



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: March 3, 2017

**Issue: 116
March 2017**

WASHRAG

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WASHYARGers:

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

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

All doors are locked until 9:00 AM. If you arrive early, please wait at the front door until someone can let you in. **The doors opening off the staircase to the parking lot are always locked.**

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

Any questions? Contact Brenna Shanks – bshanks@kcls.org 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

2017 MEETING DATES:

- *March 3*
- *May 5*
- *September 15*
- *December 8*

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.

2017 MEETINGS

- *March 3*
- *May 5*
- *September 15*
- *December 8*

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

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

Titles Taken for Review – December 2016

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

Remember Evergreen Committee meets right after WashYARG - everyone is welcome!

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

FICTION

Aguirre, Ann <i>Infinite Risk</i> , The Immortal Game #3 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-1-250-02465-7 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$17.99	374 p.
Alvarez, Jennifer Lynn <i>The Guardian Herd: Windborn</i> , The Guardian Herd #4 Aarene Storms, KCLS	9780062286154 Harper, 2016	\$16.99	340 p.
Banks, Anna <i>Nemesis</i> Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9781250070173 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$17.99	359 p.
Bardugo, Leigh <i>Crooked Kingdom</i> , Six of Crows #2 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-1-62779-213-4 Henry Holt, 2016	\$18.99	536 p.
Bayard, Louis <i>Lucky Strikes</i> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	978-1-62779-390-2 Henry Holt, 2016	\$16.99	313 p.
Bell, Alex <i>Frozen Charlotte</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0545941082 Scholastic, 2016	\$18.99	304 p.
Bodeen, S. A. <i>Trapped</i> , Shipwreck Island #3 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-1-250-02781-8 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$16.99	150 p.
Brooks, Kevin <i>Naked '76</i> JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	978-1-5124-0418-0 Carolrhoda Lab, 2016	\$18.99	416 p.
Brown, Skila	978-0-7636-7811-1	\$17.99	275 p.

<i>To Stay Alive</i> Lora Gillingham, Tahoma High School	Candlewick Press, 2016		
Brunner, Kym <i>Flip the Bird</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School	9780544800854 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016	\$17.99	351 p.
Busby, Cylin <i>The Stranger Game</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-06-235460-0 Balzer + Bray, 2016	\$17.99	282 p.
Cliff, Tony ◆<i>Delilah Dirk and the King's Shilling</i> (GN), Delilah Dirk #2 Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	978-1596438132 First Second, 2013	\$16.99	176 p.
Connelly, Jennifer <i>These Shallow Graves</i> Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	978-0-385-73765-4 Delacorte Press, 2015	\$19.99	484 p.
Cooper, Abby <i>Sticks and Stones</i> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	978-0-374-30287-0 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$16.99	276 p.
Cooper, E. E. <i>Avenged</i> , Vanished #2 Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School	978-0-06-229392-3 Katherine Tegen Books, 2016	\$17.99	339 p.
Cozzo, Karole <i>How to Keep Rolling After a Fall</i> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	978-1-250-07928-2 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$9.99	247 p.
Crowley, Kieran <i>The Mighty Dynamo</i> Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School	978-1-250-07924-4 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$16.99	353 p.
Daneshvari, Gitty <i>The League of Unexceptional Children</i> (ARC) Aarene Storms, KCLS	9780316405713 Little Brown and Co., 2015	\$17.00	234 p.
Delaney, Joseph <i>The Dark Army</i> , Starblade Chronicles #2 Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	9780062334565 Greenwillow Books, 2016	\$17.99	394 p.
Deuker, Carl <i>Gutless</i>	978-0-544-64961-3 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016	\$17.99	329 p.

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Diamond, Jill <i>Lou Lou & Pea and the Mural Mystery</i> Kirsten Edwards, KCLS	9780374302955 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$16.99	264 p.
DiMartino, Michael Dante <i>Rebel Genius</i> , Geniuses #1 Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-1626723368 Roaring Brook Press, 2016	\$16.99	384 p.
Dominy, Amy Fellner <i>Die For You</i> Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School	9781101936191 Delacorte Press, 2016	\$17.99	292 p.
Drakeford, Lisa <i>The Baby</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-545-94027-6 Chicken House, 2016	\$17.99	240 p.
Everett, Sarah <i>Everyone We've Been</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-553-53844-1 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$17.99	390 p.
Ewing, Amy <i>The Black Key</i> , The Lone City #3 Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9780062235848 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	295 p.
Falkner, Brian <i>Battlesaurus: Clash of Empires</i> , Battlesaurus #2 Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0374300777 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	352 p.
Falkoff, Michelle <i>Pushing Perfect</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-231053-8 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	333 p.
Farrant, Natasha <i>The Secret Diary of Lydia Bennet</i> Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9780545940313 Chicken House, 2016	\$17.99	322 p.
Fayers, Claire <i>The Voyage to Magical North</i> Elizabeth Metcalf, Redmond Middle School	9781627794206 Henry Holt, 2016	\$16.99	314 p.
Fishbach, Sheri Lynn <i>Dex</i> Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	9781943978045 Persnickety Press, 2016	\$16.99	301 p.

Fortunati, Karen <i>The Weight of Zero</i> Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School	978-1-101-93889-8 Delacorte Press, 2016	\$17.99	375 p.
Gaiman, Neil and Russell, P. Craig <i>The Graveyard Book</i> (GN) Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0062421883 HarperCollins, 2016	\$35.00	368 p.
Garcia, Kami <i>The Lovely Reckless</i> JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	978-1250-079190 Imprint, 2016	\$18.99	370 p.
Goslee, S.J. <i>Whatever.</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-1-62672-399-3 Roaring Book Press, 2016	\$17.99	266 p.
Gray, Lucinda <i>The Gilded Cage</i> Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9781627791816 Henry Holt, 2016	\$17.99	245 p.
Green, Tim <i>Left Out</i> Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	9780062293824 HarperCollins Children's Books, 2016	\$16.99	341 p.
Griffin, Sarah Maria <i>Spare and Found Parts</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-240888-4 Greenwillow Books, 2016	\$17.99	395 p.
Haig, Matt <i>A Boy Called Christmas</i> Kirsten Edwards, KCLS	978-0-399-55265-6 Knopf, 2016	\$16.99	240 p.
Halahmy, Miriam <i>Hidden</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-8234-3694-1 Holiday House, 2011	\$16.95	216 p.
Hall, Sandy <i>Been Here All Along</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-1-250-10065-8 Swoon Reads, 2016	\$9.99	214 p.
Hatke, Ben <i>Mighty Jack</i> (GN), Mighty Jack #1 Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School	9781626722644 First Second, 2016	\$14.99	205 p.

Headley, Maria <i>Aerie</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-06-232-55-1 Harper, 2016	\$17.99	307 p.
Hennessey, M.G. <i>The Other Boy</i> <u>Comments:</u> For ages 8-12 Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library	978-0-06-242766-3 Harper, 2016	\$16.99	234 p.
Hirsch, Andy <i>Varmints</i> (GN) Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-1-62672-279-8 First Second, 2016	\$23.99	215 p.
Hodge, Rosamund <i>Bright Smoke, Cold Fire</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-06-236941-3 Balzer + Bray, 2016	\$17.99	437 p.
Honeyman, Kay <i>Interference</i> Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9780545812320 Arthur A. Levine Books, 2016	\$17.99	340 p.
Iserles, Inbali <i>The Elders</i> , Foxcraft #2 (ARC) Kirsten Edwards, KCLS	978-0-54569084-3 Scholastic, 2016	\$16.99	304 p.
Istin, Jean-Luc and Bonetti, Elia <i>Night of the Living Dead 1: The Sins of the Father</i> (GN) Michael Denton	9781770857995 Firefly Books, 2016	\$19.95	56 p.
Jack, Gordon <i>The Boomerang Effect</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-06-239939-7 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	336 p.
Johansson, J. R. <i>The Row</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-374-30025-8 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	346 p.
Jones, Patrick p. <i>On Guard</i> , Bounce Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School	9781512411232 Darbycreek, 2016	\$26.65 (lib. bind)	90 p.
Kaufman, Amy & Jay Kristoff <i>Gemina</i> , The Illuminae Files #2 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-553-49915-5 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$19.99	659 p.

Kelly, J. M. <i>Speed of Life</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-544-74782-1 Houghton Mifflin, 2016	\$17.99	340 p.
Kendall, Christine <i>Riding Chance</i> Aarene Storms, KCLS	9780545924047 Scholastic, 2016	\$16.99	212 p.
Khadra, Yasmina (adapted from the novel by...) <i>The Attack</i> (GN) <u>Commenents:</u> GN adaptation by Loïc Dauvillier & Glen Chapron. Trans. by Ivanka Hahnenberger. Michael Denton	9781770857612 Firefly Books, 2016	\$24.95	152 p.
Kirby, Matthew J. ◆ <i>A Taste for Monsters</i> Lora Gillingham, Tahoma High School	978-0-545-81784-4 Scholastic, 2016	\$18.99	343 p.
Kirby, Matthew J. <i>Last Descendants</i> , Assassin's Creed #1 Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9780545855518 Scholastic, 2016	\$9.99	308 p.
Kozlowsky, M. P. <i>Frost</i> Kirsten Edwards, KCLS	9780545831918 Scholastic, 2016	\$17.99	336 p.
Krys, Michelle <i>Dead Girls Society</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	978-0-553-50802-4 Delacorte Press, 2016	\$17.99	292 p.
Littman, Sarah Darer <i>In Case You Missed It</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-545-90437-7 Scholastic, 2016	\$17.99	305 p.
London, Kiara <i>Kiss Cam</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-1-250-07096-8 Swoon Reads, 2016	\$9.99	243 p.
Lyga, Barry <i>The Secret Sea</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-1-250-07283-2 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$23.99	430 p.
Marriott, Zoe <i>Frail Human Heart</i> , Name of the Blade #3 Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-7636-6959-1 Candlewick Press, 2015	\$16.99	356 p.

Martin, John, and Scott Seegert <i>Sci-Fi Junior High</i> (ARC) Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School	978-0-316-31516-6 Jimmy Patterson Books, 2017	\$13.99	302 p.
Mason, Simon <i>Running Girl</i> Orig. pub. by David Fickling Books, 2014 Elizabeth Metcalf, Redmond Middle School	9781338036428 Scholastic Inc., 2016	\$18.99	420 p.
Matheiu, Jennifer <i>Afterward</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-1-62672-238-5 Roaring Book Press, 2016	\$17.99	308 p.
McGee, Katherine ◆ <i>The Thousandth Floor</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0062418593 HarperCollins, 2016	\$18.99	448 p.
McGee, Ron <i>Ryan Quinn and the Rebel's Escape</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-06-242164-7 Harper, 2016	\$16.99	362 p.
McInnes, Nicole <i>Days</i> Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	9780374302849 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	390 p.
McMann, Lisa <i>Going Wild</i> , Going Wild #1 Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	9780062337146 HarperCollins, 2016	\$16.99	375 p.
Milford, Kate <i>The Left-Handed Fate</i> Kirsten Edwards, KCLS Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School	978-0-8050-9800-6 Henry Holt, 2016	\$16.99	372 p.
Mills, Claudia <i>Write This Down</i> Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	978-0-374-30164-4 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$15.99	248 p.
Monir, Alexandra <i>The Girl in the Picture</i> Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	978-0-385-74390-7 Delacorte Press, 2016	\$17.99	260 p.
Morrill, Lauren	978-0-553-49801-1	\$17.99	278 p.

<i>My Unscripted Life</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	Delacorte Press, 2016		
Moss, Miriam <i>Girl on a Plane</i> Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	9780544783997 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016	\$17.99	277 p.
Niven, Jennifer <i>Holding up the Universe</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-385-75592-4 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$17.99	387 p.
Pearson, Ridley <i>The Initiation</i> , Lock and Key #1 Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	9780062399014 HarperCollins, 2016	\$17.99	371 p.
Philpot, Chelsey <i>Be Good Be Real Be Crazy</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-6-229372-5 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	261 p.
Pink, Randi <i>Into White</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	9781250070210 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$17.99	275 p.
Preller, James <i>The Courage Test</i> Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School Elizabeth Metcalf, Redmond Middle School	978-1-250-09391-2 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$16.99	212 p.
Roehrig, Caleb <i>Last Seen Leaving</i> JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	978-1-250-08563-4 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$17.99	324 p.
Romney, J.P. <i>The Monster on the Road is Me</i> Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library	978-0-374-31654-9 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$17.99	325 p.
Roth, Veronica <i>Carve the Mark</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0062348630 Katherine Tegen Books, 2016	\$22.99	480 p.
Rust, Ned <i>Patrick Griffin's Last Breakfast on Earth</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-1626723429 Roaring Brook Press, 2016	\$16.99	416 p.

Sones, Sonya <i>Saving Red</i> Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School	9780062370280 Harper Teen, 2016	\$17.99	432 p.
Sonneblick, Jordan <i>Falling Over Sideways</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-545-86324-7 Scholastic, 2016	\$17.99	257 p.
Spangler, Brie <i>Beast</i> Stephanie Zero, KCLS Stephanie Zero, KCLS	9781101937167 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016	\$17.99	330 p.
Stine, R. L. <i>Young Scrooge</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-1-250-07015-9 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$16.99	185 p.
Swartz, Elly <i>Finding Perfect</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0374303129 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016	\$16.99	304 p.
Sweren-Becker, Daniel <i>The Ones</i> The Ones #1 Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	978-1-250-08314-2 Imprint, 2016	\$17.99	292 p.
Tanner, Lian <i>Sunker's Deep</i> Aarene Storms, KCLS	9781250052179 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$16.99	294 p.
Volponi, Paul <i>Top Prospect</i> Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	9781467794336 Carolrhoda Books, 2016	\$17.99	270 p.
Watson, Cristy <i>Cutter Boy</i> Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-1-4594-1098-5 James Lorimar & Co., 2016	\$21.00	173 p.
West, Hannah <i>Kingdom of Ash & Briars</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-8234-3651-4 Holiday House, 2016	\$17.95	355 p.
Wooding, Chris <i>Velocity</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-545-94494-6 Scholastic, 2017	\$18.99	336 p.

Yang, Gene Luen & Mike Holmes	978-1-62672-340-5	\$18.99	94 p.
<i>Paths & Portals</i> (GN), Secret Coders #2 First Second, 2016			
Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School			
Yoon, Nicola	978-0-553-49668-0	\$18.99	348 p.
<i>The Sun is Also a Star</i> Delacorte Press, 2016			
Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library			

NON-FICTION

Barakat, Ibtisam	978-0-374-30251-1	\$17.99	217 p.
<i>Balcony on the Moon</i> , Companion to <i>Tasting the Sky</i> Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016			
Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School			

Davis, Kenneth C.	9781627793117	\$17.97	286 p.
<i>In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives</i> Henry Holt, 2016			
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School			

Downer, Ann	978-1-4677-8571-6	\$27.00	103 p.
<i>The Animal Mating Game</i> Twenty-First Century Books, 2017			
Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School			

Doyle, Caitlin	978-1-77085-770-4	\$29.95	320 p.
<i>Girls Can Do Anything</i> Firefly Books, 2016			
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School			

Fleming, Candace	978-1-59643-763-0	\$19.99	288 p.
<i>Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West</i> Roaring Brook Press, 2016			
Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library			
Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School			

Freedman, Russell	9780823436583	\$20.00	150 p.
<i>Vietnam: A History of War</i> Holiday House, 2016			
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School			

Freedman, Russell	9780544223790	\$17.99	104 p.
<i>We Will Not be Silenced: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Hitler</i> Clarion Books, 2016			
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS			

Goldstein, Margaret J.	9781467792431	\$29.00	104 p.
<i>Legalizing Marijuana: Promise and Pitfalls</i> Twenty-First Century Books, 2017			
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School			

Happer, Richard <i>Bizarre Competitions : 101 Ways to Become a World Champion</i> Aarene Storms, KCLS	9781770858626	\$19.95	256 p. Firefly Books, 2016
Hirsch, Rebecca E. <i>Climate Migrants: On the Move in a Warming World</i> Books, 2017 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	9781467793414	\$29.00	88 p. Twenty-First Century
Jones, Patrick <i>Teen Incarceration: From Cell Bars to Ankle Bracelets</i> Books, 2017 Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9781467775724	\$37.32	120 p. Twenty-First Century
Lloyd, Carli with Wayne Coffey <i>All Heart: My Dedication and Determination to Become One of Soccer's Best</i> Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016 Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School	978-0-544-97869-0	\$16.99	304 p.
Marrin, Albert <i>Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience During World War II</i> Knopf, 2016 JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library	978-0-553-50936-6	\$17.99	209 p. Albert A.
McCormick, Patricia <i>The Plot To Kill Hitler</i> Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-06-241108-2	\$18.99	192 p. Balzer + Bray, 2016
Meltzer, Brad <i>Heros for my Daughter</i> Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	978006249277	\$17.99	115 p. Harper, 2012
Meltzer, Brad <i>Heros for my Son</i> Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9780062439314	\$17.99	105 p. Harper, 2010
Reef, Catherine <i>Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse</i> Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	978-0-544-53580-0	\$18.99	192 p. Clarion Books, 2016
Seiple, Samantha <i>Death on the River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Amazon Adventure</i> (ARC) Scholastic, 2017	978-0-545-70916-3	\$17.99	214 p.

