

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
10 ways to use a college degree in computer science	Edwards, Sue Bradford	Middle School		School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Each book in this series focuses on a single college major and introduces a variety of professions within that field. The text clearly explains what people in these jobs do and the settings where they may work. The writing is clear and thorough, presented in longer paragraphs that provide detailed explanations rather than quick, dynamic facts. A standout feature is the inclusion of profiles of notable figures in each profession that trace their majors and career paths. Color photographs show professionals at work, while the overall graphic design supports the text rather than serving as an attention-grabbing element. VERDICT A practical and informative series that will guide students in exploring both college majors and future careers. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
16 forever	Rubin, Lance	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (October 24, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Carter Cohen is perpetually stuck reliving his 16th year, losing all memories and physical changes every time he is about to turn seventeen. Rubin dives headfirst into the hilarity and horror of Carter's unique situation of navigating high school and relationships without memory of the previous experience. While the time loop is a much-used trope, its exploration from the point of view and voice of Carter is unique, lending a fresh perspective to the familiar concept. The writing is fluid and fun, with plenty of humor. Rubin successfully captures the tension between Carter's desire to unstick and the tragic necessity of time and memory for love and connection. This complexity is most evident in his relationship with Maggie Spear, the girl he loved in his last loop who must endure the pain of starting over. Even when the repetitive nature of the story starts to drag, Carter's sharp wit keeps the narrative engaging. The novel successfully asks what it means to grow up when one is eternally locked at 16. Its blend of fantasy, trauma, and sarcastic humor with romance, despite the occasionally repetitive plot moments, makes it a compelling read for young adult audiences. Carter is white, Maggie is presumed white, and Carter's best friend is Asian American. VERDICT With an engaging premise; relatable high school setting; and complex, heartbreaking romantic subplot exploring memory, secrecy, and pain, this book is a strong purchase. Place it in fiction, sci-fi/fantasy, or romance sections.-Richard Winters © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) Carter Cohen just turned 16—again. On the morning of Carter's 16th birthday, his family delivers some unbelievable news: This isn't the first time. Technically he's 22—and his 'little brother,' Lincoln, is 19. Every December, when Carter is supposed to turn 17, he instead loops backward, any physical changes and his memories from the previous year are erased, while the rest of the world keeps going. Carter is now on his sixth loop, and doctors haven't been able to figure out what's causing his unusual condition. Meanwhile, Maggie Spear, Carter's girlfriend from the previous loop, is devastated that he no longer remembers her. She decides it's better to pretend their relationship never happened than to risk heartbreak again. Despite Maggie's efforts to move on from Carter, the two find themselves drawn together again. As Carter's next birthday comes closer, he and Maggie question what their future will look like when there's no guarantee that Carter will reach 17. Rubin offers an original take on the time-loop trope, deftly exploring the complexities of relationships and what it means to change. The novel alternates in perspective between Carter and Maggie, who have distinct voices, resulting in a delightfully banter-filled love story. Carter is Jewish, and he and Maggie both read white. There are queer and racially diverse characters among the supporting cast. An engaging time-loop love story with a unique spin. (author's note) (Romance. 14-18)	Publishers Weekly (October 13, 2025) A teen stuck in a time loop is forced to relive his 16th year while the world moves on without him in this convoluted speculative love story. When Carter Cohen wakes up on his 16th birthday, he has no idea that he's reliving this year for the sixth time. Once his 17th birthday arrives, his mind and body reset, leaving him confused and concerned about why nothing is the way he remembers: his parents seem older and tired, and his formerly younger brother is now in college. Forced to readjust to being 16 (again) and struggling to manage his-and everyone else's-surety that he has no future, Carter attempts to reconnect with friends he's forgotten about and seeks a cure for his condition. Along the way, he meets and falls back in love with his former girlfriend Maggie, despite others' warnings that their relationship is doomed. Rubin (Zed Moonstein Makes a Friend) spins a tale bordering on horror, as unnerving plotting outlines how Carter's curse affects both him and those who care for him. At times sorrowful and hopeful, it's an introspective story about grief, regret, and maturation disguised as a lighthearted romance that considers memory's impact on relationships and poses existential questions about personhood. Carter is white and Jewish. Ages 14-up. Agent: Mollie Glick, CAA. (Jan.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
A language of dragons	Williamson, S. F	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (January 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-A compelling fantasy debut that centers around Vivien Featherswallow, a young linguist skilled in both human and Dragon languages. In alternate 1923 London, Vivien's life takes an unexpected turn when her family is accused of treason, thrusting her into a treacherous world of politics and warfare as she struggles to protect them. She is forced to work as a codebreaker at Bletchley Park deciphering Dragon communications. Through Vivien's journey, the novel explores the transformative power of language and the profound role it plays in connecting cultures and bridging divides. What sets this book apart is its exploration of language as more than mere communication. The author masterfully demonstrates how language embodies cultural values, traditions, and even political ideologies. Vivien's interactions with both human and Dragon societies reveal a nuanced understanding of how words can shape, heal, and also destroy. The political backdrop of the novel adds layers of urgency and relevance, mirroring modern-day discussions about identity, diplomacy, and understanding in a divided world. At its core, this novel celebrates the beauty of communication and the bravery it takes to seek mutual understanding in turbulent times. VERDICT For readers who appreciate fantasy with philosophical depth, this novel is a must-read, offering both a gripping plot and a meditation on the importance of words and empathy in a fractured world.-Jessica Calaway © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (December 1, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 7)) Grades 7-12. After Guardians raid her home and arrest her rebel parents, polyglot and Second-Class citizen Vivien Featherswallow frees an imprisoned dragon to destroy evidence of her parent's rebellion. Unable to escape the aftermath, she finds herself before the Prime Minister of Britannia who offers her a job to use her language abilities to crack the dragon code, the most secret language of dragons, and get her parents pardoned. With no real choice, Vivien arrives at Bletchley Park, where she and several other misfits work together and against each other to be the first to unravel the profound mystery behind the all-encompassing language of dragons. Vivien uncovers the truth of the language, but is left with a choice: reveal the discovery and doom dragons and Third-Class citizens, or keep the secret safe and forfeit the lives of her loved ones. Williamson's engaging novel highlights the conflict between Vivien's choices and how her decisions deeply affect who she becomes. Its characters offer a vivid glimpse into the themes of societal inequality, the complexity of translation, and above all forgiveness.	Kirkus Reviews (December 1, 2024) As war looms between dragons and humans in an alternate 1923, one girl is forced to work as a codebreaker to save her family. Vivien Featherswallow loves languages: She's studied "three human languages and six dragon tongues" and hopes to become a Draconic Translator. A Second Class resident of London's Fitzrovia neighborhood, Viv wholeheartedly supports the Peace Agreement made by Prime Minister Wyvernmore and the British Dragon Queen as well as the Class System that stratifies people into three tiers. So, when the rest of her family is suddenly arrested for their resistance group activities, Viv struggles to understand what's going on. She bargains with Chumana, a rebellious dragon imprisoned in a University of London library: her release in exchange for burning down the prime minister's office (and any evidence of her family's wrongdoing that it contains). But in the process, she inadvertently sparks a civil war. The Featherswallows' only hope of redemption lies at Bletchley Park, where Viv is recruited to decipher rebel dragons' communications alongside the former friend she once betrayed. Everyone at Bletchley is desperate, and if she wants to succeed, Viv must work quickly to support a cause she's losing faith in. Williamson's debut layers a fascinating fantastical world over pre-World War I tensions. Viv's translation skills become the window through which she begins to understand a larger world, and readers will root for her growth. Most characters present white. Alt-history fans will devour this high-concept reimagining of the interwar period—with dragons. (Historical fantasy. 14-18)
A queen's match	McGee, Katharine	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (October 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-McGee concludes this duology with protagonists Helene d'Orleans, Alix of Hesse, and May of Teck completing their tumultuous marriage season. Helene is ready to fight for Eddy's love even if she fears Queen Victoria not accepting her as a suitable wife or a future Queen for England. Alix must admit that love may not conquer all when the tsar and tsarina forbid Nicholas to marry her. May will take any marriage if it means she'll finally be elevated enough to control her own life. Alternating chapters follow Helene, Alix, May and, in one poignant chapter, Eddy, through the season as these real-life characters take their places in history. VERDICT A historical romance that is both frothy and insightful. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 9-12. Picking up where its predecessor, A Queen's Game, left off, this fast-paced historical romance dishes up more royal intrigue as the three protagonists from the previous book face roadblocks to their hearts' desires. Hearts are broken, bonds are tested, secrets are revealed, and some characters find a measure of happiness amid (or despite) Queen Victoria's well-intentioned meddling. The voices of the three princesses (Alix of Hesse, Hélène d'Orléans, and May of Teck) are distinct as each one years for love with their perfect match—or someone else's. Rich details abound—such as the description of Queen Victoria's treasured brooch (containing her children's baby teeth) and accounts of sumptuous rooms, voyages aboard yachts, and the newly invented elevator—and together offer an appealing glimpse into the late nineteenth-century world in which these privileged women live, love, and sometimes lose their way. While the book's satisfying end will please readers, many will wonder what happens next. This curiosity might send readers scurrying for research about some of the real men and women behind these fictionalized versions. Read it with a box of tissues nearby.	

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A short history of the world in 50 failures	Gazur, Ben	Adult	AD	Booklist (December 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 7)) The Australian army was defeated by emus, the Romans sweetened their wine with toxic lead, and medieval warriors dropped beehives onto the heads of castle invaders. This captivating compendium of historical failures, oddities, catastrophes, and missed opportunities proves that there is more to history than achievement and progress (and that unexpected circumstances can lead to that progress). If Alexander Fleming, who discovered the miracle of penicillin, had bothered to close his lab windows before going on holiday, the penicillin spore would not have floated into his lab, landed on a nasty bacteria sample, and, astonishingly, killed it. Only because a lone Ethiopian shepherd noticed his goats got unusually frisky after nibbling on a certain shrub, tried it himself, and was "delighted with the caffeine high" do we delight in our customary java fix each morning. Written with engaging style and ironic humor, A Short History of the World in 50 Failures is highly recommended for public-library browsing collections. Anyone who appreciates history with a bit of spice will read it with great pleasure. Recommended for teens (YA/S) Even high-school students averse to traditional history books may whet their appetites on the facts presented here.	Publishers Weekly (September 8, 2025) "I hope this book makes you look at the failures in your own life a little more kindly," writes journalist, folklorist, and biochemist Gazur (A Feast of Folklore) in this entertaining overview of monumental mistakes that changed human history. Gazur shows that time and again errors led to major breakthroughs in science. Examples include a mistranslation of a German text that led to a revolutionary advancement in Alexander Graham Bell's experiments with the telephone, another mistranslation (regarding measurements of time) that led Columbus to think he could quickly cross the Atlantic, and numerous hygienic lapses that resulted in major milestones such as the development of penicillin (discovered when Alexander Fleming accidentally left a window open, exposing his work to mold). The other major through line of Gazur's witty survey is war and its attendant happenstances-like the chauffeur who took a wrong turn and accidentally sparked WWI by setting up his passenger, Duke Ferdinand, for assassination. The most haunting of Gazur's anecdotes is the one mistake that came not to pass-the 1983 incident when a Soviet soldier chose not to inform his commanders that several U.S. nuclear warheads were incoming, because he correctly figured it was a glitch. It's a heart-stopping exception to a fun and fascinating treasure trove of mess-ups. (Oct.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
A war of wyverns	Williamson, S. F	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (January 1, 2026) The stakes are high as full-blown war pits dragon against human. In the series opener, A Language of Dragons (2025), set in a fantastical alternate 1923 London where dragons live alongside people, aspiring Draconic Translator Vivien Featherswallow accidentally ignited a war. She landed at Bletchley Park, deciphering rebel dragon communications for a government she wasn't sure she could trust. In this second entry, Vivien has not only joined the resistance, she's become "London's most wanted rebel." Propelled by grief over a love she's lost, fear for a sister she hopes to keep safe, and skepticism toward her political leaders, Vivien tentatively sets out to crack a sacred, nearly untranslatable language. In the process, she immerses herself in the world of the distrustful Hebridean Wyverns, whose lives and culture may open her eyes to new ways of being. The secondary cast, including Vivien's love interest, are thinly characterized, and some plot elements feel derivative of other popular YA genre fiction works. But Vivien's changing understanding of translation as a tool for both communication and oppression remains compelling, and her fight to find her place in the world and the revolution forms the heartbeat of the book. Though comparisons to the popular dragon-rider romance Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros are inevitable, readers who were drawn to the complex draconic politics of Rachel Hartman's Seraphina may find more to sink their teeth into here. Characters largely read white. An uneven but ultimately gripping sequel. (author's note) (Historical fantasy. 14-18)		
Abundance	Klein, Ezra	Adult	AD	Publishers Weekly (March 24, 2025) In this probing treatise, New York Times columnist Klein (Why We're Polarized) and Atlantic staff writer Thompson (Hit Makers) explore the legislative bottlenecks hampering progress on housing, infrastructure, and clean energy, among other pressing issues. Zooming in on San Francisco to explore the nation's housing crisis, the authors explain how onerous zoning restrictions limiting the number of units developers can build per lot constrain housing supply growth, while a law requiring the government to prioritize small businesses when granting contracts means developers must wait until one of the few qualifying companies has availability. Effective governance necessitates cutting through red tape when it proves overly prohibitive, Klein and Thompson contend, citing how Pennsylvania governor Josh Shapiro restored a collapsed section of I-95 in 12 days, instead of the many months initially expected, by issuing a declaration of emergency that enabled the state to waive such time-consuming requirements as a bidding process and environmental impact statement. Elsewhere, the authors lament how caps on H-1B visas are limiting immigration of the highly skilled foreign scientists and mathematicians who have historically helped drive American innovation. Klein and Thompson are, by their own admission, more interested in diagnosing problems than outlining solutions, and while this feels like a bit of a cop-out, the remarkably unstuffy discussions offer as lucid an explanation of contemporary legislative quandaries as readers are likely to find. Policy wonks will rejoice. (Mar.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.		
Alicia a traves del espejo	Carroll, Lewis	Adult	AD			

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All the Noise at Once	Davis, Deandra	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (September 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Santana wondrously captures the timely drama on an uneven playing field in Davis's stupendous debut, spotlighting two brothers who just want to play football together. The novel's core belongs to Aiden, an autistic Black teenager whose dream of joining his quarterback older brother Brandon's team finally comes true. Their first shared victory ends in shocking horror as a teammate's bullying of Aiden leads to police intervention, then Brandon's wrongful arrest for allegedly assaulting an officer. Brandon's always taken care of Aiden; it's Aiden's turn now to figure out how to free his brother. Santana resonantly infuses Aiden with an extraordinary balance of overwhelming discomfort and undeterrable tenacity; Brandon is considerably more fluid, socially deft, and personable. Santana transforms Mom's "Do you know what it means when I say we're Black?" into a wrenching cri du cœu!g;ur. Also memorable are bubbly Isabella, churlish Carter, and conflicted Marsha. VERDICT Santana endows all-star treatment on Davis's remarkable debut. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (April 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 15)) Grades 9-12. Aiden Wright, a Black and autistic teenager, wants nothing more than to play football like his older brother Brandon, a quarterback, and to be on a team with Brandon before he leaves for college. Despite some challenges with the sensory experience and ableist discrimination, Aiden makes it onto the team. Unfortunately, one of Aiden's bullies starts a fight, and the police are called. When Brandon tries to shield his brother from police violence, he gets arrested and wrongly accused of assaulting a police officer. As Brandon's resulting trial edges closer, Aiden must figure out a way to uncover what exactly happened that day—and help clear Brandon's name in time. Aptly named after the feeling an autistic person might experience during sensory overload, this is a stunning debut that empathetically captures the nuances of being both Black and autistic with care and love. Aiden and Brandon's relationship as brothers is complex and layered, and readers will root for both of them and hope they reconcile their differences. At its heart, this is a story about brotherhood, family, the fight against police brutality and the carceral system, racism and anti-Blackness, and ableism through the autistic experience—all in all, it is essential reading about activism and collective action. Aiden's voice will linger long after you finish this riveting work.	Kirkus Reviews (February 1, 2025) An autistic Black teen in Florida battles on and off the field to define his own destiny and come to his brother's aid. Sixteen-year-old Aiden Wright wants to play football with his older brother during their last school year together before Brandon goes to college. But sensory stress during Aiden's team tryout leads to a meltdown, and he's only invited to play when two other athletes leave. Meanwhile, Aiden is placed in a life skills class that's typically reserved for kids who have challenges. There he's partnered for a project involving getting a part-time job with friendly new girl Isabella, who got in trouble at her old school. When a teammate who's long been cruel to Aiden because of his autism instigates a fight that escalates, Aiden becomes a victim of police violence. Brandon intervenes, trying to protect him, and is arrested and charged with assaulting an officer. Now Aiden battles complicated team dynamics while he tries to get Brandon exonerated. Aiden is a nuanced character with a well-developed inner life. The brothers' realistically drawn relationship is both flawed and vulnerable, showing the different facets of their personalities. The coaches and about half the football players are white, and the Wrights live in a wealthy, predominantly white area of town; Davis' debut explores the intersections of race and socioeconomic differences. An atmospheric gridiron tale that highlights the complexities of team sports, friendship, and bias. (Fiction. 14-18)
All the tomorrows after	Yi, Joanne	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (July 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 21)) Grades 8-12. Squirreling away money in hopes of escaping a difficult homelife with her halmoni, Winter faces a devastating blow when her mother discovers and spends her stash. But respite comes in the form of an unusual offer: in exchange for spending time with him, her estranged father will give her cash. It's not long before Winter encounters another tragedy. Struck by grief once again, Winter must navigate this strange relationship with her father and his family, a blossoming first love, and the prospect that her dream of traveling the world may be out of reach. A story of heartbreak and choiceless resilience, this marks Yi's debut as it treads themes of generational trauma, existing as Korean American in modern times, and what it means to fend for yourself as a teen when the world seems to have its deck stacked against you. Winter's tender story encourages imagining others as complexly as we see ourselves. Hand to fans of Kelly Yang and Mary H. K. Choi.	Kirkus Reviews starred (July 15, 2025) A teenager grapples with the concepts of belonging and loss. Winter Moon, a 17-year-old Korean American girl, lives with her harsh and self-centered mother and her beloved and caring halmoni; she has only vague memories of the father who abandoned them when she was small. Her grandmother's love has been the sole nurturing Winter's known. She's determined to someday escape her tired Sierra Park, California, life along with Halmoni, and so she works hard, stowing away her meager earnings even as she struggles with her mother's constant need for money. Everything changes when Winter's white stepmother suddenly appears on behalf of her father, offering to pay her if only she'll meet with him. At school, Joon Seo, the new boy from New Jersey, makes her feel seen—like Winter, he craves an elusive sense of acceptance. Amid this emotional turmoil, tragedy strikes. Written in short chapters, the book is a fast-moving and heart-wrenching read. Although a visceral feeling of grief runs through the book, the lucid writing buoys the story, offering glimpses of joyful memories and tender moments as Winter makes sense of her life. Love wrapped up in loss, sharply etched characters, a strong sense of place, and the need to belong—whether with family or friends—makes Yi's debut an absorbing read. In an author's note, she movingly describes her own journey with grief. A powerful, deftly told story of loss and love that will linger in readers' hearts. (Fiction. 14-18)	
Artificial intelligence specialists	Heuer, Mike	Young Adult	YA			
Asgardians. 3.Loki	O'Connor, George	Middle School	5-8	Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2025) The mischief-making trickster gets at least a partial makeover in this set of exploits from the reigning maven of Greek, and now Norse, mythology in graphic format. Sometimes resembling in the art a sullen teenager and other times a dead ringer for DC Comics' Joker, Loki is cast as an untrustworthy outsider admitted to the company of the Aesir by Odin's will but never trusted or respected. Still, he generally comes out looking better than the sneering Thor and other unscrupulous, light-skinned Asgardians who repeatedly pressure him to expedite various schemes and then unjustly blame him when they go wrong. He reluctantly helps his fellow gods cheat a hired builder, is tricked into helping to leash the giant wolf Fenrir (who's actually his own offspring), and provides epic entertainment at a wedding feast with a bawdy tug of war in which he ties one end of the rope to his unnamed and unseen but hilariously unmistakable privates. But soon enough, Loki's instrumental role in the god Baldr's tragic death signals a definitive turn to the dark side. Though O'Connor slyly skips mention of that tug of war in his copious endnotes, he does expound with typical sagacity on motifs and mythological figures elsewhere in the stories, as well as noting sources, textual variants, and continuing themes that will carry over into his fourth and final planned volume in the series. A semi-sympathetic portrait of a god too clever for his own good. (author's note, character gallery, glossary, endnotes) (Graphic mythology. 10-13)		
Athletic trainer	Klatte, Kathleen A	Young Adult	YA			

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Auto and equipment mechanics.		Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 6 Up-These in-depth and well-rounded books are required reading for students making decisions about their future. Each title is centered around a work area, like public safety or art and design, and they discuss the myriad ways that a person could be involved in that career. For example, Public Safety doesn't just discuss police officers and firefighters, but also fish and wildlife workers and 911 operators. The lifestyle and working environment for different jobs is discussed in detail, covering how social and physically demanding they are. Helpful charts are included with what degrees, certifications, apprenticeships, or portfolios are required for each career. Written at a fifth-grade level, these titles could be handed to readers from grades six to twelve. VERDICT Highly recommended for emerging readers looking for their future careers. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Auto mechanic	Small, Cathleen	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-This series explores skilled trades such as electrician, plumber, chef, carpenter, cosmetologist, and auto mechanic. Each volume covers the training required, personal skills, job environment, factors to consider when choosing the field, salary expectations, and future job outlook. The writing is engaging and includes exciting aspects of the work, along with personal stories of individuals who have found success in these careers. Though the pages contain a lot of text, the style keeps readers interested. Background colors, action photos of workers, and clear organization add visual appeal. VERDICT This is a strong resource for high school students exploring non-college career paths and is recommended for school and public library collections. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Bad Influence	Ahn, Claire	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (April 11, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Sixteen-year-old Charlotte, the eldest daughter of Korean immigrants, gains an Instagram following after she confronts racist influencers and is befriended by the very popular influencer whom she had defended. The story follows Charlotte through the excitement of gaining followers to becoming almost obsessed with getting sponsorships and maintaining her online presence. In return, she risks damaging her friendship with Steven, her only friend, and is hiding all of this from her parents. Other plot points about having too much responsibility, financial worries, and a difficult relationship with her mother are interspersed with a dream vacation and a sweet love story that makes it difficult to stay grounded in reality. The story includes some background on Korean culture and food. Ahn explores the importance of being present in a moment and being true to yourself. Her protagonist is a teenager with a lot of freedom who is thrown into a world she's not prepared for and doesn't experience some of the consequences that could have come from several risky situations she put herself in. VERDICT An enjoyable enough read for readers looking for a love story with a little drama. Includes language more suitable for older readers.- Melinda Graham © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (April 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 15)) Grades 9-11. Charlotte Goh isn't really in the fashion influencer game for fame. Ever since an accident at her father's work, the family's income has plummeted, leaving her mom stressed and Charlotte in charge of her little sister. But collecting influencer deals isn't so easy—until a video about a racist encounter at an event goes viral and suddenly everyone wants to work with Charlotte. Now Charlotte must choose between her morals and money. As Charlotte navigates new relationships both business and social, her existing relationships and how she engages with her Korean identity grow increasingly complex. Ahn (I Guess I Live Here Now, 2022) offers similarly complex characterization that has Charlotte making poor decisions as her friend Steven contemplates therapy and complicated feelings regarding his parents. Readers will find Ahn's characters to be likable and sympathetic as they face difficult questions around social media and familiar social convictions. For readers looking for Kelly Yang's Private Label (2022) meets Crystal Maldonado's No Filter and Other Lies (2022).	Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2025) A Korean American microinfluencer must choose between profit and personal values. Sixteen-year-old Charlotte Goh entered the world of online influencing as a way to relieve her family's financial strain. Wanting to spare her younger sister, Jojo, from the money-related arguments between her appa and umma that she grew up with, Charlotte turned to social media, hoping to leverage an audience for sponsorships. At a fashion preview in New York, she confronts some white girls over their racist comments about Audrey Sena, a popular Asian American influencer, and makes them apologize. When Audrey credits Charlotte with defending her in an Instagram post about the incident, Charlotte's follower count immediately explodes. Charlotte's new friendship with Audrey has other perks too, including joining Audrey's social circle and going on dates with a handsome actor. A generous sponsorship opportunity soon lands in Charlotte's lap, but there's a catch: Other influencers are boycotting the company for stealing the work of Asian designers. This fast-moving story examines themes of authenticity and representation as Charlotte navigates the contradiction between an influencer's curated social media presence and their audience's expectations of honesty and genuine connection. Charlotte's home life as an eldest child shouldering her parents' emotional and financial burdens is vividly drawn and contrasts sharply with the carefree, trendy lifestyles of her more affluent influencer friends. An absorbing, empathetic story that explores personal ethics and peeks behind the curtains of online perfectionism. (Fiction. 13-18)
Bane of Asgard	Chima, Cinda Williams	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (December 13, 2024) Gr 8 Up-Eiric, Reginn, and Liv have been reunited in New Jotunheim after the events of Children of Ragnarok where Eiric killed the counsel and has provided Tyra, a wyrdspinner and Liv's mother, the perfect excuse to go to war with Asgard. Reginn has become an advisor to Tyra, while Liv, who is also Eiric's half-sister, has been raised to godhood with dangerous consequences. Reginn helps Eiric escape and head back to Asgard to warn the jarl, but upon arriving he discovers that the months he spent in New Jotunheim were nearly 10 years in Asgard. After all her work crossing between the worlds of the living and the dead, her fire demon makes it clear: Reginn must choose between her love for Eiric and her queen, because only she can stop Ragnarok. Chima crafts a propulsive narrative primarily in Eiric and Reginn's points of view, with some input from other characters to raise the stakes. The twists and turns will leave readers breathless as the characters edge ever closer to the apocalypse. Despite the multidimensional cast of flawed and inspiring characters, some of the interpersonal relationships falter as the plot drives relentlessly forward. Many of Eiric's relationships, in particular his romance with Reginn, don't have the emotional resonance readers might expect. Main cast is cued white, with additional diversity in secondary characters. VERDICT A satisfying conclusion to a complex duology; recommended for collections that have the first installment.-Emmy Neal © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2024) The second book in the Runestone Saga further explores the forces of greed and ambition. Blond, blue-eyed Eiric, imprisoned in magical New Jotunheim for killing its council of elders, finds an ally in copper-skinned Reginn, who has "hair like spun gold and copper." She's now counselor to ambitious, powerful spinner Tyra, the mother of Liv, Eiric's half sister. Tyra wants to wage war on Asgard, the land that Eiric comes from, and she convinces Liv (who as Heidin has been elevated to the status of a god) to build an army. With Reginn's help, Eiric escapes and sails back to Asgard, both to warn Rikhard, the jarl, and to keep a bargain he made with him. In Asgard, he finds that he's actually been gone for about a decade, although he only spent six months in New Jotunheim. While he was away, Rikhard has become king, and Asgard seems more prosperous under his rule. Meanwhile, as Reginn calls up an army of the dead to fight against Asgard, she's forced to choose between Eiric and her queen. The chapters in this densely plotted story, which contains betrayal, violence, Norse mythology, and magical beings galore, as well as a healthy dose of romance, largely alternate between Eiric's and Reginn's points of view. As the plot lines unspool, nothing is as it appears, and readers will be kept guessing until the very end. Suspenseful, deeply drawn, and action-packed. (map) (Fantasy. 13-18)	
Batman resurrection	Miller, John Jackson	Adult	AD			
Batman: revolution	Miller, John Jackson	Adult	AD			

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Be a nurse practitioner	Ventura, Marne	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-This series covers growing career paths that readers may not have considered or even heard of. For example, students unfamiliar with solar energy will learn about the work of a solar photovoltaic installer. Each book begins with an at-a-glance section that summarizes what each job entails. This will enable students to skim through the series before choosing to read more deeply. Short vignettes about what daily life in each career is like, and what their job duties would be, are included. Education requirements, specializations, exams, and certifications are all covered. Extensive information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics describes the outlook and pay range for each field. Written at a fifth-grade level, this series is for students in grades seven to twelve. VERDICT Solid overviews of growing career fields. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Be a physician assistant	Rea, Amy C	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-This series covers growing career paths that readers may not have considered or even heard of. For example, students unfamiliar with solar energy will learn about the work of a solar photovoltaic installer. Each book begins with an at-a-glance section that summarizes what each job entails. This will enable students to skim through the series before choosing to read more deeply. Short vignettes about what daily life in each career is like, and what their job duties would be, are included. Education requirements, specializations, exams, and certifications are all covered. Extensive information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics describes the outlook and pay range for each field. Written at a fifth-grade level, this series is for students in grades seven to twelve. VERDICT Solid overviews of growing career fields. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Be a veterinary technician	Henzel, Cynthia Kennedy	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-This series covers growing career paths that readers may not have considered or even heard of. For example, students unfamiliar with solar energy will learn about the work of a solar photovoltaic installer. Each book begins with an at-a-glance section that summarizes what each job entails. This will enable students to skim through the series before choosing to read more deeply. Short vignettes about what daily life in each career is like, and what their job duties would be, are included. Education requirements, specializations, exams, and certifications are all covered. Extensive information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics describes the outlook and pay range for each field. Written at a fifth-grade level, this series is for students in grades seven to twelve. VERDICT Solid overviews of growing career fields. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 6-10. This high/low title from the In-Demand Careers series (5 titles) opens with bullet points previewing the book's major topics and an overview of the vet-tech profession. Engaging vignettes of the tasks and settings involved in this work are conveyed through clear language and images (including many adorable animals) that showcase experiences at clinics, shelters, farms, and zoos. Perspectives on the exciting, mundane, and heartbreaking aspects of working with animals are communicated throughout. Details on schooling, certification requirements, and the career's employment outlook make this a practical guide for those considering this profession. In addition to descriptions of specialties and current information on salary, the book emphasizes the importance of soft skills like communication and empathy. Appropriate for middle-schoolers, teens reading below grade level, and anyone interested in animal-related careers.	
Become a cosmetologist : hairstyling, skin care & more	Gates, Margo	Middle School	5-8			
Before We Wake (A Graphic Novel)	Glock, Sophia	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 10 Up-Alicia just completed her junior year in high school, and she's bummed out for two reasons. First, her best friend Marisa will be working at a sleepaway camp (the same one they used to attend together); second, Marisa has a boyfriend, Quinn, and the new relationship leaves Alicia feeling like the third wheel. Meanwhile, Alicia has been having a recurring dream where she is in a field with a house in the distance-and Quinn is always there. It soon comes to light that both Alicia and Quinn are sharing the same dream. Her confusion and guilt about the meaning of the dream grows. Alicia comes to her own conclusion about what it could mean and realizes she can control what happens there. The author's use of colors and shades sets the tone of the story from beginning to end, which reflects the protagonist's view of her reality versus her perspective within her dream. Alicia and Marisa are white; Quinn has brown skin. VERDICT A poignant graphic narrative highlighting the path towards acceptance during a period of sorrow.-Lois Young © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (December 1, 2025) A girl faces grief and finds romance in her dreams. Four years ago, Alicia Campos' father passed away. Her best friend, Marisa Garza, was there for her, and Alicia believes Marisa is the only one who really understands her. The light-skinned teens, who are implied Latine, are different in many ways. Marisa is always thinking about boys and sex, while Alicia is preoccupied by a recurring dream—in it, there's a house in the distance that draws her, but she can't get any closer to it. She reads a book on lucid dreaming and slowly learns to control her dreams. Over the summer, while Marisa is away working as a camp counselor, Alicia bonds with Quintin, Marisa's brown-skinned basketball player boyfriend, who works at a video rental store. When Alicia and Quintin develop a romantic connection in their dreams (which are portrayed in full color), the waking world (which is depicted in a muted gray and pale yellow palette) becomes more complicated. This graphic novel gently explores grief after losing a loved one. Glock thoughtfully and realistically portrays Alicia's unresolved feelings of shame and guilt and delicately handles her changing relationships. While there's a strong focus on internal character development, the art is less visually engaging; many of the facial expressions are similar and repetitive, but sincere emotions still come through and drive the story. The ending feels somewhat too easy but is still satisfying. An affecting tale of love, loss, and dreams. (Graphic fiction. 13-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Bemused	Rochon, Farrah	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (December 1, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 7)) Grades 8-10. Mnemosyne, mother of the Muses, has been on the run from Zeus and Mount Olympus for years. When she brings five of the Muses—Calliope, Clio, Melpomene, Terpsichore, and Thalia—to life, she's determined to keep them safe. She uproots the girls every one to two years, avoiding community in any place of shelter. When the now-teenage girls surprise their mother with a very public performance, Mnemosyne has to come clean about her origins: she was one of the Titans that Zeus was said to have slain to become king of Olympus, but she escaped at a steep price. Meanwhile, Hades, the comical king of the Underworld, has his own plans for Mnemosyne and the girls—he's certain that their capture will allow him to usurp Zeus' power. When Mnemosyne is kidnapped by Hades, it's up to the Muses to save their mother, Rochon, who has two books in the Twisted Tale series, is no stranger to adding flavor to background Disney characters. This predecessor to Hercules should be a hit for any fan of fairy tale adaptations.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2024) Five sisters learn they have hidden powers that might help them save their mother from danger. Mnemosyne is the Goddess of Memory, a Titan who was granted asylum on Mount Olympus by Zeus after the Titan war. But Mnemosyne, who has bronze skin and black hair, eventually fled Olympus, wiping the gods' memories so she could start her own family in safety. She created five daughters: gifted storyteller and leader Calliope, inquisitive history buff Clio, volatile empath Melpomene, magical dancer Terpsichore, and gifted comedian Thalia. Mnemosyne successfully keeps their existence hidden from the gods until the girls stage a public birthday performance for her. As Mnemosyne hurriedly explains the danger the girls are in, she's kidnapped by Pain and Panic, two minions of Hades, God of the Underworld. The sisters must now put aside their differences to use their unique strengths and their mother's special journal to ask the very gods their mother fears for help. A nice exploration of lesser-known female figures from Greek mythology, this tale features a fine balance of self-actualization and connections among the central characters, each of whom has a distinct temperament and narrative. The dramatis personae and pronunciation key will also make it easier for readers to distinguish the different cast members. A thrilling quest through real and metaphorical mazes, obstacles, and trials. (Fantasy. 13-17)	
Bentley : the best in its class	Lawson, Carlie	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2023) Gr 6-9-Readers will learn all the ins and outs of the world's most lavish, luxurious cars in this extensively researched series. Each book covers roughly the same territory, detailing the brand's history, iconic models, and future, while including handy QR codes that link out to educational videos that supplement the text. Innovation and elegance are the name of the game for all these "Dream Cars." Bentley has been around for over 100 years, debuting as a race car in the 1919 Le Mans. Maserati began as a racing company as well, which shows in its cars' sleek, aerodynamic bodies. As is often the case with the longer Mason Crest books, the writing begins to drag and feel repetitive, as if they're writing to hit a page count needed for primary source length requirements. VERDICT A useful addition if your school has a lot of gearheads. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Beth is dead	Bernet, Katie	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-A delightful reboot of Louisa May Alcott's Little Women. Told in then and now chapters, alternating among the four March sisters, this modern reimagining spins the original in a new direction: what if Beth didn't just die? What if Beth was murdered? As the story opens, Dad has violated the four girls' privacy by writing a book about them, and they are furious. His story has really gotten traction-they now have a viral following, and even Teen Vogue is looking for an interview. Fingers are quickly pointing as it's soon revealed that Beth really is dead. The characters are richly recreated, and even many of the secondary characters mirror the original work. The romance and intrigue are timeless. The cast is presumed white. This story stands on its own, but readers may find themselves lured to pursue the original. VERDICT A clever reboot, well imagined and well executed.-Leah Krippner © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (December 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 7)) Grades 8-12. After the March sisters are made famous by Little Women, a semi-truthful novel their father wrote about their lives, the story becomes horrifyingly true when Beth is found dead on New Year's Day. In alternating timelines and rotating perspectives, the March sisters explore their relationships with one another and other familiar characters as they try to determine who is responsible for Beth's untimely demise. While the murder mystery of this debut is ultimately secondary to subplots and themes that arise as a result of the girls' investigations, this is ripe with discussion opportunities both for fans of Louisa May Alcott's original work and for teen mystery lovers. Bernet adeptly preserves the classic heartfelt and feminist atmosphere familiar to and beloved by the original's Alcott readers, while offering a grounded modern setting that further brings each character to life. Sisterhood remains the core of the March girls' lives in Concord, even as it is threatened by their suspicion of each other. Recommended for most contemporary teen collections.	Kirkus Reviews starred (November 15, 2025) High school junior Beth March is dead, but not from the effects of scarlet fever. Instead, at the start of this modern Little Women-inspired novel set in Concord, Massachusetts, the "doe-eyed" Beth appears to have been murdered. Everyone is a suspect (until they aren't) in this twist-filled tale told from the perspective of each of the white-presenting March sisters: Meg, a Harvard student. Jo, a writer with big aspirations; misunderstood high school sophomore Amy; and even gentle, musically gifted Beth herself. Fans of the Louisa May Alcott original will appreciate the presence of supporting cast members like Sallie Gardiner and the Hummels even as they wonder which of the characters they know well is capable of homicide—including the March sisters' bestselling author father, who's cancelled for his tell-all coming-of-age novel about them and goes into hiding. The book thoroughly explores the characters' possible motives, from jealousy to the quest for fame. In addition to the four narrators, the story moves between the past and present in shifts that could be dizzying, but debut author Bernet makes it work. She does a masterful job of preserving the distinct personalities and ambitions of the classic characters, transporting them to a contemporary setting and making them fresh and relevant for today's readers. Even teens who don't know Little Women will be engaged by this fast-paced and suspense-filled page turner. A thrilling take on a beloved story that will keep readers riveted. (Thriller. 12-18)
Bird in the Air Means We Can Still Breathe	Browne, Mahogany L	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (March 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Browne's newest title follows interwoven threads of folks living in New York City from the lockdown through the availability of vaccines in a mixture of prose, poetry, and short stories. The plot mainly follows six youths and their families: Hyacinth, a Caribbean American 15-year-old living in foster care; Malachi and his family missing their father who is incarcerated; Tariq, a nonbinary teen who is caring for their grandmother amid her memory loss; Zamira, who lost both parents and is in the care of her sister; Pops, who is from Yemen and works at a bodega; and Emerelda, who is queer and recently graduated. The collection of voices presents the experience of poverty during the pandemic and how young people helped their families survive while living with depression and anxiety with limited support from the overtaxed social services. The topics include reflections on loss of community and connection as well as concerns about climate change. Browne includes footnotes to authenticate statistics associated with lives lost and treatment of those who were incarcerated during the pandemic. VERDICT An essential purchase to explore grief associated with the pandemic, give to fans of Elizabeth Acevedo and Elisabet Velasquez. Taylor Skorski © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. The author calls this book "a quilt of stories, poems, fables, and woe circling the moment we all survived." What was survived, of course, was the COVID-19 plague, while "we" refers to the teens of color who endured, even when, in several tragic cases, their parents didn't. In form, the book is a collection of linked short stories with the occasional poem interspersed. Leitmotifs of the collection are sadness and loneliness. One teenage girl, who lives, parentless, with her older sister, longs for a calico cat for company. Electra and Hyacinth, two "city girls with island roots" (Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively), who met through the foster-care system, are luckier, having each other for company. Together, they provide choruses that help link the stories, the largest number of which feature a nearly 18-year-old boy, Malachi, who lives with his younger siblings, MJ and Lil'Monti. Their father, whom readers encounter in two later stories, has been in prison for four years for his revolutionary speeches and writings; their mother went out looking for an inhaler for MJ and never came back. The book boasts memorable characters and beautiful writing—especially the poems. It is singularly relevant in its unsparring examination of the pandemic and its impact on young lives, ideal for both classroom use and independent reading.	Kirkus Reviews starred (January 15, 2025) Young people and their families try to survive during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. "Two city girls with island roots," Jamaican Electra and Trinidadian Hyacinth, are best friends whose voices serve as the book's chorus, threading together individual stories and adding context, reflection, and direction. Their interspersed conversations are readers' touchpoints for poems (in varied forms, including haiku and acrostic) and prose (which encompasses a letter, email, and a to-do list). Together the entries evoke the experiences of teens in New York City who are searching for love, hope, community, and liberation amid the fear and uncertainty of the pandemic. Browne's use of varied formats and content offers a fresh and inclusive look at the impact of the pandemic on young people's lives as they dated, worked, attended school, and grew up while their world shut down around them. Grief becomes a palpable presence, as heightened responsibilities and innumerable losses demand from teens levels of grace, honesty, and care that many adults bowed under. The characters' voices feel as authentic as if they were next to you—or, maybe, six feet away—close enough to feel the wrenching pain of hoping a grandmother lives long enough for a vaccine to be available, close enough to understand the ecstasy of a first kiss after months with no physical contact. Heavy, important, powerful and evergreen; remembers kids during the time when the world stopped. (author's note) (Fiction. 13-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
BMW : performance and precision	Newson, Anne	Young Adult	YA			
				School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 6 Up-These in-depth and well-rounded books are required reading for students making decisions about their future. Each title is centered around a work area, like public safety or art and design, and they discuss the myriad ways that a person could be involved in that career. For example, Public Safety doesn't just discuss police officers and firefighters, but also fish and wildlife workers and 911 operators. The lifestyle and working environment for different jobs is discussed in detail, covering how social and physically demanding they are. Helpful charts are included with what degrees, certifications, apprenticeships, or portfolios are required for each career. Written at a fifth-grade level, these titles could be handed to readers from grades six to twelve. VERDICT Highly recommended for emerging readers looking for their future careers. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Building, construction, and engineering.		Young Adult	YA			
				Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2025) Details the journey of powerhouse Caitlin Clark, whose talent and drive have reignited interest in women's basketball. Currie-McGhee's account unfolds in chronological order from her subject's origins as a talented child baller to being the WNBA's No. 1 draft pick in 2024. Along the way, readers learn about her life in high school and college and her pro career so far. Clark has been clearly focused on her goal of playing professionally since age 9. Her journey to the top has included practicing yoga for "increasing flexibility and preventing injuries," taking piano lessons and playing other sports to help prevent "burnout at a young age," and participating in therapy to protect her mental health given the high pressures athletes face. The author describes Clark's roots in her close-knit family, whose Roman Catholic faith was central to her upbringing. Quotes from Clark and her relatives, along with vivid descriptions of sports action, bring the text to life. This highly positive account contains an interesting twist in the form of references to Clark's learning to healthily channel feelings of anger and frustration, often stemming from "her passion for winning." The text in this colorful and visually appealing work is broken up with photos and text boxes, including one describing Clark's direct criticism of people who used her identity as a white woman to further their own "racism and misogyny." An engaging deep dive into the life of a rising basketball superstar. (picture credits, source notes, timeline, for further research, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Caitlin Clark : basketball superstar and inspiration for a new generation	Currie-McGhee, Leanne	Young Adult	YA			
Careers in education	Morkes, Andrew	Young Adult	YA			
Careers in forensic science	Morkes, Andrew	Young Adult	YA			
				School Library Journal Xpress (May 30, 2025) Gr 7 Up-Can a great, important biography effectively work if woven into the narrative framing of a fictional graphic novel? This is what Abdul-Jabbar's new biography attempts as he focuses on his life as an activist instead of just a basketball player. Monk is a student who has spent all of his time being a baller, to the point where it is his entire identity. Unfortunately, it means he is not responsible with the rest of his life, which leads to trouble. While his coach saves him from jail, he still assigns Monk a punishment by making him research Abdul-Jabbar's life, focusing solely on his work as an activist. Unfortunately, the story fails to strike a balance between its fictional narrative and the integration of Abdul-Jabbar's activism in a way that feels natural or effectively conveys the intended lesson. Instead, there are random splashes of pages about Abdul-Jabbar's activism that do not weave into Monk's tale, pulling readers away from the main plot. However, the narrative's weak points are compensated for by the illustrations, which are done beautifully and filled with action. Laroche demonstrates an understanding of how to break down just enough information into each panel to make sure readers see and feel the momentum. VERDICT Even if lacking in narrative strength, this graphic novel biography is about one of the greatest basketball players in the last 50 years and will be read if added to graphic novel or sports sections.-Richard Winters © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Champion : a graphic novel	Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem	Young Adult	YA		Booklist (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Grades 9-12. Monk Travers is a high-school basketball star with big NBA dreams. Assigned a project on one Lew Alcindor, the future Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Monk meets several imagined versions of the man himself, who help the teen face his own single-minded drive. The actual Abdul-Jabbar, a true paragon of achievement in both mind and body, teams with a pair of versatile industry pros for his first graphic novel here. And how's their game? He shoots, he scores, with a cleverly constructed story. Coming-of-age piece, primer on Black cultural history and activism, and a surprise mystery, it effectively conveys a crucially important lesson from the great athlete's own life about employing all your skills to a greater cause than yourself. He shoots, he . . . misses, with Monk himself, who feels like a character designed around a didactic arc. Laroche shoots, he scores, with art gritty enough to ground the emotion and verve enough to carry the fantastical dips into history. Final score: a win for teens ready to focus on the book's many strengths.	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) A young man's sports obsession shifts when he's required to research the off-court life of his hoops hero in this work co-written by basketball legend Abdul-Jabbar and prolific author Obstfeld. Monk Travers, African American star basketball player and team captain, gets caught vandalizing a rival school's mural. Fortunately, the security guard calls his coach instead of his parents or the police. Coach Blaine suspends Monk, assigns him an all-school presentation on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and orders the team to clean up the damage. But there's one catch: Monk must focus on Abdul-Jabbar beyond his basketball career. As Monk delves into his idol's story, it feels as if Abdul-Jabbar is by his side, sharing visions of his life. When Coach demands to see his progress, Monk can't find his work—it's gone missing. Just when things can't seem to get any worse, Coach meets with Monk's parents, who are now also concerned about his single-minded focus on getting into the NBA. Eventually, Monk gains insight into the events that contributed to Abdul-Jabbar's passion for activism and writing, leading him to fulfill the assignment in an original way that highlights his own talents. The co-authors skillfully weave biography, Black history, and realistic fiction into a cleverly conceived story about a Black teen who's lost his focus. Monk has a strong support system of people who guide him toward appreciating a broader life journey. Laroche's dramatic illustrations skillfully complement the storytelling. An engaging blend of sports fiction, history, and real-life issues. (Graphic fiction. 12-18)
ChatGPT, AI, and the future of writing		Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Children of the Night	Setian, Victoria	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-In this Dracula retelling, Mina is a young photographer, willing to take risks to get the shot. When a ship crashes into a nearby beach, she sneaks onboard and witnesses the dead captain and the strange coffins below deck. Soon afterwards, a mysterious young man enrolls at her high school and becomes involved in planning a dance that her friend Lucy is organizing. Familiar names appear that mirror the original narrative, as Mina and the other students are soon battling an evil monster. Ganucheau's illustrations flow well, with art that is appealing yet suitable to the horror story. The palette is subdued, with accentuated red colors to reinforce the imagery of Dracula's bloodthirsty ways. Teen audiences who enjoyed Maggie Tokuda-Hall and Lisa Sterle's Squad will find lots to love in this modern retelling. The conclusion suggests that more adventures await Mina and her friends, making this series one to invest in. Mina is depicted with pale skin and dark hair. VERDICT This modern Dracula retelling is packed with plenty of mystery for readers to sink their fangs into. -Nancy McKay © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 9-12. This riveting debut graphic novel from a video game developer delivers a modern take on Dracula starring an endearing group of friends. One rainy night, high school student Mina witnesses a mysterious ship crash into the coast of her small town. Armed with her grandmother's old mechanical camera and an insatiable curiosity for the unknown and abandoned, she steps aboard. But Mina can't forget the body she sees on the ship or ignore the unsettling charisma of Raf, the new red-eyed student from Romania. This graphic novel pulls double duty, not only offering gruesome yet stunning illustrations of wide-mouthed, fanged creatures from classic gothic literature but also tying everything into a heartwarming story of teens navigating the highs and lows of their own friendships, crushes, and identities. These well-rounded and lovable characters, along with a promise of further mysteries to unravel, will have readers ravenous for the next installment. For fans of all things horror and readers seeking a more inclusive cast of characters.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) Mysterious happenings plague the small town of New Whitby, and one teen reporter is on the case. Introverted teen photographer Mina finds herself in the wrong place at the right time when, during a bike ride, she witnesses a shipwreck. Running to help (and snapping some photos, naturally), she encounters wolves bursting from a crack in the hull. On board there are wooden crates filled with dirt, and horrifyingly, a single human—the ship's captain, who's dead, with strange marks on his neck. Mina, who was recently pushed into joining the school newspaper, is determined to pursue the story. Meanwhile, a mesmerizing transfer student arrives from Romania. He holds the other students in his thrall, including Mina's effervescent best friend, Lucy, who reads Black in a largely white-presenting cast. After one person goes missing and another is hospitalized, it's clear there are monsters in their midst, and the stakes couldn't be higher. Can Mina and her friends get to the bottom of things before they meet their own doom? Setian's debut is well-paced and fun. The character development is light; Mina's backstory is teased, and readers will anticipate learning more in the next series entry. The story realistically portrays high school crushes and drama, delightfully updating Bram Stoker's characters as modern teens. Ganucheau's moody artwork is visceral and evocative, making strong use of the natural setting. A compelling and atmospheric modern take on a classic horror story. (map) (Graphic horror. 13-18)
Climate change strategies : how we can help our planet	Schroeder, Rebecca	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) A concise guide that reminds readers that it's not too late: There are real actions, big and small, that we all can take to combat climate change. "The time is now. Climate change will impact everyone on Earth." With this urgent declaration, Schroeder emphasizes the necessity of immediate strategies to slow global warming and mitigate its effects on the planet. She identifies human-caused greenhouse gases as a primary culprit and asserts that the most effective responses focus on reducing these emissions. The book opens by addressing the energy sector—"transportation, heat and electricity, buildings, manufacturing, and construction"—which accounts for 75% of global greenhouse gases. The subsequent short chapters explore carbon capture and storage technologies, sustainable agriculture, thrifting and recycling, and practical daily measures, such as purchasing energy-efficient appliances and growing one's own food. Text boxes provide added context, from the history of electric vehicles to explanations of carbon cap and trade systems and farmer's markets, offering readers deeper insights without overwhelming the approachable and engaging central narrative. Clearly captioned photos break up the text nicely. The author doesn't just cover important factual information but also exhorts readers to join the movement for a healthier planet. The conclusion underscores the positive message that "individual actions are very important in fighting climate change." A timely, practical, and reassuring look at collective actions against climate change. (glossary, source notes, selected bibliography, further information, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Creative careers in the culinary arts	Kallen, Stuart A	Young Adult	YA			
Creatively human : why we imagine, make and innovate	Peterson, Lois	Middle School	5-8	School Library Journal (February 1, 2025) Gr 4-6-A bird's-eye view of the concept of creativity and how it is expressed in the arts. Peterson gives an overview of many forms of art, organized by sections, such as "What Is Creativity?" "Brains and Bodies," and "Tools and Technology." The text is accompanied by both illustrations and photography. Yee's art is soft, warm, and inviting. Spot art and full spreads show young people and adults of different skin colors and with different cultural markers beautifully engaged in creative endeavors, heightening the reading experience. Peterson has taken care to explore every aspect of how creativity can be expressed, even discussing how specialized tools can help people with disabilities express themselves and touching on the historical discrimination that has made certain groups underrepresented in art history. However, this book may be more popular with art teachers seeking inspiration, facts, and quotes to share with students than it will be with the students themselves. The wide coverage of so many topics means that no single topic is discussed in depth, and hands-on activities are few and far between. Readers who are pursuing a specific creative topic may prefer more specialized titles. VERDICT Hand this book to a favorite elementary or middle school art teacher. -Jeri Murphy © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 4-7. With the premises that creativity is everywhere and everyone is creative, Peterson helps readers explore myriad attributes and expressions of creativity. Her personal anecdotes kick off topical chapters with detailed yet accessible descriptions of the essence of creativity, how humans are built for imaginative thought and action, where creativity happens, and much more. Chapters are further divided into chunked text with specific examples from both history and modern life. For instance, while addressing scenes for creative expression, the author gives explanations of typical venues, such as theaters, as well as creativity in fashion and even on the human body itself. Chapters on creativity around the world, how we see creativity, and how it changes the world are particularly inclusive—they highlight representation of several cultures, problems with cultural appropriation and gender bias, and adaptive and assistance technologies that aid the creative process. From advertising to yodeling, a running alphabetical list includes traditional and unconventional forms of expression. Additional lists, photos, sidebars, and colorful illustrations further promote the engaging themes.	Kirkus Reviews (April 1, 2025) An earnest pep talk for beginning or tentative inventors, artists, upcyclers, and would-be innovators. Defining creativity broadly enough to include deciding what to wear in the morning, Peterson offers readers plenty of encouragement. Though her grasp on historical background is sometimes weak (evidence of bead making goes back much further than 2,000 years, and Marco Polo did not bring piñatas to Mexico), her tally of potential ways and means of expression displays a free-ranging imagination. Accompanied by a running list of alphabetically arranged creative activities from acting to Zacksenstil painting, she jumbles together quick references to everything from scientific inventions to tattoos and hand-painted "kindness rocks," introductions to working innovators in different countries, a list of traditional media, a catalog of advances in adaptive and assistive technology, and affirmations that arts and crafts are helpful, whether for therapy or raising environmental awareness. "Art, music, dance, theater, architecture and design all have the potential to change the world we live in," she writes. Her credo can be taken as "Everyone is creative!" In the color photos and graphic images scattered throughout, the figures engaged in everything from dancing to making sand castles are as diverse in age as they are in race, physical ability, and cultural cues. Wide-ranging and rousing in tone. (glossary, resources, index) (Nonfiction. 11-13)
Cybersecurity professionals	Morkes, Andrew	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Dead Fake	Ralph, Vincent	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) A teen races to find the culprit behind a series of deepfake murder videos. Ten years ago, Ava's Uncle Miles murdered three people—although one fought back, inflicting a fatal stab wound before he died. Ava struggles to reconcile the monster people believe her uncle to have been with the unconditionally loving man she knew. When a QR code for a quiz on the app Swipe to Die appears on school bulletin boards, Ava's classmates can't resist answering the questions. Soon after, videos appear that show students (who are alive and well) being brutally murdered. Ava is unsettled, while others brush them off as harmless—until victims end up really being killed in the same fashion as their "dead-fakes." Ava believes the videos might be connected to Uncle Miles' alleged killing spree, and with her best friends, she tries to find the person behind the app. The thrilling premise explores the dangers of AI, but the central storyline is weighed down by subplots that create a disjointed narrative. In addition to investigating the murders, Ava is intent on proving her uncle's innocence, hopes to date someone who doesn't know her family history, and navigates a changing relationship with a close friend who has a new boyfriend. Bleak Haven's grisly past repeatedly arises with no real explanation. The end reveal is intriguing, but the culprit's motives don't hold up to scrutiny. Most characters present white. Fast-paced and original but marred by a disjointed plot. (Horror. 14-18)	Publishers Weekly (October 27, 2025) An unknown assailant reproduces the killings found in deepfake videos of murder scenarios in this entertaining and gory series launch from Ralph (One House Left). Sixteen-year-old Ava Wilson is no stranger to the horrors of a knife-wielding killer: she was six when her uncle Miles stabbed three members of a local family to death before succumbing to a defensive wound. So when Ava's Bleak Haven High classmates begin participating in a game called Swipe to Die, Ava refuses to show interest in the viral website, which allows people to view an AI-generated video of their own death, each of which occurs in increasingly disturbing and gruesome ways. But after Ava stumbles upon her best friend's body, his throat slashed open exactly as it was in the Swipe to Die deepfake of his demise, other replicated murders begin popping up throughout Bleak Haven. Upon discovering notes referencing Uncle Miles's crime, Ava vows to uncover the truth behind Swipe to Die and its connection to her family's bloody history. While some befuddling subplots lessen the impact of the central narrative, the mystery's credible and deeply unsettling catalyzing events deftly highlight timely issues surrounding misinformation and artificially generated media. All major characters read as white. Publishing simultaneously: Night Terror. Ages 13-up. Agents: Peter Knapp and Stuti Telidevara, Park, Fine & Brower. (Jan.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
Dear Manny	Stone, Nic	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (March 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-This book ventures where no Stone book has gone before: into the mind of a white teenage boy. Jared P. Christensen was a total tool in Dear Martin, a surprising ally in Dear Justyce, and now he's progressed into a sympathetic protagonist. Readers join him during his second sophomore semester at Yale, where Jared somewhat begrudgingly enters the Junior Class Presidential race. There, he's sandwiched between two opponents: a galling conservative who "has zero qualms about tossing [the] campus back to 1869," and an attractive Black young woman with boundary-bashing liberal views. Stone brings her typical empathetic pleas for awareness into this new viewpoint. Jared is not perfect. He's still learning and making stupid mistakes. But his desire to recognize his privilege and use it for good is admirable. Along the way, Stone seamlessly educates readers about Constitutional rights and Black history, making a measured case for wider understanding when approaching all social issues. VERDICT A startlingly effective snapshot of cis white male frustration and growth; this also succinctly examines the societal effects of political moves. For high school collections.-Cat McCarrey © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (March/April, 2025) This third book in the trilogy (Dear Martin, rev. 11/17; Dear Justyce, rev. 11/20) begins by bringing readers back to the moment Jared (who is white) receives the call that his best friend, Manny (who was Black), has been shot and killed. The novel then fast-forwards to when Jared, now a rising junior in college, decides to run for Junior Class Council president against John Preston LePlante IV. Like Jared, John is a legacy at their prestigious Connecticut university. Unlike Jared, John believes that the institution needs to reclaim its "founding standards and traditions"; he supports legacy admissions and the end of affirmative action. Jared knows that he must beat LePlante if change is going to happen. When another candidate, young Black woman Dylan M. Coleman, appears on the ballot, Jared starts to doubt his decision to run, for reasons including a secret from his past. Based on his friend Justyce's advice to keep a "journal of letters to someone who can't respond," Jared begins to write letters to Manny. Through third-person narration and Jared's letters, we learn about the challenges Jared faces as he attempts to reexamine his privilege and do what is right for all the students at their school. As in the previous installments, Stone again deals thoughtfully with issues that are relevant to teens today. Nicholl Denice Montgomery March/April 2025 p.84	Booklist starred (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Stone's duology Dear Martin (2017) and Dear Justyce (2020) becomes a de facto trilogy with Dear Manny, which has as its protagonist Jared Peter Christensen, a white secondary character from the first two volumes. Jared is a student at Yale, where his roommate and best friend is the eponymous Justyce, who suggests that Jared write letters to Manny. Jared's former best friend, who was shot and killed by a police officer. Meanwhile, Jared has decided to run for Junior Class Council President; his opponent is the insufferable John Preston LePlante IV, whose politics are to the right of Attila the Hun. Jared is surprised to learn that there will be a third candidate, Dylan, whom he doesn't know—and who turns out to be not just a Black girl but beautiful as well. They begin a friendship that is not without its complications, especially when Jared discovers Dylan's closely guarded secret. What impact will it have on their relationship and the election? Stone has done a brilliant job with this memorable character-driven novel. It's beautifully written (one character is "cooler than a polar bear's butt") with spot-on dialogue and clever plotting. It's great fun to read while also being thought-provoking. Dear Nic: congratulations on another great success.
