



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW

**GROUP**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: March 2, 2018**

*Issue: 120  
March 2018*

**WASHRAG**

*Titles Taken 3-18*

*Fiction Reviews 19-62*

*Nonfiction Reviews 62-67*

**WASHYARGers:**

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

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

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

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

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

**DUES**

Members/reviewers may pay dues at any time during the year, but we appreciate prompt payment in September for the forthcoming year. Dues are \$25 and a dues sheet is included in the newsletter. Dues may be sent to:

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:**

- *December 8*
- *March 2*
- *May 4*
- *September 21*
- *December 14*

**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**

- December 8
- March 2
- May 4
- September 21
- December 14

**MEMBERSHIP FORM:**



Name:

Title:

Email\*:

Phone\*:

Address\*:

\* Please indicate home or work for contact info.

## Titles Taken for Review – December 2017

All titles and reviews are now being submitted online at:

<http://www.evergreenbookaward.org/about-washyarg>

Please remember ARCs may not be added to your collection.

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

### FICTION

<b><i>13 Minutes</i></b> Pinborough, Sarah Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	Flatiron Books, 2016 978-1-250-12385-5	\$17.99	343 p.
<b><i>Ahimsa</i></b> Kelkar, Supriya Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	Tu Books, 2017 1620143569	\$18.95	307 p.
◆ <b><i>All About Mia</i></b> Williamson, Lisa Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	David Fickling Books, 2017 978-1-338-16397-1	\$17.99	320 p.
<b><i>All The Crooked Saints</i></b> Stiefvater, Maggie JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School	Scholastic Press, 2017 978-0-545-93080-2	\$18.99	311 p.
<b><i>Ally</i>, Nemesis #2</b> Banks, Anna Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2017 9781250070180	\$17.99	306 p.
<b><i>Among the Red Stars</i></b> Katz, Gwen C. Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	HarperTeen, 2017 9780062642745	\$17.99	384 p.
<b><i>Backfield Boys</i></b> Feinstein, John Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 978-0-374-30592-5	\$17.99	353 p.
<b><i>Battlesong</i>, The Hidden #3</b> Tanner, Lian Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2017 978-1-250-05218-6	\$16.99	293 p.

<b><i>Being Fishkill</i></b>	Candlewick Press, 2017		
Lehrer, Ruth	9780763684426	\$17.99	312 p.
Alexis Underhill, North Thurston School District			
<b><i>Berserker</i></b>	Feiwel & Friends, 2017		
Laybourne, Emmy	9781250055200	\$17.99	340 p.
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School			
<b><i>Cast No Shadow</i></b> (GN)	First Second, 2017		
Tapalansky, Nick and Anissa Espinosa	9781596438774	\$16.99	219 p.
Michael Denton, Wandering Librarian			
<b><i>Chaos Descends</i></b> , Darkmouth #3	Harper, 2017		
Hegarty, Shane	978-0-06-231135-1	\$17.99	416 p.
Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School			
<b><i>Children of Icarus</i></b>	Switch Press, 2016		
Smith, Caighlan	978-1-63079-057-8	\$16.95	305 p.
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School			
<b><i>Cici's Journal: The Adventures of a Writer-in-Training</i></b> (GN)	First Second, 2017		
Chamblain, Joris and Aurelie Neyret	9781626722484	\$17.99	148 p.
Sarah Hunt, KCLS			
<b><i>Crystal Blade</i></b> , Burning Glass #2	Katherine Tegen Books, 2017		
Purdie, Kathryn	978-0-06-241239-3	\$17.99	359 p.
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School			
<b><i>Curse of the Harvester</i></b> , Dream Jumper #2 (GN)	Scholastic, 2017		
Grunberg, Greg & Turnbloom, Lucas	9780545826082	\$12.99	220 p.
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School			
<b><i>Dear Martin</i></b>	Crown, 2017		<b>BFYA, QP</b>
Stone, Nic	978-1-101-93949-9	\$17.99	208 p.
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School			
Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School			
<u>Comments:</u> Pen name of Andrea Nicole Livingstone			
<b><i>Devil in Ohio</i></b>	Feiwel & Friends, 2017		
Polatin, Daria	9781250113610	\$17.99	327 p.
Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library			
<b><i>Eagle Strike</i></b> , Alex Rider: The Graphic Novels (GN)	Walker, 2012		
Johnston, Antony	1406318779	\$14.99	
Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS			

<b><i>Echo After Echo</i></b> Capetta, Amy Rose Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School	Candlewick Press, 2017 9780763691646	\$17.99	421 p.
<b><i>Everything Must Go</i></b> Davis, Jenny Fran Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School	St. Martin's Press, 2017 9781250119766	\$18.99	402 p.
<b><i>Evil Emperor Penguin</i>, Evil Emperor Penguin #1(GN)</b> Anderson, Laura Ellen Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS <u>Comments:</u> Elementary	David Fickling Books, 2015 1910200514	\$8.99	
<b><i>Far From the Tree</i></b> Benway, Robin Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School	HarperTeen, 2017 978-0-06-233062-8	\$17.99	<b>BFYA</b> 374 p.
<b><i>Flight Risk</i></b> Fenn, Jennifer Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	Roaring Brook Press, 2017 978-1626727601	\$12.90	384 p.
<b><i>Foolish Hearts</i></b> Mills, Emma Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	Henry Holt, 2017 978-1-62779-937-9	\$17.99	312 p.
<b><i>Fragments of the Lost</i></b> Miranda, Megan Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School	Crown, 2017 978-0-399-55672-2	\$18.99	371 p.
<b>◆<i>Friends is Friends</i> (GN)</b> Cook, Greg Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	First Second, 2016 978-1-59643-105-8	\$19.99	200 p.
<b><i>Graveyard Shakes</i> (GN)</b> Terry, Laura Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	Graphix, 2017 978-0-545-88954-4	\$12.99	204 p.
<b><i>Greek Gods: #squadgoals</i>, OMG Classics</b> Carbone, Courtney Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School	Random House, 2017 9781524715649	\$9.99	113 p.
<b><i>Greetings from Witness Protection!</i></b> Burt, Jake Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	Feiwei & Friends, 2017 1250107113	\$16.99	359 p.
<b>◆<i>Hard Rock</i>, Tig Ripley #2</b>	Sleeping Bear Press, 2017		

Rue, Ginger Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	978-1-58536-948-5	\$9.99	356 p.
<b><i>Haunting the Deep</i></b> , How to Hang a Witch #2 Mather, Adriana Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	Alfred A Knopf, 2017 978-0-553-53951-6	\$17.99	343 p.
<b><i>Hellwalkers</i></b> , The Devil's Engine #3 Smith, Alexander Gordon Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 978-0-374-30174-3	\$18.99	312 p.
<b><i>Here We Are Now</i></b> Warga, Jasmine Alexis Underhill, North Thurston School District	Balzer + Bray, 2017 9780062324702	\$17.99	292 p.
<b><i>I Am Alfonso Jones</i></b> (GN) Medina, Tony Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	Tu Books, 2017 1620142635	\$18.95	<b>GGN</b>
<b><i>I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i></b> Sanchez, Erika L. Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School	Alfred A Knopf, 2017 9781524700485	\$17.99	<b>BFYA</b> 344 p.
<b><i>I Believe in a Thing Called Love</i></b> Goo, Maurene Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 9780374304041	\$17.99	326 p.
<b><i>Joyride</i></b> , A Class Novel Adams, Guy Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School <u>Comments:</u> This is based on a TV show created by Patrick Ness that is "from the universe of Doctor Who."	HarperTeen, 2016 978-0-06-266620-8	\$17.99	230 p.
<b><i>Just Friends</i></b> Pitcock, Tiffany Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	Swoon Reads, 2017 978-1-250-08405-7	\$10.99	300 p.
<b><i>Kat and Meg Conquer the World</i></b> Priemaza, Anna Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	HarperTeen, 2017 62560808	\$17.99	353 p.
<b><i>Kiss Me in New York</i></b> Rider, Catherine Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	KCP Loft, 2017 978-1-77138-848-1	\$16.99	189 p.

<b><i>Kissing Max Holden</i></b> Upperman, Katy Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School	Swoon Reads, 2017 978-1-250-11116-6	\$17.99	297 p.
<b><i>Kit Meets Covington, Ride #1</i></b> Weiss, Bobbi J.G. Aarene Storms, KCLS <u>Comments:</u> "As seen on Nickelodeon's Ride."	Candlewick Press, 2017 978-0-7636-9439-5	\$16.99	269 p.
<b><i>Landscape with Invisible Hand</i></b> Anderson, M.T. Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Candlewick Press, 2017 9780763687892	\$16.99	<b>BFYA</b> 149 p.
<b><i>Laura Ingalls is Ruining My Life</i></b> Tougas, Shelley Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Roaring Brook Press, 2017 978-1-62672-418-1	\$16.99	296 p.
<b><i>Like Water</i></b> Podos, Rebecca Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School	HarperCollins, 2017 9780062373373	\$17.99	312 p.
<b><i>Losing Brave</i></b> (ARC) Madison, Bailee & Stefne Miller Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School	Blink, 2017 2370000542717	\$17.99	352 p.
<b><i>Lost Boys</i></b> Rosenblatt, Darcey Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School	Henry Holt, 2017 9781627797580	\$16.99	275 p.
<b><i>Lost Boys</i></b> Rosenblatt, Darcey Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Henry Holt, 2017 978-1-62779-758-0	\$16.99	275 p.
<b><i>Louise Brooks: Detective</i></b> (GN) Geary, Rick Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library	NBM Graphic Novels, 2015 978-1-56163-952-6	\$15.99	80 p.
<b><i>Love Is Both Wave and Particle</i></b> Cody, Paul Alexis Underhill, North Thurston School District Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	Roaring Brook Press, 2017 9781626726888	\$17.99	311 p.
<b><i>Love, Hate, &amp; Other Filters</i></b> (ARC) Ahmed, Samira Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, Sno-Isle Library	Soho Teen, 2018 9781616958473	\$10.99	288 p.

<b><i>Madness</i></b>	HarperTeen, 2017		
Brewer, Zac	9780062457851	\$17.99	289 p.
Cindy Simon, International Community School			
<b><i>Marty Frye, Private Eye</i></b> , Marty Frye, Private Eye #1	Henry Holt, 2017		
Tashjian, Janet, and Laurie Keller	978-1-250-11661-1	\$15.99	76 p.
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School			
<u>Comments:</u> Revision of a 1998 title			
<b><i>Meant To Be</i></b>	Feiwel & Friends, 2017		
Halpern, Julie	978-1-250-09498-8	\$17.99	313 p.
Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School			
<b><i>Mustaches for Maddie</i></b>	Shadow Mountain, 2017		
Morris, Chad and Shelly Brown	9781629723303	\$16.99	245 p.
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School			
<b><i>No Good Deed</i></b>	Scholastic Point, 2017		
Moldavsky, Goldy	978-0-545-86751-1	\$17.99	345 p.
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School			
<b><i>No Saints in Kansas</i></b> (ARC)	Soho Teen, 2017		
Brashear, Amy	978-1-61695-683-7	\$18.99	308 p.
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School			
<b><i>Not Now, Not Ever</i></b>	Wednesday Books, 2017		
Anderson, Lily	9781250142108	\$18.99	306 p.
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
<b><i>One Dark Throne</i></b> , Three Dark Crowns #2	HarperTeen, 2017		
Blake, Kendare	978-0-06-238546-8	\$18.99	448 p.
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School			
<b><i>Otherworld</i></b>	Delacorte Press, 2017		
Segel, Jason	9781101939521	\$18.99	355 p.
Aarene Storms, KCLS			
<b><i>Pashmina</i></b> (GN)	First Second, 2017		<b>GGN</b>
Chanani, Nidhi	9781626720886	\$21.99	161 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library			
<b><i>Polaris</i></b>	Scholastic, 2017		
Northrop, Michael	978-0-545-29716-5	\$17.99	278 p.
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School			

<b><i>Railhead</i></b> , Railhead #1 Reeve, Philip Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Switch Press, 2015 9781630790486	\$16.95	333 p.
<b><i>Ready to Fall</i></b> Pixley, Marcella Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 978-0-374-30358-7	\$17.99	357 p.
<b><i>Rebel Seoul</i></b> Oh, Axie Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	Tu Books, 2017 978-1620142998	\$19.95	400 p.
<b><i>Recess Warriors 2: Bad Guy Is a Two-Word Word</i></b> (GN) Emerson, Marcus Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	Roaring Brook Press, 2017 1626727090	\$17.99	
<b><i>Refugee</i></b> Gratz, Alan Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Scholastic, 2017 9780545880831	\$16.99	<b>BFYA, QP</b> 338 p.
<b><i>Release</i></b> Ness, Patrick Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library	HarperTeen, 2017 9780062403193	\$17.99	<b>BFYA</b> 277 p.
<b><i>Restart</i></b> Korman, Gordon Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Scholastic Press, 2017 978-1-338-05377-7	\$16.99	243 p.
<b><i>Robots &amp; Repeats</i></b> , Secret Coders #4 (GN) Yang, Gene Luen and Mike Holmes Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School	First Second, 2017 978-1-62672-605-5	\$18.99	92 p.
<b><i>Ryan Quinn and the Lion's Claw</i></b> , Ryan Quinn #2 McGee, Ron Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School	Harper, 2017 978-0-06-24169-2	\$16.99	343 p.
<b><i>Satellite</i></b> Lake, Nick Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library	Random House , 2017 978-1-5247-1353-9	\$17.99	447 p.
<b><i>Scorpia</i></b> , Alex Rider: The Graphic Novels (GN) Johnston, Antony Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School	Candlewick Press, 2016 978-0-7636-9257-5	\$14.99	
<b><i>Slider</i></b>	Candlewick Press, 2017		<b>BFYA</b>

Hautman, Pete Cindy Simon, International Community School	9780763690700	\$16.99	278 p.
<b><i>Somebody's Baby</i></b> McDaniel, Lurlene Sameera Khalifa, Talley High School <u>Comments: Sequel to "Losing Gabriel"</u>	Delacorte Press, 2017 978-0-385-74423-2	\$17.99	307 p.
<b><i>Spliced</i></b> McGoran, Jon Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Holiday House, 2017 9780823438556	\$18.95	362 p.
<b><i>Swing It, Sunny</i></b> (GN) Holm, Jennifer L Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	Graphix, 2017 054574170X	\$12.99	
<b><i>The 12 Dares of Christa</i></b> Burt, Marissa Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2017 978-0-06-241608-6	\$16.99	294 p.
<b><i>The Afterlife</i></b> Hand, Cynthia Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School	HarperTeen, 2017 978-0-06-231850-3	\$17.99	385 p.
<b><i>The Big F</i></b> Martin, Maggie Ann Cindy Simon, International Community School	Swoon Reads, 2017 9781250123213	\$10.99	280 p.
<b><i>The Big Lie</i></b> Mayhew, Julie Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Candlewick Press, 2017 978-0-7636-9125-7	\$17.99	321 p.
<b><i>The Breathless</i></b> Goedjen, Tara Kelly Crickmore, Issaquah High School Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Delacorte Press, 2017 978-1-5247-1476-5	\$17.99	354 p.
<b><i>The Closest I've Come</i></b> Aceves, Fred Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	HarperTeen, 2017 978-0-06-248853-4	\$17.99	<b>BFYA</b> 310 p.
<b><i>The Cruel Prince</i></b> (ARC) Black, Holly Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	Little, Brown and Company, 2018 978-0316-31027-7	\$18.99	371 p.
<b><i>The Dark Assassin</i></b> , A New Darkness	Greenwillow, 2017		

Delaney, Joseph Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	978-0-06-233459-6	\$17.99	296 p.
<b><i>The Downward Spiral</i></b> , Lock and Key #2 Pearson, Ridley Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	Harper, 2017 62399047	\$17.99	419 p.
<b><i>The Glass Spare</i></b> , The Glass Spare #1 DeStefano, Lauren Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Balzer + Bray, 2017 9780062491282	\$17.99	402 p.
<b><i>The Hollow Girl</i></b> Monahan, Hillary Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	Delacorte Press, 2017 978-1-5247-0186-4	\$17.99	259 p.
<b><i>The Keep of Ages</i></b> , The Vault of Dreamers #3 O'Brien, Caragh M. Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Roaring Brook Press, 2017 978-1-59643-942-9	\$17.99	385 p.
<b><i>The Librarian of Auschwitz</i></b> Iturbe, Antonio Alexis Underhill, North Thurston School District I	Godwin Books, 2017 9781627796187	\$19.99	<b>BFYA</b> 416 p.
<b><i>The Memory Trees</i></b> Wallace, Kali Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School	HarperCollins, 2017 9780062366238	\$17.99	415 p.
<b><i>The Midnight Dance</i></b> Katz, Nikki Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School	Swoon Reads, 2017 9781250123718	\$17.99	311 p.
<b><i>The Real McCoys</i></b> Swanson, Matthew and Robbi Behr Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	Imprint, 2017 978-1-250-09852-8	\$16.99	336 p.
<b><i>The Real Us</i></b> Greenwald, Tommy Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Roaring Brook Press, 2017 9781626721715	\$16.99	246 p.
<b><i>The Release</i></b> , Prey #3 Isbell, Tom Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	HarperTeen, 2017 9780062216083	\$17.99	358 p.
<b><i>The Road to Ever After</i></b>	Feiwel & Friends, 2017		

Young, Moira Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School <u>Comments:</u> 1st published in UK in 2016	978-1-250-11729-8	\$16.99	215 p.
<b><i>The Sand Warrior</i></b> , 5 Worlds #1 (GN) Siegel, Mark Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	Random House , 2017 1101935863	\$18.99	
<b><i>The Secret of Nightingale Wood</i></b> Strange, Lucy Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School <u>Comments:</u> 1st published in UK in 2016	Chicken House, 2017 978-1-338-15747-5	\$16.99	288 p.
<b><i>The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade</i></b> Sonnenblick, Jordan Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Scholastic Press, 2017 978-0-545-86320-9	\$16.99	193 p.
<b><i>The Summer of Owen Todd</i></b> Abbott, Tony Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 978-0-034-30550-5	\$17.99	217 p.
<b><i>The Truth Beneath the Lies</i></b> (ARC) Searcy, Amanda Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School	Delacorte Press, 2017 9781524700898	\$17.99	326 p.
<b><i>The Wicker King</i></b> Ancrum, K. Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Imprint, 2017 978-1-250-10154-9	\$17.99	<b>BFYA</b> 305 p.
<b><i>The Witch Boy</i></b> (GN) Ostertag, Molly Knox Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	Graphix, 2017 9781338089516	\$12.99	<b>GGN</b> 213 p.
<b><i>The Wood</i></b> Bobulski, Chelsea Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2017 9781250094261	\$17.99	320 p.
<b><i>This Darkness Mine</i></b> McGinnis, Mindy Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2017 9780062561596	\$17.99	374 p.
<b><i>Thornhill</i></b> Smy, Pam Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School <u>Comments:</u> Words and images (think Brian Selznick)	Roaring Brook Press, 2017 9781626726543	\$19.99	533 p.

