



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: March 4, 2022

Issue: 136
March 2022

WASHRAG

Titles Taken 3-6

Fiction Reviews 7-14

Graphic Novel Reviews 14

Nonfiction Reviews 14-16

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/StQMvU>

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*

2023 MEETINGS

- *March 3*
- *May 5*
- *September 15*
- *December 8*

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 December 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.
- *BFYA = Best Fiction for Young Adults
- *QP = Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- *GGN = Great Graphic Novels for Teens
- *NFYA = Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults

FICTION

<p><i>Alma Presses Play</i> Cane, Tina Erin O'Connor, Kellogg Middle School Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library <u>Comments:</u> Novel in Verse</p>	<p>Make Me a World, 2021 9780593121146</p>	<p>\$17.99</p>	<p>319 p.</p>
<p><i>Beasts and Beauty</i> Chainani, Soman; illustrated by Julia Iredale JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library</p>	<p>Harper, 2021 9780062652638</p>	<p>\$17.99</p>	<p>320 p.</p>
<p><i>Before We Disappear</i> Hutchinson, Shaun David Ellen Pederson, Risdon Middle School</p>	<p>Harper Teen, 2021 978-0-06-302522-6</p>	<p>\$17.99</p>	<p>501 p.</p>
<p><i>Ben Y and the Ghost in the Machine</i>, The Kids Under the Stairs #2 Holt, K.A. Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School</p>	<p>Chronical Books, 2021 9781452183213</p>	<p>\$17.99</p>	<p>428 p.</p>
<p><i>Chlorine Sky</i> Browne, Mahogany L. Amber Peterson, International Community School <u>Comments:</u> Novel in Verse</p>	<p>Crown, 2021 9780593176399</p>	<p>\$17.99</p>	<p>*Quick Pick 2022 175 p.</p>
<p><i>Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow, A</i> Namey, Laura Taylor Amber Peterson, International Community School</p>	<p>Simon & Schuster, 2020 9781534471245</p>	<p>\$18.99</p>	<p>*BFYA 2022 308 p.</p>
<p><i>Delusionist, The</i> Calame, Don</p>	<p>Candlewick Press, 2021 9780763696894</p>	<p>\$17.99</p>	<p>292 p.</p>

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

<i>Don't Breathe a Word</i> Taylor, Jordyn Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Harper Teen, 2021 978-0-06-303888-2	\$17.99	342 p.
<i>Dreams Lie Beneath</i> Ross, Rebecca JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Quill Tree Books, 2021 9780063015920	\$17.99	477 p.
<i>It All Comes Back to You</i> Rishi, Farah Naz Amber Peterson, International Community School	Quill Tree Books, 2021 9780062741486	\$17.99	418 p.
◆ <i>Lies Like Wildfire</i> Alvarez, Jennifer Lynn Erin O'Connor, Kellogg Middle School	Delacorte Press, 2021 9780593309636	\$18.99	361 p.
<i>Love In English</i> Andreu, Maria E. Amber Peterson, International Community School	Balzer + Bray, 2021 9780062996510	\$18.99	*BFYA 2022 328 p.
<i>Lucy Clark Will Not Apologize</i> Rabb, Margo Sara White, Washington State Library	Quill Tree Books, 2021 9780062322401	\$17.99	368 p.
<i>Meet Cute Diary</i> Lee, Emery Nancy Federiuk, Pacific Middle School	Quill Tree Books, 2021 978-0-06-303883-7	\$17.99	391 p.
<i>On The Hook</i> Stork, Francisco X. Amber Peterson, International Community School	Scholastic, 2021 9781338692150	\$17.99	289 p.
<i>Pahua and the Soul Stealer</i> Lee, Lori M. Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Hyperion, 2021 9781368068246	\$16.99	423 p.
<i>Playing the Cards You're Dealt</i> Johnson, Varian Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	Scholastic, 2021 978-1-338-34853-8	\$16.99	309 p.
<i>Pony</i> Palacio, R.J. Erin O'Connor, Kellogg Middle School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2021 9780553508116	\$17.99	285 p.

