

Best New Teen Books of 2017



NLA/NSLA Conference

October 2017

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



Fiction for Younger Teens

Alexander, William *A PROPERLY UNHAUNTED PLACE*

Illus. by Kelly Murphy 182p. Simon & Schuster 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-6915-9

Rosa Días and her mother have just moved to Ingot, the only unhaunted town in the world. Rosa, who also has talents, cannot understand why her mother, a librarian specializing in ghost appeasement, would decide to move here. Rosa soon meets Jasper Chevalier, who has lived in Ingot all his life, he takes her along to the summer-long Renaissance Festival at the fairgrounds. During the tour a beast, a haunting, comes down from the mountain and Rosa must deal with it. This isn't supposed to happen and everyone forgot, or remembered it differently, as soon as the beast ran back into the hills. Rosa knows there is major trouble here and she and her mother are needed, if she can only convince her mother to stop trying to ignore/forget the past and focus on the situation.

Anderson, John David *POSTED*

365p. Walden Pond Press (HarperCollins) 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-233820-4

Eighth grade has been changed forever when cell phones are banned from Branton Middle School. Frost (13) and his best friends DeeDee, Wolf, and Bench come up with a plan to communicate with each other during this down time by using sticky notes. Soon every middle school student is following this craze. Words can be used to inspire, but they can also hurt and these sticky notes are no different. During the sticky note war, Rose, a new girl at school, begins sitting with the boys at lunch. This slowly creates a division within the group. What will cause the sticky notes to end, and will the boys friendship return to what it used to be? Themes of friendship, inclusion, and bullying are portrayed in this realistic fiction novel from the author of *Ms. Bixby's Last Day*.

Applegate, Katherine *WISHTREE*

224p. Feiwel & Friends 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1250043221

Red is an old oak tree who is also the neighborhood "wishtree." Every year people of all ages write wishes on cloth and tie them to her tree. Red and Bongo, her crow friend, have seen many families come and go over the years. However, when a Muslim family moves into the neighborhood, Red can see how others aren't welcoming them with open arms. When Samar puts a wish on the old oak tree, Red believes it is time for her to make a difference before it is too late. Magical novel written by *New York Times* bestselling author Katherine Applegate and narrated by Red, the Wishtree. The

short chapters will keep the reluctant reader hooked, and the reader will be rooting for Samar to find a friend in the neighborhood.

Ballarini, Joe ***THE BABYSITTER'S GUIDE TO MONSTER HUNTING***

Illus. by Vivienne To 338p. Katherine Tegen Books (HarperCollins) 2017 ISBN 978-0-06-243783-9

Book 1 in a new series: Kelly (12, in 8th grade) is volunteered by her mom to babysit Jacob (the son of her boss) on Halloween, instead of joining her friends at a party. This is her first babysitting job and while at first things go as expected, it all turns terrible after she puts Jacob to bed. The monsters he sees...they are real and now have kidnapped him. Help arrives when his usual babysitter, Liz, shows up on a moped, with her babysitting charge. It turns out there is a league of babysitters whose specialty is protecting children from monsters, and now Kelly and Liz are going after the ones who took Jacob. Empowering and a tad scary, readers who like a few monsters in their stories will grab this one.

Blackwood, Sage ***MISS ELLICOTT'S SCHOOL FOR THE MAGICALLY MINDED***

358p. HarperCollins 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-240263-9

Chantel (age unclear – maybe 12 or 13) has been a student at the school since she can remember. Especially talented -- she called her snake familiar at age 6, no one else has come close -- she chafes at learning deportment instead of more magic. But now magic may be required as all the teachers have disappeared and it seems the city will soon be under attack.

Buyea, Rob ***THE PERFECT SCORE***

358p. Delacorte Press 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-101-93825-6

From the author of the *Because of Mr. Terupt* series. Starting 6th grade in the middle school is hard enough as it is, but then add the pressure of standardized testing and the stress can be too hard to handle. Told in multiple perspectives of five students in Mrs. Wood's classroom: Randi the gymnast, Gavin the football fan, Trevor who hates school, Scott with a big heart, and Natalie the aspiring lawyer. The entire school is worried and anxious about the approaching standardized tests. Mrs. Woods is back from retirement and doesn't understand all of the preparation and worksheets that must be done to get students ready for the test. The true meaning of a perfect score is depicted along with themes of bullying, pressures of select sports, and teamwork. Great book for fans of *Absolutely Almost*, *Posted*, and Andrew Clements books.

Chmakova, Svetlana ***BRAVE***

241p. Yen Press 2017 \$24.00 ISBN 978-0-316-36317-4; \$11.00 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-316-36318-1

Full-color graphic novel: Jensen, is just starting middle school and still trying to figure out. He knows to avoid Foster and Yanic – they are never nice. He sees the school as a video game, all he needs to do is survive to the end of the day. Math is hard, but he lives for art club after school. He becomes involved with the newspaper crew as an on-call helper, and then as a possible subject for their bullying article. He isn't certain he is being bullied, aren't his "friends" just joking with him? He slowly finds his way and eventually speaks up on his own behalf.

Clements, Andrew ***THE LOSERS CLUB***

240p. Random House 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0399557552

Sixth grader Alec has been a bookworm ever since he learned how to read. He can't put a good book down and isn't listening or participating in class. When Alec gets pulled into the principal's office at the beginning of the year, he is given one more chance to change his ways. Since he is unable to read in class, he decides to start a book club during his after school program. Except Alec doesn't want to talk about books, he just wants to sit and read. To distract students away from the club, he decides to name it "The Losers Club." Alec must convince one other person to join the club, or he will be stuck in the homework room. Great middle grade realistic fiction book that would be perfect for a read aloud or a Reading class because of all the books that are mentioned in the novel. The audiobook is also very engaging! Another great Andrew Clements book! Love that it is all about reading!

