



**WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: May 7, 2021**

**Issue: 132
March 2021**

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WASHYARGers:

Welcome to 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.

Someday we will be back together in person, but until then...Join our Zoom Meeting with the Meeting ID/Password below. The link will open by 8:45am with a meeting start time of 9:00am.

Zoom Meeting ID: 924 9947 0595
Zoom Passcode: 938401

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

IN PERSON MEETING LOCATION:
King County Library System Service Center
960 Newport Way NW
Issaquah, 98027

2021 MEETINGS

- May 7
- September 17
- December 3

2022 MEETINGS

- March 4
- May 6
- September 16
- December 9

Reviews

Please submit your delivered reviews and current “books taken” after the meeting. You may submit them at:
<https://evergreenbookaward.org/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.

2021 MEETINGS

- May 7
- September 17
- December 3

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

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

Titles “Taken” for Review – Since January 2021

All titles and reviews are now being submitted online at:
<https://evergreenbookaward.org/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 it was reviewed in a previous issue

FICTION

<i>All the Impossible Things</i> Lackey, Lindsay Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Roaring Book Press, 2019 978-1-250-20286-4	\$16.99	369 p.
<i>The Bitterwine Oath</i> (ARC) West, Hannah Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	Holiday House, 2020 9780823445479	\$18.99	310 p.
<i>Breathless</i> Niven, Jennifer Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Knopf, 2020 9781524701963	\$18.99	388 p.
<i>The Camelot Betrayal</i> Camelot Rising #2 White, Kiersten Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Delacorte Press, 2020 9780525581710	\$18.99	370 p.
<i>Chlorine Sky</i> Browne, Mahogany L. Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School <u>Comments:</u> Novel in verse	Crown, 2021 9780593176399	\$17.99	178 p.
<i>Deepfake</i> Littman, Sarah Jodie Purcell, Northgate Elementary	Scholastic, 2020 978-1-338-17763-3	\$17.99	336 p.
<i>Don't Ask Me Where I'm From</i> (ARC) De Leon, Jennifer Nathalie Gelms, Sno-Isle Libraries	Atheneum, 2020 9781534438248	\$18.99	324 p.
<i>Elatsoe</i> (ARC) Little Badger, Darcie Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	Levine Querido, 2020 9781646140053	\$18.99	368 p. BFYA 2021
<i>Facing the Sun</i> Mather, Janice Lynn Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School	Simon & Schuster, 2020 9781534406063	\$18.99	406 p.
<i>The Gilded Ones</i> Deathless #1	Delacorte Press, 2020		

Forna, Namina Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	9781984848697	\$18.99	418 p.
<i>A Girl in Three Parts</i> Daniel, Suzanne Jodie Purcell, Northgate Elementary <u>Comments: First published Australia in 2019</u>	Knopf, 2020 978-1-9848-5107-9	\$17.99	310 p.
<i>I Killed Zoe Spanos</i> Frick, Kit Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School	Margaret K. McElderry, 2020 9781534449701	\$18.99	373 p.
<i>Land of the Cranes</i> Salazar, Aida Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Scholastic, 2020 9781338343809	\$17.99	248 p.
<i>The Last Lie</i> The List #2 (ARC) Forde, Patricia Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Sourcebooks, 2020 9781492693338	\$16.99	288 p.
<i>Love & Olives</i> Love & Gelato #3 Welch, Jenna Evans Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Simon & Schuster, 2020 978-1-5344-4883-4	\$18.99	506 p.
<i>Love is a Revolution</i> (ARC) Watson, Renee Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Bloomsbury, 2021 978-1-5476-0060-1	\$18.99	289 p.
<i>Lupe Wong Won't Dance</i> (ARC) Higuera, Donna Laura Ofstun, Monticello Middle School	Levine Querido, 2020 9781646140039	\$17.99	272 p.
<i>Mind the Gap, Dash & Lily</i> Dash & Lily #3 Cohn, Rachel and David Levithan Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2020 978-0-593-30154-8	\$12.99	245 p.
<i>No True Believers</i> Lumbard, Rabiah York Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Crown, 2020 978-0-525-64425-5	\$17.99	289 p.
<i>Pretty Funny For a Girl</i> Elliott, Rebecca Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Peachtree, 2020 9781682631478	\$17.99	364 p.
<i>Rent a Boyfriend</i> Chao, Gloria Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Simon & Schuster, 2020 978-1-5344-6245-8	\$18.99	390 p.
<i>Shine</i> Shine #1 (ARC) Jung, Jessica	Simon Pulse, 2020 9781534462519	\$18.99	344 p.

