



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW

GROUP

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: May 4, 2018

*Issue: 121
May 2018*

WASHRAG

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WASHYARGers:

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

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

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

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

Any questions? Contact Brenna Shanks – bshanks@kcls.org or 425-369-3331

DUES

Members/reviewers may pay dues at any time during the year, but we appreciate prompt payment in September for the forthcoming year.

Dues are \$25 and a dues sheet is included in the newsletter. Dues may be sent to:

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

REMINDERS

MEETING LOCATION:

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

2017-2018 MEETING DATES:

- *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 – March 2018

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

Please remember ARCs may not be added to your collection.

- ❖ Next to a title indicates an YALSA list or award
- ◆ Next to a title indicates it was reviewed in a previous issue

FICTION

❖ <i>A Conspiracy of Stars</i> Cole, Olivia A. Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2018 1 97800626442113 \$17.99	418 p.
<i>A Whisper of Horses</i> Bethell, Zillah Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2016 978-1-250-09394-3 \$16.99	339 p.
<i>All That Was</i> Rivers, Karen Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018 978-0-374-30246-7 \$17.99	379 p.
<i>Almost Paradise</i> Shofner, Corabel Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2017 978-0-374-30378-5 \$16.99	296 p.
<i>Arlo Finch In the Valley of Fire</i> August, John Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Roaring Brook, 2018 978-1-62672-814-1 \$16.99	318 p.
<i>Ash Princess</i> (ARC), Ash Princess Trilogy #1 Sebastian, Laura Elizabeth Couage, Lake Washington High School	Delacorte Press, 2018 978-1524767068 \$18.99	448 p.
<i>Before I Let Go</i> Nijkamp, Marieke Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Sourcebooks Fire, 2018 9781492642282 \$17.99	358 p.
<i>Before Now</i> Olson, Norah Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2017 9780062347077 \$17.99	193 p.
<i>Betty Before X</i>	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018	

Shabazz, Ilyasah	9780374306106	\$16.99	256 p.
<u>Comments:</u> Fictionalized true story written with Renee Watson Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School			
<i>Bobby Lee Claremont and the Criminal Element</i> (ARC)		Holiday House, 2018	
Mobley, Jeannie	9780823437818	\$16.95	240 p.
<u>Comments:</u> MS 4th-6th Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School			
<i>Break Us, Shade Me #3</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2018		
Brown, Jennifer	9780062324498	\$17.99	374 p.
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
<i>Breakout</i> (ARC)	Bloomsbury, 2018		
Messner, Kate	978-1-68119-536-0	\$16.99	438 p.
Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School			
<i>Broken Beautiful Hearts</i>	Imprint, 2018		
Garcia, Kami	978-1-250-07920-6	\$18.99	401 p.
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School			
<i>Burning Brightly</i> (ARC)	Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, 2018		
Donne, Alexa	978-1-328-94893-9	\$17.99	391 p.
Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School			
<i>Calling My Name</i> (ARC)	Greenwillow Books, 2017		
Tamani, Liara	978-0-06-265686-5	\$17.99	308 p.
Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School			
<i>Caravaggio: Signed in Blood</i>	Tradewind Books, 2014		
Smith, Mark David	9781896580050	\$12.95	152 p.
Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School			
<i>Checked</i> (ARC)	Simon & Schuster, 2018		
Kadohata, Cynthia	978-1-4814-4661-7	\$16.99	400 p.
Aarene Storms, dragonrider of KCLS			
<i>Don't Cosplay with My Heart</i>	Scholastic, 2018		
Castellucci, Cecil	9781338125498	\$17.99	273 p.
Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School			
<i>don't forget me</i>	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018		
Stevens, Victoria	978-0-374-30560-4	\$17.99	361 p.
Andy Berkbigler, Shorecrest High School			
<i>Finding Langston</i> (ARC)	Holiday House, 2018		

Cline-Ransome, Lesa Maggie Wong, KCLS	978-0-8234-3960-7	\$16.99	104 p.
<i>Furyborn</i> (ARC), The Empirium Trilogy, bk. 1 Legrand, Claire Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	Sourcebooks Fire, 2018 978-1-4926-5662-3	\$17.99	512 p.
<i>Hamilton and Peggy</i> Elliott, L. M. Kelly L. Crickmore Issaquah High School	Katherine Tegan Books, 2018 978-0-06-267130-1	\$17.99	419 p.
<i>Heart of Iron</i> Poston, Ashley Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Balzer + Bray, 2018 978-0-06-265285-5	\$17.99	467 p.
<i>Honor Among Thieves</i> Caine, Rachel and Ann Aguirre Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School Library	Katherine Tegan Books, 2018 9780062570994	\$17.99	465 p.
<i>Honor Code</i> Burkhart, Kiersi Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Carolrhoda Lab, 2018 9781512429961	\$17.99	312 p.
<i>Ink</i> Broadway, Alice Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	Scholastic , 2017 9781338196993	\$17.99	326 p.
<i>Ink, Iron and Glass</i> Clare, Gwendolyn Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Imprint - MacMillan, 2018 978-1-250-11276-7	\$18.99	328 p.
<i>Invisible Ghosts</i> (ARC) Schneider, Robyn Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School Library	Katherine Tegan Books, 2018 9780062568083	\$17.99	310 p.
<i>It Should Have Been You</i> (ARC) Slaughter, Lynn Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	Page Street, 2018 978-1-62414-535-3	\$16.99	320 p.
<i>Kissing Max Holden</i> Upperman, Katy Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Swoon Reads, 2018 978-1-250-11116-6	\$17.99	297 p.
<i>Layover</i> Andelson, Amy and Emily Meyer Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Crown, 2018 978-1-5247-6487-6	\$17.99	262 p.

<i>Legends of the Lost Causes</i> McLelland, Brad Aarene Storms, dragonrider of KCLS	Henry Holt, 2018 978-1-250-12432-6	\$16.99	325 p.
❖ <i>Let's Talk About Love</i> Kann, Claire Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Swoon Reads, 2018 978-1-250-13612-1	\$16.99	281 p.
<i>Lights Camera Disaster</i> (ARC) Dionne, Erin M. Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Scholastic, 2018 978-1-338-13410-0	\$16.99	272 p.
<i>Live in Infamy</i> Richmond, Caroline Tung Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School	Scholastic , 2018 978-1-338-11109-5	\$17.99	294 p.
<i>Love & Other Train Wrecks</i> Konen, Leah Lauren Wishkoski, Edmonds School District	Katherine Tegen Books, 2018 9780062402509	\$17.99	356 p.
<i>Love, Life and the List</i> West, Kasie Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School	Harper Teen, 2018 978-0-06-267577-4	\$17.99	376 p.
<i>Magic, Madness, Mischief</i> , MMM #1 McCullough, Kelly Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2018 978-1-250-10783-1	\$16.99	282 p.
<i>Miles Morales</i> (ARC) Reynolds, Jason Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School	Marvel Press, 2017 978-1-4847-8748-9	\$17.99	272 p.
<i>Monday's Not Coming</i> (ARC) Jackson, Tiffany Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2018 978-0-06-242267-5	\$17.99	435 p.
<i>My Brigadista Year</i> Paterson, Katherine Katy Olson, Monticello Middle School	Candlewick Press, 2017 9780763695088	\$15.99	198 p.
<i>My So-Called Bollywood Life</i> (ARC) Sharma, Nisha Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School Library	Crown Books, 2018 9780553523256	\$17.99	296 p.
❖ <i>Not if I Save You First</i>	Scholastic , 2018		

Carter, Ally Kathleen Dunbar, Eastlake High School Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	978-1-338-13414-8	\$18.99	293 p.
<i>One True Way</i> (ARC) Hitchcock, Shannon MS 4th-7th Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	Scholastic , 2018 9781338181722	\$16.99	224 p.
<i>Orphan Monster Spy</i> (ARC) Killeen, Matt Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School Aarene Storms, dragonrider of KCLS	Penguin Young Reader's Group, 2018 9780451478733	\$18.99	432 p.
<i>Picture us in the light</i> (ARC) Gilbert, Kelly Loy Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	Hyperion, 2018 978-1-4847-2602-0	\$17.99	368 p.
<i>Pitch Dark</i> Alameda, Courtney Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2018 978-1-250-08589-4	\$18.99	378 p.
<i>Relative Strangers</i> (ARC) Garner, Paula Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Candlewick Press, 2018 978-0-7636-9469-2	\$17.99	359 p.
<i>Royce Rolls</i> (ARC) Stohl, Margaret Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	Bloomsbury, 2017 9781408890790	\$9.99	400 p.
<i>Shadow Girl</i> Liu, Liana Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School	Harper Teen, 2017 9780062306678	\$17.99	324 p.
<i>Shatter</i> , Glitter #2 Pike, Aprilynne Kelly L. Crickmore Issaquah High School	Random House, 2018 978-0-101-93374-9	\$17.99	373 p.
<i>Smart Cookie</i> (ARC) Swartz, Elly <u>Comments:</u> MS 3rd-7th Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	Scholastic, 2018 9781338143560	\$16.99	288 p.
<i>Snow Lane</i> Angelini, Josie Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2018 978-1-250-15092-9	\$16.99	197 p.

<i>Spin the Sky</i> MacKenzie, Jill Andy Berkgigler, Shorecrest High School	Sky Pony Press, 2016 978-1-5107-0686-6	\$17.99	362 p.
<i>TBH, This is So Awkward</i>, TBH #1 Greenwald, Lisa Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2018 978-0-06-268990-0	\$12.99	212 p.
<i>Tess of the Road</i> Hartman, Rachel Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Random House, 2018 9781101931288	\$18.99	536 p.
❖ <i>The Astonishing Color of After</i> (ARC) Pan, Emily X.R. Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library	Little, Brown, 2018 978-0-316-46399-7	\$10.99	460 p.
<i>The Greed</i>, The Cruelty #2 Bergstrom, Scott Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2018 978-1-250-10820-3	\$18.99	403 p.
<i>The Haunted Serpent</i> (ARC) Mitchell, Dora M. <u>Comments:</u> MS 3rd-7th Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	Sterling Children's Books, 2018 9781454927853	\$10.99	240 p.
<i>The Journey of Little Charlie</i> (ARC) Paul Curtis, Christopher <u>Comments:</u> MS 4th-7th Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	Scholastic , 2018 9780545156660	\$16.99	256 p.
<i>The Lies They Tell</i> (ARC) French, Gillian Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School Library	Harper Teen, 2018 9780062642585	\$17.99	295 p.
<i>The Oceans Between Stars</i>, Chronicle of the Dark Star #2 Emerson, Kevin Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	Walden Pond Press, 2018 978006236746	\$16.99	407 p.
<i>The Pros of Cons</i> Cherry, Alison, Lindsay Ribar and Michelle Schusterman Lauren Wishkoski, Edmonds School District Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School	Point, 2018 9781338151725	\$18.99	341 p.
<i>The Queen's Rising</i>, The Queen's Rising #1	Harper Teen, 2018		

Ross, Rebecca Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	9780062471345	\$17.99	439 p.
<i>The Serpent's Secret</i> (ARC), Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond #1 DasGupta, Sayantani Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School Maggie Wong, KCLS	9781338185706	Scholastic, 2018 \$17.99	368 p.
<i>The Traitor Prince</i> Redwine, C.J. Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	Balzer + Bray, 2018 9780062652980	\$17.99	400 p.
<i>The Traitor's Game</i> (ARC), The Traitor's Game #1 Nielsen, Jennifer A. Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Scholastic, 2018 978-1-338-04537-6	\$17.99	400 p.
<i>The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle</i> Connor, Leslie Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2018 9780062491435	\$16.99	326 p.
<i>These Vengeful Souls</i> , These Vicious Masks #3 Shanker, Tarun and Kelly Zekas Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	Swoon Reads, 2018 9781250183064	\$10.99	287 p.
<i>Together at Midnight</i> Castle, Jennifer Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	Harper Teen, 2018 9780062250513	\$17.99	334 p.
❖ <i>Truly Devious</i> Johnson, Maureen Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library	Katherine Tegen Books, 2018 978-0-06-233805-1	\$17.99	420 p.
<i>Turn It Up!</i> Calonita, Jen Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Point, 2018 978-1-338-16115--1	\$17.99	259 p.
<i>Twelve Steps To Normal</i> (ARC) Penn, Farrah Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School	Little, Brown, 2018 978-0-316-47160-2	\$17.99	320 p.
<i>Warrior Genius</i> , Geniuses #2 DiMartino, Michael Dante Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Roaring Brook, 2018 9781626723375	\$16.99	368 p.