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Smith, Lucky Blue with Dallan G. Smith 978-1-5247-1876-3 \$18.99 235 p.
Stay Golden Random House, 2016

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Stelson, Caren 978-1-4677-8903-5 \$19.99 135 p.
Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story Carolrhoda Books, 2016

Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School

Still, Dr. Ben 978-1-77085-810-7 \$25.00 192 p.
The Secret Life of the Periodic Table Firefly Books, 2016

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Swaby, Rachel 9780399553967 \$15.99 195 p.
Trailblazers: 33 Women in Science Who Changed the World Delacorte Press, 2016

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

Trunko, Emily (editor) 978-0-399-55742-2 \$14.99 224 p.
Dear My Blank: Secret Letters Never Sent Crown, 2016

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Wallace, Rich 978-1-62979-094-7 \$18.95 352 p.
Blood Brother: Jonathan Daniels and His Sacrifice for Civil Rights Calkins Creek, 2016

Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library

Wambach, Abby 9780062457929 \$16.99 211 p.
Forward: My Story HarperCollins, 2016

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

Titles Reviewed - December 2016

FICTION - RECOMMEND

Ahern, Cecelia 978-1250074119 \$18.99 336 p.
Flawed Feiwel & Friends, 2016

Celestine lives in a world where either you are perfect, regular citizen, or you are Flawed. Those who are flawed are branded with an "F" in one of five places: temple (for bad decisions), chest (for disloyalty), hand (for stealing), foot (for stepping out of line), and tongue (for lying). They must also wear an armband proclaiming their flawlessness to the world. The Flawed are treated as second-hand citizens and may never gather in groups of more than two without a flawless person accompanying them. Celestine's life is perfect. She does well at school and has an amazing boyfriend, Art, whose father, Judge Crevan, is the head of the Guild. Celestine sees Judge Crevan as a kindly, fair man; though she recognizes that others fear him greatly (and for good reason!). Celestine doesn't deal with the Flawed and strives to do everything right. She's a perfectionist, a mathematician who places great stock in logic. But her perfect life changes when logic and compassion drive her help a sick, elderly Flawed man to a seat on the bus. Assisting the Flawed is not allowed, and she is immediately arrested. Judge Crevan gives her an out by selling the story that she was trying to get the Flawed man off the bus to save the unflawed. But there were many witnesses on the bus that say otherwise (not to mention a video). As her trial ensues, Celestine becomes the unwitting poster child for two different sides of a volatile issue that threatens to overthrow the Guild and its rules. Judge Crevan proves himself a ruthless man who wants to bring "his" rules to the rest of the world, and when Celestine chooses to tell the truth on the stand, he has no qualms about making an example out of her.

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

Ahern, Cecelia 978-1250074119 \$18.99 336 p.
Flawed Feiwel & Friends, 2016

I highly recommend this book for middle school and up. Teenager Celestine North has lived a perfect life in a society where perfection is touted as the goal and the norm, and if anyone makes an error in judgement that puts them in the gray area between citizen and criminal then they are flagged as being "flawed". This involves getting arrested, branded, and living in society with regulations and penalties. Celestine believes in this system at first, and is probably influenced by her boyfriend Art Crevan whose Dad, Judge Crevan, is the head judge for the Guild, the organization that deems people flawed. When the story opens a flawed arrest that happens in her neighborhood shocks Celestine, and later when she is on a bus and a flawed man needs assistance she is compelled to help him and this catapults her into a war between the Guild and people who question Judge Crevan's actions. The events twist and turn in all sorts of directions and I loved that I had no idea what was going to happen next. I read this 336 page book in one sitting, and I am not a fast reader. The way the author writes each chapter one simply has to know what happens next! The premise is like a cross between the events surrounding Montgomery Bus

Boycotts, and *The Scarlet Letter*. What reminds me about the bus boycotts is how Celestine's arrest gets the attention of other people, and later she meets a publicist who rubs her the wrong way but later becomes an ally, kind of like Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks. I thought that the dystopian society thing was done and that I'd never see anything new with that genre, but this author has proven me wrong. What I love most about this story is its message that our flaws actually make us stronger, better, people. Fans of the *Matched* series by Ally Condie and *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld. I am a huge fan of this author's adult books and I am so glad she has entered the world of YA!

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

Allgeyer, Amy 9780807515808 \$16.99 260 p.
Dig Too Deep Albert Whitman & Co., 2016

A Civil Action and *Erin Brockovich* meet YA fiction in this debut effort for Amy Allgeyer. Kentucky colloquialisms pepper this down home story about a coal company gone rogue, lending the tragic tale an authenticity despite the implausible twists in the final chapters. Liberty is the daughter of an activist. Well, former daughter. In the beginning of the story, Liberty's mother is in jail for her participation in a plot to blow up a site she was protesting which means Liberty must leave her scholarship, expensive prep school in Washington DC and best friend for the backwoods of Ebbotsville, Kentucky. This turn of fortune is sufficient for Liberty to declare the woman "My Former Mother," or MFM for short. Liberty's anger grows as she takes on the role of care giver for her grandmother who is dying of cancer caused by the coal mining operations. Her grandmother is not the only one, as everyone on the east side of the Tanner Peak operation is suffering the effects. The increase in tumors and bizarre mutations of crawdads and fish are enough to spur Liberty into action, but when she starts shaking things up with the EPA, the mine owner is willing to escalate his attacks on her grandmother's property. Liberty is a sympathetic character, and her battle is rendered with more complexity than one might expect. Side characters like Cole, Dobber, and her ultimate frenemy, Ashleigh, are a little one-dimensional, but the frenetic pace of the plot will mask that. The mine owner is also a caricature of the ultimate evil corporate boss, but that makes him easier to hate. The story ends with the parable of the starfish ("it matters to this one") and a final chapter that ends far better for Liberty than the scenarios built in the previous chapters, but the happy ending keeps readers from giving up hope completely. Overall, the fast pace, the balanced approach to activism, and likable characters make this a satisfying read.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Andreani, Michelle and Scott, Mindi 978-0-06-238630-4 \$17.99 371 p.
The Way Back to You Harper Collins, 2016

The Way Back to You is a teen road romance. After teenager Ashlynn dies, everyone grieves and struggles, especially those closest to her in her Oregon high school. Her boyfriend Kyle is obviously struggling, turning back on everyone and quitting the baseball team, who needs their star player back. Cloudy, Ashlynn's best friend, seems to be doing much better, still leading the cheerleaders at the pep rallies, joking about the words that cannot be said, like 'chlamydia' and 'secrete', and charming everyone's parents. But in their

alternating first person chapters, we see Cloudy carefully avoiding many triggers and managing her panic attacks, while Kyle slowly works out his emotions with the support of a close friend. Letters intersperse the story, to and from those who received Ashlynn's organs. When Cloudy hacks onto her friend's parent's computers, she reads these and the addresses. Determined to save Kyle, she tricks him into a Southwest road trip to meet or spy on these survivors (the ethics are skimmed over on this); the states separate sections of the book. They fall in love, until Cloudy's controlling ways get in the way. There are some steamy scenes, as well as comedy and -need I repeat--grief. When all seems lost, love saves the day at a Las Vegas Wedding Chapel ceremony.

Age Level: High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Ashton, Brodi	9780062368560	\$17.99	352 p.
<i>Diplomatic Immunity</i>	Balzer + Bray, 2016		

Piper Baird has one chance to be able to afford to attend Columbia University as a journalism student: win the Bennington scholarship. The task isn't as easy as it might sound. First, she must get accepted into Chiswick Academy, then she has to use her journalistic talent to find just the right story, and then her story must be the winning story. On her first day at Chiswick, Piper meets Rafael "Raf" Amador. Raf is one of the students at Chiswick who does not have to play by the same rules as everyone else. As the son of the Spanish Ambassador, he has Diplomatic Immunity. And all of a sudden, Piper has an exposé in the making: the parties on embassy row with their drugs and alcohol, the affairs, minor infractions of the law--all without consequence. As she starts to fall for Raf, she performs feats of remarkable rationalization in an effort to reduce him--and her budding feelings for him--to "just a story." Readers get an inside look at the ethical conundrums journalists face in a predictable plot that is alternately humorous, deeply layered, and all too human story. Like Kierra Cass's *The Selection*, I could see pretty quickly where the story was going to go, and I went gleefully. . .and am equally as gleefully recommending it to my students.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Atwood, Megan	9781467775069	\$27.99	98 p.
<i>Stay in the Game</i>, The Contest	DarbyCreek, 2016		

Jason's grandpa is quite ill . There may be a new treatment that could save him, but it's very expensive and this family can't afford it. However, there is a contest that if Jason were to win, he'd be able to buy the treatment for his grandpa. He just has to be the first one to complete 10 jobs. It starts out pretty simple, but quickly becomes unsettling and dangerous. Feels a lot like *Salt & Stone* by Scott but at a simpler reading level. Pretty compelling. Good for struggling/reluctant readers.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Austen, Jane & Carbone, Courtney	978-1-101-94052-5	\$9.99	114 p.
<i>Darcy Swipes Left</i>, OMG Classics	Random House, 2016		

Creators of the omg Shakespeare! series have expanded to include other Western literary classics. Here they cleverly retell Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* through texts, social

Budhos, Marina 978-0553534184 \$17.99 272 p.
Watched Wendy Lamb Books, 2016

Naeem is a teen, living in Queens with his Bangladeshi shopkeeper parents. They want him to take school more seriously, he wants to spend more time on the streets. When he is picked up for shoplifting and abandoned by his "friend," he is given the choice to go to Juvie, or become an informer for the cops or Homeland Security, watching Muslim teens and the local mosque. He keeps getting pressured to bring in better info, until he has to make a choice to incriminate his friend or go to jail. Timely, in this age of suspicion and plea-deals.

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

Budhos, Marina 978-0553534184 \$17.99 272 p.
Watched Wendy Lamb Books, 2016

Do you know someone who could turn extremist? Naeem is just helping out a friend when two men from the government offer him a deal. They won't press charges... if he does some work for them. Soon he finds himself joining groups to gather information, stalking his friends online, and telling his government contacts every little suspicion he has. This created story is based on the author's research surrounding intelligence practices in a post-9-11 world. Naeem is not strictly a victim, and this is not an area of straightforward, black and white, wrong and right. In a tricky political climate, teens will appreciate seeing what some of the headlines look like on the ground floor. Recommended for middle and high school teen audiences.

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

Buxbaum, Julie 9780553535648 \$17.99 326 p.
Tell Me Three Things Delacorte Press, 2016

Jessie is forced to change schools her junior year of high school. She does make a new friend or two, but the person she most relies upon is someone who goes to her school but only communicates with her through email and texts. They reveal a lot about themselves to each other, but Jessie only knows her friend as SN. SN however definitely knows who Jessie is.

Teen drinking, sexual situations make this more suitable for high school. Teen readers will enjoy the story and trying to figure out who SN really is.

Age Level: High School
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Cherry, Alison 978-0-553-51186-4 \$17.99 304 p.
Look Both Ways Delacorte Press, 2016

Brooklyn, a girl from a famous theater family accepts a prestigious summer apprenticeship to develop her acting skills apart from her superstar family but to her disappointment she is not cast in any of the plays. She lies to her family to avoid embarrassment but ultimately figures out she wants to write and compose behind the scenes. The one thing that is going right is she and her new roommate, Zoe, are immediately sympatico-best friends. Brooklyn

likes to think she is open to new things but as she and Zoe tentatively explore their attraction to each other, Brooklyn starts having second thoughts. Things get more and things get complicated as Zoe has a boyfriend.

This book with its theater setting creates an interesting perspective on developing sexuality as Brooklyn's mother would like her daughter to have a "girlfriend;" "boys are so much trouble," she says. Being bi-sexual or gay is the norm in the theater program, so when Brooklyn realizes she's not "fully" a lesbian, she's reluctant to "come out" or "come in" and disappoint her family and new girlfriend. The sex scenes between the girls are sweet and intense but not explicit. This book does look at the importance of friendship in a relationship and the discussions of lust and love could be informational for some, although these teens are college-age.

Allusions to Shakespeare's plays and Broadway musicals abound and the backstage theater details and acting techniques are interesting. This would be a good choice for high school libraries if theater is popular. :lesbian relationships, theater school

Age Level: Junior High, High School, 8th grade+
Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Cherry, Alison 978-0-553-51186-4 \$17.99 304 p.
Look Both Ways Delacorte Press, 2016

Brooklyn's whole family is dramatic - in all meanings of the word. She is excited to spend the summer at Allerdale, a theater camp, where so many of her family have gone and have so many great stories about. She's a little nervous, too, but she hits it off right away with her roommate Zoe which helps a lot. However, as time goes by, Brooklyn and Zoe discover that they have more interest in each other than just being friends. (Brooklyn's mom is particularly thrilled about this development). However, as is often the case, things go terribly wrong.

Sexual situations. Better fit for high school but nothing that I can remember that would make it a bad fit for middle school. Good addition to LGBTQ+ collection.

Age Level: High School
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Clark, Tracy 978-0544517905 \$17.99 272 p.
Mirage HMH Books for Young Readers, 2016

Ryan Potter is a thrill seeker who especially enjoys jumping out of planes at her father's skydiving business in the Mohave Desert. Petulant at not being allowed to participate in a jump to entice the X games to their establishment, Ryan decides to prove her worth by waiting until the absolute last minute to release her parachute in her next dive. Some people are in awe, but generally, everyone—her parents and boyfriend Dom in particular—think she's being reckless and acting stupidly. Her father says it is further proof as to why she should not be allowed to participate, but Ryan thinks she did nothing wrong; she is fearless and that's how she will live her life. That is, until she starts seeing a reflection in the mirror that is not her own. When Dom hosts an LSD party, Ryan partakes and winds up in an LSD-induced brawl with the reflection. Waking up in the hospital, bruised and broken, Ryan is not the same girl she was before. This Ryan is scared, seeing the eyes of this girl in every reflective surface. She stops taking care of herself and withdraws into her

but with time clearly they both want more. But, when Cassidy's ex shows up, she's not sure she's reading to let go. Told in alternating voices this is a sweet, enjoyable romance. Recommend, grades 8+.

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

Damico, Gina 9780544633155 \$17.99 360 p.
Wax Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

Gina Damico is known for her quirky writing style, with oodles of puns and witty repartee from every character on the page. This book about a small town dominated by a candle-making factory is no different. In fact, the perfect couple that owns the slightly eerie factory, the Chandlers (get it?), have big plans for the waxworks. When teenager Poppy takes a tour of the factory and meets Mrs. Grosholz, a talented wax worker, she realizes that something sinister is up, and she must investigate. She does this all with a living wax dummy that follows her around, gifted to her by Mrs. Grosholz. His name is Dud, and he causes all sorts of madcap problems for Poppy. Recommended for 8-12th grades

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

Dashner, James 978-0-553-51309-7 \$18.99 348 p.
The Fever Code, The Maze Runner #0.6 Delacorte Press, 2016

The Pre-quel, first chronologically in the Maze Runner series. Explains Teresa and Thomas' participation in building the mazes, WICKED's beginning and their qualms about participating in such a weird experiment. It will be fun for fans of the series to see Minho for the first time, or Newt, etc... A must purchase for collections, even if it is anti-climactic because we know how it ends.

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

Derting, Kimberly 978-0-06-229366-4 \$17.99 378 p.
The Countdown, The Taking #3 Harper Teen, 2016

Once again teen Kyra is on the run from people who want to do her harm. She survived being abducted by aliens and having her DNA replaced with alien DNA and returned home after a 5-year absence. Now she's with a small band of friends and her father (who she wished was really crazy with his psychotic ramblings about extraterrestrials, but she knows how true his worst fears turned out to be a reality for her). She keeps hearing the message, "The Returned must die" which worries her as she is one of those people. Now every morning when the sun begins to rise, she is filled with the most intense, excruciating pain and a number that reverberates through her entire being. She soon realizes that this number is decreasing by one every day. What kind of countdown could this be? Are the aliens returning to kidnap her again? Or are the aliens deciding to take over Earth once and for all? Teens who have read the first two books in this series will enjoy the resolution, mystery, sci-fi revelations, and the obligatory love triangle. Personally, I found it hard to distinguish between the two male narrators at times, yet Kyra stands out as a strong, feisty heroine who has adapted pretty well to her new existence.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Dickens, Charles & Wright, Brett 978-0-399-55064-5 \$9.99 90 p.
Scrooge #worstgiftever, OMG Classics Random House, 2016

Creators of the omg Shakespeare! series have expanded to include other Western literary classics. Here they cleverly retell Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* through texts, check-ins, transcripts, and social media posts. The author has managed to create a text dialogue style for each character that is well-suited to source material. For example, the Ghost of Christmas Future, who can only silently gesture in the original, does not use letters at all but "speaks" in single or double emoticons. Thought was obviously taken for how situations could come about, like the two men seeking donations for the poor are simply unknown numbers to Scrooge. The ghosts transport Scrooge by having him tap on an image or icon. And Scrooge's early statements via social media are yet to be liked, but at the end he has 86 likes for his cheery observations.

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

Emerson, Kevin 978-0-06-213401-1 \$17.99 231 p.
Finding Abbey Road, Exile #3 Katherine Tegen Books, 2016

This is book three in the *Exile* series, and it can stand alone (I have not read the first two), but some nuances are lost. Cat and her bandmates are on a hunt for the missing third song from her boyfriend Caleb's dead rock-star father, who has now been seen, alive. They decide to do whatever it takes to find him, even defying Cat's parents to fly to London to follow clues they believe he is leaving behind. A little language, no sex, drugs (a little bit of rock and roll). Would be good for anyone into the live music/band scene, would be a shrug for anyone else.

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

Freer, Dave 978-1476781204 \$10.99 256 p.
Changeling Island Baen, 2016

Tim is a confused, angry young man, too eager to please a manipulative teenage girl from school, unable to comprehend his mom's dislike and his father's abandonment of him. When he's accused of a crime he didn't commit and his mom sends him away to Flinder's Island – a remote island off the coast of Tasmania – to live with her ex-husband's mom, it really does feel as if Tim's being thrown away by his family.

