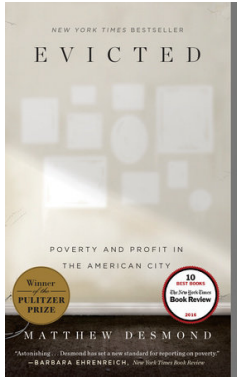


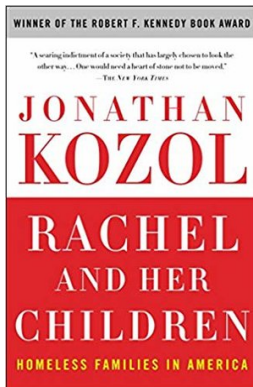
ADULT

Evicted
Matthew Desmond
2016



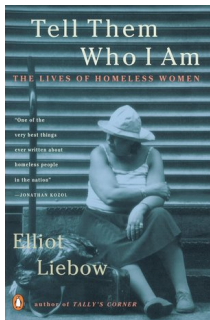
In *Evicted*, Harvard sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems.

Rachel and Her Children
Jonathan Kozol
1988



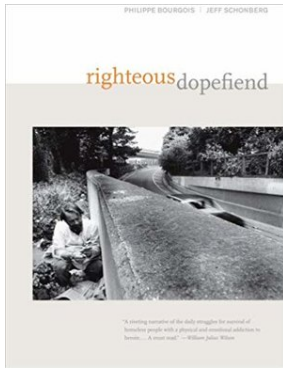
As one of America’s foremost education scholars, Jonathan Kozol (known for *Death at an Early Age* and *Savage Inequalities*) also recognizes the challenges that homelessness brings to bear on American families. This 1988 title remains sadly relevant almost thirty years later. Pulling from his months he spent interacting with homeless men, women, and children, Kozol paints a stark portrait of life on the streets. The immediacy of his writing brings an unflinching eye to the issue of homelessness as a nightmare that cannot be ignored.

Tell Them Who I Am
Elliot Liebow



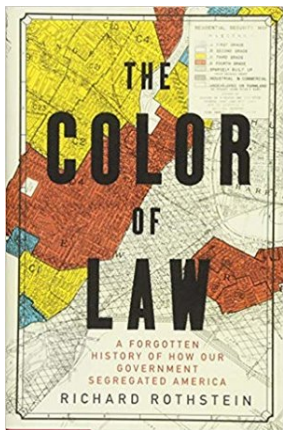
Through this searing study of women in homeless shelters, Elliott Liebow disabuses us of the myth that the homeless are generally lazy and disinterested in altering their condition. *Tell Them Who I Am* places the reader squarely in the shoes of the inhabitants of a Washington, D.C. homeless shelter for women. Walking the reader through a day in the life of a homeless person, hour by hour, Liebow presents the obstacles placed in front of women who ache to regain the dignity they once possessed

Righteous Dopefiend
Philippe Bourgois



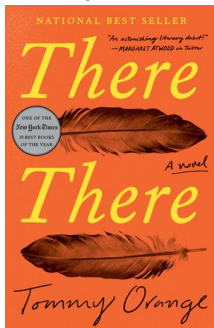
Righteous Dopefiend, written by UCSF Professor of Anthropology Philippe Bourgois, is a gritty, in-the-dirt look at the life of heroin addicts in San Francisco. It doesn't sugar coat life on the streets, but does give a complete 360 view of the lives of the individuals it follows, including childhood trauma, mental illness, family separation, and every aspect that has led them to where they are today. And what conclusions does the book make clear? That getting clean and ending homelessness in their lives for good is only possible with a safe place to live and the supportive services needed to address the traumas that contributed to their homelessness in the first place.

Color of Law
Richard Rothstein



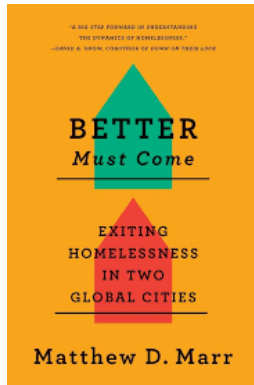
For those interested in housing policy, Color of Law dives into the local, state, and federal laws and policies that promote discriminatory practices that have lasting effects to this day. In a time where minorities are significantly overrepresented in our homeless population, this book can help us understand why.

