



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW

GROUP

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: September 16, 2016

*Issue: 114
September 2016*

WASHRAG

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WASHYARGers:

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

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

All doors are locked until 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 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:

Anne Dame
Einstein Middle School
19343 3rd Ave NW
Shoreline WA 98177

REMINDERS

MEETING LOCATION:

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

2016-17 MEETING DATES:

- *September 16*
- *December 9*
- *March 3*
- *May 5*

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:

Anne Dame
Einstein Middle School
19343 3rd Ave NW
Shoreline WA 98177

Please make checks payable to WashYARG.

2016-17 MEETINGS

- *September 16*
- *December 9*
- *March 3*
- *May 5*

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

* Please indicate home or work for contact info.

Titles Taken for Review – May 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
- * Next to a title indicates it is a BFYA NOMINEE or WINNER with **

FICTION

◆ Ahiers, Sarah <i>Assassin's Heart</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-236378-7 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	420 p.
* Alexander, Kwame <i>Booked</i> Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	978-0544570986 HMH, 2016	\$16.99	314 p.
* Alexander, Sarah <i>The Art of Not Breathing</i> Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9780544633889 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016	\$17.99	278 p.
Angleberger, Tom <i>Rocket and Groot</i> (ARC) <u>Comments:</u> Elementary level Devon Abejo, KCLS	978-1-4847-3537-4 Marvel, 2016	\$13.99	224 p.
Armstrong, Kelley <i>Forest of Ruin</i> , Age of Legends #3 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9780062071309 Harper, 2016	\$17.99	436 p.
Arnold, Elana K. <i>Far From Fair</i> Gretchen Oates, Kamiakin Middle School	9780544602274 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016	\$16.99	229 p.
Atwood, Megan <i>Stay in the Game</i> , The Contest #1 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9781467775069 Darby Creek, 2016	\$26.95	98 p.
Baker, Chandler	9781250058744	\$17.99	325 p.

<i>Teen Frankenstein</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2016		
Balak <i>The Show</i> , Last Man #4 (GN) Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries	978-1-62672-049-7 First Second, 2016 US	\$9.99	207 p.
Bancks, Tristan <i>On the Run</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-374-30153-8 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$16.99	227 p.
Bardugo, Leigh <i>Six of Crows</i> Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School Nickie Travis, Renton School District	9781627792127 Henry Holt, 2015	\$18.99	465 p.
Benjamin, Brooks <i>My Seventh Grade Life in Tights</i> Jackie Lockwood, KCLS	9780553512502 Delacorte, 2016	\$16.99	293 p.
Bennett, Jenn <i>The Anatomical Shape of the Heart</i> Nickie Travis, Renton School District Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School	9781250066459 Feiwel & Friends, 2015	\$17.99	304 p.
Benoit, Charles <i>Snow Job</i> Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	978-0544318861 Clarion, 2016	\$17.99	274 p.
Bird, Faye <i>My Second Life</i> Devon Abejo, KCLS	978-0-374-34886-1 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	p.
Blake, Ashley Herring <i>Suffer Love</i> Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub Librarian	978-0-544-59632-0 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016	\$17.99	344 p.
Bodeen, S. A. <i>The Detour</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-1-250-05554-5 Feiwel & Friends, 2015	\$17.99	215 p.
Bosworth, Jennifer <i>The Killing Jar</i> Devon Abejo, KCLS Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-374-34137-4 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	346 p.

Brennan, Sarah Rees <i>Tell the Wind and Fire</i> Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library	9780544318175 Clarion, 2016	\$17.99	360 p.
Buxbaum, Julie <i>Tell Me Three Things</i> Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9780553535648 Delacorte, 2016	\$17.99	328 p.
*Calame, Don <i>Dan vs. Nature</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-7636-7071-9 Candlewick Press, 2016	\$17.99	375 p.
Carter, Caela <i>My Life with the Liars</i> Heather Nelson, McKnight MS	62385712 Harper Collins, 2016	\$16.99	288 p.
*Cavallarro, Brittany <i>A Study in Charlotte</i> Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School	978-0-06-239890-1 Katherine Tegan Books, 2016	\$17.99	321 p.
Chima, Cinda Williams <i>Flamecaster</i> , Shattered Realms Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	978-0062380944 Harper Teen, 2016	\$18.99	544 p.
Cooper, Constance <i>Guile</i> Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School	9780544451711 Clarion, 2016	\$17.99	376 p.
Duffy, Chris editor <i>Fable Comics</i> (GN) Sarah Hunt, KCLS	978-1-62672-107-4 First Second, 2015	\$19.99	124 p.
Ellen, Tom and Lucy Ivison <i>A Totally Awkward Love Story</i> Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School	9780553537321 Delacorte, 2014	\$17.99	305 p.
Fitzgerald, Sarah Moore ◆ <i>The Apple Tart of Hope</i> Heather Nelson, McKnight MS	1444006924 Orion, 2014	\$16.95	172 p.
Friedman, Aimee <i>Two Summers</i> (ARC) Heather Nelson, McKnight MS	545518075 Point, 2016	\$17.99	368 p.

*Garvin, Jeff <i>Symptoms of Being Human</i> Nickie Travis, Renton School District	62382861 Balzer + Bray, 2016	\$17.99	352 p.
Gibaldi, Lauren <i>The Night We Said Yes</i> Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School	9780062302199 Harper Collins, 2015	\$17.99	304 p.
Green, Tim <i>Home Run</i> , A Baseball Great novel Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-6-231711-7 Harper, 2016	\$16.99	343 p.
Grogan, Shannon <i>From Where I Watch You</i> Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School	9780062302199 Soho Press, 2015	\$18.99	304 p.
Hattermer, Kate <i>The Land of 10,000 Madonnas</i> Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School	9780385391573 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$17.99	342 p.
*Heilig, Heidi <i>The Girl from Everywhere</i> Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	978-0062380753 Greenwillow, 2016	\$17.99	464 p.
Hoffmeister, Peter Brown <i>This Is the Part Where You Laugh</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School	9780553538106 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$17.99	327 p.
Hudson, Tara <i>Elegy</i> Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School	9760062026811 HarperTeen, 2013	\$17.99	386 p.
Jones, Ena <i>Clayton Stone, Facing Off</i> (ARC) Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-8234-3648-4 Holiday House, 2016	\$16.95	224 p.
Jones, Patrick <i>Friend or Foe</i> Unbarred Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9781512400052 Darby Creek, 2016	\$24.95	112 p.
Jordan, Sophie <i>Reign of Shadows</i> Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School	9780062377647 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	292 p.
Jude, Sarah	9780544640412	\$17.99	286 p.

<i>The May Queen Murders</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School Devon Abejo, KCLS	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016		
Keil, Melissa <i>The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-1-56145-905-6 Peachtree, 2016 US	\$17.95	296 p.
Kelly, Nikki <i>Gabriel</i> , Styclar Saga #2 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-1-250-05153-0 Feiwel & Friends, 2015	\$17.99	375 p.
Kendall, Grace, editor <i>I See Reality: Twelve Short Stories About Real Life</i> Sarah Hunt, KCLS	978-0-374-30258-0 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	290 p.
Kerbel, Deborah <i>Feathered</i> <u>Comments</u> : Elementary level Jackie Lockwood, KCLS Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-1-77138-341-7 Kids Can Press, 2016	\$15.95	143 p.
Key, Watt <i>Terror at Bottle Creek</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-374-37430-3 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$15.99	208 p.
Klass, David <i>Losers Take All</i> Heather Nelson, McKnight MS	374301360 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$17.99	320 p.
Klein, Jen <i>Shuffle Repeat</i> Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-553-50982-3 Random House, 2016	\$17.99	326 p.
Knight, Eric <i>Lassie, Come Home</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9781627793216 Henry Holt, 1940/2015, 75th Anniversary Ed.	\$19.99	248 p.
Landers, Melissa <i>Starflight</i> Nickie Travis, Renton School District	484723244 Disney-Hyperion, 2016	\$17.99	p.
Lane, Andrew <i>Knife Edge</i> , The Legend Begins Sherlock Holmes	978-0-374-38011-3 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2013	\$18.99	312 p.

Bethany Steirer, RHMS

Leck, James <i>After Dark</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-1-77138-344-8 KCP Fiction, 2015	\$7.95	252 p.
Lowitz, Leza <i>Up From the Sea</i> Heather Nelson, McKnight MS	553534742 Crown Books for Young Readers, 2016	\$17.99	257 p.
McGovern, Cammie <i>Just My Luck</i> Gretchen Oates, Kamiakin Middle School	9780062330659 Harper Collins, 2016	\$16.99	228 p.
McNamee, Graham <i>Defender</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-553-49895-0 Wendy Lamb Books, 2016	\$17.99	227 p.
McNeal, Laura <i>The Incident on the Bridge</i> JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School	978-0-375-87079-8 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$17.99	326 p.
Meyer, Marissa <i>Winter</i> Lunar Chronicles #4 Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS	9780312642983 Feiwel & Friends, 2015	\$22.99	324 p.
Meyerhoff, Jenny <i>Attack of the Girlzillas</i> <u>Comments:</u> Elementary level Devon Abejo, KCLS	978-0-374-30524-6 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$14.99	265 p.
Miranda, Megan <i>The Safest Lies</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School	978-0-553-53751-2 Crown, 2016	\$17.99	359 p.
Morgan, Page <i>The Wonderous and the Wicked</i> , Dispossessed trilogy Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library	9780385743150 Delacorte, 2015	\$18.99	341 p.
Morpurgo, Michael <i>Listen to the Moon</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9781250042040 Feiwel & Friends, 2015	\$16.99	338 p.

Needell, Claire <i>The Word for Yes</i> Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School	9780062360496 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	242 p.
O'Brien, Caragh M. <i>The Rule of Mirrors</i> , The Vault of Dreamers #2 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS Dawn Lindgren, Cascade MS	978-1-59643-940-5 Roaring Brook, 2016	\$17.99	418 p.
Preller, James <i>The Fall</i> Heather Nelson, McKnight MS Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-312-64301-0 Feiwel & Friends, 2015	\$16.99	196 p.
Price, Charlie <i>Dead Investigation</i> Devon Abejo, KCLS	978-0-374-30227-6 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$18.99	324 p.
Ray, Delia <i>Finding Fortune</i> Devon Abejo, KCLS	978--0-374-300065-4 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$16.99	272 p.
Redwine, C. J. <i>The Shadow Queen</i> , Ravenspire #1 Heather Nelson, McKnight MS	62360248 Balzer + Bray, 2016	\$17.99	387 p.
Reichardt, Marisa <i>Underwater</i> Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library	9780374368869 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	282 p.
Sales, Leila <i>Tonight the Streets Are Ours</i> Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9780374376659 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$17.99	342 p.
Sanlavage, Michael <i>The Case</i> , Last Man #3 (GN) Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library	9781626720480 First Second, 2013	\$9.99	207 p.
Savage, Kim <i>After the Woods</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-0-374-30055-5 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	294 p.
Sepahban, Lois <i>Paper Wishes</i> Aarene Storms, KCLS	978-0-374-30216-0 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$16.99	181 p.