<i>We Are All That's Left</i> (ARC) Arcos, Carrie Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School Library	Philomel Books, 2018 9780399175541	\$17.99	378 p.
❖ <i>What the Night Sings</i> Stamper, Vesper Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2018 9781524700386	\$19.99	251 p.
<i>When My Heart Joins the Thousand</i> Steiger, A. J. Lauren Wishkoski, Edmonds School District	Harper Teen, 2018 9780062656476	\$17.99	338 p.
<i>Winterfolk</i> Kolby, Janel Bethany Steirer, Rose Hill Middle School	Harper Teen, 2018 9780062487001	\$17.99	307 p.
<i>Winterhouse</i> , Winterhouse #1 Guterson, Ben Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Henry Holt, 2018 978-1-250-12388-6	\$16.99	370 p.
<i>Without Refuge</i> Mitchell, Jane Cindy Simon, International Community School	Carolrhoda Books, 2017 9781541500501	\$16.99	282 p.
<i>You Won't Know I'm Gone</i> , The Black Angel Chronicles #2 Orlando, Kristen Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School	Swoon Reads, 2018 9781250123619	\$16.99	310 p.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

<i>Bingo Love</i> Franklin, Tee Dawn Rutherford, SPL	Inclusive Press, 2018 9781534307506	\$9.99	88 p.
<i>Clem Hetherington and the Ironwood Race</i> (ARC), Clem Hetherington #1 Breach, Jen Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	Graphix/Scholastic, 2018 9780545814461	\$14.99	208 p.
<i>Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom</i> , Cucumber Quest #1 D.G., Gigi Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	First Second, 2017 1626728321	\$14.99	192 p.
<i>Cucumber Quest: The Ripple Kingdom</i> , Cucumber Quest #2 D.G., Gigi Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	First Second, 2018 1250159822	\$21.99	240 p.

<i>Gone Rogue</i> , Wires and Nerve #2 Meyer, Melissa Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Feiwel & Friends, 2018 978-1-250-07828-5	\$21.99	324 p.
<i>Hermes: Tales of the trickster</i> , Olympians O'Connor, George Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School	First Second, 2018 9781626725249	\$18.99	76 p.
<i>Losing the Girl</i> , Life on Earth #1 MariNaomi Alexis Hardy, Centralia Timberland Library	Graphic Universe, 2018 9781512449105	\$29.32	280 p.
<i>Nick the Sidekick</i> Whamond, Dave <u>Comments:</u> Too young for MS/HS. Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School	Kids Can Press, 2018 9781771383554	\$14.99	48 p.
<i>Sparks!</i> (ARC) Boothby, Ian Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS	Graphix, 2018 1338029460	\$12.99	192 p.
❖ <i>The Prince and the Dressmaker</i> Wang, Jen Alexis Hardy, Centralia Timberland Library	First Second, 2018 9781626723634	\$16.99	288 p.
<i>The True Death of Billy the Kid</i> Geary, Rick <u>Comments:</u> Originally published as Kickstarter Dawn Rutherford, SPL	NBM, 2014 978-1-68112-134-5	\$15.99	60 p.

NON-FICTION

<i>Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card</i> Saedi, Sara Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2018 9781524717797	\$17.99	272 p.
<i>Becoming Madeleine</i> Voiklis, Charlotte Jones and Lena Roy Cindy Simon, International Community School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018 9780374307646	\$19.99	162 p.
<i>Economic Inequality: The American Dream Under Siege</i> Frazer Coral Elizabeth Couage, Lake Washington High School	Twenty-First Century Books, 2018 978-1512431070	\$37.32	128 p.

◆ <i>Eyes of the World</i>	Henry Holt, 2017		
Aronson, Marc & Budhos, Marina	9780805098358	\$22.99	294 p.
Katy Olson, Monticello Middle School			
<i>Fan-Dom Fic Writers, Vidders, Gamers, Artist, and Cosplayers</i>			
	Twenty-First Century Books, 2018		
DiPiazza Francesca	9781512450491	\$37.32	120 p.
Elizabeth Couage, Lake Washington High School			
<i>Finding The Edge: My Life On The Ice</i>	HarperCollins, 2017		
Chen Karen	978-0062822680	\$17.99	244 p.
Elizabeth Couage, Lake Washington High School			
<i>Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad</i>	Amistad, 2018		
Petry Ann	978-0062668264	\$6.99	272 p.
Elizabeth Couage, Lake Washington High School			
<i>Lighting up the brain: the sciene of optogenetics</i>	Twenty-First Century Books, 2018		
Zimmer, Marc	9781512427523	\$35.99	80 p.
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School			
<i>Mary's Monster: Love, Madness, and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein</i>			
	Roaring Brook, 2018		
Judge, Lita	9781626725003	\$21.99	312 p.
<u>Comments:</u> Illustrated			
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School			
<i>Outrageous Animal Adaptations</i>	Twenty-First Century Books, 2018		
Rosen, Michael	9781512429992	\$37.32	96 p.
Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School			
<i>Streetcar to Justice: How Elizabeth Jennings Won the Right to Ride in New York</i>			
	Greenwillow Boook, 2018		
Hearth, Amy Hill	9780062673602	\$19.99	143 p.
Sarah Hunt, KCLS			
<i>Underneath It All: A history of women's underwear</i>	Twenty-First Century Books, 2018		
Keyser, Amber J.	9781512425314	\$37.34	95 p.
Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School			
<i>Vaccination Investigation: The History and Science of Vaccines</i>			
	Twenty-First Century Books, 2018		
Haelle, Tara	9781512425307	\$37.32	120 p.
Katy Olson, Monticello Middle School			
<i>Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners</i>	Greenwillow Books, 2018		

Titles Reviewed at March 2018 Meeting

FICTION – RECOMMEND

- Abbott, Tony 978-0-374-30550-5 \$17.99 217 p.
The Summer of Owen Todd Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017
 Eleven-year-old, Owen Todd and friend Sean Huff look forward to a Cape Cod summer of fun until Sean's mother hires Paul, a 20-something babysitter from their church to watch him. Slowly and reluctantly, Sean tells Owen what is going on. Paul is a pedophile "grooming" his charges as he proceeds to photography and beyond in the abuse of Sean and the recruitment of other kids. Important subject appropriately handled but with an 11-year-old protagonist, I'm not sure who my reader is.
Age Level: Middle School, Too young for YA
 Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School
- Anderson, M.T. 9780763687892 \$16.99 160 p.
Landscape with invisible hand Candlewick, 2017
 Quirky, eccentric and satirical. Each chapter title is written as if it is a piece of art. The main character, Adam is a painter. When the Vuuv, squat block like aliens, took over the planet, their technology displaced most human workers. Their facilities are also ruining the atmosphere so Earth is becoming inhabitable. Adam's family has to take in boarders to make ends meet. The family has a daughter, Chloe and Adam and Chloe immediately hit it off. In a way to make money to support their families they decide to start a channel for the Vuuv who are fascinated with human relationships. When their relationship starts to sour, they must keep up the charade or risk losing everything. Grades 9 and up.
Age Level: High School
 Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School
- Banks, Anna 9781250070180 \$17.99 308 p.
Ally, Nemesis #2 Feiwel & Friends, 2017
 Sequel and conclusion to *Nemesis* (it probably helps to have read the first book). Princess Sepora has made a truce with King Tarik of the neighboring kingdom. They are also promised to wed despite their youth. Sepora has the ability to Forge, which could save Tarik's people from a silent plague - however, Forging also can produce powerful weapons and Sepora does not want to do that, for her own kingdom or Tarik's because she is afraid of the destruction that would result. Things move rather slowly in the beginning but then go swiftly to a satisfying conclusion. Personally, I got rather tired of Sepora and all her doubts about her relationship with Tarik and how he felt about her. So much angst!! Typical teen and true to type, but so very annoying. Lots of relationship angst, some kissing, and then at the end, there is a sexual situation/references but nothing graphic. Grades 6-10.
Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School
- Bobulski, Chelsea 9781250094261 \$17.99 320 p.
The Wood Feiwel & Friends, 2017

Winter has lived her entire life next to The Wood, an intricate forest filled with portals to other times and places. With the help of her father and "Uncle" Joe, she has trained as a guardian of The Wood whose job is to protect & redirect travelers who wander unwittingly out of their own time and into The Wood. She knows she is not to wander off the path or stay after dark. Doing so risks death. A fact she knows all too well after her father's disappearance. Now, she must balance her life as The Wood's only guardian with her regular life - school, best friend and chores. This balance is thrown off when Winter notices a black sickness infecting The Wood, making it act strangely, more menacing. And by the traveler who seems to know he has entered a portal to another time, a traveler who seems to be on an urgent, desperate mission and keeps refusing to stay in his own era. It's up to Winter to defend the very fabric of time by keeping this traveler in check. But when the traveler's story might be connected to what really happened to her father, Winter is willing to risk everything for the chance to see him again. This stand-alone science fiction, fantasy novel is an interesting take on time travel. A little romance, a little mystery and a blend of fairy magic and regular teenage life make this an enjoyable read.

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

Burt, Marissa 978-0062416186 \$16.99 304 p.
The 12 Dares of Christa Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

Christa, undergoing a fresh family divorce, is touring Europe with her mother, who has a new beau, apparently, in her theater company. Christa is dealing, but having issues, and she slowly makes friends with the other actors' kids on the tour. One, Colby, is a friend of her, but seems to like another girl. Eventually, after many missteps, things are solved with Mom and the beau, with Colby and Christa, and with the eponymous 12 Dares that Christa receives from her father, all over Europe. Recommended for both MS and HS

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

Capetta, Amy Rose 9780763691646 \$17.99 421 p.
Echo After Echo Candlewick, 2017

Zara Evans is a nobody from nowhere who is cast in a Broadway play during her senior year of high school. She drops everything to play her favorite character, Echo, the romantic lead in a Greek tragedy. A demanding, and possibly crazy, director, two unsolved murders and a burgeoning romance with a girl on the crew complicate things a bit. Can Zara give the performance of a lifetime? The writing style was engaging, the diverse cast was well developed and the romance was a perfect slow burn. Give to kids who are involved in the theatre, love a good mystery, and who are looking for a realistic and sweet relationship between two girls.

Age Level: High School
Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School

Cody, Paul 978-1-62672-688-8 \$17.99 311 p.
Love is Both Wave and Particle Roaring Brook Press, 2017

Thanks to the insight of their school guidance counselor, Levon and Sam are partnered for a special, extended senior writing project. They will write about their own lives, their

a plan, and her plan for success is based on the Korean dramas that her father watches endlessly. Armed with a step-by-step foolproof plan, she sets out to capture the heart of artsy, mystery boy Luca. Nothing could possibly go wrong... For fans of Dessen, Caletti, and Jennifer Smith - but with a diverse main character - hooray! This light-hearted rom-com will make you laugh and cringe in all the right places. **Bonus: there is a list of Korean dramas at the back to get you started because you will be very intrigued after reading about them for 300+ pages!

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

Gratz, Alan	9780545880831	\$16.99	338 p.
<i>Refugee</i>	Scholastic, 2017		

Gratz skillfully weaves together 3 different story-lines about refugees. The first refugee is a Jewish boy in Nazi Germany during the late 1930's; the second is a Cuban girl in 1994; the third is a boy in Syria in 2015. Each person is fleeing their country for a different reason and with different resources. This is a timely look at a controversial topic. Characters and settings are well-developed. Astute readers will start to piece together how the stories might connect, but clues can be subtle. Maps at the end detail each journey. There is also a detailed author's note about the basis for these stories; they are fictional but based on true stories. Highly recommended.

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

Grey, Melissa	9780385744690	\$17.99	496 p.
<i>The Savage Dawn</i>, Girl at Midnight #3	Random House, 2018		

The final book of the Girl at Midnight trilogy it starts off right where the last book left off. Caius has been taken by, his sister Tanith and Echo is frantically trying to figure out how to use the Firebird's power to both fight Tanith and save Caius. The story takes you from the depths of Caius's prison, to the transformation of Tanith into the Kucedra to the jungle home of the Avicen. As the Kucedra gains power and begins fraying the edges of the in between and Earth as we know it, time is beginning to run out for Echo and her band of believers. The final book is for fans of the first two. Recommended for grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Hand, Cynthia	978-0-06-231850-3	\$17.99	385 p.
<i>The Afterlife of Holly Chase</i>	Harper Teen, 2017		

This is a fun read at the holidays, it follows Holly Chase who has become self-centered: money-focused and pretty much a Scrooge at the holidays. She treats her housekeeper with disdain, her best friend is now beneath her and she is the top dog at her high school. She is Ebenezer Scrooge or # 167 Scrooge as the Project Scrooge Company sees her. She had her chance to change her ways, and she had failed; now she is dead. Currently, she is the Ghost of Christmas Past, trying to get others to take the visits seriously and change the course their life would be taking. This is a fun book of having second chances, learning to love and finding the life has much to give! It was a fun read at the holidays, "God bless us, everyone!" Fun read for Christmas holiday, but is a great read anytime!

Age Level: Junior High, High School
Kelly L. Crickmore, Issaquah High School

Hautman, Pete 9780763690700 \$16.99 278 p.
Slider Candlewick, 2017

David is great at speed eating. He can eat a large pizza in under three minutes. He follows the speed eating circuit and has his favorites that he roots for. When he sees a memento from a recent contest available on a bidding website, he accidentally overbids using his mother's credit card. He now owes his mother \$2000 and must enter a speed eating contest in order to earn the money back. David makes plenty of good and bad decisions that middle school students will relate to. There are also great relationships that are explored between David and his autistic brother and between his two best friends.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Cindy Simon, International Community School

Hegarty, Shane 978-0062311351 \$17.99 432 p.
Darkmouth: Chaos Descends, Darkmouth Harper Collins, 2017

Book three of the Darkmouth series. Finn and Emmie are shocked by how quiet it has been in Darkmouth since they got back from the infected world. But when people start disappearing, they find that Mr. Glad is back, and more powerful than ever, about to lead an assault on the town of Darkmouth. It is scheduled for the day that Finn gets named as a full-fledged monster hunter. All heck breaks loose until Emmie and Finn can shut the gates allowing monsters to enter Darkmouth. MS/Early HS Funny.

