



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW

**GROUP**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: May 6, 2016**

*Issue: 113*  
*May 2016*

**WASHRAG**

*Titles Taken* 3-12

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*Fiction Reviews* 13-43

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*Nonfiction Reviews* 43-51

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**WASHYARGers:**

Celebrate spring 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 9:00 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

**2016 MEETING DATES:**

- *March 3*
- *May 6*
- *September 16*
- *December 9*

**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.

**2016 MEETINGS**

- *March 4*
- *May 6*
- *September 16*
- *December 9*

**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 – March 2016

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 - everyone is welcome!

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

### FICTION

Acioli, Socorro <b><i>The Head of the Saint</i></b> Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	9780553537925 Delacorte Press, 2016	\$16.99 181 p.
Ahiers, Sarah <b><i>Assassin's Heart</i></b> Michael Fleming - PCMS	978-0-06-236378-7 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99 420 p.
Aveyard, Victoria <b><i>Glass Sword</i></b> Red Queen #2 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-06-2311066-8 Harper Teen, 2016	\$19.99 444 p.
Barnaby, Hannah <b><i>Some of the Parts</i></b> Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Jr. High School Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	978-0-553-53963-9 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$17.99 293 p.
Bass, Alexis <b><i>What's Broken Between Us</i></b> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-06-227535-6 Harper Teen, 2015	\$17.99 278 p.
Bracken, Alexandra <b><i>Passenger</i></b> Michael Fleming - PCMS	978-14871577-2 Hyperion, 2016	\$17.99 486 p.
Buckley, Michael <b><i>Raging Sea</i></b> The Undertow Trilogy Michael Fleming - PCMS	978-0-544-34844-8 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015	\$18.99 357 p.
Byrne, Michael <b><i>Lottery Boy</i></b> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	978-0-7636-7996-5 Candlewick Press, 2015	\$16.99 290 p.

Carbone, Courtney 9780533538809 \$9.99 81 p.  
**Macbeth #killing it** omg shakespeare! Random House, 2016  
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Carter, Ally 978-0-545-65484-5 \$17.99 323 p.  
**See How They Run** Embassy Row #2 Scholastic, 2016  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Darnton, Kate 978-0-553-53504-4 \$16.99 217 p.  
**Chloe in India** Delacorte Press, 2016  
Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub

Davis, Tanita 978-0-553-51281-6 \$17.99 279 p.  
**Peas and carrots** Alfred A. Knopf, 2016  
Devon Abejo, KCLS  
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Dinan, Kurt 978-1-4926-3014-2 \$9.99 331 p.  
**Don't Get Caught** (ARC) Sourcebooks Fire, 2016  
Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake HS

Downham, Jenny 978-0-545-90717-0 \$17.99 375 p.  
**Unbecoming** David Fickling Books, 2016  
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Jr. High School

Duane, Diane 978-0-547-41806-3 \$17.99 619 p.  
**Games Wizards Play** The Young Wizards HMH, 2016  
Michael Fleming - PCMS

Ducie, Joe 978-0-544-50311-3 \$16.99 308 p.  
**The Rig** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015  
Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake HS

Dumas, Firoozeh 9780544612310 \$16.99 384 p.  
**It Ain't So Awful, Falafel** (ARC) Clarion Books, 2016  
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Edited by Jessica Spotswood 978-0-7636-7848-7 \$17.99 354 p.  
**A tyranny of petticoats** (Short stories) Candlewick Press, 2016  
Devon Abejo, KCLS

Egan, Catherine 9780533524840 \$17.99 375 p.  
**Julia Vanishes** Julia Vanishes trilogy (ARC) Alfred A. Knopf, 2016  
Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier HS

Fitzgerald, Sarah Moore                      978-0-8234-3561-6                      \$16.95 154 p.  
***The Apple Tart of Hope***                      Holiday House, 2015 (U.S.)  
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Gorzalanczyk, Melissa                      9780553510447                      \$17.99 231 p.  
***Arrows***                      Delacorte Press, 2016  
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library  
 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Grant, Michael                      9780062207432                      \$17.99 400 p.  
***The Tattooed Heart*** Messenger of Fear Book 2    Harper Collins, 2015  
 Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Gray, Claudia                      978-0-06-227899-9                      \$17.99 426 p.  
***Ten Thousand Skies Above You*** Firebird, Book 1                      Harper Teen, 2015  
 Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Grunberg, Greg & Lucas Turnbloom                      978-0-545-82603-7 \$24.99 204 p.  
***Dream Jumper*** Nightmare Escape Book One                      Graphix (Scholastic), 2016  
 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Hattermer, Kate                      978-0-385-39157-3                      \$17.99 342 p.  
***The Land of 10,000 Madonnas*** (ARC)    Knopf, 2019  
 Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Henry, Emily                      9781595148506                      \$17.99 390 p.  
***The Love That Split the World***                      Razorbill, 2016  
 Jackie Lockwood, KCLS

Hitchcock, Bonnie-Sue                      978-0-553-49778-6                      \$17.99 227 p.  
***The Smell of Other People's Houses*** (ARC)                      Wendy Lamb Books, 2016  
 Dawn Rutherford  
 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Keplinger, Kody                      978-0-545-83113-0 \$17.99 295 p.  
***Run ARC*** (ARC)                      Scholastic, 2016  
 Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake HS

Khoury, Jessica                      978-1-59514-767-7 \$17.99 340 p.  
***The Forbidden Wish***                      Razorbill, 2016  
 Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Jr. High School

Kibuishi, Kazu                      545433169                      \$12.99 197 p.  
***Amulet 7: Firelight*** Amulet graphic novel series (GN)                      Graphix (Scholastic), 2016  
 Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier HS

Larson, Kirby 9780545840569 \$16.99 209 p.  
**Audacity Jones to the Rescue** Scholastic, 2016  
 Aarene Storms KCLS

Laster, Eric 9780991272938 \$17.99 329 p.  
**#Static** (ARC) Automatic Publishing, 2016  
 Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Laure, Estelle 978-0-544-53429-2 \$17.99 270 p.  
**The Raging Ligh** Houghton Hifflin, 2015  
 Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Lloyd, Natalie 9780545552745 \$16.99 227 p.  
**The Key to Extraordinary** Scholastic, 2016  
 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Longo, Jennifer 978-0-553-53767-3 \$17.99 355 p.  
**Up to this Pointe** Random House, 2016  
 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Lowitz, Leza 978-0-553-53474-0 \$17.99 257 p.  
**Up From the Sea** Crown, 2016  
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

MacMillan, Kathy 978-0-06-232461-0 \$17.99 376 p.  
**Sword and Verse** Book 1 Harper Teen, 2016  
 Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Manzer, Jenny 978-0-553-52126-9 \$17.99 259 p.  
**Save Me, Kurt Cobain** Delacorte Press, 2016  
 Alexis Underhill Yelm High School  
 Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

Mason, Jane B. 978-0-545-81995-4 \$18.99 336 p.  
**Without Annette** (ARC) Scholastic, 2016  
 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Mathieu, Jennifer 978-1-59643-911-5 \$16.99 326 p.  
**Devoted** Roaring Brook, 2015  
 Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Maxwell, Lisa 9781481432047 \$17.99 342 p.  
**Unhooked** Simon Pulse, 2016  
 Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Mayhew, Julie 978-0-7636-7731-2 \$16.99 297 p.

**Red Ink** Candlewick Press, 2015  
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

McCaffrey, Laura Williams 978-0-547-23556-1 \$17.99 349 p.  
**Marked** Clarion Books, 2016  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

McNeal, Laura 978-0-375-87079-8 \$17.99 336 p.  
**The Incident on the Bridge** (ARC) Alfred A. Knopf, 2016  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Medina, Meg 978-0-7636-7467-0 \$17.99 300 p.  
**Burn Baby Burn** Candlewick Press, 2016  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Moskowitz, Hannah & Kat Helgeson 978-1-4521-3839-8 \$17.99 282 p.  
**Gena/Finn** (ARC) Chronicle Books, 2016  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Neumeier, Rachel 978-0-553-50928-1 \$17.99 391 p.  
**The Keeper of the Mist** Alfred A. Knopf, 2016  
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Jr. High School

Nichols, Amy K. 978-0-385-75392-0 \$17.99 297 p.  
**While You Were Gone** Duplexity, Book 2 Alfred A. Knopf, 2015  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Nielsen, Jennifer 978-0-545-56204-1 \$17.99 340 p.  
**Rise of the Wolf** Mark of the Thief bk. 2 Scholastic, 2016  
Michael Fleming - PCMS

Nijkamp, Marieke 978-1-4926-2246-8 \$17.99 285 p.  
**This Is Where It Ends** Sourcebooks Fire, 2016  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Nobleman, Marc Tyler 9780545880350 \$15.99 112 p.  
**Brave Like My Brother** (ARC) Scholastic, 2016  
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Oakley, Mark 978-1-935548-97-3 \$19.95 375 p.  
**Thieves and Kings** (GN) One Peace Books, 2015  
Michael Fleming - PCMS

Perry, Jolene 978-0-8075-6557-5 \$16.99 259 p.  
**Has To Be Love** Albert Whitman & Co, 2015  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Reed, Jaime 978-0-545-88381-8 \$17.99 336 p.  
**Keep Me in Mind** (ARC) Point (Scholastic), 2016  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Reedy, Trent 978-0-545-54877-9 \$17.99 446 p.  
**The Last Full Measure** (ARC) Arthur Levine (Scholastic), 2016  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Reuter Hapgood, Harriet 9781626723733 \$17.99 290 p.  
**The Square Root of Summer** (ARC) Roaring Brook, 2016  
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Richmond, Caroline Tung 9780545801270 \$17.99 320 p.  
**The Darkest Hour** (ARC) Scholastic, 2016  
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School  
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Sage, Angie 9780062272485 \$17.99 480 p.  
**SandRider** Todhunter Moon, Book 2 Harper Collins, 2015  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Salisbury, Melinda 978-0-545-92132-9 \$17.99 336 p.  
**The Sleeping Prince** The Sin-Eater's Daughter, Book 2 (ARC) Scholastic, 2016  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Sanderson, Brandon 385743602 \$18.99 420 p.  
**Calamity** The Reckoners (#3) Delacorte Press, 2016  
Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier HS

Self, Jeffery 978-0-545-82993-9 \$17.99 272 p.  
**Drag Teen** (ARC) Push (Scholastic), 2016  
Dawn Rutherford

Sepetys, Ruta 978-0-399-16030-1 \$18.99 389 p.  
**Salt to the Sea** Philomel Books, 2016  
JoAnn Olsson

Shakespeare, William and Brett Wright 9780553538823 \$9.99 86 p.  
**A Midsummer Night #nofilter** Random House, 2016  
Sarah Hunt, KCLS  
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Shakespeare, William and Courtney Carbone 978-0-553-53880-9 \$9.99 112 p.  
**Macbeth #killingit** OMG Shakespeare Random House, 2016  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS



Sheehan, Judy 978-0-553-51246-5 \$17.99 278 p.  
***I Woke Up Dead at the Mall*** (ARC) Delacorte Press, 2016  
 Dawn Rutherford  
 Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier HS  
 Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake HS

Silver, Eve 978-0-06-219219-6 \$17.99 357 p.  
***Crash*** The Game book 3 Katherine Tegen, 2015  
 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Springer, Kristina 978-1-4549-1751-9 \$14.95 208 p.  
***Cici Reno #MiddleSchoolMatchMaker*** Yoga Girls #1 Sterling Children's Books, 2016  
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Stone, Sonja 978-0-82343562-3 \$17.95 328 p.  
***Desert Dark*** Holiday House, 2016  
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS  
 Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library

Stork, Francisco X. 978-0-545-47432-0 \$17.99 325 p.  
***The Memory of Light*** Arthur A. Levine, 2015  
 Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

TenNapel, Doug 9780545676540 \$10.99 201 p.  
***Nnews. Book Two: The Rise of Herk*** Nnews (GN) Graphix (Scholastic), 2016  
 Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Weeks, Sarah 9780545846608 \$16.99 240 p.  
***Save Me A Seat*** (ARC) Scholastic, 2016  
 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

West, Temple 978-1-250-05708-2 \$9.99 386 p.  
***Velvet*** Swoon Reads (Feiwel & Friends), 2015  
 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

White, Keirsten 978-0-553-52231-0 \$20.99 475 p.  
***And I Darken*** (ARC) Delacorte Press, 2016  
 Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake HS

Wiviott, Meg 9781481439831 \$17.99 352 p.  
***Paper Hearts*** Margaret K. McElderry, 2015  
 Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Yee, Lisa 978-1-101-94059-4 \$13.99 237 p.  
***Wonder woman super hero high*** Random House, 2016

Devon Abejo, KCLS

Zentner, Jeff 978-0-553-52402-4 \$17.99 369 p.

**The Serpent King** Crown, 2016

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Zettel, Sarah 978-0-544-07408-8 \$17.99 416 p.

**Assassin's Masque** Palace of Spies HMH, 2016

Michael Fleming - PCMS

Aarene Storms - KCLS

### NON-FICTION

Bascombe, Neal 978-0-545-73243-7 \$17.99 320 p.

**Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb** (ARC) 2016

Arthur A. Levine,

Maggie Wong, KCLS

Colson, Mary 9781625881618 \$23.51 32 p.

**What Happens If the Ozone Disappears?** Unstable Earth series Media, 2016

A+ Smart Apple

Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

Goldstein, Margaret 978-1-4677-3831-6 \$34.65 91 p.

**Fuel Under Fire: Petroleum & Its Perils** 21st Century, 2016

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Heos, Bridget 9780544303478 \$17.99 232 p.

