

LRC Intermediate Novels

New Additions

2017-2020



Dear Colleagues:

The novels on this list are new to the LRC, from 2017 to 2020. For most of the titles there is a set of 10, plus 2 free-standing copies. You are encouraged to sign out 7 or 8 different boxes for lit circles, so that your students have choice as to what they read. Be sure to check out other novel titles that were added to the LRC collection before 2017.

The Interest Level given was provided by the publisher. In many cases, an Interest Level of Gr. 3 to 6 is appropriate right up to Gr. 7, and in some cases, Gr. 3 might be a bit young for some students. Bottom line: the Interest Levels are a suggestion only.

ARC-BC has an electronic version of all titles, usually in three different formats for you to choose from. Where available, a digital audio book was purchased. A list of novel titles that have digital audio book versions, available to borrow through your library Destiny searches, has been posted to a Resource List in Destiny. To access it, log into your school library, click on Catalog, then Resource Lists, then scroll down to find the list. Note that you cannot book or borrow an audio book from the list. You need to log into your school library and search your school library the same way you search for books.

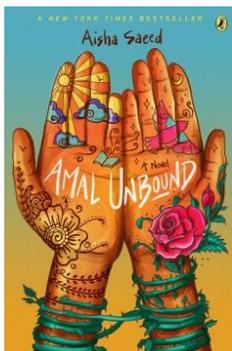
Jean Pearce

District Elementary Teacher-Librarian

Learning Resources Centre

June 23, 2020

LRC Intermediate Novels: New Additions 2017-2020



Amal Unbound

By Aisha Saeed, c2018

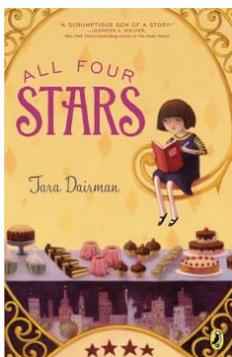
Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.2 (4 starred reviews)

Themes: Pakistan, Courage, Indentured Servants, Family Life, Social Justice

Summary:

“Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed in an instant when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment for her behavior, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate.

Amal is distraught but has faced setbacks before. So she summons her courage and begins navigating the complex rules of life as a servant, with all its attendant jealousies and pecking-order woes. Most troubling, though, is Amal's increasing awareness of the deadly measures the Khan family will go to in order to stay in control. It's clear that their hold over her village will never loosen as long as everyone is too afraid to challenge them--so if Amal is to have any chance of ensuring her loved ones' safety and winning back her freedom, she must find a way to work with the other servants to make it happen.” – *From the Publisher*



All Four Stars (*All Four Stars, Book 1 of 3*)

By Tara Dairman, c2016

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 6.0

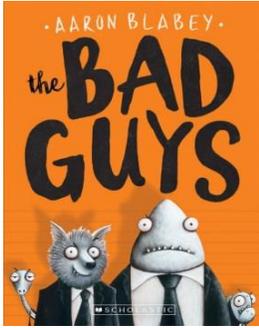
Themes: Cooking & Food, Humor, Realistic Fiction, Journalism, School Stories

Summary:

“Wanted- One Anonymous Restaurant Critic...

Gladys Gatsby has been cooking gourmet dishes since the age of seven. Now she's eleven, and after a crème brûlée accident (just a small fire), Gladys is cut off from the kitchen (and her allowance). She's devastated, but soon finds a way to pay her parents back when she's mistakenly contacted to write a restaurant review for one of the largest newspapers in the world. But in order to meet her deadline and keep her dream job, Gladys must cook her way into the heart of her archenemy and sneak into New York City - all while keeping her identity a secret!”

'A preteen restaurant critic is born. An entertaining story about the joy of following one's bliss.' Kirkus Reviews” - *From the Publisher*



The Bad Guys (*Bad Guys, Book 1 of 11*)

By Aaron Blabey, c2017

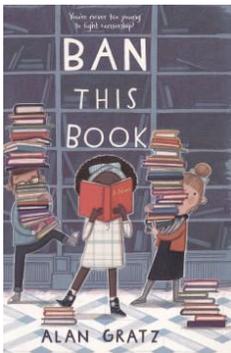
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 2.8

Themes: Graphic Novels, Humor, Animal Stories, Heroes

Summary:

"In this hilarious new illustrated chapter book series, bad guys are doing good deeds... whether you want them to or not!

They sound like bad guys, they look like bad guys... and they even smell like bad guys. But Mr. Wolf, Mr. Piranha, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Shark are about to change all of that... Mr. Wolf has a daring plan for the Bad Guys' first good mission. They are going to break two hundred dogs out of the Maximum Security City Dog Pound. Will Operation Dog Pound go smoothly? Will the Bad Guys become the Good Guys? And will Mr. Snake please stop swallowing Mr. Piranha?!" - *from the Publisher*



Ban This Book

By Alan Gratz, c2018

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.9

Themes: Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Censorship

Summary:

"... Alan Gratz, a fourth grader fights back when '*From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*' by E. L. Konigsburg is challenged by a well-meaning parent and taken off the shelves of her school library. Amy Anne is shy and soft-spoken, but don't mess with her when it comes to her favorite book in the whole world. Amy Anne and her lieutenants wage a battle for the books... as they start a secret banned books locker library, make up ridiculous reasons to ban every single book in the library to make a point, and take a stand against censorship" - *from Amazon*



Beautiful Blue World (A sequel follows: *Threads of Blue*)

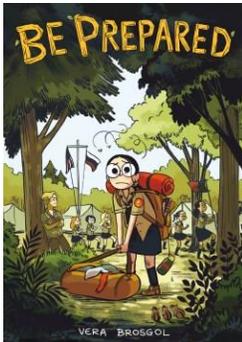
By Suzanne M. LaFleur, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.0 (3 starred reviews)

Themes: Fantasy, Military & Wars, Survival

Summary:

Beautiful Blue World is a thrilling and moving story of children who become the key to winning a war. Sofarende is at war. For twelve-year-old Mathilde, it means food shortages, feuding neighbors, and bombings. Even so, as long as she and her best friend, Megs, are together, they'll be all right. But the army is recruiting children, and paying families well for their service. If Megs takes the test, Mathilde knows she will pass. Megs hopes the army is the way to save her family. Mathilde fears it might separate them forever. This touching and suspenseful novel is a brilliant reimagining of war, where even kindness can be a weapon, and children have the power to see what adults cannot." - *from the Publisher*



Be Prepared

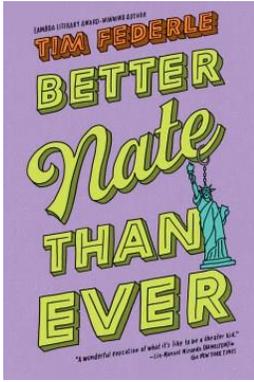
By Vera Brosgol, c2018

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 3.2 (Six starred reviews)

Themes: Graphic Novels, Camps, Friendship, Social Acceptance, Russian Americans

Summary:

"Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range - Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the "cool girl" drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!" - *from the Publisher*



Better Nate Than Ever (*Nate, Book 1 of 3*)

By Tim Federle

Interest: 5-8, Reading: 5.9 (One starred review)

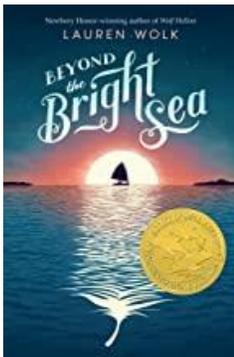
Themes: Realistic Fiction, LGBTQIA+, The Arts, Musicals

Summary:

"Small-town boy hops a bus to New York City to crash an audition for *E.T.: The Musical* in this winning middle grade novel that *The New York Times* called

"inspired and inspiring."

"Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for *seeing* a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for *E.T.: The Musical*, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom. Tim Federle's 'hilarious and heartwarming debut novel' (*Publishers Weekly*) is full of broken curfews, second chances, and the adventure of growing up--because sometimes you have to get four hundred miles from your backyard to finally feel at home." - *from the Publisher*



Beyond the Bright Sea

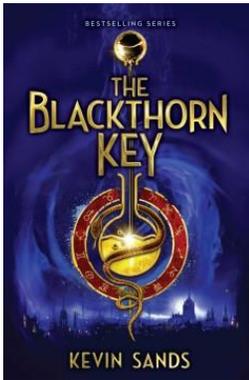
By Lauren Wolk, c2018

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.8 (7 starred reviews)

Themes: Historical Fiction, Identity, Mystery, Orphans, Family Life

Summary:

"Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands off the coast of Massachusetts. Her only companions are Osh, the man who rescued her from a tiny skiff as an infant and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their neighbor across the sandbar. But it isn't until the night when a mysterious fire appears across the water that an unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart and an unstoppable chain of events is triggered. Using her bravery and perseverance, Crow must follow clues that not only lead to a personal treasure, but to uncovering her lost identity and, ultimately, understanding what it means to be a family." - *from Follett*



The Blackthorn Key (*Blackthorn Key, Book 1 of 4*)

By Kevin Sands, c2015

Interest Level: 5-8; Reading Level; 4.6 (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Fantasy, Mystery, Supernatural, Historical Fiction, London History 17th Century, Secret Societies, Pharmacists, Apprentices

Summary:

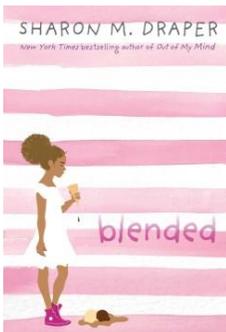
"Following a series of murders, an apothecary's apprentice must solve puzzles and decipher codes in pursuit of a secret that could destroy the world in this suspenseful debut novel.

"Tell no one what I've given you."

Until he got that cryptic warning, Christopher Rowe was happy, learning how to solve complex codes and puzzles and creating powerful medicines, potions, and weapons as an apprentice to Master Benedict Blackthorn--with maybe an explosion or two along the way.

But when a mysterious cult begins to prey on London's apothecaries, the trail of murders grows closer and closer to Blackthorn's shop. With time running out, Christopher must use every skill he's learned to discover the key to a terrible secret with the power to tear the world apart.

In his stunning debut novel, Kevin Sands brings readers on a heart-stopping adventure rich with suspense, mystery, and unforgettable characters." – *from the Publisher*



Blended

By Sharon Draper, c2018

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: ? (Two starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Diverse Families, African American, Divorce, Prejudice & Racism

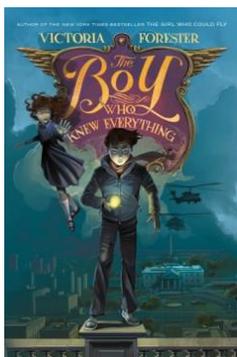
Summary:

"Eleven-year-old Isabella's parents are divorced, so she has to switch lives every week: One week she's Isabella with her dad, his girlfriend Anastasia, and her son Darren living in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood. The next week she's Izzy with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves.

