



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: December 3, 2021

Issue: 134
September 2021

WASHRAG

Titles Taken 3-6

Fiction Reviews 7-11

Graphic Novel Reviews 11-13

Nonfiction Reviews 13-16

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. The link will open by 8:45am with a meeting start time of 9:00am.

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 can be paid online at:

https://givebutter.com/Washyarg2020_21?fbclid=IwAR3eRWTt_iSiybOCip5XEA6Kqk14AXIS-P7w0rpm4-8jYArWM6a8dvB5GoQ

Or mailed 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

- *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/>

- Please be as accurate as possible.
- When submitting series non-fiction, please enter each book separately.

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.

Please make checks payable to WashYARG.

2021 MEETINGS

- December 3

2022 MEETINGS

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

* Please indicate home or work for contact info.

Titles Taken for Review – Since May 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.
 When entering series non-fiction, please enter each book separately. Thanks!

Please remember ARCs may not be added to your collection.

◆ Next to a title indicates it was reviewed previously.

FICTION

<i>Admission</i>	Delacorte, 2020		
Buxbaum, Julie	978-1984893628	\$18.99	352 p.
Michael Fleming, Juanita High School			
<i>An Emotion of Great Delight</i>	Harper Collins, 2021		
Mafi, Tahereh	978-0-06-297241-5	\$19.99	248 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			
<i>Blood Sworn</i>, Ashlords #2	Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021		
Reintgen, Scott	978-0593119211	\$17.99	400 p.
Michael Fleming, Juanita High School			
<i>Both Can Be True</i>	Quill Tree, 2021		
Machias, Jules	978-0-06-305389-2	\$16.99	357 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library			
<i>The Bright and the Pale</i>, The Bright and the Pale #1	Quill Tree, 2021		
Rubinkowski, Jessica	978-0062871503	\$17.99	328 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			
<i>The Darkness Outside Us</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2021		
Schrefer, Eliot	978-0-06-288828-0	\$17.99	393 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			
<i>Dragon Slayers</i>, The Unwants Quests #6	Aladdin, 2020		
McMann, Lisa	9781534416079	\$18.99	420 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			
<i>Dragonfly Girl</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2021		
Leimbach, Marti	978-0062995865	\$17.99	373 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			
<i>Firekeeper's Daughter</i>	Henry Holt and Co. , 2021		

Boulley, Angeline Michael Fleming, Juanita High School	978-1250766567	\$18.99	496 p.
<i>Glitter Gets Everywhere</i> Clark, Yvette Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School	Harper Collins, 2021 9780063034488	\$16.99	320 p.
<i>Hollow Chest</i> Sandstrom, Brita Sara White, Washington State Library <u>Comments:</u> Ages 8-12	Walden Pond Press, 2021 978-0-06-287074-2	\$16.99	335 p.
<i>Jay's Gay Agenda</i> , Jay's Gay Agenda #1 June, Jason Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Harper Collins, 2021 978-0-06-301515-9	BFYA 2022 NOM \$17.99	350 p.
<i>Kat Wolfe Takes the Case</i> , Wolfe & Lamb #2 St. John, Lauren Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2019 9780374309619	\$17.99	290 p.
<i>Kate in Waiting</i> Albertalli, Becky Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Harper Collins, 2021 9780062643834	BFYA 2022 NOM \$18.99	387 p.
<i>The Key to You and Me</i> Brown, Jaye Robin Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School	Harper Teen, 2021 9780062824585	\$17.99	358 p.
<i>Kisses and Croissants</i> Jouhanneau, Anne Sophie Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Delacorte, 2021 9780593173572	\$18.99	313 p.
<i>Muffled</i> Gennari, Jennifer Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Simon and Schuster, 2020 978-1-5344-6365-3	\$17.99	207 p.
<i>Muse</i> , Muse #1 Cavallaro, Brittany Michael Fleming, Juanita High School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2021 978-0062840257	\$17.99	352 p.
<i>Pride and Premeditation</i> , Jane Austen Murder Mystery #1 Price, Tirzah Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Harper Teen, 2020 978-0-06-288980-5	\$17.99	357 p.
<i>Red Tigress</i> , Blood Heir #2 Zhao, Amelie	Delacorte, 2021 978-0525707837	\$18.99	448 p.