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

<i>Sia Martinez and the Moonlit Beginning of Everything</i>	Simon Pulse, 2020		
Vasquez Gilliland, Raquel	9781534448636	\$18.99	415 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library			
<i>The Sky is Mine</i> (ARC)	Rock the Boat Paperback, 2020		
Beashel, Amy	9781786075550	\$17.99	304 p.
Erin O'Connor, Kellogg Middle School			
<i>Smooth</i>	Candlewick, 2020		
Burns, Matt	978-1-5362-0438-4	\$17.99	358 p.
Jodie Purcell, Northgate Elementary			
<i>These Violent Delights</i> These Violent Delights #1	Margaret K. McElderry, 2020		BFYA 2021
Gong, Chloe	9781534457690	\$19.99	439 p.
Lisa Carlson, Mt. Rainier High School			
<i>War Stories</i>	Scholastic, 2020		
Korman, Gordon	978-1-338-29020-2	\$17.99	231 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			
<i>We Are Totally Normal</i>	HarperTeen, 2020		
Kanakia, Rahul	9780062865816	\$17.99	282 p.
Nathalie Gelms, Sno-Isle Libraries			

NON-FICTION

<i>The Beautiful Struggle</i>	Delacorte Press, 2021		
Coates, Ta-Nehisi	9781984894021	\$17.99	158 p.
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
<u>Comments:</u> Memoir - adapted for Young Adults			
<i>The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person</i>	Candlewick, 2020		
Joseph, Frederick	9781536217018	\$17.99	254 p.
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			

Titles Reviewed – January 2021 Meeting

FICTION – RECOMMENDED

Bhathena, Tanaz 9780374308445 \$17.99 356 p.
The Beauty of the Moment Farrar Straus Giroux, 2019

Susan Thomas and Malcolm Vakil are complete opposites. Susan, a recent immigrant to Canada, is focused on school and school only. This is due to pressures from her parents about maintaining her grades, to get into colleges and universities they approve, to pursue degrees that they approve as well. While for Malcolm school has not been a top priority since his mom passed away. However, watching the relationship between Susan and Malcolm unfold from icy, to friendly, to something more will pull you in and keep you captivated. Both Susan and Malcolm go through character growth that is beneficial to their overall development. Fortunately, the character growth happens due to the positive influences both have on each other. Overall, students that like stories involving friends that turn into something more, will enjoy the book.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Richele Buoy, Rose Hill Middle School

Bhathena, Tanaz 9780374313098 \$18.99 384 p.
Hunted by the Sky The Wrath of Ambar #1 (ARC) Farrar Straus Giroux, 2020

Gul watched as King Lohar's soldiers killed her parents. They were killed protecting her. They were killed because of a prophecy. Now she trains every day in the way of warrior magic and is just waiting for the day she can exact her revenge. Cavas lives in the tenements with his sick father, dreaming of the day his father will feel well enough to walk outside again. When a chance encounter in the marketplace brings these two together, it sets them both on a dangerous path. A path to the destruction of their kingdom. This fantasy novel was inspired by medieval India. Recommended for all fantasy readers, this is the first in a series.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Mary Beth Kurspahic, Risdon Middle School

Callender, Kacen 9781338129335 \$17.99 272 p.
King and the Dragonflies Scholastic, 2020

King and the Dragonflies is about a young boy named King who recently lost his brother and believes that his sibling has returned as a dragonfly. Set in the Louisiana Bayou, it is told first person from King's perspective. Although it's rated for ages 8-12, themes like sexual identity, death, and kidnapping pack a little more emotion into this than you may expect from middle-grade literature. It is the 2020 National Book Award Winner for Young People's Literature. Overall, I enjoyed the story, it was emotionally evocative even for an adult! However, one thing I did not care for was the cover. The lettering was odd and the word dragonflies was separated without a hyphen. Small thing but it detracts from the cover illustration, which is beautiful.

