



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW

GROUP

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: September 15, 2017

*Issue: 118
September 2017*

WASHRAG

<i>Titles Taken</i>	<i>3-12</i>
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WASHYARGers:

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

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

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

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

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

2017-2018 MEETING DATES:

- *September 15*
- *December 8*
- *March 2*
- *May 4*

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.

2017-18 MEETINGS

- *September 15*
- *December 8*
- *March 2*
- *May 4*

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

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

Titles Taken for Review – May 2017

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!
 Also please remember that ARCs may not be added to your collection.

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

⊕ Next to a title indicates it was an award nominee/winner

FICTION

Abdel-Fattah, Randa <i>The Lines We Cross</i> (ARC) Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-1-338-11866-7 Scholastic, 2017	\$18.99	402 p.
Albertalli, Becky ⊕ <i>The Upside of Unrequited</i> Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	978-0-06-234870-8 Balzer+Bray, 2017	\$17.99	336 p.
Alsaid, Adi <i>North of Happy</i> (ARC) Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries	978-0-373-21228-6 Harlequin Teen, 2017	\$18.99	296 p.
Anderson, Jeff <i>Just My Luck</i> , Zack Delacruz #2 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-1-4549-2067-0 Sterling Children's Books, 2016	\$12.95	173 p.
Armstrong, Kelley <i>Missing</i> Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	9780399550324 Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017	\$17.99	375 p.
Blackwood, Sage <i>Miss Ellicott's School for the Magically Minded</i> Aarene Storms, KCLS	97800624-2639 Harper Collins, 2017	\$16.99	361 p.
Blake, Jillian <i>Antisocial</i> Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School	9781101938966 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$17.99	249 p.
Bloom, Ira	978-1-338-03073-0	\$17.99	342 p.

<i>Hearts and other Body Parts</i> Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	Scholastic, 2017		
Bowen, Fred <i>Outside Shot</i> Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-1-56145-956-8 Peachtree Publishers, 2017	\$6.95	133 p.
Brashares, Ann <i>The Whole Thing Together</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-0-385-73689-3 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$18.99	293 p.
Burks, James <i>Bird & Squirrel On Fire</i> , Bird & Squirrel #4 (GN) Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-0--545-80429-5 Graphix/Scholastic, 2017	\$18.99	189 p.
Carter, Ally <i>Take the Key and Lock Her Up</i> , Embassy Row #3 Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9780545654951 Scholastic, 2017	\$17.99	327 p.
Chambers, Veronica ☛ <i>The Go-Between</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-1-1019-3095-3 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$16.99	195 p.
Cohen-Scali, Sarah ☛ <i>Max</i> <u>Comments:</u> Originally published in France, 2012 Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	978162672718 Roaring Brook Press, 2017	\$21.99	421 p.
Cotugno, Katie <i>Fireworks</i> Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	9780062418272 Balzer+Bray, 2017	\$17.99	324 p.
Courtauld, Sarah <i>The Gigantic Giant Goof-Up</i> , Buckle and Squash #2 <u>Comments:</u> Elementary [ages 7-10] Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	978-1250052797 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$14.99	187 p.
Culvertson, Kim <i>The Wonder of Us</i> (ARC) Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	978-0545731515 Point, 2017	\$17.99	328 p.
d'Lacey, Chris <i>The Wearle</i> , Erth Dragons #1	978-0-545-90018-8 Scholastic, 2015	\$16.99	284 p.

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

DeLano, L.E. 978-1-250-10040-5 \$10.99 321 p.
Traveler Swoon Reads, 2017

Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Elliott, David 978-0-544-61060-6 \$17.99 181 p.
🚫 **Bull** Houghton Mifflin, 2017

Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School

Emerson, Kevin 978-0-06-230671-5 \$16.99 326 p.
Last Day on Mars, Chronicle of the Dark Star #1 Walden Pond Press, 2017

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Evans, Maz 978-1-338-06556-5 \$16.99 307 p.
Who Let the Gods Out? Chicken House, 2017

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Frank, Steven B. 9780544826083 \$16.99 298 p.
Armstrong & Charlie Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Freitas, Donna 978-0-06-211863 \$17.99 409 p.
The Body Market, The Wired #2 HarperTeen, 2017

Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Frost, Helen 9780374303037 \$16.99 193 p.
When My Sister Started Kissing Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Gardner, Whitney 978-0-399-55141-3 \$17.99 297 p.
You're Welcome, Universe Alfred A. Knopf, 2017

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Gemeinhart, Dan 978-1-338-05384-5 \$16.99 249 p.
Scar Island Scholastic, 2017

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Giff, Patricia Reilly 9780823438006 \$16.95 240 p.
Genevieve's War Holiday House, 2017

Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Giles, Lamar 978-0-545-81250-4 \$17.99 341 p.
🚫 **Overtuned** Scholastic, 2017

Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School

Grey, Melissa <i>The Shadow Hour</i> , The Girl at Midnight #2 Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	9780385744676 Delacorte Press, 2016	\$17.99	421 p.
Griffin, M. A. <i>Lifers</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-1-338-06553-4 Chicken House, 2017	\$17.99	279 p.
Grine, Chris <i>Time Shifters</i> (ARC) (GN) <u>Comments:</u> Elementary Maggie Wong, KCLS	978-0-545-92659-1 Graphix/Scholastic, 2017	\$24.99	272 p.
Halahmy, Miriam 🌀 <i>Behind Closed Doors</i> Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-8234-3641-5 Holiday House, 2017	\$16.95	242 p.
Harrison, Rory <i>Looking for Group</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-245307-5 HarperTeen, 2017	\$17.99	356 p.
Hatke, Ben ♦ <i>Mighty Jack</i> (GN) Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-1-62672-264-4 First Second, 2016	\$14.99	205 p.
Heldring, Thatcher <i>Football Girl</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-385-74183-5 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$16.99	200 p.
Higgins, Wendy <i>The Great Pursuit</i> , Eurona #2 Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	9780062381361 HarperTeen, 2017	\$17.99	496 p.
Isbell, Tom <i>The Release</i> , The Prey #3 Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	9780062216083 HarperTeen, 2017	\$17.99	357 p.
Kaplan, A. E. 🌀 <i>Grendel's Guide to Love and War: A Tale of Rivalry, Romance, and Existential Angst</i> Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	9780399555541 Alfred A. Knopf, 2017	\$17.99	311 p.
Konigsberg, Bill	9780545858267	\$17.99	326 p.

<i>Honestly Ben</i> , Openly Straight #2 Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	Levine Books, 2017		
Krawitz, Susan <i>Viva, Rose!</i> Aarene Storms, KCLS Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	9780823437566 Holiday House, 2017	\$16.95	231 p.
Kwaymullina, Ambelin <i>The Foretelling of Georgie Spider</i> Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-7636-9210-0 Candlewick Press, 2015	\$17.99	436 p.
Lambert, Mary E. <i>Family Game Night and Other Catastrophies</i> Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	978-0-545-93198-4 Scholastic, 2017	\$16.99	245 p.
Larson, Sara B <i>Dark Breaks the Dawn</i> (ARC) Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	9781338068764 Scholastic, 2017	\$17.99	307 p.
Lasky, Kathryn <i>Night Witches: A Novel of World War II</i> JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	978-0-545-68298-5 Scholastic, 2017	\$17.99	211 p.
Laurence, Matthew <i>Freya</i> , Freya #1 Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	9781250088178 Imprint, 2017	\$17.99	341 p.
Lawrence, Mike <i>Star Scouts</i> (GN) Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	9781626722804 First Second, 2017	\$14.99	185 p.
LaZebnik, Claire <i>Things I Should Have Known</i> Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	978-0-544-82969-5 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017	\$17.99	314 p.
Lee, Fonda <i>Exo</i> Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	9780545933438 Scholastic, 2017	\$17.99	372 p.
Levy, Dana Alison <i>This Would Make A Good Story Someday</i> Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	978-1-1019-3817-1 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$16.99	315 p.
Lockhart E	9781524766955	\$18.99	272 p.

◆ <i>We Were Liars</i> (Deluxe Edition) Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	Random House Children's Books, 2017		
McBride, Lish <i>Pyromantic</i> , Firebug #2 Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	978-0-8050-9863-1 Henry Holt, 2017	\$18.99	323 p.
McKinlay, Meg <i>A Single Stone</i> <u>Comments:</u> Originally published 2015 Australia Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-7636-8837-0 Candlewick Press, 2017	\$17.99	267 p.
McManus, Karen M. ☛ <i>One of Us is Lying</i> Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	9781524714680 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$17.99	358 p.
Merschel, Michael <i>Revenge of the Star Survivors</i> Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School	9780823436675 Holiday House, 2017	\$17.95	312 p.
Mesrobian, Carrie <i>Just a Girl</i> Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	9780062349910 Harper, 2017	\$17.99	392 p.
Moldavsky, Goldy <i>No Good Deed</i> (ARC) Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries	978-0-545-86751-1 Point, 2017	\$17.99	345 p.
O'Sullivan, Joanne <i>Between Two Skies</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-7636-9034-2 Candlewick Press, 2017	\$16.99	267 p.
Orchard, Eric <i>Bera The One-Headed Troll</i> (GN) <u>Comments:</u> Elementary Maggie Wong, KCLS	9781626721067 First Second, 2016	\$17.99	126 p.
Paige, Danielle <i>The End of Oz</i> , Dorothy Must Die #4 Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-06-242377-1 Harper, 2017	\$18.99	277 p.
Patterson, James and Jennifer Charbonnet <i>Crazy House</i> (ARC) Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-1-316-43131-6 Jimmy Patterson Books, 2017	\$17.99	353 p.

Peet, Mal Beck Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-7636-7842-5 Candlewick Press, 2016	\$17.99	261 p.
Powell, Marie & Jeff Norton Keeping the Beat Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	978-1-77138-730-9 KCP Loft, 2017	\$17.95	361 p.
Pullman, Philip and illustrated by Fred Fordham 160 p. Mystery of the Ghost Ship The Adventures of John Blake #1 (ARC/GN) Graphix/Scholastic, 2017 Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-1-338-14912-8	\$19.99	
Roe, Robin ◆ A List of Cages (ARC) Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-1-4847-6380-3 Hyperion, 2017	\$17.99	320 p.
Romanoff, Zan Grace and the Fever Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	9781524720841 Alfred A. Knopf, 2017	\$17.99	346 p.
Rosenberg, Madelyn & Wendy Wan-Long Shang This is Just a Test (ARC) <u>Comments:</u> Elementary Maggie Wong, KCLS	978-1-338-03772-2 Scholastic, 2017	\$17.99	258 p.
Sackier, Shelley The Freemason's Daughter Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9780062453440 HarperTeen, 2017	\$17.99	376 p.
Saenz, Benjamin Alire ◆ The Inexplicable Logic of My Life (ARC) Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-0-544-58650-5 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017	\$17.99	445 p.
Sharp, Lydia Whenever I'm With You Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9781338047493 Scholastic, 2017	\$17.99	294 p.
Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk ☛ Making Bombs for Hitler Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	978-0-545-93191-5 Scholastic, 2017	\$17.99	230 p.

Smart, Jamie <i>Bunny vs. Monkey, Book 2</i> (GN) Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	9781910200476 Scholastic, 2017	\$7.99	63 p.
Smith, Jennifer E. <i>Windfall</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-399-55937-2 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$18.99	416 p.
Standish, Ali <i>The Ethan I Was Before</i> Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	9781408342923 Hachette's Childrens Group, 2017	\$16.99	368 p.
Taylor, Whitney <i>Definitions of Indefinable Things</i> Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	9780544805040 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017	\$17.99	326 p.
Terry, Ellie <i>Forget Me Not</i> <u>Comments:</u> Written in verse Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9781250096272 Feiwel & Friends, 2016	\$16.99	326 p.
Tracy, Kristen <i>Totally Crushed</i> Project [Un] Popular #2 Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-553-51052-2 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$16.99	211 p.
Van Diepen, Allison <i>Run the Risk</i> Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	978-0-06-243335-0 HarperTeen, 2017	\$17.99	277 p.
Vincent, Rachel <i>Brave New Girl</i> , Brave New Girl #1 Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	978-0-399-55245-8 Delacorte Press, 2017	\$17.99	254 p.
Weisman, Greg <i>World of Warcraft: Traveler</i> , Traveler #1 Kirsten Edwards, KCLS	9780545906678 Scholastic, 2016	\$14.99	370 p.
West, Kasie <i>Lucky in Love</i> (ARC) Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	9781338058017 Point, 2017	\$17.99	333 p.
Westerfeld, Scott	978-0-545-91677-6	\$14.99	241 p.

Horizon , Horizon #1 Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Scholastic, 2017		
Wilde, Jen Queens of Geek Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-1-250-11139-5 Swoon Reads, 2017	\$15.99	262 p.
Wooding, Chris ◆ Velocity Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-545-94494-6 Scholastic, 2015	\$18.99	325 p.
Xu, Ru ◆ NewsPrints (GN) Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	9780545803113 Graphix/Scholastic, 2017	\$12.99	200 p.
Zarr, Sara Gem & Dixie Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	978-0-06-243459-3 Balzer+Bray, 2017	\$17.99	282 p.

