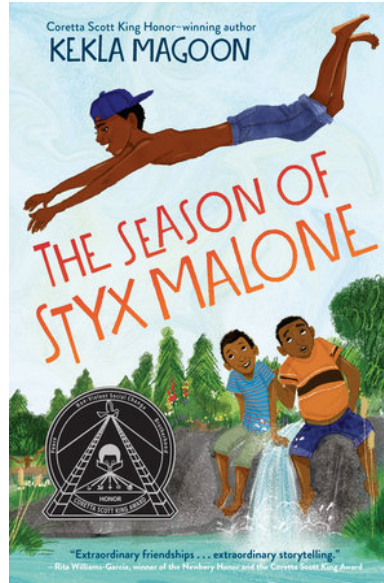


Kekla Magoon



Kekla Magoon grew up in Indiana but wanted to see the rest of the world. Now she travels all over the country meeting young readers and sharing her books, which include *The Rock and the River*, *Camo Girl*, and *Shadows of Sherwood* (The Robyn Hoodlum Adventures series). She has won numerous awards for her work, including two Coretta Scott King Honors, an NAACP Image Award, and the Walter Award Honor, and inclusion on the National Book Award Long List. She holds a BA from Northwestern University and an MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts, where she now serves on faculty.

A CORETTA SCOTT KING HONOR BOOK AND THE WINNER OF THE BOSTON GLOBE HORN BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION! *The Season of Styx Malone*- Meet Caleb and Bobby Gene, two brothers embarking on a madcap, heartwarming, one-thing-leads-to-another adventure in which friendships are forged, loyalties are tested . . . and miracles just might happen. Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene are excited to have adventures in the woods behind their house. But Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town. Then Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade—exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. But as the trades get bigger, the brothers soon find themselves in over their heads. Styx has secrets—secrets so big they could ruin everything.

Relevant Vocabulary:

- Middle-grade fiction
- Parts of a story
- Stages of Plot
- Chapters
- Characters
- Friendship
- Miracles
- Ordinary folks
- Hindsight 20/20
- Foster care system
- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Adventure

RRS connection to TEKS (4-5th grade): Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading:

- **Comprehension skills:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.
- **Response skills:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.
- **Author's purpose and craft:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.
- **Composition I:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process.
- **Composition II:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts—genres.
- **Inquiry and research:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.

Pre-reading reflection and dialogue:

- What does an author do?
- What does an editor do?
- Think about the title of this book? What does it tell us about the story? What do you think the story is about?
- What do you know about fiction, middle grade books? Talk to your librarian and ask her to show you more examples of this genre.
- Look for information about Kekla Magoon.

While-reading engagement:

- Talk about the parts of a story (setting, characters, plot, conflict, theme, point-of-view, tone, style).
- Start a timeline and a character chart to keep track of the story.
- Your character chart can include a list of characteristics and traits.
- Discussion question: The boys trade their sister! Oh no! Talk about other ways they can get what they want.
- Discussion question: What is a cardinal rule? What does this mean? Can you think of any other examples?
- Don't forget about the helpful Venn diagram- use it to compare/contrast the characters in the story.
- Make a drawing of Styx Malone and talk about how he is different than Caleb and Bobby. What three words describe Styx?
- Look for information about Sutton, Indiana. Use a map to help you learn more about Indiana.

- Summaries also help keep track of the story. Write, draw, or talk to a friend about your favorite chapter so far.
- Do you enjoy drawing or painting? You can work on a mural that displays the main events of the story.
- Discussion question: What happens to Styx at the end of the book? Are you surprised?
- Discussion question: What's more important? Safety or adventure? Think about ways you can help Styx stay adventurous but safe!
- Discussion question: How do children shape the lives of adults and how do adults shape the lives of children? Think about how this relationship can be a positive and loving one. What can we do to make sure it is?
- Make a prediction about how they story will end.

Post-reading and wrap-up:

- Discuss the take-home message and form your own opinion. With your teacher's help, look for reviews of this book. For example, Publisher's Weekly and Kirkus Reviews. Do you agree or disagree with the reviews? Write, draw, or share your thoughts.
- Provide recommendations for future readers: Should other 4-5th graders read this book? What do you think?
- Get inspired by Styx Malone. Think about a big idea and work with your friends to create a plan of action.
- Make a welcome banner for Kekla Magoon! Decorate it with photos and drawings of your super cool friends.
- Prepare three questions you would like to ask Kekla Magoon during her campus visit.

Useful links:

- Publisher's website: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/549661/the-season-of-styx-malone-by-kekla-magoon/>
- Author's website: <https://keklamagoon.com/>
- Interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEXpiWVLo3c>
- Publisher's Weekly: <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-5247-1595-3>