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Laura Ofstun, Monticello/Cascade Middle Schools

Clarke, Cassandra Rose 978-0-8234-4608-7 \$18.99 336 p.
Forget This Ever Happened (ARC) Holiday House, 2020

Haylah Swinton has always dreamed of being a comedian. She stays up way too late watching videos, TV shows, and sketches of all the best comedy acts. Haylah is hindered by her worries about her size. When bullies started calling her pig, she turned the tables on them by embracing the name and now everyone calls her Pig, by her choice. When she finds out that her crush Leo does stand-up comedy, she starts slipping material for his act into his locker. He figures it out and asks for her help writing a sketch for a competition. But helping Leo doesn't help Haylah pursue her own dreams.

Set in England, so there is some British slang. Some swearing. Body dysmorphia issues and fat shaming. Some kissing. There is a strong story line about honesty and standing up for oneself. There are also story lines about family relationships and friendship. The humor is solid. There's a lot going on in here and it ties together pretty well. It fell down in the areas of feminism - calling girls tarts and airheads and also it may not have been the most accurate in how it addressed Haylah's body issues, such as saying that fat is a feeling. Grades 8 and up

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Additional Comments: Recommend with a shrug. The humor is excellent if you need a humor book, other parts are not as strong.

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Elphinstone, Abi 9781471146077 \$17.99 325 p.

Sky Song Aladdin, 2018

This adventure/fantasy has gorgeous writing, connectable characters, and beautiful themes throughout, such as accepting others even though they don't look like you or have the same beliefs. Chapters are told from the POV of the two main characters, Eska & Flint, alternating between them. The Ice Queen has taken over the land of Erkenwald, and those who she doesn't control, are deep in hiding. Flint is one who is still free of her control. He is on a mission at the Queen's palace when he discovers Eska trapped in a music box, the queen having stolen her memories. Flint helps Eska to escape, starting their adventure to stop the Ice Queen before she controls everything.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Too young for YA

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Laura Ofstun, Monticello/Cascade Middle Schools

Higuera, Donna 9781646140039 \$17.99 272 p.

Lupe Wong Won't Dance (ARC) Levine Querido, 2020

This book has all that would engage a middle school reader: potty humor, farts, embarrassing vomit moment, bullies and putdowns. It also touches on social justice, racism, LGBTQ, friendships, and Star Trek! Lupe is a 12 year-old girl who really wants to get all A's so she can meet a famous baseball player for the Mariners (setting is Issaquah; author a local, too). She has to get past square dancing in P.E. for all A's and she's balking about dancing with a boy. Lots of humor at the right level of "ugh" for middle grade readers.

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Laura Ofstun, Monticello/Cascade Middle Schools

Jackson, Holly 978-1-9848-9636-0 \$17.99 387 p.