<b><i>Time Shifters</i></b> (GN) Grine, Chris Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Graphix, 2017 9780545926577	\$12.99	272 p.
<b><i>Top Ten</i></b> Cotugno, Katie Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Balzer + Bray, 2017 978-0-06-24830-2	\$17.99	357 p.
<b><i>Unschool ed</i></b> Woodrow, Allan Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School <u>Comments:</u> Probably better for elementary	Scholastic, 2017 978-1-338-11688-5	\$16.99	279 p.
<b><i>Vanilla</i></b> Merrell, Billy Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library	PUSH (Scholastic), 2017 978-1-338-10092-1	\$17.99	307 p.
<b><i>War of the Cards</i></b> , Queens of Hearts #3 Oakes, Colleen Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	HarperTeen, 2017 978-0-06-240979-9	\$17.99	343 p.
◆ <b><i>Wesley James Ruined My Life</i></b> Honeybourn, Jennifer Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Swoon Reads, 2017 9781250123732	\$10.99	256 p.
<b><i>Whistling in the Dark</i></b> Hughes, Shirley Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Candlewick Press, 2017 9780763690724	\$16.99	240 p.
◆ <b><i>Who Killed Darius Drake?</i></b> Philbrick, Rodman Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Blue Sky Press, 2017 978-0-545-78978-3	\$17.99	182 p.
<b><i>You Don't Know Me But I Know You</i></b> Barrow, Rebecca Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	HarperTeen, 2017 978-0062494191	\$17.99	336 p.

#### NON-FICTION

<b><i>Because I Was a Girl: True Stories for Girls of All Ages</i></b> de la Cruz, Melissa (editor) Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Henry Holt, 2017 9781250154460	\$18.99	248 p.
<b><i>Building Amazing Creations</i></b> Kenney, Sean	Christy Ottaviano Books, 2017 1627790187	\$24.99	382 p.

Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School

◆ ***Craig & Fred: A Marine, a Stray Dog, and How They Rescued Each Other*** Harper, 2017  
Grossi, Craig 9780062693358 \$16.99 248 p.

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Comments: Young Readers Edition

***Donald Trump: 45th U.S. President*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
Reston, Dominick 978-1682822951 \$29.95 80 p.

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

***Get Coding!*** Candlewick Press, 2017  
Young Rewired State 978-0-7636-9276-6 \$12.99 207 p.

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

***Locked Up for Freedom*** Millbrook Press, 2018  
Schwartz, Heather E. 9781467785976 \$33.32 58 p.

Alexis Underhill, North Thurston School District

***Monet: Itinerant of Light*** (GN) NBM Graphic Novels, 2017  
Rubio, Salva 9781681121390 \$24.99 112 p.

Aarene Storms, KCLS

***Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki*** Candlewick Press, 2017  
Crossley-Holland, Kevin 9780763695002 \$27.99 225 p.

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

***Pele: The King of Soccer*** (GN) First Second, 2017  
Simon, Eddy (Author); Brascaglia, Vincent (Illustrator) 978-1-62672-979-7 \$19.99 139 p.

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

***Shaken: Fighting to Stand Strong No Matter What Comes Your Way*** (ARC)  
Waterbrook, 2017

Tebow, Tim 9780735289963 \$17.99 208 p.

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Comments: Young Readers Edition

***Sharing Posts: The spread of fake news*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
Currie, Stephen 9781682822975 \$36.00 80 p.

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

***Spidermania; friends on the web*** Holiday House, 2015  
Siy, Alexandra, and Dennis Kunkel 978-0-8234-2871-7 \$17.95 48 p.

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

***The 57 Bus*** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 **QP, NFYA**

Slater, Dashka 978-0-374-30323-5 \$17.99 302 p.  
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

***The Babysitter's Survival Guide*** Sterling Children's Books, 2010, 2017  
Chasse, Jill D. 9781454923183 \$14.95 106 p.  
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

***The Black Lives Matter Movement*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
Parks, Peggy J. 9781682822852 \$36.00 80 p.  
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

***The Day the World Went Nuclear: Dropping the Atom Bomb and the End of World War II in the Pacific*** Henry Holt, 2017  
O'Reilly, Bill 978-1250120335 \$19.99 320 p.  
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

***The Opioid Epidemic*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
Marcovitz, Hal 9781682822999 \$36.00 80 p.  
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

***When I Was a Turkey*** Henry Holt, 2017  
Hutto, Joe, with Brenda Z. Guiberson 978-1-62779-385-8 \$19.99 178 p.  
Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School  
Comments: "Based on the emmy award-winning PBS documentary My Life as a Turkey," ill. by Joe Hutton

***Writing Radar: Using your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories***  
Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017  
Gantos, Jack 978-0-374-30456-0 \$17.99 203 p.  
Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

● Career Discover Series

***Careers if you like animals*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
Allman, Toney 9781682821343 \$29.95 80 p.

***Careers if you like helping people*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
Snyder, Gail 9781682821367 \$29.95 80 p.

***Careers if you like music*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
Roberts, Laura 9781682821381 \$29.95 80 p.

***Careers if you like sports*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
Kallen, Stuart A. 9781682821428 \$29.95 80 p.

***Careers if you like the outdoors*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
Kallen, Stuart A. 9781682821404 \$29.95 80 p.

- Careers if you like video games*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
 Mooney, Carla 9781682821442 \$29.95 80 p.  
 Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School
- Cause & Effect: Ancient Civilizations Series
- The Ancient Aztecs*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Nardo, Don 978-1-68282-146-6 \$29.95 80 p.  
 Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School
- Cause & Effect: Modern Wars Series
- The Korean War*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Blohm, Craig E. 9781682821640 \$29.95 80 p.
- The Vietnam War*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Blohm, Craig E. 9781682821688 \$29.95 80 p.  
 Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School
- The War on Terror*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
 Abramovitz, Melissa 978-1682821824 \$29.95 64 p.
- The War on Terror*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
 Nardo, Don 978-1682821701 \$29.95 80 p.
- World War II*** Reference Point Press, 2017  
 Marcovitz, Hal 978-1682821749 \$29.95 80 p.  
 Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School
- Cutting Edge Careers Series
- Big Data Analyst*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Steffens, Bradley 978-1-68282-176-3 \$29.95 64 p.
- Robotics Engineer*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Hulick, Kathryn 978-1-68282-186-2 \$29.95 64 p.
- Software Engineer*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Kemper, Bitsy 978-1-68282-188-6 \$29.95 64 p.
- Video Game Designer*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Watson, Stephanie 978-1-68282-184-8 \$29.95 62 p.
- Vitual Reality Developer*** Reference Point Press, 2018  
 Hulick, Kathryn 978-1-68282-190-9 \$29.95 63 p.  
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School
- Exploring Careers Series

<b><i>Careers in Business Administration</i></b> Mooney, Carla	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682821923	\$36.00	80 p.
<b><i>Careers in Entertainment</i></b> Kallen, Stuart A.	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682821985	\$36.00	80 p.
<b><i>Careers in Medicine</i></b> Currie-McGhee, Leanne Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822005	\$36.00	80 p.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Growing up Around the World Series 10 Titles in the Series Sheen, Barbara Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School</li> <li>● Human Rights in Focus Series</li> </ul>	Reference Point Press, 2018 1682822214	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Genocide</i></b> Steffens, Bradley	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822258	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Human Trafficking</i></b> Currie-McGhee, Leanne	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822272	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Illegal Immigrants</i></b> Haugen, David M.	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822296	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Refugees</i></b> Uschan, Michael V.	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822333	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>The LGBT Community</i></b> Karson, Damon	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822319	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Torture</i></b> Steffens, Bradley Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822357	\$29.95	80 p.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Real World Stem Series</li> </ul>			
<b><i>Develop Economical Solar Power</i></b> Kallen, Stuart A.	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822395	\$36.00	80 p.
<b><i>Develop Fusion Energy</i></b> Hulick, Kathryn	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822456	\$36.00	80 p.
<b><i>Eliminate the threat of nuclear terror</i></b> Steffens, Bradley	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822418	\$36.00	80 p.
<b><i>Global Access to Clean Water</i></b> Kallen, Stuart A.	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822432	\$36.00	80 p.

<b><i>Improving Virtual Reality</i></b> Allen, John	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822371	\$36.00	80 p.
<b><i>Reverse Engineer the Brain</i></b> Wilcox, Christine	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822470	\$36.00	80 p.
<b><i>Securing Cyberspace</i></b> Steffens, Bradley Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822494	\$36.00	80 p.
● Science Comics Series			
<b><i>Dogs: From Predator to Protector</i></b> (GN) Hirsch, Andy	First Second, 2017 978-1-32672-767-0	\$19.99	119 p.
<b><i>Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield</i></b> (GN) Koch, Falynn Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library	First Second, 2017 978-1-62672-752-6	\$12.99	122 p.
● Thinking Critically Series			
<b><i>The Death Penalty</i></b> Watson, Stephanie Cindy Simon, International Community School	Reference Point Press, 2018 9781682822654	\$29.95	80 p.
● Understanding Psychology Series			
<b><i>Understanding Addiction</i></b> Abramovitz, Melissa	Reference Point Press, 2018 978-1-68282-271-5	\$29.95	90 p.
<b><i>Understanding Family &amp; Personal Relationships</i></b> Wilcox, Christine	Reference Point Press, 2018 978-1-68282-273-9	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Understanding Motivation</i></b> Hirschmann, Kris	Reference Point Press, 2018 978-1-68282-275-1	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Understanding Personality</i></b> Allman, Toney	Reference Point Press, 2018 978-168282-277-7	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Understanding Self-Image and Confidence</i></b> Allman, Toney	Reference Point Press, 2018 978-1-68282-279-1	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Understanding Sexual Identity and Orientation</i></b> Hirschmann, Kris	Reference Point Press, 2018 978-1-68282-281-4	\$29.95	80 p.
<b><i>Understanding Violent Behavior</i></b> Wilcox, Christine Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Reference Point Press, 2018 978-1-68282-283-8	\$29.95	80 p.

## Titles Reviewed - December 2017

### FICTION - RECOMMEND

Aguirre, Ann 978-1-250-08982-3 \$17.99 358 p.  
***Vanguard***, Razorland #4 Feiwel & Friends, 2017

It's been 10 months since the War at the River. After Tegan's mentor dies, she decides to practice medicine elsewhere and figure out what his dying request about "Catalina" meant. Tegan takes to the road with Millie Farraday--who's tired of being known as the kindest person in the free territories. Along the way to Rosemere to visit Fade and Deuce, they run into Szarok--the Urock vanguard who helped them battle the Horde. When Catalina turns out to be a ship, Tegan decides to sign on as doctor. Szarok books passage hoping to find a safe haven for his people and James Morrow, the storyteller, signs on too as he still harbors feelings for Tegan. When events force Szarok and Tegan overboard, the two fight for their lives and as they get to know each better, feelings arise that surprise both of them. Give this to fans of the series--even though there seems to be more romance than action and adventure. It's a fitting conclusion for favorite characters.

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

Aguirre, Ann 978-1-250-08982-3 \$17.99  
***Vanguard***, Razorland #4 Feiwel & Friends, 2017

The war is over, Tegan and her friends are wanting to travel, but then they run into Szarok, the leader of the Uroch, a tribe of savage human-like beasts. He is different than the usual Uroch, able to communicate and think beyond base needs. They are thrown in together and must work together to keep another conflict between humans and Uroch from breaking out. A worthy book to continue the series that Aguirre started with Enclave. 7th-12th grades

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

Ahern, Cecelia 978-1-250-07412-6 \$18.99 339 p.  
***Perfect***, Flawed #2 Feiwel & Friends, 2017

After escaping the Guild, Celestine has been hiding out on her grandfather's farm. But, when this gets too risky, she is reunited with Carrick (the man she connected with while imprisoned). As much as they try, nowhere can really be safe as long as Judge Crevan is after her. Since she knows he won't stop, Celestine has to fight back. And, she's got just the leverage, Crevan gave her an unauthorized sixth brand. If she can get the right people to believe her, she just might have the power to take him down. But....is there anyone she can actually trust? This dystopian duology was pretty great and very intense with some particularly powerful scenes about power and humiliation. Highly recommend. Grades 8+.

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

Anderson, Lily 9781250142108 \$18.99 306 p.

**Not Now, Not Ever**

Wednesday Books, 2017

There are 3 things that Elliott is absolutely NOT going to do over her summer vacation: sit through her mom's 6th performance of "The Importance of Being Earnest" in a community theater, go to mock trial camp, or go to an Air Force summer program. So instead she changes her name to Ever and runs away to an extremely competitive academic camp. This camp gives away college scholarships to a few lucky people for Science Fiction Literature which is exactly what she wants to do - and is also something that her family would never agree to. While a highly unlikely premise, in the number of things that must come together for Ever to pull this off, the actual story is full of appeal for those who like geeky, nerd drama. It's witty and smart with good character development - but also is going to be a very select audience.

**Age Level:** High School

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Bardugo, Leigh

978-0-399-54973-1

\$18.99

369 p.

**Wonder Woman: Warbringer**, DC Icons Random House, 2017

It's not easy for Diana being the Amazon Queen's daughter and the only one on their island who's not immortal. When she saves a drowning human, it places her entire community in peril, so Diana leaves the island on a quest to end the world's wars. Diana saved Alia Keralis who is a Warbringer and direct descendent of Helen of Troy. As such, Alia is being targeted for assassination to prevent wars, however, even if she is killed, another Warbringer will be born in her place. Diana finds out the only way to save Alia's life and the Amazons' lives is to take the Warbringer to the spring at Therapne in Greece before the sun sets at Helen's tomb. Soon Diana, Alia, and Alia's brother are on a race against time to prevent Alia's death and get her to Helen's tomb while facing dangerous enemies who have some super-human strength of their own. Teens will love the action and fast-paced twists and turns that takes Diana and Alia from the Amazons' remote island to New York and Greece. Enough comedic and romantic moments are sprinkled throughout to let readers pause to breathe.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Barrett Smith, Clete

9780553534665

\$17.99

184 p.

**Mr. 60%**

Crown, 2017

Matt keeps all of his grades at just above 60%, just enough to pass all his classes. He is also the school drug dealer. His principal has it in for him because of these things and is doing his best to get Matt kicked out of school. When Matt is told he has to participate in an extra-curricular activity in order to graduate, he joins a community service group where he meets Amanda. Amanda is an overweight teen with seemingly endless good cheer. Somehow Matt and Amanda become friends - and they are just that: FRIENDS! No romance, no crushes, no love story! YAY! Anyway, what nobody knows is that Matt is selling drugs so that he can buy medicine for his dying uncle, who has no health insurance. This book is a reminder that we don't know what other people have going on in their lives so we shouldn't make instant judgments about them. The message is not shoved down your throat which I appreciate. Although the friendship between Matt and Amanda is a bit unbelievable, I liked the story. I think it will hold appeal for struggling/reluctant readers - and those who just like those gritty kinds of books that are a bit sad and depressing.

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

Beaty, Erin 9781250117946 \$18.99 342 p.  
***The Traitor's Kiss*** Imprint, 2017

Sage Fowler is an orphan in a place and time when being an intelligent woman is not a bonus. Her quick wit makes her smarter than a lot of the men who might marry her, and her parentage is not esteemed enough to make her a valuable political marriage. What she lacks in political benefit, she makes up for with strong powers of observation and a keen understanding of human behavior. It is those very skills that land her with an apprenticeship to one of the most respected matchmakers. The potential partnership is one that Sage is willing to accept, since it keeps her from a loveless marriage. It is that apprenticeship that then lands Sage in a party of young women who are on their way to the capital in preparation for a conclave in which they will all be married off at the behest of the king and to political advantage. Unfortunately, the young women are a prize for an ambitious baron who would use them to his own nefarious purpose. Before long, Sage finds herself in the middle of a plot and helping her military escorts uncover the plans. It is in this setting that Sage also finds herself basking in a growing attraction of a young man who might be the prince. . .or might be the commander. The plethora of scenes with palpitating hearts are a little distracting, but otherwise, this is a great story of political intrigue starring a smart, brave heroine.

