

# Family Sunday Book List

## January Theme: Finding Hope

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### FOR CHILDREN

#### **Share Your Rainbow: 18 Artists Draw their Hope for the Future**

By Jane Barclay

When the storm subsides and the sun comes out, don't forget to look for the rainbow! Inspired by kids across the country displaying rainbows in their windows, acclaimed illustrators come together to imagine everything these rainbows represent—caring for one another, and our hopes for the future. In this collection of eighteen scenes, readers will lick an ice cream cone, swim in the ocean, cuddle close with cousins, and celebrate a birthday with a party full of friends and family. Each spread has a hidden rainbow for kids to find!

#### **The Fox on the Swing**

By Evelina Daciūtė

Learn about family, happiness, and friendship in this hope-filled children's book. Our story starts with a boy named Paul, who lives in a cozy treehouse in a big city with his family. And then something unexpected happens—Paul befriends a wise, friendly fox on a walk home from the bakery. The fox gives Paul a space to think about what makes him happy and what friendship means—all in the pages of a bright and quirky storybook. Join Paul and the fox while helping young readers decide what makes them happy.

#### **Hope**

By Corrinne Averiss

"Hope is keeping a light on, however dark things seem." Comet is Finn's dog, and his very best friend. They do everything together. But one day, Comet won't get out of his basket—not even for his very favorite things! The vet tells Finn that Comet needs to stay in overnight for an operation. That evening, Finn sits in his den feeling very alone. Dad tells him to keep on hoping. That night, as Finn sleeps, thousands of little lights appear in the sky, each one a hope from a different person in the world.

### FOR TEENS

#### **Dictionary for a Better World: Poems, Quotes, and Anecdotes from A to Z**

By Irene Latham & Charles Waters

How can we make the world a better place? This inspiring resource for middle-grade readers is organized as a dictionary; each entry presents a word related to creating a better world, such as ally, empathy, or respect. For each word, there is a poem, a quote from an inspiring person, a personal anecdote from the authors, and a "try it" prompt for an activity.

#### **Hope is a Ferris Wheel: A Novel**

By Robin Herrera

Ten-year-old Star Mackie lives in a trailer park with her flaky mom and her melancholy older sister, Winter, whom Star idolizes. Moving to a new town has made it difficult for Star to make friends, when her classmates tease her because of where she lives and because of her layered blue hair. But when Star starts a poetry club, she develops a love of Emily Dickinson and, through Dickinson's poetry, learns some important lessons about herself and comes to terms with her hopes for the future. With an unforgettable voice with a lot of heart, *Hope Is a Ferris Wheel* is the story of a young girl who learns to accept her family and herself while trying to make sense of the world around her.

#### **Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices**

Edited by S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed

*Once Upon an Eid* is a collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid! Eid: The short, single-syllable word conjures up a variety of feelings and memories for Muslims. Maybe it's waking up to the sound of frying samosas or the comfort of bean pie, maybe it's the pleasure of putting on a new outfit for Eid prayers, or maybe it's the gift giving and holiday parties to come. For those who cherish this day of celebration, the emotional responses may be summed up in another short and sweet word: joy.

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#### **Nowhere Boy**

By Katherine Marsh

Fourteen-year-old Ahmed is stuck in a city that wants nothing to do with him. Newly arrived in Brussels, Belgium, Ahmed fled a life of uncertainty and suffering in Syria, only to lose his father on the perilous journey to the shores of Europe. Now Ahmed's struggling to get by on his own, but with no one left to trust and nowhere to go, he's starting to lose hope. Then he meets Max, a thirteen-year-old American boy. Lonely and homesick, Max is struggling at his new school and just can't seem to do anything right. But with one startling discovery, Max and Ahmed's lives collide and a friendship begins to grow. Together, Max and Ahmed will defy the odds, learning from each other what it means to be brave and how hope can change your destiny.

#### **Sit: Stories**

By Deborah Ellis

Nine poignant and empowering short stories from the author of *The Breadwinner*. The seated child. With a single powerful image, Deborah Ellis draws our attention to nine children and the situations they find themselves in, often through no fault of their own. In each story, a child makes a decision and takes action, be that a tiny gesture or a life-altering choice.

#### **Something Like Hope**

By Shawn Goodman

Seventeen-year-old Shavonne has been in juvenile detention since the seventh grade. Mr. Delpopolo is the first counselor to treat her as an equal, and he helps her get to the bottom of her self-destructive behavior, her guilt about past actions, and her fears about leaving the Center when she turns eighteen. Shavonne tells him the truth about her crack-addicted mother, the child she had (and gave up to foster care) at fifteen, and the secret shame she feels about what she did to her younger brother after her mother abandoned them. As freedom begins to look more and more likely, Shavonne begins to believe that maybe she, like the goslings recently hatched on the Center's property, could have a future somewhere else—and she begins to feel something like hope. This is a brutally honest but hopeful story of finding yourself and moving beyond your past.