**It's Getting Hot in Here: the Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Loh-Hagan, Virginia 9781634704984 \$18.85 32 p.

**BAND** D.I.Y. Make it Happen series 45th Parallel Press, 2016

Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

Marcovitz, Hal 9781601529442 \$32.57 80 p.

**Comic Book Art** Discovering Art series Reference Point Press, 2016

Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

Miller, Sarah 9780553498080 \$17.99 304 p.

**The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century** Schwartz & Wade, 2016

Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

O'Brien, Daniel illustrated by Winston Rowntree 9780553537475 \$19.99 272 p.

***Your Presidential Fantasy Dream Team*** (ARC) Crown Books for Young Readers, 2016  
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

O'Reilly, Bill 978-1-62779-396-4 \$19.99 306 p.

***Hitler's Last Days: The Death of the Nazi Regime and the World's Most Notorious Dictator*** Henry Holt, 2015

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Jr. High School

Reef, Catherine 978-0-544-12983-2 \$18.99 211 p.

***Noah Webster: Man of Many Words*** Clarion Books, 2015

Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub

Wilcox, Christine 9781601529565 \$32.17 80 p.

***Thinking Critically: E-Cigarettes and Vaping*** Thinking Critically series Reference  
Point Press, 2016

Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

- Exploring Careers Series

Schmidt, Debra

9781601528148 \$32.00 80 p.

***Careers in Sports and Fitness***

Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Sheen, Barbara

9781601528063 \$32.00 80 p.

***Careers in Architecture and Construction***

Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

- Influential Women Series

Allen, John

9781601529541 \$28.95 80 p.

***Marie Curie***

Reference Point Press, 2016

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Blohm, Craig E.

9781601529503 \$28.95 80 p.

***Hillary Clinton***

Reference Point Press, 2016

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Kallen, Stuart A.

9781601529527 \$28.95 80 p.

***Malala Yousafzai***

Reference Point Press, 2016

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Nardo, Don

9781601529480 \$28.95 80 p.

***Cleopatra***

Reference Point Press, 2016

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Parks, Peggy J.

9781601529466 \$28.95 80 p.

***Anne Frank***

Reference Point Press, 2016

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

- Military Careers Series

Abramovitz, Melissa 9781601529428 \$32.00 80 p.  
*Careers in the US Special Forces* Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Allman, Tony 9781601529367 \$32.00 80 p.  
*Careers in the US Coast Guard* Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Mattern, Joanne 9781601529381 \$32.00 80 p.  
*Careers in the US Marine Corps* Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Mooney, Carla 9781601529404 \$32.00 80 p.  
*Careers in the US Navy* Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Phillips, Melissa 9781601529329 \$32.00 80 p.  
*Careers in the US Air Force* Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Uschan, Michael V. 9781601529343 \$32.00 80 p.  
*Careers in the US Army* Reference Point Press, 2016

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library



were deep dark family secrets, but I never noticed them. It was interesting reading about this broken world, but I'd prefer a more complete back story as much of it remains a mystery.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Bruchac, Joseph                      978-1-62014-261-5    \$19.95              382 p.  
***Trail of the Dead***    Tu Books, 2015

Trail of the Dead is set in a creative post-apocalyptic dystopia. Before the start of the first book, a 'cloud' descended that destroyed all electricity, and transformed the world. Genetically modified animals have escaped their electrified cages and now roam free and feed on, well, people. The rulers, modified with genetics, chemicals, and surgery, send our teenage hero out of their fenced compound to hunt these monsters. Lozen has inherited an ability to hunt matched only in Native mythology. In the first book, Lozen fought monsters to save herself and her family. In the second book, her plans grow beyond family. As she leads a group through the Southwest, she has to now kill evil people in order to survive. As they follow her route, the group encounters another tribe who become their allies. Throughout, native myths and values are seamlessly interwoven. The book is always violent, beginning with battles against mutated monsters, progressing to evil humans. Along the way our main character becomes stronger, more responsible for others, and grows in her understanding of her heritage. Non-stop action, battles, and gore should satisfy most young readers. The native mythology is a great addition to the library, despite the cover art.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Bunting, Eve                              978054439092              \$17.99              217 p.  
***Forbidden***    Clarion Books, 2015

When 16-year old Josie Ferguson loses her parents to influenza, she moves in with her uncle and aunt in a small fishing community on the coast of Scotland, circa 1807. Her welcome is anything but receptive and though unhappy, she is determined to endure her heartless aunt, uncle, and community until she is old enough to inherit her fortune. When she meets the dashing Eli Stuart, she is grateful for his warmth, but worries when the community and her family discourage her from seeing him. After discovering a dark community secret, Josie realizes she won't be able to stay, but will she be able to leave Eli and get away from her aunt & uncle?

Forbidden is good storytelling told with simplicity and mystery. The story was well paced and captivating from beginning to end. It adds variety to the list of YA books currently being published, specifically because of subtle religious overtones, less focus on character voice, and the historical and geographic setting. This title appeals to readers interested in historical fiction and mystery. My only concern with the book is that it may be overlooked by the teens in my library.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult  
Katy Olson, Lindbergh High School

Carleson, J. C. 978-0-553-49724-3 \$17.99 296 p.  
**Placebo Junkies** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015  
Audie and her friends make a living (if you could call it that) from participating as human guinea pigs in drug trials. Her story is at once funny and incredibly sad. Told through Audie's voice and her blog we get a peak into this world and into Audie's mind. All is not as it seems.

Gritty and sometimes horrifying this is a cautionary tale and a tale of  
fr15i15e15n15d15s15h15i15p15,15 15l15o15v15e15,15 15a15n15d15  
15m15e15n15t15a15l15 15i15l15l15n15e15s15s15.15 15T15e15e15n15s15  
15w15h15o15 15l15i15k15e15 15e15d15g15y15,15 15t15o15o15 15r15e15a15l15  
15s15t15o15r15i15e15s15 15w15i15t15h15o15u15t15 15s15a15p15p15y15,15  
15h15a15p15p15y15 15e15n15d15i15n15g15s15 15w15i15l15l15 15l15o15v15e15  
15t15h15i15s15.15 15 Definitely for mature readers – profanity and sex filled and  
sometimes pretty graphic, but still recommended. High school and up.

**Grades:** High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Charbonneau, Joelle 978-0-544-41669-7 \$17.99 352 p.  
**Need** HMH Books for Young Readers, 2015  
What do you need? A new social media site in Kaylee Dunham's town asks its high school users just that. But when it seems like the site is more of a wish-granting genie that only asks for a simple task completed in return, Kaylee is skeptical. Even after her best friend Nate asks her to join. When faced with a family member's life or death need, though, Kaylee goes against her better judgment and joins the network. Soon, she notices a pattern of death and destruction in her town that appears to connect back to Need. When the police, her mother, and not even her best friend believe her, Kaylee is forced to confront the sinister, anonymous forces herself. Joelle Charbonneau, author of The Testing trilogy, has written a stand-alone, fast-paced, thriller that also brings up good questions about online anonymity and responsibility. I think kids will feel the NEED to turn the pages and wish there was more!

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Heather Nelson, McKnight MS Library

Charbonneau, Joelle 978-0-544-41669-7 \$17.99 338 p.  
**Need** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015  
What do you need? Students at Kaylee's high school are invited to join a social media site, called Need, that promises to fulfill any wish or need you want. To become a member teens must invite a certain number of their peers, but once all students have joined, then students end up having to perform simple requests for Need. Of course everything is done confidentially and anonymous. It seems too good to be true, but Kaylee's best friend Nate assures her that it's real because his brother already had his first need met. For Kaylee, this website comes at a good time as she's desperate to find a kidney donor for her brother who's likely to die soon. Even though Kaylee is suspicious of Need, she joins and requests a kidney, however, as strange events start occurring around town it becomes clear that all needs demand a price, and for some, that price is pretty steep. As the demands Need makes

becomes increasingly darker, the body count starts and soon Kaylee is trying to find out who's really behind Need before her own request kills her. Teens will love this fast-paced thrill ride, especially with the social networking component. There are a bunch of narrators which does allow the reader to see how Need works and the short chapters speed up the action and tension so it might be a good pick for reluctant readers.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Coyle, Katie                                      978-0-544-39042-3    \$17.99                      296 p.  
***Vivian Apple Needs a Miracle***                                      Houghton Mifflin, 2015

At the end of Vivian Apple at the End of the World, the world didn't end and Vivian had escaped the cult members of the Church of America. Unfortunately, her boyfriend (maybe) is still in the clutches of the church and more and more people are succumbing to the propaganda of the second rapture. She and her friends set out to free Peter and stop the church. Vivian and Harp lead an internet campaign against the church and are declared enemies with a huge reward for their capture.

This is a sometimes far-fetched cat and mouse game with many twists and turns, much violence, and political commentary about public opinion and powerful charismatic leaders. The action is swift and the characters likeable. All ends well, but not without some surprising deaths, and the possibility of more stories. Recommended for high school due to profanity, violence, and mature themes.

**Grades:** High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Cozzo, Karole                                      978-1-250-06359-5    \$9.99                                      214 p.  
***How to Say I Love You Out Loud***                                      Swoon Reads (Feiwei & Friends),  
2015

Jordyn Michaelson is starting her junior year at an exclusive prep school. She's a popular starter on the field hockey team and has a budding relationship with the star of the football team. Then her autistic brother loses his place at the special school he's been attending and must attend Jordyn's school until another suitable placement can be found. Jordyn is so embarrassed she refuses to acknowledge that she is related to the new "weird" boy.

It's no surprise that everyone figures it out and Jordyn's friends and Alex feel betrayed that she was keeping such a huge secret. The resolution (a speech contest where Jordyn boldly announces that she loves her brother) is a bit predictable and actually a little sappy, but I loved it nonetheless. The characters are believable and the treatment of Ben (Jordyn's brother) is sympathetic. Recommended for grades 7 and up.

One note, though, there are multiple unnecessary references to brand names that become very distracting rather than natural. Quite irritating!

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Dashner, James                                      9780385741439                      \$18.99                      337 p.  
***The games of lives***                                      Delacorte Press, 2015





Peyton. After an exceptionally weird day at school, Xander's father offers him a previously unseen graphic novel about the Japanese demon-fighter Momotaro. Xander promptly tosses this aside in his room, but Peyton picks it up, reading aloud the story of Momotaro and his traveling companions the dog, the pheasant, and the monkey. They notice that Xander himself is listed as the author/illustrator of the story but before the boys can wonder about that, they are called down to dinner by Xander's strict grandmother. Dinner is interrupted by a sudden tsunami, during which his father goes outside and disappears. Grandmother reveals that the men in this family are Momotaro, that the stories are all true, and Xander's father, who was trying to use a more intellectual approach to controlling demons, has just been taken captive. Xander must take up his duties as the next Momotaro, fight the demons, and rescue his father. But Xander isn't particularly physically strong and even Grandmother isn't sure what effect being only half-Japanese will have on his abilities, though she assures him his talents will appear in time. Full of doubts and armed only with wooden figurines, Xander takes his family dog and Peyton aboard a magical boat to the island of the demons. A solid middle grade action-adventure novel with illustrations that opens up possibilities for sequels. While the pace is slower and the humor is gentler than Rick Riordan's series, readers will be rewarded with this new magical world with Japanese details. There is also a depth here as Xander wrestles with his biracial identity and struggles to find his talents (though the book spends a bit too much time in whiny self-doubt). Many questions remain unanswered at the end, so it seems to be the first in a series.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Dinnison, Kris

978-0-544-30112-2 \$17.99

275 p.

***You and Me and Him***

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Gay guy and fat girl are best friends. Trouble starts when a new hot guy moves into town and they both fall for him. Not a unique premise. But Maggie is a remarkable character, whose self-examination throughout the book will have readers rooting for her. She is loyal to a fault, even when Nash is over the top neurotic and judgmental when he shouldn't be. The secondary characters are rather one-dimensional: her mother never speaks to her unless it is to criticize her weight; she has a vile PE teacher who allows students to bully her; her former friend turned mean girl reaches out but is still a mean girl at heart. But Maggie's struggle will keep readers engaged. Her boss and the PNW setting are an added bonus.

**Grades:** High School

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Dragt, Tonke

978-0545819787 \$13.65

528 p.

***Letter for the King***

David Fickling Books, 2015 for English Translation

This book makes me want to sing the bacon pancake song. Why? Because it makes me smile and at one point in the story the characters really eat bacon pancakes. I recommend this book for 5th grade and up. On the eve of being made a knight Tiuri answers a call for distress and he is catapulted into an epic adventure. He faces challenges with deceptive enemies, mother nature, and most of all questioning himself and his motivation for completing his mission which is to deliver a letter to King Unawen who lives far away from

Tiuri's home. There are two things that stand out to me in this delightfully told medieval story. First, the writing style is no nonsense, almost Hemingway like. Not a syllable is wasted. Second, the tension of wondering what is in the letter is pretty intense. I actually found myself saying aloud in my car, at work, or at home "WHAT IS IN THAT DARN LETTER!!!" The message of the story is very positive, and I found the characters, plot, and style to be a refreshing change compared to the trends in YA today. Maybe that is because this story was published in the 60's but only translated to English in 2003. So I guess you could say it gets back to basics with those things you can recall from childhood that make a great story. The author's life is also very fascinating. There is nothing that I can think of in this story that would be objectionable content, and because of the straight forward writing style I think that younger kids, maybe 5th grade even, might get into it. It is a lot of pages, though, so maybe that would be a turn off to a non-reader. But for middle school and up I think readers who lean towards fantasy categories will really love it. I highly recommend this book for any library!