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

Beaty, Erin 978-1-250-11794-6 \$18.99 342 p.  
***The Traitor's Kiss*** Imprint, 2017

Sage is quite observant, brutally honest, and totally unfit for marriage according to those around her. Instead she is apprenticed to the local matchmaker and tasked with not only keeping an eye on the girls during their travel to the main city, but also to recommend which eligible bachelor would make a good match. Her astute observation skills catch the notice of an attractive soldier/captain and soon she is recruited to spy for the soldiers too. As the journey progresses, danger increases, and her heart has difficulty staying out of the matching pool. The only complaint I have is that the title does not really reflect the story.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Bell, Eric 978-0-06-256702-4 \$16.99 262 p.  
***Alan Cole is Not a Coward*** Katherine Tegan Books, 2017

Alan Cole is in trouble. His bullying older brother Nathan has forced him to accept a brother-vs-brother challenge. Nathan and Alan must each complete seven tasks—all seemingly impossible. Be the most well-known kid in school? Be kissed for the first time? Stand up to their difficult father? Alan has lost his brother's challenges in the past, but the stakes are higher this time. Nathan is threatening to reveal Alan's biggest secret if he loses. And Alan isn't sure if he's ready to be outed to his whole middle school. Can Alan, with the help of his friends, prove he isn't the coward his brother thinks he is?

**Age Level:** Middle School

Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

Berry, Julie 9781596439580 \$16.99 276 p.  
***The Emperor's Ostrich*** Roaring Brook Press, 2017

The almost Emperor of Camellion is about to be crowned, but not if his ancestors have something to say about it. The emperor is spoiled and unkind, so his ancestors use their magic to set him on a course to educate him. With the help of Begonia, a wandering milk maid looking for her lost cow, and Key, the scraggly boy who follows her, the emperor gets an education in kindness and gratitude. This books if funny, lyrical, and full of magic. By the end of the story, the emperor isn't the only one who's grown.

**Age Level:** Middle School

Katy Olson, Monticello Middle School

Berry, Julie 978-1-59643-958-0 \$16.99  
***The Emperor's Ostrich*** Roaring Brook Press, 2017

Dairymaid Begonia has lost her cow, Alfalfa, and sets out to find the missing beast. She is "helped" along the way by a magic map, a magic mustard pot, a pesky boy who disbelieves in locks, and a runaway emperor with an ostrich. The story is fun, absurd, and silly. Maybe a little too silly, or maybe that's just me. It definitely skews to middle grade and younger.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Too young for YA

Aarene Storms, KCLS

Bowling, Dusti 978-1-4549-2345-9 \$14.95  
***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus*** Sterling, 2017

Aven tells all of her schoolmates that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match or some other cockamamie story, but really, she was born without arms. She is 13, assertive and in a new situation, having moved to a new town and school because her parents manage a tourist Wild West town. Together with Connor, a boy who has Tourette's, she explores the town, also gaining confidence in herself and her friendships. A sweet book about a girl who refuses to be limited.

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Byrne, Elizabeth 9780062484758 \$17.99 310 p.  
***The Grave Keepers*** HarperTeen, 2017

Laurel (13) and Athena (16) Windham live adjacent to a cemetery where there parents are grave keepers. In this alternative universe, people buy and decorate graves which they can—and should—visit to relax, reflect, or just hang out. Typically, it is at the age of 13 that children acquire their graves. It is a huge deal and new grave keepers are gifted many presents with which to decorate their grave. The Windhams struggle to make ends meet, and ever since their second child, daughter Lucy, was killed in a car accident, younger children Athena and Laurel have not been allowed to go to school or be out in public in general until high school age. Athena is now a junior, but hates going to school. She has no friends, feels like an outsider, and generally does not care for education. Laurel longs to go to school, to make friends, to learn, etc. She is ever so jealous of Athena. While Athena is at school, Laurel contents herself by exploring the cemetery and the woods near her house.

She is also keen on fishing and setting traps to catch wildlife, which is a great boon to her poor family. On the last grave opening of the summer, both Laurel and Athena meet potential friends. Athena meets a popular girl from school who is extremely keen on seeing Athena's grave (which goes against the tenets of grave keeping). Laurel meets a boy who has run away from home and set up shop in an old, unlocked (highly unusual) grave. Interspersed in the narrative about Laurel and Athena are interludes involving a hundreds-year-old ghost who lives in the cemetery, enjoys following the girls around (in particular he likes to live precariously through Laurel), and sometimes causes mischief (the Windhams think it's the ghost of Lucy causing all the mischief). The grave keepers is a bit slow and confusing to start, but readers who stick it out will be rewarded with a sweet coming-of-age story about two very different sisters.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Castle, M.E. 978-1-250-10162-4 \$13.99 289 p.

***Star-Crossed in Romeo and Juliet***, FakeSpeare Imprint, 2017

Having a step brother is the worst! Or, at least that's how Becca feels about Sam. He even insists on going with her to pick up a library book at her friend Kyle's house. It's weird that Kyle isn't home, even weirder that they find an old copy of Romeo and Juliet on the floor, and weirdest of all that they get sucked into the book and sent to a version of Verona. The Capulets and Montagues are still rivals (this time because of their competing pizza empires). Becca and Sam are told by "the narrator" (kind of a buttinsky) that they must make sure Romeo and Juliet fall in love or they'll never get home. This silly spin on Romeo and Juliet is pretty fun (and full of flying tomatoes) for elementary and younger middle school readers. Its design is similar to Wimpy Kid, but uses real Shakespearean plot elements and references. Accessible with or without R & J background knowledge.

Recommend grades 4-7.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Grades 4-7

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Cluess, Jessica 978-0-553-53594-5 \$17.99 414 p.

***A Poison Dark and Drowning***, Kingdom on Fire #2 Random House, 2017

Sorcerers are tasked with protecting their communities from the Ancients (horrible monsters with minions) in this Victorianesque England. In book one, Henrietta was thought to be the prophesized chosen one who would save them all. Except, she's not. But, Henrietta's mixed sorcerer and magician blood does afford her special gifts. There is much going on in this book... fighting the increased attacks of the Ancients, trying to save her childhood love from being consumed by shadow and possessed by the Ancients, the romantic advances/hints from two sorcerer friends, and the fear that all of this is somehow her fault. A major plot point is revealed connected to Henrietta's past and hope that the chosen one prophecy is still possible leave readers waiting for book three. Clearly those who loved book one will want this, but it is also a worthy fantasy series to recommend to new readers. Grades 7+.

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

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Coleman, KR 9781512439830 \$26.45 110 p.  
***Signing Day***, GridIron DarbyCreek, 2017

Do you have struggling/reluctant readers looking for a football books that also have a friendship plot-line as well. Do they also want solid writing? And main characters from Hawaii? That's a lot to ask from one hi-lo book, but this one has it all. A solid and engaging book about two good friends who are about to graduate high school and are exploring possible scholarship opportunities on the mainland. I'll be looking to pick up the other books in the series to add to my middle school collection.

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

**Additional Comments:** Price is for library binding. \$7.99 for paperback on Amazon

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Constable, Cathryn 978-1338157444 \$16.99 272 p.  
***The White Tower*** (ARC) Chicken House, 2017

Livy's best friend died over the summer from a blood disease, and Livy is having a hard time being around others when her friend can't. After riding home from school one day and seeing a cute boy from the prestigious White Tower school, she learns from her parents that her dad has just accepted a position as a librarian at the White Tower, they're moving with her younger brother to the school, and Livy will be attending classes there. The headmistress, Dr. Smythe, asks Livy rather peculiar questions during her entrance interview. The mean girls befriend Livy, and a loner, Alex, does as well. As various peculiar things start to happen, like the slight movement Livy can see from the school's sentinels, the weird way she can run light and quick over the rooftops, and the strange boy always hanging around the sentinels, Livy starts looking into the school's history with Alex. She is caught between trusting the previous librarian who was fired for uncertain reasons and Dr. Smythe--which one should she believe? She'll have to figure it out before someone gets hurt. I enjoyed the elements of magic and alchemy, as well as the character relationships. I think students who want light fantasy will enjoy this mix of fantasy, romance, friendship, family, and self-discovery.

**Age Level:** Middle School, grades 3rd-7th

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Cooper, Abby 9780374302900 \$16.99 288 p.  
***Bubbles*** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

Sophie isn't the adventurous girl she used to be and neither is her mom. Her mom isn't interested in much of anything, let alone adventure, since she and Pratik broke up. Even Sophie's friends have noticed a difference, so when their teacher gives them the risk challenge, they enroll Sophie in a possible adventure. Little do they know that not only is Sophie avoiding anything scary, she is struggling with something even stranger. She is seeing bubbles - the kind they use in cartoons to show what a character is thinking. And all the people in her life are starting to reveal all the "sad, stressed-out things" they are thinking. With the help of a therapist, Sophie sets out to figure out the meaning behind these mysterious bubbles that only she can see. As she works to prepare for their risk challenge, the bubbles reveal information that just might derail their plans. Bubbles is whimsical but genuine realistic fiction. Sophie is a smart, real, imaginative, sensitive,

strong-willed protagonist with a lot of heart. Cooper explores anxiety, depression, and how to find your way through (with help, of course).

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

Delacre, Lulu 9780062392145 \$16.99 242 p.  
***Us, in Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos*** Harper, 2017

Delacre started with a true story that a family friend shared with her. She thought more people needed to hear it. Then she found other stories: in newspapers, on the radio, etc. They all tell of Latinos and their varied experiences in the US. They range from immigration to soccer to piano recitals, food, and so much more. They are beautifully illustrated with layered pictures that elaborate the message of diversity, incompleteness, and the need for understanding.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult  
**Additional Comments:** Highly recommended, great addition and much needed diversity  
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Demetrius, Heather 9781627797726 \$17.99 358 p.  
***Bad Romance*** Henry Holt, 2017

This book is exactly what the title suggests: a blow by blow account of a horrible relationship. Grace can't believe her good fortune when, after the break-up of star couple Gavin and Summer, Gavin begins to show interest in Grace. He's everything Grace thinks she needs, but most of all, he's her savior. Somehow, he manages to rescue her from the horrible situation she faces at home with an abusive stepfather and an increasingly neurotic mother. But as the year progresses, Grace begins to discover that the relationship that she found so comforting is really constricting. Added to the mix, Gavin is who she gave her virginity to, creating a bond that sticks tight despite the dysfunction. Told as a Grace's reflection over the year, readers will find themselves spiraling along with Grace into a love that turns sour. The author's note and list of resources at the end make this a title that, while intended for mature audiences, should definitely be shared with young women who are entering romantic and sexual relationships.

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

Demetrius, Heather 978-1-62779-772-6 \$17.99  
***Bad Romance*** Henry Holt, 2017

Grace has a rough relationship with her mom and dad. She wants out of the house, so when she runs across Gavin, a musical, charming young man, she is thrilled with his attention. And his attention seems so deep and thorough. He is quite controlling, but Grace needs the attention, until Gavin becomes abusive. Still, she sticks around, even though all of her friends are encouraging her to dump him. This is a brutally insightful book on why girls stay in abusive relationships. High school and up

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

Dyer, Heather 978-1-77138-203-8 \$15.95 143 p.

***Magic in the City***

Kids Can Press, 2017

Brothers Jake, 11, and Simon, 6, are not too happy to be moving with their mom from their home in Canada to their aunt's house in England. Their house has been repossessed and their dad is in prison. Feeling discouraged, the boys are surprised when they encounter a magician on the streets of London that gives them three special objects: a carpet, a stopwatch, and a camera. First they try out the magic carpet and sail all around London exploring all the big tourist attractions causing quite the stir. Then their cousin Hannah, 10, joins them at Buckingham Palace where the true madcap adventures begin and carry them through space and time and allows them to meet dangerous and entertaining characters--- even the Queen. Younger readers looking for a fun, magical fantasy story will love this tale.

**Age Level:** Too young for YA, Grades 3-6

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Fayers, Claire

9781627794213

\$16.99

292 p.

***The Journey to Dragon Island***, The Accidental Pirates #2 Henry Holt, 2017

This is the follow-up to *The Voyage to Magical North* and picks up pretty much where it left off. In this installment, the pirate ship Onion—captained by Cassie O’Pia—is headed to Western Island (Also called Dragon Island), the alleged nesting place of extinct dragons, where Brine Seaborne hopes to discover her home and her parents. She has a small dragon with her, so she knows they exist somewhere. They are joined by Tom, a librarian, and Peter, a budding magician, who is haunted throughout by the ghost of super-evil magician Marfak West. Magic runs amok for the crew—giant sea spiders, seaweed that grows into a sea monster—because the lack of dragons in the world has led to an excess of magic. When they do find the island, they encounter people who have the same dark skin as Brine, but are a divided community, and the island is overrun with attacking dinosaurs and sinking sand holes. The floating castle houses the magicians of the island, and the need to keep the volcano from erupting seems to be tied to the impossible castle. The chief magician, Belen Kaya, claims to be Brine’s father—clearly, he has known her all her life—and knows her abilities. There is plenty of action—pirate attacks, dinosaur and dragon battles, magic surprises, escape attempts, betrayal—to keep fans of the first book interested. The journey is left open to be continued. Chapters lead off with goofy quotations and recipes, as in the first book.

**Age Level:** Middle School

Elizabeth Metcalf, Redmond Middle School

Feener, Chani Lynn

978-1-250-12376-3

\$17.99

357 p.

***Amid the Stars and Darkness***, The Xenith Trilogy #1 Swoon Reads, 2017

Delaney Grace cannot figure out why she was just rather roughly kidnapped by a couple of aliens. She never had much interest in them compared with her friend and roommate, Mariana. And, why does one of them, Ruckus, call her Lissa and Olena? It isn't until she sees herself in the mirror that she begins to figure it out: She's been "changed" to look like the daughter of the rulers of Xenith, a planet several dozen light years away. As if being told she might not ever get her face back isn't enough bad news, once the aliens who kidnapped her, the Vakar, discover their mistake, rather than taking her home, they "ask" her to pose as the princess to prevent an inter-planetary war while the search for real princess continues on Earth. With little information to go on, other than the fact that no

one seems to really like the Lissa, Delaney has to convince the Zane, a Kint from a rival planet, that she is his despised betrothed. It isn't made any easier when several assassination attempts are made on her life--one by the Zane himself. Ruckus helps Delaney navigate through each new trial, and after several weeks both find themselves more attracted to one another, yet another obstacle preventing her return to Earth. However, help comes to her from an unexpected person and soon it seems she'll be going home. It's a strangely compelling read: the author simply makes an alien culture a part of the Earth "landscape" without much in the way of explanation. There aren't many differences between the aliens and Earthlings overall, and too many convenient commonalities between the various alien cultures and Earth's. Yet, somehow the story works. The characters are strong and well-developed, the plot has some twists and turns that keep it from becoming predictable, and it can be remarkably funny in places. It is surprisingly a good novel--that ends with a cliff-hanger. Best for high school audiences and for students who can suspend their disbelief when faced with a lack of contextual development.

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

Gale, Emily	9780062656742	\$16.99	313 p.
<b><i>The Other Side of Summer</i></b>	HarperCollins, 2016		

The year Summer is 13, her older brother Floyd is killed in a bomb blast at Waterloo Station in London. Her family is becoming fractured in their grief, which is split wide open when Floyd's guitar—which was with him at the station—is return completed undamaged some weeks later. Summer's grief is intensified by her affinity for the Ibanez Artwood guitar, which he was teaching her to play. Her mother has retreated entirely from the family and her sister Wren has become bleak and angry. In a desperate attempt to salvage the family, Summer's dad decides to move them all to Australia, his childhood home, with only two weeks' notice. At the last moment, their mother stays behind, leaving Summer and wren alone with their father in Australia. While Wren begins to lighten up and find herself again in Melbourne, while Summer struggles with her new anger and finds solace in the guitar, through which she has conversations with Floyd and, additionally, seems to summon the spirit of a local boy, Gabe. While she can't work out whether he is a ghost or something out of the dream world, he is her friend and shares her love of music and the guitar. Once she realizes that Gabe does not know his own circumstances, she works to uncover who he is and what his connections to Floyd is. Not your typical story of a family coming to terms with their grief and coming back together, but touching and layered, as it shows each member of the family experiencing their mourning in a different way. Interesting additions: each chapter is titled "The Other Side of..." and one of Floyd's "original" songs for guitar at the end of the book.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High  
 Elizabeth Metcalf, Redmond Middle School

Gamble, Paul	978-1-250-07683-0	\$16.99	378 p.
<b><i>The Monster's Daughter</i></b> , Ministry of SUITs #2	Feiwel & Friends, 2017		

Jack, age 12, has only been a secret operative for the Ministry of Strange, Unusual, and Impossible Things (SUITs) for one week and he's already saved Northern Ireland once. Jack

has joined the Ministry of SUITs to help them deal with strange creatures that most people think don't exist, like vampires, dinosaurs, and pirates. Time flies quickly in this book that has Jack and his partner, Moody Trudy, tracking the trail of a bizarre mystery that will involve dastardly villains, strange creatures, fracking, and bath bombs that really do explode. This second book in the series follows the same format as the first: zany action and adventure, humorous narration--that involves a plethora of footnotes-- and comical sections of the Ministry's Handbook added between chapters, such as Contacting Superheroes: The Use of Spotlights. Younger readers who enjoyed the first book will like this one too, even if it seems problems are luckily solved in strange ways.