Because of this, Isabella has always felt pulled between two worlds. And now that her parents are divorced, it seems their fights are even worse, and they're always about HER. Isabella feels completely stuck in the middle, split and divided between them more than ever. And she is beginning to realize that being split between Mom and Dad involves more than switching houses, switching nicknames, switching backpacks: it's also about switching identities. Her dad is black, her mom is white, and strangers are always commenting: "You're so exotic!" "You look so unusual." "But what are you

really?" She knows what they're really saying: "You don't look like your parents." "You're different." "What race are you really?" And when her parents, who both get engaged at the same time, get in their biggest fight ever, Isabella doesn't just feel divided, she feels ripped in two. What does it mean to be half white or half black? To belong to half mom and half dad? And if you're only seen as half of this and half of that, how can you ever feel whole?

It seems like nothing can bring Isabella's family together again--until the worst thing happens. Isabella and Darren are stopped by the police. A cell phone is mistaken for a gun. And shots are fired." – *from the Publisher*



The Boy Who Knew Everything (Piper McCloud, Book 2 of 3)

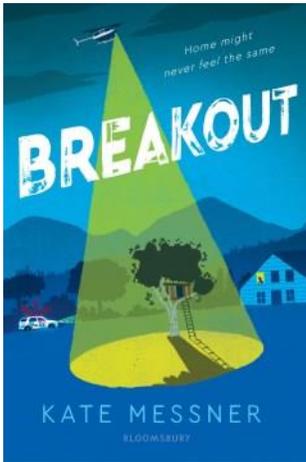
By Victoria Forester, c2015

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.7

Themes: Fantasy, School Stories, Friendship, Genius, Self-acceptance

Summary:

“Grades 4-7. The sequel to the best-selling *The Girl Who Could Fly* (2008) centers on Piper’s friend Conrad Harrington, son of the soon-to-be president, whose special talent is that he is smarter than the average genius. Now living happily on Piper’s family’s farm, he is willing to let the bad times go, but, not surprisingly, trouble finds them both. This follow-up is less focused and more expansive than the previous title. There are oodles of characters to keep track of, and the second half, in which the children, now part of a larger prophecy, find themselves in a mysterious world, seems almost like another book. What keeps this centered when the action soars in many different directions—from the farm, to the White House, to the secret world—is the firm friendship of Piper and Conrad. Even though this is mostly Conrad’s story, it is Piper’s steadfastness that keeps it from flying away. Both kids will need that anchor when they face a dangerous enemy in the next book.” – *from the Publisher*



Breakout

By Kate Messner

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.4

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Prejudice & Racism, Community Life, School Stories, Journalism, Prisons, Time Capsules

Summary:

“Told in letters, poems, text messages, news stories, and comics—a series of documents Nora collects for the Wolf Creek Community Time Capsule Project—*Breakout* is a thrilling story that will leave readers thinking about who's really welcome in the places we call home.

Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek--two months of swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. But when two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors are locked, helicopters fly over the woods, and police patrol the school grounds. Worst of all, everyone is on edge, and fear brings out the worst in some people Nora has known her whole life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same.” - *from the Publisher*



The Case of the Missing Moonstone (*Wollstonecraft Detective Agency, Book 1 of 4*)

By Jordan Stratford, c2015

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.6

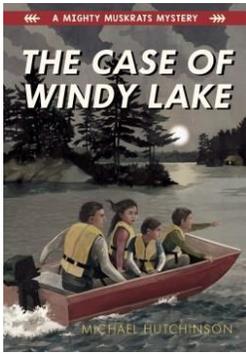
Themes: Mystery & Detective Stories, Historical Fiction, Great Britain History 1800-1837, Lovelace, Ada King, 1815-1852, Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft, 1797-1851

Summary:

“Jordan Stratford imagines an alternate 1826, where Ada Lovelace (the world's first computer programmer) and Mary Shelley (author of *Frankenstein*) meet as girls and form a secret detective agency!

Lady Ada Byron, age eleven, is a genius. Isolated, awkward and a bit rude--but a genius. Mary Godwin, age fourteen, is a romantic. Adventurous, astute, and kind, Mary is to become Ada's first true friend. And together, the girls conspire to form the Wollstonecraft Detective Agency--a secret constabulary for the apprehension of clever criminals. Their first case involves a stolen heirloom, a false confession, and an array of fishy suspects. But it's no match for the deductive powers and bold hearts of Ada and Mary.

Mystery fans will love this tween girl riff on Sherlock Holmes and John Watson...a series where two girls use math, science, and creative analytical thinking to solve crimes.” - *from the Publisher*



The Case of Windy Lake (*Mighty Muskrats Mystery, Book 1*)

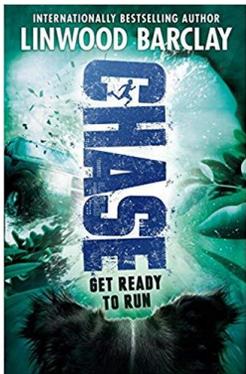
By Michael Hutchinson, c2019

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 6.5

Themes: Mystery, Indigenous Peoples-Canada, Archeologists, Missing Persons

Summary:

“Sam, Otter, Atim, and Chickadee are four cousins growing up on the Windy Lake First Nation. They are inseparable. Nicknamed the "Mighty Muskrats" for their habit of laughing, fighting, and adventuring together, each new exploit adds to their reputation. From their base of operations in a fort made out of an old school bus, the Mighty Muskrats are ready to work together to solve whatever mysteries come their way.” - *from Follett*



Chase (*A sequel, Escape, follows*)

By Linwood Barclay, c2017

Interest Level: Gr. 5-8, Reading Level: ?

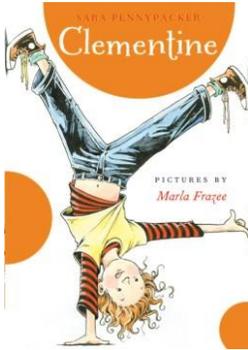
Themes: Mystery, Science Fiction

Summary:

“Chipper is a very special dog. He's part of a multi-million dollar experiment at a secret organization known only as The Institute. The Institute has been experimenting with dogs, melding them with state-of-the-art computer technology. But there's a problem with Chipper. His natural dog instincts often overrule his computer side. No matter what he's doing, if he sees a squirrel or a mouse, he'll drop everything to chase it. So, The Institute has decided it's time to pull the plug on Chipper. Chipper manages a daring escape with a destination in mind, but a team from the Institute, led by the cold-hearted Daggert, is hot on his heels.

Twelve-year-old Jeff Conroy lives with his aunt and helps run her business, a lakeside cabin-rental operation that caters to fishermen. Jeff desperately misses his parents, who were killed in a plane crash a year earlier. But at least he's made one friend: Emily, whose ex-cop father owns a similar business down the lake. And Emily, a computer whiz, has the coolest fort ever: a trackless, abandoned train station in the middle of the forest.

After eluding his would-be captors, Chipper boards a bus and ends up in the country, only to be hit by a truck that Jeff is driving (underage). Jeff takes Chipper to the train station to nurse him back to health, and it's here that he and Emily discover a computer port in Chipper's collar, and once Emily hooks her laptop to it, she and Jeff discovers that Chipper's arrival is not random. He has been looking for Jeff -- and now so is Daggert ...” - *from Amazon.ca*



Clementine (*Clementine, Book 1 of 7*)

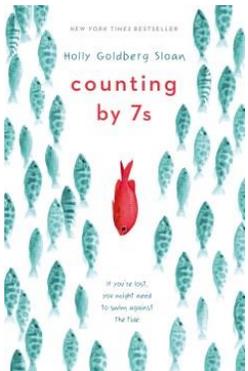
By Sara Pennypacker, c2006

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.5 (four starred reviews)

Themes: Family, Humor, Realistic Fiction, Strong Character, School Stories

Summary:

“Clementine is having not so good of a week. On Monday she's sent to the principal's office for cutting off Margaret's hair. Tuesday, Margaret's mother is mad at her. Wednesday, she's sent to the principal's again. Thursday, Margaret stops speaking to her. Friday starts with yucky eggs and gets worse. And by Saturday, even her mother is mad at her. Okay, fine. Clementine is having a DISASTROUS week.” – *from the Publisher*



Counting by 7s

By Holly Goldberg Sloan, c2017

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.3 (Four starred reviews)

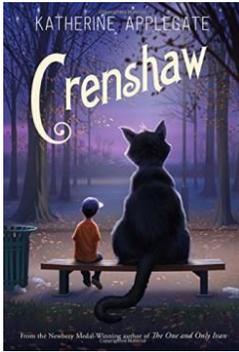
Themes: Family, Foster Care, Identity, Overcoming Adversity, Realistic Fiction, Eccentrics and Eccentricities

Summary:

“In the tradition of *Out of My Mind*, *Wonder*, and *Mockingbird*, this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is *not* a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.” – *from the Publisher*



Crenshaw

By Katherine Applegate, c2018

Interest Level: 3-7, Reading Level: 3.7 (Five starred reviews)

Themes: Homelessness and Poverty, Imaginary Playmates, Fantasy & Magic, Cats-Fiction

Summary:

“Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything? Beloved author Katherine Applegate proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.” - *from the Publisher*



Danger! Tiger Crossing (*Fantastic Frame, Book 1 of 5*)

By Lin Oliver, c2016

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.7

Themes: Fantasy and Magic, Action and Adventure, Jungles

Summary:

“When ten-year-old Tiger Brooks and his family move into a new home, he sees some strange things at the house next door—like a talking pig in a top hat! When he and his neighbor, Luna Lopez, investigate, they discover a reclusive old woman and her magical golden frame, through which they can enter the world's greatest paintings. In this book, Tiger and Luna get pulled into the painting *Surprised! or Tiger in a Tropical Storm* by Henri Rousseau. But they must escape the jungle adventure before time runs out, otherwise they'll be trapped in the painting forever!” – *from Amazon.ca*



The Dragon Pearl

By Yoon Ha Lee, c2019

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 7.0 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Fantasy, Action and Adventure, Science Fiction, Magic, Space Flight, Family, Brothers and Sisters

Summary:

“Rick Riordan presents Yoon Ha Lee's space opera about thirteen-year-old Min, who comes from a long line of fox spirits. But you'd never know it by looking at her. To keep the family safe, Min's mother insists that none of them use any fox-magic, such as Charm or shape-shifting. They must appear human at all times. Min feels hemmed in by the household rules and resents the endless chores, the cousins who crowd her, and the aunties who judge her. She would like nothing more than to escape Jinju, her neglected, dust-ridden, and impoverished planet. She's counting the days until she can follow her older brother, Jun, into the Space Forces and see more of the Thousand Worlds.” - *from the Publisher*



Wings of Fire: The Graphic Novel (*The Dragonet Prophecy, Book 1 of 3*)

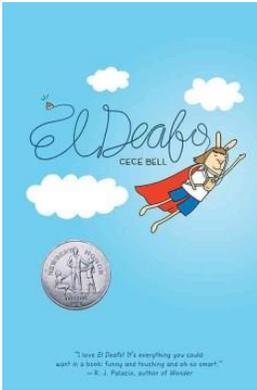
By Barry Deutsch, c2018

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.4 (One starred review)

Themes: Graphic Novels, Dragons, Fantasy, Action and Adventure

Summary:

“Not every dragonet wants a destiny. Clay has grown up under the mountain, chosen along with four other dragonets to fulfill a mysterious prophecy and end the war between the dragon tribes of Pyrrhia. He's not so sure about the prophecy part, but Clay can't imagine not living with the other dragonets; they're his best friends. So when one of the dragonets is threatened, all five spring into action. Together, they will choose freedom over fate, leave the mountain, and fulfill their destiny -- on their own terms.” – *from the Publisher*



El Deafo

By Cece Bell, c2014

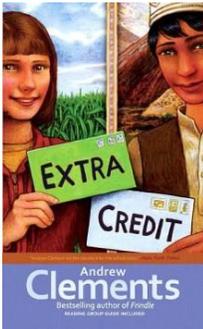
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.3 (Five starred reviews)

Themes: Graphic Novels, Diverse Abilities, Biography, Deaf Children

Summary:

“Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest?

