



WASHINGTON STATE YOUNG ADULT REVIEW GROUP

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE: September 13, 2024

Issue: 145
May 2024

WASHRAG

Titles Taken: 3-10

Fiction Reviews: 11-32

Graphic Novel Reviews: 33-39

Nonfiction Reviews: 39-42

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.

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

- *May 3*
- *September 13*
- *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.

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

- May 3
- September 13
- December 6

MEMBERSHIP FORM:



Name:

Title:

Email*:

Phone*:

Address*:

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

Titles Taken for Review – Since March 2024

All titles and reviews are now being submitted online at:
<https://evergreenbookaward.org/washyarg/>
 Please be as accurate as possible when entering your information.

Please remember ARCs may not be added to your collection.

◆Already reviewed

FICTION

<i>After You Vanished</i> (ARC) Neeves, E.A. Lindsay Ellsworth, KCLS	Disney Hyperion, 2023 1368092705	\$18.99	336 p.
<i>Borderless</i> De Leon, Jennifer Raina Sedore, Lacey & Hawks Prairie Timberland Libraries	Atheneum, 2023 978-1-6659-0416-2	\$19.99	328 p.
<i>The Borrow A Boyfriend Club</i> Powars, Page Claire Sandoval-Peck, Olympia Timberland Library	Delacorte Press, 2023 9780593568583	\$18.99	352 p.
<i>Bring Me Your Midnight</i> Griffin, Rachel Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	Sourcebooks Fire, 2023 9781728256153	\$18.99	401 p.
<i>Calling the Moon: 16 Period Stories from BIPOC Authors</i> Salazar, Aida and Yamile Saied Méndez (editors) Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	Candlewick Press, 2023 9781536216349	\$22.99	339 p.
<i>The Claiming</i> , Fractured Kingdoms J.A. Nielsen Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	The Wild Rose Press, 2023 9781509246229	\$18.99	315 p.
<i>The Colliding Worlds of Mina Lee</i> Oh, Ellen Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Crown Books, 2024 9780593125946	\$19.99	295 p.
<i>Cruzita and the Mariacheros</i> Granillo, Ashley Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Carolrhoda Books, 2024 97987656085000	\$19.99	233 p.
<i>The Curse of the Eelgrass Bog</i> Averling, Mary Amber Peterson, International Community School	Razorbill, 2024 978-0-593-62490-6	\$17.99	247 p.

<i>Dark Star Burning, Ash Falls White</i> , Song of the Last Kingdom #2 Zhao, Amélie Wen Aimee Miles, UPrep	Delacorte Press, 2024 978-0-593-48754-9	\$19.99	345 p.
<i>Dead Girls Don't Say Sorry</i> Ritany, Alex Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2024 9780593569269	\$19.99	389 p.
<i>Drawing Deena</i> (ARC) Khan, Hena Aimee Miles, UPrep Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	Salaam Reads, 2024 978-1-6659-4162-4	\$17.99	230 p.
<i>Escaping Mr. Rochester</i> McKinney, L.L. Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	HarperTeen, 2024 9780062986269	\$19.99	337 p.
<i>The Eternal Ones</i> , The Gilded Ones #3 Forna, Namina Michael Fleming, Juanita High School	Delacorte Press, 2024 978-1-9848-4875-8	\$19.99	460 p.
<i>Forsooth</i> Matejek-Morris, Jimmy Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Carolrhoda Books, 2023 9781728457598	\$19.99	345 p.
<i>The Girl Next Door</i> Vinesse, Cecilia Raina Sedore, Lacey & Hawks Prairie Timberland Libraries	Quill Tree Books, 2023 978-0-06-328587-3	\$19.99	358 p.
<i>Into the Sunken City</i> Thiru, Dinesh Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	HarperTeen, 2024 9780063310513	\$19.99	347 p.
<i>Joined at the Joints</i> (ARC) Eller, Marissa Aimee Miles, UPrep	Holiday House, 2024 978-0-8234-5921-5	\$19.99	328 p.
<i>Just Happy to Be Here</i> Kanakia, Naomi Lindsay Ellsworth, KCLS	HarperTeen, 2024 0063216574	\$15.99	320 p.
<i>Just Lizzie</i> Wilfrid, Karen Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	Clarion Books, 2023 9780063290297	\$19.99	304 p.

<i>Kindling</i> (ARC) Chee, Traci Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library, KCLS	HarperCollins, 2024 9780063269354	\$19.99	432 p.
◆ <i>Kween</i> Chum, Vichet Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	Quill Tree Books, 2023 9780063223356	\$19.99	344 p.
<i>Lady of Steel and Straw</i> (ARC) Rodgers, Erica Ivy Aimee Miles, UPrep	Peachtree Teen, 2024 978-1-68263-665-7	\$19.99	432 p.
<i>The Legend of Greyhallow</i> Short, Summer Rachel Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School	Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2023 9781665918879	\$17.99	245 p.
<i>The Liars Society</i> , The Liars Society #1 (ARC) Gerber, Alyson Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Junior Senior High School	Scholastic Press, 2024 978-1-338-85921-8	\$14.99	304 p.
<i>The Longest Night in Egypt</i> , The Shadow Prince #2 Durham, David Anthony Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Tu Books, 2023 9781643796093	\$21.95	378 p.
<i>Lucero</i> , Nocturna Trilogy #3 Maya Motayne Aimee Miles, UPrep	Balzer + Bray, 2023 978-0-06-284279-4	\$24.99	456 p.
<i>The Luis Ortega Survival Club</i> Reyes, Sonora Amber Peterson, International Community School	Balzer + Bray, 2023 978-0-06-306030-2	\$19.99	305 p.
<i>Mèo and Bé</i> Nguyen, Doan Phuong JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)	Tu Books, 2023 9781643796253	\$21.95	292 p.
<i>The Moonlit Vine</i> Santiago, Elizabeth Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School	Tu Books, 2023 9781643795805	\$24.95	360 p.
<i>Night of the Witch</i> , Witch and Hunter #1 Raasch, Sara and Beth Revis Tracy Anderson, Timberline Middle School	Sourcebooks, 2023 9781728272160	\$18.99	403 p.
<i>The Nighthouse Keeper</i> , Blight Harbor #2	Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2023		

Senf, Lora Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School	9781665934638	\$17.99	300 p.
<i>The Other Side of Perfect</i> Florence, Melanie and Richard Scrimger Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Junior Senior High School	Scholastic Press, 2024 978-1-339-00285-9	\$18.99	256 p.
<i>Out of Body</i> Davenport, Nia Michael Fleming, Juanita High School	Balzer + Bray, 2024 978-0-06-325571-5	\$19.99	265 p.
<i>Pangu's Shadow</i> Bao, Karen Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library, KCLS	Carolrhoda LAB, 2024 9781728477510	\$19.99	282 p.
<i>The Partition Project</i> Faruqi, Saadia Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	Quill Tree Books, 2024 9780063115811	\$19.99	401 p.
<i>A Place for Vanishing</i> Fraistat, Ann Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Delacorte Press, 2024 9780593382219	\$19.99	450 p.
<i>The Program</i> , The Program #1 Young, Suzanne Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School Comments: Reprint, same as original.	Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2013 9781665941914	\$21.99	405 p.
<i>Rain Remembers</i> , Rain #2 Comrie, Courtne Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School	HarperCollins Children's Books, 2023 9780063159775	\$19.99	252 p.
<i>Required Reading for the Disenfranchised Freshman</i> Lee, Kristin R. Claire Sandoval-Peck, Olympia Timberland Library	Crown Books, 2022 9780593309155	\$18.99	322 p.
<i>The Rosewood Hunt</i> Reed, Mackenzie Tracy Anderson, Timberline Middle School	HarperTeen, 2023 9780063287600	\$19.99	355 p.
<i>Running in Flip-Flops from the End of the World</i> , It's the End of the World and I'm in My Bathing Suit #2 (ARC) Reynolds, Justin A. Aimee Miles, UPrep	Scholastic, 2023 978-1-338-81516-0	\$18.99	292 p.
<i>Running Past Dark</i>	Margaret K. McElderry, 2023		

Nolan, Han Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	9781665931786	\$19.99	324 p.
<i>Seven Minutes in Candyland</i> Wasson, Brian Gianna Gargiulo, KCLS - AU/CO	Quill Tree Books, 2023 9780063264656	\$19.99	326 p.
<i>Shark Teeth</i> (ARC) Winston, Sherri JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)	Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024 9781547608508	\$17.99	320 p.
<i>Shut Up, This Is Serious</i> Ixta, Carolina Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	Quill Tree Books, 2024 9780063287860	\$19.99	2025 BFYA NOM 349 p.
<i>Snowglobe</i> Park, Soyung, Joungmin Lee Comfort (translator) Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library, KCLS	Delacorte Press, 2024 978-0-593-48497-5	\$20.99	375 p.
<i>Sona and the Golden Beasts</i> LaRocca, Rajani Aimee Miles, UPrep	Quill Tree Books, 2024 978-0-06-329540-7	\$19.99	380 p.
<i>Speculation</i> Shawl, Nisi Gianna Gargiulo, KCLS - AU/CO Aimee Miles, UPrep Comments: Middle grade	Tu Books, 2023 9781620149591	\$19.95	233 p.
<i>Ultraviolet</i> (ARC) Salazar, Aida JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)	Scholastic Press, 2024 9781338775655	\$18.99	304 p.
<i>Uprising</i> (ARC) Nielsen, Jennifer A. Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Junior Senior High School	Scholastic Press, 2024 978-1-338-79508-0	\$18.99	384 p.
<i>The Way I Am Now</i> , The Way I Used to Be #2 Smith, Amber Lindsay Ellsworth, KCLS	Margaret K. McElderry, 2023 1665947101	\$21.99	432 p.
<i>Where There's Smoke</i> Vickers, E. B. Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School	Alfred A. Knopf, 2023 9780593480694	\$18.99	322 p.
<i>The Worst Perfect Moment</i> (ARC)	Holiday House, 2024		

Plozza, Shivaun Gianna Gargiulo, KCLS - AU/CO	9780823456345	\$19.99	309 p.
--	---------------	---------	--------

<i>Your Blood, My Bones</i> (ARC) Andrew, Kelly Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School	Orion, 2024 9781473234901	\$17.99	386 p.
---	------------------------------	---------	--------