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

Gier, Kerstin 978-1-62779-080-2 \$18.99 349 p.  
*Just Dreaming*, The Silver Trilogy #3 Henry Holt, 2017

Liv and her friends can still travel in dreams, but so can Anabel and Arthur, two evil dreamwalkers. Liv and her friends are attempting to seal off Anabel and Arthur in the dream world so they cannot do harm, but they seem powerful and impossible to stop. Book three of the series, not Gier's best work, but a good continuation of the series, if you have found the other two popular. Some discussion of sex, but off page and in the future, not consummated. Ages 13-18

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

Girard, Geoffrey 978-1512427790 \$17.99 360 p.  
*Truthers* Carolrhoda Lab, 2017

Katie Wallace is launched into 9/11 conspiracy theories when her father is arrested and held in a mental hospital after he attacks his coworkers, all the while shouting about Dick Cheney and a 9/11 conspiracy. When Katie visits him, he divulges she is not his daughter. Instead, he's protected her for years after her mother was killed under suspicious circumstances when her plane was rerouted to Cleveland on September 11, 2001. Katie doesn't know what to believe, but loyalty propels her to figure out what happened and save her dad. With the help of a brilliant hacker, Max Thompson, a lawyer, and some of her dad's mysterious connections, Katie takes on the FBI, CIA and other unknown dangerous entities to see if she can unravel this mystery, save her dad and figure out the truth. But when there are seemingly endless versions of the truth and conflicting evidence, who or what can Katie trust? Katie is a critical protagonist, supporting characters offer evidence and viewpoints ranging from extreme government skepticism to unwavering patriotism. 9/11 conspiracies are indulged but not exactly validated. Katie's quest leads her to other possible explanations of her father's breakdown. Plot gets a little bogged down in sifting through evidence and theories, but there's enough mystery, twists, romance & past secrets to engage readers. Recommended for those who like exploring conspiracies, mysteries, and father-daughter relationships.

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

Girard, M E 978-0062404176 \$17.99 384 p.

***Girl Mans Up***

HarperCollins, 2016

*Girl Mans Up* is about Pen, a fully developed character discovering her strength in harrowing times. Pen is the daughter of Portuguese immigrants in urban Canada. She hangs with the guys she’s been playing computer games with forever, but their leader, Colby, has been developing into a jerk, and she is the first to resist. In these moments of independence, she will tell herself to ‘man up.’ The author, M-E Girard never minces words, and while the phrase ‘man up’ is overused, I enjoyed the slang of teen boys. Oddly but charmingly befriended by Colby’s ex, she is surprised by the possibility of romance with a beautiful girl. Other interpersonal and family conflicts develop. I read of infuriating insults to the LGBTQ I didn’t know. Pen dresses in her older brother’s clothes, cuts her hair short, and refuses to fit her mother’s conventional notion of femininity. Her brother supports his sister’s identity as a lesbian, but he might not be enough to get Pen safely to adulthood. Definitely one of the best YA I’ve read this year.

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

Goo, Maureen 978-0374304041 \$17.99 336 p.  
***I Believe in a Thing Called Love*** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

Desi is student body president, and can accomplish anything with a plan, especially great grades. But she’s never had a boyfriend. She decides senior year is it, she picks a cute boy, but now what? She needs a plan. She and her dad become addicted to K-pop shows, Korean soap operas, and Desi realizes that every romance follows a structure. She takes out her notebook after about 50 pages, and lists the 24 s”K Drama Steps to True Love.’ Be caught in a lopsided Love Triangle; Life threatening event makes him realize how real his love is; Betrayal time are all included. Luca is the victim of her plan for ‘true love’ and when the steps don’t automatically happen, Desi manufactures and manipulates them. Her two best friend side-kicks are great, but she will need to learn that love means falling, real emotion is more than a formulaic plan and your lover is a person in his own right. I liked that the narrator was Korean, her friend was gay, and Desi was over-the top. No sex, little drinking, lots of glib slangy girl-talk.

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

Gout, Leopoldo 9781250045829 \$17.99 352 p.  
***Genius: The Con, Genius #2*** Feiwel & Friends, 2017

*The Con* picks up where *Genius: The Game* leaves off, with the Tunde, Painted Wolf and Rex on the run. Using underground hacker support, the three figure out a way to sneak out of the country and find themselves back in Tunde's Nigerian village. The warlord has been awaiting Tunde's arrival with the jammer, and in the meantime, he has transformed Tunde's peaceful village into a mining town, digging for a precious mineral used in electronics. The three know they need to free Tunde's village from the oppressive hand of the general, so they devise a con to trick the general into a trap that just might get rid of him forever. The general's daughter and arrival of the warlord's mysterious partner complicate matters. Kiran is still in the periphery and Rex is still on the hunt for his brother. *Genius: The Con* is fast-paced, smart and fun. The characters are bigger than life but still feel genuine. A bit of romance develops between Painted Wolf & Rex, but nothing

that distracts from the plot. And the general devotion and camaraderie the characters feel for one another makes you root for all three. Great follow up to the first and sets up nicely for a sequel. Those who enjoyed the Game will surely enjoy the Con!

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

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Gout, Leopoldo 978-1-250-04582-9 \$18.99

**Genius: The Con**, Genius #2 Feiwel & Friends, 2017

Book two in the series, this has the three kids who won the programming contest in book one on the run. They must hack into seemingly everything to get to a small African nation where one of them lives, only to find that a crooked African general is enslaving his people to dig precious metals used in high-tech items from directly under his own village. The kids trick the general into explaining his operation by appearing as tech buyers and they eventually get him to cross national boundaries by hacking his GPS, until he can be arrested by world authorities. If kids liked the first one, they will like this too, super-fast paced and full of computer jargon. MS appropriate through 10th grade.

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Greenwald, Lisa 9780062411747 \$16.99 396 p.

**11 Before 12** Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

Kaylan and her best friend Arianna are about to start middle school. In order to make the transition more manageable, they make a list of 11 things to do before they turn 12 in November. (Hence, 11 before 12). Sadly, the list works against them instead of for them and actually threatens to destroy their friendship completely. For fans of Lauren Myracle and Wendy Mass. Perfect for middle school (and the upper elementary kids about to transition).

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Grylls, Bear 978-1-250-11150-0 \$16.99

**Spirit of the Jungle**, New Jungle Book Adventures Feiwel & Friends, 2017

Somewhat of a retelling of the Mowgli Jungle Book story, but in modern times with a modern kid. No talking animals, just a Indian-American kid surviving after an accident with a rogue wave that separates him from his parents. Cared for, in a fashion, by wolves, he tries to travel toward civilization, but runs across several dangers. Somewhat realistic, he gets into all sorts of scrapes before rescue. 4th-8th grades

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Heathfield, Lisa 9781512482416 \$18.99 266 p.

**Paper Butterflies** Carolrhoda Lab, 2017

June is bi-racial and her abusive white stepmother holds this fact (and other things) against her. Dad is oblivious to what is going on. June finds refuge with her friend Blister in their secret hideout and also with his large, boisterous family. They are warm and accepting, and seem to realize that something is wrong with June's home life but don't intervene. A few



man, Gabe, who seems able to see her when she hides and hear her when she whispers. She hides her origins from him, not wanting to risk his rejection because of her carnie background. The escalation of attacks, however, force a variety of secrets to surface, not all of which were predictable, but a couple that become life-changing. I'm always a bit wary of "carnival" stories, but this one had well-developed characters and a fairly decent plot. It is set in the late 1980s, which never really is adequately explained, perhaps because fewer traveling carnivals are still in existence today.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

**Additional Comments:** Carnivals, paranormal abilities, monsters and werewolves: what's not to like?

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Honeybourn, Jennifer	9781250123732	\$10.99	230 p.
<b><i>Wesley James Ruined My Life</i></b>	Swoon Reads, 2017		

No one can hold a grudge better than Quinn Hardwick. When her best friend Wesley James ruined her life five years ago by blabbing a secret to her parents that caused their divorce, Quinn swore she'd never forgive him. So when he moves back to town and she's forced to see him at school and at work, she's determined to make him pay. When her plans to get him fired from work and never talk to him again backfire, she may be facing the reality that it's not going to be easy. If only he wasn't so likeable and cute. On top of Wesley return, she is also dealing with her father's gambling addiction and her grandmother's Alzheimers. Completely predictable and short, this romance is great for those kids in the library who enjoy a little romance.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Katy Olson, Monticello Middle School

Jones, Kelly	9780553535204	\$17.99	294 p.
<b><i>Murder, Magic, and What We Wore</i></b>	Alfred A. Knopf, 2017		

London, 1818. Annis has just found out that her beloved father is dead and she is penniless. So what else would she do but decide to become a spy? Sadly, the spymaster is not in agreement with this decision, so she sets out to prove him wrong, using her skills sewing glammers to do it. A fun and engaging regency read with lots of humor and hat tips to other literary characters - such as Jacky Faber (from the Bloody Jack series). Jones wrote to multiple authors to receive permission to include them in this work and they are all listed in the back. I am hopeful that there will be a sequel. Best suited 6th-8th but could easily go up or down a grade or two and up to adult.

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

**Additional Comments:** Our very own Brenna Shanks and Aarene Storms are mentioned in the Acknowledgments!

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Karim, Sheba	9780062486462	\$17.99	282 p.
<b><i>That Thing We Call a Heart</i></b>	Balzer + Bray, 2017		

Shabnam is finishing up her senior year of high school when her rebellious bestie starts wearing hijab daily. While both girls are Pakistani-American, Shabnam is not religious, and Farah's family is Muslim. Feeling adrift after graduation as her two gay friends set off for a

summer trip, Farah and Shabnam are no longer speaking to each other for reasons Shabnam is not entirely sure of. A chance meeting in the mall with a cute blonde boy, leads to a part-time summer job selling pies in the park. Overwhelmed with feelings of love for Jamie and uncertainty of where the relationship is going, Shabnam insists Farah come back into her life so she has someone to discuss her love life with. She's sure Jamie is the one, and as she teaches him about Urdu poetry [which her father has a passion for], she finds that Jamie isn't very interested in her as a person, but rather things about her culture from her food, to poetry, to friends. Back home, Shabnam's hardworking mother seems to be neglected by her father, and Shabnam learns that she was a miracle child after a string of miscarriages.

**Age Level:** High School

**Additional Comments:** Contains underage drinking and pot use, kissing and talk of sex, swearing.

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Keely Hutton 9780374305635 \$17.99 336 p.

***Soldier Boy***

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

*Soldier Boy* tells two stories: Ricky Anwar, stolen from his village along with his brother and forced to fight for guerrilla warlord, Joseph Koney's NRA, and the story of Samuel, a compilation of many Ugandan child soldiers trying to come to terms with horrors experienced at Koney's hands. Ricky shares how he was trained, armed and forced to battle government troops. Koney's rebel leaders brainwash their kidnapped troops to believe Koney, filled with the Holy Spirit, can see into their souls. Escape is futile because Koney will find & kill them. Only those loyal to Koney will survive battle. Through the unbearable horrors of civil war under the cruel fist of the NRA, Ricky and his brother, Patrick, promise each other to survive and someday return home. Twenty years later, Samuel awakens, fearful and unable to trust, in a rehabilitation center. There he sees children, scarred and battered much like himself, try to come to terms with their own stories, and hears the story of Ricky, a child soldier like him. *Soldier Boy* is filled with terror, heartbreak, brutality, and frustration. But also with resiliency and hope. Although filled with violence and unbelievable atrocities, the writing is not gratuitous. An important book for everyone to read.

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

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Kessler, Liz 978-0-7636-9162-2 \$17.99 371 p.

***Haunt Me***

Candlewick Press, 2016

Sixteen-year-old Erin is trying to be positive about moving to a small coastal town since her parents did it to give her a second chance after some traumatic experiences. Erin is drawn to the upstairs bedroom with a bay window--not knowing that it's haunted by the boy who used to live there, Joe. The story's narration alternates between Erin and Joe. Joe's memories are hazy, but he's so drawn to her that one day he is shocked when their hands make actual contact. Despite being initially freaked, Erin adapts quickly to this ghost boy in her bedroom and soon the two are falling in love. Then one day at school, Erin runs into Joe's brother, Olly. Now Olly is added as a narrator and this story turns into a love triangle. Erin loves Joe but knows she needs a real relationship. It's only a matter of time before

things escalate when the truth about Joe is revealed to Erin's parents and to Olly who has no idea that his brother is a ghost. Teens will love this haunting love story and not mind the insta-love between Erin and Joe. There's enough action and mystery for non-romance finds to like this one too.

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

Kowitt, Holly 9781250091321 \$16.99 216 p.  
***The Principals' Underwear is Missing*** Feiwel & Friends, 2017

When 6th grader Becca hits a wild volleyball that breaks popular 8th grader "Selfie" St Clair's arm, she thinks her days are numbered. However, she has started a crazy series of events that open her eyes to a side of middle school that she never knew existed before, especially when the principals' DDD bra disappears and she and Selfie need to find it before it gets run up the flagpole on school-wide TV.

I picked this up as an addition for the humor unit that our 8th grade English class does every year. It definitely has lots of middle school humor... Could be a good read-alike for fans of Dork Diaries.

**Age Level:** Middle School  
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Kowitt, Holly 9781250091321 \$16.99 216 p.  
***The Principal's Underwear is Missing*** Feiwel & Friends, 2017

Rebecca Birnbaum is a "lowly" sixth grader interested in science, math and debate. Popular Sloan "Selfie" St. Clair is the queen of eighth grade and rules the school with her entourage of mean girls. To make up for accidentally injuring Selfie, Becca offers to do her a favor: retrieve a shopping bag that has been confiscated by the principal. Things take a turn when Selfie informs Becca that the garment in the bag—not Selfie's glitter socks, but the principal's DDD bra—is now missing after showing it off to the Fashion Club. The unlikely partners team up to retrieve the principal's unmentionables before they are part of a public prank. Some laugh out loud moments. Friend groups are made up of flat/stereotypical characters, but both girls transcend their "roles" and are willing to defend the other to their friends. Silly with a message about judging others and what it takes to be a friend. Cartoon drawings throughout.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Too young for YA  
Elizabeth Metcalf, Redmond Middle School

Krawitz, Susan 978-0823437566 \$16.95 233 p.  
***Viva, Rose!*** Holiday House, 2017

It's 1915, and Rose has just found out her older brother, Abe, has deceived her family. Instead of heading off to be a cowboy, he has joined a group of outlaws. Frustrated by her Jewish parents trying to force her into feminine roles and marry her off to new Jewish immigrants, Rose has had enough and sets out to get a letter to her brother. Instead, she's kidnapped by the very group of banditos that Abe has joined. Pancho Villa, the leader, has a beautiful, willful young girl with him [who Rose suspects is his daughter], and Dorotea immediately takes a liking to the older Rose. Rose becomes Dorotea's forced friend, playmate, and nanny throughout the story of her week with the outlaws. Rose tries hard to

be kind to the spoiled Dorotea, and at times Dorotea's mercurial nature softens, but it is more often prickly. "Viva Rose!" is based off of real events that occurred during the Mexican Revolution, and was inspired by relatives of the author who lived during that time.

