

Best New Teen Books of 2015



NLA/NEMA/MPLA Conference

October 2014

Presented by Sally Snyder,
Nebraska Library Commission &
Jill Annis, Elkhorn Grandview Middle School



Fiction for Younger Teens

Black, Holly & Cassandra Clare ***THE IRON TRIAL***
295p. Scholastic 2014 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-52225-0

Callum Hunt (12) has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. But he is called to be tested to enter The Magisterium to be trained in magic. Trying hard to fail – he instead succeeds. This is the account of his first year at the school for magic, where, against his better judgment, he continues to succeed and begins to enjoy his lessons.

Buyea, Robert W. ***SAVING MR. TERUPT***
384p. Delacorte Books (Penguin Random House) 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-385-74355-6

Students Peter, Jeffrey, Alexia, Anna, Danielle, Luke, and Jessica have returned for the third installment in the Mr. Terupt series. Starting middle school without Mr. Terupt as their teacher has been a challenge for some students and a breeze for others. One thing is for certain, they all still need each other and Mr. Terupt just may need their help as well.

Crowder, Melanie ***AUDACITY***
400p. Philomel Books 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-399-16899-4

Historical Verse novel inspired by the real-life story of Clara Lemlich, a teenage Russian immigrant who stood up for equal rights for women in the work place during the turn of the century. Clara gets bullied, beaten, and sent to the hospital on numerous occasions, but she doesn't give up the fight. Inspiring and powerful story about struggling for a purpose with the added bonus of learning about the women's rights movement.

Erskine, Kathryn ***THE BADGER KNIGHT***
325p. Scholastic 2014 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-46442-0

Adrian (12) is small, sickly, and an albino. While the people in his village are used to him, strangers usually run from him thinking he is devil (or maybe an angel). He has practiced with his bow and is skilled in its use. When a war between the Scots and the English breaks out, his best friend Hugh, runs off to join the battle. Adrian follows certain the English can use his skill. As he encounters a battle, people who fear him, and his friend (who has saved a Scot and is caring for

him) Adrian begins to learn that things are not simple, enemies are not completely evil, and those charged with caring for others are not always true.

Grabenstein, Chris ***THE ISLAND OF DR. LIBRIS***

256p. Random House 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-385-38844-3

Billy (12) is stuck spending the summer with his mom on a mysterious island that belongs to Dr. Libris. Why are there security cameras all over the place? Why does Dr. Libris have a locked bookcase? Can Billy unlock the secrets of the island and bring book characters alive using his imagination? Maybe being on an island without electronics could be a fun and adventurous summer! Another great book by Grabenstein, but it was hard to top *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. I recommend to 3rd grade on up.

Hale, Shannon ***PRINCESS ACADEMY: THE FORGOTTEN SISTERS***

324p. Bloomsbury 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-61963-485-5

(Book 3 & final) Miri, Peder, and friends are leaving the Palace to return to Mount Eskel, their home, when the King calls Miri to report to him. He assigns her the duty of traveling to a little known swampy area and conduct a Princess Academy for the three sisters there, cousins of the royal family. Miri finds things very different than what she had expected and realizes she had become used to a more privileged life. She knuckles down and slowly begins to make progress – after first making several mistakes. Then more problems appear. Hale's excellent writing continues in this addition to the series.

Henry, April ***BLOOD WILL TELL***

272p. Henry Holt & Co. 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-8050-9853-2

Blood Will Tell is the 2nd installment in A Point Last Seen Mystery series. Oregon Search and Rescue team members find a woman's dead body in a vacant lot and foul play is suspected. Nick Walker only lives a few blocks away from the murder scene, and he assists in the evidence collection but later becomes the prime suspect. Can fellow team members Ruby and Alexis help to prove Nick's innocence and who is the real killer?

Holt, K. A. ***RHYME SCHEMER***

176p. Chronicle Books 2014 \$15.99 ISBN 978-1-452127002; \$6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-452145709

Kevin Johnson (13) does not fit in with a home full of doctors and older brothers. He starts making fun of his classmates and begins to act out in middle school which lands him in the principal's office. Kevin also secretly rips out pages from library books and writes poems using the words on the page. One day Robin blackmails Kevin by stealing his writer's journal and repays Kevin for his prior mistreatment. With the tides turned, Kevin ends up hiding in the library and Mrs. Little discovers his talent in poetry writing. Will Mrs. Little help Kevin and Robin work out their differences? I was pulling for Kevin as he was bullied by one of his brothers, and I really loved the librarian too! Quick verse novel for 4th grade on up!

Jones, Patrick ***RAISING HEAVEN***

82p. Darbycreek (Lerner) 2015 \$27.99 ISBN 978-1-4677-5802-4

Deja (17) lives with her grandmother. Her mother is in prison, again. She has been in and out of prison all of Deja's life and made promises she didn't keep. This time her mom is pregnant and Deja has agreed to care for the baby for 6 months until her mom is out of jail. Plans are different from reality. Even with the special program at school for babies of students, Deja needs more help than she is getting. And she has no idea if her mom will really take care of the baby when she gets out. This is one title of a set of 4 books (Locked Out) written by Patrick Jones about teens with an incarcerated parent.

Kindl, Patrice ***A SCHOOL FOR BRIDES***

251p. Viking (Penguin Group) 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-670-78608-4

Set in the same time and place – the early 1800s in the town of Lesser Hoo in Yorkshire England – as her *Keeping the Castle* (2012) the author has provided another enjoyable Jane Austen-esque escapade. The eight young ladies of the Winthrop Hopkins Female Academy study their lessons in math, French, comportment and stitching; but their real purpose at the school is to find a husband. Too bad Lesser Hoo has only one sort-of eligible bachelor. Things look up when a young well-to-do gentleman is thrown from his horse. A broken leg necessitates his stay at the school and soon some of his friends come to visit. A couple of mysteries and some ne'er-do-wells in the mix make a humorous gratifying tale.

