



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: September 11, 2015

*Issue: 110
September 2015*

WASHYARGers:

Start the school year with WASHYARG, the oldest and largest Young Adult Review Group of its kind! While we all come to WASHYARG because it is a great place to learn about new books, we also enjoy the opportunity to network with other teen-serving professionals.

Our meeting will be in our regular meeting room, 2A-B, on the second floor. Enter through the front door, which is nearest Newport Way NW. You will need to sign in as a guest of the building. The parking lot fills fast so it is recommended that you park in the Target parking lot closest to the Service Center. There is a bridge and some steps leading to Service Center. Do not park in any space designated for a KCLS fleet vehicle.

All doors are locked until 8:30 AM. If you arrive early, please wait at the front door until someone can let you in. **The doors opening off the staircase to the parking lot are always locked.**

Coffee, tea and treats will be available. A donation of \$1 or more is appreciated. You are welcome to bring goodies to share.

See you there!

WASHRAG

Titles Taken 3-17

Fiction Reviews 18-50

Nonfiction Reviews 51-63

Reviews

Please use the format referenced at the top of the “books taken” section.

Please submit your delivered reviews and current “books taken” after the meeting. You may submit them at:

<http://www.evergreenbookaward.org/about-washyarg>

REMINDERS

MEETING LOCATION:

King County Library System Service Center
960 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, 98027

2015-16 MEETING DATES:

- *September 11*
- *December 4*
- *March 3*
- *May 6*

Any questions? Contact Brenna Shanks at the King County Library System Service Center, 425.369.3331 or bshanks@kcls.org.

DUES

Members/reviewers may pay dues at any time during the year, but we appreciate prompt payment in September for the forthcoming year. Dues are \$25 and a dues sheet is included in the newsletter.

Dues may be sent to:

KCLS

ATTN: Brenna Shanks
960 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, WA 98027

WHAT IS WASHYARG?

The Washington State Young Adult Review Group is a regional reviewing organization of school and public librarians and other individuals interested in books, magazines, and other media appropriate for teenagers.

WHY BELONG TO WASHYARG?

We are the largest Teen Services library specialist group in the Northwest, and have a national reputation as a credible review source.

Besides hearing firsthand reviews from frontline people, the meetings are an opportunity for networking, problem-solving, passionate debate, laughter and cookies.

Even if you cannot attend the meetings, WashYARG is an excellent source for local professional reviews.

WHAT DOES WASHYARG DO?

WashYARG receives materials from diverse publishers. Selected items are presented orally at the quarterly meetings and written reviews of all materials are published in the WashRag newsletter and mailed to all members following the meetings. WashYARG also sponsors the annual Evergreen Young Adult Book Award, a statewide teen readers' choice prize.

WHAT WOULD I DO?

Agree to review at least two books a year. Attend as many of the meetings as possible.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

All interested folk are invited to attend for free the first time. The normal dues are \$25.00 for a school year, and entitle one to review books and receive the WashRag, a quarterly compilation of written reviews.

HOW DO I JOIN?

Fill out the form below and bring it to the next meeting with your \$25.00 membership dues or mail it to:

KCLS
ATTN: Brenna Shanks
960 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, WA 98027

Please make checks payable to WashYARG.

2015-16 MEETINGS

- *September 11*
- *December 4*
- *March 4*
- *May 6*

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

** Please indicate home or work for contact info.*

Titles Taken for Review - May 2015

All titles and reviews are now being submitted online at:
<http://www.evergreenbookaward.org/about-washyarg>
 Please be as accurate as possible when entering your information. Thanks!

Also: Remember Evergreen Committee meets right after WashYARG @ 1 pm - Everyone welcome!

◆Next to a title indicates it was reviewed in a previous issue

FICTION

Alameda, Courtney	9781250044679		
<i>Shutter</i>	Feiwel and Friends, 2015	\$17.99	p.372
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS			
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS			
Albertalli, Becky	978-0-06-234867-8		BFYA
<i>Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda</i>	HarperCollins, 2015	\$17.99	p.303
Lea John, KCLS			
Almond, David	9780763673109		BFYA
<i>The Tightrope Walkers</i>	Candlewick Press, 2015	\$17.99	p.336
Brooke Shoostine, Maple Valley/Enumclaw Libraries, KCLS			
Anderson, Josh	978-1-62920-247-1		
<i>The Iceman's Meltdown</i> (Heads or Tails)	Scobre Educational, 2015	\$20.99	p.66
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS			
Angel, Ann (editor)	9780763673079		
<i>Things I'll Never Say: Stories About Our Secret Selves</i>	Candlewick Press, 2015	\$16.99	p.306
Bonnie Svitavsky, Puyallup Public Library			
Armstrong, Kelley	9780062071279		
<i>Empire of Night</i> (Age of Legends #2)	Harper, 2015	\$17.99	p.424
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS			
Arnold, Elana K.	978-1-4677-3849-1		BFYA
<i>Infandous</i>	Carolrhoda, 2015	\$18.99	p.189

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Arntson, Steven 978-0-547-82408-6
The Trap Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015 \$16.99 p.245

Lisa Salisbury, Friday Harbor Middle-High School
Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Balak, Michael Sanlaville, and Bastien Vives 978-1-62672-046-6 **GGNT/QP**
Last Man: The Stranger (GN) First Second, 2015 \$9.99 p.202

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

Banks, Angelica 978-1-62779-154-0
Finding Serendipity Henry Holt, 2015 \$16.99 p.281

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Berry, Julie 978-1-59643-956-6
The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place Roaring Brook, 2014 \$15.99 p.351

Aarene Storms, KCLS

Bodger, Holly 978-0-385-39153-5
5 to 1: a Novel Alfred Knopf, 2015 \$17.99 p.246

Dawn Rutherford - Sno-Isle Libraries
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Bowman, Erin 9780062117328
Forged (Taken book 3) HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 p.372

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Bradford, Michael 9781459807556
Button Hill Orca Book, 2015 \$9.95 p.253

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Brewer, Heather 9780062307880
The Cemetery Boys HarperCollins, 2015 \$17.99 p.273

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Brooks, Kevin 978-1-4677-5420-0 **BFYA**
The Bunker Diary Carolrhoda Lab, 2015 \$17.99 p.257

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Buckley, Michael	978-0-544-34825-7		
<i>Undertow</i> (ARC)	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015	\$18.99	p.384
Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School			
Burningham, Hilary	978-1-78322-028-1		
<i>The Graphic Shakespeare Series-Julius Caesar</i>	ReadZone Books, 2014	\$9.99	p.71
Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School			
Calonita, Jen	978-0-316-09109-1		
<i>The Grass is Always Greener</i> (A Belles Novel)	Little Brown, 2013	\$	p.294
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			
Castellucci, Cecil	978-1-59643-776-0		
<i>Stone in the Sky</i> (Sequel to <i>Tin Star</i>)	Roaring Book Press, 2015	\$17.99	p.311
Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School			
Clark, Jay	978-0-8050-9257-8		
<i>Finding Mr. Brightside</i>	Henry Holt, 2015	\$16.99	p.218
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian			
Lisa Salisbury, Friday Harbor Middle-High School			
Cooper, E.E.	9780062293909		
<i>Vanished</i> (ARC)	Katherine Tegen, 2015	\$17.99	p.307
Bonnie Svitavsky, Puyallup Public Library			
Cross, Julie	978-1-62266-404-7		
<i>Whatever Life Throws At You</i>	Entangled Teen, 2014	\$	p.373
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian			
De La Pena, Matt	978-0-385-74122-4		
<i>The Hunted</i> (sequel to <i>The Living</i>)	Delacorte Press, 2015	\$20.99	p.361
Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School Library			
Demetrios, Heather	978-0-8050-9795-5		BFYA
<i>I'll Meet You There</i>	Henry Holt, 2015	\$17.99	p.379
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School			
Dominy, Amy Fellner	978-0-385-74443-0		
<i>A Matter of Heart</i>	Delacorte Press, 2015	\$17.99	p.306

Bethany Steirer, RHMS
Lisa Salisbury, Friday Harbor Middle-High School

Easton, T.S. 9781250053312 **QP**
Boys Don't Knit (in public) Feiwel and Friends, 2015 \$16.99 p.266
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Eulberg, Elizabeth 978-0-545-65463-0
We Can Work It Out (ARC) (Lonely Hearts Club #2) Point (Scholastic), 2015 \$17.99 p.320
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Fogelin, Adrian 978-1-56145-820-2
Some Kind of Magic Peachtree, 2015 \$15.95 p.223
Lisa Salisbury, Friday Harbor Middle-High School

Fradkin, Barbara 978-1-4598-0866-9
The Night Thief (A Cedric O'Toole mystery) Raven Books (Orca), 2015 \$9.95 p.129
Aarene Storms, KCLS

Friedman, Laurie 978-1-4677-0928-6
Love or Something Like It Lerner, 2015 \$17.95 p.174
Rachel McDonald, King County Library System, Foster Library

Friesner, Esther 978-0-449-81867-1
Deception's Pawn (The Princesses of Myth) Random House, 2015 \$17.99 p.314
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Fry, Jason 9780062230232
Curse of the Pirates (The Jupiter Pirates #2) Harper, 2014 \$16.99 p.340
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Gabel, Claudia & Cheryl Klam 9780062122445
Etherworld (Elusion book 2) Katherine Tegen, 2015 \$17.99 p.340
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Gardner, Scot 978-0-544-23274-7
The Dead I Know Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015 \$17.99 p.201
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School
Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Gray, Claudia		978-0--06-236158-5	
<i>Sorceress</i> (ARC) (Spellcaster #3)	HarperTeen, 2015	\$17.99	p.347
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS			
Greenwald, Tommy		9781596438378	
<i>Katie Friedman Gives Up Texting!</i> (A Charlie Joe Jackson Book)	Rapid Brook, 2015		
\$13.99	p.227		
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS			
Hand, Cynthia		978-006-231847-3	BFYA
<i>The Last Time We Say Goodbye</i>	HarperCollins, 2015	\$17.99	p.400
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School			
Harper, Charise Mericle		9780805096224	
<i>Super Sasquatch Showdown</i>			
(Sasquatch and Aliens book 2)	Henry Holt, 2015	\$13.99	p.169
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS			
Hartman, Rachel		978-0-375-86657-9	
<i>Shadow Scale</i> (Seraphina series)	Random House, 2015	\$18.99	p.596
Dawn Rutherford - Sno-Isle Libraries			
Bonnie Svitavsky, Puyallup Public Library			
Haston, Meg		9780062335746	
<i>Paper Weight</i> (ARC)	Harper Collins, 2015	\$17.99	p.304
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
Hautman, Pete		978-0-7636-7418-2	BFYA
<i>Eden West</i>	Candlewick Press, 2015	\$17.99	p.310
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School			
Hellisen, Cat		978-0-8050-9980-5	
<i>Beastkeeper</i>	Henry Holt and Company, 2015	\$16.99	p.197
Bethany Steirer			
Hensley, Joy N.		978-0-06-229519-4	
<i>Rites of Passage</i> (ARC)	HarperTeen, 2014	\$17.99	p.401
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian			
Hughes, Alison		978-1-4598-0794-5	

<i>Lost in the Backyard</i>	Orca, 2015	\$9.95	p.136
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School			
Jarzab, Anna		978-0-385-74279-5	
<i>Tether</i> (The Many-Worlds Series)	Delacorte, 2015	\$17.99	p.305
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library			
Jensen, Michael and King, David Powers		978-0-545-68572-6	
<i>Woven</i>	Scholastic Press, 2015	\$18.99	p.344
Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School			
Jimenez, Francisco		9780547632308	
<i>Taking hold: from migrant childhood to Columbia University</i>		Houghton Mifflin	
Harcourt, 2015	\$16.99	p.191	
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library			
Johnston, E.K.		978-1-4677-3909-2	
<i>Prairie Fire</i> (The Story of Owen series)	Carolrhoda Lab, 2015	\$18.99	p.295
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School			
Jones, Patrick		978-1-4677-5802-4	
<i>Raising Heaven</i> (Locked Out series)	Darby Creek, 2015	\$20.29	p.87
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS			
Kern, Peggy		9780062266958	BFYA
<i>Little Peach</i>	Balzer & Bray, 2015	\$17.99	p.190
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
Kochalka, James		9781626720213	
<i>The Glorkian Warrior Eats Adventure Pie</i> (GN)	First Second, 2015	\$12.99	p.125
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS			
Krumwiede, Lana		978-0-7636-7262-1	
<i>True Son</i> (The Psi Chronicles #3)	Candlewick, 2015	\$15.99	p.277
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			
Krys, Michelle		9780385743396	
<i>Charmed</i> (Hexed, #2)	Delacorte Press, 2015	\$17.99	p.362
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			

LaZebnik, Claire	978-0-06-225230-2		
<i>Wrong About the Guy</i> (ARC)	HarperTeen, 2015	\$9.99	p.362
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS			
Leonard, Niall	978-0-385-74365-5		
<i>Shredder</i>	Delacorte, 2014	\$17.99	p.376
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			
Littman, Sarah Darer	978-0-545-65126-4		
<i>Backlash</i>	Scholastic Press, 2015	\$17.99	p.321
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School			
Livingston, Lesley	978-0-06-206313-7		
<i>Transcendent</i> (A Starling Novel)	Harper Teen, 2015	\$17.99	p.343
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			
Ludwig, Elisa	978-0-06-206612-1		
<i>Pretty Wanted</i> (Pretty Crooked)	Katherine Tegen, 2015	\$17.99	p.328
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			
Martinez, Jessica	978-006-227449-6		
<i>Kiss Kill Vanish</i>	Harper Collins, 2014	\$17.99	p.432
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School			
Mazzio, Joann	9780544336131		
<i>Leaving Eldorado</i>	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014	\$8.99	p.170
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS			
McCloud	9781596435735		
<i>Sculptor</i> (Graphic Novel)	First Second, 2015	\$29.99	p.487
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS			
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian			
McCoy, Chris	978-0-375-85599-3		BFYA
<i>The Prom Goer's Interstellar Excursion</i>	Alfred A. Knopf, 2015	\$17.99	p.294
Aarene Storms, KCLS			
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
McIsaac, Meaghan	978-0-385-74445-4		

<i>The Boys of Fire and Ash</i>	Delacorte Press, 2013	\$16.99	p.327
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School			
McStay, Moriah		978-0-06-2295548-4	
<i>Everything That Makes You</i>	Katherine Tegen, 2015	\$17.99	p.344
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School			
Meyer, Carolyn		978-1-62091-652-0	
<i>Diary of a Waitress: The Not-so-Glamorous Life of a Harvey Girl</i>			Calkins
Creek,, 2015	\$17.95	p.348	
Marilyn Condon, LWSD retired			
Nelson, Michael Allan		9781633880566	
<i>Hexed: the sisters of Witchdown</i>	Prometheus Books, 2015	\$14.99	p.281
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library			
Nielsen, Jennifer A		978-0-545-56154-9	
<i>Mark of the Thief</i>	Scholastic Press, 2015	\$17.99	p.339
Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School			
Nielsen, Susin		978-0-553-49686-4	
<i>We Are All Made of Molecules</i>	Wendy Lamb Books, 2015	\$16.99	p.245
Gretchen Oates, Kamiakin Middle School			
Oliver, Lauren		978-0-222410-1	BFYA/QP
<i>Vanishing Girls</i>	Harper, 2015	\$23.99	p.357
Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School Library			
Oseman, Alice		978-0-06-233568-5	
<i>Solitaire</i>	Harper Teen, 2015	\$17.99	p.357
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			
Pashley, Hilton		978-0-544-30176-4	
<i>Gabriel's Clock</i>	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014	\$16.99	p.285
Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School			
Pass, Emma		9780385744478	
<i>The Fearless</i>	Delacorte Press, 2014	\$17.99	p.354
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS			

Picoult, Jodi and Samantha Van Leer		978-0-553-53556-3	
<i>Off the Page</i> (Companion to <i>Between the Lines</i>)	Delacorte Press, 2015	\$19.99	p.372
Marilyn Condon, LWSD retired			
Predergast, Gabrielle		978-1-4598-0464-7	
<i>The Frail Days</i> (Orca Limelights)	Orca, 2015	\$9.95	p.119
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS			
Roat, Sharon Huss		9780062291721	
<i>Between the Notes</i> (ARC)	HarperTeen, 2015	\$17.99	p.383
Jackie Lockwood, KCLS			
Rubin, Lance		9780553496963	
<i>Denton Little's Death Date</i>	Alfred A. Knopf, 2015	\$17.99	p.346
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library			
Rutkoski, Marie		9780374384708	BFYA
<i>The Winner's Crime</i> (The Winner's Trilogy)	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$17.99	p.402
Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School			
Salisbury, Melinda		978-054-581062-3	
<i>The Sin Eater's Daughter</i> (Sin Eater's Daughter Book 1)	Scholastic, 2015	\$17.99	p.320
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School			
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			
Scott, Kieran		978-0-545-69111-6	
<i>What Waits in the Woods</i>	Point, 2015	\$17.99	p.273
Esperanza Stewart, King County Library System			
Shakespeare, William and Carbone, Courtney		9780553535389	
<i>srsly Hamlet</i> (omg shakespeare!)	Random House, 2015	\$9.99	p.
Sarah Evans, University of Washington			
Shakespeare, William and Wright, Brett		9780553535396	
<i>YOLO Juliet</i> (omg shakespeare!)	Random House, 2015	\$9.99	p.
Sarah Evans, University of Washington			
Skye, Obert		978-0-8050-9879-2	