Michael Fleming, Juanita High School

<i>The River Has Teeth</i>	Harper Teen, 2021		
Waters, Erica	978-0-06-289425-0	\$17.99	390 p.
Sara White, Washington State Library			

<i>Twist</i>	Feiwel and Friends, 2020		
Cannon, Sarah	9781250123305	\$16.99	297 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			

<i>Unlocked</i>, Keeper of the Lost Cities #8.5	Aladdin, 2020		
Messenger, Shannon	978-1-5344-6342-4	\$21.99	747 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			

<i>What Lives in the Woods</i> (ARC)	Sourcebooks, 2021		
Currie, Lindsay	978-1-7282-0975-3	\$16.99	302 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			

<i>Where the Rhythm Takes You</i>	Blazer and Bray, 2021		
Dass, Sarah	978-0-06-301852-5	\$18.99	331 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			

<i>Witches Steeped in Gold</i>, Witches Steeped in Gold #1	Harper Teen, 2021		
Smart, Ciannon	978-0062945983	\$18.99	560 p.
Michael Fleming, Juanita High School			

<i>You Were Never Here</i>	Harper Teen, 2020		
Peacock, Kathleen	9780063002517	\$17.99	392 p.
Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School			

GRAPHIC NOVELS

<i>Bob Marley in Comics!</i>	NBM Publishing, 2020		
Bitman, Sophie and Gaets	978-1681122496	\$27.99	176 p.
Michael Fleming, Juanita High School			

<i>Brontë</i>	Graphic Universe, 2021		
Santoni, Manuela; translated by Matteo Benassi	978-1541581197	\$14.99	184 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			

<i>The Dragon Path</i> (ARC)	Graphix, 2021		
Young, Ethan	978-1338363296	\$12.99	208 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			

<i>The Girl from the Sea</i>	Graphix, 2021	QP 2022 NOM	
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Ostertag, Molly Knox	978-1-338-54057-4	\$14.99	247 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library			

<i>Miles Morales: Shock Waves</i> (ARC)	Graphix, 2021		
Reynolds, Justin A.; illustrated by Pablo Leon	978-1338648034	\$12.99	113 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			

<i>The Red Mother with Child</i> , Musee du Louvre #18	NBM Publishing, 2020		
Lax, Christian	978-1681122571	\$27.99	144 p.
Michael Fleming, Juanita High School			

<i>Sylvie</i>	Walker Books, 2021		
Kantorovitz, Sylvie	978-1-5362-0762-0	\$24.99	341 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			

NON-FICTION

<i>Gone to the Woods: Surviving a Lost Childhood</i>	Farrar Straus Giroux, 2021		
Paulsen, Gary	9780374314156	\$17.99	368 p.
Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School			

<i>Notes from a Young Black Chef: A Memoir</i>	Delacorte, 2021		
Onwuachi, Kwame and Joshua David Stein	978-0593176009	\$17.99	257 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			
Comments: Adapted for Young Adults			

<i>Wonder Women of Science : Twelve Geniuses Who Are Currently Rocking Science, Technology, and the World</i>	Candlewick Press, 2021		
Fletcher, Tiera and Ginger Rue	978-1-53620734-7	\$19.99	195 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			

FICTION - RECOMMEND

Clayton, Dhonielle, Editor	978-1984896209	\$18.99	393 p.
<i>A Universe of Wishes</i>	Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021		

From the We Need Diverse Books publishers, comes an anthology of fantasy short stories. There are 15 stories from authors that are well-known. Libba Bray writes a continuation of her Gemma Doyle character from *A Great and Terrible Beauty* (which will leave you wanting more). VE Schwab wrote a prequel from her *Shades of Magic* series about the relationship between Rhy Maresh and Alucard Emery. There are stories featuring djinnis in space, female warriors who fight for the hand of the prince, and a spell to wipe away your memories. I liked the variety of these stories and got to know a lot of authors that I've heard about but never read anything from them yet. There's lost love, new love, and a variety of love (LGBTQ+ abounds).