Gemeinhart, Dan ***SCAR ISLAND***

249p. Scholastic 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-338-05384-5

Jonathan (12) is sentenced to ten weeks at the Slabhenge Reformatory School for Troubled Boys, which is the only thing on an island that appears to be slowly sinking back into the sea. The Admiral (as he wants to be called) is in charge. He believes punishment is the answer to rehabilitating these terrible boys and it is clear he has lost his senses. When a lightning strike kills all of the adults the boys are free to do what they would like, and it isn't long before one sets himself up as the next ruler. While Jonathan feels grief and guilt over what sent him to the island, he both dreads and wants to go home, now it looks like that may never happen. Comparisons with *Lord of the Flies* are right on target.

Grabenstein, Chris ***BEACH PARTY SURF MONKEY***

320p. Random House 2017 \$13.99 ISBN 978-0-553536102

In this follow-up to *Home Sweet Hotel*, P.T. Wilkie and Gloria Ortega (11) are still on Cloud 9 from their adventures capturing the Sneemer brothers. Their fame begins to fade away when the towering hotel next door wants to buy the Wonderland Hotel from his Grandpa Walt. His mother is ready to sell so P.T. and Gloria have to find a way to save the hotel by convincing pop star Aidan Tyler and Academy Award-winning teen actress Cassie McGinty to film their "Beach Party Surf Monkey" movie at the Wonderland hotel. Filming begins with one complication after another, and the neighboring hotel is always at the right place at the right time to pick up the Wonderland's pieces. Does something seem fishy? P.T. and Gloria believe so, and they will do just about anything to uncover the truth. Funny, fast paced, middle grade read for fans of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *House of Robots*.

Gratz, Alan ***REFUGEE***

317p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-88083-1

Josef, a Jewish boy who is living in Nazi Germany in the 1930's whose family is threatened by the idea of being sent to a concentration camp. Isabel, a Cuban girl in 1994 who wants to escape from the riots and turmoil of her country. Mohmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is plagued by bombing and destruction on a daily basis. Three separate stories of refugee children in history where all three children are hoping for a better future in a different land. Each time period will tie together

in the final chapters of the book. Students will learn the true meaning of being a refugee and the hard work and setbacks that can happen when reaching for your goals. Another amazing novel by Alan Gratz! Highly recommend!

Green, Tim & Derek Jeter **BASEBALL GENIUS**

344p. Simon & Schuster 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-6864-0

Jalen can predict pitches before the windup, almost every time. No discussion if this is right or wrong, but Jalen does not read the other team's signals. It is just something he can do, an instinct maybe, and it may help him and Yankees player James Yager just when they both need it most. (Reminiscent of Green's *Football Genius* from 2007.)

Hahn, Mary Downing **ONE FOR SORROW**

289p. Clarion Books (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-544-81809-5

Annie Browne (12) begins sixth grade at a new school during the fall of 1918, all she wants to do is find a new friend to hang out with. As soon as she walks into the building, Elsie Schneider finds her and declares that the two of them will be "best friends." Annie finds out that day that Elsie is clingy, nosy, and a tattletale. Elsie is also the target of teasing by the popular girls, and Annie longs to join that group and leave Elsie behind. Annie sees her chance to join the in-crowd when Elsie misses a few days of school. The Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 slowly makes its way to town and Elsie is one of the casualties. A few days later, Elsie comes back as a ghost and begins to punish Annie for not being her true friend. How can Annie get rid of Elsie's ghost and will any of her other friends fall victim to the Spanish Flu? Themes of bullying and the meaning of friendship are presented in true Mary Downing Hahn style.

Henry, April **COUNT ALL HER BONES**

223p. Henry Holt & Co. 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-62779-591-3

The long awaited follow-up to *Girl Stolen* is finally here. Six months ago Griffin Sawyer (17) meant to steal a car, but he also mistakenly kidnapped Cheyenne. Griffin took Cheyenne home and his father, Roy, decided to hold her for ransom. Fast forward to now and Roy's trial is about to begin with Griffin and Cheyenne as star witnesses. The pair decide to reconnect, against their lawyers' best judgement, and their meeting goes completely wrong. Roy has masterminded Cheyenne's second kidnapping, but now her life is in grave danger. Will Cheyenne be able to escape once again and which side is Griffin truly on? Another faced-paced novel by April Henry that is perfect for reluctant readers with shorter chapters and an action-packed plot.

Jamieson, Victoria **ALL'S FAIRE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

248p. Dial (Penguin Random House) 2017 \$20.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42998-2; \$12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-525-42999-9

Full-color graphic novel: Imogene (Impy, 11) is ready to start middle school, having been home-schooled up to this point. Her parents work at the Renaissance Faire and this year will be her first there as a squire. She is excited and nervous about starting 6th grade at the middle school, and she soon learns it is a treacherous place. Science class is hard, and the girls she thinks are her friends are really not. Impy makes a lot of mistakes and begins to think maybe she is a dragon instead of a

knight. Finally finding her way, she relies on the gallantry and code for the knights at the Renaissance Faire, they become her way of handling school.