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

Hughes, Shirley 9781406360295 \$16.99 240 p.
Whistling in the Dark Candlewick, 2015

Whistling in the Dark centers around Joan, a young teen living in 1940's England during the Liverpool Blitz. Joan's family must figure out how to survive not only the regular bombings, but the day-to-day rationing, blackouts, and sacrifice that impact communities during wartime. Their family is already adjusting to life without their father. Her sister must figure out how to manage life while her true love is sent to war. All the children must take on grown-up responsibilities. Regular teenage experiences, like dances, going to the movies or making new friends are tinged with the color of war. Students will enjoy this book for the picture it paints of life on the home front through the eyes of a teenager. There are also a couple of mysteries that do not get solved completely until the end. Give this to kids who want a lighter experience reading about WWII. Grades 5 - 8

Age Level: Middle School, Too young for YA
Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Isbell, Tom 9780062216083 \$17.99 356 p.
The Release, The Prey #3 Harper Teen, 2017

This is the conclusion to the series and appears to wrap up all the loose ends in an action-packed thriller. For those looking for a dystopian series, this seems to be one that has some

unusual plot twists and interesting characters within the standard tropes. I'd go back and read the first two books, just based on this one.

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

Katz, Gwen C. 9780062642745 \$17.99 384 p.
Among the Red Stars Harper Teen, 2017

Among the Red Stars is some of the best historical fiction I've read! Valka has dreamed of being a fighter pilot since she was a little girl. So when she and her cousin, Iskra, hear about the creation of an all-female aviation group to help the Soviets fight off the Germans, they are eager to enlist. Valka's scrappy, resourceful flying style and Iskra's keen navigation skills ensure them a spot, despite Iskra's parent's treasonous reputations and Valka's reluctance to follow the rules. At the same time, Pasha, Valka's best friend since childhood, is drafted to fight. Much of the story is told in letters between the two. They share their triumphs and failures during training and both the excitement and fear of seeing action. They both lose friends that have so quickly become family. And narrowly escaped death themselves more than once. The war continues to escalate and the two must both decide how far they are willing to go to protect their country and those they love. *Among the Red Stars* highlights the true story of the decorated, talented Soviet airwomen the German's called the Night Witches. Valka, Iskra and countless strong well-rounded female characters carry this novel. Pasha is kind, thoughtful and his descriptions of the war from his perspective are heartbreaking. Action, humor, romance, intrigue and beautiful language throughout. Highly recommended! Grades 7 and up.

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

Krishnaswami, Uma 9781600602610 \$16.95 276 p.
Step up to the Plate, Maria Singh Tu Books, 2017

Based on historical events during WWII. Maria wants to join her school's all-girl softball team, but her traditional Indian father will not allow her to wear shorts. Her parents are much more worried about what is happening globally: WWII and the Partition of India; though it was a difficult time for everyone, Maria Singh's family is slightly different. Her mother is Mexican and her father is Indian at a time when interracial marriage was illegal, so neither are allowed to own land. While Maria's parents worry about what they're going to do when their landlord evicts them, Maria is getting in trouble.

Age Level: Middle School
Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Laybourne, Emmy 9781250055200 \$17.99 340 p.
Berserker Feiwel & Friends, 2017

An historical fantasy about a family of four Norwegian siblings on the run from the law in the New World. Steig, Knut, and Hanne are Nytteson, descendants of the Vikings with special Viking powers. Steig is a Stormrend who can calm the storms; Knut is an Oar-Breaker with incredible strength; and Hanne is a Berserker, who will stop at nothing to protect those she loves. Youngest sister Sissel has not yet presented with any special ability, and that's just fine with her because she'd rather not have the trouble that comes

with great power. Case in point, when their father's life is threatened, Hanne goes into Berserker mode, easily dispatching of the three men who threaten him. As a result, all four siblings go on the run to America. They plan to connect with their uncle, another Berserker who lives in Montana, in hopes that he can train them to control their gifts. Unbeknownst to them, however, there are two men in pursuit of them for being Nytteson (Rolf hopes to offer them safe haven while studying their kind back in Norway) and there are wanted posters being hung all across the Northern Pacific Railroad naming Knut (large, muscular Oar-Breaker that he is) as a triple-murderer. When Hanne's Nytteson senses tell her there is trouble brewing on the train, she and her siblings jump ship, landing in Livingston. There they engage down-on-his-luck Owen to lead them the rest of the way on horseback. The way is not easy, but they are determined to make it.

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

Lee, Mackenzie 978-0062382801 \$18.99 528 p.
The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

Henry "Monty" Montague is an earl's heir but he lives his life as a rakehell. He's determined to not care about decorum if for no other reason than it irritates his father. Only Monty's best friend and unrequited love Percy knows the truth – the earl mentally and physically abuses Monty for being gay. Percy's upbringing was also debilitating as he is a man of mixed race heritage being raised in Regency era England. Throw these two – along with Monty's smart and courageous younger sister – together on a Grand Tour of the Continent, and all sorts of fun things happen. Like all Regency era romances, this one is an unabashed fantasy. And it appears that the author wanted to take all her favorite romances and roll them into one storyline, from a party on the steps of a French palace to a highway robbery, pirates, an evil duke and even an alchemist who went too far into his "science." But it also has quite a bit of heart built around our two star-crossed lovers Percy and Henry. I loved it. No sex on the page but serious innuendos, nudity, and heavy petting.

Age Level: High School
Maggie Wong, KCLS

Maschari, Jennifer 978-0062438928 \$16.99 288 p.
Things That Surprise You Balzer + Bray, 2017

Emily is about to enter middle school and all the rules she knows of friendship and school have been thrown out the window. She has no idea what's so interesting about boys and she's really confused about things like the need to wear Very Berry lip gloss and why everyone is supposed to pack a salad for lunch. Maschari perfectly captures the confusion of middle school social rules alongside the loyalty and heartbreak of friendships. These characters are truly middle school – sometimes silly, sometimes mean, and sometimes profoundly wise. I loved that the family dynamics were messy and loving all in one. The author's language is beautiful and spunky – I particularly liked the metaphor that likened slime mold to the fusing of boy and girl groups at the movies. Backmatter includes solid references for eating disorders. Highly recommended, especially for those middle school kids touched by eating disorders.

Age Level: Middle School
Maggie Wong, KCLS

Mather, Adriana 978-0-553-53951-6 \$17.99 343 p.
Haunting the Deep, How to Hang a Witch #2 Alfred A Knopf, 2017

It's been six months since Samantha Mather, 15, and three other Salem girls survived being hanged by Samantha's stepmother. Sam just wants to forget about those events and be happy her dad is out of his coma. However, Sam is seeing spirits from the Titanic. Then she starts dreaming she's on the Titanic. Sam is not used to her own magic abilities and wants to avoid using it, but she needs help and turns to the Descendants: Susannah, Mary, and Alice--fellow teenagers who are direct descendants of accused Salem witches. When one of Sam's dreams puts her life in danger, the girls know she's being targeted and set out to figure out who is casting these spells. It will take all of the skills and spells these Salem teen witches have to not only figure out who's behind the new threats, but also how to prevent Sam's death aboard the Titanic because she keeps returning to it--whether she wants to or not. Teens who like some snarky mean girls with their teen witch stories will love this entertaining and fast-paced paranormal mystery.

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

Mather, Adriana 978-0553539516 \$17.99 352 p.
Haunting the Deep, How to Hang a Witch #2 Knopf Books for Young Readers , 2017

The setting of this novel is modern day but magical Salem, MA. Hexes, spells, and chants abound even including a love potion! Our protagonist, Samantha is found mending her broken heart from a departed ghost while ignoring the real human next-door neighbor boy. She joins a coven of witches who are called Descendants from the original Salem Witch Trials. The Descendants are the coolest girls in their high school being direct descendants from the accused witches in the trials. Meanwhile she is haunted by spirits from Titanic. She can't sleep without dreaming of the Titanic and even brings back silverware from the ship. Her romance continues in an interestingly morbid path when her ghost crush returns to aid and assist her and her coven. Kisses are exchanged. Things come to a head when her father finds out she's using magic and wants to immediately leave for New York. But if she leaves more people will die!! I found the book was a cute, magical romp with very light historical fiction reference.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

McGee, Ron 978-0-06-24169-2 \$16.99 343 p.
Ryan Quinn and the Lion's Claw, Ryan Quinn #2 Harper, 2017

Ryan Quinn's parents are members of the top-secret Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC)—something that they had kept from their son until they both disappeared. Using skills learned from his parents, Ryan leads a rescue mission and saves the day with some help from his friends (Book 1: *Ryan Quinn and the Rebel's Escape*). In Book 2: *Ryan Quinn and the Lion's Claw*, Ryan's parents strive to keep Ryan out of danger and away from further ERC missions. Frustrated, Ryan does not hesitate to help when a mission presents itself while his parents are out of town. His rescue attempt will take Ryan and his friends on a dangerous trip to Africa and, fully involved in an ERC mission, they will discover that

there is a traitor among the ERC agents which whom they are working! Recommended for fans of the Alex Rider series, grades 5-8.

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

McGinnis, Mindy 9780062561596 \$17.99 384 p.
This Darkness Mine Harper Collins, 2017

Seriously twisted, dark and disturbing. Shanna is the valedictorian of her class, the first chair in clarinet, has had the same boyfriend since 8th grade and already knows her career path. While looking for baby pictures for a class assignment she comes across an ultrasound of herself, but there is a second child in the picture. Not having a good relationship with her family, she looks into it herself to discover what happened to her twin. She discovers that her twin was absorbed by her. What follows is sudden gaps in her memory, her twin starts communicating with her, and she is attracted to Isaac – a motorcycle driving, rule breaking bad boy. The book is dark, disturbing, and twisted as Shanna is at war with herself psychologically. Due to some graphic scenes I would not recommend this for middle school and would say grades 10 and up. Students who like April Henry, James Patterson or Stephen King are going to like this one.

Age Level: High School, Adult
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

McGoran, Jon 9780823438556 \$18.95 362 p.
Spliced Holiday House, 2017

In a slightly futuristic society, you can get animal genes spliced into your own. This is still experimental and quite contentious as well. When Del gets iguana genes spliced in, Del's dad kicks him out of the house and his best friend Jimi is thrown into a quandary. She wants to support her friend, but she is worried that the gene splicing will make Del sick and/or less than human. Interesting premise and good world building, but parts of the story are weak and it was not as good as I hoped it would be. Recommended with a shrug. Kids might not pick up on the weaknesses and will just enjoy the story for what it is.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Comments: Reviewed in last WashRag
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Meadows, Jodi 9780062469403 \$17.99 481 p.
Before She Ignites, Fallen Isles #1 Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

Mira has been told all her life that she is nothing more than a pretty face. A pretty face who is the hopebearer of her people. She is trotted out whenever there is unrest, or at parties, to reassure the people that all is well. When Mira uncovers missing dragons and begins to ask questions she loses everything and is thrown into jail. She expects to be rescued at any time, after all she is the hopebearer. But the days begin to add up and she begins to learn who she really is and what she is capable of. There are many interesting things about this book. First, there is an emotionally abusive mother, and a sister who hasn't spoken to her in 3 years – despite living in the same house. There is also the societal manipulation of her that she begins to discover while in jail. The world building is interesting as well, with each island in the Fallen Isles being very different and with distinct characteristics. Readers will

appreciate the diverse characters, and will cheer Mira on in her awakening. There are a few plot holes, and things that don't quite line up, but the interesting story will keep readers hooked. First in a planned trilogy. Recommended for grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Mills, Emma 978-1-62779-937-9 \$17.99 312 p.

Foolish Hearts Henry Holt, 2017

Claudia generally stays on the sidelines at the fancy private school she attends. She doesn't feel like she fits in with the rich kids and she's much more comfortable with her life-long best friend Zoe. Her school life is shook up when she accidentally overhears (and is caught overhearing) the painful breakup of the school's "it" couple – Paige and Iris – and then gets paired with Iris on a class project. Iris refuses to actually collaborate with Claudia so when they bomb their project their path to grade redemption lies through the school's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Pulled into a different social scene, Claudia makes new friends (including with Iris) and meets Gideon, a boy who might really like her if she gives him a chance. At the same time she's facing changes with her family and with her bff, Zoe. Essentially Claudia is fully experiencing all the facets of life (maybe for the first time) and that's what makes her story so compelling. There are great characters and a lot of heart. Highly recommend, grades 8+.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Moon, Sarah 9781338032 \$18.99 272 p.