NON-FICTION

Alexander, Kwame ◆ The Playbook. 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in this Game called Life Houghton Mifflin Harcourt , 2017 Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-0-544-57097-9	\$14.99	169 p.
Aronson, Marc and Marina Budhos Eyes of the World: Robert Capa, Gerda Taro and the Invention of Modern Photojournalism Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	9780805098358	\$22.99	294 p.
Bornstein, Michael and Debbie Bornstein-Holinstat 336 p. Survivor's Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	9780374305710	\$16.99	
Braun, Eric Taking Action to Improve People's Health Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	9781467793957 Lerner, 2017	\$33.32	48 p.
Castaldo, Nancy Beastly Brains: Exploring How Animals Think, Talk, and Feel Harcourt, 2017 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9780544633353	\$16.99	150 p.

Engle, Margarita and illustrated by Rafael Lopez 9780805098761 \$18.99 48 p.
Bravo!: Poems About Amazing Hispanics Henry Holt, 2017
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Frydenborg, Kay 9780544286566 \$18.99 246 p.
A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017
 Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Gonzales, Andrea and Sophie Houser 978-0-06-247250-2 \$17.99 264 p.
Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting It Done Harper, 2017
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Hart, Christopher 978-1-942021-62-9 \$19.95 144 p.
The Manga Fashion Bible: The Go-To Guide for Drawing Stylish Outfits and Characters
 Sixth and Spring, 2016
 Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Heos, Bridget 978-0-06-238762-2 \$18.99 264 p.
Blood, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA
 Balzer+Bray, 2016
 Maggie Wong, KCLS

Lawler, Laurie 9780823436750 \$17.95 49 p.
Super Women: Six Scientists Who Changed the World Holiday House, 2017
 Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School
 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Lourie, Peter (with illustrations by Wendell Minor) 9780805097573 \$18.99
 192 p.
Jack London and the Klondike Gold Rush Henry Holt, 2017
 Aarene Storms, KCLS
 Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Rey, H.A. 9780844763449 \$14.99 160 p.
The Stars: A New Way to See Them Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016
Comments: New edition of a book published for first time in 1952
 Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Sandler, Martin W 9780763680336 \$19.99 170 p.
The Whydah: A Pirate Ship Feared, Wrecked, and Found Candlewick Press, 2017
 Aarene Storms, KCLS

Titles Reviewed – May 2017

FICTION – RECOMMEND

Acton, Vanessa 9781512427752 \$26.65 101 p.
Backfire, Day of Disaster Darbycreek, 2017

Elijah is bummed: he's been fired from his job and grounded at home so he can't go on a camping trip with his campy buddy Brenna and two of their friends. Bored, he happens to have the television on when breaking news broadcasts a warning of approaching wild fire. More than himself, he is concerned about Brenna, Nicole, and Keegan who are hiking in nearby Topaz State Park. As danger approaches, Elijah encourages an elderly neighbor to evacuate and finds that his Uncle Marco is unwilling to leave the home he built with his own two hands. Meanwhile, Brenna and company find themselves between two fires. Luckily, Brenna is no novice at survival tactic and makes quick calculations as to which direction to go and where to seek shelter. Unfortunately, nature is not as cooperative. Accidents happen and everyone's life is in danger. Back in town, Elijah, Marco, and Mrs. Lucas' lives are in danger, too, as the ever growing fire approaches, bringing visibility down to zero. Who will survive the deadly disaster? Told in alternating chapters, *Backfire* is an exciting hi/lo action story that will appeal to fans of the *I Survived* series. Grades 4-8.

Age Level: Middle School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Arnold, Elana K. 9781512410242 \$18.99 191 p.
What Girls Are Made Of CarolRhoda Lab, 2017

This is a book that left me thinking. Starting from the first page with the first quote of "When I was fourteen, my mother told me there was no such thing as unconditional love." What follows is nearly two hundred pages of Nina, our narrator, turning herself inside out for Seth--who winds up dumping her despite her explicitly described seductions. It is those very same descriptions that leave me conflicted about placing the book in a school library; however, in a coherently rambling plot, Nina tells her tale of an empty home life, the decision to have an abortion (the best thing she had ever done for herself), and her commitment to service in a high-kill animal shelter. Woven throughout are her reminiscences of her mother's admonitions about men and love, her own research into the female martyrs, and her realization of the male-dominated oppression those martyrs endured when powerful men could not claim their beauty and sexuality as a possession. It's a story that looks at a woman's life through the lens of Feminist Theory, and it isn't pretty. When taken as a whole, the scenes create a complex portrait of a girl who is trying to figure out what it means to be a woman. It's not a read aloud, and it begs for a mature and thoughtful reader lest it be broken down to its titillating parts.

Age Level: High School, Adult

Additional Comments: This is a mature book with explicit descriptions of intercourse, fellatio, use of a vibrator, and abortion.

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Aveyard, Victoria 978-0-06-231069-9 \$19.99 512 p.
King's Cage, Red Queen #3 HarperTeen, 2017

This third book in the series has all of the elements that readers loved in the *Red Queen*. The main focus is Mare Burrow and how she deals with being trapped inside King Maven's cage. Maven's cage for Mare is a lovely bedroom full of Silent Stone and surrounded by constant Arven guards which prevent her from generating a spark of energy. To add to her torment, Maven's betrothed, Lady Evangeline, also lives at Maven's castle and enjoys adding to Mare's troubles. Yet the scrappy Red Guard has not given up their fight, especially with Farley at the helm and Maven's brother Cal close behind. Soon, long-standing enemies will become allies as even entrenched friends become foes on both sides of the Red-Silver divide as both sides march toward battle. Sadly, for a true resolution, readers must wait for book 4. A must-have for lovers of the action-packed (but romance too) series.

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

Balak 9781626720510 \$11.99 202 p.
The Rescue, Last Man #6 (GN) First Second, 2016

If you have fans then this is a must have. A villain that had lurked in the shadows comes to the light. A fallen friend resurrected as a monstrous new enemy. An old flame in danger of suffering a fate worse than death. Richard Aldana has faced many challenges inside and outside the boxing ring, but when Marianne and Adrian are captured by an ambitious drug lord bent on dominating entire worlds, Richard may be biting off more than he can chew.

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

Buckley, Michael 978-0-544-34867-7 \$18.99 304 p.
Heart of the Storm, Undertow #3 HMH, 2017

Book three of the Undertow series. This one wraps it all up. Lyric begins the book trapped by the mad Prime underwater, escapes and leads humanity's response to the horrible creatures coming out of the deep. It is more of the same and it is a recommended trilogy (action, love triangle, dystopia) for both Middle Schools and High Schools.

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

Cavallaro, Brittany 9780062398949 \$17.99 318 p.
The Last of August, Charlotte Holmes #2 Katherine Tegan Books, 2017

The Last of August is the second Charlotte Holmes Novel, a series that brings together the great-great-great granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes, Charlotte, and the great-great-great grandson of Dr. Watson, Jamie. Having been accused of committing a murder and partnering to find the real killer—almost losing their own lives in the process—the teens are now spending their winter break together in England. Still working through their feelings for each other, the two sleuths are drawn into investigating the disappearance of Charlotte's Uncle Leander, who had been working undercover investigating crime in the art world that may possibly have ties to the Holmes family nemesis, the Moriarty family. Their

investigation takes them to Germany where they discover that there is more at stake than stolen or forged works of art. This series a great read and for those familiar with Arthur Conan Doyle's books (or TV's Sherlock) especially revisiting the Holmes and Watson dynamic as they solve a case. Recommended for high school.

Age Level: High School

Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Chalfoun, Michelle 978-0-374-30340-2 \$16.99 344 p.
The Treasure of Maria Mamoun Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016

Maria Mamoun lives a pretty lonely life within the city. Maria has never met her dad and her mom works two nursing jobs just to keep them afloat. This means Maria spends long hours all on her own, all while following the strict rule set forth by her mother, to only go to school and back. However, one day the Bad Barbies, (a trio of girls that pick on classmates) target Maria and Maria's mom finds out. Afterwards her mom quickly secures employment on Martha's Vineyard working as a personal nurse for an elderly film director. It is through this relocation to Martha's Vineyard that Maria finally makes a friend for the first time. As well as partaking on a mystery/adventure within the island that is connected to the elderly film director. Although everything wraps up a little too neatly/perfectly in my opinion, I can see students enjoying the mystery/adventure they are taken on within the book.

Age Level: Grades: 4-7

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Cooper, Rose 978-0-385-74392-1 \$12.99 199 p.
***The Ungrateful Dead*, Dead Serious #2** Delacorte Press, 2016

Anna can talk to spirits on her cell phone and the dead won't leave her alone. One particular malicious spirit, Lucy, pops up again determined to make Anna's life miserable. Harper recently died and cannot believe it. Lucy convinces her to take over her dead body and pretend to still be living. Since she can't go home, Harper ends up moving in with Anna and becoming best friends with her spiteful step-sister, Tabitha. Meanwhile Anna is hoping Johnny can recover his lost memories (from book one) and realize how close the two of them had become. Between trying to get Harper to move on, Lucy to stay gone, Johnny to recover memories, and learning to get along with Tabitha, Anna has her hands full.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

Dawn, Sasha 9781512411515 \$18.99 295 p.
Splinter CarolRhoda Lab, 2017

Samantha's mom disappeared ten years ago and no one seems to know what happened. She was supposed to go away for the weekend and then return on 11/7, but she never came home. No one has heard from her since, except that Sam receives a postcard (presumably) from her every year around the anniversary of her disappearance. Thus, Sam holds out hope that her mother is still alive, out there somewhere; but there are those who think she may be dead. Moreover, a few people suspect that Samantha's father may have had something to do with her disappearance. Samantha has never once doubted her father's innocence. However, when details about another woman's disappearance ten years ago are tied to her father as well, and truths about previously unknown relationships involving her

dad are revealed, Samantha begins to doubt. A little slow to start, Splinter is a fun mystery with twists that will keep the reader guessing until the end.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Devore, Laurie 978-1250082862 \$11.66 352 p.
How to Break a Boy Imprint, 2017

Olivia, Adrienne, and Claire are the BFFs with something to prove, and bullying others is how they have risen to the top of the high school food chain. After Olivia's brother dies, however, she goes through a lot of questioning about her actions and her life and eventually makes a change. The three main characters reminded me of Quinn, Santana, and Brittney on Glee. There is a lot of swearing and drinking and sexual references although most of the action is off page-ish. Even though I didn't care for the plot or premise I couldn't stop reading because of the complex conflicts. I think high school girls will eat this book up even though it wasn't my favorite. I think for a high school library it is a must have so the grade level is 9th and up. My only major complaint about the book is the title because it is about transformation not about breaking anyone.

Age Level: High School, Adult

Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School

Diamond, Jill 9780374302955 \$16.99 270 p.
Lou Lou & Pea and the Mural Mystery, Lou Lou & Pea #1 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016

This "cozy" mystery for upper elementary school and young teens depicts a warm and comforting community in which many readers will wish they could live. The two protagonists, Lou Lou, an avid gardener and Pea, an artist, have the kind of friendship that girls delight in, but all too often is fractured by social stresses or family issues. If that's a draw for you – and I know readers for whom it is (or was) – the slight mystery about who is committing minor acts of vandalism around town: from a Quinceañera dress, to a prized camellia, and who is painting clues in local murals about town – should pull them along. Highly recommended for elementary school collections and a good choice for middle schools. A glossary of Spanish words used in the text is included.

Age Level: Middle School, Grades 3 - 5

Kirsten Edwards, KCLS

Flinn, Alex 9780062134516 \$17.99 374 p.
Mirrored Harper Teen, 2015

A modern day re-telling of Snow White. Violet was not a pretty girl - and her classmates bullied her because of it. There was one boy who was nice to her and she developed a huge crush on him. One day, Violet discovers that she has powers she had not known about. A local witch offers to train her how to use them. Sadly, Violet does not use her powers for good... There is a mirror and a Little Person, and even a Prince. It's entertaining, but not literary fiction by any stretch. Teens will enjoy.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Fortunati, Karen 9781101938911 \$17.99 387 p.

The Weight of Zero

Delacorte Press, 2016

During the year Catherine was dealing with the loss of her grandmother, she found out she was bipolar, and attempted suicide. More than a year later, and her single mother is working two jobs to help with Cath's medical bills. While she is waiting to hit zero again on a mental health scale, she has packed away her old pill bottles--her D-Day is approaching, and she plans on using these pills to take her life for good this time. She's made a list of what she wants to do before she dies, and losing her virginity is at the top. But, after meeting a guy who really likes her, befriending a girl in her outpatient care who immediately takes a liking to her, discovering a WWII female fighter whose story really resonates, finding a medication that seems to work, and a therapist who gets her, Cath starts to think maybe things can be okay. Zero isn't so sure, and it's always there hovering.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Additional Comments: I picked this book up at midnight, and just fell into the story immediately. The writing felt fairly real, and the ending left me crying. This book shows the support people have and may not even realize, the stigmas attached to mental disorders, and the unexpected path life can take. There is nothing explicit in the book, and I would recommend it to mature middle schoolers on up.

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Garcia, Kami

9781250119568

\$18.99

307 p.