That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful-and very awkward-hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear-sometimes things she shouldn't - but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for.” – *from the Publisher*



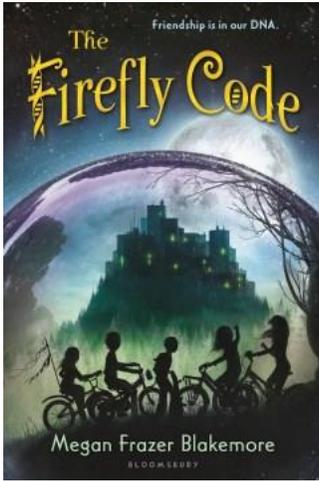
Extra Credit

By Andrew Clements, c2009

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.2

Summary:

“Three young middle-school-age children, Abby, Amira, and Sadeed, exchange letters back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan and begin to bridge a gap across cultural and religious divides.” – *from Follett*



The Firefly Code (A sequel follows: *The Daybreak Bond*)

By Megan Frazer Blakemore, c2017

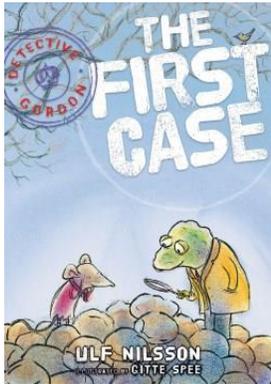
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.6

Themes: Science Fiction, Genetic Engineering, Utopian Fiction, Friendship

Summary:

“Mori and her friends live a normal life on Firefly Lane in their utopian community, Old Harmonie. In a world this safe and perfect, they've never had to question anything never had to wonder about how their lives came to be. Until a new girl named Ilana moves in. She's so perfect that Mori and her friends are curious Where exactly did Ilana come from, and why does she act so strange sometimes? When Ilana's secret is revealed, the kids on Firefly Lane must decide: is it finally time to start questioning the only world they've ever known?”

In a stunningly imaginative story, critically acclaimed author Megan Frazer Blakemore takes readers on a journey with five friends--new and old--that will have everyone talking about not just what makes people human, but what makes them true friends.” - *from the Publisher*



Detective Gordon: The First Case (*Detective Gordon, Book 1 of 4*)

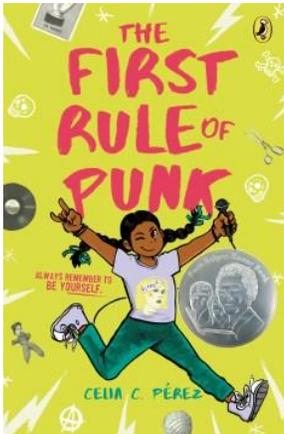
By Ulf Nilsson, c2015

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.2) (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Animal Stories, Mystery and Detective Stories

Summary:

“Someone's stealing nuts from the forest, and it's up to Detective Gordon to catch the thief! Unfortunately, solving this crime means standing in the snow and waiting for a long time.... If only he had an assistant--someone small, fast, and clever—to help solve this terrible case. A brilliant detective story by one of Sweden's top children's writers and illustrated in full color throughout. A book to read alone or aloud!” - *from the Publisher*



The First Rule of Punk

By Celia C. Pérez, c2018

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.2 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Hispanic American, Realistic Fiction, Punk Rock Music, School Stories

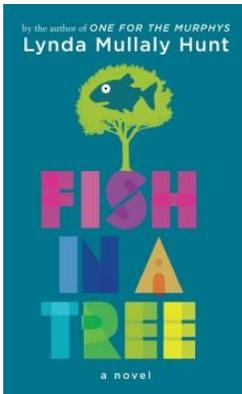
Summary:

“There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school - you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Malo (Maria Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets

Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk - be yourself.

The real Malo loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Malo finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself!

Black and white illustrations and collage art throughout...” - *from the Publisher*



Fish in a Tree: A Novel

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt, c2017

Interest Level: 5-8; Reading Level: 4.2 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Bullying, Learning Disabilities, School Stories

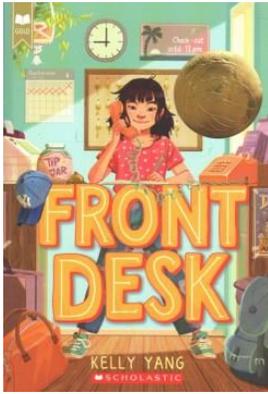
Summary:

“The author of the beloved *One for the Murphys* gives readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was

something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.

Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid.”

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her-and to everyone-than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.” - *from the Publisher*



Front Desk

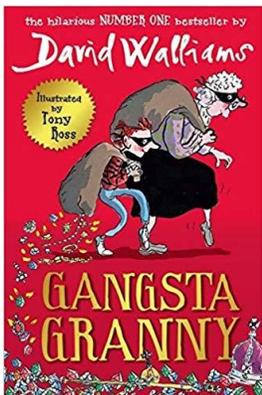
By Kelly Yang, c2019

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.5 (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Chinese Americans, Immigration & Emigration, First Person (Point of View, Self-Confidence)

Summary:

“Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao, is a nasty skinflint who exploits them. While her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants--not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason.” - *from Follett*



Gangsta Granny

By David Walliams, c2015

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: ?

Themes: Adventure, Humor, Grandparent and Child, Jewel Thieves

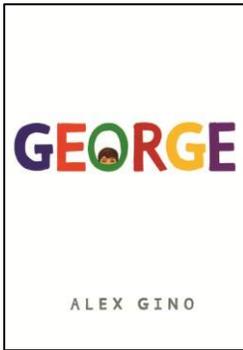
Summary:

“A story of prejudice and acceptance, funny lists and silly words, this new book has all the hallmarks of David’s previous bestsellers.

Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma’s house. She’s the boringest grandma ever; all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn’t know about his grandma:

- 1) She was once an international jewel thief.
- 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels, and now she needs Ben’s help...”

- *from the Publisher*



George

By Alex Gino

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.0 (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Gender Identity, Bullying, Friendship, School Stories

Summary:

"When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part...because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte--but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all." – *from the Publisher*



The Girl Who Could Fly (Piper McCloud, Book 1 of 3)

By Victoria Forester, c2015

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 6.0

Themes: Fantasy, Science Fiction, Action and Adventure, School Stories, Self-acceptance, Ability, Flight, Individuality

Summary:

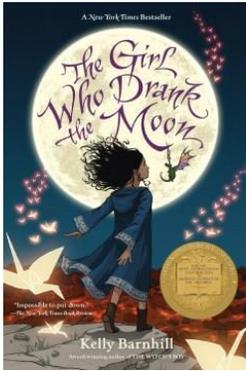
"You just can't keep a good girl down.....unless you use the proper methods. Piper McCloud can fly. Just like that. Easy as pie. Sure, she hasn't mastered reverse propulsion and her turns are kind of sloppy, but she's real good at loop-the-loops.

Problem is, the good folk of Lowland County are afraid of Piper. And her ma's at her wit's end. So it seems only fitting that she leave her parents' farm to attend a top-secret, maximum-security school for kids with exceptional abilities.

School is great at first with a bunch of new friends whose skills range from super-strength to super-genius. (Plus all the homemade apple pie she can eat!) But Piper is special, even among the special. And there are consequences.

Consequences too dire to talk about. Too crazy to consider. And too dangerous to ignore.

At turns exhilarating and terrifying, Victoria Forester's debut novel has been praised by Stephenie Meyer, author of the *Twilight* saga, as "the oddest/sweetest mix of *Little House on the Prairie* and *X-Men*...Prepare to have your heart warmed." *The Girl Who Could Fly* is an unforgettable story of defiance and courage about an irrepressible heroine who can, who will, who must..... fly." – *from the Publisher*



The Girl Who Drank the Moon

By Kelly Regan Barnhill, c2019

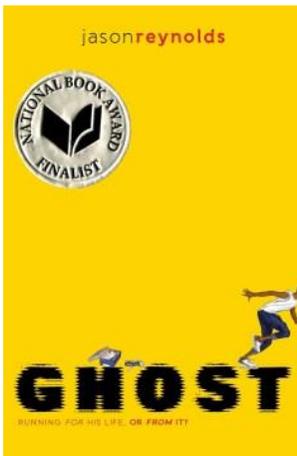
Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 7.4 (6 starred reviews and winner of the 2017 Newbery Award)

Themes: Fantasy, Magic, Friendship, Witches, Multigenerational

Summary:

“Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey.

One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge--with dangerous consequences. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Deadly birds with uncertain intentions flock nearby. A volcano, quiet for centuries, rumbles just beneath the earth's surface. And the woman with the Tiger's heart is on the prowl” - *from the Publisher*



Ghost (Track, Book 1 of 4)

By Jason Reynolds, c2017

Interest: 5-8; Reading: 4.6 (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Sports, Overcoming Adversity, African American

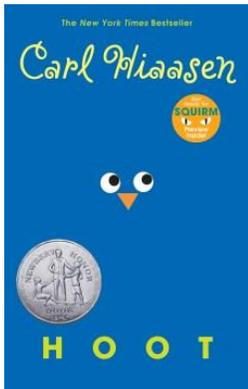
Summary:

“Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down in this first electrifying novel in a new series from Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award-winning author Jason Reynolds.

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team--a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known. But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons--it all started with running away from his father, who, when Ghost was a very

little boy, chased him and his mother through their apartment, then down the street, with a loaded gun, aiming to kill. Since then, Ghost has been the one causing problems--and running away from them--until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medalist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?" - *from the Publisher*



Hoot

By Carl Hiaasen, c2002

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.2 (Newberry Honor 2003)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Environmental Protection, Burrowing Owls, Florida, Third Person (Point of View)

Summary:

"This Newbery Honor-winning, hilarious Floridian adventure involves new kids, bullies, alligators, eco-warriors, pancakes, pint-sized owls, and more. A *New York Times* bestseller! Everybody loves Mother Paula's pancakes. Everybody, that is, except the colony of cute but endangered owls that live on the building site of the new restaurant. Can the awkward new kid and his feral friend prank the pancake people out of town? Or is the owls' fate cemented in pancake batter?" - *from the Publisher*



How to Train Your Dragon (*How to Train Your Dragon, Book 1 of 12*)

By Cressida Cowell, c2003

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 6.6

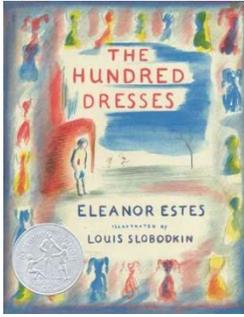
Themes: Fantasy, Action and Adventure, Dragons, Humorous Stories

Summary:

"Read the *New York Times* bestselling book that inspired the hit movies!

Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, the quiet and thoughtful son of the Chief of the Hairy Hooligans, tries to pass the important initiation test of his Viking clan by catching and training a dragon. Can Hiccup do it without being torn limb from limb?

Join his adventures and misadventures as he finds a new way to train dragons--and becomes a hero. This action-packed, hilarious, and perfectly illustrated novel is a modern classic beloved by millions across the globe." - *from the Publisher*



The Hundred Dresses

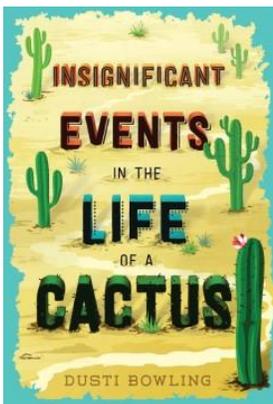
By Eleanor Estes, c1944, p2004

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.4, 80 pages (One starred review, 1945 Newbery Honor Winner)

Themes: Historical Fiction, Friendship Stories, Polish Americans, Poverty, School Stories

Summary:

“Eleanor Estes's *The Hundred Dresses* won a Newbery Honor in 1945 and has never been out of print since. At the heart of the story is Wanda Petronski, a Polish girl in a Connecticut school who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn't and bullies her mercilessly. The class feels terrible when Wanda is pulled out of the school, but by that time it's too late for apologies. Maddie, one of Wanda's classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again." This powerful, timeless story has been reissued with a new letter from the author's daughter Helena Estes, and with the Caldecott artist Louis Slobodkin's original artwork in beautifully restored color.” - *from the Publisher*



Insignificant Events In the Life of a Cactus (*Life of a Cactus, Book 1 of 2*)

By Dusti Bowling, c2017

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.6 (Two starred reviews)

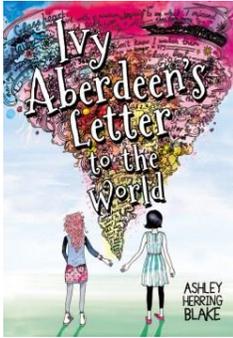
Themes: Realistic Fiction, Diverse Abilities, Overcoming Adversity, Mystery, Amusement Parks, People with Disabilities

Summary:

“Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them.

And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again.

Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all even without arms.” - *from the Publisher*



Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World

By Ashley Herring Blake, c2019

Interest Level: 3-6; Reading Level: 4.9 (Three starred reviews)

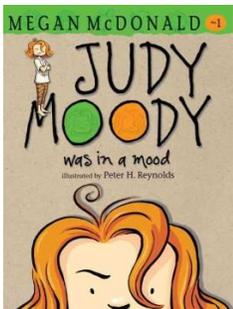
Themes: Realistic Fiction, Identity, LGBTQIA+, Coming out (Sexual orientation), Tornadoes, Homelessness

Summary:

“When a tornado rips through town, twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed and her family of five is displaced. Ivy feels invisible and ignored in the aftermath of the storm--and what's worse, her notebook filled with secret drawings of girls holding hands with girls has gone missing.

Mysteriously, Ivy's drawings begin to reappear in her locker with notes from someone telling her to speak openly about her identity. Ivy thinks--and hopes--that this someone might be her classmate, another girl for whom Ivy has begun to develop feelings.

Spoiler: In the end, the drawings and messages are being sent by Ivy's best friend, Taryn, and unfortunately the girl Ivy has feelings for doesn't return them--but the novel ends on a tone of hope for Ivy and her identity.” - *from the Publisher*



Judy Moody Was in a Mood (*Judy Moody, Book 1 of 15*)

By Megan McDonald, c2000, 2010

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 2.4

Themes: Family, Friendship, Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Social-Emotional Learning

Summary:

“Any kid who's ever been in a bad mood will relate to the feisty, funny, ever-changing Judy Moody.

To start, Judy Moody doesn't have high hopes for third grade. Her new desk won't have an armadillo sticker with her name on it. Her new classroom will not have a porcupine named Roger. And with her luck, she'll get stuck sitting in the first row, where Mr. Todd will notice every time she tries to pass a note to her best friend, Rocky. An aspiring doctor, Judy does have a little brother who comes in handy for practicing medicine, a cool new pet, and a huge Band-Aid collection.

Judy also has an abundance of individuality and attitude, and when Mr. Todd assigns a very special class project, she really gets a chance to express herself! Megan McDonald's spirited text and Peter Reynolds's wry illustrations combine in a feisty, funny first chapter book for every kid who has ever felt a little out of sorts.” - *from the Publisher*



Just Jaime (*Emmie & Friends, Book 1 of 4*)

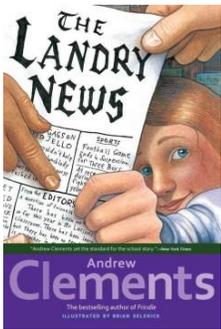
By Terri Livenson, c2019

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.6 (One starred review)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Friendship, School Stories, Girls

Summary:

"Friends. Frenemies. Middle school... The last day of seventh grade has Jaime and Maya wondering who their real friends are. Jaime knows something is off with her friend group. They've started to exclude her and make fun of the way she dresses and the things she likes. At least she can count on her BFF, Maya, to have her back . . . right? Maya feels more and more annoyed with Jaime, who seems babyish compared to the other girls in their popular group. It's like she has nothing in common with Jai anymore. Are their days as BFFs numbered?" – *from the Publisher*



The Landry News

By Andrew Clements, c1999, 2000

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 6.1 (One starred review)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Divorce

Summary:

"NEW STUDENT GETS OLD TEACHER: The bad news is that Cara Landry is the new kid at Denton Elementary School. The worse news is that her teacher, Mr. Larson, would rather read the paper and drink coffee than teach his students anything. So Cara decides to give Mr. Larson something else to read -- her own newspaper, *The Landry News*. Before she knows it, the whole fifth-grade class is in on the project. But then the principal finds a copy of *The Landry News*, with unexpected results. Tomorrow's headline: Will Cara's newspaper cost Mr. Larson his job?" – *From the Publisher*



The Last Kids on Earth (*Last Kids On Earth, Book 1 of 6*)

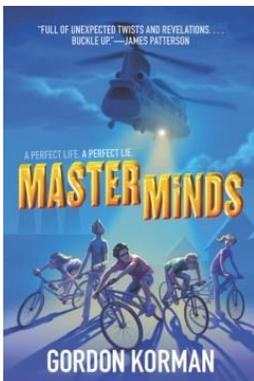
By Max Brallier, c2015

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: ? (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Action and Adventure, Humorous Fiction, Monsters, Survival, Comics & Graphic Novels

Summary:

“Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But Jack alone is no match for the hordes of Zombies and Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and *especially* not for the eerily intelligent monster known only as *Blarg*. So Jack builds a team: his dorky best friend, Quint; the reformed middle school bully, Dirk; Jack's loyal pet monster, Rover; and Jack's crush, June. With their help, Jack is going to slay Blarg, achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success, and be average no longer! Can he do it? Told in a mixture of text and black-and-white illustration, this is the perfect book for any kid who's ever dreamed of starring in his or her own comic book or video game. And then grab the rest of the series, now a *New York Times* bestseller!” – *from the Publisher*



Masterminds (*Masterminds, Book 1 of 3*)

By Gordon Korman, c2015

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.2 (Two starred reviews)

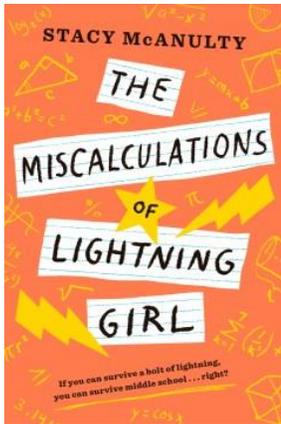
Themes: Action and Adventure, Science Fiction, Cloning, Experiments, Mystery and Detective Stories

Summary:

“Eli Frieden has never left Serenity, New Mexico...why would he ever want to? Then one day, he bikes to the edge of the city limits and something so crazy and unexpected happens, it changes everything.

Eli convinces his friends to help him investigate further, and soon it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems in Serenity. The clues mount to reveal a shocking discovery, connecting their ideal crime-free community to some of the greatest criminal masterminds ever known.

The kids realize they can trust no one--least of all their own parents.” – *from the Publisher*



The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

By Stacy McAnulty, c2018

Interest Level: 3-6; Reading Level: 3.7? (Three starred reviews)

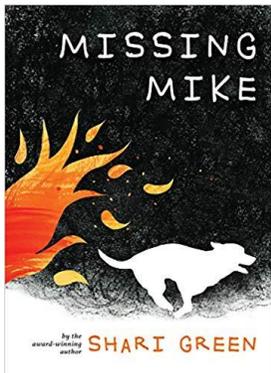
Themes: Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Bullying, Savants, Obsessive-compulsive disorder, Friendship

Summary:

“Lucy Callahan was struck by lightning. She doesn't remember it, but it changed her life forever. The zap gave her genius-level math skills, and ever since, Lucy has been homeschooled. Now, at 12 years old, she's technically ready for college. She just has to pass 1 more test--middle school!