<i>Witherwood Reform School</i> (Book 1) Lea John, KCLS	Henry Holt and Company, 2015	\$16.99	p.231
Smith, Hilary T.		9780062184719	
<i>A Sense of the Infinite</i> Jackie Lockwood, KCLS	Katherine Tegen, 2015	\$17.99	p.390
St. Jean, Trina		978-1-4598-0807-25 (pbk)	
<i>Blank</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	Orca, 2015	\$12.95	p.301
Starmer, Aaron		9780374363116	
<i>The Whisper</i> (The Riverman Trilogy) Bonnie Svitavsky, Puyallup Public Library Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$16.99	p.361
Summy, Barrie		978-0-385-73943-6	
<i>The Disappearance of Emily H.</i> Gretchen Oates, Kamiakin Middle School	Delacorte Press, 2015	\$16.99	p.244
Turner, Henry		978-0-544-30827-5	
<i>Ask the Dark</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Clarion Books, 2015	\$17.99	p.2015
Valente, Catherynne M.		978-1-250-02349-0	
<i>The Boy Who Lost Fairyland</i> Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School	Fewel and Friends, 2015	\$19.5	p.235
Walters, Eric		978-0-374-30179-8	
<i>Fight for Power</i> (The Rule of Three) Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$17.99	p.346
Watson, Andi		9781626721494	GGNT/QP
<i>Princess Decomposa and Count Spatula</i> (GN) Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	First Second, 2015	\$14.99	p.161
Waugh, Sandra		9780449817483	

<i>Lark Rising</i> (Guardians of Tarnac #1) Kirsten Edwards, KCLS	Random House, 2014	\$17.99	p.372
Wein, Elizabeth		9781423183105	BFYA
<i>Black Dove White Raven</i> (ARC) Shelley Mastalerz, KCLS	Hyperion, 2015	\$17.99	p.368
Whitmer, Megan		9781939392152	
<i>Between</i> (ARC) Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Spencer Hill Press, 2014	\$9.95	p.330
Wilke, Daria		9780545726078	
<i>Playing a Part</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Arthur A. Levine, 2012	\$18.99	p.161
Yee, Lisa		978-0-545-230-4-0	BFYA
<i>The Kidney Hypothetical or how to ruin your life in seven days</i> \$17.99 p.266 Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian	Arthur Levine, 2015		
Zettel, Sarah		978-0-375-86940-2	
<i>Bad Luck Girl</i> (The American Fairy Trilogy #3) Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	Random House, 2014	\$17.99	p.356
Zink, Michelle		9780062327123	
<i>Lies I Told</i> Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS	HarperTeen, 2015	\$17.99	p.333

NON-FICTION

Bodden, Valerie		9781467752268	
<i>Identify and evaluate advertising</i> (Info Wise) Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library	Lerner Publications, 2015	\$24.52	p.40
Bodden, Valerie		9781608182831	
<i>Writing a Research Paper</i> Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School	Creative Education, 2015	\$24.95	p.48
Braun, Eric		978-1-4677-7244-0	
<i>John Green</i> (Gateway Biographies)	Lerner, 2015	\$20.00	p.48

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Bulion, Leslie 9781561457373
Random Body Parts - Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse Peachtree, 2015 \$14.95 p.48
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Doeden, Matt 9781467742092
Whistle-blowers:exposing crime and corruption Twenty-First Century Books, 2015 \$26.66 p.96
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Donovan, Sandy 9781467757836 **QP**
Thrift Shopping Twenty-First Century Books, 2015 \$24.99 p.64
Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Frydenborg 978-0-544-17566-2
Chocolate: Sweet Science & Dark Secrets of the World's Favorite Treat Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt, 2015 \$18.99 p.252
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library
JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Higgins, Melissa 9781491407646
You're In Charge: Basic Rules Every Babysitter Needs to Know (Babysitter's Backpack)
Capstone Press, 2015 \$20.49 p.32
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Hinds, Gareth 978-0-7636-6943-0 **GGNT**
Macbeth: A Graphic Novel Candlewick, 2015 \$21.99 p.144
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

Jarrow, Gail 9781620915974
Fatal Fever: tracking down typhoid mary Calkins Creek, 2015 \$16.95 p.176
Katy Olson

Jimenez, Francisco 978-5-547-63620-8
Taking Hold: From Migrant Childhood to Columbia University Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt, 2015 \$16.99 p.191
JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Marsocci & Deblasio 978-160-058240-0
How to Draw Steampunk Foster, Walter Publishing, 2011 \$32.4 p.128

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

McDonough, Yona Zeldis 978-0-8050-9542-5
Little Author in the Big Woods Henry Holt, 2014 \$16.99 p.156
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

Mitchell, Don 978-0-545-47725-3
The Freedom Summer Murders Scholastic, 2014 \$18.99 p.250
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

Murray, Elizabeth A., PhD 9781467725132
Overturing wrongful convictions Twenty-First Century Books, 2015 \$26.66 p.120
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Nardo, Don 978-075-654789-9
Hitler in Paris: How a Photograph Shocked a World at War Capstone, 2014 \$33.99 p.64
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Prince, Liz 9781936976553
Tomboy: a graphic memoir (GN) Zest Books, 2014 \$15.99 p.255
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Sacher, Jay 978-1-4521-2717-0
Lincoln Memorial-The Story and Design of an American Monument Chronicle Books,
2014 \$16.95 p.104
Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School

Schwartz, Simon 978-1-4677-5840-6 **GGNT**
The Other Side of the Wall (GN) Graphic Universe, 2015 \$28.97 p.112
Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Vloloj, Julian 978-1-56163-948-9
Ghetto Brother: Warrior to Peacemaker NBM Publishing, 2015 \$12.99 p.128
Lea John KCLS

Weiner, Stephen 978-1-56163-944-1
101 Outstanding Graphic Novels Nantier Beall Minoustchine, 2015 \$15.99 p.78
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Wooster, Patricia 978-1-58270-453-1

So, You Want to Work in Fashion?: How to Break into the World of Fashion and Design

(Be What You Want series)

Aladdin/Beyond Words, 2014 \$19.99

p.183

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Titles Reviewed – May 2015

FICTION - RECOMMEND

Arnett, Mindee 978-0-06-223562-6

Polaris (sequel to Avalon) Balzar & Bray, 2015 \$17.99 p. 423

Jeth and his band of thieves on the Avalon have managed to escape the clutches of Hammer and are trying to make it on their own, but times have been tough. They are now on the ITA's "most wanted" list, evil (and legendary) Commander Saar and new crime boss, Dax, are after them. They unwillingly team up with the crew of the *Polaris* to run a scam that they hope will cut them free and save Jeth's mother and sisters once and for all.

In a storyline that's tailor-made for fans of *Firefly* and *Guardians of the Galaxy*, this is a fast-paced sci-fi action adventure. The action is quick, the characters quirky but realistic and appealing, and the world Arnett has built is fun and thrilling. Jeth and his crew are smart and snarky and when (spoiler!) they lose one, it's heartbreaking. This is a sequel to *Avalon*, and it's a suitable ending to the story. Although it helps to have read the first, it's not really necessary since this is distinct enough to be a standalone book. Some violence, profanity and sexual content, but nothing terribly graphic.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Arnold, Elana 9780544334649

The Question of Miracles Houghton Mifflin, 2015 \$16.99 p. 240

When Iris and her family leave California for Oregon, the hope is to start anew and say goodbye to the past. Dad gets to stay at home and indulge his domestic fantasies, while mom has a new job to challenge her skills and interests. Iris, though, feels like the family is running away from a tragedy that took the life of her friend, Sarah, leaving her alone and heartbroken. Iris is convinced that Sarah's spirit has followed them to Oregon and lives in their new home. The book is not fantasy and focuses on the tangible loss of a friend. A good family story that highlights the importance of grief and mourning when we lose people.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Axelrod, Amy and David Axelrod 978-0-8234-2858-8

The Bullet Catch Holiday House, 2015 \$17.95 p. 245

It's New York City at the start of the 20th century and it's the peak of the golden age of magic due to the publicity of daring feats, such as those performed by Harry Houdini. Fourteen-year-old Leo uses Houdini's book *The Right Way to Do Wrong: An Expose of Successful Criminals* as his survival guide to life on the tough streets. Leo and a few of his other buddies from the orphanage have stuck together to run little scams to bring in enough money to eat. They are barely making it living in a condemned building with no heat. Leo's perfected the art of being invisible which has helped him earn the reputation as the best pickpocket. When Leo is betrayed by his friends, he knows his only chance for a future is to put his criminal past behind him and he turns to the only thing that's brought him comfort: magic. Leo manages to worm his way into studying with the formerly-great magician, Barzini, in the hopes of becoming his assistant. His new life has brought

him a roof over his head and some interaction with other famous magicians, including his idol Houdini. Leo learns that Barzini plans to resurrect his career by getting revenge on his former partner, and now arch enemy, Chung Ling Soo. This worries Leo as his Barzini's new stunt, "the bullet catch," could easily kill Barzini and land Leo in prison as a murderer. Teens who enjoy magic and learning about the history of past magicians will enjoy this entertaining mystery that's full of behind-the-scenes secrets to tricks and illusions. The true heart of the story is Leo's own coming of age story as he sifts through the smoke and mirrors to find his own place in the world.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Bass, Alexis 9780062275325

Love & other theories HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 376

Aubrey and her friends Shelby, Melissa, and Danica, have a few theories about love; e.g. high school guys are incapable of commitment, don't expect them to fall in love with you, sex is just for fun, and don't trust anything they say. Sure, living by the theories may keep the girls from heartache, but it also keeps them from meaningful relationships. When Aubrey starts dating new boy Nathan, she starts to question whether or not to stick by the theories... but then doesn't that open herself up to be hurt? This book is an anti-romance that will appeal to girls looking for lots of teenage drama. Contains much sex and alcohol. Grades 10+.

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Blankman, Anne 9780062278845

Conspiracy of Blood and Smoke (ARC) Balzer + Bray, 2015 \$17.99 p. 416

Thrilling sequel to pre-WWII romantic suspense novel Prisoner of Night and Fog. For 18 months, Gretchen has enjoyed the warmth of her adopted British family while her beloved Daniel remains nearby, working for a local paper. This hard-won peace is shattered when Daniel receives word his cousin has been brutally beaten and he decides to return to Germany. Waiting in England, Gretchen's worst fears are confirmed by a cryptic message that indicates Daniel has been charged with murder in Berlin. Gretchen follows Daniel's path, risking her life and her soul while facing her intimate nightmares. Only her love for Daniel and the wisdom of her mentor will keep her together in proximity to her Uncle Dolf. This white-knuckle sequel gives the reader glimpses of Berlin on the cusp of Hitler's complete takeover of the government, including its underworld of organized crime. The author also thoughtfully explores the lingering effects of a traumatic childhood as well the limits of sacrifice in a long-term romantic relationship.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Brugman, Alyssa 9781627790147

Alex As Well Henry Holt, 2015 \$16.99 p. 224

Alex was never given a choice about whether or not to be a boy or a girl. Born with ambiguous body parts, Alex decides that she identifies as a girl when she is in high school. When she decides to change schools, she needs a birth certificate to register, and hers indicates that she is a boy. Determined to be herself, Alex goes about changing to birth certificate and convincing her parents to let her be as she wants to be. The story changes perspectives from Alex to her mom (told in her mom's blog). Her parents want to be supportive, but they are confused and angry over the changes that Alex brings to their family dynamic. The story will create good discussion about gender identity and societal pressure on gender roles.

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult
Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Burningham, Hilary 978-1-78322-028-1

The Graphic Shakespeare Series-Julius Caesar ReadZone Books, 2014 \$9.99 p. 71

The format of this book is simple and effective. One page has the famous Shakespeare play paraphrased in common language and the other side has an illustration along with the original Shakespearean language. It is a great way to introduce upper elementary and middle grades to the plot of Shakespeare's plays without getting lost in the language.

Grades: 6th, 7th

Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School

Carter, Ally 978-0-545-65474-6

All Fall Down (Embassy Row) Scholastic Press, 2015 \$17.99 p. 310

Grades 7 and up - Grace has returned to Embassy Row after her three years in a mental hospital recovering from watching her mother die. She is convinced that a "scarred man" shot her mother before the fire, where everyone else knows that her mother died in a terrible fire. When she sees her "mother's killer" at an Embassy party and overhears that he is going to kill again, she gathers a group of friends around her to help uncover the mystery and prove that her mother was killed.

This is an interesting story with a great setting. I love the idea of students learning about lives of those living in Embassies around the world. Despite the fact that Grace is an American citizen, if she is found trespassing in another "country" a war could start. While I found that, at times, Grace was a little too dramatic, I think that middle school students could relate to her feelings of not being heard or believed. There are also a lot of elements of mystery, so students that enjoy cliffhangers will enjoy this book.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th

Bethany Steirer, RHMS

Child, Lauren 9780763654696

Ruby Redfort: Catch Your Death (Ruby Redfort #3) Candlewick Press, 2015 \$16.99 p. 516

Ruby Redfort is a precocious middle school student who is an undercover spy. Her parents remain oblivious through her many adventures (and mis-adventures).

This third book in the series sees Ruby fail at survival camp but then has to put these same skills to use in order to solve a mystery concerning vanishing objects and a new perfume.

Perfect for younger readers with above average reading levels; Good read-alike for the Mysterious Benedict Society series.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Additional comments: Perfect for upper elementary students reading above grade level

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Coleman, Reed Farrel 978-1-4598-0674-0

The Boardwalk (Gulliver Dowd #3) Raven Books, 2015 \$9.95 p. 149

After many years, Gulliver Dowd hopes to find out who murdered his beloved sister, Keisha. Even though he became a private investigator to solve her murder, he has never gotten close, until the night NYPD Detective Sam Patrick, calls Dowd asking him to meet him later so he can share information about Keisha. Dowd begs to hear the information over the phone, but Patrick refuses. When Patrick fails to show and ends up gunned down on the Coney Island Boardwalk, Dowd

begins his own investigation that takes him down a dangerous path that local crime bosses would rather he avoid. The more Dowd learns, the harder it is for him to turn back, even though he knows he's putting his own life at risk to find the truth. This typical Rapid Reads novel for reluctant readers is a riveting mystery full of captivating characters with a reading level of 3.0. Third in a series. For grades 7 and up.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Constantine, Robin 978-0-06-227951-4

The Secrets of Attraction (ARC) Balzer & Bray, 2015 \$17.99 p. 384

Madison lives a pretty good life. It's just her and mom, but that's okay. She's got good friends and a very cute casual boyfriend. She's not looking for anything different. Then she meets Jesse. Jesse works at the coffee shop Madison and her friends frequent after yoga class. He's having a hard time getting over a recent break up that also left him without a band. When his ex-best friend wants the rights to play one of their songs with his new band, Jesse realizes he has to get back in the game. Through various coincidences Madison and Jesse spend more and more time together and start to fall for each other even if they don't think they are ready for something real. Told in alternating voices, this companion to *The Promising of Amazing* is a fluffy romance teen girls will love even if it doesn't offer anything new. Grades 9+.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Coyle, Katie 978-0-544-34011-4

Vivian Apple at the End of the World Houghton Mifflin, 2014 \$17.99 p. 262

Vivian's parents and many others in their community are followers of a charismatic preacher who has predicted that the faithful will be lifted up on New Year's Eve. As unbelievers, Vivian joins her friends at a rockin' party. When she gets home, she finds her parents gone and two holes in the ceiling of their bedroom. She's not the only one with missing family members. She teams up with a couple of friends and acquaintances to get answers.

This novel is part road trip, part coming of age, part action-adventure. There are secrets and lies to be revealed and questions of faith. Vivian changes over the course of the book from a follower to a strong young woman. Because the major theme is questioning the teachings of one's parents, this is for more mature teens.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Coyle, Katie 978-0-544-34011-4

Vivian Apple At the End of the World (Vivian Apple #1) Houghton Mifflin, 2014 \$17.99 p. 272

"It's a line from the story of Frick's first vision, the one he had in a dream, where he and God chat over Frappuchinos at Starbucks before God condemns secular morals and burns all the baristas' eyeballs out."

Vivian at seventeen has had a great relationship with her parents. That is, until they join the Church of America with the charismatic prophet Beaton Frick and begin preparations for the Rapture. With her friend Harp (Harpreet Janda) Vivian has a Rapture Watch party the night the event was to happen. (At any party now, you worry about meeting boys who try to "Magdalene" girls- seduce them into having sex, then condemn them publicly as whores.)

When Vivian arrives home the next day, no one is there, and there are human sized holes in the roof. Some 3,000 people have disappeared. Vivian's parents have however, left her food and supplies for 6 months until the predicted end of the world.

Many believers were not raptured though, and the looting and chaos begins. Worse, marauding bands of Believers become ultra-vigilant when they find a passage in the Book of Frick that talks about the "second boat" of faithful. Harp's gay brother is taken and brutally killed. Vivian tries to find help with adults: her teacher, her grandparents, an aunt. Ultimately, she and Harp and a boy from the New Orphans begin a road trip to find answers.

