



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

*Issue: 137
May 2022*

WASHRAG

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WASHYARGers:

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

Someday we will be back together in person, but until then...Join our Zoom Meeting. 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

- *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

- September 16
- December 9

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

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

Titles Taken for Review – Since March 2022

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.

◆Already reviewed

FICTION

<i>Blaine for the Win</i> (ARC) Couch, Robbie	Simon & Schuster, 2022 978-1-5344-9746-7	\$19.99	326 p.
Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library			
<i>Bound by Firelight</i> , Wickery #2 Swift, Dana	Delacorte Press, 2022 9780062741165	\$18.99	435 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library			
<i>Extasia</i> Legrand, Claire	Katherine Tegen Books, 2022 978-0-06-269663-2	\$17.99	484 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			
<i>Ferryman</i> , Ferryman #1 McFall, Claire	Walker Books, 2021 9780062741165	\$18.99	308 p.
Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library			
<i>Great or Nothing</i> McCullough, Joy, CarolineTung Richond, Tess Sharpe and Jessica Spotswood	Delacorte Press, 2022 9780062741165	\$18.99	394 p.
Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library			
<i>It Will End Like This</i> Leigh, Kyra	Delacorte Press, 2022 978-0-593-37552-5	\$18.99	339 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			
<i>The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne</i> , The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne #1 Stroud, Jonathan	Knopf, 2021 9780062741165	\$17.99	421 p.
Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library			
<i>Star Wars: Queen's Hope</i> Johnston, E.K.	Disney Lucas Film Press, 2021 978-136807593-0	\$17.99	280 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			

Thirty Talks Weird Love Cinco Puntos Press, 2021
 Varela, Alessandra Narváez 9780062741165 \$18.95 205 p.
 Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

This Woven Kingdom This Woven Kingdom #1 HarperCollins, 2022
 Mafi, Tahereh 9780062741165 \$19.99 495 p.
 Genesee Rickel, Kirkland Library

The Turning Pointe Knopf, 2022
 Torres, Vanessa L. 978-0-593-42613-5 \$18.99 425 p.
 Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

◆ ***Vinyl Moon*** Crown, 2022
 Browne, Mahogany L. 978-0-593-17643-6 \$18.99 166 p.
 Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Wingbearer Wingbearer #1 HarperCollins, 2022
 Liu, Marjorie M.; illustrated by Teny Issakhanian 9780062741165 \$22.99 203 p.
 JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

NONFICTION

Become an App Inventor: The Official Guide From MIT App Inventor
 MITeenPress, 2022
 Lang, Karen and Selim Tezel 9780062741165 \$22.99 224 p.
 Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

Science and the Skeptic: Discerning Facts From Fiction
 Twent-First Century Books, 2022
 Zimmer, Marc 9780062741165 \$37.32 120 p.
 Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

FICTION – RECOMMEND

Andreu, Maria E 9780062652638 \$18.99 328 p.
Love In English Balzer + Bray, 2021

Ana is just fine with her comfortable life in Argentina—where she has friends, school success and loves poetry. When her family immigrates to the US to start a new life in New Jersey however, she finds herself struggling learn the language and everything else. Ana thought she knew some English, but finds English is treacherous, even in her ESL class! For example, on the second day of school, the teacher tells the class “Okay. ##### ice breakers.” The only words Ana understands are “Okay” and “ice” and “breaker.” What about ice? In class? What? And then there are matters of the heart—Ana gets to know Harrison, a cute boy in her math class but there is also Neo, the mysterious teen from Cyprus with whom she is learning English. A cute romance, this book also has clever vignettes throughout playing with the weirdness of the English language.

Recommended grades 7 and up.