<i>Robber Girl, The</i> Billingsley, Franny Sara White, Washington State Library	Candlewick Press, 2021 978-0-7636-6956-0	\$18.99	404 p.
<i>Skin of the Sea</i> Skin of the Sea #1 Bowen, Natasha Amber Peterson, International Community School JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Random House, 2021 9780593565056	\$18.99	303 p.
<i>Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen</i> McGovern, Kate Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Candlewick Press, 2021 9781536215588	\$16.99	278 p.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

<i>A-Okay</i> Greene, Jarad Maggie Block, Washington Middle School Library	Harper Alley, 2021 9780063032859	\$12.99	*QP 2022
<i>Artie and the Wolf Moon</i> Stephens, Olivia JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Graphic Universe, 2021 9781541542488	\$30.65	*QP and GGN 2022 253 p.
<i>Fly by Night</i> O'Connor, Tara; colors by Triona Tree Farrell JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Random House Graphic, 2021 9780593125304	\$24.99	312 p.
<i>Heartless Prince</i> Dragoon, Leigh; illustrated by Angela De Vito JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Hyperion, 2021 9781368028356	\$20.99	
<i>Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel</i> Reynolds, Jason; illustrated by Danica Novgorodoff Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School	Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, 2020 978-1-5344-4495-9	\$19.99	208 p.
<i>Manu</i> Fernandez, Kelly Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Graphix, 2021 978-1-33826418-0	\$12.99	175 p.
<i>Squad</i> Tokuda-Hall, Maggie; illustrated by Lisa Sterle Maggie Block, Washington Middle School Library	Greenwillow Books, 2021 9780062943156	\$12.99	*GGN 2022
<i>Yummy: A History of Desserts</i> Elliott, Victoria Grace	Random House Graphic, 2021 9780593124376	\$19.99	229 p.

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

NONFICTION

Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

Balzer + Bray/HarperTeen, 2021 *NFYA 2022
Colbert, Brandy 9780063056664 \$19.99 216 p.
Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Epic Athletes: Lionel Messi

Henry Holt and Co, 2019
Wetzel, Dan 978-1-25029581-1 \$16.99 136 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

How a King Plays: 64 Chess Tips From a Kid Champion

Random House, 2021
Boydell, Oliver 9780593451267 \$9.99 83 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

It's All Love: Reflections for Your Heart & Soul

Random House, 2021
Ortega, Jenna 9780593174562 \$16.99 221 p.
Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI

Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021
Grann, David 9780593377345 \$18.99 322 p.
Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School
Comments: Young Readers edition

The Story of More: How We Got To Climate Change and Where To Go From Here

Delacorte Press, 2021
Jahren, Hope 9780593381120 \$16.99 199 p.
Amber Peterson, International Community School
Comments: Adapted for Young Adults

FICTION - RECOMMENDED

Clayton, Dhonielle, Tiffany Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, & Nicola Yoon 9780063088092 \$19.99 243 p.

Blackout Quill Tree Books, 2021

Six short stories about love from famous Black female writers. Set in New York during a blackout, six young adults find out what love means to them: heartbreak, first love, LGBTQ love, breaking up, finding new love, and loving yourself. The stories are tied together, but could stand out on their own. Short and fast, and a great diverse read.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Córdova, Zoraida 9781982102548 \$27.00 324 p.

The Inheritance of Orquídea Divinia (ARC) Atria Books, 2021

This fantasy is about the Montoya family and their matriarch Orquídea Divinia. Orquídea was born with bad luck, and it had stayed with her her whole life. She sends out a magical message to her family to let them know that she will no longer be in this world. Her grandkids in New York, Marimar and Rey, drive to Four Rivers, a place where Orquídea never left after arriving there with her second husband. Along with another grandchild, Tatinelly who is 8 months pregnant, the whole family soon unravels Orquídea's mysterious past. This is a beautifully written story about a woman who has experienced such sadness, but was able to give her family such love. Rey is gay, Orquídea is from Ecuador, some of her kids are mixed, there is swearing, and has sex on the page.

Recommended Age: High School, Adult

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Gibbs, Stuart 9781534443785 \$17.99 352 p.

Spy School Revolution, Spy School #8 Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2020

Ben Ripley and his fellow spies-in-training have annihilated the evil-doers SPYDER, but now there may be a double agent in their midst. And the agent seems to be Ben's crush and super-spy-in-training Erica Hale (a descendant of the well-known spy Nathan Hall). Gibbs manages to keep readers on the edge of their seats while providing plenty of snort-worthy middle grade humor AND deftly tosses in plot details about American history like the Croatoans of lost colony Roanoke and even the Library of Congress. This is the eighth book in the series, and most libraries would do well to stock up with at least two copies of this popular title with great curriculum tie-ins. While some purists may want to read the books in order, readers won't miss much by reading out of sequence.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Goffney, Joya 978-0063024793 \$10.99 368 p.

Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry HarperTeen, 2021

I recommend this book for middle school and up. The main character has come to depend on making lists in a journal and referring to it as a safety blanket and pillar of her personality. When the journal goes missing and an anonymous person starts posting pictures of her lists on Insta she has to figure out who might have it. Meanwhile her main suspect and semi-attraction annoyance interest is starting to wear on her...in all the right ways. I liked how the romantic tones of the book were kept suspenseful with trying to figure out who has the journal and what is the last thing on her last list she doesn't name. The writing is very Sarah Dessen ish to me so I loved it and I hope this writer cranks out more of this suspenseful romance.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Gratz, Alan	978-1-338-24575-2	\$17.99	304 p.
<i>Ground Zero</i>	Scholastic, 2021		

Nine-year-old Brandon got in trouble at school, so finds himself going to work with his dad. It's September 11th, 2001, and his dad works in the top-floor restaurant in the World Trade Center. When Brandon gets separated from his dad and a plane hits the building, he has to figure out what to do next. Brandon's story alternates chapters with Reshmina's story. Reshmina is an 11-year-old living in Afghanistan in 2019. Her brother wants to join the Taliban. Reshmina needs to stop him. Gratz is known for bringing issues in the news and from history to life. Brandon and Reshmina's stories are painful to read, but also thrilling, as the reader follows their twists and turns. Will Brandon get out before the tower falls? Will Brandon and Reshmina's stories connect? Gratz includes backmatter to give more context to the stories. A pageturner and essential purchase for all middle school and public libraries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Gray, Ayana	9780593405680	\$18.99	496 p.
<i>Beasts of Prey</i> (ARC)	G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2021		

Koffi is an indentured servant for the Night Zoo, a circus-like menagerie that holds unique but fearsome creatures. Ekon is training to be a warrior for the Sons of the Six. Both are thrown together while hunting for the elusive but dangerous Shetani, a creature that has been killing people for several months. This book is full of myths, folklore, and language from Africa. The author's note at the end further explains where Ayana has included these elements into the story. Koffi is funny because Ekon describes her love of swearing (but doesn't say what bad words she uses). Definitely going to have a sequel.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Jones, Kimberly and Gilly Segal	978-1492678922	\$10.99	320 p.
<i>Why We Fly</i>	Sourcebooks Fire, 2021		

I highly recommend this book for middle school and up. Nelly and Leni have been best friends since childhood. Now in high school and both shining star athletes in competitive cheerleading their squad decides to take a knee during the national anthem of a high school football game in solidarity with an alum from their school doing the same in the NFL. I am super curious about how these authors shared the writing of this nuanced and powerful story. The chapters alternate perspectives between the two and there were times when I forgot which character I was reading. At first, I thought this might be a weakness of the storytelling but after finishing it I find it to be a strength. The main message I get from this story is that no one has all the answers and even close friends do not have to agree on everything, and during times of stress we can appreciate each other's perspectives and stay true to ourselves. My favorite quote from the book is "...a moment is not a movement..." Best intentions do not make someone an ally, and careful planning is needed to enact sustainable change. The only part that threw me a little was one of the characters copes with vaping and seems to quit rather easily...kind of an obvious PSA but it didn't yank me out of the story. I think anyone who works in a high school should read this. It could be a wonderful choice for a staff book study.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Lore, Pittacus	978-0-06-284536-8	\$18.99	422 p.
<i>Ashfall Legacy</i>	Harper, 2021		

Syd Chambers has been on the run with his mom for a decade. They have been fleeing from aliens whose presence on earth is illegal. Half-alien himself, Syd knows there is life beyond our planet including his father, who disappeared looking for a cure that would save civilization on earth. Syd quickly learns his father is still alive and has left behind a device that only he can use to find him. In leaving earth for the Vastness, Syd discovers, great personal power and great risks. Not everyone he meets is to be trusted and he finds he has to keep secrets from those whom he does trust. Fast-paced science fiction with a cliff-hanger ending, students will enjoy this adventure. Recommended, grades 8 and up (for language).