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)

Fantauzzo, Laurel Flores	978-0-06-297228-6	\$17.99	307 p.
<i>My Heart Underwater</i>	Quill Tree, 2020		

Cory has always felt like an outsider, especially at the Catholic high school she attends on a scholarship. This year, she's started to develop romantic feelings for Ms. Holden, her history teacher. Then, tragedy strikes her family. One thing leads to another, and Cory is sent to the Philippines to stay with the half-brother she's never met in person. Fantauzzo's ownvoices story describes the experience of feeling in between cultures. Her Filipina roots lead to exclusion at her school, and when she gets to the Philippines, people refer to her as a FilAm. Her emerging sexual identity is not embraced in either culture. Coping with the unfolding events back home while also dealing with culture shock is overwhelming. It's also authentic and real. Fantauzzo describes real places in the Philippines in beautiful prose. Highly recommended for high school and public libraries.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Gratton, Tessa	978-1534460775	\$19.99	390 p.
<i>Night Shine</i>	Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2020		

This fantasy novel is set in a magical world that has witches, demons, sorcerers, dragons, and spirits. It focuses on a teen girl named Nothing, who was found on the palace grounds as a baby. She grows up in the palace of the Empire Between Five Mountains, befriendng the great demon within the palace and staying hidden away from most people. As a young child, she becomes close with Prince Kirin, and as they both get older, have known each other so well. That's why when Kirin comes back from his summer quest, Nothing knows that it's an imposter who comes back. She finds out that the Sorceress Who Eats Girls has kidnapped the real Kirin, but can't understand why because the Sorceress only kidnaps girls. This is an adventure fantasy with a genderfluid character (not the main character though). There's a lot of action in the beginning and a few twists, but the second half slows

down a bit. It reminds me of a Holly Black fantasy, and I did like this new take on these magical creatures (plus some characters have really long names). I do like how it explores genderfluidity and being queer without it being the main focus of the story. Sex off the page (hinted at but not explicit).

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)

Kaufmann, Lori Banov	9780593125816	\$18.99	388 p.
<i>Rebel Daughter</i>	Delacorte, 2021		

Esther is the head-strong daughter of a high priest living in Jerusalem during the first century AD when Rome rules over the Jewish people. Her parents will arrange a marriage for her soon. Esther should be grateful, but she has ideas of her own about love and marriage that she must keep to herself. She realizes little by little that nothing is as it seems. Her older brothers have likely joined opposing radical sects, and as political tensions begin to run high everything Esther has known and loved may come crumbling down. Some mature themes including attempted rape, sacrificial blood-letting, and pedophilia let the reader know these were turbulent times. The narrative is compelling and the heroine's transformation from a starry-eyed girl to a determined young woman bent on survival will captivate readers.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

McGinnis, Mindy	978-0-06-298242-1	\$17.99	369 p.
<i>The Initial Insult</i>	The Initial Insult #1 Katherine Tegen, 2021		

Welcome to Amontillado, OH, the small town setting for this dark story. Teens Tress Montor and Felicity Turnado were best friends until 7 years ago when Tress's parents disappeared while taking Felicity home. Felicity was found the next morning with bloody wounds. Tress lost everything and was shunned by everyone. She lives in a trashy trailer with her drunk one-eyed grandfather. Now a senior in high school, Tress has a plan to get Felicity to tell her what happened that night her parents disappeared. Tress lures Felicity into the cellar at a dilapidated house and chains her to a wall and starts bricking her in to scare her into telling the truth. Astute readers will recognize the tell-tale Edgar Allan Poe references sprinkled throughout. The whole story has a creepy vibe with tension ratcheting up as we wait for the truth to be told, brick by brick. Teens will be entranced and fascinated...but must wait for the sequel to find out the whole truth before Felicity is nevermore.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