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Bowen, Natasha 9780062652638 \$18.99 303 p.
Skin of the Sea, Skin of the Sea #1 Random House, 2021

Put West African mythology, the horrors of the slave trade, a sprinkle of the Little Mermaid, and lots of romance and adventure in the blender and you’d have Skin of the Sea, a fantasy book that will appeal to teen readers. Simidele was once human but now she is a Mami Wata (mermaid) who collects the souls of those that have died at sea. With the slave trade in full swing, the Mami Wata are very busy in easing the passage of these souls as they journey back to their maker. When Simi saves a human from the sea, she risks the existence of all the Mami Wata and must seek Olodumare—the creator—and beg for forgiveness. With the help of Kola, the human she saved, and others, Simi embarks on a perilous journey that will cause her to risk everything, including what’s left her own humanity. Readers will have to wait for the sequel to find out her ultimate destiny. Author Natasha Bowen includes interesting notes about her research and suggestions for further reading at the end of the book. Recommend for high school, note that book deals with death, violence, and slavery and may impact sensitive readers. Grades 8 and up.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Bowen, Natasha 9780062652638 \$18.99 309 p.
Skin of the Sea, Skin of the Sea #1 Random House Children's Books, 2021

This is a re-telling of the Little Mermaid, taking place when slavery was first started (when the Europeans started enslaving Africans). Simi is a Mami Wata, a mermaid who takes the

souls of bodies that have died at sea to have them blessed. Simi soon discovers that one of the bodies she recovers isn't dead and is requesting her help. Simi finds out that by saving this human, Kola, she has to ask forgiveness from the Supreme Creator. Both Simi and Kola journey together to help each other with their quests. There are hints about the re-telling throughout the book (Kola is found to be a kind of prince, the son of the chief; if Simi starts to fall in love with a human, she will get turned into foam), but this could be its own fairy tale. Also, Simi is a fighter (she seems to rescue Kola a few times) and stands up for herself. There is a trigger warning, but I didn't find anything too explicit (there is talk about Kola's whipping scars, and a bit on how the villagers were taken and died at sea).

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Browne, Mahogany L.	9780062652638	\$17.99	175 p.
<i>Chlorine Sky</i>	Crown, 2021		

A novel in verse about growing up, broken friendships, and finding one's own voice. Beginning at the end of a friendship and then circling back to the events leading up to it, we never learn the narrator's name, only the names people call her. As she goes through life and school trying to be as small as possible, she is content to hide in the shadows of others, attracting as little attention as possible and trying to ignore the micro-aggressions from her peers. Except on the basketball court where she is most at home—and there she never compromises. Suddenly bereft of the security of a best friend, the narrator learns to advocate for herself and lean into family and new friendships. "You don't have to wait for others to pick you/You pick yourself, I mean/Really choose yourself every day." (p 172) It is only after this reflection that she finally tells us her name, Skyy. The story is familiar, but the telling is beautiful. Recommended for 8th and up.

Recommended Age: Adult

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Cane, Tina	978-0-593-12114-6	\$17.99	324 p.
<i>Alma Presses Play</i>	Penguin Random House, 2021		

Alma is thirteen. It's the early 1980s, and Alma lives in the Village in New York City. She listens to her Walkman, hangs out on the roof with her friends, avoids eye contact with the Girls who stand in doorways, and buys Mary Janes candy to eat. She might be about to have her first kiss. Her parents fight a lot. And she goes to Chinatown regularly to visit her mom's side of the family. Cane tells Alma's story in verse, using evocative language and lots of cultural references from the 1980s. While some of the titled poems could stand alone, most of them benefit from the context of the surrounding story. Cane explores Alma's mixed Chinese-American and White American heritage to some extent, but that aspect of the book is more of an enrichment of the environment than a focus. Alma learns about ancient mythology, and musings about figures like Leda and Zeus mingle with references to

the Pretenders and David Bowie. This is a coming-of-age book full of atmosphere and it's recommended for middle schools and public libraries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Chainani, Soman; illustrated by Julia Iredale 9780062652638 \$17.99 320 p.
Beasts and Beauty Harper, 2021