Lucy's grandma insists- Go to middle school for 1 year. Make 1 friend. Join 1 activity. And read 1 book (that's not a math textbook!). Lucy's not sure what a girl who does calculus homework for fun can possibly learn in 7th grade. She has everything she needs at home, where nobody can make fun of her rigid routines or her superpowered brain. The equation of Lucy's life has already been solved. Unless there's been a miscalculation?

A celebration of friendship, Stacy McAnulty's smart and thoughtful middle-grade debut reminds us all to get out of our comfort zones and embrace what makes us different.” - *from the Publisher*



Missing Mike

By Shari Green, c2018

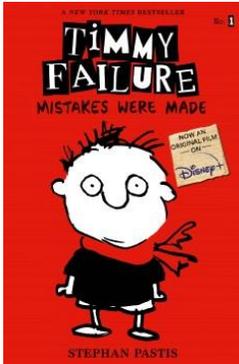
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.0

Themes: Adventure, Animal Stories, Grief & Loss, Manmade Disasters

Summary:

“From the award-winning author of *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess*, a timely middle-grade story about the devastation of wildfires and the resilience of the human spirit.

He's a rescue, a mutt. Maybe there's a little golden retriever in him, although he's not exactly pretty. He's had a run-in with coyotes and he's missing an eye. But Mike is eleven-year-old Cara Donovan's dog, and they love each other absolutely. Usually her pet follows Cara everywhere, but on the day the family first smells smoke in the air, Mike becomes anxious. Pine Grove is in the path of a wildfire, and the family is ordered to evacuate. In the ensuing chaos, Mike runs off. And then the unthinkable happens; there is no time to search for Mike. They are forced to leave him behind.” - *from the Publisher*



Mistakes Were Made (*Timmy Failure, Book 1 of 7*)

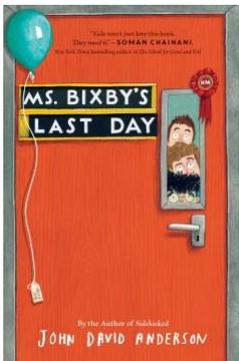
By Stephan Pastis, c2013

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.8

Themes: Mystery & Detective Stories, Friendship, Humorous Fiction, Comics & Graphic Novels

Summary:

“Take Timmy Failure--the clueless, comically self-confident CEO of the best detective agency in town, perhaps even the nation. Add his impressively lazy business partner, a very large polar bear named Total, and what you have is Total Failure, Inc. From the offbeat creator of *Pearls Before Swine* comes an endearingly bumbling hero in a hilarious caper accompanied by a whodunit twist. With perfectly paced visual humor, Stephan Pastis gets readers snorting with laughter, then slyly carries the joke a beat further--or sweetens it with an unexpected poignant moment--making this a comics-inspired story that truly stands apart from the pack.” – *from the Publisher*



Ms. Bixby's Last Day

By John David Anderson, c2016

Interest Level: 3-6; Reading Level: 5.2 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Grief & Loss, School Stories, Teacher-student Relationships, Friendship

Summary:

“Everyone knows there are different kinds of teachers. The boring ones, the mean ones, the ones who try too hard, the ones who stopped trying long ago. The ones you'll never remember, and the ones you want to forget. Ms. Bixby is none of these. She's the sort of teacher who makes you feel like school is somehow worthwhile. Who recognizes something in you that sometimes you don't even see in yourself. Who you never want to disappoint. What Ms. Bixby is, is one-of-a-kind.

Topher, Brand, and Steve know this better than anyone. And so when Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she won't be able to finish the school year, they come up with a risky plan, more of a quest, really, to give Ms. Bixby the last day she deserves. Through the three very different stories they tell, we begin to understand what Ms. Bixby means to each of them—and what the three of them mean to each other.” - *From amazon.ca*



New Kid

By Jerry Craft, c2019

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 3.6 (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Prejudice and Racism, Graphic Novels

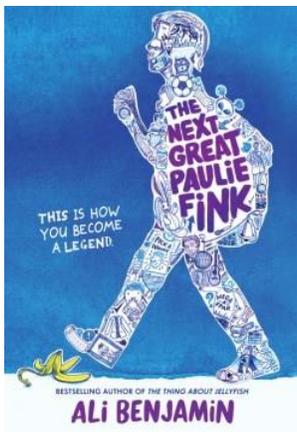
Summary:

“Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature!

Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, *New Kid* is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft. This middle grade graphic novel is an excellent choice for tween readers in grades 5 to 6, especially during homeschooling. It's a fun way to keep your child entertained and engaged while not in the classroom.

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds--and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?" - *from the Publisher*



The Next Great Paulie Fink

By Ali Benjamin, c2019

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 6.0 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Friendship, Bullying

Summary:

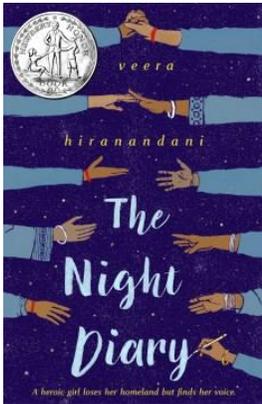
“In this acclaimed novel by the author of the award-winning, bestselling *The Thing About Jellyfish*, being the new kid at school isn't easy, especially when you have to follow in the footsteps of a legendary classroom prankster.

When Caitlyn Breen begins her disorienting new life at Mitchell School--where the students take care of real live goats and study long-dead philosophers, and where there are only ten other students in the entire seventh grade--it seems like nobody can stop talking about some kid named Paulie Fink.

Depending on whom you ask, Paulie was either a hilarious class clown, a relentless troublemaker, a hapless klutz, or an evil genius. One thing's for sure, though: The kid was totally legendary. Now he's

disappeared, and Caitlyn finds herself leading a reality-show-style competition to find the school's next great Paulie Fink. With each challenge, Caitlyn struggles to understand a person she never met...but it's what she discovers about herself that most surprises her.

Told in multiple voices, interviews, and documents, this funny, thought-provoking novel from the bestselling author of *The Thing About Jellyfish* is a memorable exploration of what makes a hero--and if anyone, or anything, is truly what it seems." - *from the Publisher*



The Night Diary

By Veera Hiranandani, c2018

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.5 (Four starred reviews, 2019 Newbery Honor Book)

Themes: Historical Fiction, Refugees, Family Life, Diaries, Muslims

Summary:

"It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders.

Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, *The Night Diary* is a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future." - *From the Publisher*



No Fixed Address

By Susin Nielsen-Fernund, c2018

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.7 (Two starred reviews)

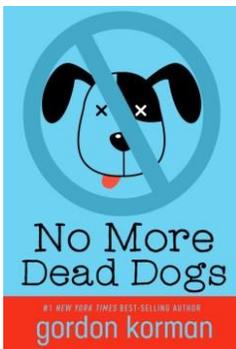
Themes: Realistic fiction, Homelessness and Poverty, Friendship

Summary:

“Twelve-and-three-quarter-year-old Felix Knutsson has a knack for trivia. His favorite game show is *Who What Where When*; he even named his gerbil after the host. Felix's mom, Astrid, is loving but can't seem to hold on to a job. So when they get evicted from their latest shabby apartment, they have to move into a van. Astrid swears him to secrecy; he can't tell anyone about their living arrangement, not even Dylan and Winnie, his best friends at his new school. If he does, she warns him, he'll be taken away from her and put in foster care.

As their circumstances go from bad to worse, Felix gets a chance to audition for a junior edition of *Who What Where When*, and he's determined to earn a spot on the show. Winning the cash prize could make everything okay again. But things don't turn out the way he expects...

Susin Nielsen deftly combines humor, heartbreak, and hope in this moving story about people who slip through the cracks in society, and about the power of friendship and community to make all the difference.” - *from the Publisher*



No More Dead Dogs

By Gordon Korman, c2017

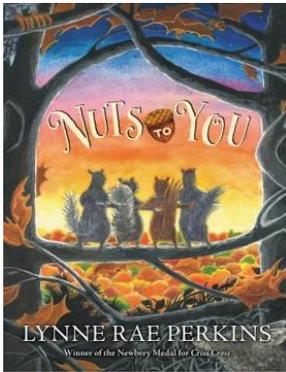
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.9

Themes: Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Humorous Fiction, Sports, Theater & Musicals

Summary:

“Nobody understands Wallace Wallace. This reluctant school football hero has been suspended from the team for writing an unfavorable book report on *Old Shep, My Pal*. But Wallace won't tell a lie—he hated every minute of the book! Why does the dog in every classic novel have to croak at the end?

After Wallace refuses to do a rewrite, his English teacher, who happens to be directing the school play of *Old Shep, My Pal*, forces him to go to the rehearsals as punishment. Although Wallace doesn't change his mind, he does end up changing the play.....into a rock-and-roll rendition, complete with Rollerblades and a moped!” - *from the Publisher*



Nuts to You

By Lynne Rae Perkins, c2016

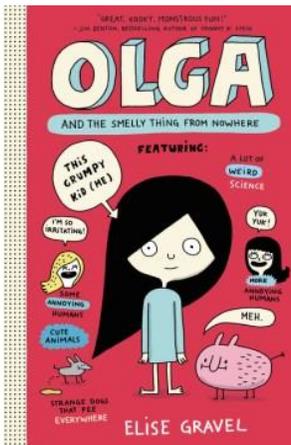
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.2 (Five starred reviews)

Themes: Action and Adventure, Forests and Forestry, Squirrels, Survival

Summary:

“How far would you go for a friend? In *Nuts to You*, the funny and moving illustrated novel by Newbery Medalist Lynne Rae Perkins, two squirrels go very far indeed to save a friend who has been snatched up by a hawk. *Nuts to You* "begs to be read aloud.....another completely original and exceptional package from Perkins," said the Horn Book. *Nuts to You* features black-and-white art by the author on every page, as well as exclusive material original to this edition.

Jed, TsTs, and Chai are the very best of friends. So when Jed is snatched up by a hawk and carried away to another realm, TsTs and Chai resolve to go after him. Mysteriously, the hawk has dropped him. They saw it. Jed could be alive. New communities are discovered, new friends are made, huge danger is encountered (both man-made and of the fox and bobcat variety) and the mysteries of squirrel culture are revealed. *Nuts to You* is wholly original, funny, lively, and thought-provoking.” - *from the Publisher*



Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere (*Olga, Book 1 of 3*)

By Elise Gravel, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.4

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Science Fiction, Humor, Animals, Girls

Summary:

“*Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere* is jam-packed with fun: vibrant illustrations, word bubbles, quirky humor, olgamus facts, and plenty of excitement for readers who love making discoveries and meeting new friends. Olga is a charming combination of independent, curious, and smart--making her the coolest girl scientist around--perfect for fans of *Dork Diaries* and *Captain Underpants*.