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult

**Comments:** This was first published in 1962 but not translated to English until recently  
Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School

Edwards, Janet      978-1-63388-092-4   \$17.99 363 p.

***Earth Flight*** Prometheus, 2015

The third book of the series begins with Jarra still fighting prejudice, but she's much more mature. In this very cool science fiction world, Earth is the only host to people whose immune systems cannot handle life on the many other planets that have been colonized, and Jarra rightly resents being labelled 'handicapped.' She is now an interplanetary celebrity, having cracked the mystery of an alien spaceship in the ruins of an Earth archaeological dig. The ending to the trilogy is great, better than the second, with developed relationships, thought-provoking parallels to our world today, and humor. The story is less violent than many YA sci-fi/fantasy, but because Jarra is in a committed relationship that involves sex, the intended audience is not younger readers.

**Grades:** High School, Adult

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Edwards, Janet      9781633880924      \$17.99 365 p.

***Earth Flight*** Pyr, 2015

After figuring out how to activate the alien sphere orbiting Earth, Jarra and her boyfriend Fian have reached new levels of fame. But because Jarra is Handicapped, with an immune system disorder that does not allow her to portal off of Earth and go to humanity's other worlds, there is still prejudice against her. Returning to their history class at Eden Dig Site, Jarra and Fian hope to rejoin the Alien Contact program. Jarra also anxiously awaits the ceremony that will formally welcome her into the Tell clan and rejoin her with her family. But when someone throws noxious, burning skunk juice in Jarra's face, the severity of the prejudice and hate towards the Handicapped is revealed. But the majority of humanity, and Jarra's commanding officers in the Military, don't see things that way. They all fight to get Jarra and others with the immune system disorder the recognition and equality they deserve, while the moment of contact between humanity and the intelligent alien race approaches. *Earth Flight* is the third book in the *Earth Girl* trilogy. I absolutely loved it and

am looking forward to what Janet Edwards writes next, as there is still more story to tell. At its core, the book is about social justice, but it also expertly treats readers to a future vision of humanity that is believable. Complete with unique slang, different planetary cultures, and the problems of an interstellar species, *Earth Flight* and the *Earth Girl* series delivers an immersive, entertaining, and emotional experience. As Jarra might put it, *Earth Flight* is a zan book that you'd be a nardle to miss!

**Grades:** Middle School, High School

Jackie Lockwood, KCLS

Emond, Stephen 1626722064 \$17.99 384 p.

***Bright Lights, Dark Nights*** Roaring Book Press, 2015

Walter, a quiet kid who loves comics & rap begins to fall for his best friend, Jason's, younger sister, Naomi, a confident harp-playing beautiful girl. Both have their own family issues to deal with – Walter still resents his mom for cheating on his dad, and he has moved with his dad, a cop, to a tougher neighborhood. Naomi is in the shadow of her older sister's mistakes, so she at once has to deal with over-protective parents and golden-child brother. As Walter & Naomi fall in love and begin to take their relationship public, they are confronted with questions, concerns and outright rejection. You see, Walter is white & Naomi is black. At the same time, Walter's father is accused of racial profiling and labeled #racistcop online. Walter & Naomi must navigate a new interracial romance against the backdrop of a community consumed with race. *What I LOVED: Walter & Naomi* - very cute Eleanor & Park-ish couple; noir-like awesome illustrations throughout; current, relevant issue that needs more attention in YA lit.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

**Comments:** Eleanor & Park read-alike

Heather Nelson, McKnight MS Library

Everett, Mikaela 978-0-06-238127-9 \$17.99 453 p.

***The Unquiet*** Greenwillow Books, 2015

This dark science fiction book tells the story of two parallel, mirror-image Earths. For many years, there was peace between the two, but then relations became strained and the Silence began--the period of no interplanetary interaction. Unfortunately, there's the dominance theory which states that if two copies of the same thing exist and only one is necessary, the other one will disappear. Once the people on Earth II realized this was happening (as people and things around them started to vanish) they created a plan to take over the healthy Earth I through sleeper agents who can travel through the secret portals between the two worlds. Lira (Lirael) was brought to Earth I as a child and spent the last 8 years being trained as a deadly assassin. After Lira takes over her double's life, she begins the excruciating waiting until the signal is given for her people to take over this Earth. Lira's not content with her life as a dutiful alternate by day and secret agent at night. As she learns more about her role in this changing world, Lira may have to let go of her past training in order to have a future. Teens tired of dystopias might like this even though there's not a lot of joy or hope, but there's enough glimmers of romance, mystery and intrigue to keep most kids reading.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Falkner, Brian 978-0-374-30075-3 \$17.99 361 p.

***Battlesaurus: Rampage at Waterloo*** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015

In an alternate universe, the dinosaurs never died out, and the Americas are off-limits to humans - except for a few humans who captured and trained a few dinosaurs to assist Napoleon in his thirst for empire. Willem Verheyen, a teen whose father was a leading soldier in Napoleon's dinosaur army, lives in a French village with his mother, avoiding detection and the smaller European dinosaurs until Napoleon passes through to Waterloo. This time, Napoleon wins, and it is partly due to Willem's actions, although Willem must reveal his presence to the emperor.

I really enjoyed this well-researched novel (sources are given in the back). The characters of the village are believable and the small-town feeling gives way to large-scale historical events that seem beyond everyone's control. Despite the premise, the dinosaurs don't appear that often, but when they do, they move the plot forward well. I would give this to 5th-8th graders. It's a fairly dense book, and the dinosaurs may seem scarce, but the battle scenes and village drama make up for it. A sequel is in the works.

**Grades:** Middle School

Wally Bubelis, Seattle Public Library

Garza, Xavier 978-1-55885-816-9 \$9.95 83 p.

***The Donkey Lady Fights La Llorona & other Stories*** Pinata, 2015

A collection of scary stories for middle grade readers in a similar style of Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark. Each story features a mythical or magical creature threatens a child or young person. Every story ends happily, usually with the child triumphing over the creature or saving a friend or family member. Great fun, great scares!

Turn the book over and the stories are repeated in Spanish. Recommended for middle school.

**Grades:** Middle School

**Comments:** Also appropriate for ELL programs in upper grades

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz 978-0-545-77318-8 \$17.99 248 p.

***Moving Target*** Scholastic, 2015

Girl connected to ancient power on the run in Rome. Cassie's typical school day is interrupted when her art professor father grabs her from school and says people are after them. When he is shot in the chase, her father shocks her again by confessing Cassie is the real target and that they must separate. Given a couple of her father's journals and a warning not to trust anyone, Cassie grabs her best friend Simone and runs to the monastery where her father said she would be safe. Here she is blinded by another shock, Cassie is one of a few who have the power to change destiny through the use of the spear that pierced Christ's side centuries ago. While the spear is missing, some want her dead and others will want to use her. Thinking that locating the spear will return her family's life to normal, she and Simone, followed by the mysterious teen Asher, follow clues throughout Rome on a dangerous hunt for the spear and the truth. Although sophisticated readers

might find all the obvious secrets tiresome, middle school readers will be entranced by the well-paced action and unique setting. The book's ending is a set up for a sequel.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High  
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Haydu, Corey Ann 978-0-06-229408-1 \$17.99 357 p.

***Making Pretty*** Katherine Tegen, 2015

Arizona and Montana are sisters living with their dad who is a plastic surgeon with the tendency to marry and “fix” wives who then leave him (three stepmothers in 10 years!). With Arizona away at college, Montana (17) has found a new friend in Karissa (23) and a hot new guy, Bernardo. When Arizona comes home for the summer, though, things go bad quickly – Arizona has a new enhanced figure, she does not like Karissa at all. Dad has a new wife on the horizon, and Montana is smoking and drinking, and dancing her way through the summer.

Part romance, part family drama, part mystery, part coming-of-age drama. A rollercoaster story filled with cigarettes, alcohol, sex, and commentary on self-image and relationships. A teen romance for upper grades with a satisfying ending that’s more real life than happily ever after. Recommended for grades 10-12.

**Grades:** High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Hicks, Faith Erin 978-1-62672-156-2, 978-1-62672-157-9 \$14.99, \$21.99 240 p.

***The Nameless City (ARC)*** First Second, 2016

"Ask 10 different people the name of this city, and you'll get 10 different answers." The current rulers call it Dandao. The citizens call it The Nameless City. Kaidu is a young teen from the ruling class, sent to Dandao to learn how to protect and lead. He's really more of a bookworm than a soldier, though. On a visit with his father out of the palace walls and into the city proper, Kaidu sees Dandao not as a city with a strategic trading location but also as a place full of life and adventure. Along the way, Kaidu meets a local girl named Rat. Sassy and confident in one breath and lost and angry in the next, Rat eventually overcomes her antagonism towards Kaidu, and they become friends. The majority of the book deals with setting and character development, although there is an attempted coup as well as seeds of double agents and misdirection. The book touches on issues of complex friendships, racism, classism, and sexism but in a firmly middle grade tone. The city and ruling party are heavily inspired by feudal China while the citizens are multicultural in a such a way that it's like looking at a street in Rio. 5th-7th graders will love it, especially if they are looking for character-driven novels.

**Grades:** Middle School  
Maggie Wong, KCLS

Huang, Charlotte 978-0-553-51182-6 \$17.99 293 p.

***For the Record*** Delacorte Press, 2015

Small town girl Chelsea has a big voice. She proved this while on a reality music show (ala American Idol). She didn't win, but that exposure has given her the chance to tour as the new lead singer with the indie rock band Melbourne. The band hasn't been super welcoming (turns out they have their own baggage) so she asks to bring her BFF Mandy on

the road – she can sell merch. If adjusting to life on a tour bus wasn't enough, Chelsea also starts a fling with TV pretty boy Lucas who decides he also wants to try life on the road. He drives the band nuts, and ends up increasing the wedge between them and Chelsea. Chelsea has to figure out what she really wants...fame or real music...and if she doesn't work it out soon she may just end back as no one in her hometown. A fun beach read that behind all the drama includes some realistic components on what life on tour is like for musicians. Not a must have, but fans of music and romance will certainly enjoy it. Recommend. Grades 8+.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Iserles, Inbali 978-0-545-69081-2 \$16.99 252 p.

***The Taken*** Scholastic, 2015

"I am fearless. I am friendless. I am Fox." Isla, a young foxling, is on her own after her brother Pirie and the rest of her family are marked as Traitors and have disappeared. Their home is also gone and Isla must escape Karka, the vixen with the single gray eye. The escape path is through 'The Great Snarl', where the two-legged 'furless' live. The 'manglers' are prowling the stone paths, called 'deathways'. Isla must find her family, but first she must find food. Isla is just a young fox, and she has much to learn about Foxcraft and The Elders. An older fox, Siffrin is talented in Foxcraft and is also looking for Isla's brother, Pirie. Together they gain an understanding, as Isla grows toward adulthood and Siffrin shares his knowledge of Foxlore.

Similar to the Warrior's series, Foxcraft is written by Inbali Iserles, an English writer who is one of the authors comprising the pseudonym Erin Hunter. Each chapter begins with a black and white illustration, there is a map of The Lands of Foxcraft and the story is followed by a Foxcraft Glossary. " Book One: The Taken" starts off a bit slowly as Isla's character doesn't appear quickly, the reader doesn't know any more than Isla about Foxcraft, and the action is not very fast-paced. It does pick up about one third of the way in and the book will be enjoyed by fans of animal fantasies. Its open ending will lead middle schoolers to the next book in the series. Recommended for Grades 4 – 7.

**Grades:** Middle School, Also Upper Elementary  
Marilyn Condon, LWSD

Jean, Emiko 978-0-544-48200-5 \$17.99 279 p.

***We'll Never Be Apart*** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Alice and Celia are inseparable. They're twins, they both survived being alone in a house for several days as children after their grandfather died, and they've been through the foster care system together. They're inseparable, but they are also vastly different. Celia (or Cellie, as Alice calls her) has a dark side. A violent side. A fire-starting side. After escaping from Savage Isle Mental Hospital, Alice and her boyfriend Jason think they are free from Cellie's darkness. But then she finds them, and wherever there is Cellie, there is fire. Following Alice in the tragic aftermath of this incident, Emiko Jean's novel slowly reveals the events leading up to the fateful fire by detailing her experiences back at Savage Isle after the failed escape attempt, and revealing snippets of the journal in which Alice writes the history of her and Cellie's lives in foster care. On the surface, this novel seems to be a well-crafted and gritty exploration of grief, mental illness, and unhealthy relationships, but

Emiko Jean has actually created a very effective suspense thriller. The bouncing back and forth between traditional narration and journal entries is a clever way of keeping the reader turning pages, and the surprising ending is satisfying in more ways than one.

**Grades:** High School

Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

Johnson, J.J. 9781561457717 \$18.95 455 p.