Sparrow Arthur A. Levine Books, 2017

Sparrow is a lonely girl who cannot seem to get past her extreme introversion and anxiety to make a friend. She lives mostly in solitude except for her close relationship with her mom and staring at birds. The only person whom she's able to talk to is the school librarian and she has spent every lunch in the library reading books. Tragically, the librarian dies in an accident leaving Sparrow utterly distraught. When the school janitor finds Sparrow on the roof, she rushed to the hospital under the assumption that she was attempting suicide. What no one understands is that she wasn't trying to kill herself, she was turning into a bird. Her relationship with her mother deteriorates and she's forced to attend therapy. The mother/daughter relationship dynamic is realistic and endearing. They have major growth throughout the story. The therapist is a catalyst for a lot of loose ends to wrap up nicely, some of it a little too nicely and she's also an entertaining character in Sparrow's life. It's a good story for younger teens who are going through a difficult period, especially with making friends, feeling lonely and having trouble communicating with their parents. The death of the librarian is only dealt with in the beginning but clearly there is more than that going on with Sparrow so it's not a good book for teens dealing with grief and death. Sparrow is African-American, as is her therapist but diversity is not a huge theme in the book. It's a quick and accessible read that would appeal to a large number of young teens.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Alexis Hardy, Centralia Timberland Library

Morris, Chad 9781629723303 \$16.99 245 p.

Mustaches for Maddie

Shadow Mountain, 2017

The story is based on the true story of the author's daughter, Maddie. Maddie is a happy sixth grader who loves wearing fuzzy colored mustaches to make her friends laugh. After she wins the coveted part of Juliet, in the school play she is diagnosed with a brain tumor. Will she be better in time to perform? The book is light in tone, but that doesn't take away from the seriousness of its message. Maddie not only deals with the tumor and its consequences in a positive manner, but also grows up in the process as she learns how strong she can be. The book explains about the tumor, the surgery necessary and even the risks involved very well. It does this in a way that is honest, but not scary. The book is about more than just the brain tumor and balances the rest of the story well. It is emotional and uplifting. Recommended for grades 5 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Ness, Patrick

978-0-06-240319-3

\$17.99

277 p.

Release

Harper Teen, 2017

Adam Thorn, the younger (gay) son in a deeply religious family, is going to have a big day. He is going to find out his perfect brother is going to have a baby out of wedlock. He's going to discover his best friend is going away for senior year. His boss is going to sexually harass him. He and his new boyfriend are going to move to a new level of intimacy. And finally, his first love, Enzo, is moving away, and tonight is his goodbye party. Meanwhile, a faun and a Queen are wandering the forest. The Queen is going to take on the spirit of a young girl who was murdered in a drug-fueled rage. And she is going to get revenge. In Ness's simultaneously realistic and surreal character study, one day could cause the end of the world – both figuratively and literally. While perhaps too conceptual and cerebral for younger teens, lovers of literary fiction and character development will find themselves immediately invested in Adam's story, and intrigued to figure out how the fantastical secondary narrative fits in to the bigger picture. Explicit (though thoughtful and well-done) sex on the page make this a better choice for mature readers.

Age Level: High School

Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

Northrop, Michael

978-0-545-29716-5

\$17.99

278 p.

Polaris

Scholastic, 2017

It's the 1830s and Owen Ward is a 12-year-old cabin boy on the ship *Polaris* that's on a voyage of scientific exploration. Upon arriving off the coast of Brazil, a group heads into the Amazon rain forest. A week later when the launch boat returns, less than half of the men return. The captain orders the botanist's specimen trunk loaded down below and they set sail. Rumors of a strange tropical illness abound as some men take sick. Then the sailors argue and the six young boys on the crew are locked in the captain's quarters. A mutiny breaks out and the boys hear bodies thrown overboard--including the captain's. The boys break out of the captain's quarters to find the ship empty and fuses lit that will blow up the boat. Now it's only six young boys who have to manage an entire sailing ship. The boys journey below deck to retrieve their belongings and gather food--even though they're all scared. There have been whispers of something dark and shadowy below deck and they can feel something hunting them. Kids will love the non-stop action and escalating tension

as the terrors they face in the stormy waters is nothing compared to the terror that's growing below them in the ship's hold.

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

O'Brien, Caragh 978-1596439429 \$17.99 400 p.

The Keep of Ages, The Vault of Dreamers #3 Roaring Brook Press, 2017

Rosie is on the run still from Berg, the evil doctor who has been mining her powerful dreams for the ability to move his consciousness to a new body – to combat his Parkinson's. Her family is kidnapped by Berg, setting up a showdown in an abandoned Horror Theme Park, where hundreds of dreamers are trapped, being mined for their dreams too. With the help of her friends, Rosie must free her family, stop the evil doctor and hopefully repair her relationship with Linus, all at the same time. MS/HS

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

O'Brien, Caragh M 978-1-59643-942-9 \$17.99 385 p.

The Keep of Ages, The Vault of Dreamers #3 Roaring Brook Press, 2017

Fans of this dystopian series will enjoy the twists and turns of this satisfying end to the trilogy. Rosie made it back home but her sister, mother and step-father have been kidnapped by Dean Berg. Rosie finds a clue and is off to find another secret vault of dreamers. She meets the reclusive Lavina Jacobs who first had her students filmed 24 hours a day which laid the foundation for the current Forge School and Show. Lavina helps her determine that the new vault of dreamers is at Grisly Valley--an abandoned horror theme park. Soon Rosie and her loyal Forge friends break into Grisly Valley to seek out Rosie's family and stop Berg, but Rosie is captured by Berg. Who can help Rosie now? It turns out she has an unlikely ally who's in her own mind. It's another bizarre twist in this captivating series that fans will enjoy. Plus, this ending resolves most issues.

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

Oakes, Colleen 978-0-06-240981-2 \$17.99 352 p.

War of the Cards, Queen of Hearts #3 Harper Teen, 2017

Dinah is finally ready to go back to Wonderland Palace and take her rightful place on the throne. She has an army of Spades and Yurkei to fight for her. She has Cheshire (her real dad) to connive for her. And, she has Wardley, her childhood best friend, to lay down his life for her even if though he's broken her heart. Dinah has what it takes to be a strong and just leader if she can manage to control the blinding rage that threatens to break free from her core. This felt very much like two books in one. The first half is the war, the second half is the aftermath where secrets are discovered and revenge is taken. The ending was not what I expected, and felt a bit like a cop out in order for Dinah to have something close to a happily ever after. Fans of the series will want to see how it concludes. The level of viciousness and violence (true of the series as a whole) makes this more appropriate for grades 9+.

Age Level: High School
Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Oh, Axie
Rebel Seoul 978-1620142998 \$19.95 400 p.
Tu Books, 2017

A futuristic setting after World War 3 in Asia, finds our main character Jaewon testing for his military placement. He is placed in a top security bodyguard/chaperone of a genetically modified soldier. Of course, his charge is a girl! The military government is very unforgiving, most of the nation lives in poverty. Everyone is trained as a soldier to serve a mandatory term. Jaewon and his team operate deadly giant robot weapons. Questions arise if their government has everyone's best interests at heart and an underground rebellion surfaces throughout the book. I did not expect to like this book but I was pleasantly surprised to find I enjoyed it. One caveat about 4 times, I noticed the grammar stumbling and I felt that the author's first language wasn't English. Once or twice in the book the dialogue would be of such that it was described that a conversation was taking place in English. This made the awkward grammar appropriate and added to the ethnic feel of the book. The grammar wasn't technically wrong, it was just unusual placement of words but enough so that I felt it bears mentioning.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Philbrick, Rodman 978-0-545-78978-3 \$17.99 182 p.
Who Killed Darius Drake? Blue Sky Press, 2017

Arthur Bash is the toughest kid in his school and is known for being a thug-for-hire if you have enough candy bars. The nerdiest kid in school, Darius Drake, hires Arthur after he gets an anonymous letter written in blood that asks, "Who killed Darius Drake?" They track down the return address to an abandoned house in a scary part of town. Darius has a slightly dangerous plan to find the mystery man who owns that house and pulls Arthur along for the ride. When Darius was 3 years old, his parents were killed in a car crash that resulted in paramedics restarting his heart, so maybe that's what the letter is about. As Darius and Arthur investigate, they learn about a possible connection to the Dunbar diamonds that are worth a fortune...a connection that leads them back to Darius's own grandfather who is in jail for fraud, forgery and tax evasion. Can Darius and Arthur solve the mystery before they become the latest casualty of the Dunbar diamonds' curse? This is an action-packed story that kids will love reading. It's full of quirky, memorable characters and a fast-moving plot.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Comments: Reviewed in last WASHRAG
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Pinborough, Sarah 978-1-250-12385-5 \$17.99 343 p.
13 minutes Flatiron Books, 2016, 2017

Natasha (Tasha) was the most popular girl in school, who ended up being pulled out of the freezing river. She had been dead for 13 minutes, and does not remember anything. Once back to school her friends are acting funny towards her, so she turns to Becca a BFF she dumped years before to help her solve this mystery. This psychological thriller has many twists and the high school mean girl mentality is portrayed with a brutal honesty. As Becca

tries to solve this mystery, of how Tasha ended up in the river she never expected the answer that un-folds. A fun read!

Age Level: High School

Kelly L. Crickmore, Issaquah High School

Reeve, Philip 9781630790486 \$16.95 352 p.
Railhead, Railhead #1 Switch Press, 2016

The Great Network is a collection of planets connected by wormholes called K-gates, that only trains can go through. But these are no ordinary trains – they have personalities. Zen Starling is a thief whose family is barely scraping by. His mother is paranoid, his sister is gruff and he has taken to riding the rails and looking for things to steal. When he is followed one day he thinks he is finally caught, but the girl knows his name. She is seeking him out for an entirely different reason – to steal something from the Emperor of the network. The world building was truly impressive. Not only were there numerous worlds, but each was painted in language that was detailed without being overly done. The story had twists and turns, hope and crushed dreams, and a constant pace. The characters are nuanced and diverse. The story is unique and utterly imaginative. I highly recommend this title. Grades 6 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Comments: Originally published 2015

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Reynolds, Jason 9781481438254 \$17.99 240 p.
Long Way Down (ARC) Simon and Schuster, 2017

This novel uses very sparse verse to capture 60 seconds in time. Will's brother was shot last night and according to "The Rules" his brother taught him, Don't cry, Don't snitch, Take revenge, Will decides it is up to him to take revenge. Though he has never involved himself in the neighborhood turf wars he grabs his dead brother's gun and hops in the elevator. It turns into a long elevator ride as along the way he is visited by ghosts of gun violence. By the time he gets to the bottom he has a decision to make. A timely read, as Reynolds calls it – his Ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, an effort to reach kids living in the environments that follow "The Rules" the sparse verse makes this a quick read. However, the content is heavy, the ending leaves you thinking about it long after the book is down. A must have for all libraries. Recommended grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Rider, Catherine 97817711388481 \$16.99 189 p.
Kiss Me in New York KCP Loft, 2017

Charlotte, while on a semester abroad in New York, has recently been dumped by her ex-boyfriend, Collin. She now finds herself stranded in New York on Christmas Eve and unable to make it back home to London in time to spend Christmas with her family. Anthony, has recently been publicly humiliated by his ex-girlfriend, Maya, and dumped in the middle of JFK. Soon the two are on a fun-filled adventure touring New York all while following the steps of a self-help book on how to get over your ex. The two both experience some much needed learning, while developing a friendship that eventually turns into something more.

reveals how the two girls are connected and solves the mystery of what haunts them both. A solid mystery, not too violent or graphic.

Age Level: High School

Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School

Smy, Pam 9781626726543 \$19.99 529 p.
Thornhill Roaring Brook Press, 2017

There are two stories taking place from two different time periods simultaneously in this book. One is in words and the other in pictures. One story is from 1982 about a girl named Mary Baines. Her story is told from her diary entries as she lived in the attic of a home for orphans called Thornhill. She is there at a time when more and more of the kids are being moved out of the house and she remains. There is a girl also left in the house who is bullying and mentally torturing Mary. She makes dolls to keep her company and sits mutely in her room every day. From the house across the field from Thornhill, the second story is taking place in the present. Ella Clarke is living in the attic of this house and, being new to the area, has no friends. She finds the remains of the dolls around the yard and she appears to be reading about and empathizing with Mary from her story. The two stories intertwine in a creepy-ghostly way. Recommended for mature middle school and high school students.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

JoAnn Olsson, Liberty High School

Smy, Pam 978-1-62672-654-3 \$19.99 533 p.
Thornhill Roaring Brook Press, 2017

Two time periods. Two storytelling methods. One shivery Gothic ghost story. In the grand tradition of Brian Selznick, Pam Smy has created two intertwining stories that explore bullying, friendship, isolation, and grief. Presented as a series of diary entries, we follow Mary, a girl with a penchant for creating puppets and selective mutism, living in an orphanage called Thornhill. Mary is being tormented by one of her fellow residents, and she feels powerless to stop it. Meanwhile, in present day, stark and eerie black & white illustrations take us through the story of Eleanor, a contemporary girl who has moved across the street from a large boarded up building – a former orphanage called Thornhill. As you might expect, these two stories eventually intersect, and the result is an emotionally impactful and unnerving tale. The real effectiveness here is in Smy's illustration style – some of the images are truly jarring and creepy, and the black/white/gray-scale tones are perfect for telling the sorrowful story. Best for grades 5-8.