Agent of Chaos, The X-files: Origins #1 Imprint, 2017

I think if you are an X-files fan you will be pleased by Garcia's imagining of Fox Mulder, the teenager. If you are new to the X-files, I think this could potentially win you over. We meet Fox Mulder a couple of years after his sister, Samantha, disappears under strange circumstances. Fox was there but he doesn't remember a thing. He is judged by his community and haunted by these events, so his parents decide to send him to a different school to finish his senior year.

Fox makes friends with Gimble, who introduces him to his conspiracy theorist dad, who makes everyone call him Major. Major has some interesting theories and literature to share with Fox and assures Mulder the truth is out there. When children turn up murdered under strange, ritualistic circumstances, Mulder wonders if they could be connected to his sister's disappearance. He is determined to find out with the help of his visiting best-friend/love-interest Pheobe, Gimble and the bizarre, possibly random, information provided by the Major. Young Mulder feels like the Mulder I know from the series. Pushing the envelope, asking questions, devising theories, poking his nose in where it isn't wanted, curious, charming, persistent. Phoebe acts as a bit of a Scully - challenging Mulder's theories and ideas, smart, analytical, skeptical. The story reads like an episode of X-files while clarifying Mulder's obsession with the unknown, occult, paranormal, alien, and finding the truth.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Additional Comments: Devil's Advocate (X-files: Origins #2) by Jonathan Maberry - Scully's story

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Garcia, Kami

9781250079190

\$18.99

374 p.

The Lovely Reckless

Imprint, 2016

The story is not unpredictable. Frankie Deveroux is beautiful and has a mother and stepfather who are obscenely wealthy. Frankie's dad is an undercover state policeman whose job it is to put car thieves out of business. His residence could not be more different, since it fits with his disreputable look that allows him to blend in with miscreants. Frankie is also traumatized. Months before she witnessed her boyfriend being beaten to death in front of her, and the details are mercifully—if aggravatingly—fuzzy. Her mother doesn't understand why Frankie isn't just getting over it, her stepfather is annoying, and Frankie goes on a bender that ends with her being arrested for a DUI and going to live with her father. It's a new life, and comes with a new school and a new requirement for community service at the rec center in an unsavory part of town. Enter Marco, a bad boy with a bad reputation and a penchant for stealing cars. A romance ensues, that ends—predictably—with Marco being arrested by Frankie's father. Also not surprisingly, Marco is a little more complex than his bad boy persona as are his motivations for stealing cars. The cover is utterly enticing, and the story is going to appeal to fans of Allison Van Diepen's "Snitch." Reluctant readers will warm to the pace and the scenes of street racing. Frankie isn't so enamored of her former wealth and privilege that she turns other readers off, and the cast of supporting friends are likable. Marco is the consummate bad boy boyfriend that every teen looking for a swoon-worthy story will love. Garcia explores Post Traumatic Stress and anxiety with sensitivity, and doesn't "cop out" by relying on easy answers. In the end, both characters rescue one another, which keeps Frankie—though vulnerable—from being dismissed as a helpless damsel in distress. The steamy scenes remain off page, so this is a title that more mature middle school readers can enjoy.

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

Gottfred, B.T.	9781627798501	\$17.99	292 p.
<i>The Nerdy and the Dirty</i>	Henry Holt, 2016		

Benedict Pendleton is the socially awkward son of an equally socially awkward, but professionally prominent, psychologist, and there are expectations. Benedict will be brilliant, he will go to a good college, and he will make an excellent husband to the perfect wife who will NOT be Penelope Lupo. Penelope Lupo is a not-so-good Catholic girl who loves to masturbate...a lot. She has frequent, but unsatisfying, sex with her popular Catholic boyfriend who fully intends to marry her and do all the expected things. Benedict's best friend is pining for Penelope, and Benedict is quick to point out that she is the absolute wrong kind of girl for either of them. All that changes when Benedict and Penelope meet up at Wild Wolf Resort. Both of these characters have issues, but they find that in each other they don't match, they fit. While there are heart warming moments as these two quirky characters meet one another and navigate a new relationship, I have read few stories that feature the words "orgasm," "penis," and "vagina" so prominently. Gottfred accurately captures the awkwardness of a couple's first sexual encounter and emphasizes the theme that finding one's soul mate means accepting and appreciating the whole person rather than seeking a few specific qualities. The gratuitous masturbation and explicit sex acts are likely to lose less mature readers in the titillating details and are bound to make school librarians cautious about adding this definitely more mature title to their collections.

Age Level: High School **Additional Comments:** This is a very sexually explicit title.
 Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Gottfred, B.T. 9781627798501 \$17.99 292 p.
The Nerdy and the Dirty Henry Holt, 2016

This is a funny, sweet, and honest romance that I found incredibly satisfying. The characters are believable teens in the middle of figuring out who they really are when they fall in love with the last person they thought they would over the course of a week. Like *Forever*, there's a scene this book will fall open to (the warming hut!) and like in *Forever* having sex is an enjoyable thing to do. I liked that the teens' relationships with their families are (believably) in flux at the same time they are struggling with their own identities. I loved these characters and I loved this story. Don't miss reading the acknowledgements at the end of the book.

Age Level: High School

Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Gottfred, B.T. 9781627798501 \$17.99 304 p.
The Nerdy and The Dirty Henry Holt, 2016

Pen (short for Penelope) thinks she's a freak because she thinks about sex all the time and often masturbates. She's kinda popular but doesn't say much, and longs to let loose all the thoughts and feelings in her head. Benedict Maximus Pendleton is a consciously self-actualized high schooler who thinks he knows exactly how much smarter he is than everyone else in his high school. He's decided that it's time he and his (only) friend Robert get girlfriends, but he doesn't have a lot of social skills because he lacks a filter: he says whatever he thinks. After Benedict stands up for himself and Robert, and gets beaten up by Pen's boyfriend, Pen kinda falls for Benedict (meaning she looks at his photos online and rubs one out). Benedict notices how good she smells and can't get her out of his mind. (He's always dismissed Robert's crush on Pen.) Family plans bring Benedict and Pen together at a remote lodge in Wisconsin, in the winter, where their unlikely attraction and mutual horniness leads to a fast-paced romance. And trouble.

There's a lot of emotional depth to Benedict's deepening relationship with his little sister and mother, as well as to Pen's desire to step up and be herself. Plus there's lots of masturbation and sex. Sarah Hunt says if you put this book in your library it will always fall open to "the warming hut scene." And you should have it there unless the parents or PTA will burn you at the stake for it -- it's very well written plus both hilarious and cringe worthy.

Age Level: High School, Adult

Michael Denton

Hart, Kate 978-0374302696 \$11.99 336 p.
After the Fall Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

Andrew and Matt are brothers in high school and Raychel has been their friend since grade school. At first she is closer to Matt, but after Raychel is sexually assaulted on two different occasions and confides in Andrew she finds a new friend in Andrew, and more when they discover they have some romantic chemistry. The writing is very suspenseful, honest, and romantic all at the same time. A twist happens over half way through that I did not see coming, and the ending was very believable and redemptive. The character development is

up for some violence. Very interesting premise. Victims of the virus retain general but no personal memories. They do keep muscle memory, though, so often can figure out who they were in their previous lives. I enjoyed Carinal's story, especially his love of comic books and the secrets surrounding his family. I wish that had been more developed. I liked his best friend/former bully. The ending felt a bit rushed and unfinished. There doesn't appear to be a sequel but who knows!

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

Jones, Kelly 9780553535204 \$17.99 304 p.

Murder, Magic, and What We Wore (ARC) Alfred A. Knopf, 2017

16 year old Annis Whitworth was reared as a proper young lady, but she wishes to follow the family tradition and become a spy. However, even when she reveals her remarkable talent for making magically glamoured garments that disguise the wearer, the spymasters do not want Annis' help. Undeterred, she crafts a plan. And then, things go wrong...

Clever writing, a fun premise, and plenty of feisty female characters keep the story lighthearted, fun, and intriguing. Astute readers will notice the heavy sprinkling of "borrowed" names from literature, myth, legend and history. Less-astute readers will be grateful for the list of names borrowed provided at the back of the book. Highly recommended.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult
Additional Comments: local author (former KCLS librarian!)
Aarene Storms, KCLS

Key, Watt 978-0374304829 \$10.75 320 p.

Hideout Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

After getting severely beaten by bullies Sam and his friend Grover go through friendship struggles, and Sam's new boat provides an escape from his life and a chance to be adventurous. When he accidentally discovers a condemned swamp camp with a boy who needs his help Sam is torn between being a good Samaritan and telling his Dad, chief of police. On top of that there is a rumor that a dead body is lurking somewhere in the swamp, so it is in part a murder mystery. This is a great choice for reluctant readers, very similar to books like *Hatchet* and *Touching Spirit Bear*. I recommend this for reluctant readers in middle school and up.

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

Knight, Eric 9781627793216 \$19.99 248 p.

Lassie Come-Home Henry Holt, 2015

This is the classic story, originally published 75 years ago. Beautiful pen and ink illustrations throughout. Recommended especially for dog lovers and those with a tender heart. Also appropriate for elementary school.

Age Level: Middle School **Additional Comments:** 75th Anniversary edition
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Kokie, E. M. 9780763669621 \$17.99 437 p.
Radical Candlewick Press, 2016

I figured this book would be survivalist fiction in which characters would actually find themselves in a post-apocalyptic situation in which they have to survive - more like *Rule of Thr3e*. Instead, it was a much more character-driven, realistic, survivalist-training, coming of age romance. Bex has always been at odds with her family, especially her mom, over her looks and interests. She's never fit the female stereotypes - her masculine look, her haircut, her interest in the survivalist doomsday lifestyle. But now her dad & brother have caught the survivalist bug & join Clearview in hopes of making some useful connections. Bex doesn't necessarily fit in any better with this group, and often doesn't see eye-to-eye with some of their misogynistic, homophobic or violent tendencies. But she needs a MAG, Mutual Aid Group, as all preppers do. Bex notices her brother is falling in with one of the more extreme groups at Clearview, but she's distracted by Lucy and her first actual, albeit secret, relationship, so she doesn't see the reality of his erratic & scary behavior until it's too late and her whole family is in trouble. If kids are looking for a relationship book first and suspense or action second, they will like this book. Bex is a genuine teenager, exploring all aspects of her identity, family loyalty, & complex relationships. So, there is a lot of character-building for most of the book. The last quarter of the book is dangerous & dramatic, forcing Bex into a tough, suspenseful spot but the reader has be patient enough and interested in Bex's character to get to it. Some sexually explicit language make this for mature students grades 8 and up.

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

Laskin, Pamela L. 978-0-06-245854-4 \$17.99 178 p.
Ronit & Jamil Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

Ronit, a Jewish Israeli, and Jamil, a Palestinian boy, meet when she travels with her father across the blockade that separates their lives. Both fathers work well together, but think alike in their opposition to any relationship between their children. Ronit and Jamil's meeting in a medical clinic is followed by texts and more meetings, and then a passionate affair between the two articulate and headstrong lovers. Their emotions and conflicts are told in this verse novel, put into a five act structure, with poems alternating between the two teen narrators. Their poems mirror each other in structure and word choice (a nice choice). Laskin borrows lines from Shakespeare, as well as other poets. I am an admiring reader who is concerned about the Israel-Palestine conflict, but this romance will also appeal to young readers who know nothing about the divide.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Additional Comments: novel in verse; Romeo and Juliet companion
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

LaValley, Josanne 978-0-544-699472 \$17.99 265 p.
Factory Girl Clarion Books, 2017

Roshen lives in an isolated part of the world in the northwestern part of China on the Tibetan Plateau. She is a Uyghur, a marginalized race of Turkic Muslim people who have inhabited this region for four thousand years and became under Chinese control in 1759 (formerly eastern Turkestan). The story begins at Roshen's sister's wedding - a traditional

look into the culture of her people. Roshen looks forward to the day she can herself wed and go to school to become a teacher. As fate has it, this is not to be. The Chinese government has required the Uyghur community to send its daughters to work in the factories in China. Roshen has been chosen as one of the girls. The difficult trip across the mountains and across China with other Uyghur girls and a tyrannical chaperone gives readers a look at the different families from this region. They are taken to, and begin work at the Hubei Work Wear company where the girls will live and be required to work. Essentially treated as slaves, Roshen and her fellow Uyghurs face discrimination, harsh conditions and cruelty. When Roshen is forced to entertain a customer at a nightclub, her life changes. With her poetry, she becomes a leader and helps the girls endure. This book is based on actual stories gathered by Uyghurs and is recommended for mature middle school and high school students.

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

Little, Kimberley Griffiths 978-0-06-219504-3 \$17.99 384 p.
Returned, Forbidden #3 HarperCollins, 2017

After surviving the long trek across the desert, Jayden and Kadesh had hoped to marry and live peacefully. But, Horeb (Jayden's former betrothed) won't let her go that easily and pays mercenaries to attack during their wedding festivities. Although they survive, Kadesh's father (the king) is dead, they are still unwed and war is on the horizon. Horeb is not their only enemy; they must also deal with Aliyah, the high priestess. She's using "magic" provided by the Egyptians to convince her people she is the goddess Ashtoreth incarnate. She is secretly siding with Horeb in order to gain power and punish Kadesh for loving another. Jayden and Kadesh need to come up with a plan to save his kingdom and have a future together. Returned wraps up the series nicely and includes a super awesome (and scary) camel stampede. Fans of the series will want to finish the story. The series as a whole is also worth recommending due to its strong female protagonist, and its Mesopotamian historical time period. Grades 7+.