But things really do go missing, get broken or destroyed around this kid, even though he's NOT stealing, vandalizing or setting fires. Mostly. Tim is haunted. *Changeling Island* is told in Tim's voice and from the POV of the ancient ancestral spirit tasked to guard the teenager, the enemy sent from the Magical Courts to hunt him, his aboriginal grandma who's taken him in, and the girl he makes friends with. It's both a thoughtful coming-of-age story about a young man figuring out his identity AND an action-packed fantasy adventure in an unusual (and fascinating) setting. The title was nominated for the Dragon Award for best teen SF&F for its deft characterization and superb world-building.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Freitas, Donna 9780062118608 \$17.99 427 p.
Unplugged Harper Teen, 2016

Skye is a 16-year-old girl who lives in a virtual world with her best friend Inara and Inara's parents (an adoptive family of sorts). In App World, people download Apps to change their appearance, grow wings and fly, go on adventures, and play virtual games. Meanwhile, Skye's mother and sister toil in the Real World, working as Keepers, tending to the bodies of those whose minds live in App World. Skye desperately misses her real family and has been longing for the day when she can unplug and do her "service," a one-year furlough in the real world required of all Seventeens. However, when Skye is sixteen, the borders are closed; no one can plug into or unplug from App World. Skye's hopes are destroyed. When she is approached with the offer to unplug in exchange for finding Rain Holt, the leader's son, in the real world and convincing him to come back, she of course accepts. However, when gets to the Real World, things are not at all as she imagined. The world is on the brink of war and Skye is the unwitting posterchild for a group called the New Capitalists and their new Body Market scheme. A great read for sci-fi fans.

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

Friend, Natasha 978-0-374-30230-6 \$16.99 264 p.
Where You'll Find Me Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016

Just when Anna hopes her 8th grade year will be great, her family life falls apart. She is left to cope with her parents' divorce, mother's suicide attempt, and her dad's new marriage to a 24-year-old who immediately has a baby. School becomes even worse when her best friend throughout elementary school dumps her for new cooler friends; Anna is lost. Step by step, she makes new friends and learns some bad situations have silver linings. I liked it. The mother-daughter suicide conversations seemed pitched right for early middle school-not too heavy but confrontational enough to have some resonance. Also a positive note, all was not solved with a boyfriend. Strictly girl power. : mother, suicide, friendship

Age Level: Middle School
Comments: Easier reading, mature content
Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Garner, Paula 978-0763682057 \$16.99 368 p.
Phantom Limbs Candlewick Press , 2016

Otis and Meg had been inseparable for as long as they can remember. Best friends, family friends, and later as they enter their teens, romantic potential. But when Mason, Otis's little brother, tragically dies while under the care of Meg and her family, everything changes. Meg ends up moving across the country. Otis is left to grieve, confused and abandoned, and missing his friend. His parents are devastated, their lives changed forever.

Three years later, Otis & his family are just starting to heal. Thanks to his unconventional friend, Dara, who lost her arm in a shark attack a few years back, his attentions have been diverted to qualifying for the Olympics in swimming. Dara's idea; not his. But when Meg

comes back to town, Meg who he has stalked on social media, who he knows has a boyfriend, who seems to have moved on from him and from Mason, his life may just start to unravel again. Questions show up with her: What happened that fateful day? Why does she think his mom hates her? How does she feel about him? What are they to each other? Will she stay?

Phantom Limbs is about overcoming loss. Do we escape everything that reminds us of what once was? Or do we face the loss head on, come through the other side, and find a new life. This book is symbolic and moving. Definitely a tearjerker. Some romance, but deeper relationship and identity questions are explored. Some sexual situations or references but nothing too explicit. Some references to drinking but does not glorify it. Grades 8 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Gier, Kerstin 1-62779-079-6 \$17.99 317 p.

Dream On, The Silver Trilogy #2 Henry Holt, 2016

Book Two of the Silver Trilogy - Henry and Liv are dating, Anabel has been stopped and is in an insane asylum, and things should be good. But, a gossip blog at school is spouting out way too much accurate information, Liv's little sister is sleepwalking and endangering herself and Henry and Liv are spending too much time in the dream world. When a strange creature starts roaming the halls of the dreamworld, they must marshal their resources to try to defeat him/her.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Girard, M-E 9780062404176 \$17.99 373 p.

Girl Mans Up Harper Teen, 2016

Get ready for a heaping helping of "locker room talk" in *Girl Mans Up*. Penelope "Pen" Oliveira doesn't feel like a man trapped in a woman's body. She is quite happy being a woman, but she prefers to dress like a man, and she is attracted to Blake--a "badass" girly girl who plays video games and is part of a band. Despite the cover and the title, *Girl Mans Up* delves into a number of issues more deeply than solely gender and identity. Pen is the daughter of Portuguese immigrants to Canada. She and her older brother, Johnny, have acculturated quickly, but her parents have brought their language and their old world views of traditional gender roles to their new home. The constant pressure for Pen to be a "good girl" simply adds to the pressures of the friendships Pen has forged with the "guys." She is fully one of them, and readers are treated to a fairly misogynistic perception of women's roles courtesy of Colby, one of her best friends. All this changes when Colby, who uses Pen as his wingman, crashes and burns in his attempt to hook up with Blake. Colby's inability to win the fair Blake does not translate to Pen, and a torrid romance, if illicit, romance between Pen and Blake ensues. Worse, Colby has managed to impregnate Olivia, one of his hook-ups, but refuses to deal with the issue. Loyalty is paramount with the guys, and Pen's romance with Blake and friendship with Olivia as well as Pen's ultimate acknowledgment of Colby's flaws strain that loyalty to its breaking point. Respect is paramount with her parents, and Pen must navigate the uncharted, and often hostile, territory of gender and gender roles. Readers should be aware that the story includes a

Rex, Tunde and Painted Wolf have never met. But they know each other, and they know of each other - online. Rex is Mexican-American and a brilliant coder. Painted Wolf (not her real name) exposes the corrupt as a sort of Robin Hood blogger. Tunde is a Nigerian junkyard Da Vinci creating life-changing inventions for his village.

They meet in chat rooms all the time, so when they hear about The Game, a competition of up and coming geniuses around the globe, they hope to meet in person. Tunde gets a visit from a ruthless warlord, General Iyabo, who agrees to pay his way to the competition (and spare his family's lives) in exchange for Tunde building him a GPS jammer and winning The Game.

Rex hopes to use the Quantum computer which will likely be at The Game's location to find his missing brother, Teo. Painted Wolf hopes to find out why her father is meeting with a corrupt official. Both hope to help Tunde save his family and village from a threatening tyrant.

The Game is a sort of Mr. Robot meets Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Kids from all over the world with amazing intellectual gifts compete in a game devised by Kiran, India's youngest CEO, who seems to be hiding a bigger & more far-reaching plan. Told from alternating points of view, with drawings, diagrams and doodles connected to each character. This is definitely book 1 as it ends in a cliffhanger and a lot of what happens during The Game feels like it's laying the groundwork for what comes next. Grades 6 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Gratz, Alan 9780545880169 \$16.99 320 p.
Projekt 1065 (ARC) Scholastic, 2016

Michael and his parents are in Germany during WWII as ambassadors from Ireland. They are out on Kristallnacht and see a man being beaten up. Michael wants to go to his aid, but his parents stop him, saying that their overall mission is more important than one person. Despite Ireland's neutrality, they are actually there as spies. Because Michael is gifted with a photographic memory, they often use him to help the cause and when he is old enough he joins the Hitler youth as a spy.

Action-packed. Fans of *Prisoner B-3087* will be thrilled by Gratz' latest. Good recommendation for those interested in WWII.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Grey, Melissa 978-0-385-74467-6 \$17.99 421 p.
The Shadow Hour, The Girl at Midnight #2 Delacorte Press, 2016

In Book 1 of the series, Echo discovered that she is the Firebird, the creature of light predicted to bring peace to the underworld beneath New York City. In book 2 she discovers that with her light comes an evil darkness, the kucedra. She and her band of misfits are caught in the middle of the war between the Avicen and the Drakharin. This is a middle book, so although some things are resolved, it's really a set up for book 3 due out Summer, 2017.

I found the story confusing since I had not read book one, but it's clear that the action and romance that threads through the story has built a solid fan base. There are multiple characters each with a story arc, including GLBTQ characters. Echo is a strong female protagonist. If you have book 1, you must have book 2 & 3. Some violence, but little noticeable profanity and sex. Recommended for 8th grade and up.

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

Griffiths, Andy 978-1-250-02693-4 \$13.99 329 p.

The 52-Story Treehouse, Treehouse Adventures #4 Feiwel & Friends, 2014

This is silly fun, fitting a bit closer to graphic novels than *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, with all pages largely illustrated, but still with standard text. The main characters are book – and treehouse -- creators Andy and Terry, along with animal-lover Jill at times. The diversity of options in the fantastical treehouse are Seussian, such as a chainsaw juggling room, a make-your-own pizzeria, rocket-powered carrot launcher, and a life-size snakes and ladders (which seems to eat the players). The “boys” publisher, Mr. Big Nose, goes missing, and they must solve the mystery, with the help of Jill and her cooperative animals, including a very hungry caterpillar. (This is one of several references to other classic works.)

Animated vegetables also come into play. It doesn't all make sense or stay consistent, but who cares? This stands alone, but readers will likely want the others.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, grades 6-9

Comments: ill. By Terry Denton
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Hand, Cynthia 978-0-06-239174-2 \$17.99 491 p.

My Lady Jane Harper Teen, 2016

Historical Fiction: This alternative history of Lady Jane Grey and her husband Lord Guilford (Gifford) Dudley is one to be sure to read! I enjoyed this alternate history story immensely.

As history notes, Lady Jane Grey was placed on the throne by her Cousin King Edward upon his death, she ruled for nine days before Mary dethroned her and cut off her head, but in this story, the history is rewritten so that our main characters might have a chance. The authors are the narrators, who let us the tale of how they lived, and oh, how they lived, in this version they have special powers that are passed down by generations before them. Edians have the power to become an animal and only some have this ability, many are royalty, King Henry VIII was a lion. Those who are Verity do not possess this magic, and are deathly afraid of this power the Edians have in their country. Those who do not possess this want to eliminate them, including Mary, those who are Edians, of course want to live. This story is quite a romp through history with a fun twist on reality. I was rooting for our main characters to overcome the whole story. A fun historical fiction with a touch of fantasy, a well written alternate ending that everyone will enjoy. 9-12

Age Level: High School
Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School

Hatfield, Ruth 978-1-62779-001-7 \$16.99 324 p.

***The Color Of Darkness*, The Book of Storms #2** Henry Holt, 2016

Book two of the Book of Storms Trilogy. Picks up right where the first one left off. Probably a stronger book than the first one. It has Danny and Cath thrown together to try to battle Sammael's plans to make holes in the dream world of Chromos, which will release chaos on earth as all humanity's bad dreams will come true. They team with a talking hare, a stag, and a horse to defeat Sammael's plans. Perfect middle school book, but probably too young for high schoolers.

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

Hattrup, Karen 9780062410207 \$17.99 310 p.
Frannie and Tru Harper Teen, 2016

The cover was what first captured my attention, but it was the first chapter that hooked me. *Frannie and Tru* is a remarkably introspective coming of age story with a tone that reminded me a little of Scout's voice in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Make no mistake, in some ways Frannie is the antithesis of Scout. Frannie is shy and a little unsure of herself, but the tone and the wonder are similar. Truman's family, by contrast, is as rich as Frannie's family is poor, and he has been sent to Frannie's home under taint of scandal since he is her cousin and his parents are at their wits' end with his shenanigans. Everything Frannie and her older twin brothers remember about Tru boils down to his arrogance and a Teflon ability to repel the consequences of his actions. Tru's visit for the summer is good for no one except Frannie, who hopes that this time they can become friends and that Tru will provide some diversions in an otherwise boring summer. Oh, and Tru is gay. In fact, it is this revelation that is some way connected to the scandal. Throughout the summer Frannie is introduced to drinking, clubs, deeply held family secrets, and black people. The recent decline in the fortunes of Frannie's family necessitates Frannie leaving the private Catholic school she was attending for a magnet school in downtown Baltimore. Suddenly, she must confront all of the small ways she has harbored racism from her treatment of her cousin to the day-to-day realities experienced by her new friends and boyfriend. I loved the author's careful treatment of racism. In *Frannie*, Hattrup creates a wonderful vehicle for shining lights on some of the uglier parts of human nature and causes readers to think deeply without ever descending to pedantic preaching. This was a story I loved and can't wait to share with my students.

Age Level: High School
Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Henry, April 978-1627793322 \$16.99 240 p.
The Girl I Used to Be Christy Ottaviano Books, 2016

"Fourteen years ago, a three-year-old girl was the only survivor at a horrific murder scene. Now she's determined to search for the truth--and the killer is even more determined to stop her." Detectives visit Olivia, 17 year old emancipated minor with a history in the foster system, to update her on the case of the murder of Naomi Benson 14 years ago. Olivia is really Ariel Benson, and for the last 14 years she has believed her father, Terry Weeks, murdered her mother, dropped her off at a Wal-Mart and fled. But the detectives report that her father's remains have been found near where her mother was murdered. It seems the killer is still out there. Now, Olivia returns to her childhood home to see if she

can figure out what really happened and finally find the closure she needs. April Henry is a great young adult mystery writer. Students at McKnight love her other books. This is a stand-alone mystery, like most of her books. There's a tiny bit of romance. Nothing too graphic. Kind of a standard whodunnit but the formula works for most teens, especially reluctant readers. Grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Heppermann, Christine 9780062387950 \$17.99 225 p.
Ask Me How I Got Here Greenwillow, 2016

As she finishes up her sophomore year at Immaculate Heart Academy, Addie seems to have everything going for her: great friends, good grades, a sensitive boyfriend, and a strong possibility of scoring a cross country scholarship to college. Much of that changes when Addie becomes pregnant and, with the support of her boyfriend and parents, decides to have an abortion. At first all seems okay, but Addie becomes depressed and despondent, withdrawing from friends and family, quitting the cross country team, and spending a lot of time alone at Java Joes (not wanting to alert anyone to the fact that she dropped the team). At Java Joes she eventually runs into a former classmate and cross country star, Juliana, for whom college didn't go as planned. She has her own demons to deal with and as Addie and she grow closer, there's opportunity for both to overcome their obstacles. Written in verse, *Ask how I got here*, will appeal to fans of introspective novels like *Speak* and *Stop Pretending*. Grades 9+ for sexual content and language.

Age Level: High School
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Hicks, Faith Erin 978-1626721562 \$14.99 240 p.
The Nameless City (GN), *The Nameless City #1* First Second, 2016

The city is at a confluence of river, mountain, sea, and trade routes, and so is frequently reconquered by neighboring nations. Each time, they rename the city, so long term residents call it the Nameless City. (They call themselves the Named.) The architecture, clothing, peoples, and other cultural markers look like the setting could be somewhere in central Asia. Young Kai is new in the city, a fairly privileged son of the current ruling people, to be trained as a soldier. He meets Rat, a girl living on the street, and the two develop a cautious friendship. He brings her food, and she teaches him some of the ways of the city, not least her style of rooftop parkour (which they call running). Kai's high-ranking father has an odd proposal to share control of the city among nations, but the current ruler is under threat of assassination, which could jeopardize a more peaceful future. Rat has to decide what side she's on, as does Kai, and both have to find a way to make a difference. Ideas are current, as in a confrontation with guards who don't listen to Rat, just seeing her ethnicity, and shoot (arrows) first, though she's unarmed and trying to be helpful. The art and story are well up to First Second standards, making reading compelling and quick, despite giving material to contemplate.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, grades 6-10
Comments: Color by Jordie Bellaire, endpapers with map, incl. 6 pp. of concept art from story development
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Hicks, Faith Erin 978-1626721562 \$14.99 240 p.
The Nameless City (GN), The Nameless City #1 First Second, 2016

Thirteen-year-old Kai left his Dao homelands to experience life in Nameless City. The less fortunate city residents survive through passive acceptance. Kai begins warrior training along with other young boys in an effort to continue their occupation of the city. Kai's father tries to instill in him a sense of purpose, and shares his ideas about creating democratic city leadership. While traveling alone in the city, Kai meets Rat, a tough, orphaned city girl who is skilled at surviving against all odds. Rat is initially suspicious of Kai's attempt at friendship, but when Rat overhears a plan to murder Kai and his father, she chooses to warn them. Volume 1 of a graphic novel trilogy, this book is full of action and expressive, detailed illustrations. Hicks brings a timeless story of acceptance and friendship to life. Recommended reviews in VOYA and School Library Connections, but a not recommend in SLJ. I had several Asian students read it and they did not see any problems.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Hicks, Faith Erin 978-1626721562 \$21.99 hc 240 p.
The Nameless City (GN), The Nameless City #1 First Second, 2016

The Nameless City, By Faith Erin Hicks is a historical fantasy graphic novel. It takes place in a "China-like" city and has strong male and female characters. Kai has come to the city to join his father. Rat, is a local girl who thinks he knows nothing. Together they teach each other many things, but mostly that there really isn't that much difference between their two people and that if they work together, a lasting peace might be built. Rat overhears a plan that threatens Kai's people. She risks her life to save them, but she doesn't make it before she is thrown into the river and presumed dead. When Kai finds her, he learns of the plan and races to the palace to save the leaders. This is the first in a trilogy. The second book will be out in April of 2017.