McManus, Karen M.	978-0-525-70800-1	\$19.99	321 p.
<i>The Cousins</i>	Delacorte, 2020		

Gr 9 and up: Cousins Milly, Aubrey and Jonah get an unexpected invitation from their reclusive grandmother to spend the summer working at her island resort. The invitation is

quite a surprise, as she had disinherited their parents before they were born and has never made any effort to contact them. Ever. Their parents think the visit will be their chance to get back into the will and Milly, Aubrey and Jonah soon find themselves on a ferry to the resort. Once there, it appears that their grandmother wasn't the one to invite them and certainly doesn't want to see them. Every person the three meet on the island is hiding secrets and, in unraveling these secrets, the mystery behind the family disinheritance may lead to dangerous consequences for everyone involved. Author McManus (One of Us is Lying) doesn't disappoint in this teen friendly mystery.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Amber Peterson, International Community School

McManus, Karen M.	978-0-525-70800-1	\$19.99	325 p.
<i>The Cousins</i>	Delacorte, 2020		

The Story name is legend on the small Gull Cove Island off the coast of Massachusetts as matriarch Mildred Story owns the only resort on the island. Years ago she cut off her 20-ish children after their father died. No money and no contact telling them: "You know what you did." Yet all of Mildred's kids claim innocence. So it's shocking when Mildred's three grandkids (each from a different child of hers) receive an invitation to work at her resort for the summer. Cousins Milly, Aubrey, and Jonah are forced to go by their parents to improve relations with their grandmother and get money flowing again. This won't be easy as these cousins are basically strangers. Upon arrival, the cousins learn that their grandmother did NOT invite them. In a family full of secrets that's not surprising. Every plot twist adds a new secret and danger. Can the cousins put aside their differences to work together to figure out what's really going on? Or will the first death on the island be one of theirs? Teens will love this fast-paced mystery and wish it had a sequel.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Medema, Dante	978-0-06-295440-4	\$17.99	387 p.
<i>The Truth Project</i>	Quill Tree, 2020		

What if your DNA test results surprise you? When Cordelia sends in her sample for a school project, she's expecting her results to mimic what her older sister discovered. What she actually finds out shakes her life to the core. Medema tells this increasingly common story in verse, layering in that Cordelia is a poet, and is planning to write poetry inspired by her genealogical findings. This school assignment is also a group project, and Cordelia's peer relationships, both romantic and friendly, are impacted as well. This book underlines the potential rippling effects of school assignments, and explores the complexities of family relationships. The authentic Alaska setting makes it stand out (although the depiction of Seattle doesn't always ring true). Cordelia is preparing for college, so this is best suited for high school and public library collections.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Schusterman, Neal 978-0-06-199867-6 \$17.99 386 p.
Game Changer Quill Tree Books, 2021

Gr 8 and up: It was just a hard hit in a tough high school football game. But now Ash's the world seems to be slightly off-kilter...were stop signs always blue? Everyone else seems to think so. The next week another hit, and the world is less subtly different, with Ash leading a life of privilege and status. The third week, Ash finds he is still living this privilege, but there has been no Civil Rights movement and segregation is still enforced in the U.S. With each subsequent shift, people Ash knew in his world might change gender, or their social status rises or declines. Characteristics about these people that Ash had perhaps chosen not to see previously come into focus. With a little help from some skateboarding aliens, Ash learns that his being sent into other dimensions will have consequences that impact more than just his comfort. He is forced to confront his own biases about marginalized people and acknowledge his own culpability as he searches for a way to bring things back into balance before it is too late. *Game Changer* is a thought-provoking book that tries hard to tackle timely social issues—possibly too many to be fully engaging. The sci-fi element may be enough to keep readers engaged however, and the conclusion may send some readers to do some soul searching of their own.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Walton, Julia 978-0-399-55092-8 \$17.99 262 p.
Just Our Luck Random House, 2020

