



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW

**GROUP**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: December 4, 2015**

*Issue: 111  
December 2015*

**WASHRAG**

*Titles Taken 3-17*

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*Fiction Reviews 18-47*

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*Nonfiction Reviews 48-54*

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**WASHYARGers:**

Celebrate the holidays 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.

Any questions? Contact Brenna Shanks – [bshanks@kcls.org](mailto:bshanks@kcls.org) or 425-369-3331

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

**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*

**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>

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

Please make checks payable to WashYARG.

**2015-16 MEETINGS**

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

**MEMBERSHIP FORM:**



Name:

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Title:

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Email\*:

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Phone\*:

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Address\*:

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

## Titles Taken for Review – September 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!

Remember Evergreen Committee meets right after WashYARG at 1 pm – everyone is welcome!

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

### FICTION

- Aguire, Ann 978-1-250-04750-2 \$17.99 328 p.  
*The Queen of Bright and Shiny Things* Feiwel & Friends, 2015  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School
- Alcott, Jessica 978-0-385-39116-0 \$17.99 341 p.  
*Even When You Lie to Me* Crown/Random House, 2015  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School
- Almond, David 978-0-7636-7310-9 \$17.99 326 p.  
*The Tightrope Walkers* Candlewich Press, 2014  
Lora Gillingham, Tahoma High School
- Anderson, Jeff 978-1-4549-1499-0 \$12.95 162 p.  
*Zack Delacruz: Me and My Big Mouth* Sterling Children's Books, 2015  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS
- Bagieu, Penelope 978-1-62672-082-7 \$22.99 124 p.  
*Exquisite Corpse* First Second, 2015  
Devon Abejo KCLS
- Balak, Michael Sanlaville, & Bastien Vives 978-1-62672-047-3 \$9.99 202 p.  
*The Royal Cup* (Last Man #2) First Second, 2015  
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library
- Banks, Anna 978-1-250-03961-3 \$17.99 276 p. **QP**  
*Joyride* Feiwel & Friends, 2015  
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian  
Rochelle Brown, KCLS

Barzak, Christopher <i>Wonders of the Invisible World</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School	978-0-385-39279-2 Alfred Knopf, 2015	\$17.99 338 p. <b>BFYA</b>
Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss <i>The Book Scavenger</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-1-62779-115-1 Henry Holt, 2015	\$16.99 354 p.
Block, Francesca Lia <i>The island of excess love</i> Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library	9780805096316 Henry Holt, 2014	\$16.99 214 p.
Bloom, M. Beth <i>Don't Ever Change</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-06-203688-9 Harper Teen, 2015	\$17.99 359 p.
Buckley, Michael <i>Undertow</i> Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	978-0-544-34825-7 Houghton Mufflin, 2015	\$18.99 378 p.
Carey, Anna <i>Deadfall</i> (sequel to Blackbird) Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS	9780062299765 HarperTeen, 2015	\$17.99 246 p.
Cart, Michael ed. <i>Taking Aim: power and pain, teens and guns</i> (Short story collection) Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School	9780062327352 Harper Teen, 2015	\$17.99 344 p.
Choldenko, Gennifer <i>Chasing Secrets</i> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	9780385742535 Wendy Lamb Books, 2015	\$16.99 278 p.
Connolly, Tina <i>Seriously Wicked</i> (ARC) Sarah Evans, University of Washington	978-0-7653-7516-2 Tor Teen, 2015	\$17.99 208 p. <b>QP</b>
Constantine, Robin ◆ <i>The Secrets of Attraction</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-227951-4 Balzer & Bray, 2015	\$17.99 384 p.

Cooney, Caroline B. <b><i>No Such Person</i></b> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-385-74291-7 \$17.99 246 p. <b>QP</b> Delacorte Press, 2015
Cooper, E.E. <b><i>Vanished</i></b> Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS	9780062293909 \$17.99 307 p. Katherine Tegen, 2015
Cornwell, Betsy <b><i>Mechanica</i></b> Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-547-92771-8 \$17.99 307 p. Clarion, 2015
Cotugno, Katie <b><i>99 Days</i></b> Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian	978-0-06-221638-0 \$17.99 372 p. Balzer & Bray, 2015
Courtald, Sarah <b><i>Buckle and Squash: The Perilous Princess Plot</i></b> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	9781250052773 \$14.99 187 p. Feiwel and Friends, 2014
Cummings, Lindsay <b><i>The Death Code</i></b> (Murder Complex #2) Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-06-222003-5 \$17 496 p. Greenwillow, 2015
de Pins, Arthur <b><i>Control Freaks (Zombillenium)</i></b> Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier HS	1561639567 \$14.99 46 p. Nantier Beall Minoustchine, 2013
Dimopoulos, Elaine <b><i>Material Girls</i></b> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-544-38850-5 \$17.99 319 p. <b>QP</b> Houghton Mifflin, 2015
Dixon, Heather <b><i>Illusionarium</i></b> Sarah Evans, University of Washington	978-0-06-200105-4 \$17.99 361 p. Greenwillow Books, 2015
Durango, Julia <b><i>The Leveller</i></b>	978-0-06-231400-0 \$17.99 245 p. HarperTeen, 2015

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

Emerson, Kevin 978-0-06-213398-4 \$17.99 313 p.  
*Encore to an Empty Room* Katherine Tegen Books, 2015

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Feinstein, John 978-0385753500 \$16.99 304 p.  
*The Sixth Man* Knopf, 2015

Michael Fleming, PCMS

Finn, Katie 978-1-250-04525-6 \$17.99 389 p.  
*Revenge, Ice Cream, and Other Things Best Served Cold* Feiwel & Friends, 2015

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Frank, E.R. 978-1-4814-3160-6 \$17.99 314 p. **BFYA**  
*Dime* Atheneum, 2015

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Frost, Mark 978-0-375-87047-7 \$17.99 358 p.  
*Rogue* (The Paladin Prophecy Book 3) Random House, 2015

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Michael Fleming, PCMS

Gaiman, Neil, Michael and Mallory Reaves 9780062067999 \$17.99 276 p.  
*Eternity's Wheel* (Interworld #3) HarperTeen, 2015

Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Giles, Lamar 978-0-06-229756-3 \$17.99 280 p.  
*Endangered* Harper Teen, 2015

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Goldstein, Lori 978-1-250-05539-2 \$17.99 374 p.  
*Becoming Jinn* Feiwel and Friends, 2015

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Harmon, Michael 978-0385754361 \$17.99 240 p.  
*Stick* Knopf, 2015

Michael Fleming, PCMS

Headley, Maria Dahvana <b><i>Magonia</i></b> Sara Lachman, Olympia Timberland Library	9780062320520 Harper Collins, 2015	\$17.99 320 p.
Heltzel, Anne <b><i>Charlie, Presumed Dead</i></b> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-544-38849-9 Houghton Mifflin, 2015	\$17.99 263 p.
Henry, April <b><i>Blood Will Tell</i></b> (Point Last Seen #2) Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Library Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School	978-0-8050-9853-2 Henry Holt and Company LLC, 2015	\$20.5 258 p. <b>QP</b>
Hillyer, Lexa <b><i>Proof of Forever</i></b> Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	987-0-06-233037 Harper Teen, 2015	\$17.99 339 p.
Hogan, Edward <b><i>The Messengers</i></b> Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS	9780763671129 Candlewick, 2015	\$16.99 208 p.
Hosie, Donna <b><i>The Devil's Dreamcatcher</i></b> Michael Fleming, PCMS	978-0-8234-3390-2 Holiday House, 2015	\$16.95 261 p.
Houck, Colleen <b><i>Reawakened</i></b> Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library	978-0-385-37656-3 Delacorte, 2015	\$17.99 391 p.
Hunt, Leo <b><i>13 Days of Midnight</i></b> JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	978-0-7636-7865-4 Candlewick Press, 2015	\$13 327 p.
Johnston, E.K. <b><i>A thousand nights</i></b> (ARC) Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian	978-1-4847-2227-5 Hyperion, 2015	\$18.99 295 p.
Jonell, Lynne <b><i>The Sign of the Cat</i></b> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-8050-9683-5 Henry Holt, 2015	\$16.99 358 p.

Jones, Ena <i>Clayton Stone, at Your Service</i> Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School	978-0-8234-3389-6 \$16.95 187 p. <b>QP</b> Holiday House, 2015da
Kahaney, Amelia <i>The Invisible</i> Devon Abejo, KCLS	978-0-06-223192-5 \$17.99 291 p. Harper Teen, 2014
Karalius, Kimberly <i>Love, fortunes, and other disasters</i> Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian	978-1-250-04720-5 \$0 343 p. (Swoon Reads) Feiwel & Friends, 2015
Katcher, Brian <i>The Improbable Theory of Ana and Zak</i> Michael Fleming, PCMS	978-0062272775 \$17.99 336 p. Katherine Tegen, 2015
Kinsella, Sophie <i>Finding Audrey</i> Lora Gillingham, Tahoma High School	978-0-553-53651-5 \$18.99 286 p. Delacorte Press, 2015
Kirby, Jessi <i>Things We Know By Heart</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-229943-7 \$17.99 291 p. Harper Teen, 2015
Kranz, Jonathan David <i>Our Brothers at the Bottom of the Bottom of the Sea</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-1-62779-050-5 \$17.99 227 p. Henry Holt, 2015
Kraus, Daniel <i>At the Edge of Empire</i> (The Death and Life of Zebulon Finch: Volume One) (ARC) Sarah Evans, University of Washington	978-1-4814-1139-4 \$18.99 656 p. Simon & Schuster, 2015
Laurie, Estelle <i>This raging light</i> (ARC) Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian	978-0-544-53429-2 \$17.99 288 p. Houghton Mifflin, 2016
Leaver, Trisha <i>The Secrets We Keep</i> (ARC)	978-0-374-30046-3 \$17.99 294 p. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Leck, James 978-1-77138-110-9 \$16.95 252 p.  
*After Dark*  
KCP Fiction, 2015  
Devon Abejo, KCLS

Leonard, Niall 9780385743655 \$17.99 376 p.  
◆*Shredder*  
Delacorte Press, 2014  
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Levithan, David 978-0385756204 \$10.99 336 p.  
*Another Day* (sequel to Every Day)  
Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2015  
Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Library

Logan, Kirsty 978-0-553-44661-6 \$25 304 p.  
*The Grace Keepers* (ARC)  
Crown, 2015  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Lough, Amber 978-0-385-36980-0 \$17.99 306 p.  
*The Blind Wish* (Jinni Wars)  
Random House, 2015  
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

Macfarlane, John 978-0-8234-3394-0 \$16.95 138 p.  
*Stormstruck!*  
Holiday House, 2015  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Matharu, Taran 978-1-250-06712-8 \$18.99 355 p. **QP**  
*The Novice* (Summoner #1)  
Feiwel and Friends, 2015  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School  
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Matson, Lynne 978-1-62779-293-6 \$17.99 421 p.  
*Nil Unlocked* (Nil Series)  
Henry Holt, 2015  
Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

McCune, Joshua 978-0062121943 \$17.99 448 p.  
*Invisible Monsters* (Talker 25 Bk. #2)  
Greenwillow, 2015  
Michael Fleming, PCMS

Napoli, Donna Jo 978-0-385-74655-7 \$16.99 348 p.

