



# A children's book for every state

To celebrate Read Across America Day on March 2, which kicks off National Reading Month, *The Week Junior* chose one middle-grade book set in every state across the US. Happy reading!



BOOKS COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; GETTY IMAGES

Turn the page to find out more about every book pictured on the map!







# Read Across America



## ALABAMA



**GONE CRAZY IN ALABAMA**  
By Rita Williams-Garcia  
(Amistad)  
It's 1969, and three sisters from New York spend the summer on a farm in Alabama, unraveling a complex family history.

## ALASKA



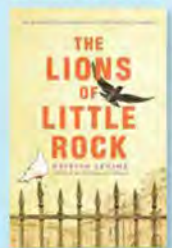
**THE DOG'S MEOW**  
By Michelle Schusterman  
(Scholastic Inc.)  
Sled dogs (and a kitten who thinks she's one of them) help rescue a hiker who gets lost in a blizzard in the Alaskan wilderness.

## ARIZONA



**ACROSS THE DESERT**  
By Dusti Bowling  
(Little, Brown and Company)  
When a 12-year-old pilot, who live-streams her flights, crashes in the Arizona desert, one of her viewers sets out to locate her.

## ARKANSAS



**THE LIONS OF LITTLE ROCK**  
By Kristin Levine  
(Puffin Books)  
Two middle schoolers—one white, one Black—bond as Arkansas' governor tries to stop school integration in Little Rock in 1958.

## CALIFORNIA



**CITY SPIES: GOLDEN GATE**  
By James Ponti  
(Aladdin)  
Five young spies travel to San Francisco to investigate a crime at the city's famous botanical gardens.

## What is Read Across America?

Read Across America is a celebration of reading sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA), a group of 3 million educators, that begins on March 2. The day, which began in 1998 and falls during National Reading Month, honors teachers, librarians, support professionals, students, parents, caregivers, and others who encourage and promote reading. About 45 million people participated in Read Across America Day last year, making it the biggest reading celebration in the US. In 2018, Read Across America became a year-round program that fosters reading through special events.

An important goal of Read Across America is to introduce children to diverse books with characters they can relate to and worlds that are different from their own. To help accomplish this, NEA is working with the nonprofit Little Free Library to provide teachers with book-sharing boxes so they can expand access to reading in their communities. To find out about NEA's plans for Read Across America all year long, visit [tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Read](http://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Read).



## COLORADO



**THE SECRET SISTERS**  
By Avi  
(Clarion Books)  
A girl moves from a rural area to study in Steamboat Springs in 1925. She meets friends and finds her way in an increasingly modern world.

## CONNECTICUT



**THE SECRET FILES OF FAIRDAY MORROW**  
By Jessica Haight and Stephanie Robinson  
(Yearling)  
A young detective moves to a spooky old house where there's a mystery to unravel.

## DELAWARE



**JASPER DASH AND THE FLAME-PITS OF DELAWARE**  
By M.T. Anderson, illustrated by Kurt Cyrus  
(Beach Lane Books)  
Friends journey to a mystical land—Delaware—in the third book in the Pals in Peril series.

## FLORIDA



**HOOT**  
By Carl Hiaasen  
(Yearling)  
A boy and his friends protest the construction of a restaurant on a site in Coconut Grove where burrowing owls live.

## GEORGIA



**LOVE LIKE SKY**  
By Leslie C. Youngblood  
(Little, Brown Books)  
Life gets rocky for an 11-year-old girl who moves from Atlanta to the suburb of Snellville to be with her blended family.

## HAWAII



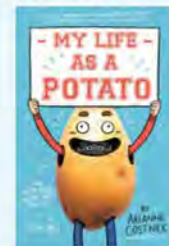
**LEI AND THE FIRE GODDESS**  
By Malia Maunakea  
(Penguin Workshop)  
A 12-year-old doesn't believe her grandmother's stories about Hawaiian curses until she gets caught up in one on the Big Island.



# Read Across America

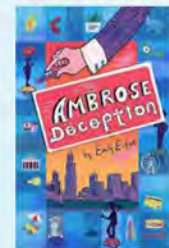


## IDAHO



**MY LIFE AS A POTATO**  
By Arianne Costner  
(Yearling)  
A boy who thinks he's cursed by potatoes moves to the "Potato Capital of the World," where he takes on a surprising role.

## ILLINOIS



**THE AMBROSE DECEPTION**  
By Emily Ecton  
(Little, Brown Books)  
Three students vying for the same scholarship go on a scavenger hunt in Chicago, only to uncover more is at stake than prize money.

## INDIANA



**THE SEASON OF STYX MALONE**  
By Kekla Magoon  
(Yearling)  
Bored in their small town, two brothers get involved in a scheme with a teen they think is cool.