There There
Tommy Orange



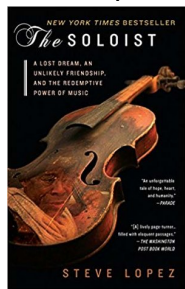
The book tells the stories of “urban indians” – Native Americans – living in Oakland and explores the complex questions of identity. The themes that run throughout the book of addiction, poverty, and home can give insight into what many of our participants experience.

Better Must Come
Matthew Marr



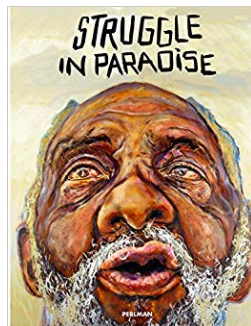
Better Must Come follows the lives of 34 people in Los Angeles and Tokyo who utilized transitional housing programs and their lives after they exited the programs. Marr pushed back against the idea that homelessness is an identity or culture, but rather should be viewed as a traumatic and stigmatizing predicament and calls for not only the expansion of our housing supply, but also for measures to address the roots of homelessness such as the deterioration of social safety nets, and faults within the labor and housing market.

The Soloist
Steve Lopez



The Soloist is written by LA Times journalist and homeless advocate Steve Lopez, in which he chronicles his relationship with Nathaniel Ayers, a former classical bass student at Julliard, who after struggling with schizophrenia, ended up on Skid Row. The story is a beautiful tale that ties humanity back in with the journey to treat mental illness and search for a home.

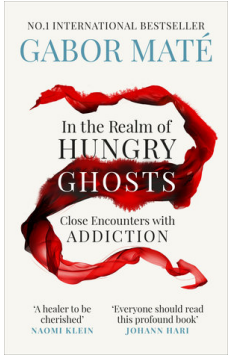
Struggle in Paradise
Stuart Perlman



The author, Stuart Perlman says, ““These were some of the most interesting people I had ever met – loving, kind, accomplished individuals who had experienced deep traumas and misfortunes. I painted the life experiences that were etched on their faces. I use thick paint and my fingers to sculpt an intensely colorful representation of their life, pain, hopes and soul. In this book, ‘Struggling in Paradise’, are 35 oil-on-canvas portraits and some photos of where they live– each with a gripping biography chronicling their life stories as well as a narrative of my experience painting the forgotten and entering their world.”

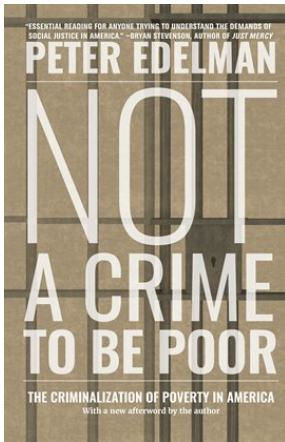
In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts
Gabor Mate

In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts challenges current health, social, and criminal justice thinking toward addiction, viewing it as a complex issue, affected by not only brain chemistry, but also personal history, emotional trauma, and the drugs themselves.



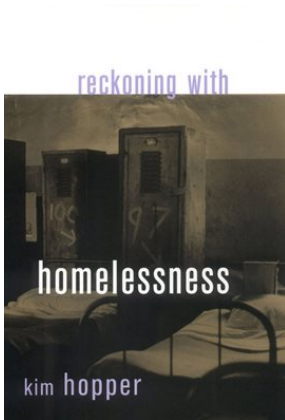
Gabor Maté pulls from his decades of experience as a medical doctor and work on Vancouver's skid row to bring us a look into the treatment of trauma and addiction.

Not a Crime to Be Poor
The criminalization of poverty in America
Peter Edelman
2019



The intersection of race, poverty, and the criminal justice system is compellingly examined in Peter Edelman's new book, Not a Crime to Be Poor.