While some of the book is just plain silly, much of it leads with just enough possibility that we can visualize this happening. The Believers are actually treated with respect, and the novel does not stray into "preachy." The ending leaves the door open for a sequel. Oh for Frick sake! (thankfully never actually said in the book)

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Damico, Gina 978-0-544-30710-0

Hellhole Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014 \$17.99 p. 349

Max Kilgore, 17, works late nights at the convenience store to pay the bills. His dad's long gone and his mother is bedridden in the last stages of heart failure. Max doesn't want to worry her about the increasing number of bills he cannot pay, so he distracts her. That's what motivated him one night to steal a tacky, glittery pink plastic cat bobble head. Unfortunately for Max, his first crime won't be his last as his theft allowed one of the 666 Satans to escape from Hell and take up residence in his basement. Now Max has to do whatever this devil named Burg requests or reap dire consequences on those he cares about, like his mom. With a little negotiating, Max is able to swing a deal with Burg where Max acquires him the stolen luxury accommodations he desires and Burg will cure Max's mom. Max finds an ally in his school's former goth girl, Lore, who is rumored to have done her own devilish experiments. Soon the two are on the ultimate quest to have good vanquish evil...or at least get it out of Max's basement before his mom finds out. Unfortunately, the devil can only use items that are illegally acquired so Max finds himself doing things he never thought of before, such as stealing copious amounts of junk food and alcohol to appease the red beast in his basement. Yet Max should have known that the devil is in the details...how far will Max have to go to save his mom? Teens looking for some humor in their horror, with a twinge of romance, will love this one. Even though some of the plot is dark (and a little unbelievable), there's plenty of heart to keep you reading until the startling conclusion. Fun bonus: Each chapter is a clue to a crossword puzzle featured at the start of the novel (because Max is obsessed about completing these puzzles in record time)

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Derting, Kimberly 9780062293633

The Replaced (ARC) (The Taking #2) HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 357

Kyra disappeared for five years, and reappeared without aging a day. She is one of The Returned, taken by aliens and returned with the ability to heal, age slowly, see in the dark, and move things with her mind. Not every member of the Returned is like Kyra, though. Most only go missing for a few days, and no one has her telekinetic abilities. She's on the run from the NSA and has joined a group of Returned, hiding out and hoping that her boyfriend Tyler - who was abducted at the end of book one - may still be alive. When her newfound friends discover an NSA message that may be

about Tyler, Kyra and the group set out to rescue him and learn more about the cause of the abductions.

The Replaced is the second book in The Taking trilogy, and it feels very much like a go-between. There's a lot of travel time, getting from secret camps to secret bases and then to even more secret camps. Side characters are developed, but the romantic triangle that's taking shape in this book feels forced. There's also a lot of talk from Kyra about not having the strength to say no when secondary love interest Simon shows his feelings for her. While the majority of their interactions are very innocent - the most risqué is a kiss, with... tongue (dun dun dun) - it bothered me that she kept talking about how much she loved her boyfriend (the most boring of the characters in the book), but wouldn't be able to resist Simon, even though she couldn't reciprocate his feelings. Outside of the forced love triangle, Kyra is a strong lead, with a great voice. Her voice and the writing, which has a healthy dose of snark, will appeal to teens, though the story gets bogged down in the travel. The action really picks up at the end of the book, when the Returned realize there may be a spy in their midst. There is, of course, a cliff hanger ending. I hadn't read the first book in the series, but there's plenty of rehashing that fills the reader in. There is some violence, on and off the page, that some readers may find upsetting - characters are shot and wounded, with some graphic descriptions, and the blood of the Returned is poisonous to regular humans.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Bonnie Svitavsky, Puyallup Public Library

Dominy, Amy Fellner 978-0-385-74443-0

A Matter of Heart Delacorte Press, 2015 \$17.99 p. 306

Abby Lippman is on track to win state and qualify for the swimming Olympic trials. She knows that with the support of her parents, her best friend, and her hot boyfriend that her life is set . . . until she is dizzy after a meet three weeks before state and her world changes. Due to her coach's instance, she has to get checked out by her doctor and after a few tests, the doctor refers her to a cardiologist. While she waits for tests results, she forbidden from swimming and Abby wonders how she will be able to survive if the one thing that she has lived for is taken away.

This is a great sports book, featuring a female lead and addressing a health issue not regularly talked about in high school sports - HCM. There is talk of sex and if characters should wait or not, therefore, not a great recommendation for younger readers. A great read and will be loved by swimmers, sports enthusiasts, or readers looking for an engaging realistic story.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill MS, LWSD

Dudley, David L. 978-0547910680

Cy in Chains Clarion, 2013 \$17.99 p.

It is after the Civil War, and Cy Williams is free. But Cy also lives in Georgia and knows that freedom is only as far as the next white man telling him what to do. His best friend is Travis, the plantation owner's son who tries to run away. As Cy tries to talk him out of it, then help, Cy is caught in a whirlwind of saving Travis from a river- too late. Travis drowns, Cy is accused and then acquitted- and still sent to a prison chain gang that offers no hope of being released and no escape.

As we follow fourteen year old Cy through the years of horrors in the camp, we learn much of the history and conditions after Reconstruction through the eyes of teenage boys. Bleak and realistic,

Cy teaches us too about heartbreak, hope, and religion. The story is as violent as it is realistic. It will also likely be lost within the historical setting readings. I would hate to see it lost to relegation.
Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Durango, Julie 978-0-06-231400-0

The Leveller Harper Teen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 256

Ever since MEEP, a virtual reality gaming world, was launched three years ago, it's been the number one game of choice. Unlike previous VR games, this one uses special frequencies that leave the gamers's bodies in a coma-like state while they are playing. Even though there is a four-hour limit to playing MEEP, there's a strong black market for "timer hacks" that allow you to stay in the game longer--for a price. Not surprisingly, parents are frustrated that they cannot physically 'wake-up' their kids who are playing. Parents only have three options for interrupting their children's game: 1) pay big \$\$ for MEEP's security package and then MEEP will shut down their game externally; (2) wait for your child to get bored, or until their time runs out; or (3) pay \$100 to teen Nixy Bauer who acts as a bounty hunter and enters MEEP and promises to retrieve your child within an hour or you don't have to pay. Nixy's parents both work for MEEP so she has full access to the game's cheats and codes which are key to levelling (aka bounty hunting). The cheats are little bits of dialogue that cue specific responses, for example, "I want to see the real you," will immediately turn off all the enhancements people have purchased to their avatar. This allows Nixy to make sure the handsome football player in VR is really the scrawny nerdy kid that she was sent to retrieve and force back into reality. Then MEEP's rich developer, Diego Salvador, calls Nixy for help in bringing back his son, Wyn, who is lost in the VR game. It seems that Wyn has left a suicide note at the start of a treacherous maze of death that none of Salvador's own tech people can solve without dying repeated VR deaths. Nixy's up for a new challenge and sets out in MEEP to find Wyn, except events end up being more dangerous than anyone expected since it turns out Wyn isn't lost, he's being held prisoner within MEEP. If Nixy can't figure out what's really going on, both her and Wyn will be trapped inside MEEP forever. Both male and female teens will be impressed with Nixy's fighting skills and keep reading non-stop until the captivating conclusion which seems to wrap this up as a stand-alone novel. The suspense over what's really going on, coupled with a bit of romance, makes it an entertaining read.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Easton, Tom 978-0-8234-3209-7

Seven Second Delay Holiday House, 2015 \$16.95 p. 224

In the future, it's preferable to be living in a First world country, like the Isles. Citizens there do not have to work for a living and find all their basic needs met. For those who want to Contribute to society, they are given a job and additional rewards, such as a nicer house and better food. Third world countries are forced to labor for the privilege of below poverty living and, in turn, are unknowingly providing all the food and resources for the First world countries. Seventeen-year-old Mila has spent the last three years traveling through the U with Julian, an experienced man who taught her how to survive and fight as they traveled from her home Third world country to the Isles where, as they were sneaking into the country, Julian died and Mila was captured. In this society everyone's every move is watched by everyone else, due to the phones that Citizens have implanted at birth that provide a constant video feed to whomever chooses to Watch you. When one of these internal phones is forced inside Mila, she convinces the government agent to keep the seven-second delay in her video feed to anyone watching her. Mila is able to manipulate those around her, using

those precious seven seconds to her advantage and escapes. Now that she's on the run, she has government agents trying to kill her and is learning that her role in Isles society might be more important than she ever realized. Was Julian truly a friend to her or was he setting her up? (Did I mention she just found out someone implanted a bomb inside her brain?) Teens looking for a new female action hero who's as unconventional as she is deadly, will cheer for Mila's survival. This book's unrelenting action and frenetic pace will appeal to Divergent fans who will find it hard to put this book down for even seven seconds.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Elliott, Jenny 978-1-250-06147-8 (pbk.)

Save Me Feiwel and Friends, 309 \$9.99 p. 309

17-year-old Cara lives in the small seaside town of Liberty, Oregon and is leery of dating. Cara enjoys hanging out with her BFF Rachel and spending time with her beloved gray whales that she gets to see often by volunteering with Liberty Charters on the weekends. On a recent whale watching trip, Cara is shocked when her two favorite gray whales come close enough to their 26-foot boat to be touched. David, a 20-something passenger, starts petting the whale's head and invites Cara to do as well. As soon as Cara touches the whale a warm tingling sensation passes between herself and David. Then an Orca whale bumps the boat knocking Cara into the water and David jumps in to save her--cementing a newfound bond between them. Even though she's just met him, Cara is already starting to fall in love and listens to the voice in her head that tells her she can trust David. Later that same day, Cara meets another handsome young man, Garren, who just moved to town. She immediately likes and trusts him as well, even though she views him as a friend. Soon Cara's life becomes complicated when she finds out David is her student teacher for journalism and Garren's always around. Meanwhile, her BFF Rachel has a new, shady boyfriend and stops speaking to Cara as she becomes almost comatose. If Cara's going to figure out what's going on with Rachel and a way for her to be with her soulmate David, she's going to need a lot of help. Teen girls looking for some romance reminiscent of Twilight or Halo, will likely enjoy this book featuring Cara's romantic woes interwoven with some mystery, but I'll pass. My adult brain refused to swoon to this plotline.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Emerson, Kevin 9780062134004

Encore to an Empty Room (ARC) (Exile) Katherine Tegen Books, 2015 \$17.99 p. 320

In *Exile* Emerson sets up an intriguing musical mystery in which Eli White, a rock legend belonging to the band Allegiance to North, dies very young and very suddenly leaving behind children and three tracks that he composed and never recorded. Eli has gone to great lengths to hide the songs, and leaves behind clues for his family to find. Also in *Exile*, the main character Summer begins to manage Caleb's new band Dangerheart. In *Encore to an Empty Room*, Caleb and Summer continue their romance, and the band goes on another tour this time taking them to Denver and NYC. There is some definite tension in the band, being Eli White's son puts Caleb in the spotlight, overshadowing his other bandmates. During *Encore* Summer is trying to decide what she would like to do after graduating high school, whether it be college or continue managing the band she loves. The second novel, is just as solid as the first in the *Exile* series, with a pretty huge twist at the end that makes the reader clambering for the third, and final installment of the series. Recommended for grades 9 and up, with some underage drinking and magic brownies.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Shelley Mastalerz, KCLS

Emerson, Kevin 978-0-385-39112-2

Breakout Crown, 2015 \$17.99 p. 297

It's 12 days until the fall Arts Night, where 8th grader Anthony Catillo hopes his rock band, Rusty Soles, will make their successful debut. This is the only bright spot in his life. The only teacher he likes is the Rock Band Club adviser, Mr. Darren. He's given up dating. Since he's overweight, his family's meals have become healthy, nutritional (boring and tasteless) plus his parents force him to attend a weekly Fat Class where he's forced to exercise. As Anthony narrates the action of his life, he compares it to his favorite video game (Liberation Force 4.5) where Nazis are bombing and surrounding him and he knows there's no escape. This military survival game becomes a metaphor for his life. Just when his frustration levels at his life boil over, he writes his first song, "Breakout," where he expresses what he's really feeling. His passionate song ends with two F-bombs. He shares his song with his bandmate and best friend, Keenan, who immediately puts it up on their BandSpace page. Suddenly, "Breakout" is a viral hit and it brings increased attention at school. Then when the principal hears the song and its swear words, Anthony is forced to decide whether or not to sing the original F-bombs in the band's performance at Arts Night. Singing how he really feels will result in serious consequences at school, but if he censors himself, how can he call himself a real artist? Teens will cheer for underdog Anthony and identify with his life struggles, especially if they like rock music or playing in a band. Plus, my students will enjoy the local references as it's set in Seattle.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Emerson, Kevin 9780385391122

Breakout Crown, 2015 \$17.99 p. 297

Frustrated middle school boy explores the limits of artistic expression. 7th grader Anthony feels trapped in a bad session of his favorite online game, Liberation Force. But instead of fighting Nazi's, he's battling uptight teachers, shallow girls, and his own weight (with a parent enforced diet and exercise regimen). The only thing going right in his life is playing guitar in an after-school rock band club. One night, Anthony pours all his emotions into lyrics for a new song, records it, and sends it to his buddy to check out. Unknown to him, his friend posts it online where it receives a lot of positive feedback, so much so that they want to perform it for the next school concert. Problem is, Anthony included a few F-bombs, which the school administration want changed for the performance. Should he stick to his original vision, as encouraged by his suddenly interested ex-girlfriend, or will the song be as good with altered lyrics, like the cute drummer girl suggests? Author Emerson's work with real teens shines through as he captures the confused brilliance and intensity of many young teens with pitch-perfect dialogue and realistic character actions. Bonus: it's set in Seattle.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Gaetz, Dayle Campbell 978-1-4598-0822-5

Disappearing Act (Leena O'Neil Mystery) Raven Books, 2015 \$9.95 p. 145

Leena O'Neil dropped her past life three years ago, just like she dropped her born name of Colleen. She enjoys her quiet life that's a ferry ride away from the rest of the world. Leena considers herself to 'almost' be a private investigator since she's a legal assistant and has already taken some online courses in criminology. Out of the blue, Leena's estranged sister Georgia shows up needing help.

Georgia claims that her separated husband has attempted to kill her three times, however, news reports quickly reveal that Georgia may be lying since it's her husband who has ended up murdered. Can Leena's burgeoning detective skills figure out what's really going on with her sister or will there be another murder in the family before the truth is revealed? This typical Rapid Reads novel for reluctant readers is an entertaining mystery with a reading level of 4.2. First in a new series.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Geminhar 9780545665735

The Honesty Truth Scholastic, 2015 \$16.99 p. 240

Mark heads off on what should be his final adventure in life. Recently diagnosed with terminal cancer, he doesn't want to miss out on his goal of climbing Mount Rainier. He packs his bag and heads out with his faithful dog and poetry notebook, writing haikus along the way. Only his best friend Jessie knows where he is, and she wants to keep his secret safe. Mark meets many obstacles, including bullies, weather poor finances, and an amber alert that all threaten to end his quest. This is an endearing story that will capture your heart and attention. Such a great book!

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Gibbons, Alan 978-1-780620-183

An Act of Love: The Bomb is Ticking.... Orion, 2012 p. 295

Chris and Imran have been friends since they were 7 years old. They were inseparable until September 11 changed everything. In the midst of growing racial tension and increasing terrorist activity in London, Chris joins the Army and Imran gets involved with a radical Iman. Can they find their way back to the friendship?

First published in England in 2011, this is a side of the story that few Americans see – the effect of American politics and military action on the citizens of other countries. The story is told in the voices of both Chris and Imran over the course of 10 years, so the reader can more fully understand how and why the boys change. Rarely do we get to see the Muslim side of the story. The terrorists are not portrayed in a sympathetic manner, but it's clear how some can be radicalized. It may be fiction, but it certainly humanizes current events in a way that news agencies can't. The writing is a bit uneven, certainly not the highest quality prose, but definitely readable and a very compelling story. Because the violence can be graphic and the politics confusing for younger students, recommended for high school

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Giles, Lamar 9780062297563

Endangered (ARC) Harper Teen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 288

Lauren runs an anonymous photo blog that highlights her classmates in compromising positions. Things spiral out of control when she posts a photo of a teacher and student having sex in a car. Someone who seems to know all her secrets starts to blackmail her and unless she plays along, the blackmailer is going to reveal Lauren's identity as the blogger.

Lots of action and suspense, some sexual situations, profanity. For high school or mature 8th graders. An eye-opener for how little things can grow out of control, especially where social media is concerned.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Gray, Laurie 978-1-935462-96-5

Just Myrto Luminis Books, 2014 \$19.95 p. 209

Myrto's father dies without leaving her a dowry, so her brother arranges for her to become Socrates' second wife. She is hesitant at first, but comes to respect and even love Socrates, bearing him 2 sons and becoming almost his conversational equal. This is historical fiction, a tale of ancient Greece featuring many historical figures, but it's also a handbook to the great Greek philosophers. A look at life for women in Ancient Greece, a primer on Greek politics, and plenty of conversation that could lead to more discussion and study of Plato & Socrates.

Nothing objectionable here, younger students might enjoy the personal story, but the philosophical discussions may be too sophisticated (or too boring) for younger readers. The author is a teacher, attorney, student of Socratic Method and runs a consulting service called Socratic Parenting. Includes a glossary of Greek names. Recommended for 8th grade and up

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Green, Tim 9780062317087

Lost Boy Harper Collins, 2015 \$16.99 p. 300

Ryder's mom has been in a horrible accident that damaged her heart valves. Ryder feels guilty about the accident but also desperate to save his mom because she's the only family he has. With the help of a firefighter and a crotchety old neighbor in a wheelchair, Ryder sets out to try to find his dad and save his mom's life.