***be-liev-a-rex-ic*** Peachtree, 2015

Based on her own experiences as a teenage bulimarexic in 1988 (diagnosed with both bulimia and anorexia), Jennifer Johnson has asked to be hospitalized. Her experience in the in-patient facility, is however, drastically different than she had imagined (beautiful white room, fresh flowers, sweet nurses). Instead she finds herself trapped in an ugly institutional environment with predictably disgusting food, and a head nurse straight out of the pages of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. The style of the book at the beginning is reminiscent of Ellen Hopkins blank verse style. The font is larger and mimics handwriting and is told in 3rd person point of view. As the story progresses and Jennifer settles in, the writing style remains in blank verse and 3rd person but the font changes to a more normal typeset. As Jennifer makes progress towards recovery, she begins to find her voice and the writing style changes to 1st person. Although "Nurse Ratched" is cruel and obviously dysfunctional, Jennifer finds a champion and friend in the night nurse, Chuck, upon whom she comes to rely. Jennifer's therapist is also skilled and caring. Jennifer's family is forced into therapy sessions and the unhealthy dynamics of her family are painfully illuminated. It was very interesting to read about life in an addiction recovery facility. I personally enjoyed the references to TV shows, music and 80s culture. Additionally, the character of Jennifer is very likeable and I began rooting for her recovery very early on. There were, however, two areas of the book that left me with unanswered questions: one, Jennifer reported that she began to have issues with food as a result of feeling stressed out in 2nd grade but the root cause of this anxiety was not explored in depth; and, two, her brother, who was largely silent throughout the family therapy sessions, obviously had his own set of issues and these were also left largely unexplored. Fans of Ellen Hopkins will definitely enjoy this book. I recommend this book for grades 8 and up.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School

Lora Gillingham, Tahoma High School

Kaufman, Annie & Kristoff, Jay 9780553499117 \$18.99 599 p.

***Illuminae*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

Ezra and Kady have just broken up, but Kady sees him again a bit sooner than she was expecting when she's forced to rescue him during a sudden attack on their planet Kerenza. For reasons that no one knows, a Beitech company ship is laying waste to the illegal mining colony where they live. Escaping with 3,000 survivors spread out on three ships, the Alexander, the Hypatia, and the Copernicus, Kady and Ezra begin to rekindle their relationship while they try to make sense of the tragedy. Kady uses her computer skills to hack network systems and reveal information, while Ezra is drafted into the military and trained as a fighter pilot. Everyone is needed if the ships are going to escape from the Beitech ship that is still in pursuit of them all. But when the AI computer system on the Alexander goes rogue in response to a virus outbreak on the Copernicus, the survivors only



have more threats to contain. Formatted in a collection of documents and chat histories, Illuminae is creatively put together. All profanity is blacked out, as if it were classified, but because nothing else is blacked out it is easy to determine which curse word is intended. This makes the black out more annoying than protective. The formula of space chase + rogue AI + virus outbreak + romance was interesting, but the unique format of the story doesn't carry the action as well as it could have. I would recommend it to fans of sci-fi or dystopia. Grades 7+.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Jackie Lockwood, KCLS

Kelly, Jacqueline 978-0-8050-9744-3 \$16.99 312 p.

***The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate*** Henry Holt, 2015

A few years ago I read and loved "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" and had been hoping for a sequel ever since. It took some time, but "The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate" was released in July 2015. The second book is as delightful as the first. Callie Vee is smart, engaged with her surroundings and up against society's and her family's traditional expectations of a 13-year old girl in 1900 Texas. Thankfully, her grandfather can envision a changing world and encourages his granddaughter to nurture her intelligence. Callie's younger brother, Travis, is a key character (compared to her other many brothers!) in this story; he's rather annoying in his singleminded quest for a pet, but this plotline eventually blends in with the rest of the story and becomes an important development. While this sequel could stand on its own, I suggest reading "The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate" first.

**Grades:** Middle School

Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub

Keyser, Amber J. 978-1-4677-7590-8 \$18.99 207 p.

***The Way Back from Home*** Carolrhoda Lab, 2015

The Way Back from Home is a debut novel about a fifteen year old boy named Rakmen who had a younger sister named Dora who died. His mother forces him to go to a group with her so they can work through the grief. Rakmen hates group. While the depressed moms are upstairs talking, the kids are downstairs working with an art therapist who doesn't know how to deal with the group. One day, his biology teacher shows up at group and she has a young daughter somehow connects with Rakmen. He hates this. To make matters worse, his teacher invites him to come with her and her daughter to their cabin in Canada during the summer. Rakmen's parents think this is a good idea due to his anger issues and their need for time alone to sort out their own issues. Rakmen goes to Canada with this "crazy woman" and her daughter and is forced to trek off into the wilderness to live "au large." This is a good book with adventure and young adults dealing with grief. There is strong language and a few sexual references, but otherwise good for middle and high school.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Khan, Joshua 1484732723 \$16.99 336 p.

***Shadow Magic (ARC)*** Disney Hyperion, April 2016

Thorn, a boy in search of his father, is purchased as a slave by Tyburn, House Shadow's executioner. When Thorn arrives back at Castle Gloom in Gehenna, home of the Shadows, ancestors of necromancers and evil sorcerers, his only thoughts are of escape and finding his dad. Lily, now reluctantly Lady Shadow after her entire family was murdered by a group of bandits, has her upcoming peace treaty of a marriage to arrogant Gabriel, prince of Shadow's arch enemy, House Solar, on her mind. When someone, probably Gabriel, tries to poison Lily, she looks to her people's history of magic for help -- even though it's taboo for girls. Not being one to follow gender stereotypes or authority, Lily enlists the help of some unlikely new friends, Thorn, K'leef (Solar's prisoner from House Sultanate) & a giant bat to figure out who is trying to kill her, the last of the Shadow line. Although Rick Riordan states in his endorsement of this book, "If you are pining for that thrill you felt when you first discovered Harry Potter, let me recommend Shadow Magic" I wouldn't go quite that far. I do agree with this, though: "Here is a fantasy world you will want to lose yourself in--with Six Great Families of magic, the nicest princess of darkness you've ever met, a peasant boy with skills to rival Robin Hood, and a supporting cast of zombies, paladins, ghost puppies, executioners, minstrels, murderers, and a giant hero bat." It's interesting that Disney is the publisher because the entire time I read, I pictured a Disney animated film.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High  
Heather Nelson, McKnight MS Library

Lee, Mackenzi 9780062382771 \$17.99 371 p.

***This Monstrous Thing*** Katherine Tegen, 2015

Alasdair has done the unthinkable. Using the experiments of Dr. Geisler and his skill in meshing clockwork to flesh, he has resurrected his brother Oliver. But Oliver isn't quite the same, and the citizens of 1818 Geneva believe that those with clockwork parts are an affront to God. Hiding in an abandoned mansion, Oliver curses his brother for what he has done. And then their friend Mary mails Alasdair a copy of the new book Frankenstein, which has a shockingly familiar storyline. Alasdair's life falls further into upheaval when his father is arrested for helping people with clockwork limbs. Already there to help, an assistant of Dr. Geisler's helps Alasdair escape the city and brings him to Dr. Geisler's laboratory. Turns out Dr. Geisler has read Frankenstein too, and sees it as proof that Alasdair has accomplished what he could not. All Alasdair has to do is hand over his brother to Dr. Geisler. *This Monstrous Thing* is an excellent reimagining of Frankenstein that also weaves in the life of its author. Perfect for fans of steampunk or historical fiction, the writing style is both descriptive and swift. Recommended for Grades 7+.

**Grades:** Middle School, High School  
Jackie Lockwood, KCLS

Marriott, Zoe 978-0-7636-6958-4 \$16.99 336 p.

***Darkness Hidden*** Candlewick Press, 2014

Fantasy set in the world of Japanese myths and legends that continues the story of Mio, her magical Katana, and her companions. I found the storyline confusing, so did not finish the book. Reviews state that one should not read book 2 without reading book 1, so I suspect that was the source of my confusion. Book 2 picks up literally the moment book 1 ends. Since it's in a similar vein of other YA novels focusing on traditional myths and legends, this series should appeal to fans of the genre. Recommended for grades 7-10

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

McGinnis, Mindy 9780062320865 \$17.99 376 p.

***A Madness So Discreet*** Katherine Tegen, 2015

Grace Mae is trapped in a Boston insane asylum. Pregnant by her own father and deeply depressed, she wishes for death over being returned home once her pregnancy has ended. Mostly mute and docile, even under the abuse of asylum staff, Grace eventually cracks and attacks the asylum's head doctor. As punishment, Grace is subjected to a unique form of torture that causes her to lose the baby. Thrown into the asylum's basement dungeon to wait for her father to claim her, Grace meets Dr. Thornhollow, a surgeon who performs lobotomies. She begs him to remove her ability to think and feel, but Dr. Thornhollow notices her skill in observing numerous details and refuses to mar her intelligence. Instead, they devise a ruse that allows Grace to escape with Dr. Thornhollow to his new job as the head of an asylum in Ohio. With Grace by his side, they practice the emerging science of criminal psychology. But just when Grace begins to feel safe, she realizes that the problem of her father has not been solved yet. Grace's little sister is still at home and growing up fast. This dark historical thriller treats readers to an immersive setting, memorable characters, and haunting scenes. While the end was just slightly rushed, the pacing and story are very well done. Grades 9+

**Grades:** High School  
Jackie Lockwood, KCLS

McKissack, Jennifer 545587581 \$17.99 306 p.

***Sanctuary*** Scholastic, 2015

When Celia Cross's aunt dies she must return to her childhood home, Sanctuary, and face the deaths of her sister and grandmother and the incarceration of her mother as well as a legend of an evil captain who forced one of her own ancestors into an abusive, deadly marriage.

Set in the late 1930s, Celia is an independent 17-yr old who is haunted by the ghost Amoret, the wife of Captain Winship, a ruthless British captain who forced the French Acadians from their homes in Nova Scotia during the later part of the 18th century. Celia's mother was committed to a mental hospital five years prior after the death of Celia's grandmother and sister in an unexplained house fire. Now, Celia is trying to find out the truth behind the ghost that haunts her before she, too, is claimed by the family's curse.

Her only solace is the mansion's huge library, filled with historical tomes. Yet, her uncle, a bitter, violent man has decided to sell these books to a young professor, Eli Bauer, and although Celia initially detests him for wanting to take her books, soon they form a friendship that promises to become something more.

Nothing, is however, as it seems, and soon Celia begins have visions that share with her another story from long ago about a captive wife, a love affair and ghostly possessions. When the truth comes out, Celia must act quickly to save her mother and herself from the evil that remains at Sanctuary.

I thought it was an intriguing ghost/murder mystery and one that a particular reader would enjoy. The setting is lush and well described, and, the historical features feel authentic. Celia, however, strikes me as a bit too 21st century in her behaviors, however, given that her own history has been strange and rather isolated, that could be a rationale. I thought the story was well plotted and contained enough twists and turns to make it unpredictable along the way.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High  
Lisa Carlson, Mt Rainier HS Library

McLachlan, Jenny 987-1-250-06148-5 \$16.99 179 p.

***Flirty Dancing*** Feiwel and Friends, 2014

Bea Hogg is a very shy freshman, who tries her best to blend in with the background. She spends most of her time either with her Mom, her grandma and three year old sister Emma or with her best friend Kat. The talent show "starwars" comes to town and Kat does the unthinkable by joining a dance group with Pearl, who has gone out of her way to make Bea miserable. Her Grandma decides to help Bea and signs her up to take Jive lessons at the local dance studio. When she gets there she is met by a really cool rockabilly couple who introduce her to her dance partner, who is the cutest boy in school and is dating Pearl. Luckily he is much nicer than his girlfriend and they dedicate themselves to swing and jive dancing. They do so well they make it all the way to the finals. Throughout all of this Bea learns to trust her instincts and to start standing up for herself.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Devon Abejo, KCLS

Moldavsky, Goldy 978-0-545-86748-4 \$17.99 320 p.

***Kill the Boy Band (ARC)*** Point, 2016

Black comedy explores the nature of boy band fandom. The Ruperts were put together as a boy band because they all had the first name Rupert and all competed on a British talent TV show. They've outshined every boy band to date in part because each of the four boys appeals to a different kind of girl. The narrator found comfort after her father's death in their music and identifying with down-to-earth Rupert K. Her popular and persuasive best friend Erin loves the pretty boy rebel Rupert X. Isabel, who runs a Rupert fan sighting website, stalks the entrepreneuring Rupert L. And the wealthy and obese Apple desperately adores Rupert P., who is considered the ugliest and least talented of the band (all he does is juggle). The four 15 year olds, friends through their fan activities, plan to stay at the same hotel as the band when they come to New York for a special live Thanksgiving concert. They dream of catching a glimpse of the boys but end up in a nightmare when Apple spies Rupert P. at the ice machine. Overcome by her love for him, the large girl tackles him, knocking the boy out cold, and drags him back to their hotel room. They certainly didn't mean to kidnap him, but now that they have him, Erin wants the girls to tie him up and use the situation to their advantage. But our narrator has doubts and when things spin out of control, resulting in a death, she has to question everything she thinks she knows about her friends and what it means to love a boy band. The author deftly exposes the ins and outs of boy band culture while channeling the best humor of 1980's teen comedies. This stand

alone novel is recommended for older readers based on language, off-screen sex, and dark situations.

**Grades:** High School, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Myer, Walter Dean 978-0-06-227500-4 \$17.99 153 p.

***Monster, Graphic Novel*** Harper Collins, 2015

Sixteen year old Steve Harmon is on trial for allegedly participating in a robbery of a convenience store. He is being accused of being the lookout for a robbery gone bad where the owner is killed with his own gun. A small amount of money and some cartons of cigarettes are stolen. The book is written as a screen play where Steve Harmon imagines the story in script form, trying to keep events in an order he can deal with. The graphic novel does the same thing, where Steve fades in and out of the trial with his daydreams become a movie script. This is a well done graphic novel and it follows the story closely with nicely illustrated black and white pictures. I am not sure that the screen play images have quite as much impact in graphic form as they do in the book, but this is a good recommendation for a high school library.

**Grades:** High School

JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Naraghi, Dara Bowman, Brent 978-1-56163-977-9 \$12.99 108 p.