Kelly, Erin Entrada **HELLO, UNIVERSE**

311p. Greenwillow (HarperCollins) 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-241415-1

Virgil Salinas is a shy, scrawny, guinea pig loving boy who spends his time at home with his grandmother or avoiding the neighborhood bully, Chet Bullens who calls him "retardo." Kaori Tanaka is Virgil's close friend and also a self-proclaimed psychic who wants to help him befriend a new girl in class. Valencia Somerset is fond of nature, confident, and deaf. The fate of these four middle school students weave together one summer day when Virgil gets himself stuck at the bottom of a well with his guinea pig. Told in alternating perspectives of the three heroes and one villain. Will Kaori and Valencia find Virgil in time? Did Chet have something to do with Virgil's disappearance? Themes of friendship, teamwork, and perseverance with the right amount of suspense will keep the readers rooting for Virgil to make it to safety and possibly gaining a new friend along the way.

Kendall, Christine **RIDING CHANCE**

212p. Scholastic Press 2016 (Oct.) \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-92404-7

Troy (13) has been getting into trouble since his mother passed away. Now he and his friend Foster are assigned to court ordered community service, which means working at the Philadelphia stables. First cleaning out stalls then grooming and caring for the horses. Troy bonds with Chance, a mare, and next he is learning about polo. But he has also made a couple of enemies. A look at community service and one who handles his tasks with the realization that he needed to make amends, and with it he is learning more about himself and the world.

Korman, Gordon **RESTART**

243p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-338-05377-7

8th grade football star Chase Ambrose (13) wakes up in a hospital bed after falling of the roof of his house to complete strangers. Chase received a severe concussion and has no memory of his life before the accident and cannot even recognize his own family. When Chase returns to Hiawasse Middle School, everything and everyone is brand-new to him...even his best friends on the football team. Chase is receiving different reactions from people so he is having a hard time deciding what the old Chase was like. Unable to play football while he is recovering from his injury, Chase decides to join the Video Club except not all the members are happy about him joining. Will a bully always be a bully? Chase is learning about his old self and not really liking what he hears. Can Chase change and mend the fences of his past? One of my favorite books this summer and one that all middle school students should read. It reminds me of *Because of Mr. Terupt* meets *Wonder*.

Lasky, Katheyn **NIGHT WITCHES**

211p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-68298-5

After her mother was killed by a sniper, Valya, 15 and a pilot, escapes the surrounded Stalingrad to join her older sister in her female only unit of pilots – whom the Germans call Night Witches, since they fly their missions at night. At first Valya is not allowed to fly, too dangerous, and her sister is

protecting her. But as she throws herself into the tasks they give her it isn't long before she is also flying missions. Valya is dismayed but not grounded when she learns her sister's plane was shot down. Hoping she survived, Valya also knows the Russians believe anyone who is captured and manages to escape is considered a spy for the Germans.

Moser, Paul ***TRAIN I RIDE***

178p. HarperCollins 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-245573-4

Calling herself Rydr for the trip, a girl is accompanied by an adult taking her from her grandmother's home in California to Chicago. Her grandmother has passed away and she is travelling to live with her great-uncle, whom she has never met. She has had a sparse life and gives her chaperone some trouble, befriends a few others on the trains, and slowly works through her issues during the trip. She also turns 13 on the train. Kirkus: "A... moving... and ultimately uplifting novel." Memorable.

Napoli, Donna Jo & David Wiesner ***FISH GIRL***

Illus. by David Wiesner 185p. Clarion Books 2017 \$25.00 ISBN 978-0544815124; \$17.99 (pbk)
ISBN 978-0-547-48393-1

Graphic novel: Fish Girl lives in a house on the boardwalk that "King Neptune" has converted to a huge aquarium. Fish Girl is supposed to flit from room to room, enticing the customers but never letting them get a good look at her. One day a girl ventures past the Keep out sign and sees Fish Girl. It isn't long before Fish Girl wants her life and freedom, but first to help all her fish friends – how can she do it?

Nix, Garth ***FROGKISSER!***

372p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-338-05208-4

Princess Anya (13) knows Morven, her older sister, is a wimp and will not stand up for the kingdom. It will be up to Princess Anya to find a way to overthrow her evil step-stepfather (he is so evil she needs to use the two "steps") and relieve the people from his power-hungry actions. This is a classic fantasy quest novel with plenty of humor, resolve, and determination.

Nye, Bill & Gregory Mone ***JACK AND THE GENIUSES: At the Bottom of the World***

Illus. by Nicholas Iluzada 230p. Amulet Books (Abrams) 2017 \$13.95 ISBN 978-1-4197-2303-2

(Jack and the Geniuses, Bk 1): Jack (12) and his genius foster siblings Ava (12) and Matt (15) are emacipated – independent from the foster system. They have a lucky encounter with inventor and scientist Henry Witherspoon, Hank, and are soon joining him on a trip to Antarctica where he will judge a competition, and see what discovery a fellow scientist has uncovered. When they arrive Anna Donatelli, the scientist, has disappeared. No one is concerned, she has done this before, and no one knows what she was working on. A good mystery in an unusual place. Includes interesting information on McMurdo Station and surviving in Antarctica. Several inventions included in the book are all based on actual discoveries, taken a little further beyond where they are now. Includes several pages of notes at the back of the book. Book 2, *In the Deep Blue Sea*, will take place in Hawaii (it came out 9/12/17).