Death in the jungle : murder, betrayal, and the lost dream of Jonestown	Fleming, Candace	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (March 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Fleming tackles the harrowing story of the Jonestown massacre, at which over 900 people, one-third of whom were children, died in a mass murder-suicide at the direction of Peoples Temple cult leader Jim Jones in Guyana in 1978. She covers how by preaching racial equality and faith healing, Jones, a white, charismatic Pentecostal preacher, founded his church in a poor, segregated section of 1950s Indianapolis. His ministry quickly became popular, particularly among African Americans. Fearing nuclear attack, in 1965, he moved his church and followers to northern California, where he started a communal living compound. He soon expanded, amassing a few thousand followers who signed over everything from their property to even guardianship of their children. Some members became disillusioned, and a few managed to leave, but overall numbers grew. By the early 1970s, Jones renounced all religion, was an avowed socialist, and lived a drug-addicted, paranoid life, controlling every aspect of his followers' lives. In 1978, reports of financial misconduct and physical abuse led to a Congressional visit and the murder of visiting officials, the antecedent to Jones's order for "revolutionary suicide." Fleming's writing is riveting as she adeptly chronicles Jones's motivations, appeal, and downward spiral of his mental state while compassionately portraying the heartbreaking account of many victims. Extensive documentation shows her detailed research, including interviews with survivors interested in seeing their story told as a cautionary tale for young people. VERDICT Gripping and wrenching. A must for all libraries.-Karen T. Bilton © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (May/June, 2025) On Saturday, November 18, 1978, more than nine hundred members of Jim Jones's Peoples Temple died at Jonestown in Guyana. Though the event was originally described as a mass suicide, it eventually became known that many, including infants, children, and the elderly, were murdered. Early chapters present a biographical treatment of Jones, covering his boyhood, marriage, and early Christian ministry in Indiana. Uncharacteristically for the time, his congregations were racially integrated, and they appealed to many as the civil rights era dawned. Eventually, in 1965, he moved Peoples Temple to California, shed Christianity in favor of socialism, and began steadily to exert control over every facet of his group, including members' property, income, and relationships. Jones often used gross manipulation and deception to do so, and increasing scrutiny drove him to Guyana. When Congressman Leo Ryan came for an investigative visit, it set the tragic events in motion. It's a testament to Fleming's storytelling prowess that the book becomes more and more compelling despite our knowledge of the outcome. If some of her recent titles have contained elements of true crime, this one (along with Murder Among Friends, rev. 3/22) also dabbles in another genre: horror. Black-and-white captioned photographs are gathered in the middle and at the end of the book. An annotated list of key people prefaces the volume, while an author's note, sources, a bibliography, and an index are appended. Jonathan Hunt May/June 2025 p.108	Booklist starred (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 7-12. Jim Jones and the Peoples Temple have remained a subject of fascination long after the horrifying, infamous events in Guyana in the 1970s, and Fleming brings her trademark deep research and thoughtful approach to this account of Jones' ascension and violent downfall. Working roughly chronologically, she begins with Jones' early life in the Midwest, the initial idea behind the Peoples Temple in Indiana, the opportunistic ways he used rhetoric of social justice and spirituality to attract followers, and the increasing paranoia and conspiratorial thinking that led him to uproot (and, in some cases, kidnap) his followers to Jonestown. Fleming focuses largely on Jones' increasingly unsettling behavior, but she clearly works hard to give voice to many survivors of Jonestown, allowing them to describe their own reasons for following Jones and how they have dealt with the aftermath. Notably, Fleming emphasizes that Jones' final violent act was not, as it is often assumed, the consenting suicide of almost 1,000 people; rather, she carefully notes the many documented dissents of his victims. It's inherently a gruesome story, but she does a skillful job of balancing the need to satisfy readers' curiosity about the details with empathetic attention paid to the survivors and their families. Teens fascinated by cults will find plenty of that here, but they'll also come away with a more nuanced understanding of a highly sensationalized historical event.
Dental hygienist	Klatte, Kathleen A	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				Booklist (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Grades 9-12. In this gothic novel filled with detailed descriptions, rich atmosphere, and intricate world building, the kingdom of Noctis is cursed with dreams that corrupt one's soul. Esmer Havenfall's sister died when dreaming turned her into a demon, and when her parents are accused of a terrible crime, Esmer takes it upon herself to save her family by diving into the eerie dream realm, where she meets the mysterious, enchanting, morally gray ruler, the Shadow Bringer. Esmer knows the Bringer thrives on stealing dreamers' souls, yet she can't escape her own dreams of him. While Esmer and the Shadow Bringer's connection moves the story forward, readers can expect more than just a dark, romantic fairy tale; Karlie's construction of a haunting, layered world and her knack for crafting poignant scenes boldly enhance the love story. While the plot occasionally comes across as slow and a bit complex, the dreamlike tone and setting make up for it. Readers looking for shadowy magic, quiet tension, moody castles, and unsettling magic will find all that and more here.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) In this duology opener, darkness is "devouring dreamers' souls" in the Kingdom of Noctis and one 18-year-old is trying to save them all. Esmer Havenfall's family have always been Absolvers—chosen by the Light Bringer to distribute a life-saving elixir and protect their town from dreaming, a state that leaves people vulnerable to demons. But now, more people are being taken. After losing her parents and sister, Esmer is imprisoned for her ability to wield shadows, the force controlled by the Shadow Bringer and the source of Corruption. Esmer makes a pact with the Light Bringer to keep the Shadow Bringer's mortal body sealed in his tomb; she believes she's fighting for good. But as she enters the Dream Realm alongside the Shadow Bringer, she begins to question the stories she's always believed. Through their journey, Esmer realizes that history changes depending on who tells it—and that good and evil may not be so easily defined. What begins as a mission to end Corruption transforms into a deeper quest for truth and identity, and Esmer and the Shadow Bringer realize their bond runs deeper than either of them imagined. Karlie's debut, which was originally self-published in 2023, is a bloody and terrifying gothic fantasy. The complex worldbuilding and numerous cast members can be hard to track, although both are powerfully developed. The main characters are cued white. Dark, exciting, and filled with dread. (glossary, locations) (Fantasy. 14-18)	
Dream by the shadows	Karlíe, Logan	Young Adult	YA			
Edmund Kemper : the co-ed killer	Cummings, Judy Dodge	Young Adult	YA			
El caliz de los dioses	Riordan, Rick	Middle School	5-8			
El sueño de Berlín	Conejo, Ana Isabel	Young Adult	YA			
				Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2025) An informative look at artificial intelligence and its impact on the workforce and society. Allen opens by describing how AI's increasing prevalence has created new jobs and altered existing ones—for example, by automating many repetitive tasks. At the same time, AI is requiring people to develop new skills in areas such as writing, legislation, ethics, and machine-learning engineering. Five subsequent chapters go into more detail about the impact of AI on the workplace, specific career paths in AI, how young people can prepare for AI careers, the challenges of working with AI, and what the future may hold. The author explores how AI has affected areas as disparate as the hiring process and medical screening. He notes that while "novices need to learn the basics of AI, more experienced workers...are finding they must retool their skill sets to revitalize their careers." The chapters open with narratives that offer insights into specific people and companies who are managing their work with AI, concrete examples that anchor the data and statistics. The book does a good job of discussing ethical issues, including AI errors and biases as well as the dangers of deliberate deception, personal privacy violations, and other concerns. This concise yet wide-ranging and readable work is enhanced by ample stock photos, interesting insights from experts, and well-designed text boxes. A thought-provoking and useful look at AI jobs and their future. (picture credits, source notes, interview with a software developer, find out more, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Exploring careers in AI	Allen, John	Young Adult	YA			
				School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-This career series is designed for high school students who are serious about researching future paths. Each book provides details about what workers do, along with salary ranges, job outlooks, and concrete steps for getting started in high school and college through camps, internships, and other opportunities. Unlike many resources, these volumes name specific programs and internships available across the country, giving readers practical ways to take action. The information is detailed and comprehensive, offering motivated students a wealth of knowledge to guide their planning. The writing is presented in full-page paragraphs supported by color photographs, while side notes highlight key facts and help break up the text. While the background graphics are adequate, the substance is what makes these books exceptional. VERDICT Highly recommended for libraries serving high-achieving students seeking in-depth career guidance. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (July 1, 2025) Useful guidance for career-minded young makers who may wish to pursue engineering. Folding in statistics on average salaries and projected growth rates, Morkes offers a broad overview of select pursuits covered by the umbrella term engineering—from spaceship, roller coaster, and software design to criminal forensics—and makes the cogent observation that not all of them require costly graduate degrees. To broaden the field's appeal a bit further, he also points to the essential role of engineering in glamorous developing technologies, like virtual reality and artificial intelligence, and lists distinguished people, including a president (Herbert Hoover) and several astronauts (Mae Jemison, Ellen Ochoa, and Neil Armstrong), who trained as engineers. For readers who are already thinking seriously about turning themselves into attractive job candidates, the author provides a helpful set of questions to ask at informational interviews, identifies engineering organizations that have youth outreach programs, and evaluates the pros and cons of different training paths, including higher education, apprenticeships, and the military. Depicting a diverse cast in action, the stock color photos are scanty but relevant, and the backmatter features generous annotated lists of useful print and web resources. A concise, information-packed overview with an emphasis on helpful practical advice. (glossary, source notes, bibliography, index, photo credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)	
Exploring engineering careers	Morkes, Andrew	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Exploring gaming industry careers	Howard, Sherry	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-This career series is designed for high school students who are serious about researching future paths. Each book provides details about what workers do, along with salary ranges, job outlooks, and concrete steps for getting started in high school and college through camps, internships, and other opportunities. Unlike many resources, these volumes name specific programs and internships available across the country, giving readers practical ways to take action. The information is detailed and comprehensive, offering motivated students a wealth of knowledge to guide their planning. The writing is presented in full-page paragraphs supported by color photographs, while side notes highlight key facts and help break up the text. While the background graphics are adequate, the substance is what makes these books exceptional. VERDICT Highly recommended for libraries serving high-achieving students seeking in-depth career guidance. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (July 1, 2025) A cursory review of options and opportunities for young gamers who are thinking about turning their passion into a career. Surveying a huge, competitive, and rapidly changing industry in a relatively brief series entry is no small challenge. The authors divide their work into six main chapters, covering an overview of the gaming industry's origins, programming and engineering roles, creative careers, jobs related to the development and post-production aspects of games, professional gaming, and ways of breaking into the industry. Due to the sheer number and variety of possible career paths, the qualifications range all over the map from simple raw talent and an extraordinary work ethic for aspiring professional gamers to formal education from high school diploma to MBA for the rest. The authors offer more detailed descriptions for select occupations, including average salaries, but much of the advice is applicable to preparing for careers in any field (for example, networking, internships, volunteering, and developing good communication and teamwork skills). The book's positive tone is supported by stock photos of smiling, racially diverse people. Text boxes cover topics such as the marginalization of women in the gaming industry, concerns about the use of AI, and the gamification of military training. While this work barely scratches the surface, it may encourage readers to explore further on their own. A basic introduction to a popular field. (glossary, source notes, bibliography, further information, index, image credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)	
Extremely loud & incredibly close	Foer, Jonathan Safran	Adult	AD	School Library Journal (July 1, 2005) Adult/High School-Oskar Schell is not your average nine-year-old. A budding inventor, he spends his time imagining wonderful creations. He also collects random photographs for his scrapbook and sends letters to scientists. When his father dies in the World Trade Center collapse, Oskar shifts his boundless energy to a quest for answers. He finds a key hidden in his father's things that doesn't fit any lock in their New York City apartment: its container is labeled "Black." Using flawless kid logic, Oskar sets out to speak to everyone in New York City with the last name of Black. A retired journalist who keeps a card catalog with entries for everyone he's ever met is just one of the colorful characters the boy meets. As in Everything Is Illuminated (Houghton, 2002), Foer takes a dark subject and works in offbeat humor with puns and wordplay. But Extremely Loud pushes further with the inclusion of photographs, illustrations, and mild experiments in typography reminiscent of Kurt Vonnegut's Breakfast of Champions (Dell, 1973). The humor works as a deceptive, glitzy cover for a fairly serious tale about loss and recovery. For balance, Foer includes the subplot of Oskar's grandfather, who survived the World War II bombing of Dresden. Although this story is not quite as evocative as Oskar's, it does carry forward and connect firmly to the rest of the novel. The two stories finally intersect in a powerful conclusion that will make even the most jaded hearts fall.-Matthew L. Moffett, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Copyright 2005 Reed Business Information.	Booklist (February 1, 2005 (Vol. 101, No. 11)) cpq1252 This follow-up to Foer's extremely good and incredibly successful Everything Is Illuminated0 (2002) stars one Oskar Schell, a nine-year-old amateur inventor and Shakespearean actor. But Oskar's boots, as he likes to say, are very heavy--his father, whom he worshiped, perished in the World Trade Center on 9/11. In his dad's closet a year later, Oskar finds a key in a vase mysteriously labeled "Black." So he goes searching after the lock it opens, visiting (alphabetically) everyone listed in the phone book with the surname Black. Oskar, who's a cross between The Tin Drum0's Oskar Matzerath and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time0's Christopher Boone, doesn't always sound like he's nine, but his first-person narration of his journey is arrestingly beautiful, and readers won't soon forget him. A subplot about Oskar's mute grandfather, who survived the bombing of Dresden, isn't as compelling as Oskar's quest for the lock, but when the stories finally come together, the result is an emotionally devastating climax. No spoilers here, but we will say that the book--which includes a number of photographs and some eccentric typography--ends with what is undoubtedly the most beautiful and heartbreaking flip book in all of literature.	Kirkus Reviews starred (January 1, 2005) The search for the lock that fits a mysterious key dovetails with related and parallel quests in this (literally) beautifully designed second from the gifted young author (Everything Is Illuminated, 2002). The searcher is nine-year-old Oskar Schell, an inventive prodigy who (albeit modeled on the protagonist of Grass's The Tin Drum) employs his considerable intellect with refreshing originality in the aftermath of his father Thomas's death following the bombing of the World Trade Center. That key, unidentified except for the word "black" on the envelope containing it, impels Oskar to seek out every New Yorker bearing the surname Black, involving him with a reclusive centenarian former war correspondent, and eventually the nameless elderly recluse who rents a room in his paternal grandma's nearby apartment. Meanwhile, unmailed letters from a likewise unidentified "Thomas" reveal their author's loneliness and guilt, while stretching backward to wartime Germany and a horrific precursor of the 9/11 atrocity: the firebombing of Dresden. In a riveting narrative animated both by Oskar's ingenuous assumption of adult responsibility and understanding (interestingly, he's "playing Yorick" in a school production of Hamlet) and the letter-writer's meaningful silences, Foer sprinkles his tricky text with interpolated illustrations that render both objects of Oskar's many interests and the word and memories of a survivor who has sworn speech, determined to avoid the pain of loving too deeply. The story climaxes as Oskar discovers what the key fits, and also the meaning of his life (all our lives, actually), in a long-awaited letter from astrophysicist Stephen Hawking. Much more is revealed as this brilliant fiction works thrilling variations on, and consolations for, its plangent message: that "in the end, everyone loses everyone." Yes, but look what Foer has found.
Fernando el temerario	Velasco, Jose Luis	Young Adult	YA	Criticas (October 15, 2008) Gr 6-9-In 12th-century Spain, nine-year old Fernando desperately follows his father into a battle against the Moors, and reaches him just in time to hold him during his final moments. One of King Alfonso VIII's knights witnesses the tragedy and decides to take the boy under his wing. As a result, rather than being left to wander the countryside alone, Fernando rapidly becomes one of the most important pages in the King's court. After a cold welcome by some of the castle's servants, he is provided with fine clothes, food, a comfortable room, and a tutor. He participates in a number of activities in support of the King, and even travels to Rome to meet with the Pope. Fernando also sets his eyes on Ines, a noble girl, but when he returns from his travels he finds that she has been betrothed to don Nuno de Trevino, a wicked old man who had once plotted against the King. Fernando is not surprised; after all, how could he, a poor peasant boy, expect to marry a noble? A fascinating tale of hope, frustration, adventure, and young love, this beautifully constructed novel is filled with vivid descriptions written in the old Spanish style. Strongly recommended for all bookstores and library collections. Reviewed by Paul M. Kienlen, Walzem Elementary School, San Antonio, TX--Criticas, 10/15/08 Copyright 2008 Reed Business Information.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3	
				Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) A young Soviet pilot must defend her loyalty to the Motherland in this entry in a series that's thoughtfully designed for struggling and reluctant readers. Anastasia Viktorovna Nabokova, a recent high school graduate working as a flight instructor at the Leningrad Youth Aeroclub, longs to follow in her mother's footsteps and serve her country as a spy. When World War II arrives in Leningrad in June 1941, she tries to join the air force but is told she's needed to train more pilots. But as the Germans continue to bombard her country, Nastia and other young women end up at the Soviet air force academy. After landing her plane behind enemy lines to help her downed mentor, the woman she calls the Chief, Nastia faces the challenge of defending her actions and proving her unwavering loyalty. According to Stalin's Order Number 227, anyone who retreats or is taken prisoner is assumed to be guilty of treason and faces the death penalty. Wein conveys vivid imagery of intense battle scenes and the war's devastating impact on the Soviet people, including starvation and loss, in a deeply moving way. Nastia's fierce loyalty to her country and commitment to her work shine through, supporting the engrossing and fast-moving plot with depth of characterization. An action-packed exploration of courage and loyalty. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 13-18)	Publishers Weekly starred (June 23, 2025) Drawing from extensive research on the House of Romanov and Russian female pilots in WWII, per an author's note, Wein (Stateless) crafts a thrilling series opener whose swift pace rivals that of a fighter plane. Russian teen Nastia graduates high school just as WWII begins. Her mother was a spy, and her father was part of the unit that killed Czar Nicholas II, and their stories have long fascinated Nastia, who was raised to be a fierce Soviet patriot eager to fight for her motherland; she joined after-school clubs to prepare for combat and trained as a pilot. At the war's onset, she's tasked with training male pilots. But after her hometown of Leningrad is taken hostage and her unit is forced to evacuate to Moscow, Nastia-along with her mysterious mentor and her father's former comrade, the Chief-is drafted into the first all-woman aviation unit, led by renowned female pilot Marina Raskova. Fascinating details of the war, such as the impact of extreme cold in the winter of 1942, are peppered throughout taut battle scenes. Nastia's bravery and commitment to her country is palpable across this dynamically told war tale that reimagines well-known history. Ages 13-up. Agent: Ginger Clark, Ginger Clark Literary. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.		
Firebird	Wein, Elizabeth	Young Adult	YA				
Firefighters	Doty, Abby	Middle School	5-8				
Five Nights at Freddy's Tales from the Pizzaplex Graphic Novel Collection Vol. 3	Cawthon, Scott	Young Adult	YA				
					Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2025) In graphic versions of three previously published episodes, the "extreme family fun" offered at Freddy Fazbear's Mega Pizzaplex runs to dismemberment and attacks by blob monsters. Graphic in format but not—disappointingly, perhaps, to some readers—visual content, the tales feature mostly offstage carnage and rely heavily for their impact on suggestion and sound effects. In "Under Construction," Maya has a Sweet 16 party with friends. They venture into in an augmented reality arcade that's not quite ready for visitors, which she leaves (or so she thinks), only to find that people around her are dying of cancer and being replaced by hordes of weirdly blobby, pinkish, veined claylike figures. In the other stories, robots become gruesomely insistent on helping two young visitors lost in a maze, and a Pizzaplex workman named Grady gets caught in a series of looping tunnels meant for small children. The horrific consequences are visible as largely discreet splashes of gore. Maya's extensive grief and a childhood experience of being locked in a closet that left Grady deeply claithrophobic stir in some psychodrama, but the main appeal here can be summed up by the closing panel, which contains nothing but a bone-crunching "SPLURCH." The art, though drawn and colored by a different set of artists for each story, has a consistent look throughout, and features a human cast that presents as racially diverse. Expertly crafted, with most of the gory details left to the imagination. (Graphic horror. 12-16)		
Five nights at Freddy's. Tales from the Pizzaplex. Graphic novel collection vol. 1	Cawthon, Scott	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-The "Five Nights at Freddy's" franchise brings another set of tales of terror in this three-story collection. Birthday girl Maya finds out why exploring a closed attraction at Freddy Fazbear's Mega Pizzaplex is a bad idea. Aiden learns what happens when you get lost in the tube maze; and Grady really shouldn't be alone with Ballora, especially not in her Fitness and Flex area. Whether it's a video game, a novel, a feature-length film, or a graphic novel, "Five Nights at Freddy's" brings jump-scare-level horror and creepiness to all its releases. VERDICT Freddy Fazbear and all his animatronic friends will keep eager horror readers and fans of the series up all night. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.			
				Publishers Weekly (May 5, 2025) Freelance photo editor Burgess debuts with a captivating whirlwind tour of photography's early years. Spanning from the mid-19th to the early 20th century, Burgess's history details how photography opened up vistas large and small, as scientists developed techniques to photograph the sea floor, the moon, and (in microscopic detail) snowflakes, and facilitated new ways of transmitting information (René Dagron's "microphotographs"-which could be reduced to such miniscule proportions that an approximately 2-inch x 3-inch film might contain 3,000 images-proved helpful for military communications). Photography also illuminated the human body in novel ways, as Wilhelm Röntgen's 1896 invention of the X-ray helped doctors make diagnoses and, not long after, allowed regular folks to take their own X-rays with do-it-yourself kits (before the harms of radiation exposure were discovered). Throughout, Burgess reveals how these developments shaped culture, noting, for example, that the invention of handheld cameras in the late 19th century allowed amateurs to snap photos of unsuspecting subjects (to whom they sometimes then tried to sell the negatives), paving the way for paparazzi and kicking off debates about privacy and consent that remain relevant today. Full of colorful details about the ingenuity of early photographers (some lugged around 75-pound cameras or hopped into hot-air balloons to get the perfect shot), this is a thrilling history of a medium and its seismic impact. (July) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.			
Flashes of brilliance : the genius of early photography and how it transformed art, science and history	Burgess, Anika	Adult	AD				

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Flip Float, Volume 2	Ukazu, Ngozi Marchant, Kate	Young Adult Young Adult	YA YA	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up—Once again, Chi-Chi Ekeh finds herself crushing on yet another rich white boy at her boarding school. But when Chi-Chi's crush, Flip Henderson, gets her video promposal, things go wrong in ways that neither of them could have expected. First, he accidentally plays her video during their AP English class in front of everyone. Then he says no in front of everyone. Then Chi-Chi and Flip switch bodies, and things get even more complicated. Readers will enjoy the madcap Freaky Friday vibes of the body swap plotline as well as the lessons the characters learn about friendship, communication, mental health, and self-worth. While a lot of time is spent with Chi-Chi and Flip, the well-drawn supporting characters add plenty of heart and humor to this story. Chi-Chi's friends deserve their own spin-off book where readers can learn more about the history of their friendship, their love of K-Pop, and the challenges of being minority students in a predominantly white school. This is a sweet story that also sparks with moments that will make readers laugh out loud. The colorful illustrations pack a powerful punch, and the visual conceit of having a character wear a mask with the other person's face effectively signals to readers who is in whose body. Chi-Chi is Black, Flip is white. VERDICT Brimming with heart and humor, this poignant and thought-provoking graphic novel is perfect for fans of awkward romantic entanglements with fantastic twists.-Andrea Lipinski © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (July 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 21)) Grades 9-12. K-pop-obsessed scholarship student Chi-Chi Ekeh is quite aware that her taste in boys is questionable, but at Houston-area Mission Springs Prep School, there is, nevertheless, no shortage of rich white boys to crush on. After her promposal video to Flip Henderson is mistakenly played for everyone to hear, Chi-Chi makes an ill-fated wish that lands her in a Freaky Friday-type situation with Flip himself, much to both of their extreme discomfort. It's senior year, and they don't have long to figure out how to stop switching back and forth. Chi-Chi's besties Esther and Yesenia help them identify the timing of the swaps, but they must survive trials like a weekend with Chi-Chi's Nigerian parents, only one of them knowing how to drive, and hygiene. Lots of quippy ethnicity and race commentary alongside complexity in Flip's family life deepens the characters as they experience each other's lives, and a heartfelt author's note adds context for readers. Some background information feels like it comes a little late in the narrative. A frank, funny take on how we see ourselves and what we really know about each other.	Kirkus Reviews starred (July 15, 2025) After a wish goes wrong, a girl and her crush must figure out how to break a body-switching curse. Chi-Chi Ekeh feels invisible. Like her previous crushes, hot varsity swimmer Flip Henderson—yet another rich white boy at her Texas boarding school—seems unaware of her existence. With only weeks until graduation, Nigerian American Chi-Chi's friends Esther and Yesenia dare her to ask Flip to Senior Festival. But Flip accidentally shows her promposal video to the whole class—and immediately turns her down. Embarrassed, Chi-Chi flees, but her innocent remark—"I just wish Flip Henderson liked me"—has unexpected consequences. After falling and hitting her head, Chi-Chi wakes up in Flip's body, and he is hers. Freaked out beyond belief and regularly switching bodies, Chi-Chi and Flip work with Esther and Yesenia to break the curse. Meanwhile, forced to see herself through someone else's eyes, Chi-Chi must confront uncomfortable feelings. There's much to love about this book. The fully realized and sympathetic characters, sincere and humorous development of friendships, and protagonist's relatable and bittersweet emotional journey will keep readers engaged, eager to reach the resolution. Ukazu carefully balances tough topics like self-hatred, depression, and suicidal ideation with funny feel-good moments, deftly rendered in her characteristically expressive style. The dynamic and engaging illustrations bring to life a heartwarming story of self-love, acceptance, and true connection. Flipping awesome. (author's note) (Graphic fiction. 14-18)
Float. Volume 1	Marchant, Kate	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (June 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up—Not quite enemies-to-lovers and not quite friends-to-lovers, but somewhere in between. Based on Marchant's novel of the same name, readers follow Waverly Lyons as she navigates a completely different world when she is forced to leave her Alaska home to stay with her aunt in Florida for the summer. Florida is the polar opposite of her normal day-to-day, and it seems like all the local kids care about is the beach, partying, and drama. Like a riptide, Waverly is pulled into the local drama of her cute neighbor, Blake, who she may have a crush on; her new coworker and friend, Lena; Lena's twin brother; and Blake's ex-girlfriend. But Waverly harbors another secret that seems to make her a social pariah: she doesn't know how to swim, and only Blake is aware. Though Waverly wishes he would take a special interest in her and hopes that is why he is offering to teach her to swim, his only reason seems to be that, as a lifeguard, it's his duty. Or is it? The illustrations, like the story, are flowy and fun. Full-color artwork bursts off the pages with summery hues. A perfect pick for fans of Victoria Grace Elliot's Please Be My Star and Andi Porretta's Ready or Not. VERDICT A charming story with a rom-com vibe, this graphic novel is an enjoyable, lighthearted, and summery read.-Cat Miserendino © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (June 1, 2025) In this series opener, 17-year-old Alaskan Waverly Lyons goes to spend two months in the small coastal town of Holden, Florida, with her aunt Rachel. At first, Waverly has difficulty adapting to her new environment, but she begins to befriend some of the locals, finds a job, and meets her aloof neighbor, Blake Hamilton, a lifeguard with his own yet-to-be-revealed issues. Marchant excels in capturing themes of self-discovery and budding romantic tension between the two white-presenting leads. Waverly's journey of growth feels natural and relatable, with internal monologue appearing in rectangular text bubbles and accompanying the dialogue and external action. Joaquin's artwork enhances the storytelling through its warm and inviting color palette, which utilizes both soft pastels and vibrant tropical tones to create an immersive atmosphere. Blurring simulates motion and movement. While the plot follows familiar genre tropes, the small-town setting enhances the charm and brings echoes of simpler times to this contemporary tale. The character designs are expressive, capturing subtle emotions effectively through body language, while the scenic backgrounds bring the coastal setting to life. The paneling is well-paced, ensuring smooth transitions between comedic, romantic, and emotional moments. This graphic novel, originally released on WEBTOON, was based on Marchant's Wattpad novel of the same name, and the story has also been made into a film. Engaging characters and appealing, nostalgic artwork make for a satisfying read. (Graphic romance. 13-17)	
Formula 1 : the greatest races	Richards, Giles	Adult	AD			
Formula 1, all the races. The 100 greatest races	Smith, Roger	Adult	AD			
Fustuk A Graphic Novel	Apelian, Robert Mgrdich	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (December 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up—Katah, 17, is the youngest of three. He and his siblings lost their father when Katah was only a baby, and now their mother is dying. Meanwhile, Katah is having dreams that feel like he is experiencing someone else's reality-his late father's. Filled with anxiety about his mother and extreme curiosity about his dreams, he decides to follow the visions in the hopes of finding a cure. What he ends up finding is magic in the form of a mischievous div named Az. He and his siblings desperately work to appease Az to save their mother, but tensions are high and lives are at stake. Will they be able to see past their differences to save what binds them together? Inspired by Armenian and Persian mythology, this is a beautiful look at family, a culture in danger of being lost to time, secrets threatening to tear people apart, and the way the past and the present sometimes overlap in our minds. Apelian's limited color palette in each reality is stunning—a simple and effective way to let the audience see when events are taking place, while highlighting that sometimes people wear rose-colored glasses when it comes to family history. Katah and his family are Middle Eastern. VERDICT With unexpected twists and detailed panels that bring the story to life, this exemplary graphic novel delivers Middle Eastern fantasy at its finest and should absolutely be on all shelves.-Lauren Sullivan © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 7-12. Graphic novelist Apelian brings a visually stunning addition to the emerging culinary comics sub-genre, this time from an Armenian perspective. The story follows the Fustukians, a family whose lives and talents center around food. Sadly, their father is long-lost and their mother succumbing to illness. In a world where talents can be aided by magic (jadoo), Katah lacks his family's culinary interests, but he does have interesting dreams. One of these dreams leads Katah to a magical being, a Div named Az, who shares complicated connections with the family. Az agrees to save Katah's mother from her illness on one condition; the family must make Az a dish at least as good as their father's. The humor and emotion unfold through Apelian's meticulously designed pages, rendering sound effects, frames, and even the gutters as art, such as a pillar page divider and decorative panel borders resembling intricate tiles. The reader's eye will stay busy following the interesting character designs, including Az's shape-shifting, while the world building slowly unfolds, defining elements gradually. Perfect for YA fans of Shubeik Lubek.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) Seventeen-year-old Katah lives in the Pars Empire, in a family whose dynamics center around cooking—something he has little talent for or interest in. Katah's Hye family is part of a marginalized minority. His late father was a much-lauded chef, and older brother Garo clings to his traditional Hye recipes, while older sister Noori embraces Pars cuisine. Katah feels caught in the middle of this strained relationship. When their mother falls ill and Katah's vivid dreams lead him to unearth a magical creature called a div, a chain of events is set off that forces him to confront his family history and find a way to heal their fractured present. This visually rich graphic novel inspired by Armenian and Persian mythology explores memory, identity, and cultural inheritance through food, magic, and family ties. Apelian's worldbuilding is ambitious, but early chapters offer little orientation, which may challenge readers. Once the narrative finds its rhythm, however, it's easy to be swept into the siblings' relatable squabbles and affection and Katah's arc of self-discovery. Each chapter is titled after food, and the siblings' culinary choices offer a metaphor for their relationships to their heritage. The art is the standout feature: The carefully controlled palette guides readers through shifting timelines while decorative panel borders add to the magical element of Katah's visions. A heartfelt, visually inventive debut that captures the complexities of cultural heritage and the desire to belong. (content warning, map, author's note, glossary) (Graphic fantasy. 12-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Future forward : harnessing artificial intelligence	McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino	Young Adult	YA	Booklist starred (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 7-12. "Can machines think?" asked computer scientist Alan Turing in 1950. In this wonderfully comprehensive volume, McPherson explores this conundrum and other concepts related to artificial intelligence through 12 connected chapters. An attention-grabbing true story opens each chapter, followed by segmented descriptions of this explosive technology. Interspersed photographs and spotlights on key figures and projects add to the accessibility of this complex topic. The author begins with a historical overview of computers and programming, through the World Wide Web, neural networks, and deep learning, to the advent of ChatGPT in 2022. After explaining how AI works and some of its initial benefits, McPherson takes a balanced dive into the ethics of AI, including its accuracy, privacy issues, how it's changing jobs, and its impact on the environment. For instance, AI may be able to analyze weather data to help combat climate change, but its data centers also require vast amounts of water to keep from overheating and to generate electricity. Later chapters look at robots, including how they fulfill social roles and perform work that's dangerous to humans, and considers topics such as AI safety and rights for robots. While this book isn't flashy, it holds a wealth of knowledge and a multitude of recent examples of AI. Start here for an in-depth understanding of AI.	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) A comprehensive and concise look at the development, influence, and future of artificial intelligence. In an overview chapter, "The Age of Machines," former educator McPherson sets the stage with a brief overview of AI, before moving on to "The Beginnings of Artificial Intelligence," which focuses on military efforts during World War II. Chapter 3 introduces Timothy Berners-Lee and deep learning, and Chapter 4 opens with an engaging anecdote about Nobel Laureate Demis Hassabis, who first became interested in AI as a child who excelled at chess. Later chapters cover generative AI, algorithmic bias, accuracy and security, and AI's potential positive and problematic effects on the job market. A later chapter points out AI's potential environmental benefits, including through planning airline routes, managing fires, and predicting weather, and summarizes the "serious environmental downside" as complex, noting that "Environmentalists, researchers, and many elected officials are united in their quest to develop AI systems that promote sustainable practices, minimize pollution, and halt climate change." The author presents both the benefits and drawbacks of AI, although the problematic aspects are often framed as "concerns," which may feel less serious than is warranted. The conclusions to the chapters use open-ended language that supports a positive mindset. The clear explanations, photos, color palette, and layout (which includes frequent subheadings) are well-suited to the intended audience, and informative text boxes add additional context. An information-rich, teen-friendly, and overall hopeful look at AI. (timeline, glossary, source notes, bibliography, further information, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)	
Gaslit	Davidhizar, Megan	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (November 7, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Ella is facing two deadly situations in her life: after learning that the migraines debilitating her are actually a symptom of a brain tumor, her beloved aunt and cousins fall victim to a gas leak in their homes, and Ella is the one to find them. With her surviving cousin, Ella decides to investigate the lethal accident, which leads to several twists and turns, in addition to a romance with a neighborhood bad boy. The story by Davidhizar (Silent Sister) is broken into two sections, separated by a black page that symbolizes the narrator coming to terms with several truths. Readers who appreciate an unreliable narrator will have to suspend some disbelief regarding the symptoms of Ella's tumor, though the breakneck pacing will aid along this hazy journey that takes place over the course of 10 days, with the tension ramping up steadily. There is an extensive educator guide with ethical statements and questions to use before, during, and after reading, in addition to fiction and nonfiction text pairings. However, there are no mental health resources for teens, despite the suicidal notions of one of the characters. Characters are primarily white. VERDICT For fans of books like Tiffany D. Jackson's Allegedly or E. Lockhart's We Were Liars, teens that like to wrestle with ethical questions while piecing together the parts of a twisty thriller will enjoy this. -Carrie Shaurette © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 9-12. Ella's New Year's Eve is nothing like she expects. After yet another painful headache forces her to abandon her original plans, she agrees to babysit for her aunt, Julie. Instead, when she arrives at Julie's home, she finds an open front door and smells gas. Although she manages to rescue her little cousin, Joey, she can't reach her aunt in time. In shock from this traumatic experience and dealing with headaches from her brain tumor, Ella is convinced this wasn't an accident. Together with Dominic, a possible love interest, she begins digging into the background of some of her suspects. But at every turn, someone is trying to thwart her efforts, leaving her unsure about whom other than family she can trust. Davidhizar provides several false leads and viable suspects, causing Ella to mistrust her own intuition and question what she thinks is true. Could it be that someone has been gaslighting her all along? This fast-paced mystery keeps readers guessing and questioning even Ella's own judgment and conclusions.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) In the wake of a family tragedy, a teen puts herself in danger while investigating its cause. When Ella arrives at her aunt's house for a last-minute babysitting job, she smells gas and finds her aunt and two cousins unconscious. Ella speaks to a 911 operator and tries to get everyone out before she succumbs to the fumes; she passes out and wakes up in the hospital. In the days that follow, she learns that rather than being a horrible accident, the gas leak was deliberately caused by someone who was intent on murder. As she investigates—with the help of handsome Dominic, who lives in Aunt Julie's neighborhood—Ella follows a trail of clues that lead in multiple directions, but because her recently diagnosed brain tumor causes symptoms including debilitating migraines and (possibly) hallucinations, she isn't sure whether she can trust her own perceptions. And when a shocking event requires her to rule out one of her key suspects, Ella's search for the truth becomes even more urgent. Employing a medically based variation on the device of the unreliable narrator, Davidhizar's fast-paced sophomore novel is packed with twists and red herrings and will please fans of Karen McManus, Holly Jackson, and Jennifer Lynn Barnes. Main characters present white. A twisty tale that will keep thrill-seekers riveted. (educator guide) (Thriller. 12-18)
Gilded	Meyer, Marissa	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2021) Gr 9 Up-With the fae politics of Holly Black's The Cruel Prince and the dark roots of a Grimm fairy tale, Meyer flips tradition with a simple question: What if the king whom the miller's daughter marries is the villain, and Rumpelstiltskin is her only way out? Eighteen-year-old Serilda's fast tongue and uncanny eyes make her an outcast to all except the village children, who hang on every word of her stories. Marked by the god of lies, Serilda would rather spin stories than wool, until the midnight hunt brings the Erking to her door. Her fast tongue is the only thing that saves her, but the dark king believes her words and soon she finds herself in a dungeon to spin straw into golden chains. With the help of a boy with no memory, Serilda must use her stories to save everyone—but staying one step ahead of the Erking will come at a terrible cost. The first installment of Meyer's newest series has an atmospheric beginning that eventually pays off as Serilda travels to the Erking's undead castle. Dynamic relationships raise the stakes-friendship and familial add depth and thematic elements to the tale, while romance sprinkles more angst on top and promises a truly delicious conflict in the books to come. The main cast is white, with some diversity in race and orientation in the supporting characters. VERDICT The queen of fairy tale retellings has spun what is sure to be another best seller. Recommended for all libraries. -Emmy Neal, Lake Forest Lib., IL © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (March/April, 2022) Every full moon, the demon Erking and his hunters and hellhounds roam freely, claiming the souls of humans and killing magical creatures for sport. On one such night, eighteen-year-old miller's daughter Serilda saves two of the Erking's potential victims and convinces the demon that she has been "god-blessed" with the gift of spinning straw into gold. (Actually, she has the gift of telling stories, which she does throughout the book, eventually unraveling one of its central mysteries.) During the next several full moons, the Erking forces her to spin gold for him at his castle, where an enigmatic boy named Gild helps her by turning the straw into gold – for a price. This "Rumpelstiltskin" reimagining is rich in worldbuilding, including German-influenced settings and names; relatable heroine Serilda and the cast of supporting characters are equally well drawn. It's an engrossing (if somewhat overlong) tale of curses, unlikely romance, and family loss revolving around the art of storytelling and its mix of truths and lies. Known for her fairy-tale retellings (Cinder, rev. 1/12, and sequels), Meyer here weaves a significantly grimmer, more violent story – including the murders of several children, the descriptions of which are heartrending and gruesome. However, thanks to the book's tantalizingly open ending, readers are left with hope for justice in the duology's promised conclusion. Cynthia K. Ritter March/April 2022 p.	Booklist (September 15, 2021 (Vol. 118, No. 2)) Grades 9-12. The queen of fairy-tale retellings is back, this time with "Rumpelstiltskin" as her inspiration, and the result is a gorgeously intricate tale that will have readers locked in from the start. It follows a poor miller's daughter, Serilda, who has a talent for telling captivating, twisty tales, which (unfortunately) catches the eye of Erking and his undead hunters. This pernicious crew spirits Serilda to their ghoulish realm, where she is ordered to spin straw into gold, under threat of being killed for telling "false tales" if she fails. At every moment, the book keeps readers in its grip, wishing the best for Serilda, especially when a mysterious boy enters the picture, bringing an unexpected dash of romance to the proceedings. Meyer weaves an enchanting tale filled with whimsically magical moments and some serious suspense. Meyer knows how to capture fantastical worlds, and this one is a treat for her fans and new readers alike. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Heavy promotion and a national author tour accompany Meyer's latest, which should easily turn into best-seller gold.

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Glorious rivals	Barnes, Jennifer Lynn	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) Romantic and familial bonds are strained as the next phase of the Grandest Game commences with Grayson, Lyra, Savannah, Rohan, and Brady competing for the win. Picking up directly from the events of the last book, this sequel to The Grandest Game (2024) hits the ground running. As the competitors race to the finish line, newfound allies and dueling loyalties are tested, especially as the final five weigh the possibilities of their budding connections against their own complex motivations, which include power, money, settling scores, uncovering the truth about the past, and protecting loved ones. Complicating the competition are unknown outside forces—people with ulterior motives who continue to try to influence the outcome. Under the watchful eyes of their hosts, the Hawthorne brothers, and the heiress Avery Grambs, the contestants navigate an increasingly dangerous and high-stakes game that's powered by machinations beyond their understanding or control. Despite a dark throughline of family secrets, grief, and revenge, the story is brought to life through alternating points of view and lightened by Barnes' signature humor and witticisms. Readers will love working out the next puzzle alongside the characters as each action-packed chapter provides new clues, red herrings, and a tangled web of mysteries and motivations. The first book coded most main characters as white, and cued Rohan as South Asian and Brady as Black. An absorbing sequel that revives the thrills of its predecessor while hooking readers for the next entry. (Thriller. 14-18)		
Harold Shipman : Dr. Death	Mooney, Carla	Young Adult	YA			
				School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Instead of being born with fire magic as expected, Blaze almost drowned the world at birth and has been widely despised ever since. Now almost an adult, she is shocked to find herself chosen to compete for a royal title. To win the title, Blaze must pass several trials by using magic she has never learned. She also must contend with new friends, foes, and a pair of love interests along the way. Comprised of all the requisite pieces of a tournament or trials-based fantasy novel, the transitions between those pieces are often awkward or disjointed; several times, information presented as plot-vital is introduced, but never mentioned again. There is an abundance of named characters, largely lacking depth, and unexplained world-specific terms are also prolific. However, the plot does move quickly and is chock-full of popular fantasy tropes. Notably, the romance subplot remains tame thus far. VERDICT Ultimately underwhelming and overwrought, purchase only where early 2010s-era fantasy is seeing a comeback. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		Kirkus Reviews starred (April 1, 2025) A notorious young woman must learn to fully accept her powers. Blaze, the last surviving Rain Singer, has spent 17 years locked away. Her birth brought on a devastating storm, and she's been known ever since as the Storm Weaver. Her twin brother, Flint, is expected to win the throne of Ignitia in the dangerous Choosing Rite. The twins, who have olive skin and curly dark hair, differ in one significant way: Flint's Flameborn power is strong, while Blaze's own abilities seem to be gone. So it's shocking when Blaze's gifts make a resurgence at her Name Day ball. Chosen by the Gods as an Heir, Blaze must strengthen her gifts by finally letting herself feel her emotions—all while competing in the Choosing Rite for the Aquatori throne. This trilogy opener brings to life a gorgeous world with thoughtfully designed customs and laws. Hamilton Murray demonstrates her narrative prowess through her intentional use of foreshadowing and complex characterization. Fox, the golden-skinned Terrathian Heir known as the Earth Cleaver, is the perfect contrast to Blaze, who's embarking on a journey of self-discovery and self-acceptance. Together, they prove that labels only have power if you let them, and that self-perception matters more than how others see you. The narrative balances lyricism and drama as the Heirs work through the trials to assume their rightful places. An impressive debut that highlights the importance of fully embracing one's true self. (map) (Fantasy. 14-18)
Heir of Storms	Murray, Laurny Hamilton	Young Adult	YA			
High School Treason	Duga, Lindsey	Young Adult	YA			
				School Library Journal starred (January 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Desperate for a fresh start, 18-year-old Carina assumed her best friend Joy's identity, right down to her job offer as an au pair in Jamaica for the Halls, a high-society political family. As a Jamaican American on her first trip to the island, Carina occupies a complicated position among the staff of Blackbead, the Halls' opulent estate-she's far more privileged than her young Jamaican counterparts, who nevertheless wrap her into the tight-knit clique they call the Young Birds. The Halls, on the other hand, call her "a member of the family" while subjecting her to exacting standards. As she immerses herself in Jamaica, Carina is increasingly tormented by sleeplessness, the pervasive scent of honeysuckle, and dark hallucinations. Aaron, one of the Young Birds, suggests that it could be the influence of a duppy (spirit), and the two begin an investigation into the history of Blackbead and the Hall family that threatens their safety-and the safety of Carina's most closely guarded secrets. Tobias's debut is an atmospheric ghost story that shines in multiple respects, from its tense, satisfying mystery and tight pacing to its thoughtful commentary on class in Jamaica and Jamaican American identity, as well as its vibrant secondary characters. VERDICT A well-executed mystery with horror elements, this novel stands out for its social commentary and richly detailed Jamaican setting. A first purchase, hand to fans of Kit Frick's I Killed Zoe Spanos or Ibi Zoboi's American Street.-Elizabeth Giles © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		Kirkus Reviews starred (November 1, 2024) Eighteen-year-old New Yorker Carina Marshall is working as an au pair for the wealthy, prominent Hall family in Jamaica for a few months until their permanent nanny arrives. Jamaican American Carina's days are filled with tending to Jada and Luis, the family's youngest kids, and spending time with the other staff members at Blackbead House, the Halls' formal mansion. She also accompanies the Halls to high-profile events—Ian, the patriarch of the family, is running for prime minister. Amid what should be a carefree summer job, Carina harbors a deep secret that no one in the country knows: She's being plagued by a mysterious entity that seems to want her gone, no matter what it takes. She feels a "dense heat" and notices a "honeyed scent," both of which are preludes to something going wrong around her. As Carina's circumstances deteriorate, she faces a decision that could put her new friendships and her job on the line—and reveal everything she hopes to keep hidden. Carina is an enigmatic character who harbors many secrets, which unravel and will intrigue readers as they follow her journey to uncovering what's happening at Blackbead House. The story's ominous elements contrast vividly with the beautiful ones, and the portrayal of the luxurious Jamaica the wealthy enjoy stands in stark contrast to that of those who are less fortunate. The deliberate pacing in this book centering on a Black cast helps build the tension. A deliciously dark and mysterious debut. (Horror. 13-18)
Honeysuckle and Bone	Tobias, Trisha	Young Adult	YA			
How the brain works		Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
How to Survive the End of the World : a Graphic Exploration of How to (Maybe) Avoid Extinction	Doughty, Katy	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-The young adult years can be full of angst for several reasons, including worries over the fate of the world. This graphic novel addresses causes that could lead to the extinction of humanity and explores how high the threat level actually is for each. Areas of concern are discussed in a matter-of-fact tone, but also with a dash of hope. Chapters look at plagues and pandemics, deadly blasts, climate meltdown, killer machines, falling skies, and cosmic collapse. Illustrations show scenes of the Black Death, researchers creating COVID-19 vaccines, and settlers on Mars. "Ask an Expert" sections bring in infectious disease physicians, climate activists, AI researchers, and others from topic-specific fields and backgrounds to provide a more detailed look at things like threats from artificial intelligence or what cultural norms we should take with us when humanity moves out into space. Back matter includes suggestions for further reading, source notes, and a selected bibliography. VERDICT An exploration that takes concerns seriously while leavening the presentation with humor and possibility; recommended for collections to support readers researching threats or dealing with individual anxiety about the future.-Suzanne Costner © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 9-12. Doughty's full-length comic debut is one for the ages—literally. Taking as near fact that humanity will eventually become extinct, Doughty blends sci-fi, history, philosophy, and the best scientific understanding of today to try to determine just what is going to kill us all. From pandemics (unlikely to wipe out the species, but certainly, as history shows, capable of apocalyptic harm nonetheless) to nuclear winter (averted, for now) to artificial intelligence (the singularity isn't likely, though algorithmic harm remains a real concern), the book will help readers gain a more realistic understanding of the threats to humanity's survival. Spread throughout the comic are "Ask an Expert" interviews, lending additional authority to the colorful dinosaur- and volcano-filled illustrations that encourage a smile even as you read about the end of the world. Sure to appeal to science enthusiasts, this comic will please fans of fun-loving adventure sci-fi well (think David Tennant-era Doctor Who). Additional suggested readings and a thorough bibliography are included.	Kirkus Reviews starred (January 1, 2026) A graphic compendium of apocalyptic scenarios past, present, and future. "Humans," Doughty writes in her debut, "have been the cause of many species' extinction. One of these days, it's bound to be our turn." The only question is how this might come about. She begins with historical analyses of the Black Death, the European colonization of the Americas, and other events that underscore how devastating and fiendishly adaptable deadly microbes can be. She reels off a range of possibilities for our future, punctuated by attention-grabbing anecdotes and exchanges of insights with a diverse array of experts. After touching on apocalypses described in sacred writings, Doughty dives into past and possible future "captivating doomsday scenarios": supervolcano eruptions, falling asteroids, climate change, and AI "killer machines." All of these pale in comparison to the inevitability that our sun will one day expand to consume Earth and other inner planets. A brown-skinned, black-haired tour guide clambers through and between the variously sized panels that depict disasters from the deep past to the distant future. The author has distilled an impressive amount of research into a lucid, matter-of-fact narrative—and, counterintuitive though it may seem, there's a pervasive optimism running through the doom and gloom, a conviction that no matter what goes down, humanity is special enough that something of us will survive. The attractive illustrations in highly saturated colors illuminate the content through both imaginative whimsy and helpful diagrams. Brilliant; at once terrifying and fascinating. (recommended reading, source notes, bibliography) (Graphic nonfiction. 14-18)
Illusions of fire	Sharma, Nisha	Young Adult	YA	Booklist starred (June 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 19)) Grades 9-12. Something sinister is afoot in upstate New York, where expert archer Laila Bansal, a Daughter of Draupadi born of fire and blood, is laying low with her three adopted rakshasi masis, who are tasked with keeping her safe in exchange for immortality. The appearance of a cunning and attractive stranger, Karan, who also has roots in the Mahabharata, changes everything. The problem is his asura-hunter lineage, and at the behest of his uncle of questionable motives, he's been assigned to return with Laila's head to trade for information on the whereabouts of his missing parents. But Laila's not an asura, and she senses at first touch that she's supposed to have a child with him to continue her bloodline. When her masis suddenly begin to age, Karan's parents are still MIA, and more demonic beings are coming to the forefront, they'll have to uncover a way to stay alive and save the universe. Though there are no vampires or werewolves here, this is a fast-paced continuation of a Hindu epic with all the trappings of truly riveting YA fantasy: mythology, prophecies, magic, fiery romance, and gripping fight sequences. Alternating third-person chapters will bring readers closer to Laila and Karan's individual backstories. Good luck trying not to root for them both.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) When fire runs in your blood, destiny will always strike a spark. Eighteen-year-old Laila Bansal, a descendant of Draupadi (from the Hindu epic the Mahabharata), lives with her three immortal rakshasi aunts and is bound by her bloodline to bear a child before age 25 in order to maintain the cosmic balance. Laila's masis raised her in remote areas—Mauritius, forests in Indonesia and Germany, and now, a winery in upstate New York. She longs for normality, scrolling social media and envying her friends' college experiences (she'll be attending college classes online). Laila's world explodes when Karan Singh, "descendant of warrior and demigod Karna," arrives, hunting an asura, or supernatural monster—and their forbidden connection triggers apocalyptic consequences. Sharma authentically integrates Hindu mythology into contemporary settings, drawing from oral traditions and regional variations. The romance develops organically despite the leads' star-crossed origins, and a late revelation adds layers of tension and tenderness. Central themes of autonomy versus destiny emerge through Laila's struggle against predetermined motherhood, echoing Kate Chopin's The Awakening, which is her favorite book. The story also explores grief and inherited legacies through sharp dialogue and vivid action sequences. While the pacing occasionally slows during exposition-heavy sections, and the third-person narration feels distant at times, Laila's journey to self-acceptance and the explosive finale provide readers with a satisfying resolution. A fiery fantasy that proves that sometimes the most dangerous battles are the ones within. (content warning, author's note) (Fantasy. 14-18)	
Jaguar : a tradition of luxury and style	Newson, Anne	Young Adult	YA			
John Wayne Gacy : the killer clown	Streissguth, Thomas	Young Adult	YA			
Joseph James Deangelo : the Golden State killer	Morris, Rebecca	Young Adult	YA			
La artilleria de Mr. Smith	Montes, Damian	Young Adult	YA			
Lamborghini : a fusion of technology and power	Newson, Anne	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Legendary Frybread Drive-In : intertribal stories		Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress starred (September 19, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Each short story in this anthology follows an Indigenous teen who is in need of something-belonging, help with a task, safety. That something is always found at Sandy June's Legendary Frybread Drive-In, a place where people come together from all corners, all times, and all tribes. This amazing place connects the teens in each of the stories, all of which are written by Indigenous authors and have their own unique perspective and style. For example, Darcie Little Badger's "Game Night" is written in text messages within a D & D gaming platform where the players are talking about the Drive-In and how to find it. "Braving the Storm" by Kaua Mahoe Adams is written in beautiful verse and is about a girl who gets one last chance to visit with her Papa. As readers take in the stories, they will be transported time and time again to Sandy June's, where the protagonists get more than just frybread. Each teen gets exactly what they need-and readers do too. VERDICT Hand this collection to any reader who is looking for a place made for them; they will find it between these pages.-Heather Lassley © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2025) This anthology edited by Muscogee author Smith includes eighteen stories by North American Indigenous authors including Darcie Little Badger (Lipan Apache), Angeline Bouley (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians), Byron Graves (Ojibwe and Lakota), Eric Gansworth (Onondaga, Eel Clan, Tuscarora Nation), David A. Robertson (Norway House Cree Nation), Andrea L. Rogers (Cherokee Nation), Brian Young (Navajo Nation), and many others. The literary conceit that unifies these stories is a magical "NDN Country" frybread drive-in that serves up Native comfort food and wisdom, a "collective dream" where young people in need of connection or healing find themselves among an intertribal community of all ages. Elders are featured in every story, often teaching younger people about traditional cooking, crafts, or storytelling but always in tribally specific and character-driven ways that steer clear of clichés. Some topics recur (first love, grief at the death of a grandparent; overcoming fear, jealousy, or loneliness), and grappling with the meaning of Native identity is a common theme. Although many stories mention historical events and all of them touch on family heritage, they also feel quite of-the-moment: plots incorporate smartphones, DMs, social media, and online role-playing games. The short-story format keeps character arcs brief, but some characters appear in multiple stories, linking them and making for cohesive world-building. Story glossaries, notes, and author bios are appended. Lara K. Aase September/October 2025 p.77	Booklist starred (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Grades 8-12. Welcome to the best-kept secret on Turtle Island! Sandy June's Legendary Frybread Drive-In is mysterious. For some Indigenous teens, it appears in a moment of need—as a place to reconnect with family, resolve a conflict, or find courage or space to grieve. For others, it provides a summer job, a spot to meet up with friends, or a spark to a new relationship. Each story's protagonist arrives at Sandy June's in a unique manner: emerging from a storm shelter in Arkansas, following a path through Manhattan's Central Park, or opening the kitchen fridge to find themselves standing on the asphalt of the drive-in. They smell the food, hear an intermingling of languages or a band playing on the stage, and accept the welcome of an honorary grandparent. A mixture of award-winning authors and new voices uses this liminal space in surprising and inventive ways, creating a microcosm of the interconnectedness of modern Indigenous life, one in which community and family, past and present, encourage its young visitors to inhabit their truest selves as they look toward the future. It is also simply a terrific collection of entertaining stories—full of laughter, music, delicious food, friendship, and romance—that will appeal to teen readers across age ranges, identities, and interests. The anthology's tone is consistently positive, and subtle connections among stories reward rereading. An essential purchase.
