



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

Issue: 135
December 2021

WASHRAG
Titles Taken 1-6

Fiction Reviews 7-17

Graphic Novel Reviews 17-19

Nonfiction Reviews 20-21

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

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.

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 September 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>All Our Hidden Gifts</i> , All Our Hidden Gifts #1	Walker Books, 2021		
O'Donoghue, Caroline	978-1536213942	\$19.99	374 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			
<i>All These Bodies</i>	Quill Tree Books, 2021		
Blake, Kendare	9780062977168	\$18.99	288 p.
Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School			
<i>Ashfall Legacy</i>	Harper, 2021		
Lore, Pittacus	978-0-06-284536-8	\$18.99	422 p.
Amber Peterson, International Community School			
<i>Beasts of Prey</i> (ARC)	G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2021		*BFYA NOM
Gray, Ayana	978-0593405680	\$18.99	496 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			
<i>Blackout</i>	Quill Tree Books, 2021		*BFYA NOM
Clayton, Dhonielle, Tiffany Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, & Nicola Yoon	978-0063088092	\$19.99	243 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			
<i>The Box in the Woods</i> , Truly Devious	Katherine Tegen Books, 2021		*BFYA NOM
Johnson, Maureen	978-0-06-303260-6	\$18.99	383 p.
Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School			
<i>Can You See Me?</i>	Scholastic, 2019		
Scott, Libby and Rebecca Westcott	978-1-338-60891-5	\$17.99	362 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library			
<i>The Cousins</i>	Delacorte, 2020		
McManus, Karen M.	9780525708001	\$19.99	325 p.
Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School			

<i>Everything Within and In Between</i> Barthelme, Nikki Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	HarperTeen, 2021 9780062976901	\$17.99	328 p.
<i>Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry</i> Goffney, Joya Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	HarperTeen, 2021 978--0-6-302479-3	\$17.99	352 p.
<i>Fadeaway</i> Vickers, E. B. Ellen Pederson, Risdon Middle School	Knopf, 2021 978-0-593-18019-8	\$17.99	389 p.
<i>Ground Zero</i> Gratz, Alan Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	Scholastic, 2021 978-1-338-24575-2	\$17.99	304 p.
<i>Idol Gossip</i> Young, Alexandra Leigh Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School	Walker Books US , 2021 1536213640	\$16.99	336 p.
<i>The Inheritance of Orquídea Divinia</i> (ARC) Córdova, Zoraida JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Atria Books, 2021 978-1982102548	\$27.00	324 p.
<i>Into the Bloodred Woods</i> Brockenbrough, Martha Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	Scholastic Press, 2021 9781338673876	\$18.99	354 p.
<i>Jade Fire Gold</i> Tan, June C.L. Brenna Shanks, KCLS	HarperTeen, 2021 978-0-06-305636-7	\$17.99	449 p.
<i>Lies Like Wildfire</i> Alvarez, Jennifer Lynn Ellen Pederson, Risdon Middle School	Delacorte, 2021 978-0593309636	\$18.99	384 p.
<i>Lies Like Wildfire</i> (ARC) Alvarez, Jennifer Lynn Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Random House Books, 2021 978-0-593-30963-6	\$18.99	384 p.
<i>The Life I'm In</i> Flake, Sharon Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School <u>Comments:</u> Companion to <i>The Skin I'm In</i>	Scholastic Press, 2021 9781338573176	\$18.99	321 p.
<i>Love & Other Natural Disasters</i>	HarperTeen, 2021		

Sugiura, Misa Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School	978-0-06-2991-23-2	\$14.39	340 p.
<i>My Contrary Mary</i> , Mary #1 Hand, Cynthia, Brodi Ashton & Jodi Meadows Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library	HarperCollins, 2021 9780062930040	\$18.99	*BFYA NOM 496 p.
<i>The Nature of Witches</i> Griffin, Rachel Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School	Sourcebooks Fire, 2021 978-1-7282-2942-3	\$17.99	*BFYA NOM 367 p.
<i>Not My Problem</i> Smyth, Ciara Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	HarperTeen, 2021 9780062957146	\$17.99	*BFYA NOM 361 p.
<i>Realm Breaker</i> , Realm Breaker #1 Aveyard, Victoria Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library	HarperTeen, 2021 9780062872623	\$19.99	563 p.
<i>Rise to the Sun</i> Johnson, Leah Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School	Scholastic Press, 2021 9781338662238	\$17.99	322 p.
<i>The Shadow Mission</i> , The Athena Protocol #2 Sarif, Shamim JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	HarperTeen, 2020 978-0062849632	\$17.99	281 p.
<i>Simone Breaks All The Rules</i> , #1 Rigaud, Debbie Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library	Scholastic Press, 2021 9781338681727	\$18.99	309 p.
<i>Sisters of the Snake</i> , Ria & Rani #1 Nanua, Sarena and Sasha Nanua Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School	HarperTeen, 2021 979-0-06-298559-0	\$17.99	497 p.
<i>Spy School Revolution</i> , Spy School #8 Gibbs, Stuart Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School	Simon and Schuster, 2020 9781534443785	\$17.99	342 p.
<i>Terciel & Elinor</i> , The Old Kingdom #6 Nix, Garth Brenna Shanks, KCLS	Katherine Tegan Books, 2021 978-0-06-304932-1	\$19.99	338 p.
<i>This Vicious Cure</i> , This Mortal Coil #3 Suvada, Emily Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library	Simon Pulse, 2020 9781534440944	\$19.99	404 p.