When Olga crosses paths with a weird creature and becomes the first kid to discover the species olgamus ridiculus, she is ecstatic! What does an olgamus eat? How does it poop? Why does its burp sound like the word rubber? With her trusty observation notebook and the help of a librarian, a shopkeeper, and some friends, Olga sets out to do science--learning the facts about her smelly, almost-furry pal and searching for him when he goes missing. The scientific method is the best way to discover anything!” - *from the Publisher*



One for the Murphys

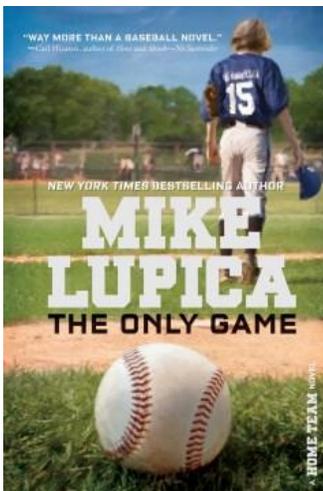
By Lynda Mullaly Hunt, c2013

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading level? (One starred review)

Themes: Realistic fiction, Family life, Family Problems, Foster Home Care, Blended families

Summary:

“Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong--until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future.” - *from Amazon*



The Only Game (*Home Team, Book 1 of 4*)

By Mike Lupica, c2016

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.5

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Sports, Grief & Loss, Baseball, Bullies

Summary:

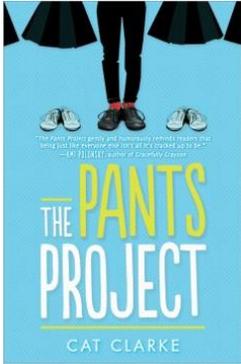
“Can a young baseball star maintain his love of the game after the loss of his brother? Find out in this start to the *Home Team* series about a small town with high hopes, from *New York Times* bestselling author and sports writing legend Mike Lupica.

Jack Callahan is the star of his baseball team and seventh grade is supposed to be his year. Undefeated season. Records shattered. Little League World Series. The works. That is, until he up and quits.

Jack's best friend Gus can't understand how Jack could leave a game that means more to them than anything else. But Jack is done. It's a year of change. Jack's brother has passed away, and though his family and friends and the whole town of Walton thinks baseball is just the thing he needs to move on, Jack feels it's anything but.

In comes Cassie Bennett, star softball player, and the only person who seems to think Jack shouldn't play if he doesn't want to. As Jack and Cassie's friendship deepens, their circle expands to include Teddy, a guy who's been bullied because of his weight.

Time spent with these new friends unlocks something within Jack, and with their help and the support of his family and his old friends, Jack discovers sometimes it's more than just the love of the game that keeps us moving forward--and he might just be able to find his way back to *The Only Game*, after all.” - *from the Publisher*



The Pants Project

By Cat Clarke, c2017

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.7 (One starred review)

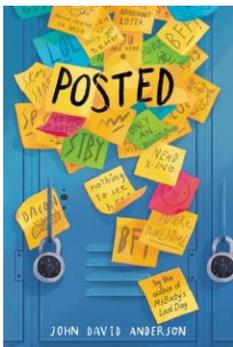
Themes: Realistic Fiction, LGBTQIA+, Transgender People, Gay Parents, Middle Schools, Uniforms, Family Life

Summary:

“Okay, here goes. My name is Liv (not Olivia). I'm not technically a girl. I'm transgender. Which is a bit like being a Transformer, only not quite as cool because I probably won't get to save the world one day.

Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but with his new school's terrible dress code, he can't even wear pants. Only skirts.

Operation: Pants Project begins! The only way for Liv to get what he wants is to go after it himself. But to Liv, this isn't just a mission to change the policy--it's a mission to change his life. And that's a pretty big deal.” – *from the Publisher*



Posted

By John David Anderson, c2018

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.1 (Two starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Bullying, School Stories, Friendship

Summary:

“In middle school, words aren't just words. They can be weapons. They can be gifts. The right words can win you friends or make you enemies. They can come back to haunt you. Sometimes they can change things forever.

When cell phones are banned at Branton Middle School, Frost and his friends Deedee, Wolf, and Bench come up with a new way to communicate: leaving sticky notes for each other all around the school. It catches on, and soon all the kids in school are leaving notes--though for every kind and friendly one, there is a cutting and cruel one as well.

In the middle of this, a new girl named Rose arrives at school and sits at Frost's lunch table. Rose is not like anyone else at Branton Middle School, and it's clear that the close circle of friends Frost has made for himself won't easily hold another. As the sticky-note war escalates, and the pressure to choose sides mounts, Frost soon realizes that after this year, nothing will ever be the same.” - *from the Publisher*



Randoms (*Randoms, Book 1 of 3*)

By David Liss, c2015

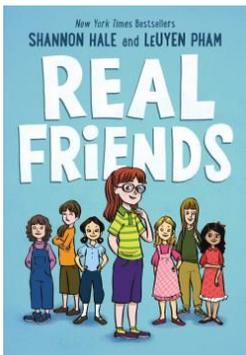
Interest Level: 5-8; Reading Level: 6.0, 485 pages (One starred review)

Themes: Science Fiction, Conspiracies, Action & Adventure

Summary:

“Zeke Reynolds comes from a long line of proud science fiction geeks. He knows his games, comics, movies, and TV shows like Captain Kirk knows the starship *Enterprise*. So it's a dream come true when he learns the science fiction he loves so much is based on reality--and that he's been selected to spend a year on a massive space station. To evaluate humanity's worthiness, the Confederation of United Planets has hand picked three of Earth's most talented young people--and then there's Zeke. He's the random.

Unfortunately, Zeke finds life in space more challenging than he'd hoped. When he saves his transport ship from a treacherous enemy attack, he's labeled a war criminal. Now despised by the Confederation, rejected by his fellow humans, and pursued by a ruthless enemy, Zeke befriends the alien randoms: rejected by their own species, but loyal to each other. But their presence in the Confederation may not be so random after all, and as the danger increases, Zack's knowledge of science fiction might be the only thing that can save himself, his friends, and Earth itself.” - *from the Publisher*



Real Friends

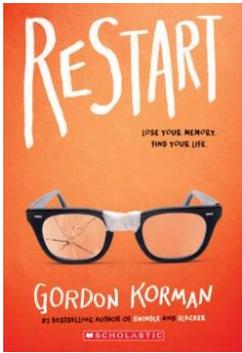
By Shannon Hale, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.7 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Memoir, Graphic Novels, Bully, School Stories, Friendship

Summary:

“Following little Shannon's life from kindergarten through fifth grade, *Real Friends* captures the emotional roller coaster ride of friendship, from navigating the tricky waters of cliques and bullies to her never-ending struggle to stay in "The Group." Shannon's honest and heartfelt story reminds us of how hard it was to learn what real friends are--and why finding them is worth the journey.” - *from the Publisher*



Restart

By Gordon Korman, c2018

Interest Level: 3-6; Reading Level: 5.1 (Two starred reviews)

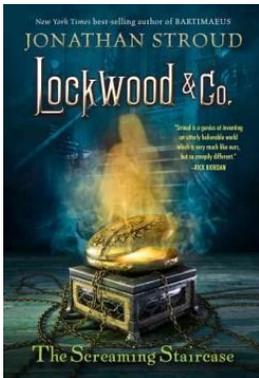
Themes: Realistic Fiction, Humour, Bullying, School Stories, Self-Perception, Alternating (Point of View), Interpersonal Relations, Memory

Summary:

“Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again starting with his own name.

He knows he's Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets.

Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is--it's a question of who he was and who he's going to be.” - *from the Publisher*



The Screaming Staircase (*Lockwood & Co., Book 1 of 5*)

By Jonathan Stroud, c2014

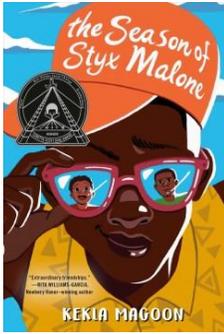
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.1

Themes: Fantasy, Horror, Scary Stories, Supernatural, Thriller, Ghosts

Summary:

“A sinister problem has occurred in London: all nature of ghosts, haunts, spirits, and specters are appearing throughout the city, and they aren't exactly friendly. Only young people have the psychic abilities required to see-and eradicate-these supernatural foes. Many different Psychic Detection Agencies have cropped up to handle the dangerous work, and they are in fierce competition for business.

In *The Screaming Staircase*, the plucky and talented Lucy Carlyle teams up with Anthony Lockwood, the charismatic leader of Lockwood & Co, a small agency that runs independent of any adult supervision. After an assignment leads to both a grisly discovery and a disastrous end, Lucy, Anthony, and their sarcastic colleague, George, are forced to take part in the perilous investigation of Combe Carey Hall, one of the most haunted houses in England. Will Lockwood & Co. survive the Hall's legendary Screaming Staircase and Red Room to see another day?” - *from the Publisher*



The Season of Styx Malone

By Kekla Magoon, c2018

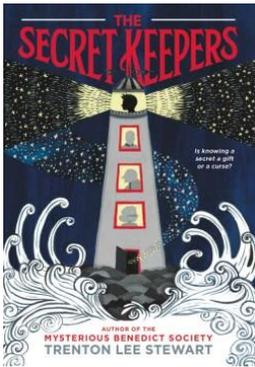
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.8 (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Action and Adventure, Realistic Fiction, Friendship, Family Life

Summary:

“Caleb Franklin and his big brother Bobby Gene are excited to have adventures in the woods behind their house. But Caleb dreams of venturing beyond their ordinary small town.

Then Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade-- exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. But as the trades get bigger, the brothers soon find themselves in over their heads. Styx has secrets--secrets so big they could ruin everything.” – *from the Publisher*



The Secret Keepers

By Trenton Lee Stewart, c2017

Interest Level 3-6, Reading Level: 5.6 (Three starred reviews)

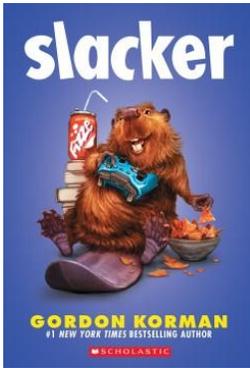
Themes: Mystery, Fantasy, Adventure, Invisibility, Magic, Secrets

Summary:

“When Reuben discovers an extraordinary antique watch with a secret power, his life takes an intriguing turn. As one secret leads to another, Reuben finds himself torn between his honest nature and the lure to be a hero.

Now he is on a dangerous adventure--full of curious characters, treacherous traps, and hairsbreadth escapes--as he races to solve the mystery before it is too late. With fearless Penny, mighty Jack, and the wise Mrs. Genevieve on his side, can Reuben outwit a sly villain called The Smoke and save the city from a terrible fate?