Lots of plot twists and lots of baseball to keep readers engaged. Ryder's character growth is well-written and I absolutely loved the voice of the feisty old neighbor man. One does not have to be a sports fan to appreciate this book.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Griffin, Paul 978-0-545-70939-2

ADRIFT (ARC) Scholastic Press, 2015 \$17.99 p. 240

Matt and his best friend John are in the Hamptons working for the summer, when they are invited to a party by local socialite. After a reckless part goer decides to jump on a windsurfing board during a major storm, Matt and John follow in a boat to rescue her from her obvious demise. After her rescue, the kids soon realize they are out to sea with no fuel and no cell service. The five of them must somehow survive long enough to be rescued. Stef, the windsurfer has some horrible wounds from her windsurfing expedition. Stef's boyfriend Jojo starts to go crazy from the heat and seeing his girlfriend hurt. Matt, John and Driana must figure out a way to find water, survive a storm and the heat and also deal with their pasts if they don't want to die. Not all of them are saved. This is an excellent survival story that doesn't shy away from the gross details. It will appeal to both boys and girls.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Lea John, KCLS

Grinti, Mike, and Rachel Grinti 978-1-61614-978-9

Jala's Mask Pyr, 2014 \$18 p. 282

Jala, a young woman groomed like all the other young women on her island to be queen, actually captures the eye of the young king, Azi, and they are quickly wed, but when they land on the king's island, an invasion force from the mainland appears and throws chaos, magic books, and intrigue into the mix. While their marriage is strained by pressure from their distrustful fathers, the trouble coming from the mainland is greater, and Jala decides to return a magic book to its rightful owners to avoid war.

I picked up this book for its cover art: a young African couple looking out at the reader. This fantasy world isn't African per se, but it's great to see nontraditional, non-Western characters, settings, and fantasy constructs. Recommended for grades 9-12.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult
Wally Bubelis, Seattle Public Library

Hoyle, Tom 9780823432943

Thirteen Holiday House, 2014 \$16.95 p. 226

At the stroke of midnight, January 1, 2000, thirteen children were born. According to "The People," a cult, these thirteen children must be put to death for one is prophesized to become the next Imposter on his fourteenth birthday. Twelve of the thirteen are already dead; only Adam lives. And now Adam's life takes a sinisterly turn for the worse as he becomes a fugitive on the run, unable to trust anyone, not even the police. As his fourteenth birthday draws near, the cult becomes increasingly erratic and desperate, all the while Adam tries to not only escape capture and impending death, but also tries to keep his loved ones safe. Thirteen is a non-stop action adventure that will appeal to students of all ages.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Additional comments: Reviewed in last Washrag
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Isbell, Tom 978-0-06-221601-4

The Prey HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 404

Book, an LT at an orphan camp run by the military, finds out from an escapee that has been recaptured that he is not training for the future, when he will be commissioned into the army, ready to defend the country against another massive bomb blast like the one that made him and his fellow orphans deformed in ways. Instead, he will be hunted for sport by people that don't want to allow his kind to survive in the new world after the great war. After they escape the camp and join with a few girls also on the run, they must survive being hunted as prey. Grades 7th-10th

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Michael Fleming - PCMS

Jensen, Michael and King, David Powers 978-0-545-68572-6

Woven Scholastic Press, 2015 \$18.99 p. 344

Nels wants nothing more than to be a knight of the kingdom of Averand. Living in a small isolated village he is not sure how to realize his dream. One day his mother has to leave on an errand and leaves Nels with strict instructions to finish chores and not to leave the house. While she is gone he is lured away from the house by a strange man who inform Nels of a visit by the King and his family that is taking place in the village square. Nels sees it as his chance to make himself known and perhaps realize his dream of becoming a knight. Everything goes wrong and ends with Nels being killed by a mysterious person when he gets home.

After Nels is killed he becomes a ghost that no one can see except the spoiled princess who just happened to humiliate him at their first meeting in the village square. The princess reluctantly decides to help Nels. She goes to the royal tailor for help and finds out that the world's history is woven together through a magical tapestry. It is up to her and Nels to find a magic needle that can restore a tear in the tapestry caused by the evil forces that killed Nels. This needle will also have the power to restore Nels back to his human form and help him discover his past.

This is a clever fantasy with interesting metaphors.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School

Jensen, Michael and King, David Powers 978-0-545-68572-6

Woven Scholastic, 2015 \$18.99 p. 352

Nels has always wanted to be a knight, but his mother ran away from the court, looking to hide him away. Still, Nels runs into Princess Tyra at a local festival, after which he is brutally killed by being squashed by a tree branch, held in place by a magician who wanted him dead. Now, he operates as a ghost, haunting Princess Tyra, who treated him badly at the festival. His body is technically alive, but only a magical item can bring him back. He blackmails Tyra into helping him search for the item, a needle that can sew life threads into the great pattern, this world's form of magic. Pretty clever actually, and a slow romance that grows over the course of the book. Grades 4th-9th

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Michael Fleming - PCMS

Johansson, J.R. 978-0-374-30023-4

Cut Me Free Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2015 \$17.99 p.

At seventeen, Piper is seeking a new identity after leaving her extremely abusive parents. She has been careful for a year, finding Cameron (a forgery expert) and his cousin Lily (a hair and makeup artist) to help create the persona, the new papers, and even an apartment and job for an identity called Charlotte. Despite her horrific background, Charlotte is making a new life. That is until she sees a small child in the park with scars that Charlotte recognizes, and while she could not save her little brother, she must try to save this girl.

Charlotte's abusive background allow her to trust no one, but now with Sanda in her life, she allows herself to begin to trust Cam. We even smile a bit and enjoy the simple goodness of the life Charlotte and Sanda have created. Until the threatening notes arrive. In her need to trust Cam, Charlotte must relate the story of the knives and torture and blood that were her childhood, and then the murders of her parents and Sanda's keeper that Cam finds so hard to sort out.

This is a story of incredible courage and love; it is also a story of incredible violence. Even beyond the story of A child called it, the story is violent. There are notes at the back of the book on child abuse and slavery, but this violent novel will leave you so breathless, they might be ignored.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Jordan, Sophie 9780062233714

Unleashed (Uninvited #2) HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 355

Unleashed picks up right where Uninvited ended, with Davy, Sean, and their friends having just escaped from Mount Haven and now trying to make their way across the border into Mexico where the HTS diagnosis does not mean segregation and having to live in constant fear. On the voyage over, however, tragedy strikes and Davy is separated from the others, stranded in the US where she

is rescued by Caden, the leader of a rebel group. Davy wants nothing more than to reunite with her friends, but Caden falls for her and makes it his mission to win her over.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Kantor, Melissa 9780062279231

Better than Perfect Harper Teen, \$17 p. 324

Realistic fiction set in a fairy tale world of privilege. A high school senior faces the first legitimate struggles in her life when her parents divorce and her mother has a breakdown. Managing her ambitious schedule of SAT review, honors classes, sports, and college applications, in addition to questioning her family relationships, makes Juliet more self-reliant and leads her to some new ideas about her goals. Her four year power-couple relationship with Jason faces its own challenges when she is tempted by a new boy whose lifestyle has not been quite as scripted as Juliet's. The teen voices are authentic, and Juliet considers her values honestly, but her problems are all too-neatly resolved. Students living in affluent communities where ambition and high expectations are the norm may relate well to Juliet's soul-searching. Sex and language make this appropriate for older high school students.

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th

Sarah Ellison, Forest Ridge School

Kenneally, Miranda 978-1-4926-0866-0

Breathe, Annie, Breathe Sourcebooks Fire, 2015 \$9.99 p. 320

Struggling to move on after the death of her long time boyfriend, eighteen-year-old Annie decides to run the marathon he was training for. In the process of her own training, Annie meets Jeremiah and for the first time in a long while she feels something like a spark. But, Jeremiah has his own stuff to deal with. He is an adrenaline junkie and his mother has had it. If he doesn't cut back, she won't let him be part of the family or see his little sisters. As much as she likes Jeremiah, Annie isn't sure she can risk her heart with him. For Jeremiah, love might be the biggest rush of all. This romance probably falls under the category of "new adult" because it is a bit racier than most of this type marketed to younger teens. For older teens, this is a stand out among similar fare. The characters are believable and likeable. I particularly liked how respectful Jeremiah was of Annie's previous love. Grades 9+ due to drinking and some sex on the page.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Keplinger, Kody 316084239

The DUFF Little Brown/Poppy, 2010 \$280 p.

Bianca is the "D.U.F.F.," or so she has been informed by Wesley, the hot jock who has a reputation for sleeping with anyone and everyone at school. According to him, her two best friends are hot, and she, in comparison is not (she, it seems, is actually rather average). After ranting at Wesley, whom she despises even before his degrading comment, Bianca surprisingly throws herself at him and kisses him! Much to her surprise (and no one else's since the two keep it a secret), Bianca and Wesley start a casual, ongoing sexual relationship, in which she mostly calls the shots. All the while, though, Wesley calls her "Duffy"! If Bianca hates him so much and he is so horrible, why is she still hooking up with him? She comes up with lots of excuses, including her rocky home life, but nothing really warrants the complete lack of self-respect she has for herself. This book is a great realistic read for teen girls with low self-esteem. Bianca learns to confront her self-esteem issues and develops personally throughout the book. Her development is entangled with Wesley's personal

development, whom isn't, not surprisingly, the total jerk that he seems. Bianca, with her various quips, is strong willed (if not a bit jaded), and feels like a very real teen character girls will connect with. There is definitely more casual sex on the page in this novel than one often sees in YA literature, but it is interesting to see a female character leading the charge around this. The sex and occasional swearing make this suitable for a high school audience. Overall, a good read that teens will like. "Chick lit with a bit of a bite to it".

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Brooke Shoostine, Maple Valley and Enumclaw Libraries, KCLS

Knowles, Jo 978-0-7636-6387-2

Read Between the Lines Candlewick Press, 2015 \$16.99 p. 329

The phrase "read between the lines" can mean different things from not so subtly giving someone the finger to asking someone to look deeper. In these ten connected stories it means both. All of the characters experience giving or receiving the finger – one boy ends up with a cast on his middle finger, one girl gets so absorbed in watching a conversation in sign language that they give her the bird for being rude, and one beaten down teacher realizes she can find secret pleasure in using the girl scout pledge hand signal with her class. But, all these characters also start to see past the surface of their own lives or those around them – recognizing unseen struggles, letting go of old friends to find new, accepting themselves even if others don't. Although not as strong as some of Knowles other books this is still solid. Grades 9+.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Kontis, Alethea 978-0-554-074-71

Dearest (Woodcutter Sisters Book III) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015 \$17.99 p. 359

Friday is the sweetest of the Woodcutter's seven daughters. Her nameday gift, an enchanted needle from her Godmother Joy, assists her in her seamstress apprenticeship. When her younger sister Saturday conjures up an ocean in their Kingdom of Arilland, Friday is rescued by Conrad, a young messenger, who is on his way to the castle with a message for the Queen from her parents the Woodcutters. Queen Sunday is alarmed to find Friday in an unconscious state and Conrad is amazed that the pretty girl he rescued is the Queen's sister. As Friday returns to good health, she joins the rest of the royal household in providing care and lodging to all the victims of the flood. Friday appoints herself the Princess of the Children and she and her young squire (Conrad) name them the Darlings.

One night while chasing the mischievous puppy Ben the Needy, Friday climbs the steep stairs of the abandoned castle tower and discovers her true love! The problem is he and his six brothers are enchanted and must spend the daylight hours as swans. Sound familiar? This reference to the fairy tale Seven Swans is accompanied by references to other fairy tales, nursery rhymes and children's books. All add to the humor of this fun and fast-paced adventure into the fairy world. Third in the companion set of the "Woodcutter Sisters", *Dearest* can easily stand on its own. The Kingdom of Arilland can be confusing, mixed with reality and magic, but Friday's story is placed both at the palace and in the fey realm and is very well explained. Recommended for grades 6 – 10. Highly recommended for all who love fairy tales, humor and just a touch of romance.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Marilyn Condon, LWSD Retired

Lehrman, Maggie 978-0-06-232074-2

The Cost of All Things (ARC) Balzer + Bray, 2015 \$17.99 p. 416

Magical realism that explores the mysteries of human connection and loss. Few hekamists remain, but there is one still living in the community of Cape Cod. For a fee, she can cast a spell, taken through food, as small as helping you with a test and as large as erasing certain memories. But every spell has a cost, an unintended consequence that will be stronger based on previous spell work. Four teens reveal their part of the story in alternating chapters. Ari wants to forget her recently deceased boyfriend. Kay wants friends that will stay by her. Markos just wants to be himself. And Win wants to understand his life and his death. As their lives intersect in surprising ways, secrets are uncovered and the cost of trying to gain too much control over circumstances becomes clear. Readers will be engaged by the haunting mysteries and provoked by the characters' emotional choices.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Liu, Liana 9780062306647

The Memory Key HarperTeen, 2015 \$16.99 p. 356

Middle School+

I think middle school readers will really enjoy this book, especially those who liked Don't Turn Around (Gagnon). In the near future, most Americans have been implanted with memory keys to combat an Alzheimer's type illness. When Lora's key is damaged, intense memories emerge and she begins to question whether her mother's death was an accident. I thought the book kept moving along, but it wasn't always immediately clear when something was happening in the present vs. Lora flashing back.

Grades: 7th, 8th

Gretchen Oates, Kamiakin Middle School

Matthews, Owen 978-0-06-233686-6

How to Win at High School Harper Teen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 490

Adam Higgs is a loser – he has no money, no athletic ability, no “hotness”. His part time job at the local pizzeria has earned him the name “Pizza Man” from his wealthier classmates. He decides the only way to gain the popularity he seeks is to follow the lead of his favorite movie character, “Scarface”. His plan includes selling homework, providing booze, and fake IDs. Of course, at first he’s the most popular guy on campus, but things quickly get out of hand.

This is Matthew’s first novel, and it’s not perfect, but it is very readable. The first person point of view and short, clipped writing makes the action move swiftly. Although as an adult, I certainly had problems with Adam’s tactics and I did wonder – is it really that easy to make fake IDs?, he does pay some pretty heavy consequences for his actions – he disappoints his brother and girlfriend and comes to the realization that popularity isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. Grades 7 and up

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

McNeil, Gretchen 978-0-06-226087-1

Get Dirty (Don't Get Mad #2) Balzer + Bray, 2015 \$9.99 p. 384

This sequel to Get Even picks up immediately where the heart-pounding first book ended--with the members of the secret revenge group DGM (Don't Get Mad) reeling now that one of their own, Margot, has been brutally attacked and put in a coma while Bree has been forced to confess to murdering one of their earlier prank victims. Now the pressure is on remaining DGM members

Olivia and Kitty to figure out who the unknown perpetrator is before someone else is killed and frames the DGM for it. Desperate situations require the DGM to take desperate measures to solve this mystery, including adding more members to the DGM, such as Ed the Head. However, it still seems as if someone within their inner circle is either the killer or working with him or her when their secret headquarters is burned down...with DGM members scrambling to get out before the building collapses. Teens who loved the first one will not be able to put this one down until the breathtaking finale which seems to tie up the series. However, I needed some plot and character reminders when this book began as it took me a while to get up to speed on some key plotlines and characters from the first book. A great choice for fans of *Pretty Little Liars*.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Meyer, Marissa 978-1-250-06055-6

Fairest: Levana's Story (The Lunar Chronicles) Feiwel and Friends, 2015 \$17.99 p. 272

As the subheading implies, *Fairest* is the backstory of Levana, the evil Queen from the Lunar Chronicles. As a young girl Levana was severely burned thanks to a trick by her nasty older sister. Because of these scars Levana feels compelled to keep herself glamoured all the time. When a handsome guard is kind to her, Levana misconstrues his interest as romantic and falls for him. She is crushed (and quite jealous) when she discovers he is already married to a kind and lovely woman. Clearly Levana doesn't intend to be evil, and in fact often – in her naiveté – believes she is doing good for her people. But, as Levana gets a taste of power she cannot seem to help manipulating people to behave the way she wants. Fans of the Lunar Chronicles series will likely enjoy this as they wait for the final installment, *Winter*, to be published (they get a sneak peak in this edition). But, in this case, my larger question is do we really want to feel sorry for the bad guy? Grades 7-10.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Morrison, Megan 978-0-545-63826-5

Grounded - The Adventures of Rapunzel Arthur A. Levine, 2015 \$17.99 p. 384

Surprisingly clever and enjoyable to read. New story for Rapunzel, who does have the hair, but everything else you think you know about it is wrong. Jack (the beanstalk climber) is her helper after she comes down, against her will, from the tower. All Rapunzel has known is the Witch, who has acted as her mother, but who also has taken her power from Rapunzel (unbeknownst to Rapunzel). Travelling with Jack opens Rapunzel's eyes, and eventually there is a showdown with the Witch. Clever, filled with fairies and dangerous situations, this book surprised me.

Recommended! 4th-9th Grades

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Michael Fleming - PCMS

Neri, G. 9781467732697

Knockout Games Carolrhoda LAB, 2014 \$17.95 p. 293

When Erica moves to St. Louis after her parents' divorce, she falls in with a gang that goes around knocking out complete strangers on the street just for kicks. Erica, an artist, films these interactions to much praise from the group, in particular the Knockout King himself, Calvin, who has a soft spot for her. When an elderly gentleman starts a community watch and organizes a rally, Calvin decides to take the man down. Everything goes horribly wrong, someone dies, and Erica finds herself in the thick of it. When the police come knocking, Erica struggles to do the right thing and convince

Kalvin to do the same. A gripping look at the unfortunate world of knockout games and the struggles of urban youth. Highly recommended.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Nielsen, Jennifer A 978-0-545-56154-9

Mark of the Thief Scholastic Press, 2015 \$17.99 p. 339

Nicolas Calva and his sister are slaves in the mines of ancient Rome. Nic believes he is being sent to his death when he is forced to descend into Caesar's cave to retrieve something for a powerful Roman leader. Nic manages to escape the cave with his life and discovers an ancient magic amulet called a bulla. He also meets up with a Griffin in the cave who at first seems to be attacking him but is actually branding him with a mark on his back which works in conjunction with the bulla to give him extraordinary, magic powers.

