



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: December 8, 2023

Issue: 142
September 2023

WASHRAG
Titles Taken: 3-9
Fiction Reviews: 10-23
Graphic Novel Reviews: 24-25
Nonfiction Reviews: 25-34

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.

We are now in hybrid mode! Please join us in person if you are comfortable and able. Doors open at 8:30am. Or, join via Zoom. The link will open by 8:45am with a meeting start time of 9:00am.

<https://kcls.zoom.us/j/81386969228?pwd=ZFhSV3V2REdSSkkvbXdNZnk4NmF5UT09>

Meeting ID: 813 8696 9228
 Passcode: 828216

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

2023 MEETINGS

December 8

2024 MEETINGS

- *March 8*
- *May 3*
- *September 12*
- *December 6*

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.

2023 MEETINGS

December 8

2024 MEETINGS

- *March 8*
- *May 3*
- *September 12*
- *December 6*

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

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

Titles Taken for Review – Since May 2023

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>Aniana Del Mar Jumps In</i> Mendez, Jasminne Kathleen Story Eastlake High School Comments: a novel in verse	Dial Books, 2023 978-0-593-53181-5	\$18.99	367 p.
<i>As You Walk On By</i> Winters, Julian Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Viking, 2023 9780593206508	\$18.99	<i>BFYA 2024 NOM</i> 328 p.
<i>Battle of the Beast</i> , The Beast and the Bethany #3 Meggitt-Phillips, Jack Becky Standal, Longview Public Library	Simon & Schuster, 2022 9781665903820	\$17.99	266 p.
<i>Be That Way</i> (ARC) Larson, Hope Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School	Margaret Ferguson Books, 272 9780823447619	\$22.99	272 p.
<i>Coldest Winter I Ever Spent, The</i> Jacobus, Ann Becky Standal, Longview Public Library	Carolrhoda Lab, 2023 9781728423951	\$19.99	339 p.
<i>Davenport, The</i> Marquis, Krystal Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Dial Books, 2023 9780593463338	\$19.99	379 p.
<i>Different for Boys</i> Ness, Patrick Sara White, Washington State Library	Walker Books, 2023 9781536228892	\$18.99	104 p.
<i>Door in the Dark, A</i> , Waxways #1 Reintgen, Scott Amber Peterson, International Community School	McElderry Books, 2023 978-1-665918688	\$19.99	<i>BFYA 2024 NOM</i>

<i>Enter the Body</i>	Hutton, 2023		<i>BFYA 2024 NOM</i>
McCullough, Joy	978-0-5393406755	\$18.99	320 p.
Amber Peterson, International Community School			
<i>Every Gift a Curse, All Our Hidden Gifts #3</i>	Walker Books, 2023		
O'Donoghue, Caroline	9781536228403	\$19.99	412 p.
Becky Standal, Longview Public Library			
<i>Forget Me Not</i>	Simon & Schuster, 2023		
Derrick, Alyson	9781665902373	\$19.99	320 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School			
<i>Friday I'm In Love</i>	Alfred A. Knopf, 2023		
Garret, Camryn	9780593435106	\$18.99	272 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			
<i>Girl In White, The</i>	Sourcebooks Fire, 2022		
Currie, Lindsay	9781728236544	\$16.99	302 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			
<i>Greymist Fair</i>	Harper Collins, 2023		
Zappia, Francesca	9780063161696	\$19.99	336 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School			
<i>Hands</i>	Nancy Paulsen Books, 2023		
Maldonado, Torrey	9780593323793	\$16.99	144 p.
Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School			
<i>Harvest House</i>	Candlewick Press, 2023		
Smith, Cynthia Leitich	9781536218602	\$19.99	320 p.
Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School			
<i>Human Kaboom, The</i>	G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2023		
Rubin, Adam	9780593462393	\$18.99	389 p.
Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School			
<i>I Will Find You Again</i>	Simon & Schuster, 2023		
Lyu, Sarah	9781534465152	\$19.99	304 p.
Sara White, Washington State Library			
<i>In Every Generation, In Every Generation #1</i>	Hyperion, 2023		
Blake, Kendare	978-136807502-2	\$18.99	392 p.
Amber Peterson, International Community School			
<i>Isles of the Gods, The, The Isles of the Gods #1</i>	Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2023		
Kaufman, Amie	9780593479285	\$19.99	464 p.

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Lake House, The Harper Collins, 2023
Durst, Sarah Beth 9780063214071 \$19.99 368 p.
Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Liar's Beach Random House Children's Books, 2023
Cotugno, Katie 9780593433287 \$18.99 275 p.
Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools
Kathleen Story Eastlake High School

Lies We Sing to the Sea Harper Teen, 2023
Underwood, Sarah 978-0063234475 \$19.99 432 p.
Liz Ebersole, Seattle Public Schools

Long Stretch of Bad Days, A Katherine Tegen Books, 2023
McGinnis, Minday 9780063230361 \$19.99 362 p.
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

◆ ***Lucha of the Night Forest*** Make Me a World, 2023
Mejia, Taylor Kay 9780593378366 \$18.99 368 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Midnight Strikes Delacorte Press, 2023
Shahnaz, Zeba 9780593567555 \$19.99 435 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Mirror to Mirror Quill Tree Books, 2023
LaRocca, Rajani 9780063047471 \$19.99 352 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Mixed Up (ARC) Scholastic, 2023
Korman, Gordon 9781338826722 \$17.99 256 p.
Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Naomi Teitelbaum Ends the World Atheneum, 2022
Shanker, Samara 9781665905022 \$17.99 242 p.
Aarene Storms, garden dragon of EPLS

Never Trust a Gemini Walker Books, 2023
Woolf, Freja Nicole 978-1-5362-3054-3 \$19.99 305 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Once There Was Simon & Schuster, 2023
Monsef, Kiyash 978-1665928502 \$18.99 416 p.
Liz Ebersole, Seattle Public Schools

<i>Picture Perfect Boyfriend</i> Dean, Becky Becky Standal, Longview Public Library Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools	Delacorte Press, 2023 9780593569917	\$12.99	361 p.
<i>Quiet and the Loud, The</i> Fox, Helena Becky Standal, Longview Public Library	Dial Books, 2023 9780593354582	\$19.99	380 p.
<i>Ravensong</i>, Ravensong #1 Fay, Cayla Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library	Simon & Schuster, 2023 978-1-6659-0529-9	\$19.99	358 p.
<i>Seven Percent of Ro Devereux</i> O'Clover, Ellen Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School	Harper Teen, 2023 9780063255036	\$18.99	312 p.
<i>Simon Sort of Says</i> Bow, Erin Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Disney Hyperion, 2023 9781368082853	\$16.99	305 p.
<i>Sinister Booksellers of Bath, The</i>, Left-Handed Booksellers of London #2 Nix, Garth Aarene Storms, garden dragon of EPLS	Katherine Tegen Books, 2023 9780063314344	\$19.99	351 p.
<i>Spell Bound</i> Lukens, F.T. Elizabeth Kalen, Yelm Timberland Library	McElderry Books, 2023 978-1-6659-1622-6	\$19.99	<i>BFYA 2024 NOM</i> 323 p.
<i>Spin</i> Caprara, Rebecca Liz Ebersole, Seattle Public Schools	Atheneum, 2023 978-1665906197	\$19.99	400 p.
<i>Star Wars Hunters: Battle for the Arena</i> Oshiro, Mark Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	Disney Lucasfilm Press, 2022 978-1368076036	\$14.99	384 p.
<i>Three Drops of Blood</i> McNeil, Gretchen Kathleen Story Eastlake High School	Hyperion, 2023 978-1-368-07215-1	\$17.99	318 p.
<i>Time to Roll</i>, Roll With It #2 Sumner, Jamie Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	Atheneum, 2023 9781665918596	\$17.99	208 p.

<i>Torch</i> Miller-Lachmann, Lyn Amber Peterson, International School	Carolrhoda Lab, 2022 978-1-72841-568-0	\$19.99	318 p.
<i>Trashed</i> Freeman, Martha Aarene Storms, garden dragon of EPLS	Simon & Schuster, 2023 9781665905350	\$17.99	295 p.
<i>Trouble with Robots, The</i> Mohrweis, Michelle Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library	Peachtree, 2022 978-1-68263-484-4	\$16.99	277 p.
<i>Warning, The</i> , The Warning #1 Acevedo, Kristy Becky Standal, Longview Public Library previously published in 2016 as "Consider"	Sourcebooks Fire, 2023 9781728268392	\$11.99	309 p.
<i>We Don't Swim Here</i> Tirado, Vincent Becky Standal, Longview Public Library	Sourcebooks Fire, 2023 9781728280103	\$11.99	311 p.
<i>Wings in the Wild</i> Engle, Margarita Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School	Atheneum, 2023 9781665926362	\$18.99	<i>BFYA 2024 NOM</i> 224 p.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

<i>Clementine Fox and the Great Island Adventure</i> (ARC) Luna, Leigh JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library Comments: Grades 2-5	Graphix, 2023 9781338356243	\$22.99	208 p.
<i>Codex Black: A Fire Among Clouds</i> (ARC) Lozano, Camilo Moncada, color by Michi Desantiago JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	IDW Publishing, 2023 9781684059591	\$16.99	312 p.
<i>Constellations</i> (ARC) Glasheen, Kate JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Holiday House, 2023 9780823450718	\$22.99	224 p.
<i>Duel</i> (ARC) Bagley, Jessixa, illustrated by Aaron Bagley JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library Comments: Grades 3-7	Simon & Schuster, 2023 9781534496545	\$14.99	320 p.

<i>Every Day: The Graphic Novel</i> Levithan, David, illustrated by Dion MBD JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library Kathleen Story Eastlake High School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2023 9780593428986	\$24.99	198 p.
<i>Four Eyes (ARC)</i> Ogle, Rex & Dave Valeza Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School	Scholastic, 2023 9781338574975	\$24.99	224 p.
<i>Last Comics on Earth, The</i> Brallier, Max and Joshua Pruett, illustrated by Jay Cooper and Douglas Holgate, color by Joe Eichelberger JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Viking, 2023 9780593526774	\$14.99	220 p.
<i>Nayra and the Djinn</i> Ata, Iasmin Omar JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Viking, 2023 9780593117118	\$22.99	247 p.
<i>Project Nought</i> Furedi, Chelsey Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools	Clarion Books, 2023 9780358381686	\$24.99	p.

NONFICTION

<i>Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes</i> Carpenter, Nora Shalaway (editor) Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School	Candlewick Press, 2023 9781536224146	\$24.99	336 p.
<i>Arthur the Always King</i> Crossley-Holland, Kevin Aarene Storms, garden dragon of EPLS Comments: folklore, illustrated	Candlewick Studio, 2023 9781536212655	\$29.99	237 p.
<i>Focus on Japanese American Incarceration</i> Smith, Elliott Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	Lerner Publications, 2022 978-1728462868	\$17.00	32 p.
<i>Girls Make Movies: A Follow-Your-Own-Path Guide for Aspiring Young Filmmakers</i> O'Meara, Mallory Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School	Running Press Kids, 2023 9780762478989	\$17.99	144 p.

Harboring Hope: The True Story of How Henny Sinding Helped Denmark's Jews Escape the Nazis Harper, 2023
 Hood, Susan 978-0-063214484 \$19.99 352 p.
 Amber Peterson, International Community School

Hidden Systems: Water, Electricity, the Internet, and the Secrets Behind the Systems We Use Every Day Random House, 2023
 Nott, Dan 978-0-593125366 \$23.99 251 p.
 Amber Peterson, International Community School

If You Can Dream It, You Can Do It: How 25 Inspiring Individuals Found Their Dream Jobs Pajama Press, 2022
 Nelson, Colleen and MacIsaac, Kathie 9781772782288 \$19.95 64 p.
 Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Jim Crow: Segregation and the Legacy of Slavery Lerner Publications, 2022
 Smith, Elliott 9781728439075 \$17.00 32 p.
 Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Money Out Loud: All the Financial Stuff No One Taught Us Quill Tree Books, 2023
 Anta, Berna 9780063067370 \$19.99 258 p.
 Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Schoolhouse Rock : the updated official guide Hyperion, 2023
 Newall, George 9781368077743 \$17.99 99 p.
 Aarene Storms, garden dragon of EPLS

The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be Dutton, 2023
 Gibney, Shannon 978-0593111994 \$18.99 256 p.
 Liz Ebersole, Seattle Public Schools

The Passport Project: Two Sisters Ditch Middle School for a Life-changing Journey Around the World Shamrock House, 2022
 McIntyre, Kellie (with contributors Delaney McIntyre and Riley McIntyre)
 978-1-737743835 \$21.99 320 p.
 Amber Peterson, International Community School

◆ ***The Sum of Us: How Racism Hurts Everyone*** Delacorte Press, 2023
 McGhee, Heather 9780593562628 \$17.99 240 p.
 Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

FICTION – RECOMMEND

- Ahn, Flora 9781683693185 \$16.99 272 p.
A Spoonful of Time (ARC) Quirk Books, 2023
 Maya discovers she can travel in time when eating her Halmunee’s (grandmother’s) Korean cooking. Maya lives with her Halmunee and her mom, who is constantly busy with work, so Maya ends up taking care of her Halmunee, who has dementia. When Halmunee starts feeding Maya her Korean cooking, Maya finds herself in the past. This is a fun time traveling book that has Korean recipes and is about relationships between mothers and daughters.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library
- Alessandri, Alexandra 9781665917056 \$17.99 213 p.
The Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejia Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2023
 12-year-old Vale and her 10-year-old brother Julian are out with their father in the Andes when an earthquake strikes. The ground under their feet falls away, Papi is injured, and the two kids follow a mysterious trail looking for help. But the trail leads to a magical world, where humans are forbidden and the queen will probably try to kill them. Narnia/Oz/Wonderland vibes and plenty of Colombian cultural details, magical creatures and characters. Spanish was integrated into the story, which boggled me at times as it wasn’t always translated in context—another reason for me to take Spanish language classes. The “surprise ending” wasn’t surprising, but it was a happy one, with room for sequels. This is juvenile fiction but will appeal to some middle-grade readers who want a softer story than those provided by Rick Riordan. No cussing, kissing or drugs. The action and suspense are gentle.
Recommended Age: Middle School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes
 Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library
- Beck, Miya T. 9780063238190 \$17.99 302 p.
The Pearl Hunter Balzer + Bray, 2023
 Twins Kai and Kishi have just become Pearl Hunters, female divers who swim into the depths for mussels, some of which may contain precious pearls. When a dive goes horrible wrong which leaves Kishi dead, Kai goes to the gods to find out how she can get bring her sister back from the dead. The Dragon King and Benzaiten tell Kai she must get the pearl from Dakini (a nine-tailed fox) in order to get her sister back. This is filled with a lot of Japanese fairy tales, some of which Kai shares with other characters and some of which Kai experiences. There is an interesting twist at the end that may lead to a sequel.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library
- Bryant, Elise 9780063212992 \$18.99 392 p.
Reggie and Delilah’s Year of Falling Balzer + Bray, 2023

Sixteen-year-old Delilah Cole is trying to go along to get along at her new private school, and her aims to be easy-going end up landing her the role of frontwoman in a band called Fun Gi. At her first gig, performed on New Year's Eve, Delilah meets seventeen-year-old Reggie Hubbard while she is outside getting some air and trying to rebound from a migraine after her band finishes their set. Chance encounters on holidays throughout the year have them falling for each other, as the title implies. However, both teens struggle to be their full and authentic selves in their own lives, and both put on a face that portrays more confidence than they truly feel; Delilah has a commanding stage presence, while she frequently doubts herself and suffers from debilitating migraines, and Reggie anonymously writes online critiques of the racism he sees in his beloved Dungeons and Dragons. There is one reference to smoking cannabis, but it is as the main character is leaving the scene. The social commentary and slow burn romance made this an enjoyable read. The main characters are Black and biracial, while several supporting characters are cued as white.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kat Chin, Kamiakin Middle School

Cardinal, Ann Dávila	978-0-06-304530-9	\$18.99	292 p.
<i>Breakup from Hell</i>	HarperTeen, 2023		

He seemed dreamy at first. They liked the same author! And things between them were awesome -- until they weren't. Michaela finds out that the guy she just started dating has a gigantic, Hell-sized secret. She and her friends will have to sprout some wings to save their town! Cardinal uses lots of references to Catholic mythology. She also roots the story in the main character's Puerto Rican heritage, which mirrors her own. Michaela is surrounded by a group of friends who support her through this dramatic breakup, and they all play a part in the climax of the book. Recommended for high school and public libraries.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Carter, Aimee	978-0-593-48589-7	\$18.99	358 p.
<i>Royal Blood</i>	Underlined, 2023		

17 year old Evan Bright is the illegitimate daughter of the current King of England. Born out of an affair and on the same day as her half-sister, the recognized heir to the throne. King Alexander pays for her education at top tier exclusive American boarding schools that she continually gets expelled from. Her last expulsion ended in her arrest for arson, she was called back to England to live with the Royal Family. Evan finally meets her father, her half-sister, and her step mom. It does not go well. Her half-sister and step mom hate her, her Americanness, and her threat to them. Her father just doesn't know how to be a dad and continually lets me down. But the tabloids all love and adore Evan, that is until she is framed for murder when a boy dies at a party she attended. Things go from bad to worse making this book a real page turner. Definitely recommend for students who love American Royals. High school only because there is an attempted rape scene where Evan is drugged. The assault was captured on video and released to tabloids. Evan wasn't raped but it was an intense scene.

Recommended Age: High School, Adult

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Chen, Nicole 9780063228610 \$19.99 350 p.
It's Boba Time for Pearl Li! Quill Tree Books, 2023

Pearl decides to earn money to help her favorite boba tea shop owner by selling amigurami online and at a local craft fair with the help of her best friends, but her plans don't always work out. Businesses have expenses, and then she gets in a fight with her friends!. Pearl (and readers) learn a lot about running a business (and a friendship) by the end of the story. Solid middle-grade fiction, as Pearl navigates the path between being herself and being part of her family.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes
Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

Chow, Derrick 9781368077637 \$16.99 336 p.
Ravenous Things Disney Hyperion, 2022

Reggie Wong is grieving the loss of his father. His mom is having a hard time coping with life, and he is feeling angry and alone. So, when a mysterious man with a flute approaches him with the promise of his heart's desire in trade for just meeting him at the subway station at midnight, he decides he has to take a chance. Hundreds of kids join him with the hope of seeing a lost loved one. But when Reggie reaches his stop, he is more than just disappointed by what he finds...he is terrified. Reggie and a couple of new friends discover the mysterious man's true motives and strike out on a perilous journey to foil him and save their town. It's a cross between *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and a macabre *Pied Piper*. Chow's characterization and relationships between protagonists feel authentic and layered. The characters' grief over loss of loved ones lands in a very real way despite the fantastic storyline. Descriptions of creatures are sufficiently creepy, grotesque & horrific. It's middle school for sure and could possibly go a little younger for students who are not scared easily. Trigger warning for death/grief: All three characters have lost a significant person in their lives. A solid addition to any middle school horror shelves.

Recommended Age: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Comments: Bram Stoker Award Nominee 2022

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Comrie, Courtne 9780063159730 \$16.99 336 p.
Rain Rising HarperCollins, 2022

Rain and her brother Xander, a star athlete & beloved member of the community, live with their hard-working single mom. Rain struggles with depression, and X is always there to help her through. His success is the family's success. When Xander gets hospitalized after being the victim of a hate crime on a college visit, Rain must wade through the mud of her depression alone or be willing to grab the lifelines in her community that begin to appear. The social upheaval and new friendships of middle school are portrayed so honestly. PTSD, mental health, self-harm, and race are woven into the story with wisdom & grace. Rain, her family's, and her community's struggles are authentic and moving. *Rain Rising* is a

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Fernandez, Christina 9780063114302 \$17.99 416 p.

How to Date a Superhero (And Not Die Trying) Katherine Tegen Books, 2022

Astrid has a superpower. She can schedule anything, and she knows exactly where she is in time at any moment. Along with it, she has anxiety, panic attacks, and as a pre-med major, not a minute to spare. When she finds out her perfect boyfriend is a superhero with crime fighting powers, her life goes out of control. It's a very fun read with intrigue, mystery, stolen research, kidnappings, crime fighting, and sweet romance. I like the portrayal of Astrid following her dreams, but trying to find a balance. I'm not sure how I feel about the ending. Boyfriend, Max, is just too perfect, and though you want them to end up together, and Astrid is heroic at the end, staying with him seems to solve all of her problems. I don't like that stereotype reinforced. It is, however, a very fun story.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Comments: Kids in my school would definitely want to read this book, though I am conflicted about the ending.

Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High

Fernandez, Cristina 9780063114302 \$18.99 403 p.

How to Date a Superhero (And Not Die Trying) Katherine Tegen Books, 2022

Astrid is a pre-med college student in a world full of heroes and villains with superpowers. She wants to focus on all the tightly-scheduled details of her life, and have nothing to do with the "super-world" until she discovers that her boyfriend Max Miller is also Kid Comet. Then, things start to fall apart. Dating a superhero means that you can never count on your significant other to show up on time for dates, for dinner, for classes, for anything. They are always out saving the world and getting half-killed in the process. If you don't spot the bad guy in disguise, you really aren't paying attention. Characters are in college but are also immature. A little bit of cussing, college drinking parties, discussions of mild canoodling and plans for an unspecified "more" when Astrid's calendar has a gap in it, heroics and cowardice, friendship and love.

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

Hibbert, Talia 9780593482339 \$19.99 319 p.

Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute Joy Revolution, 2023

Seventeen-year-old Celine Bangura is highly suspicious, sharing her conspiracy theories on her well-followed TikTok channel. Her ex-best friend turned nemesis, Bradley Graeme, is unfairly cute and able to charm seemingly everyone he encounters. Both at the top of their class in their final year of secondary education, these rivals find themselves in deeper competition as they enter a wilderness excursion program put on by Celine's hero, lawyer Katharine Breakspear, that promises three full scholarships at any British university to the top scoring individuals (participants are ranked on their resilience, commitment, creative thinking, relationship building, and leadership skills). While Celine is eager to prove herself, a significant driver of this ambition is to prove to her absent father, whose

company is one of the sponsors of the program, that she is a glowing success despite his abandonment. Brad and Celine end up on the same team in the excursion, and as they work to survive the elements and accomplish the tasks given to them, they come to better understand one another and resolve what fractured their friendship four years ago, ultimately becoming romantically connected. Celine is cast as a full-figured Black teen, and Brad struggles throughout the story with his OCD, giving them both very human and relatable personalities that help make this a delicious rom-com. While there is drinking at a birthday party, the legal drinking age is 18, so there isn't underage drinking.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kat Chin, Kamiakin Middle School

Lowry, Lois 0358672503 \$19.99

The Windeby Puzzle: History and Story Clarion Books, 2023

The Windeby Puzzle is recommended for grades 5-7. Two-time Newbery Medal winner Lois Lowry based this book on the 2,000-year-old Windeby bog body found in Germany in 1952. Lowry weaves factual information about the body and scientists' process of identifying it, with fictional stories about the life that person may have lived. The puzzle is the question of why the body of a young person with half of their head shaved, blindfolded, was found in the bog. The book alternates between true information, and fictional characters living in the Iron Age. The reader has the privilege of seeing behind the curtain into Lowry's thought processes and the decisions she made about the characters based on historical and scientific research. The result is an intriguing historical book, which will be appealing to fans of historical fiction and non-fiction history books alike. It's easy to devour in one sitting, and a story that will stick in readers minds long after.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools

Morris, Brittney 9781665903981 \$19.99 256 p.

The Jump (ARC) Simon & Schuster, 2023

Four teens belong to a scavenger-hunt team (Team JERICHO) that is one of the best teams in Seattle. Jax is the leader, Spider is the techie, Yas is the parkourist, and Han knows Seattle's ins and outs. When the Order (an elite hacking group) invites scavenger-hunt teams to solve their puzzle and join their group, not all of Team JERICHO wants to play. The characters are diverse (Jax is black, Spider is a Korean American trans boy, Yas is a Pakistani lesbian, and Han is on the spectrum), the action is through Seattle (written by someone who knows Seattle well), and there's social justice issues throughout (an oil company wants to drill in a community garden; one of the rival teams throws a guy at Jax and yells "he's got a gun" in a fancy grocery store; one of the employee's at Spider's mom's restaurant is in the US illegally; there are hints that Han's mom might've been abusive). There are some bad words, but mostly this is a fun thriller that's a fast read.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Morris, Brittney 9781665904001 \$12.99 256 p.
The Jump Simon & Schuster, 2023

A group of friends with different skills: parkour, puzzling, hacking and infrastructure compete in high tech team scavenger hunts. Their current hunt will challenge their skills and their friendships as they race to save their city, their homes, family businesses and futures from a menacing company determined to build an oil refinery in their beloved home of Seattle. The story is fast-paced and human, valuing friendships and family relationships.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High

Park, Patricia 9780593563373 \$18.99 294 p.
Imposter Syndrome and Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim Crown, 2023

With her Korean appearance and last name, and her traditional Spanish first name, Alejandra Kim feels like she doesn't fully belong anywhere. She attends a predominantly white preparatory high school on scholarship and is continually clashing with her mother as they both grieve her father's recent death in very different ways. Ale is trying to make it through her senior year of high school, determined to attend a liberal arts college with her best friend, Laurel, who is white. Senior year starts with a microaggression from a guest teacher, leading Laurel to start a petition for his removal and to host a diversity assembly, all of which puts Ale in an uncomfortable position she didn't ask for and would not have endorsed had Laurel asked. The return of an old friend has Ale questioning some of her current choices, and an end-of-the-year party has some big repercussions in Ale's life. The underage drinking and resulting drunkenness at the party is the primary reason I place this at the high school level; the topics of friendship, identity, racism, grief, and family struggles would be relatable and appropriate for middle school.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kat Chin, Kamiakin Middle School

Peterson, J.C. 978-0063060180 \$19.99 400 p.
Lola at Last Companion novel to 'Being Mary Bennet' HarperTeen, 2023

Lola Barnes is a walking disaster with privilege.. She has lost her reputation due to a social media scandal with the resident bad boy, her relationship with her twin sister is terrible, and most of her friends want nothing to do with her. Then Lola lets loose a flare on a yacht where the teenagers aren't supposed to be partying. The yacht sinks and she's forced to choose jail time or spend the summer with 'Hike Like a Girl' - a local nonprofit organization that her sister-in-law just happens to run. So of course - Lola goes hiking! Lola learns lots of lessons over the summer, finds solid friends and of course love with a nerdy hiker boy, and most importantly finds her true self who is actually a pretty great human. This humorous romance book will be a hit with teens. Some alcohol use, swearing, and romantic 'situations.'

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Prasad, Maya 978-1-368-07580-0 \$17.99 455 p.
Drizzle, Dreams, and Lovestruck Things Singh Sisters #1 (ARC) Hyperion, 2022

This book follows the Singh sisters, 4 sisters living at the Songbird Inn on Orcas Island. The Songbird has been named the Most Romantic Inn in America, and along with that, the sisters' lives are about to heat up. We follow the sisters through the seasons as they grow and learn to find themselves and find some romance along the way. This was a quick, fun, cozy read. It was the equivalent of receiving a warm, loving hug. There was lots of love, and lots of family focus. Recommended for high school, but junior high could enjoy too. Also clean, no mature content on the page.

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library

Schrempp, Skyler 978-1534499140 \$17.99 308 p.
Three Strike Summer Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2022

'Three Strike Summer' is a historical fiction novel that takes place during the Great Depression and Dust Bowl era. Gloria Mae Willard does not want to move. When the farm money dries up and the dust rolls in, her family has no choice but to pack up and head to California. Gloria is the youngest of two daughters, but she's got grit, tenacity, and one heck of a pitching arm. The family ends up picking peaches at the Santa Ana Holdsten Peach Orchard. As luck would have it, there is an all-boys baseball team that Gloria has figured out a way to join. But baseball and picking peaches are only part of the summer plan. Gloria's father has bigger ideas to organize the workers so they can have better wages. Great debut novel that pulls at your heart strings and will have you cheering for the underdogs. Themes of standing up for what is right, being a team player, and hanging in there when the going gets dusty abound. Highly recommend!

Recommended Age: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Smith, Ronald L. 978-1328841629 \$16.99 240 p.
Where the Black Flowers Bloom Clarion Books, 2023

'Where the Black Flowers Bloom' is a short stand-alone fantasy book featuring Asha, a young orphan who has been raised by the leader of a traveling carnival named Suna. The story takes place in a magical land called Alkebulan. When Asha turns 13, she is supposed to be told of her future through a marked symbol. Suna can't tell Asha what the symbol means after she receives her mark, and even worse their troupe of entertainers is attacked and Suna dies. Before she passes, Suna tells Asha to seek the place 'where black flowers bloom.' This journey to find the black flowers blooming in an underground kingdom is filled with magical animals, faeries, and other complicated characters who may not be who they seem. Asha must discover the secrets of her family she doesn't know while still protecting the people who have raised her. Asha's biggest enemy is the mysterious Shrike and his bird men. Exciting fantasy novel with a brave young character.

Recommended Age: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Sylvester, Natalia 0358536863 \$15.99 346 p.
Breathe and Count Back from Ten Clarion Books, 2022

So many issues to tackle in one book, many readers will think it is just for them (as I did). “Maybe no kid I knew had hip dysplasia, but I thought we all had something,” Veronica says. Growing up under doctor’s orders, multiple surgeries, the watchful eye of immigrant parents and scarring that left her hiding her leg from others, Veronica has made few decisions for herself, including not “adequately” saying “no” to her old boyfriend, for which her immigrant parents blame and shame her. Swimming is her only solace. Things change when Alex, a handsome young artist dealing with mental illness, moves into her building and the two become close. With her new confidence and her friends’ help, she decides to audition for the local underwater mermaid show (who has never imagined themselves a merperson while swimming?) When she gets the part, she realizes how much she could lose in the effort to find her voice. Discovering Veronica’s life closely parallels the author’s dispelled my doubts that one novel could deal so gently and compassionately with so many issues (including gender identity). That the main character doesn’t have all of these issues and the issues of others are not deeply explored add to the book’s integrity.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Comments: Pura Belpre Award Honor book and Schneider Family Award honor book
Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High

Vernick, Shirley Reva 9781947627529 \$22.95 241 p.
The Sky We Shared Cinco Puntos Press, 2022

The stories of two teenage girls, who live on different continents, and their struggles during WW2 are told in this engaging work of historical fiction. Nellie Doud resides in the town of Bly, Oregon, while Tamiko Nakaoka lives near Kure City, Japan, and their lives are vastly different. Nellie attends school and church with her friends, her personal life impacted by the war due to her father’s absence as he is away serving his country. Tamiko fakes good health (she has a pronounced limp due to polio) in order to serve in a countryside factory where large paper balloons are being constructed to help the war effort. While both girls believe in the moral correctness of their own country’s stance in the war, they each come to question the “rightness” of the war as they are personally impacted by loss and see the impact of the war on those around them. Chapters alternate storylines and end with an element of suspense that helps drive the story forward.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Kat Chin, Kamiakin Middle School

Williams, Kate 9780593304860 \$18.99 320 p.
Never Coming Home Delacorte Press, 2022

This locked room mystery sets the scene with ten social media influencers, under 21, from different walks of life who get invited to a mysterious new luxury resort called Unknown Island. They think it’s for their following and potential to help launch the new hotspot. What they find on Unknown Island does not live up to the online hype or their

expectations. When they receive letters from the absent host declaring them all murderers and Unknown Island's Insta account begins its cryptic posts, a more sinister motive for their invitation is revealed. 100% And Then There Were None retelling meets Fyre Festival or Agatha Christie for the Gen Z crowd. One reviewer called it Final Destination meets Lord of the Flies. If you are an Agatha Christie super fan, you might feel like this was less of an homage and too much of a rip-off. I think reluctant YA readers will probably be into it. Recommended for high school or upper middle school. Everyone is under 21, and there is a tiny bit of drinking, lots of f-bombs, and one incident where a few of the characters take ecstasy. No sex. Some of the murder scenes are gruesome.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Wilson, Kip 9780063251687 \$18.99 416 p.

One Last Shot: Based on a True Story of Wartime Heroism Versify, 2023

One Last Shot is a novel in verse that tells the story of Gerda Taro, a female photojournalist who is famous for capturing the atrocities & triumphs during the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930's. Kip Wilson depicts the events leading up to WWII in a very personal way through the eyes of a young Jewish woman who must leave everything behind & survive on her own. The author includes both real people from Gerda's life as well as famous artists and political activists of the time, people like John Dos Pasos, Pablo Nerudo, and Ernest Hemingway all make an appearance. It's a work of fiction, so letters, conversations, and of course, Gerda's feelings and thoughts are mostly imagined; however, people and events are based on information from Gerda's biographers who interviewed people who knew her. Headlines from the time period are included; although, I would have liked to have seen some of Gerda's photographs included in the book. Brief descriptions of key players are included at the end with an author's note about which parts are fiction, the Spanish Civil War & Gerda's lost photographs finally discovered in 2007. Although there isn't anything too problematic for middle school, I think the story is probably better for high school. Some of my 8th graders might get into it if they like photography, history, or reading biographies about strong, gutsy women, but I think middle school students in general might lose interest.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Woon, Yvonne 978-0-06-300869-4 \$19.99 337 p.

My Flawless Life Katherine Tegen Books, 2023

Ever since her family was disgraced, Hana has been an outsider at her school. This has led to her becoming a "fixer" for hire, solving the problems of her private school classmates. One day, she gets a text from an unknown number. The sender calls themselves "Three" and asks to hire her for a case. Woon delves into the innerworkings of elite high school education in this mystery with an unreliable narrator twist. Her cast of characters is diverse: Hana is half Chinese-American and half White, her ex-best friend Luce is Cuban-American, and her sometimes-co-investigator James is Chinese-American. Recommended for upper middle school, high school and public libraries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Yang, Kelly 1534488332 \$17.99 292 p.
Finally Seen Simon & Schuster, 2023

Finally Seen is highly recommended for middle grades students. The main character, Lina, hasn't seen her parents and sister in five years. They moved to the United States while Lina was left behind with her grandma in China. When Lina's is finally able to join her family in America, it's not what she expected. Lina finds out that many things her mom was telling her about their wonderful life in America are simply not true. Lina faces challenges with learning how to fit in with her American family and American school. The best part about school for Lina is the graphic novels she gets to read in class that reflect her identity and life experience. One day, a parent at school attempts to ban the book Lina's class is reading which she dearly loves. Lina must find her strength and her voice to stand up for the book and the teacher that made her feel seen in her country and new school. This book has relatable characters and storylines and is well-written for middle grade readers. Highly recommended for middle grade readers.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools

Zhao, Amélie Wen 9780593487501 \$19.99 455 p.
Song of Silver, Flame Like Night Song of the Last Kingdom #1 Delacorte Press, 2023

Lan is a songgirl at a tea house in a country that had been conquered by the Elantians 12 years ago. When Lan discovers that she has a strong power within her, a stranger (Zen) helps her escape the city to the School of White Pines, where practitioners (magicians who are outlawed by the Elantians to practice magic) study their powers. Soon the Elantians and their powerful magicians are looking for Lan and Zen, whose similar history draws them closer together. Even though Lan is a songgirl, she's tough and funny, a good match for Zen. The myth that is mentioned in the book is derived from the four mythological creatures in Chinese constellations.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Zhao, Amélie Wen 9780593487501 \$19.99 455 p.
Song of Silver, Flame Like Night Song of the Last Kingdom #1 Delacorte Press, 2023

Lan has managed to survive on her own the last 12 years after witnessing her mother's murder by an Elantian invader. Her mother's dying action was to leave a seal on her arm that no one else can see, no one, that is, until she meets Zen. Zen is a practitioner of magic from the old kingdom -- magic based on chi & energy not the metal magic the Elantian's use. When an Elantian soldier tries to buy Lan, she unexpectedly unleashes a burst of magic that kills him. Zen senses the power surge and helps Lan escape. He takes her to the last hidden school of practitioners and promises to help her understand the seal (and her mother). Set in a world inspired by Chinese history and culture, this novel is ultimately all

about power - who has it and who doesn't and what you do with it once you have it. In the search for balance, good and evil isn't always obvious and love might not be enough to conquer all. Book 1 in a duology. Recommend. Grades 7+.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kirsten Gunn, Highline High School

FICTION – SHRUG

Dunn, Stephanie 9781947627635 \$20.95 320 p.
Snitchers Cinco Puntos Press, 2022

The summer before her 9th grade year, Nia finds herself running late to her babysitting job for Little Petey, and he gets shot in the crossfire of assumed gang violence. Throughout the story, Nia's guilt is palpable, as she laments over her tardiness, believing that if she had been there on time, Little Petey would still be alive. Nia is already coping with grief, as her paramedic father was shot and killed nearly three years prior, in what remains an unsolved case. Shortly after her father's death, Nia was gifted a collection of Nancy Drew mysteries, and because of reading these sleuthing cases, she decides to investigate the death of Little Petey, along with the help of her friends Dontay and Miracle Ruth. While there is great character development for Nia, and decent development of Dontay's character, Miracle Ruth's character felt rather one-dimensional with the frequent use of her Bible quotes as conversation lines. Interspersed throughout the novel are letters between Nia and her Palestinian pen-pal, Alima. While I imagine that the author included these for some insight into Nia's world, they felt thrown in, rather than well-incorporated into the overall story. While I personally didn't love the novel, there are some page-turning elements to the story that will keep mystery fans intrigued. Most characters are Black.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kat Chin, Kamiakin Middle School

Hobson, Brandon 9781338797268 \$17.99 206 p.
The Storyteller Scholastic, 2023

Ziggy's mom disappeared when he was just a baby—and because the family is Cherokee, the police don't look very hard. Now Ziggy is in middle school and has ANXIETY (it's always written like this), sees a counselor every week who helps him cope, and hangs out with the few other Cherokee kids in his school. When Ziggy and his friend Alice go out one night to find and explore some secret desert caves, they encounter weird people and weirder talking animals. This book is trying very hard to be a cross between *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. As my high school creative writing instructor would say, "I can see that an effort was made."

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

Locke, Katherine 978-0-593-38124-3 \$18.99

This Rebel Heart

GetUnderlined , 2022

It's 1956 Hungary and everyone is afraid. Afraid to speak their minds. Afraid to voice their opinions. Afraid of "being disappeared." Csilla and her aunt are planning to escape Communist Hungary in 14 days but Csilla has a tail. The city has no color, no color at all. The citizens can't even remember what color looks like. Csilla plans to keep her head down and but her tail is frightening. She almost is captured, surely to be disappeared when a man she doesn't know rescues her. He turns out to be the Angel of Death. There was a lot of symbolism in this book that kept escaping me. I kept steeling myself for some weird ménage à trois scene to occur between Csilla, The Angel of Death, and her friend Tamás. The three began to stage a revolution to overthrow the Soviet Communist occupation in Hungary in part by animating a Golem. This book won a lot of awards. I'd be hard pressed to give it a second read attempting to discover why. It would be fun to book talk with the challenge: Please explain this book to me, I just don't get fantasy historical WW2 Nazi/Communist fiction. It's a real meh book for me. High school and up due to the challenging read.

Recommended Age: High School, Adult

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Mejia, Taylor Kay

9780593378366

\$18.99

358 p.

Lucha of the Night Forest

Make Me a World, 2023

I often found myself confused as I read the tale of Lucha, a sixteen-year-old girl who is on a mission to rid her city, Robaldo, and the world, of a drug called Olvida. This drug makes people sleep and with repeated use, robs them of their memories, so much so that Lucha's own mother no longer even recognizes her. As a cazadora, or hunter, with special talents, Lucha also discovers she has powers to summon the plants of the forest, able to grow mushrooms that kill men and vines that can remove Olvida's poison from her sister's veins. The sisterly bond is a theme of the story, as Lucha makes a deal with an evil force as a means to an end of the drug Olvida, which her sister was injected with and is now under the spell of (though there is a plot twist in that this evil god is actually who created the drug in the first place). There is a sapphic romance that threads throughout the story, though physically never goes further than a shared kiss. The romance gets a bit strained when Lucha temporarily becomes the reincarnation of the forest goddess of whom her love interest, Paz, is a devotee. The protagonists are women, and there is a strong vein of female empowerment in this tale. Many of the characters are Latine, and many of the key terms, like olvida, cazadora, and sombra lado, are Spanish terms.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kat Chin, Kamiakin Middle School

Waters, Erica

9780063115903

\$18.99

400 p.

The Restless Dark

HarperTeen, 2022

The Restless Dark centers on three girls who meet one weekend at Cloudkiss Canyon where fans of a popular crime podcast, Human Beasties, have entered a contest to find the remains of Joseph Kincaid, better known as the Cloudkiss Killer, whose body was never recovered. Lucy was the only survivor of Kincaid, when just two years ago, she watched

him leap to his death to avoid being captured. She is there to find some closure. Carolina's reasons are secret & more sinister. She has violence in her family & her past, and there's a lot she can't remember. She's there to find out once and for all whether the monster she fears is inside her is real. Maggie is there on research for a college paper on true crime junkies. The story is told in alternating chapters by Lucy & Carolina. Although the mystery of the serial killer's death & true crime podcast provide a catalyst, the story focuses mainly on the girls' psychological struggles & relationships. Although some students might be into the ethereal, evil lure of the canyon, I thought the actual villain was incredibly predictable with not enough left for the reader to sleuth. This slow burn smoldered and almost went out. Shrug for high school.

Recommended Age: High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Zhang, Amy 9780062383075 \$19.99 280 p.
The Cartographers Greenwillow Books, 2023

Ocean Sun is alone in a darkened subway platform when she meets Constantine (or Constant) Brave, a University student who graffiti's the map of the New York City subway on anything he can get his hands on. Ocean has lied to her mother about attending college and is instead taking a gap year to figure out whether she wants to go to college. She is a depressed teen who is anxious about everything, but when she interacts with Constant, it's the only thing she can focus on. However, she soon comes to question her relationship with Constant: is it love? Or is it another way to avoid her problems? This is a book that isn't only about first love, but about being able to get out of the hole you may be stuck in (and really identify what a relationship is; her roommates fall in love with each other, and Ocean realizes her relationship with Constant is totally different). No sex on the page (it's hinted at); there is drinking, smoking weed, and bad words.

Recommended Age: High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

FICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Lange, Erin Jade 9780063219113 \$17.99 359 p.
Mere Mortals HarperTeen, 2022

Mere Mortals follows Charlie and her brother Reg, two vampires who have recently been expelled from the vampire community and banished to Nowhere, Iowa, to live as mortals. Unwilling to let go of their glamorous past, the siblings will stop at nothing to regain their immortality. This book was, unfortunately, not good. The writing was subpar, the characters were bland and annoying, and the plotlines made no sense. If anyone wanted to read this, I'd recommend it for high schoolers. It was clean, no mature content involved.

Recommended Age: High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 Izzy Torres, Centralia Timberland Library

GRAPHIC NOVELS - RECOMMENDED

Bayarri, Jordi 9781728442914 40 p.
Ada Lovelace and the Start of Computers Graphic Universe, 2023
This brief graphic biography introduces readers to one of the fore-people who helped promote the power of early computers. Readers are introduced to Augusta Ada Byron, daughter of Lord Byron, whose mother, Ann, raised her alone from the time Ada was just one month old. Curious and inquisitive by nature, Ada was tutored by individuals who excelled in math and science, eventually working with Charles Babbage, who is credited with developing the concept of a digital programmable computer. It was in her translation of an article about the analytical engine, and the addition of her notes, that Ada truly shone. The graphics are simple and bright, which at times contrasts with the academic language. The book includes a timeline, glossary, and short list of additional resources.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Too young for YA
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Kat Chin, Kamiakin Middle School

Beka & Maya 978-1662640414 \$12.99 192 p.
The Love Report Hippo Park, 2023
'The Love Report' by Beka & Maya is the first in a series, full-color graphic novel, that was originally published in French. Grace and Lola are best friends that talk about everything - especially about romance and relationships at school. They decide to go all 'Harriet the Spy' and keep a journal of what they observe between couples in relationships at their junior high and then publish it as 'The Love Report.' This book was a slow read for me but I think younger middle grade students would enjoy the dynamic observations the girls write about. The characters are likable and relatable to this age; however the ending wrapped up rather quickly and neatly with the mom adding to their writing which seemed a little unlikely for the girls to embrace like they did! This book is perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Ann M. Martin's The Baby-Sitter's Club graphic novels.
Recommended Age: Middle School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Krosoczka, Jarrett J. 9781338747621 \$14.99 240 p.
Sunshine Sequel to "Hey Kiddo" Scholastic 2023, 2023
A follow up to the graphic memoir, Hey, Kiddo, Sunshine tells a happier, more positive chapter in the author's life. A loner with few friends at school, Jarrett is picked to be one of a few high school students to volunteer at Camp Sunshine, an overnight camp where families with children with life threatening illnesses get a break from the stress of their lives. Assigned to the Orfao family to help Shelley, a single parent, with two boys and a girl. The youngest, Eric, a fun and rambunctious, but sometimes difficult to handle kid, and Jarrett supports Shelley and befriends Jason, the older brother who has lost himself in all the attention his brother gets. During the day he works with Diego, who has a tube in his chest and is very oppositional in working with anyone. Jarrett's life and perspective change as he supports these boys and gets them to open up and enjoy life at the camp. He also grows

closer to his friends from high school. Despite the dark subject matter, Sunshine is a light and happy, informative read that leaves the reader considering volunteerism.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

a feel good, self-affirming read

Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High

GRAPHIC NOVEL – NOT RECOMMENDED

PrestonPlayz, illustrated by Dave Bardin 9780063065147 \$23.99 198 p.

PrestonPlayz: The Mystery of the Super Spooky Secret House HarperAlley, 2023

A graphic novel mystery with YouTuber PrestonPlayz. Preston and his friends visit a carnival, and they happen to meet the owner. Preston offers to promote the carnival, but the owner declines. Their neighbor dares Preston and his friends to spend the night in the haunted house at the carnival. They take the offer, but soon find themselves locked in the house. Eventually they escape and the owner allows Preston to own the carnival. It's a fun story if the reader wants to read a book by a YouTuber they know of. Some of Preston's friends are animals, and the neighbor is a snobby cat.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

NONFICTION – RECOMMENDED

Allman, Toney 9781682829271 \$32.95 80 p.

The Future of Food Reference Point Press, 2021

This stand-alone well-researched book discusses the future of food. The first chapter discusses how the world gets its food. Then the book presents meat alternatives and how companies are trying to create the best plant-based meat. Also covered is genetically engineering food and the debate surrounding genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Furthermore, personalized diets are discussed in relation to one's unique genome affecting nutritional requirements. Included are source notes, additional research resources, an index, picture credits and author info. Students will appreciate the colorful design and attractive layout that uses quote boxes and pictures to increase understanding on a complex topic. While the price is steep, the book is easily accessible for students.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Baldoni, Justin 9780063067189 \$14.99 304 p.

Boys Will Be Human: A Get-Real Gut-Check Guide to Becoming the Strongest, Kindest, Bravest Person You Can Be HarperCollins, 2022

Justin Baldoni writes directly to boys as a kind of big brother inviting them to be more honest with themselves and comfortable with who they are, no matter what other people think. Each chapter speaks candidly to boys and challenges various assumptions in our

society about what it means to be a man. He shares vulnerable stories from his own life to illustrate the scripts and roles that often accompany these assumptions and is not afraid to "go there." He discusses mansplaining, toxic masculinity, body image, puberty, sex, consent, sexual assault, dating and other topics with candor, sensitivity, humor and obvious care and compassion for teens. He acknowledges his own bias while writing from a cisgender white male perspective, but writes about privilege with awareness & sensitivity. I would highly recommend this for middle school and up. Be aware of content - For example, Justin discusses penis envy and terms like "big dick energy". He talks frankly about his past porn addiction and the porn industry, and he shares a story about how he learned about masturbation. None of what he shares is gratuitous or for shock value. Readers might feel a little uncomfortable, but they will soak up the true talk.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Comments: Author of adult nonfiction, *Man Up*, and creator of podcast with same title
Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Diggs, Barbara

978-1-6782-0350-4

\$30.00

Racial Bias: Is Change Possible?

Reference Point Press, 2023

Deep dive into implicit racial bias. Lots of examples of how people reacted to implicit bias without knowing and how it is everyone. Describes its definition, where it is, and how your brain subconsciously fills in without you realizing it. Focuses on awareness so you can work on implicit racism. Middle and High School recommended.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Duany, Ger and Tomas, Garen

9780105247019401

\$18.99

Walking Towards the Rising Sun

GetUnderlined, 2020

Recommended for middle school to high school. This memoir follows the account of Ger Duany caught up in Sudan's war for freedom. He is a refugee that is able to get in to America. There we follow his progress from a young struggling youth to become a successful model and actor. He ends with hope has a high profile ambassador for his countrymen. Book was a bit slow, dry, and assumes you have base knowledge of Sudan Civil War. I had to stop and research my knowledge gaps. Later I was intrigued and continued to research Ger Duany.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Hua Lin Xie

9781728460376

\$29.32

128 p.

Another Band's Treasure : A Story of Recycled Instruments Graphic Universe, 2023

In a small Paraguayan village whose primary industry is housing a vast landfill, two men want to bring music lessons to the local children. The problem: not enough instruments! So they start building more, using materials found in the dump. This gentle story lacks conflict—drug-smoking bullies are effortlessly recruited to the Recycled Orchestra and the ensemble is an immediate hit, first in the village and then worldwide—glossing over some

of the real-life difficulties experienced by the actual group. However, sometimes readers want an uplifting story, so here it is. The translation (from French) seems a little clunky, but maybe that sort of stilted dialogue happened in the original version too? Grades 4 to adult.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Comments: translated to English from French

Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

Joseph, Frederick & Joseph, Porsche 978-1536224528 \$19.99 528 p.

Better Than We Found It: Conversations to Help Save the World Candlewick, 2022

'Better Than We Found It' by Frederick Joseph & Porsche Joseph is a nonfiction collection of 16 essays on tough topics like immigration, prison, health care reform, and Indigenous Land Theft. These are heavy but necessary topics for students to explore and this book uses interviews with people close to each crisis to explain the topic and the urgency of getting involved and showing support. For example in the chapter, 'We Shouldn't Be Afraid to Leave Home,' Frederick Joseph tells his own story of seeing a neighborhood friend get shot as well as he interviews two people close to gun violence. The first is Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action and the second is Brandon Wolf, a survivor of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando. The message: "Start somewhere." There is an extensive 'Dictionary of Change' as well as about 30 pages of 'Source Notes' so you can read more on the topic and/or see where their research came from. The writing is highly captivating and this book is a necessary read for students everywhere!

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Kallen, Stuart A. 978-1-6782-0330-6 \$30.00

Division, Intolerance and Intolerance Reference Point Press, 2023

Book applies recent information over covid, masking, pandemic and Fox News. Discusses anger and people behaving badly while giving them a platform for behaving badly. Lot of specific examples. Very relevant because many of us have seen these types of behaviors in our own lives. Middle and High School Recommended.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Mooney, Carla 978-1-6782-0338-2 \$32.95

Getting Help with Coping and Overcoming Mental Illness Reference Point Press, 2022

Recommend for Middle to High School. Great resource for mental struggles and illness. Including overcoming the stigma and getting treatment along with lifelong strategies.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Nardo, Don 978-1-6828-929-5 \$30.00

The Medical Revolution: How Technology is Changing Health Care

Reference Point Press, 2020

Due to the cost of the book I would only recommend if it is updated to include that the covid vaccine was finished. It's already out of date. But it has so much other relevant interesting information such as 3D printing smaller doses of medication, organs, nano technology, gene therapy, and other advanced medical techniques.

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Pearson, P. O'Connell 978-1665901390 \$17.99 288 p.

We Are Your Children Too: Black Students, White Supremacists, and the Battle for America's Schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia Simon & Schuster, 2023

'We Are Your Children Too: Black Students, White Supremacists, and the Battle for America's Schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia is a nonfiction book about the closing of public schools that happened after the case of Brown v. the Board of Education was passed in 1954. It is a narrative nonfiction book that follows a young black high schooler named Barbara Johns. She attended Moton High, a sad destination for her to walk four and a half miles one way to each day to learn. Barbara was watching the school bus go by one day (headed to the white school) when she realized that although these high schools might be separate, they were in no way equal. A teacher listened to her and encouraged Barbara to "...do something about it." So she did. Barbara organized a walkout at the age of 15 with other students and soon some of the community joined the fight. The court fight was long and the cases rolled up to the Supreme Court - resulting in a landmark decision of Brown v. Board (in which 75% of the plaintiffs were Prince Edward County students). Although Prince Edward County was told to integrate, they had a plan to stall, then start a private school just for whites, and then just shut down the public schools. Finally, in 1964, they were found in violation of the 14th amendment and ordered to open and desegregate the schools. So much harm had been done after children were denied public education for five years. This book is a fascinating look at a moment in the history of education where one young person started a revolution! Highly recommend!

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Roland, James 9781682828496 \$30.00

Changing Lives Through Virtual Reality Reference Point Press, 2022

Title details how you can travel virtually saving costs and energy requirements. It also discusses how it's liberating for those that have disabilities. It goes into other benefits like great surgical benefits. It's a relevant and exciting title.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

Sheen, Barbara 978167820-3566 \$33.05 64 p.

Teen Activists: Youth Changing the World Reference Point Press, 2023

Teen Activists: Youth Changing the World showcases different teens trying to make change around the world, the issues most important to them, their challenges and what they hope to achieve. Chapters focus on various teens around the world leading activism and sparking movements on issues like the environment, climate change, gun violence, racial justice, children’s rights & education equality. Readers may know some of the activists well, like Greta Thunberg or Malala Yousafzai; however, several teen activists from different countries and representing different genders, races & sexual orientations are included for each social issue. Each chapter introduces the general issue and provides examples of activists working on different aspects of the issue. Text is supported by frequent photos with captions, green text boxes highlighting a particular movement or issue, and blue dots with quotes by various activists. Source notes are generally credible; however, one of the sources cited is goodreads. Websites, organizations and books for further research are also included. Text can feel a little overwhelming, but for students who want physical books for research this could be a good option. Recommend for motivated middle school readers and high school.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Van Heidrich, Katie	9781665920148	\$18.99	295 p.
<i>The In-Between</i>	Aladdin, 2023		

This gripping memoir written as a novel-in-verse tells of a tough time Katie experienced in the early 2000s when she was 13. Her mom and her younger siblings moved around a lot. Experiencing typical 7th grade drama is enough for most, but Katie also endured financial struggles while refusing to tell anyone at school. This difficult “in-between” time is also about the depths of poverty Katie’s family faces. Katie and her siblings also feel “in-between” in society as they are half-white and half-black. This “in-between” cultures also exists at their dad’s house where they are relegated to the basement after their dad remarries. Students will be captivated by this gripping, true story that seems overwhelming at times. Katie’s experiences are relatable to many s as it deals with poverty, siblings, step-parents, divorce, first romance, friendship, and many other life issues.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

- Exploring Social Injustice series BrightPoint Press, 2023

Boone, Mary	9781678203962	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Immigrant and Refugee Injustice</i>			

Boone, Mary	9781678204006	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Racial Injustice</i>			

Gagne, Tammy	978167820396	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Injustice Against Women</i>			

Terp, Gail	9781678203948	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Climate and Environmental Injustice</i>			

This book series explores four different types of social injustice, such as racial, immigrant and refugee, climate and environmental injustice and injustice against women. Each book opens with an ‘at a glance’ snapshot of key facts. The introduction explains what each social injustice is and includes relevant examples. Additional chapters cover the history of each injustice and what’s happening today. The final two chapters present key moments in fighting each injustice and ideas for ending it. Each book concludes with a glossary, source notes, additional resources, image credits, and author info. This series is especially appealing to reluctant readers due to all the colorful pictures and sidebars as well as a larger-sized font and attractive layout. While the price is a bit high, these books are a good resource on timely topics.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

- Information Glut series Reference Point Press, 2022
- Nardo, Don 978-1-6782-0342-9 \$32.95

Sorting Good from Bad

Detailed information about how information overload can affect the human body and mind. Ideas on how to avoid information overload and how to separate misinformation from real information. Recommend!

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

- Money Basics series BrightPoint Press, 2020
- Gagne, Tammy 9781682828038 \$30.95

Credit Cards and Loans

Huddleston, Emma 978-1-68282-797-0 \$30.95

Living on a Budget

London, Martha 978-1-68282-801-4 \$30.95

Saving and Investing

All sound investments for your school library! The topic is important for students interested in learning about living independently. Explained clearly with big enough font that isn’t overwhelming with solid information for students.

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

- Our Solar System series BrightPoint Press, 2022
- LaPierre, Lavatte 978-1-6782-0402-0 \$32.95
- The Asteroid Belt***
- Terp, Gail 978-1-6782-0408-2 \$32.95
- Pluto and the Dwarf Planets***
- Walry, Phillip 978-1-6782-0410-5 \$32.95

The Sun

Fraiser, Carolyn Bennett 978-1-6782-0406-8 \$32.95

Moons

Mitchell, KS 978-1-6782-0404-4 \$32.95

The Gas Giants: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune

Thacher, Meg 978-1-6782-0412-9 \$32.95

The Terrestrial Plants: Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars

Elementary to Middle school level recommendation. Great pictures and large format reading approximately 4-6 sentences a page. Basic overview and not overwhelming.