In this ingeniously crafted novel, acclaimed author Trenton Lee Stewart invites readers to join the adventure, decipher the clues, and ask themselves the question: Is knowing a secret a gift or a curse?”
- *from the Publisher*



Slacker (Sequel is *Level 13: A Slacker Novel*)

By Gordon Korman, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.2

Themes: Adventure, Friendship, School Stories, Responsibility, Social Action

Summary:

"A funny, fantastic story of an underachiever who ends up achieving much more than any overachiever could ever imagine.

Cameron Boxer is very happy to spend his life avoiding homework, hanging out with his friends, and gaming for hours in his basement. It's not too hard for him to get away with it until he gets so caught up in one game that he almost lets his house burn down around him. Oops.

It's time for some serious damage control, so Cameron and his friends invent a fake school club that will make it seem like they're doing good deeds instead of slacking off. The problem? Some kids think the club is real - and Cameron is stuck being president.

Soon Cameron is part of a mission to save a beaver named Elvis from certain extinction. Along the way, he makes some new friends. And some powerful new enemies. The guy who never cared about anything is now at the center of everything and it's going to take all his slacker skills to win this round." - *from the Publisher*



Small Spaces

By Katherine Arden, c2019

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.1 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Fantasy, Horror, Action and Adventure, Books and Reading, Paranormal Fiction, Survival,

Summary:

"After suffering a tragic loss, eleven-year-old Ollie who only finds solace in books discovers a chilling ghost story about a girl named Beth, the two brothers who loved her, and a peculiar deal made with "the smiling man"--a sinister specter who grants your most tightly held wish, but only for the ultimate price.

Captivated by the tale, Ollie begins to wonder if the smiling man might be real when she stumbles upon the graves of the very people she's been reading about on a school trip to a nearby farm. Then, later, when her school bus breaks down on the ride home, the strange bus driver tells Ollie and her classmates: "Best get moving. At nightfall they'll come for the rest of you." Nightfall is, indeed, fast descending when Ollie's previously broken digital wristwatch begins a startling countdown and delivers a terrifying message: RUN.

Only Ollie and two of her classmates heed these warnings. As the trio head out into the woods--bordered by a field of scarecrows that seem to be watching them--the bus driver has just one final piece of advice for Ollie and her friends: "Avoid large places. Keep to small." And with that, a deliciously creepy and hair-raising adventure begins." - *from the Publisher*



The Song from Somewhere Else

By A. F. Harrold, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level 5.3 (Four starred reviews)

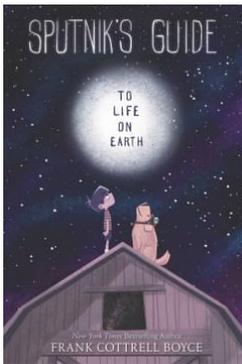
Themes: Fantasy, Bullies, Friendship, Imaginary Creatures, Magic, Paranormal

Summary:

Frank thought her summer couldn't get any worse--until big, weird, smelly Nick Underbridge rescues her from a bully, and she winds up at his house.

Frank quickly realizes there's more to Nick than meets the eye. When she's at his house, she hears the strangest, most beautiful music, music which leads her to a mysterious, hidden door. Beyond the door are amazing creatures that she never even dreamed could be real. For the first time in forever, Frank feels happy and she and Nick start to become friends.

But Nick's incredible secrets are also accompanied by great danger. Frank must figure out how to help her new friend, the same way that he has helped her. (Paired with gorgeous black-and-white illustrations from Levi Pinfold.)” - *from the Publisher*



Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth

By Frank Cottrell Boyce, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.3 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Fantasy, Foster Children, Grandfathers, Dementia, Alien Contact

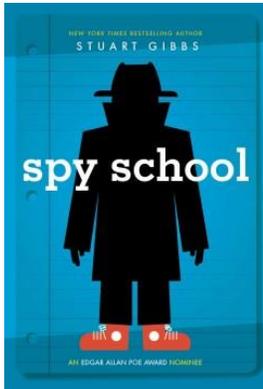
Summary:

“A one-of-a-kind story of heart, humor, and finding one's place in the universe.

Prez knows that the best way to keep track of things is to make a list. That's important when you have a grandfather who is constantly forgetting. And it's even more important when your grandfather can't care for you anymore and you have to go live with a foster family out in the country.

Prez is still learning to fit in at his new home when he answers the door to meet Sputnik--a kid who is more than a little strange. First, he can hear what Prez is thinking. Second, he looks like a dog to everyone except Prez. Third, he can manipulate the laws of space and time. Sputnik, it turns out is an alien, and he's got a mission that requires Prez's help: the Earth has been marked for destruction, and the only way they can stop it is to come up with ten reasons why the planet should be saved.

Thus begins one of the most fun and eventful summers of Prez's life, as he and Sputnik set out on a journey to compile the most important list Prez has ever made--and discover just what makes our world so remarkable.” - *from the Publisher*



Spy School (*Spy School, Book 1 of 7*)

By Stuart Gibbs, c2012

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.3

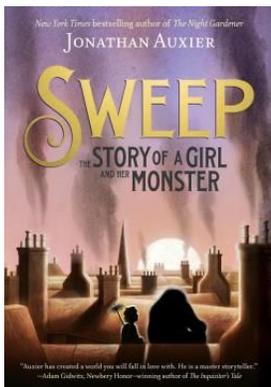
Themes: Adventure, Mystery, School Stories, Spies

Summary:

“Can an undercover nerd become a superstar agent? Ben Ripley sure hopes so--and his life may depend on it!

Ben Ripley may only be in middle school, but he's already pegged his dream job: C.I.A. or bust. Unfortunately for him, his personality doesn't exactly scream "secret agent." In fact, Ben is so awkward, he can barely get to school and back without a mishap. Because of his innate nerdiness, Ben is not surprised when he is recruited for a magnet school with a focus on science--but he's entirely shocked to discover that the school is actually a front for a junior C.I.A. academy. Could the C.I.A. really want him?

Actually, no. There's been a case of mistaken identity--but that doesn't stop Ben from trying to morph into a supercool undercover agent, the kind that always gets the girl. And through a series of hilarious misadventures, Ben realizes he might actually be a halfway decent spy...if he can survive all the attempts being made on his life!” – *from the Publisher*



Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster

By Jonathan Auxier, c2019

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: ? (Six starred reviews)

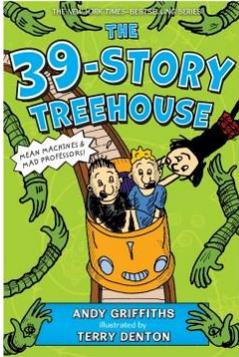
Themes: Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Fantasy & Magic, Homelessness & Poverty, Orphans & Foster Homes

Summary:

“It's been five years since the Sweep disappeared. Orphaned and alone, Nan Sparrow had no other choice but to work for a ruthless chimney sweep named Wilkie Crudd. She spends her days sweeping out chimneys. The job is dangerous and thankless, but with her wits and will, Nan has managed to beat the deadly odds time and time again.

When Nan gets stuck in a chimney fire, she fears the end has come. Instead, she wakes to find herself unharmed in an abandoned attic. And she is not alone. Huddled in the corner is a mysterious creature--a *golem*--made from soot and ash.

Sweep is the story of a girl and her monster. Together, these two outcasts carve out a new life--saving each other in the process. Lyrically told by one of today's most powerful storytellers, *Sweep* is a heartrending adventure about the everlasting gifts of friendship and wonder.” - *from the Publisher*



The 39-Story Treehouse (*Treehouse, Book 3 of 7*)

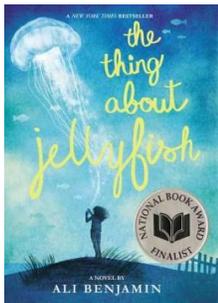
By Andy Griffiths, c2016

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.7

Themes: Fantasy, Humour, Tree Houses, Books and Reading, Action & Adventure

Summary:

“Andy and Terry are once again inviting readers to come hang out with them in their astonishing 39-story treehouse (it used to be 13 stories, then 26 stories, but they keep expanding). And this year they will have even more time to jump on the world's highest trampoline, toast marshmallows in an active volcano, swim in the chocolate waterfall, pet baby dinosaurs, and go head-to-trunk with the Trunkinator, since Terry has created the greatest invention that he--or anyone else--has ever invented ... a Once-upon-a-time machine that will write and illustrate their entire book for them!” - *from the Publisher*



The Thing About Jellyfish

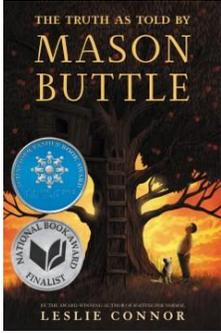
By Ali Benjamin, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.6 (5 starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Friendship, Grief & Loss, Jellyfishes, Marriage & Divorce

Summary:

“Everyone says that it was an accident... that sometimes things "just happen". But Suzy won't believe it. Ever. After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy was a rare jellyfish sting. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.” – *from the Publisher*



The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle

By Leslie Connor, c2018

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: ?) (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Mystery and Detective Stories, Bullying, Death, Grief, Friendship, Disabilities and Special Needs

Summary:

"Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day. Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground club space for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin, and eventually, Benny. But will anyone believe him?" – *from Amazon.ca*

Ungifted (A sequel follows: *Supergifted*)



By Gordon Korman, c2014

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.2

Themes: Realistic Fiction, Humor, Middle Schools, Gifted Children, Robotics

Summary:

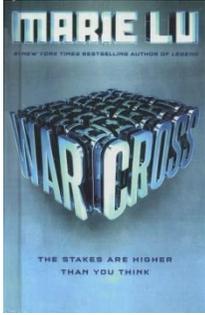
"From #1 New York Times bestselling author Gordon Korman comes a hilarious and heartfelt novel in which one middle-school troublemaker accidentally moves into the gifted and talented program--and changes everything.

For fans of Louis Sachar and Jack Gantos, this funny and touching underdog story is a lovable and goofy adventure with robot fights, middle-school dances, live experiments, and statue-toppling pranks!

When Donovan Curtis pulls a major prank at his middle school, he thinks he's finally gone too far. But thanks to a mix-up by one of the administrators, instead of getting in trouble, Donovan is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students.

Although it wasn't exactly what Donovan had intended, the ASD couldn't be a more perfectly unexpected hideout for someone like him. But as the students and teachers of ASD grow to realize that Donovan may not be good at math or science (or just about anything), he shows that his gifts may be exactly what the ASD students never knew they needed.