All Nic really wants is freedom for himself and his sister but, with the bulla in his possession and the mark on his back, he becomes hunted throughout Rome. Nic must learn how to control the magic and not let the bulla get into the wrong hands to save Rome and his sister.

This is an action packed story with a great historical setting. I think middle school aged students will really enjoy this book.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School

O'Connor, George 978-1-62672-013-8

Ares, Bringer of War (Olympians) First Second, 2015 \$10 p. 76

Grades 8 and up - This is the story of the God of War, Ares. The book is a loose adaptation of Odyssey and Iliad and based on battle between Greeks and Trojans. As the gods watch the battles between the humans, they can sometimes not help themselves from joining in the fight and mixing in.

This is classic O'Connor style with fast moving graphics and text that is engaging. However, the subject of the book gets a great deal of graphic pictures and violence. This book is certain to be popular in libraries that have the other books in the series. I love how the different characters from the other books are interwoven into the story.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Additional comments: Graphic Novel

Bethany Steirer, RHMS

Older, Daniel José 978-0-545-59161-4

Shadowshaper Arthur A Levine, 2015 \$17.99 p. 297

Sierra is a young Latina artist living in Brooklyn who plans to spend her summer painting murals and hanging out. When she notices one of the murals weeps real tears even as the rest of the painting fades away, she steps into the magical world of the shadowshapers. Her grandfather, now bedridden because of a stroke, was one of the original shadowshapers, and holds a key to her future, although he has been rendered mute by the unseen villain. Also involved in this plot are a Haitian-American boy Robbie, a fellow artist, Nydia, an awesome academic librarian, and a good group of distinctly drawn friends. The story features a mostly non-white cast of characters in a non-traditional fantasy setting (Brooklyn, Haitian deities), and that alone makes this title worth adding to the collection. The characters are a bit older, but there is nothing more objectionable than a few swear words, so this would make a good book for grades 8-12.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Wally Bubelis, Seattle Public Library

Pashley, Hilton 978-0-544-30176-4

Gabriel's Clock Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014 \$16.99 p. 285

Jonathan thinks he is a normal boy whose family moves around often because of his father's "top secret" job. Everything he thinks he knows about himself and his family comes into question one day when his family is attacked by strange faceless creatures wearing bowler hats. Jonathan suffers a head injury in the attack and when he comes to he finds himself in the charming village of Hobbes End with strangers and his parents missing. Jonathan comes to discover is that his mother is a demon and his father is an angel and he is the only half angel, half demon child in existence. This combination gives him unusual powers and also means he has been hunted by evil demons his entire life who hope to harness his extraordinary powers. Jonathan also learns is that the village of Hobbes End was founded by his grandfather, Gabriel, who is a fallen angel turned clockmaker. Gabriel uses his magic to make the village safe from evil so people who needed protection can reside there. With the help of his grandfather and several of the villagers, Jonathan needs to defeat the evil demons to save his family and to keep the demons from taking over heaven and the world.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School

Plum, Amy 978-0-06-222563-4

Until the beginning (ARC) (After the End) HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 321

In this sequel to *After the End*, Juneau and Miles are traveling together. Well, actually, Juneau is keeping Miles safe after giving him the Rite, which basically kills him, sends him into the Yara, and hopefully brings him back out as a restored individual. In fact, it does more than that. Miles now has powers.

As Juneau tries to find a way to save her clan and bring them back to a safe place, she also must interact with Whit, the clan's former Shaman leader. There are several "reveals" in this book, and a major theme centers on just what is truth and what is lie? That includes some interesting religious aspects.

The action is non-stop, and the banter between Miles and Juneau brings forth a smile. The plot twists are many and interesting. This is one book that makes you think. We look forward to the third in the series, although this second book settles you with a nice ending.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Preble, Joy 978-0-06-232130-5

Finding Paris (ARC) Balzer + Bray, 2015 \$17.99 p. 272

Road trip novel provides emotional twists yet ends with hope. When Leo's sister Paris demands a late night trip for pie to heal her broken heart, she begrudgingly goes along. Although completely different temperaments, their sisterly bond has kept them sane while their mom went through guys. Her most recent catch landed them in Las Vegas, a place both girls are eager to escape when the younger Leo graduates in one year. At a diner, Paris goads Leo into talking to a cute boy, Max, who just happens to be science-minded like Leo. And then Paris is gone, leaving only a strange clue and a note asking Leo to find her. Desperate, Leo lets down her defenses and allows Max to help her as she follows the clues across town and across state lines. As they search, the couple develops a bond that is soon tested by heartbreaking revelations. Well-crafted with evocative descriptions that carry the reader along with the protagonist.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Reyes, M.G. 978-0-06-228897-4

Emancipated (ARC) (Emancipated) Katherine Tegen Books, 2015 \$17.99 p. 400

Six beautiful teens with dark secrets share a house on Venice Beach, first in a series. Candace needs to advance her acting career, so her step-sister Grace suggests they ask for emancipation and move to L.A. Offered a family home if they can find roommates, the girls invite four other recently emancipated teens to live with them: Paolo the tennis star, Lucy the aspiring musician, John-Michael whose father committed suicide, and Maya whose parents have been deported. Friendships blossom as the teens get to know each other but secrets threaten their idyllic existence. One is a former child star and addict, one just committed a felony, one helped with a murder, and two of them are connected by a decades old crime that put the wrong man in jail. Although adults may find the characters and plotting tedious, teens that love gossipy reads will eat this up.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Rioux, Jo 978155453536368

The Golden Twine (Cat's Cradle #1) Kids Can Press, 2012 \$17.95 p. 112

Suri is a young girl who has grown up with a group of travelling circus performers. She envisions herself a monster tamer and spends her days telling monster stories to other children for a fee. When she inadvertently winds up with a magic talisman belonging to a group of caitsiths (a cat monster that can disguise itself as a human), she must keep herself from getting caught and becoming food for them. An exciting short read with a very abrupt ending, readers will certainly be clamoring for the sequel.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Ruby, Laura 978-0-06-231760-5

Bone Gap Balzer + Bray, 2015 \$17.99 p. 345

Finn and his brother Sean are going through a really rough time. Sean should have left for college, but their mother took off leaving him to raise 15 year old Finn. Things look up for a while, when the mysterious Rosa enters their lives, but then Finn witnesses her being coerced into an SUV by a stranger. But due to his faceblindness (which no one is aware of), he can't describe the man, so everyone just thinks Rosa took off on her own. So it is up to Finn to track her down and save her. Well written, compelling story, with great small town setting and characters, with just enough magic wrapped in to make it great. Some drinking, and off page sex makes this best for high school and above.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Dawn Rutherford - Sno-Isle Libraries

Schneider, Robyn 978-0-06-221716-5

Extraordinary Means (ARC) Katherine Tegen Books, 2015 \$17.99 p. 336

In this not too distant future, tuberculosis has come back with a vengeance. In an effort to contain the spread of illness, institutions like Latham House (similar to a boarding school) have opened across the country. They provide medical care, including experimental treatments, and 24/7 monitoring via electronic medical bracelets. With luck the teens might heal enough to return home, this is what Lane is counting on. He is new to Latham and very academically minded. He's worried that this time away from regular school will ruin his chances of getting into Stanford and if that

happens then his life is really over. Sadie, a long time patient at Latham, recognizes Lane from childhood summer camp. Although their relationship starts off rocky – they have very different memories of what happened at camp – as they get to know each other an amazing connection forms. Lane realizes that he hasn't really been living his life until right now, but...the likelihood of both of them surviving isn't high. As much as this feels like an odd setting for a romance, the author's note explains how places like Latham House really existed in the 1800s. Fans of "sick lovers" style romance will definitely be sucked in by Lane and Sadie's story, but it deserves to find a wider audience as well. Grades 9+.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Schroeder, Lisa 9780545708081

My Secret Guide to Paris (ARC) Scholastic, 0 \$16.99 p. 216

Realistic fiction about family dynamics and the budding independence of a middle school girl. Nora's beloved grandmother dies unexpectedly, leaving Nora plane tickets and an agenda for a long-planned trip to Paris. Grandma's career in the fashion world has established many contacts in Paris. She leaves Nora a packet of letters that will guide her to special sights and people. Nora has to persuade her mother to make the trip in place of Grandma, but then while discovering glorious Paris the two learn a great deal about one another. Delightful details about the City of Light and insights about mother-daughter relationships make this charming story appealing to fans of Wendy Maas, or to girls who dream of travel adventures. Entertaining for grades 4-7.

Grades: 6th, 7th

Sarah Ellison, Forest Ridge School

Sedgwick, Marcus 978-1-62672-125-8

Ghosts of Heaven Roaring Brook Press, 2014 \$17.99 p. 359

Opening with the origin and definition of "spiral" and "helix", this novel moves into an 'Introduction' which describes the beginning of our Solar System 4,600 million years ago and the relation of Earth to the Sun. The book is composed of four parts which the author encourages the reader "to choose a different order, and a different sense, if desired (p4). (I read them as written and then spent several days trying to imagine the scenario of reading them in different orders. It was quite the mind exercise.) Quarter One, "Whispers in the Dark", written in free verse, depicts a pre-history episode in the life of an anonymous girl who discovers cave writing and the beginnings of creativity. Quarter Two, "The Witch in the Water", follows Father Escrove, in 17th century England, to the isolated community of Welden where with treachery fueled by the villagers fear, he targets red-headed Anna Tunstall as a witch. "The Easiest Room in Hell", Quarter Three, is set in the 1920's on Long Island, New York, in a large insane asylum where the new assistant superintendent, Dr. James, verbally grapples with a delusional inmate, a lunatic poet named Charles Dexter. (Ghosts of Edgar Allan Poe found in this one!) The future is the setting for Quarter Four, "The Song of Destiny", where five hundred sleepers are floating between life and death in Longsleep as their space ship tries to reach a distant, habitable planet.

Four different settings, four different plots, four different writing styles – all linked with a common symbol, the spiral. Creepy, evil, eerie – these stories are only appropriate for middle school and up. Filled with symbolism, they all are thought provoking, singularly and as a group. Recommended for readers in Grades 7 – 12 who enjoy open ended, deep thinking.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Marilyn Condon, LWSD Retired

TenNapel, Doug 9780545676465

Nnewts. Book One, Escape from the Lizzarks (Nnewts) Graphix, 2015 \$10.99 p. 185

The Nnewts live in fear of the Lizzarks. One day, those fears come true. Herk, the weak-legged Nnewt, finds himself on the run. TenNapel is known for his engaging all-ages graphic novels. Here, he delivers once again, but this time with non-human protagonists. His nonhuman creatures are consistently a strength of his stories, but historically, they have not always been accessible lead players. Fortunately, TenNapel has progressed as a storyteller, and the Nnewt adventure is an enjoyable ride. Katherine Garner's color work elevates the story. TenNapel's creatures have sharp edges and unexpected angles. The story has a grand scale, and leaves the reader at a cliffhanger – this is a planned series. Fans of TenNapel and monster graphic novels will love this, and -- other than an exploding monster or two -- it's squeaky clean. Recommended for interested youth down to 5th grade and all the way up to adults.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Additional comments: Trade Paperback

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Thomas, Rhiannon 978-0-06-230353-0

A Wicked Thing HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 p. 337

Princess Aurora, has been asleep for not for a few years but for one hundred years. When she wakes up to a strange man kissing her she is a little creeped out. When she finds out that men have been kissing her for one hundred years she is extremely creeped out by this. But she has no time to process and she is told everyone she knows is dead, the realm is in trouble, she has the power to bring magic back and she'll be getting married in a few weeks. The story of Sleeping Beauty is not something Princess Aurora is familiar with. She knew she was cursed but never was it mentioned true love's kiss would waken her and she has no idea how to bring back magic or even if it should be brought back. Her royal duty is to marry Prince Rodric and try to bring peace back to the land but Aurora has been captive for too long and desires more freedom than the restrictive life of court. Slow in plot but teens who like retold fairy tales will enjoy this book. Most of the book seems to be building up for the second in the series with little action in the first book.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Esperanza Stewart, King County Library System

Wiersbitzky, Shannon 978-1-60898-167-0

What Flowers Remember Namelos, 2014 \$0 p. 151

Delia is a middle school student who loves to spend time with an elderly neighbor working in his garden, tending the flowers. They have a great relationship until the day that Delia notices that Old Red seems to be more forgetful, even to the point of not recognizing Delia. When she learns that his diagnosis of Alzheimer's will eventually rob Old Red of all his memories, she sets out to record the stories about his life so she can remind him as needed.

This is a lovely story about inter-generational friendship and the heartbreak of an Alzheimer's diagnosis. Although short on action, the story moves along at a nice pace that kept my interest. The author uses flowers as imagery and metaphor for life, and this might be a bit puzzling for younger readers. But the plot is easy to follow, and the message of the value of friendship is clear. Nothing objectionable for younger readers, but older readers are likely to find the story more relatable. Recommended for middle school and up.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Diane FERbrache, Hazen High School

Williams, Julie 978-1596437357

Drama Queens in the House Roaring Press, 2014 \$17.99 p.

Jessie comes from a family of actors. Her parents own a theater in Minneapolis and she decides to spend a year learning stage production, costuming and script writing after she graduates from high school at sixteen. That is until she walks in on her father having an affair with the hunky costumer. Gay characters in theaters are almost cliché, but Jessie finds it really difficult to reconcile her father's new relationship, let alone understand her mother's reaction to this news. Her life turns upside down, and finding a place in this crazy world while she tries to understand her parents is more than she bargained for this year, allowing her to stage a few "drama queen" events of her own. Theater attracts quirky, funny characters, and this book is populated with more than its share. Jessie's flamboyantly gay cousin is staying in their house after being thrown out of his own; her aunt is convinced the world will end soon; her grandmother shows up every so often just to feed everyone and offer homey advice; dad and his boyfriend create a space for themselves in the attic. As if this weren't enough, Jessie herself is biracial, and obviously clueless about the boy next door. Oh, and he is also a budding chef. While this makes for fun reading, it doesn't lend itself to the kinds of discussions that could have arisen from any one of the plotlines. There really are too many drama queens in this house.

This is a fun read, filled with information about theaters and how they work.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

FICTION – SHRUGS

Armstrong, Kelley 9780062071279

Empire of Night (ARC) (Age of Legends #2) Harper Collins, 2015 \$17.99 p. 432

Moria and Ashyn are sisters. They are also the Keeper and Seeker of Edgewood. However, Edgewood has been attacked and the children have all been kidnapped. Moria and Ashyn are continuing their quest to find the children and also get help to prevent the attackers from doing the same to other cities and villages.

I found this book, the second in the series, more engaging than the first one. That doesn't usually happen in series as the second book is more of a bridge. However, I felt like the sisters' different personality types and relationships with others was more clear and easy to follow. I have also found her other YA series to be more engaging overall.

Lots of action and adventure, some romance.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Becker, Helaine 978-1-45980683-2

Dirk Daring, secret agent Orca Book Publishers, 2014 \$9.95 p. 196

Darren imagines himself a secret agent named Dirk Daring. He recounts his adventures (mainly observing other students) in his secret journal that falls into enemy hands – his brother Waldo. Waldo has his own ambitions of being ASB president and decides to use Dirk's powers of observations to his advantage. Kids who like Origami Yoda will like this title.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Bell, Cathleen Davitt 9780385754552

I Remember You Alfred A. Knopf, 2015 \$17.99 p. 306

Juliet is a strong student and member of the debate team headed for university after high school. Lucas is a star hockey player whose plan is to join the Marines after graduation. Their romance is affected by Lucas' claim to remember their first kiss, first dance, etc - because he has already lived it and can remember the future that he is also living. Lucas becomes more and more affected by these future memories, which everyone assumes is a result of a brain injury incurred while playing hockey.

I found the whole time continuum thing to be very confusing.

Some swearing, sexual situations.

Students will probably like it better than I did.

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Bell, Cathleen Davitt 978-0-385-75455-2

I Remember You Alfred A. Knopf, 2015 \$17.99 p. 304

It's 1994, and although Juliet and Lucas have gone to school together for a while they are only now really starting to notice one another. They've traditionally run in different circles, but now when their eyes meet they stay connected a little longer. As they start to spend time together Lucas will occasionally say weird things like "you don't remember this do you" or "it wasn't like this before". He finally confesses to feeling like he is reliving moments they've already shared. And, he's starting to have visions of what he thinks is his future fighting a war in a desert. Juliet is rightfully freaked out and worried especially as the increasing visions start to take a physical toll on Lucas. What is going on? Does he have a brain tumor? Is he a time traveller? No big reveal awaits, leaving the reader with an unsatisfying, sketchy at best explanation. Indiscriminate romance readers might not care, but there are certainly better options for them. Shrug. Grades 9+.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Boucher, Sarah E. 978-1-4621-1455-9

Becoming Beauty Sweetwater, 2014 \$15.99 p. 243

In this Beauty and the Beast story, we first meet Bella, the spoiled younger girl in the family, who is determined to marry into wealth. She will wheedle her father into the finest clothes to make the impression she wants, and is very adept at gaining the attention of men- that is until, her sister Cassie walks into the room. Cassie is not only gorgeous, but also the good-hearted, sweet girl we expect to be the "beauty" of the story.