**Age Level:** Middle School

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Landman, Tanya 978-0-7636-8875-2 \$17.99 312 p.  
***Hell and High Water*** Candlewick Press, 2017

It's 1752 in England. Caleb and his dad travel the country with their outrageous Punch and Judy puppet show to make ends meet. Caleb is used to the stares and comments he gets from strangers that call him a "darkie." Caleb doesn't share his dad's pale skin nor his dad's outgoing personality. Then one day his dad ends up being sent to the colonies for a crime he didn't commit. Caleb's dad tells him to go find an aunt he never knew about. His Aunt Anne is shocked to meet him and her step-daughter, Letty, despises him on sight. Anne and Letty are scrambling to earn rent money since Anne's husband, Edward, is out at sea. The two work in the house sewing and washing laundry. One day at the beach, Caleb spies a bloated dead body that is wearing his dad's unique signet ring, but later the parson and Sir Fairbrother deny that the body is his dad's and that there was ever a ring on the body. Letty and Caleb unite in the cause to find out the truth and undertake dangerous actions to solve this mystery. They need to tread carefully because Sir Fairbrother owns all their land so they could end up homeless or worse. Modern issues of justice, race, corruption, and greed drive this captivating historical fiction story that's based on the real sinking of the ship Nightingale in 1752.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Leno, Katrina 978-0-06-249309-5 \$17.99 360 p.  
***Everything All at Once*** HarperTeen, 2017

Lottie is a senior in high school who is mourning the death of her beloved Aunt Helen who is the world-renowned author of the Alvin Hatter books that holds the Guinness record for best selling children's series of all time. Lottie always had a special bond with her Aunt Helen because they both suffered from anxiety. After being diagnosed cancer, Aunt Helen knew her death would affect Lottie the most so she left her 24 letters. Each letter is full of her aunt's sparkle, humor, advice, and most of all--her unwavering love for Lottie. Each letter ends with a dare for Lottie to do as only someone who knows her very well could ask her to complete. Teen girls will enjoy Lottie's journey of self-discovery. Along the way, there's some mystery and romance that keeps the plot moving along nicely. Astute readers will figure things out earlier than Lottie, but still enjoy the adventures. This is an enjoyable story with lots of heart that will have readers cheering Lottie forward in her life and wishing they were lucky enough to have an Aunt Helen of their own.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Lyall, Casey 978-1-4549-1955-1 \$14.95  
***Howard Wallace, PI: Shadow of a Pug*** Sterling, 2017

Howard and Ivy are PI's that have been banned from investigating at school. But that doesn't stop these noirish teens from investigating the theft of the basketball team's pug mascot, Spartacus, right before the grudge game versus their biggest rivals. Suspects abound and only good sleuthing will figure it out. Grades 4th-8th

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Maciel, Amanda 978-0-06-230533-6 \$17.99 309 p.  
**Lucky Girl** Balzer + Bray, 2017

Rosie Fuller is beautiful--all the boys at school want to date her, even older men stare at her and make passes. She's always taken her good looks for granted, and she's used them to entice and manipulate others to get what she wants. Then, her best friend, Maddie, comes back from a summer in Spain with a new look that gets a lot of attention, especially from Rosie's boyfriend du jour, Cory, Rosie wonders if she's feeling envious. Toggling between envy at her friend and guilt at feeling envy, Rosie breaks it off with Cory so that he and Maddie can pursue a relationship. Feeling smug at her "sacrifice," Rosie carries on in her care-free, oblivious lifestyle until a fateful night during a devastating tornado when everyone whose anyone is boozing it up at local "storm party." During a power outage, Rosie is attacked and nearly raped by Cory, but is "saved" when the lights go back on and standing there to see it all is her best friend, Maddie. Rosie's life is turned upside-down as the once "lucky girl" is thrust into a new awareness of what it means to be victimized--and begins to recognize all the little ways her good looks had compromised her awareness of how she was being treated by others. Without Maddie, Rosie feels genuinely lost, and only the "new kid," a regional hero, Alex, who stopped a shooting at his previous school, seems to truly treat Rosie like a human being, not a sex object. Tragedy and the feeling of isolation bring Rosie and Alex together as friends, and for the first time, Rosie begins to understand the value of getting to know a person as a person rather than rushing straight to sex. This could be a story about waking up to one's feminist awareness and what being beautiful and female means to the outside world. High school only--some graphic sexual violence and frank sexual discussion.

**Age Level:** High School

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Marr, Melissa 978-0-06-208416-3 \$17.99 353 p.  
**One Blood Ruby**, Seven Black Diamonds #2 Harper, 2017

The Black Diamonds are half-blood 'sleeper' fairies programmed to disrupt the peace between the humans and the fey. Lily Abernathy is not only the daughter of the most powerful mob boss in the human world, she is also heir to the crown in the fey world. As the attacks on humanity increase, she, her boyfriend rock star, and their friends (Black Diamonds) must uncover the source and prevent a war between the worlds.

**Age Level:** High School

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

McDaniel, Lurlene 9780385744232 \$17.99 310 p.  
**Somebody's Baby**, Losing Gabriel #2 Delacorte, 2017



to dance. She often wondered if it was because she knew so much about subjects typically reserved "for boys." After graduating high school, Margaret began her study in herpetology, but near the end of her first year in college her father suddenly died of a stroke and left the family in financial straits. Her chances at returning to school looked bleak until a philanthropic neighbor stepped in and offered to support Margaret's education and pursuit of "fame and fortune." It was at this time that Margaret picked up her father's lifetime hobby of photography--receiving a worn, used camera from her mother, she began to take photos of her college campus, particularly the architecture and details of building structures. Within a year, she changed her focus from herpetology to photography, and with the help of various people along the way, she began to make a name for herself as a professional photographer. By the time she was in her mid-twenties she became a staff photographer of Henry Luce's Time magazine, and was a featured photographer for Fortune and Life magazines, having photographed the Fort Peck Dam for the front cover of the first issue of Life magazine. She lived an exciting and hard-working life, often studying and shooting photographs in the early mornings and evenings, and then developing the film throughout the night. She fell in love and married twice, but she could never "settle down" like her husband's wanted her to do, and this led to conflicts and finally, divorce. During the late 1930s and 1940s, Margaret became a war correspondent, and was in Moscow shooting pictures as Hitler's planes bombed the city. She was ambitious and driven and as a result, she became famous, and throughout most of her life, wealthy enough to dress as fashionably as she desired. Although a novel, *Girl with a Camera*, covers the first 40 years of Margaret Bourke-White's life and love of the camera and photography. Carolyn Meyer creates first-person narrative that is generally true to the life of this famous, ground-breaking photographer, in a hi-lo style that would attract readers from upper elementary through high school. I'm not always a historical-fiction fan, but this book was difficult to put down once I got started. Highly recommended for hi-lo readers, both HS and MS.

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

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Nazemian, Abdi	9780062486462	\$17.99	282 p.
<b><i>The Authentics</i></b>	Balzer + Bray, 2017		

What makes a person truly authentic? Daria thought she knew, and that's why she and her friends call themselves the Authentics. As a foursome, Caroline [an out lesbian], Joy [Nigerian-American], Kurt [his friends aren't sure of his orientation], and Daria proclaimed to be true to themselves and others, and they look down upon the popular "Persian princesses" who are referred to as "the Nose Jobs." Led by Daria's ex bestie, Heidi and the Nose Jobs enjoy torturing Daria and her friends. The Authentics decide to take DNA tests to find out more about their pasts. Daria is stunned to find that she is half Mexican, but she's always identified as a proud Iranian-American, daughter of two Iranian immigrants and cannot understand why she was never told such an important detail about herself. After some digging, Daria finds out that was adopted at birth and that her birth mother's name is Encarnación. When Daria goes to confront Encarnación, she instead meets her birth mother's attractive step-son, who she nicknames Iglesias. The two hit it off, and when it comes time to reveal who she is to her birthmother, she is caught in a sticky lie. More family complications ensue, and Daria's anger toward her parents increases because of

their lie by omission. Daria eventually comes to realize that family isn't so straight-forward, and hers has many branches that are related and care for her in different ways. An enjoyable realistic fiction / romance with lots of diversity.

**Age Level:** High School

Additional Comments: Contains underage drinking, kissing  
Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Nix, Garth and Williams, Sean                      978-0-545-25902-6                      \$17.99                      288 p.  
***Have Sword, Will Travel***                      Scholastic, 2017

Humor, fantasy, young teens and enchanted, talking swords. Eleanor and Odo are friends who find an ancient sword in the river, which is now just a trickle. When it talks to Odo and knights him, he is sent to find out why the river is declining. Eleanor goes as his squire, but wishes to be a knight too. They face old dragons, other evil knights and a sarcastic sword. Funny and appropriate for 4th-8th grades.

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Odhiambo, Eucabeth A.                      9781512427844                      \$17.99                      297 p.  
***Auma's Long Run***                      Carolrhoda Lab, 2017

Alma is different from other girls in her small Kenyan village. She doesn't want to just get married. She is smart and a track star. She wants to get a scholarship, go to school and be a doctor. When a mysterious deadly disease begins to kill off many of her neighbors and friends, Alma is afraid and even more determined to enter the world of medicine and find a cure. When the disease touches close to home, Alma's entire future is at risk. Set during the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic in Africa, Alma's Long Run is a heartbreaking piece of historical fiction exploring a time of confusion and fear, but also relevant today.

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

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Oseman, Alice                      978-0-06-233571-5                      \$17.99                      473 p.  
***Radio Silence***                      HarperTeen, 2017

Frances Janvier is going to Cambridge. She's the head girl in Year 13 and the top in her class. Her only hobby is studying and prepping for admission process to get into Cambridge as a literature major. She doesn't have any close friends at school, and often feels socially awkward around groups of other students. Her obsession is listening to and sketching visualizations of a YouTube fantasy weekly called Universe City narrated by the mysterious and illusive narrator, Radio Silence. When she gets an email from Radio about doing cover art for the serial, she is both terrified and excited. And, then something strange and wonderful happens: She actually meets Radio Silence, and he is none other than the twin brother, Aled Last, of her former friend and crush, Carys Last. Almost immediately Frances and Aled, who is shy and very reserved to the point of eccentricity, become deep friends, nothing more, but their love for each other is palpable. Yet, adversity finds its way into their lives when what was meant to be kept secret is suddenly made public. Aled feels betrayed when Frances is inadvertently responsible for revealing his secret identity as the creator of Universe City, and Frances, in despair and uncertainty, blows her chance at Cambridge. After leaving for university the next fall, Aled becomes

more and more distant from Frances and his would-be lover, Daniel, and it is only after listening to the tragic disintegration of Aled's recent and unrehearsed episodes of Universe City does Frances realize she needs the help of his estranged sister, Carys, to bring him back from the brink of possible suicide. This is a terrifically intense and emotional story of new adults trying to figure out who they are and what is meaningful in their lives. Definitely high school. Explores themes of bi-sexuality and asexuality, deep platonic relationships, and destructive/dysfunctional parenting.

**Age Level:** High School

**Additional Comments:** A superb story and novel overall. My oral review did this book no justice.

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Philbrick, Rodman	9780545789783	\$8.00	192 p.
<b><i>Who Killed Darius Drake?</i></b>	Blue Sky Press, 2017		

Young Darius, smart, resident of an orphanage, receives a mysterious note about his own death, and hires school bully Arthur (with candy) to help him investigate. The chase involves how his parents died, where his grandfather is, an ex-convict with a scarred face, a spooky old house, Arthur's well-off step-sister, a wealthy man cheated by the grandfather, and a long-missing diamond necklace. Along the way, the boys form a friendship – which each could really use -- without realizing it. And the step-sister isn't so bad, either. Who's trustworthy is mysterious till very near the end. The sleuthing and action is almost believable, and fun. The point of view is Arthur's, which is refreshing, though perhaps a bit too erudite. There's no specific age or grade mentioned, but they seem youngish middle school. There's only the merest hint of abashed attraction.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, gr. 5-9

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Phillips, Rebecca	978-0-06-257090-1	\$17.99	334 p.
<b><i>These Things I've Done</i></b>	HarperTeen, 2017		

Dara is back home for senior year ready to face "what's coming to her". Her best friend, Aubrey, died at the end of their sophomore year and Dara blames herself. She's spent the last year struggling with her grief and guilt and worried that by staying away at her aunt's she was letting herself off the hook. Dara's sure everyone at school thinks she's a murderer especially Aubrey's little brother, Ethan. But, when she sees Ethan for the first time it's clear that of all the emotions he feels, hate isn't one of them. Facing Ethan's kindness is almost harder for Dara than if he'd just despise her. This novel dealt really well with the ideas of grief, guilt and loss. It periodically flashes back to the events of sophomore year leading up to Aubrey's death so the reader can see what really happened and decide if Dara deserves all the blame she places on herself. Highly recommend. 9+ due to sex (although done gracefully) and some alcohol use.

**Age Level:** High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Reintgen, Scott	978-0-399-55679-1	\$17.99	
<b><i>Nyxia</i></b>	Crown, 2017		

Emmett launches into space with 9 other candidates in a Hunger Games in space type competition to see who will get to go on a space mission that will set all their families up for perpetuity. He makes some friends, some enemies and comes into contact with a strange, black, fluid substance called Nyxia that is part of the challenges and team-building exercises they are put through in space. Not my favorite, somewhat derivative of books like Hunger Games and Ender's Game, but kids will likely enjoy it. 7th-12th grades

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Rue, Ginger 9781585369478 \$16.95 356 p.  
**Hard Rock**, Tig Ripley #2 Sleeping Bear Press, 2017

A well-paced sequel to *Rock 'n' Roll Rebel*. The girl band Pandora's Box is back together and experiencing growing pains. Tig's cousin Kyra is not pulling her weight as a musician, which may or may not be the result of her parents' divorce. Tig has to navigate the dynamics of friends and family as she eventually decides to kick Kyra out of the band. To add to the middle school drama, a new girl from another school has taken Kyra's place, changing the band, and another band member is dating the boy Tig likes. Rue handles all of this angst adeptly and thoughtfully without being preachy. Tig grows as the band's leader and as a person as she befriends a former enemy, makes new friends, and finds her first love. Definitely too young for HS; purchase is there is an audience for the first book.

**Age Level:** Middle School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Schwab, Victoria 9780062683342 \$17.99 510 p.  
**Our Dark Duet**, Monsters of Verity #2 Greenwillow Books, 2017

6 months after *This Savage Song*, Kate is hiding out in Prosperity. With the help of a motley crew of hackers, she's on a personal quest to kill as many monsters as she can. Meanwhile, August is helping to lead the FTF after Leo's death. Gone is the sweet, soulful August who longs to be human; a steely, ultra-focused sinner reaper remains. Sloan, accompanied by the newly-created monster, Alice, lead the war on humans in Verity. When Kate encounters a new monster turning humans against humans, she heads back to Verity to see if August and Henry Flynn's clan will join forces to stop this monster she names, Chaos Eater. Most of the FTF members distrust Kate, daughter of Harker, but she is tougher than ever, ready to fight & challenge August's new identity. Those who loved the first book will likely be more than satisfied with the second in this duology. Some readers might be frustrated with the ending, but the action, August's & Kate's evolution, and a new, mysterious, more dangerous monster will probably be enough for most. Recommended for fans of action, horror and the dystopian genre.

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

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Self, Jeffery 978-1338118407 \$10.99 240 p.  
**A Very, Very Bad Thing** Scholastic, 2017

Marley, the only son of overwhelmingly supportive hippie parents, speaks entirely in snark and has no ambition. Christopher, the son of a conservative preacher with a massive following, is an All-American teen who wants to help others. When the two meet over a box

of tampons, sparks fly. They embark on a relationship, much to the horror of Christopher's family. An accident changes everything and Marley soon discovers he has a purpose after all. This heavy and heartbreaking love story belongs in libraries, though profanity and off the page sex skew to older readers.

**Age Level:** High School

Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, Sno-Isle Library

Sher, Abby 978-0-374-30425-6 \$17.99 304 p.

***All the Ways the World Can End*** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

Eleanor Rosenthal-Hermann, Lenny feels her world is ending. Her father has cancer, mother seems to worry more about work than her father's health, her sister Emma has run off to college, and her best friend, Julian, is moving to across the country to San Francisco after graduation. Lenny feels alone and like she is the only one in her small circle of friends and family who gives a rip about what is happening to her father. She's had a crush on one of her father's physicians, a young, vibrant Indian man called Dr. Ganesh, and she goes to him when her dad has a serious medical crisis as a result of his treatment. She is looking for any hope for a cure, and when Dr. Ganesh offers to help her father get into a new treatment trial, Lenny grasps ahold tightly. Her father's health declines and in a fit of desperation, probably more from fear than actually desire, Lenny takes a series of provocative selfies and sends them to Dr. Ganesh's cell phone. She immediately regrets her actions and attempts to cover for the indiscretion. In the meanwhile, her father's primary oncologist has rejected Lenny's father for the trial: his cancer has spread to his brain--he is terminal. With only a few months remaining, Lenny must come to terms with her father's eminent death--and realize that she is not the only person in her family suffering from grief and pain. It is a powerful story, even if the plot is a bit overdone. Each chapter opens with a black page presumably from Lenny's journal, documenting various tragedies, catastrophes, and both real and imagined ways the world can end. Yet, by the end of the story there is a growing sense of acceptance and peace. Lenny learns that life isn't just about death--it can include hope and possibility--a chance at "what if."

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

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Sorosiak, Carlie 978-0-06-256396-5 \$17.99 432 p.