<i>Yours from the Tower</i> Nicholls, Sally Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	Walker Books, 2024 9781536223194	\$17.99	297 p.
---	-------------------------------------	---------	--------

GRAPHIC NOVELS

<i>Curveball</i> (ARC) Cartaya, Pablo, Miguel Díaz Rivas, illus. JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)	Disney, 2024 9781368089265	\$14.99	192 p.
--	-------------------------------	---------	--------

<i>Dark Matter, The Silent Invasion</i> Cherkas, Michael and Larry Hancock Sarah Hunt, KCLS - Kirkland	NBM Graphic Novels, 2021 978-1-68112-283-0	\$16.99	142 p.
---	---	---------	--------

<i>Dungeon Zenith Vol. 5 - Fog and Tears</i> Sfar, Joann Michael Fleming, Juanita High School	NBM Graphic Novels, 2023 978-1-68112-316-5	\$17.99	96 p.
--	---	---------	-------

<i>The Fox Maidens</i> Ha, Robin JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library (KCLS)	HarperAlley, 2024 9780062685124	2025 GGN NOM \$18.99	311 p.
--	------------------------------------	-------------------------	--------

<i>Ghost Roast</i> Gibbs, Shawnelle & Shawnee Lindsay Ellsworth, KCLS	HarperAlley, 2024 978035814808	2025 GGN NOM \$18.99	224 p.
--	-----------------------------------	-------------------------	--------

<i>Just Another Story</i> Saade, Ernesto Lindsay Ellsworth, KCLS	Graphic Universe, 2024 9781728474137	2025 GGN NOM \$21.49	216 p.
---	---	-------------------------	--------

<i>Nina Simone in Comics</i> Adriansen, Sophie Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School Comments: First published in French, 2023	NBM Graphic Novels, 2024 978-1681123264	\$27.99	160 p.
--	--	---------	--------

<i>The Worst Ronin</i> (ARC) Tokuda-Hall, Maggie Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School	HarperAlley, 2024 9780358464938	\$18.99	333 p.
--	------------------------------------	---------	--------

<i>Yummy: A History of Desserts</i>	RH Graphic, 2021		
Elliott, Victoria Grace	978-0-593-12437-6	\$19.99	218 p.
Sarah Hunt, KCLS - Kirkland			

NONFICTION

<i>Barracoon: Adapted for Young Readers</i>	Amistad, 2024		
Hurston, Zora Neale adapted by Ibram X. Kendi	9780063098336	\$18.99	196 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School			

<i>Esports Superstars</i>	Lerner, 2024		
Miller, Marie-Therese	978-1-7284-9089-2	\$30.65	32 p.
Aimee Miles, UPrep			

<i>Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School</i>	Versify, 2024		
Jewell, Tiffany	978-0-35-863831-5	\$11.99	228 p.
Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Junior Senior High School			

<i>Pigeons at War: How Avian Heroes Changed History</i>	Twenty-First Century Books, 2024		
Goldsmith, Connie	9781728487083	\$28.99	136 p.
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School			

<i>Poemhood: Our Black Revival</i>	HarperTeen, 2024		
McBride, Amber	9780063225282	\$19.99	140 p.
Anne Dame, Einstein Middle School			

<i>Understanding Consent and Boundaries: Dating and Relationships in the #MeToo Era</i>	ReferencePoint Press, 2024		
Rockler, Naomi	978-1-6782-0596-6	\$32.95	63 p.
Aimee Miles, UPrep			

<i>Vision: My Story of Strength I, Witness (ARC)</i>	Norton Young Readers, 2023		
Perez, Precious	978-1-324-05229-6	\$16.95	112 p.
Aimee Miles, UPrep			

NONFICTION SERIES

• Focus on Endangered Species	BrightPoint Press, 2024		
<i>Endangered Mammals</i>	9781678206468	\$32.95	64 p.
Gagne, Tammy			
<i>Endangered Birds</i>	9781678206420	\$32.95	64 p.
Stickney, Laura			
<i>Endangered Whales</i>	9781678206505	\$32.95	64 p.
MacCarald, Clara			

<i>Endangered Sharks</i>	9781678206482	\$32.95	64 p.
Gagliardi, Sue			
<i>Endangered Insects</i>	9781678206444	\$32.95	64 p.
Kelly, Christa			
Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School			

FICTION - RECOMMENDED

Albertalli, Becky 9780063045873 \$19.99 432 p.
Imogen, Obviously Balzer + Bray, 2023

Imogen is a high school senior in a small town in upstate New York. She is the allyist ally to ever ally at her school's GSA, being the best supportive straight to her best friends and her little sister who are all part of the LGBTQIA+ community. The story starts with Imogen on her way to stay 30 minutes up the road at her future college, Blackwell. Imogen's best friend is already a freshman there and hosts Imogen in her dorm room. She introduces Imogen to her cute queer friend group, none of whom know Imogen is the straight friend. As Imogen's new friendships grow, she finds herself caught between who she thinks she might be and who other people expect her to be. This book went down so easy! I read it in two days only because I had to stop and sleep/go to work. I loved it. Imogen is a lovely person to spend time with, her friends are believably kind and crummy, and the college-experience depicted here feels more like reality than a lot of high-drama. And I learned about Penn Yan, NY which has the record for the largest pancake ever cooked. I wholeheartedly recommend this book! However, it is a book to consider carefully for libraries with banning-culture communities. Not because there is anything at all inappropriate with the content—Imogen and her friends are the sweetest, loveliest bunch of people small town Penn Yan, NY could hope to generate. However, a lot of buzzy banning words are here: f-bombs, innuendos, casual (if vague) discussion of LGBTQIA+ sex and kissing. There is nothing graphic, and the context of all of this is such that I would happily let my sweetest 6th Grader read it, pleased that they would be reading about such a healthy and respectful example of what relationships can look like. All the buzz words are just surface-level. This book is recommended for older middle school and high school, mainly because of the college transition though it is sweet enough to be appropriate for all middle school grades.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Aimee Miles, UPrep

Aldridge, Ethan M. 9780063283169 \$18.99 277 p.
Deephaven Quill Tree Books, 2023

This book follows Nev, a non-binary first year student at Deephaven Academy. Deephaven is a mysterious New England boarding school for students who display special (are they magical?) talents. Nev soon comes face to face with one of Deephaven's darkest secrets, a terrifying beast hidden in the off-limits East Wing. Most of the book follows Nev and their friend Danny as they try to solve the mystery of the beast, attend classes and seances, and begin to unravel the secrets of Deephaven. Despite the dark academia setting, more advanced readers may note the lack of plot and character development. The non-binary representation is a highlight, buy for collections that need more diverse horror and mystery books.

Recommended Audience: Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Tracy Anderson, Timberline Middle School

Baron, Chris 978-1250864710 \$19.99 304 p.
The Gray Feiwel & Friends, 2023

Sasha is looking forward to the summer before 8th grade - days filled with YouTube and games on his Nintendo Switch with his best friend, Daniel. He's a middle schooler who is bullied and riddled with growing anxiety, which he has dubbed 'the gray.' Sasha's dad's only advice is to get tough and grow up, which he tries, but ends up shoving another kid and breaking his nose. Sasha's parents, along with his therapist, decides the answer is sending him away to live with his aunt in the country with no video games and no wifi. His aunt's house does have memories, however, and Sasha can't help but think of his Uncle Lou who passed away two years ago. The country turns out to be more than he imagines. It is a place filled with complicated friends, Ivy and Eli, new bullies, Krav Maga classes, and where Sasha meets a horse named 'The Gray.' Eli is learning to deal with changes along with changing himself in this deeply moving and sensitive novel from Chris Baron. Readers will also find some coping techniques for anxiety in this book.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Barrow, Rebecca 978-1-6659-3227-1 \$19.99 329 p.
And Don't Look Back Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2023

Harlow Ford has lived her whole life on the run, but she's not sure from what. All she knows is that sometimes -- when a neighbor takes too much interest, when something weird happens in town, sometimes for seemingly no reason at all -- her mom, Cora, will wake her in the middle of the night, trash their SIM cards, and they'll move on to a new town, new identities, and a new life. Harlow is kept totally in the dark until the night Cora is killed in a car accident, leaving Harlow instructions to never stop running and the information for a safety deposit box. There, Harlow finds \$15k cash, the deed to a house in a rural Washington town, and some old photos of Cora with two girls that must be Harlow's aunts. Determined to find some answers and unsure whether she's ever been in real danger or just a victim of her mom's paranoia, Harlow makes a beeline for the town Cora left, and maybe into the belly of the beast.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Gianna Gargiulo, AU/CO KCLS

Blake, Kendare 9781368075077 \$18.99 352 p.
***One Girl in All the World*, In Every Generation #2** Disney Hyperion, 2023

Frankie Rosenberg is adjusting to being the newest Slayer and reeling from a deadly attack on the Slayer retreat. While the Scooby gang figures out if any slayers are still alive, including Buffy, they must battle an influx of monsters who have heard Sunnydale is unguarded. The hellmouth has reawakened, and there are rumors a new Evil called The Darkness was responsible for taking out the Slayers. I watched every episode of Buffy recorded on VHS tape, so this fan fiction is my jam. Kendare Blake captures the sardonic wit of the Buffyverse perfectly. Lots of easter eggs, spot on characterization of favorites, like Willow, Spike and Oz. New characters fit the vibe and help revitalize the Sunnydale saga.

The hellmouth calls up old demons as well as new, so fight scenes abound, giving Frankie a chance to hone her skills. With new characters, you've got some "who can we trust" situations and original characters allow for some exploration of unfinished business. Book 2 sets it up for the third installment with progress in slayer line story arc, romantic relationships (including LGBTQ+) and individual character development. Super fun fanfiction that could definitely garner a new generation of fans. Twilight is currently seeing a reboot in popularity at my middle school,, so point students to this series next.

Recommended middle school and up.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Comments: From the world of Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Bowles, David 978-0593462584 \$19.99 256 p.