Odhiambo, Eucabeth ***AUMA'S LONG RUN***

297p. Carolrhoda Books (Lerner) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-5124-2784-4

The 1980s in a small village in Kenya, Auma (13 - 14 during story) cannot understand why so many adults are dying. Over time she learns about AIDs and HIV and how they are contracted. First her father, then her mother die and she must decide whether to follow her heart to more education via a track scholarship, or find a job to help her siblings and grandmother survive. Auma is strong and determined. She does not settle, like so many others, for her grandmother's solution to their trouble: marriage. * SLJ & Kirkus

Patterson, James & Chris Grabenstein ***POTTYMOUTH AND STOOPID***

305p. Jimmy Patterson Books (Little, Brown & Co.) 2017 \$13.99 ISBN 978-0-316-34963-5

Seventh graders Michael and his best friend David have been tagged with the terrible nicknames of "Pottymouth" and "Stoopid" since they were young, and these names have followed them throughout their school years. Michael uses creative language when he is upset or excited, and Michael once spilled paint in his preschool class. The two best buds are tired of being bullied and are ready to fight back with laughter. When stories of Michael and David appear on a cable TV show, their middle school has quite the different reaction to Pottymouth and Stoopid. Good messages of how to stand up to bullies and to not to follow the crowd. Great book for fans of *House of Robots* and *I Funny* series. Patterson and Grabenstein make a great team for middle school reluctant readers!

Reynolds, Jason ***MILES MORALES: Spider-Man***

261p. Marvel Press (Disney Book Group) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-4847-8748-9

Miles, half black, half Puerto Rican, attends an elite prep school as a work/study student. His best friend and roommate is Ganke, a Korean American whose parents are divorcing. Miles is the new Spider-Man and is frustrated that his Spidey sense keeps kicking in during one specific class, but nothing is happening anywhere at the school. He makes mistakes, and wonders if he should continue as the new Spiderman. One of his teacher's approach to the class is outrageous – stating slavery was beneficial to those held in it and it might be better for our country if it was never outlawed.

Reynolds, Jason ***PATINA***

240p. Atheneum Books (Simon & Schuster) 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-5018-8

The second installment in the Track series that is told through the perspective of Patty, a star 800 runner and a new addition to the elite Defenders middle school track team. Patina runs for many reasons--to escape the criticism from her new fancy school that she must attend since moving in with her aunt and uncle. Patty also runs away from Diabetes that has taken her mother's feet, but she also trains for her Mom too. Patty must learn to work together with her teammates when they begin working on the skills needed for a relay race. Great character development and good pacing! Looking forward to the 3rd book as this one left you with a cliff hanger ending!

Ruby, Laura ***THE SHADOW CIPHER***

496p. Walden Pond Press (HarperCollins) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-230693-7

Directly from the Publisher: It was 1798 when the Morningstarr twins arrived in New York with a vision for a magnificent city: towering skyscrapers, dazzling machines, all running on technology no

one had ever seen before. Fifty-seven years later, the architects disappeared, leaving behind the Old York Cipher--a puzzle laid into the shining city they constructed, at the end was promised a treasure beyond all imagining. Currently, the puzzle has not been solved, and the greatest mystery of the modern world is little more than a tourist attraction. Twins Tess and Theo Biedermann and their friend Jaime Cruz live in a Morningstarr apartment--until a real estate developer announces that all the families in the building must move out at the end of the month. Their apartments' likely destruction means the end of a dream long held by the people of New York. And if Tess, Theo, and Jaime want to save their home, they have to prove that the Old York Cipher is real. Which means they have to solve it. Good middle school book for fans of *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library*.

Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk ***MAKING BOMBS FOR HITLER***

230p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-93191-5

This title was originally published in Canada in 2012. Lida, 10, and Ukrainian, is captured by the Germans, separated from her younger sister Larissa (5), and is told she must work or die. She lies that she is 13 and she is lucky, she is put to work. (Many of the younger children are killed by draining their blood to be used for wounded soldiers.) She makes some friends and they all support each other. Their friendships are one of the few things that helps them stay alive. At one point she and her new friends are put to work making bombs, and they find a way to sabotage them. This tells of the children and teens lives during World War II and after, Lida trying to find her sister and her friends. An author's note at the back of the book provides additional information about the use of Ukrainian youth as forced labor.

Sloan, Holly Goldberg ***SHORT***

296p. Dial Books 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-18621-9

Julia Marks (11) is short for her age. What she doesn't have in height, she definitely makes up in personality. This summer Julia's mom forces her to try out for one of the Munchkin roles in the local production of the Wizard of Oz. She is hesitant at first, but befriends Olive, an adult cast member who is playing the lead Munchkin. Julia's neighbor, Mrs. Chang, also plays a key role in the costumes and helping Julia come out of her shell. The reader will fall in love with Julia by seeing her hesitance turn into confidence. Themes of friendship, humor, acceptance, and teamwork are woven into another great middle school novel by the author of *Counting By 7's!*

Tarpley, Natasha ***THE HARLEM CHARADE***

297p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-78387-3

Three 12-years-olds take in on themselves to solve two mysteries. One is: who attacked Elvin's grandfather and put him in the hospital. The second is: why did one woman's art disappear years ago and where is it now. The answers will point out the need for caring about people and community, and for standing up for what you believe.

