



**WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: March 8, 2024**

*Issue: 143
December 2023*

WASHRAG
*Titles Taken: 3-14
Fiction Reviews: 15-31
Graphic Novel Reviews: 31-35
Nonfiction Reviews: 35-39*

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=ZFhSV3V2REdSSkkybXdNZnk4NmF5UT09>

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

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.
- Please use correct capitalization.
- 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.

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 September 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>Absolutely, Positively Natty</i> Greenwald, Lisa Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2023 978166935234	\$18.99	259 p.
<i>Actually Super</i> Alsaid, Adi Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2023 978166935234	\$18.99	275 p.
<i>And Break the Pretty Kings</i>, Sacred Bone #1 Jeong, Lena Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	HarperTeen, 2023 978-0-06-324164-0	\$19.99	438 p.
<i>The Beauty Trials</i>, The Belles #3 Clayton, Dhonielle Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High	Disney Hyperion, 2023 978-1-368-04692-3	\$18.99	344 p.
<i>Boomi's Boombox</i> Sekaran, Shanthi Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Katherine Tegen Books, 2023 978-0-06-305158-4	\$18.99	262 p.
<i>The Bravest Warrior in Nefaria</i> Alsaid, Adi Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Aladdin , 2023 978-1-6659-2775-8	\$18.99	292 p.
<i>A Breath of Mischief</i> Connolly, MarcyKate Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library, KCLS	Sourcebooks, 2023 978166935234	\$16.99	209 p.
<i>City of Hooks and Scars</i>, City of Villians #2 Laure, Estelle Michelle Burton, Kelso Public Library	Disney Hyperion, 2022 978166935234	\$17.99	226 p.
<i>Clementine and Danny Save the World</i> Blackburne, Livia	Quill Tree Books, 2023 978-0063229891	\$19.99	336 p.

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Dear Medusa Labyrinth Road, 2023 **BFYA 2024 NOM**
Cole, Olivia A. 978166935234 \$18.99 384 p.
Sara White, Washington State Library

Deephaven Quill Tree Books, 2023
Aldridge, Ethan 978166935234 \$18.99 277 p.
Tracy Anderson, Timberline Middle School

The Door of No Return Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2022
Alexander, Kwame 978-0316441865 \$17.99 432 p.
Claire Sandoval-Peck, Olympia Timberland Library

Double, Double, Twins and Trouble, Witches of Peculiar #1 Aladdin, 2022
Graves, Luna 978166935234 \$17.99 126 p.
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Everyone's Thinking It Balzer + Bray, 2023
Omotoni, Aleema 978-0-06-322567-1 \$19.99 356 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Far Out! Simon & Schuster, 2023
Bustard, Anne 978-1665914192 \$19.99 224 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Farewell Cuba, Mi Isla Simon & Schuster, 2023
Diaz, Alexandra 978-1-5344-9540-1 \$17.99 328 p.
Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Finch House Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2023
Burch, Ciera 978-1665930543 208 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn Quill Tree Books, 2023
Pla, Sally J. 978166935234 \$19.99 324 p.
Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School

Fireborn: Phoenix and the Frost Palace, Fireborn #2 HarperCollins, 2023
Fowler, Aisling 978-0-06-299674-9 \$19.99 436 p.
Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Flowerheart HarperTeen, 2023
Bakewell, Catherine 978-0-06-321459-0 \$19.99 342 p.
Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

<i>The Grimoire of Grave Fates</i>	Delacorte Press, 2023		
Alkaf, Hanna and Margaret Owen, editors	978166935234	\$18.99	442 p.
Michelle Burton, Kelso Public Library			
<i>The Haunting</i>	Delacorte Press, 2023		
Preston, Natasha	978166935234	\$12.99	354 p.
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
<i>Her Radiant Curse</i>, Six Crimson Cranes #0.5	Alfred A. Knopf, 2023		
Lim, Elizabeth	978-0-593-30099-2	\$19.99	416 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			
Aimee Miles, UPrep Library			
<i>Hope's Path to Glory: The Story of a Family's Journey on the Overland Trail</i>	Paula Wiseman Books, 2023		
Nolen, Jerdine	978-1665924719	\$17.99	228 p.
Joanne Sobieck-Lingg, Seattle Country Day School			
<i>House of Roots and Ruin</i>, Sisters of the Salt #2	Delacorte Press, 2023		
Craig, Erin A.	978166935234	\$19.99	536 p.
Michelle Burton, Kelso Public Library			
<i>I'm Not Here to Make Friends</i>	Quill Tree Books, 2023		
Yang, Andrew	978166935234	\$19.99	344 p.
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			
<i>If I Can Give You That</i>	Quill Tree Books, 2023		
Bulla, Michael Gray	978166935234	\$19.99	320 p.
Lindsay Ellsworth, King County Library System			
<i>If I See You Again Tomorrow</i>	Simon & Schuster, 2023		
Couch, Robbie	978-1534497498	\$19.99	336 p.
Claire Sandoval-Peck, Olympia Timberland Library			
<i>Imogen, Obviously</i>	Balzer + Bray, 2023		
Albertalli, Becky	978166935234	\$19.99	432 p.
Aimee Miles, UPrep Library			
<i>Invisible Son</i>	Random House, 2023		BFYA 2024 NOM
Johnson, Kim	978-0-593-48210-0	\$18.99	400 p.
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School			
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School			
<i>Joy, to the World</i>	Clarion Books, 2023		
Shappley, Kai and Lisa Bunker	978-0-06-324275-3	\$19.99	232 p.
Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School			

<i>Kingdom Keepers Inheritance: The Shimmer</i>, Kingdom Keepers Inheritance #1			
Pearson, Ridley	Disney Hyperion, 2023		
978-1-368-09514-3		\$17.99	307 p.
Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School			
<i>Kween</i> (ARC)			
Chum, Vichet	Quill Tree Books, 2023		
978-0-06-322335-6		\$15.99	337 p.
Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High			
<i>Land of Dragons</i>, Secret of the Storm #2			
Aladdin, 2023			
McMullen, Beth	978-1-5344-8288-3	\$17.99	259 p.
Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High			
<i>The Library of Shadows</i>			
Moore, Rachel	HarperTeen, 2023		
978166935234		\$19.99	357 p.
Nickie Travis, Lindbergh High School			
<i>The Lightstruck</i>, The Darkening #2			
Clarion Books, 2023			
Mara, Sunya	978-0-35-856199-6	\$19.99	433 p.
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School			
<i>Love and Resistance</i>			
Chen, Kara H.L.	Quill Tree Books, 2023		
978166935234		\$19.99	339 p.
Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School			
<i>Magic Has No Borders</i>			
HarperTeen, 2023			
Charaipotra, Sona and Samira Ahmed, editors	978-0-06-320826-1	\$19.99	338 p.
Sam Harris, Vashon Library, KCLS			
<i>Manslaughter Park</i>, Jane Austen Murder Mystery #3			
HarperTeen, 2023			
Price, Tirzah	978166935234	\$19.99	397 p.
Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools			
<i>Midnight at the Houdini</i>			
Delacorte Press, 2023			
Dawson, Delilah S.	978166935234	\$18.99	357 p.
Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library			
Tracy Anderson, Timberline Middle School			
<i>Monstrous Matchmakers</i>, Witches of Peculiar #3			
Aladdin, 2022			
Graves, Luna	978166935234	\$17.99	146 p.
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School			
<i>My Father, the Panda Killer</i>			
Crown Books, 2023			
Hoang, Jamie Ho	978-0-059364296-2	\$24.99	361 p.
Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High			

Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School

The Mystery of the Radcliffe Riddle Sourcebooks, 2023
Souders, Taryn 978166935234 \$7.99 277 p.
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

***Never a Hero*, Monsters #2** HarperTeen, 2023
Len, Vanessa 978166935234 \$19.99 510 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

***Nubia: The Reckoning*, Nubia #2** Delacorte Press, 2023
Epps, Omar and Clarence A. Haynes 978-0-593-42868-9 \$19.99 340 p.
Joanne Sobieck-Lingg, Seattle Country Day School

***The October Witches*, A Month of Magic #1** Simon & Schuster, 2023
Claessen, Jennifer 978166935234 \$17.99 326 p.
Michelle Burton, Kelso Public Library

***One of Us is Back*, One of Us is Lying #3** Delacorte Press, 2023
McManus, Karen M. 978166935234 \$26.99 360 p.
Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

Out of Character Quill Tree Books, 2023
Miller, Jenna 978-0063243323 \$17.99 384 p.
Claire Sandoval-Peck, Olympia Timberland Library