It is however, Bella who is forced to go to the house of the beast, not to be a guest, but to be his slave. While Bella does her work well, she does not lose her spunk and sass. Her interactions are growingly charming with this boy who has only grown into a beast-like creature because of a spurned love. He has lived with his best friend and servant, Jack for years while letting himself and the house fall into disrepair. No magic here.

Since we know the plot, we are not surprised as we head toward the conclusion. The book has some twists yet, some surprising, some obvious. A nice twist on the well-known tale with a not-so-sappy-sweet heroine.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Additional comments: paperback

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Brugman, Alyssa 978-1627790147

Alex as Well Henry Holt, 2015 \$16.99 p. 224

“Most of the time, I don’t need to think about things. I just need to do. Spontaneous. Enrolling in a new school is doing, impulsively. I was literally walking past,” relays Alex, the protagonist. When Alex applies to this new school, she gets to fill in female as her sex, whereas in her old school she is listed as male. Alex is intersex, and for 14 years of her life she has been told she is male, when she knows herself to be female. A few days before enrolling in her new school, she stopped taking her hormone medication. While Alex begins at this new school, she also tries to get a new birth certificate and gets emancipated from her parents. Interspersed amongst Alex’s narrative, are entries to a site called motherhoodshared.com, in which Alex’s mother is revealing her own feelings about Alex’s journey; they are not very supportive or pleasant feelings. *Alex as Well* does tell a story that is not often told, one about an intersex teen, but the depiction is quite poor – meaning there aren’t any substantial conversations about what is going on, and a lot of the things Alex does seems pretty improbable (signing up for a new school without a guardian’s permission, emancipation from parents and being fostered within a day’s worth of time). Although the book world needs more intersex characters, this particular title doesn’t do the job very well.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Shelley Mastalerz, KCLS

Cooper, T & Glock-Copper, Allison 9781617753077

Changers Book Two: Oryon (Changers) Black Sheep, 2015 \$11.95 p. 285

Last year, Ethan found out he was a Changer, a member of an ancient race of humans in which every year of high school is spent as a completely different person, a race that must follow the rules set forth by The Changers Bible as well as a local Changers Council. *Changers Book Two: Oryon* is the second year of Ethan’s Changer Cycle. Ethan has changed from Ethan a teenage white boy, to Drew a teenage white girl (chronicled in *Changers Book One: Drew*), to Oryon a teenage African American boy. During this V (V is one year of a Changer Cycle) as Oryon, he gets to go through his second year of high school with the same classmates, but with a different gender and race, completely changing his experience. Oryon encounters racism, accumulates a different friend group, and attempts different activities such as football (as opposed to Drew’s time as a cheerleader). However, one thing has not changed, the fact that he still wants Audrey in his life (which is against the Changers Council’s rules).

The series is somewhat complicated. Not only does the reader have to navigate Ethan’s Changer Cycle, but also has to wade through a world with another race of humans, and a whole other set of rules. Although there is a glossary of terms in the back, to fully comprehend the second book, the first is a must. The different V’s do give the authors the ability to grapple with some serious topics such as gender, sexuality and race. Oryon does face acts of racism, including an issue at the dog park, and being arrested for shoplifting although he did not commit the crime. Also, both Drew and Oryon both have feelings for Audrey making love a matter of a person not a gender.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Shelley Mastalerz, KCLS

Doyle, Catherine 978-0-545-69982-2

Vendetta (new series, unnamed) Scholastic, 2015 \$17.99 p. 352

At seventeen, Sophie (Persephone) is finding it hard to deal with a father in jail and a mother striving to work extra jobs to make ends meet. Sophie’s father left her a run-down restaurant and her uncle Jack to help her manage it until she becomes of age. Uncle Jack has been mostly absent lately, which she sees as another desertion.

On her way home, Sophie passes by the abandoned mansion next door, meeting two of the five brothers who have moved in. The extremely handsome, rich brothers- Luca, (Gianluca) Nic, (Nicoli) Valentino- well, you get the idea. When they speak Italian, it is no surprise to anyone that they are mafia. It also comes as no shock that Sophie and Nic are definitely not supposed to fall in love. And will. While the difference in their lives is understood, the violence that is Nic's family background is treated with a shrug- even after the incredibly violent too- pat ending.

The scenes between Nic and Sophie are tantalizing, but the plot is slow, and we have figured it out long before the story catches up. Really- an engraved switchblade that doesn't cause Sophie to be suspicious at all? There are a few well-placed surprises along the way, and the characters of Sophie and her best friend Mille are well done. The mafia boys, are however, stereotyped and the romance is just too instantaneous and simplistic.

This is planned as a trilogy, but unless you have need for silly romances, I wouldn't bother beyond this one.

This is Chicken House, an imprint of Scholastic. Interestingly, one of their promos is to list a "sexy" page on the back cover to get you interested in the book. In this case, it's page 138. And it does draw you in...and alludes to Romeo and Juliet...duh!

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Eulberg, Elizabeth 978054565436

We can work it out Scholastic Point, 2015 \$17.99 p.

This is a sequel to *The Lonely Hearts Club*, but can be read as a stand alone - maybe because the author spends a ridiculous amount of time rehashing the first book. Penny Lane started *The Lonely Hearts Club* after a break-up. She doesn't want to be one of those girls who drops her friends as soon as a boy looms on the horizon. So when she starts to date a great guy who obviously thinks she is a great girl, she keeps putting him off for pressing club activities. You know this is not going to end well, and you just want to shake some sense into her. I got so annoyed with Penny Lane - and with all the two-dimensional characters - that I give this book a "shrug".

Grades: 8th, 9th, 10th

Suzanne Sanderson, Plymouth Library

Hellisen, Cat 978-0-8050-9980-5

BeastKeeper Henry Holt, 2015 \$16.99 p. 197

Curses have surrounded Sarah her whole life, she doesn't realize it however, until her mother leaves. After Sarah learns that her mother is never coming back, she starts to notice that her father is changing, his hair is growing long and his eating habits have changed to consuming raw meat. In an attempt to "save" his daughter, Sarah's dad takes her to stay with her grandparents that she believed to be dead. She soon realizes that her grandmother is a woman filled not only with spite, but also with magic and her grandfather is a beast in a cage. With the help of a forest boy named Alan and a talking raven, Sarah soon learns the curses that have surrounded her family, fueled by jealousy and passed down from generation to generation. Sarah must decide if she has it in her to change the course of her family's destiny.

I found this book a slow start and hard to get through. It is an interesting twist on the Beauty and the Beast tale, but the descriptions are long and the action is lacking. I found that pieces of the curse and background were shallow, but setting was described in enormous detail. While I think that some students would enjoy this tale, it will be a hard sale for most students.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill MS, LWSD

Hoffman, Alice 9780385389587

Nightbird (ARC) Wendy Lamb Books, 2015 \$16.99 p. 197

Twelve-year-old Twig lives in Sidwell, a small Massachusetts town rumored to have a monster, a flying creature that steals things in the night. Twig knows there's no such thing as monsters, particularly since the Sidwell Monster is her brother, James. Her family lives with a two-hundred-year-old curse, where every male child is born with wings. For years now, Twig and her mother have kept James a secret, living like recluses on their apple orchard. But when a family moves in to a nearby house - the one that was occupied by the witch who cursed their family centuries ago - Twig's life changes. For the first time she can remember, she has friends. Do they bring the chance to break the family curse, or just repeat it?

Nightbird starts out promisingly. The writing is beautiful and Twig has an interesting voice. The town is populated with unusual characters, including an awesome librarian, and Hoffman's descriptions of the town, the woods, and the food makes you feel like you know the place. But there's just too much going on here for such a short book. For as strong as Twig's relationship with her brother is supposed to be, you hardly see or hear from him. Her mother, while playing a strong role at the start, fades into the background. Characters who are only relevant to a secondary plot about saving the forest and a special breed of owls, are dropped in during the second half of the book, neatly solving the problem. There are so many plot threads here: Twig's relationship with her mother, her friendship with the neighbors, finding out the identity of the real Sidwell monster, hoping for the return of her missing father, saving the owls, helping the friend she forgot she had, and breaking her brother's curse. The ending is far too tidy and pat, feeling out of sync with the beginning of the story. I thought the book was a shrug, but reluctant readers looking for some magical realism may enjoy this. The writing, particularly in the early part of the book, is beautiful, but the plot leaves a lot to be desired.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Bonnie Svitavsky, Puyallup Public Library

Livingston, Lesley 978-0-06-206310-6

Descendant Harper Teen, 2013 \$17.99 p. 325

In this second book in the Starling series, Mason Starling finds herself on the wrong side of the bifrost and stranded in Asgard. Her mother informs her that her only way out is to take Odin's spear. Mason's boyfriend, Fenrys Wolf, is stranded on the mortal side of the bridge and must descend into the Underworld if he wants to reunite with Mason and bring her back to the living.

This is another modern American version of Norse mythology. It incorporates every sort of monster and supernatural character imaginable, almost to the point of excess. The adventure/suspense is tense and swift and the violence sometimes graphic. There is a bit of profanity, but not overly so. Fans who may have outgrown Percy Jackson should enjoy this series, but honestly I think Tessa Gratton's series is better. Maybe I just wasn't as enthralled because I hadn't read the first book - maybe had I done so, I would be more attached to the characters.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Marsh, Nicola 978-0-9883409-2-3

Scion of the Sun (The Solar Snatchers) Month9Books, 2013 \$12.99 p. 346

Holly finds out that she is prophesied to be the Scion of the Sun, hero of a sorority of astral travelers trying to fend off an evil man looking to control the world. She has just come to a new-agey high school to hone her new powers, but she is being thrown in to a new world with very little help or

time, only the guardianship of Joss, who hides some dark secrets behind his protection of her. Pretty dense writing, a lot of explanation of the world and magic system, done simply and bald-facedly. Shrug. 9th-12th grades

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Michael Fleming - PCMS

Miklowitz, Gloria D. 9780544336148

Camouflage Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1998 \$8.99 p. 166

Kyle hates living in with his strict mom and all her rules. Now that she has a new boyfriend who's a cop, things are even worse. He convinces her to let him go spend the summer with his dad in Michigan. At first Kyle is thrilled with the leniency and laid-back attitude of his father. However, he is quickly caught up in the conservative right-wing activities of his dad's "gun club" which is actually a local militia determined to defy the feds.

I found it to be quite predictable with very stereotypical characters. Students will probably like it more than I did however. Could be a good read for reluctant boy readers.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Olson, Norah 978-0-06-227204-1

Twisted Fate Katherine Tegen Books, 2015 \$17.99 p. 259

Sisters Sydney and Ally have always been opposites. Sydney wears black, highly intelligent, and does drugs with her friends on a regular basis. Ally wears bright clothes, bakes muffins in her spare time and has to struggle to do well in school. All changes when Graham moves in next door with a mysterious and dangerous past. The sisters are drawn together and pulled apart by their relationship with Graham and his mysterious videos.

This story is a great mystery, where I kept finding myself wanting to know more. However, I was distracted by the swearing, violence, drug and sex references, that made it hard for me to imagine it being appropriate for the middle schoolers that I serve.

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Bethany Steirer, RHMS

Omololu, CJ 978-0-385-74452-2

The Third Twin Random House, 2015 \$20.99 p. 326

I recommend this book with a shrug for 9th grade and up. It starts out with an almost date rape scene. Rape doesn't happen but it is a scary scene but maybe that is a PSA for teen girls to never meet a guy when he gets off work in the Cheesecake Factory parking lot. Twins Ava and Alexa have had a childhood and teenage game where they make up Alicia, their imaginary 3rd twin. In their teen years they used this other persona to date the same guys, and that backfires when Alexa posing as Alicia almost gets date raped and then the guy ends up dead the next day. A string of other murders happen and Ava and Alexa have to eventually admit their game and that Alicia doesn't exist, but Alicia might exist in the supernatural world and she is messing with them big time. The writing is engaging but not mind blowing. The plot has enough teen appeal that I think teen girls will get drawn into the story. But It isn't a must have.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School Library

Shull, Megan 9780062311696

The Swap HarperCollins, 2014 \$16.99 p. 400

Ellie and Jack both think the grass is greener on the other side. He's popular with everyone, yet his home life is troubling. She's trying to navigate middle school and the conflicts that are starting with her supposed best friends. When they inadvertently swap lives, they are both left to discover just how lucky they have it. Can they get back to their own lives – and bodies – before anyone figures out what happened? A nice twist on the “freaky Friday” scenario, with laughs and sentiment sprinkled throughout.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Smith, Cynthia Leitich 978-0-7636-5911-0

Feral Pride (Feral Nights #3) Candlewick Press, 2015 \$17.99 p. 304

In this finale to the trilogy, racism is at its highest for the were-people. Kayla has been outed on camera; Jess steals her father's police car several times to get the weres places fast; the weres are constantly on the move to avoid capture, and now a were-snake has surfaced to create even more grief for the were-world, kidnapping the governor of Texas. Clyde's relationship with his father could create a highlight, but fizzles.

The story had its usual share of smart-mouthed humor, but the irony meant for adults was misplaced for the obvious junior high audience. The message of tolerance is well-played, creating the highlight of the book. The final scene action would make a great movie, and makes as little sense. With corporate conspiracy, shift-suppression drugs, bad parenting, secret cryptid species, top secret government agencies, and deadpan statements, you lurch from one plot to the next.

Told in the many voices of its characters, the author herself loses track of the speaker, and twice the narrator as if she were the third person.

When we first saw Clyde as a were-opossum, in the Tantalize series, we were charmed. When he became part of the Feral Nights series, we cheered. Now the series is done, and we are glad of that too. By the 7th book, the were-population isn't as charming or funny.

The uneven writing of this book was tiresome at times with bad grammar. While some sentences were correct, they bordered on run-on. Was this perhaps written in a weekend to finish the series? Smith claims that all of her books stand alone, but she alludes to so many former details that we are left reeling. If you hadn't read the other books in the series, and perhaps even some of the Tantalize series, you would not really understand much of this book.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Stevenson, Robin 978-1-4598-0680-1

The World Without Us Orca, 2015 \$0 p. 226

We meet Jeremy and Mel standing on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. They have apparently agreed to jump together, but Mel is not so sure. She tells Jeremy that she was just kidding, and Jeremy decides to jump alone. Mel tries to hold on, but fails. Luckily, Jeremy survives and the rest of the story is told in flashbacks that explain how they reached this point, and current time as they cope with what they have done (or almost done).

Orca publishing is known for edgy novels that focus on issues. This is certainly no different. The topic of teen suicide is not an easy one to cover, but this book does so adequately. Mel and Jeremy have problems – he's searching for meaning in life after the death of his brother Mel's family is distant, spending more time trying to get the death penalty overturned in Florida than with her. They spend hours talking about life, death, and why we're here.

This could be a difficult book – there's honest, open talk about suicide and death that could raise concerns or even act as triggers. The resolution isn't “happy”, although both Mel and Jeremy

choose to continue living. Spoiler – Mel finds comfort and meaning with the Hare Krishnas. But it's an honest look at a question that many teens wrestle with.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Weyn, Suzanne 978-0-545-42531-5

Faces of the Dead Scholastic Press, 2014 \$17.99 p. 201

17-year-old Marie-Therese-Charlotte longs to experience life beyond her sheltered existence regimented by her mother, Queen Marie Antoinette, and her father, King Louis the 16th. One day she trades places with her look-alike chamber maid, Ernestine, and truly sees how difficult life is for those in her country. One of those struggling is teen Henri, who takes her under his wing, and shows her around Paris. As Marie-Therese's visits to the streets of Paris increase, so do the tensions between the French revolutionaries and the aristocrats. When mobs threaten the castle, her family encourages her to return to Henri as they think she'll be safer hidden away while Ernestine assumes her position inside the castle. Soon Henri and Marie-Therese are working alongside Mademoiselle Grosholtz as she collects the heads of those recently executed by guillotine and is forced to make wax molds of their heads to go on display as a warning to others. Marie-Therese is torn between the growing love she feels for Henri against the love she feels toward her family, despite knowing her parents' role in France's unrest. With no easy choices, time is running out for the peasant-disguised princess to make the ultimate decision for her future. Unfortunately, a weird plotline caused me to lose interest in the story, but teens might enjoy the unexpected twist and the inside of look of life inside the French Revolution.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Wilke, Daria 978-0-545-72607

Playing a Part (ARC) Arthur A. Levine Books, 2015 \$17.99 p. 176

Translated Russian novel highlights a boy's identity struggle in a strict society. Grisha spends all his time in the Moscow puppet theater where his parents work. He and fellow "theater kid" Sashok have grown up running errands throughout the theater and watching the magic from every angle. Recently, it's been a welcome shelter from his peers, who have become obsessed with being macho and pick on Grisha for being "strange." But his world begins to crumble when his hero, actor Sam, announces his decision to leave for Holland to escape the rampant homophobia in Russia. Then, the kindly puppet master Lyolik is forced into retirement and Sashok must prepare for a major surgery. Can Grisha tap into the true spirit of the Jester, wiser than kings, or will he cower behind a false mask? Although this novel tells an intriguing story, it's poetic, meandering style and unique setting (without any explanatory material in the ARC) may make it inaccessible to many teen readers. Also, the boy's age is unclear and his internal dialogue makes him seem young. There are also books available for teens that explore queer identity more effectively. Not a priority purchase, but recommended for grades 5 to 7.