Smith, Alexander Gordon <i>The Devil's Engine: Hellraisers</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-374-30169-9 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015	\$17.99	342 p.
Smith, Lindsay <i>Dream Strider</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-1-62672-042-8 Roaring Brook, 2015	\$17.99	391 p.
Snow, Carol <i>The Last Place on Earth</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-1-62779-039-0 Henry Holt, 2016	\$16.99	298 p.
Springer, Kristina ◆<i>Cici Reno #MiddleSchoolMatchMaker</i> , Yoga Girl #1 (ARC) Sterling Children's Books, 2016 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS	978-1-4549-1751-9	\$14.95	174 p.
Taylor, Janet <i>Into the Dim</i> Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	978-0544602007 HMH, 2016	\$17.99	432 p.
Thomas, Kara <i>The Darkest Corners</i> Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	978-0553521450 Delacorte, 2016	\$17.99	336 p.
Toten, Teresa <i>Beware That Girl</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-553-50790-4 Delacorte, 2016	\$17.99	317 p.
Varon, Sara <i>Sweaterweather: & Other Short Stories</i> Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	9781626721180 (GN) First Second, 2016	\$19.99	125 p.
*Wallace, Kali <i>Shallow Graves</i> Devon Abejo, KCLS	978-0-06-236620-7 Katherine Tegan Books, 2016	\$17.99	358 p.
Walters, Eric <i>Will To Survive</i> The Rule of Three #3 Bethany Steirer, RHMS JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	978-0-374-30181-1 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	310 p.
Wass, Eliza <i>The Cresswell Plot</i> (ARC)	978-1-4847-3043-0 Hyperion, 2016	\$17.99	272 p.

Devon Abejo, KCLS

Watkins, Steve 978-0-7636-7155-6 \$17.99 245 p.
Great Falls Candlewick Press, 2016
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

West, Hannah 978-0-8234-3551-4 \$17.95 355 p.
Kingdom of Ash and Briars (ARC) Holiday House , 2016
Devon Abejo, KCLS

West, Kasie 545850975 \$17.99 336 p.
PS: I Like You (ARC) Point, 2016
Nickie Travis, Renton School District
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Woods, Darcy 9780553537048 \$17.99 340 p.
Summer of Supernovas Crown, 2016
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Yovanoff, Brenna 9780553522631 \$17.99 372 p.
Places No One Knows Delacorte, 2016
Jodi Kruse, R A. Long High School

Zhang, Amy 9780062383044 \$17.99 287 p.
This Is Where the World Ends Greenwillow, 2016
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

NON-FICTION

Blumenthal, Karen 978-1-250-06014-3 \$18.99 370 p.
Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History Feiwel & Friends, 2016
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Coy, John 978-1-250-04944-5 \$14.39 131 p.
For Extreme Sports Crazy Boys Only Feiwel & Friends, 2015
Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

Furstinger, Nancy 978-0-544-65031-2 \$16.99 178 p.
Mercy: the incredible story of Henry Berch, founder of the ASPCA...
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016
Aarene Storms, KCLS

Le Roy, A. Dan 9781681120256 \$19.99 88 p.
Thoreau; a sublime life (GN) English translation by Peter Russella NBM, 2016
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Newquist, HP	978-0-312-59321-6	\$18.99	148 p.
<i>Abracadabra : the story of magic through the ages</i> Henry Holt, 2015			
Devon Abejo, KCLS Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library			
O'Connor, George	9781626720169	\$17.99	77 p.
<i>Apollo; the brilliant one</i> , Olympians (GN) First Second, 2016			
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School			
O'Shaughnessy, Tam	978-1-59643-994-8	\$19.99	154 p.
<i>Sally Ride: A Photobiography of America's Pioneering Woman in Space</i>			
Roaring Brook, 2015 Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub Librarian			
Pinkney, Andrea Davis	978-1-59643-973-3	\$22.99	160 p.
<i>Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound</i> Roaring Brook, 2015			
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School			
Verlag, S. Fischer	978-1-250-1-566-0	\$12.99	237 p.
<i>Minecraft by Concrafter: An Unofficial Guide with New Facts and Commands</i> (ARC)			
Feiwel & Friends, 2015 Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School			
Wicks, Maris	1626722773	\$19.99	233 p.
<i>Human Body Theater</i> (GN) First Second, 2015			
Brooke Shoostine			

Titles Reviewed – May 2016

FICTION - RECOMMEND

Acioli, Socorro 9780553537925 \$16.99 181 p.
The Head of the Saint Delacorte Press, 2016

On her deathbed, Samuel's mother asks him to light candles at the feet of three saints. This request sends Samuel on a journey on foot, which will lead him to an ill-fated village. He finds shelter in the fallen head of a statue of a saint. And soon, he discovers that he can hear the prayers of certain people in the village in that head. This story is true magical realism and translated from the Portuguese by Daniel Hahn. The author worked with magical realism pioneer Gabriel García Márquez as she developed the story. There are religious and more mature references not often present in American Young Adult literature. As such, it may have difficulty gaining broad popularity. However, it is an excellent, relatively slim example of the genre, and thus may find a place on a many public, middle school, and high school library shelves.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Aguirre, Anne 9781250024664 \$17.99 384 p.
Public Enemies, The Immortal Games #2 Feiwel and Friends, 2015

In Book 2 of the Immortal Games Trilogy, Edie has gotten her revenge on those who made her life miserable and drove her to the point of suicide. But her deal with the Immortal Ones came with a high price tag. The revenge was more brutal than she imagined and her boyfriend Kian bargained his life for her protection. However, the Immortals have little care for humans; their eternal life has made them bored and callous - which is a dangerous combination. Edie is desperate to rework her bargain and save her boyfriend Kian's life. The world-building in this series, a world that takes our ancient beliefs and worst nightmares and gives them life right alongside poor mortals, is detailed and intriguing. I was constantly trying to figure out how each creature related to myth or legend. This is not a stand-alone; the characters and alliances are too complex to pick up midstream. But I will read book three to see how it all ends. Sex, not explicit or on the page. Some language and some pretty intense violence.

Age Level: High School
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Ahiers, Sarah 978-0062363787 \$19.99 437 p.
Assassin's Heart Harper Teen, 2016

Lea Saldana comes from a family of assassins, which is allowed in this city. Her family is the pre-eminent one, but they are weakened after a plague. Another family makes a move on them and wipes out everyone but Lea and her disgraced uncle, who lives in another city. She goes to see him, chased the whole way by assassins who want to end her family line. There, she gathers what she needs to exact revenge on the Da Via family that hurt her so badly. Recommended for 7th-12th

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Amato, Mary 978-0-8234-3553-1 \$16.95 269 p.
Our Teacher is a Vampire and Other (Not) True Stories (ARC) Holiday House, 2016

An elementary student brings the blank book he's been given to class, and passes it around, saying he'll write the story of their teacher's secret, asking the others to write notes back in it. It turns out their teacher is not a vampire, and the book becomes a vehicle for their efforts at writing. Their correspondence with one of their appreciated authors encourages them through the obstacles of their teacher's absence (and premature childbirth) and the ensuing substitute teacher. Various writing tips are scattered throughout. The children are a little precocious and positive for elementary school, and there seem to be only about ten students in the class. This does allow them distinct characters; to some extent, each represents a single dominant idea or emotion. Each gets a representative font, some harder to read than others. A virtual author visit is the culminating surprise as they become regular writers of short stories. Specific technology products get mentioned (smartboard, Skype), which may not be familiar to all readers. Cute, possibly encouraging to young aspiring writers. Because this was an ARC the illustrations were mostly unseen (not included).

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, Too young for YA
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Aveyard, Victoria 978-0-06-2311066-8 \$19.99 444 p.
Glass Sword, Red Queen #2 Harper Teen, 2016

This 2nd book in the dystopian Red Queen series (where your blood color of silver or red determines your station in life) picks up just after heroine Mare Barrow, who was betrothed to Prince Maven, was brutally betrayed by him and nearly killed. She has now escaped with the help of the Scarlet Guard rebellion, led by Farley. Soon these rebels are on an action-packed adventure travelling on an undertrain, a submarine and an amazing aircraft to track down all the newbloods on a secret list to warn them that they are being hunted by Maven and if the newbloods join the Scarlet Guard, they'll be safe and can join the fight. Otherwise, Maven will just kill them or torture them to find out their powers. Conveniently, each newblood they recruit to their side just happens to have the most essential skill that they need, such as powers of invisibility or ability to change form. Teens who loved book one will enjoy this one, but I personally found it boring and disjointed at times, with Mare's behavior making her seem too selfish too care about. This book ends with Mare in deep danger, keeping those interested hanging on for book three.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Barnaby, Hannah 9780553539639 \$17.99 293 p.
Some of the Parts Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

When Tallie's older brother dies in a car accident, their whole family is thrown into a tailspin. The grieving process is especially difficult for Tallie as she was driving the car when it hydroplaned. Matters are made worse when she finds out that her brother was an organ donor and now there are parts of him in other people. She decides to try to track them down as a way to regain some perspective.

Carter, Ally 978-0-545-065484-5 \$17.99 323 p.
See How They Run, Embassy Row #2 Scholastic, 2016

Grace Blakely is beginning to adjust to the fact that she is the one who fired the shot that killed her mother, not the “Scarred Man” she has feared for so many years. But life in the US Embassy in Adria has not been the same since the Ambassador’s assistant, Ms. Chancellor, shot the British Prime Minister. Everyone is saying it was a heart attack, including Ms. Chancellor, but Grace knows the truth. Her brother has even arrived supposedly on leave from West Point to check on Grace. When his friend Spence turns up dead, and the Russian ambassador’s son (Alexie) is accused of the murder, Grace begins to suspect many more secrets lie inside the walls of Embassy Row.

