

## IMS Keeps Cool By Reading!

Looking for some good summer 2022 reads? IMS recommends...

*Note: To access these books using Sora, our online book collection, please view [this document](#).*

### Book Suggestion



Welcome to a world made dangerous by the sea and by those who wish to profit from it. Where a young girl must find her place and her family while trying to survive in a world built for men. As the daughter of the most powerful trader in the Narrows, the sea is the only home seventeen-year-old Fable has ever known. It's been four years since the night she watched her mother drown during an unforgiving storm. The next day her father abandoned her on a legendary island filled with thieves and little food. To survive she must keep to herself, learn to trust no one and rely on the unique skills her mother taught her. The only thing that keeps her going is the goal of getting off the island, finding her father and demanding her rightful place beside him and his crew. To do so Fable enlists the help of a young trader named West to get her off the island and across the Narrows to her father.

*Recommended by Mme Tessler (French): "Strong female characters and such an engaging story over the two books."*

[Fable: A Novel \(Adrienne Young\) Book 1](#) and [Namesake: A Novel \(Adrienne Young\) Book 2](#)

[Sora link](#) (ebook and audiobook for *Fable* and *Namesake*)



Sam is almost 11 when he discovers a locked box in the attic above his grandfather Mack's room, and a piece of paper that says he was kidnapped. There are lots of other words, but Sam has always had trouble reading. He's desperate to find out who he is, and if his beloved Mack is really his grandfather. At night he's haunted by dreams of a big castle and a terrifying escape on a boat. Who can he trust to help him read the documents that could unravel the mystery? Then he and the new girl, Caroline, are paired up to work on a school project, building a castle in Mack's woodworking shop. Caroline loves to read, and she can help. But she's moving soon, and the two must hurry to discover the truth about Sam.

*Recommended by Ms. Meiseles (6th grade ELA): "The characters and plot are so well developed and young adults will relate to the interactions and conflicts that emerge."*

[Eleven \(Patricia Reilly Giff\)](#)

[Sora link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

*Recommended by Ms. Rust (Instructional Coach): "This is a beautiful and compulsively readable book that is full of love. Although it deals with loss, it is ultimately an incredibly uplifting story of family and acceptance."*

[The Thing About Jellyfish \(Ali Benjamin\)](#)

[Sora link](#) (ebook)

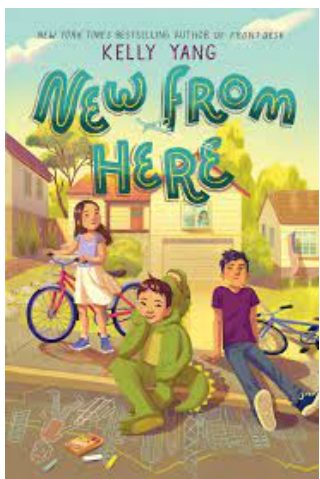


After her parents' divorce, Bea's life became different in many ways. But she can always look back at the list she keeps in her green notebook to remember the things that will stay the same. The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other. When Dad tells Bea that he and his boyfriend, Jesse, are getting married, Bea is thrilled. Bea loves Jesse, and when he and Dad get married, she'll finally (finally!) have what she's always wanted--a sister. Even though she's never met Jesse's daughter, Sonia, Bea is sure that they'll be "just like sisters anywhere." As the wedding day approaches, Bea will learn that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy.

*Recommended by Ms. Rust (Instructional Coach): "There are so many layers to this book, and no easy answers to any of the questions asked. You will want to be best friends with (most) of the characters in this book."*

[The List of Things That Will Not Change \(Rebecca Stead\)](#)

[Sora link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

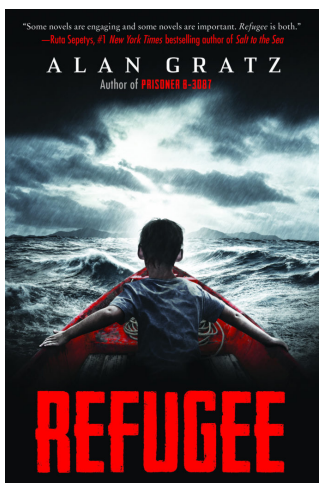


When the coronavirus hits Hong Kong, ten-year-old Knox Wei-Evans's mom makes the last-minute decision to move him and his siblings back to California, where they think they will be safe. Suddenly, Knox has two days to prepare for an international move—and for leaving his dad, who has to stay for work. At his new school in California, Knox struggles with being the new kid. His classmates think that because he's from Asia, he must have brought over the virus. At home, Mom just got fired and is panicking over the loss of health insurance, and Dad doesn't even know when he'll see them again, since the flights have been canceled. And everyone struggles with Knox's blurring-things-out problem. As racism skyrockets during COVID-19, Knox tries to stand up to hate, while finding his place in his new country. Can you belong if you're feared; can you protect if you're new? And how do you keep a family together when you're oceans apart? Sometimes when the world is spinning out of control, the best way to get through it is to embrace our own lovable uniqueness.