***They Call Her Fregona*, A Border Kid's Poems #2 Kokila, 2023**

They Call Her Fregona is a companion novel to *They Call Me Guero* by David Bowles. *They Call Her Fregona* continues to follow the young love of Guero and Joanna (Fregona) at the end of 7th grade. Los Bobbys, Guero's friends, start a band. Joanna has her own friend group, Las Morras. As summer approaches, Narcisco "Snake" Barrera promises revenge for Guero's dad firing his dad- although everyone knows it is because Joanna defended Guero against Snake in front of other classmates. When 8th grade starts and Joanna's dad, Mr. Padilla, is taken by ICE, Snake claims he was the one who reported him. In addition, the Lee family store is vandalized over racist beliefs. Using money raised from a benefit concert where Los Bobbys played, they hire a defense lawyer to help Mr. Padilla. This novel in verse has a bittersweet ending to an all too familiar threat for many families living in America. Many students will relate to the young love and friendship struggles in middle school.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Cacao, Joanna 9780358629443 \$24.99 254 p.

***The Secret of the Ravens* Clarion Books, 2023**

Twins Elliot and Liza are trying to survive on their own by gathering metal and plastic items they can exchange for cash. Homeless and hungry, they are excited to learn about a new, easier way to earn money. It turns out that if you recite a specific magical spell near a raven, that raven will give you a quest that will earn a lot of coins when completed. The twins end up at the kingdom's capital as they continue to try to complete quests. Yet as the king vows to rid the capital of vagabonds like the twins and a raven's quest fails terribly, Liza and Elliot will need to use all their resources and new friends to survive. Students will love all the epic adventures, magic, and danger in this exciting story that hints at a sequel.

Recommended Audience: Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Cadow, Kenneth M. 9781536231113 \$17.99 p.

***Gather* Candlewick Press, 2023**

This book follows the story of Ian (really Dorian Gray) as a resourceful teenager in rural Vermont who struggles to hold on to the family home in extreme poverty while his mother recovers from addiction, the first chapter literally has needles and puke and neglect in a way that breaks your heart. But then it also has hope, and a loyal dog, and a first-person narration that brings you in because of the sheer determination of Ian and eventually the care of his community. Obstacles are constantly thrown in his way, whether it be nature and living in the backwoods of a small town in Vermont, or the very real adversity of taxes on a house and making enough money to eat and pay for gas. The author has either experienced poverty himself or did a TON of research. This book is written in a voice that we rarely hear from, a rural boy who likes to work with his hands and has a strong moral code but never veers toward preachy. There is an unforeseen tragedy, just when you think things are going well. A manhunt, teachers and adults showing up for a kid in the best ways possible, and ultimately the title (and the name of the dog) is a metaphor for the experience of living in this book. The best way to describe this book is that you have to slow down and read, the writing itself doesn't let you hurry. This book will stay with me forever. Five out of five stars, and six out of five stars if you have a community that hunts, and you are looking for a book that will resonate with your readers.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

TuesD Chambers, Ballard High School

Caletti, Deb <i>Plan A</i>	9780593485545 Labyrinth Road, 2023	\$18.99	404 p.
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------	--------

Ivy finds out she's pregnant after being the victim of (non-penetrative) sexual assault. This sets up a series of difficult conversations throughout the book, the first being telling her boyfriend that A) she was assaulted and B) she's pregnant. She also tells her mom, and they begin to plan how to get her to family in Oregon so that she can get an abortion. When the whole town learns she's pregnant, Ivy's friends abandon her but her boyfriend, Lorenzo, is unfailingly supportive. Together they plan a road trip to Oregon, and along the way they meet several people who share personal experiences with abortion (all pro-choice, but some make the choice to keep the baby). The book is very pro-choice, very sex positive, and feminist. While the descriptions of consensual sex aren't graphic, the sexual assault is described in detail. The abortion procedure is descriptive and informative. The writing is excellent and uses a frame story. The one problem I have with the book is that the characters feel more like archetypes than actual people: determined girl, supportive parent, unsupportive parent, religious right employer, supportive boyfriend, judgmental small town, etc. Still very much worth reading.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Amanda Karim, Eastlake High School

Craig, Erin A. <i>House of Roots and Ruin</i> , Sisters of the Salt #2	978-0-593-48254-4 Delacorte Press, 2023	\$19.99	534 p.
--	--	---------	--------

House of Roots and Ruin is a dark and twisty gothic fantasy with romance elements. Verity and her sisters are cursed, fraught by a series of untimely deaths in their family. Verity, however, still dreams of adventure and leaving her small island despite the fact that danger

seems to be at every turn for their family. After she accepts a job creating a portrait, she falls madly in love with the subject of her portrait, the very rich son of a very rich family. Is it too good to be true? Nothing is ever as it seems in this novel that keeps readers flipping pages until the bitter end. There are some sexual elements, mostly implied.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Currie, Lindsay 9781728259499 \$16.99 288 p.
It Found Us Sourcebooks Young Readers, 2023

With titles like *Scratch Scratch*, *The Girl in White*, *What Lives in the Woods* and now, *It Found Us*, Lindsay Currie is becoming the queen of middle grade horror. 12-year-old neighborhood sleuth & aspiring true crime podcaster, Hazel Woods, gets wrapped up in a mystery after sneaking out to follow her brother to the town's haunted cemetery. During a game of hide-and-seek, Den's best friend, Everett, goes missing. Den & Hazel join in the search, but when they see and hear strange things like ghostly counting, the scent of smoke when there isn't a fire, and feel a cold presence, their search turns paranormal and reveals the town's haunted history. Very creepy book! The ghost has hollow eyes & sewn-shut mouth. Hazel is a great detective protagonist, who keeps track of clues in a notebook. This helps the reader keep track of the investigation as the mystery unfolds. Relationships between Hazel, her older brother, best friend, Maggie, and the town's adults are positive and genuine. Currie weaves fascinating history into the supernatural plot. Overall, an excellent middle grade ghost story. Perfect for upper elementary and middle school kids who love Nancy Drew mysteries, Mary Downing Hahn or Katherine Arden.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Dassu, A. M. 978-1-64379-588-1 \$21.95 377 p.
Fight Back Tu Books, 2022

Aaliyah and her friends can't wait to see their favorite K-Pop band live in concert. Tragically, when the day finally comes, a terrorist attack targets the concert. Aaliyah and her close friends aren't physically harmed, but the bombing still has major effects. Aaliyah's family is Muslim, and White supremacy soon raises its ugly head. One of the major threats to Aaliyah's family comes in the form of her best friend's brother. In response to the increasing hostility towards Muslim folk, Aaliyah decides to start wearing a hijab, as way of increasing the visibility of positive representation of Muslims. Then, the school administrator bans students from wearing religious symbols. Dassu's story is a heartfelt demonstration of advocacy. Although this story is based in England, many of the principles of activism apply in the USA. The supporting cast is diverse and distinct, and backmatter addresses allyship and the author's lived experience that is relevant to the story.

Recommended for middle schools, high schools, and public libraries

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey & Hawks Prairie Timberland Libraries

Dawson, Delilah S. 9780593486795 \$18.99 357 p.
Midnight at the Houdini Delacorte Press, 2023

When Anna enters The Houdini, a run-down Las Vegas Hotel that her wealthy father just bought, she expects things to go a certain way. What she finds instead are white rabbits, velvet curtains, playing cards and a boy who tells her that if she doesn't leave by midnight, she will be doomed to stay there forever. The setting of this book is amazing. Who wouldn't love an enchanted, magic themed hotel complete with secret passages, hidden speakeasys and a built in love interest. It is almost enough to distract from the wandering plot and two-dimensional characters. Give to students who loved Caraval.

Recommended Audience: Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Tracy Anderson, Timberline Middle School

Day, Christine 978-0-06-306546-0 \$18.99 247 p.
We Still Belong Heart Drum, 1923

Wesley awakes on Indigenous People's Day excited to see her poem in the school newspaper and read in class. And she's planned a special way to invite Ryan to the Tolo. Things go wrong at school immediately. For one, nobody but her best friend acknowledges her poem. As things go worse for her, she notices that there are other students who surprisingly need support and she chooses to reach out. At a Pow Wow that evening, she reads her poem surrounded by family and friends, new and old. This is a sweet story about a family who pulls together in hard times, a special relationship between single-mom and daughter, friendship, a glimpse into the life of one Upper Skagit Valley Tribe descendent, and a little romance.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Junior/Senior High School

De León, Aya 978-1-5362-2375-0 \$18.99 326 p.
Untraceable Candlewick Press, 2023

Untraceable is a companion novel *Undercover Latina*. They do not need to be read in any particular order and work well as stand alones. *Untraceable* is a suspenseful high stakes read following Amani Kendall and her family after a mysterious man was snooping in her backyard and her house burns down. She must face the shifting identities of her friends and families as well as confront her own identity and blackness as she navigates a new neighborhood and new life. This book kept me on the edge of my seat trying to anticipate what the next big twist would be.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Ford, Michael Thomas 9780063253654 \$19.99 410 p.
Every Star That Falls Harper, 2023

Jeff left the hospital 45 days after being involuntarily committed for trying to kill himself. He learned things and made friends while he was there, and now he's ready—kind of—to go back out into the world. Fortunately for Jeff, he is emerging into the brighter world of

2022, a place and time where gender fluid expression is much easier to live with. But still, he's not quite sure what to do with his new (gay) identity back in his old neighborhood. This modern (2022) sequel to *Suicide Notes* (first published in 2008) is graceful, loving, and affirming. Jeff makes mistakes, but the responses he encounters in family and friends—in contrast to the experiences of some of those friends—is gentle. This book is a treat.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Aarene Storms, Everett Public

Fowler, Aisling 978-0-06-299674-9 \$19.99 436 p.

Fireborn: Phoenix and the Frost Palace, Fireborn #2 Harper, 2023

Phoenix and The Frost Palace is a solid second book in the Fireborn series. In this installment, Twelve is back with a new name that reflects her new elemental powers, Phoenix. Her duty now is to protect Ember as a hunter. When witches reemerge from Icegaard asking for help, Phoenix, along with her friends, go on an adventure to save the witches' magic and Ember itself. If you enjoyed the first book, this is a must read.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Fussner, Kate 978-0063256941 \$19.99 368 p.