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

Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

Sonnenblick, Jordan 978-0545863209 \$16.99 208 p.
The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade Scholastic, 2017

Maverick wants to make a difference in memory of his dead father, a hero. He is bullied at school sometimes because his mother is in jail, and he lives with his mother's boyfriend, a man who has difficulty voicing his affection for Maverick (although he definitely cares for him). All of Maverick's attempts to help at school end poorly for reasons beyond his

control. There is a lot going on in this slim novel, and it all works. There is humor, there are adults doing the right thing, there are issues galore. Recommended for MS.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Strange, Lucy 978-1-338-15747-5 \$16.99

The Secret of Nightingale Wood Chicken House, 2017

Readers looking for a sweet, magical, coming-of-age story will love this tale set in 1919 that's reminiscent of fairy tales. Our narrator is 12-year-old Henrietta (Henry) who just with her parents, baby sister Piglet and Nanny Jane. Everyone is grieving the death of Henry's older brother who died last summer, especially Henry's mother who gave birth to Piglet the day after he died and hasn't been the same since. Her father is unable to help the family and soon is working abroad. Her mother is in the care of Dr. Hardy who keeps her sedated. Dr. Hardy even locks the mom's bedroom and refuses visitors. In Nightingale Wood behind their house, Henry sees a twinkling fire and soon has the courage to seek it out. She's shocked to find a witch but frequent visits reveal a caring woman who can help her mother. When Dr. Hardy takes Piglet to his house to be cared for his wife, Henry knows she must take drastic action to reunite her family. Readers will cheer for Henry as she gains lessons in bravery to save her family by doing the things she never thought she could.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Comments: 1st published in UK in 2016

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Swanson, Matthew; Behr, Robbi 9781250098528 \$16.99 336 p.

***The Real McCoys*, The Real McCoys #1** Imprint, 2017

Moxie McCoy is a kid-detective. Her best-friend Maude has recently moved away. Now Moxie needs to find a new best-friend as well as someone to help her solve the various crimes that pop-up at Tiddlywhump Elementary and around town. The book follows Moxie as she tries to find a new best-friend along with solving the case of who stole Eddie, Tiddlywhump Elementary's mascot. By the end, the case is solved, Moxie has found a potential new best-friend, and a co-detective to help her solve crimes. Overall, I found the story entertaining and the drawings were a nice bonus. Even though the age range is grades 4-6, I highly recommend this book for any middle school in which Diary of a Wimpy Kid is popular and in-demand.

Age Level: Grades: 4-6

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Tanner, Lian 978-1250052186 \$16.99 304 p.

***Battlesong*, The Hidden #3** Feiwel & Friends, 2017

Gwin's family are Fetchers, traveling actors and acrobats, singing and performing for their meals, despised by the Devout, anti-mechanical zealots trying to keep the citizenry down and machines as things of the past. As the Sunkers (ship's crew from a submarine) and others come together to fight Brother Poosk (a particularly cruel and clever Devout leader), they discover enough clues in the Song, a song passed down through ages that has tips on how to get rid of the Devout once and for all. MS/early HS

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Tougas, Shelley 978-1-62672-418-1 \$16.99 296 p.
Laura Ingalls is Ruining My Life Roaring Brook Press, 2017

Charlotte's not thrilled about her mom moving the family to Walnut Grove, MN so she can write a book about Laura Ingalls Wilder. Now the family (brother and half-sister) is living in the Ramos family's basement and the first kid they meet is their granddaughter, Julia who lives with them. Charlotte knows Julia's niceness will only turn to meanness later on and resolves to not be friendly. Charlotte starts inventing up excuses (known as lies) to stay in with her teacher at lunch and recess so she doesn't have to face other kids, but her teacher catches up to her lies and forces Charlotte to volunteer at the Laura Ingalls Museum when Julia is working there. After a short time, Charlotte realizes that maybe Julia could be a true friend. Maybe this prairie life could work out for all of them. Give to middle grade readers who like family/friendship drama and the Little House on the Prairie.

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

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

This is a sweet and funny love story about a girl who hasn't left her house in 67 days. Mallory suffers from agoraphobia ever since her father left with no explanation and no way to contact him. So instead she attends high school through her webcam and surfs internet chat sites devoted to aliens. Somehow she gets nominated as Homecoming Queen. Oh, and her cute next door neighbor is her new physics partner. Will she be able to move forward and go to the dance? You can't help but root for Mallory. The characters are utterly likeable, from her amazingly patient best friend Jenni, to her positive brother Lincoln. Mallory is a self admitted geek and it is great to see this character in a romance. Told from Mallory's point of view, the book does a good job with relating how she feels and in capturing her anxiety. Recommended for grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Young, Moira 978-1-250-11729-8 \$16.99 215 p.
The Road to Ever After Feiwel & Friends, 2017

Thirteen-year-old Davy David has been on his own since he was 9. Davy loves creating artwork so he goes around town just before dawn and creates beautiful recreations of angel paintings using only brooms and dirt. One morning he accidentally observes Parson Fall drinking from a flask and soon finds his life threatened. That same day he happens upon elderly Miss Elizabeth Flint who hires Davy on the spot to drive her 200 miles away so she can die in the house where she was born. Even though Davy's never driven before, he accepts her offer once he learns that Parson Fall is on the hunt for him. Thus begins the heart of the story--an 80-year-old woman and a teenager heading out a madcap road trip that neither one of them could have predicted. Also includes a sweet mutt of a dog named George. Miss Flint, Davy, and George start committing one crazy crime after another as they try to make their way to the sea to give peace to a sweet old lady, but their journey becomes magical as they realize that Miss Flint is getting younger as they travel along--not

older. Special readers will fall in love with Miss Flint, Davy, and George and savor their crazy road trip that's part Twilight Zone, Benjamin Button, and Harold and Maude.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

FICTION – SHRUG

Ancrum, K 978-1250101549 \$17.99 320 p.

The Wicker King Imprint - Macmillan, 2017

Really strange book about two boys, tied together by a near-fatality when younger, who are co-dependent. One sees visions of a different world and the other plays along to help his friend. On page sex and language make this a clear HS book. It turns out, after they burn down an abandoned toy store and are put in an asylum, where it is found that the boy with visions has a brain tumor causing them. Strange, confusing and hard to follow. Shrug

Age Level: High School

Michael Fleming, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Carbone, Courtney 9781524715649 \$9.99 113 p.

Greek Gods: #squadgoals, OMG Classics Random House, 2017

A very silly account of famous Greek myths using texts and emojis. Readers already familiar with the stories will enjoy this quick read from the people who created the OMG Shakespeare series.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Dawn Lindgren, Cascade Middle School

Chacón, Daniel 978-1558858404 \$14.95 272 p.

Cholo Tree Piñata Books, 2017

Victor has an insurmountable hill to climb out of the barrio. He's a 14-year-old kid being raised by a single mom. His dad was killed in the crossfire of rival gangs. His best friend flirts with drugs and weapons. And as the book opens, Victor is recovering from a gunshot wound to his stomach. Everyone – even his mom – assumes he's a cholo. Victor doesn't see himself as a cholo but rather as an artist, a boyfriend, a chef. Stereotypes ascribed and stereotypes internalized are powerful, though, and Victor must forever decide how he determines his own image. Author Daniel Chacón breaks the book into 4 titled segments rather than smaller chapters. Each segment is further broken down into short vignettes to move Victor's story along a four-year development. Chacón clearly respects the diversity that exists within a stereotype but an ill-fitting devolvement into magical realism followed by a surprisingly rosy conclusion left me disappointed. While there's nothing explicit here, Chacón doesn't shy away from on-page drug dealing and drug use, attempted rape, and gang fights. It's a book best fitting to those mature enough to handle the environment and the need to stretch into some difficult discussions.

Age Level: High School

Maggie Wong, KCLS

Connolly, Kara 9780385743938 \$17.99 340 p.

No Good Deed

Delacorte Press, 2017

Ellie is an archer readying for the Olympics. When she is visiting Nottingham for a tournament she decided to do a little sightseeing as well. When a mysterious monk in a white robe catches her eye, she follows him under the castle and into a cave. When she exits the cave she is somehow in medieval England. This is a modern take on the Robin Hood legend – only Robin Hood is a girl. There are definitely some plot issues, and the characters could be better developed. This is a great action adventure for those looking for a strong female protagonist. Recommended grades 6 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Davis, Jenny Fran

9781250119766

\$18.99

402 p.

Everything Must Go: A Novel

Wednesday Books, 2017

Flora, a vintage fashion obsessed, prep-school attending Manhattanite, falls hard for her older tutor Elijah. In a surprising move, she decides to follow him to Quare Academy, a remote Quaker boarding school where he will be teaching in the fall. When Elijah changes his mind, Flora is left to her own devices in an environment very different from the one she left behind. She struggles to fit in at the alternative Quare where "shell speak" (comments on outward appearance) are prohibited, students eat millet and kale at every meal and most kids wear "tattered tunics, bare feet and untamed body hair." During a visit Elijah and Flora have sex and Elijah leaves her in the morning with barely an explanation. After this experience, Flora begins to come into her own, writing a feminist play and performance piece about the transactional nature of love and sex. The story is told through letters, emails and Flora's diary entries which slows the action, but adds nuance. The book was interesting, but kind of a slog to get through.

Age Level: High School

Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School

DeStefano, Lauren

9780062491282

\$17.99

416 p.

The Glass Spare, Glass Spare #1

Harper Collins, 2017

This is a story about cursed souls, rivalry kingdoms and family. Wil is the only daughter of the Northern Arrod king. A king who hates her because she almost killed her mother in child birth. She is closest to her younger brother Gertie, who is often sick, but has a brilliant mind. Like her mother she has a wandering heart and loves to sneak away from the palace. On one of these escapades she swindles a black marketeer. When the black marketeer catches up to her on another day he almost kills her. It is as she is dying that her curse comes to the surface – she turns any living thing into gemstones. When disaster strikes her father banishes her from the kingdom and declares her dead. She has one advantage – no one knows what she looks like. The royal family is extremely secretive and everyone in the kingdom thinks she has golden hair and blue eyes. Wil is able to wander without anyone being the wiser. The world is a combination of old and new. The characters have almost the traditional fantasy set up of swords, long dresses, tunics and castles with warring kingdoms. However, thrown in are modern items, like data goggles, telephones, automobiles and wind turbines. It is almost jarring in a way when something modern shows up. Although as you read it get less so. The book is a twist on Midas's Golden Touch. At times it is a little too formulaic – cursed princess meets cursed prince, but he doesn't

know who she is. He also happens to be the only person immune to her touch. However, there is just enough originality to keep you invested. I would consider this an additional purchase where fantasy, or fairytale twists are popular. Grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Gier, Kerstin 9781627790802 \$18.99 356 p.

Just Dreaming, The Silver Trilogy #3 Henry Holt, 2017

Liv and her boyfriend, Henry, meet each other in their dreams every night. It's been a little scary lately with others in the dream corridor, and Anabel, the psycho ex of Author [Henry's old friend], has returned to the corridors and is convinced that the demon her childhood cult called forth is now out to kill everyone. So not only are the friends being stalked in their dreams by unknown presences, by day their secrets are being spilled by the mysterious Secrecy. There are blog excerpts throughout from Secrecy's Tittle-Tattle Blog where students' and teachers' devious mischief is shared for all to read. Plus, it seems like someone has figured out a way to manipulate people while they are awake, so Henry and Liv must solve this mystery before someone ends up dead.

Age Level: High School

Comments: Contains underage drinking, talk of sex but none on the page.

Andrea Maddox, The Overlake School

Greenwald, Tommy 9781626721715 \$16.99 256 p.

The Real Us Roaring Brook Press, 2017

Told from 3 different points of view and every chapter changes person. Damian is a shy artist who sweats a lot. Calista is the beautiful, popular girl and Laura is the former best friend and is on the heavier side. The story takes place during the first week of 8th grade. All of the stereotypical middle school characters are here including the mean sidekicks and the crowd followers. Everything changes the day beautiful, never had a problem before Calista gets a pimple on her nose. Suddenly, the sidekicks take over her seat and the boy who was going to ask her to the dance doesn't. She then questions who she really is and who her real friends are. It has a great premise, but the characters are really shallow and not well developed. There are no real surprises and the ending is a bit of a disappointment. It is an easy story to read, so it may appeal to those just looking for a quick and easy read. Grades 4-6

Age Level: Middle School

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Martin, Maggie Ann 9781250123213 \$10.99 280 p.

The Big F Swoon Reads, 2017

High school senior Danielle will not get to go to Ohio State due to a failing grade in her advanced English class. She instead enrolls in the local community college to bring up her grade point average. While at community college, she meets boys and attends parties. The heart of the story becomes which boy she really likes. The dialogue and plot never developed depth.

Age Level: High School

Cindy Simon, International Community School

mediocre writing and rushed ending make the book feel half-formed. Teens who are voracious readers in the recent genre trend of YA cult books will probably be entertained enough, but ultimately, Polatin's debut novel is a shrug.