Fast action and interesting characters who challenge the status quo and end up saving the city because of their friendship. Grades 6 and up will like this. I enjoyed it, so high school students would too.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School

Hosie, Donna 978-0-8234-3650-7 \$17.95 324 p.
The Devil's Banshee, The Devil's #3 Holiday House, 2016

The third book is narrated by Alfarin, the Viking warrior from the first two books. He and team DEVIL, prompted by Lord Septimus (who is preparing for outright war with the Devil) have to enter the 9 rings of deep hell, led by blind Virgil, to find the Devil's wife, who has been hiding from him there. If they cannot find her and return her to the Devil, either Mitchell's little brother, or Alfarin's eternal love Elinor will be forced to serve as the Devil's dreamcatcher for all eternity. Clever, funny, a little bit of swearing, recommended for Middle school and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Houck, Colleen 978-0-385-37660-0 \$17.99 393 p.
Recreated, Reawakened #2 Delacorte Press, 2016

Book two of the Reawakened series. Lily is told by Anubis that only she can stop Seth from breaking out of his prison by going to the underworld herself, to get her eternal love, Amon, out of there. Because of their burning love, the type which spans eternity and is pure and blameless, she is able to overcome many supernatural barriers as she travels to the underworld. She has merged with a lion to become a sphinx and that makes her more able to survive the many challenges she faces. Pretty sappy love romance, but lots of action to balance it out. Sequel definitely coming, because they are not together yet.

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

Howard, Chris 978-0062415349 \$17.99 416 p.
Night Speed Katherine Tegen Books, 2016

Teenager Alana has joined the police force in a future NY city, to fight against criminal teens who are using Tetra - a new drug that allows teens only to take it for extreme bumps in their speed for 9 minutes exactly. Older people burn out their nervous system. Alana loves the rush, and catching criminals, but she is motivated to fight Tetra users by a incident in the past where a Tetra user harmed her little brother. When she is booted from the force for a bogus reason, she actually infiltrates the criminals herself, but she is racing both time (she is turning 18, too old to use Tetra) and her destructive impulses to take chances.

Recommended 7th and up (SLJ says 10th and up, but I don't know why).

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

Inglis, Lucy 978-0-545-90407-0 \$17.99 359 p.
Crow Mountain Chicken House, 2016

Two stories, one set in 1876 and the other present day, of two English girls who find love in Montana. Hope and her mother are on an adventure in Montana to study the ecosystem when she discovers an old diary. The diary tells the story of Emily, an English girl, on her way through Montana to marry a man she's never met. Told in alternating chapters, we learn their stories and discover how intertwined their lives really are.

This is a wonderful teen romance, sometimes predictable, sometimes surprising. The author is a historian of the 18th century, so the historical facts are authentic and reflect gender roles and Native American issues. But the teen appeal is really found in the love story. A bit reminiscent of Nicholas Sparks' *The Notebook*, there are connections between Emily & Hope. Enough "happily ever after" to appeal to the romantics, but enough surprises and social significance to have broader appeal. Some profanity and sexual references, but tame enough for younger teens. Recommended for grades 8 and up.

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

Jones, Ena 978-0-8234-3648-4 \$16.95 216 p.
Clayton Stone, Facing Off, Clayton Stone #2 Holiday House, 2016

Even though this the second book in the series, it easily reads as a stand-alone title. Clayton Stone is a middle school student who also happens to work as an undercover spy for the Special Service. Instead of helping his teammates go to the playoffs in lacrosse, Clayton finds himself

attending the prestigious Sydney Brown School to see if he can figure out what's bothering its most famous student--the U.S. President's son, Kyle. When he accidentally manages to publicly humiliate Kyle in a BIG way within his first half-hour at Sydney Brown, Clayton knows his job of befriending Kyle will be difficult. It will take all of Clayton's intelligence and charm to succeed at his mission. Luckily his grandmother runs the Special Service so he has some support even though he's now an orphan and still dealing with the recent death of his grandfather. Tween boys will love this fast-paced series that's full of action, mystery, suspense and humor.

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

Jones, Patrick 9781512400052 \$27.99 112 p.
Friend or Foe, Unbarred DarbyCreek, 2016

Ian's in a band and they're starting to make a name for themselves. However, Ian's best friend and the front man for the band, Orlando, is black and he seems to be targeted in their mostly white town. An incident lands both boys in jail, but when Ian is released, Orlando is held indefinitely. Then things go incredibly wrong at an incredibly fast pace.

I was astounded by the ending and a bit non-plussed by Ian's nonchalance about some of the things that happened. Good read-alike for Bluford series and Surviving South Side.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Kirby, Matthew 978-0545817844 \$18.99 352 p.
A Taste for Monsters Scholastic, 2016

Evelyn comes to the hospital, desperate for a job, because she has been disfigured in working with phosphorus at a matchstick factory. The hospital gives her a shot as a care nurse because they can't find anyone able to work with Joseph Merrick, better known as the Elephant Man. Evelyn comes to enjoy working with him after a while, and notices that he is tortured by appearances of ghosts of murdered women in his private rooms. She ends up going out in public to find out why these ghosts are driven to visit Joseph, helping to put them to rest. The ghosts are all victims of Jack the Ripper, who is terrorizing London, but investigating will definitely put Evelyn in danger.

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

Knowles, Jo 978-0-7636-7217-1 \$16.99 311 p.
Still a Work in Progress Candlewick Press, 2016

This riveting realistic fiction story features Noah, who just wants to keep moving forward in 7th grade. At school, his two best friends can be annoying and are starting to fight. One has a girlfriend and the other doesn't. Neither does Noah as girls confuse him. Why would a girl who supposedly likes him hang out with another guy? Plus, his small school means

get Cat to dress like a “lady” -- and moments of heartbreak – when Stonefield disappears and Cat marries the Reverend. All ending in classic Gothic Romance fashion – with tears and sighs. Recommended for 8th grade and up with a caution – there is some profanity (although not too strong) and a definite anti-religion slant that could offend some.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Lo, Catherine 9780544540064 \$17.99 289 p.

How it Ends

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

Jessie suffers from anxiety disorder stemming from a series of bullying incidents that happened in middle school wherein her heretofore best friends Larissa and Courtney ditched her, spread rumors that she is lesbian, and gave her the nickname Lezzie Longbottom. Now in high school, she keeps to herself and continues to avoid any contact with the two girls, who have not let up on their torment—at least, that’s how Jessie perceives things. Enter Annie. Annie is new in town and is a bit of a rebel. She spots Jessie right away as a “beautifully uncool” person she wants to befriend. The two hit it off right away. Jessie revels in finally having a friend. Annie is excited to have a place to go away from her dysfunctional family. But when Courtney comes knocking on Annie’s door, wanting to be friends with the cool new girl, things start to get strained. Jessie doesn’t understand why Annie wants to hang out with the bullies. Annie says they’re not that bad once you get to know them, and she embarks on a mission to get everyone to play nicely together. The plan goes amiss, secrets get shared, parties get out of control, miscommunications happen in droves, and girl drama ensues. Written in alternating chapters, readers get to understand what both girls are feeling during every step of this train wreck drama that teen girls will just love! .

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Lo, Catherine 9780544540064 \$17.99 289 p.

How it Ends

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

How It Ends is the story of the tumultuous friendship of Jessie and Annie during their sophomore year at a suburban high school in Canada. Told in alternating points of view, it begins as a typical teen novel (surface angst and catty drama) but gets meatier as the book progresses. Jessie, a social outcast, suffers from intense anxiety as the result of being betrayed and then bullied by former friends. She has learned to survive at school by keeping her head down. Though her relationship with her mother can be strained, overall, she has a warm and supportive family environment. Her life changes for the better when she is befriended by Annie, a beautiful, confident, city-girl transplant. In contrast to Jessie’s home life, Annie’s is a nightmare, complete with unresolved grief over the tragic death of her mother as well as being tormented by a hateful stepmother and spoiled stepsister. Annie and Jessie’s friendship deepens over time but then grows tenuous when Annie is befriended by the mean girl group who has made Jessie’s life a living nightmare. Annie encourages Jessie to forgive and forget and join in but Jessie, in turn, warns Annie to be wary of the girls. Their relationship is further complicated when Annie becomes romantically involved with Jessie’s crush. Things spiral out of control as both girls try but fail to maintain their friendship. Through a series of miscommunications,

turn for the dramatically worse when her father falls into a coma and she and her stepmother move back to Salem, Massachusetts. Mathers are not well liked in Salem, since Cotton Mather--a distant relative--was considered a catalyst for a number of witch hangings. Observant readers will note that the author shares Cotton's last name, and an author's note at the end confirms her relationship to the tangentially vilified cleric. Sam's arrival in Salem triggers the appearance of Elijah, a ghost who eventually assists her in her attempts to convince the Descendants--a group of descendants of the original women hung for witchcraft--to band together with her and break the curse that is initiated when all of the original families are back in Salem. Only Jaxson, a neighbor and love interest, believes in her sufficient to keep her from being hung herself. Students who are fascinated with this period of history or with witchcraft and spirits will be willing to overlook the evil stepmother trope and the somewhat predictable plot points and characters (including the love triangle and the pompous AP teacher who relies too heavily on assignments that are little more than busywork). Perhaps the most fascinating part of this story is the author's juxtaposition of the witch trials of history and the current issue of bullying. Her note openly states that the purpose of her story is to highlight the issue and encourage teens to learn from the past in order to avoid the metaphorical hangings.

Age Level: Junior High, High School
 Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Matson, Lynne	978-1-62779-295-0	\$17.99	406 p.
<i>Nil on Fire</i> , Nil #3	Henry Holt, 2016		

Now only Paulo remains on the crazy island of Nil. Skye and Rives are safely back home, yet the terror of Nil still haunts Skye. As Nil narrates the story (along with Skye and Rives) we learn that Nil's reach into the real world requires energy that the island doesn't have much left of so it needs spilled blood, preferably Skye's. The only way to end Nil's stronghold on Skye is to return to Micronesia where a special gate is opened to Nil during the summer. Skye's plan is to destroy the gate to prevent anyone else from ever going to Nil. Naturally, their plan fails and Skye and her friends end up back on Nil. This time around more danger abounds and the teens will have to use all their resources and brain power to return to the real world. Teens who read the first two will enjoy the conclusion to the trilogy. Those who haven't read the first two--don't bother. You'll be too confused. At 400 pages, this book could easily lose 75 pages.

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

Matthews, Owen	9780062336897	\$17.99	513 p.
<i>The Fixes</i>	Harper Teen, 2016		

Imagine, if you will, a world in which the narrator from a Disney animated film meets an Ellen Hopkins story. That, my friends, will give you a preview of what is to come in Owen Matthews' *The Fixes*. Each of the 365 chapters of this compelling book propels readers into a story that becomes ever more deeply MESSED UP. Eric Connelly is newly graduated from Capilano High. His senator father has got Eric's life planned out for him: work hard in school, land an advantageous internship at a law firm in town, move on to Stanford University, graduate from law school, become president of the United States. The merits of being a "Connelly man" have been drummed into Eric's head from birth. It's a position that

strains his relationship with his father. Then, quite by chance, Eric meets Jordan Grant—son of THE movie director. Jordan is charismatic, good looking, and Eric falls head over heels in lust. Being gay, by the way, is NOT something that will be tolerated of a “Connelly man,” and Eric is not quite sure how to come out to his father. What follows is a whirlwind romance and Eric’s initiation into Jordan’s little band of fixers known as the Suicide Squad. As the fixes escalate to include murder and terrorism, Eric and the two girls who are part of the Suicide Squad want out, but getting out isn’t going to be easy. There’s a lot to love about this story. There are allusions to the hero’s quest, subtle cultural digs, and a coming out story that becomes less about coming out and more about becoming the person you want to be. Matthews’ machine gun prose keeps the hits coming and the pages turning as readers wonder how the stakes could possibly be raised higher. Make no mistake, the f-bombs and other profanity are as prolific as the partying, sex, and drug use, but reluctant readers will devour this story and then demand an opportunity to read Matthew’s first book.

Age Level: High School
Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

McLachlan, Jenny	9781250061492	\$16.99	201 p.
<i>Love Bomb</i>	Feiwel & Friends, 2016		

When Betty Plum meets new student Toby, it is love at first sight. Betty has never been in love, but now she has fallen hard. She relishes any opportunity to talk with him and when he’s looking for a singer for his band, she tries out. Much to her great joy, she makes it into the band and now the two of them get to spend some time together. Betty is perpetually nervous about her first kiss and is in a constant state of anticipation, but that kiss never seems to come. When Toby invites her to a sleepover party, she knows this must be it, but it turns out that not everything is as it seems with Toby. Good thing she has best friend Bill and her deceased mother’s letters (written to Betty before she died with topics like “The one where my mum gets a boyfriend”) to help her out. Readers will see where the story is going from the onset, but fans of light romantic comedies will enjoy it nonetheless.

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

Meredith, Christina	978-0-06-206227-7	\$17.99	291 p.
<i>Red Velvet Crush</i>	Greenwillow, 2016		

In a nutshell: Girl in heavy rock band has it all; loses it all; starts again. Teddy Lee has been living with her dad, older brother and younger sister since their mother walked out on the family when she was in 2nd grade. Her younger, more beautiful sister, Billie is manipulative and unstable, and her brother is aimless until guitarist Teddy Lee (play on name, Geddy Lee, front man for 80s band, Rush) gives the family a purpose by starting a rock band. Billie becomes the singer and Winston becomes the manager of the "Red Velvet Crush." With a tour arranged and her hot new drummer boyfriend, Ty, on board, Teddy's musical dreams are complete. All is well for a time with Billie singing the band's cover songs, until Ty, wants to play Teddy's original songs and Teddy wants to sing them. Feeling threatened and jealous, little sister Billie sabotages the band, seduces Teddy's newly sober boyfriend and runs away. The band falls apart but Teddy Lee gradually finds her way back to music and starts over as a solo artist.

This book has a few good descriptions of back-stage band and road milieu—a hint of the thrill of performance. The author also makes passing references to the legendary Led Zeppelin, as well as others to give the band some sense of legitimacy but they are just in passing.

The book is light and frothy and doesn't delve too deeply into the flawed relationship between the sisters and the boyfriend. Students who dream of playing in a rock band or know something about classic rock will find it interesting. : rock band, coming of age, sister rivalry Mature: 8th grade + (sex too explicit for middle school)

Age Level: High School, 8th grade +
Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Moger, Susan 9780807544748 \$16.99 304 p.
Of Better Blood Albert Whitman & Co., 2016

Rowan Collier was abandoned by her father and older sister on the day she contracted polio. Their belief in racial purity and "good breeding" as part of the Betterment Council means that they must reject Rowan entirely, or admit that they might not be the superior humans they seem to be.

The American Eugenics movement of the 1920's and 1930's wouldn't seem to offer a dramatic backdrop for teen fiction, but this book works. Rowan's friendship with a carny girl and the unfortunate teens sent to a "summer camp" which turns out to be a cover for human medical experiments lead her to a deeper understanding of what "good" people really do.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Aarene Storms, KCLS

Nesbet, Anne 978-0-7636-8803-5 \$16.99 385 p.
Cloud and Wallfish Candlewick Press, 2016

Noah is suddenly sent to Eastern Germany, with his parents, for a research study by his mother about stuttering in schoolchildren. He is told very serious rules about how to behave by his parents, given a different name, and dropped into East Germany. An intelligent kid, he is nevertheless a stutterer himself, so he struggles to make friends and meets a somewhat ill girl, Claudia, with whom he becomes very good friends. This is 1989 when the DDR (East Germany) is breaking down. He and his family are spied on constantly. However, his parents are spies too, and they are expelled from the country right before it opens and the wall comes down.

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

Nguyen, Jenn P. 9781250084071 \$9.99 310 p.
The Way to Game the Walk of Shame Swoon Reads, 2016

Taylor is the kind of girl who has everything well planned. She's on the wait list for Columbia. She knows she wants to be an attorney. She is the responsible one, so when she wakes up next to the school dilettante and has to do the walk of shame she is mortified. More to the point, everyone who saw her and Evan together is gossiping. In a bid to save her reputation, Taylor manages to talk Evan into becoming her boyfriend for an unspecified

period of time--until the gossip dies down--at which point the two can break up and her reputation will remain intact. This new relationship is complicated when the guy she has liked forever--and who is the "perfect match" for her--decides to declare his affection. This is one of those predictable stories, but that predictability is more like one's favorite pair of jeans. It's comfortable and the characters are likable with all their flaws. The publisher, Swoon Reads, might lead one not familiar with the imprint to believe that the writing will be filled with longing glances, palpating hearts, and electric touches. Not so (which is a relief to some of the more jaded romance readers). It's definitely a romance, but it is not so overblown that one has to lick a lemon to counteract the sweetness. The Swoon Extras for this title include Taylor's list of reasons why Evan should be her "Fake Boyfriend," the contract referenced in the book, and some discussion questions that cause readers to think more deeply about the relationship and topics. Finally, also included is a chapter of "How to Keep Rolling After a Fall" by Karole Cozzo that I have also read and liked. For the price, this is a great title. Readers who enjoyed Jenny Han's "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" will find just as much to like in "The Way to Game the Walk of Shame."

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Nobleman, Marc Tyler	9780545880350	\$15.99	112 p.
<i>Brave Like My Brother</i> (ARC)	Scholastic, 2016		

Written in letters from older brother Joe to younger brother Charlie during WWII. Joe tells Charlie about the hardships of war and the courage needed to get through every day. This gives Charlie the courage to stand up to a bully. Written for grades 2-5, would work well in middle school setting for struggling/reluctant readers. Could also be a mentor text or a read-aloud.