Pride and Prejudice and Pittsburgh Simon & Schuster, 2023
Lippincott, Rachel 978166935234 \$19.99 327 p.
Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library, KCLS

The Probability of Everything Clarion Books, 2023
Everett, Sarah 978166935234 \$19.99 326 p.
Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School

The Queens of New York Quill Tree Books, 2023 **BFYA 2024 NOM**
Shen, E.L. 978166935234 \$19.99 324 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Rebecca Reznik Reboots the Universe Atheneum, 2023
Shanker, Samara 978166935234 \$19.99 245 p.
Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

The Reunion Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2023
Frick, Kit 978-1-6659-2146-6 \$19.99 307 p.
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

<i>Riley Weaver Needs a Date to the Gaybutante Ball</i>	HarperTeen, 2023		
June, Jason	978166935234	\$19.99	316 p.
Liz Haggerty, Kirkland Middle School			
<i>Ryan and Avery</i>	Alfred A. Knopf, 2023		
Levithan, David	978166935234	\$18.99	320 p.
Sara White, Washington State Library			
<i>See You On Venus</i>	Delacorte Press, 2023		
Vinuesa, Victoria	978-0593705131	\$15.00	352 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School			
<i>The Song of Us</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2023		
Fussner, Kate	978-0063256941	\$19.99	368 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School			
<i>The Song of Wrath</i>, Bones of Ruin #2	Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2023		
Raughley, Sarah	978-1-5344-5359-3	\$21.99	416 p.
Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High			
<i>Stardust in Their Veins</i>, Castles in Their Bones #2	Delacorte Press, 2023		
Sebastian, Laura	978166935234	\$19.99	564 p.
Michelle Burton, Kelso Public Library			
<i>Starlings</i>	Delacorte Press, 2023		
Linsmeier, Amanda	978166935234	\$18.99	327 p.
Liz Haggerty, Kirkland Middle School			
<i>Take</i>	Atheneum, 2023		
Bradbury, Jennifer	978166935234	\$18.99	266 p.
Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School			
<i>Tall Tales</i>, Once Upon Another Time #2	Aladdin, 2022		
Riley, James	978166935234	\$18.99	308 p.
Joanne Sobieck-Lingg, Seattle Country Day School			
<i>This Delicious Death</i>	Sourcebooks, 2023		BFYA 2024 NOM
Cottingham, Kayla	978-1-7282-3644-5	\$11.99	290 p.
Sam Harris, Vashon Library, KCLS			
<i>Thriller Night</i>, Witches of Peculiar #2	Aladdin, 2022		
Graves, Luna	978166935234	\$17.99	136 p.
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School			
<i>Vivian Van Tassel and the Secret of Midnight Lake</i>	Aladdin, 2023		
Witwer, Michael	978166935234	\$18.99	359 p.

Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School

We Ship It HarperTeen, 2023
Kay, Lauren 978-0063230996 \$19.99 320 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

***The Wild One*, Phantom Stallion #1** Simon & Schuster, 2002
Farley, Terri 978166935234 \$18.99 312 p.
Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

GRAPHIC NOVELS

83 Days in Mariupol: A War Diary Clarion Books, 2023
Brown, Don 978-0-06-331156-5 \$22.99 128 p.
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

***The Alchemyst*, The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel** Random House, 2023
Scott, Michael; Adapted by Nicole Andelfinger; Illustrated by Chris Chalik
978166935234 \$23.99 245 p.
Michelle Burton, Kelso Public Library
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Beauty NBM Graphic Novels, 2023
Hubert and Kerascoët 978-1-68112-315-8 \$19.99 150 p.
Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School
Comments: Pub 2011; English translation 2014

***Courage to Dream: Tales of Hope in the Holocaust* (ARC)** Graphix, 2023
Shusterman, Neal, illustrated by Andrés Vera Martínez
978166935234 \$14.99 256 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Darkly She Goes NBM Graphic Novels, 2023
Hubert, illustrations by Vincent Mallié 978166935234 \$29.99 150 p.
Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library

Drawn to Change the World: 16 Youth Climate Activists, 16 Artists Harper Alley, 2023
Reynolds, Emma 978-1-51606-741-1 \$24.99 170 p.
Amber Peterson, International Community School

The Faint of Heart Greenwillow Books, 2023
Wilson, Kerilynn 978166935234 \$26.99 293 p.
JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

<i>Fighting for America: Nisei Soldiers</i> Matsuda, Lawrence and Matt Sasaki Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School	Wing Luke Museum, 2015 978-0-9746741-4-8	\$31.95	210 p.
<i>Frontera</i> Anta, Julio, illustrated by Jacoby Salcedo Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	HarperAlley, 2023 978-0063054943	\$15.00	240 p.
<i>Global</i> Colfer, Eoin and Andrew Donkin, illustrated by Giovanni Rigano Michael Fleming, Juanita High School	Sourcebooks , 2023 978166935234	\$14.99	120 p.
<i>The Infinity Particle</i> Xu, Wendy Aimee Miles, UPrep Library	Quill Tree Books, 2023 978-0062955777	\$26.99	272 p.
<i>Mabuhay!</i> (ARC) Sterling, Zachary JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Graphix, 2023 978166935234	\$12.99	240 p.
<i>Mexikid</i> Martín, Pedro Aimee Miles, UPrep Library	Dial, 2023 0593462297	\$14.99	
<i>Mingus</i> Massarutto, Flavio, illustrated by Squaz Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library <u>Comments:</u> Translation	NBM Graphic Novels, 2023 978166935234	\$29.99	149 p.
<i>Northranger</i> Terciero, Rey, illustrated by Bre Indigo Aarene Storms, garden gnome of Everett Library	Harper Alley, 2023 978166935234	\$26.99	229 p.
<i>Piggy: Permanent Detention</i> (ARC) Vannotes, illustrated by Malu Menezes JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library	Graphix, 2023 978166935234	\$12.99	128 p.
<i>Queen in Comics</i> Marie, Emmanuel Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School <u>Comments:</u> Pub 2021; English translation 2022	NBM Graphic Novels, 2023 978166935234	\$27.99	
<i>Stuntboy In-Between Time</i> , Stuntboy #2 Reynolds, Jason, illustrated by Raúl the Third Michael Fleming, Juanita High School	Atheneum, 2023 978166935234	\$14.99	260 p.

- Zuiker Teen Topics graphic series

<i>Activist: A Story of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Shooting</i>	Zuiker Press, 2019		
Hogg, Lauren Elizabeth	978-1-947378-21-6	\$12.99	83 p.
<i>Brother: A Story of Autism</i>	Zuiker Press, 2019		
Hudgens, Bridget	978-1-947378-12-4	\$12.99	85 p.
<i>Click: A Story of Cyberbullying</i>	Zuiker Press, 2018		
Philips, Alexandra	978-1-947378-04-9	\$12.99	95 p.
<i>Color Blind: A Story of Racism</i>	Zuiker Press, 2019		
Harris, Johnathan	978-1-947378-12-4	\$12.99	95 p.
<i>Goodbye: A Story of Suicide</i>	Zuiker Press, 2020		
Lamberth, Hailee Joy	978-1-947378-27-8	\$12.99	79 p.
<i>Identity: A Story of Transitioning</i>	Zuiker Press, 2021		
Maison, Corey	978-1-947378-24-7	\$12.99	83 p.
<i>Imperfect: A Story of Body Image</i>	Zuiker Press, 2019		
Awanda, Dounya	978-1-947378-07-0	\$12.99	83 p.
<i>Mend: A Story of Divorce</i>	Zuiker Press, 2018		
Recca, Sophia	978-1-947378-00-1	\$12.99	96 p.
<i>One Shot: A Story of Bullying</i>	Zuiker Press, 2021		
Bruorton, Alex	978-1-947378-30-8	\$12.99	83 p.
Amber Peterson, International Community School			

NON-FICTION

<i>America Redux</i>	Balzer + Bray, 2023		
Aberg-Riger, Ariel	978-0-06-305759-1	\$24.99	293 p.
Sam Harris, Vashon Library, KCLS			
<i>Cyberattacks and Cyberscams - Is There an End in Sight?</i>	ReferencePoint Press, 2024		
Stephan, Jennifer	978-1-6782-0328-3	\$32.95	64 p.
Michael Fleming, Juanita High School			
<i>Dear Yesteryear</i>	Dial Books for Young Readers, 2023		
Henderson, Kimberly Annece	978-0-593-52924-9	\$18.99	27 p.
Sarah Hunt, Kirkland, KCLS			
<i>Defying Death: Medicine's Journey toward Immortality</i>	ReferencePoint Press, 2024		

Leone, Bruno and Leone, Michael A. Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	978166935234	\$25.95	144 p.
<i>Exploring Norse Mythology</i> Nardo, Don Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	ReferencePoint Press, 2023 978166935234	\$29.99	57 p.
<i>Freedom of Speech</i> Steffens, Bradley Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	ReferencePoint Press, 2023 978-1-6782-0576-8	\$29.99	56 p.
<i>Get Stuff Done</i> Dougherty, Terri Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	ReferencePoint Press, 2023 978-1-6782-0604-8	\$29.99	52 p.
<i>I Have Something To Tell You</i> Chasten Buttigieg Sam Harris, Vashon Library, KCLS	Atheneum, 2023 978-1-6659-0437-7	\$18.99	207 p.
<i>Means of Transport That Almost Changed the World</i> Sekaninova, Stepanka and Tom Velcovsky Sarah Hunt, Kirkland, KCLS	Albatros, 2023 978-80-00-06845-9	\$18.95	63 p.
<i>Modern Russia: From Revolution to the Invasion of Ukraine</i> Olson, Ethan Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	ReferencePoint Press, 2024 978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>A Quantum Life: Adapted for Young Readers</i> Oluseyi, Hakeem and Joshua Horwitz Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School	Delacorte Press, 2023 978-9848-4963-2	\$18.99	331 p.
<i>Reaching into the Universe: Advances in Space Exploration</i> Nardo, Don Joanne Sobieck-Lingg, Seattle Country Day School	ReferencePoint Press, 2023 978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Social Media: Does the Good Outweigh the Bad</i> Allen, John Joanne Sobieck-Lingg, Seattle Country Day School	ReferencePoint Press, 2024 978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Teen Guide to College</i> Roland, James Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School	ReferencePoint Press, 2023 978-1-6782-0358-0	\$29.99	56 p.
<i>This Indian Kid: A Native American Memoir</i> (ARC) Chuculate, Eddie Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Jr/Sr High	Scholastic Focus, 2022 978-1-338-80208-5	\$19.99	240 p.

• Great Pro Sports Championships Series	BrightPoint Press, 2024		
<i>Great FIFA World Cup Matches</i>			
Olson, Ethan	978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Great MLB Championships</i>			
Olson, Ethan	978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Great NBA Championships</i>			
Olson, Ethan	978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Great NFL Super Bowl Championships</i>			
Olson, Ethan	978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
<i>Great NHL Stanley Cup Championships</i>			
Olson, Ethan	978166935234	\$32.95	64 p.
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School			
• Mental Health Support Series	BrightPoint Press, 2023		
<i>Living with Anxiety</i>			
Normandeau, Sheryl	978-1-6782-0662-8	\$29.99	57 p.
<i>Living with Body Disorder</i>			
Gagne, Tammy	978-1-6782-0664-2	\$29.99	57 p.
<i>Living with Depression</i>			
Wroble, Susan	978-1-6782-0666-6	\$29.99	57 p.
<i>Living with Gender Dysphoria</i>			
Kehoe, Rechel	978-1-6782-0668-0	\$29.99	57 p.
<i>Living with Psychotic Disorders</i>			
Spalding, Maddie	978-1-6782-0670-3	\$29.99	57 p.
Elizabeth Courage, Lake Washington High School			

FICTION – RECOMMEND

Blake, Kendare 978-136807502-2 \$18.99 392 p.
In Every Generation, In Every Generation #1 Hyperion, 2023
There's a new vampire slayer in Sunnydale, Frankie Rosenberg, daughter of Willow Rosenberg. Unexpectedly, Frankie's powers don't manifest until the older generation of Vampire Slayers, including Aunt Buffy, are attacked and (possibly?) killed at a slayer's retreat. As the community reels from the attack, those left in Sunnydale discover the Hellhole has been re-opened and demons are on the hunt for the last Vampire Slayer: Frankie. With the help of the older generation and a new Scooby gang of werewolves and assorted friends, Frankie is able to fight off the threat, all the while hoping that the older Vampire Slayers are still alive somewhere. Written by the amazing Kendare Blake and with favorite characters from the original TV show popping up throughout the book, it will be a treat for die-hard Buffy Fans. For those of us who don't have a Buffy history, the book can stand alone as a fun fantasy read with room for sequels. Recommended for grades 7 and up.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Amber Peterson, International Community School

Bow, Erin 9781368082853 \$16.99 305 p.
Simon Sort of Says Disney Hyperion, 2023
7th grader Simon O'Keefe tells a lot of funny stories, but the one thing Simon will NOT talk about is being the only survivor of a school shooting two years ago. This detail doesn't come out until halfway through the book, but is stated on the book jacket. Last year Simon was homeschooled but this year his family moved to the National Quiet Zone. There are no tvs, cell phones, radios, microwaves, or the internet within 30 miles so that astronomers can listen for signs of life in space. Simon is pleased that no one can Google him. He meets Agate on the first day of school. She's quirky and autistic (she proudly tells him) and becomes his first friend. She quickly enlists his help in trying to fake a message from space aliens. Then Simon becomes friends with Kevin and he's hopeful to remain under anyone's radar and just be a normal kid. But life has other plans and Simon's backstory does seep out, but can he cope with it this time? Can his new friends and hometown remain the safe place he so desperately wants? Readers will cheer for Simon and enjoy his humorous narration of his life and be curious about the details of that horrific thing he experienced.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes
Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Clare, Cassandra 9781481431934 \$24.99 778 p.
Chain of Thorns, The Last Hours #3 Margaret K. McElderry, 2023
The conclusion to the three-book series starts with Cordelia as she loses everything: her father, her marriage, her best friend, and her career as a Shadowhunter. Instead, she is in Paris with her husband's best friend, her sister-in-law is keeping secrets from her, and she is now promise-bound to Lilith, a powerful demon with plans of her own. London is under attack by Belial, Matthew's grandfather and demon Prince of Hell. He has issued an

Fay, Cayla 9781665905299 \$19.99 358 p.
Ravensong, Ravensong #1 Simon & Schuster, 2023

Neve has never needed anyone other than her sisters. The three of them are reincarnations of an Irish goddess, raised by nuns, and with a mission to protect humanity. Of course, that didn't mean Neve had to spend time with humanity. But it's lonely at the moment when as the youngest of the three, she's the only one who hasn't gotten her memories of past lives or her full powers back yet. Then Neve meets Alexandria while rescuing the other teen from a demon. Alexandria makes it her mission to drag Neve into some semblance of a normal life, but both of them are in jeopardy when Neve realizes that the demons are still after Alexandria, and a lot more may be at risk than an teenage romance. A fun combination of action, romance, and mystery, *Ravensong* is great for fans of mythology based stories like Percy Jackson. It has something of a *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* vibe to it as well, though Neve's new friends could be fleshed out a little more. Neve is a great main character and pulls the reader along through some of the slower parts of the book. The Irish mythology is well integrated into the story and makes for a unique spin on the divine powered teenager trope. It's a fun fast read with a great lesbian romance. It's the first in a series and ends on something of a cliffhanger. Mentions of underage drinking and talk about sex but nothing on the page. Adventure story typical violence. Lesbian romance and diverse supporting cast. Recommended for 7th grade and up.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library, KCLS

Fox, Helena 9780593954582 \$19.99 380 p.
The Quiet and the Loud Dial Books, 2023

Eighteen-year-old Georgie lives in Sydney, Australia with her mother, her mother's partner Mel, and her grandfather and is taking something of a gap year. The book opens with a flashback to a manic, alcohol-fueled incident with her father, who now lives in Seattle but is trying to reach out to her about something important; Georgie is avoiding the conversation. Her best friend Tess is about to be a single teen mom by choice, wrapping Georgie into a role as close auntie, almost co-parent, that Georgie was never asked to do or is sure she wants or is ready for. Her other friend Laz is experiencing deep climate grief as wildfires grow across Australia (the book takes place in December 2019/January 2020). Georgie's main ways to deal when life gets rough are to run or kayak in the Sydney harbor, but she can't do either as smoke chokes the city and people are forced inside. Instead, she practices avoidance, ignoring her father, pretending things are fine with Tess, and even omitting the part of her life where is she falling in love with Calliope, a girl she meets at Mel's art studio, when Tess gets angry at her for missing her child's birth. Eventually, everything has to come to a head in this emotionally complex novel. The author navigates topics that just aren't tackled in YA books such as climate grief and post-partum depression with tenderness and compassion. This is not an easy read, but it is rewarding for those who enjoy character-driven stories.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Becky Standal, Longview Public Library