Recommended Age: elementary school

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

- Tech Effects series Reference Point Press, 2022

Kallen, Stuart A. 9781682828397 \$30.00

Changing Lives through Artificial Intelligence

Very current title on teaching machines to learn without human interaction including surgery, cars, teaching, cleaning, and more like paying by using facial recognition. It's a far-reaching book that will excite and interest in student's awareness.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School

- Teen Guide to Social & Emotional Skills series BrightPoint Press, 2022

Developing Relationship Skills

Gagne, Tammy 9781678204341 \$32.95 80 p.

Developing Responsible Decision-Making Skills

Nicks, Erin 9781678204365 \$32.95 80 p.

Developing Self-Awareness

Layton, Chrstine Marie 9781678204389 \$32.95 80 p.

Developing Self-Management

Kaul, Jennifer 9781678204402 \$32.95 80 p.

Developing Social Awareness

Nicks, Erin 9781678204426 \$32.95 80 p.

Teen Guide to Social & Emotional Skills series teaches teens how to recognize and use these skills in different areas of their lives. Each book begins with an At a Glance bullet point list of important information. It continues with a relatable story about a teen who might benefit from the skill and then uses the scenario to define it. Chapters focus on areas where teens might benefit from applying the skill, like at school, in their families or with their friends. Photos and captions highlight key points. Text boxes tend to showcase expert advice or help readers make connections with the real world. Short chapters with subheadings and concise, direct language make the books easy to follow. Larger font, white

space, and colorful subheadings & text boxes make the volumes inviting to reluctant readers and great for quick access to information. Each volume provides a glossary, credible sources, and suggestions for further study. Recommend for middle school and reluctant high school readers.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

- Thinking Critically series Reference Point Press, 2023

Allen, John	9781678203207	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Thinking Critically: Police and the Use of Force</i>			
Currie, Stephen	9781678203184	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Thinking Critically: Mass Shootings</i>			
Hulick, Kathryn	9781678203160	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Thinking Critically: The COVID-19 Pandemic</i>			
Karson, Olivia	9781678203146	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Thinking Critically: The Black Lives Matter Movement</i>			
Mooney, Carla	9781678203122	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Thinking Critically: Addiction</i>			

This series presents complicated issues being discussed today and breaks them down into easily understandable chunks to help develop students' skills in thinking independently and becoming critical thinkers. Each book uses an inquiry-based approach with arguments for and against the issue. Each book has three main chapters where one key question on the issue is evaluated. For example, one of the questions asked about mass shootings was: Could improvements in mental health care reduce mass shootings? Before each side is presented, readers are given three guiding questions to focus their reading. These books are easily accessible due to the layout of colorful photos and graphics. The research included is impressive as each book contains source notes, additional facts, related organizations and websites, other research sources, an index, picture credits and author info.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

- Understanding Disorders series BrightPoint Press, 2022

What Are Developmental Disorders?

Sonneborn, Liz	9781678204440	\$32.95	80 p.
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What Are Eating Disorders?

Gagne, Tammy	9781678204464	\$32.95	80 p.
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What Are Learning Disorders?

Bradford Edwards, Sue	9781678204488	\$32.95	80 p.
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What Are Mood Disorders?

Pinto McCarthy, Cecilia	9781678204501	\$32.95	80 p.
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What Are Psychotic Disorders?

Phillips, Jennifer 9781678204525 \$32.95 80 p.
 Understanding Disorders series teaches teens how to recognize mental health disorders and their symptoms. Each book begins with an At a Glance bullet point list of important information. It continues with a relatable story about someone who might have dealt with that particular disorder. Chapters focus on the history, some examples, how it might impact a person's life, and possible treatments for the disorder. Photos and captions highlight key points. Text boxes tend to help explain more difficult concepts and clear up common misconceptions. Short chapters with subheadings and concise, direct language make the books easy to follow. Larger font, white space, and colorful subheadings & text boxes make the volumes inviting to reluctant readers and great for quick access to information. Each volume provides a glossary, credible sources, and suggestions for further study. Recommend for middle school and reluctant high school readers.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

NONFICTION – SHRUG

Tyner, Artika R. 9781728441863 \$31.99 48 p.
Amanda Gorman: Inspiring Hope With Poetry Lerner, 2022
 Amanda Gorman rocketed to the top of public attention with her performance of "The Hill We Climb" at the 2021 presidential inauguration. This book describes (in 48 pages, with photos) her life and the lives of others who inspired her. The information is solid, but the 960 lexile is out-of-step with the format of the book. Audience???
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

- LGBTQ Issues series Reference Point Press, 2021

Currie, Stephen 9781682829172 \$30.00 80 p.
LGBTQ Rights and Activism
 This book has an introduction that talks about seeking equality for queer folk and informing the public about LGBTQ people and issues - with rights being given and then taken away again. Following that are 5 chapters: "Toward Tolerance", "The AIDS Crisis", "The Struggle for Acceptance", "Transgender Issues", and "Moving Forward". Back matter includes source notes, a list of organizations and websites, sources for further research, an index, and picture credits. (Basically covers Stonewall to present)
 This is a useful starting place for someone who does not yet have much knowledge about the challenges facing LGBTQ folk, the history of activism, and search for equality for queer folk but who also has a fairly solid reading level for this 80 page informational text.

Ghafoerkhan, Olivia 9781682829158 \$30.00 80 p.
Gender Identity
 This book is part of a 4 book series designed to explore what it is like to be queer in the US currently. The other titles are: Being LGBTQ, LGBTQ Rights and Activism, and Violence

Against the LGBTQ Community. This book has an introduction that talks about gender - mainly gender identity and expression - through sections about gender variations and a spectrum of identities. Following that are 4 chapters: "Finding Oneself", "Nature, Nurture, or Psychological Condition?", "Transition", and "The Struggle for Trans Rights". Back matter includes source notes, wants to support trans friends and families, a list of organizations and websites, sources for further research, an index, and picture credits. This is a useful starting place for someone who does not yet have much knowledge about gender identity but who also has a fairly solid reading level for this 80 page informational text.

Marcovitz, Hal 9781682829196 \$30.00 80 p.

Violence Against the LGBTQ Community

This book is part of a 4 book series designed to explore what it is like to be queer in the US currently. The other titles are: Being LGBTQ, LGBTQ Rights and Activism, and Gender Identity. This book has an introduction that talks about the dangers facing the LGBTQ community focusing on the rise in number of these hate crimes. Following that are 4 chapters: "A History of Violence Against the LGBTQ Community", "Internet Threats", "Targeted by Hate", and "Pain & Anguish: the Effects of Violence". Back matter includes source notes, a list of organizations and websites, sources for further research, an index, and picture credits. This is a useful starting place for someone who does not yet have much knowledge about the violence occurring in the LGBTQ community but who also has a fairly solid reading level for this 80 page informational text. *Published in 2021, so most data only goes to 2020.

Nardo, Don 9781682829134 \$30.00 80 p.

Being LGBTQ

This book is part of a 4 book series designed to explore what it is like to be queer in the US currently. The other titles are: Violence Against the LGBTQ Community, LGBTQ Rights and Activism, and Gender Identity. This book has an introduction that talks about seeking equality for queer folk and informing the public about LGBTQ people and issues - mostly to foster an attitude of acceptance but also so that they are treated fairly and humanely. Following that are 4 chapters: "Coming Out", "Challenges for Young People", "Creating a Family", and "At Work and in the Public Sphere". Back matter includes source notes, a list of organizations and websites, sources for further research, an index, and picture credits. This is a useful starting place for someone who does not yet have much knowledge about what it means to be queer and the challenges facing LGBTQ folk but who also has a fairly solid reading level for this 80 page informational text. My biggest problem with this text is that it is written by someone who does not appear to belong to the LGBTQ community but is talking about being LGBTQ, challenges, etc. It would have been more authentic if it had been written by someone with lived experience. Maybe Nardo has it but he says he lives with his wife Christine and he has written over 400 of these type of books. I think this was just another assignment for him. My apologies if I am incorrect in my assumptions.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Comments: Published in 2021, so most data only goes to 2020.

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School