Leo just wants to stay in the shadows, not draw attention to himself and just go through his days. However, when Leo's coping mechanism for his anxiety, knitting, gets him into a fight at school, his father enrolls him in a self-defense course at the local gym. When Leo knows that he can't go into the room where people are beating each other up, he makes a deal with the girl working the front desk – she will enroll him in yoga during the same time and he has to help her get revenge. I really enjoyed this book about yoga, knitting, photography, death (of first Leo's mom and then his grandmother that had come to live with them), and trying to be yourself in high school. Each chapter starts with a yoga pose and continues with a reflection of what is going on in Leo's life. The characters are well developed and the reader is able to see how Leo's anxiety can be crippling, but also helps him to see what others can't see. I would put this at the high school due to the fact that I don't think that younger students would relate to all the issues addressed, and there is instances of teens drinking, sex, and naked pictures being used as bribery/blackmail.

Recommended Age: High School, Adult

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

FICTION – SHRUG

Agosin, Marjorie (translated from the Spanish by Alison Ridley)
 9781481469012 \$18.99 358 p.
The Maps of Memory: Return to Butterfly Hill Atheneum, 2020

This historical fiction book follows Celeste Marconi, a Chilean teen, who grapples with the human rights violations and torture brought about during the Pinochet dictatorship (1973-1981). Agosin's companion book *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* won the Pura Belpre Award in 2015. This story picks up as Celeste returns to her Chilean family from being exiled in the United States where she lived with an aunt. Celeste's friend is one of the "disappeared" who may have been tortured or worse by the former regime. In fact, her own mother suffered on a boat they can still see in the nearby harbor. Celeste begins to learn the stories of the ones she left behind while she was in the US, and she decides that with some help from her friends and family she will memorialize those that have gone missing and maybe even try to find her good friend. This character-driven story is mostly tender but is also sprinkled with harsh realities. Hand sell this one to readers who appreciate a heartfelt protagonist or who enjoyed the first book. Could be especially useful for discussing trauma-informed education and how to recover from horrific experiences and find joy. Shrug, though, unless ready to promote in the right settings.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

GRAPHIC NOVELS – RECOMMEND

Hicks, Faith

9781250219107

\$14.99

One Year at Ellsmere (ARC)

First Second, 2020

John Hughes class tension and school rivalries, at a boarding school, with the teeniest tiniest magical finishing. Juniper won a scholarship at a prestigious boarding school, and is hoping to spend the rest of her middle school years surrounded by like minded nerds with their noses in books. When she can hold her own to the class bully, she becomes a target of her ire. Luckily another school outcast, Cassie, becomes her her close friend and the two of them work to survive school together. I hope this is book one in a series, but enjoyed what I got if it's a one off.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Maggie Block, Washington Middle School

Johnson, Varian & Wright, Shannon

9781338236132

\$12.99

Twins

Graphix, 2020

A delightful coming of age story of a pair of twins as they start middle school. Maureen, who has always been the more timid and reserved of the twins is devastated that she won't be in the same classes as her sister Francine. Francine- who now wants to be called Fran- and doesn't even seem to care they're not in the same classes! "Fran" also has started dressing way cooler, and doesn't want to do any of the same school activities as Maureen. Then FRAN runs to be 6th grade class president, and doesn't even ask Maureen to help her on the campaign. When told she must run for a student council position, to help with her self confidence, Maureen makes a rash decision to run against her sister for president!

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Maggie Block, Washington Middle School

Lloyd, Megan Wagner and Michelle Mee Nutter 978-1338568905 \$12.99 240 p.
Allergic (ARC) Graphix, 2021

Graphic novel about a 10-year-old girl who really wants a pet, but soon discovers that she's allergic to all pets that have fur and feathers. Maggie is starting at a new school (because of boundary changes) and is the oldest of 4 kids (she's got twin younger brothers and a baby is on the way). You see her grappling with being a new kid, learning how to cope with the disappointment of not having a pet, and being an older sibling. This helped me learn a lot about allergies, not only pets but food allergies too. It also is along the lines of Terri Libenson and Raina Telgemeier (but leans more younger). Maggie is also mixed race, and she is taught how to calm herself (breathing in and out).