Freeman, Martha 978166590530 \$17.99 295 p.
Trashed Simon & Schuster, 2023

Arthur Popper loves the family business, Universal Trash, a place full of useful and wonderful cast-off stuff. When weird stuff starts happening (the talking ghost of a pet mouse, for example), Arthur reluctantly takes the challenge to find the clues, solve the mystery, and find a long-lost thief.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Aarene Storms, Everett Public Library

Garrett, Camryn 9780593435106 \$18.99 272 p.
Friday I'm in Love Alfred A. Knopf, 2023

Grades 7 and up – Mahalia has spent her life jealous of her friend's ability to spend money while she and her mom have to scrimp and save. Her dream was to have a sweet 16 party like her best friend, but she doesn't have the funds and she is well past her 16th birthday, but she comes up with an alternative plan, she can have a "Coming Out Party." While trying to win over the girl of her dreams and save money for the party, things never quite go the way that Mahalia has envisioned. I thought that this is was a fun book about a teen's constant struggle to make things work. Mahalia is a great character that just wants to get things to come out as she envisions.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Kaufman, Amie 978-0593479285 \$19.99 464 p.
***The Isles of the Gods*, The Isles of the Gods #1** Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2023

Selly is ready to sail the high seas by herself and has plans to stow aboard a ship called 'The Freya' to meet her father up north - but then she meets another fellow magician, who is actually a prince. Prince Leander of Alinor - who is on his way to complete a 500-year old ritual with ancient gods to avoid a war. You know, princely duties. He's not just your average prince though - he can do MAGIC. Selly has the mark of a magician, but has given up on even knowing her full powers. In an unlikely twist, Selly ends up staying on the Lizabetta to help her crew and the Prince sail to the Isle of the Gods and keep the peace. But the Prince has taken too long and a rival god is awoken. Battles on the high seas ensue, and you do fear for their lives most of the book. There's a hint of romance, a character who loves libraries, and five points of view. All necessary to the plot (which I thought I would never find myself saying). Loved it!

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Korman, Gordon 9781338826722 \$17.99 256 p.
Mixed Up (ARC) Scholastic Press, 2023

Mixed Up by Gordon Korman is a middle grade novel about two boys who don't know each other, but whose worlds collide in a very strange way. Reef Moody lost his mom last year and now lives in a foster home with the Helmer's. The older boy, Declan, bullies him

attract young adult romance readers, fans of the supernatural and a good mystery. Appropriate for middle school and up.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Lukens, F.T. 9781665916226 \$19.99 323 p.
Spell Bound McElderry Books, 2023

Edison Rooker has been trying to get back into the magical world since he lost access when his grandmother died. Armed with a creation he calls the Spell Binder which allows him to access magic, he manages to get a job with Antonia Hex, a powerful sorceress, and the name Rook. This means dealing with Sun, the apprentice to Antonia's rival, Fable, on a regular basis, but Rook doesn't mind that too much. At least until the Magic Consortium finds out about the Spell Binder and goes after both Antonia and Fable. Rook and Sun will have to work together if they want them back and keep their magic. This is a fun, fast paced novel that uses a lot of tropes very effectively: rivals to friends to lovers, found family, secret magical world. The characters are compelling and pull you into the story quickly. There's great worldbuilding, and a strong plot with some great twists. There's multiple non-binary characters, including Sun and a fairly diverse cast. Overall, a great choice for fantasy fans and would be a good introduction to the genre as well. Recommended for middle and high school.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library, KCLS

Marquis, Krystal 9780593463338 \$19.99 379 p.
The Davenports Dial Books, 2023

Grades 7 and up – Chicago, 1910 finds the Davenports at the height of their carriage business. Mr. Davenport, a freed slave, and his wife started the business and it has become extremely successful in the world of automobiles. They are looking to find suiters for their two daughters, but it is hard to find wealthy black men. Olivia, the eldest, is drawn into the world of Civil Rights and is no longer interested in becoming the perfect wife. Helen, the younger Davenport daughter, finds more interest in cars than in finding a husband. Ruby, Olivia's best friend, has her eye on John Davenport, heir to the family business, but John has his eyes on Amy-Rose, the Davenport's maid. In this beautiful story of love, family discovery, and Civil Rights, there is much to be discovered. This is a perfect historical romance, based on the real-life Patterson family in an interesting point in American history. This book would be fine at any grade in middle school, there is no sex, drinking, or language, however, with the constant talk of marriage, it might not appeal to the younger set. Highly recommended.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

McCullough, Joy 978-0-5393406755 \$18.99 320 p.
Enter the Body Hutton, 2023

Three young women from Shakespeare's plays: Juliet (Romeo & Juliet), Ophelia (Hamlet), and Cordelia (King Lear) get to tell about the events leading up to their deaths in their own voices and even imagine how things might have been different. A fourth, Lavinia (from Titus Adronicus) is also a silent presence. Told in verse, this is a thoughtful examination of lives as written by Shakespeare that are dominated by fathers, brothers, and others who use the young women to further their own ends. Joy McCullough's imagination of a bubbly, energetic Juliet, a peace-seeking Ophelia, and a bitter Cordelia expand them from the limited roles Shakespeare wrote for them, allowing these characters to write their own endings in which they get to control their fate. For a reader familiar with the plays, this book is a treat! A bit like finding an extra chapter in a much-loved book. I'm not sure if the book will resonate in the same way with readers unfamiliar with the plays, however McCullough's poetry (play script?) is engaging and readers may want to follow up with the actual plays. Recommended for grades 8 and up.

Recommended Age: Middle School, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

McGinnis, Mindy	9780063230361	\$19.99	362 p.
<i>A Long Stretch of Bad Days</i>	Katherine Tegen Books, 2023		

Lydia Chass is stunned to learn she won't graduate high school because she's missing one history credit. As an aspiring journalist, Lydia decides to spice up her local flavor podcast to not only attract the attention of the Ivy League colleges she's applied to, but also earn that credit. When bad-girl classmate Bristol Jamison also needs a credit, Lydia invites her aboard knowing that Bristol's edgy, crass outlook on life and her family from the wrong side of town will take her podcast to another level. This unlikely duo are opposites in almost everything which is entertaining, hilarious and keeps the plot moving. Their podcast series researches the "Long Stretch of Bad Days"--a week in the 1990s when Henley experienced a devastating tornado, a flash flood, and its first and only murder that's still unsolved. Quickly, the two realize that not everyone wants the past dredged up. But with Lydia's connections to those in power and Bristol's connections to the criminal element, these two might just solve that old murder. But can they stay alive long enough to earn their missing credit? Students will love this edgy, twisty mystery where not all is as it seems.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Mejia, Tehlor Kay	978-0593378366	\$19.99	368 p.
<i>Lucha of the Night Forest</i>	Make Me a World, 2023		

Lucha lives in Robado, a strange world where many are addicted to the drug Olivida and the rest of the people live in high wealth. Olivida can erase memories for people and is highly addictive. Lucha is also responsible for her little sister, Lis, while her mother "works." When Lucha's mother becomes another victim of Olivida, Lucha must find a way to use her skills as a cazadora hunting monsters to protect Lis and provide a home for them both. Things seem like they might work out when Lucha makes a deal with the legend of the forest, El Sedito. But then both are kidnapped by a drug king and Lucha starts to believe El Sedito may not be really the savior she is looking to partner with. A beautiful book filled

Evelyn and Allie both feel like outsiders. Evelyn is struggling to pull her robotics team together. Allie keeps getting in trouble at school and is on the brink of being expelled. When Allie is forced to join the robotics team, it starts to look like a disastrous combination. The story is told in alternating chapters between Evelyn and Allie's perspectives. While Evelyn and Allie both cue White, all of the remaining members of the robotics team are cued POC. Evelyn is Autistic, and Allie is starting to realize that she may be Asexual. They both learn lessons about teamwork and friendship as they get ready for a big robotics tournament. Recommended for middle schools and public libraries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Nix, Garth 9780063314344 \$19.99 351 p.

Sinister Booksellers of Bath, Left-Handed Booksellers of London #2

Katherine Tegen Books, 2023

Left-handed bookseller Merlin is accidentally transported to a mystical garden, and only his sister (right-handed bookseller) Vivian and art student/demi-mortal Susan can rescue him...but in the process, they stumble onto a mass-murdering wizard and get in the way of the Wild Hunt. If this summary makes sense, it's because you've read the first book. This is a sequel to the *Lefthanded Booksellers of London* and does not stand alone. Not sure about teen appeal here: the characters are all early-20's and older (some are hundreds of years old), but if you have readers who like book 1, definitely buy book 2. BTW: "sinister" refers to left-handedness, so I expect future books will be titled things like *The Southpaw Booksellers of Suffolk* and *The Maladroit Booksellers of Canterbury*.

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Aarene Storms, Everett Public Library

O'Clover, Ellen 9780063255036 \$18.99 312 p.

Seven Percent of Ro Devereux HarperTeen, 2023

Grades 7 and up – Ro Devereux has finished her senior project early. With the help of her neighbor who was a retired behavioral scientist, she has created a MASH dating app based on the classic game Mansion, Apartment, Shack, House (MASH). Created with 93% accuracy, it was supposed to just be a fun senior project, until Ro's influencer cousin posts about it on social media and all of the sudden Ro's dream of being a programmer in Silicon Valley does not seem to far out of sight. As developer companies clamor for the rights to Ro's product, the main selling point is if it is a successful product for Ro herself. The only problem is that the app has matched her up with her former best friend. Can they bury the hatchet long enough to see both of their dreams come true? I really enjoyed this book. It is the perfect example of technology and social media taking on a life of it's own and the lengths some will go to make their dreams a reality. While there is nothing that is off putting in the book for younger grades, this will appeal more to 8th –10th graders because the main character is a senior in high school. Recommended.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

O'Donoghue, Caroline 9781536228403 \$19.99 412 p.
Every Gift A Curse, All Our Hidden Gifts #3 Walker Books, 2023

The final book in the Gifts Trilogy, *Every Gift a Curse* brings the magical struggles of Kilbeg to a close. The previous book, *The Gifts that Bind Us*, closed with St. Bernadette's school burning as Maeve and her friends sealed the well of magic underneath to protect it from being drained by the Children of Brigid cult. In the struggle, two people died: Sister Assumpta, the headmistress who leaves the school to Maeve in her will, and Heather, a member of the Children of Brigid. Does this last death mean cult leader Dorey gets to call on the revenge spirit the Housekeeper as she claims? Though Maeve and her friends dread it, the Housekeeper is slow to materialize. The disappearance of local youth and the vivid dreams Maeve begins to have signal that Dorey has a backup plan – and the Housekeeper may not be what they assumed. This series excels in exploring the complexities of friendship and never forgets the centrality of the relationships even among all the magic and plotting. While Maeve is the central character and the book is in her first-person perspective, the reader feels she also knows her friends Fiona and Lily and her boyfriend, gender-queer Roe.

Recommended Age: High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Becky Standal, Longview Public Library

Reintgen, Scott 978-1-665918688 \$19.99 358 p.
A Door in the Dark, Waxways #1 McElderry, 2023

Scholarship student Ren Monroe is at the top of her class at the Balmerick University, a school in which students study various aspects of wizardry. As she approaches graduation, Ren is struggling to understand why none of the five major houses are actively recruiting her. Or even showing up for interviews. Frustrated but not willing to compromise, Ren is determined to find a way into the life of the elites so she can carry out a plan of revenge for her father's death. This is all on her mind as she and the other three scholarship students in her class prepare to take public transportation home for the school holidays. In the portal, the four students discover they have company: one of the most elite and arrogant of Balmerick's students, Theo Brood, being forced by his parents to travel home using public transportation following a prank gone horribly--and dangerously wrong. Theo's equally arrogant sidekick is along for the ride as well. A fight breaks out just as the portal's magic engages and they all find themselves transported far from home and in dangerous territory. The whole group must use all the magic they can summon, plus all of Ren's knowledge of magic to survive. Not necessarily uncharted territory in this fantasy, but Reintgen is a compelling storyteller. The ending of the book sets up a sequel. Recommended for grades 7 and up.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Amber Peterson, International Community School

Rubin, Adam 9780593462393 \$19.99 389 p.
The Human Kaboom Penguin Random House, 2023

Grades 6 and up – Adam Rubin has created another inspiring set of short stories! Taking the concept of “The Human Kaboom” he has created 6 very different stories that all have a human kaboom! From a hotel room where a human has spontaneously combusted, to Outerspace where two kids are going to play the most epic prank ever, and many others. The diversity of settings and characters will engage a wide variety of readers. Some of the descriptions were a little gruesome in some of the stories, so it may not be the best for all readers. However, just like his first set of short stories in *The Ice Cream Machine* this is a great variety of short stories and a fun book to use in a creative writing class as inspiration for taking the same concept and using it in a number of different ways.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Shahnaz, Zeba	9780593567555	\$19.99	435 p.
<i>Midnight Strikes</i>	Delacorte Press, 2023		

Anaïs is preparing to go to a ball at the castle to find a husband who can increase her families’ status (at least that’s what her mother wants). Anaïs and her family are lower class because of their heritage (they are descended from the original inhabitants that believed in fairies and blood magic), whereas the royal family is descended from the conquerors, who had great magical powers (their descendents’ power has weakened over the generations). When Anaïs gains and loses the interest of the youngest prince, she believes that her life is over...which is when bombs explode in the castle. However, Anaïs wakes up the afternoon of the ball. She realizes that she is reliving the afternoon and evening of the ball and has to figure out who is bombing the castle or why (to hopefully stop reliving the event). The book is setup where “Chapter One” shows the beginning of the afternoon, and the numerals show the progress of the book. Anaïs changes throughout, learning a lot about her friends and what she is capable of (finding out that killing a soldier involved in the bomb plot does nothing, but she had to kill him several times to learn that). There is an interesting twist and while there is a love story, it doesn’t end how you expect.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Shanker, Samara	9781665905022	\$19.99	305 p.
<i>Naomi Teitelbaum Ends the World</i>	Atheneum, 2022		

Naomi is totally (almost) ready for her bat mitzvah, but when a mysterious gift arrives, the little clay golem will lead her around Los Angeles...and into corners of Jewish lore and tradition she didn’t know existed. Fun story for young teens, suspense without bloodshed, no sex, no violence.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Aarene Storms, Everett Public Library

Torres, Vanessa L.	9780593426135	\$24.99	418 p.
<i>The Turning Pointe</i>	Alfred A. Knopf, 2022		

1983 Minneapolis. Rosa is a dancer from a ballet family. Her mother was a principal dancer, and her perfect sister Gloria was on that path before a devastating accident left her paralyzed. An accident that Rosa feels responsible for. Though Rosa longs to dance for Prince, who practices in the studio above the Minneapolis Dance Company, her guilt keeps her on pointe downstairs under the watchful eye of Geno, her demanding alcoholic father and ballet master. When she meets beautiful, darling Nikki, a cross-dressing dancer who recently lost his father to AIDS, she's swept off her feet. Nikki challenges her to pursue her passion, but then her father announces an opportunity to audition for Prince – with caveats. She has to stick with ballet to get it. *The Turning Pointe* is a beautiful book. Rosa's Minneapolis neighborhood comes alive and the 1980s setting is vivid. Rosa's coming of age and the exploration of her relationships and identities is well done and the scenes and details of dancing bring it to life even for readers without a background in dance.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Becky Standal, Longview Public Library

Winters, Julian <i>As You Walk On By</i>	9780593206508 Viking, 2023	\$18.99	328 p.
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High School. Theo has spent the better part of his high school career with his two best friends, Darren and Jay. The three have made themselves known, not only because they are stars on the track team, but because of their Friday lunch dares. However, things have been strained since Jay found out that Theo is gay. When Jay dares Theo to ask his crush to prom at the big Friday night party, it should be the perfect moment, however, all goes horribly wrong. Theo's crush already has a boyfriend and Theo finds himself hiding in a remote bedroom most of the night with others that are not ready to face the party for one reason or another. While this is a great book for exploring issues around sex/gender, relationships, and bullying, the majority of the book takes place at a Friday night party. There is a lot of drinking, drugs, language, and talk of sex, so I would say that this is best at the high school.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award?

Bethany Steirer, Pacific Cascade Middle School

Woolf, Freja Nicole <i>Never Trust a Gemini</i>	978-1-5362-3054-3 Walker Books, 2023	\$19.99	305 p.
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It's never fun being in love with a straight friend. Especially when you're not out! Woolf wrote this book to be fun and romantic, as an alternative to heavier, issue-led books about queer life that have dominated in the past. The main character, Cat is fixated on the zodiac – she's the one all her friends turn to when they want a horoscope. She's stuck in a secret crush on a friend when she meets someone new and sparks fly. Sweet and fluffy, reading this book feels like watching the Heartstopper TV series. Excerpts from chat threads and other ephemera are included at the beginning of each chapter. Recommended for middle and high schools, and public libraries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey Timberland Library

Zappia, Francesca 978-0063161696 \$19.99 336 p.
Greymist Fair Greenwillow Books, 2023

Heike lives in Greymist Fair, a hidden village in the middle of a forest, with her mother who is part time tailor, part time witch whisperer. She's been cautioned her entire life to not go into the woods because they are magical and dangerous and filled with evil creatures that will eat you up. But when Heike's mother disappears and villagers start to find the clothes of victims eaten by wargs (witches' evil creatures), she volunteers to go into the forest to find out exactly what is hidden there. This is a complex book that is structured around 9 stories that interweave to tell a very dark tale of a small town that you will not easily forget. Who is Heike's father? Why is there a magical fish in the lake that grants wishes? What are the children doing in the cellar that call out to Heike, "Have you come to let us out?" Creepy and rollicking fun. Loved this book! *some swear words 'Thanks for stabbing me in the cheek, you bastard' but lots of life lessons and deep thinking around family and belonging.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

FICTION – SHRUG

Acevedo, Kristy 9781728268392 \$11.99 295 p.
The Warning, The Warning #1 Sourcebooks Fire, 2023

Alexandra is a high school senior living with anxiety at the end of the world. On the train home from a concert with her boyfriend, Alex is nearby one of the doorways that open up around the world with a warning for humanity: a comet is coming in sixth month's time that will destroy the Earth; step through the doorway to an alternate dimension and survive, or stay and die. As the clock ticks, Alex, her family, her community, and the world, run through the gamut of responses. First skepticism, then religiosity, attempts to break up or re-route the comet, despair; people leave through the doorway or they hoard supplies for survival, or they riot out of hopelessness and fear. What will Alex and her family choose to do? This high-concept novel is well-paced and interesting. Though it was originally published as "Consider" in 2016, today's reader can't help but compare it to the worldwide response of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, it's dystopian ending belies its mid-2010s origins. The world doesn't end. It was a trick, and Alex dives into the doorway at the last minute to figure it out.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Becky Standal, Longview Public Library

Dean, Becky 0593569911 \$12.99 384 p.
Picture Perfect Boyfriend Delacorte Press, 2023

Picture Perfect Boyfriend is recommended with a shrug for middle and high school. The main character, Kenzie, invents an imaginary boyfriend to please her success-oriented, career-focused family. Kenzie is also suppressing parts of herself that she perceives her family doesn't support, such as her love of photography. Her plan is working until she lands at the airport in Maui for a family vacation and her imaginary boyfriend miraculously

shows up too! Kenzie decides not to tell her family because she wants to maintain her front and spends the vacation hanging out with Jacob. Throughout their tropical adventures, Kenzie re-remembers some of what she used to love, and starts to enjoy Jacob's company as well. While I found the initial plot line of the book unsettling, in the end, the explanation of who Jacob is and how he ended up there was less terrifying than one might guess, and there are positive messages about being yourself. Middle and high school readers who crave a new romance book will enjoy this one.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools

Dean, Becky 9780593569917 \$12.99 357 p.
Picture Perfect Boyfriend Delacorte Press, 2023

Kenzie longs to be a nature photographer, but her parents would rather her follow in their footsteps to a career in optometry, like her older sister has. Tired of being the black sheep of the family, Kenzie hangs up her camera and starts pretending: new school clubs, coursework, and even a boring fake boyfriend with the same aspirations. Her parents are thrilled. They even invite him on a rare family vacation to Hawaii. Imagine Kenzie's surprise when he shows up at the airport to join them! *Picture Perfect Boyfriend* doesn't drag out the mystery of where fake boyfriend Jacob Miller came from – her brother Tyler happened to have an internet friend with the same common name who needed to get to Hawaii and was willing to play along – instead choosing to focus the story on Kenzie's drawn out will-they won't-they with photography. When Jacob turns out to be sweet and supportive, Kenzie starts to consider telling her family the whole truth. The book is probably about 100 pages too long as it details every tourist attraction and repeated scenes of Kenzie enjoying taking pictures and then beating herself up about it.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Becky Standal, Longview Public Library

Engle, Margarita 9781665926362 \$18.99 224 p.
Wings in the Wild Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2023

Wings in the Wild by Margarita Engle is a young adult novel in verse told in alternating voices. Soleida, 16-year-old daughter of Cuban artists and Dariel, 16-year-old son of Cuban American telenovela stars. When a hurricane hits Soleida's home, her parents' protest art, illegal in Cuba, is exposed and they must flee. Soleida is separated from her family and ends up in Costa Rica with other refugees. When Dariel visits Costa Rica on a pilgrimage with his Abuelo, the two meet. Dariel is from a wealthy family, but his life has also been drastically impacted by climate change after losing his home in wildfires. The two bond over art, music, climate activism and loss. Engle's language is simple and beautiful. It's a love story and cry for climate action now. Although the topic and backstory of the characters is compelling, it felt somewhat repetitive and I found myself just wanting to be finished. Sophisticated readers who love the arts and are passionate about climate change, may feel more connection. I would give this one a shrug. Nothing that would prevent it from being in middle school, but probably of more interest to niche high school readers.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Hartman, Rachel 9781101931325 \$18.99 501 p.

In the Serpent's Wake, Tess of the Road #2 Random House, 2022

“At the bottom of the world lies a serpent, the last of its kind.” Tess of the Road is still traveling, only now she is on the sea. She is traveling to the end of the world in an attempt to find the last serpent and cure her friend Pathka from his mental anguish. Others on her voyage include a professor-dragon who wants to prove themselves, a priest “searching for his soul”, and the captain, a woman in a man’s world. Much of the book centers around colonialism and critiques white saviorism. The team is traveling through islands that have been claimed by a nation that has established political control over the indigenous people. Within the communities some traditions are permitted but there is always an undercurrent of tension and a possibility of violence. One of the more interesting subplots exposes the unrecognized privilege of the dominant race, even among the less-privileged women. I agree with other reviewers that the character of Tess doesn’t change much and I felt much less attached to the rest of them. It’s a bit heavy handed on the issue of colonialism, but since it’s for teens, it probably needs to be. It’s a fine book but not a necessary purchase unless you have fans of the rest of the series (which is old enough that it has probably been forgotten...).

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Kemp, Laekan Zea 9780316460279 \$17.99 337 p.

Somewhere Between Bitter and Sweet Little, Brown, 2021

Pen loves her family’s restaurant. She loves the food, the cooking, the people, and the community. Her heart is there, not in college classes for nursing, where her parents want her to be. When she confesses to lying about attending school, her parents are livid. Dad fires her from the restaurant and mom tells her she can no longer live at home. Xander is an undocumented immigrant living with his grandfather but obsessed with finding his father. He starts working at the restaurant and is soon pulled into the dysfunctional worker “family”. He also falls for Pen and they begin a mutually supportive relationship that thrives in spite of her devastating exclusion from her family. While I couldn’t put the book down, there was too much going on that confused me. I don’t understand how her parents could overreact so completely over her lying about going to school. Why no one talks about her mental breakdown and the medication she is on. Why did she take a job at another food restaurant? Surely there are other legit restaurants. Or why Xander is obsessed with finding his absent father. And doesn’t talk to his grandfather about it. What about his mom? Spoiler alert: And why did dad all of a sudden show up? Didn’t he care enough to find him in the ensuing 15 years?

Recommended Age: Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Tirado, Vincent 9781728280103 \$11.99 297 p.

Nayra is Muslim American and gets bullied in school constantly (one bully calls her “Baba Ganoush”). She has one friend, Rami, who is also Muslim American and gets bullied too. Nayra is constantly told by her mother to keep her grades up and to ignore the bullying (she’s basically told “your siblings were able to get over it and have good grades, so you should too”). Nayra is so overwhelmed, when she stumbles upon a Djinn who is asking for help on an internet forum, Nayra volunteers to help. The Djinn, Marjan, at first doesn’t tell Nayra what she needs help with, so Marjan ends up following Nayra around and sees what Nayra experiences at school and at home. Eventually an issue arises between Rami and Nayra, and Rami ends up making a pact with another Djinn, who is hunting Marjan. The art in this graphic novel is beautiful, and you really get to see what Nayra is going through. The story really focuses on friendship, making new ones and how to keep old ones. It also is set during Ramadan and ends on Eid.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Bagley, Jessixa, illustrated by Aaron Bagley 9781534496545 \$14.99 320 p.
Duel (ARC) Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2023

Lucy is starting middle school and tries to avoid her biggest bully: her older sister Gigi. One day during lunch, Gigi trips Lucy and in turn Lucy challenges Gigi to a duel. Both Lucy and Gigi were taught fencing by their father, who had recently passed. Soon the news of the duel spreads throughout their school. Everyone makes guesses on who will win: Gigi, who is trying out to be the captain of the fencing team, or Lucy, who hasn't been fencing long but shows the skills of a good fencer. This graphic novel really tackled the sibling rivalry with fencing as a backdrop. There are the usual middle school issues (navigating a new school and friendship ups and downs) and family issues (Lucy and Gigi experience what it's like to have a single parent).