From the author who wrote The School for Good and Evil series. In this short story collection, Soman reshapes the well-known fairy tales (Cinderella, Peter Pan, Beauty and the Beast) to make them more diverse (the characters are from a wide range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and some of them are LGBTQ) and the messaging is more in-line with messages that should be promoted (Snow White is a Black girl who defeats the Queen without the need for a prince). Great twists and retellings.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Holt, K.A. 9780062652638 \$17.99 425 p.
Ben Y and the Ghost in the Machine, The Kids Under the Stairs #2 Chronical Books, 2021

School and home are both frustrating Ben Y and she can't see a way out of either. At school people call her by the wrong name, she is constantly being dress coded by the vice principal and she continually runs into Ace, who she can't figure out if she likes or can't stand. At home, her family is still reeling from the death of her older brother, but no one accepts the fact that they need help. Whether it is crying in their room, creating a new business, or treating Benito's room as a shrine, all the members of Ben Y's family can't figure out how to move on. When Ben Y tries to get out her emotions through the chat room that she used to share with her brother and he starts typing back, Ben Y realizes that maybe her deepest secrets and fears may be exposed. As the second book in the series, this dives into the story of just one of the characters. While I liked the book, I missed the opportunity to hear from all the characters. This book, primarily written in verse, spends a great deal of time on Ben Y's identity and figuring out who she is and who she is to become in a world without her brother and in a school that doesn't see her for who she is. While I liked this book, I didn't feel as though it was a great follow up to the first book, however, I am guessing that there are more books to come in this series, one for each of the "kids under the stairs."

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

Hutchinson, Shaun David 9780062652638 \$17.99 512 p.
Before We Disappear HarperTeen, 2021

Jack and Wilhelm live parallel lives on different continents, both manipulated by their guardians into lives of deceit. Their paths collide when they both find themselves working

as magicians' assistants at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle. Both of them are roped into plots for glory, fame, and getting an absurd amount of money. The narration alternates between Jack's and Wil's points of view with each chapter. It's difficult to fit this book into a box: it's historical fiction, but also suspense -- fans of heist novels would approve. It includes an element of fantasy (one character can teleport to some extent) and a good dose of romance. One unique feature is the queer joy found throughout: both narrators are gay, and two of the friends they meet in Seattle are presumed lesbian. While racism and sexism come up throughout the book, homophobia is notably absent. The author explains that this is the only (intentional) historical inaccuracy in the story. Some readers will likely relish in the escapism, while others may take issue with erasure of the discrimination queer people would have actually faced during that time. While many characters are somewhat one-dimensional, the story is an enjoyable cross-genre adventure.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Ellen Pederson, Risdon Middle School

Jasinska, Alicia

9780062652638

304 p.

The Midnight Girls

Penguin Random House Australia, 2021

Three orphans, Beata (Morning), Marynka (Midday), and Zosia (Midnight), are servants to the Jaga witches in this standalone, Polish-inspired historical fantasy. Trained to track down princes and tear out their hearts, these girls are viciously talented. Karnawal presents a unique opportunity to seize the heart of a pure prince, the most powerful heart of all. While Beata and Marynka are known to one another and close friends, Zosia is a stranger and a fierce rival of Marynka. The three meet and a case of mistaken identity quickly spirals into rivals-to-lovers and a contest to see who can get the heart first. This villain v villain tale has a strong sense of place and is quite atmospheric, and the slow burn romance is flecked with funny quips between the characters and an impressive magic system. Marynka and Zosia battle each other from beginning to end, sometimes getting so caught up in the rivalry and feelings that they forget their goals. I enjoyed the distinct characterization of both primary and secondary characters and the worldbuilding that leaves you wanting more stories. A quote early on stayed with me and captures the undertone of the book, "Had they donned their Karnawal masks to transform themselves into who they most wanted to be? Or had they merely removed the masks they wore daily, to reveal who or what they had always been?" (p. 72). I agree with the Kirkus review which says, "Whiteness is the default, although there are Muslim and Jewish secondary characters, and same-sex gender attraction is the norm." There is no sex or swearing. There are brief scenes of violence that can get a bit graphic and physical and mental child abuse occur throughout the book. The characters are 16-20 years old, but I believe this book would work from 8th grade and up. Some more mature 7th graders could also enjoy the story, but the brief bits of graphic violence suggest to me an older reader. This would work well as an under-the-radar queer book, as the cover and title don't inherently suggest the