Many things under a rock : the mysteries of octopuses	Scheel, David	Upper Elementary	3-6	School Library Journal (December 1, 2024) Gr 4-6-A complex introduction to the biological wonders of the octopus, adapted from an adult title. Scheel's seminal work now has a younger reading level, filling a knowledge gap. Yet the book still conveys large amounts of information; the octopus is discussed with thoroughness and wonder. From their extraordinary biology to our still rudimentary understanding of their thoughts and emotions, all aspects of the octopus are analyzed. They are explored through research into their habitats and behaviors, focusing on Alaskan and Australian waters. The research has involved intense interaction with this traditionally solitary animal, yielding a comprehensive profile. Line-drawn illustrations throughout help showcase the octopus's unique biology. A dry, analytical tone will likely challenge less engaged students. However, this text centering an under-addressed topic still warrants a recommended purchase for collections focusing on biology. A glossary, notes, and index are included. VERDICT The mysterious octopus is explored in-depth through its evolution and ecology in this young readers adaptation, targeting engaged and patient tweens.-Jessica A. Bushore © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (December 1, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 7)) Grades 5-8. This young readers' version of a behavioral ecologist's study of the giant Pacific octopus makes for great, educational reading. It may frustrate report writers looking for quick facts, but kids who enjoy informative nonfiction that unfolds like a story will be entertained by the author's slightly meandering narrative. He tells of working with tribal elders in Alaska, his research methodology, and his adventures deep underwater, tracking down elusive and solitary octopuses. He effectively communicates his passion and awe for these fascinating creatures and shares his ongoing scientific findings that debunk outdated, often contradictory assumptions about octopuses' life cycles. He recounts historic records of octopus infestations and subsequent disappearances in various parts of the world, dating back to the nineteenth century, and takes an open-ended view of myths, legends, and stories from the past featuring descriptions of huge, predatory monsters that may or may not have been octopuses. An eloquent addition for STEM collections, this cross-curricular offering touches on ocean and shoreline habitats, ecology, conservation, the effects of climate change, marine biology careers, and lots of octopuses.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2024) Follow an octopus scientist around the world to learn about the fascinating lives of these enigmatic cephalopods. Drawing on 25 years' experience as a marine biologist, David Scheel explores the natural history and behavior of octopuses to better understand their motivations and priorities. This work delves into his efforts to locate, track, and study octopuses, offering plenty of firsthand observations and information about approximately 20 species. This densely packed text will be most inviting to readers with a solid science background and an interest in marine science. Despite being slimmer than the original adult edition, this volume is still jam-packed with detailed anecdotes, references to relevant research, and thoughtful insights. Many chapters conclude by posing questions that scientists have yet to answer. The narrative also includes discussion of the detrimental effects of the climate crisis on octopus species. Much of Scheel's work has been concentrated in Alaska, and throughout the book he credits and expresses thanks to the Indigenous people who shared knowledge and experience that aided his work as a researcher and writer. Detailed black-and-white line drawings by the author's daughter include a few anatomically specific illustrations and convey the beauty of octopuses as well as their behavior. Additional visual aids—charts and photos of species and habitats—would have provided a richer reading experience for readers. A deep dive with appeal for those who are passionate about science and marine animals. (map, glossary, source notes, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)
Mercedes-Benz : German engineering excellence	Newson, Anne	Young Adult	YA			
Messi mania	Echegaray, Luis Miguel	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2025) A fulsome tribute to the soccer superstar, with select career highlights. In rapid montage style, sports presenter and writer Echegaray slips back and forth in time to trumpet Messi's 2023 arrival in the U.S. and retrace his long, storied career from a first match at age five in his home city of Rosario, Argentina, until October, 2024, when he was playing for Inter Miami. The author slips in frequent asides on topics including Messi's style of play, his charity work, appreciative comments from other soccer stars, and what it was like as a fan and journalist to interview him. The hero worship comes out as much in panegyrics on Messi's character as in tallies of his on-pitch accomplishments. Along with repeatedly linking his subject to terms like humble and introvert, Echegaray holds him up as a role model: a hardworking immigrant who overcame a growth hormone deficiency in childhood and has made good with help from coaches and his devoted family. And lest any reader fail to draw proper lessons from his example, the author makes them explicit: "When you fail, that's when you're at your strongest because you have the chance to get up and try again. And that's the true meaning of character." Frequent on-field photos and flurries of specific match notes supply light doses of game action. Tasty fare for readers inclined to hail the coming of soccer's "Messi-ah." (references, picture credits) (Biography. 12-16)		
Motorcycle : the definitive visual history.		Adult	AD			
Mustang : the American muscle car	Newson, Anne	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Mystery royale	Cavalancia, Kaitlyn	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (January 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-The last piece of advice that Mulloy's mother gave her before she disappeared was to "run if the strange finds you." So when scented envelopes begin appearing in unlikely places, Mulloy ignores the invitations until she can't anymore. She is being summoned to the Hamptons estate of murdered Xavier Stoutmire as a potential beneficiary of his will. However, his is no ordinary inheritance: it includes billions of dollars, the enchanted Stoutmire Estate, and the powerful magic that Xavier wielded. To win, Mulloy must compete in a game of Mystery Royale with Xavier's family members by unraveling the details of his murder over the course of five lavishly themed parties. Her most intimidating adversary is Lyric, raised by Xavier on a steady diet of abuse and who, due to inheritance laws governing magical families, will be bereft of magic unless he emerges victorious. The two form an uneasy alliance shot through with romantic chemistry, but their relationship is strained as the stakes of the game grow deadly. Told from the alternating perspectives of Mulloy, Lyric, and Lyric's high-strung sister Ellison, all cued as white, each well-developed character offers a different window into the deep dysfunction of the Stoutmire family. Memorable worldbuilding, a house full of secrets and puzzles, and layers of family trauma will keep readers engaged and entice them into an implied sequel. VERDICT This novel takes the successful inheritance-mystery formula and infuses it with dark, illusory magic. Hand this to fans of Jennifer Lynn Barnes's The Inheritance Games or Joelle Wellington's Their Vicious Games.-Elizabeth Giles © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2024) A contentious group enters a high-stakes competition for a magical inheritance in Cavalancia's debut. Before 16-year-old Mulloy Prudence's mother burned their house down, leaving Mulloy and Gran alone and destitute in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, she gave her daughter a warning: "Run if the strange finds you." Mulloy has tried to do just that, but she's unable to ignore a barrage of letters from mysterious recluse Xavier Stoutmire. She agrees to compete for a sizable inheritance of \$2.5 billion—and "the entirety of his magic." The other young competitors include five of Xavier's great-nieces and great-nephews, and Mateo Maldonado, who, like Mulloy, isn't a family member. They're all brought together at Stoutmire Estate in the Hamptons, where the will and conditions are read. Having already been warned of his own murder by Cousin Cecilia, Xavier has decreed that his lucky heir will be determined through a game of Mystery Royale, in which participants must solve the crime. Over the course of nine days, the contestants attend five parties during which they seek the clues that will help them win before the time is up. The most delicious intrigue, however, is uncovering the deep-seated emotional baggage that lies behind the individual competitors' drive to succeed. A surprising and somewhat open-ended conclusion sets the story up nicely for a potential sequel. Main characters are cued white. An intriguing, surprise-filled journey of family conflict, competition, and secrets. (family tree) (Mystery. 13-18)	Publishers Weekly starred (September 30, 2024) Cavalancia spins a web of magic and deep-seated familial trauma in this dazzling fantasy murder-mystery debut. After a lifetime of heeding her missing mother's warnings to run from the "strange," 16-year-old Mulloy Prudence accepts an invitation to take part in the Mystery Royale, an illusion-infused game in which participants must deduce the culprit of billionaire recluse Xavier Stoutmire's death by unraveling the details of his murder to inherit his magic and wealth. Eager for money to pay for her grandmother's medical expenses, Mulloy teams up with Xavier's caustic 16-year-old great-nephew Lyric, who was sent to live with him following an incident in his youth. But as the Royale grows increasingly deadlier and feelings spark between them, the pair must soon choose between each other and the grand prize. Chapters alternating between multiple narrators result in a fast paced read that doesn't sacrifice characterization, particularly of the Stoutmire family members and the cruelties they inflict upon one another for their own gain. The memorable set pieces, unique magic system, and enthralling puzzles will beguile readers, who won't want this spell to be broken anytime soon. Characters are intersectionally diverse. Ages 12-up. Agent: Brent Taylor, Triada US. (Jan.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Night Terror	Ralph, Vincent	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (December 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 7)) Grades 9-12. Bleak Haven has seen some suffering through the years, and to cope with it, the town holds periodic public mourning ceremonies. The year is now 1987, and to some, this is just how it's done, but to others, particularly a small group of teenagers, the ceremonies seem merely performative. When the dissenters hold up a local bookstore to find an urban legend, 17-year-old Noah Griff in is plunged into the true depths and horror of Bleak Haven's history. Action-packed and told with the same pacing and kill order of a 1980s horror movie, this is a chilling look at the secrets a small town can hold and what can happen when they're exposed irresponsibly. The characters are easy to root for, and the mall setting plays right into current 1980s and '90s nostalgia. Fans of R. L. Stine's Fear Street series will appreciate this, though the gore level is more on par with Adam Cesare's Clown in a Cornfield (2020). While the story does wrap itself up, there is plenty of room for more terror to crawl out of Bleak Haven.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) In this stand-alone follow-up to Dead Fake (2026) that is set in 1987, nearly 40 years before the series opener, Noah and his classmates fight to uncover the truth about their town's cursed past. The mayor of Bleak Haven holds regular nights of remembrance for those who have been killed in the town. This latest event also celebrates the nearly 15 murder-free years since the Lullaby Man kidnapped and killed five local babies. He would have claimed six, but Grace's father caught him standing over her crib. The constant reminders of these crimes cast a pall of fear over the population, and some residents feel it's time to move on. When the mall bookstore Noah works in becomes the target of a search by armed people wearing balaclavas and seeking the Burning Book, the alleged source of the town's curse, he learns what really lies behind Bleak Haven's ghost stories. Aside from using the same town setting and lore, this entry departs dramatically from the first, technology-centered volume, leaning fully into supernatural horror. Ralph explores the different ways people process fear and grief, especially as teens, and delves into the town's history, examining how some distort the truth to fit their ideals. First-person narrator Noah's inner monologue offers readers glimpses into his vulnerability and anxiety, building the story's tension, before everything wraps up in a slightly too tidy ending. Most characters read white, apart from Grace and her family, who are cued Latine. Fast-paced, claustrophobic small-town horror. (Horror. 14-18)	
Of Flame and Fury	Bridge, Mikayla	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (August 2, 2025) Gr 9 Up-An electrifying, high-octane fantasy that swaps race cars for phoenixes. From the first page, readers are plunged into a world where phoenix racing is a deadly, adrenaline-fueled sport-and survival is the real prize. Kel Varra, the fiercely determined protagonist, is bold, stubborn, and impossible not to root for. Opposite her is Coup-arrogant, maddening, and magnetic. The tension, the slow-burn romance, the "just kiss already!" moments-all brilliantly dig into the enemies-to-lovers trope. But this isn't just about fiery romance or heart-pounding races. The worldbuilding is breathtaking, with rich layers of political intrigue, conspiracies, and secrets that raise the stakes with every chapter. A particularly fascinating detail is the inclusion of phoenix subspecies-each with unique traits and temperaments-that adds depth to the lore and strategy of racing. The phoenix-riding scenes are so vivid, readers will feel the heat and wind in their hair, and just when they think they've figured it out, the story will throw in a twist that will keep them hooked. The pacing is relentless yet gives space for nuanced character development-side characters included. VERDICT A young adult novel that delivers it all: betrayal, ambition, heart, heat-and flaming wings of glory.-Jessica Calaway © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (July 2025 (Online)) Grades 9-12. This fiery debut breathes new life into the YA romantasy genre with a thrilling mix of phoenix races, wild magic, and tech-fueled conspiracies, plus a slow-burn, enemies-to-lovers romance. On an ashy, flaming island, tough phoenix tamer Kel is part of the Crimson Howlers, an underdog phoenix-racing team trying to win their way out of poverty. The adrenaline-fueled races are heart-pounding, but the sport pushes the magical creatures to their limits, and not everyone believes they should be tamed. Kel, who wants everyone to have a chance at a good life, struggles with the ethics of how the phoenixes are treated, but things get more complicated when an overconfident but charming competitor comes on the scene. Bookish bad boy Coup is frustrating but magnetic, and soon their rivalry turns into something more. Meanwhile, a tangled conspiracy involving power, magic, and betrayal becomes harder to escape. While exploring themes of freedom and control, Bridge fills her debut with quick pacing, sharp writing, sizzling romantic tension, and lots of twists that will make this a hit for readers thrilled by magical creatures.	Kirkus Reviews starred (May 15, 2025) Against a backdrop of phoenix races, a dedicated tamer and a charismatic rider—initially at odds with one another—find love while fighting for their survival. Kel is trying to keep her family's farm and aviary afloat. As a phoenix tamer, she looks after and trains the phoenixes for their racing team, the Crimson Howlers; Dira, the team's winger and Kel's longtime friend, handles strategy. After the Howlers' rider dies in a race, Dira connects with brothers Bekn, a mitigator (publicist who seeks sponsors), and Coup, a reckless rider in need of a team. Even though Coup's arrogance frustrates Kel, they may be able to help each other survive the often-brutal world of phoenix racing. When a fire destroys Kel's family's aviary, tech giant Cristo Industries offers to sponsor her and Coup alone. Tempted by their financial generosity, Kel agrees, but she becomes suspicious that there are dark motives behind their interest in her and Savita, her phoenix. The relationships are a strength of the story: Kel's love for and commitment to Savita adds layers to the suspenseful conflict, and Kel and Coup's eventual romance creates bonds that strengthen the emotional reserves they'll need to draw upon. The richly imagined island world, with its elaborate racing tracks and variety of mythical creatures, comes together seamlessly. Kel and Coup are cued white, and Dira has dark brown skin. High-stakes competition, swoony romance, and expertly crafted worldbuilding distinguish this debut. (content warning, excerpt from The Saltan Bestiary) (Fantasy. 13-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
One step forward	Atkins, Marcie Flinchum	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (March 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-Historical fiction based on the real suffragist Matilda Young, who was imprisoned for protesting for the right to vote. Her narrative, in verse, covers the years of the Wilson presidency and the push to get the 19th Amendment through Congress and the states. Matilda, her sisters, and mother are suffragists, but her father and brother are not. These conflicts at home mirror the larger divide in society over suffrage. Two of her sisters' participation in the National Women's Association gives Matilda entrance into the suffrage movement. Her sister Sophia provides moral support with notes of encouragement. The poems have titles, dates, a count of days picketing, or an X as Matilda marks the days until her release from jail. The poetry reflects the events and emotions-a square concrete poem for her jail cell, text side by side as she and Sophia walk and talk, and shrinking text as Matilda feels silenced. Quotes from speeches and documents included are in italics. Women finding and employing their voices is a theme throughout. Matilda tells of her time in the workhouse, "I scream for hours calling out using my voice until it's hoarse." The violence historically dealt the suffragists from the public, police, and jailers is described in detail, bringing home with clarity the brutality they faced. Extensive notes are provided in the back matter. Additional information, a time line, and several bibliographies provide more details and facts. VERDICT This coming-of-age story intertwined with women's fight to vote creates a forceful story while chronicling parts of the suffrage movement often ignored. Strong general purchase.-Tamara Saarinen © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Atkins' excellent novel in verse tells the story of the fight by suffragists for women's right to vote, as seen through the eyes of Matilda Young, a real person who is also the protagonist of this novel. Readers meet her when, in 1913, she is 14 and secretly watching the Woman Suffrage Procession in Washington, D.C. She becomes a volunteer sorting mail at National Woman's Party headquarters and, as the years pass, becomes more involved in the movement, becoming, at 19, a full-time worker operating the switchboard at NWP headquarters. She joins picket lines and becomes the youngest suffragist and the youngest to be jailed for her actions. The text brings the 15 days Matilda spends in jail to vivid life, dramatizing the inhumane treatment the suffragists received. Though sometimes exhausted and discouraged, Matilda never gives up, continuing her protests and getting arrested and jailed again and again as the movement slowly makes progress toward eventual victory. Atkins has done a superb job of research, bringing her material to life in an important book ideal for classroom use.	Kirkus Reviews starred (January 1, 2025) In this verse novel based on real people and events, four sisters support one another in the turbulent fight for women's right to vote in early-20th-century America. Matilda Young, nearly 15, lives in Washington, D.C., with her parents, older brother, and three older sisters. She observes that there's a "fault line in our family— / men vs. women," one exacerbated by the question of suffrage. Matilda is afraid to engage in public action that might lead to her arrest and initially agrees to sort mail at the headquarters of the Congressional Union, a group that's pushing for an amendment that would give women the vote. She also takes on a vital caregiving role within the movement. Matilda's mother encourages her: "The actions you take each day / add up / even if they seem small," and eventually Matilda starts picketing at the White House, even as her dad and brother criticize her and the cause she believes in. As World War I drags on, police action against suffragists escalates, resulting in some imprisoned women going on hunger strikes. The verse structure successfully conveys the grit, trauma, and violence of the times, adeptly emphasizing the activists' doubt, pride, persistence, and exhaustion. Atkins' skillful use of concrete poetry greatly enhances the work. Most characters are white; the book explores class conflicts as well as African American women's struggles for the vote. Powerful, necessary reading. (dramatis personae, author's note, historical notes, timeline, quotes, places to visit, further reading, sources) (Verse historical fiction. 13-18)
Orgullo y prejuicio	Rodriguez, Ana Maria	Young Adult	YA			
Ours to tell : reclaiming Indigenous stories	Yellowhorn, Eldon	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-The authors (Sky Wolf's Call; Turtle Island) partner again to lift Indigenous stories and celebrate the many accomplishments of First Nations people across time. The book is divided into five parts, focusing on several areas of contributions, including language, the arts, anthropology, and activism. Fourteen exemplary figures and an organization are highlighted, such as Gaspar Antonio Chi, a Mayan scribe; anthropologist Ella Cara Deloria; and contemporary author Tommy Orange. The I-Collective is a group of Indigenous cooks, seed keepers, and educators who collaborated on A Gathering Basket, a book that reveals traditional Indigenous knowledge about old-style foodways using modern technology. Subjects come from Canada to Mexico and represent Indigenous peoples from varied ways of life, from cities to reservations. Each biography is told in five to seven pages, just enough to intrigue readers to do more research. More importantly, they are shared without a focus on the white lens. The layout features a mix of color and black-and-white images, such as photos, illustrations, reproductions, and diagrams. The art sometimes crowds the page but is never overwhelming. The afterword explores how Yellowhorn researched and organized the collection as well as how his story fits within the larger telling. VERDICT This luminous work is more than a collective biography. It's a reclamation of Indigenous stories, often manipulated, destroyed, and untold. A first purchase.-Shelley M. Diaz © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2025) A concise yet comprehensive book that balances the historical and contemporary stories of Indigenous people. "The stories people tell about us matter," Yellowhorn (Pikani Nation) and Lowinger write in their introduction. They follow broad and inclusive definitions of stories and of storytellers, including, in addition to authors of various types, an anthropologist, a diarist, a comic book creator, fabric and bead artists, and those who bore witness in courtrooms. Within each section, the profiles cover diverse figures, such as popular Mohawk poet Pauline Johnson (1861-1913), who performed her poetry on stage and challenged racist and sexist limitations, and acclaimed contemporary writer Tommy Orange (Cheyenne and Arapaho), whose writing makes "urban Indigenous people visible." The authors showcase Indigenous people as part of the present day, and their focus extends across the Americas, with people representing the Maya, Sioux, Métis, and Inupiat, among others. In the process, they tell a more complete story of Indigenous existence than readers typically encounter. Throughout the book, images showing art, letters, portraits, and historical artifacts add to the visual appeal. Sidebars add context on topics such as "Urban Indigenity" and "Mapping Our Story," as well as offering mini biographical sketches. While celebrating individuals and communities, the authors don't sugarcoat difficult information, like the trauma of boarding schools and poverty. The straightforward writing style makes this work accessible and welcoming. An appealing introduction to voices and stories that need to be heard. (note about language and terms, sources and resources, image credits, index) (Nonfiction. 12-16)	
Out of air	Reiss, Rachel	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-When she was young, Phoebe "Phibs" Ray's mom dropped her off at her grandparents' house in the Florida Keys before disappearing altogether. Now, only Phoebe and her grandma, who has dementia, remain. A water lover, Phoebe spends most of her time scuba diving with her friends-nicknamed the Salt Squad-taking photos and videos for their popular social media channel while trying to forget the financial disparity between herself and her wealthy friends. After high school graduation, the friends decide to go to a remote part of Australia for one last epic diving trip before starting the next chapter of their lives. But these waters hide a secret, legend says there's a cave full of treasures deep beneath the waves that also brings stories of cursed sailors returning to shore, not quite human. Alternating between the present in Australia and Phoebe's past, listeners gradually learn more about her parents and the secret the Salt Squad has been hiding, all of which may be connected. Reiss vividly depicts the claustrophobic pressure of being deep underwater, and Shalan's narration during Phoebe's panic moments heightens the suspense. Phoebe's teenage insecurities and reactions feel genuine, making her an interesting protagonist. VERDICT An exciting blend of treasure-hunting deep-sea adventure and science fiction thriller that will leave readers breathless, this is perfect for fans of Courtney Gould.-Susan Elbag © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (March 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 13)) Grades 8-12. Treasure, dead bodies, and cursed underwater caves—just a few of the hidden dangers of deep-sea diving. Phoebe and her best friends, the Salt Squad, are halfway around the world from their home in Key West as they document their dive off the coast of Marimont Island; this is their last hurrah before college tears them apart. However, after Phoebe discovers a breathtaking underwater cave, it appears that the force actually destined to tear the Salt Squad apart is the curse that lurks in the deep. Vivid descriptions of both the sea life and the surreal experience of being far below the waves create such an intense appreciation for the natural, alluring danger inherent in diving that the appearance of the curse seems logical, rather than fantastical. The tension is airtight throughout, with the artful combination of both a present-day narrative and flashbacks to the night months earlier that cracked the Salt Squad's foundation, building anticipation for a paired reveal. Each character has a depth rarely found in YA thrillers, which manufactures a compulsive narrative that is both plot- and character-driven. Even striving readers will find it difficult to pause their journey with Phoebe and the Salt Squad through the beautiful, deadly ocean around Marimont.	Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2025) A group of scuba-diving friends from the Florida Keys go on an adventure after high school graduation—but it may be their last. Phoebe "Phibs" Ray is a natural underwater. Her instincts have led her not only to befriend the Salt Squad, her crew of dive shop pals, but also to discover historic gold coins. The Salt Squad—Phibs, Lani, Isabel, Gabe, and Gabe's twin, Will—have gone viral on social media thanks to Phibs' find and her photos and videos of their dives. Over this last summer before they embark on different paths, the teens decide to go to Australia. Phibs, who knows nothing about her father and whose mother abandoned her, lives with her grandmother, and unlike her rich, college-bound friends, she isn't excited about her future: staying home and caring for Gram. But she's looking forward to this trip to a remote atoll off the coast of Western Australia, not least because she'll get to spend time with dark-skinned Gabe, her crush (most other characters present white). Their destination is also the subject of gruesome, creepy stories about a mysterious, treasure-filled cave. Alternating timelines slowly and effectively reveal the Salt Squad's shared secret and the truth about Phibs' past. Phibs is a compellingly strong, nuanced lead, and her romantic scenes with Gabe are steamy. The book, which delves into environmental themes, ultimately reaches a conclusion that's unusual and effective. A deep-sea adventure that snappily blends mystery and romance with social themes. (Thriller. 14-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				School Library Journal Xpress (November 7, 2025) Gr 8 Up-In this book of unusual photographs with insightful commentary of what readers are seeing, a science photographer describes her creative process as well as her fascination with the science behind the images. Each chapter includes common elements: a photograph, an interactive question of "What Do You See?" to the reader, a description of the moment that inspired the photo, and an explanation of the science. Young people interested in photography beyond point-and-shoot images will pore over the shots and may begin to view the world around them differently. Some may even be inspired to get creative with their own cameras, whether it be a multi-lens DSLR or whatever is available on their mobile phone. Art and science teachers will also gain assignment ideas that will spark the creativity of students in their classes. VERDICT A beautiful book of photographs with accompanying explanations to educate and inspire. -Cathy Andronik © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 8-12. A picture is worth a thousand words, and science photographer and MIT research scientist Frankel has created a beautiful book full of them, demonstrating scientific concepts through snippets of everyday life. From an up-close look at the patterns of a wooden fence post (showing the rings of the original tree and the saw marks from a chainsaw) to showcasing the inside of a gerbera daisy, the photos are clear, crisp, and vibrant. The book is separated into five chapters, with each picture given three elements: "What Do You See?" (the actual photograph), "Moment" (explaining how and when the picture came to be), and "Phenomenon" (explaining the science behind what is seen). Some photos were taken with a true camera, some items were placed on a high-resolution scanner, some were created with the author's phone, and the author admits to using AI in one photo to achieve the intended effect. The text does not crowd out the photos, and scientific vocabulary is put in bold letters and explained. A great look at science in nature from an artistic perspective.	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) Photos of everyday objects taken from extreme close-up perspectives introduce readers to fascinating discoveries. Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher and science photographer Frankel seeks out visual patterns in our physical world. Using a Nikon digital SLR or just her camera phone, sometimes through a microscope, she photographs everyday objects. This volume contains a selection of her photos with narrative descriptions that convey her enthusiasm. The book is organized into five sections: "Light and Shadow," "Form," "Traces," "Transformation," and "Surfaces." Each category opens with a teaser photograph—an intriguing image of something that's tricky to identify. A page turn reveals what the object or scene is—a close-up of silk fabric or bubbles, for example. Each photo is accompanied by two paragraphs of text, one labeled "Moment," which describes what caught Frankel's eye, and one called "Phenomenon," which explains the science behind the image. The author uses and defines terms like tessellate, capillary action, viscosity, and diffraction in an easily understood way. She often references explanations from her friends in STEM fields who contribute context about the phenomena she photographs, modeling professional collaboration and encouraging readers to reach out to others. This visually stimulating book dives deep into beautiful, rarely seen patterns of the natural and human-made worlds and the science behind them. Exquisitely highlights the often-ignored beauty surrounding us, igniting scientific curiosity. (about the chapter openers) (Nonfiction. 13-17)
Phenomenal moments : revealing the hidden science around us	Frankel, Felice	Young Adult	YA			
Por ti dare mi vida	Barcelo, Elia	Young Adult	YA			
				School Library Journal Xpress (October 10, 2025) Gr 7 Up-Hana, a Japanese girl, finds herself bored and frustrated by her daily life in Tokyo. As she walks to school one morning, she saves a crow caught in a net, remarking that in a fairy tale, the bird would now have to repay her. To her surprise, the crow does indeed reward her by setting in motion an opportunity for her to attend Japan's most elite boarding school for magicians, the Benten School of Esoterics. Hana jumps at the chance to attend and finds herself drawn into an entirely new world of magic and mythical creatures that is much more dangerous than she had anticipated. Something is hunting her fellow students inside the supposedly secure walls of their school. Themes of self-discovery, friendship, and multiple social issues weave their way through this manga-inspired YA graphic novel. A classic magical boarding school setting, complete with all its tropes, is the backdrop for this fast-paced fantasy mystery. The book features a simple, colorful, and straightforward art style, though most panels contain minimal backgrounds. VERDICT A perfect light read for fans of magical boarding schools and Japanese mythology. -Elizabeth Gilbert © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2025) A dangerous presence haunts a magical boarding school. On her way to her Tokyo high school, Hana frees a crow that's tangled in netting. Soon afterward, she receives an invitation to attend a super-secret magic academy, the Benten School of Esoterics. Far from her bustling urban existence, the academy is located on a rural island which, according to legend, was one of the first islands of Japan created by the gods Izanagi and Izanami. Hana eagerly begins classes in shape-shifting, veiling, and other subjects, forging a special connection with loquacious Japanese Korean classmate Yoomi, whom she first met on the train to boarding school. Unfortunately, something sinister is at work in Benten's halls, sucking the life out of the students and possibly even controlling the teachers. Fighting the ethereal evil requires inner strength and a sprinkle of magical self-discovery. The magical boarding school narrative will appeal to fans of this evergreen genre, and debut author Nguyen-Hayama's interpretation delights in the particulars of Japanese myth, religion, and visual culture. Yōkai populate the island, students study traditional arts like omamori and mizuhiki, and holiday celebrations and quintessentially Japanese images that mark the passing of the seasons appear throughout. Manga fans, in particular, will appreciate the colorful, expressive illustrations. A lively and engaging mystery with a strong emphasis on supernatural elements. (Graphic fantasy. 12-16)	
Red threads	Nguyen-Hayama, Ila	Young Adult	YA			
				Booklist starred (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Upon entering the world, you receive a birth certificate but not a lifetime warranty covering future failed body parts. Like any machine, the human body will wear out and break. Science writer Roach engagingly explores the past, present, and future of fabricated replacement body parts and regenerative medicine. She has previously penned books about the body, including Gulp (2013), and brings her distinctive nonfiction writing style, headlined by curiosity, enthusiasm, and lots of humor, to this subject, too. Roach interviews doctors, researchers, and entrepreneurs in the biomedical industry. Her discussion ranges from vanity procedures (hair transplants, buttock augmentation) to the treatment of commonplace conditions (cataract surgery, hip replacement) to procedures that sound like sf (transplanting pig organs in humans, the use of pluripotent stem cells, 3D bioprinted organs). Roach writes about prosthetic limbs, skin grafts, ostomies, tooth enamel, and breasts, and she delves succinctly into the ethics, economics, and philosophy surrounding body repair and enhancement. When it comes to modifying a body part, she is struck by "the remarkable and sometimes surreal adaptability—the agreeableness—of the human body." Highly recommended reading for those curious about "fixes" for the body and the world of biotechnology.	Library Journal - web only starred (July 18, 2025) Returning to biomedicine as her topic, Roach (Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law) guides readers through the technologies-past, present, and future-of how original limbs, organs, and other body tissues can be replaced when missing, damaged, or otherwise less than perfect. Covering the body from head to toe, each chapter illuminates both the wonders and limitations of anatomical replacement and regeneration, whether through the clumsy attempts of the past, current medical and engineering solutions, or promising applications just starting to be explored. Through interviewing doctors, patients, and researchers on the front lines of the fields of transplantation, artificial organs, and prosthetics, and shadowing them while they work or attend conventions, Roach serves as a stand-in for a naive but inquisitive public. She uses her access, opportunity, and general lack of squeamishness or shame to ask questions with her characteristic empathy and clarity and shares her experiences in witty and engaging prose laden with amusing footnotes. A treat for Roach admirers, this book also serves as an excellent introduction to her body of work. VERDICT This approachable and humorous explainer will delight the scientifically curious while removing stigma, fear, or embarrassment around biomedical adaptive technologies and body enhancements. -Wade Lee-Smith © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	
Replaceable you : adventures in human anatomy	Roach, Mary	Adult	AD			
Richard Ramirez : the night stalker	Mooney, Carla	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Room to breathe	West, Kasie	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Indy's high school life is fun, calm, and predictable, in all the best ways. She is good in school, invited to parties, and has a close-knit friend group that includes Beau, her best friend and favorite class-ranking rival. But when Indy's dad is accused of fraud at his law firm, Indy's life intensifies in ways she could have never predicted and definitely isn't prepared for. Trying to protect her father and her family's reputation, Indy retreats rather than confides in her friend group. Combined with hanging out with a no-pressure make-out partner Cody, a reckless guy who would not normally be her type, Indy finds herself misunderstood and alienated from her friends, in trouble at school, and frustrated with her parents-and then Indy gets locked in the teacher's bathroom overnight with Beau. Despite the recent rift between the two friends, and despite their strange circumstances, Beau seems ready to reconcile. He also seems ready to take their relationship in a new direction: love. Told as a split time narrative that flashes back and forth between the current situation of being locked in the bathroom and the events leading up to it, West's romance is a light, quick read, even though it deals with high stakes problems, including legal troubles, academic integrity, and feelings of isolation. Indy's situation seems impossible, but readers can feel secure that she has something of a safety net. VERDICT Fans of Jenny Han and S.K. Ali's smart, thoughtful heroines will enjoy Indy's love story.-Jennie Miskec © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (December 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 7)) Grades 8-12. Indy Blair's life is falling apart, but she truly hits rock bottom when she is accidentally trapped in a locked bathroom after her Friday detention. She is desperate to contact someone to rescue her, but her phone has been locked up, and her friends Caroline and Ava are not speaking to her. To make matters worse, she is stuck in the bathroom with Beau Eubanks, her former best friend, whom she has not spoken to since a devastating fight. As they work together to get free, the forced confinement becomes an unexpected opportunity for a long-overdue, honest conversation where she and Beau confront their past regrets and rediscover the deep bond they still share. The author expertly uses chapters alternating between "Then" and "Now" to explain how Indy got to this point, weaving past events with the tense emotions of the present. This is a heartfelt, contemporary romance for readers who appreciate stories of friendship, forgiveness, and the complexities of falling in love with your best friend.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) A teen's world turns upside down when her father is accused of fraud. Prior to the investigation into her lawyer father, Indy Blair began a normal junior year of high school with loving parents and a tight-knit group of friends—Ava, Caroline, and Beau. Indy is especially close to Beau, the boy with the crooked smile that causes her heart to flutter. She performs well in school and works at a tutoring center. But the accusations against her father strain her home life, especially when Indy begins to doubt his innocence. Her grades slip; she dyes a strip of her brown hair black, quits her job, starts hanging out with a rebellious skater boy, and makes poor decisions that drive her friends away. Just as life feels completely overwhelming, Indy and Beau accidentally get locked in a school bathroom, forcing them to confront past mistakes—and their deeper feelings for each other. Moving back and forth in time, the novel unfolds through "Then" chapters, chronicling the months before Indy's father's investigation, and "Now" chapters, revealing the consequences in the present. The split timeline mirrors Indy's own fractured identity, which is shaped by the events surrounding her father. The deepening connection between Indy and Beau, which follows classic romance novel beats, has charm. Most of the leads are white, and Ava is Asian American. A graceful weaving of first love and the quiet strength found in growing beyond our missteps. (Romance. 12-18)
Royal heirs academy	Duga, Lindsey	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (January 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Gossip Girl meets Katharine McGee's American Royals in this YA boarding school novel that follows four students to an elite boarding school after they find out they are all competing to rule the small country of Ashland. In alternating POV chapters, readers meet three grandchildren of the ruling king (Titus, Alaric, and Emmeline) and one commoner (Sadie) who are all competing for the throne as they deal with grueling class loads, teenage hormones, and the expectations of an awaiting nation. The romantic inclinations of the teens, especially centered around Sadie, and the projects of a school training future world leaders dominate the novel, while the fight for the throne mostly manifests in family drama and threats of blackmail. Though nearly 400 pages, the pacing and stakes of the novel are slower than one might want in a throne-battle YA, but the unfurling romantic entanglements provide ample fodder for readers of the genre. Each character is well delineated, and Duga has clearly created a developed world within the castle walls that invites readers to feel like they are a part of all the drama. VERDICT Add this to collections where patrons are constantly seeking new royal reads and hand to older readers looking for a more nuanced, less fantasy-driven battle for the throne.-Aryssa Damron © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2024) After being separated from their families and each other in infancy, three heirs of Ashland—and a spare—are summoned out of isolation for a chance to claim a throne. Emmeline, Titus, and Alaric grew up in vastly different ways, Emmeline as a wealthy Manhattanite, Titus as a posh Londoner attending Eton, and Alaric as a member of a Dublin street gang. Their similarities? Loneliness. Oh, and royal blood, which they discover when they're summoned to Almus Terra Academy, the world's most prestigious school, and meet the King of Ashland, who reveals their birthright. They are his grandchildren, the rightful princes and princess of Ashland, whom he sent away for their own safety. Now, he's welcoming them back and is ready to name an heir. The catch? There's another candidate: scholarship student Sadie Aurelia, a top scholar from Ashland whose presence helps "challenge unbridled nepotism." Rivalry ensues as the four heirs are all driven by their own reasons to claim the crown and prove their worth. This fast-paced novel is filled with antiheroes, romance, and secrets. Each character is believable and likable, while being deeply flawed at times. Readers will swoon and ache at points, only to rage and cry at others. The blending of these emotions will ultimately keep them turning pages. The main characters read white, while the supporting cast is diverse in race and nationality. Fast, engaging, and addictive. (content note) (Fiction. 13-18)	Publishers Weekly (October 21, 2024) King Leander Eldana of Ashland refuses to let his unworthy children's political infighting and jockeying for the crown ("My sons are worthless.... And my daughter is too frail") compromise the kingdom's future. Thus, he separates his grandchildren Emmeline, Titus, and Alaric from their parents to be raised ignorant of their royal statuses. When the three are 17, they're admitted to Almus Terra Academy, a school for the international global elite. Emmeline and Titus, who were raised by wealthy families, are used to this level of grandeur, while Alaric grew up in foster care and believes that he must rely on himself. They're joined by wildcard Sadie, the only one raised in Ashland; though she isn't a royal, she was personally chosen by King Leander to compete against his grandchildren for the crown. Duga (Glow of the Fireflies) deftly combines competition intrigue with the romance and friendship drama of standard boarding school settings, making for a twisty contemporary tale. School divisions between the rich and powerful and the scholarship students, or the Norms, help to emphasize the issue of class disparity that permeates the primarily white characters' every interaction. Ages 14-up. Agent: Masha Gunic, Azantian Literary. (Jan.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Run like a girl	Egbe, Amaka	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Chidera "Dera" Edwards's life is about to be turned upside down with her track dreams slipping away. Her mother, dealing with financial strain, sends Dera to live with her estranged father. What's worse? Her new school doesn't have a girls' track team, leaving Dera to wonder how she will get a scholarship and make it to the Olympics one day. Determined not to give up, she asks to join the boys' team, and when the administration and the coach agree, life starts to look up. But not all of the boys on the team are welcoming, and she also finds herself an outsider off the track. When classmate Rosalyn asks to interview Dera for her blog, and it goes viral, it complicates her life more than it helps. Debut author Egbe presents a wonderfully written story about following one's dreams and finding a way despite the hurdles. Key characters are diverse; Dera is one of the few Black (her father is Nigerian) students in her school, and Egbe does not shy away from writing about what it is like to not only be a girl on a boys' team but also a Black girl facing microaggressions. Dera is an authentic character, and her growth over the course of the novel feels genuine. Her story is messy, and the ending, though happy, is not wrapped in a bow, making it refreshingly realistic. VERDICT One does not have to enjoy track to enjoy Dera's journey—a worthwhile purchase.-Amanda Borgia © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (July 2025 (Online)) Grades 9-12. Dera Edwards is happily living with her mom when she is sent to live with her emotionally closed-off Nigerian dad and attend a new school. To make matters worse, her new high school doesn't have a girls' track team. Determined to make it to the Olympics someday, Dera invokes Title IX and is able to train with the boys' team. Aside from the team captain, Liam, and the handsome Gael, her teammates are in no hurry to welcome her, her classmates are rude and uninviting, and her father does not seem to care about her at all. When Gael's cousin Rosalyn approaches Dera about starting a blog spotlighting Dera's accomplishments, it seems like things might be turning around—that is until Dera and Gael are caught in a compromising position that may ruin all of Dera's plans. Readers will empathize with Dera's struggles to fit in at school and with her family. For her debut, Egbe crafts a coming-of-age tale with hints of romance that will have readers rooting for Dera both on and off the track.	Kirkus Reviews starred (March 15, 2025) Unwelcome changes come at a pivotal time for one high school junior in Texas. Chidera Edwards has always had two constants in her life: track and her mother, a Black woman from Louisiana. So she's scared and upset when her mother, who's weathering a serious financial crisis, sends her to live temporarily with her Nigerian immigrant father halfway through the school year—the very same neglectful father Dera has barely seen since her parents got divorced when she was 6. On top of that, her new school may have more funds than her old one, but they don't have a girls' track team—and the timing couldn't be worse if she hopes to get a sports scholarship for college. Dera, aware of her Title IX rights, gains permission to train with the boys' team, but she must prove herself to them while also adapting to living with her father. One bright spot is bonding with irresistibly attractive teammate Gael Garcia, whose Afro-Colombian parents were deported. Dera also navigates encounters with a standoffish new classmate, a Black girl whom she expected to bond with, and she realizes that sometimes when we stand up for ourselves, we help others get ahead, too. The story features well-developed characters readers will cheer for and cry over. The action and emotion are balanced, as are the internal and external conflicts. Debut author Egbe's writing is exceptional, capturing the nuances of adolescence, identity, and resilience. Moving and inspirational. (Fiction. 12-18)
Science's greatest myths		Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Solving for the Unknown	Le, Loan	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (July 25, 2025) Gr 10 Up-In this companion to Le's A Pho Love Story, Viet is anxious about his first year of college at UC Davis, far away enough from home to feel helpless over his parent's constant fights. His college experience drastically shifts when he meets Evie, a junior with a strong friend group that folds Viet in without question-and a boyfriend. As Viet navigates his own mental health, the college grind, and his forensics club, he cannot help the feelings growing for Evie. A story of two children of immigrants (both teens are Vietnamese American) breaking free of their self-imposed strictures and exploring what truly makes them happy, this slow-burn romance is perfect for teens interested in a college campus story that is sweet and thoughtful and not just a nonstop party. Lo's prose is firm and precise, which invites readers to take their time with the romance and focus on the importance of friendship and found family. Evie and Viet narrate alternating chapters to allow readers to feel and share in their growing excitement as their thoughts about each other just won't dissipate. VERDICT For fans of A Pho Love Story, David Yoon's Frankly in Love, and other slow-burn romances.-Aryssa Damron © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (March 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 13)) Grades 9-12. Le's sophomore novel, starring characters from her debut, A Pho Love Story (2021), is full of heart. Viet leaves high school, his core group of friends, and a tense household for the unknown world of university and known love of forensic science. Evie, a junior biology major at the same university, seems to have her life planned out perfectly. She has a solid group of friends, a career path she's passionate about, and a steady boyfriend. Even if that boyfriend doesn't seem interested in her accomplishments. Viet eventually becomes an integral part of Evie's circle of friends, and the two become close. They both find shelter and strength in each other, whether it's Viet acknowledging his depressive episodes or Evie coming to terms with the fact that her relationship may have run its course. As a coming-of-age novel, it hits all the marks. Both Viet and Evie are emotionally vulnerable, and their friends are always there to encourage and support them, which makes this an empathetic read. Le has successfully crafted another cast of downright lovable characters.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2025) Vietnamese American college students navigate pressures, expectations, and the future in this companion to A Phở Love Story (2021). Entering the University of California, Davis, is a big adjustment for Việt. Between worrying about not being around to act as middleman in his parents' rocky relationship and feeling unmoored in this new setting, he falls into depression again. After an initial not-so meet-cute, Việt keeps finding himself in the orbit of third-year student Evie, older sister to Linh, a friend from home. Their genuine connection leads to budding feelings that he tries to keep in check. Aspiring pediatrician Evie has a boyfriend, Jake, but she wonders whether he's truly meeting her emotional needs. Le tackles college coming-of-age beats—dating and breaking up, attending sloppy parties, meeting a new roommate, finding chosen family—portraying them with welcome cultural nuance and heartfelt characterization. Evie and Việt struggle with loneliness and guilt connected to their family obligations, as they grapple with putting some of their own desires first and figuring out who they want to become. It's easy to root for this pair as they come out of their shells and into their own, separately and together. Le explores topics such as mental health, wealth and privilege, and providing emotional support to others. The story's slice-of-life format and the carefully built foundation of the leads' friendship make for a leisurely pace in this solid slow-burn friends-to-lovers romance. A sweet love story of self-discovery and mutual support. (Romance. 14-18)
Song of a blackbird	Van Lieshout, Maria	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (November 1, 2024) Gr 10 Up-Van Lieshout's graphic novel debut opens with a blackbird who acts as a third-person omniscient narrator, calling out to those who are suffering to hear its sympathetic song. "Retelling. Remembering. This is how we keep stories and memories alive. This is how we keep people alive." Readers get two alternating yet intertwined storylines: Annick in Amsterdam, 2011, and Emma in Amsterdam, 1943. Annick is a young girl searching for answers to her ailing grandmother's past, while Emma, a student, is searching for small gleams of light, which she finds in helping those in need through an era of darkness. The illustrations and coloring are sharply contrasted, with slight hues of color to differentiate the point in time readers are being immersed in. These striking illustrations are blended seamlessly with actual photographs that ignite emotions for those following both protagonists on their riveting journeys. Through different characters, the horrific intent of Hitler and the Nazis is made transparent, and the text on how Hitler came to power is comprehensible for developing minds, allowing for critical thinking and discourse about historical events. The story builds a powerful connection from the near present to the past, as readers learn about these tragic moments in history. Though the story is fiction, photographs and historical background at the end of the book reveal the harsh realities of world history. VERDICT Though not for the faint of heart, this touching, gripping, and heartbreaking historical graphic novel doesn't shy away from the dark sides of the true events it's based on, while still offering a ray of hope for the genuine good out there.-Cat Miserendino © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (March/April, 2025) This deeply personal and poetic graphic novel illustrates the heroic actions of everyday Dutch people as they resisted the Nazi regime, as well as the lingering trauma inherited by subsequent generations. An omniscient blackbird with the ability to "sail between time and place" guides readers, and at times the characters, through the events of two seemingly disparate timelines. In 1943, headstrong Dutch university student Emma becomes involved in the covert relocation of Jewish children. When a group of defiant artists recruits Emma to participate in the forging and transportation of official documents, the stakes escalate with deadly consequences. In 2011, Annick, a young woman living in Amsterdam, sets out on an unexpected journey through her family's complicated WWII history, uncovering her ill grandmother's long-lost brother (and potential bone marrow donor.) Art (embodied by the blackbird) as an act of defiance and source of inspiration is central to the story, with a series of handmade prints serving as a catalyst for revealing hard truths, merging past with present. The present-tense prose and print-block style digital illustrations are equally expressive, often hinting at meaning through an evocative phrase or dramatic shift in page layout. Van Lieshout seamlessly integrates black-and-white photographs, many from the actual resistance group Underground Camera, into panels and layouts. Extensive back matter highlights the real-life individuals and events that inspired and informed the narrative. Patrick Galt March/April 2025 p.85	Booklist starred (January 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 9)) Grades 8-12. The power of art to inspire hope and resistance to tyranny is embodied in the titular blackbird, who swoops through the journeys of two brave girls living in two separate time periods. In 2011 Amsterdam, Annick's oma is in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant, but the search for a donor reveals that Oma's biological parents are not who she thought they were. This launches Annick on a quest to find answers that will save her beloved grandmother, a quest which turns the narrative back to 1943 Amsterdam, in which young artist Emma seeks to hide two Jewish children from Nazi occupation and is led into the company of printers who resist fascism through their skill and art. Both threads of the intertwining tale prove deeply compelling for their suspense as well as their overarching message, and while the story meaningfully evokes a specific historical situation, it could easily serve as a springboard for conversations around other stories of oppression, both contemporary and historical. Along with the thematic content, the simplified forms and strategic use of color can't help but recall Marjane Satrapi's Persepolis, though the illustrations here are often combined with photographs of actual locations, grounding the stylized art in unavoidable reality. Indeed, the story is loosely based on actual, well-researched situations, a fact brought home by the generous back matter.
Ted Bundy: the campus killer	Morris, Rebecca	Young Adult	YA			
Tesla	Eberth, Kristin	Young Adult	YA			
The Barista's Guide to Love & Larceny	Bonin, Caroline	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 9-12. Dani, daughter of two con-artists-slash-oracles, spent most of her childhood being dragged around, using her special gift to fleece innocent people out of their money. She left as a teenager and barely managed to get into the prestigious Fox's Leap (a magic university) on a partial scholarship. A visiting professor takes note of Dani's gift and asks for her help investigating a magical pharmaceutical conglomerate, expecting that their newest pill is a fraud. The new medicine is more than fraudulent—it's dangerous, trapping people in nightmares they can't escape. Dani, after seeing the danger of the drug, sets off to infiltrate OneiroLabs and make things right—a task complicated by the fact that the company is owned by her new crush Kass' father. With help from magical friends and arcane security, Dani might be able to steal the drug formula and get out safely. Bonin's debut hovers between teen and new adult, given the age and trials of Dani, but a wide range of teens will likely enjoy this cozy fantasy with dangerous magic.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) A college student grapples with her unusual magical powers as she tries to pull off a heist against a shady corporation. A first year at the magical Fox's Leap University, purple-haired Dani Lionet is a typical student in many ways: She works as a barista to supplement her partial scholarship, and she likes a boy who comes to visit her at the coffee shop. But she's hiding a secret. Throughout her life, other people have shared more information with her than they meant to. Because her parents used her ability to aid their cons and scams, Dani has become petrified by the thought of others finding out about her powers. But when a visiting professor from Italy picks up on Dani's ability, she doesn't report or blackmail her; instead, Professor Silva recruits Dani to investigate OneiroLabs, a company that manufactures magical sleep aids—and whose new product may have dangerous side effects. At first, Dani's happy to help—but as she gets drawn further into the operation, and as Silva increases the stakes by wanting to steal the product's formula, Dani must decide how far she's willing to go. Although some readers may find the worldbuilding shaky and the ending wrapped up a tad too neatly, Dani's abilities provide an interesting moral quandary as well as a solid vehicle for the author to explore agency and free will under capitalism. Main characters are cued white. Cute, cozy, and clever. (Fantasy. 14-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				Booklist starred (September 1, 2021 (Vol. 118, No. 1)) Goodall, world-renowned naturalist, humanist, and environmental advocate, is hope incarnate. Her podcast is even titled Hopecast. Goodall elucidates her commitment to hope in conversation with Douglas Abrams in this companion volume to The Book of Joy (2016) in which Abrams spoke with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Abrams and Goodall meet in Tanzania, the Netherlands, and, during the pandemic, on video, with Goodall offering a laptop-camera tour of her family home in England. Abrams sets the scene for each encounter, ensuring that Goodall's unique personality, poise, and inner strength shine forth. Their jousting discussions are passionate, candid, and very moving as Abrams asks difficult questions and Goodall responds with enthralling real-life stories shaped by her extensive knowledge, extraordinary experiences, and hard-forged wisdom. Without minimizing the daunting challenges we face as the climate crisis takes hold, Goodall explains that hope is a "human survival trait" that requires "action and engagement." She then fully explains her "Four Reasons for Hope: The Amazing Human Intellect, The Resilience of Nature, The Power of Young People, and The Indomitable Human Spirit." Bright with photographs, supported by an excellent "Further Reading" section, and, vibrant with wry humor, scientific fact, grassroots advances, compassion, and spiritual depth, this compelling and enlightening dialogue of hope amplifies Goodall's mantra: "Together we can. Together we will." HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Goodall is a trusted global force for good, and her keen perspective on hope offers an encouraging, much-needed guide forward.	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2021) The renowned naturalist and chimpanzee researcher reflects on her philosophy of life. No longer observing wildlife in the fast-vanishing African forests, Goodall, now 87, continues to work, traveling the world to speak about conservation, humane treatment of animals, reforestation, and the detriments of climate change and poverty. Written as a dialogue with Abrams, who has co-authored similar eloquent testaments with the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, this book mixes autobiographical details with a fiercely positive credo that has kept Goodall fighting in the face of immense odds. Goodall maintains that hope is often misunderstood. "People tend to think that it is simply passive wishful thinking: I hope something will happen but I'm not going to do anything about it," she notes. "This is indeed the opposite of real hope, which requires action and engagement. Many people understand the dire state of the planet—but do nothing about it because they feel helpless and hopeless." She adds that achieving a lasting sense of hope requires four components: attainable goals, realistic pathways to pursue them, confidence that we will succeed, and confidence that others support us. Goodall emphasizes that hope is a survival trait that every child possesses, but it must be cultivated. She illustrates this point with anecdotes from her life as a naturalist and teacher as well as many mystical, science-can't-explain experiences that often turn up in inspirational writing. Ultimately, this is less a self-help book than the personal testament of a traditional idealist with the belief that we are put on Earth for a purpose and that the universe must have a deep, guiding intelligence behind it—if not the traditional God, then something similar. As Goodall notes late in the book, she welcomes a "convergence of science and religion and spirituality." An estimable researcher and activist tells stories and delivers uplifting advice.	Publishers Weekly starred (June 28, 2021) This illuminating conversation between naturalist Goodall (Reason for Hope) and Abrams (coauthor, The Book of Joy) teases out Goodall's thoughts on why one should feel hopeful in "dark times." According to Goodall, there are "four main reasons for hope: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of youth, and the indomitable human spirit." In unpacking her belief in the power of persistence, Goodall takes readers to her childhood home in England, where her family questioned if she had the constitution to travel to Africa; to Tanzania, where she studied chimpanzees and came face to face with "crippling poverty, lack of good education and degradation of the land"; and into her work as a U.N. Messenger of Peace. In the process, she cites having a spiritual sense of purpose as crucial to her hope and activism. Her infectious optimism and stirring call to action make this necessary reading for those concerned about the planet's future: "we must not let this distract us from the far greater threat to our future—the climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity," she writes. "Find your reasons for hope and let them guide you onward." Goodall's rousing testament will resonate widely. (Oct.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The book of hope : a survival guide for trying times The Boyfriend Launcher	Goodall, Jane Garrett, Raechell	Adult Young Adult	AD YA			
				Booklist (September 1, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 1)) An architecture critic considers the evolution of the automobile, celebrating a century of innovation in engineering and design while mourning the apparent end of the romance. Like buildings and cities, the prolific Rybczynski's usual topics, cars reflect "cultural preoccupations" and showcase humanity's talent for technological advancement through repetitive iteration. They are also our companions, antagonists, objects of desire, and trusty friends, fondly remembered. Supplementing his narrative with hand-drawn illustrations and patiently listing vehicle specifications and crediting automotive engineers, Rybczynski celebrates the vehicles of his life. He loved his 1969 Citroën, woefully underpowered and fire engine red. His beige BMW 1600 was a low-key marvel, a "good sheep dog" that gave joy via its impressive functionality. His 1985 GMC Jimmy pushed through snowdrifts and transported wholesale quantities of Quebec apples. Marveling at the many ways designers have solved the problems that limited prior models, he complains that today's digital car is "too smart for its own good, a bossy nanny." Recently retiring his final car, a faithful 24-year-old Mercedes 300E, Rybczynski insists he doesn't miss driving. But his affectionate history suggests otherwise.		
The Driving Machine A Design History of the Car	Rybczynski, Witold	Adult	AD			
				Kirkus Reviews (May 15, 2025) Isadora and Tristan's magical connection may prove to be their undoing: Isadora's father heads the five united clans that are fighting the Kingsland, which is led by Tristan's father. In a post-apocalyptic world, blond 18-year-old healer Isadora tends the wounded using herbs and handwoven bandages. There's an ongoing war between the clans, which her father founded and leads, and the faction called the Kingsland, the other group that survived the bombs that destroyed civilization 37 years ago. When Isadora ventures to the front lines to help the injured and gets lost, she stumbles upon Tristan, whom she immediately identifies by his clothes as one of the Kingsland. While at first this attractive young man with a strong jaw is her captive, one of his people shoots her with a poisoned arrow, reversing their roles. The only way to save her life is for them to marry, making her part of Kingsland and allowing Tristan to magically absorb the poison. Their bond is tested when Isadora learns truths about the conflict that contradict what she's been taught, and both sides try to break the lovers up through treachery and deception. This debut, based on the medieval legend of Tristan and Isolde, is light on worldbuilding, leaving readers to wonder about aspects of the backstory. The enemies-to-lovers romance between the white-presenting leads hits the right notes, however, and the epilogue gives hope for the future. A retelling that stands on its own, strongest in its romance elements. (map) (Post-apocalyptic romance. 13-18)		
The enemy's daughter	Poett, Melissa	Young Adult	YA			
11 ways to use a college degree in computer science	Edwards, Sue Bradford	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
The Grandest Game	Barnes, Jennifer Lynn	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews starred (November 15, 2024) Like the crack of a starter pistol, this thrilling series opener set in the world of the Inheritance Games thrusts competitors into the Grandest Game, an unpredictable, cutthroat, and life-changing contest. Avery Grambs, heir to Tobias Hawthorne's fortune, and the Hawthorne brothers, Tobias' grandsons, invite seven challengers to gather on a remote private island to compete in the second annual contest—this time with \$26 million at stake. Gigi, Lyra, Rohan, Brady, Knox, Savannah, and Odette, each of whom is determined to win at all costs, travel to Hawthorne Island. Naturally, the money is a draw, but the players also have personal motivations. This year's competition has a surprise twist: The players will be divided into teams and forced to work with their rivals in order to progress. With the deadline only about 12 hours away, the clock is ticking. Each player's secrets are revealed and their relationships are tested as they race to solve the puzzles and escape the mansion before dawn. In this entry, Barnes recalls the magic of her original series, extending the excitement with inventive plot twists, compelling romantic tension, and fresh mysteries. Snappy, clever dialogue and memorable, well-drawn characters strengthen the work. The author also explores weighty social, economic, and mental health issues, imbuing the games with gravitas. Most protagonists present white; Brady is cued Black, Odette reads Latine, and brown-skinned Rohan's name signals South Asian heritage. A fast-paced, high-stakes page-turner that's sure to please new and returning fans alike. (Thriller. 14-18)	Publishers Weekly (May 13, 2024) Sequestered contestants vie for millions in this fendishly clever thriller, the first in a spinoff series from Barnes's Inheritance Games saga. After a sprawling inaugural event, the second annual Grandest Game-a "mind-twisting" competition run by Tobias Hawthorne's four grandsons and Avery Grambs, the teen who inherited the eccentric billionaire's fortune-promises to be a more intimate affair. While cloistered on a private island, eight individuals must race against the clock-and one another-to solve increasingly elaborate puzzles. Contenders include 18-year-old Gigi, who wants to outdo her accomplished twin; 19-year-old Lyra, who needs money for college; 19-year-old Rohan, who requires cash to take over an exclusive, influential gambling club; and Hawthorne grandson Grayson, who was tricked into participating. Many players have secrets. Some have diabolical intent. All will do whatever it takes to win. Barnes's kaleidoscopic third-person narrative rapidly cycles between Gigi, Lyra, and Rohan, amplifying tension and creating drive. Familiarity with the previous books will lend resonance to certain plot and character developments, but baffling brainteasers, flagrant flirtation, and witty repartee earn the sustained interest of readers old and new. The cast is ethnically diverse. Ages 12-up. Agent: Elizabeth Harding, Curtis Brown. (July) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
The hot zone	Preston, Richard	Adult	AD	Booklist (Vol. 91, No. 3 (October 1, 1994)) One of the nation's more famous planned communities, Reston, Virginia, stands at the epicenter of this whirlwind tale of potential biological disaster. Preston, award-winning author of First Light (1987) and American Steel (1991), wrote a 1992 New Yorker article on the recognition and containment of a devastating tropical filovirus at a monkey house—the Reston Primate Quarantine Unit—operated by a division of Corning, Inc., about 10 miles from Washington, D.C. Preston expands on that article by describing his 1993 journey to Kitum Cave on Mount Elgon near the edge of the Rift Valley in Kenya, the place scientists believe is the source of all four identified filoviruses: the Marburg, the Sudan, the Zaire, and the Reston strains of Ebola. The Hot Zone is a compelling "science fact" thriller: filoviruses kill most of their monkey and human hosts in vividly gruesome ways. The process through which the U.S. Veterinary Corps at Frederick, Maryland, spotted Ebola at Reston and recruited a secret SWAT team to contain it is tense and terrifying; and Preston, who lived in Kenya for part of his youth, places this chilling incident in a broad global context, eloquently arguing that "the emergence of AIDS, Ebola, and any number of other rain-forest agents [may be] a natural consequence of the ruin of the tropical biosphere." Expect reader interest: Random House plans heavy promotion; Robert Redford and Jodie Foster are working on a motion picture based on Preston's article; and Dustin Hoffman stars in a second film on this frightening subject.	Kirkus Reviews starred (1994) A bone-chilling account of a close encounter with a lethal virus, by New Yorker writer Preston (American Steel, 1991). The African rain forests from which HIV emerged are home to other viruses that make AIDS seem like child's play. Preston opens with a disturbingly graphic description of the meltdown of a human body invaded by a filovirus. Essentially, the body liquefies, spilling out billions of copies of the deadly virus, which can trigger an explosive chain of lethal transmission. Only micro-outbreaks have occurred so far, but the potential exists for worldwide catastrophe. In the fall of 1989, a monkey-importing company with a primate quarantine unit in Reston, Va. (about ten miles from Washington, D.C.), noted that its monkeys were dying off at an alarming rate and with suspicious symptoms. When the cause was found to be Ebola, a particularly deadly filovirus, all hell broke loose. The US Army quickly took over, and a SWAT team was sent in to halt the spread of the virus. The complicated and hazardous job required the donning of biological space suits, entering the monkey house (the "hot zone"), killing each monkey, and retrieving tissue samples. A major portion of the book is about this operation, which had to be conducted in secret, since public awareness could easily have meant widespread panic. Preston is adept at telling the story through the voices of the participants, who become very real (he employs pseudonyms only twice). That the virus, now known as Ebola Reston, turned out not to affect humans is small comfort: Viruses mutate rapidly, and the rain forests are only a plane ride away. A totally convincing page turner, proving that truth is scarier than fiction. Portions of this biomedical thriller appeared in the New Yorker in somewhat different form; it will be made into a movie starring Robert Redford and directed by Ridley Scott (Alien).	Publishers Weekly (July 10, 1995) Preston's account of an outbreak of a strain of the Ebola virus among monkeys in a Virginia laboratory has spent more than 30 weeks on PW's bestseller list. (Aug.)