Reckoning with Homelessness
Kim Hopper
2014

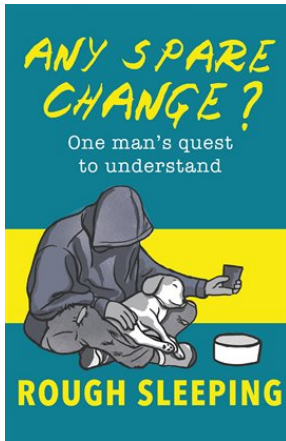


Hopper has dedicated his career to trying to correct the problem of homelessness in the United States. In his powerful book, he draws upon his dual strengths as anthropologist and advocate to provide a deeper understanding of the roots of homelessness. He also investigates the complex attitudes brought to bear on the issue since his pioneering fieldwork with Ellen Baxter twenty years ago helped put homelessness on the public agenda.

Any Spare Change?

Nobody sets out to become homeless or to

Robert Ashton
2019



sleep rough. But circumstances can conspire against you, leaving you vulnerable, frightened, very alone and perhaps even abused. Norwich Quaker Robert Ashton decided to he wanted to understand what led people to live sleep rough in our cities and spent summer 2019 talking to people in and around the streets of his city. Reading this book will give you an insight into homelessness and rough sleeping.

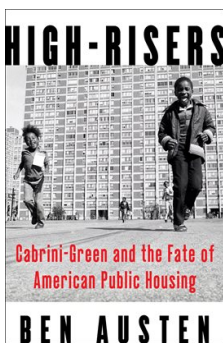
Homeless Youth and the Search for Stability
Jeff Karabanow, Sean Kidd, Tyler Frederick,
Jean Hughes
2018



This book relates the lived experiences of homeless youth as they negotiate the individual, sociocultural, and economic tensions of transitioning out of homeless and street contexts and cultures. Through interviews the authors gained privileged entry into the lives of youth in Toronto and Halifax over a year-long period.

Through rich qualitative prose, quantitative elaboration, and comic-book narratives, participants spoke of courage, fortitude, strength, adversity, and at times, simple bad luck. Ultimately this became a story of fragility, complexity, living "on the edge," and the (re)-building of identity.

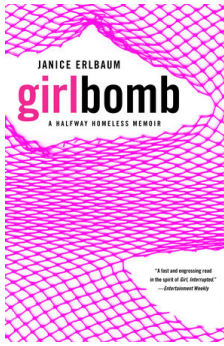
High-Risers
Ben Austen
2018



In this novelistic and eye-opening narrative, Ben Austen tells the story of America's public housing experiment and the changing fortunes of American cities. It is an account told movingly though the lives of residents who struggled to make a home for their families as powerful forces converged to accelerate the housing complex's demise. Beautifully written, rich in detail, and full of moving portraits, High-Risers is a sweeping exploration of race, class, popular culture, and politics in modern America that brilliantly considers what went wrong in our nation's

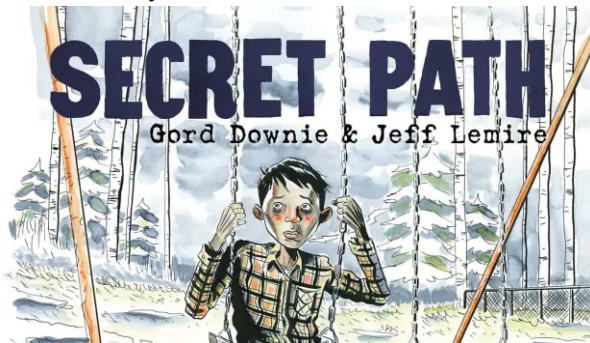
	<p>effort to provide affordable housing to the poor—and what we can learn from those mistakes.</p>
<p>Hold Fast to Dreams <i>A College Guidance Counselor, His Students, and the Vision of a Life Beyond Poverty</i> Beth Zasloff and Joshua Steckel</p> 	<p>Including the stories of young people who apply to college from homeless shelters, as undocumented immigrants, and while facing turbulent homes, pregnancies, and health crises, <i>Hold Fast to Dreams</i> offers what Booklist calls “a profound examination of . . . the kinds of reforms needed to make higher education and the upward mobility it promises more accessible.” It provides hope in its portrayal of the extraordinary intelligence, resilience, and everyday heroics of the young people whose futures are too often lamented or ignored and whose voices, insights, and vision our colleges—and our country—desperately need.</p>
<p>Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next) Dean Spade</p> 	<p>This book is about mutual aid: why it is so important, what it looks like, and how to do it. It provides a grassroots theory of mutual aid, describes how mutual aid is a crucial part of powerful movements for social justice, and offers concrete tools for organizing, such as how to work in groups, how to foster a collective decision-making process, how to prevent and address conflict, and how to deal with burnout.</p> <p>Writing for those new to activism as well as those who have been in social movements for a long time, Dean Spade draws on years of organizing to offer a radical vision of community mobilization, social transformation, compassionate activism, and solidarity.</p>
<p>Living on Almost Nothing in America Kathryn Edin & Luke Shaefer 2016</p>	<p>After two decades of brilliant research on American poverty, Kathryn Edin noticed something she hadn’t seen since the mid-1990s — households surviving on virtually no income. The authors illuminate a troubling trend: a low-wage labor market that increasingly fails to deliver a</p>