Although these books first resembled *The Princess Diaries*, they have evolved into a sort of teen *DaVinci Code* complete with unexplained murders, disappearances, and secret societies with ties to a 200 year old mystery. Sometimes a bit predictable, but the action is swift and the characters appealing. I was really rooting for Grace & Alexie and felt so sad for her brother Jamie who is clearly just trying to protect his sister but doesn’t really understand the situation. Even the minor characters (with the exception of Grace’s grandfather) are fully fleshed out. There are several twist and turns that sometimes surprised even me. Of course, this episode ends with a “shocking” revelation that sets up book #3. A fun action/adventure recommended for grades 7-10.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Darnton, Kate 978-0-553-53504-4 \$16.99 217 p.
Chloe in India Delacorte Press, 2014

This story is about an American girl and the friendships she tries to form after her parents decide to uproot and move to New Delhi, India. The children attend a local private school, rather than an international school. The story begins three months into the move and is both a reflection back and a couple of months moving forward of the story. My own family recently spent two years in Singapore so I read this book through expat eyes. The author is also an expat who lived with her family in India for five years. There is no doubt in my mind that the experiences and feelings of the characters were based on the author’s real life experiences or on stories she heard from other expats. I liked the characters in the book with the exception of the mother who could be overly judgmental and ethnocentric in her opinions about the stratification of Indian society. This is a realistic story and the reader will learn about Indian culture, life and people.

Age Level: Middle School
Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub

Davis, Tanita 978055351281 \$17.99 278 p.
Peas and Carrots Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

Dess is a 15 year old who is being moved from a group home into a foster home because her half brother Austin, who is much younger than her has been placed with this family for a while. The twist to this story is that Dess is Caucasian and the Carter family she has been placed with is African American. The Carters have a daughter who is also 15 named Hope who is in every way the opposite of Dess. The story is told in alternate viewpoints, going

from Dess to Hope, giving two very different views on things. They do manage to find a middle ground towards the end and exist peacefully with each other, which is mostly for the sake of Austin the younger brother. This book is more than just about a girl who is in the system, there is more to Dess than that. It gives the view point of Hope the girl who now has someone the same age as her who is very hostile towards her living in her home, which I thought to be a unique narrative.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Devon Abejo, KCLS

The target audience for *Peas and Carrots* is middle schoolers. The novel tells how a troubled teenage foster child finds a home and friends. Dess is the daughter of a drug addict, and she wants to care for her little brother Austin. Austin is in a foster home with the wonderful Carter family, experienced experts at handling foster kids with sensitivity and care. When Dess joins the family, she has a chip on her shoulder, and a good reason to be paranoid about others. Hope Carter, a happy and obedient daughter in this African American family, wants to avoid Dess when they attend their well-off private high school together. Their clashes realistically expose their differences. Their differences are also shown in the narration: some chapters are in first person narrated by Dee, while others tell Hope's story in third person. The ending is warm and hopeful, but not sappy. I also liked how the book's characters were blacks and whites who disrupted racial stereotypes, and that racism was merely a footnote, not a central conflict.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Dinan, Kurt	9781492630142	\$6.96	340 p.
<i>Don't Get Caught</i> (ARC)	Sourcebooks, 2016		

Hilarious, thoughtful, and all about the cows. I enjoyed watching the flipping cows on the corner of every page almost as much as the delightful writing. I highly recommend this book for middle school and up. There are no drugs/drinking/sex. One of the characters makes sex jokes that are immature, and the main character refers to his attraction to a female character a few times, but it is in a very *Swim the Fly* way so that is why I think this book is okay for middle school. Max attends Ashville High where an infamous group called the Chaos Club pulls pranks and has never been caught or revealed. One day Max finds in his locker what he thinks is an invitation to join the club so he follows the meet up directions. 4 other teens are also there at the assigned spot, the water tower by the school, and wonder why they were recruited by the Chaos Club. Turns out they were set up to get caught, so they call themselves The Water Tower Five, and set out to expose and destroy the Chaos Club. My favorite prank is when the Water Tower Five hijack an aerial photo so that instead of the entire student body spelling "ASH PRIDE" when the plane flies over to take the picture the student body is in the shape of a male body part. And the Chaos Club manages at one point to get cows perched on the roof of the school, and also switches all the classroom doors so that on the morning of final exams no one can get into their classrooms. There are some tender moments and reflective episodes when Max, in his philosophy class, has a chance to wrestle with some essential questions about the meaning of life. I hope there is a sequel and I will be adding this and all the sequels to my collection. A gal from my book club read it and loved it.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult
Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School

Dumas, Firoozeh 978-0-544-61231-0 \$16.99 384 p.
It Ain't So Awful, Falafel (ARC) Clarion Books, 2016

In 1978, 11 year old Iranian Zomorod has decided that for middle school in her new California home she's going to go by Cindy and make more friends while her father is on assignment for the national oil company. The stories about feeling lost in a new town, having to serve as her reclusive mother's translator, and feeling left out because she's smart ring true and bittersweet; the long explanations of Persian culture and politics (the book covers the era of the revolution and hostage crisis) feel forced and stilted, like they're from a particularly wooden educational film. The friend storylines leaven a bit, but are also weak. It's nice to have a novel with an Iranian-American protagonist, but other than that I far preferred the author's excellent book of essays about her childhood, *Funny in Farsi*.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Egan, Catherine 978-0-553-52485-7 \$20.99 384 p.
Julia Vanishes, Witch's Child #1 (ARC) Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

Julia and her brother are orphans--left by their father when babies, their mother drowned as a witch when Julia was a child. Her brother suffered from a plague that has left him an invalid. Adopted by a crime boss, Julia learns to steal, break into homes, disguise herself. One thing she does well is "vanish"--she's always been able to not be seen, entering a different space where others cannot see her.

This talent has led her to a job as a house maid for Mrs. Och a strange old woman who keeps strange company. In her household, Julia (Ella) learns that Mrs. Och rescues witches. It turns out Mrs. Och is one of three extremely old and powerful beings that are embroiled in a family conflict that could mean death to everyone Julia knows and loves.

In her attempt to save a child from the very person she gave him up to, she discovers her own power to vanish is something much greater than she, or anyone else supposed.

Julia Vanishes is the first in the "Witch's Child" trilogy. It is unique in that it combines elements of a standard fantasy setting (i.e., magic, medieval social structures, etc.) with modern, early 20th Century technologies. It is not really steampunk, but the suggestions are present in items like electric carriages and mechanical lock-picking devices. Julia is a fairly well-balance female protagonist who, although somewhat amoral, has compassion for others and eventually decides that doing what is "right" is better than following some mythic thieves code. I am looking forward to the next two books since Julia's further development and eccentric powers promise advancement.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Farish, Terry 9781467774833 \$17.99 192 p.
Either the Beginning or the End of the World Lerner, 2015

Sofie has lived with her father and helped with his fishing business for most of her 17 years. She has few memories of her mother and wants to keep it that way. One day, she meets a young vet who has returned from Afghanistan. Luke is suffering from PTSD, but he responds to Sofie and her dog Pilot. However, her father wants her to have nothing to do with Luke. When Sofie's dad is forced to go to Chincoteague temporarily because the fish aren't running up north, he arranges for her mother and grandmother to stay with her. Sofie is outraged and even more inclined to spend time with Luke. Farish's chapters are short and her narrative is sparse. Many will consider it lyrical. (I found it annoying.) But Sofie's discovery of her mother and the story of her maternal family's lives in Cambodia and her feelings for Luke are compelling. In addition to the sparse prose, the character development is really uneven. But I think teens will like it even if I didn't.

Age Level: High School

Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Fitzgerald, Sarah Moore	978-0-8234-3561-6	\$16.95	154 p.
<i>The Apple Tart of Hope</i>	Holiday House, 2015 (U.S.)		

Our story, set in Ireland, opens with 14-year-old Oscar missing and most people thinking he killed himself by riding his bicycle off the small town's pier into the ocean. His mangled bike and shoes were found, but no body. When Oscar's best friend and next-door neighbor Meg hears this news, she's devastated, but unfortunately miles away as for the past six months she's been in New Zealand. At first inseparable, Oscar and Meg communicated by email daily, but then...things happened and now it's been weeks since Meg heard from Oscar. Upon returning home, Meg learns that much has changed, including the arrival of the most evil Paloma and her wicked mother. Only Meg and Oscar's younger brother, Stevie, believe that he's still alive so Meg sets out to find out what happened to Oscar, the special boy who baked the most excellent apple tarts that gave everyone who ate them the best feeling in the world...the feeling of hope. What could have happened in these past months to her sweet, optimistic best friend that makes everyone in town think he was so full of pain that he committed suicide? Told in alternating point-of-view chapters with the past and present interwoven between them, events become clear. Kids will love the mystery, romance, drama, friendship, family, and a few twists and turns. Sometimes those we love the most are full of their own painful secrets that just won't remain hidden--no matter how hard we try to conceal them.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Gemeinhart, Dan	978-0-545-66577-3	\$16.99	234 p.
<i>Some Kind of Courage</i>	Scholastic, 2016		

Set in the 1800s in Eastern Washington, Joseph Johnson is a young man surviving on his own. He has recently lost his family to illness and an accident, and now his family's beloved horse, Sarah, has been taken away from him. Joseph faces trial after trial in his quest to get back Sarah. Along the way he teams up with a Chinese boy, Ah-Kee, whom he forms a friendship with even though neither boy can speak the other's language. Each trial helps Joseph to learn more about family, perseverance, and seeing the good in others.

Longo, Jennifer 978-0-553-53767-3 \$17.99 355 p.
Up to this Pointe Random House, 2016

Kate and Harper (NOT like *To Kill a Mockingbird*) have had a plan all their lives. They will dance with Simone until they graduate from high school, audition for the San Francisco ballet, get a loft apartment together and become ballet stars in their home town. But now Harper is in Antarctica researching penguins. How did that happen?