## IOWA



**THE HURRICANES OF WEAVERVILLE**  
By Chris Rylander  
(Walden Pond Press)  
A seventh-grader steps up to the plate as manager of his late grandfather's baseball team.

## KANSAS



**MAY B.**  
By Caroline Starr Rose  
(Yearling)  
A 12-year-old with dyslexia works at a homestead on the Kansas prairie in the late 1800s, and gets trapped alone during a blizzard.

## KENTUCKY



**GROWING PANGS**  
By Kathryn Ormsbee, illustrated by Molly Brooks  
(Random House)  
A girl navigates friendships and deals with mental health issues as she starts sixth grade in a Kentucky suburb.

## LOUISIANA



**THE MARVELLERS**  
By Dhonielle Clayton  
(Square Fish)  
An 11-year-old from New Orleans, who attends a magical school in the sky, tries to set the record straight when her teacher disappears.

## MAINE



**A DOG'S PORPOISE**  
By M.C. Ross  
(Scholastic Inc.)  
A lost porpoise and a dog who falls overboard from a nearby boat become friends after they're rescued from a harbor in Ogunquit, Maine.

## MARYLAND



**MARY UNDERWATER**  
By Shannon Doleski  
(Amulet Books)  
A girl who lives on an island in the Chesapeake Bay wants to start a new life without her abusive father, so she tries to build a submarine.

## MASSACHUSETTS



**OUT OF THE WILD NIGHT**  
By Blue Balliett  
(Scholastic Press)  
Ghosts haunting the island of Nantucket are in danger, and they've chosen a few local kids to help save them and their special island.

## MICHIGAN



**THE TURTLE OF MICHIGAN**  
By Naomi Shihab Nye  
(Greenwillow Books)  
A boy who loves turtles immigrates from Oman to the US and embraces his new home in the university town of Ann Arbor.

## MINNESOTA



**JUST KEEP WALKING**  
By Erin Soderberg Downing  
(Scholastic Press)  
While trekking the 100-mile Superior Hiking Trail with her mom, a girl faces her fears and self-doubt and discovers how strong she is.

## MISSISSIPPI



**SMACK DAB IN THE MIDDLE OF MAYBE**  
By Jo Watson Hackl  
(Yearling)  
A girl who has a challenging family life searches a ghost town for a secret room painted by a mysterious artist.

## MISSOURI



**HOMESICK**  
By Kate Klise  
(Feiwel & Friends)  
When Dennis Acres wins America's Most Charming Small Town contest, residents pressure a boy and his dad to declutter their home.



BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; GETTY IMAGES







# Read Across America



## MONTANA



**HATTIE BIG SKY**  
By Kirby Larson  
(Yearling)  
During World War I (1914–1918), a teenage orphan moves to Vida, in eastern Montana, and sets up a homestead.

## NEBRASKA



**THE ELEPHANT'S GIRL**  
By Celesta Rimington  
(Yearling)  
An elephant helps unravel the mystery of how a toddler ended up alone at the Omaha Zoo after a tornado nine years ago.

## NEVADA



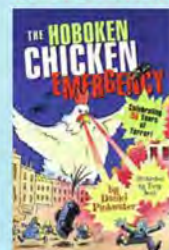
**THE AREA 51 FILES**  
By Julie Buxbaum, illustrated by Lavanya Naidu  
(Delacorte Press)  
Aliens are going missing at a top-secret military base in Nevada, and a bunch of kids and pets are on the case.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE



**FRINDLE**  
By Andrew Clements, illustrated by Brian Selznick  
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers)  
A boy creates a new word for a pen, and the term catches on far beyond his small town.

## NEW JERSEY



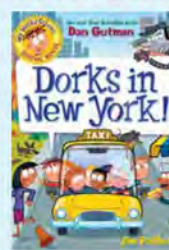
**THE HOBOKEN CHICKEN EMERGENCY**  
By Daniel Pinkwater, illustrated by Tony Auth  
(Aladdin)  
A boy is sent to get a turkey for Thanksgiving and ends up with a 266-pound chicken.

## NEW MEXICO



**TORTILLA SUN**  
By Jennifer Cervantes  
(Chronicle Books)  
Exploring a desert village in New Mexico where her parents were born, a girl uncovers her family's secrets.

## NEW YORK



**DORKS IN NEW YORK!**  
By Dan Gutman, illustrated by Jim Paillot  
(Harper Alley)  
The characters from the My Weird School series take a field trip to Central Park and other NYC sites.