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder AGGGTM #1 Delacorte Press, 2020

Everyone in Fairview remembers the tragedy 5 years ago when popular senior Andrea (Andie) Bell disappeared and then days later her boyfriend Sal Singh left a confession note after killing himself. It's August before Pip's senior year and she chooses Andie's disappearance for her Capstone senior project. Pip has doubts about Sal's guilt especially since Andie's body was never found. She quickly gets Sal's older brother on board and he helps her investigate. Pip narrates the story and includes her Capstone research

project log which contains transcripts of her interviews, notes and Persons of Interest list which keeps growing. Pip is too fearless with whom she interviews--including known drug dealers and murder suspects. It turns out that Andi wasn't as nice as she was popular--she actually bullied other students and was seeing an older man. Pip knows she's on the right track when she gets threatening notes that tell her to stop but she continues on--even when her suspects include family members of her best friend. When tragedy strikes, will it finally be enough for Pip to drop the investigation? Students will enjoy this mystery as the tension ratchets up with the twists and turns of Pip's investigation. The racially diverse characters are distinct and interesting and add more depth to this thriller.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Kisner, Adrienne	978-1250253422	\$17.99	272 p.
<i>Six Angry Girls</i>	Feiwel & Friends, 2020		

Raina has just been dumped by her boyfriend of five years and is lost as to whether drama is still her passion in life. Millie loves the mock debate team and has devoted her last three years of high school to it, however, when the boys push her out in her last year, she is devastated. The two girls decide that they are going to join forces to create a new mock trial team from six angry (or motivated) girls. Through practicing and getting into character for mock debate, as well as getting their anger out through a kitting group that creates female and male anatomy to send to politicians and judges, these girls discover that they have a great deal to offer their school and themselves. A fun read, told in alternating chapters between Raina and Millie. There is a lot of humor in the knitting club, where there are only two teenagers among politically active older women who create genitalia that they can throw at people or "yarn bomb" with. A fun mix of characters with a wide range of interests, backgrounds, and diversity, this is a good read where the reader may learn a little bit more about trials in the process.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

McGinnis, Mindy	9780062561626	\$18.99	231 p.
<i>Be Not Far From Me</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2020		

For 17-year-old Ashley Hawkins, the Smoky Mountains near her home are a place of refuge, strength, and--a great place to party where you won't get caught by police. Ashley and her friends have done this before, but when Ashley strays from the party to go potty, she catches her boyfriend having sex with his ex-girlfriend. Totally pissed off (both in anger and in drink), Ashley blindly runs away, crashing through the trees. She's an experienced hiker and knows better, but the anger and alcohol have overtaken her good sense. When Ashley wakes up in the morning, she's more than hung over, she's seriously hurt her foot that now looks like a bloody mess. Thanks to Ashley spending her summers at outdoor camp under the training of older counselor Davey Beet, she knows how to find edible plants, start a fire using her hair, and look for the hidden trails left by deer. BUT...she's seriously hurt and very far away from camp. Ashley knows her friends will think she just left and went home. It's going to be days before anyone looks for her, but her infected foot won't last that long. Fans of Hatchet looking for an edgier female version will love this tale that is NOT for the squeamish. You will cheer for Ashley and marvel at just how resourceful she can be.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Nagamatsu, Cole	978-1-7282-1659-1	\$17.99	406 p.
<i>We Were Restless Things</i> (ARC)	Sourcebooks, 2020		

In this atmospheric mystery, high school seniors, Noemi, housemate, Jonas and friend Amberlyn navigate their senior year of high school while struggling to make sense of their friend, Link's drowning in the middle of a dry forest. Ruled as a strange accident, the three teens investigate what really happened. Told from alternating points of view, this is not a straight-forward narrative but a meandering wander through relationships and sexuality. A disappearing lake, Noemi's dream journal and a ghost texting claiming to be Link, all contribute a magical realism to this intriguing lyrical story.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Reed, Christina Hammonds	978-1-5344-7621-9	\$18.99	368 p.
<i>The Black Kids</i> (ARC)	Simon & Schuster, 2020		