Told in chapters that alternate between now in the research facility in Antarctica and 6 months ago in San Francisco, we learn what brought Harper to this point – the hard work and joy of ballet training, the heartbreak of failed auditions and misunderstandings between friends, and the reflection and epiphanies experienced in the quiet and dark near the South Pole. This is a sweet, sad, and finally uplifting story of a girl just trying to figure out who she is and her place in the world. Although the questions raised are ones faced by older teens and there are some sexual references and alcohol use, teens as young as 13 will relate to the pressures Harper is under to achieve her goals and meet the expectations of her parents, teacher, & best friend. Recommended for 8th grade and up.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Lowitz, Leza 978-0-553-53474-0 \$17.99 257 p.
Up from the Sea Crown, 2016

Just like 9/11 changed the U.S. forever, so does 3/11 for Japan. March 11, 2011 is when a 9.0 earthquake caused a massive tsunami that devastates Japan when it sweeps inland 5 miles and wipes out whole villages. Teen Kai is at school when it hits his small town. Fictional Kai tells his story novel-in-verse and describes the tsunami as a black monster which keeps trying to grab him and drag him under. Kai miraculously ends up surviving but few of his classmates and teachers survive the water and then they are faced with 7.1 earthquake aftershocks. When Kai cannot find his mother, he fears the worst, especially after learning his grandparents didn't survive. Kai's mother is Japanese and his father is American--but he left their family years ago and likely lives in New York. Kai hasn't seen him in 6 years. Many months later, Kai is invited to visit New York's Ground Zero with other Japanese orphans to meet grown-up kids who lost their parents in 9/11. Teens will be hooked at the start by the horrific trauma Kai experiences while surviving the tsunami's wild ride, and then stick around for the powerful emotional journey Kai travels while dealing with the loss of his family and wondering about his place in the future.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

MacMillan, Kathy 978-0-06-232461-0 \$17.99 376 p.
Sword and Verse Harper Teen, 2016

When Raisa was a child her Arnath village was invaded by Qilaran raiders. To protect her identity as a Learned One (those taught to read and write), she was hidden in another hut. This action certainly saved her life, but it didn't save her from slavery. As a slave in the Qilaran royal palace, Raisa has tried to stay under the radar as much as possible, but when an accident happens she finds herself at the mercy of the Prince. Luckily he is not as she expected. When she is chosen to be a palace tutor (one of the few allowed to learn to read

and write, only so they can teach the royals) she becomes dangerously close to him. But, the prince isn't the only one who wants Raisa, so does the Arnath resistance. She doesn't know whom to trust -- the resistance fighting for her people or the man she loves who claims he can make changes from within. Although the first in an intended series, this fantasy novel does stand on its own. This would be great to use for social commentary units given its focus on literacy and what happens when power controls knowledge and language. Plus it is adventurous and has romance. Recommend, grades 9+.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Manzer, Jenny 978-0-553-52126-9 \$17.99 263 p.
Save Me, Kurt Cobain Delacorte Press, 2016

Nico has been searching for answers since she was four years old when her mother abandoned her. Her father loves her, but he is not very open or affectionate and is too busy trying to provide for them to spend a lot of time with his daughter. Her father doesn't like to talk about his wife, but Nico has discovered bits and pieces about her mother. One thing she has learned is that she and her mother shared a love of Kurt Cobain. Nico begins to believe that Cobain is not really dead and he is the only one who can give her the answers she so desperately seeks. Nico and her friend Obe are quirky characters that teens will like. Nico's grief and desperation to find out why her mother didn't love her enough to stay with her will resonate with many teens. Just how far Nico was willing to go to get her answers strains credulity and the story wraps up a little too safely and quickly after everything that happened. I'm not sure how many teens are still into Cobain, but it is set in Seattle and Victoria which will be a selling point.

Age Level: High School
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Mason, Jane B. 978-0-545-81996-1 \$18.99 336 p.
Without Annette Scholastic, 2016

Josie and Annette are both accepted as scholarship students at a tony prep school, getting them out of their tiny Minnesota town and away from Annette's drunken, abusive mother. They agree to keep their personal relationship secret for a while....just until they are settled in at boarding school. Unfortunately, Annette seems to be adjusting better than Josie and Josie is feeling left out and (surprisingly) homesick.

Considering the sex and alcohol, the mean girls, and Annette's awful mother, this is clearly intended for older teens. There aren't enough teen romances that treat a lesbian relationship with the same respect and angst as a heterosexual one. This is the huge plus with this book -- Josie & Annette are going through growing pains as they each are trying to find themselves in a larger community. The plot is realistic and the ending believable and satisfying, if not "happily ever after". Recommended for grades 9 & up.

Age Level: High School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Maxwell, Lisa 9781481432047 \$17.99 342 p.
Unhooked Simon Pulse, 2016

Gwen's mother suffers from delusions that there are monsters after her and once again Gwen is being forced to move to evade these imaginary beasts. She is sorely disappointed, but thankfully, her friend Olivia is there to help her through the move. Things go horribly awry, however, when Gwen turns off a lamp believed by mom to protect them from the evil beings and next thing she knows, flying monsters creep into the room and whisk her and Olivia away to a fairy land. Gwen wakes up on a ship and learns that she is in some weird version of Neverland, though the Captain tells her to not place any stock in the story she knows because the Pan in this story is a liar and not to be trusted. But can she trust the Captain who keeps her locked up and evades her questions? *Unhooked* is an intriguing retelling of a classic tale that makes the reader question who is the good guy and who is the bad. And whose side are those fairies on anyway? The lore gets a little bogged down in the middle, but overall a fun story for adventure lovers.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

McCaffrey, Laura Williams 978-0-547-23556-1 \$17.99 354 p.
Marked Clarion Books, 2016

Lyla is the child of poor mine workers; she and her sister are working hard to stay in the school that will provide them a better life than their parents. When her mother gets sick, Lyla tries to buy medicine for her mother and a "cheat" to help her on a test. She is caught and tattooed - "marked" as a criminal. Her only chance for a better life now is to become a spy for the police. The author does not provide a lot of backstory - we have no idea why there is an energy crisis, why a few barons control everything, what the "Red Fist" is really about. But Lyla and Gill, her childhood friend she is now supposed to betray, are appealing characters that teens should relate to. Another perk is the adventures of Pirate Jack and Lady Captain, the heroes of a graphic novel interspersed throughout the story that often mirror the events of Lyla's society. Although the novel starts slowly, the danger and suspense connected with the actions of the resistance and the zine should attract teen readers.

Age Level: Adult
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

McIntosh, Will 978-0-553-53410-8 \$17.99 309 p.
Burning Midnight Delacorte Press, 2016

No one knows where the brightly colored spheres came from, but "burning" a matched pair of them can give the owner a "gift" - improved vision, intelligence, good looks and more. Finding and selling the spheres has become big business. One corporation, in particular, is running all the smaller operations out of business. One independent and his partner find a Gold, but no one has ever seen one or has any idea what it will do. And someone is willing to kill to get it. One online review said this is like *The Maze Runner* meets *The Fifth Wave*; I think that's a good analogy.

Age Level: High School
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Life enhancing colored spheres have changed the world as we know it in *Burning Midnight* by Will McIntosh. Nobody knows why the spheres appeared out of nowhere one day, but

the world loves them and wants more. Why wouldn't they? The spheres give you enhanced powers and abilities that vary in rarity, value and power. Cranberry (better looking), Periwinkle (good with numbers), Canary Yellow (perfect memory), Mustard (high IQ) and the list goes on and on. You simply place two matching spheres against your temples to "burn" them, and you become a better, smarter, faster person in so many ways.

Sully is a high school student with a passion for collecting, and an entrepreneurial spirit which has led to a semi profitable side business buying and selling spheres.

Alex Holliday and his flashy worldwide corporate network of stores dominates the sphere market and literally rips off independent dealers like Sully. So... Sully and his tight band of friends and an attractive, driven, and talented young sphere collector named Hunter, work to beat Alex Holliday at his game. The competition becomes fast paced and deadly when Sully and Hunter find a sphere that has never been found. The gold sphere is worth millions and has the power to change the world as we know it.

Burning Midnight is an action packed story that includes themes of friendship, power struggles, and mild romance; with that said, is also a story of two halves. One which included deeper issues of greed, inequality, class, and that questions enhanced lives with "no cost or repercussions"; and a second half that reveals the true cost of getting something for nothing, alien beings, and a fight to save the world. Some will love the entire book and others may appreciate one half over the other. Middle school boys are likely to love it all.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kevin Olson, Evergreen Middle School- LWSD

McNeal, Laura 978-0-375-87079-8 \$17.99 336 p.

The Incident on the Bridge (ARC) Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

Everyone knows that Thisbe was last seen on the long bridge that divides their home town. Everyone thinks she was so depressed that she chose to kill herself by jumping from the bridge. Yet...her younger sister Ted refuses to believe this and sets out to prove the whole town wrong. Thisbe was on the straight path to a top college until secret messages result in her falling deeply in love with Clay, a local drug dealer. After Clay sleeps with her, he dumps her--she was just his latest conquest. Clay's rejection where he humiliates Thisbe occurs at a big public party which sends her into a tumbling spiral of depression, drinking, and poor choices. Dark feelings of revenge lead to Thisbe stealing Clay's car and driving it over the bridge, but what happens after she stops that car is what makes for an interesting story where the narrators include Thisbe herself, the police, a psychotic, Jerome (Clay's best friend), and Ted (Thisbe's sister), just to name a few. As you hear the story from the different points of view, new clues emerge in Thisbe's disappearance that keep you reading until the ending which reads like a stand-alone. However, the first half is tough to get through due to slow pacing and the dozen narrators, but there is a tipping point where the book becomes a tension-filled race to the end to find out what really happened.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Medina, Meg 978-0-7636-7467-0 \$17.99 300 p.

Burn Baby Burn Candlewick Press, 2016

With high school graduation on the horizon, Nora Lopez isn't exactly sure what's next. Her teachers are pushing her to go to college, but she is more interested in getting a job so she can move out on her own. Life at home is getting increasingly worse as her little brother Hector gets more and more out of control. But, all she really wants to do right now is have fun with her best friend, meet a cute boy and disco dance the night away. However, since this is New York City during the summer of 1977 even that dream is tainted with a serial killer on the loose targeting young women just like Nora. When a city wide power outage happens, community frustration boils over and Nora witnesses something during the riots and looting that forces her to finally take action and stop waiting for her future to decide itself. The 1970s time period is completely relevant to the story, but even for readers who don't dig that, they will relate to Nora as she struggles with the responsibility she feels to her family versus the freedom she wants for herself. Recommend, grades 9+.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Moskowitz, Hannah & Kat Helgeson 978-1-4521-3839-8 \$17.99 272 p.
Gena/finn (ARC) Chronicle Books, 2016

Gena and Finn are both fangirls – uberfans of the TV series *Up Below* and the two good-looking male stars. They both blog and write fan fiction about the series. They meet online & strike up a friendship. Through their emails, blog posts, text messages and art we learn their stories, their loves and their secrets.