has to stay in 5th grade because of her reading challenges and she feels like her world is falling apart. Instead of telling the truth to her new classmates and the people that she is in reading support group with, she decides to tell them a lie that she can't easily get out of. When lies start piling up and friendships are strained, Maple feels lost and alone. Will Maple be able to tell the truth and find friends again? I found this an amazing story of the impact of dyslexia on students and how to overcoming learning challenges. Maple is a strong character and a perfect example of what students struggle with when they have learning challenges.

Recommended Age: Middle School

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

Murphy, Julie 9780062652638 326 p.
Pumpkin, Dumplin' #3 Balzer & Bray, 2021

What do you do when your late night, breakup-fueled drag show audition is accidentally leaked all over school resulting in a nomination for Prom Queen? If you're Waylon Brewer, you EMBRACE IT! Along the way Waylon confronts his bullies, especially those who are fatphobic and homophobic, and he gets more comfortable with the qualities he has always felt made him different - being fat and gay in a small Texas town. Cameos from Julie Murphy's other characters who live in Clover City are fun for those who have read Murphy's other books, but they don't confuse those who are reading Murphy for the first time. There is some swearing, partying, drinking, and sex. I suggest this book for grades 9 and up. What I enjoyed most about this book was that yes, Waylon is fat and gay, and yes, issues and scenes pertaining to these identities come up in the book, but they didn't feel to be driving the story. I was more struck by Waylon dealing with the transition from high school to post-high school and the feelings that come with that. Waylon isn't always perfectly likeable, but he is relatable.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Genesee Rickel, Kirkland Library

Namey, Laura Taylor 9780062652638 \$18.99 308 p.
A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow Simon & Schuster, 2020

The spring she graduates Lila Reyes experiences a trifecta of major disappointments. Angry and hurt, the final blow comes when her parents send her away to Winchester, England to stay at her Aunt's Inn for a re-set. Unhappy with the weather, and, being a chef herself, unhappy with the food, Lila is resigned to a long and lonely summer. But things start looking up as she is called upon to help in the Inn's kitchen and begins to add a Cuban flair to the menu. And then she meets the handsome Orion Maxwell, a young man with a story of his own. Recommended for high school.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Rishi, Farah Naz 9780062652638 \$17.99 418 p.
It All Comes Back to You Quill Tree Books, 2021

When Kiran Noorani discovers that her sister is engaged to Faisal Malik and planning to move across the country with him, she feels things might be moving too fast in the wake of their mother's death the year before. Discovering that Faisal is the older brother of her ex-boyfriend Deen adds more complications. To protect her sister, Kiran digs into Faisal's mysterious past but finds herself blocked at every turn by Deen, who has his own agenda to make sure nothing interferes with the upcoming marriage. Told alternately by Kiran and Deen, this romance has many layers—and undeniable chemistry—but not just between the engaged couple! Recommended for grades 8 and up.