	<p>living wage, and a growing but hidden landscape of survival strategies among America's extreme poor. More than a powerful exposé, \$2.00 a Day delivers new evidence and new ideas to our national debate on income inequality.</p>
<p>Without a Net: Middle Class and Homeless (with Kids) in America Michelle Kennedy 2005</p>	<p>At age 24, Michelle was suddenly single, homeless and living out of a car with her three small children. She waitressed night shifts while her kids slept out in the diner's parking lot. She saved her tips in the glove compartment, and set aside a few quarters every week for truck stop showers for her and the kids. With startling humor and honesty, Kennedy describes the frustrations of never having enough money for a security deposit on an apartment but having too much to qualify for public assistance.</p>
<p>Street Sense. Street Verses Poems by the Homeless Writers and Vendors of Street Sense 2007</p>	<p>The poems inside this book come from the pages of Street Sense over the course of its first three years of operation. Homeless and formerly homeless men and women, many of whom also sell the paper, wrote all of these pieces. While some are directly about homelessness, many describe love, work, friendship, sorrow and pain. These poems reflect their deepest thoughts, creative dreams, complicated pasts and immediate needs.</p>
<p>Girlbomb Janice Erlbaum 2007</p>	<p>At fifteen, sick of her unbearable and increasingly dangerous home life, Janice Erlbaum walked out of her family's Brooklyn apartment and didn't look back. From her first frightening night at a shelter, Janice knew she was in over her head. She was beaten up, shaken down, and nearly stabbed by a pregnant girl. But it was still better than living</p>



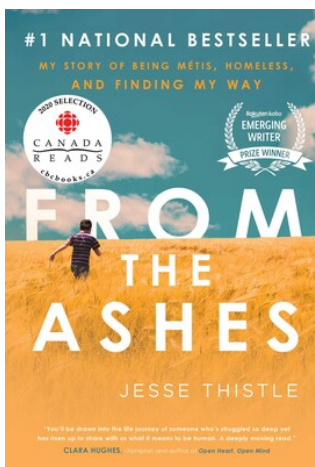
at home. As Janice slipped further into street life, she nevertheless attended high school, harbored crushes, and even played the lead in the spring musical. She also roamed the streets, clubs, bars, and parks of New York City with her two best girlfriends, on the prowl for hard drugs and boys on skateboards. A wry, mesmerizing portrait of being underprivileged, underage, and underdressed in 1980s New York City, *Girlbomb* provides an unflinching look at street life, survival sex, female friendships, and first loves.

Secret Path
Gord Downie
Illustrated by Jeff Lemire



Secret Path tells the story of Chanie Wenjack, a young boy who died trying to escape from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School by attempting to walk over 600 kms back to his home. This graphic novel is accompanied by music by Gord Downie and wonderful illustrations that capture what Chanie might have experienced on his long walk back to Ogoki Post in Northern Ontario.

From the Ashes
My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way
Jesse Thistle



In this extraordinary and inspiring debut memoir, Jesse Thistle, once a high school dropout and now a rising Indigenous scholar, chronicles his life on the streets and how he overcame trauma and addiction to discover the truth about who he is.