*Dark Shimmer* Wendy Lamb books, 2015  
Devon Abejo, KCLS  
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Nix, Garth 9780062292520 \$17.99 400 p.  
*To Hold the Bridge* (Short story collection) Harper, 2015  
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

O'Dowd, Chris and Murphy, Nick V. 9781250057075 \$14.99 383 p.  
*Moone Boy: The Blunder Years* Feiwel and Friends, 2014  
Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library

O'Hara, Mo 978-1-250-02921-8 \$12.99 216 p.  
*My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish: Fins of Fury* (Zombie Goldfish) Feiwel and Friends, 2014  
Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Panitch, Amanda 978-0-553-50749-2 \$17.99 294 p.  
*Damage Done* Random House, 2015  
JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Quintero, Sofia 978-0-375-84707-3 \$17.99 343 p. **BFYA**  
*Show and Prove* Alfred Knopf, 2015  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Reed, Amy 978-0-06-229957-4 \$17.99 325 p.  
*Invincible* (Book 1, unnamed series) Katherine Tegen, 2015  
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Riordan, Rick 978-1423160915 \$19.99 512 p. **QP**  
*The Sword of Summer* (Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard #1) Disney Hyperion, 2015  
Michael Fleming, PCMS

Rudetsky, Seth 978-0-449-81672-1 \$9.99 278 p.  
*The Rise and Fall of a Theater Geek* Random House, 2015  
Aarene Storms, KCLS

Sandford, John and Michele Cook 978-0-385-75309-8 \$18.99 325 p.  
*Outrage* (The Singular Menace #2) Alfred Knopf, 2015  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Scelsa, Kate <i>Fans of the Impossible Life</i> Richele Buoy, Kent Phoenix Academy	978-0-06-233175-5 \$17.99 360 p. Balzer + Bray, 2015
Schlitz, Laura Amy <i>The Hired Girl</i> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	9780763678180 \$17.99 387 p. <b>BFYA</b> Candlewick Press, 2015
Schmatz, Pat <i>Lizard Radio</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Library	978-0-7636-7635-3 \$16.99 1280 p. <b>BFYA</b> Candlewick Press, 2015
Schneider, Robyn ◆ <i>Extraordinary Means</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-221716-5 \$17.99 336 p. Katherine Tegen Books, 2015
Schreiber, Joe <i>Con Academy</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School Lora Gillingham, Tahoma High School	978-0-544-32020-8 \$17.99 236 p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015
Shepard, Sara <i>The Good Girls</i> (sequel to <i>The Perfectionists</i> ) Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-207452-2 \$17.99 341 p. Harper Teen, 2015
Shusterman, Neal <i>Challenger Deep</i> Sara Lachman, Olympia Timberland Library	978-0061134111 \$17.99 320 p. <b>BFYA</b> Harper Collins, 2015
Smale, Holly <i>Model Misfit</i> (Geek Girl) Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	978-0-06-233360-5 \$17.99 388 p. <b>QP</b> HarperTeen, 2015
Smith, Lindsay <i>Skandal</i> (sequel to <i>Sekret</i> ) Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Library	978-1-62672-005-3 \$20.5 326 p. Roaring Book Press, 2015
Stead, Rebecca <i>Goodbye Stranger</i>	978-0-385-74317-4 \$16.99 287 p. Wendy Lamb Books, 2015

Michael Fleming, PCMS

Stokes, Paula 978-0-06-232328-6 \$17.99 360 p.  
*Liars, INC* Harper Teen, 2015  
Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School

Tashjian, Jake 9780805098518 \$13.99 250 p.  
*My Life as a Gamer* (The My Life series) Henry Holt, 2015  
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Vincent, Rachel 978-0-385-74417-1 \$17.99 359 p.  
*The Stars Never Rise* Delacorte, 2015  
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

Vincent, Rachel 978-0-385-74417-1 \$17.99 358 p.  
*The stars never rise* Random House Teens, 2015  
Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

White, Jen 978-0-374-30084-5 \$16.99 308 p.  
*Survival Strategies of the Almost Brave* Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015  
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library

White, Jen 978-0-374-30084-5 \$16.99 311 p.  
*Survial Strategies of the Almost Brave* Farrar Straux Giroux, 2015  
Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Yoon, Nicola 978-0-553-49664-2 \$18.99 306 p. **BFYA. QP**  
*Everything, Everything* Delacorte Press, 2015  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School  
Brooke Shoostine, Maple Valley & Enumclaw Libraries, KCLS

#### NON-FICTION

Atkinson, Rick 978-1-62779-113-7 \$19.99 229 p.  
*Battle of the Bulge* Henry Holt, 2015  
Michael Fleming, PCMS  
Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell 9780544313675 \$17.99 229 p.  
*Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of*

*the Deadliest Cook in America* Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015  
 Sarah Hunt, KCLS  
 Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Baxter, Jack - Faudem, Joshua - Shadmi, Koren 9781-59643-857-6 \$22.99 189 p.  
*Mike's Place* First Second, 2015  
 Michael Fleming, PCMS

Blumenthal, Karen 978-1-62672-084-8 \$19.99 232 p.  
*Tommy: The Gun That Changed America* Roaring Brook, 2015  
 Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High Library  
 Michael Fleming, PCMS

Curie, Stephen 9781601528209 \$32.17 80 p.  
*Cyberbullying* (Thinking critically) ReferencePoint Press, 2016  
 Barbara Sheen

Curran, Abbey with Elizabeth Kaye 978-0-06-236391-6 \$21.99 261 p.  
*Courage to Compete: Living with Cerebral Palsy  
 and Following My Dreams* Harper, 2015  
 Marilyn Condon, LWSD

Dudley, William 9781601528162 \$32.17 80 p.  
*Biofuels* (Thinking critically) ReferencePoint Press, 2016  
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

**Series: Exploring Careers** ReferencePoint Press, 2016  
 Sheen, Barbara 9781601528124 \$32.17 80 p.  
*Careers in Sales and Marketing*

Sheen, Barbara 9781601528087 \$32.17 80 p.  
*Careers in Education*  
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Hartland, Jessie 978-0-307-98296-4 \$25.95 216 p.  
*Steve Jobs* (ARC) Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015  
 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Hartland, Jessie 978-0307982957 \$22.95 223 p.  
*Steve Jobs: Insanely Great* (Graphic Novel) Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015

Sarah Hunt, KCLS  
Michael Fleming, PCMS

Hoose, Phillip 978-0374300227 \$19.99 208 p.  
***The Boys Who Challenged Hitler***  
Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2015  
Michael Fleming, PCMS

Humphreys, Jessica Dee & Michel Chikwanine 978-1-77138-126-0 \$17.95 48 p.  
***Child Soldier: When Boys and Girls are Used in War*** (Graphic Novel) Kids Can Press, 2015  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

**Series: The Importance of Scientific Theory** ReferencePoint, 2016

Allen, John 9781601527868 \$28.95 80 p  
***The Importance of Atomic Theory***

Allen, John 9781601528889 \$28.95 80 p  
***The Importance of Cell Theory***

Allman, Toney 9781601528902 \$28.95 80 p  
***The Importance of Germ Theory***

Allman, Toney 9781601528926 \$28.95 80 p  
***The Importance of the Laws of Motion***

Currie, Stephen 9781601528964 \$28.95 80 p.  
***The Importance of Evolution Theory***

Parks, Peggy J. 9781601528940 \$28.95 80 p.  
***The Importance of Plate Tectonic Theory***  
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Kallen, Stuary A. 978-1-60152-784-4 \$28.95 77 p.  
***Matt Groening and the Simpsons (and others)***  
(Contemporary Cartoon Creators) Reference Press Point, 2016  
Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

Lewin, Ted & Betsy 978-1-59643-616-9 \$22.99 136 p.  
***How to Babysit a Leopard and other true stories from our travels across six continents***  
Roaring Brook Press, 2014

Aarene Storms, KCLS

Loh-Hagan, Virginia 978163470030-6 \$18.85 32 p.  
*Acupuncturist* (Odd Jobs) Cherry Lake Publishing, 2016  
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Marcovitz, Hal 9781601528025 \$28.95 96 p.  
*Life During the Renaissance* (Living History) ReferencePoint Press, 2016  
 Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Mattern, Joanne 9781601528100 \$32.17 80 p.  
*Careers in Finance* (Exploring careers) Reference Point Press, 2016  
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Minden, Cecilia 978163362509 \$14.75 32 p.  
*Giving back* (Real World Math: Personal Finance) Cherry Lake Publishing, 2016  
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Nakaya, Andrea C. 9781601528223 \$32.17 80 p.  
*Mass shootings* (Thinking critically) Reference Point Press, 2015  
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Nardo, Don 9781601528049 \$28.95 96 p.  
*Life in Ancient Greece* (Living History) ReferencePoint Press, 2016  
 Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Netzley, Patricia D. 978-1-60152-860-5 \$32.17 80 p.  
*Do Vampires Exist?* (Do They Exist?) Reference Point Press, 2016  
 Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

O'Dowd, Chris and Nick V. Murphy 978-1-250-05707-5 \$14.99 383 p.  
*Moone Boy: The Blunder Years* Feiwel and Friends (macmillan), 2014  
 Richard Snyder, Kirkland Middle School

O'Reilly, Bill 978-1-62779-396-4 \$22.99 306 p.  
*Hitler's Last Days: The Death of the Nazi Regime and the  
 World's Most Notorious Dictator* Holt, 2015  
 Marilyn Condon, LWSD

Parks, Peggy J. 978-1-60152-836-0 \$32.17 96 p.  
*Teens, Sports, and Exercise*

(Compact Research: Teen Well-Being) Reference Point Press, 2016  
 Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

Samuelsson, Marcus 978-0385744003 \$10.99 224 p.  
***Make It Messy: My Perfectly Imperfect Life*** Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2015  
 Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Library

Samuelsson, Marcus with Veronica Chambers 978-0-385-74400-3 \$16.99 213 p.  
***Make It Messy: My Perfectly Imperfect Life*** Delacorte Press, 2015  
 Marilyn Condon, LWSD

Sandler, Martin W. 978-0763665272 \$22.95 224 p.  
***Iron Rails, Iron Men and the Race to Link the Nation*** Candlewick, 2015  
 Michael Fleming, PCMS

**Series: Scientists in the Field** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015  
 Montgomery, Sy 978-0-544-232-70-9 \$18.99 71 p.  
***The Octopus Scientists: Exploring the mind of a mollusk***

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw 978-0-544-23268-6 \$18.99 80 p.  
***The Call of the Osprey***  
 Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

**Series: Technology Titans** Reference Point Press, 2016  
 Kallen, Stuart A. 978-1-60152-876-6 \$28.95 80 p.  
***Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook***

Kallen, Stuart A. 978-1-60152-872-8 \$\$28.95 80 p.  
***Jeff Bezos and Amazon***

Kallen, Stuart A. 978-1-60152-870-4 \$\$28.95 80 p.  
***Elon Musk and Tesla***

Marcovitz, Hal 978-1-60152-874-2 \$\$28.95 80 p.  
***Larry Page, Sergey Brin, and Google***

Nakaya, Andrea C. 978-1-60152-880-3 \$\$28.95 80 p.  
***Steve Jobs and Apple***

Nakaya, Andrea C. 978-1-60152-878-0 \$\$28.95 80 p.

***Reed Hastings and Netflix***  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

**Series: Teen Choices**

ReferencePoint, 2016

Currie-McGhee, Leanne

9781601529145 \$28.95 80 p.

***Teens and Marijuana***

Nakaya, Andrea C.

9781601529121 \$28.95 80 p.

***Teens and Sex***

Snyder, Gail

9781601529183 \$28.95 80 p.

***Teens and Smoking***

Stewart, Gail B.

9781601529084 \$28.95 80 p.

***Teens and Bullying***

Stewart, Gail B.

9781601529107 \$28.95 80 p.

***Teens and Drinking***

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Wilcox, Christine

978-1-60152-882-7 \$32.17 96 p.

***How Is Online Pornography Affecting Society*** (INControversy) Reference Point Press, 2016

Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School



This new series is kind of a Choose Your Own Adventure for older kids as it features high school students and readers can either choose between two options or flip a coin and select “heads” or “tails.”

Kellen Moore is the pitcher on his baseball team right before the state championship game in California and who the reader becomes. He’s known as “Iceman” because he doesn’t get rattled when the pressure is on. Teens who long for another book where they decide the fate will really like this one as it has interesting outcomes that affect Kellen’s life both on the baseball diamond and off, such as meeting a pretty girl or getting interviewed by the FBI for suspected steroid use. Reluctant readers, especially guys, would enjoy the baseball action included.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Arnold, Elana K.

978-1-4677-3849-1 \$18.99 189 p.

***Infamous***

Carolrhoda, 2015

“Infamous: something too terrible to be spoken aloud.” So says Sephora describing her latest sculpture, but obviously, also a secret in her life as well. Thus begins this short novel with, as we say in *Sex in the Library*, “no holds barred and no body parts left out...” At seventeen, Sephora hates school, has a mother who hated school, and writes any “skip school note” put in front of her. Seph is also a sculptor in Venice Beach, Ca, where she lives on the seedier side. She has friends who do a quantity of drinking, drugs, and sex. Seph herself has had sex, and hooks up with an older guy, whom she describes as “mid-thirties, maybe even older” for some great sex.

Seph’s mother, Rebecca, is a former model, downright gorgeous, who is working in a dental office and going to nursing school, although we never see any indication of the latter. She is also having an affair with a nineteen-year-old friend of Seph’s. They have a close relationship, although Seph is beginning to move into her own life.

The story is told in between chapters of fairytales and Greek myths- the original tales that come out very, very different than the Disney version. We expect the same is true for the outcome of Seph’s tale, and are not surprised when the big reveal comes.

It is problematic where to place this book. This is a novel for older teens and adults; perhaps that newly created category, “emerging adult.” Seph’s attitude toward sex is understandable; the alcohol and drugs more problematic. The closeness of mother and daughter didn’t seem so close when compared to the lack of motherly attention to any of Seph’s life. All that said, the story itself is very well told, and we find ourselves wishing it were longer so we could get to know the characters better. But to whom would we give this book?

**Grades:** 12th, Adult

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Balak, Michael Sanlaville, and Bastien Vives 978-1-63672-046-6 \$9.99 207 p.