Three Keys, Front Desk #2
 Yang, Kelly
 Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Scholastic, 2020
 9781338591385 \$17.99 271 p.

White Smoke
 Jackson, Tiffany D.
 Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Katherine Tegen Books, 2021 *BFYA NOM
 9780063029095 \$18.99 373 p.

Why We Fly
 Jones, Kimberly and Gilly Segal
 Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Sourcebooks Fire, 2021
 978-1-4926-7892-2 \$17.99 320 p.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Incredible Doom [Vol 1]
 Bogart, Matthew and Jesse Holden
 JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

HarperAlley, 2021
 978-0063064942 \$24.99 266 p.

NON-FICTION

E-Cigarette and Vaping Risks, Drug Risks
 Lundquist-Arora, Stephanie
 Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Reference Point Press, 2021
 9781682829035 \$31.95 80 p.

The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos (Young Reader's Edition)

Batalion, Judy
 Amber Peterson, International Community School

Harper, 2020
 978-0-06-303769-4 \$17.99 265 p.

The Spread of Hate and Extremism
 Henderson, Robert M.
 Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Reference Point Press, 2021
 9781682829332 \$31.95 80 p.

FICTION - RECOMMENDED

Albertalli, Becky	978-0-06-264383-4	18.99	387 p.
<i>Kate in Waiting</i>	Balzer + Bray, 2021		

Kate and Anderson have been best friends for years, ever since their attempted romance turned into a best friendship. Since then they have been called co-dependent as there is rarely a time when they are not together and if they are apart, they are texting. However, what happens when they both have a crush on the same boy and while they have agreed that they will be happy with whomever he chooses, their friendship will be tested to the limits. I think that this book would appeal to high school students, especially those involved in drama. It has a great deal of swearing; they actively refer to a group of boys as the Fuck Boys or F-boys for short and there is drinking and talk of sex (though none on the page).

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Boulley, Angeline	978-1250766567	18.99	496 p.
<i>Firekeeper's Daughter</i>	Henry Holt, 2021		

Daunis, an 18-year old girl, is an Ojibwe Native American, but doesn't quite fit in with the tribe, nor live on the reservation. However, those outside the Rez don't really take her in either. Her brother Levi, and the other hockey players on the reservation are the main stars at the school, but Daunis is taken with star player Jamie, especially. When she witnesses a murder, she gets sucked into being an informer for the FBI, despite having reservations about how they treat Native Americans. She knows chemistry to some degree, and helps to solve the drug investigation that is going on. Jamie is involved, and Daunis is involved with him... HS for content, drug use, violence.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Buxbaum, Julie	978-1984893628	18.99	352 p.
<i>Admission</i>	Delacorte, 2020		

Ripped from the headlines about Lori Laughlin and the college admissions scandal story. Takes you inside the family (not the Loughlins, just a generic family with the same attributes) and explains how people could get to that point, and how people reacted to them. The girl at the center of it is personable and a good protagonist, feeling pressure to get into a good college, but also not willing to go as far as her parents did. MS/HS

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Cavallaro, Brittany	978-0062840257	17.99	352 p.
<i>Muse #1</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2021		

Alternate history book that posits what would have happened had George Washington accepted the throne offered to him after the revolution. Claire is the daughter of an

inventor increasingly in debt and worried about delivering product to their region, at risk of invasion from a neighboring region. She supposedly can "bless" a project with her touch, and so she is kidnapped by the ruler of her region to help get through the invasion threat. Strange, but lots of politics and thrills as she navigates her "prisoner" status and the World's Fair that is being held there at the same time. MS/HS

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Currie, Lindsay	978-1-72824-572-0	7.99	310 p.
<i>What Lives in the Woods</i> (ARC)			
	Sourcebooks Young Readers, 2021		

Ginny loves a good Agatha Christy novel filled with mystery and suspense, but when her Dad takes their family away for the summer to restore a mansion, she finds herself living in a Christy novel. With over 20 rooms to choose from, Ginny finds that she has chosen the room that has faceless mannequins that move, piping in the walls to allow sound to travel from the ballroom and kitchen to her room and much more. With the help of Ginny's brother and a local boy from the town named Will, the three are going to figure out if there really are ghosts that haunt the Woodmore Mansion. This is a perfect middle school book for kids that want something scary without murder or gore, but still a story that you don't want to read on a stormy night. There are twists and turns throughout the book and I liked all the different clues along the way. The only disappointing part was the ending, where it felt a little too much like the book was tied with a big pink bow. Middle school students will enjoy it.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Gennari, Jennifer	978-1-53446365-3	17.99	214 p.
<i>Muffled</i>			
	Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2020		