***Persoa Blues*** NBM/Comic Lit, 2015

Minoo is an Iranian student trying to balance her life in the US with the last she left behind. Her life has been filled with tragedy. Both her brother and mother have died, leaving her with a strained relationship with her father. This graphic novel goes back and forth between Minoo in her modern day life and then Minoo as the hero in an epic battle. The fantasy characters will be partially from her modern life and partially from fiction. This was the second in the series, it will interesting to see if they stick to the format of half modern and half fantasy.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School, Adult

Devon Abejo, KCLS

Nelson, Suzanne 978-0-385-39212-9 \$17.99 361 p.

***Serendipity's Footsteps*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

Serendipity's Footsteps by Suzanne Nelson is the story of three orphaned girls and the pair of shoes that connects them over several decades. Dalya is a Holocaust survivor. Ray is a survivor of foster care and abuse who runs away to start over in New York City. Pinny, whose down's syndrome does not prevent her from having a more realistic view of human nature than most people, is a survivor in her own way. If all three girls have seem to have more than their share of sorrow and luck and the coincidence of the shoes is incredible, Serendipity's Footsteps is still compelling reading. The author's insights into the struggles of all three girls—grief, loneliness, rage, bewilderment, trust—are thought provoking. The author's notes at the end of the book provide information about the historical background and other topics touched on in the book.

**Grades:** High School

Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Nelson, Suzanne 978-0-385-39312-9 \$17.99 361 p.

***Serendipity's Footsteps*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

A pair of handmade pink shoes holds this story together. It begins in 1938 on Kristallnacht in Berlin Germany. Fifteen year old Dayla has just finished making her perfect pair of shoes which she plans to wear one day at her wedding. Her family is preparing to flee NAZI persecution and Dayla hides her shoes in the floorboards of her father's cobbler shop. The NAZI's come and the family ends up in a concentration camp where her parents both die. Dayla is able to escape with the help of a family friend Aaron. She ends up with a wealthy family in New York. When the son in this family, Henry, pays attention, Dayla is quickly excused, but is again reunited with and marries Aaron.

The shoes are discovered by an American in the rubble of Berlin and taken home to be given to a fiancé. The chapters of this book alternate between many characters and different times in history. A second story unfolds with two orphans Pinny and Ray in a children's home in Texas, 2013. Ray wants to run away to New York to go to Juliard, and Pinny, who has mild Down's Syndrome, will follow her. Ray discovers that the heel of a pair of pink shoes she stole from a secondhand store has rings inside and decides this is what will get her to New York.

The stories intersect when the senior Dayla meets up with the pair of runaways in New York and the secret of the shoes unfolds where the shoes and rings returned to the original owner and the runaways find a place to begin a new life. This is a book that will be enjoyed by high school students.

**Grades:** High School

JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Nichols, Amy 978-0-385-75392-0 \$17.99 297 p.

***While You Were Gone*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

In book one Eevee is a science geek in an Arizona high school who meets Danny, a boy who has been transported here from another dimension. She falls in love, but tries to help him get home.

In book two, we meet Eevee and Danny in that other dimension, that other Arizona. In this dimension, Eevee is the artist daughter of the governor and Danny's parents are still alive and he's working for an anti-government group. In this AZ, compliance is valued, art is censored, and the govt is setting up a surveillance system that identifies everyone as either criminal or not and follows every move on computers.

I was confused at first, not realizing that this was the parallel story of the original Eevee & Danny. Once I got past that confusion, I found the story fast-paced and intriguing. There are many twists and turns that reveal that things are not as they seem. Sometimes the "good guys" are very difficult to distinguish from the "bad guys", and maybe those lines aren't that clear at all. Although it could actually stand alone, it's a great follow-up to book 1. Although advertised as a duology and a third is not currently planned, there's room for another story here. Recommended for middle school and up

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Nielsen, Jennifer A. 978-0-545-68242-8 \$16.99 317 p.

***A Night Divided*** Scholastic, 2015

It's the summer of 1961, and the situation in Berlin is uneasy. Gerta's family lives in East Berlin, but life seems much sunnier in the west. Gerta's father and brother take a trip to West Berlin to make arrangements for their move, and that's when it happens. In the night, a fence goes up, and her father and brother are trapped on the other side. Time passes – five years later, Gerta is now 12, and her family is still divided in two. The fence is now a wall, and there are guards in turrets making sure no-one from the east ever escapes into the west. One day, while walking past the wall, Gerta sees something she at first believes she's imagining. Her father. And he's motioning for her to dig. Gerta arms herself with a shovel and decides to follow her father's instructions. She and her brother are going to dig their way to freedom. This novel is Nielsen's first foray into historical fiction after her acclaimed *The False Prince* fantasy novel, and she creates a harrowing suspense story set in a fascinating time period. Ideal for upper elementary and middle schoolers, students might need a little bit of background on the Cold War and the division of Germany after World War II, but the compelling story will be enough for kids to crave more historical context. Just like Gerta and Fritz's tunnel races from east to west, readers will race to the end of this book to find out what happens.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High

Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

Noriss, Andrew 545851866 \$12.65 240 p.

***Friends for Life*** David Fickling Books, 2015

Francis, a middle school boy who loves to sew and is a whiz at designing clothes, is bullied, friendless, and depressed. Sad and alone, he eats his lunch out in the cold by himself on a bench. One day, in the middle of winter, a girl his age in a sleeveless dress sits down. He asks her if she's cold and offers her a drink of his hot tea. The girl, Jessica, is astounded that someone can actually see her because she is a ghost! Thus begins the friendship of Jessica and Francis, who spend many enjoyable afternoons in the attic of his house as he sews. Set in England, this sweet story about friendship and redemption is one of the best books I have read in ages. Circumstances bring two more lonely young people into their lives and together they form a close group. The friendship improves all their lives, yet Jessica still remains confused about why she hasn't been able to move on and why, each night, she is compelled to return to the room at the hospital where she died. Eventually, this mystery is solved in a page-turning series of events. In an ending reminiscent of the movie, *Ghost*, this lovely book about the power of friendship and suicide prevention is a must have. Though aimed at middle grades, this book is a delightful story for all ages. Grades 5 Up.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Lora Gillingham, Tahoma High School

Olin, Sean 978-0-06-219241-7 \$17.99 326 p.

***Reckless Hearts*** Katherine Tegen, 2015

Best friends, Jake (an aspiring musician) and Elena (online animation artist) are about to move to the next level when Jake's mother marries a hotel mogul. Jake finds himself in a new (much wealthier) town with a new stepdad and an obnoxious stepbrother. Elena,

feeling abandoned by Jake, begins a relationship with someone she meets online. Jake is certain there's more to Harlow than his online profile would indicate.

In this teen romance there are no real surprises, just some plot twists and turns that keep the reader interested. Jake and Elena are sympathetic characters, we definitely root for them, and are not disappointed. Part of Wicked Games series all set in the beach town of Dream Point, I'm looking forward to checking out the rest. Recommended for 8th grade and up.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Panitch, Amanda 9780553507492 \$17.99304 p.

**Damage Done** Random House Children's Books, 2015

Lucy Black is the new girl. And not just at school. Lucy has only existed for a few weeks - since Julia Vann ceased to exist. Because Julia's twin brother entered the band room with a gun and Julia was the only one who came out alive. Now, Lucy Black's new life is jeopardy. A creepy, thriller that kids should love.

**Grades:** High School  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Scheerger, Sarah Lynn 978-0-8075-4557-7 \$16.99266 p.

**Are You Still There** Albert Whitman & Co., 2015

After a serious bomb threat puts her high school in lockdown, Gabi's dreams of getting into a top college seem far away. Her father is a police detective who is called in to investigate when the bomb is found, but the bomber gets away. Gabi wonders who the bomber is and why he is leaving mysterious notes scribbled on playing cards around the school--including in her locker. The school starts an anonymous help line to address concerns of the bomber; Gabi is recruited as one of the anonymous volunteers who answer the phone calls and computer texts. Soon she is fielding strange phone calls that might be from the bomber. Clues seem to lead to someone close to Gabi and the tension escalates quickly as she struggles to find out who the bomber is and what his next plan is because she's afraid he just might succeed the second time around. Experiencing all this pressure causes Gabi to rethink her life--maybe getting all As isn't as important as literally surviving your senior year of high school. Teens looking for a realistic suspenseful story that also includes a new romance and family drama will love this one. Every few chapters features a poem written by the bomber as part of his/her "Stranger Manifesto" that reveal inner motivations and clues to the person's identity.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Steiger, A.J. 978-0-553-49713-7 \$17.99393 p.

**Mindwalker** Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

In a futuristic society with a caste system and where mental health patients can have harmful memories "erased", Lain is in training to be a Mindwalker, one who can take away those painful memories. When a classmate and a "Four" asks Lain to help him forget a traumatic experience from his past, but outside of the state system, Lain has a choice to



make. Her choice leads her to discover dangerous memories that could jeopardize her world. It brings up some interesting moral dilemmas; fans of some of the futuristic dystopian series like *The Program* or *Matched* should like it.

**Grades:** High School

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Stone, Sonja 978-0-8234-3562-3 \$17.95 336 p.

***Desert Dark (ARC)*** Holiday House, 2016

Intrigue at boarding school for future CIA operatives. Fleeing a bad break up and social stumble, sixteen-year-old Nadia gladly accepts a sudden invite to an all-expenses-paid boarding school in Arizona. Upon arrival, she's even happier to find out the school is actually a secret training ground for CIA Black Ops. After all, she is smart and competitive, having won national championships for cryptology and learned how to read people from her criminology professor father. But this is October and the other students have been studying together since summer. Fitting into the team is awkward, especially when it turns out the spot opened up because a student was murdered. Determined to do her best, she forms bonds with her teammates; OCD Southern belle Libby, intellectually brilliant yet socially awkward Alan, and the charming and hyper-observant Damon. Unknown to her, each is hiding potentially explosive secrets. Committed to increasing her physical abilities, Nadia asks for and receives extra training with the combat instructor, Hashimoto Sensei, which results in a mentorship relationship. Nadia is cautiously optimistic when Jack, the handsome senior team leader, shows interest in her. Her trust in others is hampered when she hears rumors of a student double agent, but it is shattered when she realizes someone is planting evidence to frame her as the double. This is a well-plotted mystery adventure novel that ironically reminds me a bit of Harry Potter (We find out Nadia is suspect and unique because she got all the prescreening questions correct, Hashimoto Sensei functions like Dumbledore, and it is at a boarding school). Third-person narration alternate viewpoints between Nadia and each of her teammates, Jack, and the unidentified double agent. By the end, the stage is set for a series.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Strasser, Todd 978-0-7636-6901-0 \$18.99 414 p.

***The Beast of Cretacea*** Candlewick Press, 2015

When 17 year old Ishmael awakens from stasis, he finds himself on board the Pequod along with 3 other nippers – Pip, Gwen, and Queequeg – learning to fish for terrafin. They have signed on to this ship on a distant planet to earn money to rescue their families back on Earth, a planet dying from an ecological disaster. Their trip will take a frightening turn when the Captain decides to pursue the legendary Great Terrafin that destroyed his previous ship.

If this all sounds familiar, it should. Yes, this is *Moby Dick* in space! It's a future world where the earth has been virtually destroyed, the ultra-wealthy "Gilded" live a very different life from everyone else, and time travel exists. Strasser's storytelling is quick and exciting, his characters believable and even though the basic story is well-known, it sounds

new. The big climax isn't really a surprise, but it doesn't matter. This is a great addition to the sci-fi/dystopian genre. Recommended for 8th and up.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Summer, Mary Elizabeth 978-0-385-74414-0 \$17.99 351 p.

***Trust Me, I'm Trouble*** Delacorte Press, 2015

After the harrowing events of *Trust Me, I'm Lying*, Julep is trying to get her life back in order. In her world this means finishing school, running her own detective agency and trying not to get killed. Too bad there is an assassin on her tail trying to ruin that last one. Despite the danger and against her friends' advice, she decides to take on a new case investigating a company that may not be as charitable as it seems. It may also have some connection to her missing mother. If all of this weren't enough, her emotions are also a bit out of whack thanks to Dani, her self appointed body guard, and Sam, her previous BFF who has shown back up obviously changed. Although the book builds to an interesting reveal at the end (setting up book 3) it was not as fast paced and engaging as the first installment. But, Julep is still a likeable character so it is worth sticking with her.

Recommend where the first book is popular. Grades 7+.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Tanquary, Kathryn 978-1-4926-2324-3 \$16.99 320 p.

***The Night Parade (ARC)*** Sourcebooks, 2016

Cranky Japanese girl snubs ancient traditions at her peril. Saki is unhappy to be spending a week with her parents and younger brother in her Grandmother's remote mountain village. Things haven't been the same since her beloved Grandfather passed away and that will be especially evident at the Obon festival for the dead, as he used to tend to the local shrine and cemetery. She also feels pressure to keep up with her mean girl friends back in Tokyo and the spotty cell service is thwarting her. Sent to fetch the traditional new branch for the welcoming fire, Saki sullenly stumbles into the woods, feebly performs the ritual washing at the shrine, and grabs a branch from a rotting tree because it's easiest to reach. The next evening Saki further breaks tradition by going along with some local teens who want to play the Japanese version of Ouija in the cemetery and accidentally trampling the offerings laid out for the dead. The cost of her actions becomes clear that night when a four-tailed fox appears and says Saki must join the night parade of the spirit world to remove the death curse now upon her family. She has three nights to accomplish this and each night brings a unique guide, strange adventures, and opportunities for Saki to decide what kind of person she will become. Reminiscent at times of *Spirited Away*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The NeverEnding Story*, this novel skillfully weaves together Japanese traditions and folklore with a very contemporary heroine who must discover what really matters to her. Saki is not particularly likable, but neither was Alice (in my opinion). And unlike Alice, Saki actually learns valuable lessons with the help of both spirits and humans. Readers versed in Japanese tales will recognize much here while unfamiliar readers will enjoy a different type of adventure story. The books seems to function as a stand alone novel, but there are seeds for future potential stories.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Thompson, Craig 9780545565431 \$14.99 314 p.