Thompson, Lisa ***THE GOLDFISH BOY***

313p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-338-05392-0

Matthew (12) stays upstairs in the house, his realm is his room and the extra room that is his mom's office. He looks out the windows but rarely go downstairs, and not outside for weeks now. He jots

down notes of what he sees outside the windows, who goes in and out of the houses in their cul-de-sac, who drives away, comes back, mows the yard, etc. But now the 15-month-old toddler grandson of the neighbor is missing, and Matthew may have seen something important. Told from Matthew's viewpoint, the reader gets a sense of what he is dealing with, having an obsessive-compulsive disorder. The shorter chapters and the mystery will keep readers involved in the book.

Nonfiction for Teens

Alexander, Kwame ***THE PLAYBOOK: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life*** 169p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2017 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-544-57097-9

Lessons on sports and living life using examples from well-known sports figures, past and present, as well as a few other people (such as Sonya Sotomayor and Maya Angelou) and happenings in Kwame Alexander's life as well.

Lewis, John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell ***MARCH: BOOK THREE***
246p. Top Shelf Productions 2016 \$19.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-603094023

The third and final graphic novel book in the set, this is one series of books libraries need to own. This title tells of the Freedom Vote, the Mississippi Freedom Summer, and the March to Montgomery from Selma.

Montgomery, Sy ***AMAZON ADVENTURE: How Tiny Fish Are Saving the World's Largest Rainforest*** 71p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-544-35299-5

The author visits a scientist in an area of the Amazon where he learns that the existence of fish called piaba encourage the local residents to keep the environment as it has always been in order to harvest the fish. Known to us as tetras, during the dry season each year almost 90% of the fish would die. Collecting and selling them for home and public aquariums saves both the fish and the environment. Another winner in the "Scientists in the Field" series.

Noyes, Deborah ***THE MAGICIAN AND THE SPIRITS***
130p. Viking (Penguin Random House) 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-4018-2

A biography of Harry Houdini, this title focuses on his interest and debunking of many "spiritualists" who were popular in his time. He kept an open mind, but as a magician he was strong in the discovery of illusions and distraction.

Pitts, Byron ***BE THE ONE: Six True Stories of Teens Overcoming Hardship with Hope***
119p. Simon & Schuster 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-4424-8382-8

Encouraging stories of teens who persevered through tough times and found a way to have positive and productive lives. The third story is the hardest – a boy must hear the screams of his younger sister being raped by soldiers during the civil war in Zaire in 1996 (now called the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Fiction for Older Teens

Ahern, Cecelia **PERFECT**

352p. Feiwel & Friends 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1250074126

Second installment in the *Flawed* series. Celestine North (18) lives in a Dystopian society where everyone must be perfect at any cost. After helping a flawed man on a bus, Celestine was marked "flawed" and branded several times by a morality court which left her with little to no freedoms. Judge Crevan believes Celestine is the biggest threat to the Guild and the society so she is on the run and is eluding capture at her grandfather's farm. Celestine has one secret that could change everything. Can Celestine bring her evidence against Judge Crevan to someone who is trustworthy? Will she be able to bring the entire Flawed System down? Very thought-provoking book that can bring about many social and political discussions of what it truly means to be human.

Alexander, Kwame & Mary Rand Hess **SOLO**

457p. Blink 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-310-76183-9

Blade Morrison (17) is disappointed by his rock-star father, Rutherford, who has been in and out of rehab Blade's entire life. Still haunted by his mother's untimely death, Blade spends as much time as he can with his girlfriend, Chapel. Then Rutherford decides to show up at Blade's high school graduation completely stoned and wasted, and Storm, his older sister, uncovers a family secret. Blade looks to Chapel for comfort, but is instead betrayed. He decides to search for answers in a village in Ghana. Blade meets a new friend, Joy, and is seeking his life's purpose and what direction he should go in the future. Highly recommend this verse novel by Kwame Alexander. The audiobook is amazing and narrated by the author and he sings four different songs throughout the novel. After the conclusion of the book, the four songs are played again. Amazing voice and gripping novel!

Damico, Gina **WASTE OF SPACE**

396p. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-544-63316-2

Told in memos, emails, video logs, and transcripts of meetings, phone conversations, and the actual reality TV show titled "Waste of Space" the premise was to put 10 teenagers in a spaceship circling the earth. Except that they are really in an enclosed soundstage warehouse in the desert. They think they are in space. Great ratings until... something goes wrong. All communication is severed and the teens have to figure out what is going on and what they should do. Chazz, the CEO of the cable channel, is consistently offensive and clueless.

Demetrios, Heather **BAD ROMANCE**

356p. Henry Holt & Co. (Macmillan) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-62779-772-6

Grace, a junior in high school at the start of the book, has longed for Gavin for years. Now he is her boyfriend and she is so happy she can't believe it. But as she tells her story, from time to time she says, "this seemed so wonderful, in less than a year I would hate it." The reader gets a sense of their wonderful love that turns into a prison. Gavin becomes controlling, doesn't trust her, but knows just what to say to get her back. He eventually threatens suicide, which he knows will stop her from leaving. Language, sex, drinking, are all part of the story. Her parents are part of the problem, thankfully she has two friends who never give up on her leaving this relationship. It is heartbreaking

to read. The author states that she was in this kind of relationship for 2 ½ years, and knew she had to write about it. The book is fiction.

Dessen, Sarah ***ONCE AND FOR ALL***

357p. Viking (Penguin Random House) 2017 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-425-29033-0

It is the summer after her high school graduation and Louna (18) is once again working as an assistant in her mother's wedding consultant business. She is skilled at guiding people where they need to be, halting and redirecting bad behavior, and convincing the bride that everything is fine. But when her mom hires Ambrose, the troublemaker from one of the weddings, she is not sure she can work with him. Over the summer the reader learns about Louna's deceased first love, how she handles the job, and how she deals with Ambrose and about her best friend, Jilly. A journey of discovery for Louna, with a few details of the wedding business thrown in.