Recommended Age: Middle School, Grades 3-7

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Furedi, Chelsey 0358381681 \$23.99 336 p.
Project Nought Clarion Books, 2023

Project Nought is highly recommended for middle and high school. It’s a graphic novel about time travel, complete with a conspiracy theory twist and queer characters. The main character, Ren, starts out living in 1996 when he hits his head and wakes up 126 years in the future, in 2122. Ren discovers he’s part of a time travel experiment where he has five months to live in 2122, and then his memory will be wiped and he will be sent back to 1996. This is not what Ren wants to hear when he starts to become close with the boy helping him through the experiment, Mars. Ren and Mars get pulled into something bigger than them when they are warned that the company running the experiment, Chronotech, might be coving up a dark secret. This vibrant graphic novel is full of unexpected twists and unique characters. There is something for everyone to enjoy in this book

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Micaela Gunderson, Rose Hill & Stella Schola Middle Schools

Glasheen, Kate 9780823450718 \$22.99 224 p.
Constellations (ARC) Holiday House, 2023

Claire knows they're not a girl, but they don't feel like a boy either. They get picked on by classmates and random strangers on the streets because of their appearance. When it gets too much, they start drinking. After a bad bike accident, Claire is sent to rehab and meets Erica, Pete, and Tonya, teens who are trying to deal with their issues and stay sober. This graphic novel deals with the harsh truth about addiction, recovery, and relapse. There is drug use and hints of child abuse.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Lozano, Camilo Moncada, color by Michi Desantiago 9781684059591 \$16.99 312 p.
Codex Black: A Fire Among Clouds (ARC) IDW Publishing, 2023

Set during the 15th Century in Mesoamerica, Donaji has left her village to search for her missing father, who had gone to the city 11 years ago. She is accompanied by a god who possesses her poncho. Itzcacalotl is accompanying a Mexica caravan when he goes exploring on his own and gets trapped in a hole. Days pass and Itzcacalotl mysteriously gains wings after almost dying of starvation. While he comes out of the hole, he bumps into Donaji, who has gotten lost. Itzcacalotl agrees to join Donaji in finding her father. They encounter a variety of monsters and gods along the way, and they each discover more things about each other. This is an interesting fantasy that is reminiscent of manga. The characters are silly and serious, and the story has funny and sad parts to it. There's no graphic novel that I've read that has this setting.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Ogle, Rex and Dave Valeza (Illustrator) 9781338574975 \$24.99 224 p.
Four Eyes: A Graphic Novel (ARC), Four Eyes #1 Graphix, 2023

Four Eyes, a graphic memoir by Rex Ogle, author of *Free Lunch & Abuela*, *Don't Forget Me* & illustrated by Dave Valeza, is a sweet coming of age story focusing on the plight of any kid who faces getting the dreaded glasses! Rex is like any other middle school kid who wants to fit in. He and his best bud, Drew, enter 6th grade with their high hopes, secret handshake & friendship intact. Soon, though, Drew chooses the popular bullies over Rex. Unfortunately, relationships are not the only thing fuzzy in middle school. Now, the board is, too, and Rex, whose mom doesn't have extra money to spend on nicer specs, is forced to wear what must be the nerdiest, most coke-bottle glasses of all time. Ogle captures the tiny giant problems of growing up, fitting in, finding your voice, standing up to the bullies, finding true friends, and accepting and appreciating a family who loves and supports you. I enjoyed this sweet story and illustrations, and I think elementary and younger middle school students will, too. A great introduction to Rex Ogle for those who might not be ready for his other memoirs.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, Too young for YA

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes
Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

GRAPHIC NOVELS – SHRUG

Brallier, Max and Joshua Pruett, illustrated by Jay Cooper and Douglas Holgate, color by Joe Eichelberger 9780593526774 \$14.99 220 p.
The Last Comics on Earth Viking, 2023

The Last Kids on Earth continue the comic that they've been reading. The comic is about a zombie hero and the final comic has the hero hanging off a cliff. So the Kids continue it by introducing their own heroes: Doc Baker, Moonstar the Quasar Warrior, The Savage Aloner, and Boy Lightning. It's a silly graphic novel which encourages kids to work together to beat bad guys (and have kids start writing their own silly stories).

Recommended Age: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

Levithan, David, illustrated by Dion MBD 9780593428979 \$17.99 208 p.
Every Day the Graphic Novel Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2023

I recommend this book with a shrug for high school. It could be okay for middle school content wise, but I am not sure if MS kids would like it. I was expecting more. The part that stood out to me the most was the illustrations of the character A is as a girl who is suffering from depression and is suicidal. The visuals that show her depression are very moving, like dark clouds clinging to her. But that was it. The rest of the visuals are not that compelling. The story is the same I guess (must admit it was so long ago I read the book I can't remember). I would imagine that it might be hard for anyone who didn't read the novel to make sense of the different characters, but I am not sure. This is okay to have in a collection but not a must have in my opinion and also not that compelling when compared to other graphic novels. To me what makes something a graphic novel is how the story is interpreted visually and that just did not wow me in this graphic novel.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Luna, Leigh 9781338356243 \$22.99 208 p.
Clementine Fox and the Great Island Adventure (ARC) Graphix, 2023

Clementine's grades are in trouble, and her mother wants her to see a tutor. However, Clementine wants to avoid meeting with the tutor, so she tries to convince her friends to go on an adventure. Her friend Nubbins discovers that Annabella the turtle has to see Aunt Marnie for a mysterious reason, so Clementine convinces her friends to sneak on board Annabella when she heads to the Giant Island. This is a funny graphic novel and really focuses on Clementine and her friends getting into silly situations along the way. It looks like it's for younger kids, but it could be for Middle School because it deals with anxiety, making new friends, and confronting issues.

Recommended Age: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

SLJ says Grades 2-5

GRAPHIC NOVELS – NOT RECOMMEND

Levithan, David, illustrated by Dion MBD 9780593428986 \$24.99 198 p.

Every Day: The Graphic Novel Alfred A. Knopf, 2023

The graphic novel adaptation of *Every Day*. A wakes up every day in a new body (kind of like Quantum Leap except they can't control which body they enter). One day, A wakes up as high schooler Rhiannon's boyfriend, Justin, and they both experience a romantic day together. When A wakes up in a new body, they go searching for Rhiannon. The story tackles what it's like trying to love someone who is physically different every day, and how that someone tries to make love work. I liked learning how A felt more gender fluid. There is hints of sex, but A explains about consent when they are in a new body.

Recommended Age: High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library

NON-FICTION - RECOMMEND

Allison, Amy 9781678203269 \$43.99 64 p.

Billie Eilish: Global Pop Sensation Reference Point, 2022

This title is a fairly comprehensive biography of the young singer-songwriter. It hits many of the highlights: where she was born, the story of her name, her relationship with her brother and parents, and her accomplishments. It goes into great detail about each song on her released albums which can be autobiographical. She has been an active supporter of many issues including poverty, hunger, the environment, and female empowerment. Sidebars highlight pertinent quotes and give background on some topics just touched on in the text. The photos are decent but it would have been nice to see images of some of the topics touched on: her fashion label, her car, her parents...

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Anat, Berna 9780063067370 \$19.99 258 p.