A City Within A City: The Black Freedom Struggle in Grand Rapids, Michigan

Todd E. Robinson	
Cross-Cultural Dialogues on Homelessness: From Pretreatment Strategies to Psychologically Informed Environments Jay S. Levy with Robin Johnson	
Housing First: Ending Homelessness, Transforming Systems, and Changing Lives Deborah K. Padgett, Benjamin F. Henwood, & Sam J. Tsemberis	
Nickle and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America Barbara Ehrenreich	
Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing Dr. Joy DeGury	
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Michelle Alexander	
Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race Beverly Daniel Tatum, PhD	
A Shelter in Our Car Monica Gunning, Illustrations by Elaine Pedlar	
America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America Jim Wallis	
Between the World and Me Ta-Nehisi Coates	
Big Hunger: The Unholy Alliance Between Corporate America and Anti-Hunger Groups Andrew Fisher	
Blueprint for Revolution: How to Use Rice Pudding, Lego Men, and Other Nonviolent Techniques to Galvanize Communities, Overthrow Dictators, or Simply Change the	


World Srdja Popovic	
Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement Angela Y. Davis	
Happy City: Transforming Our Lives Through Urban Design Charles Montgomery	
I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness Austin Channing Brown	
Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America Ibram X. Kendi	
Strangers in their own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right Arlie Russell Hochschild	
The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit Thomas J. Sugrue	
When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele	
Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race Reni Eddo-Lodge	

Books about homelessness

- [Boy Swallows Universe](#), by Trent Dalton – Set in Brisbane in the early 80s, a boy grows up in public housing, violence and poverty. A heartbreaking yet joyous novel, based on the author's own childhood.

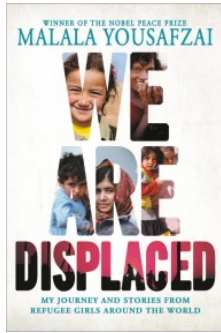
- [In My Skin](#), by Kate Holden – memoir of someone who experienced addiction and sex work in the St Kilda area
- [Honeybee](#), by Craig Silvey – the story about overcoming trauma to find family and self-acceptance, narrated from the perspective of a teenager who identifies as Transgender
- [Matthew Flinders' Cat](#), by Bryce Courtenay – novel about a former lawyer who experiences homelessness and his relationship with a boy with a troubled background, who bond over tales of captain Matthew Finders and his ship's cat.
- [No Place Like Home. Repairing Australia's Housing Crisis](#), by Peter Mares – the book creates a clear picture of Australia's housing crisis and offers practical solutions, based on research, statistical data and personal interviews
- [Down and Out in Paris and London](#), by George Orwell – published in 1933, this memoir exposes the poverty existing in the two prosperous cities.
- [The Glass Castle](#), by Jeannette Walls – tells a story of resilience and redemption in the face of poverty, based on Walls' childhood in the USA (the book was adapted as a film in 2017)
- [The Salt Path](#), by Raynor Winn – uplifting, true story about a couple in Britain who lost their home and livelihood and embarked on a 630 miles journey by foot when one of them is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY SERVICE PROVIDERS, FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

<p>Shared Space and the New Nonprofit Workplace China Brotsky, Sarah M. Eisinger, Diane Vinokur-Kaplan</p> 	<p>"Shared Space and the New Nonprofit Workplace emphasizes the practical by providing those in the homeless-serving sector with a step by step, easily readable guide to creating shared work spaces.</p>
<p>Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others Lauren van Dernoot Lipsky with Connie Burk</p>	

YOUNG READERS

<p>We are Displaced Malala Yousafzai</p>	<p>In this powerful book, Nobel Peace Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author Malala Yousafzai introduces the people behind the statistics and news stories about the millions of people displaced worldwide. After her father was murdered,</p>
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María escaped in the middle of the night with her mother.

