in the gods' hunt for prisoner 42, Thanatos, Daemon of Death, whom Elliot has set free from his prison below Stonehenge.	Fantasy