Amelia is entering the fifth grade and has been challenged to try to do it without her noise-canceling headphones. Scared of what life will be like with all the different noises, her dad hands her a pair of earmuffs as she is heading out the door and they become her life-line. From taunts and teasing, to figuring out how to learn to play an instrument, Amelia struggles to ignore the loud noises. With her teachers and parents encouraging her, as well as a new friend that supports her, Amelia realizes that she may be able to choose how she wants to hear the world. I thought that this was a powerful story about a girl with noise sensitivity and the impacts that it can have in school, at home, and in other social situations. This is a condition that does not get very much attention and this book, and the notes at the end of the book, would be a great way for students to gain a greater understanding and perspective of students that struggle with this condition. A good story, but with the main character being a fifth grader, it may be a little hard to sell to middle schoolers.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Too young for YA

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Griffin, Rachel	978-1-7282-2942-3	\$17.99	367 p.
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The Nature of Witches

Sourcebooks Fire, 2021

Enter a world where Witches can control the weather while non-magical people, Shaders live alongside the Witches on Earth. Except the Shaders are greedy wishing for more land and more land despite the Witches warnings that the Shaders need to hold back. Earth's climate is becoming more and more erratic as a result with violent storms that the Witches are unable to control. Each Witch is at their most powerful only during the season they were born, except for Clara. Clara can control all the seasons. Everyone is relying on her powers, but she can barely control them. In fact, her magical powers have accidentally killed her parents. Clara struggles with her losses and her immense powers while trying to decide if it is all worth it. I couldn't put this book down, it was highly engaging and such a different concept in this genre.

Recommended Age: Grades 6 and Up.

Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School

Johnson, Maureen 978-0-06-303260-6 \$18.99 383 p.

The Box in the Woods Truly Devious Katherine Tegen Books , 2021

In *The Box in the Woods* by Maureen Johnson our amateur sleuth Stevie Bell is back from Truly Devious to solve the long dead case of 4 murdered teens at a summer camp. Stevie is invited to faux counsel at the camp and makes a deal with the camp owner to bring all her friends. The owner of the camp is making a true crime podcast of the 1970's murders. Stevie has opportunities to interview and befriend the locals while sleuthing. But some of the town refuses to talk to her because they are upset about the podcast. Stevie's anxiety surfaces more than once pulling in the reader especially those that are similarly afflicted. The book is difficult to put down and exciting to read, students will love it. The first scene begins with the murdered teens still alive partying with beer and marijuana in the woods.

Recommended Age: Middle school and up.

Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School

Jouhanneau, Anne-Sophie 978-0-593-17357-2 18.99 313 p.

Kisses and Croissants Delacorte, 2021

Mia has always only had one love, ballet. Spending the summer in Paris to dance at an elite dance school is like a dream-come-true. However, Paris has other plans for Mia as well, including dancing against her New York rival, trying to find the Degas painting that she has always been told was her great-great-great grandmother dancing, and Louis. Mia could never have envisioned Louis, the perfect French boy who is eager to take her around his city on the back of his Vespa to explore. I truly enjoyed this perfect mix of romance, dance, and exploring Paris. The city comes alive throughout the book and I felt like at times, I wanted to taste the pastries that Mia was loving. The relationship with Louis is wonderfully romantic and also innocent (they only kiss) so perfect for middle schoolers wanting romance. Perfect for dancers or anyone that wants to follow their dreams wherever their dreams take them. Recommended.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

June, Jason 978-0063015159 10.99 368 p.

Jay's Gay Agenda #1

HarperTeen, 2021

I highly recommend this book for 8th grade and up. This is a story about firsts, and I really enjoyed the great combination of humor and angst that the main character Jay experiences. Jay was born and raised in a farm town in Eastern Washington where he was the only gay teen at his school who was out. His best friend has had a boyfriend for a while and he pines for a similar experience but in that place, he was the only known gay person and not able to enjoy those teenage firsts like his friends. Then his mother gets a promotion, and they move to Seattle and it's like the part in the Wizard of Oz when Dorothy wakes up and everything is in color. Jay decides to make a list he calls his Gay Agenda which includes things like "...slow dance with a boy to a Shawn Mendez song." I also love the timeless inclusion of how a person's best friend growing up is often out of synch with each other's love life...no one is ever in love or dating at the same time. There is nothing unforgivable about the Seattle references. I mean there is not a 2000 student high school smack dab on Cap Hill (except for Cornish which is a college) but that didn't yank me out of the story. The author handles Jay's firsts very gently, and even though losing his virginity is something to cross off on the list Jay's character still maintains a sense of innocence and wonder. Jay makes some big mistakes with his list and my only wonder about the story is that the end seems a little too neatly wrapped up, but after a year of pandemic tragedy I didn't mind the feel good ending.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Machias, Jules

978-0-06-305389-2

16.99

357 p.