Firestone, Carrie ***THE UNLIKELIES***

336p. Little, Brown & Co. 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-316-38286-1

Sadie Sullivan's first week working at the fruit stand by the road during the summer before her senior year in high school shows her spirit when a driver speeds into the parking area, slams the brakes, and is obviously drunk. Sadie leans into the car to grab the baby in the back seat and is thrown to the ground by the driver. Others come to her aid and the man is prevented from leaving. Sadie is honored with four other teens for being positive influences in their community. Soon the five teens are secretly working together to continue to have a positive effect on others. Though they do put themselves in a couple of dangerous situations before the end of the book.

Gagnon, Jilly ***#FAMOUS***

367p. Katherine Tegen Books (HarperCollins) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-243003-8

Rachel, a junior in high school, has carefully stayed out of any kind of lime light until the evening she took a photo of her crush, Kyle, working the counter of the Burger Barn at the mall. She sends the photo to her friend Mo via Flit with a caption #idlikefrieswithTHAT, knowing her friend has only 20 or so followers. It goes viral and suddenly everyone at school knows who she is, and some people are calling her names on her Flit feed. A talk show picks up on it and has Kyle as a guest. Rachel continues to wait for the other shoe to drop, but it turns out Kyle is a really nice guy. A fun romance with humor, some bullying, and a look at social media.

Garber, Stephanie ***CARAVAL***

416p. Flatiron Books 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-250095251

Sisters Scarlett and Tella have grown up with stories of Caraval their entire life. Neither girl has ever left their small island because of their domineering father. Each one wants to escape for different reasons, but this year Scarlett finally receives an invitation to Caraval. Both girls sneak away to attend Caraval, a five night game filled with mystery, fantasy, and suspense, and some say magic. The players sometimes get caught up in the game in order to win a final "wish," and the audience is encouraged to participate in the festivities. When Tella disappears the first night, Scarlett must win the game in order to save her sister's life. Is every frightening event a reality? A very suspenseful, page-turning fantasy novel that keeps the readers guessing until the very last page.

Grant, Michael *SILVER STARS*

536p. HarperCollins 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-234218-8

Front Lines series, Bk 2: In an alternate world, the U.S. government has just allowed women to serve in the military on the front lines. It is now 1943, Rio and Frangie are soon to invade Sicily, then Italy mainland. Rainy has a secret mission that may leave her stranded in Rome. The blood, dirt, stink, exhaustion, and casualties of war are clearly presented. Rio is a fighting GI, Frangie is a black medic and Rainy is a Jewish secret operative.

Hopkins, Ellen *THE YOU I'VE NEVER KNOWN*

608p. Margaret K. McElderry Books (Simon & Schuster) \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-481442909

A word of advice: Do not read the entire summary of this book on Goodreads before reading! Told in dual perspectives of teenagers Ariel (17) and Maya (16). Hopkins graphically depicts the struggles of these teens with peer pressure, sexual orientation, and family issues. The reader finds out the connection between the two teens toward the end of the novel. The plot line came from a real-life event that happened to the author. Highly recommend to very mature high school students. The audiobook was amazing!

Hughes, Dean *FOUR-FOUR-TWO*

259p. Atheneum (Simon & Schuster) 2016 \$ 17.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-6252-5; \$10.99 (pbk, comes out 11/7/17) ISBN 978-1-4814-6253-2

Yuki Nakahara and Shig Omura have been best friends since forever. When both their families are sent to an internment camp after Pearl Harbor was bombed, they decide the only thing to do is enlist when they turn 18. Hoping that serving in the U.S. Army will help send the message that they and their families are American, they soon find war is much different than they expected. Intense battles and many friends are killed during the time covered in the book. The author includes a Preface that sets the stage for the book and explains why people felt as they did about Japanese Americans at that time. The Author's Note clarifies that the battles fought by the all Japanese American regiment are portrayed as they happened, the main characters are fictional. He makes it clear that war is not gallant. Starred reviews in Booklist and Kirkus.

Jackson, Tiffany D. *ALLEGEDLY*

387p. Katherine Tegen Books (HarperCollins) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-242264-4

Mary B. Addison was 9 when she was convicted of the murder of a three month old white baby and sentenced to prison. Now 15, and living in a group home, Mary finds herself pregnant. Her boyfriend is supportive, but when Mary finds out she will never be allowed to keep her baby, due to her conviction, she feels she must find a way to re-open her trial, claiming she did not kill the baby. Over time the reader learns more about the death of the baby, the investigation into the murder at that time, and the faithful visits by Mary's mother to the group home. A few twists, some terrible fellow inmates, a rotten group home, and a bit of blurring of right and wrong make a compelling story.

LaCour, Nina *WE ARE OKAY*

240p. Dutton Books 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-525425892

A tragic event has happened to Marin (18) the last few weeks of summer vacation, and she hasn't spoken to anyone since she up and left her California town. Marin is now attending college in New York, and her best friend Mabel has decided to come to Marin's city to visit her. Marin is forced to face the truth about the tragedy and what was all that was left unsaid. Beautifully written story about grief, love, acceptance, and learning to move forward from a difficult past. The novel may lead readers to reaching out to a long-lost friend or family member. Highly recommend!