The Song of Us Katherine Tegen Books, 2023

Olivia and Eden have just started 7th grade and are in love. Both have never even had a first kiss when their eyes meet in Poetry Club. With first love comes first heartbreak, however, when Olivia discovers Eden has traded her in for the popular girl group and went to THE party that Olivia warns her about. Harsh words are said, and now Olivia must make it right through a spoken word poetry night that requires courage and a \$400 rental fee. The poetry club gets to work, writing love poems for middle grade boys that have no game and no date to the annual school dance. A refreshing debut novel about love, family, and staying true to yourself. This novel in verse is told from dual perspectives: Olivia and Eden, with sprinkled in poems from their journals. Truly beautiful language and relatable topics - middle schoolers will fall in love with *The Song of Us*.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Gibney, Shannon and Nicole Chung editors 978-0063144408 \$19.99 352 p.

When We Become Ours: A YA Adoptee Anthology HarperTeen, 2023

When We Became Ours is a short story collection edited by Shannon Gibney and Nicole Chung. Each story focuses on an adoption experience - all with the theme of fitting in, finding out your true self, and of course, finding out more about your culture.

There are some authors you will recognize, like Mark Oshiro and Mariama J. Lockington, and many others that we all need to read more from. All stories are about transracial adoptees. The stories range in genres and format, with a further reading/resource list in the back and an afterword by Dr. JaeRan Kim (UW professor). Really extensive range of

experiences for young people to read and understand more about adoptees as well as for transracial adoptees to see themselves in a quality story.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Gino, Alex 1338776142 \$14.39 240 p.

Green Scholastic Press, 2023

Alex Gino has done it again with the third installment about Melissa and her friends from the Rainbow Spectrum Club who are now in Middle School! There was Rick; now meet Green. Green is a very fortunate non-binary kiddo! They have a supportive dad, friendly neighbors, and good friends. While fighting for gender-free casting in their school's production of THE WIZARD OF OZ, Green notices their stomach gets a bit wobbly when Ronnie is around. Dealing with the disappointment of not becoming the scarecrow in the play, Green joins the stage crew to work alongside Ronnie. But is this a good idea? Green is not ready to make big decisions about their body yet, even though they just got their first period and that is weird. Can self-ascribed "cis het guy" Ronnie like someone who isn't ready to deal with someone who has decided to see where the ride takes them? Crushes are confusing but this sweet story ends with a sweet kiss, once everyone figures out that they like who they like!

Recommended Audience: Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Lindsay Ellsworth, North Bend KCLS

Gonzalez Rose, Elle 978-0-593-64579-6 \$18.99 310 p.

Caught in a Bad Fauxmance Joy Revolution, 2023

I recommend this book for high school and up although there is nothing inappropriate for middle school. Devin and Julian's families have been vacation rivals for years, both having property on Andreas Lake in Florida. After the death of Devin's mother which happened during Christmas their tradition of going to the lake fell apart, and after a few years they decide to have one last vacation there before they sell the lake house. But this year Julian, instead of playing pranks on Devin, asks him to be his fake boyfriend in hopes of shaking off a clingy ex. Their fake dating turns into mutual connection which is bad timing for the upcoming Lake Andreas competition which has been fierce between the families for years. Even though this has all the makings of another gay Hallmark I couldn't help but get the feels when they are vulnerable with each other about losing a parent on Christmas Eve makes you want to punch Santa in the face, which rings true. There was nothing earth shattering about this story, but it is a nice addition to a teen YA collection and like Hallmark gives a hopeful ending.

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Graves, Byron 9780063160378 \$19.99 368 p.

Rez Ball Heart Drum, 2023

Sophomore Tre Brun loves basketball and hopes to play varsity for Red Lake Reservation High on the Ojibwe reservation. Their star player, his brother Jaxon, died about six months ago. Tre & his family are still grieving, but he still hopes to lead his Ojibwe team to their first state victory and someday play for the NBA. Tre must manage the pressure from his dad, a former reservation basketball star, school, friendships, crushes, and growing up on the rez. Graves draws from his own experience as a student athlete on the Ojibwe reservation: playing against mostly white teams and the racism he and his teammates encountered & the pressure he felt to become something great, not just for himself, but for his tribe. I am not a basketball fan at all, and there are A LOT of play-by-play descriptions. That being said, I remained engaged in the action on the court as well as off with team dynamics, town rivalries, and Tre's internal struggle. Great coming-of-age, underdog story about figuring out who you are, even when what you thought your life was going to be completely tips on its side. I think I will put this in my middle school, but there are several instances of teenage drinking, talking about smoking blunts and quite a few f-bombs. However, the substance use is addressed in a positive way, and the representation in this book is important enough to overlook the cursing. Highly recommended for upper middle school and up.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Hermon, Daka	9781339036557	\$7.99	320 p.
<i>Nightmare King</i> (ARC)	Scholastic, 2023		

This middle school horror/fantasy is the second in a series, but stands alone. The characters from the first book appear in this book, and though the two have similar characteristics, thi story unravels easily on its own. Shane has been through something horrible that left scars all over his body, but what, exactly, is revealed bit by bit as the story builds, creating tension and suspense from the beginning. Shane has recovered, but returning to basketball triggers his nightmares in which the Nightmare King claims him, saying "You were never supposed to wake up" (from a coma). Through nightmares, the King torments him and changes him, alienating him from family and friends and basketball, until he decides he must fight back. The story is well written and compelling if not super terrifying.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Junior/Senior High School

Lee, Lyla	9781665939171	\$17.99	162 p.
<i>Gigi Shin is Not a Nerd</i> (ARC) Gigi Shin #1	Aladdin, 2024		

7th grade Korean-American Gigi's parents want her to be enthusiastic about math and science! But she wants to go to art camp instead! So she starts a tutoring business to raise money! With her friends! Will her parents object? Who could possibly guess! This book is solidly middle-grade, and while other readers and reviewers greet it lovingly as Babysitters Club x Kelly Yang, the writing style made! me! crazy! Buy this, but don't read it. Diversity, friendship, parents, teachers.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Aarene Storms, Everett Public

Lee, Sher 978-0-593-56995-5 \$10.99 262 p.
Fake Dates and Mooncakes Random House, 2023

I recommend this book for high school and up, although probably okay for middle school if they are interested in gay Halmark. This story is pitched as Heartstopper meets Crazy Rich Asians and I would agree that is a fair assessment. Dylan and Theo are in different worlds, Dylan in a close knit family of 1st generation immigrants struggling to make ends meet in their Singaporean Chinese takeout place. Theo is the son of a media mogul and wants for nothing, except meaningful connections with his father. Both boys lost their moms and Dylan has an adorable Corgi named Clover. Winning the local Mooncake contest could save Wok Warriors, Dylan's family business, and turn their life around. But Theo proves to be a distraction first hiring Dylan as a fake date which gives them enough rent money to avoid eviction, but then they really fall for each other. There are two epic makeout scenes, one in the Met, so it checks all the rom com boxes. I detest Halmark but this gave me some warm fuzzies I will admit. No sex on the page or indulgent booze no vaping or cigarettes so it is borderline Amish, and very sweet (literally it will make you hungry with all the food descriptions so don't read on an empty stomach).

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Comments: There is a Corgi on the cover
Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Lim, Elizabeth 0593300998 \$19.99 425 p.
Her Radiant Curse Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2023

This is a fairy retelling set in the East Asian-inspired fantasy land seen in Lim's previous books. This book in particular is a prequel to the *Six Crimson Cranes* duology, and gives us the backstory of the stepmother witch. Channari is the older daughter of a poor villager on a small island. She is the cursed sister, her face that of a snake, while her sister Vanna glows with beauty and a golden light. Vanna's beauty sustains the family through gifts from suitors, until she is bid on by the wealthiest king. Things go awry during Vanna's selection, with Channari suddenly thrust into the limelight, the object of a capture. Allusions to a queer norm perspective, when Vanna says she'd marry a man or woman who offered her what she wanted. Nothing concrete is portrayed on the page. Vanna and Channari's father is shown as being quite awful, being both emotionally cruel and physically violent to Channari. All other violence is met by Channari with her own strength and fearlessness, so lands differently for a reader. The book is told in a first-person perspective which can be either a strength or weakness, depending on the reader. The storytelling is clever, with connections to European fairy tales and Chinese folktales mixed together, but the story never feels limited by those allusions. Elizabeth Lim is an Asian-American author, providing an own-voices perspective. Hand this to the kids looking for powerful, angry girls who use their anger to better the world and learn to accept their monstrous selves. And for kids who like fairy tales and folktales beyond the standard. Recommended for mature 6th graders-10th graders.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Aimee Miles, UPrep

McDonald, Briana 978-1-5344-9829-7 \$17.99 276 p.
Galaxy Jones and the Space Pirates Simon & Schuster, 2023

Galaxy Jones and her dad's own and run an inn on the edge of space tethered to Galaxy's best friend Ron and his family's astronaut ice cream factory. Galaxy Jones has long been obsessed with pirates, Astro Bonny in particular, and one day after the royal family makes a visit to their inn, she finds herself in the middle of a pirate adventure the likes of which she has only read about. A truly delightful space romp that focuses on adventure, friendship, and what it means to grow up. I am pleased to say that even though there are two male characters (a best friend and a Prince), there is no love triangle and Galaxy Jones is allowed a grand adventure without being caught in a romance plot.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Miller, Keith F. Jr. 978-0-06-326492-2 \$19.99 406 p.
Pritty Pritty #1 HarperTeen, 2023

I recommend this book even though it is not my jam. The author is an educator and advocate for BIPOC teens and an expert in trauma recovery, so this book is very important to have in a public-school teen library. There are some references to smoking and alcohol and some on page sex situations (but nothing with prolonged detail that I can tell but I also did not understand 95% of the slang) so I am not sure if it is okay for Middle School library. This story is told from two points of view; Jay and Leroy and the setting is Savannah, Georgia. The main characters are attracted to each other but not exactly out, and a drive by shooting interrupts what might have been their blossoming romance. As the story continues characters from rival gangs become aware that there is a new group in town that has no respect for their agreements or territories and that drives a lot of environmental action. There are moments that are gorgeously told. This author captures the teen angst and romance ambiguity in a way that is not unlike

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Montoya, Angela 9780593643334 \$18.99 370 p.
Sinner's Isle Joy Revolution, 2023

Rosalinda is a Majestic (essentially a witch) with the power to call upon phantoms to do her bidding. In this world, powerful men (church and state) have demonized Majestics and their goddess and figured out how to entrap Majestics and use their magic for personal gain. Rosalinda hopes to escape such a fate with her best friend by stowing away with pirates... Enter, Mariano, the pirate prince who holds a grudge against Majestics since one is responsible for his mother's death. But the attraction between Rosalinda and Mariano is instant (did I mention that there's a fated mate trope in this world?). Can they overcome their differences to work together, free the Majestics, and save the kingdom?