Highly entertaining, a quick read because of the writing style. Gena and Finn are both intriguing characters – witty, funny, and heartbreaking. Although seemingly a straightforward tale of two friends, there are enough twists in the plot (including a shocking tragedy) to keep readers interested. The publisher's recommendation is 14 & up (7th grade & up), but the frequent profanity may make it more appropriate for 8th and up. Because the story relies so heavily on current technologies & fads, this is certainly not destined to be a classic, but recommended for teens looking for something quick and fun with some heavier themes.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Nichols, Amy K. 978-0-385-75392-0 \$17.99 297 p.
While You Were Gone, Duplexity #2 Alfred A. Knopf, 2015

Danny is pulled back and forth between two parallel worlds. He has no idea what causes it, but he does encounter some people he knows in both worlds. They are the same but different, but the worlds are totally different. In one, Danny is in an abysmal foster home and is just trying to survive. In the other, he lives with parents who love him, but his world is authoritarian and repressive. In that world, Danny and his friends are fighting against censorship and an invasive surveillance system. The story is told in alternating chapters between Danny and Eevee, the girl he loves in both worlds. The love story and the rebellion are well balanced. But the abrupt ending will leave fans wanting more.

Age Level: High School
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

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

At 10 a.m. the principal finishes her speech about the start of second semester at...Opportunity High (yep, that's the name and one example of the author's sometimes heavy-handed diction). At 10:03 a.m. students realize they are locked into the auditorium. At 10:05 a.m. a former male student begins firing and killing students. The book then graphically describes what happens for the next 54 minutes through the eyes of four diverse narrators--each who have a connection to the shooter that makes them more fearful than the rest of the students. These narrators are the shooter's ex-girlfriend, sister, sister's girlfriend and her brother. These peers slowly reveal their past interactions with the shooter while slowly ratcheting up the tension in the present. Unfortunately the killer is not one of the narrators so he remains one-dimensional and because he kills so many kids, one-by-one, it ends up feeling gratuitous because we, the readers, are not emotionally invested in those who are killed. To me, the 54 minutes passed slowly--partially due to clunky and overly dramatic language. Teens, however, will likely be fascinated by the body count and keep reading--not minding the melodrama. The student body is diverse both by race and sexual orientation which will appeal to many teens. They also will like that chapter breaks include some tweets and blog posts by others affected by the situation.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Oakley, Mark 978-1935548973 \$19.99 375 p.
Thieves and Kings One Peace Books, 2015

The most engrossing, carefully drawn, detailed graphic novel that I have ever seen. There is a lot of text and quite a bit of detail in the pictures. It can be confusing, and probably should be read 2x-3x to make sure everything was captured. It concerns Rubel, a young man that trained as a magician across the sea and has now returned to his country. His powers are unknown, and who is right/wrong in his country is unclear. Lots going on. Recommended for 9-12th, not for content, but ability to stay with a confusing at times story.

Age Level: High School
Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Perry, Jolene 978-0-8075-6557-5 \$16.99 259 p.
Has to Be Love Albert Whitman & Co., 2015

As a small child Clara and her mother were attacked by a bear near their Alaskan home. Clara's mother died and she was left horribly scarred. Now, about to graduate from high school, Clara is struggling with what comes next. Her dream is to go to Columbia – she even got in, but hasn't told her dad or her long-time boyfriend Elias. She doesn't want to go until her face is "fixed", so when she discovers that isn't as simple as she hoped, her world is turned upside down. She is also attracted to a new man in town making her question her relationship with Elias and her religious stance on no sex before marriage. In her confusion she makes choices she feels terrible about and hurts people she loves. Ultimately Clara has to figure out what is right for her (and her alone) and then find the courage to be okay with it. Many high school students will be able to relate to Clara's struggle of her needs/wants

vs. what others want for her. This is also a nice expression of how religion plays a role in Clara's decisions without being preachy. Recommend, grades 8+.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Reed, Jaime 978-0-545-88383-2 \$17.99 336 p.
Keep Me in Mind (ARC) Point/Scholastic, 2016

After an accident, Ellia is left without the memories from the last two years including all her memories of dating and falling in love with Liam. Her parents are no help and, in fact, are being so protective Ellia is feeling smothered. Liam seems to be stalking her, and his father is adamant that Liam & Ellia have no contact. Will Ellia get her memory back? Will they find their way back together? What really happened on that beach when Ellia fell down the cliff? What about Cody who is also dealing with memory issues and seems to be getting very close to Ellia?

Told in first person in alternating chapters by Ellia and Liam, the real story unfolds slowly. In the meantime we get the details of their lives over the last two years and in present time as Ellia tries to remember who she is and Liam tries to win her back. The story is at times funny, sweet, sad, and even dull. While not a routine teen romance, it's also nothing terrifically enlightening or new. Recommended, but not a "must purchase". Suitable for middle school and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Reedy, Trent 978-0-545-54877-9 \$17.99 446 p.
Last Full Measure, Divided We Fall #3 Arthur A. Levine, 2016

Danny and his friends are finally out from under the control of the armies of the US and Idaho and ready to get on with their lives. But the Brotherhood is gaining control of large areas in Idaho. They have to decide whether to just take off and live free or stay and help people rebuild.

In this third and final volume in the series, Reedy has continued the non-stop action and violence, the continuous news/email/twitter feeds, and the romantic tension that became the trademark of the series. Danny is still haunted by the deaths he has caused and those he witnessed at the hands of his friends and enemies. It's often difficult to see how they will survive, and there are some shocking deaths, but all ends in a satisfactory way, if not happily ever after. I loved this series. Highly recommended for middle school and up with the warning that there is some profanity & sexual content and a LOT of violence.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Reuter Hapgood, Harriet 9781626723733 \$17.99 304 p.
The Square Root of Summer (ARC) Roaring Brook Press, 2016

Physics-minded girl moves through grief with a sci-fi twist. Gottie had a warm life in the small seaside English town home of her larger-than-life grandfather Grey, her elfish German father, and her rock-star older brother Ned. But last summer changed everything;

her beloved Grey who held the family together died. Shortly after, her secret boyfriend abandoned her and brother Ned went off to college. She's spent the year in a fog of grief, but this summer she has to wake up. Her physics teacher challenges her to write a compelling paper in preparation for college applications. Also demanding her attention is the return of Ned who is full of energy, the secret boyfriend who is distant, and her long lost best friend and childhood soulmate, Thomas. As Gottie sorts through her feelings, she not only remembers the past, but seems to relive it, traveling in time to try to understand why it all went wrong and how to move forward. I found the characters, setting, and story intriguing, but was put off by the way time travel was handled. It seemed like Gottie was just grieving through memories and it wasn't until the end that the time travel became real, though the how or why of it wasn't clear. Recommended for 10th grade and up due to European sensibilities around teen sex and alcohol use.

Age Level: High School, Adult
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Sage, Angie	9780062272485	\$17.99	480 p.
<i>Sandrider</i> , Todhunter Moon #2	Harper Collins, 2015		

Book Two in the Todhunter Moon series should not be read as a standalone. However, fans of Septimus Heap and the first book in the series will not be disappointed. Alice Todhunter Moon, a young Pathfinder, arrived at the Castle after rescuing her friends and saving her village. Now she is on a dangerous quest to retrieve the Egg of the Orm so a dangerous sorcerer will not have unlimited access to the element that creates Magyk. Strong female characters, good friendships, adventure, this latest installment will appeal to fans of the Magyk series, The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel, and anything by Rick Riordan.

Age Level: High School
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Sepetys, Ruta	978-0-399-16030-1	\$18.99	378 p.
<i>Salt to the Sea</i>	Philomel Books, 2016		

A beautiful story told from the perspectives of three people whose lives come together on the trail to leave Eastern Europe before the Russians and Germans completely devastate the land toward the end of WWII. Joana is a young Lithuanian nurse who was spared the fate of Siberia and was to be assimilated into German society. Florian is a young Prussian who wants revenge on the Nazis who deceived him and killed his father. And Emilia is the young Polish girl who was betrayed by the family who was to protect her and ends up pregnant and fleeing for her life. These three meet - wounded, hungry and cold, on the dangerous countryside en route to the Baltic port of Gotenhafen. There is a fourth voice in the story. Alfred writes letters to his beloved Hannelore, describing his great accomplishments and importance on board a German ship, but is actually a simpering whiny coward who actually turned Hannelore into the Nazis because she was half Jewish. All four come together on the ill-fated Wilhelm Gustloff, the German ship carrying nearly ten thousand people, nine thousand of whom perished when torpedoed and sunk by the Russians. This is a historical fiction with romance, beautiful characters and tale of an often forgotten part of the world. This book will be enjoyed by mature teens and adults.

Age Level: Junior High, High School, Adult
JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Shakespeare, William and Carbone, Courtney 9780553535389 \$9.99 81 p.
Macbeth #killingit, omg shakespeare! Random House, 2015

Shakespeare's tragedy told in emoticons, abbreviated text speak, smart phone notes, and social media posts. The plot and settings remain the same, but the characters have smart phones that they are using to converse via text and social media, with a bit of monologue via a "notes" app. All crucial scenes and dialogue of the original are covered and the author has cleverly utilized various media trends to fit the story, such as Lady Macbeth puts in her shopping cart the book "How to Kill Friends and Influence Peasants" and the conversation of a banquet is noted by the use of hashtags. Also played up things similar to Pinterest and online surveys. This volume is more effective than last year's srsly Hamlet and could be used in a language arts class to investigate reinterpreting classic texts.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

If you're a Shakespeare purist, then it's time to look away. Instead, if you're looking for a fun way to introduce Shakespeare to a younger audience or help an older teen review a classic play, then *Macbeth #killing it*, is for you! Part of the OMG Shakespeare series, *Macbeth* is the latest play to undergo Carbone's emoji-ful treatment (previous books retold are YOLO Juliet and srslyHamlet). Still divided into acts and scenes, Carbone faithfully includes all the major plot points, but instead of typical dialogue normally found in a play, you get lots of emojis through text messages, status updates, Instant Messages, and emails. Plus, instead of Pinterest, there's Kingterest and it shows the witches pinning things to the board "Spell for Macbeth." Also, characters at times "check in" to key locations. The result is a lot less seriousness and a lot more entertaining fun. Some of Shakespeare's jokes and sexual innuendos that kids might miss in the real play are readily apparent in this visual form. Students looking for a fun review of the play will love this, but those unfamiliar at all with the plot line might struggle a bit because it is a very condensed version of the classic tale.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Shakespeare, William and Wright, Brett 9780553535396 \$9.99 86 p.
A Midsummer Night #nofilter, omg shakespeare! Random House, 2015

Shakespeare's comedy told in emoticons, abbreviated text speak, smart phone notes, and social media posts. The plot and settings remain the same, but the characters have smart phones that they are using to converse via text and social media, with a bit of monologue via a "notes" app. All crucial scenes and dialogue of the original are covered and the author has cleverly utilized various media trends to fit the story, such as the use of a Tinder-like app for Titania and Bottom's relationship. This volume is more effective than last year's YOLO Juliet and could be used in a language arts class to investigate reinterpreting classic texts.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Sarah Evans, University of Washington

Sheehan, Judy 978-0-553-51246-5 \$17.99 278 p.