***Last Man: The Stranger (GN)***

First Second, 2015

Adrian is a young martial arts competitor anxious to prove himself at the royal tournament. At the last moment, his partner is too ill and he must withdraw. Richard Aldana is a mystery man who rides a bicycle and smokes. Neither action is familiar to the residents of this medieval-type

town nor are they familiar with his brute force fighting style. The two competitors join ranks and set out to win the tournament. This manga-style graphic novel is an engaging read with complex characters and mysteries left unanswered. Recommended for 7th and up, I look forward to the next installment.

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

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

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

When Tuesday Macgillicuddy finds out that her novel writing mom, Serendipity, has gone missing, she decides to do what the heroine of her mom's books, Vivienne Small, would do...and that is do what needed to be done and find her mom. With only two clues to guide her, Tuesday begins her adventures with her loyal and courageous dog, Baxterr. They quickly end up in a mystical place where stories happen that teaches her all about how a story is created, so even though Tuesday wants to go immediately to The End and find her mom, she learns she must start at The Beginning, go through The Middle, in order to reach The End. And, of course, the first stop for all new arrivals is...THE LIBRARY! Soon, Tuesday finds herself in Vivienne Smith's world and embarks on a series of dangerous adventures as she struggles to tell the story that will bring her mother home. This book is for teens who love reading about the love of words, stories, and book. It's fun, full of heart, adventure, and lessons worth learning about the power of your voice and the love of a family. Give this to fans of Inkheart.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Black, Holly and Cassandra Clare 9780545522250 \$17.99 p.  
***The Iron Trial (ARC)*** Scholastic Press, 2014

Callum was an infant when the families of the Mages were slaughtered by the enemy. His father came back to the caverns and found his son, the sole survivor, crippled and a cryptic message scrawled on the wall. Since then, he has kept Call away from all magic. But Call is called to the Iron Trial to see if he has magical ability and should begin training. Call's father wants him to fail the test and return home, and Call tries. But he is selected nonetheless. I couldn't help rooting for Call, and there are other students who are equally interesting, if not all are as likeable. Big twist at the end, and maybe I should have seen it coming. But I was just having too much fun reading about Call. Cliffhanger ending sets up Book Two.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Bodger, Holly 9780385391535 \$17.99 244 p.  
***5 to 1*** Random House, 2015

This novel in verse is set in India in the year 2054. Due to many years of gender selection for newborns, girls are a scarcity. There are roughly 5 boys to every one girl, so competitions are held and the boy who wins gets to marry the girl. Sudasa and Kiran tell their tale in alternating chapters.

I found it fascinating to have a dystopian novel set in India; it gets extra points just for that.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Bowman, Erin

9780062117328 \$17.99 373 p.

***Forged***

HarperTeen, 2015

Gray, along with his fellow rebels, and the expats are still trying to remove Frank, who leads the Franconian Order much like a tyrant/dictator. When Gray discovers a Forgery within his group of allies, he starts to question everyone's loyalty. This final book in the trilogy has adventure, danger, loss and love, in a plot that has unexpected twists.

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

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Clark, Jay

978-0-8050-9257-8 \$16.99 218 p.

***Finding Mr. Brightside***

Henry Holt, 2015

Abram's father and Juliette's mother are having an affair. Then they are both killed in a car accident on the way back from a tryst. It would seem improbable then, that Abram and Juliette would come together. It is especially improbable because both are on self-prescribed drugs with obvious problems of their own. But that is exactly what happens in this incredibly sweet love story. Normally the sweetness would turn you off. Not so here. We cheer not only for the romance, but also for the understanding and humanity both teens tackle with honesty and courage.

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

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Demetrios, Heather

978-0-8050-9795-5 \$17.99 379 p.

***I'll Meet You There***

Henry Holt, 2015

Getting out. That's exactly what Skylar has dreamed about and worked hard for all these years, getting out of her tiny trailer in her tiny poor town in California's Central Valley. That worked paid off and she's earned a full ride to college in San Francisco. But, just as Skylar's future is in sight, her mom is coming apart – she's fallen off the wagon and lost her job. How can Skylar leave her now? And, then she reconnects with Josh. Josh, the town's notorious player, who is back after being stationed in Afghanistan with the Marines. Josh might be back, but he's not the same and not just in the obvious way of having lost a leg. Somehow, in the midst of facing their own struggles, the two develop a relationship that gives them the support they both need. But, as they get closer both are scared to see it through. Readers will easily connect with Skylar and Josh as well as the cast of colorful supporting characters that make up life in this small town. If they are anything like me, this coming of age story will keep them up reading way past curfew.

Recommend, grades 9+.

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

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Dominy, Amy

978-0-385-74443-0 \$17.99 306 p.

***A Matter of Heart***

Delacorte Press, 2015

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

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

Doyle, Catherine

978-0-545-69982-2 \$17.99 352 p.

***Vendetta (ARC)***

ChickenHouse, 2015

A modern Romeo and Juliet twisted with The Godfather and Twilight. Sophie Gracewell has adapted to life as a social pariah in the Cedar Hills suburb of Chicago since her father accidentally shot a supposed intruder at their family diner 18 months ago. She is expecting a quiet summer working at the diner with her only remaining friend. But then a mysterious family moves into the long abandoned town mansion. A family with 5 gorgeous olive-skinned brothers whose speech flows effortlessly between English and Sicilian and whom her suddenly panicky uncle warns her to stay away from. It's too late because she's already run into Nic, the youngest, and their attraction is immediate. Despite dire warnings from Luca, the brother with the toughest exterior that seems to hide something else entirely inside, the two can't stay apart. Then family secrets that Sophie never could have imagined come boiling to the surface and lives hang in the balance. Although the plot occasionally echoes Twilight with Mafiosi standing in for vampires, Sophie is a much tougher and more sensible heroine. Sophisticated readers will find themselves incredulous at points, but a lot of teen readers will enjoy the romance and action imbedded in La Cosa Nostra. Note: the ending leaves it open for a sequel.

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

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Duey, Kathleen and Karen A. Bale

978-1-4814-1642-9 \$6.99 154 p.

***Flood: Mississippi, 1927***

Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, 2015

Garrett and Molly are best friends who have been saving money to escape their small town in MS. When a flood threatens to wash away their stash of money (hidden in a tree trunk on an island) they hop on a raft and head out to retrieve it. Unfortunately the storm is worse than expected and they and their raft are washed downriver into an adventure that almost drowns them and includes encounters with strangers, dogs, debris, and water moccasins.

This is an exciting and fast-paced survival tale that's appropriate for 4th through 7th graders.

Part of a series of adventures based on historical events. This on about the devastating flood in

1927. Others include the Titanic, the Chicago Fire (1871), the San Francisco Earthquake (1906), and the Colorado Blizzard of 1886. All featuring young people against the odds.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Easton, T.S. 9781250053312 \$16.99 265 p.

***Boys Don't Knit (In Public)*** Feiwel & Friends, 2015

This is the humorous story of 17-year-old Ben, who had some issues with a crossing guard and a bottle of prosecco and has now been sentenced to community service. He chooses to take a knitting class - and it turns out that he's quite good at it! But he can't let his friends, his crush, or his dad find out...

An enjoyable, fun read. Ben is a likable, engaging character.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Gabel, Claudia & Cheryl Klam 9780062122445 \$17.99 340 p.

***Etherworld*** Katherine Tegen, 2015

Etherworld begins where Elusion left off, with Regan, her dad, Josh, and a bunch of their friends trapped behind the firewall of Elusion. While dad and the others say in Etherworld and attempt to plant bombs in the portals to Elusion, in hopes of crashing Elusion from within, Regan returns to the real world. Once there, no one will believe her that her father is alive and being held by captive by folks at Corporation. Not even Patrick or her mother will believe her and instead they try to have her institutionalized. How can Regan convince the world that Elusion is bad when she can't even convince those closest to her? Time is ticking, and she, along with Josh and a few others, have to figure out where her father is so they can put a stop to the Corporation's evil plan. An exciting sequel that does not disappoint.

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

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Gardner, Scott 9780544232747 \$17.99 208 p.

***The Dead I Know*** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Aaron lives with Mam in a trailer park. Although he is just barely not a kid anymore, he is the caretaker in the family - Mam is increasingly less lucid and more frequently a danger to herself. Aaron is broken as well; he sleepwalks and has disturbing nightmares that leave him dangerously close to the edge. Oddly enough, it is a job at a funeral home that becomes his sanctuary. The work gives Aaron the stability he needs to deal with disaster that his life has become. This dark coming of age will have you rooting for Aaron; you want him to decipher the terror of his dreams and figure out what to do for Mam. The owner of the mortuary and his family are wonderful characters; they are not smarmy, do-gooders. They are sincere and have dealt with tragedy as well. I read this book in one sitting - I couldn't put it down. This is a well-written, nuanced, coming of age story with a strong male protagonist. Some violence and the realistic (although sensitively described) details of the job of a funeral director makes this better for a mature reader.



First and foremost, this is a book about a 17-year-old girl, Stevie, who has an eating disorder. There are lots of other deep issues addressed in this book - which makes sense as these things often do not happen in a vacuum. Stevie is now in a treatment center for 60 days, but she only plans to be alive for 27 of them. Interactions with her fellow "inmates", sessions with her counselors, and flashbacks to the past reveal all that Stevie is going through.

I think the author did a lot of thorough research for this novel. Personally, I found it hard to connect emotionally with Stevie and think it could be a potential trigger for those who suffer from an eating disorder. It's pretty intense. Because of my personal reaction (or lack thereof), I probably would give it a shrug except that I also believe teen girls will be drawn to this story and will get something out of it.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Hautman, Pete

9780763674182 \$14.99 320 p.

*Eden West*

Candlewick Press, 2015

Jacob has been part of the Grace, a small religious cult who live isolated from the rest of the world, waiting for an archangel to come and deliver them, since he was very young. His faith, which has always been strong, is tested when he meets two teens from the outside world. Tobias' rebellious nature and Lynna's friendship, along with the cult leader's repeated taking of teenage wives cause Jacob to question everything he believes. Although it is easy to judge the Grace, Hautman does a good job making characters on both sides balanced and believable. This story will push readers to ask questions about themselves and what they believe.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Hensley, Joy N.

978-0-06-2229519-4 \$17.99 402 p.

*Rites of Passage (ARC)*

HarperTeen, 2014

Samantha McKenna has been part an army brat. Her father is a Colonel, her brother is in the military high school, as colonel, and her other brother was training to be a Ranger- until he committed suicide. Now, at sixteen, Sam wants to be one of the first five girls to be allowed into Denmark Military High School. (although in the U.S.) She knows it will be tough; she expects to be given harsher treatment because of her family; she needs to succeed. But she was still unprepared for being singled out to fail, even as she is determined to win. All the girls are being forced to quit by "any means necessary." She was also unprepared for the subversive, secret group called the "Pandora Group," similar to the "Skull and Bones" real group.

While the book is not exceptionally well written, it is one of a few books of the lives of girls in the military. For that reason, it should be considered for collections. Unfortunately, Sam is the only strong character. None of the other girls seem like they really care, and yet are the first girls in this academy. The boys are pretty stereotyped, and Sam's major love interest is just too sweet to actually believe. There is a romance between Sam and another student- or perhaps between Sam and her sergeant? Sam also uncovers the mystery surrounding her older brother and his suicide. The scenes of harassment are pretty violent at times, and one wonders if the abuse she

takes is even close to reality. The author herself went to military school, although she didn't last. We hope this was not autobiographical. It also looks to be a series.

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

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Hughes, Alison 9781459807945 \$9.95 136 p.

***Lost in the Backyard*** Orca, 2015

Flynn, a 13-year-old addicted to his smart phone, wanders off in the Canadian woods during an autumn dinner at the house of family friends. Poorly equipped with either material or information, he nonetheless struggles through three days of freezing weather and stumbles back into civilization and rescue in poor shape. Though apparently something of a poor student, he's kindly inclined toward his younger sister and parents enough to make him a sympathetic character. Vocabulary is a bit above the usual high-low formula. A few cases of compound words formed from usually separate words are distracting (backyard, swearword, backseat), among other nonstandard usages (who/whom, quick/quickly, omitted commas). It's somewhat a retelling of King's Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon, with a male protagonist and colder setting. There's a bit less hallucinating, and it's even less believable the boy could survive freezing conditions so long making such poor decisions (and not experience greater lasting damage). It'll serve as a quick read, and it does name-drop a couple more traditional survival stories.

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

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Jones, Patrick 978-1-4677-5802-4 \$20.29 87 p.