Korman, Gordon ***MASTERMINDS***

336p. Balzer + Bray 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-229996-3

Eli (13) and his best friend Randy live in the perfect town of Serenity where everyone gets along in perfect harmony. Something strange happens one day when they decide to go outside the city limit on a bike ride. Eli becomes deathly ill and a helicopter full of town security rush him to the hospital. The next day Randy is moving to a relative's house far from Serenity. Eli knows something is wrong with this picture, but it takes Randy's clue and an investigation with his buddies Malik and Tori to find out the truth about the town and their identities. Told in multiple perspectives, this middle grade science fiction/adventure should have students wanting to read the second installment.

Lu, Marie adapted by Leigh Dragoon ***LEGEND: The Graphic Novel***

Illus. by Kaari 160p. G.P. Putnam's Sons \$14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-399-17189-5

Beautifully illustrated graphic novel in full color had me reliving the story of Day and June. Day is the Republic's criminal while June is the Prodigy out to capture him until she finds out the truth. Great plot and word choice with detailed pictures throughout the novel. I don't usually reread books, but this was one way for me to remember one of my favorite Sci-Fi books and the 2013-2014 Golden Sower winner. Great for middle school on up!

McCoola, Marika **BABA YAGA'S ASSISTANT**

Illus. by Emily Carroll 127p. Candlewick Press 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-6961-4

Masha feels unwanted when her widower father plans to marry and bring home a stepmother and stepsister. She sees an ad in the paper stating “assistant wanted asap” and decides to apply for the position. Her grandmother had told her many tales of Baba Yaga, so she is not overwhelmed when she finds the house on chicken legs and knows the way inside. Baba Yaga is clever and has several tasks for her, but Masha is up to the challenge. But when the witch brings several young children home, and one of them is her stepsister, Masha has a whole new challenge to face. This graphic novel has full color illustrations that help further the story.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. **MARK OF THE THIEF**

339. Scholastic Press 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-56154-9

Nic, a slave for five years in ancient Rome, is forced to go into the formerly sealed mine holding the treasures of Julius Caesar. He finds the bulla (a medallion) he was sent for but also finds a live griffin apparently there to protect it. He does escape (riding the griffin) and from there he is either held captive or running from those who want the bulla. Something he is now reluctant to give up. Two more tokens must be found in the next books. *Rise of the Wolf*, bk 2, is out 1/26/16

Nielsen, Susin **WE ARE ALL MADE OF MOLECULES**

256p. Wendy Lamb Books (Penguin Random House) 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-553496864

Stewart (13) and Ashley (14) are thrown together when Stewart's father moves in with Ashley's mother. Stewart is not high on the social scale at school and Ashley, one of the mean girls and not happy with this arrangement, is extra angry when he is placed in her grade, having switched from his former school. She avoids him or any mention of him at school, hoping no one will find out he is her stepbrother. Bullying, adjusting to changes, sexual orientation, facing reality, and humor are included.

Priest, Cherie **I AM PRINCESS X**

227p. Arthur A. Levine Books (Scholastic) 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-545-62085-7

Friends starting in 5th grade, May and Libby created a superhero they called Princess X. May wrote the stories and Libby drew the comic books. But then Libby died in a car accident and May was lost for a time. Summer, five years later, while staying with her father in Portland, Oregon, (she lives with her mom in Atlanta the rest of the year) Max (16) sees a sticker of Princess X on a dilapidated store window. It could only be from Libby. Max begins her search for Libby, who must still be alive, and finds help from a neighbor guy—a hacker and a computer help person. Includes occasional excerpts from the new comic that apparently Libby is creating and placing on a web page, with clues only Max could find.

Reynolds, Jason **THE BOY IN THE BLACK SUIT**

255p. Simon & Schuster 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-4424-5950-2

Matt's (17) mother has just passed away; his father is drinking too much in his grief and ends up in the hospital after being hit by a car. Mr. Ray offers Matt a job at his funeral home and Matt begins to learn how to handle his grief by attending the funerals of others.

Schlitz, Laura Amy ***THE HIRED GIRL***

387p. Candlewick Press 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-7818-0

Joan, 14 when she leaves her father's farm, is convinced a better life waits for her as a maid in a well-to-do household. Here she puts her thoughts and experiences into the journal her teacher gave her. She has her share of ups and downs with some meddling and developing crushes on young men out of her reach. Still, she begins to find her way and has hope for the future.

Shusterman, Neal and Eric Elfman ***EDISON'S ALLEY***

250p. Disney Hyperion Books 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4231-4806-7

(The Accelerati, Bk 2) (trilogy) 14-year-old Nick and his family have moved to Colorado Springs from Florida, after the death of his mother in a house fire. The attic, his choice for his bedroom, was full of weird old stuff so the first thing he did was have a yard sale. Now Nick and his new friends know he has to get all the items back. Making it more difficult is a group called the Accelerati, who want all the items for themselves. They were designed by Tesla who Nick is certain, had a plan for their use to help the world.

Smale, Holly ***GEEK GIRL***

416p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-233357-5

Harriet Manners isn't your typical 15 year old girl. Her head is full of trivia knowledge, and her classmates notice her differences and are continually calling her a geek. When her best friend Nan convinces her to go on a school field trip to a fashion show, Harriet tries to play sick but Nan doesn't fall for it. While at the show, Harriet accidentally gets discovered by a modeling agency. Will Harriet risk hurting Nan's feelings to become discovered? Can she turn from her geek ways and join the cute model, Nick?