The House of Saphir	Meyer, Marissa	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-The Fontaine sisters are not just master witches; they are the leading experts on the Saphir murders. At least, that's what Mallory tells the clients they fleece. Conning unwitting tourists by illegally giving ghost tours of the famous, abandoned mansion that once was home to Count Bastien Saphir, Mallory and her rigged frights are enough to provide a (somewhat holey) roof over her and her sister's heads. But when the killer count's great-great-grandson shows up, seeking her help to rid his estate of his ancestor's spectral victims, Mallory might be in over her head. This plot-driven, gothic fantasy is a perfect autumnal read. The murderous dark elements are well-balanced with plenty of humorous moments. While the secondary characters do not have depth, it is easy to root for Mallory as she fights both ghosts and her budding attraction to Armand, the Saphir heir. Although readers may find a few plot points convenient, the breakneck pacing of the novel's climax makes this easy to overlook. This has a wholly satisfying ending and just enough left open that readers will be wishing for a sequel. VERDICT Meyer fans and new readers alike will find much to love in this spooky, atmospheric read. A welcome addition to any library collection.-Elisha Sheffer © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 9-12. The Fontaine Sisters are witches, but only minor talents—the best they can do is speak to ghosts. Younger sister Mallory has parlayed this into a side hustle, selling false spells and taking townspeople and tourists on tours of the original home of Bastien Saphir, who killed three of his wives. When Bastien's heir, Armand, seeks out Mallory to exorcise the ghost of Monsieur Le Bleu from his country estate, she can't resist, and she certainly can't turn down the large sum of money Armand is offering. Though she intends to defraud Armand and run away with his money, she changes her mind when she visits the haunted chateau and meets the vicious ghost. The stakes of her con change further when there's a murder and signs point to the handsome Armand as the killer. Can Mallory truly rid the home of the violent ghosts and monsters, and more importantly, can she trust Armand? This spirited retelling of the Bluebeard myth is full of slight scares and an undercurrent of humor (Saphir's first wife, Triphine, is hilarious as a ghost).HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Meyer has been a commercial success in every genre she's tried (especially fairy tale retellings), and this is no exception.	Kirkus Reviews starred (September 1, 2025) A girl who can see ghosts takes on a deadly challenge. Everyone knows the tale: Wealthy Count Bastien Saphir, aka Monsieur Le Bleu, married and murdered three unsuspecting women before the fourth got away. They say Le Bleu was still laughing as his last wife's brothers cut off his head. A century later, Mallory Fontaine gives tours of House Saphir and knows more than anyone about the family and their history. Count Armand Saphir, heir to the estate, seeks out Mallory and her elder sister, Anais, to assist at the family's country estate, where Le Bleu's ghost has returned to threaten the inhabitants. Armand hopes that the Fontaine family's reputation as gifted witches means they can aid in this exorcism. Unfortunately, the sisters aren't entirely truthful about their magical talents; their mother was renowned for her elixirs and talismans, but Mallory and Anais don't possess her powers and make a living selling fake charms and spells. Still, Mallory agrees, betting on her legitimate ability to talk to ghosts and her affinity with the macabre. But as the gory sacrifices add up, it seems there may be more than a ghost that's haunting the estate. Meyer takes the classic French folktale "Bluebeard" and expertly sprinkles in ghosts and otherworldly creatures to create an eerie tale with a side of steamy romance. The characters are full-bodied, possessing either winsome or terrifying auras, while the setting beautifully conveys a bewitching ambience. Mallory and Armand present white. Bloody brilliant! (guide to monsters) (Supernatural mystery. 14-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
The last hawk	Wein, Elizabeth	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Grades 7-10. It's 1944, and 17-year-old Ingrid Hartman is a skilled German glider pilot trying to keep a low profile after a high-ranking official declared her "a disgrace to Germany" due to her stutter. But when the opportunity arises to join her hero, the prestigious German test pilot Hannah Reitsch, on a propaganda tour, Ingrid cannot resist the chance to show the government just how much she can do for her country. But as she grows closer to her hero and her government, Ingrid learns the ugly truths about the war she is supposed to be promoting through her flying. And with the notion that in Hitler's Germany, one can only disagree in secret, Ingrid struggles with wanting to prove her worth while also wanting to do what's right. In this fast-paced high/low work, Wein artfully lays out Ingrid's internal struggles revolving around her stutter, her hero, and her country's actions. This piece of the War Birds Cycle will appeal to readers interested in aviation, WWII, and female empowerment.	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) In 1944, a young German pilot makes a series of hard decisions for the sake of her safety and her conscience. Seventeen-year-old Ingrid Hartman, who speaks with a stutter, tries to avoid being noticed, especially by local Nazi officials. Ingrid's late mother was a nurse at the Ulmenhain Youth Hospital, where children with learning disabilities were sterilized and neglected; some of them died. The survivors were eventually taken away, along with other disabled children in the community, supposedly to be cared for. Ingrid's father fears for her safety in a society where disabled people are called "a disgrace to Germany." With her cousin's help, Ingrid becomes a safety pilot at a flight school, hoping to prove her usefulness to her country. Ingrid's hero, test pilot Hanna Reitsch, recruits her for "a propaganda tour," performing demonstrations to recruit young men for secret missions that Ingrid suspects are death sentences. While many people unquestioningly support their country's cause, Ingrid's childhood friend Emil Bruck shares information from a Swedish leaflet about the labor and concentration camps. He urges Ingrid to get out, and she faces a difficult, life-threatening decision. Ingrid is a sympathetic character who's observant and astute; Wein portrays her as courageous and decisive, particularly in critical moments. The accessible text, which will sustain the interest of reluctant readers, is printed in a dyslexia-friendly font. Full of courage, heart, and perceptiveness. (author's note) (Historical fiction. 13-18)	
The nefarious nights of Willowweep Manor	Garrity, Shaenon K	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2025) A spirited teen returns to a gasket universe—a protective pocket universe drawn from our collective unconscious—to unravel a mystery. After a clever recap of the previous volume (in the form of the protagonist's physics class puppet show presentation), Haley and Montague journey back through a portal into the universe of Willowweep. They discover an imperiled band of survivors whose own universe has imploded. Haley recognizes that this group, comprising a butler, a colonel, a spinster, a dog, a fop, and a "capable young lady," are straight out of an English cozy mystery. As the new guests make themselves at home, Willowweep Manor begins to change, with various rooms appearing to suit its new inhabitants. When the colonel is found murdered, Haley and the crew know they cannot trust their guests, and when the original denizens of the manor begin to disappear, Haley must pivot from gothic heroine to detective. Can she suss out the murderer's identity and save her beloved friends? Garrity's sophomore offering is an utter delight, mashing up gothic and mystery tropes (plus a smattering of science fiction) through a metafiction lens in an alluring graphic format. Brown-skinned Haley, who wears her hair in cornrows, is both appealing and unforgettable in this story of belonging and found family. This series is both wildly inventive and compellingly quirky; expect readers to wail on the moors as they wait for new adventures. The supporting cast is diverse in skin tone. Thoroughly clever and delightfully weird. (Graphic fantasy. 12-16)		
The romance rivalry	Lee, Susan	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (May 1, 2025) Gr 10 Up-Irene is a notable romance book reviewer online, but she's never been in love. With a chance to snag a big brand sponsorship, Irene decides to prove her worth and use all the tropes she's read about to fall in love her freshman year at college. But when Irene discovers her online review rival Aiden attends the same college and is up for the same sponsorship, the two decide to go head-to-head in a falling-in-love competition. As the contest heats up, Irene finds her in-person connection with Aiden is shockingly less of a rivalry and more like fated mates. Lee knows how to hit all the cozy feels while expertly creating a classic love story. The love competition and subsequent fake dating are played out perfectly with Irene and Aiden's personalities and struggles on full display. The epigraphs between chapters, disclosing some of the characters' book reviews, offer fun additional insights into their minds. Irene is a people pleaser whose quest for a relationship results in learning to be kinder to herself while dealing with her flaws in a realistic, relatable way. Aiden's softly strong demeanor displays how unapologetically a young man can love. The trope chapter titles are woven into the story, building a lighthearted atmosphere where one can't help but root for sunshine Aiden to win over grumpy Irene. Irene and Aiden are Korean American. VERDICT A must-have flirtation-via-tropes tale with all the swooning and joy readers want in a love story.-Emily Walker © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (May 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 17)) Grades 9-12. Irene Park has had a hard time standing out in high school, unless it's behind a phone screen talking about romance books. With over a million followers on her Instagram account, where she reviews romance novels, Irene is determined to make a name for herself at college and to find love, especially since she's in the running for a big sponsorship with a South Korean dating app. The only problem is that she's never been on a date—but Irene plans to use her understanding of romance tropes to find real love. Upping the stakes is a steamy competition with fellow romance-reviewer Aiden, who's also up for the sponsorship. Lee crafts a wonderfully romantic book that explores the complexities of social media and dating in college. While Irene's hopes for succeeding at Brighton College on multiple fronts fall a little shorter than she bargained for, readers will find her academic and romantic trials relatable. A fun introduction to romance tropes for older YA readers and those interested in exploring the genre.	Kirkus Reviews starred (March 15, 2025) "Late bloomer" Irene Park had an uneventful social life in high school, but things are different online. With over a million followers for her @irene.loves.love.books social media channel, she's a popular romance novel reviewer. She's even eyeing an impressive, potentially life-changing brand sponsorship from a South Korean dating app, which might help her stand out in her family as more than just the "the awkward middle child." At Brighton College in Southern California, Irene feels closer to her dream of becoming a book editor. But Aiden Jeon, or @aidentheguyreadsromance, who's also Korean American, arrives on the online romance book scene and starts criticizing her reviews. She grudgingly admits that he has cute dimples, but his loyal and vocal followers make her question her own credibility as a romance expert, possibly threatening the dating app deal. Irene decides she needs to fall in love and experience real romance, using her favorite tropes to help her plan come to fruition. But she immediately hits some speed bumps, including the discovery that Aiden attends Brighton too—and that their literature professor has paired them as project partners for the semester. The leads' banter is witty, charming, and amusing, and Irene's fresh narration incorporates vocabulary from the online book reviewing lexicon. Lee adds to the fun by using popular romance tropes as chapter titles and interspersing excerpts from Irene's and Aiden's book reviews throughout. Clever and delightful; a standout in the genre. (romance glossary) (Romance. 14-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
The Roommate Arrangement	Markum, Samantha	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Blair, a recent high school graduate, is excited to start a competitive computer science summer program at Central Florida State University and live with her two best friends, Leni and Starr. But just two weeks before the move, they drop a bombshell that she's no longer welcome in their shared house. Blair must scramble to find a new place and ends up answering a desperate ad for a fifth roommate in a rundown apartment in a less-than-ideal location. Her family must stay in the dark about the sudden change-especially her brother, who cannot find out that one of her new roommates is his best friend Jamie-otherwise they would immediately make her return home. As she tries to adjust to the unexpected chaos of her new living situation and the tension and attraction between her and Jamie, she also struggles with the demanding program, where, for the first time, school doesn't come easy. Torn between pride, pressure, and a growing attraction she can't ignore, Blair is forced to navigate friendship, failure, and figuring out who she is and how to stand up for herself. Markham captures the liminal space between high school and college with nuance and authenticity. Blair is a funny, snarky, and quick-witted protagonist whose internal tug-of-war between pleasing her parents and forging her own path will resonate with many teens. Blair and Jamie are assumed white, and there's diversity within the roommate group. VERDICT A first purchase for readers who can't get enough of rom-coms. -Alicia Kalan © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 9-12. Blair has a plan for the summer before college: ace her coding intensive to get ahead in her computer science major, wow her favorite artist whilst taking her sculpting course, and enjoy living with her two best friends in the cutest off-campus house with a perfect sunroom. Nothing a type A like herself can't handle! But Leni and Starr decide that Blair is too overbearing, leaving her without a living arrangement just a week before she's supposed to move in. Blair scrambles, finding a gaggle of sophomores in a similarly desperate situation to fill a room. As Blair stumbles into her new living arrangement, she finds that one of her roommates is Jamie, her brother's best friend. Determined to hide her circumstances from her strict parents, she strikes a deal with Jamie, but forced proximity has a way of bringing out feelings. Though tertiary characters feel more like plot devices, Blair is an adorably overwhelmed MC that readers will root for as she learns to stand up for herself, discover what she wants, and get the guy.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) New college student Blair had everything figured out, but the old friends she was supposed to share a house with tell her at the last minute that she can't live with them after all. A week before she enters Central Florida State University, Blair needs to find cheap housing. Her parents will never let her live off-campus with strangers, and if she's forced into the dorms, she won't be able to afford the sculpting class taught by her idol at a nearby studio. Desperate, she takes the only option she can find, forging her stepdad's signature on the lease. But to her horror, she discovers that Jamie Atwater, her antagonistic older brother Sawyer's best friend, is one of her new roommates. When Jamie threatens to reveal her secret, Blair strikes a deal: She'll help Jamie with his coding project, and he won't tell her brother where she's living. But the more time Blair spends with Jamie, the more she unravels his mysteries and realizes that he sees her as more than his friend's sister. Equal parts funny, emotionally charged, and heartwarming, this is a feel-good story about finding your inner strength and pursuing your passions that's well-paced and strongly characterized. The cast members' endearing bonds live the world and enhance the story's relatability. The leads are cued white, and the supporting cast is broadly diverse. Blair deals with anxiety but is confident in her fat body. A sweet enemies-to-lovers romance with a healthy dose of empowerment. (Romance. 15-18)
The rose bargain	Smith, Sasha Peyton	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (February 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Kiera Cass's The Selection meets Holly Black's The Cruel Prince in the Regency era, where every debutante's presentation to the fae Queen of England is a chance to make a magic bargain-if they're willing to pay the price. Ivy has been desperate to unmake her sister's bargain since Lydia returned with bloody feet and no memory of where she'd been. When the queen informs Ivy that bargains can't be undone, she leaves without one. The queen announces that Prince Bram must choose a wife this season and all the debutantes of the year are invited to compete for his hand. Ivy signs up in a heartbeat, certain a season of guaranteed invitations can help pull her family back into society. The debutantes soon find that competing to marry a fae is far more vicious than they imagined, binding them together despite the competition. Ivy accepts help from Bram's younger brother Emmett to get closer to him, only to find herself falling for the wrong prince. She is thrown from the frying pan into the fire when she discovers a coup in the palace-and that she is at the heart of it. Smith crafts an alternate history that is at turns magical and violent, where a magic wish nearly always ruins its receiver. The five competitors are offered brief point-of-view scenes, highlighting the nuances in their characters and fleshing out ever-rising stakes. Main protagonists are white, with diversity in race and sexual orientation among the secondary cast. VERDICT A deliciously heart-wrenching romantasy.-Emmy Neal © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 8-12. Enter a tale offering the perfect blend of romance and fantasy, set in a vivid and reimagined 1840s England. A tyrannical and immortal fae queen has ruled for 400 years with unbending control and manipulation. By offering others a chance to achieve coveted wishes with risky bargains, she keeps her kingdom somewhat hopeful. But at what cost will all of these be granted? Ivy Benton is preparing for her debut in front of the feared queen. Ivy's family's reputation was ruined when her sister endured a tragic failure with her own dangerous bargain, so Ivy is eagerly set to enter the queen's competition for the handsome and mysterious Prince Bram's hand, hoping to renew her family's position in society. But the competition possesses a dark underbelly of lies tied to the magical bargains—lies that could destroy everything she cares for. Smith's intense storytelling and exceptional character work lead to Ivy's role as a fierce protagonist with wit and determination that shine. Next to her, Prince Bram is a compelling mix of charm and mystery, with engaging banter and oodles of romantic tension. Their relationship and the progression of it, as well as Ivy's love for her sister and family, lead. Smith is bringing back into the scene works filled with entertaining drama between royals and their power plays.	Kirkus Reviews starred (December 15, 2024) Ivy expected a quiet unmarried life, but now her family's fate rests on her ability to find a husband. Living under the reign of Queen Moryen, an immortal faerie from the Otherworld, 18-year-old Ivy Benton, the second daughter of the Marquess of Townshend, is tasked with repairing her family's reputation following the disastrous scandal of her sister Lydia's disappearance. It's the start of the 1848 season in London, and the new debutantes are being presented to the queen. They'll make Rose Bargains, trading something they value—a memory, a body part—in exchange for an attribute that will make them "beautiful, fragile, sweet—perfect English roses" who will capture a suitor's heart. But this season is different: Queen Mor announces that her son, charming Prince Bram, will choose a wife. Any girl may attempt to win Bram over, but those he rejects may never marry another. Ivy, who has "porcelain skin" and "blond curls," decides to compete for the prince's hand—but the mysterious Prince Emmett, the human son of Queen Mor's husband, surprises her by proposing an unexpected plan that would forever upend London's system of power. Sections from the perspectives of other girls competing for Bram's hand provide alternate views of the competition and contribute diverse feminist viewpoints. This fast-paced romantasy with a sudden cliffhanger ending has a depth that sets the stage for a wild series to come. Familial duty unfolds into an exploration of desires and self-sacrifice in this promising series opener. (Fantasy. 14-adult)
The thorn queen	Smith, Sasha Peyton	Young Adult	YA			
They Call Her Regret	Desamours, Channelle	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (December 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Simone's life has been turned upside down in recent years. With her mother absent, her close friend Trenton killed in a hit-and-run, and growing suspicions about her best friend Kira's boyfriend Rich, Simone is determined to protect the friendship that means the most to her. Believing Rich may be unfaithful, Simone hosts her birthday party at a remote cabin notorious for its eerie history. Local legend warns of a ghost named Regret said to haunt the nearby lake. Simone hopes the setting will provide both a memorable party and the opportunity to catch Rich in the act. However, when the moment arrives, events take a terrifying turn and Simone encounters Regret herself. Offered the chance to rewrite the ending of her story, Simone must fulfill the ghost's unsettling demands within two weeks or risk losing everything. As Simone works to unravel the truth behind Regret and the town's buried secrets, the plot unfolds with relentless pace. While Desamours's (Needy Little Things) brisk narrative occasionally limits character development, the suspense, atmosphere, and steady stream of twists will keep readers captivated, and the deliciously creepy conclusion satisfies. Most of the central characters cued Black. VERDICT Highly recommended for high school and teen horror collections.-Mandy Laferriere © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (December 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 7)) Grades 8-12. Skilled Halloween-party planner Simone discovers a lead on the perfect place to host her next event—an abandoned cabin near Doll's Head Lake, Georgia. Ignoring the stories about a ghost witch called Regret haunting the area, Simone and her bestie, Kira, set to work planning an outrageous seniors-only eighteenth birthday party for Simone in the creepy, doll-part-strewn woods. On the night of the party, things go terribly wrong, leaving Kira dead and Simone with no choice but to accept a deal with Regret herself to restore Kira's life at the cost of someone else's. The downside is Simone now has only 14 days to discover why Regret is trapped and how to release her, or Kira will die again, and it will be Simone's fault this time. The historical and contemporary mysteries unravel as themes of guilt and regret swirl through a plethora of dark secrets that haunt Simone and those around her. The fast-paced plot, creepy dolls, and complex main character are all chillingly engaging.	Kirkus Reviews (December 1, 2025) Simone Washington is turning 18, and she wants to throw the spookiest party ever for her Pinegrove Academy friends. She's planning to hold a sleepover at a cabin in the woods near Yearwood Lake. Popularly known as Doll's Head Lake, the locale is reputed to be haunted by a ghost and is littered with the body parts of dolls that people leave as offerings. The setting is perfect for creepy campfire stories and scary pranks, but the party takes a terrible turn when Simone does something that costs her best friend, Kira, her life. Hoping to undo the damage, she makes a deal with Regret, a cursed witch who's trapped at the lake: If Simone can free the witch in 14 days, she'll save Kira and erase her own regrets too. Every morning a doll named Gabby Greta counts down the days, reminding Simone that the clock is ticking. This atmospheric story leads Simone on a quest that involves searching the town archives and conducting unsettling interviews with local elders. While unearthing the tragic past, she's forced to confront her own history. Desamours' sophomore novel, which centers on a Black cast, features an intriguing historical ghost story that mirrors contemporary events. She includes plenty of red herrings and misdirection, carefully doling out the clues out in a way that maintains a strong, suspenseful forward momentum and respects readers' deductive reasoning skills. Suspenseful and well-paced; a strong addition to the genre. (Horror. 13-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
This moth saw brightness	Vacharat, A. A	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress starred (April 18, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Wayne (the "D" is invisible) Le has been struggling with school and his relationship with his father since his mother's abrupt departure eight years earlier. His senior year promises to start off the same as before, until he receives an invitation from John Hopkins University to participate in an adolescent health study. Encouraged by his father (who is Vietnamese), his guidance counselor, his best friend Kermit Shah, and later his crush Jane Gallagher (who is also participating in the study), "Wayne participates. Because of the study, Jane, who is autistic, wants to "meet up" with "Wayne to discuss what the study could be about. Before long, the three friends convince themselves that the study is part of conspiracy linked to a government plot. On top of that, "Wayne receives an email from his long-absent mother (who is white) asking to visit him. The narrative style includes journal entries, emails, asides by the author, and clever footnotes, all of which present realistic thoughts by the protagonist. Readers will wonder in tandem with the hero about the study's purpose while anticipating his confession of love to Jane and the reunion with his mother. VERDICT A remarkable debut novel which delves into both adolescent struggles and mental health.-Lois Young © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2025) D (short for "Wayne; the D is "invisible"), who lives in a somewhat off-kilter version of Baltimore, keeps to himself and doesn't care about much. Half his life ago, his mother left the family during a serious depression. Then D enters a coveted health study and gets to know his crush and fellow participant Jane, who is autistic and who can relate to D's loss. An oddball, conspiracy-heavy mystery begins as D, Jane, and D's tech-and-surveillance-hobbyist bestie, Kermit, investigate the clandestine study's purpose and intentions. The storytelling leans into absurdity and surrealism as the trio seeks answers about the shadowy operation through obstacles such as cartoonish adult characters (be they villainous or clueless) and distractions from their eccentric peers. Told in short chapters, dialogue scripts, screenshots, footnotes, and more, a trippy plot unspools in unpredictable directions. Cleverly placed motifs, unique turns of phrase, plays on stereotype and archetype, and meta elements (the mall sells "experiences"; a selfie theme park) together enhance the book's timely themes: identity, ableism, the stigmatization of mental illness, and the impact of technology on human experiences. Vacharat's debut is a standout work of speculative fiction and a foreboding social satire about unethical governing and the corrosive values of Big Tech. Katrina Hedeem Eftekhari July/August 2025 p.105	Booklist starred (April 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 15)) Grades 8-12. The true conspiracy theories are the friends we made along the way—or are they? "Wayne isn't particularly interested in conspiracy theories, so when he is selected for a medical research study at Johns Hopkins University, he doesn't think much of it. At first, "Wayne thinks the most interesting thing about the study is the presence of Jane, his classmate (and crush) whom he's barely talked to. To "Wayne's surprise, Jane proposes that the duo meet regularly to discuss the study. As the study progresses, small but significant details in the teens' daily lives start to seem slightly outside of their norm. At times, specific aspects of the narrative are overtly synthetic; they feel a little too scripted or rely on connections that are a little too convenient. Although these elements initially look like the organic missteps of a debut writer, it later seems that this is the conclusion the reader is intended to reach. . . . or is it? While "Wayne's strong voice comes out in frequent footnotes that break the fourth wall and Jane is the rare well-written autistic girl, the tense, well-paced plot is usually at the forefront. This debut is an engaging read while also having great potential to spark conversations about information literacy with the implications of its deeply unsettling ending.
This place kills me	Tamaki, Mariko	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2025) Gr 10 Up-Newcomer Abby is desperately struggling to find her place at her new all-girls boarding school when she finally bonds with a classmate, Elizabeth, who warns her of the dangers of fitting in with the popular crowd. The next day, Wilberton Academy is shaken to its core when Elizabeth, who just starred as Juliet in the school play, is found dead in the woods, staged in her Juliet costume complete with a dagger. Investigations ensue, and Abby continues to struggle with her peers but eventually begins to build a relationship with her roommate as they try to uncover the truth behind Elizabeth's death, realizing it may not be what it seems. Elegantly crafted through several art mediums, including posters, handwritten notes, bulletin boards, and playbooks, Tamiki and Goux take readers through a coming-of-age journey filled with angst, grief, discrimination, and justice. The raw depiction of high school includes mature language, sexual references, and teen partying. Tamiki introduces a diverse cast of characters, each navigating their own sexual identity and personal struggles. Goux's art soars with dynamic panels and beautiful, contrasting colors that bring this mystery to life, enhancing the tone. Fans of Karen M. McManus and Holly Jackson will devour this graphic novel. VERDICT Stunning illustrations coupled with a thrilling plot make this a standout title that belongs in all YA graphic novel sections.-Angie Jameson © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2025) Bespectacled comics lover Abby Kita is having a hard time fitting in at Wilberton, a snooty girls' boarding school. So when popular Elizabeth Woodward, the only person to have been kind to her, is found dead of an apparent suicide the day after a star-making performance in the school play, Abby is determined to discover why. Along with her cub-reporter roommate, Abby follows a number of circumstantial clues that suggest Elizabeth's death may have actually been a murder: a love note hidden in a script, a drug rumor, a clandestine list of classmates' names. But it's hard to investigate when Abby's own "inappropriate" past is being harshly judged by mean girls and callous adults alike. Fearless Abby is shamed, harassed, and even beaten. But when she finally uncovers the shocking truth, it's immensely satisfying. Tamaki channels the casual homophobia, Moral Majority didacticism, and anti-drug propaganda of the 1980s in this tense whodunit that is meticulously illustrated by Goux and atmospherically colored in a pink, slate blue, and black palette. Teens will enjoy the dark mystery while catching a glimpse into the era via such details as the enormous desktop computers, Abby's beloved Walkman, and eighties music references. Jennifer Hubert Swan September/October 2025 p.78	Booklist (July 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 21)) Grades 9-12. Abby has transferred to Wilberton, an all-girls boarding school, after a scandal at her prior school in New York. It's clear from the outset that Abby doesn't quite fit in—seemingly homophobic rumors in speech balloons hover around her at a crowded party—so she has the benefit of an outsider's view when a classmate is killed and all evidence points to murder. Goux's fantastic artwork, in a spare palette of black, gray, and blush pink, cultivates a strong sense of atmosphere and mood with artful page layouts, well-placed shadows, and a cinematic sense of pacing, all of which amplify the '90's-era, teenage-noir-like tone of Tamaki's story. Though the mystery wraps up a bit too quickly, the resolution is satisfying and the magnetic characters have plenty of depth, especially as secrets about Abby's past slowly emerge and her roommate, Claire, starts to recognize her own prejudice at play. It's the dexterous artwork that steals the show, rendering each scene with dynamic energy and rich characterization that will thrill teen mystery fans.
Triumph : the story of the legendary motorcycle	Armitage, Mike	Adult	AD			
Up in smoke	Brooks, Nick	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (September 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Multi-hyphenate author/filmmaker/rapper Brooks undeniably reflects his celluloid experience with a cinematic murder mystery set in Brooks's native Washington, DC, complete with enhancing soundscapes, including helicopter blades and buzzing cellphones. That two Hollywood actors make their audiobook debuts here seems fitting, taking turns voicing the "he said/she said" solution team. Still reeling from his mother's death, Cooper (brash, concerned Joseph) relies much more on his big-brotherly relationship with Jason, even if that means occasionally doing the wrong thing. One bad decision-carrying Jason's stolen loot during a BLM protest-triggers life-changing consequences when a protestor is murdered and Jason is arrested for the crime. Jason's sister Monique (confident, determined Sousa, especially affecting when she performs Mo's resonating poetry) knows her brother is innocent. Coop joins his forever crush to clear Jason's name-and hopefully his own. VERDICT Brooks's all-too-timely, aurally proven, close-up ready thriller just needs that studio contract. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2025) Sixteen-year-old Cooper King has always tried to follow his father's admonition to avoid political protests for his own safety. But then a schoolmate is shot by the police, and Jason, who is like a big brother to him, plans to loot a high-end fashion boutique during a peaceful protest against racist police violence: "Every time they take one of ours, it's tax season...I'll use that bread to build up the neighborhood, on some real Robin Hood type shit." Cooper is caught between his father's advice and wanting to help the cause. He decides to join Jason in robbing the store – but then shots are fired, a woman is dead, and Jason is arrested for murder. His younger sister, Monique, collaborates with Cooper to find the real culprit and free her brother, but Cooper doesn't tell Monique of his own involvement, even as their friendship turns increasingly romantic. Tension escalates during their sleuthing as they encounter "dirty cops, double agents, [and] confidential informants." As he did in Promise Boys (rev. 1/23), Brooks writes with easily readable prose, abundant dialogue, multiple points of view, and astute social commentary, artfully constructing a complex murder mystery that will engage and involve readers. Dean Schneider July/August 2025 p.92	Booklist (May 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 17)) Grades 9-12. Brooks (Promise Boys, 2024) offers up another compelling whodunit with this story of a shooting at protest. In the sweltering D.C. summer, Cooper's feeling aimless, since the teen jobs program he was relying on was unceremoniously canceled. When his best friend, Jay, recruits him to stand watch during a smash-and-grab, he reluctantly follows. Soon, though, he's toting thousands in stolen goods during a protest when a murder occurs, in which Jay's the top suspect. Cooper joins up with Jay's sharp, determined sister, Monique, to prove Jay's innocence while trying to conceal his own involvement. Brooks' cinematic mystery is full of twists involving crooked cops and charismatic leaders. Brooks treats the issues of police violence and the reverberating effects of disinvestment in Black communities with plenty of meaningful nuance, including how the precarity of systemic poverty can ease the way for bad actors to take advantage of vulnerable communities. While a few plot holes might irk some readers, teens who love procedural detective TV shows will appreciate this satisfying mystery.

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Wandering wild	Noni, Lynette	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (May 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 17)) Grades 8-12. After getting a DUI and going into rehab, Hollywood's bad boy Zander Rune must redeem his reputation (and career) by giving one lucky winner four days in the wilderness with him. Over in Australia, Charlie Hart's BFF, Amber, must bow out of the trip due to health matters, leaving a reluctant Charlie to take her place. From the get-go, it is clear that Charlie is no fan of Zander's lifestyle; though, with the help of reality survival show host Rykon Hawke, both young adults go on a cathartic journey that involves jumping out of a plane, eating a snake, and even falling in love. Award-winning author Noni's YA romance will leave readers' blood pumping. The story is told from the viewpoint of both protagonists and thoughtfully conveys each character's grief. Noni addresses topics of mental health, thoughts of suicide, and trauma in a way that allows people to understand that they do not have to bear the pain alone. An exciting read with a great message to never give up on living life.	Kirkus Reviews (May 1, 2025) American teen movie star Zander Rune has an image problem, and it's endangering his career. Zander's agent has a plan: Zander will go on a wilderness survival reality show with one lucky fan. Charlie Hart, who's from a small Australian town, is facing her own struggles over a personal tragedy, her best friend Ember's leukemia, and uncertainty about her future now she's finished high school. Ember wins the contest, but her doctor advises her against going on the show. So Charlie—whose crush on Zander ended the day he was charged with a DUI—reluctantly agrees to go in Ember's place: Her participation will give an infatuated Ember the chance to meet Zander before they embark. As the four-day trek through Australia's Blue Mountains begins, Charlie's animosity toward Zander is clear—although she won't explain why, leaving him resigned to just getting through the challenge. But when the pair is thrust into increasingly dangerous situations, their feelings shift. White-presenting Zander and Charlie skydive, rappel, hike—and deal with lots of emotions. The juxtaposition of the wilderness challenges against the internal turmoil they're each working through will keep readers engaged. The dual narration allows access to both leads' perspectives and emotional journeys, supporting deeper storytelling. Readers will enjoy watching the duo learn and yearn as they navigate the mountains, forests, and streams. An entertaining mix of endearing characters, strong feelings, and pulse-pounding adventure. (content note, author's note) (Romance. 12-17)	
Watch Me	Mafi, Tahereh	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (May 1, 2025 (Online)) Grades 9-12. The Reestablishment fell to the New Republic 10 years ago, and those still loyal to the old regime take refuge on Ark Island. Rosabelle Wolff is one of them, barely surviving with her ailing sister, Clara. Trained as an executioner and assassin, she dispatches prisoners at the orders of the regime. One prisoner is different, however: James Anderson, whose family led the original revolt. On his own, he has infiltrated Ark Island, but his capture has limited his options. Rosabelle is supposed to kill him, but nothing goes according to plan, and when the dust clears, James is back home with Rosabelle in tow. His family is not pleased, and the problem becomes what to do with her. The narrative switches between James and Rosabelle, and both struggle with an uncanny attraction to each other. Care is taken with their characterizations, although the background characters are less complex. This new entry journeys back to the Shatter Me universe, maintaining the series legacy of deadly protagonists, surveillance states, and propulsive romance.High-Demand Backstory: Mafi's Shatter Me series was a big hit, and this return to the universe will thrill fans of the originals and bring new readership to the older titles.	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2025) An executioner guards her emotions and her heart in this thrilling series opener that returns to the dystopian world of Mafi's bestselling Shatter Me series. Twenty-year-old Rosabelle Wolff lives a meager existence, exiled on Ark Island, the site of what remains of The Reestablishment's totalitarian state. She scrapes by, working as a contract killer in order to keep Clara, her ailing younger sister, alive. Rosabelle's stoicism is her defense against the invasive technology that feeds The Reestablishment's ever-watching "omnipotent, synthetic brain." With her sister's survival in jeopardy, Rosabelle consents to a mission that sends her after James Anderson. James was 11 when his elder brother led the resistance that overthrew The Reestablishment, which their father cofounded. More than 10 years later, James is determined to do what his brother couldn't—infiltrate Ark Island, the regime's "last refuge," to uncover its secrets. Rosabelle wrestles with her emotions, torn between her duty to her sister, her hatred of the government, and her growing attraction to James. Mafi incorporates surveillance and artificial intelligence into her realistically drawn world that's filled with political intrigue. Rosabelle's and James' alternating first-person narration fills in the backstory for new readers. The balance between the suspense and dramatic action sequences feels cinematic, and the slow-burn romance shimmers beneath the darker, trauma-tinged themes of mental health, sinister applications of biotechnology, and food insecurity. The leads are cued white, and there's ethnic diversity among the supporting characters. Gripping. (Dystopian. 14-adult)	
We should all be birds : (a memoir)	Buckbee, Brian	Adult	AD	Booklist (July 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 21)) Buckbee suffers from constant, blinding migraines—the result of what eventually was diagnosed as chronic fatigue syndrome—and when, during the COVID-19 pandemic, he met a young pigeon with a bad leg and an awkward gait, he came to realize that the bird, whom he named Two-Step, was in a similarly desperate state. What follows is a memoir of relentless illness, emotional malaise mixed with clarity and leavened with bits of bird lore as the author tells the tale of Two-Step and his later cohorts. The fact that Buckbee had to dictate the book to his editor (he cannot read or use computer screens without terrible pain) gives the book the immediacy of a friendly chat as he veers between memories of his past and the story of the pigeons. Snippets of his prior athleticism, his lost love, and transformation of his yard to a bird-friendly sanctuary mix with his love for Two-Step. A raw and moving dive into chronic illness and how the love for a bird can take one away from emotional and physical pain, this one will resonate with everyone who has determined to stay fully alive.	Publishers Weekly (June 2, 2025) Buckbee debuts with a poignant if scattered account of rescuing an injured pigeon while dealing with a mysterious illness. While traveling in Asia, Buckbee was stricken by an undiagnosed condition that causes excruciating migraines, rendering him unable to read or write. As a result, he dictated this memoir to editor Fitzgerald. The central thread is Buckbee's bond with a baby pigeon he discovered near his home in Montana and named Two-Step, whose rescue and subsequent care offered Buckbee moments of solace amid his physical suffering and the dissolution of a long-term romantic relationship. Despite that ostensible through line, however, Buckbee's gloomy reflections on illness and heartbreak often overshadow the avian connection. There's some intriguing tension between Buckbee's and Fitzgerald's perspectives (she urges him not to put his relationship on a pedestal, suggesting readers will want to know more about its "complexity," and Buckbee replies that he doesn't want to make his ex's memory "even the slightest bit profane"), but the lack of narrative momentum grows wearying. Though readers will likely sympathize with Buckbee's struggle against illness and emotional turmoil, the book's exploration of caregiving resonates more than its darker themes of loss. It's a mixed bag. Agent: Farley Chase, Chase Literary. (Aug.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	Library Journal starred (May 1, 2025) Buckbee and Fitzgerald have crafted a memoir that is a profound meditation on loneliness and a curiously pain-filled vision of hope. Buckbee is an author and an explorer who struggles with a debilitating (and so far, undiagnosed) disease that causes almost constant and incurable migraines that make reading or writing nearly impossible. (He wrote much of the book by dictating to Fitzgerald.) Buckbee's story is filled with compassion, courage, and curiosity. There is something almost Proustian about the structure of his memoir. Haunted by memory and love, it radiates beauty. Lyrical passages about nature and traveling evoke the wonder of creation. It also recalls the origin of his mysterious disease-the migraines began during those trips. Intermingled with these reflections on his past life (and childhood) is the present-day (COVID-era) narrative, the odd friendship that forms between a lonely nature-loving writer and an injured wild bird many would never have noticed. And that's what makes this book so powerful-it notices. VERDICT Readers will love this fascinating and wise work, a highly recommended memoir for public and upper school libraries.-Herman Sutter © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
We've Hit Turbulence	Cozzi, Jessica L.	Young Adult	YA	Booklist starred (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 7-12. Cozzi's cozy rom com debut will make readers laugh, sigh, and smile from its surprising takeoff right to the story's smooth landing. Equal parts charming and heartfelt, it's a refreshing story about love, timing, and rediscovering what truly makes you happy. Olive Austin thinks her spring break trip to Hawaii will help her reconnect with her long-distance boyfriend and maybe mend a relationship that's been losing altitude. But when she finds herself seated next to her ex, Tyler Ferris, the boy she never quite stopped thinking about, her perfectly planned getaway takes an unexpected and frustrating turn. Over 11 hours in the air, with nowhere to hide, old memories resurface, sparks reignite, and Olive is forced to face what really went wrong—and what she still feels—after every moment of conversation. Cozzi excels at writing sharp dialogue, moments of endearing awkwardness, and impactful conversations full of genuine emotion. The end result of this expert blend of humor and heart is chemistry between Olive and Tyler that feels real and effortless, making their journey as unpredictable as it is fun. Fans of contemporary romance, especially those featuring second chances and forced proximity, will appreciate this relatable, joyful feel-good story about discovering what you really want, even if it doesn't fit the perfect plan. Sure to capture readers' hearts and leave them grinning.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) Two former sweethearts are thrown together under awkward circumstances that may give them another shot at love. High school senior Olive Austin has always had her life perfectly planned, but when her boyfriend, Jack Cameron, starts acting distant, she impulsively leaves New York one week early for her spring break trip to Honolulu, where she's joining Jack, a freshman at the University of Hawai'i. She didn't expect to end up spending the 11-hour flight sitting next to Tyler Ferris, the ex-boyfriend whose heart she broke. Ignoring intuitive, easygoing Tyler becomes impossible, and Olive ends up facing her role in the complex ending of their relationship. Despite this bumpy start to her vacation, Olive makes the most of her stay in Hawai'i. Although the setting is superficially developed, the narrative is strong in its exploration of the characters and their interactions: Olive and Tyler have a deep connection and they're interesting together and compelling as individuals. Flashbacks gradually and effectively add details as the story progresses, supporting the characters' growth, particularly in the case of Olive, who ultimately learns to embrace her strengths and weaknesses. In her debut novel, Cozzi shows how forgiveness can be as beneficial for us as it is for others. Olive and Jack are cued white. Tyler's father is from Boston, and his mother is from Maui; it's unclear whether she's Native Hawaiian. A second-chance romance that's elevated by strong character development. (Romance. 12-18)	
When the bones sing	Sain, Ginny Myers	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (March 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Dovie Clover, 17, can find the bones and bodies of people who have gone missing on the Aux-Arc Trail in her small town of Lucifer's Creek in the Arkansas Ozarks. She can hear the bones of the dead sing, and they've been calling out to her, even though Dovie does not believe in magic. Her best friend Lowan does believe, and he sees the ghosts of people who have been killed on the trail. He thinks the ghosts want him to help end the killings. Together, the friends try to find whatever is killing the hikers and uncover secrets within their families and the town. Filled with magic, beauty, and darkness, this novel will keep readers on their toes, eager to see what happens next. The story is brimming with the warm, lazy days of a small town while also managing to be fast-paced and thrilling. It captures the small-town feel-and its scandals. It also contains lovely, lyrical lines that really stand out. VERDICT This is a remarkable story with a fresh take on supernatural mysteries; it's a good choice for readers who enjoy the mystical and paranormal with just a hint of romance.-Autumn West © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Since her mother's long-ago disappearance, Dove has lived with her father in the Arkansas hills of the ancient Ozark mountain range, where Dove's strange gift of hearing the singing of the bones of murder victims is starting to come in handy far too often. Despite her strange ability and the increase in bodies, Dove is adamant that the shadowy figures her friend Lowan sees cannot be real, and neither can the mysterious and legendary Ozark Howler. But Lo insists he's seeing the souls of the hikers who have died along the treacherous Aux-Arc Trail, and only Dove can help him. Unable to resist Lo, Dove is drawn into a web of deceit that may get closer to home than she could ever expect. Authentic Arkansan cultural details surround fully believable characters who connect deeply to their earthly surroundings and one another. In the darkness of the thorny woods, reality gets a little porous, and Sain's deep reverence for rurality and nature shines through in a tale brimming with grandmotherly wisdom, fated romance, and a twisted, gripping mystery.	Kirkus Reviews (January 1, 2025) As people vanish in the mountains surrounding her remote Arkansas town, a teen with the ability to locate the dead tries to find the killer. Seventeen-year-old Dove Warner can hear the song of the dead. It resonates through her body, a bone-deep thrum that propels her towards a victim's burial place. This grim talent is useful in Dove's hometown, Lucifer's Creek, where the sheriff has relied on her in recent years to find the remains of people who have died under mysterious circumstances while hiking the Aux-Arc Trail. Oddly enough, the rising body count hardly disturbs the locals—except, that is, for Dove's best friend, Lowan Wilder, who believes he's being haunted by the restless spirits of the murdered hikers. Dove is, ironically, very skeptical about the paranormal, but it's clear to her that Lo's fear is genuine, as is his insistence that putting an end to the killings will appease the spirits. Folk magic, a family curse, and the specter of an ominous regional cryptid combine with vivid descriptions of the Ozark Mountains setting to give this story a distinct sense of the Southern gothic. Like the sulfurous stream that gives Lucifer's Creek its name, the central mystery twists and turns in unexpected ways, building up to a chilling reveal in the final act that skirts the edge of horror. Main characters read white. Gripping and intensely atmospheric. (Paranormal thriller. 14-18)
Where the heart should be	Crossan, Sarah	Young Adult	YA	Booklist starred (December 1, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 7)) Grades 8-11. Set in 1846 Ireland at the beginning of the potato famine, Ellen "Nell" Quinn is trying to hold her family together. The potato crop has failed again, and Nell has taken a job at the Big House to help supplement the loss of income. There, she witnesses firsthand the disparities between social classes—while her neighbors are starving, the landowners' dogs eat fresh cuts of meat. She then meets John Browning, recently arrived from England and set to inherit the land. As famine and illness spread, a spark starts to grow between Nell and John, and the two begin an illicit romance. Nell is conflicted over the class injustices she witnesses, the frustration her community feels towards England and those in power, and her own growing feelings for John. As she falls in love, Nell loses those around her, caught between two worlds. Told in verse, Crossan's story explores social and economic injustices that, while historical, still resonate today. Crossan never shies away from the harsh realities of the famine and the desperation of a community working to save anything they can, yet balances those with the beauty of a loving family and growing relationship. An emotionally taut story of strength and loss, exhibiting how darkness and hope can intertwine. Readers will be left breathless.	Kirkus Reviews starred (December 1, 2024) During the Irish potato famine, an Irish teen falls for the English heir of the estate where she works as a servant. It's 1846, and 16-year-old Ellen "Nell" Quinn is beginning her new job as a scullery maid in her wealthy landlord's kitchen in the village of Ballinkeel. Lord Wicken has brought John Browning, the nephew from London whom he's named as his heir, to his estate in County Mayo. Nell, an avid reader, had to leave school and begin working, but through her love of poetry, she and Johnny, though separated by differences in social class, nevertheless start to fall in love. Although their area escaped damage the previous year, Nell's dad is worried about the spreading potato blight, a creeping disaster that forms a menacing backdrop to the love story. The exceptionally well-drawn characters include Nell's adorable 10-year-old brother, Owen, and her best friend, Rose, whose impending marriage to local boy Eamon leaves Nell worried about the impact on their friendship. Acclaimed author Crossan atmospherically renders the rural Irish setting of this emotionally resonant and powerfully written, page-turning verse novel. The descriptions of trauma from trying to survive unconscionable suffering are intensely sad and moving. Many scenes are suspenseful: The stakes of the couple's relationship are high, and Johnny is desperate, given the financial constraints on women at the time, to provide for his five sisters back home. Hauntingly beautiful. (author's note) (Verse historical fiction. 13-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Where the library hides : a novel	Ibanez, Isabel	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2024) Gr 9 Up-After the heart-stopping end of What the River Knows, Inez's uncle has put an end to her search for answers and is determined to ship her back to safety in Argentina. As an unmarried woman in 1885 Egypt, her only recourse against her guardian is the enigmatic Whitford Hayes and his seemingly impulsive marriage proposal to secure her inheritance and independence. No matter how much Inez wants to say yes, she struggles to trust herself with a decision this serious after the events of the previous book. Whit has secrets of his own that make it difficult for Inez to trust him, no matter how close they've grown in their rivals-to-lovers romance. Inez's determination to get justice for what's happened to her family pulls readers along into further danger and betrayals as Ibañez's clever, sensual writing paints a vivid picture of a world where old magic can be found in unexpected places. Clearly articulated characters create a diverse and engaging cast full of layers and personal motives, while emotional resonance propels the story and their arcs forward. Whit and Inez's searing romance is tied tightly to the adventure, as they must rely on the trust they've built while knowing the betrayals yet to come. Ibañez's historical duology is perfect for readers seeking magnetic romance and gripping adventure. VERDICT A singular historical romance destined for all YA collections. These characters will have a hold on readers long after the last page.-Emmy Neal © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews starred (September 15, 2024) A young woman pursues a dangerous quest in late-1800s Egypt in this sequel to What the River Knows (2023). After Inez Olivera was nearly murdered while assisting with her uncle's archaeological expedition in Egypt, Tío Ricardo is eager to ship her home to safety in Argentina. But Inez burns with the need to stay and make sure that those who committed crimes against her family are held responsible. Unfortunately, the law precludes Inez, as a young unmarried woman, from accessing her inheritance (needed to fund her quest for justice) without her guardian uncle's permission. Whitford Hayes, a former British soldier and her tio's aide-de-camp, proposes marriage, which could solve her problems. But can Inez trust the secretive Whit? More danger and intrigue lurk at every turn in this exciting duology closer, which fully addresses the first entry's jaw-dropping cliffhanger. The well-paced plot encompasses many fresh, new adventures and betrayals in this reimagined historical setting in which ancient magic abounds and not everyone or everything is what it seems. Even more captivating, however, is the complicated, nuanced love story between Whit and Inez. Their chemistry sizzles, but their relationship is achingly layered with both profound loyalty and deep deception. As their journey unearths new enemies and priceless archaeological finds, the duo must try to trust each other enough to survive. A thrilling, beautifully written page-turner. (cast of characters, map, timeline) (Historical fantasy. 14-18)	
White Eagles	Wein, Elizabeth	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) Following the Nazi invasion of Poland, a young pilot and a Jewish child escape on a journey across Europe. In 1939, as World War II looms, 18-year-old twins Leopold and Kristina Tomiak serve as flight instructors at the Vistula Aeroclub near Warsaw. Kristina is selected to be a liaison pilot in the Polish Air Force Reserve, transporting people and messages and taking aerial photos. Sunny, positive Leopold's turn will come later. When the nearby village of Birky goes up in flames just a couple of weeks after the Nazi invasion, everyone knows the airfield is in imminent danger. Leopold takes down a Nazi plane, and a German officer brutally shoots him in front of Kristina and the others at the captured aeroclub. But Kristina manages to take a small plane, where she discovers Julian, an 11-year-old stowaway, hiding in the rear cockpit. The little boy's parents were murdered by the Nazis, and the grieving but determined pair flee across the continent, encountering both the best and worst of humanity. This slim, gripping, and tightly woven novel effectively introduces characters who are full of heart and resilience. Written and formatted to be accessible to readers with learning differences, this fast-moving and compelling story will draw in both reluctant readers and others who enjoy historical fiction, especially those who appreciate a focus on personal heroism in the face of war's brutality. Strongly paced and emotionally resonant. (map, author's note) (Historical fiction. 13-18)		
Wires and nerve. Volume 1	Meyer, Marissa	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (March 1, 2017) Gr 7 Up-The "Lunar Chronicles" continue in this entertaining graphic novel sequel to the existing volumes. This follow-up to the futuristic fairy-tale retellings centers on Iko, cyborg mechanic Cinder's best friend. Acclimating to her human body, the android is trying to help Queen Cinder of Luna ease tensions with Earth by hunting down rogue wolf-hybrid soldiers who were once enslaved by Cinder's evil stepmother and have now been banished to the green planet. Joined by other familiar characters (Cress, Winter, Thorne), loyal Iko defends the new queen against her enemies. Fans will be able to jump easily into this narrative and will welcome the protagonist's humorous commentary and the friends' camaraderie. Newcomers will be helped by a prologue that introduces all of the main characters and flashbacks that are sprinkled throughout. This first volume in a duology is split into seven chapters, each action-packed and fast-paced. The romantic tension building up between Iko and a protective royal guard not only is juicy but also speaks to deeper themes-humanity, loyalty, prejudice, sovereignty, and more. The blue and white monochromatic art lends itself well to the setting: a futuristic Earth and the Lunar kingdom. VERDICT The diverse cast, the charming dialogue, and the clean design make this sci-fi fantasy sequel a must-have for graphic novel and YA collections.-Shelley M. Diaz, School Library Journal © Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (November 1, 2017 (Online)) Grades 7-10. Cinder is restored to her rightful place on the throne of the moon, but all is not well with the world below. Former Queen Levana's wolf-hybrid soldiers still roam Earth, threatening the tenuous peace. Ivo, Cinder's loyal servant and friend, takes it on herself to hunt down these monsters. But one little android may not be enough to stop a force of monsters, even with a heart of gold wire and a lot of nerve. Meyer's first graphic novel picks up immediately after the end of her Lunar Chronicles series with a smoothly done recap at the beginning. Ivo is a feisty character and a wonderful narrator. Her tale has all the elements: action, drama, multiracial characters, some hints of romance, and quite a bit of humor. Holgate's art clearly details each young adult character, while keeping the action clear and exciting. Fans of the series will be eager for volume two, while new fans will quickly head to the novels for the backstories.	Publishers Weekly Annex (February 13, 2017) A muted palette of black and denim blue lends a bleak, sooty undertone to the world of Meyer's Lunar Chronicles in this graphic novel spinoff. This time, Meyer focuses on Iko, Cinder's cheeky sidekick and an assassin agent sent to hunt down the wolf-soldier hybrids that are plaguing Earth. Unlike some of the previous novels, this story doesn't require preexisting knowledge of the series, easily catching up fans and new readers alike with capsule introductions to Cress and other members of the Rampion crew in a prologue. Iko is an entertainingly flippant yet formidable heroine, a former servant droid who now inhabits an escort's body and takes on bloodthirsty enemies as though she were invincible. (And compared to her other fairytale friends, she is.) Yet, Iko is left questioning her own humanity, misreading romantic tension with a royal guard and perhaps finding disturbing commonality with the wolf-soldiers who have one goal in mind: to force Cinder to cure the mutations that turned them into monsters. Holgate's dynamic, stylized artwork handily balances the story's action and humor while bringing Meyer's world to vivid life. Ages 12-up. (Jan.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Wires and nerve. Volume 2,Gone rogue	Meyer, Marissa	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (February 15, 2018 (Online)) Grades 7-10. Android Iko is still hunting down rogue wolf-soldier Steele, but her quest takes on a new urgency after he convinces Iko's friend Wolf to join his renegade cause. Now Iko and the frustrating (but handsome!) guard Liam Kinney must scramble to prevent a massacre during Cinder's visit to Earth for the annual Peace Festival. Picking up directly after volume one and leading smoothly into the last story from Meyer's collection Stars Above (2016), Iko's second graphic-novel outing might not be a groundbreaking work, but it will more than satisfy the series' many fans. All of the usual crew are present, and there is action, romance, and plenty of snappy banter. Gilpin's art brings the characters to life and close to their book descriptions, though several of the guys are hard to distinguish from one another. Readers who haven't read the series previously will be lost, but current fans will be delighted to revisit Meyer's futuristic Earth and her young saviors. A must-have addition to teen collections.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3	
Take Ivy	Ishizu, Shosuke			“We at GQ have found endless inspiration in these pages, and designers have too.”	“Time has done little to dim the allure of “Take Ivy,” with its guileless snapshots of handsome, fit and presumably bright young lugs disporting themselves in dining halls, on the College Green at Dartmouth, along Nassau Street in Princeton and in Harvard Yard.”		
The 7 Commitments of a Great Team	Gordon, Jon			”This book is an incredible tool filled with a set of tools for leaders to turn commitments into championships.”	“Every team in business and sports who implements these 7 Commitments will perform at a higher level together.”		
The One Exiled: A YA Sci-Fi Adventure	Lewy, Jennifer		YA	—Sean McVay, Head Coach of the Los Angeles Rams	—Mike Macdonald, Head Coach of the Seattle Seahawks		
Beyond the Arc	Brundage, Vernon			”[Beyond the Arc] is an unabashedly heartwarming story. Brundage has a gift for describing the second-by-second drama of gameplay; he knows how to get readers on the edge of their (stadium) seats. An enjoyable basketball book even for those who aren't hoops aficionados.” - Kirkus Reviews	"Brundage Jr.'s debut is an upbeat tale . . . crafted to inspire. There's power in this depiction." - BookLife by Publishers Weekly		
The One Game	Lewy, Jennifer						
Denial	Crawford, R.S.						
The King of Koraha	Snyder, Maria V.		YA				
The City of Zirdai	Snyder, Maria V.		YA				
The Eyes of Tamburah	Snyder, Maria V.		YA				
The Complete Far Side	Larson, Gary						
Journey to Impossible Places: 3 Book Bundle	Dekker, Ted						
The Complete Calvin and Hobbes	Watterson, Bill						
The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language	Petterson, Eugene H.						
Fallen	Riley, K.A.		YA				
Reign	Riley, K.A.		YA				
Ascend	Riley, K.A.		YA				
Awaken	Riley, K.A.		YA				
A Million Suns	Revis, Beth						
New Dragon City	Mancusi, Mari			Booklist (October 1, 2022 (Vol. 119, No. 3))	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2022)	Publishers Weekly (August 22, 2022)	
The Spellshop	Durst, Sarah Beth			Booklist (June 1, 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 19))	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2024)	Library Journal - web only (June 7, 2024)	
					As the city of Alyssium and its vast library crumble and burn around her, a young librarian who's spent 11 years sequestered among dusty bookshelves—with only a sentient, research-loving spider plant to keep her company—finds herself on the run. After leaving the ruins of Alyssium's great library behind—keen-eyed readers might notice the distinct parallels with the ill-fated Library of Alexandria—Keila makes her way across the open ocean to Caltrey, the picturesque island where she grew up, carrying Caz the spider plant and a boatful of spellbooks she could be punished for having taken. Hoping to lay low for a while and keep out of the locals' hair, Keila moves into the long-abandoned cottage where her late parents raised her. What she doesn't expect is to be welcomed by the locals with open arms; to meet her kind—and incredibly handsome—merhorse-riding neighbor, Larran; or to learn that the empire she left behind is draining the magic from her new home. The use of magic is strictly prohibited by the empire and is a punishable offense if you're a member of the general population caught using it, but, determined to return some of the kindness that's been shown to her, Keila decides to utilize her rescued spellbooks and opens a secret spellshop under the guise of making different berry jams. She proceeds to use the spells herself to help slowly return the island to its much more magical state. While Durst's novel boasts a wide array of fantastic characters of both the human and nonhuman variety—Keila is described early on as having blue skin and hair—if readers are looking for any high-stakes conflict, intense political intrigue, or action-packed battle scenes in their fantasy novels, they won't find them here. Similarly, the romance in this book is sweet but somewhat shallow. With this in mind, it's a delightful, easily digestible palate cleanser with a story that feels like a whimsical, warm hug. Kindness is king in this soft and breezy low-stakes cottagecore fantasy.	When revolutionaries set fire to the library where Kiela lives and works, she and her friend Caz, a sentient plant, pack up spell books and quickly leave the capital island. With nowhere to go, Kiela decides to return to her childhood home island of Caltrey, where she has inherited her parents' old house. Once there, Kiela and Caz must keep the stolen spell books hidden because magic is restricted to trained wizards only. However, the longer both stay on the island, the more they realize magic is needed to keep the island and its inhabitants thriving, so they come up with remedies to sell to the local population, secretly sharing their illicit spells. Eventually, magic is reported to the emperor's guards, who arrive on Caltrey to inspect the community of any magical wrongdoing. Can Kiela, Caz, and their newfound friends fool the guards and evade punishment? VERDICT Durst's (The Bone Maker) cottagecore romantasy takes place on an island of fantastical creatures and people, with romances among found family and friends and illicit spellcasting adding a dash of suspense to the mix. An excellent match for fans looking to take a break from epic fantasy for some feel-good humor and happiness.- Eve Stano © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	
Anxiety Relief for Teens	Galanti, Regine			Romantic fantasy authored by women had a heyday in the 1970s and 80s, and now, the magical storytelling genre of romantasy is increasingly popular. In this romantasy, blue-skinned, magenta-freckled imperial librarian Kiela must escape the literal fires of revolution in order to save her life, her sentient spider-plant assistant Caz, and a small selection of precious spellbooks. Kiela plans to hide out alone back at her childhood home. All she truly wishes is for people to leave her alone so she can read and plant more berries to grow. But soon she's embroiled in setting up a jam shop and healing trees, and is drawn into a charmingly awkward romance with her handsome neighbor. But is the cottagecore-aesthetic town of Caltrey truly remote enough for Kiela to practice illegal magic without repercussions? It's a story full of love, magic, plants, books, and mutual aid, for those who love to see heroes fight for a gentle life and a cozy corner of the world to call their own.			
Solving for the Unknown	Le, Loan			Booklist (March 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 13))	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2025)	School Library Journal Xpress (July 25, 2025)	
2025 book of world records	Bright, Michael	Middle School	5-8				
50 ultimate sports cars : 1910s to present	Fiell, Charlotte	Adult	AD				

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
All the way around the sun	Tian, Xixi	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) In her sophomore novel, Tian explores life after loss for high schooler Stella Chen. Moving from rural Illinois to San Diego, California, and entering a new school midway through senior year feels less than ideal to Stella, who already navigated emigrating to the U.S. from Xi'an, China, when she was in elementary school. But Baba thinks change is what the family needs. It's been eight months since Stella's older brother, Sam, died in his dorm room at Harvard, under circumstances her parents won't reveal, and nothing's been the same since. The promise of going off to college should be something to be excited about, but it fills Stella with fear. What if the pressure and the silencing of her emotional struggles prove to be too much? When Stella's parents must unexpectedly travel to China to help family members, Stella's forced to tour California colleges with the one person who might just get her to open up: her estranged childhood friend, Alan Zhao. Stella's intimate narrative is a deeply moving story of secrets, grief, belonging, and family bonds. Her inner monologue includes chapters in which she directly addresses Sam, heartbreakingly unveiling memories from their childhood, changing relationship, last moments together, and more. Tian explores diasporic identities and family dynamics, particularly the experiences of satellite babies and how spending early childhood separated from one's parents can shape relationships. The conclusion is satisfying and comforting without tying everything up too neatly. A stirring emotional journey. (Fiction. 13-18)	Publishers Weekly (June 9, 2025) Tian (This Place Is Still Beautiful) crafts an evocative story following a high school senior who must navigate the aftermath of a devastating loss and its ripple effects. When Stella Chen's older brother Sam abruptly dies in his Harvard dorm room, her tenuous relationship with her parents grows even more fragile as they shift their immense expectations for Sam onto Stella. Between growing up in the Chinese countryside, then moving to a largely white town in the American Midwest, and later contending with Sam's absence while finishing her senior year in San Diego, Stella feels she's never had the opportunity to pursue her own desires-not that she knows what they are. Deciding that it would be beneficial for Stella to tour the colleges she plans on applying to, Stella's parents send her on a road trip with estranged friend Alan Zhao, also of Chinese descent. To Stella, Alan seems to have his whole life planned out. But as the pair travel the California coastline, secrets, unspoken feelings, and heavy truths come to light. Through Stella, Tian attentively considers immigrant diasporic struggles in the U.S. and finding connection while grappling with grief and guilt. Fans of Past Lives and The Farewell will resonate with this emotionally charged road trip novel. Ages 13-up. Agent: Wendi Gu, HG Literary. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
Better than the movies	Painter, Lynn	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (April 1, 2021) Gr 9 Up-Liz Buxbaum is a romantic comedy superfan. She loves the soundtracks and happy endings, of course, but most of all she loves the comfort and connection they provide after losing her mother. Navigating senior year without her mom has been tough, and all Liz wants is to end it with the perfect, rom-com-ready prom night. Lucky for her, her childhood crush has just moved back to town, but the only way to get to Michael is with the help of her detestable next-door neighbor, Wes Bennett. Though Wes has driven her crazy since they were kids, Liz has no choice but to scheme with him in order to get the happy ending she's always imagined. As with any great romantic comedy, there are twists and turns on the path to love, and Liz must decide whether she wants the picture-perfect ending of her dreams or the one she didn't expect. While rom-com fans will see Liz's revelation coming a mile away, Painter makes the journey enjoyable with quippy banter, lovable characters, and enough will-they-won't-they tension to satisfy readers. The book peppers in several nods to classic romantic comedies that die-hard fans will connect with. Liz is coded as white and Wes's ethnicity isn't stated. VERDICT While not much here is fresh or surprising, the novel leans into the rom-com tropes fans know and love. Purchase this enjoyable read for collections where teen romances are popular.-Mary Kamela, Kenmore West H.S., Buffalo, NY © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (March 15, 2021) A grieving teen's devotion to romance films might ruin her chances at actual romance. Liz Buxbaum has always adored rom-coms, not least for helping her still feel close to her screenwriter mother, who died when she was little. Liz hopes that her senior year might turn into a real-life romantic fantasy, as an old crush has moved back to town, cuter and nicer than ever. Surely she can get Michael to ask her to prom. If only Wes, the annoying boy next door, would help her with her scheming! This charming, fluffy concoction manages to pack into one goofy plot every conceivable trope, from fake dating to the makeover to the big misunderstanding. Creative, quirky, daydreaming Liz is just shy of an annoying stereotype, saved by a dry wit and unresolved grief and anger. Wes makes for a delightful bad boy with a good heart, and supporting characters—including a sassy best friend, a perfect popular rival, even a (not really) evil stepmother—all get the opportunity to transcend their roles. The only villain here is Liz's lovelorn imagination, provoking her into foolish lies that cause actual hurt feelings; but she is sufficiently self-aware to make amends just in time for the most important trope of all: a blissfully happy ending. All characters seem to be White by default. Exactly what the title promises. (Romance. 12-18)	
Classic car stories : million dollar Ferrari sports cars to beat-up old Ford trucks, classic Mopar hot rods to innovative Chevy rat rods, vintage trans am racing to cars and coffee meetings	Cox, Isaiah	Young Adult	YA			
Code breakers and spies of the Civil War	Coddington, Andrew	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2018) Gr 8 Up-Bringing a fascinating perspective on a range of (mostly European and American) historical events, this series will reward readers with an interest in espionage, including detailed historical portrayals of George Washington's Culper Ring of spies, crucial to the American Revolution, and the use of homing pigeons in the First World War. Some material recurs in multiple volumes. Accounts of the British cracking of the Nazi Enigma code, for example, is central to the World War II narrative, but also is background to the one on the Cold War. However, each title stands alone, with lengthy exposition of history and context. Though rich with clearly written text, all of the books make abundant use of illustrations, including contemporaneous and stock photographs, as well as reproductions of paintings and drawings where appropriate. Back matter includes detailed bibliographies, as well as suggestions for further reading. -VERDICT Highly recommended for middle and high schools, especially for reference and research. © Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Code breakers and spies of the Cold War	Hurt, Avery Elizabeth	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2018) Gr 8 Up-Bringing a fascinating perspective on a range of (mostly European and American) historical events, this series will reward readers with an interest in espionage, including detailed historical portrayals of George Washington's Culper Ring of spies, crucial to the American Revolution, and the use of homing pigeons in the First World War. Some material recurs in multiple volumes. Accounts of the British cracking of the Nazi Enigma code, for example, is central to the World War II narrative, but also is background to the one on the Cold War. However, each title stands alone, with lengthy exposition of history and context. Though rich with clearly written text, all of the books make abundant use of illustrations, including contemporaneous and stock photographs, as well as reproductions of paintings and drawings where appropriate. Back matter includes detailed bibliographies, as well as suggestions for further reading. -VERDICT Highly recommended for middle and high schools, especially for reference and research. © Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Code breakers and spies of the Vietnam War	Coddington, Andrew	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2018) Gr 8 Up-Bringing a fascinating perspective on a range of (mostly European and American) historical events, this series will reward readers with an interest in espionage, including detailed historical portrayals of George Washington's Culper Ring of spies, crucial to the American Revolution, and the use of homing pigeons in the First World War. Some material recurs in multiple volumes. Accounts of the British cracking of the Nazi Enigma code, for example, is central to the World War II narrative, but also is background to the one on the Cold War. However, each title stands alone, with lengthy exposition of history and context. Though rich with clearly written text, all of the books make abundant use of illustrations, including contemporaneous and stock photographs, as well as reproductions of paintings and drawings where appropriate. Back matter includes detailed bibliographies, as well as suggestions for further reading. -VERDICT Highly recommended for middle and high schools, especially for reference and research. © Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Code breakers and spies of the War on Terror	Schmermund, Elizabeth	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2018) Gr 8 Up-Bringing a fascinating perspective on a range of (mostly European and American) historical events, this series will reward readers with an interest in espionage, including detailed historical portrayals of George Washington's Culper Ring of spies, crucial to the American Revolution, and the use of homing pigeons in the First World War. Some material recurs in multiple volumes. Accounts of the British cracking of the Nazi Enigma code, for example, is central to the World War II narrative, but also is background to the one on the Cold War. However, each title stands alone, with lengthy exposition of history and context. Though rich with clearly written text, all of the books make abundant use of illustrations, including contemporaneous and stock photographs, as well as reproductions of paintings and drawings where appropriate. Back matter includes detailed bibliographies, as well as suggestions for further reading. -VERDICT Highly recommended for middle and high schools, especially for reference and research. © Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Code breakers and spies of World War I	Ford, Jeanne Marie	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2018) Gr 8 Up-Bringing a fascinating perspective on a range of (mostly European and American) historical events, this series will reward readers with an interest in espionage, including detailed historical portrayals of George Washington's Culper Ring of spies, crucial to the American Revolution, and the use of homing pigeons in the First World War. Some material recurs in multiple volumes. Accounts of the British cracking of the Nazi Enigma code, for example, is central to the World War II narrative, but also is background to the one on the Cold War. However, each title stands alone, with lengthy exposition of history and context. Though rich with clearly written text, all of the books make abundant use of illustrations, including contemporaneous and stock photographs, as well as reproductions of paintings and drawings where appropriate. Back matter includes detailed bibliographies, as well as suggestions for further reading. -VERDICT Highly recommended for middle and high schools, especially for reference and research. © Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (October 1, 2018 (Vol. 115, No. 3)) Grades 9-12. Though people have been waging war and spying on each other since ancient times (ask Julius Caesar), changes in technology have altered our methods. This entry in the Code Breakers and Spies series (7 titles) explores a particularly pivotal time in human development: WWI, when technological advancements made war, espionage, and code breaking even more complicated than they had previously been. This text-heavy volume delves into the electronic communications of WWI, American reluctance to get involved and the resulting delay in the development of U.S. intelligence, various types of ciphers that were used and broken throughout the war, and widespread postwar paranoia. Occasional sidebars on different methods and individuals, such as Mata Hari, break up the text, but ultimately this is a well-presented discussion of a high-interest topic that will draw older researchers.	
Code breakers and spies of World War II	Small, Cathleen	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2018) Gr 8 Up-Bringing a fascinating perspective on a range of (mostly European and American) historical events, this series will reward readers with an interest in espionage, including detailed historical portrayals of George Washington's Culper Ring of spies, crucial to the American Revolution, and the use of homing pigeons in the First World War. Some material recurs in multiple volumes. Accounts of the British cracking of the Nazi Enigma code, for example, is central to the World War II narrative, but also is background to the one on the Cold War. However, each title stands alone, with lengthy exposition of history and context. Though rich with clearly written text, all of the books make abundant use of illustrations, including contemporaneous and stock photographs, as well as reproductions of paintings and drawings where appropriate. Back matter includes detailed bibliographies, as well as suggestions for further reading. -VERDICT Highly recommended for middle and high schools, especially for reference and research. © Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Corvette : the classic American sports car	Newson, Anne	Young Adult	YA			
Country music	Kallen, Stuart A	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 8 Up-After the events of Defy the Night, the country of Kandala is running out of Moonflower, an ingredient required to cure fever sickness. Tessa Cade has gone from Robin Hood-style Moonflower hunter to the Royal Apothecary, but her quest to find a new cure for fever sickness is in jeopardy until the neighboring nation of Ostriary comes into play. Dual points of view often go over the same plot points, slowing down the pace. The ending sets up more story, but for the moment the series remains a duology. The cast has a variety of skin tones. VERDICT A secondary purchase, unless Defy the Night is flying off your shelves. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (July 1, 2022) As the Moonflower supply in Kandala dwindles, a ship arrives with a trade opportunity in this follow-up to Defy the Night (2021). Moonflowers are critical for an elixir that cures the fever sickness. Prior to his assassination, King Lucas of Kandala sent a spy to neighboring Ostriary, whose connection with Kandala had been severed. Now Capt. Rian Blakemore arrives in Kandala claiming to be the spy's son, offering Moonflowers in exchange for steel, and inviting a delegation to meet with the Ostrian king. Tessa Cade, outlaw-turned-royal apothecary, is eager to go. Since the invasion of the Royal Sector, Kandala's King Harriстан has attempted to negotiate better distribution of Moonflower petals to the poorer districts, but tension among the rebels, consuls, and royals has stalled progress. An alternate supply of Moonflowers would buy time for Tessa to find another cure. Her hope is countered by the cynicism of the King's Justice, Prince Corrick. Nevertheless, he boards Blakemore's ship along with Tessa and rebel leader Lochlan Cresswell. As Tessa and Corrick try to discern hidden motives and a possible trap, they reexamine their relationship, which gets tested by the mysterious captain. Chapters told in alternating perspectives draw out the plot at a measured pace, ending with a series of shocking revelations. The structure results in introspective accounts following different concurrent events, slowing the story's forward momentum. Characters have varying skin tones. A second volume that sets the scene for more to come. (map, cast of characters) (Fantasy. 13-18)	
Defend the dawn	Kemmerer, Brigid	Young Adult	YA			
Destroy the day	Kemmerer, Brigid	Young Adult	YA			
EDM : electronic dance music	Godard, Julie K	Young Adult	YA			
				Booklist (January 1, 2021 (Vol. 117, No. 9)) Grades 8-12. Billed as notes taken by the smartest person in your class, the Big Fat Notebook series (2 new titles) breaks down advanced concepts for students struggling to connect with dull or off-putting subjects. Simply on a visual level, these chunky guides feel approachable due to the winning combination of their handwritten font, cartoon and doodle illustrations, ample whitespace, and color coding. As for the content, these are excellent supplements for standard textbooks, offering readers friendly introductions to foundational concepts while using plain language, clear examples, and end-of-chapter quizzes to reinforce key concepts. While these aren't replacements for textbooks, they act as a solid bridge between students and more academic writing, much like the Dummies books for adults do. Chemistry features 12 units, kicking off with lab basics, properties of matter, and the periodic table and wrapping up with acids and bases, chemical compounds, and thermodynamics. The concepts build in complexity as readers advance through the book, but the individual chapters—always relatively short—break the units' key points into manageable segments relayed in an affable tone. Excellent support for classroom or at-home learning.	Kirkus Reviews (July 15, 2020) This guide to high school chemistry is formatted as if it were a notebook containing notes written by the top student in class. This resource is divided into twelve units of two to five sections each. The subsections cover basic topics like conducting experiments, lab safety, and states of matter as well as more advanced topics like quantum theory and laws of thermodynamics. The page design mimics handwritten text, with colored sidebars for important facts, highlighting and bold headers for important words, underlined lists, colored figures, and diagrams. Each unit ends with a quiz to test retention; answers are listed on the following page. While most of the explanations and definitions are clear enough to comprise a primary study source, a few of the definitions may require backup or secondary sources for thorough understanding. The spacious, easy-to-read layout makes this an efficient reference book: Finding specific topics is easy (made easier with a lengthy index), and reviewing the content feels like reading through class notes. While not sufficient in itself to substitute for a chemistry text, paired with a class and a conventional textbook, this guide should go far in helping students master high school level chemistry. A useful supplement for studying and test preparation. (index) (Nonfiction. 14-18)	
Everything you need to ace chemistry in one big fat notebook : the complete high school study guide	Swanson, Jennifer	Young Adult	YA		Kirkus Reviews (July 15, 2020) This study guide offers extensive notes to supplement high school geometry courses. Styled as a notebook filled with clear, concise class notes, this volume covers 10 units of progressively more complicated geometry concepts over the course of more than 600 pages. Beginning with the basics—points, lines, planes, and angles—the chapters work through triangles, quadrilaterals, and polygons; right angles and trigonometry; and area and volume, among other topics. Large, clear text that resembles handwriting on blue-lined paper presents information that is organized in tables, lists, definitions, extensive diagrams, and step-by-step sample problems. Capital letters, bold font, highlighting and colored text, and diagrams make important concepts stand out against the ample white space so it is easy to locate specific topics during study sessions, whether flipping through pages or using the table of contents or extensive index. Each chapter ends with a quiz with answers immediately following. The explanations of concepts are clear, sometimes using everyday examples to make the ideas accessible. The skills are carefully scaffolded with sample problems for straightforward digestion and practice, though the more complicated topics may require repeated exposure for retention. As with other books in the series, this notebook is intended as a supplement to a traditional textbook and course, and it serves this purpose well. A reference work that makes high school geometry a little easier to learn. (index) (Nonfiction. 14-18)	
				Booklist (January 1, 2021 (Vol. 117, No. 9)) Grades 8-12. Billed as notes taken by the smartest person in your class, the Big Fat Notebook series (2 new titles) breaks down advanced concepts for students struggling to connect with dull or off-putting subjects. Simply on a visual level, these chunky guides feel approachable due to the winning combination of their handwritten font, cartoon and doodle illustrations, ample whitespace, and color coding. As for the content, these are excellent supplements for standard textbooks, offering readers friendly introductions to foundational concepts while using plain language, clear examples, and end-of-chapter quizzes to reinforce key concepts. While these aren't replacements for textbooks, they act as a solid bridge between students and more academic writing, much like the Dummies books for adults do. The concepts build in complexity as readers advance through the book, but the individual chapters—always relatively short—break the units' key points into manageable segments relayed in an affable tone. Geometry follows a similar structure, dividing its content into 10 units that tackle geometry basics (points, lines, angles, logic, and proofs) and triangles (including congruence, similarity, and trigonometry), all the way through circles and calculating area, surface area, and volume. Excellent support for classroom or at-home learning.		
Everything you need to ace geometry in one big fat notebook : the complete high school study guide	Needham, Christy	Young Adult	YA			
Everything you need to ace pre-algebra & algebra 1 in one big fat notebook : the complete high school study guide	Wang, Jason	Young Adult	YA			
Exploring Greek mythology	Nardo, Don	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Fall of the fireflies	McCall, Guadalupe Garcia	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 7-10-Twins Delia and Velia have experience with the supernatural thanks to the summer they spent with their sisters battling creatures from Mexican mythology. Outgoing and ready for anything, Delia engages readily with anything the universe must offer to the chagrin of the more reserved Velia. However, when their dad enters the property owned by an evil sorcerer of local legend and accidentally releases him, the twins find themselves acting in concert with and aided by the Mesoamerican gods to save both their dad and their local community. Between the frequent appearance of gods not often showcased in YA literature and the natural use of fluent Spanglish, Mexican American culture shines throughout. Unfortunately, the narration largely lacks emotional depth. The uncomplicated storytelling is best suited for younger teens, save for the incongruous higher-level vocabulary choices. VERDICT Select only for collections where younger YA is in demand and readers aren't picky about their mythology-inspired reads. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 8-12. McCall's companion to Summer of the Mariposas (2012) follows 15-year-old twins Delia and Velia as they race against time to save their father and become divinely ordained warrior women in this trilogy starter. Delia is bright and energetic, but quick to emotion. Velia, on the other hand, is introverted and methodical, but anxiety-prone. Not only are they navigating their relationship with each other but also with their father, following his separation from their mother. They hope to mend their relationship while touring with his Tejano band, but after he's attacked by a supernatural entity, he's struck with a deadly case of susto, or soul separation. As they track his attacker, they become familiar with several other supernatural creatures and Aztec gods, taking the twins (and readers) on an emotional, fast-paced ride. The emphasis on familial ties and culture is impactful, and the incorporation of Mexican folklore, practices, and Aztec deities is a necessary addition in the world of YA fantasy. Recommended for fans of mythology and folklore, and those in need of a quest.	Kirkus Reviews starred (August 1, 2025) After a supernatural attack leaves their father near death, two sisters pursue the culprit in this trilogy opener set in the world of 2012's Summer of the Mariposas. Fifteen-year-old twins Delia and Velia Gonzales-Garza used to be "so synchronized, [they] finished each other's sentences," but Delia has watched Velia change. Now they disagree on everything, including whether they should participate in their father's Tejano band tour. But their differences take a backseat when a monster steals Papá's tonalli, or "first soul," the seat of one's identity. As the Mexican American girls investigate with their friends Mochi Salazar and Hernan Molina, they're drawn deeper into Aztec magic and myth, each guided by the god she mirrors: Velia by Quetzalcoatl, "the one with the voice," and Delia by "fiery and passionate" Xolotl. Their mission to save their father leads them to the death goddess Mictlacauhli, who presents the girls with an offer to become creature-hunting warrior women. This story inspired by Sophocles' Antigone seamlessly blends coming-of-age themes with folklore. McCall respectfully integrates well-researched Nahuatl vocabulary and Aztec mythology as she explores sisterhood, cultural identity, and blended family dynamics. The supporting characters enrich the story through their realistic and relatable interactions. Readers will appreciate the nuance and emotional depth of the relationships, especially the one between Delia and Velia. A rich, mythic story about selfhood and soul-deep family ties. (glossary of Nahuatl words, author's note, sources) (Fiction. 13-17)
				Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2025) It's never too late to (re)consider a first impression. Part trivia, part history, and part fun, Volponi's conversational look at first lines takes a fresh form. While the firsts vary from Taylor Swift's songs to a poem by Amiri Baraka, the entries are thoughtfully arranged so that each one flows smoothly into the next. This helps combat the disjointed flow of many trivia-style books, encouraging readers to keep going as they absorb fact after fact. Teens may be surprised that they've moved from reading about Dr. Seuss to Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery," but (more importantly) they'll be drawn in to both. The robust bibliography (arranged alphabetically, not by chapter) provides the curious with more places to explore and learn. The sections cover a wide variety of topics, from "Time and Space" (George Lucas, Douglas Adams, H.G. Wells) to "Society and Its Influences" (Frederick Douglass, Eminem, Ray Bradbury), but the majority of the creators mentioned are white and/or male. In the section "Harry Is Still Harry," Volponi briefly touches on the irony that the Harry Potter series emphasizes acceptance of differences while J.K. Rowling has expressed transphobic sentiments. However, the segment on Sherman Alexie talks about experiencing consequences for one's actions without mentioning the fallout from the sexual harassment allegations he faced. The frequent open-ended questions appearing throughout are useful, and educators may find this book useful for stimulating reflection and discussion. An original and creative approach to appreciating opening lines. (author's note, endnotes, resources, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Famous first impressions : the power of perfect opening lines	Volponi, Paul	Young Adult	YA			
Fencing : steps to success	Cheris, Elaine	Young Adult	YA			
God on a Harley 25th Anniversary Edition	Brady, Joan	Adult	AD			
Hidden Lives --Stories from Child Survivors of the Holocaust	Goldstein, Rachelle L	Adult	AD			
Hip-hop	Dearmont, Christina	Young Adult	YA			
How soccer explains the world : an unlikely theory of globalization	Foer, Franklin	Adult	AD	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2004) A novel look at how the world is everywhere becoming more alike, and everywhere more different, as people seek to define themselves through football. "I suck at soccer," young New Republic staffer Foer offers by way of an opening. And why not? He's an American, and Americans see soccer-what the rest of the world calls "football"-differently. Where in Italy or Brazil or Kenya, say, it's a working-class sport laden with working-class aspirations, in the US it's inverted: "Here, aside from Latino immigrants, the professional classes follow the game most avidly and the working class couldn't give a toss about it." Yet everywhere the game is politicized as none other: In the US, "soccer moms" are alternately reviled and courted while reactionary politicos insist that soccer is fundamentally un-American (and probably socialist, too, as Jack Kemp once urged). In Scotland, Foer writes, the game affords a screen behind which to play out fantastic anti-Catholic hatreds. (Glasgow, Foer brightly adds, provides a fine rebuttal to the capitalist theory that "once a society becomes economically advanced, it becomes politically advanced-liberal, tolerant, democratic.") In the heart of the former Yugoslavia, where the soccer hooligans are so tough that they regularly beat up their own teams, professional football has provided shibboleths by which to separate and massacre Croats, Bosnians, Slovenians, and other non-Serbian types. In Spain, football arenas still resound with echoes of the civil war of the 1930s. In the Middle East, the game provides a means of expressing anti-fundamentalist sentiment. And so on. One day soccer/football will be played everywhere, Foer hints, and fans in Benin and Burlington will cheer players in Belgrade and Botswana; but in each place, even as the sport remakes the planet, those big and little cultural differences will remain, perhaps some day to provoke future wars, revolutions, or renaissances. Though the globalism thread sometimes disappears, the author is unfailingly interesting. Lively and provocative-even for those who just don't get what FIFA is all about.	Publishers Weekly (May 10, 2004) Foer, a New Republic editor, scores a game-winning goal with this analysis of the interchange between soccer and the new global economy. The subtitle is a bit misleading, though: he doesn't really use soccer to develop a theory; instead, he focuses on how examining soccer in different countries allows us to understand how international forces affect politics and life around the globe. The book is full of colorful reporting, strong characters and insightful analysis: In one of the most compelling chapters, Foer shows how a soccer thug in Serbia helped to organize troops who committed atrocities in the Balkan War-by the end of the war, the thug's men, with the acquiescence of Serbian leaders, had killed at least 2,000 Croats and Bosnians. Then he bought his own soccer club and, before he was gunned down in 2000, intimidated other teams into losing. Most of the stories aren't as gruesome, but they're equally fascinating. The crude hatred, racism and anti-Semitism on display in many soccer stadiums is simply amazing, and Foer offers context for them, including how current economic conditions are affecting these manifestations. In Scotland, the management of some teams have kept religious hatreds alive in order to sell tickets and team merchandise. But Foer, a diehard soccer enthusiast, is no anti-globalist. In Iran, for example, he depicts how soccer works as a modernizing force: thousands of women forced police to allow them into a men's-only stadium to celebrate the national team's triumph in an international match. One doesn't have to be a soccer fan to truly appreciate this absorbing book. (July) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.	Library Journal (August 1, 2004) The ironic title is certainly audacious, but this book does not disappoint even though it fails to deliver on the full potential of what it promises. Interestingly, the truth freelancer Foer most helpfully finds in soccer is not globalization but its older and sometimes murderously persistent converse, nationalism, as engrossing chapters on professional teams in Serbia, Italy, and Spain and the commercialization of English hooliganism show in complex detail. Foer's look at the religious and ethnic sectarianism behind rival Glasgow football clubs should be required reading for stateside Irvine Welsh devotees. Indeed, except for a history of an interwar Jewish team based in Vienna, which saps some of the book's narrative energy, each chapter is a small journalistic masterpiece. That each can stand on its own is partly a drawback, for the book lacks the sustained, treatise-like argument that such a title would need were it more manifestly earnest. Written for open-minded but soccer-indifferent American readers, this book is recommended for all public and academic libraries. Scott H. Silverman, Bryn Mawr Coll. Lib., PA Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
How to do everything with podcasting	Holtz, Shel	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2023) Gr 9 Up-Each book in this series collects articles on a common topic such as the origins of humanity or smart cities of the future, with articles grouped by theme. For instance, articles on the exploration of Mars cover unmanned exploration, possible human settlements, and other areas of interest. Articles run anywhere from one to 16 pages, making it easier to accommodate different readers. Another strength of this series is the variety of viewpoints presented. That feature would make the articles particularly useful for classroom debate and discussion. A glossary and list of sources for further information round out each collection. Some articles also include information about the author so that readers can see the background and expertise of the writer(s) and their particular perspective on the issue. VERDICT A useful collection for research and exploring different aspects of the various topics. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
In concert : how music affects the brain		Young Adult	YA			
Jeeps	Sprott, Gary	Middle School	5-8			
				Booklist (December 15, 2019 (Vol. 116, No. 8)) Podcasts are a dime a dozen, but how do you make one worth listening to? Nuzum, whose extensive podcasting background includes time at NPR and Audible, presents both a big-picture view and the nitty-gritty of creating good audio, regardless of the topic. The key is to tell a story, which is anything but simple. He details some of his podcast pet peeves, like fetishizing quirky characters, then walks readers through creating a 10-word description of their project, complete with a list of forbidden, banal words (like thoughtful and unique). He breaks down types of podcasts and qualities of a good interview, and offers techniques for editing a transcript to maximize narrative flow. He delves into the many facets of audience-building, from marketing your podcast to pitching it to a network, and he offers wisdom born of experience on managing teams of creative people. The conversational tone makes his instructions approachable for podcasters at any stage. Though not written specifically for organizations (rather than individual podcasters), his advice will appeal to businesses that want to capitalize on the podcast boom.		
Make noise : a creator's guide to podcasting and great audio storytelling	Nuzum, Eric	Adult	AD			
				Horn Book Guide (Spring 2015) Each book in this series begins with a lengthy preface, which is followed by six to nine flat retellings with brief introductions, a question-and-answer section, and commentary excerpted from scholars. Teachers may find these volumes useful, but students will probably find them dry (especially as these editions exclude illustrations). Romans includes a timeline. Reading list. Glos., ind. [Review covers these Mythology, Myths, and Legends titles: Mythology of the Egyptians, Mythology of the Iliad and the Odyssey, Mythology of King Arthur and His Knights, Mythology of the American Indians, Mythology of the Inuit, and Mythology of the Romans.]		
Mythology of the Iliad and the Odyssey	Spies, Karen Bornemann	Young Adult	YA			
Nahuat myth and social structure	Taggart, James M	Adult	AD			
				Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2024) In this follow-up to 2021's Better Than the Movies, a 20-year-old college freshman gets a second chance at his dreams. After the death of his father and his mother's subsequent physical and emotional disappearance, Wes Bennett left behind all of his plans and the girl he made them with to go home and take care of Sarah, his younger sister. But now, Sarah has graduated, his mom is back on her feet, and by some miracle, Wes has an offer to pitch for UCLA's baseball team. Liz Buxbaum, the girl he's always loved, works for the university's athletic department, taking photos and video of the team for social media, which means that maybe he can have a second chance at love, too. But since Wes left, Liz has made every effort to protect herself from ever feeling that broken again; there's no room for love, because she doesn't believe in it anymore. Or she doesn't want to. This second-chance sports romance includes fake dates, quippy and quirky best friends, real heartache, and the sweet ache of first love. The clever dialogue keeps readers from drowning in the main characters' emotional push-and-pull. Reading the first novel isn't necessary for appreciating this one, although knowing the full history between Wes and Liz will only add to the ache and longing readers feel from and for them. Main characters are cued white. A worthy second-chance romance. (Romance. 14-18)		
Nothing like the movies		Young Adult	YA			
Podcast solutions : the complete guide to audio and video podcasting	Geoghegan, Michael W	Adult	AD			
Return of the Temujai	Flanagan, John	Middle School	5-8			
Row the boat : a never-give-up approach to lead with enthusiasm and optimism and improve your team and culture	Gordon, Jon	Adult	AD			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				Booklist starred (August 2023 (Vol. 119, No. 22)) Peters' debut combines narrative skill and a poignant story for a wonderful novel to which many readers will gravitate. In 1962, an Indigenous Mi'kmaq family is in Maine to pick summer blueberries when their youngest child, four-year-old Ruthie, disappears. Her six-year-old brother, Joe, saw her last. Told in alternating, first-person chapters from Joe and a narrator called Norma, the novel follows the painful reverberations of Ruthie's disappearance across five decades. Peters wisely never makes the reader wonder if Norma is Ruthie; we know that she is, which allows more compelling questions to come into focus. How much do Joe's subsequent life events and choices trace back to this first major trauma? Is his lifelong guilt justified? How does Norma/Ruthie reconcile love for the white mother who stole her from her birth mother and for the white aunt who saved her from a lonely childhood but knew the secret all along? The story is told in braided strands, and it is a testament to Peters' ability that both strands fascinate. Indigenous stories like this matter, and while little is easy for Peters' characters, in the end, for all of them—even for those who stole a small child—there is hope.	Kirkus Reviews starred (September 15, 2023) An Indigenous family is forever changed after one of their own goes missing. Peters' debut novel explores the lives of a Mi'kmaq family from Nova Scotia as they grapple with their decades-old trauma. In 1962, Ruthie, the family's youngest daughter, goes missing from the berry farm in Maine where they work every summer. Told from alternating perspectives, the novel follows Joe, Ruthie's older brother and the last person to see her before she went missing, and Norma, a young girl living in Maine with an aloof father and overbearing mother. Lying on his deathbed, Joe thinks back on his life, which has been filled with grief, rage, and all-consuming guilt: "People have given me their time, their love, their bodies, their secrets. And I've given so little." After a brutal act of violence, Joe spent the next few decades running from himself and his sins, so as not to inflict more harm onto the ones he loves the most. Meanwhile, Norma recounts her life, which was plagued by a different kind of guilt, one that caused her to always be the dutiful daughter—the daughter who didn't ask too many questions, ignored the lack of baby pictures, and chose to forget the vivid and painful dreams that plagued her childhood ("Each time I woke, I grieved for the woman cloaked in darkness and I tried to call out to her"). Eventually, Norma goes to college, becomes a teacher, and falls in love—and she spends the next few decades finding a way to live with the unsettling feeling that something isn't quite right with her life. As Norma's true identity is barely concealed, the novel is less concerned with maintaining a mystery than with exploring how brutality ripples out, touching everything and everyone in its wake. Peters beautifully explores loss, grief, hope, and the invisible tether that keeps families intact even when they are ripped apart. A quiet and poignant debut from a writer to watch.	Publishers Weekly (August 7, 2023) Peters's enthralling debut tracks the lives of two siblings from an Indigenous Canadian family working in Maine as seasonal berry pickers. In the summer of 1962, four-year-old Ruthie is kidnapped by a white New England woman, who renames her Norma and raises the girl as her daughter. Meanwhile, Ruthie's brother Joe, who was six years old at the time of the kidnapping, never forgives himself for not keeping an eye on his sister. Joe's perspective alternates with Norma's, who shares her dim recollections of her real mother ("It's just a dream," she's told by her new parents) with her imaginary friend, "Ruthie." Joe spends most of his life guilt-ridden by his sister's disappearance. Norma, meanwhile, is haunted by the puzzling gaps in her family history: there are no pictures of her before the age of five, and her skin is darker than her parents' (she's told that she takes after an "Italian great-grandfather"). Joe acts out in rage and resorts to alcohol to cope, while Norma builds a life for herself as a teacher and a wife. Peters traces their experiences over several decades, and their reunion, when it finally comes, is powerfully rendered. The result is a cogent and heartfelt look at the ineffable pull of family ties. Agent: Marilyn Biderman, Transatlantic. (Oct.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The berry pickers : a novel	Peters, Amanda	Adult	AD			
The cure	Riley, K. A	Young Adult	YA			
The knowledge seeker	Knightly, Rae	Young Adult	YA			
The last of the Mohicans : a narrative of 1757	Cooper, James Fenimore	Young Adult	YA			
The lost bookshop	Woods, Evie	Adult	AD			
The mysterious bakery on Rue de Paris	Woods, Evie	Adult	AD			
	Haddix, Margaret Peterson					
The Shadow Children : the complete series		Upper Elementary	3-6			
The Skystone Chronicles Book 1 Dragon Thief	Penn, Blake and Raven	Young Adult	YA			
				Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2024) One girl must choose between her own safety and the survival of those she loves in Blake and Raven Penn's YA fantasy novel. Meleya of Misthaven is a magi, a person who possesses magical powers. She lives in the land of Evgard, a medieval-like realm where being a magi is illegal. Her parents were arrested for breaking this very law and now reside in prison, where they'll remain until Meleya serves her time in the dragon guard as a proxy soldier. While in training, Meleya makes friends with Solvai, whose father died in battle and whose mother is an experienced soldier, and Brigan, an heir to a noble title. Also on their squad is Bjorn, who loathes magi with a passion, and Edrea, who's ambitious and hates anyone who gets in her way. Everything is going according to plan—Solvai is made captain and Meleya and Brigan bond with dragons—when their home is attacked and Meleya has to make a drastic decision. She can either stay safe and sacrifice the lives of the guard's dragons, or she can save them and reveal herself to be a magi, putting herself and her parents in danger. Meleya knows what she what must do, even if the consequences are drastic. She and her squad are moved to the Outcast Outpost in the dangerous lands known as Dragon Mists, where unspeakable horrors await them. The authors return to The Skystone Chronicles for another great fantasy adventure with magic, dragons, and more. Meleya is a wonderful heroine with convincing internal struggles over being a magi ("My head was buzzing, my pulse out of control. What was I thinking? Using etherarchy out in the open?") and anxiety about the fate of her parents, as well as inspiring willpower and a heart of gold. Her friends, Solvai and Brigan, are compelling characters with their own complexities and personal turmoil. This story of oppression, war, and political intrigue is well balanced by a fun sense of adventure and entertaining humor. A sincere and compelling fantasy story for those who feel like outcasts.		
The Skystone Chronicles Book 2 Dragon Guard	Penn, Blake and Raven	Young Adult	YA			
The Skystone Chronicles Book 3 Dragon Hunter	Penn, Blake and Raven	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				Booklist (June 1, 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 19)) Romantic fantasy authored by women had a heyday in the 1970s and 80s, and now, the magical storytelling genre of romantasy is increasingly popular. In this romantasy, blue-skinned, magenta-freckled imperial librarian Kiela must escape the literal fires of revolution in order to save her life, her sentient spider-plant assistant Caz, and a small selection of precious spellbooks. Kiela plans to hide out alone back at her childhood home. All she truly wishes is for people to leave her alone so she can read and plant more berries to grow. But soon she's embroiled in setting up a jam shop and healing trees, and is drawn into a charmingly awkward romance with her handsome neighbor. But is the cottagecore-aesthetic town of Caltrey truly remote enough for Kiela to practice illegal magic without repercussions? It's a story full of love, magic, plants, books, and mutual aid, for those who love to see heroes fight for a gentle life and a cozy corner of the world to call their own.	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2024) As the city of Alyssium and its vast library crumble and burn around her, a young librarian who's spent 11 years sequestered among dusty bookshelves—with only a sentient, research-loving spider plant to keep her company—finds herself on the run. After leaving the ruins of Alyssium's great library behind—keen-eyed readers might notice the distinct parallels with the ill-fated Library of Alexandria—Keila makes her way across the open ocean to Caltrey, the picturesque island where she grew up, carrying Caz the spider plant and a boatful of spellbooks she could be punished for having taken. Hoping to lay low for a while and keep out of the locals' hair, Keila moves into the long-abandoned cottage where her late parents raised her. What she doesn't expect is to be welcomed by the locals with open arms; to meet her kind—and incredibly handsome—merhorse-riding neighbor, Larran, or to learn that the empire she left behind is draining the magic from her new home. The use of magic is strictly prohibited by the empire and is a punishable offense if you're a member of the general population caught using it, but, determined to return some of the kindness that's been shown to her, Keila decides to utilize her rescued spellbooks and opens a secret spellshop under the guise of making different berry jams. She proceeds to use the spells herself to help slowly return the island to its much more magical state. While Durst's novel boasts a wide array of fantastic characters of both the human and nonhuman variety—Keila is described early on as having blue skin and hair—if readers are looking for any high-stakes conflict, intense political intrigue, or action-packed battle scenes in their fantasy novels, they won't find them here. Similarly, the romance in this book is sweet but somewhat shallow. With this in mind, it's a delightful, easily digestible palate cleanser with a story that feels like a whimsical, warm hug. Kindness is king in this soft and breezy low-stakes cottagecore fantasy.	Publishers Weekly (May 6, 2024) Durst (The Lies Among Us) celebrates the power of community in this whimsical cottagecore romantasy. Introverted librarian Kiela Orobidan and her sentient spider plant assistant, Caz, escape a populist revolution-fueled fire in the the Great Library of Alyssium by sailing to Kiela's abandoned family cottage on the small island of Caltrey with only a few crates of irreplaceable spell books in tow. Imperial law restricts the use of magic to scholars, but when she sees the island's residents struggling with harsh environmental conditions and poverty without assistance from the empire's sorcerers, Kiela quietly uses her spell books to help the locals, claiming the charms she sells in her new jam shop are "family remedies". Meanwhile, her handsome new neighbor Larran Maver helps restore her cottage and becomes a friend-with a spark of something more. Durst packs her cozy and colorful tale full of sweet magical creatures, including unicorns, winged cats, and friendly tree spirits that manifest as bears, and her diverse supporting cast exudes a near-uniform air of kindness. The political plot is largely background noise after serving its purpose of getting Kiela home and on a path to using magic, which may frustrate readers looking for more comprehensive worldbuilding. Those who come for the cheery aesthetic and celebration of everyday successes, however, will find this utterly delightful. (July) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The spellshop	Durst, Sarah Beth	Adult	AD		Kirkus Reviews (July 15, 2025) A teen adrift in a sea of loneliness is drawn into a mystery surrounding her dysfunctional family's fortune. Ruby and her cousin, Sterling, were close until their fathers' bickering following the death of both their mothers in a car crash created a wall between the girls that neither could cross for fear of triggering paternal wrath. While their fathers (who are brothers) are petty and self-involved, they're not even the worst that the white-presenting Vossen family has to offer—their grandmother, Oma, plays her family members off against one another and views relationships as transactional, and Ruby's stepmother and stepsiblings leave much to be desired. Readers will feel a sense of relief when, after a ring of Oma's that's worth \$3,000,000 is stolen, one of the investigators, Detective Raven (nicknamed "Nevermore" by Ruby), clearly seems to feel for Ruby and have her back. As the mystery of the stolen ring unfolds in suspenseful increments, Ruby, a skilled chess player, also finds much-needed camaraderie in the school chess club. The members include Izaan, a boy she used to be close to until an awkward dance invitation strained their relationship; through chess, they repair their friendship. She also grows close to Tante Katrina, who was estranged from the family. Plenty of welcome heart is built into this whodunit that imagines a wealthy, backstabbing family that's so stereotypically horrible that they tip toward the darkly comic. A fun, twisty mystery with a likeable narrator. (Mystery. 12-18)	Publishers Weekly (May 26, 2025) Following a car accident that killed their mothers, cousins Ruby and Sterling Vossen haven't spoken for almost a year, forbidden by their holtheaded fathers from contacting each other. Feuds are a way of life in the wealthy Vossen family, led by imperious matriarch Oma, who finds fault with nearly everyone and punishes them with alienation and harsh words. But when Oma's prized diamond ring is stolen, Ruby jumps at the chance to reconnect with Sterling while investigating the theft. After overhearing an ominous conversation involving Ruby's cold stepmother, the 14-year-old suspects that her gold-digging new family members-nicknamed the Steps-are behind the crime. As Ruby follows leads and uncovers familial secrets, sinister things start happening on the Vossen estate. Convinced that her life may be in danger, Ruby enlists the help of her adorkable chess club pals. Though Ruby's first-person voice at times reads too young, Van Draanen (Mr. Whiskers and the Shenanigan Sisters) skillfully employs chess metaphors while piling on the twists in this campy caper. The cousins' friendship-both with each other and the connections they make throughout their investigation-is a heartfelt counter-point to the Vossens' despicable familial relationships and tumultuous history. Characters read as white. Ages 12-up. Agent: Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The steps	Van Draanen, Wendelin	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Grades 8-12. Soon after a car crash kills Ruby Vossen's mother and aunt, her father remarries, suddenly introducing a stepmother and stepsiblings into her life. Ruby affectionately (rather, without much affection at all) refers to them as The Steps. Even worse, her father and uncle have an ongoing spat over their late wives' insurance money, resulting in them forbidding her and her beloved cousin, Sterling, from seeing each other. This persists until the night she and Sterling break the rules to investigate the robbery of their grandmother's priceless heirloom ring. Overnight, everyone becomes a suspect—starting with her. Ruby is forced to proactively conduct her own investigation into her family's secrets, including the shadowy lives of The Steps. This work finds its groove as a cross between a cozy mystery and a YA thriller with a dash of quirkiness in the form of its chess-obsessed protagonist, making for a somewhat lighter, but nevertheless engrossing, read. Ruby is a plucky, resilient protagonist who is easy to root for when surrounded by a family of ne'er-do-wells.		
The stern chase	Flanagan, John	Middle School	5-8			
				Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2025) An overview that delves into the paradox that "the same qualities that make plastic indispensable to modern life also make it an enormous threat to the planet." In this engaging narrative that's full of specific details and examples, Loonin describes the emergence of plastic in the 20th century, the threats it poses, the discouraging real-world obstacles to recycling, and what can be done to curb plastic pollution. She shows how pervasive its presence is in our lives and how complicated and expensive it is to handle these petroleum-based polymers so that they can be reused. Plastics are extremely durable, making accumulated waste an increasing problem that threatens animal and human health, for example, in the oceans, where currents form masses of debris like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Plastic manufacturers promote recycling, but the book points out the many practical challenges to its widespread implementation, citing a Greenpeace study that found that "only 5 to 6 percent of annual US consumer plastic waste was being recycled." The author covers efforts to curb plastic pollution through legislation and the creation of environmentally sustainable alternatives. The book ends on a sobering note—a breakdown in United Nations efforts to seek a global agreement on this crisis—but with examples from all over the world, colorful photographs, and plentiful quotations, this work will engage and inform readers. An information-rich and accessible guide to a distressing topic. (source notes, organizations and websites, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Too much plastic :bhow did this happen and what can be done?	Loonin, Meryl	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
When we go missing	Henry, April	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Henry's latest features the alternating perspectives of teens Willow and Dare, volunteers at a Portland animal shelter, and Ryan, a real estate agent who preys on teenage girls and young women. Willow, who has a tough time at home with an ill mother and distant stepfather, finds a camera memory card containing many photos of girls-some don't appear to know they're being photographed, while others seem frightened-and learns one of them is missing. The novel's pacing picks up halfway through, once Willow begins investigating; the first half is primarily centered around the day-to-day of the shelter, which is in danger of closing. Dare, meanwhile, is dealing with guilt over an accident that led to his being on probation-volunteering is a condition of his plea deal. Ryan's chapters offer a truly predatory view as his behavior escalates rapidly from illicit photography to luring with ruses with intent to assault and more. Both Willow and Dare are wealthy, in contrast to the unhoused population near the animal shelter. The teens are generally written as compassionate, but some descriptions are lacking, as when Dare refers to city bus passengers as "freaks and weirdos." Willow and Ryan are white; Dare has light brown skin and Italian and Japanese heritage. Sexual assault and murder of teenagers occur but are not described in graphic detail. VERDICT Recommended where Henry's books and blends of coming-of-age and mystery are popular.-Amanda Mastrull © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (May 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 17)) Grades 9-12. Seventeen-year-old Willow loves photography and animals, so her volunteer job as photographer for the animal shelter Finding Home is the perfect fit. Since the shelter is underfunded and understaffed, she also knows how to do every other job. While out walking one of the shelter dogs, she finds a camera card, and when she looks at it to see if she can figure out to whom it belongs, she is disturbed to see it is filled with pictures of young women, some of whom look frightened. The police aren't very interested in it, so Willow, along with new volunteer Dare, decide to investigate. When she learns that a few of the girls are actually missing, she becomes convinced that a serial killer is on the loose. The police are still not interested, so she tries to get the killer's attention on her own. The fast-paced plot is narrated from three perspectives: Willow's, Dare's, and the serial killer's, which keeps the pages turning. Known for her deeply suspenseful novels, Henry has done it again.	Publishers Weekly (May 5, 2025) A teen races to uncover the origin of disturbing photographs in this unsettling thriller by Henry (Slay Dead). Portland, Ore., 17-year-old Willow O'Connor, a talented photographer, works at Finding Home, an animal rescue agency that specializes in hard-to-adopt animals. Along with taking pictures for the agency's website, Willow completes most of the day-to-day duties with Finding Home's elderly director, and trains new volunteer Dare, also 17, in everything from how to walk a dog to the rules and hierarchy of the local dog park. Then Willow finds a lost camera memory card on the sidewalk that's filled with hundreds of posed and unposed pictures of pretty girls, some of whom appear terrified. After the police brush her off-"It's not a crime to take people's photos"-and she finds a picture of herself on the card, she enlists Dare to help investigate. Interspersed throughout steady third-person narration following Willow and Dare are chapters detailing real estate agent Ryan, who readers quickly learn is the owner of the lost memory card. The well-paced narrative effectively balances the central mystery with numerous subplots, including the adoption agency's financial ups and downs and Willow and Dare's budding romance. Comedic canines such as French bulldog Pierre provide laughs amid the tension. Most characters are white. Ages 14-up. Agent: Wendy Schmalz, Wendy Schmalz Agency. (May) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Wild song	Gourlay, Candy	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress starred (September 12, 2025) Gr 7 Up-This companion to Bone Talk features Luki, a teenage girl of the Bontok, the indigenous Igorot people in the Philippines, in the early 20th century. Seeking to find her own identity and future in the wake of her mother's death and wanting to shed the weight of community expectations, Luki seizes an opportunity to travel to the United States as part of an exhibition of tribal people from all across the globe at the World's Fair in St. Louis. What begins as an impulsive escape from all that she has ever known becomes an adventure that reshapes Luki's ideas of friendship, freedom, family, and home. This historical fiction offers a fresh perspective on the World's Fair and the history of American imperialism. The beliefs, practices, traditions, and values of varying cultures are treated respectfully in this narrative, and it contains many vignettes that compare Igorot ways with those of Americans and Europeans at the turn of that era. The realities of race, class, and gender in this place and period of history are rendered here with words that are honest and moving without being overly emotional or moralistic. VERDICT Lovers of historical fiction will thoroughly enjoy this novel, which is recommended for all junior high and high school collections.-Kelly Kingrey-Edwards © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (September 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 1)) Grades 9-12. In 1804, the U.S. brought about 1,000 Indigenous people from the recently conquered Philippine Islands to work in living exhibits for the St. Louis World's Fair. When Truman Hunt comes to Luki's village to recruit participants, she is excited for the opportunity to visit America and escape the rigid confines of her village, where she's expected to marry and have children and not allowed to hunt, simply because she's a girl. The journey is arduous, but Luki remains optimistic, encouraging her fellow Igorots (the generic term used for all Filipino natives). When she meets Sadie Locket, a sharpshooting trick rider from the Wild West show, Luki is thrilled to be asked to work as Sadie's personal assistant. But slowly, Luki becomes aware of indignities pressed upon the Igorot and other people of color involved in the fair, and she wonders if she made the right choice. Gourlay explores some of the consequences of colonialism with nuance and sensitivity. Luki is a spirited character who thoughtfully observes the injustices of the world around her yet maintains a sense of hope and optimism. Most secondary characters are also multifaceted, helping readers get a feel for the complexities of American and European imperialism. An author's note provides important contextual information about the historical characters and events in the novel. Give this to fans of well-researched historical fiction featuring authentic voices.	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) A Filipino girl travels to America to take part in the 1904 World's Fair and finds herself confronting uncomfortable truths in this story based on real events. In the U.S.-controlled Philippines, 16-year-old Luki finds herself pushing against the rigid gender expectations of her Bontok community; she's a skilled hunter and has no desire to marry, although a romantic relationship has blossomed between her and childhood friend Samkad. When members of Indigenous groups, including the Bontoks, are recruited to travel to America to "live in a village built specially" for them at the St. Louis World's Fair, she jumps at the opportunity. Luki is initially awed by the grandeur of the fair and swept up into a friendship with a charismatic white American woman. But the luster begins to fade as the Filipinos are expected to perform their cultures to suit the expectations of American audiences. As Luki learns unsettling truths, she's forced to question her place in the fair—and what her life will look like when it ends. The narrative examines the exploitation of Indigenous peoples and the commodification of culture, expertly framed by the moving story of a young woman longing to pave her own path in life. This stand-alone novel revisits characters from Bone Talk (2019) and will be welcomed by fans of Gourlay's work and new readers alike. A powerful coming-of-age story exploring identity and exploitation during a little-known historical moment. (note to readers, note on terminology, historical notes, discussion questions) (Historical fiction. 13-18)
99 Things to Do Before You Finish High School (Revised and Updated)	Stalder, Erika	Young Adult	9798348025106	School Library Journal (February 1, 2026) Gr 6 Up-An engaging, wide-ranging guide that introduces teens to practical skills and experiences they may not encounter in a traditional classroom. The book blends familiar milestones, such as getting a driver's license, writing a résumé, or even confessing a crush, with less commonly discussed topics like talk therapy, astrology, and determining one's blood type. By pairing everyday challenges with more unexpected subjects, the book makes some of its atypical entries feel more approachable and relevant. The content is organized into distinct sections, offering structure while still allowing readers to jump to the topics that interest them most. This broad skill set ultimately serves as an accessible outlet for teens who may have questions they don't yet know how to articulate. The book acknowledges the uncertainties and curiosities that come with adolescence, providing guidance in areas both practical and personal. For readers who prefer a more collaborative or conversational approach, this tone could be off-putting and might discourage them from fully engaging with the material. VERDICT A useful and thoughtful resource, offering a wide array of skills and ideas that encourage teens to explore, reflect, and prepare for life beyond graduation, even if they choose to take its advice with a bit of independence.-Jessica Calaway © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) Teens fighting boredom or looking for alternatives to screen time will find inspiration in this trove of suggestions for activities. In this revised edition, the authors recommend 99 activities that teens can try out in their spare time to make the most of this period of their lives when "curiosity and insightfulness are at an all-time high." Short segments—most are two pages long—and a conversational tone make this book a snappy read that invites young people to browse rather than read cover to cover. The suggestions are organized thematically into nine sections: "For Your Personal Development," "With/For Friends," "With/For Family," "For Your Body," "To Get To Know the World Around You," "To Express Yourself," "For Your Community and Environment," "Because You Should," and "Because You're Only Young Once." The activities range from "Sing Karaoke" to "Understand the Stock Market," "Reach Out to a Long-Lost Relative," and "Join a Political Campaign." The book also suggests useful, practical pursuits—opening a savings account, learning basic car maintenance—that readers may not encounter in school. Each entry has a brief introductory paragraph, several short paragraphs under the header "How To Do It," and a text box with additional information or guidance. Occasional spot illustrations add some visual interest to the simple layout. Because the book includes references to specific retailers, social media trends, and online platforms, it may age quickly. A helpful guide for a self-motivated teen looking to expand their horizons. (Nonfiction. 12-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
A Better World Is Possible –Global Youth Confront the Climate Crisis	Novgorodoff, Danica	Young Adult	9798368783734	School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-When it comes to the climate crisis and its global effect, some actions can seem too small to make an impact, some problems can seem too big. What can one do? This title not only answers the question, "how can I help?" but also offers readers a glimmer of hope. Through the stories of four teens and the insights of the coauthors, this book equips readers with real-world strategies to use for their personal crusades. This brilliantly illustrated graphic novel explores the actual crisis, as research shows, the world is facing-climate change. While it seems daunting, through the information that is provided as scientific and factual interludes, readers can see how this all affects different aspects of life-from politics to religion to identities. The book does not come off as sanctimonious but affirms that change seems accessible and is not dependent on age, time served in the battle of climate change, or how much or how little passion a person has about the issue. By allowing readers to see the interconnectedness of the issues and how typical teenagers took small actions to build community and organize advocacy events on behalf of protecting our world, it is easy to understand the following quote: "Every single action is a raindrop. They flow together, becoming a force unstoppable as that of gravity. Remember that water has the power to cut through rock." This would be a powerful addition to any collection, but especially to those that already house Merrie-Ellen Wilcox's Taking Care of Where We Live and Nora Dásnes's Save Our Forest! VERDICT Climate crisis is a real thing that affects all walks of life, and this title empowers readers to make the world better.-Cat Miserendino © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 9-12. Subramanian and Novgorodoff's comprehensive look at climate change understands the importance of drawing the reader in with human stories first and then providing the scientific and historical overviews. As readers follow the experiences of four young climate activists with wide-ranging experiences in the buildup to the 2018 Youth Climate March, they'll learn about both the human impacts of climate change already underway and the root causes of the crisis right alongside them. The creators don't shy away from any of the emotions evoked by the climate crisis—fear, anxiety, grief, and hope are all here in equal measure. Novgorodoff's watercolor style is absolutely perfect for this topic, showcasing both the power of visual comics metaphors and the beauty of the natural world. The interludes on ecological grief and religion's importance in climate action are particularly important, as neither of these topics has seen sufficient attention in other climate comics. While a suggested resources section is provided, and there are countless engaging infographics, time lines, and in-text references, there is not a complete bibliography. Targeted primarily to teens and young adults, this comic will nonetheless have wider appeal, particularly for those invested in how Generation Z is learning about, experiencing, and acting to halt climate change.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) In New York City in 2019, four young American climate activists from diverse backgrounds—Xiyi Bastida, Jamie Margolin, Rebeca Sabnam, and Shiv Soin—helped to organize what became the world's largest climate protest. As they share their histories and motivations in this work of graphic nonfiction, their stories converge with those of Subramanian (an Asian American environmental journalist) and Novgorodoff (an author and illustrator who's white-presenting). The teens' and authors' personal narratives and family and geographical histories intersect with science and politics to highlight the climate crisis and ways of meaningful changemaking. Infographics break down the science and explain the complexities and far-reaching impact of climate change. Vivid and detailed illustrations immerse readers in stories that connect the dots, showing how the climate crisis is "showing up in different ways in different places"—and that its effects are "unequally distributed." Moments filled with awe and demonstrations of youth power appear beside information about habitats and biodiversity, extreme weather events, politics, industry, religion, and justice. The authors succinctly and lucidly unpack the science, and the solutions range from the easy to the ambitious in ways that are inspiring and not overwhelming. A comprehensive and beautiful book on climate change that shows how, together, many drops make an ocean. (authors' note, resources) (Graphic nonfiction. 12-18)
A curious kind of magic	Rutherford, Mara	Young Adult	9781250359889	School Library Journal Xpress (September 5, 2025) Gr 8 Up-A cozy fantasy that will appeal to fans of Ava Reid's A Study in Drowning and Margaret Owen's Little Thieves. When the taxidermied chimera at the front door of the shop intones, "Beware the girl in the oxblood cloak," Willow Stokes is so surprised it spoke at all that she doesn't connect the words to her first and only customer of the day. It's difficult to run a successful curiosity shop when her recently deceased father was a notorious charlatan, and everyone knows the store doesn't contain any magic. That is, until Brianna Hargrave walks in. Born with the ability to turn anything she touches magical, Bri needs to find the spell book that can break her curse. Willow agrees to help, provided Bri uses her power to enchant some items in the shop. Thus begins a folklore-inspired quest fueled by Bri and Willow's contrasting emotional arcs as they both grapple with how they connect to others. A romantic subplot between Willow and her best friend Finlay adds a slice-of-life quality to the fantasy world, while her stress about rent and money grounds the novel in highly relatable problems. The village is a character unto itself, imbuing the world with a chaotic eccentricity that magic only exacerbates. While the plot meanders into cozy corners rather than at a productive pace, it ultimately finds a satisfying resolution. Main cast reads as white. VERDICT A whimsical novel for readers who enjoy more character-driven work. Consider as an additional purchase.-Emmy Neal © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Grades 8-12. Willow put up emotional walls after her father passed unexpectedly and doesn't consider much beyond survival. Her only driving thought is keeping her father's magical curiosity shop alive, but how can she do that when her father was a notorious sham and nothing in the shop is actually magic? Things come to a head when she discovers a newcomer, Brianna, who has the ability to bring magical objects to life. Willow isn't sure what to do with her at first or whether Brianna's a romantic rival for the boy Willow can't admit she has feelings for, but she makes a deal with Brianna: enchant the objects in the shop, so long as Willow helps find the cure for the curse Brianna was born with. Although the plot weaves a little, the twists and turns will keep readers engaged and hoping for happy resolutions for the trio. Willow is highly relatable—flawed but wanting to be a better person—and easy to root for as she grows on her journey to save the shop and herself.	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) A surly shopgirl, a kindly boy, and a girl who's struggling with a curse forge an unlikely alliance. After the death of her Da, 17-year-old Willow Stokes manages their family business, Edward Stokes's Cabinet of Magical Curiosities, a store with precarious finances that sells purportedly magical items. When Brianna Hargrave arrives in Willow's small village seeking a grimoire, the two, joined by Willow's gentlehearted best friend (and possible love interest), Finlay Barrow, find themselves on a whirlwind adventure to save Willow's shop and break Bri's curse. Willow has a tough exterior, preferring to keep her feelings internalized, something that's becoming increasingly difficult as she wrestles with her newfound feelings for Finlay. Bri, on the other hand, has a gentle demeanor, but she grapples with self-imposed isolation—if she touches anyone, she'll imbue them with magic. Rutherford's sweetly wrought fantasy is bespelling in itself, combining magic, witches, an enchanted dragon egg, a heist, and a swoonworthy friends-to-lovers romance. From a visit to a grimoire library to a tempestuous journey on the high seas, fantasy fans will find much to enjoy here, from the popular, recognizable tropes to the themes of found family and working through grief, all presented with a dash of wish fulfillment. Willow, Brianna, and Finlay are white, and there's some racial diversity among the supporting characters. Bewitching. (Fantasy. 13-17)
Age of dinosaurs	Yang, Yang	Young Adult	9781612545288			
All the hidden monsters	Jordan, Amie	Young Adult	9781546136613	School Library Journal (March 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-Sage always wanted to work for the magical police force of Manchester's underworld, but as a werewolf and not an all-power warlock. When her friend Lucy is murdered, Sage is given the chance to join the force on a temporary trial basis, partnered with Oren, the department's most dangerous investigator. Oren, for his part, doesn't need a partner, and isn't keen on babysitting a young werewolf while he's trying to solve a case. Forced to work together, the two soon discover they have a lot in common. Readers will find Sage sympathetic, with her haunted past making it clear she carries a lot of grief and guilt. Scenes with supporting characters-Sage's roommate P, Benion and Hozier from the force-become warm and comforting as the story progresses, adding a found-family aspect to Sage's journey. Though the narrative is written in a way that suggests Oren and Sage grow closer early on, it isn't until halfway through that they open up on page. In other ways, Jordan's debut novel simply lacks the innovative narrative and worldbuilding elements that would otherwise help it stand out in the genre. VERDICT This fantastical detective mystery will circulate best in libraries with avid and forgiving fantasy readers.-Jolie Hanlon © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. A broody warlock, a nervous werewolf, and a particularly domestic poltergeist walk into a bar, but it's not for quiz night. Oren, Sage, and P, the respective members of this unusual trio, are brought together to solve a murder—a task that Sage hopes will make the Arcānum, the magical police force, understand that being a werewolf shouldn't preclude her from solving crimes. The basic, initial world building expands as the investigation progresses, while this effectively prevents information overwhelm, it also results in a somewhat disjointed, fastpaced plot that stymies any efforts the reader might make toward thinking through the mystery themselves. The characters are largely minimally developed, making it easy to confuse minor characters. Interestingly, despite Oren's adherence to the broody-with-a-tragic-backstory archetype built into modern expectations of YA urban fantasy, there is just a slight hint of romance that manifests only during the final twist. While romance and mystery fans are unlikely to find what they're looking for here, those searching for a "no thoughts, just vibes" supernatural romp will enjoy themselves thoroughly.	Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2025) A werewolf and a warlock team up to solve a supernatural murder in this trilogy opener by debut author Jordan. When Sage goes to check on Lucy, her fellow werewolf friend, she finds dangerous, enigmatic warlock Oren in Lucy's Manchester, England, apartment. He's investigating her brutal murder to determine if it's an Upside, or human, crime, or a Downside, or supernatural, one that would fall in his jurisdiction. Though Oren feels something about the crime scene is off, it's Sage who discovers the supernatural link. Roderick, Oren's captain in the Arcānum (paranormal police), knows Sage—she's applied many times, but the Arcānum only hires warlocks. Still, he gives her Lucy's case as a trial, forcing solitary Oren to take her on as a temporary partner. The slow-burn first third of the book introduces the secret supernatural society while the investigation unfolds and the characters' interactions reveal Sage's survivor's guilt-induced motivations and peel back Oren's prickly layers. The immersive worldbuilding mitigates the slow initial pace and Oren's not-so-pleasant personality until the heroes begin to thaw toward each other in a rewarding development. Once the murder mystery plot picks up steam and complexity, the narrative tension builds until the climax, which is a mixed bag—the solution to the mystery is nifty but comes via a villain's monologue and relies on a foundation of side characters' work rather than the protagonists' efforts. Most characters present white. Vivid characters and worldbuilding will leave readers eager for the sequel. (Paranormal thriller. 14-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
All the lost souls	Jordan, Amie	Young Adult	9781546136637	School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 7 Up-Following the murder investigation he ran with Sage, the only werewolf in the warlock-run Arc num, Oren, has become astonishingly domestic. Aside from midnight chats with P, Sage's motherly poltergeist of a best friend, and regular family-style meals, Oren's new experiences also include brooding over the tragedy of an immortal(ish) warlock assassin's crush on a werewolf with a human-length lifespan. After Arc num leadership sends the duo to sort out a deadly mystery involving feuding werewolves and witches, it becomes clear that Sage might be an illegal werewolf hybrid. The paranormal intrigue is baffled by an unfortunate amount of second-book miscommunication and lies, as well as unnecessary romantic jealousy. However, Jordan's writing has overall matured since the first installment, evening out plot progression and character development that was previously somewhat erratic. The worldbuilding continues in the spirit of Eoin Colfer's Artemis Fowl in the best way, taking creative license with default fantasy elements. VERDICT A second installment that makes the series a worthwhile investment. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) Following All the Hidden Monsters (2025), Sage is sent to deal with a volatile feud. Unhappy that he lost the bet and had to allow Sage to join the paranormal police force Arcānum as the first werewolf among warlocks, Roderick, their captain, sends her to an isolated part of the Jura Mountains. There she'll attempt to resolve tensions between the local werewolves and witches. It's a poison pill assignment—the witches will believe her to be biased, and territorial werewolves look poorly on non-pack werewolves—and an eruption of violence that kills Sage would suit Roderick nicely. Oren insists on accompanying her, letting her take the lead in the case, which starts off simple but escalates into dangers and unveils past wrongs. The pair grapple with their feelings and the impossibility of their relationship due to their different lifespans in yearning-filled descriptions of their messy emotions that fans of the genre will devour. Oren is keeping secret from Sage some suspicions he has—if true, the lifespan obstacle might be moot but other dangers would arise. Juxtaposed with the slow-burn romance, P's storyline includes the sweetly done beginnings of a flirtation. The relationships focus on emotional over physical connection, using strong characterization to drive readers' investment. The steadily building mystery expands the world's magic and factional conflicts. Aside from occasional mentions of geographical heritage, most characters present European, and Jordan uses the supernatural species for commentary on multiculturalism and other social themes. Emotionally decadent and immersive. (Paranormal mystery. 12-18)	
Animals with jobs : putting instinct and training to work	Mooney, Carla	Young Adult	9781678203221	Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2022) An informative pick spotlighting animals as detectives, actors, medical and military helpers, and more. Zeke, a trained seizure alert and response dog for a competitive teen horse rider; Pearl, a German shepherd trained in detecting explosives and other combat security needs; and police dog Tabasco, who has uncovered large amounts of illegal drugs, are just a few of the animals profiled in this volume. Not limited to canines, the book also features capuchin monkeys aiding those who have mobility issues like spinal cord injuries, patrol horses used by mounted police units, drug-detecting pigs, and bomb-sniffing bees. This straightforward title is ideal for student projects or general classroom usage since animals are a source of great interest for many young people. Divided into four chapters—"Animals in the Military," "Animal Detectives," "Animals in Service," and "Animal Actors"—this book outlines the myriad ways animals of all sorts have been a vital part of society, performing tasks that enrich and even save the lives of humans. Sidebar features include quotes from people who train, work with, or benefit from working animals and profiles of animals performing heroic tasks, including carrier pigeons during both world wars and dogs trained to sniff out cancer. Full-color photographs are included every few pages to demonstrate some of the many functions animals can perform. Data-packed; an accessible choice for struggling readers interested in animals. (source notes, organizations and websites, further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Art Cure --The Science of How the Arts Save Lives	Fancourt, Daisy	Adult	9781250364531	Library Journal (December 1, 2025) The central argument of Fancourt's (psychobiology and epidemiology, Univ. Coll., London) first book is that everyone is an artist in their own way, so everyone needs art in their lives to flourish. Having spent years studying the effects of art on the well-being of people from all walks of life, the award-winning science communicator shares inspiring and heartwarming stories of people who have been transformed by music, dance, painting, and other forms of art. Practically every paragraph references a different study that shows the benefits of one aspect of art or another, with the author's personal experiences sprinkled throughout as well. Fancourt's book taps into a vast number of ways that art can heighten well-being, from general fitness to mental health to neurological improvements, and suggests what a "daily dose" of art can look like in readers' lives; her audience may be inspired to take up a new hobby or two. VERDICT An easily digestible read bridging art and science, this is wonderful for book groups and offers plenty of potential for library programming as well. -Amanda Ray © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Backbeats A History of Rock and Roll in Fifteen Drummers	Lingan, John	Adult	9781668056240	Publishers Weekly (November 3, 2025) Music writer Lingan (Homeplace) celebrates the unsung musicians "who often go uncredited, who sit all night between the amps," with this animated tribute to 15 of rock's most influential drummers. Covering the 1950s to the 2010s, he highlights famous names like the Beatles' Ringo Starr and the Rolling Stones' Charlie Watts, whose sense of pace and rhythm shaped the "refined looseness" of the band's sound. Less well-known names include Hal Blaine, who recorded for Phil Spector and with the Beach Boys, and who added accessories to the drum kit that expanded the range of notes one could play, inspiring the "sprawling drum rigs" of Van Halen's Alex Van Halen and Rush's Neil Pert. Also spotlighted is Moe Tucker of the Velvet Underground, who shattered "all the usual requirements for drummers" with her "strange" kit (it featured "an upturned bass drum that she hit with a mallet, and no cymbals") and unconventional image and performance style (after her, drummers "no longer had to be a boy, be traditionally technically gifted, or even play sitting down with four limbs"). Closing out the book are odes to Dave Grohl (Nirvana, Foo Fighters) and Questlove (the Roots), both of whom have married newer technology with a classic rock sound. Peppered with colorful anecdotes (Ringo Starr "played with such wild force that stagehands would screw a plywood plank to the back of his risers to prevent his stool from skidding off"), the profiles shed light on how drummers have helped shape rock music's "many sounds and styles." It's both a vibrant group biography and a fresh perspective on what makes rock and roll special. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.		
Bang! the Art, History, and Science of Fireworks	Miller, Ron	Young Adult	9798765660447	School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Covering many aspects of the subject, this practical guide will give readers a broad spectrum of introductory knowledge on fireworks. The first few chapters focus on firework history, with an emphasis on Western development and only brief mention of Chinese history. The coverage of modern usage of fireworks in Europe and America is informative and varied, discussing manufacturing of commercial fireworks, celebrations, practical use of pyrotechnics, such as military, and fireworks as an amateur hobby. One chapter includes brief discussions on modern cultural usage of fireworks around the world. Emphasis is placed on safety precautions surrounding fireworks, particularly regarding current manufacturing and consumer usage. Miller closes with a concise overview of the future of fireworks, mentioning drawbacks, such as environmental concerns, and includes some alternatives. The straightforward narrative is enhanced by color photographs and interesting sidebars. Back matter includes source notes, bibliography, glossary, further resources, and index. VERDICT While it is light on non-Western coverage, this work is a useful addition for those looking to build up their STEM collections.-Karen Bilton © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) A thorough overview of the history and science of fireworks. Beginning with a definition of pyrotechnics and a survey of the history of fireworks, Miller lays out their many cultural and functional uses. His fascinating, deeply researched dive into the global historical context continues throughout the book, with text boxes describing prominent families and businesses. Later chapters cover technical considerations, the manufacturing process and its dangers, common types of fireworks, and regulations in the U.S. and other countries. The chapter entitled "Practical Fireworks" is particularly interesting: It discusses varieties of pyrotechnics that may not be recognized as such, including matches, emergency flares, vehicle airbags, and special effects devices in movies. Another chapter outlines celebrations that have a fireworks component, such as Bastille Day, Diwali, the Fourth of July, and Lunar New Year. After discussing safety and environmental concerns, the book concludes with a look at emerging alternative technologies that address them. The book omits mention of the negative impact of fireworks on wildlife and glosses over the stress experienced by some individuals with PTSD ("They can sound like gunfire, which might upset some people"). The bright design includes photographs, reproductions of artwork and ephemera, and useful diagrams. The clearly written accompanying text is marked by accessible organization and a careful selection of facts that together create an engaging read that's filled with details without overwhelming readers. Illuminating and informative. (glossary, source notes, selected bibliography, further information, index, image credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)	
Be Right Back	Wood, Bill	Young Adult	9798368799964	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) In this follow-up to Let's Split Up (2025), a group of friends must face the past in order to move forward. When Cam's boyfriend, Jonesy, and friends Amber and Buffy return home, they're hopeful that their first media interview since the events of the previous year will allow them to set the record straight. They survived their encounter with the Carrington Ghoul, and now, after graduation, only Cam is still left in Sanera, California; he's working at their old high school as an assistant coach. Everyone is returning for the Sanera Hallowed Fall Fest, Mayor Gomez' newly established three-day event honoring the Carrington Ghoul's victims, but their plans go awry when a new mystery arises, one that feels chillingly familiar. The pacing ramps up and tensions rise as the mystery-solving gang reunites. Every time they think they have the case figured out, new information is thoughtfully and creatively revealed. There's continuity in the portrayals of the lead characters, who largely present white and have matured since readers first met them. The narrative switches among their perspectives, and information from the first book is folded in as the plot progresses, helping to orient readers even as more clues are revealed. This work delivers on its engaging premise with a plot that offers gripping twists and turns. A fast-paced mystery that keeps readers on the edge of their seats until the very end. (Mystery. 14-18)		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Beast Becomes Her	Seitz, Crystal	Young Adult	9781665979573	School Library Journal (February 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-In her second young adult book, Seitz uses Norse mythology to ask what it means for a woman to embrace anger as part of her identity. Edith Holden is only a teenager, but she has a lot to manage. Her parents died by murder-suicide, and she has anger she can't seem to suppress. When she learns that she is a berserker-a human who turns into an animal when enraged-she worries that she has inherited her dad's violent temperament along with his brown hair and gray eyes. After learning the truth about her family, Edith goes away to a secret Icelandic school, where she must learn to control her anger before an even greater threat destroys her and the boy she's beginning to love. Seitz is a confident storyteller, offering up surprising twists, creepy villains, and convincing red herrings. She's created a book that is by turns eerie, violent, and touching, as Edith comes to terms with her traumatic past. The story may be too intense for some readers, but it will have others hurrying to learn the truth about the spate of murders threatening Edith's school. The cast of characters is diverse. VERDICT Recommended for those who enjoy mysteries with elements of horror, fantasy, and strong female characters. -Talea Anderson © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Edith wants nothing more than to be a "good" girl. After witnessing her father's abuse, she has sworn off relationships and rage. However, after a boy harasses her, she unknowingly unleashes her claws in response. Turns out, she's a berserker, a descendant of ancient warriors with the ability to transform into ferocious animals. She's sent off to Skallagrím Academy, which is located in remote Iceland, to learn how to balance her abilities. Shortly after her arrival, a fellow student is brutally murdered, and Edith is present when the body is discovered. She's quickly named a suspect by the novel's other POV character, Amund—a hunter who seeks his toxic father's approval—and Edith is left to prove herself innocent and avoid becoming a victim herself. In her sophomore work, Seitz explores female rage and breaking cycles in a thoughtful, uncensored way. It's delightfully suspenseful, though prone to overexplanation. A disclaimer regarding the discussions of abuse and violence is included. Recommended for fans of Nordic mythology, female rage, Teen Wolf, and Wednesday.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) A teenage girl, living with foster parents since her parents died in a murder-suicide, learn she's a magical being—and possibly a killer's next victim. After Edith shockingly grows claws and accidentally draws blood from a boy who menacingly grabs her after she makes it clear she's not receptive, she learns she's a descendant of a long line of beserkir, who can take the form of a wolf, bear, or boar. Self-described "good girl" Edith is naturally incredulous. To get the charges dropped, she heads to a wilderness therapy program for troubled youth—Iceland's Skallagrím Academy, where ancient Norse magic is a way of life. There, she meets witches, seers, hunters, and other beserkir. On her second day at Skallagrím, a student is murdered—and Edith becomes hunter Amund's prime suspect as he investigates the crime. She's determined to prove her innocence while also trying to stay alive. Despite the threat Amund poses to Edith, the pull between the two is undeniable. The delicious twist of their forbidden will-they, won't-they romance is as riveting as the race to find out who the true culprit is. The leads' dual first-person narrative invites readers to witness questioning, determination, and growth from the perspectives of both a hunter and a berserker, serving to enhance this thriller whose mystery is woven into the magic of the book. Main characters present white. A completely compelling read. (author's note with resources) (Fantasy. 14-18)
Call your mother	Gold, Tracy C	Lower Elementary	9781641709040	School Library Journal (March 1, 2024) PreS-Gr 2-A peek into the life of a mother and daughter as the child goes from infant to adult, and then begins the cycle of motherhood over again. Gold visits key events from childhood to adulthood, always with the refrain, "Call your mother." From being an overtired new mom to a seasoned mother letting her baby go into adulthood, mothers are always there to answer the call. Gold's melodic text transports her characters between life stages with ease. Mineker's dreamy illustrations take the protagonist from baby to mother herself, with bright and vibrant colors that allow the mother-daughter bond to leap from the pages. VERDICT A beautiful tribute to mothers and daughters of all ages; recommended for early childhood libraries and book selections for Mother's Day.-Brittany Morgan © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews starred (February 1, 2026) A picture book that chronicles the importance of a mother's care over the years. Gold's story follows an unnamed mother and her child and their routines of everyday support. Through rhyming lines, "When you're hungry, when you're sad, when you don't know why you're mad," readers are reminded to "call your mother" in moments of need. From a baby crying in a crib to a toddler nursing a skinned knee, a child nervous about school, or an older child seeking study help, the narrative spans decades while maintaining the focus on the importance of a mother's constant love and attention. When the child becomes an adult and has her own baby, she asks, "Mom, how did you do it?" Her aging mother replies, "I did just the same as you, I would call my mother too." The accompanying illustration—the mother in a rocking chair with a photo of her own mother behind her—captures a powerful double meaning. The story's soft illustrations beautifully complement the prose, tracing the intertwined lives of a mother and her child with gentle aplomb. Light tones of green wash over the pages help paint this truly beautiful and thoughtful portrait of motherhood. A touching love letter to mothers everywhere and a helpful guide for how best to appreciate them.	
Casters and crowns	Lowham, Elizabeth	Young Adult	9781639933204	Booklist (October 15, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 4)) Grades 8-12. Brave princess Aria is desperate to protect her kingdom from dangerous casters, who use their magical powers for wrongdoing, according to her father, the king. But she also wants nothing more than to take over for her father. To stave off war, Aria seeks out Widow Morton, a powerful caster and enemy of her father's. But Aria's bravery doesn't pay off in the way she'd hoped: Morton curses her to stay awake for 100 nights, slowly sapping her strength. Another caster, Baron Reeves, might be able to help Aria's fate, and when they ultimately meet, their obvious feelings for each other take center stage and move the story ahead at a quick pace. Lowham builds compelling emotional conflict both between characters and internally, as Aria struggles with her own desire to do everything right. The banter with Baron is sharp, and the themes of breaking away from difficult family expectations and discovering what it means to truly love and trust will make this a strong choice for fans of magic and royal intrigue with a dash of romance.	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2024) Crown Princess Aria has mentally tallied every mistake she's made since she was 8, but one moment of misguided optimism sees her trapped by the greatest mistake of her life. The execution of Charles Morton, heir to his family's estate, drags the kingdom to the brink of war. Eighteen-year-old Aria, against her father's orders, tries to broker peace with the grieving Dowager Countess Morton, who stands for the malignant magic-wielding Casters, but her negotiations fail, with terrible consequences. Charles' mother places a curse that will kill off the king's line one by one over the course of 100 days. Meanwhile, newly orphaned Guillaume Reeves faces troubles of his own. As a Caster, he's stripped of the title of baron, crushing his hopes of having a voice in the kingdom. When circumstances bring Aria and Guillaume together, what starts off as an exercise in mutual benefit (and distrust) steadily blossoms into something deeper—something that might mend the break between Casters and crown for good...assuming they don't run out of time. Though the worldbuilding is somewhat shallow, the intricate plot unfolds steadily, allowing for deep character development. Lowham gives familial relationships as much weight as the slow-burn romance, which feels wonderfully believable. Heavy themes—the overcoming of internal and external trauma, the difficulties of effecting change against generations of prejudice—are handled sensitively and are served well by the rich prose. Most characters present white. A leisurely paced fantasy with refreshing emotional depth. (Fantasy. 13-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Celestial Banquet	Lim, Roselle	Young Adult	9798318936005	Booklist (June 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 19)) Grades 7-12. Winning the Celestial Banquet would have many benefits for talented young noodle chef Cai; in addition to relieving her of the burden of needing multiple jobs just to survive, it could also solidify the independence and continued sovereignty of her peninsular home, always under threat of annexation by the larger Continent. Convincing her local minor god, Kama, to sponsor a three-person team is the first step; then she and her two teammates must travel far to the competition in Xianling. Meanwhile, those teammates—Bo, a poor local childhood friend; and Seon, a wealthy new acquaintance—are competing for her affection. To win a peach of immortality and all the accompanying boons, Cai must work with little experience to survive various trials, as well as untrustworthy and shifting alliances. Intricate world building creates a well-defined framework, and a complex competition with creative challenges keeps the plot moving steadily despite the expansive cast. Southeast Asian and Chinese influences abound, and though the food scenes are not as numerous as they could be, they are mouth-watering, nonetheless.	Kirkus Reviews (May 1, 2025) A cooking competition for the gods spells danger—and offers great possibilities. Sixteen-year-old Cai has always had a passion for cooking, instilled in her by her late father, a skilled chef. Though she runs only a humble noodle stall, her dream is to win the Celestial Banquet, a cooking competition in honor of and judged by the gods. Not only does the winning chef gain recognition—important for someone from a backwater like Cai’s Peninsula—but they also receive a peach of immortality, worth unimaginable riches. In order to enter, Cai will have to convince her cantankerous local minor god, Kama, to sponsor a team. And if she hopes to win, she’ll have to excel at the culinary tasks posed by the gods, contend with the Empress’s machinations, and juggle her attraction to two different boys, Bo and Seon, both of whom are attending the competition with her. The love triangle storyline is balanced by the presence of intriguing side characters and plentiful descriptions of mouthwatering food. The cooking competition, while cutthroat and full of deadly perils, offers an original take on the usual divine tests of skills found in fantasy novels, offering readers a fresh set of tasks to savor. The worldbuilding, which is influenced by both East and Southeast Asia, is a delightful medley of cuisines and cultures. Delicious and dangerous, with a side helping of romance. (map, Celestial Banquet teams) (Fantasy. 13-18)	Publishers Weekly starred (March 24, 2025) Every 10 years, the three major gods of the Continent host the Celestial Banquet, a competition in which five teams, each sponsored by a minor god, risk everything for a priceless reward. Determined to honor her deceased father’s memory, 16-year-old noodle chef Cai convinces the local god, Kama, to assemble a team for the first time in a century. Joined by wealthy playboy Seon and wandering warrior Tala, Cai competes against the best chefs on the Continent in a tournament designed to test her like never before, as the gods are capricious and cruel and the losers of the contest rarely leave in one piece, if at all. As each round claims new victims, Cai must reexamine the role of cooking in her life and contend with competing affections for Seon and her childhood friend Bo. In this dazzling East Asian-influenced fantasy, Lim (Night for Day, for adults) weaves together deadly magic, deliciously described dishes, and intensely personal stakes to deliver a tale that satisfies all the senses. The inclusion of a love triangle sometimes detracts from the heightened atmosphere of the banquet; nevertheless, the story’s ingredients blend seamlessly. Ages 12-up. Agent: Jenny Bent, Bent Agency. (June) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Climate change : can humanity adapt?	Nakaya, Andrea C	Young Adult	9781678210700	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) Climate change is here. What can we humans do? Asserting that we’re already experiencing climate change—and there will be more to come—this short survey offers an accessible overview of human adaptation to this new state of affairs. In clear exposition studded with examples from near and far and references to expert sources, Nakaya begins by presenting the need for action, noting the marginalized populations who are most vulnerable to climate change–related hazards. Eventually, however, all of humanity will be affected. The author describes helpful actions, such as managing water resources, designing green urban infrastructure, preserving or restoring ecosystems, and developing early warning, monitoring, and evaluation systems for disasters. She notes challenges, too, including cost, government inaction, insufficient data, and a widespread lack of feelings of urgency. She offsets this litany of obstacles with encouraging examples of successes: rainwater harvesting at a school in Tanzania, mitigating sea level rise in Tuvalu, restoring wetlands in Colombia, and more. In the final chapters, readers learn about what needs to be done in the future to reduce emissions, educate people, invest in research, and take proactive steps to prepare for natural disasters. Most pages include either a photo or a text box, breaking up the paragraphs of text. The latest sources listed date to the summer of 2024, which unfortunately makes parts of this work already feel dated given recent U.S. policy changes. Solid information superseded by current events. (source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-16)		
Death's end	Liu, Cixin	Adult	9780765377104	Booklist (October 1, 2016 (Online)) The final volume in Liu’s Three-Body trilogy picks up where the last left off, with Earth and the nearby “three-body” or triple sun system of Trisolaris in an interstellar cold war, both civilizations afraid of broadcasting their location to the “dark forest” of paranoid intergalactic civilizations. Through the story of Cheng Xin, a woman whose life spans multiple crises and transformations in Earth and Trisolaran society, the reader is exposed to Liu’s expansive and breathtaking speculation about the possibilities of civilization not only in the universe, but in multiple dimensions. Liu’s work is hard sf that, rather than focusing on the near future of the Earth, takes the entire future history of the universe as its subject. The strong characterization and evocative language anchor what in the hands of a lesser author could have turned into dry speculation and helps realize Liu’s vision of a simultaneously exciting and uncertain future. This novel and the trilogy as a whole is recommended for general readers and committed genre fans alike.	Kirkus Reviews starred (July 15, 2016) What if alien civilizations do exist? In this final installment of a stunning and provocative trilogy (The Dark Forest, 2015, etc.), Liu teases out the grim, unsettling implications. Previously, astronomer-turned-sociologist Luo Ji forestalled an invasion attempt by advanced aliens from planet Trisolaris. Luo’s “dark forest” deterrence works thus: if intelligent species exist, inevitably some will be hostile; therefore, safety lies in remaining hidden while threatening to reveal your enemy’s location to the predators. Earth knows where Trisolaris is, but the Trisolarans can’t threaten to reveal Earth’s location since they want to occupy it. Here, the story picks up at an earlier juncture. Cheng Xin, an aerospace engineer developing a probe to study the approaching Trisolaran fleet, learns that a friend has been tricked into volunteering to die in order to assist the project. Horrified, she retreats into hibernation. When she revives centuries later, dark forest deterrence holds the Trisolarans at bay. Luo, now old, hands Cheng the key to Earth’s defense. Unfortunately, the sophons—tiny, intelligent, light-speed computers sent by the Trisolarans as spies—know Cheng lacks Luo’s ruthlessness and immediately seize control of Earth; only by luck does Earth manage to trigger its deterrent. Hostile aliens immediately destroy planet Trisolaris, whose invasion fleet turns away because it’s only a matter of time before the same invisible antagonists deduce the existence of Earth and strike the solar system. Once again, Cheng must choose between logical ruthlessness and simple human compassion, with the fate of humanity at stake. This utterly absorbing book shows little interest in linear narrative or conventional character interactions. Instead, the author offers dilemmas moral, philosophical, and political; perspectives—a spectacular glimpse of three dimensions seen from a four-dimensional viewpoint; a dying universe shattered by billions of years of warfare; and persuasive ideas whose dismal repercussions extend beyond hope and despair into, inescapably, real-world significance. Liu’s trilogy is the first major work of science fiction to come to the West out of China, and it’s a masterpiece.	Publishers Weekly (July 18, 2016) Liu’s conclusion to his Three-Body trilogy (following 2015’s The Dark Forest) is an ambitious millennia-spanning space opera with enough ideas for a dozen books, but those well-thought-out concepts are more memorable than his characters. Despite the complex events of the prior two books, Liu makes the gloomy framework of his imagined future, in which humans have “finally learned that the universe was a dark forest in which everyone hunted everyone else,” accessible. The bulk of the plot focuses on humankind’s efforts to survive after first contact with the alien TriSolarans in the 21st century. The author makes suspension of disbelief easy with his nuanced and plausible portrayals of people’s reactions to apocalyptic threats, including efforts by the military-industrial complex to make the global crisis a business opportunity. The time scale is an obstacle to emotional engagement, but there are emotionally moving moments that ground the intriguing speculations about science and human nature. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Deathly Fates	Tsai, Tesia	Young Adult	9781250378927	School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Siyng has followed in her father's footsteps, becoming a ganshi priestess. It is her job to shepherd the dead home and perform burial rites. But since her mother died and her father became sick, she has depended on smuggling goods for extra money to send home to her father and sister. Her most recent job has her traveling to Wen to retrieve a fallen soldier for a palace official. But she gets a surprise when she places the reanimation talisman on the corpse's forehead and the man comes back to life. Not only that, the common soldier is actually Prince Meng Renshu of Sian. While Ren is now alive, he is missing most of his qi. To make sure Ren can make it home, Siying will have to collect qi from evil spirits and give it to Ren. This story is a standalone fantasy inspired by Chinese folktales and practices. There is also some compelling court intrigue and mystery. While the world and kingdoms are made up, it is easy to see parallels between China and Taiwan. In this same way, it is easy to sympathize with the many characters and their experiences, from both sides of the conflict, as victims of war. The romance is a slow burn and quite chaste. Readers will appreciate the neat wrap-up at the end with a happily ever after. There is some violence as well as depictions of violent deaths. VERDICT Nonstop action will keep readers, especially those who enjoy episodic monster-of-the-week adventures, turning the pages.-Hannah Pohl © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 8-12. As a ganshi princess, Kang Siying reanimates the dead and guides them home so that she can earn money to save her ailing father. After her father's condition worsens, she takes a job in which she unknowingly reanimates the corpse of Sian Prince Renshu (Ren), who was killed in an ambush by warring Wen soldiers. With her incantations, she mysteriously resurrects him with his soul precariously intact. Desperate to save her father's life and encouraged by Ren's promises to pay double, Siying embarks with Ren on a quest to absorb the qi of malignant spirits to restore Ren's lifeforce. From a forsaken forest to a cursed mansion, the haunted vistas they explore house specters with melancholy pasts through which Tsai explores themes of family and forgiveness. Siying and Ren's struggles eventually reveal the truth behind his fateful ambush, its connection to the royal crown, and a bone-chilling confrontation certain to keep readers glued to their books. Tsai's debut captures the profundity of love and sacrifice against a backdrop of Asian folklore and is perfect for readers seeking meaningful adventure.	Kirkus Reviews starred (February 1, 2026) A ganshi priestess becomes caught up in politics when the body she recovers isn't entirely deceased—and turns out to be that of a missing prince. Kang Siying, a "shepherd of the dead," is desperate to secure funds for her father's medical treatment. She accepts a lucrative job from Official Yi to recover a soldier's body from across the enemy border in Wen. After she uses a talisman to reanimate the corpse, she's shocked that he exhibits consciousness. Seeking advice from the elder wisewoman Mistress Ming, Siying learns she's escorting no ordinary commoner but Sian's Prince Ren, who died under suspicious circumstances. Mistress Ming gives Ren a mala bead necklace, explaining that he must collect enough qi, or life force, to warm all 54 beads if he's to live without help from the reanimation talisman. Siying and Ren agree that she'll exorcise evil spirits and purify their qi to give him; in return, they'll meet Official Yi in the capital city of Hulin to ensure she's paid. Mysteriously, Ren asks to stop in Baimu, Siying's hometown, where he needs to recover "something precious." The tightly written narrative builds suspense as the duo learn the spirits' stories, which in turn deftly reveal the impact of the actions of Ren's father and older brother, the king and first prince. Romantic feelings grow naturally as Siying and Ren navigate political and personal entanglements that unravel, revealing a compelling larger conspiracy. Adventure, intrigue, and romance; a Chinese-inspired fantasy debut that has it all. (Fantasy. 13-18)
Devious Prey	Reintgen, Scott	Young Adult	9781665978934	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Two young lawbreakers join forces when their airship crashes onto a deserted island in this suspenseful fantasy thriller. When Pearl took a risky but lucrative job smuggling a dragoness onto an airship, she didn't know it was also transporting a prisoner. Marken, a wizard on the way to his murder trial, is plotting his escape when the windmaster dies during a storm, and their airship crash-lands, allowing the dragoness to break free and take her revenge. As she terrorizes them, Marken sees an opportunity to win his freedom, and the survivors split into factions, divided over the use of his magic. Pearl has her own reason to be wary of Marken's warden, who accompanied Marken to contain his magic, but she may have to expose her biggest secret to survive. Reintgen's newest fantasy has ample political intrigue, mystery, and a unique magic system. Pearl and Marken are well-matched leads—both being vulnerable yet calculating, sympathetic but morally gray—who alternate as narrators. While the story ends satisfactorily, Pearl's and Marken's futures are left open for a sequel.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) Following their airship's crash on a mysterious mobile island, a young dragon smuggler joins other passengers and crew in a desperate struggle to survive. With overtones of both Predator and Lord of the Flies, Reintgen's latest includes a power struggle and multiple secret agendas, which come into play after a storm-tossed disaster leads to a rapidly rising body count among the dwindling handful of survivors. The author's proven flair for concocting unusual sorts and strains of magic is on full display too. The largely white-presenting human cast includes Marken Burke, a wizard who's being transported in chains to be tried for mass murder, and Pearl Trask, a young pig keeper who proves to be nursing more secrets than just a sideline in trafficking deadly animals. Plus, in a terrifying embodiment of William Golding's imaginary beast, there's a cunning, murderous dragoness who escaped during the crash and whose ability to become virtually invisible by adopting anything she touches—from rocks and water to flesh—as a camouflaging "skin" leads to a thrillingly gruesome climactic battle. Whether Marken is a wronged character who's worthy of sympathy or a conceited and manipulative crumb, Pearl at least can see right through him to the good heart beneath. By the open-ended finish, the two have found enough common ground for tender, budding romance and mutual respect. Brutal, often ingenious, and kitted with a scene-stealing monster that will delight dragon lovers. (Fantasy. 14-18)	Publishers Weekly (December 8, 2025) A dirigible carrying dangerous cargo crashes, inciting a bid for survival in this swashbuckling fantasy from Reintgen (the Dragonships series). When armed soldiers board the Grand Gesture, young smuggler Pearl tries not to panic about the contraband dragon she and her aunt Hath snuck aboard. If they're lucky, the men will be too focused on the prisoner they're transporting-powerful teen wizard and accused murderer Marken-to pay Pearl and Hath any mind. Then the Grand Gesture is blown off course and shipwrecks on an uncharted desert island. Upon discovering that the dragon has escaped her enchanted crate, Hath tells Pearl to keep quiet and hope for a speedy rescue, warning people will just make the two women targets. After the creature starts hunting castaways, however, Pearl pleads with the soldiers to unbind Marken's magic, reasoning that the wizard's powers would give them a fighting chance, but the soldiers refuse, forcing Pearl to ponder mutiny. Worldbuilding takes a backseat to breathless pacing and high-stakes action. The lean plot features some seismic twists, and the shy attraction that sparks between Pearl and Marken injects a healthy dose of heart. Characters cue as racially diverse. Ages 14-up. Agent: Kristin Nelson, Nelson Literary. (Mar.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Dinner with King Tut : how rogue archaeologists are re-creating the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of lost civilizations	Kean, Sam	Adult	9780316496551	Booklist (July 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 21)) Popular science writer Kean, who most recently delved into the exploits of sinister scientists in The Icepick Surgeon (2021), turns his sharp eye to experimental archaeology in this blend of lively factual chronicles that revive the past and fictional interludes depicting how our ancestors hunted, battled, and lived. Making his first foray into fiction, Kean illustrates how hunters of ages past stalked their prey, how warriors used various weapons to battle foes and even destroy entire villages, and how healers used alchemy and trepanation (digging a hole in the skull to reach the brain) to save lives. In the nonfiction sections, Kean gives some of these ancient mores and customs a try himself, from eating historical delicacies like ostrich eggs and various insects, to wielding ancient weaponry like deadly clubs and the destructive trebuchet (a massive catapult), to playing an Aztec ball game that leaves him bruised and battered. It's all wildly entertaining, and Kean makes a powerful case for how vital the experimental archaeologists' work is in giving us a better understanding of the past. Recommended for teens (YA/C) A spirited, engaging entry for teens looking for an accessible gateway to the past.	Publishers Weekly (May 12, 2025) In this charming romp through the world of experimental archaeology, bestseller Kean (The Icepick Surgeon) profiles the "lab geeks" and "screwball enthusiasts" who investigate the "sensory-rich" qualities of history, from the "crab-like odor of a deer hide as you tan it" to "the salty pinch of fermented Roman fish sauce." Among those spotlighted is researcher Lyn Wadley, who studies "the first beds in human history"-200,000-year-old cliffside ledges in South Africa constructed of "layers of ash and plant matter" and "broad leaves from the aromatic Cape quince tree." Recreating the beds and sleeping overnight in them in a cave, Wadley and a team of volunteers discover that the ancient accommodations are not only "comfortable," but have "a fresh, fruity odor that keeps away mosquitoes." Another group of archeologists "skin and deflesh" an elephant-one that died of natural causes-with Stone Age tools; others brew ancient Egyptian beer that turns out tasting like kombucha. The most extreme of all are Egyptologists Bob Brier and Ronn Wade, who in 1994 mummified a human corpse-one donated to science-using "replicas of pharaonic-era tools." (Kean wryly notes that their experiments "proved controversial.") This idiosyncratic and impressively researched account takes readers to the fringes of knowledge production, revealing along the way that there is as much art as there is science to the study of history. It's a delight. (July) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	Library Journal - web only (June 2, 2025) Told through both fictionalized scenarios and nonfiction reportage, Kean's (The Icepick Surgeon: Murder, Fraud, Sabotage, Piracy, and Other Dastardly Deeds Perpetrated in the Name of Science) latest takes readers on a compelling high-stakes ride through multiple places and times in history. The focus is on experimental archaeology, a field whose practitioners use evidence found at archeological sites to recreate the environments and ways of life of ancient peoples. Experimental archaeologists often take a first-person approach to history by aiming to experience the ancient world themselves: hunting animals using primitive tools that humans might have crafted thousands of years ago, making mummies, and even sailing the seas on boats they've built using historical techniques. Kean's book begins in Africa 75,000 years ago and takes readers through history until 1500 CE in Mexico. Along with the plentiful illustrations, his fictionalized narratives of the ancient world immerse readers, making them feel as if they are stone-knapping in a cave or hunting a giant sloth. VERDICT This would make an excellent book for anyone wanting to read more non-fiction or archaeology.-Autumn West © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Dinosaurs and other prehistoric life	Richardson, Hazel	Young Adult	9780744028386			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Dinosaurs rediscovered : the scientific revolution in paleontology	Benton, M. J	Young Adult	9780500052006	Publishers Weekly (March 18, 2019) In this insightful survey, Benton (When Life Nearly Died), a University of Bristol paleontology professor, looks at how dinosaurs might have lived, lauding the many advances made in paleontology since the 1970s. Findings about dinosaur intelligence, for example, indicate that though dinosaurs' brains were "actually pretty tiny," they could have "shown complex behaviour around mate choice." Benton also considers diet, and the question of whether various creatures were herbivores or carnivores, as can be indicated by tooth shape, stomach contents, and even fossilized feces. Going behind the scenes, Benton takes readers through expeditions and museum laboratories. His view of how dinosaurs are depicted in films and TV should particularly appeal to general audiences; he laments that 2016's Jurassic Park: Fallen Kingdom didn't show any dinosaurs with feathers, as are now thought to have adorned some species. He also highlights how computational digital modeling aids both special effects artists (in more realistically depicting dinosaurs than in the older films that used "stop-motion photography, or... lizards sporting cardboard crests and spikes") and scientists (in more authoritatively estimating dinosaurs' speed, gait, and posture). This enjoyable primer will leave layreaders with a new appreciation for how far modern science has come in understanding "long-dead animals, represented now by skeletons and isolated bones." With 120 illus. Agent: Michelle Tessier, Tessier Literary Agency. (May) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	Library Journal (May 1, 2019) Looking back on his 40-year career in dinosaur research, British paleontologist Benton (vertebrate paleontology, Univ. of Bristol, England; When Life Nearly Died) has seen the field evolve from a speculative discipline, often reliant on guesswork and intuition, into a highly technical and computational science. The author examines how this transformation has advanced our understanding of dinosaurs in almost every aspect: their origin and diversification, locomotion, feeding, growth, reproduction, physiology, phylogeny, and the mass extinction event that caused their demise. He further reveals how CT (computed tomography) scanning, 3-D digital imaging, engineering design software, and the scanning electron microscope have revolutionized the paleontologist's work. Benton also describes the Bristol Dinosaur Project: an educational program for getting school children involved with dinosaur science. For dinosaur movie fans, he analyzes the accuracy of dinosaur animation and feasibility of reconstructing dinosaurs from ancient DNA, à la Jurassic Park. VERDICT This engaging book by one of the field's most prominent paleontologists is as much about the evolution of dinosaur paleobiology as the evolution of dinosaurs themselves. Highly recommended for enthusiasts of these areas.-Cynthia Lee Knight, Hunterdon Cty. Historical Soc., Flemington, NJ © Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	
Do aliens speak physics? : and other questions about science and the nature of reality	Whiteson, Daniel	Adult	9781324064640			
Ellen Poe The Forgotten Lore	Peterfreund, Diana	Young Adult	9798318924156	School Library Journal starred (January 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-There is a rumor in Ellen's family that they are descendants of Edgar Allan Poe. Ellen never thought much of the rumor until she moves back into the family home with her aunt and starts to see "Eddy's" ghost and to have horrific nightmares. She finds an old notebook that may be Eddy's diary, with clues as to what her nightmares mean. When she meets the new boy at school, who just happened to be dead in her nightmare, they team up on a spooktastic scavenger hunt of increasingly difficult clues. Ellen starts to think that maybe she is related to Eddy after all. This is the first book in a series that is sure to be very popular. It has an engaging story, a fast pace, and is very well written. A satisfying ending has just enough tease to make readers want the next installment. Characters cue white. VERDICT A delightful and spooky read, especially for those who are into Netflix's Wednesday. This unputdownable book is highly recommended.-Kristin Anderson © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 8-11. Ellen Reynolds' family members claim to be direct descendants of Edgar Allan Poe, and, to 16-year-old Ellen's chagrin, they never let anyone forget it. She and her father left that nonsense behind years ago, but now that he's away on a job, she's moved in with Aunt Marie, who is turning her Baltimore townhouse into a Poe-themed bed and breakfast called Raven's Rest. Ironically, Ellen hasn't had any rest since, as she's been plagued by terrible nightmares. When she finds a crumbling journal written in code amid Marie's themed decor, she's sure it belonged to Poe, especially when his ghost appears and insists that she solve his cryptography. Along with unpublished poetry and secret messages, Ellen finds evidence that Poe had nightmares that were prophetic, just like hers seem to be. Peterfreund immerses readers in fascinating Poe history within a cracking good paranormal mystery as Ellen stumbles upon a sinister underground scavenger hunt tied to Poe's secret history. This enjoyable first in a series ends with many mysteries yet to solve.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) A rumored descendant of Edgar Allan Poe helps his ghost unravel hidden codes from the author's lost writings. Ever since moving to Aunt Marie's carefully curated Edgar Allan Poe-themed bed-and-breakfast, 16-year-old Ellen Reynolds has suffered recurring nightmares about the dead. One morning, she's bewildered by the appearance of Eddy, the ghost of Edgar Allan Poe, and the discovery of an old leather journal bearing the initials "E. A.P." In her English class at Evergreen Prep, Ellen is shocked to meet new student Gus Davenport, one of the dead people from her nightmares. She exclaims, "You're dead!", leaving Gus convinced she's psychic because he'd had a near-death experience. Eddy asks for Ellen's help cracking the ciphers in his journal, leaving her occasionally exasperated by his cryptic communication style: "When the proper time arrives, all that the gentleman intended, and all that he did not intend, will be brought to light." With Gus' help, Ellen works to resolve both the nightmares and Eddy's request so she can sell his journal, help the struggling B&B, and save for college. Poe fans will rejoice at the amusing, endearing characterization of the poet, while those unfamiliar with his work will develop a well-earned appreciation for him. Peterfreund's latest is an intriguing ghostly mystery that skillfully highlights the wealth of Poe's artistry without overloading the story with infodumps or detracting from the strong pace. Central characters are cued white. A winning combination of mystery and (tell-tale) heart. (author's note) (Paranormal mystery. 12-18)
Elves and fairies : a short history of the otherworld	Egeler, Matthias	Adult	9780300284409	Publishers Weekly (September 15, 2025) Fairies and elves "may be described as an invasive species of supernatural beings, the result of an ongoing series of international exchange processes," according to the illuminating English-language debut from Old Norse literature scholar Egeler. The legendary beings originated in Ireland, Scotland, and England and later spread into Germany, North America, and Iceland. Egeler shows how the transfer happened: many of the first settlers in Iceland did not arrive directly from Scandinavia but from its Viking colonies in Gaelic-speaking Scotland and Ireland, bringing local tales of the "otherworld" with them. From there, in Egeler's telling, fairies and elves have crept further into the cultural imagination, populating the works of poets, novelists, and dramatists, most notably Shakespeare. His A Midsummer Night's Dream, with its mischievous but benign creatures, was first staged circa 1596, around the same time King James published his Daemonologie, equating fairies with demonic forces. Since then, the fey have often served as a creative expression of "modern tensions" between tradition and progress, capitalism and environmentalism, or war and peace. Egeler's survey is comprehensive, touching on everything from Peter Pan to Middle Earth, from King Arthur's court to Arthur Conan Doyle's championing of the famous fraudulent Cottingley photo (a snapshot taken of paper cutouts of fairies that many believed to be real). It's a great resource for fantasy fans and fairy obsessives. (Oct.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.		
Epigenetics : how environment shapes our genes	Francis, Richard C	Adult	9780393342284			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Exploring careers in health care	Heldorfer, Denise T	Young Adult	9781678212407	Kirkus Reviews (February 1, 2026) This concise exploration of six diverse careers offers practical guidance for those considering work in the healthcare industry. Heldorfer focuses one chapter each on the work of a nurse practitioner, dental hygienist, optometrist, chiropractor, dietician, and medical and health services manager. This selective approach allows her to go for depth over breadth, giving readers richer guidance than if she attempted a sweeping overview of the more than 250 healthcare-related professions recognized by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Each profile covers job responsibilities, a typical workday, education and training requirements, opportunities for continuing education, and the skills and personality traits essential for success in each career, capturing the realities of each role. The book contains segments on potential employers, salaries, and the outlook for the career path. Useful sidebars distill critical facts for quick reference. Links at the end of each section guide readers to additional resources. Clear and accessible, this insightful guide offers a realistic view of work/life balance, job satisfaction, and expectations. A handful of stock color photos show people of a variety of races and genders offering or receiving care. A focused and valuable resource for young people exploring a future in healthcare. (source notes, interview with a nurse practitioner, other jobs in healthcare, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 14-18)		
Exploring careers in the creative arts	Nardo, Don	Young Adult	9781678205683	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2023) Wondering whether your creative bent can become a full-time job? Read on. In an introduction, Nardo acknowledges the challenges of making a living solely from creative work but also the drive that induces creatives to make art. Casting a very wide net, the author considers six broad categories of creative workers: art directors, craft artists, fine artists, performing artists, designers, and media and communications artists. Following the series format, for each category Nardo first explains the nature of the specific position; e.g., art directors unify the work of a team in pursuit of a specific look or style. Essential background preparation (a degree, apprenticeship, employment experience, etc.) for each type of work is then described along with pay levels, important skills, working conditions, a typical workday, and, finally, annotated websites providing further information for each category. Quotations from practicing professionals in each field, brief sidebar excerpts from interviews with artists, and one extended interview with a potter deepen the human dimension. Small sidebars highlight statistics, often from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A handful of stock color photos show racially diverse young artists at work. Despite an unavoidable amount of generalizing, the solid, practical data clearly presented here is valuable for creative youths and those who guide them. Introduces essential information for anyone considering a future in the arts. (source notes, jobs list, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 13-18)		
Exploring careers in the military	Currie-McGhee, L. K	Young Adult	9781678205706			
Exploring Celtic mythology	Nardo, Don	Young Adult	9781678210724	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) Celtic mythology, while less widely known than Greek or Norse myths, is equally compelling. Nardo begins by briefly introducing readers to the history of the early Celtic tribes. Their origins remain a mystery, but they likely emerged in central Europe; the British Isles became their "last major stronghold," and they later converted to Christianity. Many of their stories were written down by Christian scribes and distorted in the process. The author then concisely covers Celtic "myths of beginnings," love stories, heroes, and mythical creatures. The final chapter focuses on the legend of King Arthur. The story of the Tuatha De Danann introduces the sky gods who reigned in Ireland before retreating to a spirit realm. Readers will appreciate the vivid stories, such as that of the warrior Culhwch, whose father was the Welsh king Cilydd and whose mother was an evil witch, and the struggles he faced in marrying his beloved Olwen, the daughter of a controlling giant. Nardo recognizes Celtic women in mythology, including heroes like Macha of Ulster and Medb, the queen of Connacht (the historical figure of Boudicca doesn't appear). The chapter on supernatural creatures includes leprechauns, banshee, kelpies, and serpents. Abundant illustrations reminiscent of Victorian and Edwardian children's books strike a romantic note. Readers might wish for a pronunciation guide. The writing is clear, and Nardo wrestles his immense subject into accessible introductory bits. An inviting overview of an enduring treasury of myth and tradition. (source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 13-18)		
Exploring jobs in the skilled trades	Kallen, Stuart A	Young Adult	9781678203368			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Fake skating	Painter, Lynn	Young Adult	9781665921268	School Library Journal (September 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Dani and Alec are childhood besties who only saw each other the summer Dani visited her grandparents in Minneapolis. The last time Dani saw Alec was in middle school, right before the falling out between her parents and Grandpa Mick. Her dad's job in the Air Force caused her family to move all around the country and the world. Her parents never had the perfect marriage, but their divorce has Dani reeling, and suddenly they are moving away from their last station in Germany, all the way back to Minnesota to live with her grandpa. Alec has changed a lot since the last time Dani saw him. No longer is he the short, awkward nerd that she remembers. He is an over six-foot-tall hockey god, beloved by the masses. A huge misunderstanding soon puts them in a compromising position, only fixed by Dani pretending to be Alec's new girlfriend. True to the title, this book follows the fake dating trope to a T. Told in alternating chapters from both Dani and Alec's perspectives, the mystery of why Dani and Alec lost touch with each other is not revealed until the end of the book. This is a feel-good rom-com that accurately portrays the insecurity, complexity, and earnest sweetness of a high school relationship. VERDICT While seemingly formulaic at times, what good romance novel isn't? Give this one to any lover of the genre.-Sara Brunkhorst © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (September 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 1)) Grades 9-12. Acclaimed rom-com author Painter's latest has all her signature ingredients—sharp banter, swoony tension, and characters that feel real. Dani and Alec were inseparable as kids, when Dani would visit for one month per summer. Years later, she's returning to Minnesota to live there full time, only to discover that her once-nerdy bestie is now a hockey superstar. Cue a fake dating scheme, a whirlwind of complicated feelings, and lots of miscommunication, all of which add up to undeniable chemistry. Alongside the main plot between Alec and Dani, Painter thoughtfully and authentically explores issues of mental health in Dani's struggle with anxiety and panic attacks. Adding to the book's atmosphere and charm are a divorced-parents subplot, lots of heartening grandpa bonding, and a Minnesota winter aesthetic. In a story that's sweet, realistic, and brimming with heart, Painter proves once again that she's adept at making readers laugh, swoon, and feel seen. Readers who like the childhood-friends-to-lovers trope will surely be invested in Dani and Alec. Hand to teens who can't get enough of hockey romances.	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) When star hockey player Alec Barczewski's estranged childhood friend, Dani Collins, moves to town, they end up in a mutually beneficial fake-dating relationship that reignites old feelings. Following her parents' divorce, Dani and her mom move in with Dani's hockey legend grandfather in Southview, Minnesota, where she spent a month every summer as a child and where her friendship with Alec grew. Between visits, the two were pen pals, but they eventually fell out of touch. Despite some tensions over their loss of friendship, the high school seniors reconnect. Desperate to get off Harvard's waitlist, Dani needs another extracurricular activity, while Alec—whose reputation took a hit when a photo of him holding a bong appeared on social media—is eager to improve his tarnished image for NHL scouts. The pair strike a deal: They'll fake date, making Alec look like a stable guy whose academically gifted girlfriend is related to hockey royalty, and in exchange, he'll get Dani a team manager position that will catch the eye of Harvard's admissions officers. Eventually, complicated feelings about their past, stressful family relationships, and their brewing romance boil over. Romance fans will love the deliciously tension-filled scenes between Alec and Dani, who are believable friends with heavy demands weighing on them. They feel like real teenagers, and readers will enjoy rooting for them as the well-paced story unfolds. Main characters present white. A compelling romance inhabited by complex and appealing characters. (Romance. 14-18)
Fatal doses : fentanyl and other synthetic opioids	Nakaya, Andrea C	Young Adult	9781678205744	Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2023) Hard-hitting facts and heartbreaking stories tell the tale of America's brutal battle with deadly synthetic opioids. In five chapters plus a short introduction, readers learn about the scope of the addiction crisis that the influx of synthetic opioids has exacerbated. The author traces the use of fentanyl and other drugs from their original medical origins to becoming the leading cause of the rising number of overdoses and deaths. Each chapter answers common questions surrounding these drugs and their impacts. Chapter 1 explains the drugs' physical effects and the chemical reactions that cause overdoses to occur before diving into the opioid crisis itself and how fentanyl entered the scene. Chapter 2 turns the lens on synthetic opioids and what makes them so uniquely dangerous, while Chapter 3 examines the drugs' economic and social costs. Chapter 4 describes available treatments and prevention methods such as Narcan, methadone, and therapy. The author finishes by presenting various strategies for handling the crisis, such as providing more funding for treatment, reducing stigma, and cutting off the supplies of opioids from doctors and illicit dealers alike. Nakaya frames addiction as a disease and users as people deserving of treatment, not scorn. Personal accounts illustrate the fact that addiction can strike anyone. Text boxes offer useful additional context. This clear and compassionate approach to a complex and painful subject is a valuable resource. Both distressing and useful academic material. (picture credits, source notes, organizations and websites, further reading, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
FIFA World Cup : the greatest matches of all time	Streissguth, Tom	Young Adult	9781678210786	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) A stirring roundup of notable World Cup upsets, comebacks, and hard-fought matches since the first competition in 1930. Streissguth introduces readers to this quadrennial event, which is "the most popular athletic competition in the world," through a highlight reel of spectacular feats and flubs. Between the first chapter ("Best Comeback Victories") and the final one ("Highest-Scoring Matches"), he gathers short but dramatic recaps of lopsided victories, memorable underdog wins, notable championship games, and strong individual performances. The events he covers include Australia's 31-0 drubbing of American Samoa in qualifying matches in 2001 (in part due to passport issues on Samoa's part that led to a serious imbalance in experience levels between the teams) and, when it comes to finals, "the most lopsided of them all"—the 13-0 defeat of Thailand by the U.S. in the 2019 Women's World Cup (the overall focus of the book is primarily on men's teams and their players). Unsurprisingly, Pelé and Lionel Messi are among the iconic athletes whose skillful maneuvers appear in the chapters on individual feats. Readers learn about a few controversies, like the goal Diego Maradona scored with his hand in 1986. Mostly, though, Streissguth focuses on giving the Cup's history a worthy luster that will leave readers eager to learn more and catch upcoming matches. Interspersed photos depict international stars of both present and past in action. Engrossing. (timeline, source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Gilded in vengeance	Smith, Lyssa Mia	Young Adult	9780063239623	School Library Journal Xpress starred (October 10, 2025) Gr 9 Up-A magical world rife with danger, reminiscent of The Count of Monte Cristo. It's the Gilded Age, and two girls from the tenements of New York are desperate to join the Society of the Charmed. Eighteen-year-old Emmy Vallillo, who is described as having pale skin, thinks she is developing her gifts alongside her best friend Grace Montgomery-a blonde-haired, blue-eyed teen who can co-opt other people's magical gifts. Emmy is shocked when Grace betrays her, resulting in her father's death and two years spent in Grimsbane Tower. After escaping, she joins forces with Jimmy Li, Caleb Alton, and the smoky-eyed Jack Fontaine to seek revenge against those who wronged her. This is a beautifully crafted world filled with all types of conjury. From dresses with moving motifs to windows that melt at a touch, this world is real enough to step into. Emmy is a well-realized character whose story will draw readers in as she navigates grief, love, betrayal, and difficult themes like prejudice and xenophobia. Every page of this book drips with menace as Emmy tries to determine who she can trust in the Society's high-flung world of balls, dances, and deceit. VERDICT Recommended for those who enjoy character-driven novels, fantastical settings, and elaborate alternative histories. -Talea Anderson © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (December 1, 2025 (Online)) Grades 9-12. Wrongfully imprisoned and accused of using fraudulent magic to join the Society of the Charmed, Emmy is haunted by the memories of seeing her father murdered and her best friend, Grace, framing her to further her own ends. Emmy feels hopeless and isolated—until the night Jack Fontaine kills the guards and breaks them both out of Grimsbane prison. Jack was also imprisoned for crimes he did not commit, namely the murder of his sister and her friend. With the help of friends Jimmy and Caleb, Jack convinces Emmy to exact revenge on the people who betrayed them and killed their families. Using their magical talents to transform their looks, they penetrate the Society and befriend members undetected. Emmy slowly learns to start trusting people again and realizes her feelings for Jack go beyond their friendship and pact for revenge, but betrayal is around the corner for the duo, further complicating their situation. Recommend to readers interested in romance, illusion magic, and suspense with a dash of mystery.	Kirkus Reviews starred (October 1, 2025) After a brutal public betrayal, an 18-year-old girl with magical powers seeks revenge on her former best friend. In late-19th-century New York City, Emmy Vallillo doesn't have much, but she has her father, her dressmaker best friend, Grace Montgomery, and her magic—turning ordinary metals into gold. When the Society of the Charmed, a wealthy, secret group of magical people, invites Emmy and Grace to a debutante ball, Emmy thinks she's made it: She's found a way to study and grow her magic openly. Until, that is, she performs for the Society. Fool's gold falls from her dress—a dress Grace gave her—and she's accused of being a fraud. Suddenly, her powers are suppressed, she's imprisoned, and her father is killed. Two years later, Emmy escapes, thanks to a fellow prisoner, wealthy Jack Fontaine, who was born into the Society. Like her, he has a score to settle with them: the death of his entire family. Jack needs Emmy's magic, just as she needs his connections. Their hesitant alliance soon blooms into a complex relationship marked by love, fear, and desire. Smith effectively weaves in themes of friendship, loyalty, fate, and family. Jack and Emmy, who are cued white, are beautifully drawn characters, who show strength and love in their actions, even those driven by darker emotions. Minor characters play a significant role in bringing out the pair's best, helping to create a world readers will want to revisit. An exciting, emotional, twist-filled page-turner. (Fantasy. 14-18)
Golden son	Brown, Pierce	Young Adult	9780345539816	Booklist starred (December 1, 2014 (Vol. 111, No. 7)) The second entry in Brown's trilogy picks up two years after the first, Red Rising (2014), with teenage Darrow, a low-born Red sent to infiltrate the ruling Gold society, securing a position in the household of Augustus, the man who ordered the execution of Darrow's wife. Darrow loses Augustus' favor after a battle against a rival house goes poorly and thus must grapple with a major setback in his plan to overthrow the Gold sovereigns. Facing expulsion from Augustus' house, Darrow is tasked with setting off an explosive at a gala held by the Sons of Ares, the revolutionaries who set Darrow on this path. The mission creates a fair amount of emotional turmoil for Darrow, who, despite himself, has grown close to more than a few members of the elite society, including Mustang, Augustus' spirited, brilliant daughter. Darrow's decision ultimately propels him on a new course, forcing him to wrestle with his identity and what lengths he will go to in order to achieve his goals. The stakes are even higher than they were in Red Rising, and the twists and turns of the story are every bit as exciting. The jaw-dropper of an ending will leave readers hungry for the conclusion to Brown's wholly original, completely thrilling saga.	Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2014) Brown presents the second installment of his epic science-fiction trilogy, and like the first (Red Rising, 2014), it's chock-full of interpersonal tension, class conflict and violence.The opening reintroduces us to Darrow au Andromedus, whose wife, Eo, was killed in the first volume. Also known as the Reaper, Darrow is a lancer in the House of Augustus and is still looking for revenge on the Golds, who are both in control and in the ascendant. The novel opens with a galactic war game, seemingly a simulation, but Darrow's opponent, Karnus au Bellona, makes it very real when he rams Darrow's ship and causes a large number of fatalities. In the main narrative thread, Darrow has infiltrated the Golds and continues to seek ways to subvert their oppressive and dominant culture. The world Brown creates here is both dense and densely populated, with a curious amalgam of the classical, the medieval and the futuristic. Characters with names like Cassius, Pliny, Theodora and Nero coexist—sometimes uneasily—with Daxo, Kavax and Sevro. And the characters inhabit a world with a vaguely medieval social hierarchy yet containing futuristic technology such as gravBoots. Amid the chronological murkiness, one thing is clear—Darrow is an assertive hero claiming as a birthright his obligation to fight against oppression: "For seven hundred years we have been enslaved....We have been kept in darkness. But there will come a day when we walk in the light." Stirring—and archetypal—stuff. Comparisons to The Hunger Games and Game of Thrones series are inevitable, for this tale has elements of both—fantasy, the future and quasi-historicism.	Publishers Weekly (October 13, 2014) Misdirection and chaos mark the twisty second book of Brown's SF trilogy (after Red Rising), set mostly on a near-future Mars divided between the ruling Golds and the peons called Reds. Red-born Darrow has been recruited by radicals, disguised as one of the elite, and sent to spark a revolution, but Brown makes it clear (often through scenes of mopey self-reflection) that Darrow's not suited to the task. As a sleeper agent, he is forced to manipulate both friend and foe, a burden described vividly and to great effect. Brown shows everything organically, from the Roman influences on the culture to the exciting potential hidden in both halves of society. Dramatic battles with a real sense of loss, and a final chapter that slams into both Darrow and the reader, make this the rare middle book that loses almost no momentum as it sets up the final installment. (Jan.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Great NBA championships	Olson, Ethan	Young Adult	9781678206567	School Library Journal (November 1, 2023) Gr 5-8-This hi-lo series gives readers exciting sports writing about some of the best games ever played. In Great FIFA World Cup Matches, readers will be thrilled by the play-by-play calling of the 1986 World Cup featuring legendary Argentinian Diego Maradona and inspired by the Women's World Cup win by Japan after the Fukushima nuclear disaster. NFL Super Bowl Championships includes some of football's greatest hits, like the New York Giants defeating the undefeated New England Patriots in Super Bowl XLII and John Elway finally winning at Super Bowl XXXII after three previous heartbreaking losses. Each book begins with an "At a Glance" bulleted list of highlights from the reading, which should help readers with their recall should they have a need to book talk or report on what they read. With plenty of white space on the page, the narrative-style text is inviting and exciting. VERDICT For most middle school and public libraries, this one's a keeper. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Great NFL quarterback-receiver duos	Reston, Dominic	Young Adult	9781678210847	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) Tributes to six pairs of passers and receivers who led their teams to NFL glory. In this high-octane narrative, Reston describes how the "plodding, run-oriented snoozefest" that was American football before the 1960s was transformed into a game dominated by "fast and fascinating air travel." He highlights spectacular teamwork between superstar duos like the Pittsburgh Steelers' towering quarterback, Terry Bradshaw, and wide receiver Lynn Swann and the Kansas City Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce. What made these pairs so successful? San Francisco 49ers star Jerry Rice comments on "chemistry," saying that, "If Joe [Montana] was a female, we would have dated." Mahomes and Kelce are the only active players included—all the rest are long retired (although some work as sports commentators). Readers follow Troy Aikman and Michael Irvin as they lead the Dallas Cowboys "from the outhouse to the penthouse" in the 1990s and learn how Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison of the Indianapolis Colts scored an astonishing 112 touchdowns, setting a record for a regular season game. Future New England Patriots Hall of Famers Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski were "a match made in football heaven." The prose is inviting and accessible, but readers will find the skimpy assortment of game photos underwhelming. Text boxes provide additional information on the individual players and aspects of the game. Engaging tributes plus some background history on football make this an appealing choice for fans. (source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Heart check : a varsity novel	Charlotte, Emily	Young Adult	9798368781754	School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Hockey bros rule the roost in Hamilton Lakes, and Harper is over it. It doesn't help that the star player for the Hawks, Luke Dawson, snubbed her best friend their freshman year and has been intolerable since. Known for being outspoken against the overfunded hockey team, Harper becomes a social pariah when the head coach is canned for misappropriating funds, and she is blamed for it. Despite this, Luke and Harper find themselves admitting a long-standing mutual crush-and learning a lesson about what life is like on the other side of the tracks. Hockey doesn't just provide the framework for initial conflict but is also heavily featured in the text. The relationship is more focused on social implications than physicality, so there aren't any on-the-page sex scenes. Those social implications also involve the spotlighting of key, lovable side characters who are well-positioned to take center stage in any sequel to this fun, fast read for romance lovers. VERDICT A teen-friendly entry into the current hockey romance trend. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 9-12. Enemies learn to see each other in a new light in this sporty romance debut. Harper has never liked the attention the athletics program receives in her town. An aspiring entrepreneur, Harper is focused on her jewelry business and an application for a grant to help her with college, and she doesn't have time for her diner coworker, Luke Dawson, and his beloved hockey team. Dawson is poised to be a hockey star, but he's feeling the pressure to play well enough to attract scouts and keep up his grades. When a financial scandal with their coach shakes up the hockey team, and Harper is blamed for the firing, the tension between Harper and Dawson rises. While the depth of their relationship is more told than actually experienced, Harper and Dawson both learn to change their assumptions and misunderstandings, akin to an Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy relationship. This sweet romance, told in the alternating POVs of Dawson and Harper, is perfect for sporty readers longing for a teen-centric hockey drama.	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) Two high school rivals learn there's more to each other than meets the eye. With her college dreams hinging on the success of her jewelry business, Harper is desperate to be awarded a Young Entrepreneurs Grant and frustrated that everyone at her school privileges the athletes. Hockey team member Dawson hopes to be recruited by college scouts; he's also battling pressure from his dad, a former hockey star. Though Harper and Dawson find each other annoying, they often cross paths since Harper works at Dawson's family's diner. When Dawson's coach is fired for misuse of funds, one of the hockey players starts a rumor that Harper is involved. But over time, the dynamic between Dawson and Harper begins to change as they reevaluate themselves and each other. Despite the slow start, this charming enemies-to-lovers narrative succeeds thanks to the well-paced progression of the leads' relationship. Their alternating first-person points of view allow the complexities of their inner feelings to show through. The characters' interactions feel intentional, and the emphasis on connection and friendship extends beyond romance, for example, through the supportive, open communication between Dawson and his friends Alex and Ryan. Charlotte's debut successfully combines sports, friendship, and the emotional highs and lows of high school love. Main characters are cued white. A heartfelt romance that shows how letting go of the past can bring you an even brighter future. (Romance. 14-18)
Heiress of Nowhere	Lee, Stacey	Young Adult	9781665978965	School Library Journal (February 1, 2026) Gr 10 Up-In 1900, an abandoned newborn of unknown ethnicity was discovered on the shores of shipbuilder Dakon Sanders's remote Washington island estate; named "Lucy Nowhere," she was raised by Sanders's Native American cook but educated alongside the privileged children of his family. Now 18 years old and unsure of her place in the world, Lucy feels most at ease studying Orcas Island's unique ecosystem. When Sanders's severed head is found along the shoreline and Lucy is unexpectedly named heiress to his fortune, local superstitions about the whales fuel a growing belief that Lucy was involved in his death. Uncovering the truth behind Sanders's murder will not only clear Lucy's name but also solve the mystery of her heritage. In this well-crafted coming-of-age story, Lucy must quickly adjust to her newfound position as a wealthy "lady of the house" while at the same time find her voice as a young woman navigating an all-male business world. Touching upon issues related to race, class, capitalism, and environmental protection, Lee's intricate plot establishes a diverse pool of believable suspects and a wide array of possible motives. Equally satisfying is the romance, as Lucy becomes the center of a compelling love triangle with Koa, her protective childhood friend, and Nash, Sanders's reckless nephew. Although the speculative elements of the story are not fully explained and don't prove necessary for the story, this is a worthy recommendation for fans of mystery, historical fiction, and romance alike. VERDICT A solid purchase, especially where Lee is already in demand.-Jennifer Taylor © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Lucy, found as a newborn in a canoe off Nowhere (a fictional island near Washington State), is determined to go to university. She tells this to her benefactor and the island's owner, Mr. Sanders, only to find his severed head hours later. This gruesome discovery sparks a chain reaction: she inherits his business and estate, hunts for his killer, and uncovers long-buried secrets surrounding her parents. In addition, she explores her newfound ability to communicate with orcas ("sea wolves"). However, if she confides this information to the wrong people, she may be labeled the Orkus, a mystical beast supposedly terrorizing the island. The lushness and atmosphere of Nowhere is palpable; from feeling the strength of the orcas while swimming to delighting at the beauty of the mansion, Lee's descriptions are sumptuously tangible. Lucy's ever-churning first-person thoughts and feelings are another standout; her inner monologue gives a unique perspective on nearly everything, and even though she has two suitors, her focus refreshingly stays on finding a killer. WWI, Indian boarding schools, and Chinese immigrant labor are just some of the historical connections made throughout the work, echoing how many stories make up a nation's history. Set in 1918 with excellent world building, this exceptional novel would be at home among both historical fiction or magic realism, with no need to pick a side.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) Amid a murder investigation, a teen orphan finds herself heir to a multimillion-dollar estate. On Washington State's Orcas Island in 1918, 18-year-old Lucy Nowhere enjoys the nature surrounding her but dreams of leaving, seeing the world, and attending the University of Washington. Discovered adrift in a canoe as a newborn, Lucy was taken in by the wealthy, reclusive shipbuilding magnate Mr. Dakon Sanders, who made her a servant—and gave her an education—on his large estate, which he named Nowhere. Blond, blue-eyed Mr. Sanders disapproves of her going to college. He shocks Lucy with the revelation that he knew her father—and promises to tell her more if she stays. That evening, she finds Mr. Sanders' decapitated head floating in the marina, and her hopes of finding answers about her identity are dashed. When it emerges that Lucy will inherit everything, she realizes she must stay and uncover what's going on. With a growing list of suspects, more suspicious events occurring on the island, and rumors of the involvement of the "half eagle and half fish" demon Orkus and his army of "sea wolves," Lucy must uncover secrets and find the killer before she becomes the next victim. Against a beautifully described natural setting, Lee creates a dark, haunting, suspense-filled atmosphere with a touch of the supernatural. Combining science and myth, this is an exciting story with a multiethnic cast that explores identity, friendship, trust, and caring for nature. A suspenseful and evocative gothic mystery. (author's note) (Historical mystery. 12-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
How things are made : a journey through the hidden world of manufacturing	Minshall, Tim	Adult	9780063434653	Publishers Weekly (March 31, 2025) In this entertaining debut report, Minshall, an innovation professor at the University of Cambridge, delves into the complex systems that produce the world's goods and transport them to market. Minshall details the manufacturing processes for myriad products, describing, for instance, how making toilet paper involves cutting down trees with tractor-like harvesting machines and shredding them into wood chips that are transformed into pulp by heat and chemicals before getting "sprayed" onto wire mesh and drying as paper. "Manufacturing... is about making trade-offs," he contends, discussing how one Premier Foods factory produces more than 250,000 cherry Bakewell tarts per day by sacrificing the ability to make a diverse range of goods for more efficiently creating a single product in high quantities. Tracing recent trends in manufacturing and logistics, Minshall notes that Covid-era supply chain disruptions have renewed interest in moving factories closer to consumers, describing how the difficulties of keeping Covid vaccines refrigerated during transportation led some pharmaceutical companies to cram equipment into shipping containers that allow scientists to make vaccines on-site wherever infrastructure can't support cold storage. The complicated hidden backstories of ordinary items fascinate, and the conversational prose keeps the narrative moving even through involved logistical discussions. This will satisfy anyone who's ever wondered where their favorite products come from. Agent: Laura Macdougall, United Agents. (May) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.		
How to end homelessness	Hunter, Nick	Middle School	9781917187800	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) This entry in a series that explores societal issues while encouraging critical thinking examines homelessness in the U.S. In the introduction, Hunter shares an eye-opening statistic: "Around one in every 500 Americans is homeless." From there, each concise, well-organized chapter thoughtfully introduces different aspects of the issue, including types of homelessness, how different demographic groups are affected, the root causes, and the physical and emotional effects. The pages are visually appealing and easy to navigate, with color photos and section headers in different colors. Facts and statistics appear throughout, and sidebars provide additional context, exploring topics such as "Finland's Solution" and "Life Expectancy for Homeless People." Each chapter ends with two different perspectives on a debate question—for example, "Can Someone Be Homeless if They Are Sleeping Inside?" or "Should There Be Homelessness in a Rich Country?" Readers are then invited to analyze the arguments and decide what they think. Despite touching upon race and gender as factors, the book surprisingly doesn't refer to the fact that LGBTQ+ youth are at a much higher risk of homelessness, a major oversight. It also doesn't mention the shift toward the term unhoused. Nevertheless, this book will help readers consider the factors that contribute to this pervasive issue and its impact on individuals and society, allowing them to come to their own informed opinions. Some may even be inspired to work on a solution. This concise, thoughtful presentation offers insights into a difficult topic. (picture credits, resources, glossary, index) (Nonfiction. 12-16)		
Humor Me : how laughing more can make you present, creative, connected, and happy	Duffy, Chris	Adult	9780385550680	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Duffy, grade-school teacher turned comedian and podcaster (How to Be a Better Human), isn't trying to turn readers into stand-up comics. Instead, he's teaching us to develop a sense of humor by observing the "absurdity of the world." According to the author, three things are needed: being present, laughing at yourself, and taking social risks. In interviews with scientists, experts, and comedians, Duffy highlights research that supports his claims of the importance of laughter to our survival. Life, according to the author, is an experience in improvisation, and he shares improv techniques, which include working off of another's comments, really listening to the other speaker, and offering "door knob comments" that allow others to make a genuine connection. Tossing out absurd ideas can also spark creativity. Duffy admits that penicillin beats laughter as the best medicine, but there is evidence of humor's healing powers. The wrong humor can be hurtful, says the author, but if it includes others and makes connections, it's a good thing. Duffy's perfect comedic timing makes it fun, as well as relatable. Recommended for teens (YA) Teens, too, can use an entertaining lesson on the connecting power of humor.	Publishers Weekly (November 10, 2025) Comedy is as essential to a healthy and happy life as diet and exercise, according to this illuminating debut from comedian Duffy. Mixing personal anecdotes with research and expert interviews, he outlines the key pillars of good humor-being present, laughing at oneself, taking social risks-before pivoting to a more serious analysis of how humor underpins different areas of life. Interpersonally, joking releases tension, inverts conflict dynamics, and helps groups and individuals bond (laughter, Duffy writes, is "a by-product of connecting honestly and deeply with each other"). Physiologically, laughter decreases blood pressure and stimulates the release of dopamine and serotonin. One of the book's most intriguing chapters explores how humor fuels innovation, partly because the willingness to not take oneself seriously is fundamental to curiosity. Duffy is a wry and funny narrator, but his best insights arrive when he sets aside his need to land a punch line and compassionately and insightfully unpacks how humor functions in deeper and more unexpected ways, such as helping to endure challenges like bullying, grief, and suffering. This will entertain and enlighten aspiring comedians and regular folks alike. (Jan.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
I Hope So How to Choose Hope Even When It's Hard	Hanley-Dafoe, Robyne	Adult	9781774586792	Kirkus Reviews (December 1, 2025) Hanley-Dafoe, a behavioral educator, offers an encouraging book about finding and sustaining hope. "Hope is the crucial thread weaving through all aspects of a fulfilling life," the author asserts in a work that aims to lift its readers' spirits. The author views hope as a life practice—one that can increase resilience, foster optimism, and be easily accessed through such exercises as visualization. The book traces the concept of hope throughout history, from the works of ancient Greek philosophers, such as Aristotle, to American thinkers, such as Ralph Waldo Emerson. Another chapter explores the personal and societal costs of hopelessness, including the erosion of motivation, health, and connection. Using the characters Samwise and Frodo from J.R.R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings trilogy as examples, Hanley-Dafoe explains how hope is often transmitted between individuals and need not originate from within oneself. The author then introduces her framework for cultivating resiliency, which rests on five pillars: belonging, perspective, acceptance, humor, and, of course, hope. She also describes how hope interacts with eight domains of wellness as part of her "stressing wisely model." In her "hope blocks model," readers learn to build hope by visiting safe havens and pursuing healthy habits, purposeful work, and self-awareness. Journal prompts and worksheets help readers map all these elements. The final chapters encourage readers to reach out to others and adopt the author's "hope manifesto." Hanley-Dafoe seamlessly combines research, positive psychology, and personal accounts to make an abstract concept feel tangible. The singular focus on hope for nearly 300 pages unavoidably results in some repetition across sections. However, the book offers a number of uncommon engagement suggestions, such as creating a personal "hope timeline" that documents hope across one's lifespan. She also shares her own profound struggles with hopelessness, including her institutionalization as a teenager. Throughout, she emphasizes hope's universality, noting that it "transcends time, culture, and circumstance, inviting us to envision a brighter future." A wide variety of references, from Albert Camus to R.E.M. and Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure, demonstrate her ideas. An emotionally resonant work on a powerful concept.		
I'll find you where the timeline ends	Baker, Kylie Lee	Young Adult	9781250381989	School Library Journal Xpress (October 10, 2025) Gr 8 Up-In 17-year-old Yang Mina's world, descendants of the Japanese dragon gods, who look human but carry dragon blood, are sent to save human lives by traveling through time and altering and repairing the timeline. Mina lives in Seoul with her parents, who also work for the descendants. Her parents' jobs keep them moving between Korea and Japan, making Mina's home life unstable, so she chooses to train for a permanent job that will keep her in Korea. Mina embarks on time travel with a mentor who teaches her the ropes and expects her to follow the rules set by the agency. But when she learns that she has a sister who has been erased, Mina decides that finding her sibling is more important than being rule-abiding. Food plays an important role in the story as Kim Yejun, a rogue agent who Mina hopes will help her find the answers she craves, uses cheesecake and other Korean delicacies to entice Mina to trust him. Time travel and mild romance, which are the overarching themes in the story, are on a repetitive cycle here, and Mina's romantic bent toward Yejun bounces back and forth so often as she tries to decide if he is trustworthy that readers' heads will spin. VERDICT This is a secondary purchase but may appeal to fans of Korean graphic novels. -Elizabeth Kahn © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 9-12. As a descendant of a Japanese dragon god, Yang Mina has the ability to time travel. Along with a mentor, Mina completes missions that ensure the future unravels the way it is intended by the agency she one day hopes to work for as a Descendant: a protector of the timeline. Then Mina finds a note from someone she vaguely recalls, and the wrongness in her home starts to make sense; the hand-me-downs, the bunk bed—Mina once had a sister, Hana, but no one remembers her because she was neutralized (erased) from the timeline. With the help of gorgeous rogue agent Yejun, who tells her the world will end in 50 years if they never meet again, they set out to find Hana and get way more than they bargained for. Baker's time-travel premise provides plenty of world building to keep the story engaging, as do the cryptic messages and characters cropping up throughout the timeline. With a story easy on the romance and high on stakes, this is an ideal recommendation for devourers of fantastical time travel.	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) Desperate to find her missing sister, a girl in Seoul, South Korea, who possesses time magic risks everything to discover the truth. Yang Mina, in the guise of an 18-year-old American exchange student, just wants the cute boy from her calculus class to kiss her. It wouldn't simply be a romantic moment: A kiss would earn Mina infiltration points, which would help her get promoted to associate agent. Mina isn't human—she's a descendant of the Japanese dragon god Ryūjin, whose daughter Otohime brought time magic to Earth. With a promotion, Mina could finally have some stability instead of constantly having to move around with her floating agent parents (she has a Japanese mom and a white American dad). She also believes her sister, Hana, who was erased from existence, is still alive somewhere in the timeline. When Mina meets Kim Yejun, a handsome rogue traveler who's also lost someone, she decides to work with him to fix the timeline that has been affected by corruption within the Korean dragon families' organization. Working with Yejun means she'll become a traitor and risk being neutralized herself. Together, they traverse timelines, searching for a solution. This charming love story combines humor, action, magic, and a touch of darkness. The complex explanations of time travel and the butterfly principle can be confusing at first, but everything is ultimately untangled and revealed. Baker effectively integrates facts about Korean history, culture, and landmarks into the fantasy. An entertaining time-travel romance with intricate worldbuilding. (Fantasy. 13-18)
In Time with You	Dwyer, Kristin	Young Adult	9798368795270	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 10-12. Nieve Monroe is absolutely heartbroken when the love of her life, Carter Delaney, dies saving her from drowning. She's bitterly focused on the cruelty of life without him. But Grandee (her grandmother) says the Monroe women are different, and she can go back. Nieve is wholly unconvinced until she suddenly wakes up a year earlier on her first day of university again, and Carter is still alive. This time, she is determined to make sure he lives, even if she must give up their future together. Dwyer interweaves the emotional trauma of loss with the effects of time travel, creating suspense by slowly filling the reader in on Nieve's background. It keeps the reader hooked until they find out why Carter died (and if he dies again). The enigma of his best friend, Max Emerson, is a compelling distraction for both reader and Nieve alike. Readers drawn to tragic love stories with a true love happy ending will be glued to this story until the very last page.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) A grief-stricken young college student discovers that love and loss can tangle time itself in this moody, slow-burn story. After her boyfriend Carter's funeral, art student Nieve Monroe drifts through a summer steeped in guilt and tinged with emotionally resonant colors. Raised by her superstitious maternal grandmother, Grandee, whose mystical sayings once felt foolish, Nieve now sees meaning in every hue: black for loss, red for love, indigo for goodbye. When she returns to Suttleton Academy of Fine Arts, classmates whisper that she's responsible for Carter's drowning, although Nieve can't remember what really happened. Her cousin, Linden, and Carter's furious best friend, Max, orbit her grief until a supernatural twist, foreshadowed by Grandee's belief that time is "a fickle thing—a story," allows Nieve to travel back in time to the first day of college. Aching realism is balanced with luminous magic, and Dwyer's prose feels painted rather than written: Her language shimmers with sensory detail and emotional honesty. Nieve is caught in a loop of pain and healing, continually re-experiencing fragments of the past. Nieve's voice—sarcastic, self-punishing, and sincere—offers an anchor through the fog of mourning. A romance that follows offers her a way to reclaim her own color-saturated identity, making the time-loop device a metaphor for healing. This textured novel offers catharsis as much as closure. Main characters are cued white. A lyrical exploration of grief, art, and what remains when love runs out of time. (Speculative romance. 14-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Jobs and taxes : a teen guide to earning money	Sanderson, Jennifer	Middle School	9781917509640	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) A primer for teens on job selection, and on types and purposes of taxes. Promising to "take the mystery out of money and the fear away from finances," Sanderson begins with a broad overview of job sectors that are open to teens, including retail, food service, babysitting, tutoring, lawn care, lifeguarding, and reselling items online. She then goes on to detail common payroll deductions, which leads into a discussion of taxes and retirement investments. All this information is presented in easily digestible blocks of narrative interspersed with stock photos of a racially diverse cast of smiling young workers, with summaries at each short chapter's end. As a formula, the approach seems intended not to offer anything like a comprehensive set of options and expenses but to ease readers into thinking about how they're going to make money as they move into adulthood and smart things to do with their earnings, while providing some specialized vocabulary (Form 1099, capital gains tax) that may prove helpful. The author closes by urging her audience to take a long view in planning for the future, to be careful with debts and credit cards, and to understand that, financially speaking, life "is full of surprises." Just a light once-over, but savvy and soothing. (picture credits, glossary, resource lists, index) (Nonfiction. 12-16)		
Letters for the Ages the Great Musicians (Letters for the Ages)		Adult	9781399419468	Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) The latest volume in the Letters for the Ages series offers a stunning array of musical minds, featuring correspondence from the twelfth to the twenty-first centuries. Represented are artists as diverse as Chopin, the Ramones, John Coltrane, and Clara Schumann. An 18-year-old Mozart boasts to his mother that each aria of his new opera was met with "a tremendous uproar and clapping of hands." Amy Winehouse, in an application to theater school, introduces herself by stating, "all my life I have been loud, to the point of being told to shut up." Composer Edvard Grieg responds brusquely to a curious fan, insisting that he "has no method when composing!" And Woody Guthrie shares his philosophy with musicologist Alan Lomax, "Music is some kind of electricity that makes a radio out of a man and his dial is in his head and he just sings accurately to how he's a feeling." Reproductions of select letters add to the pleasure of reading this well-curated collection.	Publishers Weekly (September 8, 2025) The lives of a broad range of musicians are explored in the colorful latest Letters of the Ages anthology from Drake and Smyth (after Letters from History's Most Behind Bars). Among other topics, musicians touch on the meaning of their craft. For example, in 1178, the German abbess and mystic Hildegard of Bingen responded to the church's prohibitions on her "performing worship of any kind" by asserting that music is the conduit to the divine ("It is fitting that the body simultaneously with the soul repeatedly sing praises to God through the voice"). Discussing the mysteries of the creative process, songwriter Nick Cave mused in 2018 that "Lyric ideas are as illusive as fireflies," while Edvard Grieg, a 19th-century Norwegian composer, put it more brusquely in a letter to a fan ("I have no method at all when composing!"). Other entries feature musicians addressing their critics; in 1996, Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong responded to an angry parent's letter about his "explicit" lyrics with the admonishment: "I don't write music for parents, grandparents, or eight year olds. I write for myself and I'll say anything I damn well please." Spanning genres and centuries, the missives investigate music's essential mysteries and how the complex relationship between artist and listener has evolved over time. Music lovers of all stripes will find something to enjoy. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	Library Journal (September 1, 2025) Drake and Smyth's latest "Letters for the Ages" volume (after Letters from History's Most Famous Prisoners) includes correspondence from over 15 centuries of (mostly Western) musicians, composers, and appreciators of music. Excerpts from the correspondence are arranged in seven general chapters, each by a different author and with a distinct subject. While musicians tend to share their art with the public, these letters are more directly intended for parents, patrons, and other intimates or as personal reflections (although diary entries might be more revealing). Seasoned with photos and reproductions of the letters (most of which were handwritten, some in typescript), the book transcends the boundaries of genre, spanning classical, jazz, and pop. Examples of heartfelt expressions include Beethoven's letter to his brothers on his impending deafness; Janis Joplin's note to her parents, explaining her career decisions; and Gustav Mahler's missive to his wife, requesting more traditional gender roles. As reflects history, most of the letters are from men, but material by women such as Joplin, Marian Anderson, Ruth Crawford Seeger, and Teresa Carreno also appears. VERDICT Readers can enjoy this compilation for both curiosity and scholarship. -Frederick J. Augustyn Jr. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Life as a Navy SEAL	Gagne, Tammy	Young Adult	9781678207427	School Library Journal (April 1, 2024) Gr 5 Up-Facts about elite forces within the United States military are presented in these six volumes. Each title contains information on the objectives of each force, requirements for recruits, weapons and vehicles employed, and examples of famous missions. Readers learn that the Marine Force Recon rescued captured soldier Jessica Lynch, the Army Rangers gather information and conduct raids, and the Navy SEALs use mini submarines to transport members on underwater missions. The Green Berets often work with foreign guerillas, only 20% of recruits complete pararescue training, and members of the Delta Force employ the Colt M1911 pistol and the M4 Carbine. Colorful illustrations accompany the texts. The narratives are informative and comprehensive but may prove dry for casual readers. Two volumes, Life as a Navy SEAL and Life as a Pararescue Specialist use the former name of Fort Moore (Fort Benning) which may confuse some. Only those with a keen interest in the subjects will read; others will use for reports. VERDICT For collections with a demand for military subjects and whose collections need updating, these volumes will be suitable enough. © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (May 1, 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 17)) Grades 5-8. Those who serve in our special forces are known as strong and brave. As they train, they prepare themselves for each of their roles that they represent. In the Special Forces series (4 titles), readers will understand and learn how Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, Pararescue Specialists, and Marine Force Reconns live their daily lives. Featuring a handy table of contents, with fun titles for each chapter to better capture the interest of readers, the books introduce each topic clearly, making it easy to understand. Besides the clear table of contents, there's an At a Glance section that offers bullet points about the main points featured in each volume. Readers who pick up Life as a Navy SEAL will better understand the Navy SEALs and their life completing underwater missions, as they transport themselves in SEAL delivery vehicles that fit up to six of them. Add to these books action-filled images, as well as a glossary of terms, an index, source notes, and recommendations of where readers can get more information, and these books are perfect for the curious when it comes to these careers and ideal for those who wish to learn more about the background of what each job entails.	
Light bringer	Brown, Pierce	Young Adult	9780425285978	Booklist (July 2023 (Vol. 119, No. 21)) Brown continues Red Rising, his Roman Empire-inspired sf saga, picking up right after the events of Dark Age (2019), when revolutionary-turned-ruler Darrow suffered a horrific defeat on Mercury. In retreat with a few allies and licking his wounds, Darrow realizes he can't simply go home to Mars and his wife Virginia, especially once news reaches him that his best friend, Sevro, has been taken hostage. Knowing he might be walking into a trap, Darrow mounts a rescue mission along with enemy-turned-ally Cassius and a member of the underground rebellion group, Daughters of Ares. Darrow's enemy Lysander, the grandson of the ruler Darrow defeated, brings the fight to Virginia's front door when he mounts an offensive against the Martian moon, Phobos. But Lysander must contend with the ruthless Atalantia, whose ambition is to rule and keep Lysander in check. The mesh of intrigue, politics, war, daring rescues, and staggering losses keeps the sixth entry in Brown's long-running Red Rising moving at a fast clip. Die-hard fans will be engrossed and eager for the final showdown. Recommended for teens (YA) Though there's violence and some references to sexual exploitation, teen fans of Brown's series won't want to miss this epic addition.		
Making it in the music industry	Kallen, Stuart A	Young Adult	9781678210908			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Managing social media	Sanderson, Jennifer	Middle School	9781917509329	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) If social media is inescapable, how can teens deal with it? Sanderson's initial presentation of her subject is positive. She differentiates among types of social media, observing that online platforms have "opened up new career opportunities," "enabled people to connect," and allowed "people to leave reviews of products or companies." China has its "own versions" of social media (there's no mention of censorship). The statement that algorithms are a "little like librarians" is simplistic and misleading. Sanderson warns readers about some drawbacks, including peer pressure, deteriorating real-world social skills, cyberbullying, deepfakes, scams, and identity theft. The final section describes specific ways to use social media safely and what to do if you're a victim. The last spread outlines the principles of good digital citizenship. Despite some cautions, the book dances around serious issues like echo chambers, manipulation of the electorate, and radicalization through hate speech. Readers also aren't warned strongly enough about fake reviews or the improbability of influencing as a career, nor are they reminded that they are the product. The focus is on individual users' responsibility, with little attention to industry or government regulation. The writing is accessible; sidebars highlight key pieces of information, and chapter summaries provide easy takeaways. Portions of this book are repeated, sometimes verbatim, in Sanderson's <i>Dealing With Cyberbullying</i> (2026). A limited introduction to social media's potential for good, with some advice to help avoid harm. (picture credits, glossary, resources, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Masters of the game : a conversational history of the NBA in 75 legendary players	Smith, Sam	Adult	9798217060702	Publishers Weekly (September 8, 2025) Sportswriter Smith (The Jordan Rules) and former NBA coach Jackson (Eleven Rings) reflect on the top basketball players of all time in this entertaining oral history. In honor of the league's 75th anniversary in 2021, the NBA released a list of the 75 greatest players, selected by a panel of current and former players, coaches, executives, and sportswriters (Smith included). In short chapters, Smith summarizes each player's career, and he and Jackson exchange thoughts on their skills and most memorable moments. The lineup includes current players who are household names, such as Steph Curry, Kevin Durant, and LeBron James, as well as earlier pioneers like Elgin Baylor, who played for the Lakers between 1958 and 1971 and whom Smith says "basically invented modern NBA offensive basketball." Throughout, the authors highlight changes to the way the game is played, like the advent of the three-point shot, and get to the heart of what makes a player truly great (many of those selected "loved the challenge more than the acclaim"). Unfortunately, fans will note several errors, such as Smith's implication that Bill Bridges was involved in a fight during a 1984 game, though that was well after he'd retired. Still, this is a valuable addition to NBA history. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.		
Meet Me Under the Lights	Miller, Cassie	Young Adult	9798217038923	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 8-12. The Fultons and Crowleys used to work together and run the local ball field. That is, until Eliza Crowley's father bought the field out from under the Fultons and became one of the town's richest families. Reed Fulton's family lost everything and were forced to move. Now, Reed is back with his baseball team, and the rival families have struck a deal—whichever team wins the championship wins the baseball field. Eliza knows she shouldn't get close to Reed, but their attraction keeps growing. Can they have a relationship when everything seems against them? Set against a summer of baseball and balanced with Eliza's passion as a theater technician, this enemies-to-lovers romance that alternates POVs between the two teens will lead to some solid swoons. Eliza is assisting at a summer theater production of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , and the story cleverly mimics the family spat set against Reed and Eliza's growing relationship (without the deadly tragedy). A great choice for those who love Kasie West and Lynn Painter.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) In Fairfield, North Carolina, a baseball stadium sparks an intergenerational rift between two local families: the wealthy Crowleys and the Fultons, who are struggling farmers. Almost 30 years ago, the Fultons and Crowleys built and briefly co-owned the town stadium—until the Fultons accused the Crowleys of using their financial clout to take ownership after the Fultons poured hours of labor into keeping the place running. This disagreement sparked a decadeslong feud. In the present day, rising high school senior Eliza Crowley resents her family's notoriety in town. Eliza is a theater kid who plans to oversee the lighting for the community theater production of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> . Reed Fulton, her former childhood friend, left Fairfield four years ago, but his grandad made a bet with Eliza's dad—his team against the Crowley Cardinals. Whoever wins takes ownership of the stadium. And Grandad needs ace pitcher Reed on the new team he pulled together. When the pair reunite, romance ignites between them, but like <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , they're caught between love and family duty. Unlike Shakespeare's tragedy, Miller's debut ends with the healing of rifts. Reed's and Eliza's alternating first-person chapters open with quotations from baseball and theater icons that provide deeper insights into the young lovers' feelings. The white-presenting leads' dual perspectives allow for a sensitive exploration of class differences while reinforcing the belief that family and community are what matter most. A home run for baseball lovers and theater kids alike. (Romance. 12-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Midnight on the Celestial	Alexandra, Julia	Young Adult	9781250380104	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 8-12. As a talented resurrectionist from a privileged family, Roe Damarcus never worried about living without Morphia. Though confident she'd pass the trial to keep her magic, when the test goes awry and she is deemed a threat, Roe has two options: surrender her ability for life or hope for a retrial, serving aboard The Celestial—a magical luxury cruise ship that showcases the wonders of Morphia to the wealthy elite while keeping dangerous Morphics contained by siphoning their magic. As her ancestors invented the very ship that allegedly maintains balance across the realms, Roe cannot escape the scrutiny afforded a Damarcus. However, despite her seemingly cushy job as a family's concierge, Roe remains in just as much danger as anyone else aboard. Forget the retrial—something far more dangerous than malicious guests lurks the corridors at night, and no passenger is safe. Those who enjoy their fantasy darker, where magic and shadows twist in equal measure, will find Alexandra's ability to craft an expansive world while remaining confined to The Celestial captivating.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) In this debut, a costly mistake lands a girl with powerful magic aboard a deadly cruise ship. Eighteen-year-old Rosaline "Roe" Damarcus is the daughter of the Lord of Damarcus Estate; her father is also a member of the High Council. But even with her family's high status and her being a rare resurrector—someone who can use Morphia to summon spirits—she still must pass a trial to prove she's capable of controlling her magic—or face dire consequences. When the unthinkable happens and she falls dramatically, Roe has two options: have her Morphia extracted or join the staff of the cruise ship the Celestial to try to earn a retrial. The Celestial is a demanding, unforgiving place, one that Roe's family is directly responsible for creating. As she develops growing feelings for Ivander Harpyrian, the aerial performer assigned to show her the ropes, she also begins wondering just how well she ever knew her father and what he's really done. On board the ship, Roe encounters a world where her family name doesn't protect her—even when she's framed for murder—but she also meets Alana Reyes, a new friend with deep compassion for her struggles, and enjoys a sweet, slow-burn romance with Ivander. Colorful, concrete worldbuilding accompanies the fast, evenly paced action, making this a brisk read even through the introduction of heavier subjects. Roe reads as white, and secondary cast members have a variety of skin tones. A theatrical stand-alone escape. (Fantasy. 12-18)	
Morbid Curiosities	Hati, S	Young Adult	9781250392855	School Library Journal Xpress (November 14, 2025) Gr 8 Up-When scholarship student Aarya receives a surprise invitation to the prestigious Elizabethan Institute, it feels like the culmination of her lifelong dream. Having survived a mysterious childhood illness, she's determined to prove herself among the privileged "feeder school" students studying the miracle compound zenedine. Paired with rivals both alluring and secretive, Aarya becomes entangled in a web of ambition and questionable research ethics. A series of strange notes, the appearance of a precocious girl named Sofia, and troubling memories pull Aarya into a mystery linking her own past to the institute's hidden experiments. Hati (And the Sky Bled) constructs a world steeped in scientific intrigue, with chapter openers featuring chemical diagrams, and discussions of transparency and misinformation in research. Yet for all its atmosphere and ambition, the novel leans heavily on the familiar "outsider genius at the elite academy" trope, and its dense exposition may distance readers from the emotional stakes. Characters' shifting motivations sometimes obscure rather than enrich the story's ideas about ethics, identity, and belonging. While the story aims for diversity of characters, the portrayal of race and ethnicity can feel uneven. Characters that are Black are explicitly labeled as such, whereas white characters are not, and the Thai characters' private conversations are portrayed as potentially secretive rather than simply bilingual familial conversation. Despite flashes of imagination and timely questions about scientific responsibility, this uneven mix of mystery and speculative science fiction never quite delivers on its premise. VERDICT An additional purchase where academic or science-themed fantasies circulate well. -Lee Gardner © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Teenager Aarya has accepted an invitation to attend classes at the Institute, a prestigious research institution that studies the life sciences. Immediately feeling out of place as the scholarship student among her wealthy classmates, Aarya knows she will have to work that much harder to gain a position at the Institute after graduation. As she begins her studies, it is clear that all is not right with the Institute. Mutated animals are found throughout the city, and a mysterious Institute project may be to blame. When Aarya finds threatening notes telling her to get out to survive, she must discover, with the help of her research team, what is happening before it is too late. Readers are constantly thrown off-kilter as Aarya experiences memory lapses and the science experiments grow more grotesque. Hati's academic thriller is full of twists and lightly laced with romance to form a compelling tale that will have readers on the edge of their seats. Sci-fi fans and mystery readers alike will be drawn into Aarya's unsettling story.	Kirkus Reviews starred (February 1, 2026) A Eugene, Oregon, teen's dream spot at a prestigious San Francisco research organization turns into a nightmare. Ambitious, driven Aarya has worked hard for years—and being accepted into the Elizabethan Institute's yearlong high school intensive feels like the gateway to a career in biology. But from her arrival, something feels off. The city is buzzing with stories of mutated wildlife and trees blooming off-season, rumored to be connected to the Institute's mysterious work. Surrounded by cutthroat peers, Aarya expects academic pressure but not an anonymous note reading, "You sense it already, all that is wrong. / Get out." When she meets Sofia Castillo, who claims to be the subject of secret experiments, Aarya's curiosity pulls her into an investigation that grows deadly as her memory fails and a classmate is murdered. The narrative folds scientific authenticity into a gothic ambience, creating a fog-shrouded pressure cooker where academic ambition collides with moral catastrophes. Technical details ground the increasingly surreal mystery without sacrificing accessibility. Hati's examination of institutional corruption and exploitation resonates powerfully. Aarya makes a compelling protagonist: brilliant, driven, and refreshingly nerdy, navigating both scientific challenges and a chronic respiratory condition with determination. Sofia's role adds chilling depth, while teammates Jaden Abrahms and Tassinee Yang anchor Aarya through her spiraling paranoia. When the pieces snap together, the revelations land with devastating force. Aarya's given name suggests South Asian heritage; her surname isn't provided, and any cultural markers are ambiguous. Cerebral, atmospheric, and genuinely unsettling—science thriller gold. (Thriller. 14-18)
More and More and More --An All-Consuming History of Energy	Fressoz, Jean-Baptiste	Adult	9780063444935	Booklist (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Science and technology historian Fressoz posits that the concept of energy transition is stalling the effort to combat climate change. While acknowledging the historic, dominant view of energy transition from wood to coal and coal to oil, he asserts it did not really happen, and there will be no effective change from oil to nuclear or oil to renewables. Instead, there must be a change of civilization. He bolsters this argument by showing readers how wood is still a critical source of fuel for much of the world, large coal consumption continues, and that semantics fuel the myth of change. Though the transitionist model is deeply rooted in public discourse, in a series of forthright chapters Fressoz shows how it ignores the complex and pervasive nature of the old energy sources and how they are built into much of the world economy. By taking an international view and drawing from cultural, economic, and political perspectives, this intellectually rigorous overview of the energy industry and climate concerns provides a new way to consider a problem increasingly in need of our attention.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Never seen the stars	Korsh, Kate	Young Adult	9781546131649	School Library Journal starred (October 1, 2025) Gr 10 Up-A deeply emotional coming-of-age story about Hattie Murphy's challenges coping with the grief of losing her close friend, Mason, who had epilepsy and died in a tragic boating accident. On top of that, Hattie also discovers that she has inherited her father's degenerative eye condition, retinitis pigmentosa, and is starting to lose her vision. Korsh does a great job balancing typical teenage friendship and boy drama with more difficult subjects like depression, disability acceptance, and loss. In a surprise twist, Hattie starts to see Mason's ghost, who seems to show up at all the right times when Hattie is struggling most, together, the two work through their anger and learn to accept the blows life has dealt them. No sex occurs on the page, though there is a scene of a character being pressured into sexual activity and stopping it. This is a standout story that is equal parts sad and hopeful, with extremely relatable and beautiful explorations of grief, disability, and loss. VERDICT This is very highly recommended for those who enjoyed John Green's The Fault in Our Stars or Dustin Thao's You've Reached Sam.- Shannon O'Connor © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 9-12. In her YA debut, Korsh explores grief, disability, and the fragile beauty of first love. When Hattie's friend—and secret crush—Mason dies, it sends shock waves through her friend group and leaves her with more grief than she can bear. But that's not the only thing making her feel alone: none of her friends know that, just like her father, Hattie has a genetic disease that will eventually lead to total vision loss, and her drive to keep her disability a secret pushes her friends further away. Then, in the shadows of the church at Mason's funeral, she discovers something no one else can see: Mason's ghost. As Hattie navigates the secret of her increasing blindness and reckons with the grief of lost possibilities and words left unsaid, Korsh capably balances a lucid exploration of disability and identity with a heartening journey of self-discovery tinged with sweet romance. This raw, tender, voice-driven novel will appeal to readers who liked John Green's The Fault in Our Stars (2012) and Dustin Thao's You've Reached Sam (2021).	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) A teen facing progressive sight loss sees her friend's ghost. Hattie Murphy's trying to cope after her good friend Mason, who had epilepsy, drowned in a kayaking accident. Hattie sometimes dreamed they could have been more than friends. But it's hard when her mother is so overbearing, and her father, now blind from retinitis pigmentosa, is depressed. Her increasingly steamy relationship with Richard, "the Arthur to [her] Guenevere" in their high school play, Camelot, would be a promising distraction...if she weren't apparently competing with her co-Guenevere, Amanda, for his attention. When Hattie learns she's inherited RP, she struggles to conceal her vision difficulties. But RP isn't the only secret she's keeping: Somehow, she can converse—well, banter—with Mason's ghost. What does he want? Is he her guardian angel? Or is Hattie supposed to help him? While Mason sometimes feels more like a spectral counselor than a lost love interest, he and Hattie share some sweet moments. Korsh, who has RP, believably portrays Hattie's misconceptions and conflicting feelings about the diagnosis, including fears of "ending up like [her] dad, defective and trapped." Though Hattie's tendency to misjudge others is occasionally frustrating, readers will root for the snarky teen as she comes to terms with RP and learns that people aren't always what they seem. Most characters read white; there's some diversity in the secondary cast. A highly original exploration of disability and grief. (Fiction. 14-18)
NFL Super Bowls : the greatest championships of all time	Gallagher, Jim	Young Adult	9781678211882	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) Dramatic accounts of five notable games from America's "most popular single-day sporting event." Gallagher begins by quickly recapping football history: the National Football League's first season in 1920, the growth in popularity of professional football starting in the 1940s, the first televised NFL championship in 1958, the founding of the American Football League in 1960, and the first AFL-NFL World Championship game, dubbed the "Super Bowl," in 1967. The author rightly notes that more than half of the first 50 Super Bowls were anticlimactic "blowouts." In the book he highlights games that turned out to be memorable contests, including the New York Jets' surprise win in Super Bowl III (1969) and the Kansas City Chiefs' 25-22 squeaker over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII (2024). In accessible prose, he offers accounts of each game's progress in language that's pitched to readers who are already at least moderately familiar with football rules and terms. Frequent text boxes add interesting background information: statistics, players from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or the lucrative (Taylor) "Swift Effect," which has "increased the NFL's brand value by over \$330 million" since the singer started dating Kansas City Chiefs player Travis Kelce. The color photos are too sparse to have much visual impact, but they do present glimpses of coaches and players in action. Offers football fans magnetic moments and some broader context. (source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Optimism : the power of positive thinking	Roland, James	Young Adult	9781678211929	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) This guide explains the benefits of having an optimistic mindset and offers strategies for fostering one. Roland opens by sharing the story of Gabrielle Thomas, the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics 200-meter women's gold medalist, who repeatedly envisioned herself winning and entered the race already believing she was a champion. He explores some key elements of an optimistic mindset: hope, confidence, realism, gratitude, resilience, acceptance, and empathy. The book references well-known people who overcame tremendous obstacles, such as Helen Keller and Oprah Winfrey, in order to demonstrate the power of resilience, acceptance, and self-belief. Expert insights—from psychologists, therapists, social workers, and business professors—reinforce the advantages of being optimistic, from improved mental and physical health to increased longevity. The book then shifts to the causes and dangers of negativity—catastrophizing, rumination, and negative self-talk. Fortunately, Roland adds nuance, for example by including a short overview of the risks of toxic positivity and emphasizing the protective properties of self-doubt, which can help us avoid "reckless or dangerous" behavior. While this work is packed with valuable information, its sometimes-repetitious content makes it better suited for piecemeal browsing than reading cover to cover; similarly worded descriptions of the benefits of practicing gratitude and mindfulness appear in two different chapters. The recitation of academic studies and plethora of quotations undercut the readability and compelling message. Persuasively highlights optimism's power but is weakened by dense, repetitious writing. (source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Piper at the Gates of Dusk	Ness, Patrick	Young Adult	9781536248302	Kirkus Reviews starred (January 15, 2026) In this series opener set in the world of the Chaos Walking trilogy, the next generation of young people on New World tackle mysterious new threats alongside more familiar problems of human nature. Though their mom, Viola, now spends most of her time in the city, brothers Ben and Max have grown up on their family's farm, doing remote schooling and helping with chores. When a skinless creature—a god—runs screaming from the woods covered in flames, their usual tranquility is shattered. Max has begun suffering from devastating nightmares, and a curious, giant object has appeared in the sky, drawing nearer. Surely these things are related—but how? As more flaming gods arrive, and the situation grows more dire, the brothers and their parents find themselves split, following different paths toward answers. The dual-perspective narration sharpens the white-presenting leads' edges; the differences between earthy Max, who's trans and adopted, and nonspeaking, serious-minded Ben create a compelling contrast. The high emotional stakes and plenty of unanswered questions will linger in readers' minds, and though knowledge of the original series will provide depth to the reading experience, it isn't necessary to appreciate this book. Ness expertly weaves discussions of environmentalism, xenophobia, disability, gender identity, misinformation and disinformation, and more around explorations of family, personal agency, and belonging, creating a creative science-fiction roller coaster. An absorbing, deeply human tale of finding common ground in the perpetual struggle to do the next right thing. (Science fiction. 12-18)	Publishers Weekly starred (February 2, 2026) An unknown entity plagues young human space settlers in this gripping trilogy opener from Ness, set two decades after his Chaos Walking series. On the planet humans call New World, all native sentient life-forms, including a humanoid species called the Land, communicate via Noise: involuntary telepathic broadcasts of an entity's every thought. Male humans born on New World also emit Noise until geneticists develop a cure, reinstating personal privacy but widening the communication gulf between people and the Land. When human children start having nightmares that involve self-critical Noise, some xenophobic people claim it's a disease caused by the Land. Teen brothers Ben, who communicates nonverbally due to a neurological condition, and transgender adoptee Max don't believe the Land is responsible, however, as their father still has Noise and is friendly with the species' leader, and their mother, a scientist, suspects an approaching alien vessel is to blame. When flaming skinless giants begin taking human New World kids, the settlers lash out against the Land, impelling Max and Ben to seek answers. Witty, propulsive first-person narration alternates between the sibs' perspectives as they navigate issues of morality, mortality, identity, and disinformation. Main characters are keenly rendered and cue as white. Ages 14-up. Agent: Michelle Kass, Michelle Kass Assoc. (Apr.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
Prodigal Tiger	Chong, Samantha	Young Adult	9780593860106	Booklist starred (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) Grades 8-12. Five years after she left her home in the Malaysian state of Penang, on the heels of a dangerous and mysterious mistake, Caroline Chua has returned home under equally awful circumstances. Her older brother, Aaron, has gone missing, and without him, Caroline is lined up to inherit the leadership of the island's Council, expected to prepare and assume a leadership position she very much does not want. Quickly becoming frustrated with the pace of the investigation and aware of the dire consequences of failure, Caroline decides to take the matter of her brother's disappearance into her own hands with the help of her childhood friend and first love J.J., loyal best friend, Zati, and her friends who now sit on the Council themselves, twins Arabella and Athena. A visit to the enigmatic mistress Chee Li Ying at Peranakan Mansion, a gateway between our world and the realm of ghosts, leads to another person vanishing, and as Caroline grapples with the effects of the mistake that led to her being sent away, she races against time to not only find and save her brother but also untangle the dark truth of her family's legacy. An expansively suspenseful tale deeply infused with magic, Malaysian cultural knowledge, and folklore that explores the weight of familial and social expectations, Chong's debut is fun and fantastic.	Kirkus Reviews (February 1, 2026) Eighteen-year-old Caroline Chua ends her five-year banishment at a magical academy in New York City—a consequence of "the Incident"—when her older brother's disappearance calls her home to Malaysia. Aaron, who's destined to uphold the Chua family legacy as the next High Protector of Penang Island's Magical Council, has been kidnapped by vengeful spirits who are seeking to seize control. With only a week until the Hungry Ghost Festival—a time when the veil between the living and the dead thins—headstrong Caro must reunite with old friends Athena, Arabella, J.J., and Zati to defend her island home. As she battles external enemies, Caro also confronts her inner struggles: lingering self-doubt, the shame of exile, and the weight of family duty. A shocking betrayal, a surprising revelation, and the kindling of a romance with J.J. add emotional depth to the action-driven plot. While the frequent battle scenes occasionally slow the story's momentum, the novel's heart lies in its strong portrayals of friendship, loyalty, and the courage to stand together against darkness. Debut novelist Chong deftly weaves Malaysian folklore and the lore of the Hungry Ghost Festival into a vivid modern fantasy setting, enriching the story with cultural texture, moments of light humor, and lots of heart. Brimming with action, folklore, and fearless friendship; a fantasy in which loyalty and love prove just as powerful as magic. (map, author's note) (Fantasy. 12-18)	Publishers Weekly (December 8, 2025) Chong blends family drama, supernatural suspense, and teen angst with Malaysian folklore in this arresting debut. For five years, 18-year-old Caroline Chua has been living in New York City, learning to hone her magical skills. But when her older brother, Aaron, disappears, she is forced to return home to Penang. As the Hungry Ghost Festival-during which spirits become more powerful-approaches, it's imperative that Aaron is found so that he can take on his duty as Malaysia's next High Protector. Upon discovering that vengeful ghosts with a grudge against the Chua family have kidnapped Aaron to seize control of the island, Aaron's rescue becomes Caroline's top priority. To succeed, she must reconnect with the friends she lost contact with after leaving for N.Y. C., including J.J., her former love interest, who still sets her heart aflutter. An experience of forging one's own path while managing expectations is sensitively rendered alongside propulsive action sequences, dynamic plot twists, and affecting interpersonal conflict involving forgiveness, friendship, and self-advocacy. Ages 12-up. Agent: Larissa Melo Pienkowski, Azantian Literary. (Mar.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Quick guide to ADHD	Mooney, Carla	Young Adult	9781678212445	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) The ADHD brain thinks differently but isn't "broken." This brief overview explains the brain-based research behind an ADHD diagnosis. After an introduction, five chapters define ADHD and describe how it's diagnosed, its treatments, and how ADHD affects people in real life. Most notably, the author explains how brain imaging studies discovered differences in the prefrontal cortices of children with ADHD, which may affect executive functioning. Sidebars with bright green backgrounds highlight topics of interest, such as daily report cards, social skills training, or utilizing gamification for engagement. One particularly interesting sidebar describes a physician's observations of children with ADHD-like symptoms in 1798. Case studies of people of varying ages highlight some key difficulties that those with ADHD face and show how they achieved success using strategies suggested by experts. These examples emphasize the continuum of symptoms and their impact while also reminding readers that there's no one-size-fits-all approach. At the same time, this concise guide highlights the positive aspects: People with ADHD are often creative, innovative, curious, and passionate. Mooney largely ignores controversies around diagnosis, medication, and accommodation, instead describing professionals' approaches and maintaining an encouraging tone. The clear and accessible language makes this short work an accessible read, and the stock images include representation of people of diverse ages and races. Helpful tips and useful information will elicit appreciation for the energetic ADHD brain. (source notes, organizations and websites, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Salvacion	Proudman, Sandra	Young Adult	9781250895080	Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2025) In this novel inspired by El Zorro and set soon after the 1848 signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, proper young Mexican woman Lola de La Pena and her family have settled in Alta California. The new surroundings abound with sal negra, a natural sediment that has healing abilities. As pilgrims in need arrive daily in their town of Coloma seeking help from Lola's mama, whose connection with the sal first led to the discovery of its magic, her papa and brother mine the precious substance, while Lola is sidelined by societal expectations. But when night falls, she dons riding pants, a mask, and a sombrero, becoming Salvacion, a vigilante and gifted rider defending the people of Coloma against the threat of those who wish to claim sal negra and Coloma for themselves. Trouble worsens with the arrival of Damian Hernandez, whose false promises of retaking Alta California are a pretense for his desire to find sal roja, sal negra's deadly, destructive opposite. Long and ruminative passages sometimes undercut the action, but the historical setting, magical realism, and light romance (Lola develops feelings for Hernandez's young righthand man) offer several points of entry for readers. Salvacion's abilities are buoyed by her family, and the novel's emphasis on the value of community and respect for the land and its natural resources thoughtfully counters the traditional image of the lone hero. Jessica Agudelo July/August 2025 p.102	Booklist (April 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 15)) Grades 9-12. To her family, 17-year-old Lola de La Peña is still regarded as a "nifa," but when she dons her black attire, she is Salvación, the masked vigilante who helps those in need. Lola, her brother Victor, and her parents have moved from their privileged life in Sonora to Coloma to mine the magical sal negra, using its medicinal properties to cure others. When Damián "El Demonio" Hernandez and his gang show up, they terrorize the village and use their deadly sal roja on others. Also accompanying Damián is Alejandro, the handsome young right-hand man who captures Lola's heart and attention. Unsure if they can trust Alejandro, Lola and Victor work fast under the guise of Salvación and uncover more information before the malicious intruders cause further harm. Proudman's debut YA novel is perfect for fans of Latin historical fantasy and romance. Proudman's focus on colonialism of Indigenous lands during the establishment of Alta California will spark curiosity about this time period. A supreme choice for readers who have yearned for a femme Zorro.	Kirkus Reviews starred (March 1, 2025) Lola de la Peña defies the gendered expectations of her family and 19th-century Mexican culture as she fights burgeoning threats, both magical and human, to her home. Mamá, Papá, Lola, and brother Victor traveled to Alta California to fulfill Lola's mother's spiritual calling to heal people using sal negra, a magical substance that's mined there. Sal negra cures any injury or malady, and people in the town of Coloma wait to be treated by Mamá. But the stories of miraculous healing draw foes as well, including white men who intend to take the resource by force as they colonize Alta California, Indigenous territory recently ceded by Mexico to U.S. control. As Coloma grows more dangerous, Lola and Victor team up to protect people; despite her parents' strong disapproval, Lola disguises herself as a masked woman vigilante known as Salvación. As her alter ego's reputation spreads, so do the dangers to Lola's family and town. When a mysterious caravan of men arrives, led by a charismatic leader who promises to restore Mexican sovereignty, they're welcomed by the townspeople and Lola's parents, who hope that now Salvación can retire. But a stranger's cryptic warning means Salvación may not be ready to give up the fight. Action-packed and thrilling with a touch of romance, Proudman's debut novel is an homage to folk hero stories told through a feminist lens. The work, which is rooted in ecological justice, effectively critiques colonialism and jingoistic nationalism. A heartfelt, swashbuckling, standout novel. (Historical fantasy. 13-18)
She Drinks the Light	Angoe, Yasmin	Young Adult	9781250872685	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Angoe's YA debut is a beautiful love letter to West Africa. Addae knows that her place is on the Golden Isle, a private island off of South Carolina inhabited by the descendants of escaped enslaved people. Her grandmother is the island's beloved matriarch, a mantle Addae knows she will one day take up. When she and her friends go to the mainland for their high-school graduation, Addae is shocked to learn that her best friend, Naira, has a boyfriend and plans to leave the Golden Isle and pursue college on the mainland. When Naira and her boyfriend, Luke, go missing and are presumed dead, Addae teams up with Luke's sister, Hailey, to uncover what happened to them. What they never expected was to find themselves in an ancient conflict between a secret research facility and Addae's family. Angoe poured love into this creative take on vampires and mythology, creating a novel rich in culture and storytelling. While there are pacing issues at the beginning, the explosive, climactic ending makes up for them.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) When her best friend disappears, a teen must accept her ancestral powers to find her. Addae Ewiem's home is a special place, one she never wants to leave. Her ancestors and other families running from enslavers found the abandoned South Carolina island near present-day Hilton Head. They named it the Golden Isle for the fireflies who helped guide their journey, and there they maintained their cultures and traditions, which came from all over Africa. Their descendants—called the Kinfolk—are now led by Nana Ama, Ada's grandmother. They keep to themselves, raising their children with the Adinkra—"centuries-old Akan symbols" offering guidance from the gods—and avoiding the mainland. When one of the Kin turns up on shore with his throat ripped out, and then Ada's best friend and her boyfriend go missing, Ada ventures to the mainland to investigate. Her search leads to more secrets about the island and her ancestors than she ever could have imagined. Angoe's YA debut seamlessly weaves Akan lore into the story, creating a foundation for strong character development. The inclusion of beings from West African mythology—from widely familiar Anansi to others that are less well known—enriches the story. The supernatural elements are well balanced with the complex family dynamics. The pacing for the most part is strong, revealing information in layers, but the ending feels rushed and a little too clean. A unique, well-characterized addition to the paranormal genre that celebrates West African culture. (Paranormal. 14-18)	
Shot ready	Curry, Stephen	Adult	9780593597293			
Slow Burn	Rutter, Bethany	Young Adult	9798318911835	School Library Journal (February 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Set in southeast London the summer before sixth form, Rutter's big-hearted rom-com centers joy, resilience, and body positivity. Sixteen-year-old Ruby is comfortable in her own skin, even if others—including her older brother Jake, now off at Oxford, and a dismissive PE teacher-try to convince her otherwise. Her summer plans are simple: long afternoons at the skate park with friends. But when Jake's casual cruelty cuts too deep, Ruby impulsively enters the Dawson Dash 5K. She'll prove that fat girls can run while setting an example for her 10-year-old sister, Sasha. Training for the race is demanding, and Ruby quickly discovers that determination alone won't get her to the finish line. Support arrives in the form of Ollie, the affable boy next door, whose encouragement pushes her to confront both physical challenges and deeper insecurities. Their playful banter evolves into a tender connection that never overshadows Ruby's own journey of self-acceptance. Rutter skillfully balances humor with realism, grounding Ruby's story in a loving, if imperfect, family life marked by recent parental separation. Readers seeking a fresh, affirming love story will find Ruby irresistible. VERDICT A love story that celebrates the everyday courage of claiming one's place in the world, recommended for all collections.-Alicia Rogers © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) Fat and proud Ruby Morgan trains for a 5k run to prove to her brother and sister she can do it. Sixteen-year-old Londoner Ruby is looking forward to the summer before sixth form: She has few plans apart from hanging out with best friends April, Salma, and Jessica and helping her mum, who has a baking business—and she has an instant crush in the form of new neighbor Oliver "Ollie" Cowan, who's tall and attractive with dark red hair. Ruby's fatphobic older brother, Jake, who's smug about attending Oxford, constantly criticizes her weight. The day he denies their 10-year-old sister, Sasha, a chocolate and calls her "Chunk," Ruby becomes determined to set him straight and be an empowering role model to Sasha. She hastily declares that she can complete a local race called the Dawson Dash. When Ruby's first attempt at running leads to a vomit-splattered encounter with aspiring baker Ollie, he isn't put off and even offers to help her train in exchange for access to her mum. This connection evolves into a sweet, meaningful romance. Ruby's inner monologue is believably nuanced, balancing genuine fear and overwhelm with positive self-talk and determination, and her growing romance with Ollie is based on courage and vulnerability. Her incredibly funny observational humor and insistence on protecting Sasha from negative body-image messages lead to entertaining and heartwarming moments. Major characters are cued white. A beautifully well-balanced romantic comedy with emotional depth. (Romance. 12-17)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Soccer greats : the best of all time	Streissguth, Thomas	Young Adult	9781678212001	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) Tributes to six soccer superstars, from Pelé (1940-2022) to Kylian Mbappé (who was born in 1998). Even newer fans of the sport will probably recognize the iconic names on Streissguth's short roster: Pelé, Johan Cruyff, Diego Maradona, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, and Mbappé. Along with pointing to experiences or traits common to his choices—"amazing natural talent, obsessive work habits, and the gift of supportive families and coaches"—he fills in enough details while describing their careers to provide a sense of individuality for each. The author notes the racist, anti-immigrant taunts that the French Mbappé, whose parents are from Cameroon and Algeria, has endured and the abuse of cocaine and alcohol that probably shortened Maradona's life. Still, in general his tone is positive, and in reeling off one stellar achievement after another, he offers appreciative comments about, for example, Maradona's stunning footwork ("voodoo football," as one newspaper report put it) and the aggressive "total football" popularized by Cruyff. The book describes the players' impact on the sport: In joining the New York Cosmos after retiring from Santos in Brazil, Pelé "changed the attitude of many Americans toward the game," while Ronaldo's move from European teams to Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr resulted in the team's "Instagram account exploding from 860,000 to 10 million followers." Although each player's chapter features just three stock photos, substantial source notes and resources at the end lead readers to more information and images. Offers soccer fans glimpses of greatness. (index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Sonnets and serpents	Lowham, Elizabeth	Young Adult	9781639934355	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) After Princess Eliza de Loegria's father banishes the boy she loves, she runs away to find him and discovers an unlikely, life-altering bond. Nineteen-year-old Silas Bennett, who's no fan of arrogant royals, has a plan: secure a professorship in Pravusat by proving his hypothesis about magic stealing and flee Loegria, where he could be killed for being an Animal Affiliate with shape-shifting magic. But the best-laid plans oft go awry, and an ill-fated bargain throws Eliza and Silas into each other's paths. They end up bound together by gold bracelets given to them by a Stone Caster—and the only way to break the spell is to "fall madly in love" and engage in "a passionate kiss." Can they overcome their mutual prejudices and antagonism and weather their inner storms to get what they want—and do they even know what they truly want? This sequel to Casters and Crowns (2024) is propelled by classic genre tropes, although some of the emotional beats feel rushed. The story alternates between the leads' third-person points of view. Eliza, plagued by self-doubt, high emotions, and action-hero impulses, is refreshingly idealistic; snarky and cynical Silas is an effective foil, although the enemies-to-lovers storyline comes across at times as forced. But the core themes—balancing love and fear, connection and betrayal, and unlearning the dehumanization of others—resonate deeply, and the storytelling is warm and sincere. Eliza has pale skin, and Silas has dark eyes and "honey-brown" skin. An enjoyable light fantasy. (map) (Fantasy. 13-18)		
Spitfires : the American women who flew in the face of danger during World War II	Aikman, Becky	Adult	9781635576566	Booklist (April 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 15)) While the exploits of the Women Airforce Service Pilots in the U.S. are fairly well known to readers steeped in WWII history, Britain's Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and the American women who flew for it have been overlooked. Aikman mined letters, diaries, and newspaper articles as well as an enormous number of books containing material on the subject to craft this concise narrative about the ATA and the women who answered the call for recruits willing and able to fly anything and everything to assist in the war effort. From the relatively famous Jackie Cochran to a host of other largely forgotten aviatrixes, Aikman uncovers the stories of the daredevil pilots determined to defy the era's gender constraints. From adventures in the air to struggles on the ground, she writes of the drama involved in getting aircraft from factory to front line during the war. This joins such titles as Fly Girls (2018), The Women with Silver Wings (2020), and The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line (2021) as authors retrieve the stirring yet neglected history of brave flying women. Recommended for teens (YA/C) Teens researching women's roles during WWII will find this an exciting, well documented read.	Library Journal - web only (March 21, 2025) In 1939, the British Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) was formed to recruit civilian pilots to ferry planes to Royal Air Force bases in order to save military pilots for battle in World War II. Its motto was "aetheris avidi": "eager for the air." In 1940, a women's section was allowed and in 1942, 25 American pilots were recruited to join the second unit of women in the ATA. They became known as the Spitfire Girls, after the British single-seat military plane that became one of the women's favorites. Journalist Aikman (Off the Cliff: How the Making of Thelma & Louise Drove Hollywood to the Edge) recounts the lives of the ATA women's section members on the ground, in the air (only one died in flight, although there were many near-misses), and in the postwar world as they struggled to find their footing, went on to marriage or a career (often distinctive ones), and for several, found a way to fly for a living. VERDICT Based on extensive research (letters, diaries, archives, interviews with the subjects' friends and relatives, even an interview with the one living pilot, age 105), Aikman richly details the stories of these dauntless women.- Marcia Welsh © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Super Nintendo The Game-Changing Company That Unlocked the Power of Play	MacDonald, Keza	Young Adult	9780593802687	Booklist (January 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 9)) At six, MacDonald was introduced to video games when she received a Super Nintendo Entertainment System bundled with Super Mario All-Stars. Gaming quickly turned into a passion, leading her to become a video game journalist. Nintendo grabbed her attention and continued to fascinate her by producing the one thing all gamers love—fun. MacDonald delves into the company's history, which goes back to the late 1890s and a card game called Hanafuda. They eventually evolved to produce toys and then broke into the video game landscape. Chapters take readers through stories of Nintendo games like Donkey Kong, Super Mario, Pokémon, and Animal Crossing. MacDonald interviews developers, highlighting the triumphs and downfalls of Nintendo gaming history. Also included are gaming systems like Wii, Switch, Rumble Pack, and more. Readers will find never-heard stories and insights into this multifaceted company. MacDonald also includes an appendix with overviews of games that Nintendo developed internally, including titles like Pac-Man Vs and various versions of The Legend of Zelda. Video game enthusiasts will find this well-researched book interesting and a fun read.	Publishers Weekly starred (December 15, 2025) "The story of Nintendo... is the story of video games as a whole," asserts journalist MacDonald (You Died) in this entertaining history of the Japanese gaming company. Founder Fusajiro Yamauchi started Nintendo in the 1890s to sell illustrated handmade playing cards known as hanafuda. Decades later, the company brought on engineer Gunpei Yokoi, who created one of Nintendo's first successful toys, an extendable plastic gripper known as the Ultra Hand. Nintendo's first gaming console, the Color TV-Game 6, entered the market in 1977 and hit games, like Donkey Kong, Super Mario Bros, The Legend of Zelda, and Pokémon, launched the company into global prominence. Nintendo president Satoru Iwata saw games not just as a form of entertainment, MacDonald explains, but as a way of improving quality of life. She chronicles how the company helped popularize handheld gaming with the creation of the Game Boy in 1989 and innovated touch-screen controls, as seen on the Nintendo DS, before smartphones were commonplace. MacDonald writes with a gamer's keen eye for the intricacies of play and a thoughtful appreciation for Nintendo's commitment to innovate and have fun. This is a must-read for gamers. (Feb.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
Tech innovations inspired by nature	Nardo, Don	Young Adult	9781678206086	Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2023) A riveting investigation into how biomimicry influences design. Inventions that imitate nature have emerged from centuries of research and development: Nardo describes Leonardo da Vinci's famous bird-inspired flight designs as an example. The introduction describes a shopping center in Harare, Zimbabwe, whose architect used termite mounds as a model for cost-effective and efficient temperature control; throughout the rest of the book, sustainability benefits are also emphasized. Burdock burrs inspired Velcro; less benignly, briars gave us barbed wire. Eiffel's tower mimics the femur; kingfisher beaks solved the problem of sonic booms from bullet trains. In addition to engineering and construction, Nardo covers applications in medicine (including semaglutide, the focus of much recent excitement in treatment of Type 2 diabetes, inspired by Gila monster venom); military and athletic gear (like an aircraft coating developed from studying sharks' skin; energy (quieter wind turbine blades modeled on owl wings); and robotics (a gecko- and inchworm-inspired robot). An additional bonus to these informative forays is the clear presentation of evidence that nature has many mysteries still to be decoded, which may inspire young people to explore STEM fields; the concise but information-packed chapters offer examples from engineering, medicine, the military, athletics, energy, and robotics. Ample color photographs enhance the text in this overview that is equally successful for pleasure reading or supplementing research. Intriguingly explores natural design and celebrates the human benefits of studying and conserving nature for inspiration. (source notes, further reading, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
Teen guide to budgeting, saving, and investing	Mount, Sara Rowe	Young Adult	9781678212506			
Teen guide to managing money	Diggs, Barbara	Young Adult	9781678208226	School Library Journal (August 1, 2024) Gr 7 Up-Essential life skills, such as financial literacy, finding a job, and exploring personal interests are given center stage in this series. Life Skills presents a general overview of necessary aspects of "adulthood" that teens should be ready for, such as purchasing car insurance, moving into their first apartment, and going to the doctor for annual visits. Managing Money breaks down important topics even further, delving into balancing a budget, investing, and debt with easy-to-understand terms. Hobbies explores how practicing leisure activities and side endeavors benefits physical, social, and mental health. Plenty of white space and bright colors add to the titles' readability. Diagrams, charts, pull quotes, and relatable photos of teens from all identities make these volumes attractive and engaging. Back matter includes source notes, further reading, and an index. VERDICT Practical, accessible resources for teens in need of "adulthood" guidance. Purchase for all college and career readiness shelves.-Shelley M. Diaz © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (September 15, 2024) A basic overview of financial literacy with some techniques for managing income and expenses. Diggs points out that in a 2023 survey, Gen Z respondents got only about 25% of the basic questions about financial literacy correct. She certainly addresses a need—but she does it in a superficial and drearily conventional way that will stir few teen readers into making any major changes in their financial practices. Opening with a discouraging introduction to a young capitalist who was able to retire at the age of 42, she urges readers to make and stick to monthly budgets, leverage "the wonder of compound interest" by regularly saving, invest in the stock market, and understand the hazards of impulse buying and overusing credit cards. All of these are solid, if standard-issue, considerations and strategies. But the author makes misleadingly blithe claims that there's money to be made through the digital economy (by selling "homemade products on Etsy, gaming, or creating social media channels") and investing in cryptocurrency. In showing how savings or investments can grow, she also neglects to give proper weight to taxes, banking and brokerage fees, inflation, and other common, often variable, expenses. Much of the content has been savvy advice since money was invented, and so is available in far livelier, more practical iterations, such as Berna Anat's Money Out Loud. Occasional stock photos feature a racially diverse group of young adults. Stodgy and superficial. (source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)	
Teen guide to starting a business	Streissguth, Thomas	Young Adult	9781678212520			
The Best Dog in the World Essays on Love	Hoffman, Alice	Adult	9781668209028			
The best NFL quarterbacks of all time	Roland, James	Young Adult	9781678210045			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
The Cuffing Game	Lee, Lyla	Young Adult	9780063330412	School Library Journal Xpress (October 10, 2025) Gr 9 Up-It's a simple premise for a college reality dating show: contestants are chosen because they either have a crush on someone, or they are the object of that crush. Couples who stay together through the week are voted on by the audience, and the winning pair walk away with \$5,000-and each other. Against the vibrant backdrop of Los Angeles's K-pop college scene, readers meet Mia, a small-town Texas freshman, and Noah, a handsome and strikingly popular senior from Korea with a massive social media following. Both attend the same film school and are equally determined to master their craft. Noah, who was voted the most eligible guy on campus, quickly becomes Mia's classroom nemesis, consistently challenging her at every turn. Caught between attraction and major irritation, Mia is just as determined to never give in. When Mia creates a new dating show called The Cuffing Game, Noah is immediately cast, as he is the secret crush of Mia's roommate. More contestants are selected, a remote mountain location is secured, filming begins, and what starts as a lighthearted show becomes increasingly complicated. The story shines through its richly diverse cast, reflecting a wide spectrum of gender and racial identities. These are college students not just chasing romance and prize money but also learning who they are in the process. VERDICT High school readers drawn to the K-pop aesthetic and an inclusive cast will enjoy this homage to Pride and Prejudice.-Connie Williams © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (December 1, 2025 (Online)) Grades 9-12. Mia Yoon and Noah Jang's only relationship is butting heads in film class. Although Noah is a senior and Mia's a freshman in college, they both wind up in the same intro class and clearly do not get along. What Noah doesn't know, though, is that Mia has a crush on him. When Mia's student TV production transforms by necessity into a reality dating show in which crushers and crushees spend five days of winter break in a lodge together, Mia is sure she can keep her feelings for Noah—also her roommate's crush—out of the spotlight. But just like the best reality TV, things immediately go off the rails. Mia and Noah are thrown together and forced into close proximity, heightening Mia's feelings for Noah and unearthing Noah's crush on Mia. Though told in dual POV, the reasons for Mia's crush on Noah are less clear than his feelings for her. Brimming with cozy winter vibes and a fun, eclectic cast of side characters, Lee's latest is comforting and warm.	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) Pride and Prejudice meets reality television—but make it college and sprinkle it with the sweetness and fluff of quirky K-dramas. Mia Yoon, a Korean American girl from Texas, arrives at film school in Los Angeles with an ambitious four-year plan—one that doesn't include meeting her longtime crush, Noah Jang, a Korean boy she follows on social media. He's the campus's most eligible (and emotionally unavailable) heartthrob, and he loves challenging her in class. Rather than engaging with her feelings, Mia channels them into planning Campus Crush, a documentary that will follow students who are grappling with unrequited love. When the project faces cancellation due to lack of interest, however, she desperately pivots, changing the concept to one that Noah proposes. The Cuffing Game will be a reality dating show starring Noah himself; he's hoping for a real connection beyond his curated online persona. Paired with Mia's roommate, Celine Huang, he navigates the show's scripted chaos while wrestling with his attraction for the one person who's off-limits: the host herself. Set in a snowy lodge and told in the leads' alternating points of view interspersed with behind-the-scenes interviews, this rom-com explores how vulnerability and the pressure to perform shape modern relationships. Mia's perfectionism and Noah's emotional guardedness create compelling romantic tension, while their intellectual sparring adds depth to their chemistry. Mia's queerness adds to the book's thoughtful diverse representation. A clever, contemporary romance that explores authenticity in an age of endless scrutiny. (Romance. 14-18)
The dark forest	Liu, Cixin	Adult	9780765377081	Booklist (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)) In 2014, Chinese star author Cixin Liu's The Three Body Problem came to the Western world with a fresh coat of English and a smartly imaginative and surreal first-contact story to tell. Now its sequel continues the tale of international alien intrigue as the extraterrestrial Trisolarans, a telepathic race incapable of deception, attempt to understand humanity, which knows deception to be its only advantage should the visitors turn out to be hostile. With this central conceit, Liu proves that The Three Body Problem only showcased a portion of his delightfully and powerfully clever imagination. The book's large cast of characters form a latticework of precisely placed focal points around which the story weaves and connects to wonderful moments of revelation. Readers of the prequel may feel the lack of extended, surrealistically dream-like scenes; and all readers will likely note this new installment's rather graceless exposition-dumps for uninformed newcomers to the series, but the macroscopic power of Liu's writing assures that The Dark Forest is worthy of its predecessor.	Kirkus Reviews starred (June 15, 2015) Second part of an alien-contact trilogy (The Three-Body Problem, 2014) from China's most celebrated science-fiction author. In the previous book, the inhabitants of Trisolaris, a planet with three suns, discovered that their planet was doomed and that Earth offered a suitable refuge. So, determined to capture Earth and exterminate humanity, the Trisolarans embarked on a 400-year-long interstellar voyage and also sent sophons (enormously sophisticated computers constructed inside the curled-up dimensions of fundamental particles) to spy on humanity and impose an unbreakable block on scientific advance. On Earth, the Earth-Trisolaris Organization formed to help the invaders, despite knowing the inevitable outcome. Humanity's lone advantage is that Trisolarans are incapable of lying or dissimulation and so cannot understand deceit or subterfuge. This time, with the Trisolarans a few years into their voyage, physicist Ye Wenjie (whose reminiscences drove much of the action in the last book) visits astronomer-turned-sociologist Luo Ji, urging him to develop her ideas on cosmic sociology. The Planetary Defense Council, meanwhile, in order to combat the powerful escapist movement (they want to build starships and flee so that at least some humans will survive), announces the Wallfacer Project. Four selected individuals will be accorded the power to command any resource in order to develop plans to defend Earth, while the details will remain hidden in the thoughts of each Wallfacer, where even the sophons can't reach. To combat this, the ETO creates Wallbreakers, dedicated to deducing and thwarting the plans of the Wallfacers. The chosen Wallfacers are soldier Frederick Tyler, diplomat Manuel Rey Diaz, neuroscientist Bill Hines, and—Luo Ji. Luo has no idea why he was chosen, but, nonetheless, the Trisolarans seem determined to kill him. The plot's development centers on Liu's dark and rather gloomy but highly persuasive philosophy, with dazzling ideas and an unsettling, nonlinear, almost nonnarrative structure that demands patience but offers huge rewards. Once again, a highly impressive must-read.	Publishers Weekly (July 13, 2015) Readers who haven't read (or haven't recently reread) 2014's The Three-Body Problem will feel disoriented at the outset of this sprawling hard SF novel. In the prologue, an ant and a spider overhear Dr. Ye Wenjie, an astrophysicist, suggest to astronomer-turned-sociologist Luo Ji that there are "axioms of cosmic civilization," a neat variation on Asimov's psychohistory. This scene epitomizes the book's biggest flaw: clever ideas lost in often didactic prose. Before the notion of a cosmic sociology can be further developed, Liu shifts gears to present a dialogue between an alien intelligence, the Trisolaris, and the leader of the Earth-Trisolaris Organization, about the distinction between thought and speech. The Trisolarians pose a significant threat to humankind, which triggers very different responses on Earth, ranging from the Escapists, who believe that flight is the only option, to the formation of a Planetary Defense Council. The upbeat ending sets up the concluding volume, but not everyone will have the patience needed to get that far. (Aug.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The dysfunctional family's guide to murder	Emery, Kate	Young Adult	9798217030170	School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 6 Up-Ruth, 14, was not expecting to have a fabulous time spending a long weekend with her extended family in a remote farmhouse with no cell reception or Wi-Fi, but that doesn't mean she was expecting the weekend to end in murder. Still, as an undeniable fan of Agatha Christie and a bit of an amateur sleuth, Ruth can't help but be just a little bit intrigued by her step-grandmother's murder. It turns out that investigating a murder is harder than Miss Marple makes it look, especially when all the suspects are related to you. Ruth's voice is fresh and funny, and the plot is carefully woven with plenty of twists and turns to keep readers guessing all the way to the final pages. For those who prefer just a smidge of non-spicy romance with their mysteries, this entry has the perfect light touch. Some of the Australian cultural references may fly over the heads of younger readers, but that's okay, because the humor is universal. All main characters are presumed white. VERDICT A laugh-out-loud funny whodunit that is a first purchase for mystery fans.-Dana West © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (September 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 1)) Grades 8-12. Fourteen-year-old Ruth's family—her father, two aunts and their boyfriends (Nick and Shippy), and Dylan, the teenage son of Auntie Bec—are ready to go home after spending Christmas with Ruth's step-grandmother, GG. Their departure is delayed when Nick is sent to the hospital after injuring himself in an encounter with a snake. They stay another night and wake up to find GG dead, presumably a homicide. Ruth, a mystery maven, sets out to solve the murder. Yet, it's not as simple as it seems, with interloping strangers such as GG's neighbor Sasha and Rob, a man who appeared out of nowhere. GG had secrets, and Ruth and Dylan are trying to put the pieces together. In a denouement that would make Jane Marple proud, they reveal the truth. Ruth, the first-person past-tense narrator, is fantastically smart, funny, and snarky. She plays off Dylan, a quieter character with a staggering amount of patience (required to deal with Ruth). Other characters are well-rounded, and the multileveled narrative set in Australia will keep readers guessing.	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) A teen moonrooned with her family at the home of her step-grandmother, GG, in rural Western Australia puts her sleuthing talents to work. As the novel opens, 14-year-old Ruth is looking forward to returning home to Perth. She's bored with her uncaring GG's stories, all about "her (dead) cat, her (dead) son, or her (dead) husband(s)." A freak run-in with a snake sends Auntie Vinka's boyfriend, Nick ("part aging member of a K-pop band and part surfer"), to the hospital. Ruth, her dad, cousin Dylan, Auntie Vinka, Auntie Bec, and Bec's boyfriend, Shippy, stay on with GG as Nick experiences more health mishaps and must remain hospitalized. When GG is found dead and the police open an investigation, the family members, suspicious of one another, are trapped in the countryside without phone reception or internet service. Humorous exchanges among Ruth and her eccentric relatives establish a light tone, which is further buoyed by Ruth's lively, self-aware, and wry voice. As the first-person narrator, she occasionally addresses readers directly. Ruth is a fan of Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie, and Ngaio Marsh. In an homage to these classics, family secrets—unknown to both the characters and readers—are gradually revealed, clue by clue, in an airy murder mystery where an isolated Australian farmhouse stands in for an English manor. The snappy dialogue contributes to the strong sense of place. Most characters read white. A zany and entertaining whodunit. (Mystery. 12-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
The Faraway Inn	Durst, Sarah Beth	Young Adult	97983189 34858	Kirkus Reviews starred (February 1, 2026) A teenager's summer job takes a supernatural turn. When rising senior Calisa leaves Brooklyn—sent by her parents, Mom-Kate and Mom-Elise, to work at her great-aunt's bed-and-breakfast in Vermont—she quickly realizes that the Faraway Inn needs her help. The broken porch, weed-filled garden, and dusty library clearly deserve attention; but, confusingly, Auntie Zee makes it clear she doesn't want her there. Still, the inn feels like the perfect getaway for nursing her broken heart after a nasty breakup. After a few inexplicable magical events and close encounters with the inn's quirky guests, Calisa makes some supernatural discoveries that answer her questions and spark further curiosity. But then Auntie Zee disappears, and the inn can't run without her magical talents. Calisa and the handsome Jack, son of the resident groundskeeper, must figure out how to bring Auntie Zee back without worrying the guests. As it turns out, Calisa's delicious bakes and Jack's innkeeping know-how make them the perfect team. The cozy setting of the inn, complete with a grumpy cat named Portia, enriches this supernatural fantasy. As Calisa and Jack restore order and take care of business, kind, caring Calisa's narrative voice adds humor and energy to the coming-of-age storyline that blends mystery, romance, and fantasy. The magical worldbuilding's original details, creative characterization, and the charming protagonist who treats others with respect, make this a binge-worthy read. Calisa and Jack present white. All the right ingredients combine to create this irresistible cottagecore fantasy. (Fantasy, 12-18)		
The Football The Amazing Mathematics of the World's Most Watched Object	Ghys, Etienne	Adult	97806912 63120			
The glass girl	Glasgow, Kathleen	Young Adult	97983687 91616	School Library Journal starred (October 1, 2024) Gr 9 Up-Would you want a Polaroid of yourself if half your face resembled "a crushed eggplant"? Neither does 15-year-old Bella, but she doesn't have a choice. Every day at Sonoran, a residential facility in the Arizona desert for teenagers with substance abuse issues, there's another Polaroid-to document each kid's progress in a 30-day recovery program, any infraction of which results in starting over at Day 1. Bella incurred her injury after a party when she was dumped in front of her own house, passed out from alcohol poisoning. Yet at Sonoran she's nicknamed "Baby Bella" because she's young and "only" into vodka. Addicts, Glasgow emphasizes, display a will all their own, as evidenced by the lengths they'll go to procure substances. That profile fits young Bella, whose lies and deceptions affect anyone who cares about her, especially her best friend Amber. Glasgow doesn't sensationalize Bella's downward spiral, focusing instead on her slow, realistic climb towards a different life, giving the poignant novel a hopeful tone. VERDICT A highly recommended addition to collections. This compelling novel leaves it up to Bella alone to admit she needs help and is an education-and a warning-about the depths of addiction.-Georgia Christgau © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (January/February, 2025) Bella deals with what feels like a million pressures: family, schoolwork, a breakup with a boyfriend who said she was "too much," and grief over the recent loss of her grandmother. Without a robust support system, Bella turns to alcohol to relieve the pressures and numb the pain; she had her first drink at eleven, and now, at fifteen, it's an addiction. She remains in denial about that addiction until it blows up in her face, landing her in a rehab program, where she must learn to confront and process her problems in a healthier way. Glasgow paints an empathetic portrait of a young woman struggling to cope with life, giving her ample depth and complexity. The first-person narrative offers a clear depiction of the character's subjective experiences of anxiety, depression, loss, and trauma as well as a nuanced exploration of the various factors that contribute to substance use disorders. Similarly, it recognizes the nonlinear nature of recovery and the contributors to relapse. Even as it acknowledges personal accountability and agency, it does not let the adults and peers who fail Bella off the hook. The story unflinchingly examines the darkness in life but ultimately brims with hope for intrapersonal change. An author's note connects the story to Glasgow's life; resources are also appended. Shenwei Chang January/February 2025 p.82	Booklist starred (October 15, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 4)) Grades 9-12. Bella has more on her mind than any 15-year-old should reasonably have to handle. Her parents' divorce, her breakup and her ex's immediate new girlfriend, the death of her beloved grandmother—and on top of it all, the responsibility of the house and caring for her younger sister. Bella has found a way to cope, though: alcohol. She had her first drink at 11, and at 15, she is coaxing people outside liquor stores to buy her alcohol, drinking at parties, even gulping NyQuil if need be. When a spectacularly awful episode at a party lands her in the hospital with acute alcohol poisoning, Bella is set on a path to rehab, where she will learn to set healthy boundaries and confront her self-denial. Glasgow pulls no punches here: Bella's engrossing journey is difficult and uncompromising, drawing the reader in. The plot is tightly written with poignant realism, shaping three-dimensional characters with difficult flaws that work to their, and Bella's, detriment throughout the story. Glasgow's gift for writing is in full force here, sharing in the author's note that she drew from her own experience as a teen alcoholic to tell Bella's story with grace and authenticity. Glasgow already has a strong following and will surely attract more with this addition to her body of work. Consider purchasing multiple copies.