I Woke Up Dead at the Mall

Delacorte Press, 2016

Sarah is unsettled to find herself in her hideous peach bridesmaid dress at the Mall of America. No one can see her, and as the mall empties of everyone but her and a bunch of zoned out mall walkers, she is getting a freaked out. And then her death coach introduces herself, and things only get more confusing. Apparently all teens who are murdered in NYC show up here to come to terms with their death before they move on, and are reborn. However Sarah is not your typical teen ghost. She has psychic powers she has been denying, can talk to her dead mother when she dreams, and is determined to save her father from her surprisingly wicked stepmother. Oh, and fall in love in this shopping purgatory. Super fluffy, but fun for teens who might fantasize about being able to pillage malls and stuff their faces at food courts. Near sex might make this dubious for middle school, but overall pretty squeaky clean. Secondary purchase, for your afterlife collection.

Age Level: High School

Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries

Spotswood, Jessica (editor)

978-0-7636-7848-7

\$17.99

368 p.

A Tyranny of Petticoats

Candlewick Press, 2015

A delightful collection of some rough and tumble woman through out history in stories we have not heard before. There is the story of Annie Oakley as a small girl who goes to school and gets bullied, there is a girl named Maddie who buys a charm from the voodoo priestess Marie Laveau. Another favorite is written by Marissa Meyer about a Chinese immigrant fortune teller. Every story is beautifully written and takes you back in time on an adventure with a brave young woman.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult

Devon Abejo, KCLS

Springer, Kristina

978-1-4549-1751-9

\$14.95

208 p.

Cici Reno #MiddleSchoolMatchMaker, Yoga Girl #1 Sterling Children's Books, 2016

Seventh-grader Cici Reno offers great advice to her classmates as she remains calm even in tough situations-- probably due to yoga. Her mother owns a local yoga studio and Cici takes classes most. Every chapter opens with a tweet from Cici (@yogagirl4ever) explaining a yoga move and its benefits. When Cici's best friend, Aggie, returns from summer vacation, Cici is surprised to see that Aggie has "ginormous" boobs while her own are still flat. Aggie has a crush on Drew but she cannot even speak to him without stumbling. Cici has the great idea to tweet Drew online pretending to be Aggie so she creates a new account with a fake name. Soon Cici and Drew are direct messaging. When the two meet face-to-face and Aggie is revealed as the online girl, it's a disaster that even Cici texting Aggie from a nearby table cannot save. However, the more Cici communicates with Drew, the more she realizes that she really likes Drew too. What's a girl to do? Sound familiar? This story is being marketed as Cyrano de Bergerac in yoga pants. While I doubt my middle school students will get this reference, it doesn't matter because this is a great novel full of drama, romance and humor that my students will truly love. The bonus is that it's the first book in a series.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Stone, Sonja

978-0-82343562-3

\$17.95

328 p.

Desert Dark

Holiday House, 2016

When 16-year-old Nadia is recruited to attend the prestigious Desert Mountain Academy at the start of her junior year, she's excited, yet surprised to learn that it is a government-sponsored private school that trains students for the Black Ops Division of the CIA. She's sworn to secrecy and not even allowed to tell her family what she's really learning--Arabic, jujutsu, how to read body language and hack into computer systems. Students are grouped into teams of four. As the members of Nadia's team take turns narrating our story, we learn that the former girl on the team recently died and that someone at the academy is suspected of being a double agent. It soon becomes clear that everyone on the team is hiding secrets and anyone could be the traitor.

Teens will love the action and twists of the plot, along with some romance and humor. Plus, chapters narrated by the unknown traitor ratchet up the tension and increase the pace. While this book doesn't appear to have a sequel, it very well could be the first in a series featuring these teen spies-in-training.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Stork, Francisco X.

978-0-545-47432-0

\$17.99

325 p.

The Memory of Light

Arthur A. Levine, 2015

Vicky Cruz ends up at Lakeview Hospital after trying to kill herself. For the first time in quite a while she finds herself in a supportive environment. She knows her dad and sister love her, but she feels left behind in grief after her mother's death while they just push forward focusing on goals and success. She's tried to pretend, but she just can't anymore. At Lakeview, Dr. Desai is helping her to process her feelings, but equally important is the relationships she's developing with fellow patients Mona, Gabriel and E.M. They all have their own struggles, but they've agreed never to lie to each other. Although Vicky is healing, her progress is fragile when she has to leave the hospital. The stresses of home may be too much and she is worried that two of her new friends are in danger. She has to dig deep to find the strength to fight for others and ultimately for herself. This is a nuanced story that honors the complexity of people – not just the patients, but Vicky's family as well. Stork is a great writer, and he does it again. Recommend, grades 8+.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

White, Kiersten

978-0553522310

\$12.23

496 p.

And I Darken (ARC)

Delacorte Press, 2016

I recommend this book for 8th grade and up. I thought maybe this book would have something supernatural or humorous based on this author's last series, but this didn't have either. I was surprised that this author can do serious action/adventure with a complex relationship but she did it very well. This story is set during the Ottoman Empire, and the main character is Lada and she is a force to be reckoned with! It's like this author took all the powerful female characters from Game of Thrones and created this warrior teen princess. Lada and her brother Radu are from Wallachia but their father leaves them with the Ottomans as pre-teens and they come of age in a foreign land. They both become close friends with the sultan Mehmed and Radu finds comfort in converting to Islam and also

being close to Mehmed who he is in love with. The problem is that Mehmed is in love with Lada. On top of that as a sultan he has made some visits to his herum and has a few kids as a result, which causes Lada jealousy. The relationship triangle created in this story has a lot of dynamic tension and it kept me guessing about what would happen next, both romantically and politically. There are some scenes that have violence/blood and some references to puberty and sex, but nothing happens on page.

The violence/sex is in the context of historical fiction, if that makes any sense. It is a great read for kids who like the fantasy genre even though reminds me of *Daughter of Xanadu* by Dori Jones Yang because of the historical references combined with adventure and romance. I pitched it to my book club and offered the ARC to them and none of them showed any interest. Either my pitch was off or the premise just doesn't appeal to them, so I don't know how it will circulate. However I do feel there is enough potential in the book for me to recommend getting it for any middle or high school library. It just might take some strategy to "sell" it. My only wonder about the book is the title. I don't understand why the author chose that title because she doesn't get a tan or anything. I think a better title would be *Don't Mess with Me*.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult
Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School

Wiviott, Meg	9781481439831	\$17.99	352 p.
<i>Paper Hearts</i>			
Margeret K. McElderry, 2015			

The true story of Fania and Zlatka, two girls who survived Auschwitz by supporting each other, becoming family. When Fania was going through a particularly bad time, Zlatka organized all the girls in the barracks to help her through it. Begging, bargaining, stealing, they got the materials to create a birthday card, an origami heart. That heart helped Fania survive the camp, the death marches, and the last days of the war. Told in verse, Wiviott recounts the story in a way that is sure to appeal to teens, particularly that large group of teens who devour any books related to the Holocaust.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Alexis Underhill, Yelm High School

Yee, Lisa	978-1-101-94060-0	\$13.99	237 p.
<i>Wonder Woman Super Hero High</i>			
Random House Kids, 2016			

Wonder Woman decides to leave Paradise Island to attend super hero high, one of several elite super hero schools. This is her first time away from home and she has never had to interact with anyone other than her own Amazon warrior people before. She is sharing a room with Harley Quinn who records everything she does on social media and creates a channel dedicated to watching Wonder Woman struggle to adjust to a new school. With all things high school there is drama, friendship and boys. Wonder Woman has to remember what is important to her to succeed.

Age Level: Too young for YA
Devon Abejo, KCLS

Zentner, Jeff	978-0-553-52402-4	\$17.99	369 p.
<i>The Serpent King</i>			
Crown, 2016			

Devoted is about Rachel, a seventeen year old raised in a separatist Christian sect that requires home-schooling, screens mass media and popular culture, and revokes any role for women beyond that of homemaker. When her father forces her to destroy a book she treasures, *A Wrinkle in Time*, Rachel's questioning cannot stop. She breaks the rules to go on the family's computer and track down a girl who rebelled and left the group years earlier. Rachel leaves home rather than "go to camp", a euphemism for church sanctioned brainwashing. For the second half of the book, Rachel survives her culture shock with the help of a small group of supporters in her home town. Her father's denunciation of her and the loss of her family, though, threaten to derail her plans for a high school education. Rachel's final rebellion is gentle and brave, but not violent or over-dramatic. This book does not reduce the world (or faith) into simple black and white categories. Mathieu writes clearly, without figurative language or extended description. Young readers could read it, but may not get past the oddness of Rachel's life and faith. Biblical quotes and references are frequent and also may make secular readers balk, but they are needed for the story. Though the book isn't flawed, I am not sure of who its readers will be.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Mayhew, Julie	978-0-7636-7731-2	\$16.99	297 p.
Red Ink	Candlewick Press , 2015		

Red Ink, Julie Mayhew's novel, has an older audience. "17 Days Since," the first chapter, begins with Melon Fouraki hiding in the bathroom to write in her journal 17 days after her mother's death. Melon has been steeped in lore of Greece by her mother. (Her dad, her mother tells her, was left in Greece, so she's never met him.) Melon is a believable teenager, hating her name, sometimes angry and also proud of her body, selfish, and swinging wildly in her emotions as she grieves for her mother. This novel represents the trend I've heard about, to write about death in teen novels. The book is oddly organized, skipping around in time with each chapter titled by days before or after Mum's death. (It is set in London, hence the English slang.) Melon has been left with Paul as her custodian, not knowing that he was engaged to her marry her mother. She thought Paul and her mother were occasionally dating only because both were social workers. Melon blames herself for her mother's death and their distanced relationship, feelings she writes about in the journal her grief counselor recommends. Melon is unaware of her mother's life, both past and present, as she discovers when she and Paul travel to Greece to meet family. The book is multi-cultural, as the Fourakis are Greek immigrants. I'm not sure I can recommend it in a school library. You see, there is an off-color racist joke that gets repeated and repeated and repeated, and I find the joke insulting once, and revolting in repetition. Otherwise, this is a coming of age book.