Smith, Roland ***BENEATH***

304p. Scholastic 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-56486-1

What lies Beneath the streets of New York City? This is what Pat must find out when his older brother, Coop, runs away and leaves him cryptic messages on a digital voice recorder one year later. The biggest problem for Pat is he is claustrophobic after a digging accident with his brother so searching for an underground tunnels poses major problems. Pat must follow clues to the Community, but then finds out he must go even deeper. Will Pat be able to overcome his fear of tight places and rescue Coop? Fast paced middle school book that leaves the reader satisfied with the conclusion, but hoping for a sequel.

Starmer, Aaron ***THE WHISPER***

368p. Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-374-36311-6

The Whisper is the 2nd installment in the Riverman Trilogy. Alistair Cleary (12) seems to think he is in the magical land of Aquavania where children can create the world of their dreams just by using their imaginations. The problem is that all of the creators are missing and their worlds are beginning to disappear. Alistair must find Fiona and get back home before it is too late. He embarks on a journey going from world to world to correct his past mistakes. He must conquer monsters and confront the Riverman himself. Will he find Fiona and will they survive?

Stevenson, Noelle ***NIMONA***

256p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-227823-4

Based on her webcomic, this graphic novel tells the entire story of Nimona, who applies to be the sidekick of the realm's villain Lord Ballister Blackheart. She has little patience for his rule-following and soon is stirring up mayhem in his name. The "good guy" Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin, really doesn't seem to mind shortcuts or cheating. Who is the good guy really? Kirkus review says, "If you're going to read one graphic novel this year, make it this one." (3/15/15)

Tripp, Ben ***THE ACCIDENTAL HIGHWAYMAN***

295p. Tor 2014 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-7653-3549-4

Kit Bristol (16), once a trick rider for a circus, is now the only servant for Master Rattle, who turns out to be the notorious highwayman, Whistling Jack. When Jack is fatally wounded, Kit takes his horse to get help, but is soon mistaken for the highwayman. Danger, adventure, and associating with a variety of friendly and unfriendly magical beings keep Kit busy and will capture readers.

White, Jen ***SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF THE ALMOST BRAVE***

320p. Farrar Straus Giroux 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-374-30084-5

Liberty (12) and her younger sister Billie have just lost their mother and had to spread her ashes in the ocean. The girls are sent to live with their father who they haven't seen in years. They get in a camper to travel the U.S. as their dad is a nature photographer. They stop at a gas station to use the restroom and their father is nowhere to be found. Now Liberty must be brave for Billie and find a way out of this mess.

Nonfiction for Teens

Alifirenka, Caitlin ***I WILL ALWAYS WRITE BACK: How One Letter Changes Two Lives***

400p. Little, Brown 2015 \$18.00 ISBN 978-0-316-24131-1

True story that follows American Caitlyn and Martin from Zimbabwe during their middle school years through the challenge of entering college. It began as an English assignment in which Caitlyn could choose a pen pal from another country. She was intrigued by the country of Zimbabwe so she and Martin were matched up. A long distance connection was immediately formed between the two that could not be broken with the many ups and downs of their lives. Told in alternating chapters with actual excerpts from letters, this novel will connect with readers emotionally.

Angel, Ann ***THINGS I'LL NEVER SAY: Stories About Our Secret Selves***

320p. Candlewick Press 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0763673079

Author Ann Angel has compiled short stories written by fifteen different young adult authors in a variety of genres. Stories are written in different perspectives and teenagers will relate to the unique characters struggling with self identity, family issues, or they have discovered unexpected truths or hidden secrets. A unique blend of authors such as Chris Lynch, Katy Moran,

Louise Hawes, J.L. Powers, and Mary Ann Rodman. Students who pick up this novel will surely find a story that hits home.

Brown, Don ***DROWNED CITY: Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans***

96p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-544-15777-4

As he did with *The Great American Dust Bowl*, the author uses a graphic novel approach to a nonfiction book about Hurricane Katrina's effect on New Orleans. Includes source notes and a bibliography.

Burcaw, Shane ***LAUGHING AT MY NIGHTMARE***

248p. Roaring Brook Press \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-62672-007-7

Shane Burcaw hops around a bit while explaining what his life is like with spinal muscular atrophy – SMA. He tells it like it is. Bathroom humor and quips are included as well as clear information on how he (and his brother or father or friends) gets something done. He was 21 years old when wrote book and so includes vignettes from his early memory through college, though not in order. Includes offensive language (as one would expect) and plenty of humor He has web page readers may wish to visit, also called “Laughing at my nightmare.” This title was a 2015 finalist (one of four) for the YALSA Nonfiction Award (*Popular* by Maya Van Wagenen won).

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell ***TERRIBLE TYPHOID MARY: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook In America*** 229p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-544-31367-5

Two titles this year on the woman called Typhoid Mary, each has its merits. This one by Bartoletti is written in a straightforward manner and is mostly text as the author provides what we now know about Mary Mallon and her steadfast determination that she never had typhoid fever and so could not have spread the disease. The author includes a large list of source notes and also includes a timeline, bibliography, and index.

Jarrow, Gail ***FATAL FEVER: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary***

175p. Calkins Creek 2015 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-62091-597-4

Jarrow's version also follows the individual, Mary Mallon, and those who were trying to locate her. Each chapter is interspersed with photographs, signs, and notices of the time. These break up the text while adding an interesting perspective to the information. Jarrow also includes source notes, a glossary, timeline, bibliography, a list of famous typhoid victims, and index.

Engle, Margarita ***ENCHANTED AIR: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir***

192p. Simon & Schuster 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-3522-2

Writing in free verse, the authors tells of her life from a young child to age 14. It is a beautifully written memoir that touches on her feelings of abandonment when she is living in the U.S. but no longer able to visit her family in Cuba due to the politics of the two countries.

Jiménez, Francisco **TAKING HOLD**

191p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-547-63230-8

The fourth book about his life as an immigrant from Mexico, here he tells us of working to get his Master's Degree and PHD from Columbia University in NY. The conversational tone draws in the reader, who gets a glance at one man's life, his feelings of being out of place, making friends, missing his family, and the choices he makes.

Lowrey, Lynda Blackmon & 3 others **TURNING 15 ON THE ROAD TO FREEDOM: My Story of the Selma Voting Rights March** 128p. Dial Books 2015 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0803741232

Linda Blackmon Lowery's memoir during the middle of the civil rights movement. Linda was the youngest person to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965 in protest of the inequality in voting rights for African Americans. Before she was 15 years old, she had been jailed 9 times because she believed that everything would be better if African Americans could vote because there's power in voting. Told in words pictures, and photographs, this book will help students gain an insight into the hardships that Linda and her family went through on their journey for equality.

Paulsen, Gary **THIS SIDE OF WILD**

Illus. by Tim Jessell 118p. Simon & Schuster 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-5150-5

A collection of experiences Gary Paulsen has gone through that have affected his view of nature and of animal intelligence... Some of them seem extraordinary and mind-boggling. You can doubt his interpretation of the events, but it seems they did happen. Whew!

Fiction for Older Teens

Albertalli, Becky **SIMON VS. THE HOMO SAPIENS AGENDA**

303p. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-234867-8

Have you ever forgotten to log out of your email account on a public computer? This is exactly what happens to 16 year old Simon Spier, and one of his emails gets into the wrong hands. Simon hasn't come out to his friends or family yet, but Martin is threatening to share his identity with the entire high school. Worst of all, the privacy of Blue, the pen name of his new love interest, could be put in jeopardy too. Can Simon save himself and his secret in his crazy junior year?

Austen, Jane, adapted by Crystal S. Chan **EMMA** (Manga Classics series)

Illus. by Po Tse 297p. UDON Entertainment 2015 \$19.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-927925-35-5

(Manga Classics series) This year is the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Emma*. Well adapted to the format, readers may look for the original after reading this adaptation. Manga Classics also has *Pride and Prejudice*, *Les Misérables*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *Great Expectations* so far.

Aveyard, Victoria **RED QUEEN**

400p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-231063-7

Mare Barrow (17) is a Red living in the Slits ruled by the elite Silvers who have powers or extraordinary abilities. After stumbling into a job at the Silver Palace, Mare figures out there is something quite different about her. Mare's blood is Red, but she has electrical abilities of her own. Since her power is dangerous and unique, the King and Queen decide to betroth Mare to their youngest son and pass her off as a Silver. Can Mare keep up the act or will she decide to use her power to aid the Red rebellion? I recommend this book to 6th grade on up and fans of *Cinder* and *The Selection*.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn **THE FIXER**

370p. Bloomsbury 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-61963-594-4

Tess (16) has lived with her grandfather on his ranch since she can remember. The past year his forgetfulness has become harder to hide, until her older sister, Ivy, whom she doesn't really know, whisks in and packs them both up. Tess now lives with her in Washington D.C. and grandpa is being evaluated. At her new school Tess learns Ivy is a "fixer" – political troubles? Ivy will fix it, for a price. When Tess stops a bully at school, the students think she is a fixer like her sister and soon she and her new friends are in the middle of a messy situation. Lots of political intrigue, danger, and power moves.

Carter, Ally **ALL FALL DOWN**

310p. Scholastic 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-65474-6

Grace, 16, is now living with her diplomat grandfather in the fictitious country of Adria in the capital city of Valencia. She saw her mother die when she was 13 and knows a man with a scar killed her before the building they were in burned down. She is determined to find the killer, even though everyone else says it was an accident.

Black, Holly **THE DARKEST PART OF THE FOREST**

336p. Little, Brown 2015 \$18.00 ISBN 978-0-316-21307-3

Hazel (16) and her brother Ben live in the town of Fairfold where humans live along side of fairies which makes the town a tourist attraction (even though some fae can be extremely dangerous). Ben and Hazel are both in love with the main attraction, a fairy prince who has been sleeping for years in a glass coffin in the forest. Someone frees the sleeping prince and now Fairfold people are being attacked by a monster terrorizing the town. Hazel and Ben must team up and remember their childhood of pretending to be knights in order to save Fairfold from complete destruction. Eerie and suspenseful until the very end.

Bodeen, S. A. **THE DETOUR**

224p. Feiwel & Friends 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-250055545

Livvy Flynn is a teenage New York Times best-selling author. She is pretty, rich, famous, and not modest to say the least. She has made it into the spotlight and has accepted an invitation to an author's retreat across the country. After purchasing a new car, Livvy decides to drive to the retreat for some alone time. As bad luck would have it a fan has set up a detour, and Livvy has

fallen right into her trap. Her car is wrecked, she has been beaten up, and kidnapped with no way out. Why has this fan and her daughter kidnapped Livvy and how can she get out of this dire situation alive?

Bray, Libba ***LAIR OF DREAMS***

613p. Little, Brown & Co. 2015 \$19.00 ISBN 978-0-316-12604-5

Sequel to *The Diviners* (looks like there will be a third book in the future) Evie is on the radio as the Sweetheart Seer and she is loving the attention. Diviners, both real and fake, are coming out of the woodwork to capitalize on the popularity of the phenomenon. But a new trouble has arisen, people are succumbing to the “sleeping sickness” – they are dying because can’t leave their dreams to wake up, and no one is able to help. Things get pretty scary (but not as bad as the first book was for me).

Condie, Ally ***ATLANTIA***

298p. Dutton (Penguin Group) 2014 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42644-8

Twins Rio and Bay have recently lost their mother, and now is the time they must choose to stay below the water in Atlantia or go above to live their lives on the land. Rio has always wanted to live on the land, but stays below for her sister. Bay chooses the land and Rio feels betrayed. As she tries to learn why her sister chose as she did, Rio learns more about the underwater city’s precarious position, and searches for an answer to save the people. Combining myth and the future this story of family and of survival will draw in readers.

Cumming, Lindsay ***THE DEATH CODE***

512p. Greenwillow Books 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-222003-5

The second installment in the Murder Complex series. Told in alternating chapters of Meadow and Zephyr a few short weeks after the first book. Zephyr must keep the secret that Meadow holds the key to the Murder Complex, so if she dies, the murder complex will be destroyed. Meadow is on the hunt for her father, brother, and little sister. She will continue to fight until she has rescued each one of them even if it means sacrificing herself or her friends. Action packed read that leaves the reader wondering if Meadow or Zephyr will survive. Recommend to fans of *The Hunger Games* and *Divergent*.

Damico, Gina ***HELLHOLE***

350p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-544-30710-0

Max (17) is in over his head. His mother is very ill, in bed at home waiting for a heart transplant, they have piles of unpaid bills, he has a rotten job at the quick mart gas station, and school is just ...school. One day he swipes an ugly, glittery kitty key chain for a gift for his mom, and this act sends a demon to his house. Now Max must find a way to get rid of the demon – but he also wants to make a deal so his mom can get the transplant. He keeps making bigger promises to the demon, Burg, and his new friend Lore, a girl with a secret, may be his only hope.

de la Peña, Matt ***THE HUNTED***

361p. Delacorte Press (Penguin Random House) 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-375-98992-6

Sequel to *The Living* and it is best to read them in order. Shy (16) and his friends Carmen, Marcus and Shoeshine have reached the devastated California shore (Venice) after 36 days at sea in a small sailboat. Massive earthquakes destroyed much of the cities and now zones have been set up to keep out people with the deadly Romero Disease. The group must get to Arizona to turn over the vials of vaccine to scientists who can use it to duplicate the formula. In their way? Not only the vigilantes protecting their zones, but also assassins for the Laso Tech company – the people who created the disease. (it will be a trilogy)

Easton, T. S. ***BOYS DON'T KNIT***

265p. Feiwel and Friends (Macmillan) 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-250-05331-2

Set in England, Ben Fletcher (17) is talked into being the lookout while his friends nick a few bottles of booze as the entry fee to attend a party. Ben, of course, is the only one caught and now he is on probation. He must attend a class at the nearby community school so he signs up for knitting, to be taught by the hot teacher at school. That was a typo so now he is the only guy in the class and is astounded to find he has a knack for knitting. Soon he is entered in the regional junior knitting competition and he knows it is only a matter of time before his well-kept secret becomes well-known. Includes instances of bullying at school and in the neighborhood, and a good dose of humor for the reader.

Falkoff, Michelle ***PLAYLIST FOR THE DEAD***

288p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-231050-7

Sam (15) has just had the shock of his life finding the body of his best friend, Hayden, after he committed suicide. Hayden had been bullied by his older brother and his friends, but Sam also had a fight with Hayden the night before his death. A music playlist and note was left for Sam stating for him to listen and he would understand. Sam continuously listens to Hayden's playlist in order to find answers, but struggles to cope because Hayden was his only friend. Astrid befriends Sam, but she has secrets of her own. Will Sam figure out the mystery of Hayden's death and will Astrid help with this process? I recommend this book to high school on up and fans of *Thirteen Reasons Why* and *If I Stay*.

Fishman, Seth ***THE DARK WATER***

288p G.P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Group) 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-399-15991-6

The second book in the Well's End series. Mia (17) and her friends had to escape Blake Sutton's army so they plunged into the fountain of youth to swim to safety. Instead of finding peace, the group found an underground civilization of humans who are the "keepers of the well" and they are not happy to see intruders. A battle begins and Mia must locate the source of the well to help cure the terrible virus from spreading on land. Will Mia and her friends find the source and will they make it back home before it is too late?

Forman, Gayle ***I WAS HERE***

288p. Viking 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-451471475

** spoiler alert ** Cody (19) is trying to solve the mystery of her best friend Meg's death. Why would a perfectly happy college freshman drink poison and leave a strange suicide note behind? Cody travels back to Meg's college town and meets her roommates to try to come to terms with her death. She meets Ben and a strange connection occurs. Good book that may open readers' eyes to the online suicide community. I recommend this book to fans of *All the Bright Places* and *Thirteen Reasons Why*.

Grant, Michael ***MESSENGER OF FEAR***

260p. HarperCollins 2014 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-220740-1

An accessory to a crime manages to escape the authorities and so will not pay for his or her deed. Then in steps the Messenger. Justice and the balance must be served. It is his duty to offer the guilty a "game:" if they win they go free, if they lose they suffer through their greatest fear. But why is Mara (15) now his apprentice? What did she do to deserve this? Her memories have been clouded by the Messenger and he releases pieces of a few of them a little at a time.

Grant, Michael ***THE TATTOOED HEART***

389p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-220743-2

(Messenger of Fear, Bk 2) Mara, now 16, continues as the Messenger's apprentice. They perform their duties while Mara becomes increasingly aware of how hard and lonely it will be when she becomes a messenger. She does some hard thinking about the messengers and their duties, and is tempted to interfere or try to change some things, and is shocked when another messenger is brought to task for making a slight change in a girl's life. There is a brief summary at the beginning of the book for those who missed the first title. This could continue to another title, but I haven't seen any evidence of it yet.

Green, Sally ***HALF WILD***

412p. Viking (Penguin Group) 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-670-01713-3

The second book in the Half Bad Trilogy. Set in England where witches and humans live among each other. Nathan (17) is half white witch and half black witch with his father being the most notorious black witch of all time. Locked up for two years by the Council of White Witches, Nathan has escaped and is trying to control his new powers while on the hunt for his friend Gabriel. The hunters are out to kill him and a new alliance has been formed to bring down the Council. Nathan isn't sure who he should trust because everyone wants him to be a killer. The readers' eyes are open as to who should be considered good and who is really evil.

Hand, Cynthia ***THE LAST TIME WE SAID GOODBYE***

400p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-231847-3

Lex (17) has just lost her brother in the worst possible way...by suicide. She keeps reliving the day in her mind when Ty sent her a text message. Could she have prevented her brother's death? Now Lex keeps feeling Ty's presence and stumbles upon unfinished business for him. Will working through these details for Ty help him move on, or is Ty's ghost a figment of Lex's imagination?

Compelling novel about first love, heart-breaking loss, and learning to live again. I highly recommend to 9th grade on up and fans of *Thirteen Reasons Why*.

Hawkins, Rachel ***MISS MAYHEM***

273p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Group) 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25694-3

The second book in the Rebel Belle series. Harper Price's life has been turned upside down since she became a Paladin with super powers and forced to protect David Stark. Things are beginning to get back to normal when Harper's best friend, Bee, returns after mysteriously disappearing. Normalcy doesn't last long as the Ephors decide they would rather train David than kill him. Now Harper must go through an ancient trial that will either improve her powers or kill her in the process plus she must enter the Miss Pine Grove pageant as part of the trials. Could things get any worse?

Heltzel, Anne ***CHARLIE, PRESUMED DEAD***

272p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-544388499

Family and friends are gathered at Charlie's funeral in Paris after he tragically "died" in an explosion. His body wasn't found but his jacket and a significant amount of blood was recovered at the scene. When relatives stood up to pay their respects, the reader finds out Charlie had not just one, but two girlfriends, Lena and Aubrey. When the two girls make this discovery, they decide to team up and unravel clues to Charlie's presumed death. They travel from country to country to find out the truth about Charlie. Both Lena and Aubrey are also harboring their own secrets. Told in multiple perspectives, this story is filled with drama, suspense and deception. It could be pegged as a high school *Gone Girl* novel.

Lu, Marie ***THE YOUNG ELITES***

336p. Putnam 2014 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-410475442

Adelina Amouteru is a survivor of the blood fever. The illness spread through the country killing most people who were infected. Adelina was left marked by the plague. Her hair turned white and she only has a scar where her left eye once was. Her cruel father calls her a malfetto or a disgrace to her family. The blood fever also left Adelina and other survivors with special gifts that they try to keep hidden. Teren Santoro works for the king, and it is his job to collect these survivors that they call the Young Elites. Enzo Valenciano is a member of the Dagger Society who locates the Young Elites and tries to help them survive. However, when Enzo meets Adelina, he finds a Young Elite with a unique and dangerous gift. Darker series than Legend with a definite Star Wars themes evolving. The sequel, *The Rose Society*, just came out October 13th.

Magoon, Kekla ***HOW IT WENT DOWN***

224p. Henry Holt & Co. 2014 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-805098693

Tariq (16) stops at the corner store to buy milk for his mother and ends up shot dead. Gun violence is frequent on Peach Street, but Shooter Jack Franklin wasn't a gang member...he was a white man. Told in multiple perspectives, *How It Went Down* portrays a split second decision that changes the lives of a family and community. The book was published shortly before the Ferguson tragedy. Deep discussions and lessons could be learned and the reader establishes a deep connection with the characters. I recommend to 9th grade on up.

Niven, Jennifer ***ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES***

384p. Alfred A. Knopf 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-385-75588-7

Violet and Finch (17) unexpectedly meet at the top of the bell tower at their high school both contemplating suicide. Violet is having a difficult time getting over the loss of her sister, and Finch is mesmerized by the thought of death. Violet begins to panic and Finch has to talk her down the tower, but he yells out that Violet saved his life. This unlikely pair then becomes partners in Geography class on a wandering project of Indiana. They must visit rare finds in their state and write a final report together. Violet hasn't been in a car since her sister's accident, but somehow Finch begins to work his magic on Violet. Violet and Finch develop a relationship that changes Violet's life in so many ways. An amazing read with additional information at the back about suicide help and prevention. I recommend to 9th/10th grade on up.

Oliver, Lauren ***VANISHING GIRLS***

480p. HarperCollins 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-222410-1

Sisters Nick and Dara used to be the best of friends before the car accident that left Dara's face completely scarred. The sisters slowly grew apart so when Dara disappears without a trace on her birthday, Nick thinks Dana is playing a trick on her. That is until another girl vanishes. Nick believes the two disappearances are linked and begins to unravel the past to help locate Dara. Suspenseful mystery with an unbelievable conclusion.