Age Level: Middle School, Too young for YA

Comments: Written for grades 2-5, but good addition to middle school collections for struggling/reluctant readers

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

O'Dowd, Chris and Murphy, Nick	978-1-250-05947-5	\$14.99	321 p.
<i>Moone Boy - The Fish Detective</i> , Moone Boy #2	Feiwel & Friends, 2016		

A silly book, with graphic novel aspects, but mostly writing, about a boy named Martin, and his imaginary friend Sean. Martin is none too smart, but because he wants to earn a Game-Boy, he agrees to spy on the fish emporium across the street for the butcher he works for. He finds illegal immigrant Brazilian fish-gutters, and is torn, because they become his friends. A good choice for those moving on from Wimpy Kid.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Panitch, Amanda	9780553507645	\$17.99	306 p.
<i>Never Missing, Never Found</i>	Random House Books for Young Readers, 2016		

When Scarlett was eight years old she was kidnapped, after four years in captivity she made a choice and escaped. Now seventeen, Scarlett is starting to work at an amusement park, on her first day a girl that works there goes missing. Another girl at the amusement park looks familiar and keeps saying odd things that that remind Scarlett of her time with

student attention. It isn't until Willa and Remy become roommates that Willa begins to see a much darker side of Remy. Remy uses, and Remy doesn't want to use alone. It starts with Ecstasy. Soon, Willa finds herself enmeshed in a lifestyle she doesn't want with a person who has become family. Remy's descent and Willa's desperate attempts to save her are heart-rending. In "The Fall of Butterflies," Portes creates a story about deep friendship and deep loss the likes of which are rare in young adult fiction. The angst of peer pressure, the chasm between social classes, and the pangs of a loved one's betrayal are present with stunning realism. Readers of Blake Nelson's "Recovery Road" will find similar themes in this beautifully written tale.

Age Level: High School

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Pung, Alice 9780399550485 \$17.99 352 p.

Lucy and Linh

Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2016

Lucy and her family are Chinese immigrants living in Australia. When Lucy wins a scholarship to a prestigious academy (Laurinda), she is worried about leaving her life and friends in the suburb of Stanley and trying to fit in at the new school. She writes letters to Linh, her tie to the old life explaining why and how things at Laurinda are changing who Lucy is and how that affects her relationships with her family and her old friends in Stanley. Lucy is taken in by The Cabinet - a triumvirate of mean girls - who seemingly run the school. Lucy, desperate to fit in, is not sure how to handle all these changes.

I know this book has gotten a lot of positive reviews, but I really didn't like it all that much. None of the characters drew me in, except maybe Lucy's little brother... It is an interesting look at politics within a school system and how race can be/is a factor in that.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Comments: Originally published in Australia in 2014 under the title "Laurinda"

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Pung, Alice 9780399550485 \$20.99 352 p.

Lucy and Linh

Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2016

In Mean Girls style, this coming of age novel follows Lucy as she learns to navigate a new school, social politics, and figuring out who she really is. Interspersed with letters to her longtime friend Linh, Lucy reveals all that she has learned over the course of year ten schooling. Lucy did not expect to be selected for a coveted scholarship to Laurinda, an elite private school away from her downtrodden working class town of Stanley. The novel is set in Australia. Linh, instead was favored to win the chance of attendance. So when Lucy is selected it turns her world upside down. The book has themes evolved out of issues of social class, assimilation and identity. In the end, there is validation for Lucy as she learns what it meant to be her authentic self. A solid add for libraries.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School

Reed, Jaime 780545883818 \$17.99 330 p.

Keep Me in Mind

Scholastic, 2016

Good read-alike for *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac* but with more diverse characters.

Ellia had a terrible accident and no longer remembers her boyfriend. Liam is traumatized by his girlfriend's accident for two reasons: one - she no longer remembers that he is her boyfriend and two - he may have been responsible for the accident. To make matters worse, both sets of parents are happy that the teens are no longer together for reasons they all refuse to talk about.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Reinhardt, Dana 978-0-385-74259-7 \$17.99 208 p.
Tell Us Something True Wendy Lamb Books, 2016

River's girlfriend just dumped him (in the middle of a lake on a paddle boat) so clearly the best choice is to walk home for miles in the middle of Los Angeles. On the way, River sees a sign - literally - and takes its message of "a second chance" to heart finding his way into a teen support group. In order to stay, he pretends to have a marijuana addiction. This lie starts to eat away at him as he comes to rely on the group and especially as he develops feelings for Daphne, a fellow member. He doesn't know how to tell the truth without losing what he's found. River's path to self-awareness started unexpectedly and certainly isn't smooth, but it is easy to appreciate. This slight book feels super real and is strangely relatable. Recommend, grades 8+.

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

Rivers, Karen 978-0-374-30240-5 \$17.99 250 p.
Before We Go Extinct Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016

Before we go extinct begins with dark humor. JC climbed on the toilet to look out the window, fell, and now his foot is stuck in the bowl. He can't call for help, not just because his mom's not home, but because he quit talking when his best friend died recently. He can text though. He mostly thinks about death and sharks, his obsessions, in this first chapter. And although he is clearly depressed, he tells his story with such humor, I was charmed immediately. By page 30, his mom has told him that since she's off on television project, he will spend his summer with his almost unknown Dad, on a small island off Vancouver. When he arrives, JC, aka Sharkboy, is shocked by the natural world. But it, and their neighbors, specifically the teenage daughter, set him on the road to recovery. This is heartbreaking, observant, and ultimately hopeful.

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

Roberts, Jeyn 978-0-385-75413-2 \$17.99 345 p.
When They Fade Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

Ghost stories are always popular in my library, and this one has all the drama and violence my readers crave. The plot starts with a jolt and a revelation: Molly died, but not peacefully. That tidbit was enough to tickle my fancy, even though Molly's story flattened out a little bit as she described her afterlife. Molly has haunted a stretch of road outside her murder site and has never been particularly moved by any of the living people she has encountered. . .until Tatum. As soon as Molly touches a person, and just before she Fades

back into her afterlife, she is able to see that person's memories and is able to tell the individual something that is going to happen in his or her future. In the case of Tatum, Molly sees a painful death at the hands of a group of students. While Molly's story is told in the first person, Tatum's reality is told through the voice of an omniscient narrator. Tatum is the victim of escalating bullying. Once best friends with Claudette, Tatum is completely ostracized when she comes forward with the revelation that Claudette and a completely hot biology teacher are having an affair. They live in a small town, and, rather than the teacher getting into trouble, Claudette and he conspire to make it appear that Tatum is the one who has a crush on the teacher and that her accusations are baseless. What started as verbal harassment soon intensifies to physical violence and the snow job is so well perpetrated that even Tatum's parents are not sure whether to believe her. Molly is so taken by Tatum that she is determined to cross between the two planes of existence and warn her again. Tatum, meanwhile, is so taken with Molly that she is determined to discover Molly's story and help Molly's spirit find rest. There's a lot to like about this book. It's set in Washington state in a fictional town just outside of Seattle. That alone adds to its appeal. The strong themes of not simply accepting one's fate as a foregone conclusion are also appealing and add to the tension as each of the girls attempts to save the other. The harassment, intimidation, and bullying defies credibility, but credibility is not always a requirement for readers who are drawn to this kind of story. The serial killer element will appeal to readers of Kate Brian's "Shadowlands" series. Though Roberts occasionally dips into a preachy tone, readers who have become fully engaged are likely to overlook it in favor of discovering the resolution of whether Tatum will succumb to her tormentors.

Age Level: High School

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Roberts, Jeyn	978-0-385-75413-2	\$17.99	345 p.
<i>When They Fade</i>	Alfred A. Knopf, 2016		

Tatum is being excoriated at school as a tattletale because she squealed on her friend for a romantic relationship with a teacher. The teacher and former friend turned the tables on her and abuse has been fast and furious. When she is out driving to get away from everything, Tatum picks up a hitchhiker, Molly, that is on the road in hippie clothes. She is a ghost that was murdered near that road in the past. She can appear at times, and she can see Tatum's future when they touch, it is to be killed by her tormentors. Molly wants to change that, but she is stuck in a purgatory of sorts.

Age Level: High School

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Roe, Robin	978-1-4847-6380-3	\$17.99	320 p.
<i>A List of Cages</i> (ARC)	Hyperion, 2016		

A List of Cages tells the stories of two boys. Julian (the less appealing one) narrates the first 15 pages, and he has been skipping school regularly for the first month of 9th grade, and nobody seems to notice. He is odd, and ostracized, and presents many unanswered questions. Then Adam, the other narrator, is asked to deliver a teacher's message to him. Adam is a well-adjusted and happy senior who once was Julian's reading buddy. Adam finds his role as a school office assistant allows him to reconnect with Julian and they build a strong friendship. These two have a bond, and it redevelops just in time to save Julian,

who is being fostered by his uncle without love. Their friendship is believable, though serious child abuse brings danger and surprise.

Age Level: High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Roux, Madeleine 9780062424426 \$17.99 340 p.
Escape from Asylum Asylum #0.5 Harper Collins, 2016

After one too many violent and impulsive actions, Ricky is committed to the Brookline psychiatric hospital by his mother and stepfather. Convinced that he can play his way out of this one, too, Ricky isn't too concerned about his situation until he is selected by Warden Crawford to become Patient Zero for the warden's new experiments. With the help of a sympathetic nurse and a fellow patient-turned-friend Kay, Ricky decides to escape. The plot, though improbable and with some holes, is fast-paced and engaging. The story itself is creepy and will appeal to teens who like horror; a read-alike to the Miss Peregrine series. Violence makes this book suitable for ages 14 and up. The character development is a bit lacking but features diverse characters – Ricky is bisexual and Kay is an African American transgender teen girl. This book is a prequel to the Asylum Trilogy but also works as a stand-alone book.

Age Level: High School

Amy Tooley, Woodmont Library

Rubens, Michael 9780544096677 \$17.99 304 p.
The Bad Decisions Playlist Clarion Books, 2016

Austin is more than willing to make a fool out of himself if there is a girl around to impress. But, when it comes to something he actually cares about (like singing and playing the guitar) he panics when in front of an audience. However, this is not deterring him from his secret plan to move to NYC after high school to pursue music – this assumes he actually graduates, which currently is not looking good. Austin's world is rocked when his favorite singer/songwriter Shane Tyler shows up at his front door and turns out to be his father (a previously no named man he thought had died). Despite his mother's insistence that he has nothing to do with Shane, Austin can't help himself. Shane seems like the perfect dad: he's interested in Austin's music, encourages him to perform and to be brave with a girl he likes. Putting his faith in Shane could make all his dreams come true, or it could break his heart. Austin has a great, sarcastic voice and elicits sympathy even when you know he's being an idiot. The novel also has great support characters to get behind if Austin starts driving you nuts. Recommend. Grades 9+.

Age Level: High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Salom, Susie 9780545852661 \$16.99 256 p.
Kyle Finds Her Way (ARC) Arthur A. Levine, 2016

I thought this was going to be a book about transgender, but it was nothing LGBTQ+ related. Rather it was a book about bullying. Guess that will teach me to judge a book by it's title!

Kyle's first day of school does not go exactly the way she had hoped... in fact, she gets grounded because of some of the choices she made. Students will definitely empathize with

her and root for her as she muddles through tough times with parents, friends, bullies, and relationships.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Sandford, John and Michele Cook 978-0-385-75313-5 \$18.99 325 p.
Rampage, Singular Menace #3 Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

Shay and her group of artists, cons, and misfits have uncovered the truth the Singular Corporation is hiding, but at what cost? FenFeng, one of Singular's victims and Odin's girlfriend, is dead, several of the team was wounded, many of the victims are still being held by Singular, the press is portraying Shay as a criminal, and it looks like there are Singular connections high up in the government. Can they bring them down before more people die? And what the heck is that guy doing with a gun that can hit a tiny target from over 2000 yards away?

Continuing the non-stop action from the first two books, Shay and company finally bring down Singular and save the day, but not without some casualties. This 3rd book is engaging, but honestly had I not read the first two, I wouldn't have been interested. The writing is fair, but not remarkable. Chapters seem too short and frenetic. Having said that, this is a "must have" if you own the first two. Some profanity and sexual references, but not overly so, but the descriptions of violence can be pretty graphic. Recommended for 8th grade and up.

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

Schrefer, Eliot 978-0-545-65503-3 \$18.99 248 p.
Rescued Scholastic, 2016

John is the narrator of Rescued, the story of his connection with Raja, an orangutan. When his dad brought Raja from Indonesia to Georgia as his son's pet, only John's mother, never consulted, was upset. Years later, Raja bites off John's finger in a panic, then John's parents get divorced, and he and his mom move to Oregon. When John is a sophomore, he learns that his dad is placing Raja in a zoo, and is suspicious. He also wants to say goodbye to his primate friend. When he gets to his dad's home, Raja's living conditions are frightening (in a trailer behind the house) and the men who show up to deliver him to a zoo have no skills in dealing with animals. John swipes his dad's car to follow them, eventually rescuing the animal that only he and a vet seem to understand. There is an adventure story, as the two get chased, shot at, and then hide out as John works out a plan for his former pet which takes them both to Sumatra. I liked lines like these in chapter two, as he reflects on saying goodbye before the move to Oregon: "I let go of the animal in front of me. It was surprisingly easy to let Raja go invisible. As easy as not looking." Animal rights, tricky family relationships, third world economics, and growing up are the background to a great story of humanitarian adventure. For grade 6 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Comments: Great for those who care about animal rights, or have read Schrefer's other books

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

The Tsar of this 19th Century Russian alternate universe can call upon his pet enchanter, of which there is only one. If two are born that show magical abilities, they must fight it out at a certain age, with one killing the other, so that the Tsar can have his enchanter. Vika and Nikolai have both trained their whole lives for this coming battle, and they are dispirited to find out that they enjoy each other's company and don't want to kill each other. Much Russian magic and caginess ensue in this as yet unfinished series. 7-8th and up.

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

Solomon, Matt & Pauls, Chris 978-1250066527 \$15.99 288 p.
The Giant Smugglers Feiwel & Friends, 2016

Charlie's biggest thrill lately is being the reigning champ of Total Turbo, an online driving game. His biggest annoyance is D.J., his mom's new boyfriend, who tries too hard to be his friend. And his biggest adversary has been the school bully, Fitz.

When Charlie decides to explore a seemingly abandoned warehouse across the street from his apartment, he is in for the biggest surprise of his teenage existence so far. Bigger than when his brother ran off to join the circus! Charlie comes face to face with a GIANT! He can't believe his luck! This giant is surely a cure for his boredom and his ticket to big time fun!

Charlie isn't the only one hoping to capitalize on the giant. He soon finds out a secret branch of a corporation is searching for the giant to use him for growth hormone experiments. But giant smugglers, one step ahead of them so far, will do anything to prevent this and get the giant safely to his homeland...and earn a little giant's gold in the process.

I strongly recommend this book to any readers who like fast-paced adventure fantasy stories. Definitely lots of humor and antics with danger around every corner. Could be a stand-alone but sets up for possible sequel. Grades 5 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Starmer, Aaron 978-0-374-36313-0 \$16.99 328 p.
The Storyteller, The Riverman #3 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016

This final book in the trilogy begins with Alistair's return from Aquavania as the new Riverman. This story is narrated by Alistair's 14-year-old sister, Keri, in the form of her diary. She uses her diary to record her stories and to help her process what's been going on the past few months: Fiona Lewis has disappeared, Kyle Dwyer was shot in the stomach and his younger brother Charlie (the old Riverman) is missing. Alistair was found dripping wet and bloody. There are lots of unanswered questions in their small town of Thessaly, but Alistair, 12, isn't talking--even though whispers around town accuse him of being involved with the shooting and missing kids. The book alternates diary chapters with short stories that seem unrelated--at first. Teens who enjoyed the first two books of this series will have to find out how all it ends, yet the previous two books should clue in readers that this resolution may not be neat or clear. The joy of this final book is in the journey--not

necessarily the final outcome. Especially when this journey includes the short story of the radioactively glowing wombat named Luna and a story that gives Daphne Du Maurier's "The Birds" a run for its money.

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

Stokes, Paula 9780062379962 \$17.99 379 p.
Girl Against the Universe Harper Teen, 2016

Maguire is bad luck. When she was eleven she was in a car accident with her uncle, father and brother, they all died and she walked away with barely a scratch. Then she was on a rollercoaster that jumped off its' tracks once again walking away without a scratch. The latest incident was when her neighbor's house caught on fire because she went for run and left a candle burning. She kind of freaked out when that happened so that is why she is now sitting in a therapist office, refusing to speak. Maguire knows what she needs to do and that is to protect everyone around her, from her bad luck. The only way to do that is to avoid people, places, and things that might cause someone to get hurt. Her mom really wants her to go on a trip to Ireland to celebrate the lives of her family, she not sure if she can but she really wants to try. So she asks her therapist for help and also gets help from a boy who she meets as she is leaving her therapy sessions. Jordy is a tennis star with his own set of issues. Together they begin to work through their issues.

I thought this book was amazing. I read it in one sitting. It dealt with mental illness and grief in a unique and thoughtful way. Maguire is likable and you root for her success. Typical love story although they go through a few blunders. Just kissing!

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Liz Haggerty, Kirkland Middle School

Strohm, Stephanie Kate 978-0-545-95259-0 \$18.00 288 p.
It's Not Me, It's You (ARC) Point Scholastic, 2016

Avery Dennis (AD) is very popular in her high school – head of the prom committee & numerous other student leadership positions. Plus she's pretty, blonde, and smart and suddenly dateless when her boyfriend breaks up with her just a few weeks before prom. Why has AD had SO many boyfriends over the course of her short life? Why have none of them lasted very long? With the brilliance only incredibly popular, pretty, blonde girls can muster, she combines an oral history project for her Social Studies class with a project to find out why she can't keep a boyfriend.