***If Birds Fly Back*** HarperTeen, 2017

On her first day volunteering at Silver Springs Retirement Community, Linny is shocked to see Alvaro Herrera arriving as a resident. The famous author has been presumed dead for years. Linny is particularly interested in the stories of missing people who returned in an effort to understand her own missing sister (runaway, not kidnapped). Sebastian has different reasons for being shocked by Alvaro's sudden appearance. His mother just confessed that Alvaro is the father Sebastian has been wondering about for years. Sebastian has travelled across the country to confront him, but chickens out. Linny and Sebastian meet at Silver Springs and although they do spend time with Alvaro, he clearly doesn't have the answers either of them is looking for. But, their budding relationship might help each of them deal with their feelings of abandonment. Liked, but didn't love. Grades 8+, characters have sex, but the scene is not descriptive.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Spooner, Meagan 978-0-06-242228-6 \$17.99 374 p.  
***Hunted*** HarperTeen, 2017

Yeva, her sisters and father move to a remote cabin near the woods after her father's heavily leveraged ships fail to arrive. Her task has been to provide for her family as she is a capable and willing hunter. When her father goes missing, she leaves her sisters to fend for themselves and sets out to find the creature that he has obsessively tracked. The beast brings her to his castle and a cautious relationship begins. Yes, this is a retelling of Beauty and the Beast set in a Russian-like atmosphere. Narration from the beast as he struggles between his human and bestial forms is interspersed with Yeva trying to figure out his mystery and her yearning to find more in her life.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High, High School  
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Stevenson, Nanci Turner 9780062374578 \$16.99 261 p.  
***Georgia Rules*** HarperCollins, 2017

At 12, Maggie has never really known her father, who has willed her his Vermont farm. When Mama and step-father separate after he comes out, she and her mother move to the farm to stay for a required year before being able to sell it. Immediately after moving to Vermont, Maggie befriends the six Parker kids, a multiracial family with two moms, and who all had a special relationship with Maggie's father. As she comes to love Vermont, she comes to feel connected to her father, and learns from everyone in town what a "hero" he was: a giving, patient artist who donated his time, energy and money to the town and its people. The more Maggie learns of him, the angrier she becomes with her mama's selfishness, her plans to sell the farm, the exaggerated Southern charm that her mother puts on, and her insistence that they live by "Georgia Rules," which seem to only fit her mother's desires. Maggie's anger stems from not understanding the reasons for her parents' divorce—largely due to her father's inability to cope after returning from Afghanistan. Maggie has shadowy memories of her father throughout the novel, realizing that he wasn't perfect; she and her mother are able to communicate on a more emotional level. Maggie sees that her mother is changing and brings Maggie an unexpected Christmas gift, in bringing to light her father's last generous gift. While Vermont is described in beautiful detail, the life they had in Georgia is not very clear at all, but it doesn't detract much from the central warmth of the story.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High  
Elizabeth Metcalf, Redmond Middle School

Stokes, Paula 978-0062379931 \$17.99 384 p.  
***This is How it Happened*** HarperTeen, 2017

Genevieve wakes up in the hospital, and asks her mom what happened and where her boyfriend is. She remembers the party they went to, held to celebrate his first album release, but not what happened after the party. She was driving Dallas's car and he was in the passenger seat. Now he's dead. When she is told that a drunk driver hit them, she accepts it despite the faint sense that the truth may be different. She really does not remember what happened, and follows the social media fans of her boyfriends' music fans

as they vilify and harass the other driver and his family. She is horrified, but used to sitting out on the sidelines. Slowly she remembers, and things become more complicated. This is carefully plotted and paced, and characters like Genevieve, her parents, and Dallas are thoughtfully developed. Social media is a core part of the story, and tweets, posts, and comments develop in a realistic and painful way that mirrors, unfortunately, our world. High school, though younger could read since there's not sex or language issues, the plot may be too subtle?

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

Stone, Danika 978-1-250-11437-2 (pbk.) \$10.99 325 p.  
***Internet Famous*** Swoon Reads, 2017

Madison Nakama, 18, attends an online high school so she can take her 15-year-old sister, Sarah, to and from school. Sarah is autistic and demands a consistent schedule. Their dad works a lot as a syndicated columnist and their mom just left for a teaching fellowship at Oxford--which puts a lot of pressure on Madi to maintain Sarah's routines. Madi has been blogging for two years and has a large following. Madi starts enjoying the support and flirting from one of her online friends, Laurent, who is an exchange student from France. Yet their relationship has attracted the attention of an online troll whose repeated abusive behavior online causes Madi to block him as he taunts her and her new relationship. When the troll's behavior shifts from online to real-life, Madi gets scared. Life is even more stressful as someone keeps reporting her for plagiarism for her online schoolwork which puts her graduation in jeopardy. Can Madi manage all the stressors in her life (troll, school, boyfriend and sister) without totally losing it before she can graduate high school? Teens looking for realistic fiction full of pop culture fandom and romance, will enjoy this one.

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

Strand, Jeff 978-1-4926-4539-9 (pbk.) \$10.99 289 p.  
***Stranger Things Have Happened*** Sourcebooks Fire, 2017

Marcus Millian the III, 15, loves magic but has severe stage fright. His Great Grandpa Zachary gained fame as Zachary the Stupendous. When Great Grandpa Zachary runs into his old nemesis, he bets that in 8 weeks Marcus can perform "a bewildering illusion that will shock, stun, and astonish everybody." Unfortunately, Great Grandpa Zachary dies the next day but Marcus decides to fulfill his promise anyway. Then Marcus encounters an elderly evil magician called Sinister Seamus who for the terror of it, threatens to kill Marcus if he fails to impress. What does Marcus choose for his illusion? Easy...make a shark vanish! Marcus figures with the right pool and using mirrors and a hidden hatch, he can make it seem like the shark has disappeared. Adding more stress, Marcus has also ticked off three senior bullies who walk around making threats in a comedic kind of way. In short, you have an evil elderly magician, Three Stooges who bully, and a humorous encounter with a shark aficionado...what could possibly go wrong? Oh, did I mention the crime-fighting witch that Marcus encounters? Or maybe, just maybe...Marcus can make his great grandpa proud despite of all the entertaining obstacles. Readers will enjoy the humor and root for Marcus to succeed even though he's doesn't really have a fighting chance.

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

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Strickland, Adrienne and Michael Miller 978-0-399-55253-3 \$17.99 387 p.  
***Shadowrun*** Delacorte, 2017

Nev signs onto the crew of the starship captained by young Qole. The ship goes fishing for “Shadow”, a mysterious energy that runs most of the universe, is unstable, and eventually turns the fishers mad. He is not out to learn about fishing but to convince Qole to return to his planet for tests as to why Qole seems immune to the effects of Shadow. Nev is greeted with mistrust by not only Qole, but the rest of the ragtag crew of the ship including financial genius and gender fluid Basra. My biggest complaint with the book was how the friends always seemed to be outgunned and yet always survive.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Sugiura, Misa 9780062473417 \$17.99 394 p.  
***It's Not Like It's a Secret*** HarperTeen, 2017

Moving to a new place forces you to reinvent yourself. For Sana, this means going to a new high school – and suddenly, for the first time in her life, she has peers who share her cultural identity. She quickly meets a new crush, and this means she is faced with revealing to the world that she is attracted to women. Misa Sugiura’s first book is an engrossing coming of age story, full of the realistic intersectionality of life. Her writing is full of evocative analogies and heartbreaking realizations. Sana struggles with feeling forced into a group based on her heritage, but then feels a sense of community and belonging within that group. Some underage drinking and off-the-page sex make this better for a high school audience, though some mature middle schools will enjoy it as well. Highly recommended for collections serving teens.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Thomas, Kara 978-0-553-52149-8 \$17.99 322 p.  
***Little Monsters*** Delacorte, 2017

Moving to a new town is hard, so at first Kacey felt lucky that best friends Bailey and Jade took her into their little group. But, hanging out with them isn’t always easy. So, she’s almost relieved when they don’t show up to take her to a party, especially since she’s still shaken from their recent middle of the night excursion that left her little sister freaked out. When Jade calls to say Bailey never made it home from the party Kacey knows something is wrong. She’s even more determined to figure out what happened after the police question her and are clearly suspicious. This is a dark mystery full of secrets, lies and manipulation. Unfortunately the ending didn’t live up to its earlier promise. 3 stars. Grades 9+.

**Age Level:** High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Thompson, Mary G 978-0-544-64840-1 \$17.99 377 p.  
***Flicker and Mist*** Clarion, 2017

In the country of Plat, people who can turn invisible at will are called “Flickerkin” indicating their probable relationship to the mysterious invisible people from “over the sea”.

Flickerkin are feared, for obvious reasons, and persecuted in the ruling town of New Heart City. Myra has always suppressed her power to turn invisible to the point of not even really knowing how to use it. Now that her parents are both imprisoned and violence has taken over the city, she might have to learn quickly enough to save those she loves.

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

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Tims, Laura 9780062317353 \$17.99 326 p.  
***The Art of Feeling*** HarperTeen, 2017

A deadly car accident leaves Sam in constant emotional and physical pain. Sam moves through her days in a depression. Things begin to look up as she becomes friends with Eliot, the school loner who doesn't feel pain. Together they confront Sam's memories and try to figure out what happened the night her mom died. Good storytelling with a couple of heartbreaking moments. Appeals to fans of Amy Zhang, Jennifer Nivens, and John Green.

**Age Level:** High School

Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, Sno-Isle Library

Walton, Julia 978-0-399-55088-1 \$17.99 294 p.  
***Words on Bathroom Walls*** Random House, 2017

This book captivates from the start as it tells the story of 16-year-old Adam who was recently diagnosed with Schizophrenia. Told in diary entries written to his therapist, Adam is a teen struggling with knowing what's real around him and ignoring the things that aren't. Adam is starting his junior year at a private Catholic school after an incident at his other school led to his new Schizophrenia diagnosis. He lives with his worried mother and scared stepfather. Luckily, he's part of a clinical trial for a new drug. His hallucinations are always with him; sometimes it's sweet Rebecca who encourages him but other times it's the horrific mobster boss who enters a room and machine gun everyone. When Adam meets his first girlfriend Maya, the pressure to remain normal intensifies. He doesn't want her to know his secret so is glad when the trial drug reduces his hallucinations. However, as his dosage increases, so do his side effects of headaches, light sensitivity, insomnia and involuntary muscle movements. Can Adam handle the pressures of a new school, his first relationship, and the effects of the drug he's taking without revealing to everyone that he's crazy? This edgy, realistic read will appeal to reluctant readers. It's full of heart, humor, sarcasm, and heartbreak.

**Age Level:** High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Wiggins, Bethany 978-0-399-54981-6 \$17.99 294 p.  
***Dragon's Price***, Transference #1 Crown, 2017

Rather than marry the barbarian prince, Princess Sorrowlyn chooses to jump into the dragon's lair. To her surprise, Golmarr, the Prince, jumps in after her, determined to slay the dragon and figure out what kind of person would make this choice. They soon discover that they'll have to work together to make it out alive. The dragon, who has been bound to the cave for centuries, has other ideas for their fate. And his price is much higher than they expected.

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

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Winfrey, Kerry 9781250119520 \$10.99 258 p.  
***Love and Other Alien Experiences*** Feiwel & Friends, 2017

17-year old geek, Mallory, hasn't stepped foot out of her house in several months, not since her father left. But staying at home gives her plenty of time to spend on alien fandom website, We Are Not Alone. When she's surprisingly nominated for homecoming court, she's sure it's a joke, but her best friend Jenni convinces her to try. Now the only thing she needs is a date, and not just any date, but a date that will help her secure the popularity she needs to win. Will she be able to get her handsome, football-playing neighbor to go with her? And even if she does, how will she be able to leave the house homecoming night? This book is more romance, than alien fandom, but sweet, if not predictable. Mallory grows quickly, and though a bit implausible, you root for Mallory as she stretches herself past her own limitations leaving her house and processing her father's abandonment.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School  
Katy Olson, Monticello Middle School

### FICTION – SHRUG

Barrows, Annie 9780062668233 \$17.99 212 p.  
***Nothing*** HarperCollins, 2017

If you've ever gotten annoyed by the flowery language, action-packed, romantic plots that fictional teens seem to fall into, and want to read about real teen girls with real teen problems where nothing exciting happens, then this book is for you! This book is called Nothing for a reason, and the two Sophomores who alternately narrate this book often remind the reader of this. They're best friends, and they think they're drifting apart. One's got a secret driving interest, and the other has a secret social media interest--once they bring their secrets together, they realize things might still work. This book is pretty boring at first, but gets slightly more interesting midway through.

**Age Level:** High School  
Additional Comments: Lots of swearing and the girls get high.  
Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Bethell, Zillah 978-1-250-09394-3 \$16.99  
***A Whisper of Horses*** Feiwel & Friends, 2016

In this dystopic future, the people of Lahn Dahn ("London") are separated from the rest of the world--kept apart by a huge wall around the city, and by the fear that pours down from the Minister and his brutal police force. But young Serendipity Goudge is determined to escape the city--not because her life there is a hopeless horror, but because her dying mom might have said that outside the city there may be horses. There are things to like and dislike in this book. The devolution of English is interesting: Gray Britain for example. The concept of a Storyteller's Revolution is quite appealing. But while labeling portions of society according to rank is standard fare for dystopic fiction, the labels Au, Co, and Pb don't work because they are unpronounceable (and, since most of the population is illiterate, organizing humans according to the Latin names of elements is not very





Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Keller, Julia 978-0-7653-8762-2 \$17.99 320 p.  
***The Dark Intercept*** Tor Teen, 2017

Violet is the 16-year old daughter of the man who stabilized and created the world of New Earth. He did so with a chip (the intercept) in people's head that allows specialists to literally see what they are feeling at any time, stopping crime and making things peaceful. But Danny, a boy that Violet likes, is slipping back to real Old Earth to do something sneaky, and Violet needs to know what. When she investigates, she is also put in danger and put in a position to challenge her father and his deeds. Incoherent at times. Age – 7th-12th

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Larsen, Andrew 9781771386616 \$15.95 208 p.  
***Dingus*** Kids Can Press, 2017

Eleven-year-old Henry begins a summer of "nothingness." Max, his best friend, has new best friends from the chess club and instead of inviting Henry to be a part of it, he starts making fun of him. Henry's 5th grade teacher encourages them to embrace new experiences & making mistakes, but as Max goes off to chess camp and the others brag about their fun-filled summers, Henry just mopes around the house. At home, his mom is around less due to a promotion at work and his dad's idea of a "staycation" to save money sounds boring. Even Max's emails about being a dingus or his grandpa's dog, Rupert, can't cheer him up. But when Henry's dad, little brother and he embrace the true spirit of a "staycation," and set out to try new things every day, Henry's summer starts to turn around and so does his attitude. Henry embraces the idea of being a dingus, a person who makes some mistakes but his heart is in the right place. Although the ending doesn't wrap up the riff between Max and Henry completely, there are signs the friendship is on the mend. Henry learns about responsibility & integrity, appreciating family and embracing what you have. I wish the story arc was stronger, but this glimpse into the transition from elementary to middle school is generally enjoyable. Upper elementary and early middle school students will identify with Henry's journey.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Too young for YA

Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Lewis Holmes, Sara 978-0545107976 \$16.97 310 p.  
***The Wolf Hour*** Arthur A. Levine Books, 2017

Magia and Martin live near the Puszcza in Russia. While Magia is a girl who has grown up with a loving family, a woodcutter father who daily enters the Puszcza, and frequently hears stories about the bad things that happen in the forest, Martin conversely is a wolf who lives in a tower in the forest with his mother and lots of books. There are strange pigs and stranger things going on in the Puszcza, like the disappearance of poor girls and the slaughter of wolves. Magia and Martin eventually realize they are trapped inside of stereotypical fairy tales, and there is little they can do to stop from becoming the next characters snared by the witch. I wasn't a fan of this book--it took too long to get to the point, and the book felt like it dragged on.

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

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Matharu, Taran 978-1-250-07632-8 \$18.99 367 p.  
***Battlemage***, The Summoner #3 Feiwel & Friends, 2017

Picking up right where book two left off, Fletcher and friends are stuck in the Ether after jumping through a portal to escape the orcs. This was their only choice, but survival in the Ether isn't guaranteed either. They must keep travelling trying to find another portal, figuring out a way to get more petals so they aren't poisoned by the Ether, and stay out of reach of the orcs. This series wrap up was disappointing. Book two ended on such a high note that I had great hopes for book three – strange to have a series where book two is the strongest book. Purchase if you have fans of the series, but otherwise this isn't a must add to fantasy collections. Shrug. Grades 6-10.

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

Mlynowski, Sarah 978-0062397072 \$17.99 384 p.  
***I See London, I See France*** HarperTeen, 2017

Sydney is looking forward to spending the next month traveling around Europe with her best friend Leela after their freshman year at different colleges. The trip takes an unexpected turn when Leela's ex-boyfriend shows up on their flight. Sydney is also dealing with a parent with severe anxiety and a friendship that's strained. Sydney's mom's mental illness is handled nicely and city-hopping is reminiscent of Maureen Johnson's *13 Little Blue Envelopes*. A funny, romantic comedy in the same vein as Mlynowski's other novels. Not exceptional, but entertaining enough to inspire wanderlust.

**Age Level:** High School  
Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, Sno-Isle Library

Pipkin, Bonnie 978-1250114846 \$17.99 368 p.  
***Aftercare Instructions*** Flatiron, 2017

The first scene is just outside an abortion clinic in NYC. Genesis has just had the procedure, and her boyfriend, Peter, who is her first love, has let her down. He was to take her home, but this son of 'fine upstanding moral parents' doesn't follow through on the promise that he's 'here for me no matter what.' So, sick and despairing, she pulls herself to the dorm of her cousin, and main support system, who attends NYU. She'll spend a couple nights there recovering before returning to her small-town New Jersey home. Back at school, people think Peter has broken up with her, and she continues in a downward spiral, fighting at school, getting suspended, going on drunken binges, and more. Scenes from this story are interspersed with a play script that reviews the couple's relationship from beginning to end. Gen's story ends hopefully, with her finding strength to follow new dreams of being involved in theatre. The downward spiral is tough, drinking, details of the abortion procedure and its aftercare instructions, some sex, some language, and lots of lying to mom (dad has died) make this not for younger audiences. Those who want to read a tough book, like *Go Ask Alice*, would like it. I liked her friends, and felt this was written for college-age girls who need to read a book that shows women can rage, and despair, and then survive. Publisher's Weekly thought this was engrossing and for ages 12 and up; I disagree.