Age Level: High School

Sara White, Olympia Timberland Library

Purdie, Kathryn 978-0-06-241239-3 \$17.99 360 p.
Crystal Blade, Burning Glass #2 Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

As an auraseer (empath), Sonya was raised to be prepared to serve the Emperor, but because her powers are uncontrolled she never expected to be chosen. When an accident kills almost all of the other auraseer's, Sonya is sent to the palace. Although Valko, the emperor, is terrifying, she is strangely compelled by him. She is also attracted to his younger brother, Anton, who is leading a revolution. Book one ends with the government overthrown and the emperor imprisoned. In book two, Anton is struggling to establish a new people's government amidst warring factions. Sonya's ability to not only feel what others feel, but also influence their feelings has put her in danger as has Valko's escape. When another powerful auraseer is revealed the power dynamic between Valko and Anton shifts once again and the reader is left dangling off a cliff. Only purchase if the first is already popular. Shrug, felt repetitive at times. Grades 8+.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Smith, Caighlan 978-63079-057-8 \$16.95 305 p.
Children of Icarus, Children of Icarus #1 Switch Press, 2016

As an auraseer (empath), Sonya was raised to be prepared to serve the Emperor, but because her powers are uncontrolled she never expected to be chosen. When an accident kills almost all of the other auraseer's, Sonya is sent to the palace. Although Valko, the emperor, is terrifying, she is strangely compelled by him. She is also attracted to his younger brother, Anton, who is leading a revolution. Book one ends with the government overthrown and the emperor imprisoned. In book two, Anton is struggling to establish a new people's government amidst warring factions. Sonya's ability to not only feel what others feel, but also influence their feelings has put her in danger as has Valko's escape. When another powerful auraseer is revealed the power dynamic between Valko and Anton shifts once again and the reader is left dangling off a cliff. Only purchase if the first is already popular. Shrug, felt repetitive at times. Grades 8+.

Age Level: High School

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Stiefvater, Maggie 978-0-545-93080-2 \$18.99 311 p.
All The Crooked Saints Scholastic, 2017

Pilgrims travel to Bicho Rarao, Colorado seeking miracles. The Soria family, who have descended from Oaxaca, Mexico, holds the inherited ability to perform miracles. Daniel, the oldest of the cousins and acting saint, performs miracles for everyone but himself. Joaquin runs the radio station under the name of Diablo Diablo. Pilgrims travel here to stay with Sorias, but what they get is not what they are expecting because once the miracle is performed, the pilgrims are on their own to defeat their darkness. Age 14-adult. This book

was a shrug for me. I selected it because I really enjoy Maggie Stiefvater novels, but I had a very difficult time remaining interested in this one and do not think students will engage with the story.

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

Wallace, Kali 9780062366238 \$17.99 415 p.
The Memory Trees Katherine Tegen Books, 2017

Sorrow Lovegood has not returned to her family apple orchard and childhood home since her sister, Patience, died 8 years ago. She can't seem to remember the details of Patience's death no matter how many therapy sessions she attends, so she decides to go home to try and learn the truth. The novel mixes stories of Sorrow's maternal ancestors as they struggle to live in a small-minded small-town, Sorrow's childhood at the orchard as she deals with her mother's mental illness, and present day as she tries to remember her sister's death. A long-standing feud with a neighboring family weaves its way through the narrative, negatively impacting the Lovegood women's lives since the 1700s. The first three-quarters of the book are very slow, the focus being the mystical atmosphere of the orchard and brooding family dynamics, but it pays off with a big reveal near the end. It was a little too sluggish for me and I suspect most students would feel the same.

Age Level: Middle School, High School
Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School

Woodrow, Allan 978-1-338-11688-5 \$16.99 279 p.
Unschool'd Scholastic, 2017

George and Lilly are best friends with very different personalities. Both agree they are looking forward to Spirit Week during their fifth grade year and know that as a team they will be unstoppable. Unfortunately, they end up as the captains of opposing teams. As the competition escalates and things start getting out of control (slime on lockers, a gross egg incident, etc.) both George and Lilly wonder if their friendship can survive. Told in alternating chapters from George and Lilly's perspective this goofy school story is best for upper elementary readers.

Age Level: Too young for YA, Book better for elementary readers
Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

FICTION – NOT RECOMMEND

Bach, Mette 978-1459412323 \$14.95 176 p.
Love is Love Lorimer Real Love Lorimer, 2017

Emmy is an overweight teen who comfort eats and sleeps around to feel accepted. In an effort to start fresh, she moves out to her uncle's house in Vancouver. There she meets Jude and falls for him – hard. Their relationship is complicated for many reasons: Emmy's lack of self-confidence is nearly debilitating and Jude is transitioning female to male. The jumbled writing is further complicated by a flat main character. The best thing to recommend this novel is that Emmy never exhibits transphobia – she learns instead. Not recommended.

Age Level: High School

Maggie Wong, KCLS

Barrow, Rebecca 978-0062494191 \$17.99 336 p.
You Don't Know Me but I Know You Harper Teen, 2017

The story begins at a confusing drinking party because of the volume of characters thrown at the reader with little context. Then there is the compulsion to not only keep track of the names but also genders, sexuality, and ethnicity. That said the book is very diverse with ethnicity and sexuality with some minor sex off the page LGBT themes. The main character, Audrey keeps her pregnancy a secret from most of her friends throughout the novel which causes a lot of strife as many realize something is up. There are a lot of *get the popcorn* miscommunication mishaps. The book had some power to it but then lost its potential about 2/3rds through. Suddenly Audrey had clarity to solve all her problems yet the moment of clarity is never defined, it feels rushed and disjointed. High School Only: Due to the drinking parties, pregnancy, abortion, and off page sex.

Age Level: High School

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Brewer, Zac 9780062457851 \$17.99 289 p.
Madness Harper Teen, 2017

Brooke wants to die. She has just come out of treatment for a suicide attempt and obsesses on completing the job until she meets a boy. They fall in love over a common obsession of suicide. The book trivializes the serious issues of depression and suicide with an attention seeking and drama craving main character.

Age Level: High School

Cindy Simon, International Community School

Katz, Nikki 9781250123718 \$17.99 311 p.
The Midnight Dance Swoon Reads, 2017

Penny is a ballerina at the elite Grande Teatro finishing school. Watched over by her beloved Master, she practices ballet and spends time with her 12 sorellas, girls all strikingly similar to her. She wouldn't want to be anywhere else, or would she? When Penny starts remembering people and events she can't explain, she begins to dig deeper into her life at Grande Teatro and realizes everything isn't as it seems. With Master anticipating and controlling her every move, Penny races to escape her prison and find out the truth of who she really is. I did not enjoy this read. The story line was convoluted and the character development was minimal. The sci-fi elements of the story seemed ill-conceived and the romance was laughably undeveloped. Pretty cover though.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Tracy Erickson, Redmond High School

Madison, Bailee and Stefne Miller 9780310760542 \$17.99 352 p.
Losing Brave Blink, 2017

Payton's twin sister Dylan went missing almost a year ago, but Payton can't remember anything about that day or what might have happened. As she begins to look into the mystery of her twin's disappearance she starts to grow close to, and have feelings for, Dylan's boyfriend. It feels like she is getting closer the truth, but farther from herself as she

kids who love zany stories with laugh-out-loud moments, bizarre creatures, silly exploits, sarcasm and even a little bit of heartbreak.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, Too young for YA, Upper elementary
Heather Nelson, McKnight Middle School

Grunberg, Greg 9780545826082 \$12.99 224 p.
Curse of the Harvester, Dream Jumper #2 Scholastic, 2017

The premise is that Ben is a Dream Jumper or someone who can enter others' dreams. His purpose is to help fight the Night Guardian who hopes to leave the dream world and conquer the real world as well. Ben and his friend Jake have set up a business to save kids from their nightmares. Jake, however, keeps falling asleep and ultimately his life is in danger. Something truly evil is brewing in Dream land and this second installment is definitely darker than the first. There is high middle school appeal – horror without being too scary, potty humor and superpowers. It is clear from the ending that there will be at least another volume. Recommended grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High
Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Hale, Shannon and LeUyen Pham 978-1626727854 \$12.99 224 p.
Real Friends First Second, 2017

Hale and LeUyen have once again teamed up to great success, this time to share a slightly modified memoir of Hale's elementary school friendships. Shannon was always a bit of an outsider, but as long as she had one good friend, she was OK. For the longest time, Shannon's best friend was Adrienne. But then Adrienne started hanging out with Jen and all of a sudden, friendship got complicated. Jen was the leader of "The Group" and every girl wants to be a part of it. Who's in, who's out, who is cool and who is not directly shapes Shannon's ability to cope with the business of growing up. Her active imagination is often her saving grace but also her downfall at times. References to anxiety, mild OCD, and a sibling's mental health add a maturity to the narrative. The memoir begins roughly at kindergarten and ends at fifth grade. Think of this as a precursor to Telgemeier's *Smile*. This will be popular for upper elementary collections and those middle school readers who aren't quite ready to let elementary school go.

Age Level: Middle School
Maggie Wong, KCLS

Hirsch, Andy 978-1-62672-767-0 \$19.99 119 p.
Dogs: From Predators to Protector Science Comics First Second, 2017

This is a particularly excellent addition to the series, combining both the history of dog-human co-evolution with the science of genetics in a fun approachable way. Yes, this is not pure hard science (the narrator is a dog after all) but it is a wonderfully engaging way to learn about how the universe and dogs in particular work. Highly recommended.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, Can be enjoyed by most ages. I love them!
Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library

Koch, Falynn 978-1-6272-752-6 \$12.99 122 p.
Plagues: The Microscopic Battlefield Science Comics First Second, 2017

all expected to learn magic. The male family members become shapeshifters. But Aster isn't fitting into this mold. This full-color graphic novel addresses themes of identity, family, and purpose in a rich little story that feels just slightly familiar. The author smartly includes a family tree at the beginning of the book, and every character in this large cast is unique and identifiable, even as the story focuses specifically on Aster. The mythology Ostertag weaves here is complex – more stories could be told set in this world. Highly recommended for public libraries and middle and high school collections.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Shinn, Sharon and Ostertag, Molly Knox 9781626720893 \$17.99 246 p.
Shattered Warrior First Second, 2017

The Derichets are an alien species that have conquered the planet and put the human population to work for them in mines and factories. Colleen Cavanaugh is from one of the old, wealthy families whose family has all been killed or disappeared. She still lives in her house, alone and travels every day to her job in the city factory. She has few friends, but the ones she sees in the factory and leads a lonely existence. Then one night she meets Jann, a member of the Chromatti gang and something awakens in Colleen. She decides to start living again. This is a story of love, loss, and finding the courage to start over.

The art is beautifully done, in muted earth tones so that when red is used it really stands out. The characters come in all shades and sizes and are beautifully rendered and memorable. All of the characters are adults, with the exception of Lucy, who is a teenager. The story line itself is for a more mature audience, with abuse, cruelty, attempted rape and nudity depicted, and the romance is more mature as well. The story moves quickly and has a lot of complexity. Recommended for grades 10 and up.

Age Level: High School

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Siegel, Mark; Siegel, Alexis; Bouma, Xanthe 1101935863 \$12.99
The Sand Warrior, 5 Worlds #1 Random House, 2017

In a world that's drying out and over heating, The Sand Warrior is needed to relight the beacons. Oona Lee is the clumsiest student at the Sand Dancer Academy. And her older sister Jessa, who was supposed to be the chosen one, ran away a few years ago without explanation. An Tzu is a boy who lives in the slums surround the Sand Dancer Academy, who's good at trading/bartering and getting out of scrapes such activities get him in. Then one fateful day the ship Oona is flying in crashes down into the Stadium Tzu is sitting in, and with powers Oona didn't know she had she manages to save them both AND Jax Amboy the most beloved athlete in the galaxy. Now the three set off on a journey, at first it seems for survival, but soon it becomes clear that these three are destined for great things. A wonderful read a like for fan of Amulet and Avatar The Last Airbender. I'm excited to see where the story goes

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

Simon, Eddy (Author); Brascaglia, Vincent (Illustrator) 9781626272977 \$19.99 139 p.
Pelé: The King of Soccer First Second, 2017

I don't know much about soccer and I have definitely have not heard of Pelé before. However, I found this book to be quite informative and learned a lot about Pelé. I thought the graphics were wonderful as well. Even though I recommend this book, I would only purchase for libraries in which soccer books or informative graphic novels are in-demand.

Age Level: Grades: 4-6

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Terry, Laura 9780545889544 \$12.99 208 p.
Graveyard Shakes Graphix, 2017

Victoria and Katia are sisters and have recently started attending a private boarding school on scholarship. Victoria tries very hard to fit-in, but gets teased by her classmates. Katia on the other hand doesn't want to fit in, nor change her ways to blend-in with the students at their boarding school, despite being teased by them as well. One night, during a blizzard, after Katia has taken off, Victoria, while looking for her sister meets Little Ghost and Modie. With their help Victoria is able to successfully save her sister from the dangerous Nikola. Overall, a cute and entertaining read. A recommended purchase to any Library collection in which Graphic Novels are in-demand.