Told in the format of a conversation/transcript including AD and a couple of close friends and all her past boyfriends, some family members and even some teachers, this book is sometimes a funny (hilarious!) and usually a scathingly accurate portrayal of high school life. Fun, but actually a bit tiresome after a while, this will likely appeal to fans of TTYL, etc. This is not high quality literature, but enjoyable. There's some profanity, but little sexual content. And, of course, AD realizes that her long-time male friend is actually the boy she's been looking for all along. Probably tame enough for middle school. Recommended, but not enthusiastically so.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Tamaki, Mariko 978-1-62672-271-2 \$17.99 225 p.
Saving Montgomery Sole Roaring Brook Press, 2016

Montgomery Sole has two moms and she is a bit strange, a bit out on the edges of society, especially at school. Occasionally, she catches crap at school about her moms too. She and her friends, Naoki - an eternal optimist, and Thomas - a gay boy able to look past all the teasing her gets, have a club called the mystery club where they meet to discuss mysterious things. Monty is worked up when an anti-gay preacher shows up in town, with his high-school son in tow. She is sure Kenneth will be just like his father, and is waiting for her chance to confront him.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Telgemeier, Raina 978-0545540629 \$10.99 256 p.
Ghosts (GN) Graphix, 2016

Absolute home run for Telgemeier! It's the story of Cat and Maya, sisters, who have to move to a foggy, seaside town for Maya's Cystic Fibrosis treatment. There, where Cat is unhappy to be, they meet Carlos, a neighbor who runs ghost tours in the town. Cat doesn't want to believe it, but they actually are there, and the book centers around the Day of the Dead celebrations, when Cat has multiple encounters with dead spirits. Her main problem is that her little sister is dying and dealing with ghosts makes Cat think about her sister. It is touching, it is personal, it is a fantastic graphic novel.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Thompson, Holly 978-1-62779-134-2 \$17.99 343 p.
Falling Into the Dragon's Mouth Henry Holt, 2016

Jason Parker is a 6th grader a year older than his classmates because he's had to learn Japanese as a child of (white) Americans living in a seaside town in Japan. The name of his school translates roughly as Dragon's Mouth, in connection with a local legend and a cave and shrine. Jason does well in school and enjoys his Aikido training, but he's being bullied as an outsider by some of his classmates. He's got a typically Japanese packed schedule outside school, including keeping up with his English, and an afternoon of watching his younger sister, with whom he gets along pretty well. Though he tries to avoid adult involvement in his troubles, fearing that'd only worsen them, he does connect with a few of the townspeople, helping solve an arson, and returning stolen property, even though he was framed. An intense choking assault comes on a bit suddenly. Eventually the ne'er-dowells get caught, and, as is perhaps more necessary in small communities, reconciliation begins. The story is told in free verse, but it's fairly transparent and quick to read. It's a reasonable introduction to some Japanese culture - including food, language, housing - with appended guide and glossary to help, plus resources about Japan, and bullying and choking. For all that, it's a fairly warm story of a likable kid.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, grades 6-9

Comments: Matt Huynh, ill., incl. glossary, cultural guide, resources

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Thorne, Bella 978-0-385-74437-9 \$18.99 313 p.
Autumn's Wish, Autumn Falls #3 Delacorte Press, 2016

This is the third installment of the Autumn's Falls trilogy and it doesn't disappoint series fans. Autumn is in her senior year in high school and dealing with the fact that everyone will be leaving for college next year. She gets some help from her dad though because, even though he died in a car crash three years ago, he left her gifts to keep his memory alive. First it was a journal that made wishes come true, then it was a map that transported Autumn wherever she wrote down, and she has just discovered a locket that transports her into the future. With every jump, she sees her family, friends, and her future and realizes that she has to make changes to make sure everyone is safe and happy. However, what happens when the changes that she thinks will be positive, don't turn out as great as she thought in the future.

This is a good conclusion to the series. For fans of the first two books, they will want to know what happens to all their favorite characters. This is a light-hearted realistic fiction with a fantasy/sci fi twist. Recommended!

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

Thorne, Bella 978-0-385-74437-9 \$18.99 313 p.
Autumn's Wish, Autumn Falls #3 Delacorte Press, 2016

In previous books, her deceased father has left Autumn Falls a diary that granted wishes and a dry erase map that would transport her wherever she wanted to go instantly. It's Senior year and this time, she has a locket that sends her into the future. When she discovers that things have not worked out as she expected (she's a "loser", her mom is getting remarried, her brother is a body-builder, and her friends didn't end up with the "right" partners), she returns to the present with the intent of fixing everything. Of course, things don't go well when she returns to the future and finds out how things have changed. So she tries again....and again.....and again until finally everyone lives happily ever after.

This is a DUMB book, the writing is acceptable, the sheer number of characters kept me from getting too involved with anyone but Autumn, and the ending is just too happy. But, I know the perfect girl to give it to. For girls who want a sort of fun storyline with inevitable twists and turns that end with everything all working out – this is the book for you. No sex, no profanity, just silliness and groan worthy moments (including a "Say Anything" moment – accompanied by the Lloyd Dobler & Diane references just in case you missed the reference), but admittedly kind of fun. Recommended for middle school and up.

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

Tims, Laura 978-0-06-2371732-2 \$17.99 330 p.
Please Don't Tell Harper Teen, 2016

Twins, Joy and Grace, have always been the closest of friends, but something happened last summer to change that. After the party where a popular boy died, Joy is threatened by a blackmailer claiming that Joy pushed him. As the blackmailer's demands wreak havoc on both teachers and students at Joy's school, Joy has nowhere to turn without Grace.

The Girl Who Raced Fairyland All the Way Home, Fairyland #5 Feiwel & Friends, 2016

Book #5 in the Fairyland series by Valente. September is the new queen of Fairyland, but she must engage in a race, against all the other fairyland personae who would like to rule the land. Whoever wins and finds the "heart of Fairyland" will win the crown. September and her friends race all over the place, but at the same time, the hourpiece that measures September's time in Fairyland is quickly running out. I believe this very creative, very hectic book closes out the series.

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

Williamson, Lisa 9780374302375 \$17.99 344 p.
The Art of Being Normal Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016

This book, set in England, is told from two perspectives, Leo's and David's. They meet when Leo transfers to David's school. They become friends after Leo stands up for David in a fight, even though Leo tries to keep to himself and maintain a low profile. They both have a secret, though, that is eventually revealed (though the reader knows from the beginning in David's case, and begins to suspect in Leo's case). David is a biological male who has always wanted to be a girl, and has only ever told his two best friends. Leo was born biologically female but has transitioned to being male. Leo had to leave his old school after the bullying became unbearable, and now Leo is terrified that someone at school might find out. In addition to their individual journeys of self-discovery and acceptance, the story arc also follows Leo's attempt to find his father. The complex gender issues in this novel are treated realistically and frankly.

Age Level: High School
Amy Tooley, Woodmont Library

Zink, Michelle 978-0062434463 \$17.99 336 p.
A Walk in the Sun Harper Teen, 2016

A Walk in the Sun by Michelle Zink is a contemporary realistic fiction novel that takes place in a small town in up-state New York. Rose and Bodhi are both damaged young adults trying to make something of their lives. Rose's mother passed away a few months earlier and her father fell apart, leaving her to run their 75 acre farm. With getting up at 4 AM every morning to take care of the animals and then going to school, Rose has not time to mourn the loss of her mother.

Bodhi ran away from an abusive father when he was fourteen. He walked from Montana to New York for the summer job at Rose's family farm. He's never experienced family or love until he arrives and the love he feels for Rose is as inevitable as the rising sun. As he and Rose work side by side to keep the farm prospering, he begins to hope that he can have love and a family like other people. But his past is looming and will try to destroy him and the new love he has discovered.

This was a fun read with believable characters. It deals with grief in a realistic way. If I had one complaint it would be the farm/crop issues in the book. Strawberries, blueberries and

very protective of their father as he had been persecuted for his political views and his writing was always under scrutiny. At night, Elizabeth practices her sword fighting for something her father believes she must do along with her education of her mind.

A young visitor from Florence comes to the house to meet with John Milton and soon the king's men come to investigate and take Milton away. Before taking him, the king's man throws part of "Paradise Lost" into the fire and so John Milton gives a secret verse to Elizabeth. The Florentine, Viviani, and Elizabeth now set out for Oxford to find the only remaining copy of Milton's work and the secret messages found in them. They are joined by another who turns out to be the king's illegitimate son who claims he wants to uncover the king's tyrannical ways.

Overall I had a difficult time connecting with the main character and keeping interest in the story. In the second section, there is more action and the clandestine hunt for the secret that will change the world (and a bit of romance) helps the story become more interesting. However, I don't think teens will keep interested enough in the characters to stick around for the action. Shrug for me.

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

Bliss, Bryan 9780399550485 \$17.99 272 p.
Meet Me Here Harper Collins, 2016

The adventure takes place in one night, which happens to be high school graduation. Thomas should be celebrating with his friends, but instead is agonizing over his decision to ship out to the Army the following day. Leaving in the morning would mean he follows in his father and brother's footsteps. The only problem is his brother is home from war and not doing well. Thomas does not want to end up like his brother, but will he be able to admit that to his dad. Thomas reconnects with a childhood friend, Mallory, and the night continues on to be filled with missteps and drama ensues until morning comes and Thomas must come face to face with reality. The end was redeeming, but most of the night long shenanigans could have been cut.

Age Level: High School

Comments: Alcohol use and profanity.

Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School

Brown, Jaye Robin 978-0-06-227098-6 \$17.99 419 p.
Georgia Peaches and other Forbidden Fruit Harper Teen, 2016

If Georgia peaches are girls, then this book has a handful of good ones. And their story is told with Southern sassiness and gentle humor. Jo's dad, a successful radio evangelist, has just married wife number 3, and so she and her dad are moving from Atlanta to small town Georgia. Since Three, as Jo calls her stepmom, has a conservative hometown, Jo agrees to pretend she isn't a lesbian for her senior year. But then she falls in love with a beautiful girl; their romance is quite sexy. They are in the same youth group, and so are their best friends. But Jo has started the relationship with a pile of lies and omissions. So, how can it all get sorted out to a happy ending? Because of course it does, complete with sex and babies. The biggest misstep of the book's premise is the notion that Jo's dad is a good man and loves her, but requires her to hide who she is for a year. I cannot accept that, but kids

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Hammel, Sara 9780374301613 \$16.99 310 p.
Underdogs Farrar Staus Giroux, 2016

The beautiful, magnetic Annabel is dead. Her body was found near the pool of the tennis club where Chelsea and Evie's parents work. They decide that the detective needs their help to solve the crime so they start their own investigations. At first they eaves drop on the detective's interviews and then they take to sleuthing on their own. Told through Chelsea's voice and going back and forth between before and after the murder, you learn that these two girls have a lot more going on than one murder. Evie is overweight, ignored by her father, and bullied by boys at the Tennis club. Chelsea is thankful to have been adopted by her mom, her history is dark and she has the mental and physical scars left behind as reminders.

Spoilers!

I was not blown away by this book. I found it predictable and that the author was trying to put to many ideas into one book. Evie's progression is lovely but it takes more than half the book for her to begin to grow a little. Chelsea is a dog, who has been horribly abused. It was hard to read the things her previous owner did to her. I figured out she was a dog pretty early on, although there is a grand reveal at the end. I would include this in my library but it wouldn't be one I would gush about to students.

Age Level: Middle School

Liz Haggerty, Kirkland Middle School

Hickman, Rachel 9780545808927 \$17.99 272 p.
One Silver Summer Scholastic, 2016

Saskia's mom has died, so Sass moves from New York to the coast of Cornwall to live with her uncle. She wanders the shores, lonely and alone until she meets Alex, a handsome and mysterious young man with a marvelous silver horse. Alex consents to teach Sass to ride the horse, they fall in love in about 2 paragraphs, but when she discovers that Alex is the Prince of Wales, her trust is shattered.

What a dumb story: Harlequin-esque romance with the emotional depth of a mud puddle. I couldn't even finish it.

Age Level: Junior High

Comments: Some kissing in the first half of the book; if it got steamier than that, I missed it because I got bored.

Aarene Storms, KCLS

Hirsch, Jeff 9780544390997 \$17.99 328 p.
Black River Falls Clarion Books, 2016

I was excited about this book. Cardinal Cassidy is a teen trapped in a town of people whose memories have been completely erased by a virus. It hits all the high notes of Lex Thomas's Quarantine series or Emmy Laybourne's Monument 14 series. At least I hoped that was what it would be. There are certainly elements of the post-apocalyptic survival story in Hirsch's tale, but the execution of them is less satisfying. The plot progresses through six parts. The initial part begins with a recounting of the October 16 infection of Black River's

population. Readers are introduced to Cardinal and a few of the other youth who reside just outside the Quarantine Zone. Cardinal has not been infected, so he alone retains his memory of the town and its people. He tells his story in an open letter to the reader, who takes the role of Card's older brother. Throughout the story we meet Greer, a compatriot who is trying to keep children—abandoned by parents who no longer remember them—alive and Hector Gonzalez, a National Guardsman who is not much older than the two young men and who is sympathetic to their plight. In the second part, we are introduced to the green haired girl who becomes a love interest. The story ends with Cardinal's revelation of his brother's death at the hands of their father, his release of his mother (who doesn't remember him) to a new life of happiness, his discovery of his immunity to Lassiter's Viral Amnesia, and his eventual escape from Black River. The backdrop to the entire story is his father's development of a graphic novel called *The Brotherhood of Wings*. Cardinal is named for one of the main characters in the graphic novel, and the books in the series become metaphors for the action taking place. What I love: we have a middle class African American protagonist, there is an attempt to include diverse characters, and the connection to a graphic novel. What I wish were different: the pacing could have benefitted from a little less description and introspection on Cardinal's part and the story might have been enhanced by incorporating elements of the graphic novel AS the graphic novel—in much the same way the Swati Avashti's *Chasing Shadows* or Margaret Wiley's *Four Secrets* did. Overall, I am not in love with the piece, and I will be interested in seeing whether students are willing to overlook the issues that were so glaring for me. Hirsch leaves the story open to a sequel, which would help excuse some of the lack of development of the love interest between Cardinal and Hannah and the lack of closure between Cardinal and the other characters.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Comments: A strong sequel might improve my evaluation from a shrug to a full recommend.

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Jude, Sarah	9780544640412	\$17.99	286 p.
<i>The May Queen Murders</i>	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016		

I really wanted to like this book more than I did. Great title, cover, and premise, but the content falls flat. Set in Rowan's Glen, which feels very Appalachian in nature. This village has the feel of a cult set apart from the nearby town. Years ago a girl who had been named as May Queen was murdered and the Glen has never been the same since. Families also use the name of the alleged murderer to scare small children into behaving as it is said that he still lives in the woods just outside the glen. Now small animals are being killed and everyone is afraid that the murderer has returned.

Pace is pretty slow throughout until it races to a conclusion with several huge and unexpected plot twists. If the rest of the book had been as good as the ending, it would have gotten a much higher rating from me.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Karalius, Kimberly	978-1250084040	\$10.99	384 p.
<i>Love Charms and other Catastrophes</i>	Grimbaud #2 Swoon Reads, 2016		

Love Charms and other Catastrophes by Kimberly Karalius is a contemporary romance that combines fantasy with mystery. This is the second book in a series. In this book, Hijiri is going back to school after spending the summer at home with her family. Her parents ignore her and she's happy to be going back to school. Love, an actual character in the story, has plans for Hijiri this year. Evidently she did him a big favor in the first book and he wants to pay her back, so he gives her a boy who loves her. Hijiri believes Ken is a love charm and she keeps trying to figure out how he was made, but of course she eventually falls in love with him, and that love saves his life.

Characters seemed flat. Some of them had Asian sounding names and some of them didn't. I wasn't ever sure where I was. They lived and went to school in Grimbaud, and Hijiri was from Lejeune. If it's a fantasy world, other than our earth, the names of people and places didn't seem consistent, and it was never established where we were. The plot is insipid and unbelievable: oh dear, our love charm person turned out to be a bad guy, now we have find a new one, and in the process someone creates a charmed robot which wreaks havoc on the town. Will kids read it? Probably. But why buy it when there are so many better books they will read. 6-9th grade, it reads young.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School

Kidd, Ronald 9780807517253 \$16.99 256 p.

Dream Bender

Albert Whitman & Co., 2016

Years after the Warming and great flood everyone is assigned a job. Machinery, Art, and Music are forbidden and considered dangerous as those selfish ways are what led to the warming. Callie is a computer; every day she works with numbers but sometimes she yearns for more. On the other side of the Between lives the dreambenders who adjust the City members dreams to keep society safe, making sure people stay away from the dangers. Jeremy Finn is an exceptional dreambender, one who asks many questions. One night he is listening to Callie's dream of singing; he doesn't change it. Is art, music, and machinery really that dangerous?

I thought that the subject matter was very interesting and will create some great questions, however I found the story itself a bit boring. If I hadn't read *The Giver*, I might have a different perspective. It lacked the richness that other novels of this genre have.

Age Level: Middle School

Liz Haggerty, Kirkland Middle School

Mason, Jane B. 978-0-545-81995-4 \$18.99 325 p.

Without Annette

Scholastic, 2016

Without Annette is for high school, with lots of alcohol, some group purging, and distrust of all school authority figures. Josie and Annette apply to a New England boarding school to escape their small Minnesota town. Josie wants to get her girlfriend away from her abusive alcoholic mother, and start a new life where the two girls can live and be accepted as lovers. Annette, though, asks that they begin at Brookwood by hiding that they are lesbian. The snobs (only in Josie's view) they encounter lead Annette to decide their relationship must always be hidden, and Annette sets out to fit in with it group. Our narrator Josie makes friends with another group, and is left confused about whether Annette is losing her

sense of self or just growing away from her. After drinking shots from day one at school, Annette finally drinks so much at Halloween she is taken to the hospital with alcohol poisoning. Josie, not much taken with introspection, remains confused about much. Josie doesn't renounce her sexuality, but buries herself in an odd quest to find an Amazonian shrunken head said to be buried in the tunnels under the school.