Lu, Marie **WARCROSS**

353p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-399-54796-6

Emika Chen (18) is one of the millions of players who log into Warcross every day. The virtual reality game began 10 years ago, and now it has become a way of life. Emika, a top coder and bounty hunter, is not your average Warcross player. Desperate for money to pay her bills, she risks everything by hacking into the Warcross championships, but instead she glitches herself into the game and everyone sees her true identity. Emika believes she will be arrested, but instead the game's creator has other plans. Billionaire Hideo Tanaka decides to pay off Emika's debt and offer her a job. Will Emika accept the bounty job and help uncover a sinister plot against the Warcross game and its players? Action-packed science fiction novel that will keep you guessing until the very end!

McManus, Karen M. **ONE OF US IS LYING**

358p. Delacorte Press (Penguin Random House) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-5247-1468-0

Five high school students are thrown into detention, and one student doesn't make it out of the school alive. Bronwyn is Yale-bound and a rule follower. Addy is always flawless and picture-perfect on the outside. Nate is the criminal who is on probation for dealing drugs. Cooper is the all-star baseball pitcher who has his eye on a college scholarship. And Simon is the creator of the Bayview High's gossip app. and the outcast of the group. According to the police, the allergic reaction and death was not an accident. One of these students are guilty, but which one? All of the clues are presented so the reader is able figure out which student is the murderer. "Breakfast Club" meets *Pretty Little Liars* with this debut novel by Karen McManus.

Menon, Sandhya **WHEN DIMPLE MET RISHI**

378p. Simon & Schuster 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-481478687

Hoping to take a 6-week coding seminar on during the summer before starting college, Dimple is surprised when her parents agree. It will be wonderful, but even better will be getting away from her mother's entreaties to consider different prospects for an arranged marriage. It isn't long before Dimple realizes why they agreed so readily. Rishi is happy to follow his parents' wishes and rebellion is not in his blood. His first approach to Dimple, however, ends in disaster. They end up as a team for the "Insomnia Con" of the class and slowly begin to build a friendship and maybe more. Alternates viewpoints between the two characters. Readers will enjoy the romance and the idea of the freedom in college, along with the hard work.

Nielsen, Susin **OPTIMISTS DIE FIRST**

224p. Wendy Lamb Books (Penguin Random House) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-553-49690-1

Petula De Wilde (16) lost her younger sister two years ago, and she has blamed herself every day for her death. After the tragedy, Petula started presenting OCD symptoms of frequently washing her hands, avoiding construction sites, and creating a scrapbook of freak and accidental deaths. She no longer works on craft projects with her best friend, and has become more of a loner. Petula's anxieties have landed her in mandatory Art therapy class. She doesn't feel like she belongs with the other misfits until Jacob joins the class. When they are partnered up on a project, Petula is forced to work with him and she begins to let her guard down. Can Jacob help Petula conquer her fears or will a skeleton from his closet change everything? Quick-paced realistic fiction novel about overcoming an obstacle.

Patterson, James & Gabrielle Charbonnet ***CRAZY HOUSE***

368p. jimmy patterson (Little, Brown & Co.) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-316431316

Twin sisters Becca and Cassie Greenfield (17) have lived all their life in a regulated farming community known as a cell. With no parents at home to care for them, the twins are trying to make it through high school so they can start their vocations and keep off the radar of the United, the ruling body. One night the rebellious twin, Becca, doesn't make it home at curfew. Told through dual perspectives, the reader finds out that Becca has been captured and thrown into a violent prison for teenagers. Becca's only hope is that the "good twin" will start breaking the rules before she dies in the Crazy House because the jailers have captured the wrong twin. Action-packed dystopian novel told in short chapters that keeps readers hooked and craving the 2nd installment.

Pike, Aprilynne ***GLITTER***

367p. Random House 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-101-93370-1

Danica Grayson (17) lives inside the palace of Versailles in the twenty-second century, but every royal family eats and dresses like it is the eighteenth century with the exception of modern-day technology and the palace being staffed with robots. One day Danica witnesses the king committing a murder, so her mother blackmails the king into making Danica his new queen. Danica is repulsed by the king, and begins her plan to escape. Her only way out is to raise enough money to be smuggled out, and the only option to get that much money before the wedding is by dealing a new undetected type of drug called Glitter. Danica designs a line of cosmetics and sells it to royalty without them knowing it is highly addictive. Will Danica raise enough money to escape? Will her Glitter make-up line be exposed? Faced pace science fiction novel that will have the reader longing for the sequel. Great audio read!

Reynolds, Jason ***LONG WAY DOWN***

304p. Simon & Schuster 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-3825-4

Told in free verse, Will's (15) older brother Shawn was shot and killed two days ago. Will knows the rules, taught to him by Shawn: #1. No crying, #2. No snitching, #3. Revenge. So Will goes up to the family's apartment to get Shawn's gun to use against the one he is sure killed him. While riding the elevator back down, it stops on each floor and someone (who is now dead) from their past steps on and talks to Will about life – what he is planning to do – and what will happen after that. Powerful and amazing.

Silvera, Adam ***THEY BOTH DIE AT THE END***

368p. HarperCollins 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-245779-0

In an alternate world, most things are the same but here everyone gets a call on their last day of life. You hope to receive it just after midnight to have the most time to do whatever last things you want to do. Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez (18) and Rufus Emeterio (17), who are strangers to each other but end up together for their last day by using the Last Friend app. Mateo is finally acknowledging that he is gay, Rufus is bisexual – though this is not the main point of the book, (one main point is how people affect each other even in the smallest things they do). They go through some life changes together, find some acceptance of the finality of their lives, and some things they wish they had done differently. Told alternately from their, and a few other, points of view.