Basically, this is the YA version of a pirate fantasy "dirty" romance novel complete with fated mates, chosen one, and enemies-to-lovers tropes. That said, the author emphasizes

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Aimee Miles, UPrep

Nazemian, Abdi 978-0-06-303937-7 \$19.99 390 p.
Only This Beautiful Moment Balzer + Bray, 2023

I enthusiastically recommend this book for high school. Five out of Five stars. This gorgeous story is told from three points of view that spans three generations of a family in Iran. If you read *And the Mountains Echoed* it is like the YA version of that in Iran. The main character is Moud and the other points of view are different times in the lives of his grandfather and his father. Moud is out and gay, and although his Dad doesn't criticize his gayness and his boyfriend he doesn't show any approval or acceptance of it either, and as you read the chapter about his grandfather you understand more about why. The thing I love most about this story is how Moud's relationship with his boyfriend shows the intersectionality of cultures and LGBTQ issues. For example when Moud tells his boyfriend he is going to Iran to see his sick grandfather who is dying his boyfriend is like "don't you realize they murder gay people there" and this brings up the idea that every place has its problems with corruption and homophobia, islamaphobia, racism and although Moud is gay he is also Persian and he doesn't see why he has to choose between those two. The layers of complex conflict of interest are artistically placed and brilliantly told. I will be nominating this for the next EG cycle.

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Pacton, Jamie 978168263 \$18.99 282 p.
The Absinthe Underground (ARC) Peachtree Teen, 2024

The city of Severon is an escape for Sybil from her old high society life even if it means just barely scrapping by. At least she has Esme who took her in and offered her a home. Esme would much rather spend her time tinkering with project and snuggling cats, but Sybil craves adventure, making money by stealing rare posters that appear around town and selling them to collectors. But when Sybil gets caught, the two young women are drawn into a scheme that could either give them enough money not to worry or bring everything crashing down on them. This certainly fits into the trend of cozy fantasy that's been popular for adults. It's pretty light and makes for a quick read. Great for fantasy fans who like a little romance. Some drinking on the page, queer romance. 7th grade and up.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library KCLS

Painter, Lynn 9781665921237 \$20.00 421 p.
Betting on You Simon & Schuster, 2023

Lynn Painter's *Betting on You* takes readers on a heartwarming journey as Bailey and Charley navigate the waters of friendship and romance against the backdrop of a waterpark where they work, delivering a narrative reminiscent of classic romantic comedies. Bailey and Charley's initial animosity while meeting in line to board a plane (where Charley is

completely making out with another girl) turns into an unexpected friendship, eventually blossoming into a sweet and surprising romance that follows them both over the course of years. They are polar opposites, Charley is cynical and hilarious, and Bailey gives as good as she gets. It is fun to read them verbally sparring and I laughed aloud many times. But the strength of the story relies on their friendship, they are really good friends in the story, you truly believe they like each other, and you like how they show up for each other. Then you get to watch Bailey and Charley's relationship as they transition from being sworn enemies, best of friends, and then something more. The gradual development of their friendship adds depth and authenticity to the romantic storyline. The book draws inspiration from the classic romantic comedy "When Harry Met Sally," when Billy Crystal challenges the age-old notion of whether men and women can truly be friends. Literally, Charley quotes it in the book. This twist adds a layer of humor to the story. I LOVED IT! Five out of Five stars, and good for both middle and high school. Heavy make out scenes but no sex.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

TuesD Chambers, Ballard High School

Poranek, A.B. 9781665949316 \$19.99 350 p.

Where the Dark Stands Still (ARC) Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2024

Everyone in Liska's little village knows that magic is wicked. Most of them don't know that Liska has magical powers. When her secret is revealed, she runs into the forest and makes a deal with the Leszy, a demon warden of the wood. But then she learns that the Leszy has secrets too. Magic, mystery, suspense, found family, a strong female protagonist, and romance, set against a (Polish) folkloric background. Fans of Naomi Novik will love this.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Aarene Storms, Everett Public

Reynolds, Justin A. (editor) 978-0-593-48815-7 \$18.99 364 p.

House Party Joy Revolution, 2023

This compilation boasts a number of great YA authors writing first-person accounts of a cast of characters ranging from the Jock to the School Paper Editor to the Emo Band Kid all experiencing high school's Last Big Party. Some of the characters are trying to get famous, some just trying to get kissed, but everyone has big plans for the night that we get to watch unfold against a backdrop of multi-floored, bass-bumping, beer-soaked chaos and, of course, a couple of actual animals wandering around with the party animals.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Gianna Gargiulo, AU/CO KCLS

Rudd, Maggie C. 978-0374390334 \$19.99 240 p.

How to Stay Invisible Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2023

Raymond Hurley is only twelve when his parents abandon him after moving him to his third new school in 6th grade. The last thing he wants is for his teachers and classmates to find out he's living on his own in the woods of North Carolina with his dog Rosie and a friendly coyote named Hank. Raymond manages to make a true friend along with a few

The Space Between Here & Now starts with an imaginative concept of Sensory Time Warp Syndrome where some people are afflicted with this condition and go back in time to their memories and relive them. It can be triggered by color, music, a sense of smell (this is the case for our main character Aimee who keeps returning to memories that include her mother) and means that you disappear for any length of time. Usually you are only gone for a minute or two but after being gone for as long as 9 hours Aimee has decided she needs answers and goes to Korea (against her father's wishes) to stay with her aunt and try to understand more about her mother and why she disappeared. Being in Korea is culturally rich, affirming, and allows Aimee and you as a reader to explore the themes of memory, grief, and how self-discovery can be transformative. There is a small opportunity for romance, which is sweet and kind. But the real story, and what will keep you reading is what happened to Aimee's mom and the very real concern that some people with her condition get stuck in time loops, and how scary memories can be. I really enjoyed it, it is a quick read, and I would give it four out of five stars. I didn't love it but I will probably never forget it.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

TuesD Chambers, Ballard High School

Tang, Andrea	978-1-6659-0144-4	\$19.99	275 p.
<i>Kingdom of Without</i>	Simon & Schuster, 2023		

Kingdom of Without is a dystopian cyberpunk heist novel taking place in an alternate future Beijing that has been divided into rings based on class. There is also a drug called Complacency that has many citizens, most of them in the lower rings, caught in its thrall. Our main character, Zhong Ning'er isn't a 6th ring girl and amputee who takes on what she thinks is a simple smash and grab but she soon finds herself at the heart of a revolution fighting for a new future. This book shows hope across the revolutionaries, the citizens, and shows the impact on believing in a future on a community.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Valdes, David	9780063288881	\$19.99	246 p.
<i>Finding My Elf</i>	HarperTeen, 2023		

Cam's home for winter break after having things go awry his first term at NYU. He's flunking classes, about to lose his scholarship, and hasn't found his people at all. Plus, he has no clue how to admit any of that to his dad. Which is how he ends up taking the first acting job he can find which turns out to be as a mall elf. And there's a competition to go with it: the elf voted as the favorite will get five thousand dollars, enough to cover Cam's lost scholarship. Competition is fierce though, and as Cam starts to get to know fellow elf Marco, he begins to wonder what he really wants from his future. It's a quick read and the does enemies to lovers trope well. I appreciated the fact that Cam was allowed to both fail and change his mind about what he wants for his future, and his grabbling with the situation he's in is quite believable. Great for anyone who has romance fans using their library. Recommended for middle and high school.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library KCLS

Wallach, Diana Rodriguez 0593643410 \$18.99 336 p.
Hatchet Girls Delacorte Press, 2023

First, we have Tessa, or Theresa, Gomez who we find watching television when breaking news interrupts her breakfast. Her sweet and wonderful brother Vick has been arrested for the axe murders of his girlfriend's parents. Her sweet Latinx family, often using terms in Spanish, cry out in disbelief. Next, we meet Mariella Morris. Mariella is a descendent of Lizzie Borden and her best friend Phil lives and works at the Lizzie Borden House, one of the many properties held by Mariella's miserable and physically abusive father. Mariella tells Phil she wishes her father would just die and leave her and her mother in peace. Phil pulls out a thermos and says he found a recipe for a wish granting potion in a book written by her ancestors. All the tea will need is a bit of Mariella's blood to make it work. Thinking the worst that can happen is that she might throw up, Mariella drinks the tea. While Tessa tries to figure out what happened the night of her brother's arrest, Mariella begins to hear voices and has the constant taste of mud and gunk in her throat. The voice urges her to kill her father and when she says she can't do it, the voice tells her she can get her nice boyfriend to do it for her; all she must do is have Vick drink some of the tea. So, Mariella goes through with the crazy plan, but Vick kills her mother as well and now Mariella is in a mess. Who is responsible for these murders? A voice, a tea? This is a dark book told in two voices.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9)**Recommend for Evergreen? No**

Lindsay Ellsworth, North Bend KCLS

Weatherford, Carole Boston & Jeffery Boston Weatherford 9781665913621 \$19.00 199 p.
Kin: Rooted in Hope Simon & Schuster, 2023

Kin: Rooted in Hope by Carole Boston Weatherford and Jeffery Boston Weatherford is a book of poetry of a Black family tree shaped by enslavement and freedom. The authors' ancestors founded Maryland but their geneology search is rooted in slavery. They take on the voices of their ancestors and share their painful stories, including members who were listed as property in ledgers. The audiobook has different voices which represent the two authors, in the book they are black and white pages with illustrations. Throughout the book, many different perspectives and generations throughout history are explored. This can be confusing if you are trying to link the stories to actual people, many of those records have been lost to enslaved people. There are also sections pertaining to important historical figures and events like Harriet Tubman or Frederick Douglass. One Black reviewer stated, at some point everyone who is a decedent of slaves wants to know more about their ancestry and this book is a different format (poems) for people to do that. Good for middle and high school, four out of five stars, not sure it would appeal to most students but as an adult I liked it.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS**Recommend for Evergreen?**

TuesD Chambers, Ballard High School

Far Out!