It's the 90s, and Ashley is a high school senior growing up in affluent LA and ostensibly a bit of a cheerleader-cum-mean girl. Ashley is waitlisted for her choice college Stanford, and when LaShawn, a smart athlete scholarship kid from the other side of town, shows up for school in the latest Air Jordans, Ashley starts a rumor saying she heard he stole them during the on-going Rodney King race riots. LaShawn has already been accepted to Ashley's choice school Stanford. Meanwhile, she smokes pot with her long-time best friend's boyfriend and they end up having sex. Prom night comes around and truths are told. Ashley has to face her friends and face her own truths especially the fact that she's a Black girl in a very white world. This book is a keen look at race relations, microaggressions, privilege and class. A high-interest, worthy and necessary historical fiction for all high school collections.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Ross, Aleksandra	978-0-06-287797-0	\$23.99	504 p.
<i>Don't Call the Wolf</i>	Harper Teen, 2020		

In a dystopian world besieged by monsters and ruled by a Golden Dragon, Ren, a human abandoned by her human family, is raised by lynxes and develops the ability to transform into a lynx at will. Their forest has been overtaken and other bad magical creatures have killed the villagers. Lukasz, one of ten Wolf-Brothers who are destined to kill the dragon have all been killed trying. Ren and Lukasz work together and fall in love trying to save their world. This book has twists and turns with characters who are not stereotypical. Nobody is perfect, and nothing is as it seems or typically is. World building is added to by two "un-Naturalists" explaining and commenting on the situation creating scene by scene writing rather than an action-packed narrative. It's thoughtful.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Salazar, Aida	9781338343809	\$17.99	248 p.
<i>Land of the Cranes</i>	Scholastic, 2020		

This novel in verse is the story of Betita. She and her parents are undocumented immigrants from Mexico. Her dad is taken by ICE from his job site and deported. When they hear about a park on the border where they might be able to meet him through a fence, they and some of their relatives drive down there. But they miss the last US exit. When trying to re-enter the US, Betita and her pregnant mother are detained and put into a detention camp. The conditions are wretched. Betita tries to hold onto hope by writing picture poems. Although the main character is young, the topic is relevant and Betita's voice is mature. It will hold up in a middle school library as well as elementary. The cover does an excellent job of

portraying an appropriate image for such a deep and sensitive topic that will also help with the appeal for a middle school audience.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

White, Kiersten 9780525581710 \$18.99 370 p.

The Camelot Betrayal Camelot Rising #2 Delacorte Press, 2020

As the second book in a series, it serves as a bridge and as such I did not enjoy it as much as the first book. However, it still has intrigue, action, and interesting characters including some new ones that add to the story of Guinevere and Arthur. It ends on quite the cliff hanger, so beware, especially if you won't be able to read book 3 for a while. CW: Some violence/fighting but not bloody or gory, references to sex but all couched in terms of "the marital act", etc, magic use throughout.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Additional Comments: If you have book 1, get this as well

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

FICTION – SHRUG

Arsenault, Emily 978-1-9848-9705-3 \$17.99 341 p.

All the Pretty Things Delacorte Press, 2020

Ivy runs her father's amusement park, Fabuland, during the summer and hangs out with her best friend, Morgan until she discovers the body of a former classmate and coworker under a trestle bridge near the park. Days later Morgan stops talking and is taken to a hospital psych ward. When the police conclude Ethan fell accidentally, Ivy is not so sure and begins to investigate. This mystery is very dark and hints at how sleazy her father is. Ivy overhears sexist remarks to women, realizes he's having affairs with the young employees and witnesses the shady deals he's making. Nothing really hangs together and the book's epigraph is an Ivanka Trump quote about being a Daddy's girl.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School

Burns, Matt 978-1-5362-0438-4 \$17.99 358 p.

Smooth Candlewick Press, 2020

Kevin has acne, and while his parents recognize this as a problem, they do not obsess and agonize over it as much as he does. In fact, I asked myself, can anyone obsess this much over one thing? Even in these days of shut-down isolation, Kevin's narrow focus on his skin is over-the-top. It blinds him to the people around him, ignoring friendships and turning family into caricatures. Then again, I am no longer a teen, and that may lead me to not be able to tolerate his depression and down-the-rabbit-hole thoughts. Kevin finagles his way onto a prescription for a dangerous drug to treat his acne, and falls for a girl he meetin in the lab. This is a book for kids who like books about teenage angst.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Jodie Purcell, Northgate Elementary

Cohn, Rachel & David Levithan 978-0593301531 \$9.99 256 p.