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Ross, Rebecca 9780062652638 \$17.99 477 p.
Dreams Lie Beneath Quill Tree Books, 2021

Clementine Madigan is a warden in training who helps her father (the warden of the village) defeat nightmares using unique magic. She lives next door to a duchy where the duke had been murdered and laid a curse on the inhabitants: their nightmares will come to life and do harm. Her father's wardenship is soon challenged by two brothers, and he loses the challenge. Clementine declares her revenge and disguises herself to infiltrate one of the brother's homes. This fantasy's magic system was fascinating, and everything is tied to the mystery behind the duke's death, which has been turned into a fairy tale. The last few chapters were a bit anticlimactic, but the ending was good. Definitely a standalone.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Stork, Francisco X. 9780062652638 \$17.99 289 p.
On the Hook Scholastic, 2021

Hector keeps a low profile at school, where he does well academically. He doesn't make waves—his passion is chess and the hope for a better life for his family someday. Unfortunately, Hector finds himself sucked into a world of fear, violence and revenge when he is singled out for bullying by Joey, a classmate whose older brother is at odds with Hector's brother Fili over an ex-girlfriend. Things come to a terrible climax in which Fili is killed by Joey and Hector, witnessing the crime, almost kills Joey's brother by running him over. Both boys are sent to a reform school, Hector vowing to have his revenge against Joey. The rest of the book is the story of how Hector faces what it means to have courage and to consider whether his need to act out the revenge is more important than his need to grieve and heal. Late in the book, Hector realizes that he and Joe connected like the old man

and the tuna in Hemmingway's book, *The Old Man and the Sea*—thus the book's title "On the Hook." Recommended graded 8 and up.

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School
Amber Peterson, International Community School

Vickers, E.B. 9780062652638 \$17.99 400 p.
Fadeaway Knopf, 2021

Basketball star Jake can seemingly do no wrong... That is, until he disappears. As the story moves along with narration from both Jake and people close to him, the reader starts to learn that Jake's perfect public image doesn't tell the whole story. Different characters have different opinions on what should be done to find him, leading to conflict within families and friend groups. The book delves into issues around opioid abuse, with a recurring motif of people finding themselves doing things their past selves never would have imagined after painkiller prescriptions lead to addiction. The author treats people suffering from addiction with compassion, pointing out the difficulty of finding support or treatment. Overall *Fadeaway* is a basketball-forward thriller, but it also leads the reader to reflect on contemporary issues in our community. Contains minor language and alcohol use as well as prescription painkiller abuse. Appropriate and of interest for both middle school and high school readers.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Ellen Pederson, Risdon Middle School

FICTION – SHRUG

Calame, Don 9780062652638 \$17.99 292 p.
The Delusionist Candlewick Press, 2021

Quinn and Perry have been a magic team for as long as Quinn can remember, and they are entering as a team to win a spot at the Masters of Magic Fantasy Camp for the summer. However, when the judges want solo acts and their toughest competitor also happens to be the beautiful and talented Dani Darling, Quinn fears that his place will be taken by one of the two people that mean the most to him. He must have the perfect entry performance and he wants to perfect the *Monkey's Paw*, an act he saw as a child, but now needs the has-been magician The Dazzling Lazlo to teach him and not use him to scam unsuspecting audiences. Will Quinn learn the tricks that will get him into camp and save his relationships in the process? I was excited for another Calame book as I loved the *Swim the Fly* series, but this book didn't capture me. Quinn seemed somewhat unrelatable to me and I could never truly get into the story. I thought that Quinn's parent's dream of becoming stage actors was hilarious, but that was about it for the humor. There is quite a bit of swearing, talk of masturbation and drinking, so I felt that this would be better received in a high school setting.

Recommended Age: High School

Dee and her dad decide to return to the home where her mom and twin sister live because her twin is missing. Dee enrolls in the local high school and tries to find out what happened to her sister. She gets involved with the high school's Pinelands Conservation Society, a group that her sister joined. The Society is fighting against the Redline Company, which wants to build a pipeline through the Pinelands, a local forest. When Dee keeps digging into her sister's disappearance, she finds that there is a lot more happening than she suspected. This graphic novel is diverse (Dee is half Latinx and the leader of the Conservation Society is Black), has an interesting fantasy element, a good message about loss, and a surprising twist.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Reynolds, Jason 978-1-5344-4495-9 \$19.99 208 p.

Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, 2020

This graphic novel interpretation of the highly decorated novel in verse is sure to help readers of many levels access this important work. Talk bubbles, captioned pictures, graffiti and free verse sprinkled around a variety of visuals make this a reading experience that mirrors the stress and chaos that main character Will experiences when his older brother is shot and killed. The color palette of browns, grays, gray-blues and the occasional pop of yellow and red also keep the focus on the serious tone of the story about gun violence. Great as a stand alone or companion to the first book.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Stephens, Olivia 9780062652638 \$30.65 253 p.

Artie and the Wolf Moon Graphic Universe, 2021

Artie is an eighth grader who has no friends, gets bullied by her classmates, and is being raised by a single mom who doesn't talk much about her dad. She loves photography, so one night while trying to take a picture of the full moon she discovers that her mom is a werewolf! Soon Artie gains werewolf friends and learns more about her family history, especially how her father was attacked by vampires. This was a quick read that mixes fantasy and a bit of mystery. It is diverse (Artie is Black and is attracted to girls), and it's interesting that the vampires are white, and the werewolves are Black. This is written by a Pacific Northwest author, and she's illustrating the Tristan Strong graphic novels.

Recommended Age: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

GRAPHIC NOVELS – SHRUG

Dragoon, Leigh; illustrated by Angela De Vito 9780062652638 \$20.99
Heartless Prince Hyperion, 2021

In this fantasy, witches control familiars (tree-like creatures) that attack kingdoms. Evony was found as a baby and brought to a neighboring kingdom (Gallea). The rulers discover that she's the princess of the other kingdom and help to train her as a hunter, those who kill familiars. When Gallea's barrier is found to be breached by familiars, Evony and Gallea's Prince Ammon try to find the witch that is controlling them. However, a familiar attacks Prince Ammon and steals his heart. Evony then decides to recover the Prince's heart and destroy the witch, but she soon discovers more about her past. This has a strong female lead, an interesting setting, and is a short graphic novel.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Fernandez, Kelly 9780062652638 \$12.99 175 p.
Manu Graphix, 2021

Manu lives in a magical convent where the nuns train girls to use the magical gifts that they have been shown to have. Manu and Josephina are best friends and have lived in the convent for as long as they can remember, but when Manu's silly magic goes too far and Josephina makes a curse that causes Manu to lose her powers, they resort to black magic to try to fix it. As events go from bad to worse, Manu and Josephina wonder if they will ever be able to go back to the way that things were. While I think that this will be a popular middle school graphic novel and the pictures are colorful and engaging, I felt that this book was really dark. This book contains themes and illustrations about the following: séances, calling up demons, children being demon-possessed, exorcism, black magic, spells. For some students this is the perfect book, but it was not any themes or story that I was interested in.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

Boydell, Oliver 978-0-593-45126-7 \$9.99 83 p.
How a King Plays: 64 Chess Tips From a Kid Champion Random House, 2021

Boydell started playing Chess when he was five and became a national chess champion at age 7. Now, at age 11, he has written a book of 64 tips that can be useful for both beginners and advanced players alike. His introduction states that since he was always explaining chess to classmates who were young, he was able to come up with ways to explain the game in simple terms and as a person who does not play chess, it did seem easy to understand and follow the different tips. A small and compact book, it seems like it would be great for anyone wanting to know more tips and tricks about Chess.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

Colbert, Brandy 978-0-06305666-4 \$19.99 224 p.

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

Balzer + Bray, 2021

Race riots and hate crimes against Blacks were an almost common occurrence in the U.S. in the years after the Civil War leading up to the Tulsa Race Massacre. Colbert describes dozens of these crimes at the beginning of the book as she sets the stage for “one the most devastating acts of racial violence in U.S. history.” Stories of all white juries sentencing innocent Black men, police violence, and lynchings are described in detail. The author makes clear in the foreword that her own schooling growing up in southwest Missouri was devoid of any of this history, and she proceeds to uncover a mountain of evidence using newspaper stories of the day and eyewitness accounts of the title event. Greenwood, Oklahoma was founded by two visionary Black men, O.W. Gurley and J. B. Stradford. The two had a vision of Black owned businesses supported by a town of “‘upwardly mobile’ Black people,” and it became known as the Black Wall Street only to be attacked during a riot of an angry white mob of 5,000-10,000 spurred by a sensationalized news story of “dubious reporting on May 31, 1921” about a white female elevator operator being assaulted by a Black man. Deftly weaving the facts of this history into a fabric of systemic racism, Colbert has created a book that is horrifying and necessary.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Grann, David 978-0-593-37734-5 \$18.99 336 p.

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI (Young Readers adaptation)

Crown of Random House Children's Books, 2021

One part true crime, one part colonial land grab history, and one part racial discrimination study. The Osage tribe was driven from their land that is now Kansas to an area in Oklahoma. This book follows the murder cases of some of the wealthiest living people at the time, descendants from the shrewd negotiating Osage leaders. Osage children ended up with the mineral and gas rights to the Oklahoma reservation land that was eventually allotted and sold, but the so-called “underground reservation” was rich with petroleum and made these natives ultra wealthy. The children were sent to Catholic Indian schools and washed of their language and culture, then as some of their parents were missing and later found to be murdered the children were placed in the care of guardians and some adult Osage even had conservatorships. The author found hand-written log books in FBI records and one at a Ft. Worth library that recorded many of the Osage children dead with no trace of their wealth which was no doubt stolen. This chilling tale of greed and corruption, lies and deceit will be released as a movie soon. Filled with primary document sources of information -a triumph of research.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Karen Kline, Beaver Lake Middle School

Jahren, Hope 9780062652638 \$16.99 199 p.

***The Story of More: How We Got To Climate Change and Where To Go From Here
(Adapted for Young Adults)*** Delacorte Press, 2021

Relatable and full of explanatory vignettes, scientist Hope Jahren's book about climate change will be a good resource for students interested in addressing climate change. The book is divided into four sections: Life, Food, Energy and Earth. Each section gives history, technological advancements, dangers, and possible solutions for improving the situation in which our planet and its residents find themselves. Explanations are often humorous and thought provoking: "Let's pretend I've convinced you that cars are a murderous joy-sucking plague on the human species....could your family give your up, even if you wanted to?" (p 81). An appendix at the end lists tangible steps teens can take to do their part in solving climate change, facts about climate change and further reading. Recommended MS & HS.

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Wetzel, Dan 9780062652638 \$16.99 136 p.

Lionel Messi, Epic Athletes Henry Holt and Company, 2019

Part of the Epic Athletes series, this book shed's light on one of soccer's most famous players, Lionel Messi. Growing up in Argentina, Lionel finds himself at the age of 3 catching the eye of scouts from the country. He is recruited to the local team at age 4, but when a growth condition is discovered that will require daily injections, the cost mounts and his current soccer team can no longer afford to keep the rising star of a soccer player.

Following the soccer star to Spain as he plays and then back to Argentina, the book does a great job of compiling Messi's amazing career. With each chapter starting with graphic novel type images and then a compilation at the end, this book is an engaging biography for any soccer lover.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade MS

NONFICTION – SHRUG

Ortega, Jenna 9780062652638 \$16.99 221 p.

It's All Love: Reflections for Your Heart & Soul Random House, 2020

It's all love is a book written by 17 year old (at the time) actress Jenna Ortega, containing several personal reflections and affirmations from the young actress herself. She touches on a lot of common societal ideas that come off as cliché sometimes. To me it felt like someone trying to sell themselves as older than they actually are, which made the book hard to finish. There was little emotion behind the words, nothing to really make us feel

connected to the actress. A lot of what she says feels narrow minded, not very inclusive. Even so, I think this would appeal to a younger audience, i.e middle school to ninth grade, and fans of Jenna herself since she does share personal stories and a few behind the scene moments from her shows.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library