*Recommended by Ms. Griffin (6th grade ELA): "This book allows readers to connect to the experiences of ten year old Knox as he grapples with the effect of COVID-19 on his family. Readers can also empathize as he attempts to make sense of and understand his learning difference."*

[New From Here \(Kelly Yang\)](#)

[Sora link](#) (ebook)

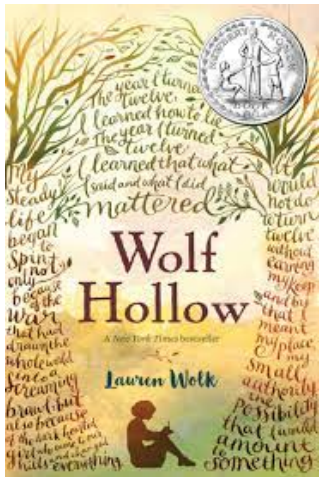


Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

*Recommended by Ms. Kozak (7th grade ELA): "Although this book isn't 'new,' it is still great! Author Alan Gratz presents three young refugees, each fleeing from a different world conflict—Nazi Germany in WWII, Cuba in the 1990s, and modern day Syria. A master at creating cliffhangers, Gratz keeps you reading as each chapter shifts to a new story and protagonist. This book is a journey through history and humanity."*

[Refugee \(Alan Gratz\)](#)

[Sora link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



Despite growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. Betty quickly reveals herself to be cruel and manipulative, and though her bullying seems isolated at first, it quickly escalates. Toby, a reclusive World War I veteran, soon becomes the target of Betty's attacks. While others see Toby's strangeness, Annabelle knows only kindness. And as tensions mount in their small community, Annabelle must find the courage to stand as a lone voice for justice. The brilliantly crafted debut of Newbery Honor– and Scott O'Dell Award–winning author Lauren Wolk (*Beyond the Bright Sea*, *Echo Mountain*), *Wolf Hollow* is a haunting tale of America at a crossroads and a time when one girl's resilience, strength, and compassion help to illuminate the darkest corners of history.

*Recommended by Ms. Kozak (7th grade ELA): "A beautifully written book, this story pulls you right into Annabelle's small town world as she deals with bullying while finding the strength to stand up for a friend. It is a story about kindness, courage, and a bit of mystery!"*

[Wolf Hollow \(Lauren Wolk\)](#)

[Sora link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

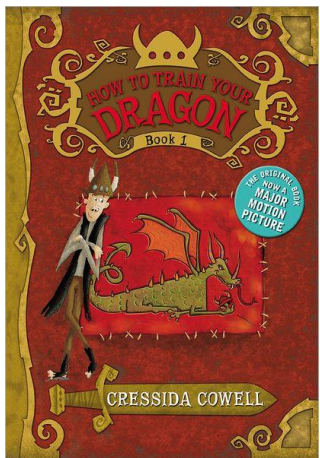


*Soldier. Summoner. Saint.* Orphaned and expendable, Alina Starkov is a soldier who knows she may not survive her first trek across the Shadow Fold—a swath of unnatural darkness crawling with monsters. But when her regiment is attacked, Alina unleashes dormant magic not even she knew she possessed. Now Alina will enter a lavish world of royalty and intrigue as she trains with the Grisha, her country's magical military elite—and falls under the spell of their notorious leader, the Darkling. He believes Alina can summon a force capable of destroying the Shadow Fold and reuniting their war-ravaged country, but only if she can master her untamed gift. As the threat to the kingdom mounts and Alina unlocks the secrets of her past, she will make a dangerous discovery that could threaten all she loves and the very future of a nation. Welcome to Ravka . . . a world of science and superstition where nothing is what it seems.