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Marks, Janae	978-0-06-287587-7	\$16.99	281 p.
<i>A Soft Place to Land</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2021		

Joy is trying to figure out what the good is that can come from the fact that her family just sold their house and are now living in a small apartment and she no longer gets to take piano lessons because the family is trying to save money. As her parent's fighting increases, Joy is trying to find a place to escape and is thrilled when her new friend Nora shows her "the hideout". The hideout is a hidden room in the apartment complex that only the kids know about and is their place of refuge. However, how will Joy escape with her parent's constant fighting, her dog walking business that she has started to raise money for piano lessons and more? This book has it all . . . mysterious notes written on the hideout wall with possible self-harm themes, missing dogs that must be found, parent's fighting and

separation, friendships and fighting, and much more. While this was a good book, and perfect for middle schoolers, I liked Mark's book *From the Desk of Zoe Washington* much better.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

McManus, Karen M. 9780525708001 \$19.99 336 p.

The Cousins Delacorte, 2020

A wealthy grandmother that three cousins have never met reaches out to invite them to work for the summer at the resort she owns. The cousins' parents have been estranged from their mother for many years, and none of them seem to know why. There is likely to be a large estate to divide one day, though, so the cousins relent and agree to go to Gull Cove Island for the summer. Plenty of plot twists and back flashes keep the story moving. Readers that enjoy diving into the lives of the monied elite and their summer galas resplendent with diamonds and mistaken identities will pick this up. McManus is a NYTimes bestselling author, so prepare for fans and high demand. Themes include: underage drinking; teen pregnancy; miscarriage; f-bombs; alcoholism.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Nix, Garth 9780063049321 \$19.99 338 p.

Terciel and Elinor, The Old Kingdom #6 Katherine Tegen Books, 2021

Return to Nix's Old Kingdom series with Terciel and Elinor, Sabriel's parents. Elinor, raised in Ancelstierre, knows nothing about the Old Kingdom or Charter Magic. After a Dead creature attacks her home, apprentice-Abhorsen Terciel intervenes and Elinor begins to discover her own magical heritage. A position at a girl's school gives her further information and eventually leads her over the wall into the Old Kingdom where she encounters Terciel again. Terciel, who struggles to accept his own heritage and fate, allies with her to defeat an ancient foe. This has all the (literal and metaphorical) bells and whistles of Nix's previous works and is a great addition where Old Kingdom books are popular. Elinor's background in drama adds a fun element. Off the page sex occurs. Terciel is brown-skinned; most other characters default to White.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Brenna Shanks, KCLS

O'Donoghue, Caroline 9781536213942 \$19.99 374 p.

All Our Hidden Gifts, All Our Hidden Gifts #1 Walker Books, 2021

Set in Ireland, Maeve learns witchcraft through tarot, and needs to use it to rescue a friend. She falls for a bisexual boy who likes to wear dresses and makeup (and who is bullied at his all-boys school for it), and befriends a half-Filipino girl, whose family coincidentally knows a bit about tarot reading. Their town is seeing protests by the Children of Brigid, an ultra-Catholic group full of young adults protesting anything LGBTQ. A fun, kind of scary book

that sounds like it's going to be a sequel (I learned a lot about witchcraft). No sex on the page, but it is hinted.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Sarif, Shamim 9780062849632 \$17.99 281 p.

The Shadow Mission, The Athena Protocol #2 HarperTeen, 2020

This is a sequel to The Athena Protocol. In the first book, you learn about The Athena Protocol, a small militia group that protects women and girls around the world. Think of a James Bond/MI6 group but made up of 3 women who lead (an Asian tech CEO, an ex-American diplomat, and a British famous musician) and 3 women who are soldiers (an ex-Air Force pilot, and two teen girls who have gone through the Program, a school that trains expert soldiers). Main character Jessie, one of the soldiers and the daughter of the musician, was let go from the group and then is recruited back in the first book. In the second book, the 3 leaders find out that one of the girls' schools that they opened in India was bombed, killing all the students. It's a thrilling mystery and Jessie finds herself romantically involved with the lady detective who is investigating the bombing (she had a crush on another female character in the first book, who turned out to be the enemy). Short book and fast read.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Scott, Libby and Rebecca Westcott 978-1-338-60891-5 \$17.99 362 p.