***Raising Heaven*** Darby Creek, 2015

This is the fourth book in a new urban hi/lo series, Locked Out, that focuses on teens whose parents are incarcerated. Deja, 17, was born in prison and grew up with her grandma. Deja's mom was never around and has lied, run off, and broken the law more times than can be counted. Yet when Deja's mom ends up back in prison and pregnant, Deja wants to give her half-sister the life she never had and agrees to raise the baby for the first six months until her mom is released. However, Deja quickly realizes that taking care of a baby is harder than she thought. Teens will like this series, especially reluctant readers, and enjoy that they can read the series in any order. Other books in the series have guys as the main characters.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Kern, Peggy 9780062266958 \$17.99 190 p.

***Little Peach*** Balzer & Bray, 2015

Michelle runs away from home because her mom is a drug addict and is always bringing home strange men. Michelle heads for NYC to stay with a friend. In her attempt to find her friend, however, she is picked up by a pimp. She doesn't know that's what he is, of course. She is desperate and he seems kind; he promises to take care of her. At first things seem fine with Devon and the other two girls who live with him, but gradually she is led into a life of child prostitution.

This is an intense, gritty look at domestic trafficking and prostitution. The author based the book on stories she heard from women who have survived exactly this type of situation. There is drug and alcohol use, physical abuse, and fairly graphic descriptions of sexual situations. Definitely for a mature reader.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Krumwiede, Lana

978-0-7636-7262-1 \$17.99 277 p.

***True Son***

Candlewick, 2015

Taemon is likely the only one left who has the “psi”, telekinetic and telepathic abilities. In book #2, he helped the Nathanites survive an attack by the Republikite army, but now that the Republik is being threatened by the Nau, the Nathanite city of Deliverance is about to be caught in the middle of a war. With the help of others in the city and an ally in the Republik army, he hopes to save the Nathanites and bring peace to the area.

Although I did not read the previous two books, I was caught up in the action and found the storyline compelling and very readable. There’s a subplot about rescuing books lost in a previous war, and one of the characters is a telepathic jaguar. How can you not like that? The conflict comes to a satisfying resolution. This trilogy would be a good read for fans of other future/dystopian books like *The Maze Runner* or *The Chaos Walking* series. Although violent, not overly so; and there is no sexual content or profanity, so even young teens will enjoy this series.

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

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Krys, Michelle

978-0-385-74339-6 \$17.99 361 p.

***Charmed (sequel to Hexed)***

Random House, 2015

In *Hexed*, Indigo lost her mother, and now her best friend is missing. Her aunt Penny is now her guardian, but she is prevented from using her magic to look for Paige. With the help of her boyfriend, Bishop, she is determined to find Paige. This sends her into the notorious prison, Los Demonios, and into the middle of a group of warlocks trying to use human sacrifice to open a dimension to other worlds.

I had not read *Hexed*, but there’s enough backstory to get me right into the middle of the story. It’s a fast-paced action adventure filled with magic and violence (but not too graphic) that sucks you right in. Although there are deaths, the story ends on a somewhat happy note without a cliff-hanger. There could be a 3rd, but it’s not an obvious trilogy. A good choice for fans of Cassandra Clare.

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

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Krys, Michelle

9780385743396 \$17.99 358 p.

***Charmed***

Delacorte Press, 2015

When Indie's best friend Paige is missing, Indie will use whatever powers are at her disposal to find her. This includes her newly learned and still developing skills of witchcraft. Lots of drama, romance, and a parallel universe cannot stop her!

Even though I hadn't read the first book, I was drawn to the characters and world developed in this series.

Some swears and some sexual situations.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Leonard, Niall

978-0-385-74365-5 \$17.99 376 p.

***Shredder***

Delacorte, 2014

Finn is trying to leave the criminal life, but can't. He sees an out when one of the crime bosses asks (tells) him to set up a meeting with a rival, promising to let Finn get out and lead his own life. Of course, things don't work out so well for the bosses, Finn or Finn's girlfriend.

This is an extremely fast-paced novel with LOTS of action. A roller coaster ride in the same vein as action movies like Taken or Scarface. There are several violent scenes, several people are killed, and one particularly disturbing scene featuring a large "shredder" – large enough for a person's body. A great read! But not for younger students. Recommended for high school.

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

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Littman, Sarah Darer

978-0-545-65126-4 \$17.99 321 p.

***Backlash***

Scholastic Press, 2015

Although Lara has a history of depression (middle school was a horrible time), she has been doing much better. She made the cheerleading squad and is making new friends. She's even met a really cute boy via Facebook, who seems to really get her. And, then out of nowhere, he humiliates her online, saying she's a loser. What's worse is the number of people who agree and add their own mean comments. It is all too much for Lara and she attempts suicide. Luckily her younger sister, Sydney finds her in time. When Lara finally wakes up her family learns of this boy's involvement. However, when the police investigate they discover there is no boy – he's a fake. Someone created a false profile just to mess with Lara. Told in multiple voices this novel illustrates the complicated nature of bullying and the impact that it has on everyone associated with the situation. This book should certainly get teens thinking about their own choices, and how they might better respond to the choices of others in their lives. Recommend, grades 7+.

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

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Liu, Liana

9780062306647 \$17.99 p.

***The Memory Key (ARC)***

Harper Collins,

The only way to mitigate the effects of Vergets, the disease that destroys the memory of so many people, is to have a "memory key" implanted. Lora, who has just graduated from high school, has a chip that is beginning to malfunction. However she doesn't want to have it removed, fearing she will lose the memories of her mother, who died almost 8 years ago. Especially since

the key started to fail, she is remembering things about her mother's death she has never remembered before. This novel is a mystery: what really happened to Lora's mother, what is Keep Corp trying to hide, who else is in on the deception? Lora is not a very compelling protagonist; she lurches from wanting to do something to denying events, from one boy who might be able to help her to her best friend's brother. It is not hard to guess what is happening, but the ending is unexpected. Readers who are into mysteries and conspiracies might enjoy it.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Livingston, Lesley

978-0-06-206313-7 \$17.99 343 p.

***Transcendent***

Harper Teen, 2015

At the end of *Descendent*, Mason Starling had discovered her Valkyrie powers, but her boyfriend is left bleeding on the ground. She makes the plea for help and Rafe concedes and turns Fenn into the werewolf he was fated to become. She still has to find her mother and figure out how to save the mortal world from being collateral damage in a war of the gods.

Steeped in Norse mythology and filled with characters like the Frost Giants, Loki, Odin, and much more. Mason and her friends are just typical high school teens in many ways, so it's easy to root for them and sympathize with their petty conflicts and romantic entanglements. The action is swift and sometimes violent. Of course they save the world, but not before they lose some close friends and family. This is "Percy Jackson" for the older crowd. Recommended for 8th grade and up because of profanity and some mild sexual content.

**Grades:** 8th, 9th, 10th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Ludwig, Elisa

978-0-06-206612-1 \$17.99 326 p.

***Pretty Wanted***

Katherine Tegen Books, 2015

Willa and Aidan are on the run after a string of thefts that earned Willa the moniker of the "Sly Fox". This time they aren't on a crime spree exactly, but are looking for Willa's mother – or at least the story behind why she was murdered.

A fast paced suspenseful story that's a great adventure and a thrill to read. I admit that, as an adult, I had issues with how frequently Willa and Aidan "borrowed" cars and houses and food, etc. But when I think like a teenager, I found this book great fun. It's the finale to a trilogy, but I hadn't read the first two and still was able to follow along and enjoy the story. Some sexual content and profanity, but nothing overly graphic. Recommended for 9th grade and up since the characters are older and have questionable ethics.

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

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Lyons, CJ

9781402292309 \$13.99 320 p.

***Broken***

Sourcebooks, 2014

Scarlet has a rare heart condition that has no treatment. All her life she has been homeschooled, sheltered by stepmother and barely noticed by her father. Realizing that she probably doesn't have long to live, Scarlet insists she be allowed to attend public school and have a shot at a few

months of a somewhat normal life. From the first moments at school, she is horrifically bullied by the jocks and divas and befriended and protected by a group of “freaks,” who are part of the peer mentor program she has been forced to join by her stepmother. The villains are easy to hate; the freaks are easy to love. I don’t think most teens will see the end coming, mostly because they won’t have the technical knowledge about what is coming. The mystery takes a long time to build, but the relationships make the book. One major drawback - the device that this all happens in one week at school really strains credibility.

**Grades:** 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Mancusi, Mari 9781402292279 \$12.99 368 p.  
*Scorched* Sourcebooks, 2014

After her mom committed suicide and Trinity moved in with her grandfather, she has been trying to save his nearly defunct museum. Trin is the practical one, trying to pay bills and keep the business afloat; her grandfather keeps going to more and more outrageous lengths to increase attendance. His latest “find,” a dragon’s egg. Trin thinks her grandfather has finally lost it. And then the men in black invade the museum, trying to get Trinity and the egg. And a guy named Connor shows up to help her. But does he really want to help her? And why has she started hearing voices in her head? Lots of action, lots of romance. The conflict regarding the consequences of bringing dragons back to life are explained - the story is told from three points of view. The details of time travel, altering the future, and the “Nether” are a little sketchy. But dragon lovers and action seekers should enjoy it.

**Grades:** 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

McCloud, Scott 9781596435735 \$488 p.  
*The Sculptor (GN)* First, Second, 2015

Scott McCloud (of UNDERSTANDING COMICS fame) may not have the artistic chops of a Charles Vess or Minna Sundberg, but his technical skills are superb and yes, he really, really understands how to tell a story with a “comic.” Reading SCULPTOR is like watching a movie but with all the imaginative parts in your head that books can reach (and movies can’t) So yes, it’s impressive.

It’s also, oddly, mundane. There’s frustrated artist cliché: whose got enough real pain in his life to make him not entirely a yuppie stereotype, the magical girl who “saves him” trope, and really squishy hifalutin'-sounding metaphysics. (It’s the philosophy equivalent of watching “Speed” - if you turn off your brain it works for the story)

Long story short: David is a would be famous darling-of-the-jet-set New York sculptor who hits bottom: and makes a deal with death. He gets the skill in his hands to make his sculpting visions a reality in trade for 200 days to live. The graphic (literally) sex scenes and nudity are going to make this a problem (pp 302-306-ish) for some high school libraries but they’re necessary to the story and beautifully done. McCloud’s New York is the most believable character in the book, confirming why I would pay money not to have to live there, while perfectly understanding why

so many people wish they could. And if you're willing to go along for the ride, Sculptor packs a lovely emotional punch at the end.

A+++ for execution (and setting) C+ for plot and characterizations. A must have for adult graphic novel collections, a strong maybe for YA.

**Grades:** 11th, 12th, Adult

Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

McCloud, Scott

978-1-59643-575-5 \$29.95 488 p.

***The Sculptor (GN)***

First Second, 2015

After losing everything as a sculptor, David meets his uncle in a café while trying to stay drunk long enough to lose his memory. The last time he saw his uncle was...well, when he was dead. David is now offered the Faustian bargain: he can sculpt anything he can imagine for 200 days, after when he will die and lose his soul.

There is also quite a cast of supporting, complicated characters. His best friend and art gallery owner is gay and sleeping with David's major competition. The girl who brings him home from the gutter courts the edge of death while genuinely caring for those around her. Even David's dead uncle is not one-dimensional.

There is no redemption, however, as David enters into a relationship with a troubled girl, tries to plan for her (and their unborn child's) future, creates incredible sculpture, and misses every boat that might have saved him.

It's a devastating, haunting novel in black, white, and blue.

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

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

McCoy, Chris

978-0-375-85599-3 \$17.99 294 p.

***The Prom Goer's Interstellar Excursion***

Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

Bennett has always loved Sophie from a distance, but he never really talked to her until the night her motorcycle broke down and they ended up walking together in the New Mexico desert. Minutes after he gathers the courage to ask her to the prom -- and she accepts -- Sophie is abducted by aliens.

Following the close encounter, Bennett does the logical thing: he goes for a burger at the local In-N-Out. But the restaurant has just sold all the food in the building to a psychedelic band bus, and in short order, Bennett is on board the bus with the Perfectly Reasonable, the one-billion sixteenth most popular band in the universe.

Will somebody please hand me a Babelfish? This is the book that Douglas Adams would have written if he were writing for a teen audience. (And if he was an American. And if he had ever been sober sometimes.) It's cute, funny, quirky, and strange. It's not nearly as funny as *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, but since nothing in the Universe is as funny as *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, it's not unkind to say so.

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

Aarene Storms, KCLS

McCoy, Chris 9780375855993 \$17.99 294 p.

*The Prom Goer's Interstellar Excursion* Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

Bennett is ecstatic to be taking his dream date, Sophie, to the prom. Unfortunately, she is kidnapped by aliens. Bennett bravely dares the reaches of outer space with a group of alien rock musicians in order to rescue her.

Fun, enjoyable read.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

McStay, Moriah 978-0-06-2295548-4 \$17.99 344 p.