***Space Dumplins*** Graphix, 2015

Craig Thompson is known in his field for sprawling and complex graphic novels. Here, he leaves the adult content of *Blankets* and *Habibi*, and goes back to the narrative territory of his earliest published work, *Goodbye, Chunky Rice*. Violet is the child of working class parents, struggling to survive in a space-based society. They live in a mobile-home park – in space. Her dad works in logging – of space whale poop. Her mom works in a factory – on an asteroid. One day, a galaxy-level crisis erupts – whale diarrhea is flooding the locations in space where sentient beings live and work. Then, Violet’s dad goes missing. Thompson’s illustrations are famously detailed – he draws out every item in a trash heap, every thrill-seeker in a water park – and this dense style feels almost like a *Where’s Waldo* page in some panels. Parts of this story are familiar – the outer space setting, the plucky female protagonist, the alien sidekicks, the stereotypically attractive adult human characters, the epic quest... And when compared with similar stories – Ben Hatke’s *Zita the Spacegirl* is a prime example – this venture into children’s graphic novels does not necessarily break new ground or bring the genre to new heights. However, expectations are inflated for a giant like Thompson, and this is excellent addition to the ranks of high quality graphic novels for kids. Best suited to elementary, middle school, and public libraries.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Van Diepen, Allison 978-0-06-230247-9 \$17.99 310 p.

***Light of Day*** Harper Teen, 2015

Gabby and her best friend are out clubbing in South Beach. When Gabby heads to the ladies’ room a charming blue-eyed guy warns her that someone slipped roofies in their drinks with the plan of kidnapping the girls into prostitution. This starts a *Romeo & Juliet* style romance between X, a member of a gang set on stopping human trafficking and Gabby who’s a quiet rule follower who just wants to be a radio DJ.

A fast-paced, action packed teen romance about the good girl and the “bad” boy who turns out to be just misunderstood. Secrets are revealed, plot twists abound, and (of course) Gabby & X end up together after they have solved the mystery of the missing girl and broken up the trafficking ring, but teen girls should love it. Recommended for high school – profanity, prostitution, drugs, alcohol, violence – definitely a YA book for grades 9 & up.

**Grades:** High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Williams, Sean 978-0-06-220327-4 \$17.99 503 p.

***Hollowgirl*** Balzer + Bray, 2015

This concludes the *Twinmaker* trilogy and once again the book picks up where the last one ended. The d-mat attack has destroyed all d-mat people and things that were duplicated. Clair and Q barely survive by uploading themselves into the Yard-- a parallel virtual world based on the backed up data from the original world from the evil Ant Wallace. Once at the Yard, Clair runs into different versions of herself and her old Lucky Jumpers from the

Crashlanders Ball that started this series of adventures. Having multiple Clairs in the Yard at the same time, upsets the stability of the Yard which results in glitches Clair and her team use to flee from Wallace and other enemies. Back on the devastated Earth some have survived, mainly abstainers and those who happened to be in protected locations at the time. Teens who have enjoyed the series so far will continue to like the action of the fights that happen in the Yard and on Earth as sides are chosen and battle lines crossed. This book also explores the philosophical issues of reality, humanity and striking a balance between opposing views. A fun part is learning where Q's name comes from (Qaulia--the perceived realness of things).

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Woolston, Blythe 978-0-7636-7756-5 \$16.99 216 p.

**MARTians** Candlewick Press, 2015

In a near future, Zoe loses her school (closed to save money), her mom (moving to find a job), and her home (it's the last home for sale in a subdivision that's abandoned and being reclaimed by wildlife). She takes a job at AllMART, a mega mart that seems to be the only thing thriving as everything collapses. Dreamy, lyrical social satire that I couldn't put down.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Zimmerman, Virginia 978-0-544-44537-6 \$16.99 272 p.

**The Rosemary Spell** Clarion Books, 2015

Rosemary finds a book that shows her how some of the words in Shakespeare are really a spell. This spell moves people to a different place in time and if it's not reversed by the full moon the person disappears like they were never alive. She doesn't think it can be possible so she takes her friends to an island that they can see from their homes. They are going over what is written in the book when one of the friends disappears. The spell is actively making them forget she ever existed so they must work extra hard to remember. With the help of a poet who owned the home before Rosemary and her family they are able to return their friend Shelby back to the reality they know. Shelby thinks that no time has passed at all and doesn't understand why her friends are acting so crazy.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Devon Abejo, KCLS

Zink, Michelle 9780062327154 \$17.99 294 p.

**Promises I Made (Sequel to Lies I Told)** Harper Teen, 2015

This book picks up a few months after Lies I Told. Grace is living with her adoptive father Cormac in Seattle, lying low after the heist they all pulled at the end of the first book. Grace is upset with Cormac for not going back to California to help Parker (her adoptive brother, who is sitting in jail, accused of theft and murder), so she steals what is left of the heist money and runs back to Playa Hermosa. She is determined to figure out a way to get Parker released from jail. After talking with a detective on the case, she knows she needs to barter information on Cormac and/or Renee's whereabouts and/or contacts in exchange for lowering Parker's sentence. Lucky for Grace, she runs into Marcus, an old comrade of Cormac's, who wants to help Grace put Cormac in jail. With Parker's trial on the horizon,

Grace, Marcus, and Marcus' partner Scotty work quickly to learn whatever they can about Cormac's whereabouts.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

## FICTION – SHRUG

Finn, Katie 978-1-250-04525-6 \$17.99 389 p.

***Revenge, Ice Cream, and other things best served cold*** Feiwel and Friends, 2015

In the first book of the series, Gemma spent the first part of her summer vacation pretending to be someone else. She wanted to make up for the damage she had caused her friend Hallie when she eleven and her parents were divorcing. It is interesting to see how Gemma struggles to accept herself. In the second book, Gemma has found out that Hallie knew who she was all along, and both girls set out to sabotage the other. There's lots of girl drama, social media, and embarrassing moments, but even less self-reflection than the first. It would be an easy read for girls and may teach a lesson about the futility of revenge.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Jones, Patrick 978-1-4677-8053-7 \$21.00 87 p.

***Combat Zone*** Darby Creek, 2015

Justin is happily living in Hawaii biding his time until graduation and enrollment at the Naval Academy. He's popular, athletic, and can get any girl he wants. The problem is he's somewhat of a bully and definitely homophobic. This creates a big problem for him and might just change everything.

A short novel clearly aimed at teens who want one of those teens with problems novels, but won't commit to something more in depth. Probably a good choice for reluctant readers, but there's little here to captivate others. The characters are pretty stereotypical, and the plot twist is glaringly obvious. The story ends with a somewhat happy ending, but the resolution seems forced and unrealistic. Part of a series called Support and Defend aimed at young teens. OK, just not great and considering the price, just a shrug for grades 7-10. Get the paperback for \$8 if it would appeal to your students.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Mikulencak, Mandy 978-0-8075-2217-2 \$16.99 276 p.

***Burn Girl*** Albert Whitman & Co., 2015

I recommend this book with a shrug for 8th grade and up. The first part of it really had me, but then near the end I feel the strength of the character development goes a tad flat. But I think teens will be into it if they are fans of Ellen Hopkins and other types of emo realistic fiction. In this story Arlie's drug addicted mother has died after they both escaped an abusive meth cooking step father Lloyd. Half of Arlie's face is burned from when his meth lab exploded, hence the title of the book. Arlie's uncle Frank becomes her guardian and that is my favorite relationship in the book. Frank and Arlie are two lost souls that need

each other and the way they bond is very moving. Just when Arlie feels like she might get to have a normal life her step dad who is wanted for various crimes shows up and her world is catapulted back into chaos. While all this is happening she learns some hard lessons about friendship with her best friend Mo, and also about first kisses with her love interest Cody, a blind boy in the school's choir. The sub plot about her romance with Cody and being in the choir is too much like Glee to me, but I am a superfan and know some episodes by heart, so that might not bother other people. I just felt like those parts of the story were suddenly hijacked by Ryan Murphy. And I felt the ending was a bit forced, but I don't think most teens will notice or care about those things. This is a great pick for reluctant readers, especially girls who are a little prickly or rebellious. I have a feeling there might be a sequel but I won't rush out to read it.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School

Morrill, Lauren 978-0-553-49797-7 \$17.99 260 p.

***The Trouble With Destiny*** Delacorte Press, 2015

One might think going on a cruise over spring break would be all about sun and fun. But, for Liza, fun is just about the last thing she can think of. This cruise is all about the competition. Her band must win – it is the only way she can make sure they are funded next year – problem is, she hasn't told them. Also, she is increasingly distracted by Lenny, a boy from her past who has shown up unexpectedly (weird that she didn't know he was the band director's son). Maybe she does have a little room in her life for love, but is she picking the right guy? This is definitely a fluffy, sweet romance story with a series of misunderstandings and teen hijinks thrown in. Readers who want that will enjoy it, but there isn't anything new and interesting here. Shrug. Grades 7+.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Paul, Marcy Beller 978-0-06-232721-5 \$17.99 293 p.

***Underneath Everything*** Balzer & Bray, 2015

Once at the top of the social heap, Mattie and Kris walked away from everyone else at the end of 10th grade. No one knows why, because they won't talk about the two incidents...both of which involved Jolene. Jolene is a larger than life personality and it becomes clear that Mattie is still fascinated with her. What isn't clear (not even to Mattie) is if she is fascinated because they were soul sisters or because she is romantically attracted to Jolene. After attending their senior year bonfire all of the old emotions rise to the surfaces. This novel definitely portrays how complicated relationships of all types are, but it left me feeling a bit confused and unsatisfied. It may appeal to those interested in dysfunctional friendship/relationship stories and who are okay with very flawed characters. Shrug. Grades 10+ due to drinking, drugs and sex.

**Grades:** High School  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Perez, Ashley Hope 978-1-4677-4202-3 \$18.99 396 p.

***Out of Darkness*** Carolrhoda Lab, 2015

I recommend this book for 11th grade and up with a shrug. Due to content and graphic descriptions it is definitely not okay for middle school. This story is historical fiction, and similar to *The Bluest Eye* and also *The Color Purple*. The author was very ambitious by trying to weave many layers of different stories together, and I admire that ambition, but the end result is awkward. This story seems over-designed, for lack of a better term. There is just too much going on, and on top of that too many switches in the point of view. Naomi is the main character and one that the reader cheers on and roots for throughout the story, and her struggles with enduring sexual abuse, bullying at school, and racism are very moving. The setting of the story is New London Texas in the 1930's when a school above an oil well area blew up, and there were not many survivors. The descriptions of the fall out of all the school kids who were killed or injured is very intense, and not for the faint of heart. Naomi's story combined with this setting is asking a lot of a reader (both emotionally and stylistically), especially near the end. For that reason and a few others I find this story to be more of an adult novel, not really YA. The historical setting and themes about dealing with prejudice can make this worth having in a high school and public library, but add it with caution. Definitely read this before you decide to add it. And if you are on a tight budget it is not a must have.

**Grades:** Adult

Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School

Prineas, Sarah 978-0-06-233794-8 \$17.99 449 p.

***Ash & Bramble*** Harper Teen, 2015

In this Cinderella retelling, Pin awakens as a seamstress slaving away in the Godmother's dark fortress. No one, including Pin, can remember a life before. Pin's only clue to her past is a silver thimble engraved with roses and thorns. When a handsome shoemaker, called Shoe, catches her eye, the two make a daring escape. Then part two begins and there's no Pin, just Pen, 17, (actually Lady Penelope) who lives in the city with her stepmama and two stepsisters. When Pen refuses to marry a much older man, the wickedness comes out of her stepmama and Pen is forced to slave away cleaning by day and sleeping in the cinders by night. Here in the city, the wickedness is dished out by matchmaker Lady Faye (aka the Godmother) who is intent on controlling Pen's destiny, for something called Story. After Pen sees Lady Faye use a thimble to carry out magic acts, she experiments with her own. Meanwhile, Shoe has never forgotten Pin and tries to save her and remind her of their romance. However, Story wants Pen and the prince to have a happily-ever-after and Story has a way of getting what it wants--at any price, even death. Teens who love fairy tales might enjoy this story that has enough romance and action to keep better readers going, however, this confusing Cinderella retelling is over 400 pages and many may not persevere. Even with other fairy tale components mixed in, it's just not enough for me.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Roux, Madeleine 978-0-06-236405-0 \$17.99 330 p.

***Catacomb*** Harper, 2015

Having finish high school, Dan, Abby and Jordan decide to take an old-fashioned road trip. They head for New Orleans where Jordan is going to settle in with his uncle. Along the way Abby wants to stop at a variety of sights (some on the creepy side) to work on her photo

project. The trip takes a turn from the normal when Dan starts getting Facebook messages from someone he knows is dead and they realize they are being followed by a masked motorcycle rider. This cannot be a coincidence. Their investigation reveals even more secrets from Dan's past and they once again find themselves in danger, this time against the Bone Artists, a group known for stealing bones to use for mystical power. Like the previous books in the series this one has old photographs that help add to the mood of the story. Unfortunately this one isn't nearly as scary as the others - a weak addition. Only purchase if you have huge fans of the earlier books. Grades 7+.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Schmatz, Pat 978-0-7636-7635-3 \$16.99 280 p.