Mind the Gap, Dash & Lily Dash & Lily #3 Knopf, 2020

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Littman, Sarah 978-1-338-17763-3 \$17.99 336 p.
Deep Fake Scholastic, 2020

Modern High school drama, as told by the top performing three students at Greenpoint High. Will and Dara, two of the high GPAs, are dating, and their secret relationship has just been exposed by Rumor Has It, a gossip blog from an unknown source. MJ, depressed by a college rejection, is shocked to find out her friends kept their relationship secret. But the drama heats on page 25, when Rumor Has It shows a video of Dara accusing Will of cheating on his SAT exam. With divorced parent problems, and financing college issues, neither the friends nor the school consider the video may be faked. The story skips around timewise, but is not difficult to follow. Occasional blog posts break up the narrative with their catty casual tone. These three are go-getters, and sex and drugs are not issues. I found the drama tiresome, but students who thrive on realistic drama should enjoy this.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Jodie Purcell, Northgate Elementary

FICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Lee, Jenny 978-1250236432 \$18.99 400 p.
Anna K Anna K #1 Flatiron Books, 2020

Anna K has come to New York to try to help her brother, Stephen, with his sexting scandal that his girlfriend, Lolly, has discovered. An animal lover and rich socialite, Anna has decided to stay in New York for the weekend and instead of seeing her boyfriend of three years, she finds herself in the company of the dashing handsome boy, Vronsky. Through sex, betrayal, and the constant drinking and drugs of these teens, the story of Anna Karenina plays out. Not having read Anna Karenina by Tolstoy before, I was shocked by this story of rich teens living a life of debauchery and wealth with no adults anywhere in sight. These teens are constantly drinking, doing drugs, and having sex with each other – there is defiantly sex on the page. The book has a 3rd person narrator that feels like reading a movie script. In reading reviews it sounds like there will be an HBO Max series based on the book series and that if readers stick with the book that it gets better. I read about half of this book and couldn't take the sex and drugs with the teens anymore. While I would not recommend this book, it sounds like it may be popular with high school teens.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Myracle, Lauren 978-1536206050 \$18.99 288 p.
This Boy Walker Books US, 2020

Paul and Roby meet Freshman year in class and this starts a fast friendship where they figure out how to navigate all of the different aspects of high school. Paul realizes his Freshman year that he is not the “cool and popular crowd” but that a few good friends are all that he needs. Roby and Paul's friendship grows as they bring in Roby's neighbor Natalia, whom they both have a crush on and eventually she starts to date Paul. As Paul gets older and starts to experiment with drinking, drugs, and sex, it is when tragedy strikes that he has a quick descent into a drug spiral to try to escape his pain. This book goes into a great deal of detail about not only animal sex, but human sex as well, including masturbation and both male and female body parts. While Paul's mom is trying to be a good parent, there is a lot of times when Paul is able to get pot, beer, and prescription drugs which eventually sends him into a deep pit of drug addiction.

His mom tries to help him through rehab at home, but that doesn't go well. This book is clearly geared for high school and I was not a fan.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

GRAPHIC NOVELS – RECOMMENDED

Frederick-Frost, Alexis 9781250152145 \$12.99 128 p.
Grow a Garden! Maker Comics First Second, 2020

Garden gnomes unite in this fun frolic through the cycle of life in a garden. Young gnomes come to get schooled in the specifics of worms, compost, bee pollination, photosynthesis and more. Tottery Mr. Butternut (who transforms into Captain Compost) and evil Mr. Thorn give this a Harry Potter-esque school feel. Just wacky and snarky enough to teach content without being too didactic. Purchase where the topic of school gardening or other books in the series are popular.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