*Everything That Makes You* Katherine Tegen Books, 2015

What makes us who we are? Is it determined at birth or do our experiences shape us? This is the question at the heart of this novel. Told in alternating stories, we meet both Fiona Doyle and Fi Doyle: the same girl, but on two different paths. Fiona Doyle has a large facial scar due to an accident as a small child. This made her quite shy around all but a few select people. She loves to sing and write songs, but is too scared to share them with others. Despite this fear she dreams of going to Northwestern's music program. On the other hand, Fi Doyle is incredibly outgoing. She never had an accident so doesn't have the face scar. Instead she is a top notch Lacrosse player being recruited to play for Northwestern. But, when she is severely injured and sidelined her entire junior year, her dream may be at risk. Fiona and Fi are on different paths, but they cross over with many of the same people who regardless of the version end up playing important (but different) roles in their lives. This is an interesting approach to the idea that one event or one choice can lead us in an entirely new direction. Not the best book of the year, but solid storytelling. Grades 9+.

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

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Meyer, Carolyn 978-1-62091-652-0 \$17.95 348 p.

*Diary of a Waitress: The Not-So-Glamorous Life of a Harvey Girl*

Calkin Creek (Highlights), 2015

17 year old Katie Evans graduated from the high school in Leavenworth, Kansas on May 22, 1926. Her grandmother's graduation gift was a silver fountain pen and a diary. Katie's first entry was on June 1, 1926. The gift fit in well with Katie's plan for college and a journalism degree, but her Dad ruined that plan when he said she wasn't going to college, but was going to work selling shoes. Katie spoiled his plan by applying for a Harvey Girl waitress job, lying about her age and going to training in Emporia Kansas.

Several black and white, time period photos are interspersed in Katie's diary entries, which read less like a diary and more like a first personal retelling.

The characters are somewhat predictable – the brother who gets to go to college, but doesn't care, the mother who is sure Katie is going to ruin their good name by becoming a waitress, the fellow Harvey Girl who is homesick and the one who pushes the rules. Katie completes the five week training and is sent to Belen, New Mexico for her six month contract period.

Filled with daily details of the lives of young waitresses away from home for the first time in the 1920's, the "diary" is rather slow moving. There are lists of Spanish kitchen words, description of railroad jobs, and also description of Mexican food specialties. The details will be interesting to historical fiction fans and readers interested in the restaurants alongside the railroads of the early 1900's, but probably not readers who like exciting adventure novels.

Appropriate for grades 6 – 8.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th

Marilyn Condon, LWSD

Nelson, Michael Alan

9781633880566 \$14.99 281 p.

***Hexed: the sisters of Witchdown***

Prometheus Books, 2015

This is the first book in The Sisters of Witchdown series. It based off of the Hexed comic. Gina, a policeman's daughter, is kidnapped by an unknown force and her father wants Lucifer to get Gina back since she's the only one who can bring his daughter back. With the help of Gina's friends, one of which includes Gina's boyfriend, David, the investigation leads them to the truth behind her kidnapping.

One of the Seven Sisters of Witchdown, a creature of unspeakable evil, took Gina. And Lucifer must use everything she has to save her, and must risk her life dealing with witches, demons, and the cruel demigoddess, one who controls Lucifer's destiny. And it's all to save one girl who comes between Lucifer of finally finding the love she wanted. Great read for the paranormal lovers out there!

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

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Nichols, Amy H.

9780385753890 \$13.99 304 p.

***Now That You're Here***

Random House Children's House, 2015

Evee and Warren are best friends; they are both geeks and their biggest problem right now is deciding which totally awesome science project to do this year. Until Daniel wakes up next to Evee in English class, except that it is not the Daniel she knows. This Daniel claims to be from another Phoenix, where there are curfews and fences to keep people in and Spectrum tracks everything everyone does. Even though the other Daniel tormented Warren in elementary school, he still agrees to help this Daniel get back to his own time and place.

While the involvement of Evee's teacher and the end of the story stretch credibility, the story is fun and the characters are likable. I didn't know if I should root for Daniel to get home or stay. Sequel, *While You Were Gone*, should be out soon.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Nix, Garth

\$13.99 400 p.

***Clariel***

Harper Collins, 2014

Clariel is the daughter of a famous goldsmith, part of the Abhorsen clan, and cousin to the king. Yet she doesn't want to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a goldsmith, learn the magic practiced by her clan or get involved in politics. However, she might not have a choice, as

events conspire to keep her from her dream, a life of relative solitude in the Great Forest as a Borderer. When tragedy strikes, Clariel learns she has a rage inside her she can barely control and it could lead to disaster if she can't learn to manage it.

This is the first book I have read by Nix; I never read any of the others since there was no need to sell them to kids - they sell themselves. I loved it from start to finish. Clariel is not pining for the love of a prince, or any boy for that matter. She knows what she wants and pursues it. Clariel is not perfect; she is impatient and overly confident at times. The world-crafting is wonderful, and the characters are intriguing. It goes without saying, fans of the Abhorsen series will love it. I think fans of The Young Elites will, too.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Oliver, Lauren

978-0-06-237818-7 \$18.99 357 p.

***Vanishing Girls***

Harper Teen, 2015

Lauren Oliver fans will not be disappointed. This has the usual complex relationships and plot twists with creepy atmosphere her fans have come to know and love. The sister relationship is very well developed and believable. In the story two sisters, Nick and Dara, grow up as opposites who have a complicated bond. This bond gets weaker and weaker as they get older in some ways and stronger in other ways. Since Dara is the risk taking party animal, Nick always feels like the one who cleans up after her, otherwise known as the Jan Brady complex. Anyway, when Dara goes missing Nick is sucked into a mysterious world of cover ups and crime that also takes on a double role as being a PSA for teenage girls; don't ever take a job being an underage entertainer for creepy bar owners. But a little hair raising dangerous PSA in the form of fiction is a good thing probably, for teenage girls today. And the writing is masterfully suspenseful, in true Lauren Oliver fashion. She even works in a dilapidated water park with a sad history to the story, so it was also a great read for summer or for anyone who has a love hate relationship with water parks. My only misgiving about this book is that she has never used mixed media before I have no idea why there are pictures interspersed with the chapters. They don't do anything for the story and don't make any sense. But if you ignore those and read the chapters you will be in for a psychologically thrilling ride as usual. Probably best for 9th grade and up.

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

Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School

Oliver, Lauren

978-0062224101 \$12.76 368 p.

***Vanishing Girls***

Harper Collins, 2015

Imagine if Lindsay Lohan and Taylor Swift were sisters, and genuinely loved each other despite their differences. This gripping psychological thriller is about the dynamic and complex sister relationship that leads to an underground conspiracy of a very subtle type of human trafficking of teenage girls. The end has a twist I did not see coming, in typical Lauren Oliver fashion.

Because of drug and sex references, probably best for 9th grade and up. My only wonder about this book is the pictures. They go with the story but i don't know why the author included them.

With her writing you don't need any pictures!

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

Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Library

Pass, Emma 9780385744478 \$17.99 351 p.

*The Fearless* Random House, 2014

When Cass is young, she and her family try to escape from crazed people who have been injected with a serum that makes them fearless, furious, and fast. Cass and her brother Jori manage to survive and are living on Hope Island with other survivors. However, some of the Fearless manage to invade the island and they kidnap Jori. Cass will do anything to rescue him so he does not become one of them!

A fresh voice in the dystopian genre. Some great plot twists; interesting characters.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Pass, Emma 978-0-385-74447-8 \$17.99 353 p.

*The Fearless* Delacorte Press, 2015

In this dystopian novel, a serum used to treat PTSD has the side effect of making people less emotional, but more aggressive. Other bonuses include having night vision, increased speed and incredible strength. Soon these zombie-like creatures, known as the Fearless, have taken over the world. Teen Cass is spared from much of the terror when she ends up at Hope Island sanctuary where life is safe until two Fearless kidnap Cass's brother. Another teen, Myo, who is following the Fearless for his own reasons, teams up with Cass to track them back to the mainland.

Adventure, romance, and mayhem ensue as the duo battle each other, the Fearless, and the militaristic Magpies as they try to save the ones they love. Also, Cass's childhood friend Sol is there too and he's tortured by his unrequited love for Cass and guilt over his father's involvement with creating that serum that went so horribly wrong. Narrated in alternating chapters by Cass, Myo, and Sol, it will appeal to both guys and girls. Fans of *Enclave* and *Divergent* fans will like this as long as they can accept how Cass and Myo team up and won't be distracted by Cass's other illogical decisions.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Predergast, Gabrielle 978-1-4598-0464-7 \$9.95 119 p.

*The Frail Days* Orca, 2015

Stella, 16, is looking for a singer for her rock band. When the guys in her band hear Tamara singing the national anthem, they want her, but Stella isn't sure Tamara is the right fit. When it comes time for them to audition for the big Parkland Festival, the band thinks they might have to change their image to get into this conservative gig. What's their best choice for getting to perform...be their true edgy rock selves or try an acoustic country music vibe? Like other Orca novels, this hi/lo *Limelights* novel will appeal most to reluctant readers, especially teens who enjoy rock music with a bit of drama, friendship and romance. Each book in this series focuses on one performing art, such as music, theater or dance.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Roat, Sharon Huss 9780062291721 \$17.99 400 p.  
*Between the Notes (ARC)* HarperTeen, 2015

Ivy's parents have just confessed shocking news; the bank is foreclosing on their house and the family is moving into an affordable apartment. Her father's business is struggling, and the expensive therapy that her six-year-old brother needs has taken a financial toll. Most of their furniture will be sold, Ivy's cell phone plan will be canceled, and her baby grand piano will be left behind. Ivy immediately plays Vivaldi's Four Seasons on it until her hands hurt. Her piano has always been there for her when she's upset, and she can't imagine living without it. Then the news gets worse; the apartment is in the low-income neighborhood of Lakeside, which has a reputation for high crime and drug use. And when they arrive, Ivy is greeted by Lennie Lazarski, the most notorious druggie at her high school and her new next-door neighbor. Ivy is so afraid of being judged that she tries to hide the truth from everyone but her best friend Reesa, who has always lived next door until now. Obsessed with keeping her new circumstances a secret, Ivy is unable to see the truth about Lennie, who is kind and thoughtful. She is blinded even further by the arrival of a new student, James, who is charming and not shy about showing Ivy that he is interested in her. But Ivy isn't the only one with secrets, and eventually the truth will come out. Teens looking for a simple, sweet love story about learning to see past outside appearances will enjoy this book. The love triangle was a little bit weak on one side, and a few characters are never developed beyond simple stereotypes, but Ivy and her family are the core of this story. Some profanity and kissing. Recommended for grades 9+.

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

Jackie Lockwood, KCLS

Rosenblum, Gregg 9780062126016 \$17.99 279 p.  
*City 1* Harper Teen, 2015

The conclusion to the series.

Protagonists Nick, Kevin, and Cass are reunited in the rebel camp. Their mission is to continue to fight the bots and to rescue their parents.

Fast-paced, lots of action, and a little bit of romance. The conclusion seems a bit abrupt, but enjoyable overall.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Rubin, Lance 9780553496963 \$17.99 342 p.  
*Denton Little's Death Date* Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

Thanks to scientific advancements, everyone now knows the date of their death. Denton's death date just happens to be on the day of his senior prom. While there are lots of traditions and expectations around one's deathdate, Denton wants little to do with them however and much humor ensues.

Apparently there will be a sequel: Denton Little's Birthdate, spring 2016

Funny, enjoyable read

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Rubin, Lance 978-0-553-49696-3 \$17.99 342 p.

***Denton Little's Death Date*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

In the future, everyone knows when they are going to die. Thanks to AstroThanatoGenetics, they know down to the date. Denton has always known he would die during his senior year; on the same date as prom. He is an Early - one who dies before graduation. His best friend, Paolo, is also an Early and as their death dates approach, they don't exactly try to complete a bucket list but they don't say "no" to interesting opportunities.

The day before his wake, Denton wakes up in Paolo's sister's bed with no memory of how he got there or what he did. His real girlfriend has an ex who may be stalking him and may be carrying a gun. A local cop seems to show up at all the wrong places and the wrong times. And Denton has this strange rash that seems to be spreading up and all over his body - and may be extending to his friends. It certainly is not the way he expected to spend his last day on Earth.

Drinking, drugs, off-screen sex, and some language make this more appropriate for older audiences. Grades 9 and up.

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

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

Shakespeare, William and Carbone, Courtney 9780553535389 \$9.99

***srsly Hamlet*** Random House, 2015

Shakespeare, William and Wright, Brett 9780553535396 \$9.99

***YOLO Juliet*** Random House, 2015

Shakespeare's tragedies told in emoticons, abbreviated text speak, smart phone notes, and social media posts. The plot and settings remain the same, but the characters have smart phones that they are using to converse via text and social media, with a bit of monologue via a "notes" app. All crucial scenes and dialogue of the original are covered, even if the language doesn't always perfectly match the emotions (can a crying emoticon and the letters FML really convey grief over a loved one's death without seeming callous?). Hamlet can be difficult for those not familiar with the story due to the indistinguishable side characters in early scenes. Romeo and Juliet is easy enough to follow for anyone, but the Nurse's obvious dialect seems out of place in the text conversations. Books have a "411" section in the back to explain text abbreviations and the intended meaning of emoticons in the story. At least two more volumes are slated for the series.

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

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Spring, Melanie 978-0-316-22724-7 \$10 195 p.

***Turn It Up*** Little, Brown, and Company, 2014

9th grade cheerleaders struggle with life, love, and competition. This second book in a series picks up as the team is preparing for Nationals and follows four friends on the squad in third person. Chloe serves community service hours for her résumé and discovers an exciting new friend plus a way to help a teammate in need. Kate is insecure about her status with an

upperclassmen boy, especially when his female best buddy shows up. Emily's carefully balanced schedule of activities threatens to tip over when she's offered a chance at rock stardom. And Devin is unsure about her feelings for her long-distance boyfriend, especially compared to her new project partner. Plus, the girls have to be ready to shine at National competition and, as always, find ways to stay great friends. Full of cheerleading terms, clean teen angst, and positive character decisions, this will charm middle school girls dreaming of high school life with pom-poms.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

St. Jean, Trina

978-1-4598-0807-25 (pbk) \$12.95 301 p.

**Blank**

Orca, 2015

Jessica, 15, just woke up with retrograde amnesia after spending 11 days in a coma due to a near-fatal encounter with one of the bison on her family's ranch. She sees the disappointment in her family's faces when she fails to recognize them or even feel any sort of emotional connection. As she looks for clues into her own life, she wonders whether or not she'll ever remember her past as she longs for a chance at a hopeful future. This riveting story will pull at your heart-strings as you see Jessica's life through her own eyes and want her to find her own place in the world. Her awkward encounters with her so-called best friends illustrates how tough her journey is, but readers will eagerly follow along as Jessica also tries to solve the mystery of why she willingly entered the pens where the wild bison were. Teens will enjoy this story that even pokes fun at itself when Jessica starts watching a soap opera while she's in the hospital and finds the main character also experiencing amnesia.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Starmer, Aaron

978-0-374-36311-6 \$16.99 361 p.

**The Whisper**

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015

Now 12-year-old Alistair knows that the evil his friend Fiona warned him about is his friend, Charlie, who many kids know as the Riverman or the Whisper. Kids hear his whispering through water and are magically transported to Aquavania--a place where kids can create their own worlds. Since Fiona has gone missing, Alistair heads to Aquavania to save her, but he finds out that Aquavania has turned into a dark place since most of the worlds' creators have lost their souls to the Riverman. Alistair's bizarre journey has him facing dangers never imagined before as the story twists and turns to its conclusions which aren't really an ending as this is only book two of a trilogy. Teens who enjoyed the first book will likely enjoy the second book--even though it's quite strange at times--due to all of the adventure and mystery.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Turner, Henry

978-0-544-30827-5 \$17.99 250 p.

**Ask the Dark**

Clarion Books, 2015

Billy Zeets, 15, wants to let everyone in his small town (and the nation) know that he ain't no hero--he did what anyone would have done. Before Billy saves three boys' lives and ended up rich and famous, he was ridiculed and bullied around town due to his criminal tendencies. Two years ago as his mother was dying, he promises her he'll be better, yet it's hard for him to stay still at night so he wanders around in the early hours of the morning and slowly starts to piece together different clues to figure out who was taking and killing young boys. Even though the town had a curfew for teens due to this terror, that didn't stop Billy. Unfortunately, Billy learns that sometimes when you start hunting a killer, the killer ends up hunting you too. Billy's our conversational narrator and he chooses to tell his story in his own unique way that really captures the reader's attention because we feel like we know more about what's going on than Billy does. This story has great voice, but there's way too much swearing for my middle school students. The first half of the book had around 90 swear words--all the way from ass, sh\*\*, God d\*\*\*, pussy, bastard, and various variations of the f word. High school readers will enjoy this small town mystery and want to learn how Billy finally becomes the hero he's claiming not to be.

**Grades:** 10th, 11th, 12th

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Valente, Catherynne M.

9781250023490 \$16.99 235 p.

***The Boy Who Lost Fairyland***

Feiwel and Friends, 2015

Hawthorn is swept away from his home as a young troll in Fairyland to switch with a human boy, Thomas, in Chicago. The story is a take on changelings, and all the mischief they bring. It's a fairly negative experience for the children on both sides, though the story is full of subtle humor. It's also full of nonsensical details, like a modern Alice in Wonderland (and some suggestive allusions to the same). While pleasant for diversion, one tires of the freedom from internal rules, and the numerous characters, in this created world. Repeatedly, I waited in vain for a seeming foreshadowing hint to manifest in meaning, only for it to instead drift away without further mention. There are a few asides children may not understand, though the observations are sharp. There are a couple typographical errors and faulty antecedents requiring puzzling. Some appear to be just editing errors, which increase toward the back of the book. In the end, we have a partial resolution, and leave our characters somewhat suddenly. Fun, but not essential canon. (Apparently part of a series, there is no overt reference to other titles nor their stories.)

**Grades:** 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Walters, Eric

978-0-374-30179-8 \$17.99 346 p.

***Fight for Power***

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015

This second book in the series picks up after the first--66 days since the catastrophic global blackout occurred. Now, 16-year-old Adam and his neighborhood are feeling hopeful after they killed hundreds of their enemies. Yet survivors' worries escalate about the enemies who still remain at large. As Adam grows closer to his girlfriend, Lori, his worries grow about his missing dad. Outside the protected walls of Adam's neighborhood, tensions increase due to lack of resources, but inside the walls as well as hard decisions are made about how to prepare for future

threats, but also how to meet the needs of their hungry people. Tension ratchets up as their fight to survive gets tougher than imagined, especially when they learn that not all threats are outside their walls. Teens will love reading about Adam's continued adventures, especially the conflict over helping the less fortunate outside his community. When Adam and Lori disagree about how to handle those desperate families, can he find a way to help others, even though his own family might suffer as a result? This book has less action than the first, but the time spent developing the characters is worth it as Adam continues to lose his innocence.

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

Watson, Andi 978-1-62672-149-4 \$14.99 162 p.  
*Princess Decomposia & Count Spatula* First-Second, 2015

Princess Decomposia lives with her father, the King, and a variety of servants and employees in the Underground. With her father too ill in bed to attend to his duties, the Princess is left with the responsibilities of the kingdom. When the cook quits, a vampire chef (Count Spatula) takes the job and revamps the kitchen and wins the heart of the Princess.

This graphic novel is a wonderfully entertaining story of a young girl coming into her own. When she stands up to her father and declares her independence, you can't help but cheer. The drawings are simple, almost crude, but are perfect for the simple story. The concoctions the chef creates are so entertaining, readers will wish they were real – who wouldn't want lemon pudding so light that it drizzles down from cloud above those dining at the King's table? A fun fairy-tale romance for all ages.

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

Watson, Andi 9781626721494 \$14.99 161 p.  
*Princess Decomposia & Count Spatula* First Second, 2015

In this graphic novel, Princess Decomposia of the underworld is running herself ragged, trying to pick up the slack of her invalid father the king, who is seemingly unable to conduct any affairs of the state. Now the cook has up and quit, so she must hire a new cook. She settles on Count Spatula, a reformed vampire who has more of a sweet-tooth than a blood-tooth. He creates amazing desserts which please Decomposia's guests, helping her maintain good relations with potential adversaries. Count Spatula also engages with Decomposia, encouraging her to delegate responsibilities so she has time to herself. Light romance ensues, much to her father's chagrin.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th  
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Whitmer, Megan 9781939392152 \$9.95 384 p.  
*Between (ARC)* Spencer Hill Press, 2014

Charlie and her twin brother and their mom live in a secluded house where Charlie loves to spend her time drawing while her brother plays his guitar. Their idyllic life is shattered when strange creatures show up and attack them. Charlie is separated from her mom and brother when handsome neighbor Seth shows up during the attack. He transports Charlie to the magical world

called Ellauria, where she discovers that life is actually much more complicated than it seemed and she has magical powers. Her first priority is finding her twin and their mom, but the powers in Ellauria have other ideas.

Lots of romance, drama, action, and adventure. Interesting characters and world-building. A few things are predictable but it still works well. Quite good for a debut novel. There is very likely to be a sequel.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Yee, Lisa

978-0-545-23094-0 \$17.99 266 p.

***The Kidney Hypothetical or how to ruin your life in seven days.*** Arthur Levine, 2015

“I extended my hand, ‘Hello, I’m Higgs Boson Bing...’ I’m Hadron Collider, she said with a smirk.” (p61)

Higgs Boson, named by his mother the scientist, and his father, the great-great-great-grandson of the gardener who developed the Bing cherry, has it all: the prettiest girlfriend, the early acceptance to Harvard, and nearly the award of the top senior at Sally Ride High School. Yes, we’ve heard this before.

Then his girlfriend, Roo, asks him hypothetically, if she were dying, would he give her a kidney? He is a debate captain; how can he answer a hypothetical question? And fails the test.

Spectacularly. The school turns against him. Spectacularly. In the seven days between the senior trip where the question-turned-total descent began, until graduation, Higgs begins a journey of self-discovery through Monarch, the smart-mouthed girl (on page 61) he meets in the forest, as his muse. A journey that will take him into a pet store to loose all the mice slated for the snakes’ dinner, into a beating that will leave him with a split lip and black eyes, love, and a reassessment of his life.

Looming over the plot are Higgs’ perfect brother who was killed in a car accident years before, his younger sister who is ignored by everyone, and his mother’s “pink bathrobe of depression. It’s all pretty standard fare, but told in a very funny and quirky way.

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

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Zettel, Sarah

978-0-375-86940-2 \$17.99 352 p.

***Bad Luck Girl***

Random House, 2014

Callie and her family are reunited and trying to lead a normal life, but that's not going to happen. She has started a war between fairy factions. They are on a road trip to escape the war, but the war is following them.

This is book three of the "American Fairy Trilogy" and I have not read books 1 & 2. Zettel does a good job of filling in the backstory, so I wasn't lost. The story is captivating and the characters interesting. Because of the time period and since Callie is multi-racial as well as half fairy, there are also some historical elements about the Depression and Jim Crow laws of the 1930s. This is a well crafted hybrid of fantasy adventure and historical fiction. Since there is little (no?) profanity and no sex, this is a great choice for even young teens.

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

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Zink, Michelle 9780062327123 \$17.99 333 p.  
*Lies I Told* HarperTeen, 2015

Gracie, adopted into a family of thieves, has just moved to Playa Hermosa, CA, the site of her family's next burglary. The plan is to infiltrate the affluent community and befriend Warren Fairchild, a sweet man who, suffering from paranoia, reportedly has \$20 million in gold stashed away in case of an apocalypse. Gracie and her brother Parker are to get to the know Warren's son Logan and his friends at school. Gracie, in particular, is set to play a key role in hopefully securing a spot as Logan's girlfriend, in hopes of gaining access to the house, security codes, etc. They've done this type of thing before in other cities. Gracie knows the drill. But what she didn't plan on, was actually falling in love with her mark. Meanwhile, Logan's ex-girlfriend is suspicious of the new family. Also, Parker is done leading this type of lifestyle and encourages Gracie to run off with him. It's the biggest job yet for Gracie and her family, with the largest payout imaginable, but the risks are beginning to pile up. *Lies I Told* is fast-paced exciting read.

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

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

#### FICTION – SHRUG

Calonita, Jen 978-0-316-09109-1 \$10 294 p.  
*The Grass is Always Greener* Little Brown, 2013

Izzie's grandmother has died, and she is now living with her father and his wife and daughter who is Izzie's age. She's adjusting to being the daughter of a famous person, adjusting to her new home and school when her aunt drops in to "get to know Izzie better". Izzie is having none of it, but her Aunt Zoe is suddenly everyone's favorite companion.

I didn't finish this book. I found Izzie tiresome, and the rest of the characters either annoying or unengaging. I admit the issue could be that I had not read #1 & 2. But I just didn't care about the storyline or the characters so I gave up. Not recommended unless you have the first two, then it would be important to have this one too. *Shrug* for 8th grade and up.