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

Lockhart, E. 1524764582 \$18.99 272 p.
We Were Liars (Deluxe Edition) Delacorte Press, 2017

We Were Liars was one of my favorite books of 2014. It's a beautiful haunting story of love, memory loss, and trying to find the true meaning of family when one's aunts are locked in an almost King Lear'sque sibling rivalry. 17 year old Cadence Sinclair is the daughter of privilege who is thrilled to be returning to her family's summer island in Martha's Vineyard. During her 15th summer on the island a mysterious accident left her with brain damage and lingering pain, and she hasn't been back since. She has missed her cousins Johnny and Mirren, and the boy she loves, Gat. As the reader and Cadence try to discover the cause of all the many changes that greet her on the island, and what the big accident two years ago was, we are met by twists and turns this librarian did not see coming! As a fan I found the Deluxe edition enjoyable. It included Lockhart's original hand drawn map of the island, and her pitch of the story to her editor. She includes a menu inspired by the Sinclair family and questions for a book group. She even has love poems Gat wrote Cadence

realities of friendships and family hardships that readers will be able to relate to as well. Overall, this cute, enjoyable realistic-fiction read will fit right at home in any middle school collection.

Age Level: Grades: 4-6

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Mills, Emma 9781627799355 \$17.99 308 p.

This Adventure Ends Henry Holt, 2016

Sloane moves to Florida from NYC, and slips into a tight group of friends when she stands up for Gabe at a party. Sloan is unlike most female teenager protagonists in realistic fiction, self-assured, determined, and good at more than just witty dialogue. Though the great dialogue is a highlight in this book! As Sloane's friendships develop, she helps and hurts those she has grown close to. While she doesn't get everything she hoped for, friendship and romance are more important, she realizes. A bit of underage drinking is condoned, but no drugs or sex, so this YA could go younger.

Age Level: High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Moyer, Jenny 9781627794817 \$17.99 342 p.

Flashfall Henry Holt, 2016

Orion is a miner, a protagonist with the determination and defiance to work where no one else has the courage to go, to try to earn her way out and bring her family and friends to a safer place. This world has been decimated with radiation poisoning, and if she can mine 400 grams of the metal that protects against radiation, she will earn her passage to the City, which may or may not be a utopian place of greenery, technology, and safety. When she finds that reaching her goal does not get the promised reward, she considers rebelling against the system. As she and Dram, her assistant in the mines (and maybe more than a friend?), break more rules and encounter more danger, the conflict keeps endangering their lives in new ways. A great new read for those who liked *The Hunger Games*, *Ember in the Ashes*, *Red Rising*,... I hope for a sequel, though none is previewed.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Additional Comments: Jenny Moyer studied writing at S.P.U. so has local connections!

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Neumeier, Rachel 978-0-553-50932-8 \$17.99 376 p.

The White Road of the Moon Alfred A. Knopf, 2017

Interesting fantasy centered around Meridy, a girl who lives in a society that fears "witches" like her. She leaves her hometown and gets mixed up in a battle where she is able to "link" several new ghosts to her by her growing powers. One is a ghost battle dog and another a just killed general. During times of need, she can pull them out of the nether world they inhabit and use them in the real world. She is apparently the one with the powers to fight a coming menace who can do much of what she can do. She travels and tries to be in the right place to help, but her enemy seems overwhelming.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Mike Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Nielsen, Susin 978-0-553-49690-1 \$17.99 288 p.
Optimists Die First Wendy Lamb Books, 2017

Petula De Wilde is afraid of disaster. Not just the big kind that affects large numbers of people, but the little ones that don't even cross the radar for most people. She goes several blocks out of her way to avoid walking in front of construction work "just in case" a piece of wood or metal were to fall; she won't cross the street except at a crosswalk; she carries a rape whistle and avoids eye contact with other pedestrians. She embodies disaster preparedness since any small thing could become a potential hazard. Petula is obsessed and it is ruining her and her parents' lives. She wasn't always this way. Petula and her BFF Rachel once were crafting queens, knitting, sewing, scrapbooking, you name it. Even when Petula's surprise baby sister, Maxine, was born, the two girls crafted for the new addition. And then tragedy struck. Maxine, barely over two years old, was killed by a freak accident, and Petula has blamed herself ever since. She now goes to therapy with a handful of other teens who have a variety of problems. Then, she meets Jacob at one of her meetings. He's out-going, energetic and has a prosthetic arm. He makes an otherwise boring and infantile series of group therapy meetings into something productive and worthwhile. And, Petula starts to change--and become, well, a bit more positive. Yet, Jacob has a terrible secret and he's very guarded about revealing it. Petula starts digging and what she finds makes her question her own prejudices. I loved Susin Nielsen's *The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen*, and *Optimists Die First* follows in that plot style. It seems a bit formulaic in places, but she makes it work with her character development. It's a rather quick read and would probably work better for middle school than high school even though the characters are older teens.

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

Niven, Jennifer 978-0-385-75592-4 \$17.99 388 p.
Holding Up the Universe Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

Libby Strout never wanted to be known as the "fattest teen in America," but when her mother died of cancer and her father checked out, Libby turned to food for comfort. In a short time, she grew so fat she could not leave her bed, and when she suffered a severe panic attack, the paramedics had to cut her out of her own bedroom and lift her out with a crane. Now, it's Libby's senior year. She's been homeschooled since that event which was splashed on all the news outlets, but she's lost nearly 250 pounds and, although she is still fat, she has learned to embrace her body and herself. But, going back to high school isn't easy, and it doesn't take long for a group of smart-ass boys to incorporate her into the butt of a horrid prank. Jack Masselin has a secret. Ever since he fell off the roof of his house as a child he hasn't been able to recognize faces--not even of his own family. He compensates by memorizing the minutiae of everyone he knows--particular eye color, profiles, voices, anything to give him a clue as to whom he is speaking. He's made mistakes on occasion that have nearly exposed his secret--but for the most part he has learned to navigate life without too many mishaps. When he jumps on Libby for a "Fat Girl Rodeo" to impress his friends, he didn't consider how it might play out. Not to be demeaned, Libby peels Jack off and punches him. This event puts the two together with other students in an afterschool conflict resolution program. It is here that Libby learns that Jack isn't the smart-ass he portrays, and Jack begins to actually "see" Libby, not by just the tell-tale signs he's trained

Readers expecting a "Splintered" read alike are in for some disappointment in this series. On the other hand, readers who enjoy a reimagining of Wonderland before Alice ever arrived will find this a worthwhile entry into the fantasy genre. With little to know backstory, this installment picks up with Dinah's flight from the King of Heart's castle astride the king's fierce Hornhoov. Her attempt to evade the king's card soldiers has led her into the Twisted Wood and further into the territory of Yurkei, a tribe of indigenous people who have been systematically oppressed by the King of Hearts. The parallels between the Yurkei and the Native American experience. While in the Twisted Wood, Dinah is aided by a disgruntled Spade card a la "Game of Thrones" and becomes a much more hardened warrior. There are twists and turns as Dinah discovers her true heritage and must say good-bye to her girlhood crush. It ends with Dinah in open rebellion against the king. "Blood of Wonderland" was a more compelling fast-paced book than "Queen of Hearts," and made me like the series just a little more by the end.

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

Oliver, Lauren	978-0-06-239416-3	\$19.99	520 p.
Replica, Replica #1	HarperCollins, 2016		

Lyra is number 24. She is in a 3rd generation of replicas made at Haven, on Spruce Island off the coast of Florida. Not everyone agrees with what is going on at Haven and, when the island comes under attack, Lyra flees and encounters a runaway male replica in the marshes. While on the run, they come across a girl named Gemma and her friend Jake who were on the island conducting their own fact-finding mission about Haven. The foursome row off the island onto shore. Gemma gives them a place to stay with friends. The foursome then begin looking for more information about what is going on at Haven by putting together stories. In book two, Gemma and her friend April are regular teens. She has very protective parents, but she is able to talk her parents into letting her and April go to her grandparent's house in Florida for spring break. Things begin to change when an object is thrown through her house window and her parents become unnerved. Gemma starts putting together clues and realizes that her father is involved in the controversial work at Haven. She begins her investigation while in Florida with April. When she joins a boy who is also investigating, the couple rows out to the island. They run into Lyra and the story connects up with Book one. The interesting format and twists and turns will keep middle and high school readers enthralled.

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

Pla, Sally J.	978-0-06-244576-6	\$16.99	327 p.
The Someday Birds	Harper, 2017		

Twelve-year-old Charlie is an autistic germophobe who focuses on birds as their behavior is something he understands as he doesn't always understand people. Charlie's dad, who works as a war journalist, came home a few months ago with a severe brain injury. When Charlie's dad and grandma go to Vermont (from California) to see a specialist, Charlie's sister takes the siblings on their own road trip to be with their dad. Charlie forces them to visit places where he can find Someday Birds (birds he and his dad hoped to see one day). Charlie believes if he can find these birds, then his dad will be fine. The family's physical

Sal isn't gay, but his adoptive father is, and that is enough for students at his school to tease him. It's his senior year, and it is about to become one of the most challenging years of his life. He is adopted, and his mother has left him a letter. He has no idea who his biological father is, but he has an adoptive father who is as wise as I want to be. His adoptive abuela has cancer. It is a heart rending mix. In this remarkable story, Saenz explores what it means to grow up and what it means to be a family, and the length of the book is a testament to his development of each of the main characters. By the end, readers feel as if they have been allowed a glimpse into a world of family as it should be despite all of the ugliness that life can hurl into our lives. Strong language and some of the issues Sal, Samantha, and Fito face land this story solidly in the junior high and older range, but it will leave readers with a sense of hope rather than despair.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Shields, Breeana	9781101937822	\$17.99	294 p.
<i>Poison's Kiss</i>	Random House, 2017		

Marinda is a visha kanya, an assassin that can kill with a single kiss. She has loyally served the Raja since she was sold at birth, that is until Marinda's next victim is the boy she loves. Her refusal is a betrayal of her duties and now the people she cares for are made to suffer. Dark truths about who she really is and who she serves begin to be revealed. Decent world building mixed with Indian mythology. The book does start slow and was a bit predictable at first. Great twist and turns in the plot and the mythology weaves beautifully throughout the story. If anyone is suffering withdrawals from *The Wrath and the Dawn* by Renee Ahdieh put this in their hands.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Erin Rozewicz, KCLS

Shiga, Jason	9781626724525	\$19.99	166 p.
<i>Demon, vol. 1 and 2</i> (GN)	First Second, 2016		

The cover blurb by Adam Savage says "Jason Shiga has created a surpassingly morally repugnant protagonist. I'm ashamed of myself for liking him!" Me, too! The book is firmly in the adult section (suicide! murder! bank robbery! nudity! prison escape via dried come!) and just as firmly in the high-interest for guys section. Funny and great twisty plot. Recommended for staff.

Age Level: Adult **Additional Comments:** The series has a planned four volumes.

Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Skuy, David	9781459411852	\$27.99	213 p.
<i>Striker</i>	James Lormier, 2017		

Cody recently underwent chemotherapy and surgery to have a cancerous tumor removed from his leg. Now, eight months later, Cody wants nothing more to resume a normal life and that means getting back in to soccer. His first obstacle, however, is convincing his mom that he doesn't have to "take it easy." Every little ache or pain results in her overreacting. When she calls an ambulance because he falls at a soccer tryout, Cody is mortified. Between that, his bald head (chemotherapy) and scrawny legs (being inactive so long), Cody becomes an easy target of ridicule, being called "Egg-head," among other things.

Sadly, the adults managing the team do nothing to stop this and sometimes even partake in it. Cody plays the striker position and even though the Lions already have their two strikers set, Cody makes the team. It is obvious to the reader (and most of the team) that Cody is the better player, however he sits on the sidelines along with his fellow self-proclaimed Super Subs while Timothy and John (sons of the managers) hog the ball on the field. All that changes when coach Henry, who is unwilling to stand up to the managers, quits and coach Trevor takes over... and he's not taking any crap from anybody, much to the chagrin of the managers and their starting players. Striker contains many exciting games and detailed plays that will certainly appeal to fans of the sport. An overall feel-good book.

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

Skye, Obert 978-1-62779-162-5 \$13.99 247 p.
The Lord of the Hat, The Creature From My Closet #5 Christy Ottaviano Books, 2015
Robert is a 12-year-old kid with an unusual closet: creatures emerge and interfere with his life. The latest is part Cat-in-the-Hat mixed with Gollum. He is here to "sort-of" help and communicates through rhyme. Robert, his family, and some extra relatives go on a vacation via RV where hijinx ensue. Part text, part childlike illustrations, this title is definitely for a middle school audience.