NON-FICTION – RECOMMENDED

- Dealing with Mental Disorders series

Abramovitz, Melissa 9781682827871 \$30.95 80 p.
Dealing with Bipolar Disorders Reference Point Press, 2020

Bryan, Bethany 9781682827895 \$30.95 80 p.
Dealing with Eating Disorders Reference Point Press, 2020

Buckey, A.W. 9781682827857 \$30.95 80 p.
Dealing with Anxiety Disorder Reference Point Press, 2020

Gagne, Tammy 9781682827956 \$30.95 80 p.
Dealing with Self-Injury Disorder Reference Point Press, 2020

Lundin, Martha 9781682827918 \$30.95 80 p.
Dealing with Gender Dysphoria Reference Point Press, 2020

Miller, Marie-Therese 9781682827932 \$30.95 80 p.
Dealing with Psychotic Disorders Reference Point Press, 2020

These 80 page book are introductions to dealing with the disorder named in the title. They have basic level material on what the disorder is, how it is diagnosed, what it can be like to live with it, and how it is treated. There are full color photographs, quotes, and text boxes throughout. Back matter includes source notes, index, image credits, and a list of books, internet sources, and websites for further research.

Of the 6 books in this series, 4 of them feature someone who presents as female on the cover. Also when looking at the photographs depicting what seem to be counseling situations, the adult is almost always someone who presents as white. These things are problematic. They are a good starting place. However, as with anything in the science/medical/health field, they may quickly become outdated.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Additional Comments: Recommended if you have the budget but it may quickly become outdated

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Cummings, Judy Dodge 9781682827659 \$30.95 80 p.
Border Control and the Wall Immigration Issues Reference Point Press, 2020
 This 80 page text gives an excellent overview of the issues involved with the US border and its security. While mostly focusing on the border with Mexico, it does also address the Canadian border and open water borders. The main topics covered: efforts to plug a leaky border; illegal crossings; security versus liberty; will a wall work?; and seeking solutions to border security. There are full color photos throughout as well as quotes, text boxes with additional information, and a few charts/graphs. Back matter includes source notes, photo credits, and an index. There is also a list of organizations and websites such as the ACLU, Border Angels, and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for information as well as books and internet sources for further research.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Additional Comments: Recommended - if you have the money and knowing it may be outdated fairly quickly

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Sheen, Barbara 9781682827697 \$30.95 80 p.
The Dreamers and DACA Immigration Issues Reference Point Press, 2020
 This 80 page book give an excellent overview of who DREAMers are, what DACA is, and the issues that face them. It discusses the various policies that have affected these immigrants and how these policies have changed over time; it also addresses the differing views that people have about how the immigrants and their rights should be handled and why; and concludes with what the future may hold for the DREAMers. There are full color photos, graphs, and charts throughout. Back matter includes source notes, photo credits, and an index. There is also a list of organizations and websites that provide information and services for immigrants, DREAMers, etc. Additionally there are books and internet sources listed for further research. Other titles in the series are: Birthright Citizenship, Border Control and the Wall, Detaining and Deporting Undocumented immigrants, and Refugees and Asylum

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Additional Comments: May be outdated fairly quickly as policies change

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

• Quick Guide to Fantasy Sports Series

Mahoney, Brian 9781678200022 \$30.95 80 p.

Quick Guide to Fantasy Basketball BrightPoint Press, 2021

Mitchell, Bo 9781678200008 \$30.95 80 p.

Quick Guide to Fantasy Baseball BrightPoint Press, 2021

Mitchell, Bo 9781678200046 \$30.95 80 p.

Quick Guide to Fantasy Football BrightPoint Press, 2021

Nicks, Erin 9781678200060 \$30.95 80 p.

