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Library Corner: Top 10 children's novels of 2017

By Shelly Wimberley, Youth Librarian Owasso Reporter Dec 25, 2017 0



Roman Keppers of Owasso enjoys an afternoon at the Owasso Library. Owasso Reporter file photo

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At the end of every year, "Best Of" lists are published by literary journals and magazines such as The New York Times, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly, Time, Washington Post, The Horn Book, Booklist, The Junior Library Guild and School Library Journal.

The following list of titles published in 2017 appeared on several of the lists across the board, earning

them a spot on the library's Top Ten Children's Novels of 2017 list.

1. *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* by Rita Williams-Garcia. Feeling most alive when he's playing the blues with his grandfather, Clayton is devastated when his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing music, losses that compel him to run away and join bluesmen on the road.

2. *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate. 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.

3. *All's Faire in Middle School* by Victoria Jamieson. Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.

4. *Bronze and Sunflower* by Wenxuan Cao. Taken in by a poor family in a rural village after the death of her father, Sunflower bonds with the family's only child, Bronze, who has not spoken since being traumatized by a terrible fire.

5. *The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by David Barclay Moore. Unable to celebrate the holidays in the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly Rachpaul struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center.

6. *Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws That Affect Us Today* by Cynthia Levinson. Examines the Constitutional origins of modern-day political problems and outlines solutions for these issues.



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7. *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming: And Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups* by Chris Harris. An illustrated collection of comically irreverent rhyming poems for readers of all ages, ranging in topic from avocados and anacondas to zombies and zebras (dressed like ghosts).

8. *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

9. *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale. Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top . . . even if it means bullying others.

10. *The Lottery Plus One* by Emma Donoghue. Once upon a time, two couples with Jamaican, Mohawk, Indian, and Scottish ethnic roots won the lottery and bought a big house where all of them, four adults and seven adopted and biological children, could live together in harmony--but change is inevitable, especially when a disagreeable grandfather comes to stay.

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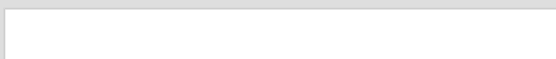
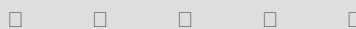
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