## NORTH CAROLINA



**ISLAND OF SPIES**  
By Sheila Turnage  
(Dial Books for Young Readers)  
Operating from a lighthouse on Hatteras Island in 1942, young detectives search for the German spies responsible for attacks on American ships.

## NORTH DAKOTA



**CODENAME ZERO**  
By Chris Rylander  
(Walden Pond Press)  
There's a secret government agency in a seventh grader's North Dakota town, and he's the agency's next recruit.

## OHIO



**FREE THROWS, FRIENDSHIP, AND OTHER THINGS WE FOULED UP**  
By Jenn Bishop  
(Chronicle Books)  
Two pals suspect there's more to their dads' rivalry than coaching competing teams.

## OKLAHOMA



**ROLL WITH IT**  
By Jamie Sumner  
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers)  
A girl with cerebral palsy prefers living in Oklahoma, but will her mom make her return to Nashville?

## OREGON



**THE TURN OF THE TIDE**  
By Rosanne Parry  
(Yearling)  
Cousins from across the Pacific Ocean team up for a sailing competition in Astoria, Oregon, but the day goes off course.

## PENNSYLVANIA



**THE WAY HOME LOOKS NOW**  
By Wendy Wan-Long Shang  
(Scholastic Inc.)  
A boy joins a Little League team in Pittsburgh to try to reawaken his family's passion for baseball after a tragedy.

## RHODE ISLAND



**FOX POINT'S OWN GEMMA HOPPER**  
By Brie Spangler  
(Alfred A. Knopf)  
A young baseball player in Fox Point gets struck out by his younger sister, and a video of it changes their lives.



# Read Across America



## SOUTH CAROLINA



**THE PARKER INHERITANCE**  
By Varian Johnson  
(Scholastic Inc.)  
Two neighbor kids look for a mysterious fortune buried in Lambert, South Carolina, unearthing the town's racist past along the way.

## SOUTH DAKOTA



**PRAIRIE LOTUS**  
By Linda Sue Park  
(Clarion Books)  
It's 1880, and a half-Asian girl who is new to the fictional railroad town of LaForge, South Dakota, longs for acceptance.

## TENNESSEE



**THE DECOMPOSITION OF JACK**  
By Kristin O'Donnell Tubb  
(Katherine Tegen Books)  
A cougar shows up in a seventh grader's backyard, and he strives to confirm it's a species thought to be extinct.

## TEXAS



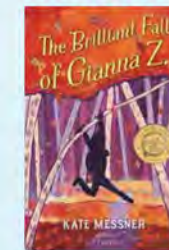
**THE GREAT TEXAS DRAGON RACE**  
By Kacy Ritter  
(Clarion Books)  
In an epic competition, a teen and her dragon traverse Texas landmarks, like Big Bend National Park.

## UTAH



**DANGER AT THE DINOSAUR STOMPING GROUNDS**  
By Judy Young  
(Sleeping Bear Press)  
When dinosaur footprints at a park are vandalized, kids investigate in this second book of the Buck Bray series.

## VERMONT



**THE BRILLIANT FALL OF GIANNA Z.**  
By Kate Messner  
(Bloomsbury USA Childrens)  
A girl in rural Vermont puts off her leaf science project. Now she may not be able to compete in a track meet.

## VIRGINIA



**THE LAST LAST-DAY-OF-SUMMER**  
By Lamar Giles, illustrated by Dapo Adeola  
(Versify)  
A town gets frozen in time, and sleuthing cousins aim to make things normal again.

## WASHINGTON



**THE SEA IN WINTER**  
By Christine Day  
(Heartdrum)  
A Native American girl with a life-changing ballet injury starts on a path to healing on a family trip to the Olympic Peninsula.

## WEST VIRGINIA



**A FEW BICYCLES MORE**  
By Christina Uss  
(Margaret Ferguson Books)  
A girl called Bicycle rides her bike from Washington, DC, to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, where she meets her long-lost family.

## WISCONSIN



**HOW TO CATCH A POLAR BEAR**  
By Stacy DeKeyser  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books)  
A polar bear that escaped from the Milwaukee Zoo shows up near a boy's house in the summer of 1948.

## WYOMING



**SKIES LIKE THESE**  
By Tess Hilmo  
(Square Fish)  
A city girl sent to her aunt's house for the summer realizes that nothing is small in Wyoming, especially the wide-open, star-filled skies.



## Take our challenge!

Which books from which states on the list have you read, and which do you want to explore next? We challenge you to read a book from any state, then write a brief review. Have a photo taken of you with your book, then ask an adult to email your photo and review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Please be sure to include your first name, age, and the state where you live with your submission. It may appear in a future issue! If you're looking for even more amazing middle-grade books, check out [kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub](http://kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub).