



## 2024 Evergreen Book Talks - High School

### ***Love in English***

**Marie E. Andreu**

Book Talk by Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Ana isn't thrilled about moving to New Jersey from Argentina and feels especially resentful that her father won't even let her mom and her speak Spanish at home. Her dad thinks that all her English lessons in Argentina have made her fluent but she can barely understand what is happening at school. Math quickly becomes her favorite class because she can understand numbers. Plus, there is a really cute All-American boy named Harrison in that class who she begins tutoring. But in her ESL class there is another cute boy from Greece named Neo. Ana's family values begin to collide with her new American image. As matters escalate, she is forced to start making tough decisions by following her heart and rebelling against her parents wishes.

### ***Firekeeper's Daughter***

**Angeline Boulley**

Book Talk by Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Daunis loves being a gritty girl hockey player and doesn't say no to any adventure. But once she finds herself a witness to a grisly murder and agrees to go undercover to expose the perpetrator she wonders if she can withstand the pressure. Being both white and Ojibwe she already navigates two worlds and wonders where her place might be, and that all comes together when she uncovers secrets about her late uncle and her own doubts and fears. This story is suspenseful and fast paced and will draw you in and not let go until the last word. This is like *Moxie* meets *Gone Girl*.

### ***Skin of the Sea***

**Natasha Bowen**

Book Talk by Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Simidele has vague memories of a time before she died. Now, she is a Mami Wata, a mermaid whose job it is to escort the souls lost at sea to the great god, Oludumare—and there are a LOT of souls. She waits under the sea as ships carrying enslaved Africans to the New World pass by—often tossing their human cargo overboard when their injuries or illness turn fatal. Her job is easy until one of the young men tossed overboard isn't dead yet. In a moment of compassion, she decides to save his life, and that decision could cost her and the other Mami Wata their very existence. Somehow, she must complete a hero's journey in an effort to restore the balance and insure the survival of her mermaid sisters.

### ***Code Name Badass: The True Story of Virginia Hall***

**Heather Demetrios**

Book Talk by Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

Virginia Hall, daughter of a wealthy family in the United States, might seem a strange pick to be the top target of the Nazi "Butcher of Lyon" to capture in World War II. But, once you understand that this lady, with her false leg, was hustling around France, delivering radios to resistance fighters, organizing spies, and

taking in downed pilots, you'd understand a little more. Shut out by US old-boy networks, she joined the British and made a name for herself, becoming a top Nazi target. Smart, sassy book about a feminist who forged her own path.

***You'd Be Home Now***

**Kathleen Glasgow**

Book Talk by Jodi Kruse, R. A. Long High School

Emory remembers very little about the accident that took the life of one of the most popular girls in school. She remembers her brother driving. She remembers the rain. She remembers the tree. She remembers her brother was high. Now, as she struggles to rehabilitate from her injuries and face the sideways glances from her peers, she is given an additional responsibility: make sure her brother—who is leaving rehab early—doesn't relapse. With all the weight she carries, Emory feels as if she is disappearing, but there is one boy who sees her. The super popular baseball player who lives behind her is only too willing to forget her scars and mess around with her in the pool house after dark, but he doesn't seem too willing to be seen with her during the day. Still, he convinces Emory that she is all he thinks about. . . now if she would only share a picture of herself topless. This is a story for anyone who finds themselves trying not to disappoint the people they love, but also being crushed by the weight of unrealistic expectations. Readers who loved Kathleen Glasgow's earlier books or Jessie Anne Foley's *Sorry for Your Loss* are going to love this one.

***Perfect On Paper***

**Sophie Gonzales**

Book Talk by Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

Dear Locker 89,

I need your help! I've been secretly giving relationship advice for a few years now and I just got caught red handed by Alexander Brougham. Now he wants to hire me as his personal relationship coach to win back his ex-girlfriend. I could really use the money AND I definitely don't want my secret exposed. If that happens then my best friend Brooke will find out that 1) I sabotaged her potential relationship last year and 2) I'm in love with her! Brougham seems like a major jerk, but maybe there's more going on there than meets the eye?? None of my relationship research seems to fit my unique situation. Tell me what I'm missing so I can help myself just like I help others.

Darcy Phillips, aka Locker 89

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***Before We Disappear***

**Shaun David Hutchinson**

Book Talk by Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Jack and Wilhelm are both magician's assistants but for different reasons. Jack is a master of illusion trying to find his way in the world after a mysterious illusionist woman takes him under her wing. Both Wilhelm and Jack's shows end up performing at the first World's Fair in Seattle in the early 1900's and once they meet sparks fly, and some of those sparks are supernatural. The closer they get the more they are drawn apart due to Wilhelm's mysterious abilities and situation of being entrapped by his boss. Once you enter this world of the 1909 Yukon World's Fair you will wonder about what is real and what is fantasy, and you will root for Jack and Wilhelm's relationship to triumph over captivity. This is *Boardwalk Empire* meets *Umbrella Academy*.

***The Initial Insult*****Mindy McGinnis**

Book Talk by Becky Standal, Longview Public Library

Seven years ago, Tress Montor's parents disappeared. The last person to see them, her ex-best friend Felicity Turnado, isn't talking about it. Now Tress lives with her neglectful, alcoholic grandfather and his failing roadside animal attraction while Felicity is beautiful, popular, and rich. But this Halloween, during a party in a soon-to-be-demolished house, Tress has a way to make Felicity talk – by sealing her inside a basement coal chute brick by brick.

***The Girls I've Been*****Tess Sharpe**

Book Talk by TuesD Chambers, Ballard High School

The story begins with Nora O'Malley being held at gunpoint in the middle of a bank heist, along with Wes (her ex-boyfriend) and Iris (her secret new girlfriend). Nora's been playing "normal" and trying to heal from traumatic childhood experiences while hiding from her mother's abusive ex-boyfriend. But ex-con Nora has always gotten herself out of tricky situations and the gunmen have no idea who she really is- also known as Rebecca, Samantha, Haley, Katie and Ashley- the girls she's been. Each identity taught her something new: creativity, deceit, fear, sacrifice, and cunning. Nora didn't choose a life of deception, but she will need all her past skills to get the two people she loves out of this dangerous situation.

***Iron Widow*****Xiran Jay Zhao**

Book Talk by Mike Fleming, Juanita High School

18-year old Zetian joins the army solely to avenge her sister's death, not to psychically power a Chrysalis - a Pacific Rim type transformer. She plans to flame out in glorious revenge, but instead, she survives the cockpit and her male partner doesn't, labeling her as an "Iron Widow", needed for her skills, but feared by the patriarchy of the army and pilots. She'll need to navigate army politics, pilot mistreatment and the alien, mechanical monsters ravaging the border...