**Grades:** 8th, 9th, 10th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Cross, Julie 978-1-62266-404-7 \$17.99 373 p.  
*Whatever Life Throws At You* Entangled Teen, 2015

Seventeen-year-old Annie lives with her father and grandmother. She has a great relationship with dad, who works a dead-end job to make ends meet. Grandma has Alzheimer's. Mom abandoned them, but makes appearances just to mess with dad's heart.

Annie knew dad was a major league pitcher; she also knows there was an accident that meant he could never pitch again. When he is offered a contract in Kansas City for the Royals as a pitching coach, she is all for the move. She is not ready to meet the nineteen-year-old superstar-bad boy Jason Brody. Or to fall for him. Or to sneak around behind dad's back. Or to have sex. But she does all those with her seventeen-year-old abandon.

While the story begins at a breakneck pace, it slogs in the middle, coming up with a too-pat ending. It is a good, fun read though. You didn't expect Annie to become an adult, did you? Else what would the teen years be for?

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

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Dale, Katie

9780385740678 \$13.99 384 p.

***Little White Lies***

Random House Children's House, 2014

Lou is starting university and trying to start over, leaving her past behind. She is using a new name and is on a mission. Her uncle has been unjustly imprisoned (in her mind) and she blames herself. Lou is making new friends, keeping her real identity secret, and thinks all is going well until Kenny shows up. Kenny, who knows her past and was is closely connected to an event she particularly wants to keep secret. She meets Christian, who seems to have as many secrets as she does. Soon Christian's life is threatened, and Lou can not keep all the lies separate or secret. This plot is overly complicated and the pace often feels frantic. Lou seems self-centered and whiny, Kenny appears cruel and obsessed, and her friend Vix's dialogue often sounds off. Christian, who is set up as the bad guy, is the most sympathetic character. A shrug.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

DeLa Pena, Matt

978-0385741224 \$13.87 384 p.

***The Hunted***

Delacorte Press, 2015

WARNING: No way to avoid a spoiler for the first book *The Living* in order to explain the basic plot line of the sequel *The Hunted* so sorry! I loved the first book of this series, *The Living*, which is about an at sea cruise ship tsunami disaster, but I am on the fence about this sequel called *The Hunted*. This sequel happens once a few survivors have made it back to the California coast after the cruise ship they were working on for a summer job gets destroyed in a tsunami. While on the ship the main character Shy gets involved with a pharmaceutical company conspiracy and also a love triangle with a girl named Carmel, who like him was working on this ship, and a girl named Addie, who is the daughter of the corrupt pharmaceutical company. The relationship between Shy and Carmen is pretty compelling, and very similar to the types of complex relationships this author is known for in his realistic fiction. And some relationship and character patterns can definitely be recognized. I can get into the characters like his other books, but the plot isn't as good as what I am used to from him. Students who are fans of his and liked the first one *The Living*, might not care about the hang ups I have with this continuation of the plot, but I don't think this is a must buy unless students ask you for it. And that is not to say that I don't like this sequel because it has a fast pace and some zombie apocalypse type turmoil, it just didn't do much for me. I guess having the apocalypse happen at sea first and then switch to land interrupted the continuity for me but maybe kids don't care about that and will love it. In my opinion this is a shrug, not a must have unless students beg you to get it. Okay for 9th grade and up.

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

Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Library

Eulberg, Elizabeth 978-0-545-65463-0 \$17.99 320 p.  
***We Can Work It Out (ARC)*** Point Scholastic, 2015

Penny Lane Bloom comes from a family obsessed with the Beatles, which she actually finds pretty cute. She also has begun a club called “The Lonely Hearts Club,” (in the first book) which brings girls together whose hearts have been broken by boys. Except Penny now has a new boyfriend- that she is trying to juggle between her family and the club and school. The end. Penny is stereotyped, from her name to her actions throughout the book. Always on top of her game, right down to (surprise!) being named Prom Queen. What could have been an upbeat, girls’ club, turns out to be pretty standard fare. Yes, more of the girls learn that they can take charge, but we only see this tangentially. Ryan, the boyfriend, is always there, always supportive. Yes, he quits after a while, but only until Penny sees the error of her ways. I didn’t read the first in the series, and doubtful if I will now.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th

Mary Jo Heller, School Librarian

Hellisen, Cat 978-0-8050-9980-5 \$16.99 195 p.  
***Beastkeeper*** Henry Holt, 2015

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

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

Howard, A.G. 9781419712296 \$17.95 404 p.  
***Ensnared*** Abrams, 2015

Conclusion to the trilogy.

Alyssa must go back to Wonderland to set things to rights - both in Wonderland and at home. Many difficulties must be faced due to portal closures and mutations. She also needs to work with both Jeb and Morpheus; not an easy task.

If you have stuck with the series so far, you will want to read the conclusion. However, there is much to confuse a reader with constant references to things that happened in the past. It's not a

very straight-forward read; perhaps that makes sense for something from Wonderland, however...

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

Additional Comments: Printed entirely in red ink!

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Jimenez, Francisco

9780547632308 \$16.99 191 p.

***Taking hold: from migrant childhood to Columbia University***

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

This is the 4th installment of the fictionalized memoir series Jimenez started with *The Circuit* and covers his undergraduate years at Columbia University until he gained his professorship at UC Santa Clara in 1973. He leaves his family and everything he knows behind to pursue his dreams, drawing on the strengths learned as a child and the examples of hard work and overcoming the poverty of his childhood run deep in this book. He also experiences the turbulent 1960's with the anti-war movement and civil rights movement as a backdrop to his college years. Some of the details will go over the heads of most of the students reading this but the strong immigrant voice makes it an additional purchase, especially where the earlier books are popular. But frankly - it's a bore and I'm not sure it would be read, even by fans.

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

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Larson, Sara B.

9780545644747 \$13.99 304 p.

***Ignite (ARC)***

Scholastic Press, 2014

At the end of Book One, Alexa defeated the Black Sorcerer trying to overthrow King Damian. She is firmly established as the finest of the King's Guards and she no longer has to hide her gender. What she chooses to hide is her love for Damian, thinking she would not be a good Queen. When enemies with a new type of nefarious abilities attempt to overthrow King Damian yet again, Alexa is the only one who can save him and his younger brother. I did not enjoy this one any better than the first. the love triangle pervades the entire book. Instead of having a strong female character who can stand on her own, we have one who is so desperately in love it causes her physical pain to reject her beloved. I know some teens will love it though. Warning: there will be another one.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Salisbury, Melinda 9

78-054-581062-3 \$16.99 320 p.

***The Sin Eater's Daughter***

Scholastic, 2015

When I first started reading this, I thought it would be the perfect readalike for *Graceling*. A young girl is fostered at court in a medieval like world to become the next Daunen Embodied, the reborn daughter of the gods, who is Death made flesh. No one can touch her and live - except for the royal family. Twylla - our heroine - soon realizes that things are not what they seem. I have kids who loved *Graceling* and I thought, "They will be thrilled!" But this novel becomes more political intrigue and romance than the evolution of a strong female heroine. So it is not

Graceling, but it is not bad. It will probably appeal more to girls than boys because it is so heavy on the romance. It is the first in a trilogy.

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

Additional Comments: Spoiler Alert and Ick factor - there is a little Jocasta thing going on. The Queen is just a little too into the Prince.

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Wilke, Daria

780545726078 \$18.99 161 p.

***Playing a Part***

Arthur A. Levine, 2015

Grisha has practically grown up in the puppet theater in Moscow. It is definitely his favorite place and he loves to watch the performers and admire the various puppets. His friend Sashok also finds comfort in the puppet theater but the real world crashes in with bullies, layoffs, illnesses, family struggles, etc.

I enjoyed the story but think middle schoolers will struggle with both the language and the setting. There is a possible selling point for learning about other cultures, however. Also there is a bullying storyline that will provide additional interest for some.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th

Additional Comments: Translated from Russian. Original title published in 2012

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

### **FICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED**

Kochalka, James

9781626720213 \$12.99 125 p.

***The Glorkian Warrior Eats Adventure Pie*** First Second, 2015

A juvenile story about dueling warriors in space. Glorkian Warrior is taking down a space snake when bully Buster Glark gets in the way. Glorkian Warrior goes home and there he lets his alien baby suck on his brain. When he passes out, Gonk, a child, must help revive him. Buster Glark shows up again to antagonize Glorkian Warrior, but things don't go as planned. A very silly story that is written at times in baby-speak, making it sound very baby-ish.

**Grades:** Too young for YA - Grades 3-6

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Oseman, Alice

978-0-06-233568-5 \$17.99 368 p.

***Solitaire***

Harper Teen, 2015

Tori Spring is a maudlin teenager with a mentally ill brother. She's content to just "be" and write in her blog until Michael comes to her school and refuses to let her just "be".

I confess I didn't finish this book. I got to page 204 and gave up. That's a bit over halfway and the suspense that was promised was just not there. The plot seems scattered -- the pranks pulled by Solitaire, the strange relationship between Tori & Michael, the sub-plot about Tori's brother (gay AND mentally ill), and an over-emphasis on pop culture -- it just didn't grab me. I particularly tired of the constant mention of movies, TV, books, songs, and on and on. It reminded me of a movie that went way overboard with product placement.

The reviews online were certainly mixed. I think Oseman has the talent to write an engaging YA novel. The dialogue rings true, and the issues are real enough. I was just looking for something more.

**Grades:** 9th, 10th

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Rehr, Heinrik

9781467772792 \$32.25 231 p.

***Terrorist: Gavrilo Princip, the Assassin Who Ignited World War I (GN)***

Graphic Universe, 2015

A fictionalized graphic novel telling of the details of the life of Gavrilo Princip, the man who assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, starting World War I. The complexities of the geopolitical scene in the years leading up to the war, clashing empires, new political movements, and conflicting nationalist movements make this a book better suited to someone with an existing background and strong interest in this topic. I found it hard to follow.

**Grades:** Adult

Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Smith, Hilary T.

9780062184719 \$17.99 400 p.

***A Sense of the Infinite (ARC)***

Katherine Tegen Books, 2015

Ever since her cousin told her that she is a child of rape and a monster, Annabeth has orbited around her best friend Noe. She went vegetarian for Noe, planned to go to same college as Noe, and at the start of their senior year is joining the gymnastics team for Noe. But Noe's growing bond with her boyfriend Steven makes Annabeth jealous, and a rift starts forming between them. Annabeth believes Noe when she says that you only have to take birth control pills every other day, then gets pregnant after having impulsive sex with a high school grad in a greenhouse. Knowing immediately that she doesn't want to continue the pregnancy, Annabeth schedules an abortion at the clinic close to the college she will be visiting soon. While there and away from Noe, she learns a lot about herself. She also learns the whole truth about her father and decides to confront him.

A Sense of the Infinite means well but has too many issues packed into it. Rape, abortion, bulimia, radical self-mutilation, some of which didn't fit into the story naturally. I didn't care about Annabeth that much because her behavior was hard to understand and seemed somewhat out of character. I had a hard time believing that a young woman who knows that she is the product of her mother's rape would go off with a boy she barely knows to have sex in a greenhouse. I did enjoy the book when Annabeth goes off on a college visit and spends time away from her best friend Noe, but overall it had too much negative emotion and a mash of serious issues for me. With cursing added on top of all that, this is definitely a read for older high school students, although I wouldn't recommend it.

**Grades:** 11th, 12th

Jackie Lockwood, KCLS

## NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Braun, Eric 978-1-4677-7244-0 \$20.00 48 p.  
*John Green* Lerner, 2015

A brief biography in Lerner's Gateway Biography series, this one focuses on author John Green. The biography covers recent successes as well as his childhood, schooling, and young adult jobs at a children's hospital and as a reviewer at Booklist. The book deals with his battle with depression and the relationships he has with his wife, brother, and fans. A good introductory biography that actually includes many details that may not be commonly known. Recommended for middle school and up – wherever John Green's books are popular.

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

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Doeden, Matt 9781467742092 \$26.66 96 p.  
*Whistle-blowers: exposing crime and corruption* 21st Century Books, 2015

This book looks at famous whistle-blowing cases in the recent past with an introductory chapter on what constitutes whistle-blowing. Each chapter after that deals with a specific case including Deep Throat and Edward Snowden among others. Each case is presented from the perspective of the whistle-blower themselves so the book does carry some inherent bias that is sometimes countered by sidebars with others (in Snowden's case particularly). Full color photography with good captioning enhances the text. 96 pages isn't a lot to cover this topic but there is little else on the market so this is a good purchase.

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

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Donovan, Sandy 9781467757836 \$24.99 64 p.  
*Thrift Shopping: Discovering Bargains and Hidden Treasures*

Twenty-First Century Books, 2015

Thrift Shopping by Sandy Donovan succinctly spells out the how-to's of shopping at second-hand stores. Teens learn where they can go to purchase clothing on a limited budget, why they would want to, and what to look for. The author provides tips for finding quality items at good prices and provides a few upcycling projects teens can work on at home. This book is fun and inspires readers to be creative and take risks in creating their own wardrobes.