Paige, Danielle ***THE WICKED WILL RISE***

293p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-228070-1

(Sequel to *Dorothy Must Die*) Amy Gumm has traveled from Kansas to Oz, via tornado. There she learned that Dorothy had returned and become a nasty selfish ruler. Recruited by the Revolutionary Order of the Wicked, Amy was trained and sent to kill Dorothy. In this second book Amy's powers are growing and she finds herself worried about her desire to embrace the dark. She is much more asserting and strong, yet still wonders about her mission, as well as who is really on her side. Leaves the reader anxious for the next book.

Ruby, Laura ***BONE GAP***

368p. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) \$17.99 ISBN 978-00-6231760-5

The town of Bone Gap truly has "gaps" where someone could slip away and never be found. That is why when Roza (19) became missing, everyone believed she left town. Everyone except Finn who saw her being abducted but couldn't describe the kidnapper. The entire town searched for Rosa and turned up no clues so not one person believed Finn, not even his older brother Sean. Told in multiple perspectives, this tale weaves magic, mystery, love, and loss. A unique read and one of my favorites of 2015.

Russell, Romina ***ZODIAC***

336p. Razorbill 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-595147400

Rhoma Grace (16) from House Cancer has a unique way of reading the stars that relies on her emotions rather than mathematical equations. When Cancer's moon is blasted and the current Guardian dies, Rho is surprised as are many others when she is appointed the new Guardian. Rho

begins to read the stars and finds out a dark matter is forming in the galaxy and other houses are at risk of falling. She and Guide Mathias, along with Libran Hysan, travel to warn the other houses that the 13th Guardian Ochus has returned in the Psy network and must be stopped. Will the other Zodiacs believe young Rho or will the Galaxy fall to the legendary Ochus? At times the plot was hard to visualize and due to some mature content, I would recommend Zodiac to 9th grade on up.

Rutkoski, Marie ***THE WINNER'S CRIME***

352p. Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-374-38470-8

Lady Kestrel (17) is engaged to be married to the crown prince, but it is all a lie. She wanted to end a war so she agreed to become betrothed to the King's son in exchange for a treaty with Arin's country of Herran. Kestrel believed the only way to save Arin was to leave him and keep this dark secret. Arin has no idea that Kestrel is risking her own safety to become a spy for Herran. She uncovers some brutal secrets, but will she become disloyal to her father and her own country for love? Will these crimes become her undoing? This second book in the Winner's Curse trilogy had me rooting for the underdog. I'm looking forward to the third installment

Sanderson, Brandon ***FIREFIGHT***

432p. Delacorte Press (Random House) 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-385-74358-7

(The Reckoners, Bk 2) David, and the Reckoners go to Balibar (formerly Manhattan) to confront & kill Regalia, its ruler, and her lesser Epics that help run the city. Things are usually more complicated than they appear and David has an uneasy feeling that Regalia is no easy target. (*Calamity*, Bk 3 coming spring 2016)

Sedgwick, Marcus ***THE GHOSTS OF HEAVEN***

256p. Roaring Brook Press 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-626721258

Four separate stories that are linked together where each character begins a trek to survive in their time period. The novel begins in prehistory time where the first signs are written, continues to seventeenth century witch hunts, then a 1920 insane asylum, and concludes with a futuristic world of spaceship voyage to a new planet. A blend of historical fiction and science fiction, and each section can be read in any order.

Shusterman, Neal ***UNDIVIDED***

432p. Simon & Schuster 2014 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-481409759

The fourth installment in the Unwind series: Connor, Risa, and Grace are at Sonia's Antique Shop debating what to do with the organ printer. Mason Starkey continues to be in the spotlight raiding Harvest Camps, but now he has the backing of the Clapper Movement. Lev is on the Arapache's reservation in hopes that the Chancefolk will take a stand on unwinding. Cam is on a military base finding out top secret projects. Nelson, with the help of Argent, is on the prowl to capture Connor and his friends to sell them on the black market. Can Connor, Risa, Lev, or Cam find out a way to take down Proactive Citizenry? Fast paced novel written in multiple perspectives...I'm sad that the series has concluded, but the ending is bitter sweet.

Stokes, Paula ***LIARS, INC.***

368p. HarperCollins 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-232328-6

Max Cantrell's senior year was dull, so when a money-making opportunity came up, he jumped at the chance to make school more exciting. Max was never a fan of telling the truth so why not lie and get paid to do it? Friends Preston and Parvati join Max in creating Liars, Inc. One day Preston needs a cover story to meet up with a girl he met online, so Max comes up with a plan. When Preston doesn't make it home and is nowhere to be found, clues start pointing at Max as the murderer. On the run, Max must clear his name and find the real killer. Suspenseful with a jaw dropping ending, readers who like mysteries won't want to put this one down.

Tahir, Sabaa ***AN EMBER IN THE ASHES***

464p. Razorbill 2015 \$19.95 ISBN 978-1-595148032

In the Ancient Rome inspired brutal world of the Martial Empire, opposition is met with death. Told in dual perspectives of Laia, a slave girl, and Elias, a unwilling soldier. Both Laia and Elias live in a world where neither one are free. Laia is posing as a slave to spy for the Resistance in order to save her brother who has been jailed and sentenced to death. Elias wants nothing more to free himself of this ruthless kingdom, but his life becomes intertwined with Laia's, and their decisions help decide the fate of the empire.

Turner, Henry ***ASK THE DARK***

256p. Clarion Books (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-544-30827-5

Billy Zeets (14) has quite a story to tell about how a small town boy who goes from a vandal and a thief to a hometown hero. Everyone is asking Billy how he found the missing boys and dead bodies so he decides to record his story to answer the town at the same time. Narrated by Billy, the story has a unique voice and action filled plot which sometimes jumps around like the reader would expect from a teenager's mind. Filled with swearing and some mature content, I would recommend to mature 8th grade on up.