Age Level: Middle School, Too young for YA
Teresa Jensen, Kenmore Junior High School

Smith, Alexander Gordon 978-0374301729 \$18.99 320 p.
Hellfighters, The Devil's Engine #2 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017
Pan, Herc, Marlow, and Truck are fighting demons again, this time in Germany. What they think will be a trip on the train to escape the previous door to the Devil's Engine in the first book ends up being a disaster because the main demon Mammon is actually the one driving the train so it doesn't go well. This story is non-stop action. It is way too gross and violent for my taste just like the first book but the characters are so awesome I had to find out what happened to them. There is so much action, though, that there isn't time for sex, drugs, or swearing and that is why it is perfect for 8th grade and up.

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

Smith, Alexander Gordon 978-0-374-30172-9 \$18.99 312 p.
Hellfighters, The Devil's Engine #2 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016
Crazily frenetic book, with good guys fighting off the bad guys, making and breaking contracts with the Engine that gives supernatural powers. But then, our posse finds that they have actually been working for the bad guys the whole time, only being given part of the story. Then, without powers and with no support, they have to attempt to make things right. A great sequel to the first book and with enough action for anyone.

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

Smith, Lindsay 978-1-62672-044-2 \$17.99 258 p.

A Darkly Beating Heart

Roaring Brook Press, 2016

Reiko feels profoundly hurt--by the abuse from her older brother, the betrayal of her summer camp girlfriend, and the stoic expectations of her Japanese immigrant parents. The pain she feels has converted into rage and a driving need for vengeance against nearly everyone who has been a part of her life. Reiko bides her time, waiting and plotting for the moment when she will make those who hurt her pay dearly; in the meantime, she takes out her rage on herself, cutting her thighs and starving. She is a shell of a person with a deep darkness that cannot seem to find a light. Unable to cope, Reiko's parents send her to Japan to live with an uncle and work for his graphic design firm in Tokyo. While on an assignment with her colleagues to a small village, Kuramagi, that has preserved the early 19th century Edo period, Reiko becomes intertwined with the life of Miyu, an equally angry and vengeance-seeking young woman from the past. Reiko becomes obsessed with living Miyu's life, and of discovering why this young woman is so reviled by her father and the villagers. Each experience in the body of Miyu in the past brings Reiko closer to exacting her own revenge on the people around her in the present. Yet, the closer Reiko gets to her goal, the more she begins to question her motives. *A Darkly Beating Heart* is at its core a ghost story. The setting is well-illustrated and accurate, as is the dialog in Japanese. It is apparent that the author did her homework. I was a bit overwhelmed by the angst and anger of the protagonist, however, it is seemed fitting for trauma she suffered at the hands of others and it made the lessons learned by the end of the novel more succinct. This could be an LGBTQ sub-genre novel because it is revealed at one point that Reiko is bi-sexual, however, this is very understated overall and doesn't seem as important as the greater emotional processes of the character. There is one sexual encounter and occasional swearing. Recommended for high school.

Age Level: High School

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Spinelli, Jerry

978-0-375-83199-7

\$16.99

343 p.

The Warden's Daughter

Alfred A. Knopf, 2017

Calli is a twelve year old girl living in a prison and approaching a summer filled with change in front of her. She is a self-proclaimed angry and negative teen, and revels in the fact that she is always grumpy. While Cali's father is typically gone, she is left to her own devices with a prison "trustee" (a well behaved prisoner who is welcome into their home) and her best friend. As she meets and becomes friends with women inmates, meets neighborhood children and navigates friendships at the teenage level. Will she maintain her negative attitude or will she deal with her anger?

Spanelli does a great job of bringing you into Cali's life and her dealing with her mother's death and the criminals around her. I loved finding out what Cali would do next.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

St. Vil, Lola

9780544706743

\$17.99

310 p.

Girls Like Me

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

Shay Summers "pretty-faced fat girl who reads, writes and thinks" lives with step-mom, Kara, after her dad died in a car crash. Her BFFs Dash & Boots battle the "White Noise" of judgment high school. Shay, too fat; Dash, too gay; Boots, too terminally ill. Arch-nemesis

Kelly Stokes – "what happens when Beauty sleeps with Empty" - makes Shay's school life a living hell. Thank God for gods like Blake Harrington who look like Heaven. Too bad, Shay thinks, he would never leave Mt. Olympus for her. When Shay meets GodotWait4Me online, she can't believe she's found someone so witty and amazing who thinks she is the same! As she works through all the stages of grief over her dad, tries to support her best friends through dad-rejection and dead-rejection, she finds some true happiness in Godot. Until he wants to meet IRL - she can't bring herself to ruin this one good thing. He could never love a girl like her. Maybe she's not as smart as she thinks. A very cute rom-com in verse, kind of a blend of *P. S. I Like You* and *Eleanor & Park*. Not particularly deep but not completely shallow either. Some very sweet, romantic, root for the underdog, smartly-stated moments. Grades 8 and up for some sexual content.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Additional Comments: Novel in verse

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Strickland, AdriAnne and Michael Miller 9780399552533 \$17.99 390 p.
Shadow Run, Kaitan Chronicles #1 Delacorte Press, 2017

Shadow is a volatile substance that floats through the galaxy and can be harnessed to use for heat and power - but it's a bit like using a nuclear reaction to toast your bread. Qole is a 17-year-old pilot who makes a living by catching Shadow and selling it. It's a dangerous job as exposure to Shadow can also drive you insane or kill you. Nev comes from the other side of the galaxy and he needs Qole to help him - but he can't tell her who he is or why he needs her help.

Lots of action and adventure; a good science fiction read. However, the gratuitous romance did not appeal to me, nor the fact that they miraculously survive so many fights where they are out-numbered, out-planned, and out-gunned.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Summerill, Erin 9780544664456 \$17.99 390 p.
Ever the Hunted, Clash of Kingdoms #1 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

Shaerdan and Malam are on the verge of war. Before the borders were closed, Britta's mother (Shaerdanian) and father (Malamian) were married in Shaerdan. However, now living in Malam, Britta is shunned, seen not only a filthy Shaerdanian, but also as an illegitimate child (Shaerdanian weddings are not recognized in Malam), despite the fact that her father is highly respected as the top bounty hunter for the king. When Britta's father is killed and law binds her to her home for two months Britta is all alone and quickly runs out of food. Unable to leave to hunt for herself and without friends to bring her food, Britta is on the brink of starvation when we first meet her. Now able to leave her house, she is too weak to travel and takes a chance poaching animals on the king's land. Caught, she faces execution, but Lord Jamis offers her an alternative: help him track down her father's murderer and not only will her life be spared, but she will also be granted her father's house and lands (which otherwise would go back to the king). There's one problem: the alleged murderer is none other than her father's apprentice and Britta's only friend: Cohen. Britta is shocked to hear it, but, having an uncanny ability to know when people are lying to her, she knows Lord Jamis is telling the truth. So, what choice does she have? Thus, she sets off with three members of the king's guard to hunt down Cohen.

Tanner, Lian 9781250052179 \$16.99 291 p.
Sunkers' Deep, The Hidden #2 Feiwel & Friends, 2016

Sunkers' Deep is the 2nd in the Icebreaker Trilogy. I did not read the first but was able to follow the story line fairly well. Action begins with Petrel, Fin, Krill, and the captain, a mechanical boy, exploring a new island to continue their quest to bring knowledge back to the world. Meanwhile, a mutiny has begun on their ship, The Oyster, which leaves them stranded. The Luddite Devouts, enemies of science & anything mechanical, attack a group of Sunkers, those who live their lives in deep water. Sharkey, a young captain, and the crew of his small submersible, The Claw, escape, but not before capturing one of the Devout lost at sea. Eventually, the two stranded parties cross paths and work together to try to save their friends from the radical Devouts. Kids will likely enjoy this 2nd book more if they have read the first - there are a lot of characters to keep track of, and the mission of the mechanical boy captain is likely clearer after having read the first book. But non-stop action, lively characters, twists & turns will make for an entertaining adventure!

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

Thomas, Rhiannon 978-0-06-241868-5 \$17.99 422 p.
Long May She Reign Harper Teen, 2017

Freya, 23rd in line for the throne, is made queen after everyone above her is poisoned at a banquet that she had just left. Some suppose she is the poisoner, some suppose they need a stronger ruler than her after an attack. She is alone, with few friends, trying to fill a power vacuum without knowing who to trust. A neat fantasy with a female hero, where she finds her stride as the book goes on.

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

Thompson, Mary 9780544648401 \$17.99 377 p.
Flicker and Mist Clarion Books, 2017

In Upland, there are the Lefties who live in the Head and Plats who live in New Heart City. Lefties are short with fair skin and hair; Plats are tall and thin with darker coloring. The two don't often mix, but Myra's parents did when Myra's father (a Plat) fell in love with her mom (a Leftie). Having inherited the Leftie genes, Myra has always felt a little out of place in New Heart City. However, the fact that her father is a Council member has probably aided her acceptance in society. That is, until an invisible rider (a Flickerkin) starts wreaking havoc in the city. An irrational fear of Flickerkin takes a hold of the city, and Lefties living in New Heart City are all required to undergo torturous testing to see if they can Flicker. Myra actually is a Flickerkin herself, having once disappeared when she was just a child. But her mother has drilled in her the need to keep her ability a secret. If anyone were to find out, they would surely be exiled, if not killed. Myra's mom is brought in for testing, fails, and is imprisoned. Her father is imprisoned shortly thereafter for having harbored a Flickerkin. A war is brewing, and Myra, feels caught in the middle. She has always considered herself a Plat, but as she experiences with her newly re-found ability to flicker, she is intrigued. Ultimately, though, she just wants peace. But what can she do when everyone else is so set in their prejudiced ways? Obviously, a first in a new series, *Flicker and Mist* will appeal to fans of *Mystic City* and *Snow Like Ashes*.

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

Tougas, Shelley 9781626724037 \$16.99 263 p.

A Patron Saint for Junior Bridesmaids Roaring Book Press, 2016

This book looks like fun chick lit for middle schoolers and it is. Mary is a 12-year-old Minnesotan who keeps a book of saints by her bed, marking the ones she prays to with stars in the margins. Mary goes to live with relatives when her parents leave to prepare a new house and find new jobs in North Dakota. She lives with Grandma, Aunt Maggie and Eden, an adult cousin with social anxiety disorder. Eden told her via text that she's getting married; then she sent another text asking Mary to be her sole bridesmaid. Mary is disappointed to find no patron saint for bridesmaids in her book, especially when she can't balance her grandma's desires for a big wedding and her cousin's desire for something less traditional. The boy next door, a Unitarian (in Minnesota!) who didn't understand the concept of saints, coins the title, and of course is at the wedding. No dangers in this book from drugs, alcohol, sex, or divorce. Tougas skillfully addresses bullies and social anxiety disorder.

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

Turrisi, Kim 9781771387934 \$17.99 252 p.

Just a Normal Tuesday Kids Can Press, 2017

This is a title that starts out slowly and then packs a wallop. Kai's parents are wrapped up in their professions. It is her sister, Jen, who has been one of the most influential people in Kai's world, so when Kai receives a suicide letter from Jen, Kai's world implodes. The first half of this raw book is about Kai's self-destructive response to Jen's suicide. The second half is about healing. At the behest of her friends, Kai's parents intervene and send her to grief camp. Kai is initially skeptical about the efficacy of the therapy, but quickly finds solace in this group of people who are able to fully understand her struggles. The resurging popularity of "13 Reasons Why" makes this a particularly timely title. Readers who have dealt with grief and loss will recognize the authentic voice, made even more so when they read the Author's Note at the end--which reveals that Turrisi is the survivor of a sibling who chose to die. The love story that evolves in the second half is a little rushed, but will scratch readers' romantic itch.

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

Weing, Drew 978-1-62672-339-9 \$15.99 121 p.

The Creepy Case Files of Margo Maloo (GN) First Second, 2016

The Creepy Case Files of Margo Maloo is an entertaining and easy-to-read graphic novel. The characters, pictures, and storyline all combine to make for a graphic novel that is hard to put down. Personally, I would love to see more books created in this universe. While I may not be the biggest graphic novel fan, I can see this book doing well within an elementary or middle school library.

Age Level: Grades: 3-7
Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Wells, Dan 9780062347909 \$17.99 408 p.
Ones and Zeroes Mirador #2 Balzer & Bray, 2017

Strong female protagonists are a hallmark of Dan Wells' writing for young adults, and he is continuing the tradition with the Mirador series. In the world of the future, Internet access is the key to wealth and greedy international service providers like Sigan are creating pockets of poverty as they systematically price residents and business owners out of existence. Marisa and her family are struggling to exist, despite Marisa's impressive hacking skills. When Marisa has the opportunity to solve a mystery (from the first book) and get proof of the Korean company's intent to drive her neighborhood into oblivion, she takes the hacking challenge. Parallel to this intrigue is the storyline about Marisa's gaming team. Her access to Sigan's database is dependent on her team's participation in an Overworld tournament. If they can win, they can go pro--a feat that would provide additional financial benefits. Marisa is Hispanic, and is surrounded by a panoply of diverse characters--another hallmark of Wells' books. Limited backstory makes this a little harder to follow for readers who, like me, may not have read "Bluescreen." Though not as compelling as Wells' "Partials" series, hackers and gamers will find sufficient action and much to ponder in this, his newest, YA series.