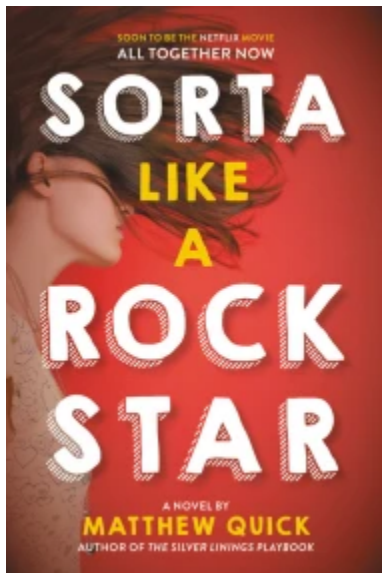
Minna's Patchwork Coat
Lauren A Mills



Minna and her family don't have much in their small Appalachian cabin, but "people only need people," Papa always reminds her. Unable to afford a winter coat to wear to school, she's forced to use an old feed sack to keep her warm. Then Papa's terrible cough from working in the coal mines takes him away forever, and Minna has a hard time believing that anything will be right again...until her neighbors work tirelessly to create a coat for her out of old fabric scraps. Now Minna must show her teasing classmates that her coat is more than just rags—it's a collection of their own cherished memories, each with a story to share.

Sorta Like a Rock Star

Matthew Quick



Amber Appleton lives in a bus. Ever since her mom's boyfriend kicked them out, Amber, her mom, and her totally loyal dog, Bobby Big Boy (aka Thrice B) have been camped out in the back of Hello Yellow (the school bus her mom drives). Still, Amber, the self-proclaimed princess of hope and girl of unyielding optimism, refuses to sweat the bad stuff. But when a fatal tragedy threatens Amber's optimism--and her way of life, can Amber continue to be the rock star of hope?

Maya and the Return of the Godlings

Rena Barron

2021

Grades 5-7

In the second installment of Barron's fantasy adventure, Maya further embraces her role as a guardian of the universe. Even though she rescues her father from the Dark, his strength is vastly weakened because his soul was left behind. Readers will immerse themselves in this all-out battle between good and evil.

The Great Jeff

Tony Abbott

2019



Grades 6-8

Abbott further develops characters from Firegirl in this stand-alone title. After leaving private St. Catherine's School to preserve a tight family budget, Jeff distances himself from former friendships and is isolated by his unstable home environment. His mom loses her job, straining an unhealthy codependent relationship that forces Jeff into adult responsibilities. His mother's drinking interferes with employment, and overdue rent leads to eviction. A visit with Jeff's father provides no resolution. The fast-paced plot provides an intense view of the denial, resentment, and despair of losing everything.

The Benefits of Being an Octopus

Ann Braden

Grades 6-8

<p>2018</p> 	<p>Charged with caring for three younger siblings and most household responsibilities, seventh grader Zoey Albra can't join after school activities, doesn't complete homework, and shoulders the stress of a premature adulthood in her rural community. Zoey's teacher pushes her to participate in debate, and she uses her skills to take down the weak arguments of Lenny, her mother's abusive boyfriend. Braden shows how invisible layers of poverty, from childcare and transportation hurdles to domestic violence and physical appearance, halt mobility. Zoey's strength shines through.</p>
<p>Efrén Divided Ernesto Cisneros 2020</p> 	<p><i>Grades 6-8</i></p> <p>Cisneros highlights the connection between lack of documentation and poverty. Protagonist Efrén reveals incredible resourcefulness as he cares for his twin siblings and fills the role of his recently deported mother. Readers unpack the financial and emotional costs of traveling with a coyote who smuggles people across the border toward a future of uncertainty. Community members sustain one another, sharing resources such as food and childcare. The lack of a happy resolution creates a realistic representation of struggles often faced by those without documentation.</p>
<p>Millionaires for the Month Stacy McAnulty 2020</p>	<p><i>Grades 6-8</i></p> <p>When Felix and Benji find a wallet and take \$20 before returning it, they are offered a challenge by billionaire Laura Friendly. The boys must spend the entire sum of money without telling anyone in order to win a real reward. Readers will be entertained by the unbelievable challenges and more aware of the power of financial privilege.</p>
<p>Free Lunch Rex Ogle 2019</p>	<p><i>Grades 6-8</i></p> <p>This memoir recounts Ogle's experiences receiving free school lunch and the struggles in his home life. His mother offers love,</p>



explosive anger, and abandonment. Ogle often cares for his younger brother, while his compassionate grandmother attempts to provide resources to the household. Ogle paints an uncomfortable portrait of a family moving between love and dysfunction under the pressures of poverty. He also presents an empathetic picture of the constraints his family endured.