Simon & Schuster, 2023

Magnolia Jean Crook, otherwise known as MJ, just wants to clear her grandmother’s name after she is accused of stealing the town’s meteorite from the public library in 1964. The whole town is gearing up for the first ever Come on Down Day - where they are inviting any aliens from outer space to visit them in Totter, Texas. MJ knows her grandmother’s memory isn’t what it used to be. But her grandmother, Mimi, is also the vice president of the Totter Unidentified Flying Object Organization. And to make matters more complicated, MJ’s father is the town’s sheriff who has to arrest his own mother. MJ is a determined and intelligent young detective who loves her grandmother enough to partner with Nick Lawless to solve the real mystery - who framed Mimi? A sweet read that upper elementary readers will enjoy.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Cole, Tillie 9781728297088 \$12.99 311 p.

A Thousand Boy Kisses, A Thousand Boy Kisses #1 Bloom Books, 2016, 2023

Poppy and Rune have been best friends since age 5. In high school they became lovers. Then Rune moved back to Norway, Poppy got cancer, and everything is super-sappy. There is sex, but it's very off-page. The angst is on-page, front and center. Meh. If you want sappy books, buy something newer, this was originally published in 2016.

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Aarene Storms, Everett Public

Mahurin, Shelby 9780063258754 \$22.00 627 p.

The Scarlet Veil, The Scarlet Veil #1 HarperTeen, 2023

The Scarlet Veil continues the gripping narrative of witches and witch hunters (but now add in some vampires.... exciting) in a world where alliances are tested, secrets are unveiled, and love conquers all. Readers will be immersed in the complex lives of the characters they grew to love in the previous installments of the universe with *Serpent & Dove*, experiencing a rollercoaster of emotions as to why Celie is such a wimp, why everyone seems so familiar, and how they navigate the delicate balance between light and dark. Fine for high school, I forgot it was in the *Serpent & Dove* universe, I kept questioning why they gave so much backstory, and then realized halfway through what I had already read. This is my least favorite heroine, she isn’t predictably kickass like the other women in the past series, which is the point, you can be strong but have no powers and be sweet. There are some twists, no sex on the page but they do go to a spicy brothel, I did like the vampires, and I wouldn’t rush out to buy but I did finish it. Three out of five stars, high school not middle school.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen?

TuesD Chambers, Ballard High School

Paolini, Christopher 978-0-593-65086-8 \$29.99 665 p.

Murtagh, The Inheritance Cycle #5 Alfred A. Knopf, 2023

This book steps readers back into the world of Eragon following his morally grey half brother Murtagh after the events of the final book in the Inheritance Cycle. True to a Paolini novel, this is a dense read, but I found this title to be even more dense and sometimes needlessly wordy than the rest of the Inheritance Cycle. There seem to be three different acts in this novel with the first showing Murtagh confronting his own involvement with Galbatrix, the second showing Murtagh searching for a purpose and both him and his dragon experiencing what seems to be PTSD, and the third and final act showing Murtagh fighting an absolutely insane cult. The most committed of Eragon readers will enjoy this title, but it is not really meant for the casual dragon reader.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Reid, Ava	9780063211506	\$19.99	376 p.
<i>A Study in Drowning</i>	HarperTeen, 2023		

Effy lives in a world where women aren't allowed to be students in the literature department of a university (and there's few women in the university as a whole). So she's a student at the architecture department, the only female in the department. After learning that she may be failing her first semester and a traumatizing experience with her advisor (which almost causes her to leave), Effy wins a chance to design a new house for Emrys Myrddin's family. Effy has read all of Myrddin's works and especially loves the novel about the Fairy King. When she gets to the small rural home where his family lives, Effy's world changes. There are a lot of components in this novel: Myrddin has passed and has become a Storyteller, who protect the land from a second Drowning; the country Effy lives in, called Llyr, is at war with Argant; and there's a fairy tale tied into it. There's sex on the page and hints of a sexual assault. I think this is a shrug for me, but it's a popular BookTok read right now.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library KCLS

Rose, Elle Gonzalez	9780593645796	\$18.99	310 p.
<i>Caught In a Bad Fauxmance</i>	Joy Revolution, 2023		

It's the first winter break back at Lake Andreas since Devin's mom died and he started college, and he's looking forward to relaxing at the family cabin. Then his obnoxious next door neighbors show up and an ill advised bet over the lake's annual Winter games put's the family cabin on the line, and Devin is willing to do what he has to in order for his family to win. So, when Julian Seo-Cooke needs a fake boyfriend, Devin steps in, figuring he can use the opportunity to gather intel behind enemy lines. But it doesn't take long before the fake relationship starts feeling more than a little real which is a problem since it can't go anywhere while their families are still at one another's throats. A well written combination of enemies to lovers and fake dating tropes, the book was a shrug for me; there wasn't anything about the characters or the story that really stood out for me. However, it probably will appeal if you have a high demand for romance. Both leads are BIPOC and queer. Some drinking on the page, though main characters are in college. High School.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Elizabeth Kalen, White Center Library KCLS

Springer, Lisa 9780593643174 \$18.99 304 p.
There's No Way I'd Die First Delacorte Press, 2023

There's No Way I'd Die First is a teen slasher novel by debut YA author, Lisa Springer. Noelle Layne hosts an online horror movie fan club. Noelle knows all things horror: every warning sign, trope, & survival tactic. She boasts being a Final Girl, one who survives until the end of the movie. Noelle invites the most popular seniors to her parents' mansion for a Halloween bash hoping to use the attention to launch a spin-off podcast. When the entertainment, an It-inspired clown, transforms a festive round of tag into something more murderous, her Final Girl claim is & life are on the line. I would barely recommend this for high school if you kids are craving a slasher-style thriller. Predictable storyline and flat characters. Characters are mostly stuck-up, rich kids who are mainly unlikable, even Noelle—she cares more about making sure no one thinks she was the mastermind of this than making sure everyone survives. A bit of romance with Noelle and one character. The entire story takes place in one house, which is possibly part of this genre, but makes for a plot that drags. The clown is scary but his motive is dumb and the plan was not fleshed out. Some diversity as Noelle is Black and one of the characters is nonbinary. Content warnings for gore, murder, defecation, torture, edibles, and clowns. Shrug for high school.

Recommended Audience: High School**Recommend for Evergreen? No**

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Wallach, Diana Rodriguez 9780593643419 \$18.99 p.
Hatchet Girls Delacorte Press, 2023

Even though Lizzie Borden was acquitted of those infamous axe murders in 1892 in Fall River, Massachusetts, there's still fascination about what happened—which brings us to this speculative horror novel. Puerto Rican Tessa, a high school junior, and her 18 year-old halfbrother Vik and her mom move to Fall River for a fresh start after her dad's death. But when Vik is found covered in blood at the place where the parents of his rich white girlfriend are found dead—everyone thinks he's a killer. Tessa, with the help of Vik's girlfriend Mariella, try to find out who really is the murderer and end up in the terrifying local woods where the two teen girls end up facing human and supernatural monsters. This gory tale often harkens back to Lizzie as Mariella is a direct descendant. Teens looking for a bloody good, scary, creepy mystery will likely enjoy this one though it was a bit much for me at times.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9)**Recommend for Evergreen? No**

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

FICTION – NOT RECOMMENDED

Brown, Erik J. 978-0-06-305502-5 \$19.99 359 p.
Lose You to Find Me Balzer + Bray, 2023

I don't recommend this book, but the age level is probably high school although nothing on page that is in appropriate for middle school. Tommy works as a server at a retirement community and baking is one way, he grieves the loss of his dad who was a chef. One of his childhood friends who he had a secret crush on, Gabe, ends up working at the same place. Tommy's childhood crush on Gabe gets rekindled and Gabe reciprocates but when Tommy finds out Gabe has a boyfriend there is a lot of unrequited drama. Although the author has a good grasp of tumultuous romance in early adulthood, the main characters don't really have any wow factor. The only characters that have a wow factor are a lesbian and gay man residents of the retirement community. Their banter is funny, but that is not enough reason to read this predictable underwhelming gay Hallmark. This is like a movie on a plane...if you don't have a book, it will occupy your time, but it is not a must read.

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Duplessie, Andrew	978-0063266483	\$19.99	224 p.
<i>Too Scared to Sleep</i>	Clarion Books, 2023		

Too Scared to Sleep by Andrew Duplessie is a collection of short stories with accompanying QR codes to short films. This book is filled with "horror stories" that range from a human-flesh eating garbage disposal to a stuffed rabbit that cooks up a kids parents. The stories are more strange than scary. The short videos that accompany some of the stories are also not terrifying. The publisher has labeled these for grades 10-12, but I don't think most elementary students would find these keeping them up at night.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Lacelle, Pascale	978-1-6659-3927-0	\$21.99	522 p.
<i>Curious Tides</i>, Drowned Gods #1	Simon & Schuster, 2023		

This is the first book in a series. It is story of Emory who attends Aldryn College for Lunar Magics. She comes to the only survivor of a group of classmates, including her best friend, whose corpses surround her and a strange mark on her wrist. At the start of the next schoolyear, Emory is back at school trying to recover from her grief and also finds that her magic no longer works like it used to. She turns to her best friend's brother, Baz, who is working through the loss of his sister, but he also has unpredictable eclipse magic. And the bodies of the dead start to wash up on shore, still alive months later. Oh, my dad this book is so boring. Big time fantasy readers might be able to push through. The world building has interesting foundations, with a magic based on phase of the moon on the day of a person's birth, and a boarding school with lunar-themed houses for students based on their type of magic, but in practice it was convoluted and basic. The writing was technically fine, but not exciting, and a little YA bland. The plot is never captivating and the characters remain flat. I am a YA fantasy reader and was bored out of my gourd. I dropped it after 50 pages.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Aimee Miles, UPrep

GRAPHIC NOVELS – RECOMMENDED

Anta, Julio 978-0063054943 \$15.00 240 p.
Frontera HarperAlley, 2023

Frontera is a full color graphic novel that tells the adventure of Mateo crossing over from Guadalajara, Mexico into Phoenix to live with his grandmother after his family has been deported. His parents have always wanted the best for Mateo, and when the chance comes to send him across the Sonoran Desert with coyotes, they take it. Mateo doesn't trust the coyotes and makes a rash decision to not wait for helpers. He is visited by a helpful ghost, Guillermo, who gives him guidance and wisdom in this perilous trek to seek safety. *Frontera* is a beautifully illustrated, heart-wrenching story.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Bagley, Jessixa and Aaron Bagley (illustrator) 978-1-53449655-2 \$23.82 307 p.
Duel Simon & Schuster, 2023