***Lizard Radio*** Candlewick Press, 2015

Lizard Radio may refer to the "voice" that Kivali hears when she meditates, an activity she has no opportunity for when she is sent to reform camp. But so many familiar concepts are renamed in this book that the words lead to confusion. Like Maze Runner, the reader doesn't know what is going on, but in this story there is much the narrator understands that I still didn't get. It took little time to figure out Mealio is the cafeteria, Cleezies are group meetings, and privo is bathroom, but the foster system was always confusing. Other terms, like CropCamp and SayFree Gov are clearly misnamed to confuse the dystopian society of the book. Kivali is a likeable heroine, an outsider sometimes trusting the wrong people, and disoriented by her strong attraction to another girl. She is brave, and grows due to the help of her new friends. A reference to perhaps catching someone in sexual congress, and an accidental death are the only questionable bits for young kids, but then the language confusion may also confuse them like it did me.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Sher, Emil 978-0-545-54131-2 \$17.99 218 p.

***Young Man With Camera*** Arthur A. Levine Books, 2015

Middle-schooler T-- views the world through the lens of his camera. Despite disfiguring burn marks on his face and neck, T-- always rushes off to take pictures of fires and their aftermath. The real danger in T--'s life is Ryan, Jared and Med, three boys from school who always seem to be around to bully T-- and T--'s best friend Sean. Ryan is the worst villain because parents and teachers only see the smiling popular side that Ryan shows the world--not knowing the heinous acts he does to others. One of T--'s safe places is the school library where the librarian inspires him with real photos by a famous photographer. Throughout this book, the reader can see the supposedly 'real' black and white photographs that T-- has taken which add a gritty layer of realism. After T-- captures Ryan and his gang brutally beating a homeless woman on camera, life becomes even more torturous for T-- as Ryan seeks to prevent him from showing those photos through intimidation and carried out threats that become increasingly violent and deadly. What options does T-- have? Who can help? His fatalistic choices seem unbelievable at times, especially due to his interactions with the librarian where he learns important life lessons through the famous photographs she shares. Ultimately this story is disturbing, bleak and



unsettling. While nothing is graphically described, I'm not sure who to give this to that won't be depressed at the end.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Sommers, Jackie Lea 978-0-06-234825-8 \$17.99 376 p.

**Truest** Katherine Tegen, 2015

Westlin lives in a small town. She is the town Chaplin's daughter and her family is well regarded within the community. She has a boyfriend that is the star quarterback and a best friend she has known since kindergarten. This is the summer everything changes. Her boyfriend is working on the farm all the time to save for a car and her best friend she runs an auto detailing business with has gone to an adventure camp, leaving Westlin all alone. In comes Silas, the good looking new guy in town. Silas has a twin sister Laurel who has severe mental illness believing that she has made up the entire world and that it is all a dream. Her Dad volunteers Silas to help her with her auto detailing when he goes over to pray with the family. Through spending so much time together Westlin starts to fall for Silas. She breaks up with her long term boyfriend and starts dating Silas. But the twist is Laurel drives her truck off of a bridge and no one knows if it is suicide or not. This leads Silas to break up with Westlin and try and sort out his feelings. This story has many religious references making me think it is geared for religious teens.

**Grades:** High School  
Devon Abejo, KCLS

Stiefvater, Maggie; Tessa Gratton; Brenna Yovanoff 978-1-4677-2398-5 \$18.99 286 p.

**The Anatomy of Curiosity** Carolrhoda Lab, 2015

In a follow up to *The Curiosities: A Collection of Stories*, the authors have crafted another collection that illustrates their approach to their craft. Each author wrote one story and answers the most often asked questions they receive on how they write. Stories about a young woman, a soldier and a writer are presented with the authors' notes and commentaries on developing ideas, characters and world-building. While fans of the authors will probably enjoy the stories, the real audience is for students and teachers of creative writing, which is not likely to be a large audience in a public school. (While I don't think there will be a huge audience for the book, I really enjoyed both books.)

**Grades:** High School  
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Zimmerman, Virginia 978-0-544-44537-6 \$16.99 273 p.

**The Rosemary Spell** Clarion Books, 2015

Best friends Rosemary and Adam pair up to research a local elderly poet, Constance Brooke, for a school assignment. Their interest in Constance is piqued when Rosemary finds an ancient book hidden in her bedroom that once belonged to Constance. Some of the writing looks like it might have been written by Shakespeare. As Rosemary and Adam read lines from this book, they don't know that the words inside have dark powers that can send someone into the "void and nothing" and accidentally cause Adam's older sister Shelby to vanish--even worse no one remembers her existence and it becomes increasingly harder for Rosemary and Adam to remember Shelby. Yet, the smell of the herb rosemary and

Shakespeare's famous lines spoken by Ophelia help trigger their memories that are trying to fade. Hoping Constance can help, they visit her in the nursing home but find out that she has Alzheimer's. Yet when they mention rosemary to her, Constance's memory perks up and she shares clues that might help, but also warns their time is almost up to save Shelby. The book explores tough issues of loss and memory, friendship and family, and how they intertwine and impact those around you. Even though 'Hamlet,' is my favorite Shakespeare play, I tired of the constantly repeating lines about rosemary and remembrance. I'm not sure how many of my middle school students will appreciate this story as it will take a special reader to fall under Rosemary's spell.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School  
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

### FICTION – NOT RECOMMEND

Frey, James and Nils Johnson-Shelton 978-0-06-233261-5 \$19.99 481 p.  
***Sky Key*** Harper, 2015

Book 2 in the Endgame series is only slightly more captivating than the first. With the introduction of the players' families, I felt a bit more emotional attachment, but honestly I still didn't care who lived or died. The first few pages reveal the identity of the Sky Key and the rest of the book is just a guessing game -- who's next to die?

Near the end is a quote -- "Now go and find Sun Key, if you will. Live, die, steal, kill, love, betray, avenge. Whatever you please. Endgame is the puzzle of life, the reason for death. Play on. What will be will be." That pretty well sums it up. With a plethora of dystopian/alien attack/post-Armageddon books for young adults, this is one we could certainly pass up. For 9th grade and up because of some graphic violence. Not recommended

**Grades:** High School  
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Gottfred, B.T. 978-1627791915 \$17.99 432 p.  
***Forever For A Year*** Henry Holt, 2015

Caroline and Trevor meet the first day of 9th grade. She's always been considered a nerd and no boy in middle school would have ever looked twice at her. He's the new kid in town. Both have some pretty serious family issues going on (her: cheating father, him: suicidal mom), but even as they start to get closer they don't really share these parts of their lives. Instead their relationship is fraught with insecurity and fairly quickly also full of sex – with very detailed descriptions. Although this frankness will likely make this book problematic in many school library settings, there is some positive messaging going on. For example, Trevor's mom makes it very clear to him that if he is planning on becoming sexually active with Caroline he needs to be extremely respectful of her, including open, honest discussions about sex and making sure she is comfortable and okay anytime their physical relationship starts to progress. A few other reviews have compared this book to Eleanor and Park, which on the surface maybe accurate, but this book doesn't come close to the

emotional punch of E & P. And, unfortunately the detailed sex scenes will make this hard for many libraries to stock. Grades 10+.

**Grades:** High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Hanuka, Asaf 1596436743 \$19.99 149 p.

***The Divine*** First Second, 2015

After losing out on a promotion, Mark, who now needs money to support a pregnant wife, takes Jason up on an offer to go to Quanlom for a "black ops" operation to blow up a large cave in the heart of the jungle.

Jason is a bigoted, violent man and can only focus on the destruction even when a child is found near the explosion site, injured and crying. Mark rescues the child and after tending to him, takes him "home" to a jungle village run by orphaned kids who say they are cared for by "The Divine" a dragon with magical abilities and the ability to imbue the children with various powers.

Mark is taken captive by the orphans and tortured until he agrees to stop the destruction of what turns out to be the dragon's cave, but fails when Jason blows the cave, apparently nullifying the dragon's power, then captures the now "normal" children. All helicopter away from the scene.

Of course, the dragon attacks, forcing the helicopter to crash. Jason leaves the children, chained to the helicopter to die, but Mark chases after him to get the key to free the children. They fight, Mark kills Jason and frees the children whose powers return. They give Mark a small statue as a gift and we learn that Quanlom's government is cracking down on similar black-ops activities.

Although it has received some acclaim, I found the story disturbing. The dialog was excessively masculinized, with a good degree of bigotry, sexist language and violent descriptions mixed within rather infantile conversations. The artwork was probably the only impressive feature about this graphic novel, yet even that went "over-the-top" with violence, blood and gore. The children in this novel were modeled after much older, haggard soldiers and they behaved more as psychopathic adults than children--which might have been by design to move the storyline, yet really made the entire feel one of disgust and repugnance. I would NOT recommend this book for ages under high school.

**Grades:** High School, Adult

Lisa Carlson, Mt Rainier HS Library

Kraus, Daniel 978-1-4814-1139-4 \$18.99 656 p.

***The Death and Life of Zebulon Finch: Volume One: At the Edge of Empire*** Simon & Schuster, 2015

Gilded Age gangster lives out the first half of the 20th century as a kind of zombie. Zebulon Finch is sick of his privileged but lonely life with his strict mother in 1890's Chicago. He deserts her to become a street gangster, enjoying the violence while finding comfort in the arms of a prostitute, but his hubris gets him shot by an unknown assailant. Yet after sinking

to the bottom of Lake Michigan, he wakes up to discover himself in the hands of freak show. As he reawakens to his situation and to people, he begins to slowly understand his previous errors. After a violent and dramatic exit from the freak show, he finds refuge with a young doctor who is quickly becoming a mad scientist. At this point, 221 pages in, I got completely grossed out (and I'm not squeamish) and fed up with the writing style, plot, and characters. The entire thing is written in the style of a 19th century novel, which can be accessible for some teen readers, but I'm not convinced anything else about the book would sustain their interest.

**Grades:** High School, Adult  
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

### NONFICTION -- RECOMMEND

Agard, John (ill. by Neil Packer) 978-0-7636-7236-2 \$16.99 131 p.

**Book: *My Autobiography*** Candlewick Press, 2015

A brief and affectionate guide to the history of written word. "My name is Book and I'll tell you the story of my life." Yes, Book drolly narrates the history of storytelling that became the printed word. In brief chapters, it takes us from oral storytelling, through the invention of alphabets and the use of clay, papyrus, and vellum, all the way to e-books. It's a fast read with well-spaced lines interspersed with plenty of wood-block style images and quotes on reading from throughout history. It is a pleasant introduction for those unfamiliar with the history of books and an amusing love letter for those who are, making it a nice gift for bibliophiles.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult  
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Annis, Matt 978-1-59920-913-5 \$27.82 46 p.

***Performing Live*** Smart Apple Media, 2016

Very engaging series. I reviewed both Performance Live and The Music Industry. Both provide snap shop information for a variety of elements within each title/subject. Excellent layout, graphics, text features, table of contents, glossary, and index. Great information relayed in a colorful, bright and highly engaging format.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

Blofield, Robert 978-1-63322-012-6 \$12.95 64 p.

***How to Make a Movie in 10 Easy Lessons*** Walter Foster Jr. , 2015

In addition to How to Make a Movie, I also reviewed "How to Cook in 10 Easy Lessons", "How to Play Guitar in 10 Easy Lessons", and "How to Code in 10 Easy Lessons. All follow the same format: Introduction, Super Skill 1 through Super Skill 10, useful links, Glossary and Index. The layout is excellent and the format is colorful and engaging, full of eye-catching text features to increase comprehension.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High  
Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

Carson, Mary Kay 978-0-544-41664-2 \$18.99 79 p.

***Inside Biosphere 2: Earth Science Under Glass*** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Twenty-five years ago, Biosphere 2 was an experiment in self-sufficiency when it was occupied for two years by eight men and women. Since then, the structure and its micro-biomes have been used as a scientific control for experiments. This book is mostly focused on the science currently taking place at Biosphere 2 and at a second structure called The Landscape Evolution Observatory and The Critical Zone Observatory. This book is full of photos, quotes, and details about the research being done in these unique places. It includes a table of contents, index, bibliography, sources for additional info. I personally didn't find the book very engaging, which may be a factor of the wide range of places, scientists and types of research didn't allow for much in-depth coverage and flow of the contents.

**Grades:** Middle School

Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub

Carson, Mary Kay 9780544416642 \$18.9979 p.

***Inside Biospher2: Eart Science under glass*** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Biosphere 2 began as an engineering marvel and an experiment in creating a self-sustaining, closed biological system that could support a team of humans for two years. In 1993, when the original Biosphere 2 experiment ended amid controversy, few could have predicted what the future would hold for the research facility. While briefly addressing the original experiment and its triumphs and shortcomings, the author focuses on telling a compelling story of the scientific research being conducted at Biosphere 2 today and the importance of that work in understanding our biosphere: the planet Earth. Stunning photographs, clear and colorful graphics, and illuminating insets enhance the appeal, and direct quotes from the Biosphere 2 scientists are liberally incorporated throughout. Recommended for MS certainly and HS where lower reading level materials are needed.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Cooke, Tim (editor) 9781781212295 \$37.1048 p.