Front Desk
Kelly Yang
2018

Grades 6-8

The Tang family struggles with employment and their new life in America. When the family optimistically accepts a position at the Calvista Motel, 10-year-old Mia finds herself working the front desk. Mr. Yao, their boss, abuses labor rights and manipulates the family. Yang highlights the often unfair treatment of new immigrants who may be highly skilled but forced to accept lower-paying jobs. Readers will develop an understanding of how poverty intersects with immigration.

Last Gate of the Emperor
Kwame Mbalia and Prince Joel Makonnen
2021

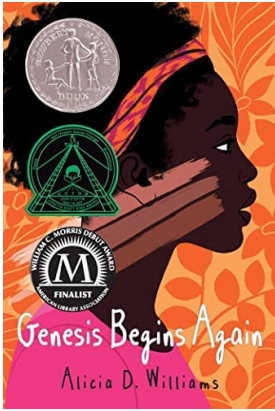
Grades 6-8

Yared lives in Addis Prime and regularly escapes reality through gaming. When he logs into the system with his real name, everything changes: his uncle Moti disappears and Yared embarks on a quest to find him. Students will get lost in this alternate galaxy filled with Ethiopian traditions and stories.

Paola Santiago and the River of Tears
Tehlor Kay Mejia
2020

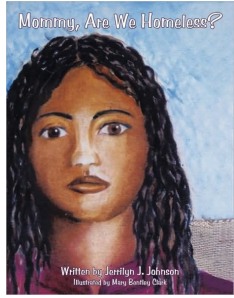
Grades 6-8

Paola loves science, but when she visits the mysterious Gila River, unbelievable superstitions ring true. When best friend Emma goes missing, Paola and Dante embark on a journey to find her and encounter supernatural tales come to life. La Llorona and chupacabras take readers on an adventure through Mexican American folklore.

<p>Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom Sangu Mandanna 2021</p>	<p><i>Grades 6-8</i></p> <p>Kiki Kallira escapes from anxiety by drawing in her sketchbook. When one of her drawings opens into another world of Hindu mythology, readers are launched into the tale to defeat Mahishasura, also known as the Demon King. Kiki uses her artistic talents to overcome anxiety and fight in the battle against evil.</p>
<p>Genesis Begins Again Alicia Williams 2019</p> 	<p><i>Grades 7-9</i></p> <p>This novel opens as 13-year-old Genesis discovers her possessions on the front lawn. It's not the family's first eviction. Genesis struggles with her mother's enabling behaviors that support her father's gambling and alcohol addictions. Layering with discussions of poverty, addiction, and colorism, Williams demonstrates a path to coping, through music, and creates dialogue around issues that often go unaddressed.</p>
<p>Find Layla Meg Ellison 2020</p>	<p><i>Grades 8+</i></p> <p>Fourteen-year-old Layla parents herself and her younger brother, Andy. Her single mother is largely absent, mentally checked out, and subject to abrupt changes in personality. Layla is tormented by peers for her clothing, hygiene, and hair, but her love of science sustains her. When Layla films her apartment for a school project and exposes her living conditions, a chain reaction of events leaves readers with a portrait of family trauma, poverty, and the foster care system. A realistic portrait of young adult life at a turning point.</p>

CHILDREN

<p>I see you Michael Genhart Illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff 2017</p> 	<p>A wordless picture book that depicts a homeless woman who is not seen by all the life around her, except by a little boy. Ultimately, in a gesture of compassion, this boy approaches this woman, in an exchange where he sees her and she experiences being seen.</p>
<p>The one with the scraggly beard Elizabeth Withey Illustrated by Lynn Scurfield 2020</p> 	<p>In this poignantly illustrated picture book, a young boy asks his mother questions about a homeless man he's seen.</p>
<p>What is given from the heart Patricia C. McKissack Illustrated by April Harrison 2017</p> 	<p>Despite their own poverty since Daddy died, Mama tells nine-year-old James Otis they need to help Sarah, whose family lost everything in a fire.</p>
<p>Mommy, Are We Homeless? Jerrilyn Johnson 2003</p>	<p>This is a story about a young girl whose entire life changes when she becomes homeless. She still goes to the same school, but she now lives in a shelter. She is unaware of the other children like her, until she meets</p>



a girl on the school bus one day. They talk and Molly discovers that she is not unique and she makes new friends.