Grief manifests itself in different ways, and for sisters Gigi and Lucy the loss of their father has left them at odds with each other and their mom. When Gigi embarrasses Lucy in front of the whole school on her first day of 6th grade, Lucy challenges her Gigi to a duel—an action which lands both girls in the principal's office. The duel is called off officially, but the girls are united in their determination to have it out for good. For Gigi, a shoe-in for fencing team captain, the stakes are high—can she prove she's as good as everyone thinks she is? Lucy hasn't fenced since her father passed away but is determined to practice in secret. As the duel approaches, both girls may come to realize that more is at stake than bragging rights! Story narration switches between the sisters and chapters begin with small explanations of fencing rules that look like they are from an old-fashioned instruction book. Recommend for grades 5 and up.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Amber Peterson, International Community School

Barnett, Mac, illustrated by Shawn Harris 978-0-06-308411-7 \$16.99 269 p.
The First Cat in Space and the Soup of Doom Katherine Tegen Books, 2023

Silly and self referential, *The First Cat in Space and the Soup of Doom* features a poisoning, a would be hero turned villain, and a surprisingly sad subplot of a robot trying to do his best. There is also a web component where readers can listen to the songs sung in the pages and find other resources like coloring pages. Second in series

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Cherkas, Michael 978-1-68112-320-2 \$19.99 145 p.
Red Harvest NBM, 2023

Glossary at the beginning helps with Ukraine-specific events and vocabulary that will be necessary to understand story. Ukrainian family undergoes very hard times and starvation in the Stalin-fueled Holodomor where Ukrainian grain was sold to the West even though it led to massive starvation and deaths in the tens of millions. Meanwhile the Communists said everything was okay and people that refused to go along were “enemies of the state.”
Good, MS/HS Nonfiction Graphic

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Michael Fleming, Juanita High School

Dåsnes, Nora 978-1662640544 \$21.00 248 p.
Cross My Heart and Never Lie Hippo Park, 2023

Cross My Heart and Never Lie is a full color translated graphic novel from Norwegian author Nora Dåsnes written in the style of a diary. Twelve year old Tuva lives alone with her dad in Norway. She loves journaling, listening to music, and playing the clarinet. Summer vacation is over and Tuva is headed back to school for her 7th grade year. Bao and Linnea are her best friends and of course they are all curious about the new teacher, because she is a...LESBIAN! All Tuva wants to do is keep her diary and work on a fort in the woods with her best friends. But when Linnea starts wearing makeup and gets a boyfriend, she knows things are changing. Tuva’s other best friend Bao wants nothing to do with love. Then a cute new girl named Miraiana moves to their school. She plays the french horn and listens to Billie Eilish. Tuva might be falling in love all while having to pick a side with her two best friends. Luckily, she’s got supporting friends and a dad who listens to Stevie Nicks, so you know she’ll get the right answer when she asks, “Can you be a lesbian and still like BTS?”

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Heidi Bush, Northshore Middle School

Frenn, Celina 9781534463370 \$27.99 330 p.
Keeper of the Lost Cities Vol. 1 Part 1 Aladdin, 2023

This graphic novel tells the gripping, riveting first half of the epic novel (it ends just as midterms end). Whether or not readers have read the novel version, they will be enchanted by this colorful, stunning graphic version. Teen Sophie Foster doesn’t enjoy being an outcast at school and at home. Her life is complicated by her secret ability to hear all the thoughts of those around her. It’s deafening and overwhelming—which is why she wears headphones all the time. One day Sophie meets Fitz and is shocked that he can also read minds. He introduces her to the dazzling Lost Cities and explains who she really is. This news flips her life upside down as Sophie begins learning about a whole new way of life.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

Leth, Kate 978-1-5344-7695-0 \$22.99 247 p.
Mall Goth Simon & Schuster, 2023

Early-2000s Goth teen Liv starts a new high school and struggles to find friends, but a lot of her trouble is assuming the worst of everyone-- her old school by friends disappeared after

she came out as bisexual. Her relationship with her mom is strained by tensions about her always-absent father and with her new goth friends by a love triangle, plus she has an embarrassing new job at the mall that involves dressing up as a giant bunny. The toughest element of the story, though, is romantic attention from her English teacher-- it never gets past inappropriate notes and IM's, but is clearly traumatizing (and based on true events). Spoiler: resolving this is what resolves the other tensions in her life. The interpersonal drama will appeal to teen readers, while the elements of the early 2000s will appeal to their parents-- Dance Dance Revolution at the arcade! Malls without half the stores boarded up! Buying a video game at a store! Those candy-colored early iMacs at school! There is an oblique content note at the start of the book about "unwanted attention from an adult," but blink and you'd miss it-- there may be teens who need a clearer heads-up than that before reading.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? Yes

Sarah Hunt, Kirkland KCLS

Lorenzo, Tony 978-1-68112-321-9 \$27.99 163 p.
Prince in Comics NBM Graphic Novels, 2023

A beautifully illustrated graphic biography of Prince. Each chapter is drawn by a different illustrator and alternates between comics and more traditional storytelling. A must read for Prince fans, and a great addition to any biography section.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Medina, Meg, illustrated by Mel Valentine Vargas 978-1-5362-3473-2 \$12.99 281 p.
Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass Candlewick Press, 2023

A powerful story about bullying and the impacts it has on teenage girls. Piddy Sanchez is new in school when she hears a rumor that Yaqui Delgado wants to kick her ass. Piddy has to deal with this bullying and harassment while also navigating a new school, new neighborhood, a changing dynamic with her best friend, and maybe a relationship with a cute boy. Because this is a story about bullying, Piddy ultimately does get her ass kicked and the fallout is posted on social media. The adults in her life help her handle the situation, and there is ultimately a happy ending. There is language present in this book as well as a sexual situation, but it stops well before sex on the page.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Mariah Crosby, Cedar Heights Middle School

Phegley, Kiel and Khouri, Jacques 978-1-5415-8978-0 \$16.99 170 p.
Strikers Graphic Universe, 2023

A story of a 12-year old Hockey team that has fallen on hard times in Flint, Michigan, during hard times there too. No coach will show up, parents fill in here and there, the kids get frustrated at losing all the time, have a little bit of success, but also find out that success isn't everything. A big brawl is their best game, even though they have to forfeit. This is kind of a love story to youth hockey. MS for interest, maybe a HS kid would want to read.

**Recommended Audience:
Recommend for Evergreen?**

Michael Fleming, Juanita High School

Vivat, Booki 9781338788686 \$12.99 192 p.
Meet Me on Mercer Street (ARC) Scholastic, 2024

Kacie lives on Mercer Street, where her family has their laundromat and where her best friend lives (her best friend's family owns a corner market). Kacie and her best friend, Nisha, have spent every summer together. This year, though, Kacie must spend the summer at her relatives' house. When they say goodbye, Nisha is acting weird. At the end of the summer, Kacie finds out that Nisha has disappeared and so has Nisha's family store! What happened to Nisha and her family? And why is a fancy new store moving into Nisha's family store? This book, which is a mix of graphic novel and illustrations, focuses on gentrification from the point of view of sixth grader Kacie, who is very observant, loves to draw, and is super funny. Kacie learns the hard way of change, especially in her community, but realizes that her community can help ease the burden of change.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library KCLS

Zhou, Vivian 9780063075924 \$24.99 245 p.
Atana and the Firebird, Atana #1 Harper Alley, 2023

Atana is a mermaid who lives alone on an island when she comes across a firebird, Ren, whose species hasn't been seen for hundreds of years. Ren has never seen Earth and convinces Atana to go exploring. Atana doesn't want to reveal to others that she is a mermaid, so a friendly witch they encounter offers Atana a wand to hide the fact that Atana can use magic without one. Atana and Ren are then invited to the Witch Queen's Blue Palace. Once there, they befriend Cosmos, a Witch Guard Trainee. The three of them soon discover the history of magic use on Earth and stumble upon a secret the Witch Queen has hidden from everyone. This graphic novel is a great fantasy story that has a lot of twists. LGBTQ characters and Atana loves libraries!

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library KCLS

GRAPHIC NOVELS – SHRUG

Ediriweera, Sachi 9781655903110 \$23.00 200 p.
Enlightened Simon & Schuster, 2023

Enlightened is a graphic novel that retells the life of Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha, through the artistic lens of Sachi Ediriweera. While the artwork may not be the primary highlight, the novel delves deep into the principles of Buddhism, exploring themes of enlightenment, compassion, and the pursuit of inner peace. Enlightened serves as an accessible introduction to Buddhist philosophy, making it a valuable resource for students interested in exploring different cultural and religious perspectives for a class project, or if

with kids who have more of the cultural background and a connection to family members who lived at the time. For 6th-8th Grades.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Aimee Miles, UPrep

Sterling, Zachary 978-1-338-73860-5 \$24.99 231 p.
Mabuhay! (ARC) Scholastic, 2023

This Graphic novel is about a 2nd generation Filipino brother and sister. They are hoping for a carefree summer vacation until their parents tell them they have to help out on the family's food truck, The Beautiful Pig. There is the normal whining and complaining as the parents have to constantly remind them of their "family duty." After a few days, a crazy uncle shows up and things start getting weird. Like really weird. Like Monsters coming to kill the kids and discovering they have unusual superpowers. The book would benefit by having chapter breaks to slow things down. I got whiplash at all the changes coming so quickly, but that might not bother middle school kids. Artwork is good, Raina Telgemeier-ish.