Age Level: High School

Comments: Lesbian characters with normal problems plus.

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Oakes, Colleen 62409727 \$17.99 306 p.

Queen of Hearts, Queen of Hearts Saga #1 Harper Teen, 2016

This is the first book in a series retelling Wonderland. The future Queen of Hearts is a teenager approaching her age of ascent. Is she a hero? Or is she a villain? I was reminded just a bit of the series "Cinder" and Queen Levana's back story. Wonderland in this telling is full of dark secrets and political intrigue. Dinah is the future Queen of Hearts, unloved by her father, and overshadowed by her recently discovered (supposed) half-sister. Although she is scheduled to become Queen on her birthday, she instead becomes aware of a plot against her life. Personally I found it an easy read, and was able to skim most of the last chapters without missing anything. The author gave us a wonderful setting, but little character development. The love interest in the story never quite rang true with me, it seemed as if the male character was more of a pawn. Generally, it left me just wanting more – more details, more fleshing out of the characters and the plot. I'm interested enough I'd read the 2nd book, just to find out what happens, but it wouldn't be at the top of my suggestion list. This book might be more interesting to a younger reader.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Liz Haggerty, Kirkland Middle School

Reed, Amy 9780062299604 \$17.99 260 p.

Unforgivable Harper Collins, 2016

Reading *Invisible* (the first book) is not necessary, but does provide some background on the character of Evie and the shifted focus of this story. In this book, the boy Evie's family assumes lured her into a life of substance abuse and self-destruction in the first book is the focus here. This is the "Now" of Marcus's life—Evie's mother won't let him see her, her sister also blames him, and he learns that his girl of only six weeks is in rehab and not seeking him out. In short sections named "You," Marcus emotes to the beautiful girl who appears to crave the very death she escaped in beating the big C. In past-focused sections called "Then," Marcus's white mother becomes unhinged and alcoholic following the betrayal of his high-powered African American judge father, and childhood memories make his brother's loss haunting. In the present, though, his dad is trying to start over with a new woman and to be more available for his son. Marcus will need to heal in the wake of his excruciating past and Hurricane Evie, perhaps to kindle a healthier love. Get if the first book is popular, or wait for the paperback. Shrug

Age Level: High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Reedy, Trent 978-0545548779 \$17.99 446 p.

The Last Full Measure, Divided We Fall #3 Arthur A. Levine, 2016

The Last Full Measure by Trent Reedy is the third book in the Divided We Fall Series. I have not read the first two books and found this one boring. I didn't know or care about the characters. When I found myself feeling ho-hum about New York City and Washington DC both being destroyed by nuclear bombs, I realized I had no connection to the world created in the novel. Pages and pages of boredom are followed by brief moments of fast action, which end with more pages of boredom. Perhaps someone who had read the first two would have cared more about the characters and what was happening in the story. There were large passages of newsfeed that were italicized that seemed intrusive to the story, rather than adding to it. Was the information important, perhaps, but the vehicle used to impart it was not. I gave up after 150 pages.

Age Level: Middle School, High School
Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School

Reid, Kimberly 978-162014273-8 \$19.95 326 p.
Perfect Liars Tu Books, 2016

To most people, Andrea Faraday is perfect – rich, smart, popular. So what is she doing breaking into her private school late at night? And why is she so enamored of this boy who is clearly trouble? When her parents disappear we learn that Andrea has a lot of secrets. She's actually the daughter of a pair of con artists who have made a fortune trading in real and fake antiques.

What starts out as an action packed suspense/romance becomes a pretty pointless story about petty criminals and wannabes. The romance is tepid and the story doesn't really end. Andrea's big "crime" is trying to hack into the school system to change her grade. Her 'bad boy' crush is caught up doing petty crimes for a 'client'. There are subplots about dirty cops and politics and the relationship between Andrea and her brother, but overall this is just an average book. After a great start, I was expecting much more. For 8th grade and up – these kids are certainly not role models, but there's little profanity and no sex. Just a shrug.

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

Sabel, Lauren 978-0062231987 \$17.99 432 p.
Lies I Live By Katherine Tegen Books, 2016

Lies I Live By is a contemporary realistic fiction or fantasy novel (depending on if you believe in ESP and psychic powers) by Lauren Sabel. Cali is a seventeen-year-old girl who lives in San Francisco with her mother. Her psychis abilities are amazing for someone so young and she is recruited to work for the CIA. The only problem is, she can't tell her mother or her boyfriend or their lives might be in danger. Cali will do nearly anything to keep her loved ones safe; even lying to them.

Then in several of her psychic sessions she sees an image. Feeling compelled to discover what the image means, she finds that it's the logo for a corporation that manufactures satellites. Before long Cali is on a life or death mission so save not only her family, but thousands of lives from a megalomaniac who is seeking fame through destruction of live and property.

clean. Her revelations culminate with a sexual-like attack which leaves her shaken, but otherwise unscathed. Having been a part of the efforts to educate teens about domestic minor sexual trafficking, the title was one that caught my attention. The grooming behaviors were accurately portrayed, but that was where my appreciation for this debut attempt ended. The character of Kristy was beastly. Leah's relationship with someone who was so vile (calling Leah "Chubs" and constantly humiliating her) because they had been friends in middle school didn't ring true, since high school is frequently a time when middle school relationships go by the wayside. The bullying was constant and pervasive, not only of Leah but of any student who was different. The adults were capricious with underdeveloped motivations and adult relationships introduced as loving, caring and concerned one moment, are then portrayed as completely annoying helicopter parents two pages later with no apparent rationale the shift. Secondary characters like Leah's new friend, Anita, and her more realistic love interest, Carl, are equally stilted and erratic. Random delicious descriptions don't quite provide sufficient realism for the characters or plot. Readers who are seeking information on the topic of assault would be better served reading Amber Smith's "The Way I Used to Be" or E. K. Johnston's "Exit, Pursued By a Bear."

Age Level: High School

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

FICTION – NOT RECOMMEND

Briner, Karen 978-0-8234-3567-8 \$16.95 281 p.

Snowize & Snitch: Highly Effective Defective Detectives Holiday House, 2016

With cryptic clues, missing parents, and evil villains, this story contains many of the necessary ingredients for a rip-roaring middle grade mystery-adventure tale, but it falls flat. The writing lacks flow and even clarity at times. Although sometimes humorous, this story can also be painful to read. Twelve-year-old Ever stands out at the School for Children of Gifted Parents because she's definitely NOT gifted, popular or lucky. She's dorky, uncoordinated and lacks friends. Ever wonders if her parents were gifted, but she doesn't know because her parents vanished 9 years ago. Ever lives with the equally awkward Doc, a mad scientist-inventor. Around the world, brilliant scientists are disappearing or just losing their minds and it appears that Doc has become the latest victim which leaves Ever all alone with only Doc's talking robotic fridge to guide her. Luckily, she finds a secret door in Doc's laboratory that leads her to two detectives...the defective detective duo of Snowize and Snitch--one of whom happens to be a rat and the other is a formerly famous spy who now suffers from memory loss. Together, this trio races around the globe to solve the disappearances and stop the evil villains. Along the way, Ever's intelligence saves the day--even though readers will figure out her backstory long, long before her. Some students might love the underdog Ever and cheer her on, but I'll watch reruns of Monk instead.

Age Level: Middle School, Too young for YA

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Cook, Eileen 9780544805095 \$17.99 320 p.

With Malice Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

The first couple of chapters reminded me of the opening of *Inferno* by Dan Brown. The main character, Jill Charron, wakes in a hospital room and is suffering from amnesia. She has no recollection of ever being in Italy. She had been flown home as soon as she was stabilized, but she will quickly learn her life is far from stable. Here is where the plot takes a sharp resemblance to the Amanda Knox trial. At the center is the deadly car crash that lands Jill in the hospital and best friend Simone dead. While Jill is in the hospital for most of the book, we meet all the key players as she is the main suspect for the murder of her best friend. The reader must continue on the whodunit? mystery thriller plot. It does keep the reader guessing until the end, but the end was completely unsatisfying.

Age Level: High School

Vanessa Barut-del Fierro, Renton High School

David, Stuart 978-0-544-69961-8 \$17.99 237 p.

My Brilliant Idea (and how it caused my downfall) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015
Jack Dawson (The Jackdaw) has a plan – he’s going to design an app that helps students get back on track when they zone out in class. The only problem is he needs a programmer, and the only one capable is “Greensleeves”, Elsie Green, a girl he barely knows. Jack makes a deal with her – she wants to see a guy naked, so Jack is off to make it happen. One scheme leads to another which leads to another which leads to another and so on.

What should have been a silly romp, a tale of miscues and ridiculous plans gone wrong becomes only convoluted, confusing, and silly. About 2/3 through the book, I was having trouble determining who was who and what Jack promised everyone. Yes, it all turns out in the end, even with a bit of a message about lies and friendship, but for the most part it’s a mess. Not recommended, but appropriate for middle school and up if anyone’s interested.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Mills, Claudia 9780374302238 \$15.99 136 p.

Cody Harmon King of Pets, Franklin School Friends #5 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016
Cute story about a farm kid who sees a chance to fit in with his suburbanite classmates by bringing his nine pets to the school pet show fundraiser. The heartwarming solution should be popular with 2nd and 3rd grade readers.

Age Level: Too young for YA

Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Mittlefehldt, Rafi 978-0763687199 \$16.99 336 p.

It Looks Like This Candlewick Press, 2016

Newly moved to Virginia from Wisconsin, Mike isn’t really fitting in at his new school and he’s getting bullied by a couple of guys who seem to think he stares too much. Then he meets Sean, someone interesting who’s actually nice to him. They start hanging out while working together on a school project. Clearly there is a vibe between them and both families seem suspicious about the time they are spending together. This is when the writing got so annoying that I stopped reading. All of the dialogue went like this: I say, he says, I say, he says, I say, he says.....yuck! Other reviews referred to the “sparse prose”, but to me this is the type of writing we teach people to avoid. Ultimately the book deals with

Mike's conservative family's response to the realization that he is gay by sending him to conversion therapy. Also, yuck. Not recommended. 9+.

Age Level: High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Noel, Alyson 978-0-06-232452-8 \$17.99 420 p.
Unraveled Katherine Tegen Books, 2016

Beautiful, rich teens in beautiful Hollywood, all trying to score a big deal – in TV, in movies, in music, as a blogger, and in the club scene. Madison Brooks is the hottest teen starlet and in the prologue “a cool sure hand slipped over her mouth and Madison Brooks disappeared.” Flashback to one month earlier and we meet several teens who are participating in a contest to see who can make one of several nightclubs into Hollywood's hottest spot. So in a scenario similar to *The Apprentice*, numbers are tallied and attendance is counted and one-by-one the teens are fired until only 3 are left, all with connections to the missing girl.

This story starts strong with the cliff hanger about the missing starlet, then proceeds to be pretty boring for 350 pages. Once it returns to the mystery of Madison's disappearance, the tension ramps up, but frankly by then I was so bored I didn't care. I admit to having little patience for constant references to Jimmy Choo's and trendy restaurants and shops, but I could have overlooked all that if the characters were compelling or the action more engaging. A good premise, but not much of a follow through. Not recommended, but appropriate for grades 9 – 12 because of lots of under age drinking and some mild sexual content.

Age Level: High School

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Pauls, Chris & Matt Solomon 9781250066527 \$16.99 288 p.
The Giant Smugglers Feiwel & Friends, 2016

Thirteen year old Charlie stumbles upon a giant – a real, live giant – hiding in an abandoned warehouse. Charlie and the giant, Bruce, immediately become best friends. Bruce is waiting in the warehouse until he can be smuggled to safety and reunited with his giant family. The giant is hiding from evil scientists trying to capture him for research purposes. Meanwhile, Charlie is dealing with a school bully who happens to be the son of one of the evil researchers. Charlie learns that his estranged brother, a member of the traveling circus, is one of the giant smugglers. After a high speed chase and other random adventures, Bruce arrives safely at his destination. The origin and history of the giants are never explained. The book was engaging for the first half then fell apart once it turned in to an action movie.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Amy Tooley, Woodmont Library

Swain, H.A. 978-1250028303 \$17.99 336 p.
Gifted Feiwel & Friends, 2016

Gifted, by HA Swain is a sci-fi, dystopian, musical, love story. In this future world the wealthy have surgery to alter their brains so they become geniuses to excel in art, music,

writing or other careers. Playing or singing music is illegal. If you are poor, you don't have access to these surgeries, and you work in factories that support those with wealth.

Orpheus is wealthy and lives a charmed life in front of the constant barrage of drones that record every move he makes and all Orpheus wants to do is produce music. Zimri is poor and works in a factory by day and plays music in underground clubs by night. When Orpheus refuses to have the surgery that will make him a genius, his father threatens him. Orpheus has just cause to be afraid of the surgery, it turned his sister into a vegetable, so he runs away rather than do as his father wishes. And of course he runs right into the arms of Zimri.

She has to help him survive in her world where he has to work and think about others for the first time in his life. Orpheus soon realizes that there is more to life than being seen and being in the "Buzz." His old friends betray him and use his disappearance as an opportunity to have their 15 minutes of fame.

This was a tortured, confused work that tried to do too much. It was a sci-fi, dystopian, musical, love story and didn't do a very good job of any of those things. The world building was confusing. Words are used that the reader has no idea of their meaning. Many things are the same as our world, but others are vastly different and there doesn't seem to be a rational reason for the differences. Best thing about the book was the mechanical dragonfly on the cover! 8 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, High School
Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School

NON-FICTION - RECOMMEND

Bachel, Beverly K. 978-1-63198-030-5 \$14.99 149 p.
What Do You Really Want? How to Set a Goal and Go for It Free Spirit, 2016 (reprint 2001)

Like most Free Spirit books, this is a solid read for guiding youth (or adults!) to developing emotional skills and practices that will serve them well. This is probably best suited to middle school, when teens aren't already overwhelmed by school and work...but really any reader who can dedicate the time to the activities and journal keeping recommended in the book would benefit.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult
Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries

Bascomb, Neal 978-0-545-73243-7 \$17.00 320 p.
Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb Arthur A. Levine, 2016

Nine Norwegian commandos, with white snow suits covering their British uniforms, embarked on the treacherous task of destroying the hydroelectric plant in Vermork, Norway. They did not expect to be successful nor did they expect to survive, but the brave men forged on in an attempt to stop the Nazi's from using the plant to produce the "heavy water" used in the creation of the atomic bomb for Hitler. Norsk Hydro began producing

fixed nitrogen fertilizer in 1911 in this plant. The Nazi's learned of it and knew it could be used for their needs. When Germany invaded Norway, forcing Norwegian citizens from their homes and under the rule of the Nazi regime, the Nazi's took over the plant and began producing "heavy water" for use in the development of a nuclear bomb.

Armed with survival guns, knives, explosives and a cyanide pill, and after months of training, planning and surveillance, these men moved toward the rocky shelf over the gorge on the Mona River. The plant was heavily guarded and land mines were all around. With the cover of night, skiing, hiking, mountain climbing their way, they attempted to approach the fortress.

Adventure and excitement will keep readers interested in the WWII mission tale of science, spies and espionage told by Neal Bascomb. Highly recommended, this book will be enjoyed by middle and high school students.

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

Jennings, Jazz 9780399554643 \$17.99 265 p.
Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen Crown, 2016

Grades 5-12. This is a memoir of Jazz Jennings, a transgender teen with a very public life. She is a YouTube celebrity, has a show on the TLC channel, and was named to Time's most influential Teens list for 2 years in a row. She came out when she was 6 years old on national television in an interview with Barbara Walters in 2007. She is a strong advocate for LGBTQ rights, but this memoir also shows that she's just a young girl who wants to be on the girls soccer team, wants to share a cabin at summer camp with the girls, wants her first boyfriend and her first kiss. It tells the story of her struggles with being allowed to use the girls bathroom, to play sports on the girls team, and what it's like to have a crush and have to tell that person that you're transgender.

She doesn't arrive in middle school until more than half-way through the book and the book ends when she's 15 and just starting high school. For this reason, I think this book can go as low as fifth grade. It does have very candid conversations about hormone therapy, wanting breasts, not wanting a penis, etc. But it's language is in the realm of puberty books like, "What's Happening to My Body?" There are 12 pages of resources in the back, including booklists for children, teens and adults. Her goal is to educate people, so if you have questions about what it's like to be transgender, this is a fabulous resource.

She emphasizes that her experience is not the experience of every transgender person. For example she chose to take puberty blockers. "It's really important to understand that not every transgender person decides to go this route, and many aren't fortunate enough to even have blockers as an option. They don't have the family, medical, or financial support that I did. I really want to stress that every single person's transition is different. Some people choose surgery and hormones, and some don't. It's a deeply personal process, and as a rule you should never ask a person who is transgender about what options they've taken – if any- unless they offer to start up that conversation themselves."

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Comments: School librarians reported that this is a very popular book that is hard to keep on the shelf!

Stephanie Zero, KCLS

Marcus, Leonard S. (ed) 978-0-7636-5938-7 \$25.00 176 p.
Comics Confidential Candlewick Press, 2016

Brief (10 page) biographies and interviews with noted graphic novelists. Accompanying the interviews are 2 page original graphic story with the theme/title of "City". For anyone interested in the art and story of graphic novels, Marcus includes some very well known (Gene Luen Yang) and lesser known graphic novelists, asking them how they got started, where they get their ideas, what they can't draw, and more. I was fascinated. I was also surprised at how many of the artists/writers I recognized. This is a lovely production and should be any in graphic novel collection. There's nothing objectionable here, and any graphic novel fan should enjoy this. There may even be enough content here to include in career studies.