*Recommended by Ms. Chillemi (8th grade ELA): "At the start of the pandemic, I was immediately captivated while reading this series (broken into three mini series to cover different parts and time periods of her fantasy world). Leigh Bardugo takes the idea of those who have power and those who do not, and runs with it in a way that makes you want to keep reading and reading. Also...it was just turned into a Netflix series and I always recommend reading the books first :)"*

[Shadow and Bone \(Leigh Bardugo\)](#) \*\*Note: This book is the first in an extended series including "Shadow and Bone" (trilogy), "Six of Crows" (duology), and "King of Scars" (duology)

[Sora link](#) (ebook)

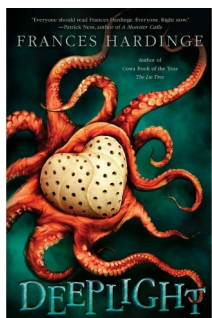


Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third is a smallish Viking with a longish name. The HAIRY HOOLIGAN TRIBE think he's totally useless, but Hiccup is about to face his destiny ... and one tiny dragon. Can he prove his worth and become a HERO, or will he be banished for ever? (Note: This is the first book in a series.)

*Recommended by Ms. Cassidy (Technology): "I read this series recently and it is so much fun. It is nothing like the movies, so don't think that you will know what will happen if you have seen any of them. The story is so different and very enjoyable! It is best enjoyed as a full series but I definitely recommend trying the first book."*

[How To Train Your Dragon \(Book 1\) \(Cressida Cowell\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook)



The gods are dead. Fifty years ago, they turned on one another and tore each other apart. Nobody knows why. Now, even coin-sized scraps of dead gods are worth a fortune because of the strange powers they're said to possess. But few are brave enough to dive and search for them. When fifteen-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of one of these deities, he'll risk everything to keep it out of the hands of smugglers, scientists, and cults who would kill for its power. Because Hark needs the heart if he wants to save the life of his best friend, Jelt. But the power of a god was not meant for human hands. With the heart, Jelt begins to eerily transform, and Hark will have to decide if he can stay loyal to his friend—or what he's willing to sacrifice to save him.

*Recommended by Ms. Evanko (8th grade ELA): "Deeplight is a great read if you like flawed characters, fantasy, and exploring the complexities of friendship."*

[Deeplight \(Frances Hardinge\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

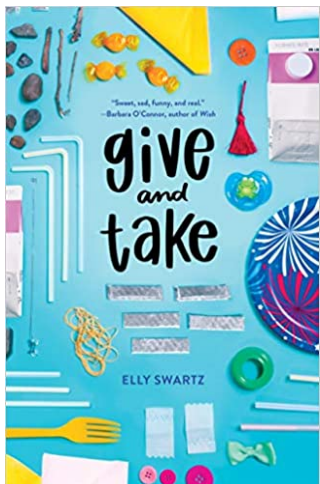


Getting good grades, keeping up with social media, maintaining friendships... you have a lot on your plate and it's more difficult when you add anxiety to the mix. You may even be avoiding situations, events, or people that could trigger your anxiety. So, how do you stop yourself from missing out on life? With Anxiety Relief for Teens, Dr. Regine Galanti teaches you how CBT-based skills and mindfulness techniques can help you manage your anxiety and reverse negative patterns. Through simple and effective exercises that help you change your thoughts, behaviors, and physical reactions, this helpful guide gives you the tools you need to navigate all of life's challenges.

*Recommended by Ms. Evanko (8th grade ELA): "This is an informative read for students experiencing anxiety as well as individuals interested in the basics of psychology."*

[Anxiety Relief for Teens \(Regine Galanti, PhD\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



Family has always been important to twelve-year-old Maggie: a trapshooter, she is coached by her dad and cheered on by her mom. But her grandmother's recent death leaves a giant hole in Maggie's life, one which she begins to fill with an assortment of things: candy wrappers, pieces of tassel from Nana's favorite scarf, milk cartons, sticks . . . all stuffed in cardboard boxes under her bed.

Then her parents decide to take in a foster infant. But anxiety over the new baby's departure only worsens Maggie's hoarding, and soon she finds herself taking and taking until she spirals out of control. Ultimately, with some help from family, friends, and experts, Maggie learns that sometimes love means letting go.

*Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "I read this book as part of a book club with several of my amazing nieces. We had a terrific discussion about the anxieties we all grapple with and how we can all learn to let go a bit."*

[Give and Take by Elly Swartz](#)

[Sora](#) (ebook)

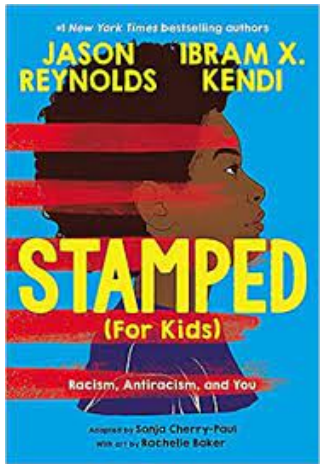


To twelve-year-old Molly Nathans, perfect is the number four, the tip of a newly sharpened No. 2 pencil, a crisp white pad of paper, and her neatly aligned glass animal figurines. What's not perfect is Molly's mother leaving the family to take a faraway job with the promise to return in one year. Molly knows that promises are sometimes broken, so she hatches a plan to bring her mother home: Win the Lakeville Middle School Poetry Slam Contest. The winner is honored at a fancy banquet with white tablecloths. Molly is sure her mother would never miss that. Right...? But as time passes, writing and reciting slam poetry become harder. Actually, everything becomes harder as new habits appear, and counting, cleaning, and organizing are not enough to keep Molly's world from spinning out of control. In this fresh-voiced debut novel, one girl learns there is no such thing as perfect.

*Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "If you enjoyed Give and Take, then you will love one too! It is about a middle schooler who is struggling with OCD."*

[Finding Perfect \(Elly Swartz\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)

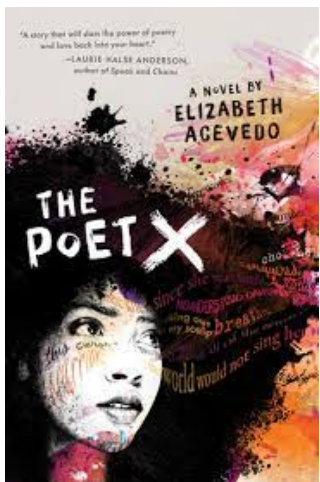


RACE. Uh-oh. The R-word. But actually talking about race is one of the most important things to learn how to do. Adapted from the award-winning, bestselling *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, this book takes readers on a journey from present to past and back again. Kids will discover where racist ideas came from, identify how they impact America today, and meet those who have fought racism with antiracism. Along the way, they'll learn how to identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their own lives. Ibram X. Kendi's research, Jason Reynolds's and Sonja Cherry-Paul's writing, and Rachelle Baker's art come together in this vital read, enhanced with a glossary, timeline, and more.

*Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "This book is informative as well as inspires readers to act as agents of social change."*

[Stamped \(For Kids\) \(Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook)

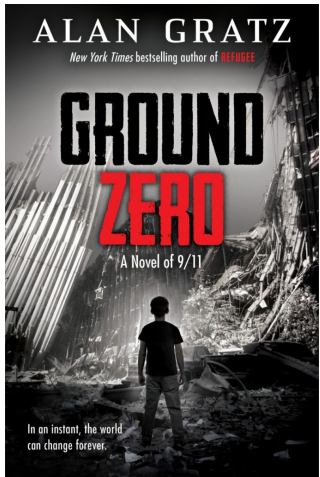


Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

*Recommended by Ms. Daley (Assistant Principal): "This book is unique in that it is written in poetic form. Reading this book is a great way to read out of your comfort zone. The author uses a novel in verse approach to tell the story of an amazing heroine!"*

[The Poet X \(Elizabeth Acevedo\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all. Can he survive -- and escape?

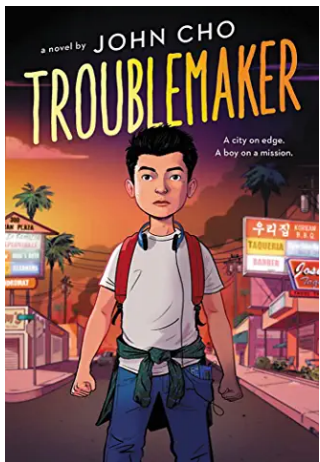
September 11, 2019, Afghanistan: Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help Taz -- and put herself and her family in mortal danger?

Two kids. One devastating day. Nothing will ever be the same.

*Recommended by Mr. Sandler (7th grade ELA): "Students always love this author and this is a book about an event that always needs more understanding."*

[Ground Zero \(Alan Gratz\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



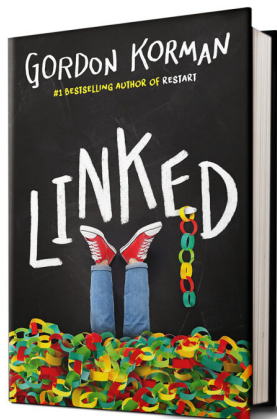
12-year-old Jordan feels like he can't live up to the example his older sister set, or his parent's expectations. When he returns home from school one day hoping to hide his suspension, Los Angeles has reached a turning point. In the wake of the acquittal of the police officers filmed beating Rodney King, as well as the shooting of a young black teen, Latasha Harlins by a Korean store owner, the country is at the precipice of confronting its racist past and present. As tensions escalate, Jordan's father leaves to check on the family store, spurring Jordan and his friends to embark on a dangerous journey to come to his aide, and come to terms with the racism within and affecting their community.