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

White, Ellen Emerson 978-0-06-246321-0 \$17.99 420 p.
A Season of Daring Greatly Greenwillow, 2017

The first girl in professional baseball is the main character of this sports novel, written with knowledge of the minor leagues and a sense of humor. The book begins with Jill Cafferty pitching her last high school baseball game in a good outing. Then she prepares for finals, takes her last tests, and wonders what will happen during the draft picks. Before the middle of the book, she has been placed on a single A team. No spoilers past that, but this book was very good, with enough baseball details for regular fan of the game, and enough drama and character to please this librarian. Recommended.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School **Additional Comments:** Sports, girls, YEAH!!

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Wolf, Alan 978-0763656133 \$9.38 288 p.
Who Killed Christopher Goodman? Candlewick Press, 2017

Five teenagers; Squib, Doc, Mildred, Hazel, and Hunger, are bound by more than being students at Goldburg High. They all knew Christopher Goodman, and they were among the last to see him the night he was murdered. And one week later they are all asked to write a memorial poem. The teacher gets their five poems, but the students are gone. Told in alternating voices this dynamic twist on a mystery based on a real event that happened to the author, is a book I highly recommend for 8th grade and up. And since no chapter is more than 3 pages long it is idea for reluctant readers.

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

Worsley, Lucy 9780763688066 \$16.99 348 p.
Maid of the King's Court Candlewick Press, 2016

Katherine Howard is a historical woman who invites judgment, and Lucy Worsley is stepping up to challenge some of those mean-spirited historical pronouncements. The result is a book about a completely different fictional girl who becomes a confidante to the ill-fated queen. Eliza Camperdowne is languishing on her father's estate. The estate is dwindling, and though her family boasts one of the oldest aristocratic names in England, her father is strapped for money. It is up to Eliza to marry well and save the estate. Eliza lives up to every red hair on her head, and her spirited personality renders her almost unmarriageable. A failed betrothal later, and she is sent to Trumpton Hall where she meets Katherine. Eliza is a far more sympathetic character than Katherine, and in their earliest meetings, Katherine takes great delight in bullying Eliza. Unfortunately, it is those very character flaws that keep Katherine from ever developing into the human person Worsley wanted to portray. While Katherine's philandering is given a more positive spin and she is portrayed as an intelligent woman rather than a completely brainless hussy, she isn't much more likable. Fans of Katherine Longshore's "Gilt" will find this an interesting interpretation of life in the world of King Henry VIII.

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

Zentner, Jeff 978-0553524062 \$10.58 416 p.
Goodbye Days Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017

I highly recommend this book for 8th grade and up. Carver is dealing with massive guilt, and possible negligent homicide, after texting his friends who were driving resulted in a fatal car accident for all three of them. After attending three funerals Carver realizes that he is experiencing panic attacks, and also that one of his deceased friend's parents are taking legal action. He manages to get through this with the support of his sister, a therapist, and some of his deceased friends' family members. They come up with an idea to have a "Goodbye Day" for each friend, and he and the family spend one day doing things the deceased friend loved to do. For those parts you will need Kleenex. Lots. Although not the core of the story, there is an ever present PSA for teens to not text while driving, and shows how permanent the consequences can be. Anyone who read this author's first book and loved it will be equally pleased with this must have for a high school library. It's okay for middle school but only sophisticated middle school readers will like it.

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

Zoboi, Ibi 978-0-06-247304-2 \$17.99 324 p.
American Street Balzer & Bray, 2017

Definitely only HS and above. Fabiola comes from Haiti with her mother, to the United States (Detroit), but her mother is kept behind in detention, while she goes on to meet family. And quite a family it is. Her three cousins are known as the "3 B's" and people know not to mess with them. Their family has been sending support to Haiti for years, but it turns out the money is tainted. It comes from selling drugs and loan-sharking. Fabiola and her new boyfriend Kasim end up in the middle of a police investigation that might be

able to free Fab's mom, if she talks to the police. Tragedy ensues. Language and references to sex abound.

Age Level: High School

Mike Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

FICTION - SHRUG

Bergstrom, Scott 9781250108180 \$18.99 384 p.

The Cruelty, The Cruelty #1 Feiwel & Friends, 2017

When Gwendolyn's dad disappears, she discovers that his job at the State Department is really just a cover and he is actually a CIA spy. According to the agency, he has voluntarily gone AWOL, but she refuses to believe he would go rogue. Her suspicion that something is wrong seems to be verified when she discovers a code in an old copy of 1984. Luckily, a new friend at school is a code breaker so Gwendolyn is able to track her father's path AND her next door neighbor turns out to be a former Israeli spy who connects her with someone willing to train her to be an assassin. Within weeks Gwendolyn can kick some serious butt, which is good as she dives in to a grim, morally questionable world. The book is absolutely faced-paced (sort of Alias meets James Bond), but clearly not at all realistic. Some readers may enjoy it, but due to the violence it needs to be for older readers. Shrug. Grades 9+.

Age Level: High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Brant, Wendy 978-1771387927 \$12.83 328 p.

Zenn Diagram Kids Can Press, 2017

There is swearing and mostly off page sex. This is Sarah Dessen-ish realistic fiction with a supernatural twist. The reason why I didn't love this story is that the supernatural part had too many holes in it for me. Eva can sense algorithms from calculators and automatically know how to tutor someone in Math. And if she touches clothing or a person she can see their fractals, something that is more of a curse than a blessing. But then later in the story she can't touch a video game arcade but she can touch a shopping cart. The rules are not very consistent, and the story is really great and well written without the supernatural stuff. I have no idea why the author felt compelled to have the fractal sensing in this story. It didn't need it and was really distracting, but some students might like it; a shrug for 8th grade and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School

Clark, Kristin Elizabeth 978-0-374-38006-9 \$17.99 263 p.

Jess, Chunk and the Road Trip to Infinity Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016

Jeremy has long wanted to be a girl and when she turns 18, she starts hormone therapy. Her mother is very understanding; her father is not. That is, until Chunk, her overweight best friend since grade school, suggests they take a road trip to debut "Jess in a dress" at her transphobic father's wedding. On the road Jess muses a lot about what bathroom to use and whether she can "pass" in the red states, but there's not a lot of insight. When Jess and Chunk approach "dangerous" discussions, like Jess's attraction to Chunk or Chunk's

feelings about dating a transgender person, one of them says “Black Hole” to indicate the subject is off-limits so they never talk about anything obvious or important. As a result, the main characters feel amorphous except as defined by their outward appearance. The only moments sharply drawn are Jess’s parents arguing about the origin of Jess’s problems. However it all wraps up quickly after she discovers her father does accept her (it just took time) and Jess and Chunk kiss. The ending seems especially ridiculous, in light of the author’s note that she is the mother of a transgender girl.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Additional Comments: It doesn’t seem pitched at middle-school-age, but there isn’t anything that is inappropriate.

Nancy R. Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Coggan, Helena	9780763689728	\$17.99	432 p.
<i>The Catalyst</i>	Candlewick Press, U.S. 2016		

In a future London, scientists developed a technology that split open dimensions allowing “angels” to flood into our world, merging with the souls of humans. Eighteen years later, after a long war, society is now in factions. Some people are gifted, others have had their powers leeched, some are normal. The Department is a government agency tasked with maintaining order. Rosalyn’s dad is a Department big-wig, but they are hiding a big secret. Both of them are hybrids and once a month transform into monsters (think werewolves). When their secret is discovered, Rose is blackmailed into helping a department enemy. The plot gets pretty tangled and it was difficult to keep track of the various factions and their issues. The structure of the ending is also better suited for TV than for a book. Shrug. Grades 9+ due to violence.

Age Level: High School **Additional Comments:** Author 15 when book published in U.K.
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Cooner, Donna	978-0-545-90393-6	\$17.99	288 p.
<i>Worthy</i> (ARC)	Scholastic, 2017		

The online forum page for school announcements begins the novel *Worthy*. Linden is at school, waiting for her friend at her locker, and reading the page on her phone, downloading the app mentioned at the bottom. When Nikki shows up, she drags our narrator to a prom planning meeting. Donna Cooner has mastered the voice of a teenager, and this coming of age with a sweet romance also confronts the role of social media, bullying, and girl bashing. There is nothing to concern a younger reader, although adults will question how the school’s online presence would ever permit promoting such a sexist app for bullying, or how easily kids fall for it.

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

Evangelista, Kate	978-1-250-10062-7	\$9.99	223 p.
<i>No Holding Back</i>	Swoon Reads, 2016		

This is a “Swoon Reads,” which publishes novels online, then prints the most popular. *No Holding Back* is about Nathan, who is in love with his best friend Preston, but Preston doesn’t know it. He doesn’t even know either of them are gay. Preston does know swimming, and he hopes to begin training for the Olympics. There are lots of descriptions

of Preston wet, either swimming, or fresh from the pool. His toned arms, sculpted abs, and floppy blonde hair are swoon worthy. It takes 150 pages and a pot brownie for Nathan to work up the courage to say he is in love. The two have spent most of the book on a tour of Europe, staying in posh hotels and rentals, which is what you do when your parents are millionaires who only appear in the book to provide money. I did like the fantasy of a wealthy world, and that the boys have no conflict with accepting or being accepted for any sexual preference. I did not like the book, which had overly flowery descriptions (I remember reading about four shades of blue in the opening pages) and endless figurative language, but not much plot or depth. Kids may like it, and two hot scenes and the marijuana edible are all the sex/drugs.

Age Level: High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Eves, Rosalyn 978-1-101-93599-6 \$17.99 416 p.
Blood Rose Rebellion, Blood Rose Rebellion #1 Alfred A. Knopf, 2017

As a member of high society (the Luminates), Anna should be able to do magic, but....she can't. Even worse, magic seems to go horribly wrong when she's around. She accidentally ruins her sister's debut illusion and draws unwanted attention from The Circle. To keep her safe, Anna is sent with her grandmother to Hungary. As other's learn of her strange "ability" she discovers she may be a spell breaker, and could have the power to break The Binding, the spell that controls the flow of magic keeping it available only to the Luminates. Caught in the middle of warring ideologies, Anna has to decide if she wants to break the spell releasing magic (and all its demons) into the world. At the same time she is struggling with her own heart as she falls for someone unexpected. Although it involves magic, this novel is also sort of historical fiction, set in 1847 Europe and includes real people and elements from the Hungarian Revolution. The premise was interesting, but the action felt repetitive at times. This is the first book in a trilogy. Not exactly recommended, but not exactly a shrug either. Grades 7+.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Fallenstein, J. 9781512427714 \$26.65 88 p.
The Witching Hour, Midnight Darbycreek, 2017

Rosie just moved to Middleton to live with her dad while her mother takes a temporary job in Germany, and she discovers that the town is mourning the death of a star high school football player, Mackie Blackwell. The story is that Mackie was stranded with a flat tire out on a dark country road, late at night. He called his best friend Omar to help, but when Omar arrived, he didn't see Omar on the side of the road and next thing anyone knows, Mackie was found in the ravine. Omar says he didn't hit him, but no one in town believes him. Seeing that Omar is ostracized by everyone in town, especially Mackie's twin brother Jack, Rosie, needing new friends anyway, reaches out to him. Omar is having a tough time: not only is he lonely, but he struggles with guilt, is having nightmares, and is being haunted by visions of and apparent texts from Mackie. Rosie, too, is experiencing paranormal phenomena, hearing noises and seeing ghostly messages that tell them to "Go to him." Rosie accuses Jack of harassing Omar, but Jack denies the accusation, thinking it is Omar doing the same to him. What is going on? Who—or what—wants them to go to Mackie's

grave, and why? *The Witching Hour* is a little flimsy on plot development, but may still appeal to low-level readers (F&P level N) who enjoy paranormal mysteries.

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

Gagnon, Jilly 978-0-06-243003-8 \$17.99 371 p.
#famous Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

When Rachel surreptitiously takes a picture of her crush Kyle and posts it to her Flit (aka Instagram) account, she doesn't expect much to happen except to get a giggle from her best friend. But as in all good social media stories, things escalate and soon Kyle is famous enough to be on a national daytime talk show. As Kyle's popularity grows, Rachel (who was happy being an unknown) becomes a social pariah with strangers lining up to post mean things on her account. That is, until the show's producer has the brilliant idea that Kyle should ask Rachel to the homecoming dance. Add in the on-again-off-again manipulating ex-girlfriend, the loving but pushy parents, the wise best friends and you get your typical, predictable high school romance novel. The chapters do alternate between Rachel and Kyle, so readers get to hear both sides of the story as it unfolds. Several make-out sessions and a party with underage drinking, but no swearing. It didn't blow me away but it's relatable and readable.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Kerry Glassburn, Librarian-in-Training/Volunteer at Rose Hill MS

Galante, Cecilia 978-0-8234-3553-1 \$16.99 307 p.
The World from Up Here Scholastic, 2016

Wren Baker worries about everything and I mean EVERYTHING. Brave is definitely not a word used to describe her. Between her mother being hospitalized, her younger brother having Asperger's, and the arrival of her cousin that is ultra-popular, Wren has a lot to worry about. However, through staying with her Aunt Marianne and getting to know her cousin, Silver, Wren slowly learns to become brave. While the book itself is not horrible, there just was not much to hold my interest. Due to this, I am not exactly sure whom this book would be recommended for.