Quick Guide to Fantasy Hockey BrightPoint Press, 2021

The books in this series describes fantasy basketball, football, hockey, and baseball. These are short but informative books with lots of information including how to play the game, form a team, and strategies to win. Double spaced lines of text and colorful photos with captions make this an easy and enjoyable read. Includes a glossary for readers not familiar with the sport or other terms used in fantasy sports. Best for readers who are already familiar with the sport they are reading about. I know about basketball/football, so it was easy for me to understand those books in the series but I know NOTHING about baseball/hockey, so it was not easy for me to understand those particular book in the series.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Laura Ofstun, Monticello/Cascade Middle Schools

- World Mythology Series

Nardo, Don 978682828090 \$30.95 80 p.

Chinese Mythology ReferencePoint Press, 2021

Nardo, Don 9781682828113 \$30.95 80 p.

Egyptian Mythology ReferencePoint Press, 2021

Nardo, Don 9781682828137 \$30.95 80 p.

Greek Mythology ReferencePoint Press, 2021

Nardo, Don 9781682828151 \$30.95 80 p.

Indian Mythology ReferencePoint Press, 2021

Nardo, Don 9781682828175 \$30.95 80 p.

Roman Mythology ReferencePoint Press, 2021

This is a 5 book set on world mythology. They are short books full of information about ancient Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Indian and Roman cultures, myths, and how the two influenced each other. The drawings, photos, and colorful bubbles of quick information such as word definitions and gods, make them a good reference tool for middle grade readers. Source notes and an index would make them a good resource for research on the topic.

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Laura Ofstun, Monticello/Cascade Middle Schools

Corchin, DJ 978-1-7282-1982-0 \$12.99 144 p.

Band Nerds: Poetry from the 13th Chair Trombone Player (ARC) Sourcebooks, 2020

From The Triangle Player from Del Torre to the trombone playing “Boners,” these little poetic ditties march around the band room drumming up all kinds of antics. Band trips, spit valves, drumsticks in your crack, no aspect of band life is safe here -- even band parents and band teachers show up. Hilarious line drawings accompany each poem, and most are one-pagers with the occasional poem stretching out to two pages. Everyone will want to join the band or at least read about it!

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Nardo, Don 9781682827574 \$30.95 80 p.

Planet Under Siege: Climate Change Reference Point Press, 2020

This 80 page book gives an excellent overview to climate change. The main topics addressed are: the onslaught of extreme weather events; the ongoing threat of rising sea levels; climate change and global food supply; ongoing losses of species and biodiversity; and fighting and adapting to climate change. It also addresses the common misconception of the difference between weather and climate. There are full color photos throughout as well as quotes and text boxes with additional information. Back matter includes source notes, photo credits, and an index. There is also a list of organizations to contact and a list of books, internet sources, and reports for further research.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Additional Comments: This is one of the more engagingly written books of this format that I have read recently!

NON-FICTION – SHRUG

Allen, John 9781682827598 \$30.95 80 p.
The Trump Presidency Reference Point Press,2020

This 80 page biography of President Trump tries hard and does a good job of being non-biased about such a divisive person. In fact, that is the term the author uses: "divisive". Allen covers Trump's combative style, how he has reversed the course in US foreign policy; his stance on illegal immigration and the attempt to build a wall between the US and Mexico; Trump's tax cuts and tariffs for the economy; and the controversy regarding his policies regarding the environment. There are some color photos but not as many as are typical in a reference point press book, text boxes featuring points of policy, and quotes throughout. Back matter includes source notes, index, photo credits, plus books, internet sources, and websites for further research.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Additional Comments: Already outdated as it was published before the Covid pandemic

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

Allen, John 9781682828076 \$30.95 80 p.
Election Manipulation: Is America's Voting System Secure? Reference Point Press,2020

This 80 page book is geared towards the US presidential election of 2020 but it does cover other parts of elections and election fraud including: hacking into campaign networks; spreading fake news on social media; tampering with voter databases; interfering with the voting process; and the future of election security. Full color photos throughout as well as quotes and text boxes. Back matter includes source notes, index, and photo credits. There are also books, internet sources, and websites listed for further research.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Additional Comments: Already outdated as most of the information skews towards the 2020 presidential election

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School