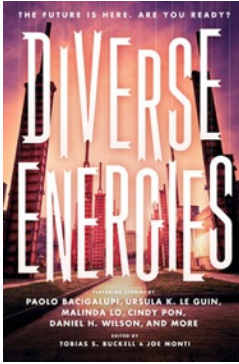


Grades 6-8

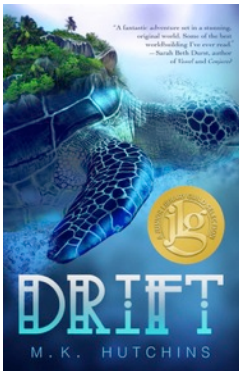


Diverse Energies edited by Tobias S. Buckell and Joe Monti

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2812>

An anthology of short stories that presents a journey through alternate histories and projections of the future in which the world's diversity is reflected.

Themes: Science Fiction, Dystopia, First Love, Ethics, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Family, Post-apocalypse, Friendship, War, Slavery, Technology

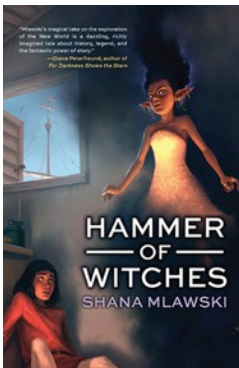


Drift written by M.K. Hutchins

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2843>

To raise his family out of poverty, seventeen-year-old Tenjat joins a dangerous defense against the naga monsters that gnaw at his drifting island's foundation.

Themes: High Fantasy, Quests, Coming of Age, Folklore, Brother-Sister Relationships, Central American Interest

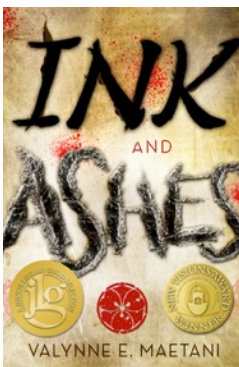


Hammer of Witches written by Shana Mlawskii

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2820>

Fourteen-year-old bookmaker's apprentice Baltasar, pursued by a secret witch-hunting arm of the Inquisition, joins Columbus's expedition to escape and discovers secrets about his own past that his family had tried to keep hidden.

Themes: Adventure, Fantasy, Withes, Columbus, Spanish Inquisition, Fathers, Overcoming Obstacles, Responsibility, Native American Interest, Latino Interest



Ink and Ashes written by Valynne Maetani

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2880>

When Japanese American Claire Takata finds out that her deceased father was once a member of the yakuza, a Japanese crime syndicate, danger enters her life that could end up killing someone.

Themes: Mystery, Romance, Suspense, Thrillers, Coming of Age, Brother-Sister Relationships, Japanese American Interest



Killer of Enemies written by Joseph Bruchac

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2832>

In a world that has barely survived an apocalypse that leaves it with pre-twentieth century technology, Lozen is a monster hunter for four tyrants who are holding her family hostage.

Themes: Science Fiction, Steampunk, Dystopia, Family, Friendship, Romance, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Native American Interest



Perfect Liars written by Kimberly Reid

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2924>

Andrea Faraday, a society girl with a sketchy past, leads a crew of juvie kids in using their criminal skills for good.

Themes: Mystery, Romance, Suspense, Friendship, Integrity, Heists, Coming of Age, Brother-Sister Relationships, Parent-Child Relationships, Biracial Interest, African American Interest

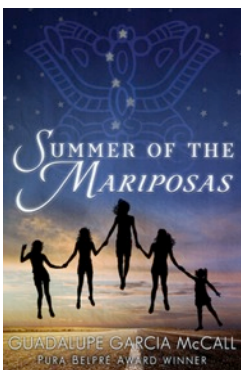


Shame the Stars written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2934>

A rich reimagining of *Romeo and Juliet* set in Texas during the explosive years of Mexico's revolution.

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Retellings, Friendship, Romance, Families, Conflict Resolution, Discrimination, Overcoming Obstacles, Fathers, Tolerance, US History, Latino Interest

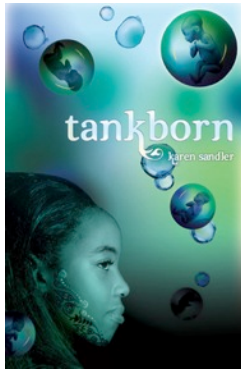


Summer of the Mariposas written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2811>

Fifteen-year-old Odilia and her younger sisters embark on a journey to return a dead man to his family in Mexico, and must outwit monsters and witches to make it back home again. A modern day Mexican retelling of *The Odyssey*.

Themes: Magical Realism, Retellings, Mythology/Folklore, Family, Immigration, Adventure, Siblings, Friendship, Latino Interest

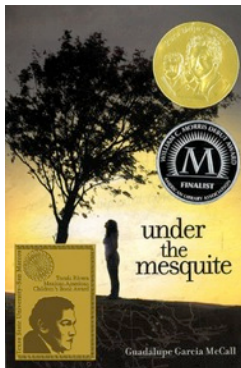


Tankborn written by Karen Sandler

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2754>

Kayla and Mishalla, two genetically engineered non-human slaves (GENs), fall in love with higher-status boys, discover deep secrets about the creation of GENs, and in the process find out what it means to be human.

Themes: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Friendship, Romance, First Love, Genetic Engineering, Ethics, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Family, Overcoming Obstacles, Identity

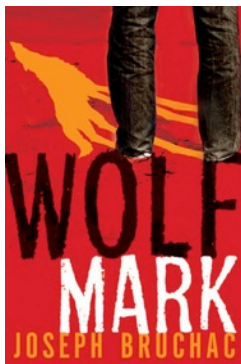


Under the Mesquite written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2723>

Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness. Young adult novel in verse.

Themes: Coming of Age, Identity, Family, Mothers, Coping with Death, Immigration, Responsibility, Respect, Courage, Poetry, Latino Interest

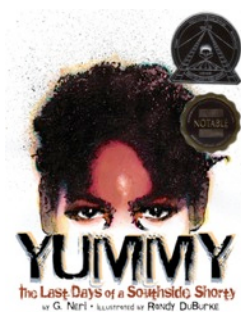


Wolf Mark written by Joseph Bruchac

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2755>

Luke King, whose father is a black-ops infiltrator, uses the skills his father taught him to figure out his family's paranormal secret and save his kidnapped father and his own friends.

Themes: Fantasy, Paranormal, Family, Fathers, Coming of Age, Friendship, Identity, Responsibility, Animals, Native American Interest



Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty written by G. Neri,

illustrated by Randy DuBurke

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2724>

A graphic novel based on the life and death of Robert "Yummy" Sandifer, an eleven-year-old gang member from Chicago's Southside who was killed by his own gang members.

Themes: Gang Violence, Identity, Family, Conflict Resolution, Coping with Death, Urban Life, Bullying, African American Interest