Can You See Me? Scholastic, 2019

Tally is autistic. When she starts at a new school (the UK version of middle school), she feels the need to try to hide her autism for the very first time. Chapters alternate between narrative depictions of Tally's struggle to fit in, relationship with a neighbor's dog, and home life, and diary-styled educational content in Tally's voice describing elements of life as an autistic person, such as meltdowns and stimming. This book is written from lived experience, as the authors are an autistic teen and a special education teacher. It is relatively rare to find books from a female-identified autistic experience. Recommended for middle school and public libraries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Smyth, Ciara 978-0-06-295714-6 \$17.99 361 p.

Not My Problem 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

Tan, June C.L. 9780063056367 \$17.99 449 p.

Jade Fire Gold HarperTeen, 2021

Sixteen-year-old Ahn hides her magic, knowing the priesthood would hunt her if it was revealed. As she just tries to survive in her small desert town at the edge of the Shi Empire, she runs into eighteen-year-old Altan, a prince in exile. He wants to use her magic to regain his throne. Together they begin a quest for the White Jade Sword that can restore prosperity to the empire and help control Ahn's magic. Based on Chinese mythology, with rich world-building and plenty of action and romance. The story alternates between Ahn and Altan's perspectives. Inspired by xianxia and wuxia genres, this is a solid addition to fantasy collections.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Brenna Shanks, KCLS

Yang, Kelly 9781338591385 \$17.99 288 p.

Three Keys, Front Desk #2 Scholastic, 2021

Mia Tang is back! If you have readers that enjoyed Front Desk, they will want this second book in the series. A third book, Room to Dream, is also out. Mia and her friend Lupe are in the same sixth grade class this year, and Lupe is stressed about her and her family's immigration status. Readers will root for Mia as she continues to use her writing skills to organize and help her friends staying at what is now her parents' motel, the Calavista. A powerful Author's Note at the end connects current and past immigration law with happenings from the story. Author and attorney Kelly Yang combines her semi-autobiographical experiences again in this powerful book.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

FICTION – SHRUG

Hand, Cynthia, Brodi Ashton & Jodi Meadows 9780062930040 \$18.99 496 p.

My Contrary Mary, Mary #1 HarperCollins, 2021

A historical fiction retelling of 16th century Europe where we follow Mary Queen of Scots, her betrothed Francis II, and daughter of famous seer Nostradamus, Ari. In this alternate 16th century Europe, people are divided into Verities and Edians (shapeshifters). We

follow our 3 main characters as they deal with conspiracies, lies, and much more in a kingdom where the people aren't at all what they seem. This is a solid book, nothing special but not terrible. If you're looking for a quick, funny, lighthearted read then this is the book for you. MS/HS appropriate.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library

Suvada, Emily 9781534440944 \$19.99 404 p.
This Vicious Cure, This Mortal Coil #3 Simon Pulse, 2020

The outbreak may be contained, but things have only gotten worse for Cat. And a new threat has brought the world to the brink of war. Still, Cat's not giving up yet as she races against the clock to try and save both her friends and the world. Told in alternating points of view, *This Vicious Cure* is a decent conclusion to the series. Good for fans of dystopias, though the outbreak element might be a turn off for some right now. High school.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library

FICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Alvarez, Jennifer Lynn 978-0593309636 \$10.99 384 p.
Lies Like Wildfire Delacorte, 2021

I don't recommend this book for any age but if someone wanted to punish themselves I guess it should be definitely high school since there is on page sex. The writing is decent but the plot engulfs the lack of character development faster than the forest fire in the story which is caused by teens who want to smoke weed in a dry, California forest surrounded by trees and high winds. The main character is the sheriff's daughter and she and her friends try to cover up that they started the fire. Why? Ten people died, and they put two horses and a Basset hound in danger. Later she gets mauled by a bear but I still found myself saying not enough payback. Why? Well she killed 10 people and she is still pissed that the guy she likes is with one of her friends. So basically I don't care about her even for a nano second so hey author you can't expect a reader to feel sympathy for any of these teens who caused this heinous fire. Even if it could be marketed as a PSA it is too long and even the scene of on page sex is terrible. Don't but it.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Rigaud, Debbie 978-1-338-68172-7 \$18.99 309 p.
Simone Breaks All the Rules, Simone Breaks All The Rules #1 Scholastic, 2021