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

Ridge, Yolanda 9781771386203 \$16.99 256 p.  
***Inside Hudson Pickle*** Kids Can Press, 2017

Hudson Pickle has a lot on his mind. He's trying out for the basketball team, figuring out why he's so drawn to Willow, a girl that sits next to him in Careers & Tech, keeping his asthma under control, while not ruling out the possibility that he may have a genetic disorder that would keep him from his dream job of being a firefighter. When his uncle's apartment burns to the ground Hudson and his mom take him in, but things are complicated when Hudson's uncle is implicated in the fire and Hudson worries that he may be on drugs. So many things on his mind. Ultimately this book was sweet, but too many issues and stresses going on in his life create a watered-down story. A secondary purchase.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High  
Katy Olson, Monticello Middle School

Schwartz, Larry and Iva-Marie Palmer 9781627792509 \$17.99 278 p.  
***Romeo, Juliet, and Jim*** Henry Holt, 2017

A silly romance about star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet, who, in this version, are children of fashion tycoons in Paris. When the story opens, R+J's romance is in full swing and the two meet secretly around town for quick dalliances. When not in each other's arms, they pine away for their next meeting and/or suffer supreme jealousy over seeing them with other people. One day, when their tryst is on verge of discovery, the two escape with the help of a stranger, Jim, who whisks them out of sight on his motorcycle. When Jim shows up at their school the next day, friendships are formed. But what will happen when R+J discover that Jim is the son of a cutthroat American investor keen to buy out and combine both the houses of Montague and Capulet? And, more importantly, what will happen when Jim and Juliet start having an interest in one another? Ripe with teen angst, this quick read will appeal to fans of overly dramatic teen romances. Contains sexual content, coarse dialog, and drug use.

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

Sher, Abby 978-0-374-30425-6 \$17.99 301 p.  
***All the Ways the World Can End*** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

Lenny is an anxious mess. Her father is dying from cancer, her best friend is moving cross country, her sister is away at college and doesn't seem to understand how bad things have gotten, and her mother is dealing with things by keeping ridiculously busy and perky. Desperate, she develops a crush on the one man she thinks might be able to help her father, a 30 something cancer doctor. Soon she is overstepping boundaries and acting out in terribly unhealthy ways. In many ways this was a very good book exploring grief and family, friendship, and love. But I was terribly frustrated that no one connected this teen with a therapist, as she clearly was suffering greatly and a mess. Overall a good book, but it gets a shrug from me for this irresponsible oversight.

**Age Level:** High School  
Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library

Vincent, Rachel 978-0-06-241156-3 \$17.99 358 p.  
**100 Hours**, 100 Hours #1 Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

Genesis Valencia is the only daughter of a Colombian-American shipping magnate living in Miami. Ditching the Bahamas where she and her cousins Maddie and Ryan, and her entourage of friends, and her boyfriend, Holden, were supposed to go for spring break, Genesis detours to Cartagena, Colombia, intentionally ignoring her father's warnings to stay away from Colombia. After a brief stop to visit her grandmother who she had not seen in years, she has her grandmother's handy-man, Nico take her to experience the "real Colombia". She is impulsive and reckless, and at Nico's suggestion, she drags her group on a several hour hike through the jungle to a remote beach location that few tourists go. What starts as a few days of camping and fun take a dangerous turn when the entire campsite is rounded up by what appear to be terrorists. A brief struggle in an attempt to disarm the gunmen ends with Ryan being shot and forcing the others into compliance. Genesis, Maddie, Holden and a few others she met over the past day are rounded up and separated--one group connected with Genesis is taken on a long march through the jungle to the kidnappers' camp; the other group is left behind and presumably shot. During their march, Maddie makes and escape to find out whether her brother, Ryan, is truly dead. Genesis and a new friend begin planning their escape, but are thwarted repeatedly by her now-ex-boyfriend, Holden, whom she discovered was having a fling with her best friend. At one point, Genesis discovers that two factions are involved in their kidnapping, and that both have goals that conflict. She also learns that her father isn't the "good" man she believed him to be, and that his possible illegal operations could be what ultimately caused this current crisis. The story is a whirlwind of one melodramatic scene after another. The attitudes and expectations of this group of "spoiled rich kids" makes the reader nearly want to root for the kidnappers. Yet, Genesis does redeem herself somewhat by the end of the book, which is, of course, a cliff-hanger. Not recommended for middle school--drinking, drugs, casual sex.

**Age Level:** High School

**Additional Comments:** Very cliché, but seems to attract teen girl readers.

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Ward, Kaitlin 978-1338101058 \$17.99 272 p.  
**Girl in a Bad Place** Point, 2017

Two best friends visit a commune/creepy cult. Cara is into it, but Mailee figures out that Haven isn't as amazing as the leader Firehorse claims. When Cara decides to join, Mailee has to find a way to save her friend. Fans of April Henry and Courtney Summer will enjoy this timely thriller.

**Age Level:** High School

Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, Sno-Isle Library

Wilde, Jen 978-1-250-11139-5 \$15.99 262 p.  
**Queens of Geek** Swoon Reads, 2017

After high school graduation, Australian YouTube star, Charlie and her best friends, Taylor and Jaime are more than excited to be attending "SupaCon," (think "Comic Con") in Los Angeles. Chapters alternate between Charlie and Taylor's points of view; Charlie is



Additional Comments: Although well-written and excellent artwork, probably will attract a niche audience.

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Chad, Jon 978-1-62672-360-3 \$12.99 122 p.

***Science Comics: Volcanoes: Fire and Life***, Science Comics First Second, 2016

In a not-so-distant future, our world has frozen over. Now humanity lives divided among different tribes, with each tribe trying to scavenge for different heat sources. While out on one scavenging hunt, Rory, learns all about volcanoes and the life they provide for Earth. While the book doesn't list sources, I do like how the author mixed a story with factual, informative information. I see this book doing well in libraries in which Informative Graphic Novels are in-demand.

**Age Level:** Grades: 4-7

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Costa, Ben and James Parks 9780399556135 \$18.99 208 p.

***Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo - The Road to Epoli*** Knopf, 2017

When Rickety Stitch, a minstrel skeleton, is let go from his job, he and his pal the Gelatinous Goo go on a quest to find out what his life was before becoming a skeleton. What kind of human was he? The only clues he has are the words to a song that plagues his dreams. As he and Goo travel on their way, they are apprehended by an ogre who holds Goo hostage in order to make Rickety Stitch capture a gnome for him. As his adventures continue, Rickety Stitch makes some unlikely friends and continues to remember pieces of the song in his head. A fun, humorous fantasy adventure for fans of Amulet and the like.

**Age Level:** Junior High, High School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Costa, Ben and James Parks 978-0-399-55613-5 \$18.99

***Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo - The Road to Epoli*** Alfred A. Knopf, 2017

Very funny, cartoonish drawings/graphic novel of an animated skeleton who is also a troubadour. He is kicked out of his dungeon job for being poor at torturing and hits the road with his partner, a cube of gelatinous goo named Goo. He travels through dark forests, meets a troll, a traitorous imp, a snarky unicorn, etc... I am a fan and will be looking for the sequel. 6th-12th grades

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

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Galligan, Gale 978-1-338-06730-9 \$24.99 160 p.

***Dawn and the Impossible Three*** Baby-sitter's Club Graphic Novels #5 (ARC) Graphix, 2017

Dawn is one of the newest members of The Babysitter's Club, and she's still trying to prove her worth. For some reason, the club's founder and president, Kristy, doesn't seem to like her that much. To make matters worse, Dawn has started to babysit for the Barrett's. The kids themselves are wild enough – but their mom is the real problem. In this fifth installment of the Baby-Sitter's Club graphic novel series, cartoonist Gale Galligan gracefully takes over for Raina Telgemeier. Her art style holds its own, but won't distract or

disappoint lovers of the original four books. The story itself has surprising depth. Dawn struggles with standing up for herself when the mother of her babysitting charges is neglectful to the point of danger (at one point, Dawn almost feeds one of the kids chocolate without knowing they are allergic). Her eventual ability to face this complicated conundrum is empowering and inspiring, and makes this comic appropriate for anyone from 3rd-7th grade. A must-purchase for libraries where the rest of the series is popular.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Too young for YA

Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

Hale, Shannon

1626724164

\$21.99

**Real Friends**

First Second, 2017

This is one of the most relatable things I have ever read. Shannon Hale's memoir chronicles her grade school friendships. From her best friend she makes in kindergarten, who she loves playing make-believe with. To Jen the leader of "The Group" who gets to make up the social hierarchy of their friends based on who she likes best. To Jen's her best friend Jenny who always tells lies about Shannon to turn Jen against her. Shannon also has a much older sister, who's on again off again fun and nice/ mean and violent. And navigating all this social turmoil makes Shannon incredibly anxious. It's a beautiful and heartfelt graphic novel for older kids and tweens, that bravely takes on some heavy hitter experiences with compassion and honesty. I high recommend it.

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

Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

Hatke, Ben

978-1-62672-264-4 (pbk.) \$14.99

205 p.

**Mighty Jack, Mighty Jack #1**

First Second, 2016

In a re-visioning of the "Jack and the Beanstalk" tale, Jack lives with his single mother and non-speaking sister, Maddie. Trying make ends meet, the family goes to a local flea market where Jack encounters a mysterious man with a box full of strange seeds. All he wants in return is Jack's mother's car--the only transportation the family owns. Sound familiar? Jack is about to refuse, but for the first time his sister, Maddie, tells Jack to make the trade. Shocked by his sister's behavior, he does. Although the car is eventually recovered, his mother admonishes him to "act more grown up," especially since he will be watching over his sister during his summer vacation while his mother must work. Jack wonders about the strange packages that contain the seeds. Maddie pushes Jack into planting a garden with all but those in the most eerie of the packages, and soon they have a garden full of living plants--some benign, others very dangerous. In the meanwhile, Jack meets Lilly, an armor-wearing, sword-wielding neighborhood girl whose brother makes costumes for Ren. Faires and who seems fascinated with Jack and Maddie's new garden. The three discover that some of the fruits and vegetables produced give them "super" abilities--which they must use to defeat some rather odd foes. However, Jack decides to destroy the garden when Maddie is injured in a serious fall. Lilly is livid and refuses to see Jack. To make things worse, Maddie is in despair over the loss of the garden, and without telling Jack, she plants the seeds from the eerie package that Jack was so frightened by. A monster is grown, and it takes Maddie to another place, leaving Jack and Lilly to rescue her. The story will continue. This is a really well done retelling of this traditional tale. The addition of a perceptive but rarely vocal (perhaps autistic) sister and a neighbor girl who is "into"

sword-fighting and botany adds to the interest and character development. Good for upper elementary through high school.

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

**Additional Comments:** Such a cool book and series. Very popular with boys, even in HS!

Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School

Hicks, Faith Erin 978-1-62672-158-6 \$14.99 246 p.

***The Stone Heart***, The Nameless City #2 First Second, 2017

This continues the story of the first volume, with only a brief framing introduction from some future (relative to the story) medieval mid-Asia gap year travelers to establish setting. Young Kai, son of a high-ranking military officer, and Rat, a street-wise orphan girl, have grown a bit since the last episode, which ended with hope for a peaceful future for the much-disputed city in which people from many cultures live. There's a bit of character development as we meet some of Rat's friends (including a briefly seen young gay character, with whom everyone seems fine). This clearly middle volume sees the peaceful plan dashed, with murder, ignorant destruction by new rule, and pursuit of a secret weapon of a past culture, something akin to gunpowder or a similar explosive. The art's engaging, and with all the action, this one's a quick read, leaving three characters in different related cliff-hanger arcs. The first volume can stand alone, but after this one, the third volume (of a planned trilogy) will be necessary.

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

**Additional Comments:** gr. 6-10; Color by Jordie Bellaire

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

Hicks, Faith Erin 9781626721586 \$14.99 250 p.

***The Stone Heart***, The Nameless City #2 First Second, 2017

Picks up right where book 1 left off. Kaidu and Rat are just getting over the attempted assassination of the general. The resulting political chaos is horrible. And now their friendship is at risk because Kaidu thinks he may have found a long hidden weapon that could help, but it would come at great cost and a betrayal of Rat. Beautiful illustrations. Fast moving, engaging plot. This series is an excellent addition to middle and high school collections.

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

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Larson, Hope 9780374300449 \$19.99 224 p.

***Knife's Edge***, Four Points #2 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017

Second in the series about red-headed twins and their search for pirate treasure left for them by their birth parents (about whom they learn in this book). The topic should be enough to thrill readers like me, but the story meanders around a lot. Cleo (the girl) spends the entire book proving that she can do stuff in spite of being a girl, and her brother Alex is jealous of pretty much everything--both situations get old and repetitive, which younger readers may not mind as much as I did. Is there another book? The conclusion is not very conclusive.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Too young for YA

Aarene Storms, KCLS

Larson, Hope 978-0-374-30044-9 \$19.99  
***Knife's Edge***, Four Points #2 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017  
 Cleo and Alex are twins, reunited with their sick father on a ship, having adventures in this second book of the Compass South graphic novel series. They are pursued by Felix Worley, the pirate who has taken an interest in them and what they can possibly lead him to, an object he needs. There is pirate treasure, world traveling, shipboard activities and training for battle. Great middle school series, probably too young for high school.  
**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High  
 Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Latta, Sara and Jeff Weigel (Illustrator) 978-1-4677-8551-8 \$32.42 72 p.  
***Smash! Exploring the Mysteries of the Universe with the Large Hadron Collider***  
 Graphic Universe, 2017  
 The book does a wonderful job of explaining and exploring the mysteries of the universe through a graphic novel format. The book did feel a bit like a text-book with all the science terms being thrown around. However, the graphic novel format, particularly the illustrations, along with the storyline made it easier to understand. I can see this book doing well where science books and graphic novels are in-demand.  
**Age Level:** Middle School  
 Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Renner, Benjamin 9781626723313 \$15.99 187 p.  
***Big Bad Fox*** First Second, 2017  
 The big bad fox thinks he's all that, but in reality he's a wimp who can't seem to accomplish anything, certainly not capturing hens for food. The wolf tries to help him, but in the end he can't even scar a sparrow, let alone a hen. In fact, the hens always seem to get the best of him. Doomed to eat turnips for the rest of his life, the wolf helps him with a plan to steal eggs and wait for them to hatch. When the chicks are born, fox is intent on eating them right away, but wolf encourages him to wait until they are bigger, meatier. Then, as any ready can expect, fox grows attached to the fun little chickens and when it's time to be the big bad fox he's been warning his chicks about, he just can't do it. However, wolf still wants his cut. How can fox keep his chicks safe? A fun, humorous, tale aimed at upper elementary ages, but which all ages will enjoy.  
**Age Level:** Too young for YA  
 Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Robert Louis Stevenson, retold by Fiona MacDonald 9781912006014 \$7.95 48 p.  
***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*** Salariya, 2018  
 An abridged version of the story with accompanying graphic novel illustrations. A useful format for struggling/reluctant readers, as it makes everything very clear and concise. There is a brief biography of Robert Louis Stevenson at the end as well as a section called "shilling shocker" which talks about why he wrote it and how it was published. Also included is an extensive timeline of important events in science, medicine, and crime up to Stevenson's time. Finally there is also a list of other books by Stevenson, and the many

different adaptations and performances of Jekyll and Hyde that there have been on stage and screen.

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

Shelley, Mary retold by Fiona MacDonald 9781912006229 \$7.95 48 p.  
**Frankenstein** Salariya, 2018

An abridged version of the story with accompanying graphic novel illustrations. A useful format for struggling/reluctant readers, as it makes everything very clear and concise. A brief biography of Mary Shelley at the end as well as a map of Frankenstein's travels. There is also a short section entitled "the wonders of science" that explores the idea of whether science itself is good or bad or how people use it, and how Mary Shelley lets her readers think and decide for themselves. There is another short section called "sublime scenery" that talks about nature and its power. Finally, there is an extensive (and impressive) timeline of the science, medicine, and technology that was developed during the time of Frankenstein. Oh, and a list of Frankenstein movies for the cinephiles.

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

Shinn, Sharon 1626720894 \$17.99  
**Shattered Warrior** First Second, 2017

This book takes place in a sci fi future where a human planet has been destroyed and is now occupied by aliens. The young woman protagonist is just trying to survive. Throughout the book she needs to decide whether she wants to follow her most important rule- never love anyone so you never have to lose anyone. Or if she can fully open up her heart to new people who enter her life. There's a little violence on the page, but mostly you see the after effects of violence. There's no sex on the page but you do see a post coital cuddling and a boob. This book views a violent rebellion in a positive light. I thought it was great and liked it a lot.

**Age Level:** High School, Adult  
Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

Stoker, Bram, retold by Fiona MacDonald 9781912006021 \$7.95 48 p.  
**Dracula** Salariya, 2018

An abridged version of the story with accompanying graphic novel illustrations. A useful format for struggling/reluctant readers, as it makes everything very clear and concise. There is a brief biography of Bram Stoker at the end as well as a section called "vampires in history and a map of places in the story. Also included is an extensive timeline of tales of mystery and horror and new ideas and inventions that occurred at the same time as "Dracula". Finally there is also a section about Dracula's homeland, other books by Stoker, and for the cinephiles, a list of all the Dracula movies that have been produced.

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

Westerfeld, Scott 159643936X \$22.99  
**Spill Zone**, Spill Zone #1 First Second, 2017

Weird and creepy this graphic novel is a great read for people who loved Stranger Things. Addison and her little sister Lexa grew up just outside the upstate NY town of Poughkeepsie, where "The Spill" happened. We don't know what the The Spill is, maybe it was aliens, or a hole through space time, maybe it was magical forces- all Addie knows, and all we know as readers, is that a very strange and unreal thing happened there- and very strange and unreal things remain there. Addison's lost her parents the night of The Spill, so now to support her little sister she rides her motorcycle through the city photographing the unbelievable things (a wolf with spindley long legs and glowing eyes and mouth, a part of town where everything and everyone turned 2D, a towering cyclone of straitjackets outside the hospital...) that inhabit The Spill Zone. And while Addie is out Lexa stays home and plays with her doll Vespertine, who she can physically communicate with. And that's just the beginning!