Recommended Audience: Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Melissa Menti, Mount Baker Junior/Senior High School

Xu, Wendy 978-0062955777 \$26.99 272 p.
The Infinity Particle Quill Tree Books, 2023

Clementine Chang has moved to Mars for a fresh start. She's a roboticist going to work with her idol, Marcella Lin, an acclaimed robotics creator with an incredibly life-like android named Kye. Kye and Clementine begin to build a friendship and relationship together, eventually uncovering their parallel traumas and Dr. Lin's unresolved past. This was beautifully illustrated, and so easy to look at and follow. However, the depth of connection to the characters was scanty for me, but that is often my experience with graphic works, so your mileage may vary. This is great for middle school readers who are looking for something with a little more content heft than younger graphic novels, or for low-confidence readers who want a book that looks the same size as their friends' books. I don't think there's enough depth here for most high schoolers to be satisfied. CW for emotional abuse, child death. Neither recommended nor not recommended. For 6th-9th grades.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Aimee Miles, UPrep

GRAPHIC NOVELS – NOT RECOMMENDED

Thueson, Steve 9781728401782 \$19.99 199 p.
Timothy Dinoman and the Attack of the Dancing Machines #2 Graphic Universe, 2023

Timothy Dinoman is a secret agent who works with his best friend, Jen, on taking down villains. In the first book, Timothy had to take down a Bond-like villain and ended up

rescuing the villain's cat. In this second book, Timothy fights robots who are being controlled by a Elon Musk-type villain. We encounter repeat henchmen and learn what happened to the cat (Jen adopted it). It's a silly series (Timothy Dinoman is a dinosaur who was trained since he was a baby on being a spy) that gives a few good laughs.

Recommended Audience: Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

JJ Higgins, Kingsgate Library KCLS

Xavier, Clement, Lisa Lugin, Albertine Ralenti, trans. Edward Gauvin

The Bodyguard Unit: Edith Garrud, Women's Suffrage, and Jujitsu

978-1-7284-4565-6 \$30.65 136 p. Graphic Universe, 2023

A translated graphic novel on the work of Edith Garrud: teaching jujitsu for self-defense to women's suffrage activists in England in the 1910s. Garrud and her husband owned and taught at a jujitsu dojo in London, based on the work of their Japanese teacher who had left the country. Garrud becomes involved in the training of a self-defense wing of one of the suffragist groups, Women's Social and Political Union, led by Emmeline Pankhurst. The book is a tonal whiplash, going from insipid sitcom gags and slapstick to actual photos of beatings and prison force-feedings of suffrage activists and a storyline about horrific domestic abuse. Many of the jokes are based on gender stereotypes-- Mr Garrud can't cook well! Mrs Garrud can't drive well!-- and bodily appearances-- a large activist describes her prison hunger strike as "a brief diet in prison" and jokes it was "more flattering than jujitsu for a lady's figure" of her now-gaunt and filthy body. There are also a couple of (what I'm assuming are) odd translation choices-- Edith Garrud is struck by a dead rat, and comments in astonishment while looking at it, "A... a rock?!!" and a policeman is (accidentally) flipped like "a great big crepe."

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Sarah Hunt, Kirkland KCLS

NONFICTION – RECOMMENDED

Clark, Zion & James S. Hirsch 978-1-5362-2421-4 \$18.99 232 p.

Work With What You Got: A Memoir Candlewick Press, 2023

Zion Clark was born without legs. He is also Black. But at the beginning of this memoir, he says that "my disability and my race have not been the biggest challenges." What follows is a painful account of one person's experience growing up in the foster care system. Clark talks about his various homes and caregivers, and the vital people who influenced him. He talks about how he got introduced to sports, and the important role sports plays in his life. He includes one black & white photo of himself at the beginning of each chapter. Readers will be riveted to watch how he navigates the many forces working against him.

Recommended for middle school, high school, and public libraries.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8), Adult

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Raina Sedore, Lacey & Hawks Prairie Timberland Libraries

Hakeem Oluseyi and Joshua Horwitz 978-9848-4963-2 \$18.99 331 p.
A Quantum Life: Adapted for Young Readers Delacorte Press, 2023

Sarah Dessen, Judy Blume, or Patrick Flores Scott. That being said other than a few references to Sade, Michael Jackson, and Outkast I was at a loss for the colloquialisms and references to modern artists. It was like the first time I read James Joyce or Zora Neal Hurston...the language style challenged me and I had to re-read those texts later in life to appreciate them. But I have no doubt that this author's target audience not only understands every word now but needs this intersectional representation now so get it.

Recommended Audience:

Recommend for Evergreen?

Kathleen Story, Eastlake High School

Marcus, Leonard S. 9781536232974 \$14.99 220 p.
You Can't Say That! writers for young people talk about censorship, free expressions and the stories they have to tell Candlewick Press, 2021

Pretty much does what it says on the tin: interviews with YA authors who have been censored. Published in 2021, so it's almost old now.

Recommended Audience: High School, Adult

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Aarene Storms, Everett Public

Nakaya, Andrea C. 9781678205744 \$32.95 64 p.
Fatal Doses: Fentanyl and Other Synthetic Opioids Reference Point Press, 2024

Relevant & high interest topic for research projects and students who want to learn more about the opioid crisis, specifically the impact of synthetic opioids, like fentanyl. Short chapters introduce and define synthetic opioids, explain why they're dangerous & how they are altering society. The last chapter addresses the attempts at stopping his growing public health crisis. Each chapter is formatted with easy-to-follow text features: headings, subheadings, captioned photos, quotes & text boxes. Reference Point Press is a reliable source with four pages of Source Notes, two pages of resources for further reading, and a detailed index.

Recommended Audience: HS & MS

Recommend for Evergreen?

Heather Goude, McKnight Middle School

Speller, Katherine 978-1-5415-9925-3 \$38.65 144 p.
The Beasts in Your Brain: Understanding and Living with Anxiety and Depression Zest Books, 2023

A chatty overview of (primarily) depression and anxiety for teens who are experiencing them with practical coping strategies that go beyond "talk to someone." Tips are given for not only finding a therapist but finding a therapist you can connect with, types of therapy, and finding financial aid or sliding-scale fees. Medication, self-care, building a support network of peers and adults, and other helpful tools are discussed. The book is mostly an encouraging friendly guide, but the flow is often interrupted with chunks of explanatory text, statistics, and long quoted definitions, leaving you feeling like a heart-to-heart was interrupted by a book report. (A chapter on safety plans around suicide is introduced by a

huge list of statistics which feel like a barrier to the actual useful information. Why would the prevalence of it among different demographics make any difference to a person in crisis?) Overall, it's a well-done practical guide that includes the many covid-era and smartphone-era emotional complications facing teens.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Sarah Hunt, Kirkland KCLS

Wheeler, Jill C. 978-1-67820-584-3 \$33.05 64 p.

Reach Out: Tips for Helping Someone in a Crisis Reference Point Press, 2024

Reach out is an informational book about mental health. It covers causes of a crisis, ways for a teen in crisis to reach out for support and treatment, and how individuals (adults and teens) can help a teen in crisis. Sidebars emphasize critical information and quotes throughout the pages. Each chapter has a box of text that explores aspects of that chapter's topic; for example, what it feels like to have a panic attack or the possibility of therapy via artificial intelligence. A few resources for further information are listed on the last pages. Reach Out is comprehensive and would be helpful for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis (or in the orbit of someone who is). I doubt this will be a teen's first choice for information, however. Additionally, the text on the page is crowded which does not provide not a great reading experience. Every library should have books on mental health specifically for teens, so include this if your collection needs beefing up and let your counselling department know that this book (and hopefully others) is on the shelf.

Recommended Audience: High School, Junior High (7-9), Middle School (6-8)

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Amber Peterson, International Community School

NONFICTION – SHRUG

Norris, Alex 9781536213889 \$17.99 220 p.

How to Love: a guide to feelings and relationships for everyone Walker Books, 2023

Weirdly-blobby cartoon figures say platitudes about love, sex, and relationships. This book feels like something a person might buy (without reading) for a new high school graduate they don't know very well.

Recommended Audience: High School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Some reviewers liked this.

Aarene Storms, Everett Public

NONFICTION SERIES – RECOMMEND

• Jobs for Skilled Workers Series Reference Point Press, 2021

Skilled Jobs in Technology 9781682828250 \$32.95 80 p.

Rarus, Pat

Skilled Jobs in Engineering 9781682828212 \$32.95 80 p.

Rarus Pat

<i>Skilled Jobs in Construction</i> Kallen, Stuart A.	9781682828199	\$32.95	80 p.
<i>Skilled Jobs in Health Care</i> Cartlidge, Cheres	9781682828236	\$32.95	80 p.
<i>Skilled Jobs in Wellness and Beauty</i> Kitts, W.L.	9781682828274	\$32.95	80 p.

This 5-book series focuses on careers for skilled workers in the pathways of technology, engineering, construction, health care and wellness/beauty. Each book opens with an introduction and background for that specific, but broad, career area. Then 8 different skill jobs are presented in their own chapter that starts with some fast facts on the profession. Then each chapter explains the job, describes a typical workday, presents required education and training, as well as necessary skills/personality, employers/pay and future outlook. Each book ends with source notes, an interview with someone in that skilled job, additional jobs in that career pathway and an index. While this series is pricey, students love the easily accessible information that's arranged well with colorful layouts, photos, and pull-quotes.

Recommended Audience: High School, Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School

• Skilled and Vocational Trade Series	BrightPoint Press, 2024		
<i>Become an Industrial Mechanic</i> Hubbard, Martha	9781678206864	\$32.95	80 p.
<i>Become a Home Health Aide</i> Wolny, Philip	9781678206840	\$32.95	80 p.
<i>Become a Police Officer</i> Hutter, Carollyne	9781678206888	\$32.95	80 p.
<i>Become a Construction and Building Inspector</i> Voss, Elizabeth Hobbs	9781678206826	\$32.95	80 p.
<i>Become a Real Estate Appraiser</i> Gagne, Tammy	9781678206901	\$32.95	80 p.

This 12-book series (I received 5) showcases careers in skilled and vocational trades. Each book opens with a glance at the specific career (like building inspector) with interesting bullet-listed details. Each first chapter jumps right into the career with an interesting highlight, story, or real-life glimpse at the job. Additional chapters highlight training needed for this career, what life is like pursuing this skilled/vocational job, and what the future is predicted for this profession. Students will love the larger font size and spacing, and all the colorful pictures. Ideal for reluctant readers, the attractive layout is appealing and draws readers right in. And at only 80 pages, it's a quick read. This book is well-researched and ends with a glossary, source notes, an index, image credits, about the author and additional books and online resources.

Recommended Audience: High School, Middle School

Recommend for Evergreen? No

Sherri Ashlock, Nelsen Middle School