In this book we follow Simone, a Haitian American girl in her senior year of high school, yearning for some freedom from her very strict parents. Simone has been dreaming about her perfect prom; the perfect dress, the perfect date. However, her dream is threatened when her mother tries to set her up with a boy of her choosing. Simone decides that she

will not stand for that, and that it is time to finally start living her life. Simone teams up with two other daughters of strict immigrant parents, and together they make a list of everything they wanna do to start living their own lives. In all honesty, I struggled to finish this book. The concept was great, but the author didn't execute it well. The dialogue was very cringy, it makes the novel feel younger than YA. MS/HS.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library

GRAPHIC NOVELS – SHRUG

Bogart, Matthew and Jesse Holden 9780063064942 \$24.99 266 p.
Incredible Doom [Vol 1] HarperAlley, 2021

Set in 1994, Allison is introduced to the internet by her magician father, who tells her that since she's young, she should know how it works and should teach him how to use it. Richard has moved from Michigan to a new state and misses his old friends. He tries to reconnect with them using BBS (a Bulletin Board System used by local computers to dial into), but his parents get upset by the long-distance calls. Both Allison and Richard navigate the internet in their own ways and encounter personal issues that need the help of this new internet. It's a nostalgic graphic novel that has some weird parts, but is fascinating to learn about how teens used the internet back then.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Batalion, Judy 978-0-06-303769-4 \$17.99 265 p.
The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos (Young Reader's Edition) Harper, 2020

This book should be a movie! The Young Readers' Edition of *The Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos* tells the incredible stories of the brave young Jewish women in WWII Poland who organized resistance cells to fight against the Nazis as spies, couriers, and saboteurs. Author Judy Batalion based this book on archival accounts, interviews, and memoirs, achieving a good balance between acknowledging the horror of the Holocaust and being appropriate for a 5-8 grade audience. Her notes and explanations about her research process are interesting as well for readers. Recommended, grades 5-8.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Henderson, Robert M. 9781682829332 \$31.95 80 p.
The Spread of Hate and Extremism Reference Point Press, 2020

This book provides a look at mostly alt-right extreme groups in the United States. An inset box describing “Black Nationalism” and Louis Farrakhan provides a look at a Black movement, but the rest of the book is about white nationalists. Notable sections include how social media and technology including the dark web have been recent tools of extremist groups for recruiting and spreading hate. As typical with books from Reference Point, the text quotes many academic experts and leaders to build credibility along with quality sources and additional reading. Missing is anything in the recent debate about Critical Race Theory and extremist views. The book sources Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance as an educational resource, but this is already dated since they changed the name to Learning for Justice. Still this is a valuable source for secondary school readers and libraries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

NONFICTION – SHRUG

Cummings, Elijah	9780063081550	\$16.99	212 p.
<i>We’re Better Than This</i>	Harper, 2021		

In this autobiographic of Eli Cummings he walks students through his life growing up and how it impacted his politics as he continue to have a growth mindset and never give up. His stories were powerful and moving of his family and growing up. This book is clearly a young readers edition as it walks the reader through concepts and ideas in a fairly simple manner. While there are powerful themes throughout the book, I am not sure how many students will pick this book up on their own.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Messner, Kate	978-1-54159611-5	\$34.65	64 p.
<i>Tracking Tortoises: The Mission to Save a Galápagos Giant</i>	Millbrook Press, 2022		

As tortoises are moving about the Galapagos Islands, they are being tracked by scientists, wanting to know more about these magnificent creatures. Throughout the book, Messner gives back stories of the tortoises as well as helps paint a picture of the amazing creatures and the scientists that study them. Reminiscent of a Scientist in the Field book, the pictures as beautiful and information engaging. If you are looking for more animal books, this is a good one to have.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

SERIES NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Drug Risks series

Lundquist-Arora, Stephanie 978-1682829035 \$31.95 80 p.
E-Cigarette and Vaping Risks Reference Point Press, 2020

With the increasing numbers of teens and middle schoolers using electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) on the rise, this book addresses a growing health concern in an accessible, and often compelling, way for the target audience. Much is not known about the long-term health effects of vaping, and the book is clear on that point. Further, readers will be informed about the effects of second-hand e-cigarette smoke despite the commonly held belief that the vapor is less harmless than other types of nicotine smoke. Quoting experts as well as individual users, the book provides convincing evidence about the health effects of vaping. Source notes, a further reading list, and an index provide added strengths to this book's timely topic addressed in most school health curricula. Other titles in the series include: Herion Risks, Marijuana Risks, Methamphetamine Risks, and The Risks of Fentanyl and Other Opioids.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School