Thomas, Angie ***THE HATE U GIVE***

444p. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-249853-3

Star Carter (16) is an African American girl caught between two worlds: her fancy prep school she attends and the poor black urban neighborhood where she lives. The two worlds collide when Star is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed childhood friend, Khalil, by a white police officer. The balance has been broken and Star must decide whether she stands up and speaks out about the injustice of the shooting that has made national news. The media is painting a completely different portrayal of Khalil, and Star may need to set the record straight. Will Star's prep school friends think differently about her? Will any charges be brought against the police officer? Eye-opening novel about race relations today, and a movie adaptation is in the works.

Watson, Renée ***PIECING ME TOGETHER***

261p. Bloomsbury 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-68119-105-8

Jade (16) loves collage art and photography. She is a scholarship student at a mostly white prestigious private school and lives in what others consider a questionable area of Portland, Ore. She is invited to join the Woman to Woman program and if she stays with it for her last two years of high school she is guaranteed a college scholarship. During her junior year Jade makes friends with Sam (Samantha) who rides the same city bus to school. It isn't long before things begin to chafe her, how her white friend makes excuses for prejudiced behavior and how she feels sometimes like the school, and even her mentor, Maxine (who is black), thinks she needs saving. She finally works on speaking up for herself. When she hears about a black girl at a pool party who was beaten by police, she has trouble dealing with it, but finally finds a positive way to respond (with others) and make a difference. Similar in some ways to *The Hate U Give*.

Wein, Elizabeth ***THE PEARL THIEF***

317p. Disney-Hyperion 2017 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-48471716-5

Prequel to *Code Name Verity* but is not necessary to have read it first.

Julia is 15, soon to be 16, and is just home from school for the summer. No one is home yet so she walks along the river and lays on a rock to dangle her fingers in it. The next thing she knows she is in the hospital having received a bad blow to her head. No one knows what happened and Julia cannot remember anything. Her goal is to solve this mystery, and she will have help from her new friends, the ones who found her and took her to the hospital. The title refers to river pearls, unique beautiful ones found only in this area of the world.

Zarr, Sara **GEM & DIXIE**

282p. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-243459-3

Gem, almost 17, her sister Dixie, 14, have survived neglectful parents for most of their lives. Now things have come to a head for Gem, and Dixie is drawn along with her as they run away for a couple of days. Gem needs to sort out where she is and where she could go. Their parents have been physically (the dad) or mentally (the mom) absent for Gem, though they seem to dote on Dixie.

Zentner, Jeff **GOODBYE DAYS**

416p. Crown Books 2017 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0553524062

One text message changed Carter's (17) life in an instant. After sending the text, Carter finds out that his three best friends have died in a car accident. The last thing on the driver's phone is Carter's text. As Carter begins to grieve the deaths of Mars, Eli, and Blake, law enforcement starts pointing the finger at Carter. Three funerals, panic attacks, and accusations is not the way Carter thought he would spend the few weeks before his senior year of high school. Then Blake's grandmother asks Carter to spend one last day, a "Goodbye Day" with her to celebrate Blake and how she would have liked to spend his last day on Earth. Can these "Goodbye Days" help Carter to heal or will he end up behind bars? Heart-breaking story, but one every high school student should read as well as their parents. The audiobook was amazing!

New Titles in Popular Series

Fiction for Younger Teens:

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker **THE WAR I FINALLY WON**

400p. Dial Books 2017 \$ ISBN 978-0525429203 (sequel to *The War That Saved My Life*)

Flanagan, John **THE BATTLE OF HACKHAM HEATH**

(Ranger's Apprentice: The Early Years, Bk 2)

352p. Philomel (Penguin Random House) 2016 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-399-16362-3 (Nov 29)

Grabenstein, Chris **MR. LEMONCELLO'S GREAT LIBRARY RACE** (Bk 3)

288p. Random House 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-553536065

Korman, Gordon **JINGLE** (Swindle, Bk 8)

208p. Scholastic Press 2016 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-86142-7 (pub 9/27/16)

Korman, Gordon **PAYBACK** (Masterminds, Bk 3)

312p. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-230005-8

Larson, Hope ***KNIFE'S EDGE*** (Four Points, Bk 2)
Illus. by Rebecca Mock 224p. Farrar Straus Giroux 2017 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-374-30044-9

Riordan, Rick ***THE DARK PROPHECY*** (The Trials of Apollo, Bk 2)
401p. Disney – Hyperion 2017 \$19.99 ISBN 978-148474642-4

Riordan, Rick ***THE SHIP OF THE DEAD*** (Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard, Bk 3)
401p. Disney – Hyperion 2017 \$19.99 ISBN 978-148474642-4

Scieszka, Jon ed. ***GUYS READ: Heroes and Villains*** (Guys Read, Bk. 7)
263p. HarperCollins 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-238561-1; \$6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-238560-4

Stroud, Jonathan ***THE EMPTY GRAVE*** (Lockwood & Co., Bk 5)
448p. Disney - Hyperion 2017 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4847-7872-2

Westerfeld, Scott ***HORIZON*** (Horizon, Book 1)
241p. Scholastic Press 2017 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-545-91677-6

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Aveyard, Victoria ***KING'S CAGE***
528p. HarperCollins 2017 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-231069-9

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