Don't miss the sequel to this word-of-mouth hit: *Supergifted!* This funny and heartwarming sequel to *Ungifted* cleverly sends up our preconceived ideas about intelligence, heroism, and popularity." – *from the Publisher*



Warcross (*Warcross, Book 1 of 2*)

By Marie Lu, c2018

Interest Level: Young Adult; Reading Level: ? (Three starred reviews)

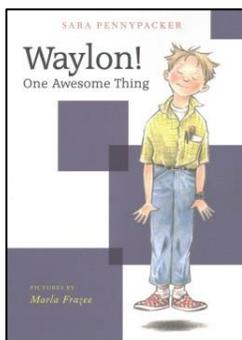
Themes: Science Fiction, Overcoming Adversity, Computer Crimes, Hackers, Internet Games, Spy Fiction, Romance

Summary:

"For the millions who log in every day, Warcross isn't just a game--it's a way of life. The obsession started ten years ago and its fan base now spans the globe, some eager to escape from reality and others hoping to make a profit. Struggling to make ends meet, teenage hacker Emika Chen works as a bounty hunter, tracking down Warcross players who bet on the game illegally. But the bounty-hunting world is a competitive one, and survival has not been easy. To make some quick cash, Emika takes a risk and hacks into the opening game of the international Warcross Championships--only to accidentally glitch herself into the action and become an overnight sensation.

Convinced she's going to be arrested, Emika is shocked when instead she gets a call from the game's creator, the elusive young billionaire Hideo Tanaka, with an irresistible offer. He needs a spy on the inside of this year's tournament in order to uncover a security problem and he wants Emika for the job. With no time to lose, Emika's whisked off to Tokyo and thrust into a world of fame and fortune that she's only dreamed of. But soon her investigation uncovers a sinister plot, with major consequences for the entire Warcross empire.

In this sci-fi thriller, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Marie Lu conjures an immersive, exhilarating world where choosing who to trust may be the biggest gamble of all." - *from the Publisher*



Waylon!: One Awesome Thing (*Waylon!, Book 1 of 3*)

By Sara Pennypacker, c2016

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.6 (Three starred reviews)

Themes: Realistic Fiction, School Stories, Humorous Stories, Brothers & Sisters, Change, Genius

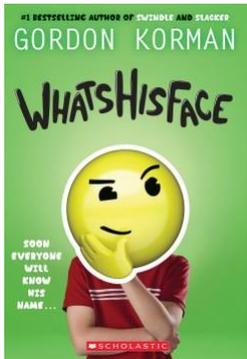
Summary:

"Waylon has lots of ideas for making life more awesome through science, like teleportation, human gills, and attracting cupcakes by controlling gravity. But it's impossible for him to concentrate on his inventions when he's experiencing his own personal Big Bang.

Arlo Brody is dividing the fourth grade boys into two groups. Waylon would rather be friends with everyone. Well, everyone except the scary new kid, Baxter Boylen.

Waylon's older sister, Neon, is shooting away from the family. He wishes everything would go back to the way it was before she started wearing all black and saying "What's the point?" all the time.

Just when it looks as though Waylon's universe is exploding, something happens to bring it all together again, and it is, without a doubt, One Awesome Thing." - *from the Publisher*



Whatshisface

By Gordon Korman, c2019

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.0

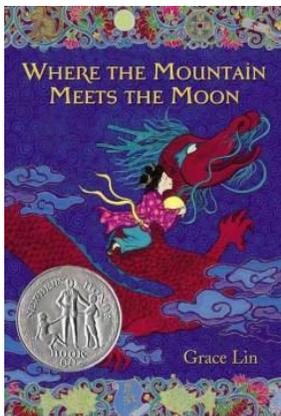
Themes: Fantasy, Humour, School Stories, Friendship, Cell Phones, Ghost Stories

Summary:

"Gordon Korman's newest standalone novel is a fun, funny ghost story about a nobody kid who becomes a somebody while helping a ghost right a wrong from

the past.

When 12-year-old Cooper Vega moves for the third time in five years, he receives a state-of-the-art smartphone to help him stay in touch with old friends. He's had phones before, but this one is buggy and unpredictable. When a boy named Roderick Northrop communicates with him through the phone, Cooper realizes that his phone isn't buggy at all: the thing is haunted!" - *from the Publisher*



Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (*Companion book: Starry River of the Sky follows*)

By Grace Lin, c2009

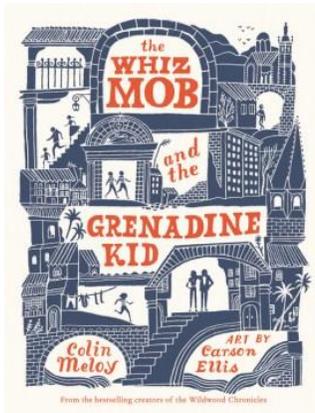
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.5 (Four starred reviews, Newbery Honor book 2010)

Themes: Fantasy, Dragons, Fairy Tales, Moon, Asian American

Summary:

"In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. While her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man in the Moon, Minli's mother chides him for filling her head with stories. But inspired by these stories, Minli spends one of her precious copper pennies on a beautiful goldfish, which is said to be able to change the fortune of the owner. Her mother reprimands her for the silly purchase, but it pays off when the goldfish talks and offers to show her the path to fortune and wealth! Minli is eventually joined by a dragon who can't fly, and together they set out to find the Old Man of the Moon to ask him to fulfill their dreams.

Fantasy crossed with Chinese folklore, with timeless elements of the classic *The Wizard of Oz* mixed in, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* is a wondrous story of adventure, devotion, and friendship. Grace Lin has once again written a charming, engaging book for young readers." - *from the Publisher*



The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid

By Colin Meloy, c2017

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 6.2; 420 pages (One starred review)

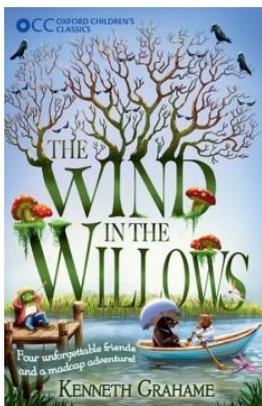
Themes: Adventure, Historical Fiction, Humor, Fantasy, Robbers and Outlaws, Pickpockets, Friendship

Summary:

“It is an ordinary Tuesday morning in April when bored, lonely Charlie Fisher witnesses something incredible. Right before his eyes, in a busy square in Marseille, a group of pickpockets pulls off an amazing robbery. As the young bandits appear to melt into the crowd, Charlie realizes with a start that he himself was one of their marks.

Yet Charlie is less alarmed than intrigued. This is the most thrilling thing that's happened to him since he came to France with his father, an American diplomat. So instead of reporting the thieves, Charlie defends one of their cannons, Amir, to the police, under one condition: he teach Charlie the tricks of the trade.

What starts off as a lesson on pinches, kicks, and chumps soon turns into an invitation for Charlie to join the secret world of the whiz mob, an international band of child thieves who trained at the mysterious School of Seven Bells. The whiz mob are independent and incredibly skilled and make their own way in the world--they are everything Charlie yearns to be. But what at first seemed like a (relatively) harmless new pastime draws him into a dangerous adventure with global stakes greater than he could have ever imagined.” - *from the Publisher*



The Wind in the Willows

By Kenneth Grahame, c1908, 2014

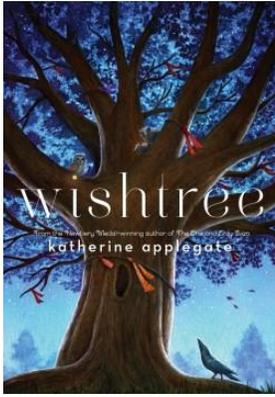
Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 8.2

Themes: Friendship, Animals Fiction, Classics

Summary:

“Mole, Rat, and Badger are Toad’s dearest friends even as the aristocratic amphibian’s wastrel ways get him into trouble. After being arrested and sentenced to jail, he returns to his ancestral home of Toad Hall to find it overrun with stoats and weasels from the Wild Wood. But his friends haven’t abandoned him yet. In fact, they’ve conspired to help drive the villainous vermin from his home.

Embracing themes of empathy and friendship under the most trying conditions, *The Wind in the Willows* follows the journey of its anthropomorphic characters through the changing seasons of the English countryside while providing life lessons that have endured for generations.” – *from Amazon.ca*



Wishtree

By Katherine Applegate, c2017

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.2 (Five starred reviews)

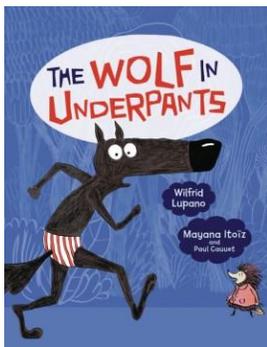
Themes: Fantasy, Multicultural, Tolerance, Friendship, Wishes, Trees, Crows

Summary:

“Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"-people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with her crow friend Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this "wishtree" watches over the neighborhood.

You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.

Funny, deep, warm, and nuanced, *Wishtree* is Newbery Medalist and *New York Times*-bestselling author Katherine Applegate at her very best--writing from the heart, and from a completely unexpected point of view.” – *from the Publisher*



The Wolf in Underpants (*Wolf In Underpants, Book 1 of 2*)

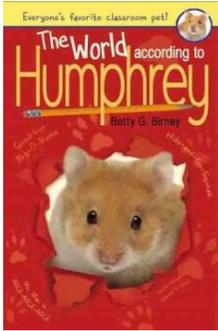
By Wilfrid Lupano, c2019

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.6

Themes: Animal Fiction, Graphic Novels

Summary:

“In this witty graphic novel, a community of forest animals trades scary rumors about a nearby wolf. Some critters have even gone into business selling wolf traps and anti-wolf fences. But when the wolf appears in a pair of striped underpants, everyone rethinks their fears. This is a heartwarming story about understanding differences, told with an oddball sense of humor.” – *from the Publisher*



The World According to Humphrey (*Humphrey the Hamster, Book 1 of 12*)

By Betty G. Birney, c2004

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.2

Themes: Animal Stories, Fantasy, Humour, School Stories, Hamsters

Summary:

“You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That's what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy is it true! There are always adventures in the classroom and each weekend he gets to sleep over with different students. Humphrey learns to read, write, shoot rubber bands (only in self-defence, of course), turn off TVs, teach English as a second language, and more. With a lock-that-doesn't-lock and an adventurous spirit, what more could a mischievous hamster want?

With a fresh voice and an engaging, hamster's-eye view of school, families, and treats to hide in a cheek pouch, Betty G. Birney's Humphrey will elicit laughter and demands for hamsters in every elementary classroom.” - *from the Publisher*



The Wild Robot (*Wild Robot, Book 1 of 2*)

By Peter Brown, c2016

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.1 (Four starred reviews)

Themes: Action and Adventure, Science Fiction, Robots, Survival, Animals, Conservation & Environment

Summary:

“Can a robot survive in the wilderness?

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants.

As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

From bestselling and award-winning author and illustrator Peter Brown comes a heartwarming and action-packed novel about what happens when nature and technology collide.” - *from the Publisher*