***Causes and Outbreak*** Brown Bear Books, 2015

Causes and Outbreak is a world-wind look at the causes and the beginnings of WWII. This title focuses on how the treaties after WWI created discord and resentment among German, Italian, and Japanese leaders which, along with the rise of extreme political groups (communism, Nazism, and fascism), led to the outbreak of WWII. Hitler, in particular, was able to rise up the ranks and start invading lands. This book covers much of the beginning of the war, including German agreements with Italy and the Soviet Union, and invasions of Poland, France, and Scandinavia. Histories are covered in quick, short bursts, written at a higher level, making this series more appropriate for high school.

**Grades:** High School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

Cooke, Tim (editor) 9781781212325 \$37.1048 p.

***Home Fronts*** Brown Bear Books, 2015

Home Fronts offers a concise look at life on the home fronts during WWII. Chapters cover life in the US, life for the Allies, life for the Axis countries, the effects of occupation and

resistance, and the Holocaust. Also includes glossary and timeline. Histories are covered in quick, short bursts, written at a higher level, making this series more appropriate for high school.

**Grades:** High School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS

de Heer, Margreet 978-1-56163-994-6 \$17.99 119 p.

***Religion: A Discovery in Comics*** NBM, 2015

Excellent illustrated exploration of major world religions. With honesty and sincerity, comic artist Margreet de Heer uses a cartoon version of herself to walk us through the sources and major tenants of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. In the opening chapter, she discusses her roots as the daughter of ministers and a theology student, her own personal religious landscape, and acknowledges the feeling of “walking on eggshells” that come up when discussing religion. In the overview of each religion, she offers a brief history, a core practice or belief, and the “eggs” (i.e. difficult topics) that relate to that religion. In other chapters, she explores the stances of atheists vs fundamentalists, how religions measure up in their views on women, and the scientific study of religion in the brain. de Heer ends by sharing a circular model of searching-finding-embracing-questioning-rejecting that continues for herself as she thinks about religion. She also includes a helpful series of questions that can help a person figure out their beliefs, focusing on the treatment of others, yourself, and the environment. Combining both her personal experiences with facts about various religions and issues has resulted in book both informative and entertaining. Although the author is very respectful and makes an effort to be fair, conservative readers may be uncomfortable with her necessary brevity and image choices for each religion. This is a great introduction for teens (and adults) to consider the religious landscape. I personally made both my kids read it to become better informed.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School, Adult

Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Deem, James M. 978-0-544-09664-6 \$18.99 340 p.

***The Prisoners of Breendonk: Personal Histories from a World War II Concentration Camp*** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Breendonk was a Belgian fort taken over by the Nazis during WWII and used as a “reception camp” to house prisoners who were either to be released or transferred to concentration camps. Although less well known than other, larger camps, it was certainly as brutal. Author James Deem tells the stories of individual prisoners, often using personal narratives to describe the terrible treatment, starvation, overwork and torture that prisoners were forced to endure. Photographs of the prisoners as well as sketches by Jacques Ochs (who was imprisoned at Breendonk) of camp conditions and suffering are well chosen accompaniments to the text. By focusing on individual stories of the prisoners, Deem gives the reader a sense of horror and grief that a general overview about concentration camps may not convey. Recommended for high school students.

**Grades:** High School

Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Harris, Tim, ed. 9781781210796 \$41.00 64 p.

***The world of endangered animals: Africa*** Brown Bear Books, 2014

This encyclopedic series gives detailed information about a wide range of endangered animals. Front and back matter explains the context and threat levels, while two dozen spreads each feature an excellent photograph, packed paragraphs of text, and a data panel for a single animal such as Siberia's Baikal seal. Though the theme is inherently cautionary, conservation measures are also documented. Reading list, websites, glossary, and index. At \$41.00 retail (\$31.01 at Mackin) it's still a pretty steep price but purchase if needed.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Harris, Tim, ed. 9781781210758 \$41.00 64 p.

***World of endangered Animals: North and South America*** Brown Bear Books, 2014

This encyclopedic series gives detailed information about a wide range of endangered animals. Front and back matter explains the context and threat levels, while two dozen spreads each feature an excellent photograph, packed paragraphs of text, and a data panel for a single animal such as Siberia's Baikal seal. Though the theme is inherently cautionary, conservation measures are also documented. Reading list, websites, glossary, and index. At \$41.00 retail (\$31.01 at Mackin) it's still a pretty steep price but purchase if needed.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

January, Brendan 9781467725170 \$28.00 96 p.

***Information insecurity: privacy under seige*** Twenty-First Century Books, 2016

As our digital footprint continues to grow, more and more information about our lives—be it where we are, to whom we're talking, or what we're buying—is being collected, analyzed, and stored online. In this slim yet compact book, the author discusses, in a straightforward, thought-provoking fashion, the various aspects of the Internet privacy debate, including individual rights and ownership of digital data, as well as how to safeguard personal details. Balancing the opinions of legal authorities and technology experts with concrete evidence, the author presents a strong case for greater digital security yet acknowledges the difficulties in doing so. Because laws governing digital privacy issues have not caught up with the constantly changing world of technology, the rights of citizens, the point is made that we are in a legal gray area. Numerous examples, captioned photographs, and informative sidebars support and advance the pro-privacy arguments, while an extensive "Source Notes" section documents the sheer volume of information available on the topic. I believe this is an essential purchase given the amount of data collection that is present in our students' lives.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus HS Library

Krull, Kathleen, ill. by Anna Divito 978-0-06-235231-6 \$16.99 217 p.

***A Kids' Guide to America's Bill of Rights*** Harper, 2015

An updated and revised version of a 1999 publication about the bill of rights written in easy to read and understand language. Illustrated with black & white line drawings (some very entertaining!) with explanatory captions and loads of sidebars, this is really a great

choice for a school library. Chapters focus on each section of the Bill of Rights providing historical context & an overview, Supreme Court decisions, and many, many examples including some that will resonate directly with students – free speech & student newspapers, student athletes & drug testing, Netflix & unwarranted searches, corporal punishment & “cruel and unusual”. Very readable. One caveat – the newsprint paper used to print this book is pretty flimsy – this is probably not a book that will hold up to multiple checkouts. Nevertheless, recommended for grades 5 & up

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Morel, Olivier            1561639826 \$24.99 112 p.

***Walking Wounded: Uncut stories from Iraq***    Nantier, Beall, Minoustchine, 2013

Author Olivier Morel made documentary *On the Bridge* (2010)

This book follows prominent characters from the film but in a more subjective manner.

Broken into sectional chapters, the story moves between present and past discernible by panel colors. Black and white is the “now”, sepia tones the past, the mingling of both when the past superimposes itself onto the present.

Morel takes the reader into the world of the young men and women who went to Iraq, most for noble reasons, only to discover that war made them do things to other human beings they could not forgive themselves for. Many committed suicide (between 3 and 22 a day), others take to alcohol, drugs or solitary lives to combat their pain and attempt to forget. But, this is not a story about forgetting. It's a story about seeing something for what it is and facing up to it.

Morel himself begins to experience a version of PTSD as he is immersed in the lives and deaths of these soldiers. By the end of the book, Morel has provided us an unfiltered look at how broken these veterans are, but hope remains. Ryan, who is introduced near the beginning of the book, appears once more as Morel goes into the desert at Ryan's request and then asked to shoot pictures. As Ryan stands on the ledge of a cliff, Morel panics thinking that he's about to capture a suicide on film. But, the veteran only turns and takes off his shirt revealing a tattoo emblazoned across his shoulder and upper back--the only actual photo in the book--two bloody hands, up-turned, horrified, with the caption “Forgive me for I have sinned.”

The art is done in black and white and sepia-toned watercolors and ink with significant details that give the book an almost surreal feel about it, as if someone is recalling memories that are uncomfortable and way too vivid. The non-dialog font is that of a journalist or war correspondent from Vietnam, and that with much of the content does push the reader into seeing many similarities between the two. There is no “plot” per se, and at first this can lead to some confusion about where the book is going. However, after realizing that Morel was not really telling a single story, but that of an archetype of veterans who have gone through this experience, it began to solidify. There is nothing straightforward about war, and the horrors soldiers can carry with them about their part in war, and this graphic novels does a remarkable job at demonstrating this in few pages.



Highly recommended for middle through high school, but some caution for younger students.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult  
Lisa Carlson, Mt Rainier HS Library

Murphy, Jim 978-0-547-82183-2 \$18.99 130 p.

***Breakthrough! How Three People Saved "Blue Babies" and Changed Medicine Forever***  
Clarion Books, 2015

Two doctors and one medical researcher pioneer and perfect groundbreaking surgery to save the lives of babies born with a congenital heart defect. As in his book on tuberculosis, Murphy again combines landmarks in medical history and the social and ethical issues of medicine in a balanced, gripping, and compulsively readable story.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Samanci, Ozge 9780374316983 \$16.99 190 p.

***Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey*** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015

How much do outsiders know about the country of Turkey? Here, a professor from Northwestern University tells what it was like to grow up in Turkey. She follows her early life, starting in 1981 (before she started school), and ends during college as she looks toward a professional path. Graphic novels are an evocative medium for memoir, and Samanci uses the strengths of visual storytelling to great effect. Her thesis was on using comics in the digital context, and this is clearly a thoughtful work. Her own drawings are cartoonish in a slightly silly way, and she integrates those drawings with elements of collage. There are no panel borders – instead, the images float on white pages. She uses color sparingly -- for instance, to make her blonde head stand out in a crowd scene – and keeps the pages alive with a wide variety of layouts. Her story is a very personal one, in the vein of Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* and Zeina Abirached's *A Game for Swallows*, but she does take time to reflect on some of the larger issues affecting her world, such as governmental elections and the educational system. This is an important story, and one which will be essential in public libraries, particularly given its relevance to current headlines. In the school context, it may be best suited to high school libraries, due to some of the author's experiences and the scope of this story.

**Grades:** High School, Adult  
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

## NONFICTION – SHRUG

Adams, Simon 978-1-60992-770-7 \$15.95 80 p.

***50 Things You Should Know About: The Second World War*** QEB Publishing, Inc., 2015

Very visually appealing with a wonderful table of contents. The book provides a snapshot of leaders in power on both the Allied and Axis sides during the war, along with a very brief overview of major events during the war. I do see the book appealing to reluctant readers. However, the one major issue I have with it is the lack of source notes.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Richele Buoy/Kent Phoenix Academy

Baxter, Jack 9781596438576 \$22.99 189 p.

***Mike's Place: a True Story of Love, Blues, and Terror in Tel Aviv*** First Second, 2015

A filmmaker travels to Tel Aviv seeking a new angle on the region's conflicts, and happens into a bar where folks of all races and religions not only get served, but get along. Deciding he has found the perfect subject for his documentary, Jack starts interviewing employees and regulars of the bar. But before he can finish the documentary, terrorists bomb the bar. This graphic novel provides readers with a good sense of what it is like to be an ordinary person living in this volatile environment, and surviving the aftermath of terrorism. However, there are no teen characters, and is riddled with adult concerns and affairs, which while sometimes occasionally titillating, fail to make this the high interest book it aims to be.

**Grades:** High School, Adult

Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries

Kaplan, Arie 978-1-4677-5252-7 \$33.32 72 p.

***Swashbuckling Scoundrels: Pirates in Fact and Fiction*** Twenty-First Century Books, 2015

While an entertaining and informative read, I don't necessarily see this book as must-add to your library. I did like that the author included: Source Notes, Glossary, Selected Bibliography, and For Further Information – which provided a list of books, websites, and films to check-out. If you have students asking for books about pirates or extra funds, I would recommend splurging on this book.

**Grades:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Richele Buoy/Kent Phoenix Academy

Lee, Tony 763676136 \$21.99 112 p.

***Messenger: the legend of Joan of Arc, a graphic novel*** Candlewick Press, 2014

Follows the typical story of Joan of Arc. Starts at her trial for heresy by Britian's allies. Moves to the past as Jehanne of Domremy, her father a local constable, receives her first of many messages from a divine light which warns her of a village raid by Burgundians, British allies. The raid is thwarted and Jehanne is directed by the voices to prepare the way for the Dauphin to be crowned king of France in Reims and end the British hold on France once and for all.

Jehanne makes many attempts to get her message to the Dauphin, but is thwarted repeatedly by clergy, and mid-level officials along the way. Finally, she is directed to don the armor and appearance of a warrior, complete with claiming the lost sword of St. Catherine of Fierbois. She now declares herself Joan.

She is nearly killed in battle and her survival, along with her talent at strategy, are considered evidence of her divine favor. Her eccentricities (armor, charging into battle, hearing voices) give the French soldiers hope on the battlefield and they begin their march toward Reims where the Dauphin is finally coronated as King Charles VII. Unfortunately, the new king has no stomach for continuing the fight and believes the war can come to an end by treaty. Joan believes this is foolish and continues her push to free Paris from British

control. She fails and is captured by Burgundians still loyal to the British, and tries to escape when she hears they are negotiating to turn her over to the British.

King Charles distances himself from Joan and she is put on trial for heresy in Rouen where an equal number of British and French attend the proceedings. She is found guilty and sentenced to burn.

The art work is done with vibrant, yet dark hues. Lines are often thin and rough. At times it appears as if wetness has been spattered on the page, and close-ups show the grit and grime on the characters' faces. This creates an intensity and mood that fits well with the story arc. The writing is not as impressive as the imagery--it just seems contrived in places to me, with Joan never doubting her mission, or the Dauphin's intent. Obviously, it would be difficult to check on the accuracy of the conversations had in this fictionalized account, but they did seem to me, rather adolescent. Which is, perhaps why this book is meant for teens.

**Grades:** Junior High, High School, Adult

**Comments:** Unpaginated.

Lisa Carlson, Mt Rainier HS Library