*Recommended by Dr. James (Librarian): "This book is about one day in the life of Jordan, a 12 year old Asian American boy who lives in Los Angeles. That one day is the first day of the 1992 Los Angeles riots after the Rodney King verdict. The story follows Jordan as he tries to get to his father at the family store and deliver a gun, which he was told not to touch. Several important themes, including family dynamics, model minority myth, and racism are presented in the language and perspective of a sixth grader."*

[Troublemaker \(John Cho\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook)



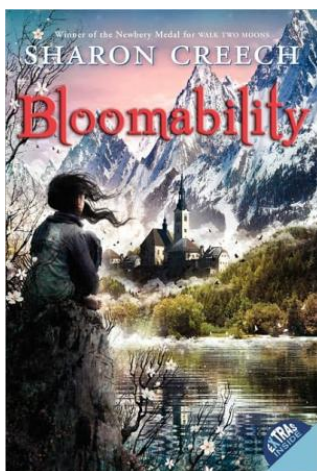


Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Nobody can believe it. How could such a symbol of hate end up in the middle of their school? Who would do such a thing? Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever. The mystery deepens as more swastikas begin to appear. Some students decide to fight back and start a project to bring people together instead of dividing them further. The closer Link, Michael, and Dana get to the truth, the more there is to face-not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past. With *Linked*, Gordon Korman, the author of the acclaimed novel *Restart*, poses a mystery for all readers where the who did it? isn't nearly as important as the why?

*Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian): "Gordan Korman, a favorite author here at IMS, has written a timely book about students facing a disturbing mystery in the present that unearths the complex past of their community. Lots of twists and turns and plenty to think about in this story which is told from multiple perspectives."*

[Linked \(Gordan Korman\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook)

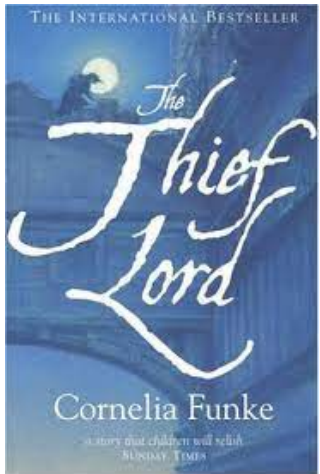


*Kidnapped!* The kidnapers are actually her Aunt Sandy and Uncle Max, but that doesn't matter to Domenica Santolina Doone, better known as Dinnie. She feels as if she's being taken out of the country against her will. Certainly no one asked her opinion. Dinnie is used to change-with her family constantly moving from state to state while her father searches for one new "opportunity" after another. But when her aunt and uncle whisk her away to an international school in Lugano, Switzerland, Dinnie feels that this might be one "opportunity" that isn't right for her. Suddenly Dinnie's surrounded by kids from many different cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs. Home, and her first life, seem so far away. Can she adapt to a new country, a new home, and new friends? Or will it just be easier to close herself off-just survive-and never realize all the "bloomabilities" that are possible?

*Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian): "This realistic, funny, and thoughtful story explores how one girl, who isn't so sure where she fits in with her family or the world, grows and "blooms" while spending a year in a totally new environment."*

[Bloomability \(Sharon Creech\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)



Two orphaned brothers, Prosper and Bo, have run away to Venice, where crumbling canals and misty alleyways shelter a secret community of street urchins. Leader of this motley crew of lost children is a clever, charming boy with a dark history of his own: He calls himself the Thief Lord. Prosper and Bo relish their new "family" and life of petty crime. But their cruel aunt and a bumbling detective are on their trail. And posing an even greater threat to the boys' freedom is something from a forgotten past: a beautiful magical treasure with the power to spin time itself.

*Recommended by Ms. Richardson (Librarian): "Read The Thief Lord if you're looking to escape into a story that expertly blends adventure, humor, mystery, magic, and a touch of menace. The book is full of unique and memorable characters and is set in the enchanting city of Venice, Italy."*

[The Thief Lord \(Cornelia Funke\)](#)

[Sora Link](#) (ebook and audiobook)