Both Can Be True

Quill Tree, 2021

Ash is struggling with how to present their gender(s) to people at their new school. Daniel just found himself the secret protector of an incontinent Pomeranian. Ash and Daniel have an instant connection, and end up attempting to help the dog together, while navigating their new relationship. Machias is the parent of a nonbinary teen, and has worked in a veterinarian's office, bringing lived experience to the story. In the chapters where Ash narrates, they include illustrations that depict how their synesthesia causes them to see sound. Both teens struggle with the fact that their parents are not together and family relationships play a big role here. Ash's perception of their gender(s) changes over the course of the book in a realistic way. While there are some nonwhite side characters, the main characters are default white. This is a beautiful, complicated book that takes on underrepresented topics. Highly recommended for middle schools and public libraries - but due to the lack of fiction about genderfluidity, high schools should probably get it too.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

McMann, Lisa

978-1-53441607-9

18.99

420 p.

Dragon Slayers The Unwanteds Quests #6 Aladdin, 2020

Twins Fifer and Thisbe have been captured by the Revindir, a dragon woman who has them kept hostage in a crumbling down palace surrounded by dragons. In an attempt to get free, the girls hatch a plan that can only work if they have the help of Dev who has snuck into the

castle. Meanwhile, Rohan, Maiven, and Alex are working hard to get the twins back to safety, but will their work be enough. This is book 6 in the Unwanted's Quests series and has a great deal of action and adventure to keep readers wanting more. Not having read any of the books previous, it took me a bit to catch up with the story, and clearly there were relationship pieces that I was missing from the previous books, but I still found it an engaging story and the ending is clearly leading up to a book 7. I think that fans of the series will be pleased with this book.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Messenger, Shannon 978-1-53446342-4 21.99 747 p.

Unlocked Keeper of the Lost Cities #8.5 Aladdin, 2020

This the perfect guide to the all the ins and outs of the Keeper of the Lost Cities series, full of character info, maps, full color illustrations and more. There are descriptions of all the different parts and pieces of the Lost Cities as well as all the different types of characters (elves, humans, animals, etc) as well as flora and fauna, hidden secrets and more. This information is all contained in the first half of the book and then the second half is a novella that picks up right where book 8 left off. Messenger states that this novella was how she was going to start off book 9, but decided that fans should have it early. For any reader of the Keeper of the Lost Cities Series, they are going to love this installment.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Nanua, Sarena and Sasha Nanua 979-0-06-298559-0 \$17.99 497 p.

Sisters of the Snake, Ria & Rani #1 HarperTeen, 2021

Twins separated at birth because of a prophecy dooming them and their kingdom are accidentally reunited when Rai, the thief, attempts to steal from her sister Princess Rani. The young women decide to switch places for a month after Rani convinces Rai that she can locate the Bloodstone and Rai can figure out why they were separated at birth. If Rani can find the Bloodstone, she can change the course of history for their kingdom. Both girls possess snake magic which gives them the ability to control snakes. This fantasy incorporates Indian cultural elements into its worldbuilding. Students will enjoy how the chapters alternate between Ria or Rani's point of view. I did find the book to be predictable with the twin plotline, but it was an entertaining fast paced read.

Recommended Age: Grades 6 and Up

Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School

Price, Tizrah 978-0062889805 9.99 368 p.

Pride and Premeditation Jane Austen Murder Mystery #1 HarperTeen, 2021

I highly recommend this book for middle school and up. Lizzie's father owns a law firm, and she has been itching to become an official solicitor in his employment. A baffling murder case offers the perfect opportunity to prove herself and she takes it. That proves challenging when their rival law firm Pemberly and Sons owned by the Darcy family is officially hired to represent the accused, but the defendant unofficially hires Lizzie to be a

consultant for the mystery. What I love about this story is the delicious combination of suspense and wit. The theme of justice, especially for women’s rights, is very bold and also compliments the character development of Lizzie. This is a great read alike for fans of Aly Carter and even the book Moxie. It’s so good I almost forgot about the 107-degree heatwave. Get it!

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Reintgen, Scott
Blood Sworn Ashlords #2 978-0593119211 17.99 400 p.
Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021

2nd book of series, races ended with craziness and some racers escaping the race. Now, they are looking to end the striated society and fight the Ashlord Gods themselves in a separate world. War rages everywhere and alliances must be made with people that cannot be trusted. Great conclusion with tons of action, horses don’t quite figure as much in this one. MS/HS

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Schrefer, Eliot
The Darkness Outside Us 978-0062888280 10.99 416 p.
Katherine Tegen Books, 2021

I highly recommend this book for 8th grade and up. Ambrose and Kodiak have been chosen for a mission in outer space. They think at first it is to rescue Ambrose’s sister Minerva from a moon of Saturn, but the real reason of their mission is far more complex. It takes them a long time to figure this out because they keep passing out and waking up to repeat some events. The writing is mesmerizing, and the suspense of the book builds nicely. The twists/reveals are well done, and I did not fully predict the situation of the main characters. I also like how in this time period gender and sexuality are fluid and any couple or person can have a child and choose the DNA. The main character Ambrose is a combination of Alexander the great and other leaders. But at the core of the story is the need for humans to have relationships, and that is a hallmark of excellent science fiction. There is also a lot of well delivered humor. For example, Ambrose decides to mess with Kodiak by choosing a vocal fry voice that ends everything in a question mark for the ship’s operating system? Oh, and the operating system has quite the attitude! In fact, this could be a good read alike for The Martian.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School, Adult

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Smyth, Ciara
Not My Problem 978-0-06-295714-6 17.99 361 p.
HarperTeen, 2021

Aideen’s life feels like it is falling apart. She is worried about her mom’s drinking, her grades and money problems, but when the chance to help someone else solve their problem, Aideen takes the opportunity to become a fixer. It starts when overachiever Meabh is overwhelmed and Aideen solves her problems by pushing her down the stairs.