Age Level: Grades: 3-8

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Yang, Gene Luen and Mike Holmes 978-1-62672-605-5 \$18.99 92 p.
Robots and Repeats, Secret Coders #4 First Second, 2017

The graphic novel *Robots and Repeats* picks up exactly where Book 3, *Secrets and Sequences*, left off with a coding puzzle that, correctly sequenced, will lead our three main characters, Hopper, Eni and Josh, through the Maze of Tunnels. Once through, they are reunited with Professor Bee who teaches them how to use the Turtle of Light, which will come in handy as they deal with a scary robotic cat named Cuddles. Further challenges ensue leading up to a confrontation with the evil Dr. One-Zero and his plot to create a dangerous green soda. Students reading this popular series will learn a little coding as they enjoy this fast-paced mystery. Recommended for grades 4-8

Age Level: Middle School

Amber Peterson, Beaver Lake Middle School

GRAPHIC NOVELS – SHRUG

Anderson, Laura Ellen 1910200514 \$8.99
Evil Emperor Penguin, Evil Emperor Penguin #1 David Fickling Books, 2015

I would say this book is for kiddos grades 3-6. The Evil Emperor Penguin lives in the north pole with his minions of adorable abominable snowmen (though we mostly just interact with Eugene), and Octopus butler Number 8. The Penguin comes up with plans to take over the world, they somehow get hilariously messed up; and then he tries again. I got the jist after one short story, and kept reading out of obligation not interest- but I'm not it's target audience, and I could see younger reluctant readers being excited for this book.

Age Level: Too young for YA

Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

Emerson, Marcus 1626727090 \$12.99
Bad Guy Is a Two-Word Word, Recess Warriors #2 Roaring Brook Press, 2017
 Welcome to recess without classes (or going home to parents...), and every day is an epic adventure stylized like different movie genres. There's a handful of kids we follow throughout vampire take over battles, battles against mad scientists, ninja battles, time travel to the recess of a Western, and wacky super hero capers to save the day. It's purposefully nonsensical, and chooses not to follow rules of it's own world. I think it'd be a good read for elementary school aged kids who like goofy comedy.
Age Level: Too young for YA
 Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

Geary, Rick 978-1-15163-952-6 \$15.99 80 p.
Louise Brooks, Detective NBM Comics Lit, 2015
 In his unique and timeless style, Geary creates a mystery not unlike the gruesome non-fiction he is well known for illustrating, this time featuring one of his favorite actresses. When Louise Brooks returns to her Midwest home from Hollywood, she is swept up into a murder mystery that only she can solve. While this is an entertaining read, I don't see it having very much teen appeal. Adult fans of Geary will appreciate, but not really a fit for school collections.
Age Level: Adult
 Dawn Rutherford, Seattle Public Library

Johnston, Antony 1406318779 \$14.99
Eagle Strike: The Graphic Novel, Alex Rider: The Graphic Novels Walker, 2017
 I was never going to like this book, so if you're a fan of the Alex Rider series good for you feel free to disregard this review. It was what it was, Alex Rider boy spy, is trying to be on vacation from his spy life with his teen girl friend and her family at a french villa- like you do. When he sees an evil assassin/spy arrives on a yacht standing on the, standing at the very front of the yacht like well trained spies surely do. and the adventure takes of from there. I found it unbelievable and a bit silly, but that's the point right? The illustrations were good, clearly going for a manga look and executed proficiently.
Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Maggie Block, Skyway Library KCLS

GRAPHIC NOVELS – NOT RECOMMEND

Chamblain, Joris and Neyret, Aurelie 9781626722484 \$17.99 150 p.
Cici's Journal: The Adventures of a Writer-In-Training First Second, 2017
 Beautiful art, but the book is for elementary age.
Age Level: Too young for YA
 Sarah Hunt, KCLS

Cook, Greg 9781596431058 \$19.99 200 p.
Friends is Friends First Second, 2016

Fun and entertaining read, but definitely meant for adults. Can't recommend this book for MS/HS school libraries.

Age Level: Adults

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Cronn-Mills, Kirstin 9781467780124 \$34.65 104 p.

LGBTQ+ Athletes Claim the Field: Striving for Equality

Twenty-First Century Books, 2016

Wow! I wish I had read *LGBTQ+ Athletes Claim the Field: Striving for Equality* much earlier. Such a well written and informative book about the struggles LGBTQ+ Athletes have faced in the past, but to continue to face even now. I really appreciated the depth the book went into regarding the history of athletes coming out, especially the early pioneers, many of which were outed against their will. However, it was these very outings that paved the way for present day athletes to feel comfortable enough in coming out. In addition, the book covered what different levels of sports and athletics are doing in regards to their non-discrimination policy. To-date, NCAA has the most extensive antidiscrimination policies and support for LGBTQ+ inclusion, due to this, college athletes are more likely to come out. Overall, a wonderful book that should be added to any library collection.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Crossley-Holland, Kevin 9780763695002 \$27.99 225 p.

Norse myths: tales of Odin, Thor, and Loki Candlewick, 2017

Bold illustrations dominated by dark colors and intimidating shadows accompany each tale in this indispensable collection of Norse myths. Crossley-Holland's collection of retellings will appeal to novices looking to tie characters now popular in mainstream media to their Viking roots as well as savvy mythology experts. The size and weight of the title gives the impression of a reference text rather than a casual read, but the illustrations will draw readers in and make this book hard to put down. Illustrated charts of the Norse gods and goddesses, dwarfs and giants, and the Norse world are included at the beginning of the text and offer a handy reference for English speakers unfamiliar with Norwegian language and lore. As one would expect from a collection of myths, there is some violence in most of the stories; however, each is appropriate for middle and high school collections. Each story begins with a one-sentence summary of the myth's message, providing a useful tool for engaging students in lessons about summarizing. This is an essential purchase for middle and high school collections and not very expensive considering what you get!

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Currie, Stephen 9781682822975 \$36.00 80 p.

Sharing Posts: The spread of fake news Reference Point Press, 2018

The validity of news is an issue that, especially in the wake of the 2016 presidential election, has become highly debated. This first-out-of-the-gate work traces "fake news"

back to the 1400s and then all the way up until the present day. This historical backdrop helps readers to critically think about how technology has helped in exacerbating the spread of misinformation. Currie is thorough in defining what fake news is and contrasting it against propaganda and satire. He explores types of bipartisan news from both America and other countries to emphasize how the spread of misinformation has invaded not only blogs and websites but also social media sites as well. While Currie does explain ways one can fact-check a site, he doesn't offer concrete ways to combat the spread of fake news. A necessary look at a disruption of our democracy and how we must fight it. To me this is a first purchase, but since it's in print form it will likely be out of date in a hot second.

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

de la Cruz, Melissa (editor) 9781250154460 \$18.99 242 p.
Because I Was a Girl: True Stories for Girls of All Ages Henry Holt, 2017

Each section of this book, starting with the 1920's/1930's and continuing by decades to the present, begins with the highlights of what rights or advancements for women were made during that era. Then there are true short stories written by women of various ages, professions, backgrounds, cultures, socio-economic statuses, etc. about challenges they faced, gender stereotypes and/or discrimination they had to overcome; stories of their lives, what they have learned, how things have changed, words of advice, and wisdom, etc. A strong addition to non-fiction collections, based on it's wide range of diversity and it's timeliness.

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

Gantos, Jack 978-0374304560 \$17.99 224 p.
Writing Radar FSG, 2017

A breezy, simple writing guide that encourages kids to be writers, but gives them easy tools to begin recording what is around them in the world. Gantos uses examples of his own that show how he gained inspiration for characters or situations in his own books, with exercises and paragraphs kids can do to stretch their writing/thinking muscles. Perfect for MS, will be young to HS readers. 6-8th grades

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

Hirsch, Rebecca E. 9781467785686 \$34.65 112 p.
The Human Microbiome: The Germs That Keep You Healthy
Twenty-First Century Books, 2017

A must add for any MS/HS library wanting to add new science books to their collection. I really appreciated all the information covered in the book and the importance microbes play in our existence. In addition, I really liked that the book included a glossary, source notes, selected bibliography, and further information. If looking for a way to promote this book, mention that students can learn about the power of poop.

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

Marcovitz, Hal 9781682822999 \$36.00 80 p.
The Opioid Epidemic Reference Point Press, 2018
 The author offers a timely exploration of the issue and doesn't avoid the issues of race, class, and gender in this discussion, noting that the opioid epidemic is nothing new. What's happening is that it has primarily switched from the natural to the synthetic, broadened its market base, and so heightened its profile. The author uses numbers judiciously, allowing them weight—2,000,000 opioid addicts in the United States; a half-million heroin addicts—without emphasizing them so much that they become forgettable. He makes it real, with grim, everyday anecdotes. What is opium, why did people decide to strengthen its powers into laudanum and morphine, what is dopamine, what happens when we overstimulate the opioid receptors in our brains? The book concludes with a list of resources. An important book to have given our current social condition.
Age Level: Middle School, High School
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

O'Reilly, Bill 978-1250120335 \$19.99 320 p.
The Day the World Went Nuclear Henry Holt, 2017
 The book is chock full of facts and lots of pictures. Some of the pictures are very grainy and I have seen much better resolution online at primary source sites. The beginning of the book has a great list of all the key players including pictures and a brief bio of each person. Nothing gruesome or morbid in pictures. The book touches upon but includes very little on American Relocation Centers, radiation immediate and lasting effects, and Japanese War Crimes. It focuses primarily on the events and decisions leading up to dropping the bomb. The table of contents isn't very thorough but the index seems robust. The author's additional resources may prove to be helpful for a student wanting more source material.
Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
 Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Parks, Peggy J. 9781682822852 \$36.00 80 p.
The Black Lives Matter Reference Point Press, 2018
 This factual portrayal of the formation of the Black Lives Matter movement should have widespread appeal to youth interested in the topics of police brutality and its opposition. While incorporating numerous studies on police-related deaths against unarmed blacks, the book clarifies that Black Lives Matter is not anti-police, but rather anti-police violence. Readers will learn about new methods police are using to curb offenses, whether from technological advances or building trust in communities that have suffered from it in the past. Parks discusses why Black Lives Matter remains controversial even within some black communities, as well as why it has gained such traction. The book addresses the movement's organizational leadership and goals and why it is so important to communities affected by police brutality. Using recent news stories, anecdotal accounts, social media, and the Justice Department's investigative reports, this book, one of the first to be published on the topic, takes an impressively no-nonsense approach.
Age Level: Middle School, High School
 Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

Reston, Dominick 978-1682822951 \$29.95 80 p.

Donald Trump: 45th Us President Reference Point Press, 2017

This biography is refreshingly unbiased. There is a fair amount of childhood/coming of age background information that I think many students would enjoy. It continues to discuss his celebrity life style as he was involved in pageantry, multiple TV shows, The Apprentice, and Howard Stern Talk Shows. Next it covers his rise in Republican Party as the candidate was selected over 17 other candidates, despite that Trump had never held a political office, and how he constantly 'broke the rules.' There are a lot of cited quotes in this chapter from Trump, commentaries, and other political candidates. The final chapter discusses Trump win. There is a small text box covering the Russian Hacking Controversy (which is already out of date) and another covering his inaugural speech. The index includes topics such as knife collection, insults hurled by Trump, lies told, racism, and an image as ladies' man. If your students are asking for Donald Trump Bios, this one is for you.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Sally M. Walker 978-0763677558 \$24.99 208 p.
Sinking the Sultana: A Civil War Story of Imprisonment, Greed, and a Doomed Journey Home
Candlewick, 2017

The conclusion of the American Civil War was complicated and spread out across time and distance. One of the lesser-known aspects of reunification included the release of Union and Confederate POWs. This follows the story of several Union POWs released from Andersonville and Cahaba Prisons who were transported along the Mississippi on steamships. Because of greed and graft, more than 2,000 soldiers were packed onto the steamship Sultana, which exploded. More than than 1,537 people died, making it the largest US maritime disaster. The author intertwines individual stories from Union POWs, steamboat history, and the actual explosion and its aftermath. The sheer number of characters – all of whom are white - could be prohibitive to readers used to simpler story lines. Primary source maps, photographs, and letters are liberally included alongside extensive back matter. Hand this to readers who have outgrown the Titanic or to readers who are interested in concentration camp narratives but are looking for something a little different.

Age Level: Middle School
Maggie Wong, KCLS

Slater, Dashka 978-0374303235 \$17.99 320 p.
The 57 Bus
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017

In 2013, Sasha Fleischman, 18, a senior at a private high school in Oakland, California, was set on fire by Richard Thomas, 16, a junior at Oakland High School, on the AC Transit 57 bus. Two teenagers from different sides of town ride the same bus for a short period of time, and Richard stupidly succumbed to a friend's bad suggestion. Sasha, bright, autistic and transgender, was napping on the bus when their skirt was torched. Both teens transcend our stereotyped expectations. This author contrasts their backgrounds, and then their futures, dramatically affected by the fire. Slater tells the story in quick little chapters (including poetry, texts, and letters) that reveal their paths crossing, defining terms of gender and sexuality, and follow the slow timeline of the justice system. Great specific details bring up the complexities of justice, forgiveness and stupid teenage impulsivity. It

considers gender and the justice system, for a young reader. The 57 bus is a piece of nonfiction perfect for high school, and probably middle. Its attitudes toward gender acceptance matches most of the teens I know only in broad outlines; it will push them

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Jodie Purcell, Bishop Blanchet High School

Vance, Ashlee 9780062463289 \$16.99 280 p.

Elon Musk and the Quest for a Fantastic Future: Young Reader's Edition Harper, 2017

Elon Musk is by far the hottest name in technology and science. He is accomplishing things no one thought possible and his ultimate goal throughout it all is to save humanity and colonize Mars. This book takes you through the ups and downs of everything Musk has accomplished. In my opinion, this is a must-add book to any Library.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Young Rewired State 978-0-7636-9276-6 \$12.99 207 p.

