

Hopeful Books

(Where characters face adversity, but hope and kindness prevail!)

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Anderson, John David – [Ms. Bixby's Last Day](#)

Loving their gifted teacher, three boys are dismayed when the teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories while cutting class and journeying across town together on a fateful day. (Grades 4 – 6)

Applegate, Katherine – [Wishtree](#)

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk. (Grades 4 – 8)

Graff, Lisa – [Lost in the Sun](#)

As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on. (Grades 4 – 8)

Hernandez, Carlos – [Sal and Gabi Break the Universe](#)

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes. (Grades 4 – 8)

Kelly, Erin – [Hello Universe](#)

Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. (Grades 3 – 7)

Khan, Hena - [More to the Story](#)

As features editor of her school newspaper, thirteen-year-old Jameela Mirza wants to impress her father by writing a spectacular story about the new student, but a misunderstanding and family illness complicate matters.

Korman, Gordon – [Restart](#)

Chase does not remember falling off the roof, in fact he does not remember anything about himself, and when he gets back to middle school he begins to learn who he was through the reactions of the other kids--trouble is, he really is not sure he likes the Chase that is being revealed, but can he take the opportunity amnesia has provided and restart his life? (Grades 3 – 6)

Lloyd, Natalie – [A Snicker of Magic](#)

The Pickles are new to Midnight Gulch, Tennessee, a town which legend says was once magic--but Felicity is convinced the magic is still there, and with the help of her new friend Jonah the Beetle she hopes to bring the magic back. (Grades 4 – 7)

Murphy, Julie – [Dear Sweet Pea](#)

Struggling to adjust to her parents' sudden divorce at the same time she is forced to sit next to her former best friend in class, a teen finds herself in the unlikely role of a community advice columnist. (Grades 4 – 7)

O'Connor, Barbara – [Wish](#)

Charlie Reese is sent to live with a family she barely knows, but with the help of a skinny stray dog who captures her heart and a neighbor boy named Howard, she learns what the real meaning of family may be. (Grades 4 – 6)

Pancholy, Maulik – [The Best at It](#)

Twelve-year-old Rahul Kapoor, an Indian-American boy growing up in small-town Indiana, struggles to come to terms with his identity, including that he may be gay. (Grades 5 – 7)

Peck, Richard – [The Best Man](#)

Sweet and observant sixth-grader Archer forges bonds with loyal friends and inspiring teachers against a backdrop of his beloved uncle Paul's gay marriage to Archer's favorite student teacher. (Grades 4 – 6)

Redman, Jess – [The Miraculous](#)

After losing his faith in miracles after the death of his newborn sister, 11-year-old Wunder Ellis meets a mysterious old woman who needs his help to reconnect the living and the dead, bringing himself and his town face-to-face with miracles. (Grades 4 – 7)

Reynolds, Jason – [As Brave as You](#)

When Genie and his older brother spend their summer in the country with their grandparents, he learns a secret about his grandfather and what it means to be brave. (Grades 5 – 8)

Sumner, Jamie – [Roll with It](#)

Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease. (Grades 5 – 8)

Weeks, Sarah – [Save Me a Seat](#)

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems--but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives. (Grades 3 – 6)