Now Meabh gets a break from sports and PE, however, there was a witness and when he just wants a favor, Aideen finds herself “solving” everyone else’s problems except her own. This book had a great deal of swearing and teen drinking on the page. The characters are also constantly breaking rules and doing what they shouldn’t be doing in order to help out their peers. Aideen and Meabh are both gay characters and Aideen finds herself lusting after several girls throughout the story. There were several times that I found myself laughing out loud at the antics that the teens got themselves into and the crazy ways that they thought that they could fix things.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

St. John, Lauren 978-0-374-30961-9 17.99 290 p.
Kat Wolfe Takes the Case Wolfe & Lamb #2 Farrar Straus Giroux, 2019

As Kat Wolfe settles in to life at Blue Belle Bay outside of London, her small quiet town becomes a busy hub when a dinosaur skeleton is discovered after the hillside crumbles under Kat’s feet. Thankfully the dog that Kat was trying to save, was rescued and, Kat and her best friend Harper are there to take it safely to Kat’s mom, the town veterinarian. However, after the dinosaur is discovered, hordes of people descend on the town trying to get a piece of the action, including Hollywood stars in fancy cars. It doesn’t take long for Kat and Harper to start their detective agency up again as there are mysteries abounding throughout the summer, including a dead body, a mysterious animal killing local sheep, and dinosaur bones being stolen. This is the perfect middle school mystery book, especially for those that love animals. There were quite a few mysteries to solve, but all of them were pretty innocent and fun to try to figure out. I would recommend this book.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Sugiura, Misa 978-0-06-2991-23-2 \$14.39 340 p.
Love & Other Natural Disasters HarperTeen, 2021

Nozomi meets Willow her dream girl while staying in San Francisco with her uncles and working her art museum internship. The only problem is Willow is dating another girl. When Willow’s girlfriend dumps her, Nozomi convinces her to create a faux relationship with her on insta. Nozomi tells Willow it’ll make her ex jealous and want her back. But Nozomi is secretly hoping it’ll make Willow fall for her. Book is tweet cute and a predictable rom/com. Students will love it! It’s not overly sappy, there is no sex or drinking.

Recommended Age: Grades 8 and up!

Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School

Young, Alexandra Leigh 1536213640 \$16.99 336 p.
Idol Gossip Walker Books US , 2021

Seventeen-year-old Chinese American Alice is discovered at a karaoke booth in Korea receiving an invitation to audition at a famous K-Pop studio. She is anxious and torn even though she’s always wanted to be a star. Her younger sister and best friend, Lili pushes her go for it. Alice lands the audition earning her a position in the exclusive Top10 school. The

school is a dormitory that churns out K-Pop groups equipped with private voice lessons, dance lessons, etiquette lessons, and even tutoring to earn a diploma from high school. Alice easily talks her parents into going and that's when the real fun of the book begins. It reads like *Tiny Pretty Things* by Sona Charaipotra and Dhonielle Clayton where the competition is real, stakes are high, and the plot keeps the reader engaged in this hard to put down book. There is one drinking scene that reads very mild, but Alice does get very drunk. Another scene where a K-pop star is caught in an apartment with a much older man while it was legal, everyone was very shocked. But the plot is primarily about Alice's journey from a regular kid to a K-pop star as she navigates unfamiliar waters and learns how to be a better sister. I whole heartedly recommend for purchase.

Recommended Age: Reads middle school to high school.

Elizabeth Courage Lake Washington High School

Zhao, Amelie Wen	978-0525707837	15.99	448 p.
<i>Red Tigress</i> Blood Heir #2	Delacorte, 2021		

Second book in series finds the affinite blood queen (Ana) on the run, fleeing the new, cruel empress and trying to find allies to help her regain her kingdom. Her friend, Ramson, the thief, is trying to find her, so they can determine what secret plot is unfolding in Bregon, a neighboring country. A plot 15 years in the making is underway there, involving siphoning off affinities, to give to others to create an army. Slow at times, really picks up and becomes cinematic at the end. One more book coming, for sure. HS

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

FICTION – SHRUG

Cannon, Sarah	978-1-25012330-5	16.99	297 p.
<i>Twist</i>	Feiwei and Friends, 2020		