Age Level: Grades: 4-7
Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Laskin, Pamela L. 9780062458544 \$17.99 183 p.
Ronit & Jamil Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

The "Ronit & Jamil" book cover is absolutely gorgeous, and I was very drawn to the idea of an Israeli and Palestinian "Romeo and Juliet." Ronit and Jamil are in Palestine; however, they are in warring countries with a wall between them with Ronit on the Jewish side and Jamil on the Arab side. Their eyes meet in a clinic where Ronit's father works, and the two are immediately smitten, they exchange cell phone numbers, and start to text and dream of a life together. They meet in alleys, hiding their love from their families and neighbors. What I imagine is flowery wording for sexting, the couple often talks of the passionate acts they would love to do, such as "finger flesh and not just kiss". A YA+ read. The novel is written in various forms of verse, though in a confusing style, with POV entries every 1-2 pages and few marking whose perspective is being told. There are some clues such as the

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Napoli, Donna Jo and David Wiesner 978-0-547-48393-1 \$17.99 186 p.
Fish Girl (GN) Clarion Books, 2017

Two great artists came together to create this story of a mermaid trapped in a seaside attraction. Overall it is a nice enough story, but it felt a bit stilted to me. Some of the supernatural elements don't quite add up and the idea that the mermaid has never tried to speak because her captor told her she can't simply doesn't make sense to me. Nor does the ocean rejecting her right when she has a chance to get back to it. Nor does the octopus temporarily becoming giant to help save her (which if it could have done, it would have done much sooner). Middle and elementary school readers who like mermaids will probably enjoy this, but it fell a bit flat for me.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, Fine for 4th and up.

Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries

Orlando, Kristen 978-1-250-08411-8 \$16.99 285 p.
You Don't Know My Name Swoon Reads, 2017

Reagan Hillis has known all her life that she would become an operative in a deep state agency known only as the Black Angels. Her parents are operatives who do what even the CIA cannot--rescue missions, spying, and when necessary, assassinations--all to cover up any U.S. government involvement. Reagan has never lived without a safe room in her house, without a false identity, and without always training to become the best Black Angel of them all. She never question her life's path, until she moved next door to Luke Weixel. To him, she is Reagan MacMillan, or Mac, a not-too-popular, march-to-the-beat-of-her-own-drum girl who goes on runs with him in the mornings. The first half of the novel focuses primarily on the blossoming relationship between these two characters, with some occasional reminders that Reagan is not who she seems to be. A major shift in the storyline occurs when Reagan begins to challenge her parents about the life-path they have prescribed for her: Reagan rebels and her actions make her parent vulnerable to attack from an old enemy who has wanted revenge. Suddenly, Reagan's parents go missing, kidnapped, and it's up to Reagan to help the Black Angels find and extract them, whether they want her help or not. With Luke's help and apparent expertise (as the son of a career soldier and junior ROTC member), the two whisk off to Colombia to free her parents from a drug cartel overlord. This novel seems totally intended to become a movie--it has all the high-intensity action of a martial arts film with the intrigue of a spy movie. Thus, it is completely unrealistic and over-the-top in nearly every aspect of the plot, with perhaps the growing romance between Reagan and Luke. Be that as it may, I imagine *You Don't Know My Name* will attract a few teens with its "chosen one" sub-theme and warrior-girl motif. Appropriate for both middle and high school. Sequels on the way.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Powell, Marie and Jeff Norton 978-1-77138-730-9 \$17.95 361 p.
Keeping the Beat Kids Can Press, 2017

When she is a junior who is supposed to be studying to raise her grades and get into Oxford, Lucy changes course because her old friend Harper wants to start a band and

compete on the television reality competition “Project Next.” They roam the school searching for band members, and six month later are in the televised semi-finals. Lucy is the central character in a book that alternately reveals the viewpoints of each band member. Harper is still in love with her ex, and wants to win the competition because it will take her to L.A., his current home. Toni is the beautiful bass player who may flirt too much with their young married manager. Iza is a shy classical pianist who is not prepared for a rock star life. And Robyn plays guitar and composes their music, but is pressured to lose weight, and fast, for their international debut. This book, and its variety of female viewpoints, never surprised me but the prose and pacing were good. Buy this for girls who want stardom and can read books with alcohol, drugs, and murder. Whether or not they pick up on the Great Gatsby references doesn’t matter.

Age Level: High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Roca, Paco 978-1-68112-056-0 \$15.99 64 p.
The Lighthouse (GN) NBM, 2017 (first English translation)

Recent success of the author (such as the marvelous Eisner-nominated *Wrinkles*) has led the publisher to release some of his earlier works in English. While this short graphic novel about a young ex-soldier on the run after the Spanish Civil War is well made, it will have limited appeal to American teens with little or no understanding of this particular conflict.

Age Level: Adult

Dawn Rutherford, Sno-Isle Libraries

Simukka, Salla 978-1-5247-1341-6 \$17.99 244 p.
As Red as Blood, Lumikki Andersson #1 Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017 (first English translation)

Lumikki Andersson is a teenager living in her own apartment, and going to an arts school in Finland. She's Finnish-Swedish, and named after the Snow White fairy tale, but does not have hair as black as ebony, skin as white as snow, or lips as red as blood. After finding dozens of 500 Euro notes, bloodied and hanging to dry in the school's darkroom, she's dragged into a crime that Lumikki had no interest in dealing with. She's also got a mysterious past, which contributes to her excellent skills in sneaking, hiding, blending-in, and staying unnoticed, which are frequently brought up in small details, but not fully explained until the end of the book.

As Red as Blood is the first in a YA crossover trilogy for teens who are not quite ready for the darkness of *The Millennium* series. The novel contains violence, swearing, talk of sexual acts, drug use, underage drinking, and bullying.

Age Level: High School, Adult

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

FICTION – NOT RECOMMEND

Coy, John 978-1250088956 \$10.75 224 p.
Gap Life Feiwel & Friends, 2016

I don't recommend this book. The age level if someone wants to read it is middle school and up, but I don't even think high school students would really be interested in it, let alone middle school students. After having just graduated from high school Cray declines his parents offer to pay for 4 years of college at a prestigious medical school and figure out things on his own. This includes getting a job at a facility for disabled adults and then deciding to go to Spain. I appreciate the author including working for disabled people as a great profession, one he did a lot in real life. As a work of fiction, however, it was boring. Everything was predictable and the characters were flat. At least it was short!

Age Level: High School

Kathleen Dunbar Eastlake High School

NON-FICTION – RECOMMEND

Alexander, Kwame 978-0-544-57097-9 \$14.99 169 p.

The Playbook Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017

The author, who also wrote *The Crossover*, believes that sports are a great metaphor for life and states that in all things you must master the rules of the game. The book is into 4 quarters, instead of chapters. Each section focuses on one attribute needed to succeed in life, such as grit, passion and tenacity. Alexander includes some personal information about his own sporting aspirations, successes and failures. Each quarter also includes a mini-biography of a famous athlete, such as LeBron James, that illustrates how that person overcame obstacles. Tweens and teens will love the motivational catch phrases and the beautiful black and white illustrations and photographs that have a splash of orange. In addition to the 52 rules (some of which readers will recognize from *Crossover*) there are also inspirational quotations from famous athletes and other successful people, such as Oprah Winfrey. Below each quote it explains why this person is famous. This book will be my new go-to gift for graduates as the lessons apply to anyone wanting to achieve their dreams.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen MS

Blevins, Wiley 9781512410136 \$35.99 96 p.

Ninja Plants: Survival and Adaptation in the Plant World Twenty-First Century Books, 2017

One of Barbara Kingsolver's characters says it takes a superior person to appreciate a plant. This book expounds on that concept (without making that reference), describing many of the sneaky animal-like tactics plants use to compete, survive, and reproduce. These include carnivory, parasitism, mimicry, toxicity, stinging, and exploding. The chapter titles are catchy (like Feed Me, Copycats, and Get a Move On), but the Ninja comparison is unevenly employed. The author seems not to be a plant expert, and perhaps as a result of inspiration in a east Asian garden, many of his examples miss North American locals our students could more readily know. He makes a few mistakes with jargon and technicalities. Nonetheless, the book's a decent introduction to the wiles of plants, and the fact that they have same. The frequent photographs are almost always on the spread with text on the same topic. The closing treatment of climate change is a stretch, but welcome, too.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School, gr. 6-10

Additional Comments: table of contents, glossary, selected bibliography, further information, index, source notes (3)

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Carson, Mary Kay 9780544416710 \$18.99 73 p.

Mission to Pluto: The First Visit to an Ice Dwarf and the Kuiper Belt, Scientists in the Field
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

An introduction to the former planet Pluto, illustrated with the amazing pictures from the New Horizons mission. A chapter discusses Pluto's discovery by an American in 1930 and how it was named. The book then turns to the New Horizons mission, from the birth of the audacious plan, to spacecraft design and testing, to blastoff and monitoring the probe's progress. Small sidebars relay information like the probe's scientific goals and what items researchers put on board the spacecraft, while longer one or two-page asides are interspersed throughout the text. These "Mission Briefs" have great infographics depicting a timeline of Pluto and its exploration, the scientific instruments on board, and the Kuiper Belt, among others. The writing is straightforward and not too technical; the slightly chatty tone is engaging. I'm not a planetary scientist, but I did run the book past an ardent fan of the New Horizons Mission and he didn't spot any factual errors. Lots of black background (as befits a book on space) contrasts with bright colors and impressive photographs to make a beautiful, informative and interesting book. A selected bibliography, index and "Words to Know" are included. Recommended for 4th through 9th grades.

Age Level: Middle School

Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library

Chad, Jon 9781626723603 \$12.99 122 p.

Volcanoes: Fire and Life Science Comics (GN) First Second, 2016

Set in a future ice age, a tribe of people forage among society's wreckage for items to burn. Three siblings and their teacher venture out to map resources. They do have solar-powered scooters and wrist computers, but otherwise rely on burning furniture and the like. They do record scans of books before burning them, and the lead girl spends a night reading a book about volcanoes. She becomes passionate about their contributions to earth's formation and biology, and advocates finding them to save humanity. Information about affecting climate is blocked. Finally, the teacher unblocks those sections and admits it's seen as pointless hoping for earth to recover. A steam vent is found and hope restored. Most of the book is information dumps about volcanoes. It's accurate and well-illustrated, but the adventure/tale isn't enough to keep it from being obviously informative. Recommended catalogued among geology, where those seeking information will find accessible content; it's not likely to hold the graphic novel readers.

Age Level: gr. 6-10

Additional Comments: Color by Sophie Goldstein; illustrated vocabulary

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Frydenborg, Kay 9780544286566 \$18.99 256 p.

A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017

Frydenborg takes a look at the relationship between canines and humans from multiple angles. She examines fossils, biology, medical science and history, and how these fields have shaped our understanding of dogs and their behavior. Sidebars feature briefer looks at topics like smell, dog breeding and the scientific method. I was fascinated to read that “researchers reported . . . [that] when dogs and their owners gaze into one another’s eyes, both experience a surge of oxytocin.” No wonder we love our dogs and they love us! An eye-catching cover and color photographs throughout enhance the text. A glossary, index and list of selected resources are included. Recommended for middle and high schoolers, although the reading level will challenge some middle school students.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library

Hansen, Dustin 978-1-250-08095-0 \$19.99 352 p.
Game On!: Video Game History From Pong and Pac-Man to Mario, Minecraft, and More
Feiwel & Friends, 2016

Videos games have come a long way since Pong first became an arcade sensation in 1972. Each short chapter in this book focuses on a game that represented a major change, improvement or innovation in gaming. The element might be game play, character development, story complexity, graphics improvements or even the type of controller. While reading I was inspired to listen to the Donkey Kong theme song online and find the Overwatch trailer. The author also includes fun sections highlighting his personal favorite heroes, villains, battles, cheat codes, etc. This was a really fun book for gamers and non-gamers (like me). My only complaint is the graphics are fairly poor quality (not just the old ones) and are all in black and white. The content is great, but the aesthetic good be improved. Grades 7+.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Hirsch, Rebecca E. 9781467794909 \$35.99 120 p.
De-extinction: The Science of Bringing Lost Species Back to Life
Twenty-First Century Books, 2017

This work provides a brief introduction to possible means of restoring extinct organisms to life. Methods are explained with examples in current research, including woolly mammoths, Passenger Pigeons, and a wild goat from Europe. While the goat has been brought back in the form of a kid that lived about ten minutes after birth, no techniques have truly been successful. Beyond the technical challenges, the greater problems of solving the habitat loss, poaching, pollution, or introduction of non-native organisms that caused the original extinctions are discussed as needing focus if such efforts are to ever work. The importance of preventing living organisms from becoming rare or extinct, especially valuing natural habitats and working against climate change, conclude. It's not without errors, but suitable for younger readers. It also has the potential to be fairly quickly outdated.