Recommended Age: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)

Oseman, Alice 9781444951400 \$13.79
Heartstopper: Volume 2 Heartstopper Graphix, 2020

Heartstopper is just the most authentic teen romance graphic novel out there. The way they meet and fall in love is just so spot on, and gets my cold heart aflutter. We leave off book one our two MC's have just kissed at a party. Charlie, who's known he's gay for a while, is terrified he's ruined his friendship with Nick! Nick, who assumed he was straight up until this point, is very confused. However, within the first beat of the second volume Nick figures out he's into Charlie and they start dating. What Nick's identity and how and when he wants to come out are the main plot points of this book.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Maggie Block, Washington Middle School

Ottaviani, Jim & Wicks, Maris 9781626728776 \$18.39
Astronauts: Women on the Final Frontier First Second, 2020

This is an excellent piece of nonfiction, especially for reluctant readers. Astronauts tells the stories of the first few women in space, and those who tried to get up there earlier. It focuses on the real human stories of these women, making it an enthralling narrative tale. I genuinely enjoyed reading it and think it will be a great book to recommend to readers who aren't drawn to more traditional nonfiction.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Maggie Block, Washington Middle School

GRAPHIC NOVELS – SHRUG

Pascode, Jim & Arnhold, Heidi 9781626720619 \$18.39
The White Carrot Cottons #2 First Second, 2020

This is certainly a series you have to start from the beginning. Book two was sent to WASHYARG, and I absolutely needed to check out book one to understand the story. It tells the story of a magical forest world where rabbit societies run on a magical power source that can also be used to create artistic structures. They also must run and protect from wolves, who are after the bunnies magic source. There are many characters, most of whom are haunted by something, all of whom are searching for something bigger and better than what they have found so far. I found these stories to be a bit grim, and did not find the story lines' conclusions satisfying. But it is only book two, perhaps book three will tie it all up nicely.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Maggie Block, Washington Middle School

NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Aronson, Marc and Susan Bartoletti (ed.) 9781536208733 \$22.99 200 p.

1789: Twelve Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, Revolution & Change

Candlewick, 2020

This book of eleven essays pulls together the thinking and writing of some of today's most respected non-fiction middle grade and YA authors including pieces by the editors themselves, Steve Sheinkin, and Cynthia Levinson to name a few. The essays cast a wide net across subject areas including math, geology, art, biography, religion and give the reader an overview of some of the tipping points and turning points at the juncture of 1789. Authors' notes compiled at the end of the book explore the impetus and background of the writers. Source notes, bibliography, and index further distinguish the book for research. Teachers and students should find much to enhance their studies with this work. The editors' previous work 1968: Today's Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, Revolution, and Change will stand as a notable companion for juxtaposition of the two time periods.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Pearson, P. O'Connell 978-1-5344-8003-2 \$17.99 277 p.

Conspiracy: Nixon, Watergate, and Democracy's Defenders Simon & Schuster

Books for Young Readers, 2020

This nonfiction narrative about the Watergate scandal focuses on the many heroes who stood up to protect our Constitution during this crisis. These heroes were not only reporters, but also judges, prosecutors, justices, members of Congress and even the American public. These "We the People" proved that the system developed by the framers works. Well-written, this book is easily approachable by middle school or high school students. After the author presents info that might be confusing to a YA reader, the author stops the story and asks (and answers) a question. Also, it includes an impressive bibliography, a Watergate timeline, a cast of characters, endnotes, and an index. Plus, the author includes extensive primary sources. It was fascinating to learn that there were actually multiple official and separate investigations around Watergate and President

Nixon's involvement and that even the Supreme Court was involved toward the end. Highly recommended.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