Eli is going to be the next Stephen King and he is has just written about the most terrifying creature yet, the Howler. However, now the Howler has invaded Neha's drawings and are killing and destroying the Creeps that live in Neha's sketchbook. When Court, another student in the gifted class along with Eli and Neha band together they realize that they must work together to save the creeps and get rid of the vicious monsters together. As the kids battle against the invisible world that adults can't see, will they be able to protect the ones that they love and get rid of the monsters forever. This book was really hard for me to understand and get into. There are four main kids, but all of the mosters, creeps, and heros are also named, so there are a great deal of names to keep track of for a book that should be a fairly quick read. While I got lost, I think that to some fantasy readers they will really enjoy the book. However, for a book where what a student draws or says comes to life, I think that *Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom* by Sangu Mandanna is a much better option.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Croggon, Alison 978-1-53620719-4 18.99 372 p.
The Threads of Magic Candlewick Press, 2021

Pip's most recent find has he and his sister hoping that they will make a great deal of money. While doing his pickpocketing, Pip snagged a beautiful silver box that has a shriveled heart in it. While El is horrified by the shriveled heart, Pip has found a strange fondness to it and decides to keep it, while the box is sold. However, selling the box clues in the dangerous criminals that wanted the heart to search for Pip and his sister, causing them to have to leave their home and enter into a world of witches, magic, and spells to try to stay safe. A book of fantasy and adventure that will keep readers engaged and wanting more.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Dass, Sarah 978-0063018525 10.99 352 p.
Where the Rhythm Takes You Balzer + Bray, 2021

I recommend this book with a shrug for 8th grade and up. Reyna's family lives on Tobago and her mother passed away. They own a hotel and since her mother died Reyna has thrown herself in to working for the hotel, obsessed with being an amazing hostess. Yes, you guessed it. This is basically a Caribbean version of a Hallmark movie for teens. Her ex boyfriend from back in the day has become a famous musician, like Harry Styles level, and he comes back with his friends for his birthday. His record label wanted him where he grew up to get inspired to write more music. Reyna has mixed feelings about him being there since their relationship ended badly and she still has feeling for him. If you have patrons who like a feel good story with a happy ending then get this. If not then don't get it. I personally need more angst in my stories but I think there is a growing market for this type of Hallmark pine cone lane save the business and have a happy ending genre.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Leimbach, Marti 978-0062995865 17.99 373 p.
Dragonfly Girl Katherine Tegen Books, 2021

A science fiction thriller about a high school girl who stumbles upon a way to revive a rat from complete death. Kira Adams is bullied at school, and she's failing her English class. When it comes to science, though, Kira is a genius. She has won several awards for her science papers, but when she enters one she's not qualified for, Kira isn't automatically disqualified. She instead gets hired at the prestigious Mellin Institute as a science assistant helping out young scientists who are doing amazing experiments. When she accidentally makes a discovery, her life soon becomes dangerous. The science was interesting, but the thrilling part doesn't really happen until the third part of the book. This is going to be a series, so there's a lot of background story of Kira happening. Also, it's very stereotypical: Kira thinks she's ugly, but a lot of the young scientists and others find her attractive. The Russians even seem stereotypically villain-esque. Torture does happen, but it's mild (no sex or drugs).

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Mafi, Tahereh 978-0062972415 12.99 256 p.
An Emotion of Great Delight HarperCollins, 2021

I recommend this book with a shrug for 8th grade and up. Shadi is a Muslim teenager whose family is from Iran. In 2003 when the Iraq war is raging her family endures a lot of hatred and racist harassment which is unfortunate considering all the other problems she has. Her family is grieving the loss of her drug addict brother who was hit by a car, the father has cancer, and the mother is depressed and cutting herself. The writing is gorgeous. I love how the author describes the atmosphere and situations. I do not like the characters or the plot. One problem with this story is that the main character is loaded down with tragedy and the only type of redemption is that of a love interest. If the main character had something authentic, she was striving for I may have been able to get pulled into the story more. It might be worth getting this due to the author's other series being popular but this is not a must have.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Rubinkowski, Jessica 978-0062871503 17.99 328 p.
The Bright and the Pale #1 Quill Tree, 2021

A fantasy novel is set in a Russia-type country. Valeria works for the Thieves Guild, stealing secret information which the Guild sells at a high price. The Guild gets away with their business because they work for the Czar too. The Czar is on the hunt for any Zladonians, people who lived in the cold north, mined the rare lovite, and became cursed. What many in the Thieves Guild don't know is that Valeria is a Zladonian. When Valeria is tasked to go back to her cursed village, she only does it because a friend who she thought was dead asked her to go. The title of this novel refers to the Gods, brothers who help the people in one form or the other as a kind of balance. It's a great foundation for a fantasy, but Valeria and her friend Alik fight a lot, and another of the people who follow her to her village is very stereotyped.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Smart, Ciannon 978-0062945983 18.99 560 p.
Witches Steeped in Gold #1 HarperTeen, 2021

Not sure I have ever said this about a book before, but this world creation is too much. There are too many secret societies, too many prophecies, too many ancient objects of power. The book took me forever to wade through, not because I was enjoying it so much, but because I was trying to understand connections between everything. Tons of vocabulary needs to be learned (specialized jargon for this book). It is a competent book, and it certainly sets up for a sequel with a huge cliffhanger, but it did not suck me in. It is the story of a magical land where three tribes are fighting for supremacy. "The lost empress" is one, but her family was killed a decade ago when her parents were

overthrown. Jazmyne is the other, daughter of the current doyenne, but she has come to the realization she must kill and overthrow her mother, whom she accuses of horrible things. Complicating the matter is an emissary from a neighboring country who is not who he seems to be. Lots of magic and cool beasts, but tons of politics and world building that confuse more than entertain. MS/HS appropriate