Money Out Loud: All the Financial Stuff No One Taught Us Quill Tree Books, 2023

Students looking to learn all about the world of money, including how racism impacts finances, will enjoy this entertaining and informative book. The author is the Financial Hype Woman, a first-generation Filipina American shares her knowledge of money in a fun way. Plus, she shares how race has impacted the BIPOC culture's attitude, knowledge, and behaviors around money. Each chapter ends with a "Wait, What?!" section that breaks down what they just read and includes next steps. Also, there are "Open Mic" sections which offer short, conversational info and "Textperts"--where the author's smart friends offer insights through text messages. This is an interactive book where young adults are encouraged to

reflect on their money story and past financial trauma. The connections between money, emotions and self-esteem are discussed. Questions to journal on are found throughout the book. The attractive layout of the book with its broken up text and graphics is appealing. Young adults looking to understand about credit, debit, and many other financial topics would be well served by reading this book.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Crossley-Holland, Kevin 9781536212655 \$29.99 237 p.
Arthur the Always King Candlewick Studio, 2023

A retelling that blends many versions and fragments into coherent episodes in the lives of Arthur, Merlin, Guinevere, Lancelot, Mordred and the rest. The language is complex, but the tales are engaging enough to draw in readers. Beautifully illustrated by Chris Riddell.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Aarene Storms, Everett Public Library

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

Written in free verse, *Harboring Hope* tells the story of how most of the Jewish population of Denmark was saved from the Nazis during World War II. The book focuses on 21-year-old Henny Sinding's work to help with the escape using her father's navy contacts, her later work with the resistance movement, and her eventual escape from Denmark once her activities were discovered. Throughout the text are quotes from Danish people from all walks of life, demonstrating the shock of the invasion and discontent and later the quotes demonstrate how widespread resistance movement was throughout the nation. Students who enjoyed *The Churchill Club* will find *Harboring Hope* a good next read. Recommended for grades 5-8.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Newall, George 9781368077743 \$17.99 99 p.
Schoolhouse Rock : the updated official guide Hyperion, 2023

This guide to the long-running series of TV shorts includes all the episodes from "Conjunction Junction" to "I'm Just a Bill." It spotlights the history and vision of the creators, shares trivia and bloopers, and is copiously illustrated with stills from the show. Is this interesting to teens, or just nostalgic adults?

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Aarene Storms, Everett Public Library

Comments: Limited teen appeal?

Nott, Dan 978-0-593125366 \$23.99 251 p.

Hidden Systems: Water, Electricity, the Internet, and the Secrets Behind the Systems We Use Every Day Random House, 2023

A science book, a political book, a history book and more, *Hidden Systems* is an entertaining and informative book. Using cartoon panels, author Dan Nott helps readers to look at some of the most essential man-made systems, ones so ubiquitous we take them for granted as part of daily life: the internet, the power grid, and water systems. Going beyond the mechanics of how these systems work, readers are literally given pictures of the history and development of these systems, the revolutionary improvements to daily life, and the environmental and social consequences of each system's development. At times, the book gets a bit over-detailed and as a result the points the author is making can get a bit murky as the cartoons delve into intricate detail. Fortunately, Nott has a several panel conclusion at the end of each section to sum up the myriad of ideas he wants to convey to readers. This adult reader found the book fascinating, and my eight-year-old nephew also loved this book, spending a great deal of time examining the pictures. David Macauley's architecture book fans and readers of the *What If?* by Randall Monroe will find this book right in their wheelhouse. Recommended 4th grade to adults.

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

Recommend for Evergreen Award? Yes

Amber Peterson, International Community School

O'Meara, Mallory and Jen Vaughn (Illustrator) 9780762478989 \$17.99 144 p.

Girls Make Movies: A Follow-Your-Own-Path Guide for Aspiring Young Filmmakers

Running Press Kids, 2023

Girls Make Movies: A Follow-Your-Own-Path for Aspiring Filmmakers by Mallory O'Meara and illustrated by Jen Vaughn is packed full of information she wished she could have given to her younger self. So, she wrote this book to empower girls with information to get into the movie business. The book is divided into four sections that mirror the four stages of movie-making: Development, Pre-production, Production & Post-production. Each chapter, using a horror movie theme for continuity (and because puns are fun, like Something Latex this Way Comes or Hocus Focus), showcases various steps in each stage, a general timeline, roles & jobs assigned to this work, examples from the real world and groovy illustrations in purple & orange. At the end of each chapter, the reader has a kind of choose-your-path in the book opportunity. Definitely does not have to be read in order. Movie jobs reflect the true nature of film production and illustrations showing these roles offer diverse representations in looks, race, gender, ability and body type. The center of the book includes an illustration of an on location movie set, noting where many of the production state jobs might be. A seven-page detailed glossary includes real jobs and movie jargon used in the business. Book creators offer a list of about 20 women-made movies with a place to rate them out of five stars and pages for additions from the reader. My husband is in the business and skimmed through the book—he gave his stamp of approval for authenticity. Middle school and up - would be a great resource for any video production curriculum or clubs.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

NONFICTION – SHRUG

Li, Jason, An Xiao Mina, and Jennifer 8. Lee 9781536219135 \$24.99 158 p.

The Hanmoji Handbook: Your Guide to the Chinese Language Through Emoji

MiTeen Press, 2022

Hanzi characters and emoji are both visual symbols that convey meaning in written communication. This book attempts to use their similarities to connect the two and diffuse the mystery of Chinese characters. Sometimes it makes sense and sometimes it seems to be quite a stretch. This book might be helpful to those interested in learning Chinese, but since we don't teach it at my school, it might not circulate often. Additional purchase/Shrug.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

McIntyre, Kellie (with contributors Delaney McIntyre and Riley McIntyre)

978-1-737743835 \$21.99 320 p.

The Passport Project: Two Sisters Ditch Middle School for a Life-changing Journey Around the World

Shamrock House, 2022

The Passport Project describes a family's journey around the world told in alternating accounts by the family daughters, Delaney, 8th grade and Riley, 6th grade. The account includes the daughter's worries about missing friends and school events during the trip and the amazing experiences, insecurities, joys, and adventures during the trip. At the conclusion the family reflects on how they changed and what they learned during the months spent abroad. Maps, fact charts, and pictures help tell the travel story and when leaving a region, the family lists lessons learned and their high/low report card. When encountering cultural differences, they describe their fears and strive for openness and sensitivity, with the sensibility of their middle school self—which will be relatable for middle school readers. One caveat with the book is that while told as if by the family daughters, their mother, Kellie is the actual author of the book. While not taking away from the family experience, the adult-writing-as-middle-schooler doesn't always read true. Recommended for grades 5-8.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Schwartz, Heather E. 9781728458366 \$29.32 24 p.

Olivia Rodrigo: Hit Singer-Songwriter Lerner, 2023

About as basic as one could go. Averaging 15 words per page, this would appeal to early readers of English. But do elementary students even know who Olivia Rodrigo is? Includes some suggested websites. Almost all of the images are credited to Getty; many are from the same concert wearing the same dress. Hard to believe anyone would pay almost \$30 for this tiny little book. Ridiculous price for a 25-page book. Shrug.

Recommended Age: Too young for YA

Recommend for Evergreen Award? No

Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

Schwartz, Heather E. 9781541596757 \$23.99 48 p.
Lupita Nyong'o: Actor, Filmmaker, Activist Lerner, 2022
 Up-to-date short biography of Lupita Nyong'o. According to Amazon, the reading level is 4-8 with a Lexile score of 1010. Includes a timeline, source notes, and further reading suggestions. No citations for the photographs.
Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School

SERIES NONFICTION – RECOMMEND

- Mythology Around the World Reference Point Press, 2023

Gods of Creation in World Mythology
 Nardo, Don 978-1-6782-0264-4 \$32.95 64 p.

Gods of Death in World Mythology
 Nardo, Don 978-1-6782-0266-8 \$32.95 64 p.

Gods of Love in World Mythology
 Nardo, Don 978-1-6782-0268-2 \$32.95 64 p.

Gods of War in World Mythology
 Nardo, Don 978-1-6782-0272-9 \$32.95 64 p.

On the plus side, each book included mythologies from non-Western civilizations. (Though the Greeks were in every volume.) Sidebars identified particular gods and went into more detail on side stories.

- God of War: Greek, Norse, Aztec, Hindu, and Polynesian.
- Gods of Creation: Greek, Babylonian, Aztec, Hindu, and Chinese.
- Gods of Death: Egyptian, Greek, Norse, and West African.
- Gods of Love: Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Indian, and Chinese.

On the downside, images were well captioned but credits went to Shutterstock with no notes of where the original painting or sculpture was located or who created it. Many source notes for non-Western cultures were from online resources (godchecker.com!) while several Chinese notes came from Shen Yun Performing Arts. I would have preferred sourcing from religious texts, authored books or databases as was done with the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman entries.

Recommended Age: Middle School, Junior High, High School
Recommend for Evergreen Award? No
 Teresa Jensen, North Creek High School