NONFICTION SERIES – RECOMMEND

The Tech Effect Series

Allman, Toney	978-1-68282-841-0	\$30.95	80 p.
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Changing Lives Through Genetic Engineering Reference Point Press, 2021

Marcovitz, Hal	978-1-68282-845-8	\$30.95	80 p.
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Changing Lives Through Self-Driving Cars Reference Point Press, 2021

Nardo, Don	978-1-68282-847-2	\$30.95	80 p.
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Changing Lives Through 3-D Printing Reference Point Press, 2021

Nardo, Don	978-1-68282-843-4	\$30.95	80 p.
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Changing Lives Through Robotics Reference Point Press, 2021

This six-book series addresses how our lives have changed due to the latest technology. Each book describes each technology and its beginnings, current status and where it might progress in the future. Challenges, difficulties and statistics are included. These books are great entry texts about each newer technology. Tweens and teens will find the attractive layout appealing and the short five chapters (plus intro) easy to navigate. There's enough interesting color pictures, pull quote definitions and small sidebars to keep teens reading. Each book's main content ends on page 65 or 66 (out of 80) but continues with source notes, for further research (books, online articles and websites), an index, picture credits and about the author. These books are well-written and have interesting info but the price is pretty steep at \$31 per book.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

The COVID-19 Pandemic Series

Titles include: Frontline Workers, Finding a COVID-19 Vaccine, Life During COVID-19, The COVID-19 Virus, Past Pandemics and COVID-19

BrightPoint Press, 2021	\$30.95	80 p.
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Each 80 page book gives a brief introduction and then gets into each of the different topics by exploring the science behind each topic. While the text is large and again makes it more likely for the younger grades, I found the science and explanations in this series clear for students to understand and well founded. The pictures were very up-to-date, graphics interesting, and I felt that the whole series did a good job of covering topics that were pertinent this last year. The source notes did a good job of pointing students to additional resources for research.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

World of Drones Series

Titles include: Medical Drones, Security and Surveillance Drones, Delivery Drones, Military Drones, Recreational Drones

Reference Point Press, 2021 \$30.95 64 p.

These 64 page books are great for those that are interested in the world of drones. Each book is full of information and relevant pictures and graphs/charts. Source notes and index are well researched and clear to the reader and I found myself learning all sorts of new information. Students will find these book interesting if this a topic that interest them.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Smartphones and Society Series

Titles include: Are Smartphones a Threat to privacy? How do Smartphones Affect Health? Are Smartphones Too Distracting? How do Smartphones Affect Social Interaction?

Reference Point Press, 2021 \$30.95 80 p.

These 80 page books are filled with great information about each of the topics listed. They have great images and charts, including quotes from reputable people involved with the topic. The topics are organized well and have information that would be pertinent to teens wanting to know more about phones. The source notes and index are very useful as well. Recommended if this is a topic that students would want more information about.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

NONFICTION SERIES – SHRUG

NFL's Greatest Series

Includes: NFL Coaches, Receivers, Defensive Backs, Quarterbacks, and Running Backs

Reference Point Press, 2021 \$30.95 80 p.

Each 80 page book gives a 3-4 page introduction to the position that the book is covering and then gives a 2-4 page spread for about 15-20 people in the position. There is a wide variety of teams covered and great colored pictures. This would be a great starting place for a student that wanted to find a person to do more research on, but they would not get a great deal of information about any one player from this book. The text is large and the pictures are colorful and engaging. Great for middle school students starting their research, but not enough depth for high school or a student wanting to study a specific person beyond the basics.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Life in the Military - SERIES

Covers Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Special Operations Forces

BrightPoint Press, 2021 \$30.95 80 p.

Each of the 80 page books starts with general facts about the branch of the military and then goes into information about each branch. The content is engaging, with stories and up to date pictures. The text is written really large, so each book is a pretty quick read. At the end of each book there is a glossary, source notes, additional resources, index and credits. Great for middle school students, but not enough content for high schoolers.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School