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

GRAPHIC NOVEL – RECOMMENDED

Achard, Marion 978-1681122366 24.99 112 p.
Tamba, Child Soldier NBM Publishing, 2019

The author has experience with refugee camps in Sierra Leone, but this book is set generically in Africa. Tamba is taken, along with 6 others, at 8 years old to serve as a soldier for men who are contesting the rights over the diamond mines nearby. He and the others are used abominably, with drugs administered. They are made to hack off hands, shoot up villages, and fight with AK-47's as big as they are. Tamba is recounting the story of his capture and subsequent "service" at a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The people in the courtroom as he recounts his story are outraged, but they realize, in the end, that they have failed to protect children from this happening. A powerful book with fantastic artwork. Upper MS/HS for content and violence. His friend, a young woman from his village, is raped and delivers a child.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Gaets 978-1681122496 27.99 176 p.
Bob Marley in Comics NBM Publishing, 2020

Pretty thorough, well-researched story about Nest "Bob" Marley from birth through his death. His schooling, family situation, early musical career, friends that were part of the Wailers, influences and managers, and Rastafarians are all covered in depth. Different artists do each section, and every few sections there is a print section that re-summarizes all the information that came in the previous graphic novel artwork. It covers his increasing rebellion and non-violent philosophy, as well as his Rastafarian beliefs, which did not allow him to get treatment/amputation of his cancerous toe. 4 years later, he was dead. His legacy, his music and his family left behind are all well covered too. Okay for MS/HS

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Kantorovitz, Sylvie 978-1-53620762-0 24.99 341 p.
Sylvie Walker Books, 2021

In this graphic memoir Sylvie talks about growing up in a school where her father is the principal and her mother is a teacher. She and her brother grow up exploring the ins and outs of living in a school and having an apartment at the end of the hall. Sylvie loves to draw from the time that she is little, but as she gets older she feels the pressure of her mother's constant desire for her to do something more with her future and to find a rich husband. Sylvie does not follow in her mother's footsteps, however, struggles with how to break free of her demands. She also tries to figure out why her parents are still together even though they fight frequently, and how to be the only Jewish family in the neighborhood. As she gets older, Sylvie moves out of the apartment to small closet room in the school, finds a way to continue to excel in her studies, and explores her budding desires for romance. This is a fun graphic memoir that would appeal to students that like real life stories, graphic novels or are budding artists themselves. The art is a fun style and I liked how she used a different pallet of colors for each chapter.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Lax	978-1681122571	27.99	144 p.
<i>Red Mother with Child</i>	NBM Publishing, 2021		

Juxtaposition of value of human life of refugees from violence against care and study of figurines from their countries (Mali, in this case). Author respects both viewpoints, and shows the treatment of a young man from Mali as he is tasked with bringing a 10th century woodcarving of a mother with child to the Louvre, through unimaginable hardship. He does, and gets it to the right people, but his situation is less tenable, and he is cleared out of a living area where he has been in tents. All sides are treated fairly in this book, which was thoughtful and well illustrated. HS or adult for interest, not content.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Ostertag, Molly Knox	978-1-338-54057-4	14.99	247 p.
<i>The Girl from the Sea</i>	Graphix, 2021		

Every seven years, selkies transform from seal form to human form. Morgan is a high school student in a small island town who's looking forward to leaving the town when she graduates from high school. She'll come out somewhere else, she thinks. But when she meets a selkie named Keltie, they have an instant connection, and Morgan can't stop herself from falling in love. Keltie asks Morgan for help defending her seal family from a polluting ship, and Morgan finds herself struggling with how to move forward with her life.

Ostertag's fully colored illustrations are masterful and engaging, bringing Morgan and Keltie's world to life. Fans of her other work will love it. An essential purchase for any library that collects graphic novels.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School, Adult

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

GRAPHIC NOVEL – SHRUG

Reynolds, Justin A.; illustrated by Pablo Leon 978-1338648034 12.99 113 p.
Miles Morales: Shock Waves (ARC) Graphix, 2021

This is a different take on the newest Spider-Man, Miles Morales. Miles is a Middle Schooler attending Brooklyn Visions Academy and has been Spider-Man for about a year. He has added powers that are a bit different than Peter Parker's (who is also in this universe): Miles not only has Spidey sense, but he also has Venom Blast and can make himself invisible. Miles is currently trying to help his mom, who is raising funds for her home country Puerto Rico after being hit with another earthquake. He's also trying to catch two criminals who seem to escape his clutches every time he tries to capture them. AND he's helping his new friend from school find her dad, whose gone missing while working for a science company. Thankfully, he has his friend and roommate, Ganke, to help him out. This new take on Miles/Spider-man is fresh, and Miles is hilarious. I liked seeing that Miles' family cares a lot about their heritage and wanted to help in any way they could.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Santoni, Manuela; translated by Matteo Benassi 978-1541581197 14.99 184 p.
Brontë Graphic Universe, 2021