Wagner, Laura Rose ***HOLD TIGHT, DON'T LET GO***

249p. Amulet Books (Abrams) 2015 \$17.95 ISBN 978-1-4197-1204-3

Magdalie (15 – ages to 17 during the book) her cousin Nadine (who she considers a sister) & Manman are a strong family. But when the earthquake hits Haiti in 2010, Manman is killed and Nadine is sent to Miami to live with her father. Magda ends up living with her uncle in a tent in the camp set up for those who have lost their homes. Her grief, perceived lack of future, and despair are conveyed as she faces trying to earn some money, a near rape, and surviving in the conditions in the camp. A trip to take Manman's bones home to the country at first breaks her heart but then helps her find herself and look forward. Descriptive of the country and life, using many Haitian words; a glossary is included at the back of the book.

Wolitzer, Meg ***BELZHAR***

272p. Dutton (Penguin Random House) 2014 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42305-8

Jam (15) suffered a complete breakdown when her boyfriend Reeve tragically died after dating for a short 41 days. She is unable to function at home or school, so her parents send her to the

Wooden Barn, a therapeutic boarding school. While there, she is one of only 5 students who are enrolled in a unique English class called Special Topics. Her teacher has the class reading Sylvia Path and writing in a journal twice a week. Jam discovers the journal has magical abilities to send her to a place called Belzhar where she and Reeve can be together again. The journal begins filling up fast so Jam must confront her past with the help of her Special Topics classmates. I highly recommend this book to high school on up and to fans of *The Tragedy Paper* and *Thirteen Reasons Why*. The cover does not do the book justice. Wonderful read!

Yansky, Brian **UTOPIA, IOWA**

322p. Candlewick Press 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-6533-3

Utopia, Iowa is unique, quite a few people living there have different "gifts -- or curses, depending on your point of view." Jack (age) sees dead people (he loves quoting movies) but this time the dead girl he sees at school is unusual -- she is dead but also not. As Jack and his best friend Ash investigate her death, another girl is murdered. Soon Jack is the prime suspect as he discovered the body of the second girl and was snooping in the first girl's dorm room.

New Titles in Popular Series

Fiction for Younger Teens:

Carriger, Gail **WAISTCOATS & WEAPONRY** (Finishing School, Book 3)

298p. Little, Brown 2014 \$18.00 ISBN 978-0-316-19027-5

(Finishing School - Book the Third) Sophronia (now 16), her friend and roommate Dimity and others are soon involved in more adventure and mystery. At an engagement party for Sophronia's brother and his new fiancé, Sophronia's friend Sideagh learns things are bad at home. Her werewolf pack family has done something awful and she must return to them in Scotland. Sophronia, Dimity, Lord Felix Mersey and the sootie Soap accompany Sideagh – and steal a train to get her north. There is something odd afoot, though, and Sophronia is determined to find out what it is.

Flanagan, John **SCORPION MOUNTAIN** (Brotherband Chronicles, Book 5)

451p. Philomel (The Penguin Group) 2014 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-399-16356-2

(Brotherband Chronicles, Bk 5) The crew of the Heron along with Ranger Gilan must find a way to cancel the death threat placed on Princess Cassandra. They travel to confront the Scorpion Cult in Arrida, and must find a way to travel quickly over the desert sand.

Korman, Gordon **UNLEASHED** (Swindle, Book 7)

202p. Scholastic Press 2015 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-70935-4

(Swindle, Book 7) Griffin Bing is caught off guard and ends up in a bet with Darren over which of them will win the Invent-a-Palooza – Griffin wasn't going to enter. Luthor is manically chasing the exterminator's old red, back-firing truck and Melissa invents a machine to stop him, which is quickly stolen by...somebody. Griffin comes up with plan after plan for each – but none of them are working.

Lynch, Chris ***THE LIBERATORS*** (World War II, Bk 4 & final)
192p. Scholastic 2015 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-52304-2

Nick and his best friend Zachary join the Marines paratrooper division during World War II. Ultimately they know not everyone in their division will make it home again.

Nonfiction for Teens:

Montgomery, Sy ***THE OCTOPUS SCIENTISTS: Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk***
71p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-544-23270-9

Another excellent title in The Scientists in the Field series. Here the author provides a look at the study of the octopus and its behavior. Includes wonderful photographs of octopuses and their habitats.

Fiction for Older Teens:

Cass, Kiera ***THE HEIR*** (The Selection, bk 4)
342p. HarperCollins 2015 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-234985-9

(The Selection, bk 4) Twenty years after the marriage of Maxon and America, their daughter Eadlyn (18) (the eldest by 7 minutes) has reluctantly agreed to hold a Selection for herself. There is unrest in Illéa – people are still adjusting to the abolition of the caste system and the hope is the Selection will distract them and give them something to cheer for. Eadlyn embraces her role as future Queen and is seen as cold, distant, and no-nonsense – which she actually is. She doesn't want anyone besides her parents and three brothers to see her inner self. This is a recipe for disaster. She is not likeable, at first, but slowly begins to grow her heart. The book ends on a cliff-hanger so there will be one or two more titles.

Jill Annis
School Librarian
Elkhorn Grandview Middle School
17801 Grand Avenue
Omaha, NE 68116; jannis@epsne.org



Sally Snyder
Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services
Nebraska Library Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
800-307-2665 or 402-471-2045; sally.snyder@nebraska.gov