Age Level: High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Meyer, Marissa	978-1-250-09184-0	\$17.99	369 p.
Stars Above , A Lunar Chronicles collection	Feiwel and Friends, 2016		

Stars Above is a series of short stories connected to the popular Lunar Chronicles series by Marissa Meyer. The companion stories provide extra insight into the lives of many of the main series characters as well as some supporting characters. The stories provide added

backstory information and details through such stories as “The Keeper” which focuses on the early days of Scarlet, her Grand-Mere Michelle, and the early days of Princess Selene being hidden and nurtured back to health on Earth. The stories proceed chronologically and bounce between Luna and Earth as they focus on characters such as Wolf, Winter, Jacin Clay, etc.

Fans of the Lunar Chronicle Series will enjoy the added information and different perspectives, such as Prince Kai and Cinder’s first encounter in the New Beijing marketplace, as seen from Kai’s point of view. But the full series should definitely be read first. Not only because these short stories may feel a bit incomplete and out of context as a stand-alone book, but also because the outcome of one of the series books is revealed in *Stars Above*.

Those who are optimistic and enthusiastic fans will relish the side stories, those who are more cynical might feel that these stories are simply those scenes and stories edited out of her previous books swept up and compiled in a new book.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kevin Olson, Evergreen Middle School- LWSD

Nielsen, Jennifer 978-0545562041 \$19.99 352 p.

Rise of the Wolf, Mark of the Thief #2 Scholastic, 2016

Nic has escaped Rome and the Praetors that want to use his magic, but he cannot escape their influence. They capture his mother and his friend, making him come back where they offer him a deal. They will leave him and his alone, but he must give up the object that gives him his power, and an object that will solidify their power permanently. Nic must go into battle again with the magic that he barely understands, hoping to stall the Praetors and get his loved ones back. Shrug, for grades 5th-9th.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Richmond, Caroline Tung 9780545801270 \$17.99 320 p.

The Darkest Hour (ARC) Scholastic, 2016

Lucie is 16-years-old and is an undercover agent for the Covert Ops, a female spy group trying to take down the Nazis during WWII. Her brother was killed in North Africa so she is determined to do whatever it takes to avenge his death and stop Hitler and his armies. A terrible plot that could change the course of the war is discovered and Covert Ops must stop it from happening.

Great cover art. Premise is good, but execution was disappointing. None of the characters was particularly likable, most of the plot was quite predictable, and many things were also unbelievable.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Sheenan, Judy 978-0553512465 \$11.99 288 p.

I Woke Up Dead at the Mall Delacorte Press, 2016

I recommend this book for 8th grade and up with a shrug. I am recommending with a shrug because I really liked the first half but the second half got a little too overdone and it me it lost it's momentum. Sarah has just woken up dead at the mall in a mango bridesmaids dress and up do. She meets up with Bertha, a sort of guide if you will to the after life, also known as her death coach. Yes, there are good punch lines that will kill at the next party. Ha ha. And my other favorite pun is when Sarah describes herself as standing "dead center" in the food court. The goal for Sarah and some of her dead friends is for their afterlife bracelets to turn from red to white, and then they are ready to move on, which means get reborn into the new life. But Sarah who grew up with a supernatural skill she calls "Knowing" can do things other dead can't do, she tries to use her abilities to help warn her dad about the step mother who is trying to kill him. The first half was amazing and I thought I would rave about it later, but the second half of the story wasn't as mind blowing, and so I can't give it five stars, ergo the shrug. I gave this to a student in my book club to get her opinion without telling her anything about what I thought and she said that she also didn't get the 2nd half but enjoyed the first part. So basically if you have a tight budget pass this up. But if you have some extra money to burn for your collection then consider it.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult
Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School

Silver, Eve 978-0-06-219219-6 \$17.99 357 p.
Crash, The Game #3 Kathryn Tegen Books, 2015

Miki and Jackson are trapped within the Game, being pulled into missions often without warning. Now Miki's father and her best friend lie in a hospital and may never recover because of an accident at the end of book 2 – maybe because of the Committee (the game controllers). So she's beginning to question the Committee's motives, especially after one of the Drau (alien enemies) tries to surrender only to be killed by another player.

I did not read books 1 & 2, nor have I purchased them for my library. I suspect I would have been more engaged had I read the first two, but the action is separated by far too many pages of "oh, poor me" moments and longing looks and tedious conversation. This is an action/romance, but this volume is heavy on the romance and light on the action, and even the romance is pretty tame and rather boring. Recommended if you have #1 & 2 already, but otherwise just a shrug. I finally gave up about 200. Seems OK for middle school since both the violence and the sexuality is pretty tame.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

TenNapel, Doug 9780545676540 \$10.99 201 p.
Nnews. Book 2: The Rise of Herk, Nnews #2 Graphix, 2016

In this continuation, Herk tries to harness his newfound powers all the while trying to find Anthigar, in hopes of enlisting his help to take down the Lizzarks. The Lizzarks are using Blakk Mudd to turn Newts in to Lizzarks and they've created an enormous monster that further threatens the whole town of Amphibopolis. Meanwhile, Herk's sister, a captive, learns that Zerk is actually her brother, abandoned by their parents to the Lizzarks. While you don't need to have read the first volume to follow along, readers may be disappointed to again be left hanging at the end of the book. Graphic novel.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

West, Temple 978-1-250-05708-2 \$9.99 386 p.
Velvet Swoon Books, 2015

Caitlin's dad died when she was young; her mother died last week. For some reason, the court has decided that she should live with an aunt and uncle she barely knows rather than her grandmother. So she is forced to leave Mystic, CT for rural New York – a new family, new school, new life. The first night she's caught in a freak rainstorm, loses her balance and nearly falls into a ravine only to be rescued by a mysterious handsome stranger. The first day of school she discovers that her mysterious stranger is Adrian, a devilishly handsome (& mysterious) senior that every girl lusts after but (of course) he only has eyes for Caitlin. To the surprise of everyone, Adrian offers Caitlin a ride home after school (no one EVER gets to ride home with him!) on his Harley. Turns out Adrian is a vampire, living with his vampire family in a mansion in the woods. (This sounds all too familiar!!!)

Adrian is actually Caitlin's bodyguard – Adrian's demon father is coming back from the underworld to retrieve Adrian's brother, Lucian. Now it appears he is after Caitlin. Sound exciting and action-packed? It's not. There are 110 pages of longing looks and explanation of how & why Adrian & Caitlin can never really be a couple. After another 150 pages I started skimming and skipped to the end. Within the last few pages we discover that there must be some other reason why Adrian's father wants Caitlin dead, but we don't know what it is. Lucian disappears and (surprise!) Adrian admits that he loves Caitlin. BORING!!

Nothing objectionable aside from some alcohol use and, they spend many nights sleeping (just sleeping!!) together. Just a routine teen vampire romance, but no heat, mystery, or adventure to keep me interested. Just a shrug for 8th grade and up

OH! And one wonderful comment from Adrian – "I consumed fiction like it was food. At home, I had no real concept of compassion or brotherhood or loyalty or bravery—I learned about all of that from books." SIGH!

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

FICTION – NOT RECOMMEND

Griffith, Clay and Susan 9781633880948 \$17.00 321 p.
The Geomancer, Vampire Empire spinoff series #1 (ARC) Pyr Sci Fic & Fantasy, 2015

I rarely encounter a book that I cannot finish. However, this is one of them. And I generally like vampire novels... One thing that was difficult for me was getting the characters and the world building figured out. It does appear that this new series builds off another series by this author, so fans of that series might be better equipped to read and enjoy this one. It also seems to be a bit strong on the romance/sexual relationship between the two main characters which would make it a better fit for adults readers - not to mention that those characters are not teens.

Age Level: Adult

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Laster, Eric 978-0991272938 \$17.99 336 p.
Static (ARC) Automatic Publishing, 2016

A fine Twilight Zone style premise (cell phone calls from his dead older brother in the afterlife), but the writing style kept me from wanting to continue past the first chapter. I peeked at the end and wasn't sorry I gave up.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Richmond, Caroline Tung 978-0545801270 \$17.99 320 p.
The Darkest Hour Scholastic, 2016

I can't give a full report on *The Darkest Hour* by Caroline Richmond. I think it is meant to be Young Adult, as the main character is 16. But despite multiple attempts, I balked at the cliches and couldn't even get myself to read to page 50. Lucienne has signed on with Covert Ops to fight the Nazis because she wants to revenge her brother's death as a soldier. The first scene has her dressed as a Catholic sister, luring an alleged informant and shooting him multiple times before dragging his dead body into the river. The assassination is louder and bloodier than her boss wanted because she is afraid to kill for the first time. But killing is what she wants to do, and she begs for another chance, another mission. The spymaster is a cypher who demands complete obedience. Lucienne has had training, and now has access to many cool disguises, as well as the advice of very cool female co-worker assassins. But I really can't sympathize a book about brutal 16 year old killers and those who employ them. I thought the initial scene was thoughtless: why start with the main character killing?