Age Level: gr. 6-10

Additional Comments: Table of contents, source notes, glossary, selected bibliography, further information, index

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Kenney, Karen Latchana 9781512400861 \$29.00 88 p.
Exoplanets: Worlds Beyond our Solar System Twenty-First Century Books, 2017

As space exploration technology steadily advances, astronomers are discovering vast new reaches of space, and this slim, accessibly written volume sheds some light on a particularly thrilling area of research: planets far outside our solar system. After a tidy history of our ever-expanding understanding of the universe, the author clearly explains the many ways exoplanets are detected and some of the limitations of current tools and methods. It is mind boggling how many of these exoplanets have been discovered! The implications of these discoveries, such as habitable planets and the possibility of extraterrestrial life, will likely dazzle the imaginations of space-mad students, and a closing chapter on the future of exoplanet research, including citizen science projects accessible to anyone with a home computer, puts the science easily in reach of enterprising teens. The text is a little dry, but the graphics, captions, illustrations and other text features keep it moving along.

Age Level: High School, because of reading level

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Marrin, Albert 9780553509366 \$17.99 256 p.
Uprooted: The Japanese American Experience During World War II Random House, 2016

After a brief prologue on the bombing of Pearl Harbor, this comprehensive study of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II book dives into the history of China, Japan and the West, setting the stage for later acts of aggression. There is a discussion of immigration to the United States and follows. The author the prejudice immigrating Japanese faced long before World War II, fear and fear mongering, politics – including how other immigrant groups, like Italian Americans, were not subject to internment and why only a few people who stood up for what was right – before delving into the details of the interment process and the reality of living in the camps. He devotes a chapter to Japanese Americans who served in the armed forces, one on legal questions surrounding the internment and what happened when Japanese Americans were released from the camps. A final chapter discusses the September 11, 2001 attack on the Twin Towers and relates the rise of anti-Muslim sentiment then to the internment of Japanese Americans. Marrin concludes that interment could happen again, but studying history is the best defense against infringement of any group's rights. What sets this book apart is Marrin's scope, which puts the events into historical context, as well as the excellent photographs and illustrations. A selected bibliography and internet sources are included. Highly recommended for middle and high school. Be aware that there are some detailed accounts of wartime brutality, particularly in the chapter on the history of China, Japan and the West.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library

McGraw, Sally 9781467785693 \$36.00 88 p.

🌀 ***Find Your Style: Boost Your Body Image Through Fashion Confidence***

Twenty-First Century Books, 2017

The cover note says “Style can be a flag we wave, a declaration of who we are. Style is the medium we use to broadcast our interests and culture.....and our feelings about gender and sexuality to everyone who sees us.” Young women are often overwhelmed by fashion choices or, alternatively, overlooked by an industry that promotes a single (often unattainable) standard of female beauty. So the author, a style blogger, has compiled a guide designed to assist readers in finding which styles best complement their body type, including sections on how to highlight and downplay different parts of the body. McGraw also offers advice on boosting self-image and discusses media myths about beauty standards. The colorful photos portray a diverse set of teen girls. I particularly liked the chapter that included a “figure-flattering cheat sheet that work regardless of body type. The Thrift shop chapter is also great. I would recommend this even though it is pretty pricey.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

O'Connor, George 978-1-62672-522-5 \$9.99 76 p.

Artemis: Wild Goddess of the Hunt Olympians (GN) First Second, 2017

Artemis is a twin God born of a love affair between Zeus and Leto. When she is accepted back into her father’s house, her family is shunned as she and her brother are illegitimate. As she takes on the role of Goddess of the Hunt, she takes a vow to never marry and to always be wild and free. Artemis is able to transform herself in to the form of a deer, a skill that not only helps her with hunting, but also gives her the ability to conquer foes. A good continuation of the series, where other heroes can be found and their personalities shine through. As with most of O’Connor’s series, he doesn’t shy away from violence and suggestive material. Leto and Zeus are in an adulterous relationship and Apollo’s birth isn’t easy. There are also several graphicly violent scenes. However, fans of the series will love the latest installment.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

Sheinkin, Steve 978-1-59643-954-2 \$19.99 266 p.

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team

Roaring Book Press, 2017

Steve Sheinkin does it again! Jim Thorpe is often mentioned as the greatest all-around athlete ever in the United States. Certainly, his exploits on the football team and his Olympic medals help prove that. However, Sheinkin shows his difficult childhood, his time at the Indian school (meant to crush his Indian-ness), and his Olympics/pro baseball time shaped a man that was much more than an athlete. He was a figurehead to many Indians who felt put down by the US government. Highly recommended, should be in every collection. Extensive notes at the end make this good for research too.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Mike Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Sheinkin, Steve 9781596439542 \$19.99 288 p.

Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team

Roaring Book Press, 2017

Undeclared starts with a “hook” that will make students want to keep reading: Jim Thorpe’s first football tryout for the Carlisle Indian School: “Nobody’s going to tackle Jim,” he tells the Coach Pop Warner—before and again after his impressive performance. Divided into two halves, the book tells a compelling story. The first half describes the political and social conditions of the early 20th Century in which Thorpe grew up—discrimination against Native culture was fierce—as well as the state of football and biographical details about both Thorpe and Coach Warner. The second half of the book gets into more details about important football games and the team’s amazing work ethic, Thorpe’s Olympic performance (and subsequent scandal) and Thorpe and Warner’s later lives all within the context of a time in US history in which racism against Native Americans prevailed. Shenkin gives us a book that tells the excitement of a beloved game well played without shying away from the unfairness and discrimination faced by Thorpe and his teammates. Pictures from the time help to tell the story and the epilogue leaves readers with much to think about. Recommended for grades 6 and up. Adults will enjoy this too.

Age Level: Middle School, High School
Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Trunko, Emily 978-0-399-55776-7 \$14.99 176 p.
The Last Message Received Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017

The Last Message Received is a compilation book of the last messages individuals have received. Students may already be familiar with the Tumblr account (with the same name) that the book is based off of. However, the book itself is a powerful reminder of the impact words can have on individuals. The last messages received range from ex-boyfriends/girlfriends to ex-friends to family/friends that have passed away. What I really liked about this book was the additional resources included at the end, which ranged from the GLBT National Hotline to BLOCH Cancer Hotline, along with useful websites and books for addressing depression and/or suicidal thoughts. Overall, I can see this book doing well in any MS/HS library in which *Thirteen Reasons Why* is a hit.

Age Level: Middle School, High School
Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Vance, Ashlee 978-0-06-246327-2 \$16.99 280 p.
Elon Musk and the Quest for a Fantastic Future HarperCollins, 2017

Elon Musk was born in South Africa, went to college in England and the United States and has become an American citizen. He is one of the richest men in the world. He began his scientific/entrepreneurial endeavors at the age of twelve when he sold his Blastar Video game for \$500.00. He began making real money by starting and selling Zip2 (similar to yelp), and then X.com (which merged to become Paypal). He took his fortune to Southern California and began SpaceX, Tesla and Solarcity. He has a vision of saving the world – perhaps by making Mars inhabitable. New York Times writer, Ashlee Vance, convinced Musk to let him write an authorized biography of his life. This young reader version of his book is the 273 page, enjoyable biography that is very accessible to middle and high school students. The book is full of pictures, timelines and fun stories about the life and visions of Elon Musk.

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

Wallace, Rich & Wallace, Sandra Neil 9781629790947 \$18.95 352 p.
Blood Brother: Jonathan Daniels and His Sacrifice for Civil Rights Highlights Press,
 2016

This is a biography of Jonathan Daniels, a white Episcopal seminarian who was active in the civil rights movement. Jailed for helping to register black voters, he was killed shortly after his release while protecting a black teenage girl. His killer was acquitted and an ensuing court case, *White vs. Crook*, resulted in blacks and women being able to serve on juries in the South. Daniels was part of the March on Washington in 1963 where Dr. King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech and afterward, joined the NAACP. After seeing *Bloody Sunday* reported on television, Daniels became directly involved in the civil rights movement – not only in marches and demonstrations, but in many practical matters. He drove people to doctor’s appointments and handed out sandwiches at marches, helped integrate a white Episcopal church and helped blacks register to vote. This fascinating look at the civil rights movement through Jonathan Daniels’ life is terrific for middle and high schools students. Because Daniels was killed in his 20’s, much of the book focuses on his youth and high school experiences and students can relate to that. The book’s content is well-researched and accessible. There are extensive historical photographs, a chapter on research for the book, a timeline, and an exhaustive bibliography. Highly recommended for middle and high school libraries.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Linda Conroy, Centralia Timberland Library

- Finding a Career Series

Kallen, Stuart A. 9781682820087 \$29.95 80 p.
Careers if You Like the Arts, Reference Point Press, 2017

For students who are trying to figure out what they might want to be when they grow up, based on their skill set, this is a good resource. It has different chapters that focus on different types of arts, such as: photography, fashion, graphic design, etc. Each chapter also includes a few facts, such as typical salary, educational requirements, future job outlook, etc. A great addition to a counseling and/or career center, especially in a high schools setting. Other titles in the series include: *Careers if you like Government & Politics*, *Careers if you like History*, *Careers if you like Math*, *Careers if you like Science*, and *Careers if you like Writing*.

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

- High Tech Careers Series

Allen, John 9781682821107 \$30.00 80 p.
Careers in Environmental and Energy Technology Reference Point Press, 2017

Hulick, Kathryn 9781682821183 \$30.00 80 p.
Careers in Robotics Reference Point Press, 2017

Roberts, Laura 9781682821121 \$30.00 80 p.

Careers in Gaming

Reference Point Press, 2017

Steffens, Bradley 9781682821145 \$30.00 80 p.

Careers in Internet Technology

Reference Point Press, 2017

This series explores the impact of technology and how it has revolutionized traditional fields. In Medical Technology, biomedical engineers create artificial ears using 3-D bioprinters, and in Gaming, it is noted that Pokémon Go was designed to get gamers out of the house and interacting with the world around them. In each of the 4 I reviewed the format was consistent with a good introductory chapter and then a number of specific job titles are given chapters. The books finish up with an Interview with someone in the field being covered and other jobs mentioned briefly. There is a lot packed into the typical 80 page Reference Point Press career book. There are few visuals, but the lengthy narratives are well outlined and fact-filled for high school career inquiry. Consider for serious readers and if your budget can afford the price.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

- Teens Mental Health Series

Cartlidge, Cheresé 978-1-68282-131-2 \$29.95 80 p.

Teens and Suicide

Reference Point Press, 2017

Kemper, Bitsy 978-1-68282-128-2 \$29.95 80 p.

Teens and Phobias

Reference Point Press, 2017

Mooney, Carla 978-1-68282-120-6 \$29.95 80 p.

Teens and ADHD

Reference Point Press, 2017

Nardo, Don 978-1-68282-122-0 \$29.95 80 p.

Teens and Eating Disorders

Reference Point Press, 2017

Nardo, Don 978-1-68282-124-4 \$29.95 80 p.

Teens and Gender Dysphoria

Reference Point Press, 2017

Parks, Peggy J. 978-1-68282-130-5 \$29.95 80 p.

Teens and PTSD

Reference Point Press, 2017

Sheen, Barbara 978-1-68282-126-8 \$29.95 80 p.

Teens and OCD

Reference Point Press, 2017

This series addresses teens and...PTSD, OCD, suicide, gender dysphoria, eating disorders, phobias and suicide. Each book explains the problem or issue, explores what causes it, shows what it is like for real teens to live with that situation, and then ends with how that issue can be prevented, treated, or cured (depending on the topic). These books are great entry texts about teens' mental health as they include specific examples and quotes from teens who have lived with each specific concern. 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. Each book ends

with an index, bibliography, sources notes, a list of organizations to contact, and a list of books, and 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 MS

NON-FICTION – SHRUG

Schwalbe, Will 9780385353540 \$25.95 272 p.
Books for Living Alfred A. Knopf, 2017

Books for Living by Will Schwalbe is about books for lovers of books. Schwalbe features 26 books (and features many others) that have affected his thinking and the way he lives and which inspire him to be a better listener, citizen, traveler and friend; how to trust, how to embrace simplicity and how to appreciate others. This book is also a memoir about people Schwalbe, for various reasons, associates with the book or the circumstances around which he first came to read or re-read a particular book. This book was not written for a YA audience, but for a librarian with the task of curating a diverse collection and recommending books to teens, reading *Books for Living* serves as a reminder of the great privilege a librarian has to recommend the “right” book to the right patron at the right time. Recommended for adults.

Age Level: Adult
Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

NON-FICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Zimmerman Rutledge, Jill 9781512402674 \$35.99 69 p.
Prom: The Big Night Out Twenty-First Century Books, 2017

The disappointing *Prom* begins by spending a little too much time on a “history” of the prom which serves more as a gloss-over history of American politics and culture from the early nineteenth century until today, without actually tying much of the political events to actual proms. Next there is a ten-page section on dresses and tuxes that only included three pictures. There is one chapter that highlights proms that make a difference, e.g. Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NY holding an annual prom for cancer patients, followed by a final (and best) chapter of personal stories around proms. Teens will enjoy the last chapter, but the rest is rather bland, and the lack of actual photos from actual proms is astounding. Throughout the book there are only 8 pictures from proms when there should have been many, many more... of dresses, of the specialized events featured, of the teens who provided personal stories, etc. Very disappointing.

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