Grades: 6th, 7th

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

FICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Arnold, Elana K. 978-0-385-74213-9

Splendor (sequel to Sacred) Delacorte, 2013 \$17.99 p. 329

Scarlett lives on Catalina Island in a B&B with her dad and her horse. Her mom moved to LA after the sudden death of Scarlett's brother. Scarlett's in love with Will, a Jewish boy who has visions that allow him to rescue people in trouble. When Will heads off to college and Scarlett's best friend Lily falls for a mysterious exchange student, Scarlett starts to study the Kabbalah in order to better understand and cope with the odd dreams she is having.

Confused? Me too. I had not read *Sacred*, so perhaps that's the missing link, but this book seems to be a random collection of thoughts/events/issues that might have each made for a good story. Together it's just too much. There's a great deal of talk about the Kabbalah, lots of detail about insemination of horses and fetal development, quite a bit of sex – or rather almost sex, and (SPOILER!) finally a death from alcohol and Ecstasy. Ultimately a story of a young girl dealing with death and growing up, but seems like this could have been done better.

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Axelrod, Amy and David 9780823428588

The Bullet Catch Holiday House, 2015 \$17.95 p.

This could have been a good book: Dickensian orphans picking pockets, living in an abandoned building in Hell's Kitchen, treachery, corruption, imprisonment, and then a fresh start for one of them as a magician's assistant. It could have been good, but the writing was painfully stilted. "He noticed something round. It was a knob. He turned it." The ending was hurried as if the authors were as tired of writing the book as I was of reading it.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Suzanne Sanderson, Plymouth Library

Brown, Jaye Robin 978-0-06-227099-3

No Place to Fall HarperTeen, 2014 \$16.99 p. 354

HS+

Amber is a high school junior growing up in rural North Carolina and whose true passion is singing. She dreams of going away to a high school for the arts, but worries about leaving her family: an overprotective mother who puts up with her husband's cheating; her sister who is married to a drug dealer; and her little nephew.

The book summary's first line is that Amber is a good girl, but from the beginning of the story, she acts like anything but. She spends the summer kissing random hikers that she will never see again and smoking pot. She has sex with a boy who has a girlfriend and has never given her the time of day before they hook up. Just about everyone in the book is lusting after her, which seemed very unlikely. I enjoyed the parts about how music was her escape, but the main character was not very likable from the beginning, which led me to not caring very much about the story.

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th

Gretchen Oates, Kamiakin Middle School

Portes, Andrea 978-0062313645

Anatomy of a Misfit HarperTeen, 2014 \$16.99 p. 336

HS+

Did not finish. Anya is part of popular mean girl crowd: 3rd in command behind the evil Queen Bee, and her slutty friend. Anya must choose between two boys: the nerd turned hot scooter guy or the older bad boy. Either way she will face the wrath of Becky the Queen Bee.

I did not care either way, and felt no connection the characters.

Grades: 11th, 12th

Gretchen Oates, Kamiakin Middle School

Somer, Bradley 978-0889712713
Imperfections Nightwood, 2012 \$12.99 p.

Richard Trench is a model. His face is on all the billboards. He makes millions of dollars. He is also bulimic, arrogant, and a drug addict. The world of high fashion is shown in all its stunning, terrible beauty. To call the characters that people this book bizarre is too simplistic. From the first chapter, when we find Richard in the trunk of a car with his arms and legs cut off, to the characters that weave through his life continually, the tale is interlaced with a collection of very flawed characters.

There is an interesting section on breast implants. Overall, the drugs and orgies of the life of a model are so casually mentioned, the reader is allowed to merely shrug them off. At times the book feels like the depressing downward spiral of Mistry's *A Fine Balance*. At times, Somer seems to be using it to titillate us- with 4 pages of how to have sex on an airplane, for example.

In the end though, the book is disturbing with boorish and rather single dimensional characters.

Grades: Adult

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Turner, Henry 9780544308275

Ask the Dark (ARC) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015 \$16.99 p. 250

Billy is 14 and likely to repeat the 7th grade for a third time. But this time it was less his fault and more the fault of trying to solve the mystery of boys in his town being murdered.

Tons of cursing on each page. Written in the vernacular which makes it difficult to read. And there are some interesting interpretations of spellings: weeks is spelled we-s, peak is pe-, behind is b>ind, of is 'f. Plot is very, very slow. The only thing keeping the reader going is the frequent use of curse words. Billy is narrating the story into a recorder which may be why the author doesn't use quotation marks and loves the used of italics. Overall the book was boring but I learned some new ways to drop the f-bomb.

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th

Esperanza Stewart, King County Library System

NONFICTION – RECOMMENDED

Albee, Sarah 978-0-8027-3422-8

Bugged: How Insects Changed History Walker Books for Young Readers (Bloomsbury), 2014
\$17.99 p. 168

Bugged is a history book, infused with a little science. ‘The Insect Facts of Life’ states that “for every pound of us, there are three hundred pounds of insects.” Bugged takes the reader from early epidemics as far back as pre-biblical times to modern day attempts to limit disease. The illustrations are integral to the narrative, as are the boxes with unusual facts (Insect Aside), quotes (You Don’t Say), related diseases (Pox Box), scientists (Vector Detectors), and especially gross details (Too Much Information? TMI?).

At first, the orchid and teal color scheme seems unusual, but it works! There is an informative Glossary (included words are identified in text with BOLD face), and Further Reading and Surfing, not surprisingly, includes books and websites. The Notes on Sources section shares the locations of especially interesting facts and the time spent flipping to the back of the book is not wasted for the researcher seeking more information. The 4-page Index is exceptionally thorough, although printed in tiny font. The Index, combined with the Source Notes, makes this a possible reference book if insects play a role in your history project. If not, just the sheer grossness will be pleasing to middle school readers! Highly Recommended for grades 5 – 8.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Marilyn Condon, LWSD Retired

Allen, John 978-1-60152-782-0

Legalizing Marijuana (Thinking Critically) Reference Point, 2015 \$28.95 p. 80

Written in an easy to read and visually engaging format, this series is reminiscent of the Opposing Viewpoints essays for older students. Starting with an overview that explains the topic, followed by 8 essays that focus on both sides of the major issues (4 each), each individual essay begins with a quote and “questions to consider” followed by an essay of support for the stance taken. Included after the essays are source notes, fact sheets, resources for further research, and an index. Clear and easy to use, the only minus is the brevity – actual content is only 57 pages. Each essay is only about 5 pages long, so this might be too brief for upper level students, but certainly a nice addition in support of CCSS argumentative essay writing. Recommended for middle school and up

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Bailey, Diane 9781608184088

Coal Power (Harnessing Energy) Creative Education, 2015 \$24.95 p. 47

Coal Power is part of the Harnessing Energy series by Creative Education. Diane Bailey broadly describes coal as an energy source from the Stone Age to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution to the controversial issues surrounding it today. The pictures include images and diagrams from the Industrial Revolution as well as modern pictures today. The controversy surrounding coal from its plentiful and inexpensive properties to the negative impacts on the environment is discussed in a generic and easy-to-understand manner. This is a great book to start doing research or gain a broad overview of the history and impact of coal as an energy source.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Bausum, Ann 9781426314865

Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I's Bravest Dog National Geographic, 2014 \$17.99 p. 72

Stubby, a charming Boston terrier, was taken in by a soldier on his way to the front in World War I. Stubby chased rats in the trenches, barked to alert soldiers of incoming gas attacks, helped to find injured soldiers, and even caught a German soldier by the trousers. After the war, he became a celebrity, meeting several presidents. This youth adaptation of the book *Sergeant Stubby* gains excellent photographic illustrations but loses quite a bit of detail, charm, and interest. Readers will love Stubby but may not be engrossed by the text.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Bertozzi, Nick 978-1-59643-451-6

Shackleton; Antarctic odyssey First Second, 2014 \$15 p. 128

This is a graphic novel style treatment of the famous ordeal of the 1914-16 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, with Ernest Shackleton in command. Their wooden ship was, against plan, locked into the sea ice for a winter, then crushed. The men took to the ice, camping, then eventually boating to an uninhabited island nearly a year later. Shackleton took a smaller team across several hundred miles of open ocean in the windiest, stormiest seas in the world in a small boat to a whaling station on another island, from where he organized eventual successful rescue of the men he'd left waiting on, by then, two different tiny, desolate beaches. Everyone lived. This treatment focuses on just a few of the 28 men aboard, and may conflate the personalities of a few in service of story-telling, but seems mostly accurate (being the fourth treatment I've read of the expedition this year). It also features the dogs a bit more than other sources, and visuals of the Antarctic animals will also suit younger readers.

An afterward gives a decent brief account of the other half of the expedition, laying supplies on the opposite side of Antarctica for the overland team's intended use. Three men died in that less often featured part of the story. A page of sources clearly indicates relevant books as well as a museum and web sources, which can double as "for further reading."

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Additional comments: graphic novel
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Bodden, Valerie 9781608183920

Ancient Civilizations: Egypt (Ancient Civilizations) Creative Education, p. 48

Ancient Egyptian history described through the social roles of pharaoh, scribe, priest, military leader or laborer. Brief chapters explain the work done by people in these social classes, although the level of detail varies considerably. Minimal text emphasizes the strong visuals. Sidebars highlight additional facts, and a glossary, timeline and bibliography are included. Most useful as a supplement to a good, basic collection on ancient Egypt for younger middle school students. The series includes titles on the Aztec Empire, China, Greece and Rome.

Grades: 6th

Sarah Ellison, Forest Ridge School

Brimner, Dane 978-1-59078-997-1

Strike: The Farm Workers' Fight for Their Rights Calkins Creek, 2014 \$14.46 p. 172

Strike tells the story of the farm workers fight for rights in the fields of California. It begins by introducing the story of the migrating Philippine workers, led by Larry Itliong, and their efforts to

create a union and fight for better wages and living conditions. It moves into their relationship with Caesar Chavez and the National Farm Workers of America and the United Farm Workers. It tells how Chavez became involved with the unions, how they picketed, tactics to avoid arrest. It moves into the grape boycott and the boycott of grocery stores and then shows how all of these strikes finally gained success when contracts between growers and workers were signed. The book continues to tell of the work done by Chavez in the 70s including his struggles with other union members. The book is illustrated with purple and green print and pages and has historic pictures and documents throughout.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Burns, Loree Griffin 978-0-547-79267-5

Beetle Busters; a rogue insect and the people who track it (Scientists in the Field) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014 \$18.99 p. 64

This is another successful offering in the Scientists in the Field series, popularizing science this time based not on one person working outdoors, but one topic, as recent titles often have. It does a good job presenting the problems and history of a recently accidentally introduced non-native insect pest potentially capable of drastically changing the forests of North America. This is part of a large category of environmental damage often little known. Unfortunately, attempts to control the spread of the beast involve cutting down most mature trees in towns and forests. Forest regeneration will take a life time, so people are understandably upset. Many photographs and reasonably easy text explain the various components of study and control, emphasizing the importance of volunteers both in detecting and reporting infestations and in replanting trees. An author's note explains her town is the epicenter described in most of the book. Given her admitted reluctance to see her town's trees removed, the treatment presents the science and probable results well.

Table of contents, "to learn more," glossary, bibliography, acknowledgements, index. The sources given all seem reliable and useful. The jacket image is reproduced on the hard cover.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Cooper, Ilene 9781419710360

A Woman in the House and Senate Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014 \$24.95 p. 144

A Woman in the House and Senate addresses the gender disparity in the legislative branch of the United States government, by focusing on women filling that office. The book starts with Jeanette Rankin as the first woman in the House at 1916 and ends with the 100+ women serving there today. It gives a description of each woman and highlights the issues that were important to each as well as the impression they made while in the Senate or House of Representatives. Special attention is given to early women in the House because there weren't nearly as many. Prominent women senators/house members in recent history are also listed, but some are left out because there are increasingly more women filling those spaces. This book gives a fairly brief overview of each woman, but it is not comprehensive. This is a great place to start doing research about women from the beginning to the end. The end of the book has a comprehensive list of all women serving in the House and Senate with their party affiliation, years of service, and respective state. Easy to read and interesting, I was inspired to continue to research each women further.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th
Katy Olson

DePrince, Michaela with Elaine DePrince 978-0-385-75511-5

Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina Alfred A. Knopf, 2014 \$16.99 p. 246

As a young child, Mabinty Bangura was orphaned in Sierre Leone. Her uncle didn't want her because she had strange spots on her skin (vitiligo) and was uppity (her father had believed in educating girls) so he left her with an orphanage. The orphanage could be scary especially as war and rebellion raged around them. Mabinty found solace in two places, another little girl named Mabinty who became her sister and a picture of a ballerina she found stuck to the gate one day. Mabinty dreamed of dancing someday. When she and her sister were finally adopted by an American couple, Mabinty -- now called Michaela -- had the chance to make this dream come true and took it. Although the writing isn't particular strong, and her voice comes through as perhaps too optimistic at times, teen readers probably won't care. They will be more interested in her story of overcoming obstacles and perhaps envying the constant support and love Michaela received from her new family. Grades 7-10.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

DiPiazza, Francesca 978-1-4677-2645-0

Remaking the John: The Invention and Reinvention of the Toilet Twenty-First Century Books, 2015 \$34.6 p. 64

Regardless of when and where one thing is for certain, humans have always had to deal with their body waste. This slim volume explores the variety of ways we've approached this need from simple holes in the ground, to stone seats several stories above a pile in the yard, up to modern day bathrooms and even on the space station. The connection between urbanization and the public health need to deal with increased quantities of human waste is clearly drawn. Content is interesting and well organized and could be useful for research if needed. Design is okay, not a ton of pictures, but side bar color is used every couple of pages to break up solid chunks of text. Includes Source Notes, Bibliography, Further Reading suggestions and an Index. Grades 7+.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Dudley, William 978-1-60152-764-6

Synthetic Drug Addiction (Compact Research - Addictions) Reference Point, 2015 \$28.95 p. 96

A new set of titles in the Compact Research series focusing on addictions. Clear definitions of each addiction, liberally peppered with graphs and charts, sections of "primary source" quotes from experts in the field, and plenty of advice for overcoming the addictions, these are useful for research and/or personal information. Lists of key people and organizations for more information. The only negative is the brief length and cost. Could be longer and cheaper. Recommended for middle school and up

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Hall, Shyima 9781442481688

Hidden Girl: the true story of a modern-day child slave Simon & Schuster, 2014 \$17.99 p. 232

Shyima was one of eleven children living with her family in Egypt. Her family fell upon some hard times. Shyima's older sister had been working for a family but was caught stealing. To make

amends, Shyima's parents sold her as a slave to this family in her sister's place. She was only 8 years old at the time.

Shyima tells her story of the time spent with this family and the hardships she endured with them. She also tells of moving to the US and how she was eventually freed.

The voice is young and authentic. I feel like students will be drawn to this book by the title but the story itself will keep them engaged.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Halls, Kelly Milner 978-1-4677-0593-6

Ghostly Evidence: Exploring Paranormal Millbrook Press, 2014 \$20.95 p. 64

Good book for students looking for short chapters, lots of pictures and will hold their attention. In addition to haunted locations the author covers paranormal tools of the trade, people's personal experiences with hauntings, and talks about fake pictures, false claims and scams. Has an index and glossary to help students along with clossary, source notes and suggested further reading. PNW author.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Esperanza Stewart, King County Library System

Hancock, James Gulliver 9781452114569

Artist, Writers, Thinkers, Dreamers Chronicle Books, 2014 \$19.95 p. 110

Artists, Writers, Thinkers, Dreamers contains the profiles of many famous people from Harry Houdini to Barack Obama. These famous figures each receive a page dedicated with illustrations of objects that made them famous. Lesser known facts and weird proclivities are also included. The text on this book is minimal. Each person's page is mostly comprised of pictures that represent interesting facts about their lives. This book could be used to start doing research. In more practical terms, it also demonstrates ways that teachers and students could construct their own knowledge of a subject. Ultimately, this is a creative and concise method of introducing famous people in history in a creative and enjoyable way.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Jacobson, Sid & Ernie Colon 978-0-8090-2685-2

Anne Frank (graphic novel) Hill & Wang, 2010 \$16.95 p. 152

This graphic novel was authorized by the Anne Frank House. It tells the story we all know about Anne and her family's life in the secret annex and how they died, following Otto Frank's life after the war and the story of Anne's diary and the museum that bears her name. The beautiful full color illustrations include details from Anne's diary. Interspersed are "Snapshots" that fill in historical details about what was happening in Europe from WWI through the rise of Hitler and through WWII. Although this is a well-known story, there are personal details that may not be common knowledge and the dialogue and illustrations personalize the story, bringing Anne and her family to life.

A great companion to the Diary, this should appeal to graphic novel fans, but the information is so dense and detailed this goes way beyond a "comic book history". Enough detail is included that it could be used as a resource for students researching the Holocaust.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Kanefield, Teri 978-0-544-14896-3

Guilty? Crime, Punishment, and Changing Face of Justice Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014 \$16.99 p. 134

This book is a good starting point for researching the U.S. criminal justice system, especially for middle grade readers. The concepts of crime and punishment are presented in an interesting, informative way and with plenty of real examples to illustrate how complex these issues are. The author does not shy away from controversies as the book discusses the murder of Osama Bin Laden and the detaining of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. Information is presented in three parts: (1) what determines if an act is a crime or not, (2) what are the different views of punishment, and (3) how did some of the key ideas associated with our justice system originate, such as due process and freedom from unreasonable searches. Woven throughout the chapters are thought-provoking questions that will cause the readers to synthesis the information presented and come up with their own answers, although the author appears dissatisfied with how things are today in the U.S.'s criminal justice system. The book also includes useful sidebars of information and statistics (such as the U.S.'s prison population rates) as well as photos of people mentioned. The book ends with a helpful glossary of legal terms, websites for further reading, research notes, and an extensive bibliography and index.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Kuklin, Susan 978-0763673680

Beyond Magenta: Transgendered teens speak out Candlewick Press, 2015 \$17.99 p.