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

Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Halls, Kelly Milner 978-1-4677-0593-6 \$20.95 64 p.  
*Ghostly Evidence: Exploring the Paranormal* Millbrook Press, 2014

Asking the audience to keep an open mind, the author goes about trying to prove or to disprove the existence of ghosts. The first chapter defines the different ways that people "see" or feel ghostly presences while the next relates some famous haunted places such as hotels, boats, and battlefields. Halls also describes what ghost hunters use in their search and explains some well-known hoaxes. Boxes within the chapters highlight some people's personal supernatural

experiences that they cannot explain away. Ultimately the author provides enough evidence to support and to disprove the existence of ghosts and leaves it up to the reader. Recommended for middle school and up.

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

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

Hinds, Gareth

978-0-7636-6943-0 \$21.99 146 p.

***Macbeth: A Graphic Novel***

Candlewick Press, 2015

Hinds has a proven track record of quality retelling of classic literature through the graphic novel medium. *Macbeth* is no exception. To start the book, a map and illustrations of each character (and his/her relationships) set the stage before we meet the three witches. Dark colors create a bleak and creepy mood. The character expressions hint at their inner turmoil and the flow of action is easy to follow. In addition to historical notes on the play, the post-script includes an explanation of Hinds's choices in which text to include, any alterations he made, and a recommendation to read the original play. Recommended for high school students who study the play or have an interest in Shakespeare. It is a difficult read without considerable commitment.

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

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

Jarrow, Gail

9781620915974 \$16.95 176 p.

***Fatal Fever: tracking down Typhoid Mary*** Calkins Creek, 2015

*Fatal Fever: tracking down Typhoid Mary* chronicles the story of Mary Mallon and George Soper. George Soper was an engineer interested in applying his skills to clean up poor sanitary conditions in the United States. He created clean drinking water in several cities and his reputation brought hope to many who wanted the same for New York City. When outbreaks of typhoid started cropping up in random parts of the city he was called on to investigate. He found one of the sources originated with Mary Mallon, an Irish immigrant who came to the US. Her resistance to treatment and study, her denial of being a typhoid carrier, and her eventual quarantine from her friends and society evokes intrigue and pathos about her life. This book contains many primary documents, including pictures of Mary, newspaper articles, and other images from the early 1900s. It's an enjoyable read and would appeal to teens. It's also a great conversation piece to talk about the ethics surrounding Mary's treatment and the danger she posed to the city.

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

Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Liu-Perkins, Christine

9781580893701 \$19.95 80 p.

***At Home in Her Tomb: Lady Dai and the Ancient Chinese Treasures of Mawangdui***

Charlesbridge, 2014

A noblewoman buried in China two thousand years ago was amazingly well-preserved, her skin still soft and her organs still intact when she was disinterred in the 1970s. Her tomb, and those of her husband and son, contained valuable troves of clothing, musical instruments, books, and even still-preserved foods on luxurious lacquerware. The topic is fascinating but the delivery is

uneven, often glossing over specific detail for sweeping statements on how important the finds were. Some topics are explained in aggravatingly simplified language while others remain opaque. I'm not sure how young the reader was expected to be. An appendix on the Qin and Han Dynasties is at a higher reading level and reads more smoothly, making me think this would have been a better book if it had been aimed at an older audience.

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

Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Marsocci, Allison & Joey Deblasio 978-160-058240-0 \$24.95 128 p.

*How to Draw Steampunk* Foster, Walter Publishing, 2011

This how to book provides the history of steampunk before moving on to the tools and materials needed to draw more than a dozen steampunk projects. There are several pages devoted to techniques for creating color, texture and perspective as well as creating digital illustration. There are directions for creating anything from a spider to a soldier to a zeppelin. The step by step directions are clear and easy to follow. I think I could even create some of the simpler drawings, and I have absolutely no artistic talent.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

McDonough, Yona Zeldis 978-0-8050-9542-5 \$16.99 156 p.

*Little Author in the Big Woods* Christy Ottaviano Books (Henry Holt), 2015

This biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder begins with the birth of her mother and emphasizes the great influence she was in her life. Chapters cover highlights and the many moves in Laura's life. The author includes some details not in the Little House books such as the birth and death of a baby brother. The end of the book includes games Laura played, directions for making a corn husk doll and recipes mentioned in her writings. The book could easily appeal to 4th graders and up, possibly for low readers in upper grades.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

Mitchell, Don 978-0-545-47725-3 \$18.99 250 p.

*The Freedom Summer Murders* Scholastic Press, 2014

In 1964, volunteers traveled to the Southern US in order to teach black residents the information they needed to pass the test for their voting rights. After a church in Columbus, Mississippi agreed to host the class for the summer, it was burned and parishioners were terrorized. Volunteer Michael Schwerner felt responsible for the church and he planned to visit with a couple of other volunteers, James Chaney and Andrew Goodman. On the way home, the three men were stopped by police and accused of speeding. They were released from jail in the middle of the night, driven to an isolated location where they were shot, and then buried by a bulldozer on a local farm. It took 41 years to convict anyone of the murders. Highly recommended for 7th and up as a good read in addition to being an excellent example of research and useful for projects.

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

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

Murray, Elizabeth A, PhD 9781467725132 \$26.66 120 p.

***Overturing wrongful convictions: science serving justice*** 21st Century Books, 2015

This is a very well researched and extremely thorough look at how the legal system can get it wrong sometimes resulting in wrongful convictions and how that can be addressed through science. The author is a forensic scientist and brings that expertise to the process of exoneration. The steps that comprise a criminal case are explained first before explaining the potential for errors at each stage. She notes that approximately 40,000-100,000 people are wrongfully held behind bars! The writing is on the scholarly side making this ideal for research projects or someone seeking an in-depth analysis of the subject. Get this book for your library!

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

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Nardo, Don 978-075-654789-9 \$34.99 64 p.

***Hitler in Paris: How a Photograph Shocked a World at War*** Capstone, 2014

Heinrich Hoffman documented much of Hitler's political career through photographs. With his unrestricted to the German ruler, he was able to photograph Hitler in private moments, with his advisors, surrounded by fanatically adoring Germans. A brief overview of the lives and careers of both men before they met is provided. Hoffman had no political aspirations. He and the Fuhrer became friends; Hoffman introduced Eva Braun to Hitler. The majority of the book focuses on Hitler's determination to heap humiliation on France. The place where France would sign its surrender to Germany, the swastika flying from the top of the Eiffel Tower and the Arch of Triumph, the staged photos of Hitler in front of iconic French landmarks were all calculated embarrass and shame the French. Nardo does an excellent job with his topic, using sidebars and original photos to enhance the text. There is a timeline that includes many photos, a glossary, a list of additional resources and critical thinking questions aligned to the Common Core.

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

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Parks, Peggy J. 9781601527707 \$28.95 96 p.

***Teens: Cutting and Self-Injury*** Reference Point Press, 2015

Text is accurate and thorough, although a bit repetitive. The repetition may help lower level readers comprehend what can be difficult subject matter. This book has sections of primary source quotes that are clearly labeled. There are also clearly labeled sections called Facts and Illustrations that contain graphs, charts, and pictures to help clarify information. It also contains a timeline, related organizations, and additional resources for further research. This is a great resource for middle and high school health projects. The topic of cutting and self-injury is definitely one that has been getting more press, especially in fiction, so it is good to have an informational text about the topic.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Parks, Peggy J. 9781601527660 \$28.95 96 p.  
*Teens and Cheating* Reference Point Press, 2015

Text is accurate and thorough, although a bit repetitive. The repetition may help lower level readers comprehend what can be difficult subject matter. This book has sections of primary source quotes that are clearly labeled. There are also clearly labeled sections called Facts and Illustrations that contain graphs, charts, and pictures to help clarify information. It also contains a timeline, related organizations, and additional resources for further research. This is a great resource for middle and high school students and staff. The topic of cheating and plagiarism is constant, so having an informational text about the topic is helpful.

**Grades:** 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th  
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Prince, Liz 9781936976553 \$15.99 255 p.  
*Tomboy: a graphic memoir* Zest Books, 2014

Prince knew growing up that she was not a typical girl but luckily had supportive parents who did not force her to adhere to traditional gender roles. Her clothing choice did result in some ridicule and bullying in Elementary school but soon she met other girls who had her same interests and discovered she did not want to be a boy, but wanted the freedom that came with being male. I liked it, but it's only an okay graphic memoir. Buy if you have need for graphic memoirs.

**Grades:** 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th  
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Wooster, Patricia 978-1-58270-453-1 \$19.99 183 p.  
*So, You Want to Work in Fashion?: How to Break into the World of Fashion and Design*  
Aladdin/Beyond Words, 2014

This career guide looks at the variety of different ways someone could be part of the fashion industry including design, merchandising, modeling, photography or fashion writing. The book emphasizes how necessary it is to be fully committed and passionate about fashion and to expect to work long hours with minimal financial reward. There are also many suggestions for what teens can start doing now to be better prepared for a career in fashion and ideas about the type of education that would be helpful depending on which area you are most interested in. Lots of interviews are scattered throughout the book from both industry professionals as well as teens who have already been recognized for their fashion related accomplishments. Although the organization seems a little scattered to me, I'm guessing most teens won't mind. A solid book that will have teens inspired, but also grounded with realistic expectations. Recommend, grades 7+.

**Grades:** 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

## NONFICTION – SHRUG

Bodden, Valerie 9781467752268 \$24.52 40 p.

***Identify and evaluate advertising*** Lerner Publications, 2015

Books in this series (InfoWise) are intended to help students gain basic academic skills. This one looks at advertising and but I found it too busy with too many text features that look like they were just thrown in for no particular reason. Some of the expository text is too long and at times redundant. This is a shrug - I wouldn't buy it but if you have a need....

**Grades:** 6th, 7th

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

Bodden, Valerie 9781608182831 \$26.95 48 p.

***Writing a Research Paper*** Creative Education, 2015

Writing a Research Paper provides a solid starting place for the young researcher. It teaches the reader how to determine if a source is reliable, what you need to take good notes, and how to put a research paper together once you have gathered sources. A word about the formatting: the writing is simple and easy to understand, however, it's written in more of a narrative style, which is harder for students to commit to finishing. Bullets and headings, lists and smaller chunks of text would provide easier access for teens who have little patience. I don't think older teens will seek this out, but it may be a good book for late elementary and middle school students to start.

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

Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Bolden, Tonya 9781419708466 \$21.95 76 p.

***Searching for Sarah Rector: the Richest Girl in America***

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014

The title and cover and completely beguiling - however, the information inside does not hold up as one would hope.

This is the story of Sarah Rector, who, through the vagaries of land endowment and oil discoveries, was actually the richest black girl in America for a period of time. Sadly, there is very little primary source material to provide much additional information. Therefore it ends up being much more of a story about governmental practices at the time.

Better for browsing than reading cover-to-cover.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Frydenborg, Kay 978-0-544-17566-2 \$18.99 248 p.

***Chocolate: Sweet Science and Dark Secrets of the World's Favorite Treat***

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Written in an easy to read casual style, Chocolate ties the history of Latin America to the cacao bean. This book takes you to the origin of the word and the plant. It explains its discovery, its use a means of trade and how the addictions to chocolate spread to Europe and the new United States. The story continues by looking at the dark side of chocolate – the use of slaves in the

production which continues today. The book is full of science, small side stories, pictures, and recipes. Fine for high school or middle school.

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

JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Jimenez, Francisco

978-0-547-63230-8 \$16.99 188 p.

***Taking Hold: From Migrant Childhood to Columbia University***

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

In this autobiographical story, Francisco Jimenez tells his life story growing up in Santa Maria, California and beginning his academic career in New York at Columbia University in the 1960s. Enrolling as a graduate student in Spanish studies, Jimenez first had to make his way in the cold and foreign setting of New York. Raised in a poor family of Mexican immigrants, Jimenez had worked in the fields of California agriculture and other jobs to help support his family. Now, in New York, he had to learn to get by on the scholarship and dorm jobs while undertaking the rigorous course load required to get his PhD. The possible audience is the biggest question in this book. The style is not compelling enough to draw in a reader and the content is not especially interesting to middle or high school students.

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

JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

#### **NONFICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED**

Bulion, Leslie

9781561457373 \$14.95 48 p.

***Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse*** Peachtree, 2015

I picked up this book thinking it would be great for middle school boys. I was sadly disappointed. The rhymes are forced and frankly, just not compelling. There is a fact box about each body part/system which is useful. Probably best suited for a 2nd-4th grade level, but I'm still not sure that they would get much out of it either.

**Grades:** Too young for YA

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School