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

O'Reilly, Bill 978-1-62779-699-6 \$19.99 240 p.
The Day the President was Shot: The secret service, the FBI, a would-be killer, and the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan Henry Holt, 2016

It was 1981, just two months into the presidency of Ronald Reagan when he was shot after leaving a speaking engagement in Washington, D. C. The quick action of the Secret Service and medical professionals saved the president's life. Mere days after his near-death experience, Reagan's personal strength propelled him back into his presidential duties. This was adapted from Bill O'Reilly's historical thriller Killing Reagan. The storytelling is gripping and reads more like fiction as it explores the events of that day. From the scene of the shooting and the dramatic action of the Secret Service, to the FBI's interrogation of the shooter, the life-saving measures of the medical professionals and the president's extraordinary recovery, this is a page-turning account of an attempted assassination and its aftermath. Since I have nothing else covering this event or even Reagan's presidency it will fill a hole in my collection. Photographs, timelines and a decent index complete this title. Recommend if there is a need.

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

Tan, Shaun 978-0-545-94612-4 \$24.99 185 p.
The Singing Bones Arthur A. Levine, 2016

The Grimm brothers recorded the folktales and fairy tales of Germany for posterity. Shaun Tan has taken those stories and transformed them into beautiful, striking, and haunting sculptures. He photographed these sculptures and matched them with brief excerpts from the stories that inspired them. Each story has a 2 – 3 sentence excerpt on a page opposite the photo of the sculpture inspired by the story. This is a beautiful book filled with amazing art and a peek at traditional tales, both the very familiar and more obscure. With a forward by Neil Gaiman and an afterword containing one paragraph summaries of each of the stories, this is a wonderful addition to any collection of fairy and folk tales. Highly recommended for all ages, although it may be less interesting to younger students.

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

Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School

Tougas, Michael J. 978-1-62779-281-3 \$17.99 240 p.
A Storm Too Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas Henry Holt,
2016

I highly recommend this book for middle school and up, especially for reluctant readers. Three men get trapped in an uber hurricane off the east coast that takes a bizzare course and survive unheard of perils, including unheard of 80 foot waves in this true story. The author masterfully weaves in details of the men's personal lives, events leading up to the storm, and Search and Rescue facts with non-stop action. This story is mind blowing and inspirational. It shows that you never really know what long term effect small actions can have on a person's life. These three men and their rescuers were not only caught in a storm, but also in a sequence of events that brought people together and created the perfect recipe for a miracle. The way the author tells the story makes it almost like surreal non-fiction.

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

Tougas, Michael J. 978-1-62779-281-3 \$17.99 240 p.
A Storm Too Soon: A Remarkable True Survival Story in 80 Foot Seas Henry Holt,
2016

On May 2, 2007 three men start sailing from Florida to France in J.P. de Lutz's 44 foot sailboat. In less than a week, they end up in a tattered 6-foot life raft nearly 250 miles off the coast of the Carolinas while 80 foot waves beat down upon them along with gusts of winds topping 85 knots. Then the book begins alternating narration between the three men and the Coast Guard's Search and Rescue Command. Reluctant readers will love reading about the terrors of the sea. By page 35, it's already dangerous and the fast-paced, as the adrenaline-fueled narration doesn't let up. The three men have to not only battle the angry, vicious seas, but also hypothermia, sharks, and dehydration. And the Coast Guard rescuers face 80 feet waves that could easily crash into their helicopter which is trying to lower a rescue swimmer to save the three men before it's too late. This is a gripping, riveting non-fiction story that my students will love. There's just enough background on the people involved to care about them, but not too much to slow down the narrative. The story ends with an epilogue that discusses how this traumatic event affected the survivors and how they dealt with the PTSD. Bonus: Search YouTube for "A Storm Too Soon" to watch the actual Coast Guard helicopter rescue.

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

- Digital Issues series

Abramovitz, Melissa 978-1-68282-092-6 \$29.95 80 p.
Online Predators Reference Point Press, 2017

Henderson, Harry 978-1-60152-990-9 \$29.95 80 p.
Online Security Reference Point Press, 2017

Netzley, Patricia D. 978-1-60152-986-2 \$20.95 80 p.
Online Entertainment Reference Point Press, 2017

Netzley, Patricia D. 978-1-60152-984-8 \$20.95 80 p.
Online Addiction Reference Point Press, 2017

Parks, Peggy J. 978-1-60152-992-3 \$29.95 80 p.
Social Media Reference Point Press, 2017

Parks, Peggy J. 978-1-60152-988-6 \$29.95 80 p.
Online Privacy Reference Point Press, 2017

This is a typical Reference Point Press research series. Their Digital Issues series covers a well-rounded cross-section of pertinent topics relating to online digital activities, especially in how they affect teenagers today. Each book contains a wealth of information with numerous footnoted direct quotations and statistics that present many of the physical, emotional and psychological issues connected to each topic. These books are great entry texts for digital topics as they include recent, specific examples that are memorable. Tweens and teens will find the colorful layout appealing and the short five chapters easy to navigate. There's enough interesting color pictures, pull quotes and small sidebar stories to keep teens reading the entire book. Each book ends with an index, picture credits, sources notes, a list of related organizations to contact, and a list of books, online articles and websites for further research. However, with ever-shrinking library budgets, I cannot afford nearly \$30 for less than 70 pages of actual information--not counting source notes, etc.

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

- Forgotten Youth series

Allen, John 9781601529749 \$33.00 80 p.
Child Soldiers Reference Point Press, 2017

Cartledge, Cherese 9781601529787 \$33.00 80 p.
Homeless Youth Reference Point Press, 2017

Currie-McGhee, Leanne 9781601529763 \$33.00 80 p.
Foster Youth Reference Point Press, 2017

Currie, Stephen 9781601529800 \$33.00 80 p.
Undocumented Immigrant Youth Reference Point Press, 2017

Watson, Stephanie 9781601529824 \$33.00 80 p.
Incarcerated youth Reference Point Press, 2017

Some young people grow up under extremely challenging circumstances—and their peers know little about their lives or the difficulties they must overcome. This series introduces young readers to foster youth, homeless youth, undocumented immigrant youth, and others who struggle to find their place in society. Each volume presents a vivid picture of

what these youth experience day in and day out—their hopes, their fears, their triumphs and challenges. Details of daily life, quotes, anecdotes, and context are woven throughout the books to present a powerful, real-world look at the lives of these vulnerable young people. Well done and well written, there's a lot packed into a slim 80 pages and for \$33+ per volume I would say this is an additional purchase based on need and budget.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

- Future of Technology series

Allen, John	9781601529626	\$33.00	80 p.
<i>What is the Future of Nanotechnology?</i> Reference Point Press, 2017			

Allen, John	9781682820605	\$33.00	80 p.
<i>What is the Future of Artificial Intelligence?</i> Reference Point Press, 2017			

Kallen, Stuart A	9781602820629	\$33.00	80 p.
<i>What is the Future of Drones?</i> Reference Point Press, 2017			

Marcovitz, Hal	9781682820667	\$33.00	80 p.
<i>What is the Future of 3D Printing?</i> Reference Point Press, 2017			

Mooney, Carla	9781682820940	\$33.00	80 p.
<i>What is the Future of Virtual Reality?</i> Reference Point Press, 2017			

Watson, Stephanie	9781682820643	\$33.00	80 p.
<i>What is the Future of Self-Driving Cars?</i> Reference Point Press, 2017			

Bold, new technological marvels in nanotechnology, 3D Printing, artificial intelligence, and other areas are likely to make for a fascinating future. The Future of Technology series explores what lies ahead as scientists, engineers, and others seek to develop the technologies that will, in all likelihood, alter the future course of human civilization. Visual chronologies, sidebars, vocabulary terms, fully documented quotes, and full-color photographs add depth and insight. This is typically well-done Reference Point Press series, but at \$33+ per 80 page book you decide if it's worth the spendy price.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

- Issues in Society series

Haugen, David M.	978-1-68282-099-5	\$35.00	80 p.
<i>What Should be Done About Illegal Immigration?</i> Reference Point Press, 2017			

A new title in the Issues in Society series. With chapters "What are the facts?", "Should America Strengthen Disincentives to Hiring Illegal Workers?", and examining the Wall, deportation, and citizenship, this is a very timely book.

Like all Reference Point books, the author attempts to cover all sides of an issue within 80 pages (really 61 pages of text). Although ridiculously brief, the topic is covered pretty well.

Hirschmann, Kris 9781682820568 \$29.95 80 p.
Deadliest Snakes Reference Point Press, 2017

Hirschmann, Kris 9781682820582 \$29.95 80 p.
Deadliest Spiders Reference Point Press, 2017

Nardo, Don 9781682820483 \$29.95 80 p.
Deadly Dinosaurs Reference Point Press, 2017

This series offers information on how the deadliest animals in each group procure their prey. Each chapter in each title covers a different animal, giving background information, details about their appearance and home, and, of course, how they stalk and secure their prey. Aside from the dinosaurs volume, a significant amount of text is devoted to how these animals have attacked humans, even if humans are not their primary prey (e.g. spiders). The text can run a bit dry, but there are some engaging vignettes of humans beings being attacked by various creatures, typically resulting in their deaths, though sometimes the victims survive against great odds. The narrative in the dinosaurs volume is the weakest of the bunch, possibly because of reliance on dueling scientific theories. All titles, however, suffer for a lack of engaging photos. Also of note is that the reader must turn to the second or third page of each chapter before seeing a picture of the animal featured.

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

- Issues in Society series

Allen, John 1682820769 \$29.95 80 p.
How Harmful Are Performance-Enhancing Drugs? Reference Point Press, 2016

With big sports comes big money--and as long as money is to be made, especially by athletes who are pushed to win at all costs, drugs will play a major role in this industry. The pertinent question is not whether PEDs are harmful--there is plenty of evidence to show that they are--but whether they actually can be regulated when billions of dollars are exchanged for athletes who bring in the money with their reputations and their wins. Much of discussion in this text revolves not around this but the nuts and bolts about PEDs: the consequences and health issues from use, whether they are cheating and how effective drug testing actually is.

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

Dudley, William 1682820726 \$29.95 80 p.
Do Police Abuse Their Powers? Reference Point Press, 2016

Like with the obesity text, the question is based on an assumption that police function in some kind of vacuum without any interference or influence from the outer world. The closest the author gets to tapping into this is the chapter focusing on racism as a factor in police misconduct. However, the systematic militarization of police, the gaps between haves and have-nots, the increase of people in poverty and the threat of terrorism whether actual or not in the past 20 years is ignored. Such factors play a huge role in how an individual officer might react to any given situation. The suggestion in chapter 4 that body

cameras become mandatory for police to wear may certainly be a deterrent, but does nothing to address the deeper issue of how such abuse manifests to begin with.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Henneberg, Susan 1682820963 \$29.95 80 p.
Are Mobile Devices Harmful? Reference Point Press, 2016

Some of the questions raised in this text are fairly decent, such as "Are people too dependent on mobile devices?" Yet, the discussion seems to focus more on the potential physical harm that might be caused by mobile phone use--car accidents, cancer-causing radiation, inertia--but not much on the social and psychological concerns that people are now starting to debate. Brain research does suggest that electronic media does change the way brains function. Moreover, young people seem to have developed a dependency on their cell phones or other devices. While the dependency issue is raised in this book few of the other non-physical concerns are. While "oversharing" personal information is a problem, other questions about privacy while using mobile devices and the harm that can cause are not addressed.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Karson, Jill 1682820742 \$29.95 80 p.
How can the Obesity Epidemic Be Controlled? Reference Point Press, 2016

Eight titles in the series covering topics such as social media, climate change, police abuse and the old canard, marijuana. Each volume is 80 pages and includes an introduction, five chapters presented in question form, two bibliographic references, a contact list and index. Chapters consist of large dark chapter titles followed by bold read section headers. Text is 14-pt sans serif font. Red boxed sidebars contain various quotations or related information from a variety of sources. Occasionally, viewpoints are presented in large, gray boxed areas, one on each of the facing pages, left and right. On average there are about 3 color photos per chapter with clearly delineated captions. Endnotes, contacts and further research resources are easy to distinguish and navigate. Overall the layout seems usable and appears appealing if a bit text-heavy.

The titles are in question form, suggesting a debate but perhaps surreptitiously leading the reader to a negative conclusion with words such as "harmful," "consequences," and "abuse." Many of the photographs also emphasize the "scariest" nature of the topics, such as the zombified looks on the faces of young people playing video games, or teens partaking of a marijuana joint. Although there are attempts to present more than one side to each issue, it is apparent that for some of the topics the authors lean toward a negative or oppositional stance. This isn't to say the information is misleading. The data seems solid and the references provided come from well-respected sources.

The assumption in this volume is that obesity is an epidemic. Rather than explore the possibility that the "epidemic" itself is manufactured or overstated, the author produces the typical "facts" of obesity as the cause for various ailments and diseases, without any consideration that perhaps the "cause" is actually the effect. Further chapters explore

whether government should regulate junk food, whether educational programs can control obesity and whether marketing to children should be restricted. The latter is irrelevant since no corporation would consent to such limitations since marketing to children is a billion dollar cash cow. While decent points are made throughout about eating healthy and eating fat and sugar-rich foods in moderation, I feel the discussion is over-simplified to once again take the easy route of blaming the result for the causes--which are many. It's a fair introductory text but not one with depth.

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

Nakaya, Andrea C. 1682820688 \$29.95 80 p.
Is Social Media Good for Society? Reference Point Press, 2016

Of the eight texts in this series, this one seems to approach the issue with a good amount of depth--if a bit one-sided. Questions are raised about how social media affects social interactions and privacy, and whether or not people are becoming too dependent on it as a means of communication at the expense of other ways to interact. It is equally true that the relation between social media and politics deserves some scrutiny. However, the question of whether social media is "good" for society or not is moot. It is a pervasive part of our lives and we need to learn to deal with it accordingly. Additionally, little is discussed about who controls social media, how it is regulated, and whether or not it is genuinely safe.

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

Nakaya, Andrea C. 1682820785 \$29.95 80 p.
What Are the Consequences of Climate Change? Reference Point Press, 2016

Death and mass extinction. The question embodied in the title seems trite and does not create the sense of urgency that this subject really deserves. Even the second chapter, entitled, "Is Climate Change a Serious Problem," gives too much credibility to the already proved disreputable "deniers". Of course it is a serious problem. Again, this text presents facts but no discussion beyond what seems the path of least resistance. Every chapter can be answered with a resounding "YES," however, following form, the author continues to play with the topic as if there is something to be debated. With atmospheric carbon at over 400 ppm and many nations considering how to deal with climate change refugees, this text resembles putting a bandage on a sucking chest wound.

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

Nakaya, Andrea C. 168282070X \$29.95 80 p.
Are Video Games Harmful? Reference Point Press, 2016

This topic has been tossed around in one form or another at least since the 1980s. Then, it was whether a game called Dungeons & Dragons caused youth to lash out violently. Few cases exist that such role-playing games actually influenced teens to harm others, but those that occurred usually involved youth who were mentally ill to begin with. The connection between the two--one causing the other--could never be established. However, legitimate concerns are presented in this book. Video games, unlike pencil and paper role-playing games, inundate the player with often gruesome visual imagery that after a while could

desensitize the player. Whether this can lead to violent behavior is rightfully explored here. Whether this justifies stricter video game regulation will depend on the market; games, such as Call of Duty or Grand Theft Auto, are block-buster money-makers which makes them much less likely to be "regulated" regardless of their violent content.

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

Steffens, Bradley 1682820971 \$29.95 80 p.
Is Marijuana Harmful? Reference Point Press, 2016

Probably one of the most cliched topic in the universe--whether or not marijuana is the devil's weed or whether it is the cure for all ills. Unfortunately, the author follows the same path so many text writers do, by emphasizing the adverse effects while presenting the benefits with a tone of reticence. Yes, some of the claimed benefits are not proven, yet much has been researched and shown to be beneficial for many people. Moreover, no consideration is given to many of the negative effects, which come from smoking marijuana, that do not appear when it is consumed in other ways. In addition, the canard about marijuana use serving as a "gateway" to harder drug use has never been proven and can only be viewed as a correlation not a causation. Yes, people who become heroin addicts might have started with marijuana, but that presumes one must lead to the other while, in fact, it is more likely that some abusers or addicts already have a proclivity toward harder substances. The jury is out on this one still, yet the nebulous data is not presented as such. Much to the author's credit, however, he does give some space to discussing the lucrative nature of marijuana commerce and how this might be at the forefront of the push for nationwide legalization.

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

NON-FICTION – NOT RECOMMEND

Martin, Justin & Liza Charlesworth 978-0-554-65648-2 \$12.99 80 p.
Keep Curious and Carry a Banana: Wisdom from the World of Curious George

Houghton Mifflin, 2016

This is a novelty gift book for fans of Curious George. Calling it wisdom would be a bit of a stretch. Maybe a hard-core George lover would like this, but it is pretty useless for a school or public library.

Age Level: Too young for YA
Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries

O'Reilly, Bill 978-1-62779-699-6 \$19.99 240 p.
The Day the President was Shot: The secret service, the FBI, a would-be killer, and the attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan Henry Holt, 2016

In March, 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot by a deranged man hoping to impress an actress. The quick actions of Secret Service agents and medical professionals saved his life. This is an adaptation for young people from O'Reilly's adult book Killing Reagan. Told