Six teens who do not fit any category in their own minds, speak out about their gender, their lives, and their hopes. There are also snippets from their families. While we all know the term "transgendered," do we really know what that means? Here are teens who talk about sexuality as only one factor in their lives. These are teens who are not really gay, sometimes transitioning, sometime hermaphroditic. One teen thought his gender changed daily. The book was not written, really, to inform the public about transgendered teens. It was for students like them and others who need to see them as human.

Because of the diverse backgrounds, the writing is sometimes uneven. When bad grammar or confusing sentences are used, Kuklin allows them to stay, giving the book an authentic voice. The photographs are outstanding, and sometimes heartbreaking, giving a face to the teens who are talking. Of course the bullying and violence is present in their descriptions, as is the confusion and questioning, and in a couple of cases, the mental breakdowns. The teens talk about their lives before, during and after their transitions, although not all opted for a complete change.

The book is as informative as it is heartbreaking. Christina says, "While everyone else my age is saving up to buy a car or a house, I'm saving up for a vagina." sex and genitalia are discussed frankly, but not so that it would be withheld from junior high.

Further information is in the appendix with a doctor who works with HOTT (Health Outreach to Teens) program at the New York City.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian retired

Macy, Sue 9781442488540

Sally Ride: life on a mission (Real-life story) Aladdin, \$17.99 p. 152

This biography reveals the public life of astronaut Sally Ride, a private person who gave countless interviews throughout her career without exposing her personal life to media scrutiny. Written after

Ride's untimely death in 2012, the author has relied on previously published material to research the life of America's first woman space traveler. The story is compelling, in part because Ride exemplifies one of the breakthroughs of the women's rights movement. In addition to describing Ride's career the book spotlights NASA, the space shuttle program, and women's rights. Beyond her legacy in the space program, Ride built a company offering programs to encourage girls to pursue math and science careers. Well written and substantive, the books seems best suited for grades 6-9. Includes a timeline, book and web resources, sources notes and an index.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Sarah Ellison, Forest Ridge School

Marcovitz, Hal 978-1-60152-776-9

Life in Nazi Germany (Living History) Reference Point, 2015 \$28.95 p. 96

This series takes a look at historical time periods from the perspective of ordinary people living in extraordinary times. Incorporating first person accounts in sections called "In their own words", photos or illustrations, documents, and sidebar definitions, readers get a taste of what life was like in various eras. Very readable and engaging as well as historically accurate, this series brings a personalization to historical events. Includes timeline, source notes, a "for further reading" section, and index. Actual content is only 84 pages. Recommended for middle school and up.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Marcovitz, Hal 978-1-60152-778-3

Life in the Time of Shakespeare (Living History) Reference Point, 2015 \$28.95 p. 96

This series takes a look at historical time periods from the perspective of ordinary people living in extraordinary times. Incorporating first person accounts in sections called "In their own words", photos or illustrations, documents, and sidebar definitions, readers get a taste of what life was like in various eras. Very readable and engaging as well as historically accurate, this series brings a personalization to historical events. Includes timeline, source notes, a "for further reading" section, and index. Actual content is only 84 pages. Recommended for middle school and up.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Marrin, Albert 978-0-385-75359-3

FDR and the American Crisis Alfred A. Knopf, 2015 \$24.99 p. 324

This biography begins with a description of the depressed state of America at the beginning of his first term as president and continues by presenting a look at the life of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and America in the 1940s. In a very easy-to-read style, Marrin takes an intimate look into the life of FDR as the man and as the politician. The book also covers a large deal of history as it goes into the depression, the New Deal and the needs of Americans in the 1940s. It continues with the state of the world leading into WWII especially focusing on US-Soviet relations. The book ends with explorations of Roosevelt into his fourth and final term. With pictures and insight from those around him, "FDR and the American Crisis" tries to give context to a very complex man in a very complex time in history.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

McCully, Emily Arnold 978-0-547-29092-8

Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business and Won Clarion, 2014 \$18.99 p. 276

Ida Tarbell was a woman ahead of her time, a woman who used her writing skills to forge a career writing about big business and their questionable practices. She was one of the original “muckrakers”, a surprising opponent of women’s suffrage, a world traveler, and caretaker for many of her family members.

This is an interesting biography, meticulously researched, and incorporating many of Tarbell’s own writings, both published and personal. Filled with photos of Tarbell and her family and of her contemporaries, well referenced and including a detailed index, this is a great addition to any biography collection and useful for research about the time period or the topics of journalism, women’s rights, or big business in American history. Recommended for high school (nothing objectionable, just not likely to be of interest to younger students)

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino 978-1-4677-2043-4

Arctic Thaw: Climate Change and the Global Race for Energy Resources Twenty-First Century Books, 2015 \$34.6 p. 64

As climate change alters the physical landscape of the Earth, one of the fastest changing places is the Arctic. This is cause for great concern – melting ice equals high sea levels, reduced animal habitat and change to the traditional life of indigenous people. However, the opening of this landscape also offers better access to the energy resources previously hidden under layers of ice. The race to control these riches is quickly developing between many nations of the world.

McPherson tries to maintain an unbiased tone throughout particularly addressing the conflicted feelings among native people who could benefit from the money drilling would bring in, but also fear the potential destruction to their homes. It will be difficult for readers to leave their own biases behind, but that could help spark discussion or even a call to action. A timely read as the debate over arctic drilling is currently growing louder in our own region. Includes Source Notes, Glossary, Bibliography, Further Reading suggestions and an Index. Grades 7+.

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Montgomery, Sy 978-0-547-81549-7

Chasing Cheetahs; the race to save Africa’s fastest cats (Scientists in the Field) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014 \$18.99 p. 70

Another successful entry in the Scientists in the Field series, this one returns to focusing (mostly) on one person, and definitely one organization, The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) in Namibia. Laurie Marker’s background story leading to founding the organization forms an early chapter. Much of the book then explains advances in knowledge about cheetahs and how to successfully conserve their populations among increasing human farm communities. The CCF’s work includes using unreleasable cheetahs as ambassadors for education, and (mostly young) volunteers from other countries (including the U. S.) in research and education roles. Local experts involved are also featured. Work with rehabilitating cheetahs for release and with farmers to protect livestock and cheetahs are also major emphases. There are plenty of engaging photographs, and much of the science is explained, though at a simple level. While cheetahs are described as Africa’s most endangered cat, the presentation is surprisingly optimistic. There is no glossary (and a few word choice quibbles could be had), but the bibliography, table of contents, acknowledgements, and index are reasonable. The jacket image is reproduced on the hard cover.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th
Additional comments: Nic Bishop, phot.
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Mooney, Carla 978-1-60152-780-6
Distracted Driving (Thinking Critically) Reference Point, 2015 \$28.95 p. 80
Written in an easy to read and visually engaging format, this series is reminiscent of the Opposing Viewpoints essays for older students. Starting with an overview that explains the topic, followed by 8 essays that focus on both sides of the major issues (4 each), each individual essay begins with a quote and “questions to consider” followed by an essay of support for the stance taken. Included after the essays are source notes, fact sheets, resources for further research, and an index. Clear and easy to use, the only minus is the brevity – actual content is only 57 pages. Each essay is only about 5 pages long, so this might be too brief for upper level students, but certainly a nice addition in support of CCSS argumentative essay writing. Recommended for middle school and up
Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Parks, Peggy J. 978-1-60152-756-1
Heroin Addiction (Compact Research - Addictions) Reference Point, 2015 \$28.95 p. 96
A new set of titles in the Compact Research series focusing on addictions. Clear definitions of each addiction, liberally peppered with graphs and charts, sections of “primary source” quotes from experts in the field, and plenty of advice for overcoming the addictions, these are useful for research and/or personal information. Lists of key people and organizations for more information. The only negative is the brief length and cost. Could be longer and cheaper. Recommended for middle school and up
Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Rawls, Paige 978-0-06-234251-5
Positive: Surviving My Bullies, Finding Hope, and Living to Change the World () Harper, 2014 \$18.99 p. 272
Grades 7 and up - Paige Rawls was 2 when her mother discovered that both she, and her young daughter, were HIV positive. So, Paige knew no other life than a life of pills, doctors, and blood draws. As sixth grade drew near, Paige was thrilled to head to middle school, a place where she would get a locker, switch classes, and make all new friends. She quickly became a popular cheerleader with her best friend by her side, until the day that she told her secret to her best friend. The day that people started saying that she had AIDS and she quickly got the name pAIDS. The day that her whole life changed. Paige quickly went from a popular girl with friends, to the brunt of every joke, to being teased relentlessly.
This is an amazing story of a girl who overcomes every odd. She survives relentless bullying, school staff that don't support her, suicide attempts, and comes out on the other end, positive. Some of the language is harsh and offensive, but is amazingly real. As an adult reading, I was reminded about how cruel some kids can be and how some students are amazingly kind. This is an amazing book for both students and adults alike.
Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult
Bethany Steirer, RHMS

Sacher, Jay 978-1-4521-2717-0

Lincoln Memorial-The Story and Design of an American Monument Chronicle Books, 2014
\$16.95 p. 104

This book looks at the long process that took place from the time a memorial to President Lincoln was proposed until the completion of the project nearly 60 years later. It gives details about the debate over the placement of the memorial and the design and chronicles the great task of building it. It goes through the materials used and design movements at the time. There is also a section on many of the famous speeches and performances that have taken place at this memorial site. The book contains interesting details and facts about the famous monument and is accompanied by beautiful watercolor illustrations.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Michelle Sneifer, Rose Hill Middle School

Schmidt, Jason 978-0-374-38013-7

A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me: A Memoir Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015 \$18.99 p. 421

Jason Schmidt did not grow up among "the straights" of middle America. The people his family fell in with were drug dealers, undereducated hippies, and rough characters who had dropped out of society to one degree or another. His parents split up early, and Jason ended up with his dad. Eventually they moved to Seattle, where his father came out and contracted AIDS. Jason suffered through years of neglect, abuse, and harsh living that his dad convinced him was normal and not as bad as it appeared. It is a miracle Jason made it to adulthood without getting addicted, arrested, or killed. This is his true story of survival against terrible odds. Best suited for high school readers and above due to scenes of sex, drug use, and violence. At 421 pages it may be daunting to reluctant readers...but the brutal honesty may hold them.

Grades: 10th, 11th, 12th, Adult

Dawn Rutherford - Sno-Isle Libraries

Shecter, Vicky Alvear 978-1-62091-598-1

Hades Speaks!: A Guide to the Underworld by the Greek God of the Dead Boyd's Mills Press, 2014 \$16.95 p. 128

Hades will take the reader on a tour of the underworld while discussing a wide range of gods, heroes, monsters and more. Funny and short with black and white illustrations. Include in the book is a name guide for gods and heroes, an index, a glossary and a bibliography.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th

Esperanza Stewart, King County Library System

Sutcliffe, Jane 978-1-58089-656-6

The White House is Burning: August 24, 1814 Charlesbridge, 2014 \$19.95 p. 120

Great book that focuses on the the day of and a few days of the aftermath. Great content and easy to read with first hand quotes and illustrations throughout. The back includes and index, source of quotations, bibliography and image credits.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Esperanza Stewart, King County Library System

Torres, John Albert 978-1-62285-221-5

Lionel Messi (Soccer Star) Speeding Star, 2014 \$14.95 p. 48

Short and clearly written profiles of major international football (soccer) stars, these are a must for any library with soccer fans. Biographical information, stories of action on the pitch and off, the focus is on both the play of the stars and their charitable contributions. The focus of this series is on “Latin stars”. Others in the series are Andres Iniesta, Kaka, Robinho, and Ronaldinho. Includes a list of career highlights and awards, internet sites, and an index. recommended for elementary and up -- especially reluctant readers

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Torres, John Albert 978-1-6285-222-2

Cristiano Ronaldo (Soccer Star) Speeding Star, 2014 \$14.95 p. 48

Short and clearly written profiles of major international football (soccer) stars, these are a must for any library with soccer fans. Biographical information, stories of action on the pitch and off, the focus is on both the play of the stars and their charitable contributions. The focus of this series is on “Latin stars”. Others in the series are Andres Iniesta, Kaka, Robinho, and Ronaldinho. Includes a list of career highlights and awards, internet sites, and an index. recommended for elementary and up -- especially reluctant readers

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Tougias, Michael J. & Casey Sherman 978-0-8050-9764-1

The Finest Hours: The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue Henry Holt and Co., 2014
\$17.99 p. 160

Teens looking for an action-packed novel that puts them in the middle of the dangerous situations, will love this true tale of heroism and survival. In 1952, during one of the most treacherous winter storms on record, the U.S. Coast Guard set out to try to rescue sailors who were stranded when not one, but two, separate oil tankers were literally wrenched into half by the stormy seas that were producing 70 foot waves. These waters off of Cape Cod are one of the most dangerous places on the sea and are called the “graveyard of the Atlantic” as more than 3,000 shipwrecks are scattered there. When news of a halved oil tanker reaches the USCG, four brave men didn’t hesitate to enter their 36-foot motorized lifeboat to answer the call for help. The story begins with some brief background information, but then jumps into the increasingly treacherous weather conditions and the snapping into halves of the two oil tankers. Great descriptions draw the reader in, while the ratcheting tension of the situation keeps you on the edge of your seat. This novel is an adaptation of the authors’ adult book on the same topic, but the story reads appropriately for teen readers and has a wealth of information, including a special picture section featuring the torn apart tankers, the small USCG rescue boat and the USCG rescuers. Additional resources include a map, crew listings for the tankers and USCG as well as an extensive bibliography.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Walker, Sally M. 9780761354086

Ghost Walls: The Story of a 17th Century Colonial Homestead Carolrhoda Books, 2014
\$20.95 p. 136

The construction, residents, and history surrounding a home built in one of the first settlements in Maryland is pieced together from evidence drawn from archeology and historic documents, including court cases. The book is illustrated with photographs of evidence from the site, objects

rediscovered in the 40 years of digs at the site, and illustrations of the farmstead as it would have appeared at various points in its history. Engrossing, full of delightful detail and full of examples of how history can be discovered and revised by new information found outside of the traditional historical record.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Wilcox, Christine 978-1-60152-762-2
Sex and Pornography Addictions (Compact Research - Addictions) Reference Point, 2015
\$28.95 p. 96

A new set of titles in the Compact Research series focusing on addictions. Clear definitions of each addiction, liberally peppered with graphs and charts, sections of “primary source” quotes from experts in the field, and plenty of advice for overcoming the addictions, these are useful for research and/or personal information. Lists of key people and organizations for more information. The only negative is the brief length and cost. Could be longer and cheaper. Recommended for high school

Grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Wilcox, Christing 978-1-60152-758-5
Gambling Addiction (Compact Research) Reference Point, 2015 \$28.95 p. 96

A new set of titles in the Compact Research series focusing on addictions. Clear definitions of each addiction, liberally peppered with graphs and charts, sections of “primary source” quotes from experts in the field, and plenty of advice for overcoming the addictions, these are useful for research and/or personal information. Lists of key people and organizations for more information. The only negative is the brief length and cost. Could be longer and cheaper. Recommended for middle school and up

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

NONFICTION – SHRUGS

Head, Honor 9781599208251

How to handle bullying and gangs Smart Apple Media, 2015 \$35.65 p. 46

Offers an overview of why people bully, different kinds of bullying, and ways to deal with bullying. The book doesn’t go to deep into the issue, but does repeatedly encourage victims to keep log/copies of bullying behavior and report it to a trusted adult. Also included Q&As that read like Dear Abby letters, person stories, and a couple of sections at the back on gangs.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

NONFICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Andregg, Michael M. 9780761367154

Seven Billion and Counting Twenty-First Century Books, 2014 \$24.95 p. 88

Seven Billion and Counting refers to the crisis in global population growth. Michael M. Andregg starts the book by defining different demographic measure for population growth including: birth rate, death rate, growth rate, doubling times, etc. These measures allow demographers to analyze and project population on the earth. From there, the author addresses major continents and the

population issues within each. For example China's law limiting most families to one child each. In order to curb population growth governments exact policies, citizens are encouraged to care for the environment (for better water & food sources), education and family planning are taught in underdeveloped countries. Included within the book was a selected bibliography, glossary, lesson plan, index, and suggested organizations to contact. Ultimately, this book lacked the authority I was hoping for and spoke too broadly. I was hoping for more sources to be cited throughout the book instead of a selected bibliography at the end.

Grades: 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Katy Olson

Nakaya, Andrea C. 978-1-60152-760-8

Internet & Social Media Addiction (Compact Research - Addictions) Reference Point, 2015

\$28.95 p. 96

A new set of titles in the Compact Research series focusing on addictions. Clear definitions of each addiction, liberally peppered with graphs and charts, sections of "primary source" quotes from experts in the field, and plenty of advice for overcoming the addictions, these are useful for research and/or personal information. Lists of key people and organizations for more information. The only negative is the brief length and cost. Could be longer and cheaper. Recommended for middle school and up

Grades: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Additional comments:

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School