Get Coding! Candlewick, 2017

This book was written by Young Rewired State, a worldwide community of digital makers who are 18 and younger and is directly aimed at tweens and teens in an appealing voice. The book teaches kids how to code using three essential programming languages: HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The book starts with a basic introduction to computer coding. Then there are six chapters of missions where each mission teaches new coding skills. The missions are building a web page, creating a password, building an app, planning a route, making a game, and finishing a website. Entertaining characters are used to move the story part of each mission along, such as Professor Bairstone, Dr. Day, and the cute dog, Ernest. Additional information, FAQ, coding tips, and support help can be found at www.getcodingkids.com Tweens and teens looking to explore coding will enjoy this book's step-by-step instructions presented in an easy to understand and colorfully appealing way.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

- Cause and Effect: The Modern Wars series

Blohm, Craig 9781682821640 \$29.99 80 p.

The Korean War Reference Point Press, 2017

Blohm, Craig 9781682821688 \$29.99 80 p.

The Vietnam War Reference Point Press, 2017

The book is set up in a way that is accessible to students, covers history of war and then each chapter has specific questions that they look at. There is very little in the way of text breakup and the focus questions are higher level and not explicitly answered so the reader must come up with their own answers. Good bibliography and other resources info. On the expensive side for its size at \$30. Would work in middle or high school where classes do research on modern wars. Grades 8 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Marcovitz, Hal 978-1682821749 \$29.95 80 p.
World War 2 Reference Point Press, 2017

Cause & Effect: World War II by Hal Marcovitz is a concise and thorough treatise on how World War II came about from the initial Appeasement at Munich through to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The book includes information on all fronts of the conflict and all the nations involved in the war. Discussed in some depth is how particular aspects of those nations, for example Nazism in Germany, the rise of Japanese militarism, the Fascists in Italy, brought those nations into the war. The major battles and invasions of the war are covered as well. Also included is a section on the Marshall Plan and how it revitalized Europe. The author includes a goodly selection of source notes on each chapter and a section on books, internet sources and websites for further research. Each chapter also includes focus questions for the reader to help organize their reading and researching. Citations are very thorough

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Nardo, Don 978-1682821701 \$29.95 80 p.
The War on Terror Reference Point Press, 2017

This book examines U.S. modern wars in a historical context to instill readers with a broad understanding of factors that contribute to historic events and the consequences of those events on the political landscape, military operations, and foreign policy. It begins with a timeline covering key events of the War on Terror from 1979 to 2016 and then is divided into five chapters, most beginning with a set of Focus Questions to structure the reading of the chapter ahead. The formation of Al Qaeda, the triggering event of 9/11, the killing of Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden, and the subsequent rise of ISIS are discussed as components of the U.S. movement to combat global terrorism. This book provides context for the 12-year campaign against global terrorism launched in response to the attacks of 9/11 and directs readers desiring deeper analysis to various books, articles, and websites.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

- Cutting Edge Careers series

Watson, Stephanie 978-1-68282-184-8 \$29.92 62 p.
Video Game Designer Reference Point Press, 2018

This is a typical Reference Point Press research series on the topic of Cutting Edge Careers. This series includes these STEM careers: big data analyst, biomedical engineer, cybersecurity analyst, robotics engineer, software engineer, video game designer, and virtual reality developer. Each book contains useful information about each career, including what each job entails, what skills and personal qualities matter for each job, how to go about pursuing this job, what career opportunities there are for each job, what the future outlook for each job is and a Q & A interview with someone who has that job. Tweens and teens will find the colorful layout appealing and the short chapters easy to navigate. There's enough interesting color pictures, pull quotes and small sidebar stories to keep teens reading the entire book. Each book ends with source notes, additional resources/websites, and an index. HOWEVER, with ever-shrinking library budgets, I cannot afford nearly \$30 for less than 70 pages of actual information--not counting source notes,

etc. Other books in this series that I reviewed are Software Engineer, Robotics Engineer, Virtual Reality Developer, and Big Data Analyst

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Abramovitz, Melissa 978-1682821824 \$29.95 64 p.
Cybersecurity Analyst Reference Point Press, 2017

This is a detailed and informative book that tells the reader what a cybersecurity analyst job entails, why these specialists are important, the wide breadth of jobs and industries available, the pros and cons of the career, the necessary educational prerequisites, and the type of personality best suited to have a successful career in this fast growing field. The book is interspersed with real life examples of network security breaches that students probably have heard of and the analysts that helped to solve the problems. Finally, there is a section with numerous sources cited for students to research this issue if they wish further information. The typeface selected was to look techy and cool but I found it hard on my eyes. However, I think children would not have this difficulty.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

- Exploring Careers series

Currie-McGhee 9781682822005 \$36.00 80 p.
Careers in Medicine Reference Point Press, 2018

Kallen, Stuart A. 9781682821985 \$36.00 80 p.
Careers in Entertainment Reference Point Press, 2018

Mooney, Carla 9781682821923 \$36.00 80 p.
Careers in Business Administration Reference Point Press, 2018

Following the information categories of the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), each title in this series profiles eight jobs in terms of working conditions, opportunities for advancement, future outlook, salary, etc. Clustering interest areas, the volumes include a general introduction, ancillary information, related job titles, and interviews. There are no glossary or vocabulary help but plenty of numerical data and "At a Glance" info. Training requirements include the nuances of different types of skills and educational paths. Much of the data is up-to-date through 2017. VERDICT OOH subheadings provide continuity for curriculum demands, while readers will be drawn to the anecdotes. Pricey so purchase only if there is a need.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Joanne Glasgow, Evergreen High School

- Human Rights in Focus series

Steffens, Bradley 9781682822357 \$29.95 80 p.
Human Rights in Focus: Torture Reference Point Press, 2018

The United Nations says that human beings have certain rights and that these rights are being violated throughout the world. This series looks at some of those rights that are

includes: source notes; timeline; books, internet sources, and websites for further research; index; and picture credits. Other titles in the series: Anne Frank, Cleopatra, Hillary Clinton, Marie Curie

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

Parks, Peggy J.	9781601529466	\$29.95	80 p.
Anne Frank Influential Women	Reference Point Press, 2016		

This series focuses on women around the world from different eras who have lived fascinating lives and made various contributions, especially when facing gender inequality, to the world. This book focuses on Anne Frank. To be perfectly honest, I haven't read enough other biographies of Anne Frank to know whether there is new information in this one or not. However, I feel like this not new information. With that said, it is well laid out, with pictures and other primary resources. So, if one needs a biography of Anne Frank for their collection, this would be a good one to have. Back of the book includes: source notes; timeline; books, internet sources, and websites for further research; index; and picture credits. Other titles in the series: Marie Curie, Cleopatra, Hillary Clinton, Malala Yousafzai Recommended with a shrug as much of this information can be found online these days.

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

- Real-World Stem series

Allen, John	9781682822371	\$36.00	80 p.
Improving Virtual Reality	Reference Point Press, 2018		

Hulick, Kathryn	9781682822456	\$36.00	80 p.
Develop Fusion Energy	Reference Point Press, 2018		

Kallen, Stuart A.	9781682822432	\$36.00	80 p.
Global access to clean water	Reference Point Press, 2018		

Steffens, Bradley	9781682822418	\$36.00	80 p.
Eliminate the threat of nuclear terror	Reference Point Press, 2018		

Steffens, Bradley	9781682822494	\$36.00	80 p.
Securing Cyberspace	Reference Point Press, 2018		

Wilcox, Christine	9781682822470	\$36.00	80 p.
Reverse engineer the brain	Reference Point Press, 2018		

This series emphasizes the utilization of technological innovations that benefit society as well as the Earth's environment. Potential complications resulting from the implementation of revolutionary mechanisms are addressed, along with possible solutions. Each volume provides a rationale for using a specific technology, current status of innovations, potential consequences, and possible solutions. Colorful and well-designed photographs, diagrams, graphs, and tables are distributed throughout and help depict each technology's evolution from its original form to its current configuration. A glossary would

be a valuable addition, as well as endorsements by academic scholars in STEM areas. Since information becomes rapidly out of date, accessing the pertinent websites listed will be necessary to keep abreast of technological advances. Pricey so purchase only if there is a need.

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

- Thinking Critically series

Watson, Stephanie 9781682822654 \$29.95 80 p.
The Death Penalty Reference Point Press, 2018

The author has identified five common controversies that arise with the death penalty and provides in depth coverage for each side of these issues. The explanations are readable at a middle school level, but some of the true cases used as examples are fairly gruesome.

Age Level: High School
Cindy Simon, International Community School

Wilcox, Christine 9781682822613 \$29.95 71 p.
Abortion Reference Point Press, 2018

I took this book with great hesitation: as an English teacher, I ended up banning abortion as a paper topic because students never presented arguments rationally. This book does, and as such, would help students develop arguments. After an overview, the book is divided into 4 chapters on central questions: personhood, harm to women, harm to society, and legal limits (women's rights, which I thought might be a question, was not addressed). Page lengths, writing style, and use of graphics are equivalent, and personal emotional stories are totally avoided, so this is balanced. As I read, I was slightly distracted by the use of far-from-center sources, and the Huffington Post, even though the CDC and Pew Center are also employed. And it is more important that the arguments are balanced than that the sources are. So while this never suggests 'consider the source', it still does a good job of presenting the ideas. Appropriate for high school.

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

NONFICTION – SHRUG

Chasse, Jill 9781454923183 \$14.95 128 p.
The Babysitter's Survival Guide: Fun Games, Cool Crafts, Safety Tips and More
Sterling Children's Books, 2017

The cover is inviting and the chapters are informational. There is a lot of useful and helpful information in the book including, what to wear to the interview, thinking about what to charge per hour, good questions to ask the parents before they leave etc. There is a whole section of age-appropriate activities, and recipes as well as advice for how to deal with conflict. However, the format is very wordy, with very few pictures and it may be that the targeted audience doesn't read everything that is there.

The book seems already out of date. The first chapter is about putting together a resume and creating business cards, as well as marketing via flyer. There is a small box at the end of the first chapter that mentions social media and it just isn't enough. Overall, a book that has a lot of helpful information, but it suffers from a layout that only the most determined reader will make it through. Recommended as a supplementary purchase. Grades 7 and up.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Comments: Reprinted, originally published in 2010

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Goldsmith, Connie 9781467785709 \$35.99 112 p.

Understanding Suicide: A National Epidemic Twenty-First Century Books, 2017

While I appreciated the topics covered within the book: coping and risk factors, suicide and bullying among teens, suicide among veterans, adult suicide, and intervention and treatment. I'm fairly certain most, if not all of the information can be found online for free. Aside from that, I did like that each chapter ended with a 'By the Numbers' section and that the book contained source notes, glossary, selected bibliography, and further information.

Age Level: Junior High, High School

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Heos, Bridget 9780544303478 \$17.99 231 p.

It's Getting Hot in Here: The Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Overall, this book is a great starting point for understanding global warming. The author does a wonderful job of simplifying the scientific terminology regarding global warming. However, the author's bias comes through at times. In addition, the information is a bit dated (pulling statistics from 2013) and lacks citations and sources for statistics listed. Although, I did really appreciate that each chapter ends with a 'Be the Change' section.

Age Level: Middle School, High School

Richele Buoy, Mill Creek Middle School

Tebow, Tim 9780735289963 \$17.99 208 p.

Shaken: Fighting to Stand Strong No Matter What Comes Your Way (ARC)

Waterbrook, 2017

In this young reader's version of his memoir, Tim Tebow talks about his life, and especially his football career, in terms of his Christian faith. He talks about the many challenges that he has faced and how his God and his faith have helped him through these difficult times. He relates them to things that students and young people may struggle with and how they may be able to cope with them if they were to also have a personal relationship with God. Overall, I found this book to be too much proselytising. I have read other books where people talk about challenges and faith but without so much of it being crammed down your throat in an attempt to convert you.

Age Level: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

• Career Discovery series

Allman, Toney 9781682821343 \$29.95 80 p.

<i>Careers if you like animals</i>	Reference Point Press, 2018		
Kallen, Stuart	9781682821404	\$29.95	80 p.
<i>Careers if you like the outdoors</i>	Reference Point Press, 2018		
Kallen, Stuart	9781682821428	\$29.95	80 p.
<i>Careers if you like sports</i>	Reference Point Press, 2018		
Mooney, Carla	9781682821442	\$29.95	80 p.
<i>Careers if you like video games</i>	Reference Point Press, 2018		
Roberts, Laura	9781682821381	\$29.95	80 p.
<i>Careers if you like music</i>	Reference Point Press, 2018		
Snyder, Gail	9781682821367	\$29.95	80 p.
<i>Careers if you like helping people</i>	Reference Point Press, 2018		

This verbose series give pretty solid information about various jobs including what the job entails, how to get started in the job, what background, training, and personality traits it takes to do the job, and what one can expect (hours, working environment, salary, e.g.). Each chapter highlights a career and opens with a factsheet that covers education requirements, salary, and outlook. As a nice, personal touch, each chapter has a couple of quotes from people in the industry talking about highlights, lowlights, and surprises in their jobs. The rest of the reading is rather dry, but students with true interest will learn much.

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