This historical graphic novel on the Brontë sisters is a new way to learn a bit more about their history of writing. Anne is the youngest and writes poetry that she only shows to Charlotte, the eldest. Charlotte believes that Emily, the middle sister, can be a great writer, but Emily doesn't want her writing to be viewed by the public. The sisters make a pact and decide together to publish their works under men's names: the Bell brothers. At the time, women authors didn't write what the Brontë sisters wrote, and the sisters couldn't get published until they used men's names. I liked learning how unique each sister was, and how their personalities and experiences came out in their famous works. I also learned that their brother Branwell also wanted to be a famous writer, and his tragic story helped influence the sisters' writings.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Young, Ethan 978-1338363296 12.99 208 p.
The Dragon Path (ARC) Graphix, 2021

The Wong Clan is on a journey to find the Old Country where they are hoping to find a better life. It is led by Lord Wong, whose advisor Quan seems to be focused on what's beneficial to him than the Clan. The Empress and Lord Wong's son, Prince Sing, is very adventurous, but ever since the Empress died, Lord Wong is especially protective of his son. While traveling along the Dragon Path, the Clan gets ambushed by the Dragon Tribe and Prince Sing is separated. This fantasy graphic novel has Asian influences and is focused on family (the Wong Clan is made up of a myriad of aunts, uncles, and cousins).

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

NONFICTION – RECOMMENDED

Cooper, Candy 978-1-54760232-2 18.99 243 p.
Poisoned Water: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy (ARC)
Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2020

This is a book written for teens about the Flint, MI water crisis and is a fascinating look at all the different parts of the history of this crisis. From the town's founding in the 1930s when it was the best place to live due to the abundance of jobs because of the booming auto industry to the eventual demise of the town where it is one of the hardest places to live in the country. While there is a good foundation in history at the beginning, most of the book focuses on the water crisis where the city decided to change from the Great Lakes water system to pulling water from the Flint River. Within months of switching, residents discovered that they were getting rashes, the coloring and smell of the water was all wrong and children were having trouble developing. From bumbling politicians to grass roots efforts, it took years for Flint's water become drinkable, but by that point, so much damage had been done. I found this book a fascinating read and one that I believe teens would be interested in reading.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Fletcher, Tiera and Ginger Rue 978-1-53620734-7 19.99 195 p.
Wonder Women of Science: Twelve Geniuses Who Are Currently Rocking Science, Technology, and the World
Candlewick Press, 2021

This was a very interesting book about 12 women making a difference in their STEM fields. Women involved in video games, space suits, the medical field, and endangered animals, it was amazing to see the impact that each of these women were having in their fields. Each 13-18 page chapter covered their current impact in their field, their inspiration and growing up, and how they would inspire others to explore and make a difference in whatever their passions draw them to. Perfectly written for middle school students in a conversational tone that inspired readers to learn more. The book is well designed with good color, graphics, and end pages (index, glossary, citations, etc). I also liked the portion what was "Suggestions for Further STEM Awesomeness."

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Miller, Sarah 978-0-593-11972-3 17.99 310 p.
Violet and Daisy: The Story of Vaudeville's Famous Conjoined Twins
Schwartz & Wade Books, 2021

Violet and Daisy were born with their spines conjoined in the late 1800s, before surgeries could easily separate them. Their mother thought that they were cursed as they were born

out of wedlock and quickly gave them to the midwife who adopted them and turned a curse into a profit. The midwife took the girls around the globe showing them off at sideshows and exhibiting them, while making a great deal of money. As the girls traveled and learned to perform, they found their own voices aside from those who had profited off them throughout the years. Violet and Daisy were born with their spines conjoined in the late 1800s, before surgeries could easily separate them. Their mother thought that they were cursed as they were born out of wedlock and quickly gave them to the midwife who adopted them and turned a curse into a profit. The midwife took the girls around the globe showing them off at sideshows and exhibiting them, while making a great deal of money. As the girls traveled and learned to perform, they found their own voices aside from those who had profited off them throughout the years. This is an intriguing book with a very interesting story line. The author did her research well and the pictures included in the middle help to bring the story to life. There were a few times when the details dragged the story down, but overall, I found this a very interesting story and glimpse into history through two girls.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Onwuachi, Kwame and Joshua David Stein 978-0593176009 17.99 257 p.

Notes from a Young Black Chef: Adapted for Young Adults Delacorte, 2021

Kwame Onwuachi is famous for being a contestant on Season 13 of Top Chef and has numerous accolades, including being on the 30 under 30 for both Zagat and Forbes. Kwame has been described as going from rags to riches, but he doesn't see himself like that. In this memoir, Kwame's life has had many ups and downs throughout his childhood and even into adulthood. He talks about race and how it's affected his life and his chef career. He shows you that he uses his African and American heritages to shape the foods he creates. At the end of the book, he includes a few recipes for readers to try out.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library