**Age Level:** High School

Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

Wilgus, Alison 978-1626721395 \$12.99 128 p.

***Flying Machines: How the Wright Brothers Soared***, Science Comics First Second, 2017  
Katharine Wright, Wilbur and Orville's little sister, narrates this graphic novel as a sort of excited little omniscient ghost, wandering through panels and pointing out all the cool things that were happening. The story of the brothers begins in 1878 when their father brings home a wooden French spinning toy called a "bat" that interested the brothers into their adult lives. The history and science of other types of flying inventions and how they worked, or didn't, is looked at as Katharine interviews the inventors. The story skips along the years through the brothers' failures and feats, also intertwined with their communications to other, mostly French, inventors and scholarly types, before ending in 1941 with the invention of the jet engine. Additionally, the book has a glossary, biographies, and further reading suggestions.

**Age Level:** Middle School

**Additional Comments:** A fun series with great illustrations and the science behind the scenes!

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

## GRAPHIC NOVELS – SHRUG

Jamieson, Victoria 1627791191 \$7.99

***The Great Art Caper*** Henry Holt, 2017

A short fun read! GW is a hamster and the 2nd grade class pet has become really good friends with the second grader Carina, despite wanting to think of his classroom pet status as prison time. Now with his fellow lower elementary class pets (Sunflower and Barry) he wants to make Carina a present to show her how good of friends they are- but that means going to the second floor past the 5th grade pet Harriet and her minions! Will GW and his friends prevail, or will they be trapped in Harriet's evil plot to get GW sent away to St Bart's Obedience School for Unruly Pets?! This book is definitely for kids, middle-higher elementary.

**Age Level:** Too young for YA

Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

Kirsch, T.J. 978-1524700041 \$19.99 90 p.  
***Pride of the Decent Man*** NBM, 2017

An ex-con returned to his home town, encounters the teen daughter he never knew. A depressing short tale of sad circumstances and lost opportunities, does not really have much to offer teens. While some might relate to the troubled father in his teen years, or the daughter grown without him, there is little hope or redemption, and it is unclear what lesson is to be learned from this other than don't mess with guns or crime. Too mature for middle school, too didactic for high school. Ok addition if donated, but I wouldn't spend money on this for a teen collection.

**Age Level:** Adult

Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library

Santiago, Wilfred 9781606997116 \$24.99 200 p.  
***Michael Jordan: Bull on Parade*** Fantagraphics Books, 2014

Die-hard fans of Michael Jordan may be the only ones to enjoy this graphic novel. Reading it requires a great deal of background knowledge about Jordan. In addition, the illustrations are such that it is almost impossible to differentiate between the various people being portrayed. The story line also jumps around in time, making it difficult to follow.

Illustrations are fairly dark in both actual color and in the tone that is portrayed by the drawings themselves.

**Age Level:** Die-hard MJ fans

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Tabilio, Marco 978-1-5124-1182-9 \$20.00 207 p.  
***Marco Polo: Dangers and Visions***, Graphic Universe, 2017

The biography of Marco Polo is told in graphic format through the vehicle of about a year he spent imprisoned with an Italian writer, Rustichello, with whom he collaborated on a memoir. We get various flashbacks, not always in order, plus a few speculative dreams of both of them, sleeping or feverish. These are interspersed with fanciful maps, somewhat after the fashion of the time, the late 1200's. The story ranges from Marco's teens through about three decades till he's fairly settled in Europe again. His father, uncle, and the Khan of what is now China feature regularly. It's not clear what's invented. The maps are engaging, and the Chinese style signature chops are attractive. The story art is less satisfying: fairly simple lines, with one color per spread, making it hard to tell the three Polos and some others apart, and emotions not always clear. It's probably best in pieces, with breaks to ponder, but it leaves a lot to the reader to piece together. It's not clear young readers will take to it.

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

**Additional Comments:** gr. 6-12; 2015 original Italian edition; translation by Kerstin Schwandt

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

## GRAPHIC NOVELS – NOT RECOMMENDED

Chanoinat, Philippe 978-1-68112-076-8 \$19.99  
*Elvis* NBM, 2016

Translated from the French, this biography of Elvis seems to be made up of paintings of photographs with a running narration that is more captions than sequential art. No citations or index, this is simply not a useful reference book, and an unsatisfying read to boot. Not recommended for anyone but the most hardcore Elvis collector.

**Age Level:** Adult

Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library

### NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Albee, Sarah 9781101932230 \$17.99 182 p.  
*Poison: Deadly deeds, perilous professions, and murderous medicines* Crown, 2017

Better for browsing than reading cover to cover, but if you want to know anything about poison, this is the book for you. OK - the author won't tell you HOW to poison someone or anything like that, but other than that, everything you want to know is here. The entire book is in black, white, and noxious green, appropriate for content matter. There are lots of lots of photographs and charts as well as informational text boxes. Text will often refer you to information on other pages - which is why it's better for browsing. Glossary, timeline, index, and extensive resource guide, source notes, and sites for further research in the back.

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

Additional Comments: Could also be used in upper elementary

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Grossi, Craig 9780062693358 \$16.99 248 p.  
*Craig & Fred: A Marine, A Stray Dog, and How They Rescued Each Other* Harper, 2017

Craig was a Marine stationed in the Middle East. There were lots of stray dogs and the Marines were expressly forbidden from befriending, touching, feeding, playing with, having anything to do with these dogs. In fact, the dog would be put to death if it were taken in by the Marines. However, while in Afghanistan, Craig met Fred the sweetest puppy in the most dire of circumstances. The whole company took Fred in, but everyone knew that Fred belonged to Craig and vice versa. Then Craig had to figure out how to get Fred safely back to his family in the US. A sweet story about a man and his dog and how they helped each other through tough situations during the war and after. This was the young readers edition, so the language is accessible. There is violence because part of it is set in the war in Afghanistan but it is not overly gory and gruesome. Realistic, though, and also addresses the PTSD afterwards.

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

Additional Comments: Young Readers Edition

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Heos, Bridget 9780544303478 \$17.99 232 p.  
*It's Getting Hot In Here: The Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change*

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

With a publication date of 2015, the most recent data is from 2013. However... there is still lots of useful information about climate change in this book. The author makes it very clear how science shows that climate change is real and worrisome and we need to do something about it. To that end, there is a "Be the Change" recommendation at the end of every chapter with a reasonable way that everyone can start making changes that will help reduce the effect that humans have on global climate change. There is a short list of books and websites for further research and an extensive list of sources used by the author for her personal research.

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

Kops, Deborah 9781629793238 \$17.95 220 p.

***Alice Paul and the fight for women's rights.*** Calkins Creek, 2017

Born in 1885 to a Quaker family in Moorestown, NJ, Alice Paul was a lively and inquisitive child who loved to read and learn. She completed her undergraduate education at Swarthmore College and then traveled to England, where she became involved in social work and helped at the College Settlement, a community center. Paul also took part in the women's suffrage movement, which ultimately became her life's work. Returning to the United States in 1910, Paul became a leading spokesperson and organizer. Working tirelessly for the cause, she was often arrested and sent to jail for leading marches and for picketing the White House. Staging hunger strikes while in jail, Paul was force-fed by her jailers. She never gave up the fight and urged President Woodrow Wilson to support the 19th Amendment. After its ratification, Paul devoted the remainder of her life to fighting for an equal rights amendment that she wrote. The author makes excellent use of Paul's letters and journals to re-create her life for a high school audience. This would be a welcome addition for collections seeking titles on the women's suffrage movement.

**Age Level:** High School

**Additional Comments:** Starred review from Booklist  
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Latta, Sara 9781512415681 \$30.00 120 p.

***Black holes*** 21st Century Books, 2018

On the surface, black holes might seem like terrifying, inescapable voids, but in reality, they suggest fascinating things about the nature of the universe and the origin of galaxies. In a lively narrative, the author begins with a detailed description of what black holes are, before moving on to current research and discoveries, accompanied by profiles of some of the scientists, many of them women, at the vanguard of black hole research, as well as the innovative instruments they've developed for detection. Aspiring scientists will be captivated and perhaps inspired to pursue careers in the field.

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

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Leone, Bruno 978-1-60152-960-2 \$32.42 104 p.

***Disease in History*** Reference Point Press, 2016

Disease in History, covers various diseases that have occurred throughout history and the impacts they have had on societies. Diseases addressed within the book, include: typhus and the role it played on the decline of the Greek civilization. Plagues that ravaged Rome's power, influence, and image. As well as the Bubonic Plague and the 20+ outbreaks that ravaged Europe for over 300 years. In addition, the book covers scientists that played a significant role in medicine in relation to diseases. Scientists talked about, include: Louis Pasteur and the positive impact he had on modern medicine as well as Alexander Fleming's discovery of Penicillin. Lastly, I really appreciated that the author was qualified to write on the topic, source notes were included, as well as information for further research. Overall, a very informative book, but would only consider this a secondary purchase.

**Age Level:** High School

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino                      9781512418262                      \$29.00                      104 p.

***Artificial Intelligence: Building smarter machines***      21st Century Books, 2018

This is an exciting, and often disturbing account, of the history and current issues surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) that is bound to appeal to young adults interested in robotics, programming, engineering, the history of science, or science and society debates. The nonjudgmental approach of the topic manages to convey the hope for society that AI offers while not shying away from the potential dark side, particularly in the areas of lost jobs or the notion that machines are devoid of human empathy. McPherson references key authors and books throughout the text, and the extensive back matter provides ample opportunities for researchers and report writers. Source notes are included. This would be an excellent addition to collections eager to encourage STEM conversations.

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

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Nguyen, Angela    978-1-4549-2564-4                      \$12.95                      128 p.

***How to Draw Cute Stuff: Draw Anything and Everything in the Cutest Style Ever!***

Sterling Children's Books, 2017

Fun, lightweight drawing book for kids, tweens, teens. Nothing too sophisticated, but enough to give a doodler some new material to build on. The key is rounding everything and drawing cute faces on it. Probably not a first purchase for a library on a budget, but a good supplementary title for one looking to build its drawing collection with contemporary titles.

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

Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library

Pitts, Byron    9781442483828                      \$17.99                      119 p.

***Be the one: six true stories of teens overcoming hardship with hope.***      Simon & Schuster, 2017

In just a little over 100 pages, the author gives readers six stories about young people who have overcome tremendous odds in their lives. These are true heroes—they overcame child abuse, bullying, psychotic parents, and war. Their stories are not just those of survival, but of true success in life. They are inspiring and easy to read. Many of the heroes

credit God for strength for their success, but all knew that they themselves had to be the one to make changes in their lives. Recommend.

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

Prager, Sarah 9780062474315 \$17.99 259 p.

***Queer, there and everywhere: 23 people who changed the world*** Harper, 2017

First-time author Prager delivers a rich exploration of gender identity and sexuality across time and nation, focusing on 23 queer individuals from different eras and using a broad definition of queerness (“anyone outside society’s gender and sexuality norms”). Among those highlighted are Joan of Arc, Abraham Lincoln (“Abraham and Joshua were ‘intimate friends,’ an antiquated relationship term... one step above a bromance”), and Eleanor Roosevelt, as well as baseball player Glenn Burke, blues musician Ma Rainey, queer rights pioneer Sylvia Rivera, and actor George Takei. These snapshots—sometimes irreverent in tone, but always respectful of the people and relationships they discuss—offer strong insight into the lives of individuals who broke barriers or simply lived life on their own terms. 8th grade and up

**Age Level:** High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Speno, Andrew 9781629796024 \$17.95 175 p.

***The Great American Foot Race: Ballyhoo for the Bunion Derby!*** Calkins Creek, 2017

The story of a foot race from Los Angeles to New York City in 1928 might be a hard sell for most middle school readers, but the book packs in a huge amount of fascinating information about the race, the runners, and the issues of the time: the rise of professional sports, corporate sponsorship of sports, the emergence of the sports agent, the dawn of the US interstate highway system (the race was run on the newly-completed Route 66), city boosterism, ballyhoo and humbug (there was a lot of overstated publicity for the race), and even the rivalry between running and race walking. The issue of segregation comes up as the black runners pass through Texas and Oklahoma, some receiving threats as they ran. There is a local connection, too: one of the runners, Ed Gardner, was from Seattle. The story follows the promoters and a few of the elite-class runners, but a total of 55 men finished the race and doctors were astonished that none of them seemed to suffer long-term health problems. An absorbing story, well researched, but it may need an assist from you to find its readers.

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

Sarah Hunt, KCLS

- Finding a Career Series

Green, Robert 9781682820100 \$29.95 80 p.

***Careers if You Like Writing*** Reference Point Press, 2017

What should you do with your life if you really like to write? Some options include: journalist, blogger, grant writer, lawyer, and screenwriter. These careers and others are explored in this book. Each section includes facts about the job, what kind of education is required, how to best break into the field, what kind of skills and personality are optimal, what kinds of businesses are hiring, what the working conditions are like, the average

salary, chances for promotion/growth in the field, a brief quote with someone from the field, and a list of resources for finding out more about that particular career. At the back there is an interview, a longer list of other careers if you like writing, and an editor's note for even more resources.

MacKay, Jenny 9781682820025 \$29.95 80 p.  
***Careers if You Like History*** Reference Point Press, 2017

What should you do with your life if you really like history? Some options include: Librarian and Archivist, Archeologist, Teacher, and Intelligence Analyst. These careers and others are explored in this book. Each section includes facts about the job, what kind of education is required, how to best break into the field, what kind of skills and personality are optimal, what kinds of businesses are hiring, what the working conditions are like, the average salary, chances for promotion/growth in the field, a brief quote with someone from the field, and a list of resources for finding out more about that particular career. At the back there is an interview, a longer list of other careers if you like history, and an editor's note for even more resources.

Sheen, Barbara 9781682820049 \$29.95 80 p.  
***Careers if You Like Math*** Reference Point Press, 2017

What should you do with your life if you really like math? Some options include: Actuary, Atmospheric Scientist, Personal Finance, and market Research Analyst. These careers and others are explored in this book. Each section includes facts about the job, what kind of education is required, how to best break into the field, what kind of skills and personality are optimal, what kinds of businesses are hiring, what the working conditions are like, the average salary, chances for promotion/growth in the field, a brief quote with someone from the field, and a list of resources for finding out more about that particular career. At the back there is an interview, a longer list of other careers if you like math, and an editor's note for even more resources

Snyder, Gail 9781682820063 \$29.95 80 p.  
***Careers if you Like Science*** Reference Point Press, 2017

What should you do with your life if you really like science? Some options include: biomedical engineer, physician assistant, veterinarian, and science educator. These careers and others are explored in this book. Each section includes facts about the job, what kind of education is required, how to best break into the field, what kind of skills and personality are optimal, what kinds of businesses are hiring, what the working conditions are like, the average salary, chances for promotion/growth in the field, a brief quote with someone from the field, and a list of resources for finding out more about that particular career. At the back there is an interview, a longer list of other careers if you like science, and an editor's note for even more resources.

Uschan, Michael V. 9781682820001 \$29.95 80 p.  
***Careers if You Like Government and Politics*** Reference Point Press, 2017

What should you do with your life if you really like government and politics? Some options include: Congressional Staffer, Lawyer, Social Activist, and Urban Planner. These careers and others are explored in this book. Each section includes facts about the job, what kind of

education is required, how to best break into the field, what kind of skills and personality are optimal, what kinds of businesses are hiring, what the working conditions are like, the average salary, chances for promotion/growth in the field, a brief quote with someone from the field, and a list of resources for finding out more about that particular career. At the back there is an interview, a longer list of other careers if you like government and politics, and an editor's note for even more resources.

**Series Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High, High School

Additional Comments: Recommended with a shrug as I feel much of this information is available online now.

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

### NONFICTION – SHRUG

Stead, Emily 978-1250180346 \$8.00 96 p.  
***Fantastic Fidget Spinners: Everything You Need To Know! Plus Amazing Hacks and Tricks!***

Feiwel & Friends, 2017

This small book has simple directions for various tricks to try with a fidget spinner on the left page of each spread, with illustrations on the right. Tricks start “basic,” then go straight to “epic,” and finally “ultimate.” Many in the early part are such that kids would figure to try them on their own. Some would actually take a fair amount of practice and dexterity to master – much more than I was willing to give. Some require some disassembly or multiple spinners. Toward the end, a few explanations are too brief to be easily understood, including how to make a couple kinds of spinners. Mention of adult assistance suggests a young audience. One missed translation from the original British version is the mention of a 10p coin where a U. S. quarter is illustrated. Fidget squares and fidget sticks are introduced at the end. An additional purchase.

**Age Level:** Middle School, Junior High, High School, Grades elem. to 9

Alan Grenon, Sylvester Middle School

### NONFICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Espinosa, Matthew 978-0062490803 \$19.99 224 p.  
***Matthew Espinosa: More Than Me*** HarperCollins, 2017

An uninspired glimpse into the life of a YouTube star. It only appeals to those familiar with his Instagram feed and film Be Somebody. Not worth the cover price.

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

Danielle Dreger-Babbitt, Sno-Isle Library