Age Level: High School
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Shakespeare, William and Wright, Brett 978-0-553-53882-3 \$9.00 86 p.
A Midsummer Night #nofilter, omg shakespeare! Random House, 2016

The story of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* told in texts, status updates, and emoticons. Amusing but not great: I much preferred the more clever and readable sample of *Macbeth* in the back written by another author.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

NONFICTION -- RECOMMEND

Anonymous 978-1-62672-063-3 \$17.50 106 p.
The Young Investigator's Guide to Ancient Aliens Roaring Brook Press, 2015

"Based on the hit television series," this much illustrated work samples claims of those who speculate aliens visited earth and influenced ancient human civilizations and constructions. In particular, it features thoughts of Erich von Daniken (*Chariots of the Gods*) and Giorgio Tsoukalos, reportedly featured on the television show. For the most part, the book is careful not to make claims that cannot be substantiated, meaning much of it is in the form of questions. Might it be that... could it be... how did...? There's the usual spread of

pyramids, stone circles, and ancient land art, but some are less familiar, so the book is a decent introduction to some ancient wonders. It is a bit credulous of its pet theory, while simultaneously dismissing other cultures' explanations -- "a nice story" -- and downplaying modern trials of possible ancient methods. Some recent hoaxes are acknowledged (crop circles, for example). There are some typo's, and a few outright errors, including captioning a photograph of a Mayan pyramid as one of the Visoko pyramids of Bosnia and Herzegovina, widely discredited as no more than natural hills. The whole seems misleading, but on reflection, I read a lot of this sort of work as a kid, and it hasn't hurt my scientific training and skepticism. It will be welcome to the UFO fan base. Includes contents, Examining the evidence viewing activity, web link to History Channel videos, index.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Castaldo, Nancy F. 978-0-544-32023-9 \$17.99 136 p.
The Story of Seeds; from Mendel's garden to your plate, and how there's more of less to eat around the world Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016
Plant varieties at risk or gone, mostly crop plants, are championed through profiles of a series of "seed warriors," experts and advocates around the world, from the past and today. Some of these people risked their lives, or even lost them, working to preserve seeds of regional crop varieties through times of conflict. The emphasis becomes the challenges from bioengineering and multinational corporations taking ownership of seed lines, to the exclusion of much more diverse varieties matching changing conditions and threats, including climate change, and disease and pest threats newly threatening crops. Seed banks, seed libraries, heirloom varieties, and farmers markets are all parts of solutions. Despite a few minor errors (including confusing species with varieties, especially, and a bacterium with its toxin), and omission of some of the most compelling arguments (including widespread damage to harmless native butterfly and moth populations and their predators, and increase in herbicide use), the book does a reasonable job of explaining and convincing of the importance of maintaining diverse local plant varieties. There are decent photographs (and a gorgeous one of glass gem corn). "To see things in the seed, that is genius." Lao Tzu Includes contents, resources, seed libraries, additional resources, glossary, author's note, sources, timeline, index.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Goldstein, Margaret J. 978-1-4677-3831-6 \$34.95 91 p.
Fuel Under Fire: Petroleum & Its Perils Twenty-First Century, 2016
A look at the history, production, use, and problems with drilling, processing and using petroleum. Illustrated with colorful photos and graphics and well researched & documented, this is an examination of the US's dependence on petroleum and the environmental impact. Although less than 100 pages (104 if you include the further reading, source notes, index, etc) there is plenty of good information here. There is little about the positive impact of the oil industry, but then again the title says it all. Recommended for middle school and up, especially for schools with Environmental Science classes.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

O'Brien, Daniel, illus Winston Rowntree 978-0-553-53747-5 \$19.99 272 p.
Your Presidential Fantasy Dream Team (ARC) Crown Books for Young Readers, 2016
Tongue in cheek biographical articles on all of the dead presidents to help you assemble your action-movie style team of presidents to save the world: you'll need a Brains, a Brawn, a Loose Cannon, a Moral Compass, and a Roosevelt. Genuinely funny and understandably not encyclopedic, this could be a fun introduction to history for pop-culture addicts.
Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Vansant, Wayne 978-1-93958-175-4 \$26.00 103 p.
Zenith Press, 2016
The Battle of the Bulge; a graphic history of allied victory in the Ardennes, 1944-1945
The strength of this visual telling of one of the critical battle periods approaching the end of world war two is depiction of many stories of individual or small group heroism or critical acts. Also illuminating are the differences among leaders, especially from different countries, needing to work together. These all seem assembled from witnesses more than interpretation, and do include some horrific acts on both sides. Weaknesses have to do with coherence of the narrative. Maps are few and don't include many places mentioned. Compass directions are absent, and apparently non-standard. The story frequently jumps back and forth in time as it moves among groups. (Wait, weren't those people already out of that danger?) The plethora of numbered names of fighting units, and weapons, on both sides was beyond this reader's ability to keep sorted. (An appended guide to the many kinds of tanks employed is helpful.) A couple of typo's in the like-hand-lettering distracted. Still, for those less keen it's an approachable account of a major historic event, full of human drama. The art will tempt readers through more text than they think. Young fans of war accounts will grab it.
Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Marcovitz, Hal 978-1-60152-944-2 \$32.17 51 p.
Comic Book Art, Discovering Art Reference Point, 2016
Like other Reference Point Press informational text, this series is well designed and engaging. There is a helpful Table of Contents and chapters are filled with text features to assist students making meaning of the text - color, su-headings, insets, text boxes, and pictures with captions. At \$32 a book, it is an expensive purchase, but if you have the money, this would be a great addition to your collection.
Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

- Exploring Careers Series
Schmidt, Debra 9781601528148 \$32.00 80 p.
Careers in Sports and Fitness Reference Point, 2016

Sheen, Barbara	9781601528063	\$32.00	80 p.
<i>Careers in Architecture and Construction</i> Reference Point, 2016			

Titles in this series provide solid information to teens looking to turn their passions into viable professions. The books examine the broad array of choices in fast-growing occupations in the United States and break down several different jobs in that field. A chapter is devoted to each job and describes what the work entails, the education requirements, and an estimated salary range (which will date this series quickly) . Most importantly, the texts feature quotes from interviews with real practitioners as well as useful projections for growth in each position. Accessible and user-friendly additions to most high school libraries, but the price (\$32.00 for a slim 80 pages) might prevent the purchase. Glad I got them on preview because they will be used.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

- Military Careers Series

Abramovitz, Melissa	9781601529428	\$32.17	80 p.
<i>Careers in the US Special Forces</i> Reference Point, 2016			

Allman, Tony	9781601529367	\$32.17	80 p.
<i>Careers in the US Coast Gaurd</i> Reference Point, 2016			

Mattern, Joanne	9781601529381	\$32.17	80 p.
<i>Careers in the US Marine Corps</i> Reference Point, 2016			

Mooney, Carla	9781601529404	\$32.17	80 p.
<i>Careers in the US Navy</i> Reference Point, 2016			

Phillips, Melissa	9781601529329	\$32.17	80 p.
<i>Careers in the US AirForce</i> Reference Point, 2016			

Uschan, Michael V	9781601529343	\$32.17	80 p.
<i>Careers in the US Army</i> Reference Point, 2016			

This series explores the numerous career opportunities available to individuals serving in the six branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The series is text-heavy but moves beyond the standard look at what each branch does, focusing instead on nine specific jobs, from the entry-level to more advanced positions. Job descriptions address education, required skills and personality, working conditions, salary, and advancement opportunities. The text also looks ahead to the occupation outlook and employment prospects in the civilian world. These well-written overviews, although short on visuals, are excellent resources for the numerous career possibilities the military has to offer. But the cost (\$32 for a slim 80 pages) might make these out of the range of most school library budgets. Purchase if there is an interest in military careers at your school.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen Campus Library

- The Music Scene Series

Annis, Matt 978-1-59920-911-1 \$22.24 14 p.
The Music Industry Smart Apple Media, 2016

This series is engaging and well formatted. Information is presented in a colorful, text-feature-rich layout that is eye catching for the reader, while also providing support for reading comprehension. There are 4 titles in this series: Music Fashion and Style, Music Industry, Performing Live, History of Modern Music. Recommended. Grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

- The Thinking Critically series

Wilcox, Christine 978-1-60152-956-5 \$32.17 80 p.
Thinking Critically: E-Cigarettes and Vaping Reference Point, 2016

The "Thinking Critically" series by Reference Point Press has been reviewed multiple times over the last few years. It is an excellent series, well written, with timely and engaging topics. The design format and text features provide comprehension supports for all students, especially struggling readers. Recommend for Grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

- The Unstable Earth series

Colson, Mary 978-1-62588-161-8 \$23.51 32 p.
What Happens if the Ozone Disappears? Smart Apple Media, 2016

This is a great, highly engaging, and timely series. While each book is small (32 pages), the format does an excellent job of providing "chunks" of information on different topics within each title. This chunking is oriented on pages in a variety of ways, allowing the reader to mentally organize the information, thereby increasing comprehension of scientific information. Recommend. Grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

NONFICTION – SHRUG

Downer, Ann 978-1-4677-3739-5 \$25.00 88 p.
Smart and Spineless; exploring invertebrate intelligence Twenty-First Century, 2016

This is a quick survey of remarkable abilities and adaptations of some invertebrates. Most are not examples of intelligence, a word for which the author has greatly relaxed definitions. That aside, there are frequent photographs and a broad sweep of subject groups: earthworms, jumping spiders, bees, wasps, and ants, mantis shrimp, jellyfish (not the more current sea jellies), slime molds (not actually invertebrates), and the actually intelligent octopuses (apparently the current reconstruction for a world that can't handle the spelling "octopi"). The author has made some errors of fact (sea fans are cnidarians with corals, not echinoderms with sea urchins, ganglia are not the same as individual neurons, tool use is not the same as tool making, and more), beyond overstated claims. Cross explanation of metric units is not consistent. How many young readers have a feel

for Newtons as a unit of force? The chapters about the animals are brief, so no one is explored in detail, only introduced. The pictures and topics are compelling and worthwhile, but the scattershot and loose treatment suggests a survey for a young audience. Vocabulary is not necessarily for a young audience, including within definitions in the glossary – additional purchase. Includes contents, source notes (p. #'s, but no in text citations), glossary, selected bibliography, for further inf., index.

Age Level: Middle School, Too young for YA

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Loh-Hagan, Virginia 978-1-63470-494-6 \$18.85 32 p.

D.I.Y. Make It Happen: Art Show 45th Parallel Press, 2016

This book has a highly engaging format and layout. Lots of color, text features, text boxes, Table of Contents, glossary, pictures, and examples to help guide students in their Do It Yourself project. Other titles in the series: Magic Show, Basketball Tournament, Fantasy Football League, Haunted House, Babysitters' Club, Dog-Walking Business and Band. I'm giving this series a "Shrug". Even though I think they are well written and designed, I can't image buying them when so many other needs and interests, would take priority.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Sue McAllister, Kellogg Middle School

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

Noah Webster: Man of Many Words Clarion Books, 2015

This is a biography about the life Noah Webster, famous today for his creation of the still enduring (Merriam-) Webster Dictionary and famous in the past for "Webster's Speller", used for over a century to teach schoolchildren how to read. Born in 1758, Webster lived through momentous historical times, including the Revolutionary War and the birth of the United States of America. I'm not sure that students will be compelled to read a biography about Webster. He wasn't a terribly interesting person and if he was, the author did not capture this. We do have Webster to thank for his belief that the English language needed to reflect America and not England; Webster is the one who removed the letter "u" from the words such as honor and favor, for example. Many of the black and white illustrations are connected to the history and places associated with Webster. There is no timeline and that would have been helpful. Included are a table of contents, list of sources, bibliography, list of Webster's publications and index.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Jeani Littrell-Kwik, KCLS Sub