The history of money : a story of humanity	McWilliams, David	Adult	97812504 08181	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Money has changed form over time, from precious metals to paper currency to cryptocurrency. The backing of currency has also shifted, from gold to confidence in the issuing government. Financial innovations promising easy access to money—inflating a bubble that will inevitably burst—spur on boom-and-bust economies. During WWII, Hitler and his henchman planned to use money as a weapon, air-dropping counterfeit British pounds over England with the goal of derailing society by undermining confidence in the financial system. After WWI, Germany's economy had been driven to its knees by the hyperinflation of the German mark, with this instability leading to the rise of the Third Reich. The History of Money is a spectacular, overarching view of money's progression over time and its impact on the world. Irish economist McWilliams provides enlightening particulars about how political figures through time, such as Roman Emperor Vespasian and radical French Bishop Talleyrand, became pioneers in monetary policy through the issuance of credit and government-backed bonds. A scholarly work worth more than a single read.	Publishers Weekly (January 12, 2026) The evolution of money is intricately tied to major developments in politics, science, and art, according to this insightful history. Economist McWilliams (The Pope's Children) begins in ancient Sumeria, where municipal granaries functioned much like central banks, issuing long-term loans that got people thinking about the future as opportunity and about "the price of time." He moves on to the invention of coins, which democratized money by letting ordinary people shape the economy to their needs rather than elite dictates. The Roman empire, he suggests, collapsed in part because emperors reduced the silver content of coins, an early instance of inflation destroying trust in government. Medieval Florence developed fractional reserve banking, wherein banks create money by issuing loans beyond the value of their deposits, along with double-entry bookkeeping, both of which fixated European minds on precise numerical analysis in the lead-up to the Age of Reason. McWilliams goes on to cover everything from the 18th-century invention of "fiat" currency (at first a disaster leading to major market crashes, but ultimately a boon for growth) through cryptocurrency, which he describes as an "elaborate scam." Among the narrative's many fascinating asides, an account of James Joyce's financing of a Dublin movie theater prompts a rich disquisition on the resonances between entrepreneurship and art. It makes for a remarkably humanistic view of mere lucre. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	Library Journal starred (September 1, 2025) Irish economist McWilliams (Trinity Business Sch.; Renaissance Nation) offers a historical view of money and its impact on humanity. Starting with the use of simple and compound interest in ancient Sumer, the book goes on to discuss trade along China's Silk Road and ends with an examination of cryptocurrency. McWilliams makes the case that throughout history, humans adapted their needs to the exchange of money. At each stage of the development of currency, human connections established trade and fostered commercial relationships, resulting in social mobility for people across the centuries. Although some of the stories are centered in other parts of the globe, the book focuses heavily on the U.S. and Europe. Through telling stories of these interconnected parts, along with a highly engaging narrative and a dollop of humor (McWilliams is the founder of the world's only economics and stand-up comedy festival), the book traces the origins of money and finance. VERDICT A fascinating examination of civilization through the development of currency. Well suited for history and economics readers.-Jacqueline Parascandola © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
The history of video gaming	Roland, James	Young Adult	97816782 12421			
The Last Titans How Churchill and De Gaulle Saved Their Nations and Transformed the World	Vinen, Richard	Adult	97816680 64849			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				Booklist (May 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 17)) It is a truth universally acknowledged, that there can never be too much Jane Austen content. Beginning her inviting graphic biography with Austen's earliest surviving letter to her sister, Barchas, author and scholar on all things Austen, takes readers on a stroll through the streets of Bath and Southampton in this well-researched account of three distinct phases of the writer's life. Droll humor and lovingly scribbled artwork that seems as if it could have come straight from Cassandra's sketchbook will delight fans of Kate Beaton's Hark! A Vagrant comic. While Austen's daily life takes on an intentionally demure color palette of light blues, yellows, and grays, her imagination as she forms her now famous stories is in strong contrasting tones of pink and red. With soft references to the books and popular film adaptations, this biography is a delightful entry point for new fans and a rewarding promenade for established ones, just in time to celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday.	Publishers Weekly (April 14, 2025) Austen scholar Barchas (The Lost Books of Jane Austen) and artist Greenberg (Glass Town) refashion the novelist's biography into a sprightly tale in the mode of one of her classic comedies of manners. Three sections- "Budding Writer," "Struggling Artist," and "Published Author"-cover major events in Austen's life as well as small, colorful moments like a boating party and a trip to the circus. In this real-life version of a Regency romance, the love story is between Jane and her family, particularly her artistic sister Cassandra, who shares Jane's love of popular literature ("We are great Novel-readers and not ashamed of being so," Cassandra asserts) and encourages her writing. The rest of the family listens to Jane read her drafts and offers feedback: "Fanny Price is insipid," says her mother of Mansfield Park's heroine. "I did however enjoy Mrs. Norris." Coming from a poor branch of the family, the siblings must strategize to remain in their wealthier relations' good graces, while Jane struggles to make money from her publications. Greenberg's playful art has a handcrafted feel reminiscent of embroidery or quilting, appropriate for the period setting. She peppers scenes with choice historical details, labeling the parlor games played at a party and the food on a breakfast table. Austen fans and newcomers alike will find this charming volume handsome, clever, and rich with Regency scholarship. (Apr.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
The novel life of Jane Austen : a graphic biography	Barchas, Janine	Adult	97807624 89374			
The nuclear age : an epic race for arms, power and survival	Plokhly, Serhii	Adult	97813240 51176			
				School Library Journal Xpress (June 5, 2020) Gr 8 Up-In this debut historical novel, Alice and her family are introduced to the Nazi invasion of France through their own family history. When Alice's beloved grandmother passes away, she inherits an apartment in Paris that has been under lock and key since the 1940s. Alice and her family head to Paris to settle her grandmother's estate, though the trip is anything but relaxing. Alice's mother is taking the loss very hard and withdrawing into herself. Alice's father is bending over backward to keep everything cheerful, though Alice worries that her mother may need professional help to bounce back. Meanwhile, Alice has discovered a journal written by her great aunt Adalyn, a woman her grandmother never spoke about. Adalyn begins her journal in 1940 and details the changes to her beloved city and her escalating involvement in aiding French Resistance efforts. Armed with her laptop and strong coffee, Alice sets up a work station for herself at a local coffee shop and attempts to figure out what became of Adalyn by translating her great aunt's journal from French. There she meets Paul, who joins her in conducting her family research and blossoms into a love interest. Told from both Alice and Adalyn's perspectives, the story moves back and forth in time detailing Alice's research in the present and Adalyn's acts of espionage in the past. When Alice's father presents the idea to sell her grandmother's apartment, she races to discover whether Adalyn was a Nazi sympathizer, not realizing that she may be risking her mother's health and their relationship by further pursuing this mystery. VERDICT A gripping exploration of history and mental health set in the City of Lights from an outstanding new author; highly recommended for most collections.-Samantha Lumetta, P.L. of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, OH © Copyright 2020. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (May 15, 2020 (Vol. 116, No. 18)) Grades 8-11. When Alice inherits an apartment in Paris from her grandmother, she begins to uncover mysteries that the elder woman took to her grave. Discovering that her grandmother had a sister is a shock but not so much as the evidence that this mysterious great-aunt Adalyn may have been a Nazi sympathizer. Chapters jump between modern-day Alice sleuthing for answers and WWII Adalyn living in Nazi-occupied Paris, and an incredible tale of loss, lies, and resistance unfolds. As Alice learns the secrets of her family's past, she must also confront the unspoken conflict in her family's present—coming to understand her mother's "dark phases"—and find the strength to face their issues head-on. Though at times the dramas of the present-day time line seem trivial compared to the atrocities of Nazi occupation, Adalyn's story is a gripping and heart-wrenching look at the strength of human spirit in the face of overwhelming odds, and it will surely keep readers eager to know both tales. A strong historical fiction debut.	Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2020) Passionate, impulsive Chloe and her popular older sister, Adalyn, were inseparable—until the Nazis invaded France in 1940 and Adalyn started keeping secrets. Over half a century later, Alice, Chloe's 16-year-old American granddaughter, has just inherited her childhood home in Paris. The fully furnished apartment has clearly been neglected for decades and raises more questions than it answers: Why didn't Gram talk about her childhood? Who is the second girl in the photos throughout the apartment? Why didn't Gram's family return there after the war? Alice's father is reluctant to discuss anything that might upset Alice's mother, who's still reeling from her mother's death, so Alice decides to find answers on her own. What she eventually learns both shocks and heals her family. Chapters alternate between Alice's and Adalyn's voices, narrating Adalyn's experience as a French Christian of the Nazi occupation and Alice's attempts to understand what happened after the war. The girls' stories parallel one another in significant ways. Each has a romance with a young Frenchman, each has a parent struggling with depression, and each must consider the lengths she would go to protect those she loves. Though at times feeling a bit rushed, Alice's engaging contemporary perspective neatly frames Adalyn's immersive, heartbreaking story as it slowly unfolds—providing an important history lesson as well as a framework for discussing depression. Alice and her family are white. Gripping. (Historical fiction. 12-18)
				Kirkus Reviews starred (January 15, 2026) Is the hype around recycling all garbage? That's a complex question, and one that's a little easier to answer thanks to this in-depth and engaging look at this history, effects, and future of recycling in the United States. The short answer is no; the long answer is that it could be better if more people followed the guidelines. While "91 percent of Americans have access to recycling programs...only one-third of all recyclable garbage is properly recycled," a number that hasn't budged much since the widespread arrival of recycling programs in the 1990s. The figures also vary depending on what types of materials are being recycled. Kallen unpacks the details over the course of five succinct, nuanced, and engaging chapters: "The Benefits of Recycling," "Facilities Facing Problems," "The Problem with Plastic," "E-Waste Overload," and "Innovative Solutions." Each chapter's straightforward content is supported by color photographs and supplemental facts in colorful text boxes. The combination of the two enhances the text and helps to break the narrative into more manageable chunks for struggling readers. A list of source notes at the end is broken down by chapter, helping those looking to supplement reports, develop arguments, or simply further their understanding of the issues discussed. An up-to-date bibliography for further research and list of organizations worth exploring further enhances the appeal of this work, especially for savvy caregivers and educators. The reality is that this one's a winner! (index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)		
The Reality of Recycling	Kallen, Stuart A	Young Adult	97816782 12469			
The science and technology of baseball	Allen, John	Young Adult	97816828 26478			
The science and technology of basketball	Steffens, Bradley	Young Adult	97816828 26492			
The science and technology of football	Abramovitz, Melissa	Young Adult	97816828 26515			
The science and technology of hockey	Marcovitz, Hal	Young Adult	97816828 26539			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
The science and technology of soccer	Roland, James	Young Adult	9781682826553			
				Booklist (December 1, 2019 (Vol. 116, No. 7)) Grades 8-11. Ever wonder how Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt can accelerate from a stationary position to more than twenty miles per hour in under two seconds? Readers will find out in this entry from the Science and Technology of Sports series, which describes the physical forces, exercises and biometrics involved in track and field running, jumping, and throwing events. The different biomechanical principles employed by each type of event and the ideal body type athletes need to excel in each event are both explained. Noted athletes include Kenyan runner Priscah Jeptoo, American triple and long jumper Keturah Orji, and German Thomas Röhler, the 2016 Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower. They succeed, the book claims, because they understand the science involved in their events. Chapters discuss the importance of training, treating injuries, and having well-designed equipment and facilities. The informative and concise text is accompanied by color photos, diagrams, sidebars of word definitions, source notes, further resources, websites, and an index. Student athletes will find this information very helpful.		
The science and technology of track & field	Nardo, Don	Young Adult	9781682826577			
				Publishers Weekly (February 3, 2025) Vaudo, chief diversity officer at the European Space Agency, debuts with an approachable chronicle of five pivotal moments that advanced scientific understanding of the cosmos. She explains that in 1687, Isaac Newton suggested the same "invisible hand" that causes apples to fall to Earth also governs the movement of celestial bodies, allowing astronomers to predict their trajectories with greater accuracy than ever before. Fast-forwarding to the early 20th century, Vaudo discusses how Albert Einstein kicked off two revolutions, first with his theory of special relativity, which showed that the speed of light is a fixed constant and that space and time dilate in tandem, and then with his theory of general relativity, which demonstrated the "equivalence between gravity and acceleration." Elsewhere, Vaudo describes how astronomer Edwin Hubble's 1929 discovery that the universe is expanding gave rise to the concept of the big bang, and how in the 1930s, British physicist Paul Dirac's assertion of the existence of positrons (antimatter particles) that annihilate electrons upon contact raised still unanswered questions about how electrons came to outnumber positrons, enabling the formation of the observable universe. Vaudo makes the science accessible to lay readers, and offers a mind-bending conclusion that examines the possibility of parallel universes, 25 spatial dimensions, and other ideas on the frontiers of contemporary astrophysics. Armchair astronomers will be riveted. (Apr.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	Library Journal (March 1, 2025) Astrophysicist Vaudo writes in an approachable tone and style, immediately inviting readers into realms far beyond the reach of space shuttles. With this illuminating book, Vaudo joins science communicators (including John Green) and scholars (including Katie Mack and Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock) who have increased the accessibility and intelligibility of the stories about the galaxy. Readers will find familiar tales and names of recognizable scientists such as Carl Sagan, and they'll also encounter careful explanations of the five revolutions that Vaudo suggests tell the story of astrophysics. The book simplifies the laws of physics in ways that invite readers to travel with her through explorations of gravity, the speed of light, the Big Bang, anti-matter, and much more, maintaining an effective balance between science and story throughout. VERDICT From casual viewers of The Big Bang Theory to knowledge-thirsty scientists, readers will appreciate this book's carefulness and complexity and Vaudo's passion for treating astrophysics (like every other body of knowledge) as an ever-evolving set of shifting reference points, like stars guiding them toward new beliefs, values, and technologies.-Emily Bowles © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	
The story of astrophysics in five revolutions	Vaudo, Ersilia	Adult	9781324089278			
				Kirkus Reviews starred (October 15, 2014) Strange and fascinating alien-contact yarn, the first of a trilogy from China's most celebrated science-fiction author.In 1967, at the height of the Cultural Revolution, young physicist Ye Wenjie helplessly watches as fanatical Red Guards beat her father to death. She ends up in a remote re-education (i.e. forced labor) camp not far from an imposing, top secret military installation called Red Coast Base. Eventually, Ye comes to work at Red Coast as a lowly technician, but what really goes on there? Weapons research, certainly, but is it also listening for signals from space--maybe even signaling in return? Another thread picks up the story 40 years later, when nanomaterials researcher Wang Miao and thuggish but perceptive policeman Shi Qiang, summoned by a top-secret international (!) military commission, learn of a war so secret and mysterious that the military officers will give no details. Of more immediate concern is a series of inexplicable deaths, all prominent scientists, including the suicide of Yang Dong, the physicist daughter of Ye Wenjie; the scientists were involved with the shadowy group Frontiers of Science. Wang agrees to join the group and investigate and soon must confront events that seem to defy the laws of physics. He also logs on to a highly sophisticated virtual reality game called "Three Body," set on a planet whose unpredictable and often deadly environment alternates between Stable times and Chaotic times. And he meets Ye Wenjie, rehabilitated and now a retired professor. Ye begins to tell Wang what happened more than 40 years ago. Jaw-dropping revelations build to a stunning conclusion. In concept and development, it resembles top-notch Arthur C. Clarke or Larry Niven but with a perspective--plots, mysteries, conspiracies, murders, revelations and all--embedded in a culture and politic dramatically unfamiliar to most readers in the West, conveniently illuminated with footnotes courtesy of translator Liu. Remarkable, revelatory and not to be missed.	Publishers Weekly (September 29, 2014) Fans of hard SF will revel in this intricate and imaginative novel by one of China's most celebrated genre writers. In 1967, physics professor Ye Zhetai is killed after he refuses to denounce the theory of relativity. His daughter, Ye Wenjie, witnesses his gruesome death. Shortly after, she's falsely charged with sedition for promoting the works of environmentalist Rachel Carson, and told she can avoid punishment by working at a defense research facility involved with the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. More than 40 years later, Ye's work becomes linked to a string of physicist suicides and a complex role-playing game involving the classic physics problem of the title. Liu impressively succeeds in integrating complex topics-such as the field of frontier science, which attempts to define the limits of science's ability to know nature-without slowing down the action or sacrificing characterization. His smooth handling of the disparate plot elements cleverly sets up the second volume of the trilogy. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
The three-body problem	Liu, Cixin	Adult	9780765377067			
The truth about horses : a novel	Cashman, Christy	Young Adult	9781516062164			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
The Whisperwood legacy	Schulte, Jo	Young Adult	9780316578721	School Library Journal Xpress (August 2, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Francesca (Frankie) Strauss has always cherished the time spent with her grandmother and extended family at Whisperwood, the popular theme park based on Der Flusterwald, the fairy tale collection written by her great-great-great grandfather. And while verbal snipes and quarrels between family members always occurred, the reunion at the book's opening is especially venomous due to the decision by Grandmother Strauss to close the park 18 months earlier. Having been cut off from the largesse the park afforded, Frankie's mother and uncles argue over wresting control from Grandmother Strauss, which turns more sinister when the family matriarch goes missing. Frankie enlists the assistance of the groundskeeper Jem to locate her grandmother, and what they discover is deeper and more sinister than any written fairy tale. The train wreck of Strauss family dynamics makes for an engaging opening, with clever one-liners and sardonic humor peppered throughout. Schulte is also effective in building tension and stakes; early hints at unnatural occurrences at the park clue the reader into the fact that Der Flusterwald might be more than just stories in a book. But as the story develops, flashbacks, unnatural magic, and changing goals get muddled together, making the central narrative harder to follow. The book's resolution is a little uneven, though Frankie's overall growth as a character is satisfying. The presence of strong language and underage drinking makes this best for a high school collection. VERDICT A good blend of action, magic, and surprises will entertain readers despite some uneven plotting. A solid purchase.-Michael Van Wambeke © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (April 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 15)) Grades 10-12. Eighteen months ago, the Appalachian amusement park based on the folklore of German immigrants suddenly shut down for reasons no one except Oma, Frankie's grandmother and sole proprietor of the park, understands. It didn't take long for Whisperwood Park's closing to have a big effect on everyone's financial situation, and some people are more upset about that than others. Frankie, personally, couldn't care less; she only cares about Oma, the matriarch everyone else mostly ignores, and is disgusted by her family's greed. After an unwanted and unpleasant surprise party, Oma disappears, setting into motion a chain of events that unearths long-buried secrets deeper than a theme park fortune. The park's attractions are based on very dark folklore, and as the boundaries of reality shift, Frankie's family's true inheritance may not quite meet their expectations. Lots of big personalities keep the large cast of complex family situations from being too muddled, and copious twists and turns will keep readers guessing. Readers of dark fairy tales and complicated family dramas will be enchanted.	Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2025) Inside a shuttered North Carolina theme park, one family is bound for a reckoning. Since its inception, Whisperwood Park has been run by a member of the Strauss family: first German immigrant Sir Wilhelm and now Virginia, his great-granddaughter. The popular park featured rides and attractions based on Wilhelm's tales, which brought to life his German heritage within the Appalachian setting. But 18 months ago, Virginia abruptly shuttered it. As potential heirs to the property, 17-year-old Francesca "Frankie" Montgomery-Strauss and the rest of her family return, hoping to uncover what happened and what it means for their futures. Frankie also seeks to understand the disappearance of her friend (and maybe something more) Zara Morales. And then Oma—Frankie's grandmother Virginia—goes missing too. The answers lie in the park, with its stories and its quiet, attractive teenage groundskeeper, Jem. Magic, a family feud, and a dark deal coalesce in a whirlwind that complements rather than overshadows Frankie's story of unraveling her past, her feelings, and her agency. The portrayal of Frankie's bisexuality stands out as an understated yet clearly integral part of her characterization. Atmospheric and broody, the story brings together monsters and fairy tales even as it tackles teenage love and heartbreak and digs into the key role Frankie plays in the future of the park and her family. Most characters are cued white. Zara presents Latine. A strong, compelling debut that shows that stories really do have power—and can hold danger. (family tree) (Fantasy. 13-18)
The wildest dreams bookshop	Page, Gracie	Young Adult	9780063479012	School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-A fun summer read. Anna, an 18-year-old from London with her whole life planned out, takes a detour from her summer plans. At the encouragement of her mom, she goes to visit her aunt in a small seaside town where she will work in her aunt's bookstore. Shortly after Anna arrives and gets settled in, Aunt Josie unexpectedly breaks her leg, and Anna is suddenly running the shop. She soon learns that the shop is in danger of closing and starts a mission to save it. The writing in the novel includes beautiful descriptions of the scenery and small town, making readers feel like they are right there. The characters are all charming in their own ways, and the town has a feeling of community where everyone cares about one another. This entire story is entertaining and sweet. VERDICT A must-buy for the young adult crowd; readers will be excitedly waiting for the next book in the series.-Margaret Puentes © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 9-12. This charming and heartfelt debut celebrates second chances, the messy beauty of growing up, and the power of books in a lovingly rendered setting. Seventeen-year-old perfectionist Anna is sure her life is falling apart after her boyfriend dumps her and she's convinced she failed her exams. Her aunt Josie gives her just the escape she needs when she invites her to spend the summer in her small Cornish beach town working at her seaside bookshop. It seems like a simple enough plan, but Anna encounters unexpected complications: an unsettlingly charming yet brooding local surfer, a celebrity author event she agrees to plan, and contending with her freespirted aunt's eccentricities. Throughout, Anna's relatable voice shines, as well as the cast of vibrant, loveable characters who embody irresistible small-town charm, and it's all grounded in the well-wrought setting of the comforting bookshop. Fans of Jenny Han and Sarah Dessen will appreciate this cozy, witty, and warm novel that captures the joy of finding community and love in unexpected places.	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) A driven 18-year-old from London spends the summer in a small Cornish village and learns that slowing down can still get her where she wants to go. Anna had it all—a prestigious law firm internship, a perfect boyfriend, Max, and plans to attend a top university in the fall. But when she freezes up during her exams, the internship falls through, and Max dumps her, despite all their carefully laid-out plans for their future, Anna's only option is to accept her aunt's offer of summer employment at the Wildest Dreams Bookshop. Anna travels to Fox Bay, ready to make the best of things and find her way back to her dreams. But when she arrives, she quickly gets off on the wrong foot with Jacob, the local boy her aunt sent to collect her from the train station. At the bookstore, Anna is greeted enthusiastically by Aunt Josie and Pushkin the cat. As she gets to know the village, Anna finds a new friend in Raye, the other bookshop employee, and is charmed by the eccentric locals. Fox Bay—itsself a character—brings out Anna's best qualities, and she exhibits subtle and well-paced development. Fox Bay's inhabitants shine as instigators of change, who help Anna on her path, and the romantic tension between Anna and Jacob crackles. Main characters read white. A sweet, character-focused summer romance that's full of heart and hope. (Romance. 13-18)
Three Sisters	Gill, David Macinnis	Young Adult	9780062290199	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) A day hike to spread their mother's ashes becomes a fight for survival for three sisters after a volcanic eruption. Following the recent death of their mother, responsible oldest sister Harper, STEM expert Ryker (just 16 months Harper's junior), and 11-year-old burgeoning medic Jentry accompany their father to Central Oregon. Their mission is a solemn one: to scatter their mother's ashes on the summit of South Sister, a mountain in the iconic Three Sisters range. The already emotionally charged journey quickly morphs into a desperate fight for survival. Just as the family reaches the summit, a catastrophic seismic event rocks the mountain, triggering massive landslides and opening fissures as ash rains down upon the party. Thrust into a perilous descent, the family members' heightened emotions become a catalyst for action. With a lengthy government shutdown hampering rescue efforts, they must rely on their individual strengths to navigate the treacherous, disintegrating landscape and make it back alive. Grief over Mom's death three months earlier is integral to each character's motivations. Gill effectively draws parallels between the three sisters and their counterparts, the three peaks; each girl is fiercely independent, yet each would be incomplete without the others. The sisters' relationship is well-developed and realistic—their continuous bickering highlights a lived-in history, emphasizing the unbreakable bonds forged by their combined strength. The tension escalates believably as the perils stack upon one another. The main characters present white. A gripping survival story unfolding under the shadow of profound loss. (Thriller. 12-16)		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
To the stars : the story of NASA	Miller, Ron	Young Adult	97987656 48063	School Library Journal Xpress (August 2, 2025) Gr 5-10-This title traces NASA's history from its early 20th-century origins to its impact on modern life. It begins with the founding of NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in 1915, and follows NASA's formation, the space race with the Soviet Union, and decades of innovation and exploration. Readers learn how NASA's inventions, like satellites, have influenced daily life, while politics, budgets, and public interest have shaped its direction. Densely written and chronologically organized, the book emphasizes science, engineering, and historical detail. Occasional narrative sidebars—such as the story of Laika, the first dog in space—appear throughout, but the main text is technical and best suited for research or science-focused readers. Each chapter spans about 10 pages, with one photo or diagram and one sidebar. Rather than fast facts or flashy graphics, the book offers a continuous, in-depth narrative ideal for focused reading. The book includes a table of contents, glossary, bibliography, further reading, and an index. VERDICT Recommended for middle school or high school collections where in-depth NASA or STEM materials are in demand.-Katherine Rao © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) An overview of NASA's growth and accomplishments, from World War I–era antecedents to a planned return to the Moon in 2026. This work is of some value for tallying many of the spectacular successes and failures in both aeronautics and space exploration sponsored by the U.S. government through the 20th century and into the 21st. Unfortunately, Miller's narrative quickly becomes an eye-glazing barrage of mission profiles and technical descriptions that are only rarely relieved by a photo or graphic image. Readers who would like to know what the cutting-edge Bell X-1 rocket-powered plane from the 1940s looked like—not to mention the Gemini capsule, the International Space Station, or any NASA satellite, space probe, or Mars rover—will have to be content with verbal descriptions alone. Still, the facts seem to be carefully researched, the author tells a coherent story, and the glimpses of upcoming and longer-range space missions send a reassuring message that the agency is resolutely keeping its eye on the future. Text boxes add interest by covering subjects such as experiments with sending animals into space (including the ill-fated dog Laika, who died of hyperthermia on board the Soviet Union's Sputnik I) and the experiences and contributions of women and racial minorities. A methodical reference, if dry and lacking in visual appeal. (glossary, source notes, bibliography, further reading, index, photo credits) (Nonfiction. 12-16)	
Tom Holland	Mooney, Carla	Young Adult	97810982 89135			
We're a Bad Idea, Right?	Walther, K. L	Young Adult	97805939 04794	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) A Connecticut girl and her best friend devise a series of plans in order to achieve their goals: following a dream and winning back an ex. Eighteen-year-old Audrey Barbour has a Master Plan: attend Blue Ridge Glass School in North Carolina and someday turn her Etsy shop, Goliightly Glass, into a thriving business. But her uber-wealthy parents insist that she instead follow in their footsteps and go to business school. So Audrey decides to go find the tuition money she needs with help from her best friend, Henry Chen. Henry needs a favor, too: He hopes that fake dating Audrey will help him win back his ex-girlfriend, and he points out to a reluctant Audrey that this could make her crush, Griffin, notice her. While Audrey's parents vacation in France for three weeks, the pair rent out the Barbour mansion on the Long Island Sound. Soon romantic chemistry grows alongside their business partnership. Despite the pair's great preparation and an abundance of secondary characters with connections and talents to help pull off their increasingly ambitious ideas, plans go awry, leaving Audrey and Henry scrambling and second-guessing their choices. The pacing is even, but the characters often take a back seat to the whirlwind of activity that drives the plot, with the emphasis falling on each person's practical skills and their role in keeping the action moving over their emotional bonds. Audrey is white, and Henry's surname cues him as Chinese American. A light and entertaining plot-driven romance. (Romance. 14-18)		
When It's Your Turn for Midnight	Musariri, Blessing	Young Adult	97987656 89134	School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-After an explosive confrontation at home upends 15-year-old Chianti's life, she hitchhikes from her parents' home in Harare, Zimbabwe, to her ambuya's (grandmother's) house in Mutare. Ambuya lives on a quiet cul-de-sac with her best friends as neighbors: all of them fought together in Zimbabwe's war for independence. Now, the group of gogos (elderly women) run a business modifying bulk secondhand clothing and selling it online. Recruited to star in their TikTok, Chianti spends hours talking with the gogos and listening to their stories about the war—yet she's often frustrated by how evasive their answers to her questions are. She spends her free time rifling through boxes of old photographs and documents to piece together their past, even as she struggles to make sense of her own family's conflicts in the present. This is a quiet, readable novel about the price of war and the meaning of family, best suited for thoughtful, introspective readers. As in Musariri's first young adult novel, All That It Ever Meant, the rich and complex family relationships drive the narrative. However, its brevity detracts somewhat from a full exploration of its complex themes, and the ending feels overly neat. A glossary at the end defines Zimbabwean terms. VERDICT A brief, beautiful Zimbabwean novel about war and family, recommended for collections where literary YA fiction is in demand.-Elizabeth Giles © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 8-12. During a family altercation, Chianti's mother shouts, "Don't touch her; she's not your child" at Chianti's father, and Chianti's world implodes. In the aftermath, Chianti goes to stay with her maternal ambuya (grandmother), Precious. Ambuya has lived surrounded by her best friends since they were combatants in the Zimbabwe War for Independence decades before. Now, engaged in upcycling secondhand clothing, Ambuya and the gogos (gogo also means grandmother) hardly seem like former soldiers, apart from one. Gogo Ropa is quiet and cautious, her reserved nature concealing her PTSD. Chianti wants to know more about her mother, her biological father, and the war, and in the end, she understands that being a parent is more than a blood relationship. Chianti is bright, funny, and capable, and Ambuya and the gogos are well-rounded; they practically walk off the page. Musariri skillfully weaves local terms and folklore into the narrative, with a glossary to expand on the theme at the back. In the end, she has taken an age-old narrative—the meaning of family—and given it a wholly fresh, new look.	Kirkus Reviews starred (January 15, 2026) "Words kill." Fifteen-year-old Chianti Minana learns this truth when, in a heated moment, her mother blurts out a long-kept secret: Baba isn't Chianti's biological father. Mama leaves Harare for a European tour with her band, and a distressed Chianti runs away to her maternal grandmother, Ambuya, in Mutare. She ignores texts from Mama and little sisters Taren and Tisha but is devastated by Baba's silence. At Ambuya's, Chianti gets swept up in the intertwined lives of the gogos, or grandmothers—Ambuya's best friends, Stella, Tapera, and Ropa—and Mr. Kingsley Pfupajena. The quintet's close bonds were forged in the 1970s when they fought for liberation in the Zimbabwe War of Independence. Together they run their business, Chedu, buying bales of secondhand clothes that they repurpose into fresh fashions. Soon Chianti is helping to create TikTok to promote Chedu. As she rests and heals in the elders' warm embrace, Chianti also starts digging around, uncovering old photos and a notebook that pique her curiosity about their wartime days, about which they're cagey and reticent. With a few deftly chosen words, Musariri's poetic writing breathes life into her characters' complex, authentic relationships and the well-realized setting that highlights natural beauty. As Gogo Tapera says, "We haven't come this far to live on mute... There is life and there is living; we're living." The nuanced exploration of what we say—and choose not to say—will encourage deep reflection. A sparkling jewel of a story grounded in emotional truths. (discussion questions, glossary) (Fiction. 13-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Where No Shadow Stays	Hashem, Sara	Young Adult	9780823457007	Kirkus Reviews starred (February 1, 2026) Yasmina Mansour's life fractures the moment she comes home to her small California town of Ward after a brief trip to Egypt. A violent entity attempts to kill her by possessing anyone Egyptian American Mina is alone with. To protect her friends and family, Mina cuts them off without explanation, retreating as she searches for a solution. The only person who seems to understand what she's facing is Jesse Talbot, her reclusive classmate and neighbor, who presents white. He reveals that he carries a similar burden. As Mina and Jesse investigate, they discover that the intergenerational curse Mina is living with is tied to her maternal line. Mina struggles under the weight of fear and feelings of cultural dislocation, and as her late mother's past rises to meet her, she must make an impossible choice between two heartbreaking outcomes. In her YA debut, Hashem delivers an engaging, cohesive, genre-blending novel, executing the concept of a monster that weaponizes isolation with clarity and mounting suspense and seamlessly incorporating Egyptian Arabic and other culturally rooted details. Mina and Jesse's developing relationship is grounded in mutual vulnerability, bringing a warmth and romantic intimacy that effectively strikes an equilibrium with the horror elements. Mina's struggle to belong, to understand her family's past, and to reconcile the parts of herself shaped by two worlds gives the novel a lingering emotional depth. A gripping, atmospheric blend of supernatural terror and the aching work of reclaiming agency. (Horror. 14-18)		
Why We Click The Emerging Science of Interpersonal Synchrony	Murphy, Kate	Adult	9781250352453	Booklist (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Whether you've immediately felt the spark of connection with someone or just as quickly decided they rub you the wrong way, there's a science to syncing. As journalist Murphy (You're Not Listening, 2020) explains in this absorbing book, interpersonal synchrony is the tendency people have to fall into rhythm with each other. Even our brains show similar patterns when we're in tune with another person. There's a dark side to this ability, such as bad apples who poison their environments or tech companies pushing people to stay on their platforms longer. Murphy illuminates the science through interviews with researchers and people showing synchrony at play in a variety of ways, including a charismatic crossing guard, an emergency room nurse, a crew of comedians, an Army veteran, and members of the famous Rockettes dance group. This instinct isn't limited to interpersonal interactions, as Murphy describes people with deep connections to animals and even vehicles. Murphy proves that, as infectious as a disease, and just as crucial to our health, this human superpower cannot be underestimated.	Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Journalist and interpersonal communication expert Murphy (You're Not Listening) here explores interpersonal synchrony, which is the tendency of individuals to coordinate their behavior temporarily. It might be walking in step with a partner or a couple finishing one another's sentences. It is also the alignment of heartbeats, brain activity, and other physiological responses. This synchronization has been shown to strengthen relationships and increase cooperation and collaboration within groups. Throughout the book, Murphy explores the science of what is essentially "vibes" but also goes deeper into how a fundamental understanding of human society is based on synchronicity between individuals. That rhythm can explain group transcendence, why bad habits can be contagious, and how feeling out of sync has implications in the personal and business worlds. Murphy combines medical science and psychology to explore the unconscious foundations of interpersonal relationships and examine how the innate need for social interaction continues to drive most, if not all, human intentions. VERDICT This book's mix of psychology and business should appeal to readers of Malcolm Gladwell and Charles Duhigg. -John Rodzvilla © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	
101 lessons from the dugout : what baseball and softball can teach us about the game of life	Rotbart, Harley A	YA		School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-This nonfiction guide uses 101 fundamentals of the sport to deliver wisdom for life disguised as a baseball and softball book. Written specifically for young adults, the book translates the subtle rules of the diamond into metaphors for navigating the major leagues of school, friendships, and family. The work's strength lies in its structure: short, simple summaries connect specific game actions, such as Called Strikeout to Try Again, the Check Swing to Admitting Your Mistakes, and The Pickle to Pay Attention and Tell the Truth, to fairly profound real-world messages. These lessons cover essential concepts, such as resilience, courage, gratitude, and consistency. This is explicitly designed to enhance shared experiences and discussion among players, parents, and coaches. While the text addresses important concepts, such as stereotyping, its primary focus is using game mechanics as universal life metaphors rather than delving into the sport's history or diversity. But this may be a hard sell as sport enthusiasts might find the book's lack of facts about the sport disappointing, while the self-improvement crowd might find the constant sports metaphors overdone. VERDICT An additional purchase for those serving older teen readers. This highly practical guide provides essential, reliable lessons for success by translating the mechanics of baseball and softball into meaningful life skills.-Richard Winters © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (January 1, 2026) Baseball and softball presented as models for right behavior in real life. The co-authors—a pediatrician and a sports journalist—take a widely used metaphor to its limits. They use many elements of or situations common to the two related games as opportunities to lecture readers about the virtues of discipline, consistency, respect, making good choices, learning from mistakes, staying positive, and following rules. These are solid principles—but along with being largely expressed as slogans ("Give 110 Percent") or platitudes, they're packed into short, numbered entries that for all the boldface titling soon begin to run together. Moreover, the baseball-bromide connection turns tenuous at times: "Switch-Hitting," for example, cautions against reckless behavior; "The Check Swing" promotes the importance of keeping promises ("The more you check your swing, the more likely you are to strike out with those depending on you"); and "First and Third" includes a warning about online scams. Even if the overall approach is upbeat, these wearily earnest pep talks are unlikely to reach base. Although the co-authors directly address readers as "young adults like you," the tone of the writing is unlikely to appeal to contemporary teens: "The older kids at school may seem cool, but some of their habits and behaviors may be better to avoid than to imitate." An unmanagable lineup of wild pitches and passed balls. (Nonfiction. 12-16)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
A year without home	Bidania, V. T		5-8	School Library Journal Xpress starred (November 14, 2025) Gr 5-7-Bidania's latest is an emotional exploration of the realities of displacement. Gao Sheng, an 11-year-old Hmong girl, is proud to call her mountain "home." Born and raised in Pa Kao, Laos, Gao Sheng loves nothing more than her family, her siblings, and her perfect little life upon the mountain, which is lush with peach trees. But it is 1975, and the war that has been plaguing the country for years has turned sour. Communism takes hold of Laos, and Gao Sheng and her family must escape. Told through verse, Gao Sheng navigates her loss of home, refugee camps, and familial displacement. She spends a year aching to go back home, but she eventually realizes that home has been with her all along. Gao Sheng's experience of familial expectations, refugee status, and new identities will grip readers from beginning to end. As the eldest daughter of a traditional Hmong family, Gao Sheng struggles with her circumscribed role. She must always be strong, but she never feels valued for that strength; all of that recognition goes to her brother. This internal plot thickens alongside her harrowing external circumstances. Readers will find strength within Gao Sheng's story while learning more about the true struggles of Hmong Laotian peoples during this turbulent time in history. VERDICT This beautiful novel will inspire readers who love poetry and historical feminist fiction; a triumph to add to any collection. -Ashton Conley © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (December 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 7)) Grades 4-7. Gao Sheng is accustomed to fighting and uncertainty—it's been years since the Laotian civil war began, in congruence with the Vietnamese one—but life on her hillside is beautiful during fleeting intervals of peace. She loves spending time with her extended family and tending to the nearby peach trees, though she's beginning to chafe at the expectations placed on her as an obedient eldest daughter, duty-bound to persevere without complaint. Any remaining hopes of a calm life in Laos are dashed when her American-allied Hmong father is warned to escape the country to evade capture, and the entire family flees under cover of darkness. They race to an abandoned airfield, avoid arrest, canoe across borders, adapt to refugee camps, and finally start over in the U.S. This riveting account, based on the real experience of the author's family, is told through evocative, urgent prose, equally adept at capturing moments of stillness and beauty as well as those of suspense and horror. The book is many remarkable things: a harrowing history lesson on an often-overlooked war, an incredible account of the love and tension held in a family, a coming-of-age story about a girl bursting with questions and passions, and a sympathetic spotlight on the plight of refugees. It all comes together as a transfixing tale, sure to stay with readers long after they've finished its final page.	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2025) Bidania distills her family's experiences as refugees into resonant historical fiction. It's 1975, and Gao Sheng lives "in a sunny mountain town" in Pao Kao, Laos, in a house with plenty of room for her extended family: nine adults and 11 kids. Eleven-year-old Gao Sheng silently, obediently helps with cooking, shopping, and child care: "This is what's expected / of the oldest daughter." When the communists take over, her father's army service alongside Americans puts the family at risk, forcing them to flee. The scattered clan members endure separation, survive two Thai refugee camps, and start new lives in America. Gao Sheng is an insightful witness, keenly aware of her 8-year-old brother's elevated status just because he's male, while she's overlooked: "My arms drop to my sides, / limp and wilted." Despite disappointments, she's steadfast in fulfilling her mature responsibilities. But when she finally refuses to keep quiet—"Today / I will be loud / I will show my strength"—her family sees and eventually acknowledges and proudly appreciates her. An epilogue describes Gao Sheng's arrival in Wisconsin with her parents and siblings. The candid verse deftly grounds precious experiences in tangible reminders—peach seeds that Gao Sheng saves to plant "someday, / when the country is at peace," and soft buns that taste "like sugar and happiness." With inviting vulnerability, Bidania transforms her war-torn past into a rallying cry to "build empathy, curiosity, and awareness." A lyrical, heartfelt account of personal growth and endurance. (author's note, photos) (Verse historical fiction. 10-14)
An Expanse of Blue	Adams, Kauakanilehua Mahoe	YA		School Library Journal Xpress (March 20, 2026) Gr 10 Up-A verse novel about Aouli Elizabeth Smith, a Hawaiian diasporic girl, navigating first love, family tensions, and the weight of religious expectation. Rather than building toward neat resolution, the novel embraces uncertainty. Many conflicts, including her father's infidelity and the strain of his rigid, patriarchal authority, remain unresolved by the end, and Aouli's world is not magically repaired. Yet what she gains is something more enduring: the recognition that she has wings. She can fly "to that place where the sky meets the sea." The metaphor of wings threads quietly but persistently throughout. Feathers are surprinted across nearly every page, transforming the book into a layered visual experience. The imagery works in tandem with Adams's use of blank space in the verse form. Expanses of white create breath, pause, and openness—a sense of sky on the page. The visual and poetic elements together evoke fragility and possibility. What makes the novel so empowering is its refusal of easy uplift. Growth here is interior and ongoing, ultimately suggesting that becoming whole only requires the courage to spread out one's own wings. Beyond its intimate coming-of-age narrative, this offers meaningful engagement with Native Hawaiian history and diasporic identity, situating Aouli's personal struggles within broader cultural and intergenerational contexts. The novel does not shy away from difficult realities: parental infidelity, emotional neglect within the family, and uncomfortable sexualized interactions are all handled with emotional nuance rather than sensationalism. These elements make the book best suited for mature teens. VERDICT A strong addition to collections seeking Indigenous and Pacific Islander representation in YA literature. -Shuya Su © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Publishers Weekly starred (February 23, 2026) Via distinctive and emotionally resonant verse, Adams crafts an evocative story about identity, devotion, and belonging. Seventeen-year-old Aouli Elizabeth Smith dreads attending Catholic Mass with her intimidating father, passive mother, and dismissive older sister. Relief comes in the form of her great-aunt's home, a hub for the Hawaiian community in Hawk Valley, Wash., where her father occasionally softens. There, Aouli meets peer Nalu, also Hawaiian, who helps her feel accepted into and connected with her heritage ("It feels so good to be the same as him"). Tension mounts as Aouli wrestles with the aftermath of her father's extramarital affair, her own persistent feelings of invisibility, and a complicated romantic entanglement involving her sister's crush. She begins to rebel against her father's rigid expectations, including mandatory church and youth group attendance, but as she forges her own path, she jeopardizes her deepening relationship with Nalu, whom she bonded with through these spaces. When a rumor spread by her best friend threatens this relationship further, Aouli must decide if she's brave enough to chart her own path. Measured and profound language—arranged in short lines, cascading stanzas, and block formations that reflect emotional shifts—conveys Aouli's internal growth and cultural awakening with aching assuredness. A glossary and author's note conclude. Ages 13-up. Agent: Sara Crowe, Sara Crowe Literary. (May) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
Ancient civilizations : a captivating guide to Mayan history, the Aztecs, and Inca Empire	Clayton, Matt	AD				
Athletes as influencers : name, image, and likeness	Rule, Heather		5-8			
Bridges : their engineering and planning	Lee, George C	AD				
Bridges of Washington, D.c. —a History & Guide	Dover, Bob	AD				
Busted	Mills, Jean	YA		School Library Journal Xpress (January 16, 2026) Gr 7 Up-This new title offers readers a glimpse into the dynamics of a youth hockey team. Jonah is a member of an elite team headed for the city tournament. Although team members get along well, there is one who is somewhat unpredictable and known for his aggression and quick temper. League rules strictly forbid horseplay in the locker rooms, but when two team members engage in a playful fight and one gets hurt, all team members fear the horseplay will be discovered. The situation is further complicated when a video of the fight surfaces, which was accidentally recorded by Jonah. While the novel explains the perils of disregarding rules and alludes to anxiety, the story can feel contrived and unbelievable, as it ends with all parties recognizing the error of their ways and no one receiving consequences for their actions. VERDICT Although not a first purchase, this book is appropriate for libraries seeking to add to their high-interest, low-reading-level collections where sports-themed titles widely circulate. -Misty Schattell © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		

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Camouflage : the hidden lives of autistic women	Bargiela, Sarah	AD		Publishers Weekly (December 3, 2018) Using a combination of intriguing science facts and moving personal accounts, psychologist Bargiela explains why doctors more rarely identify autism in women than in men. Beginning with the history of autism research, Bargiela shows that studies don't focus enough on the differences between men's and women's brains and skills, such as women's greater talent for "social mimicry," and therefore miss the ways autism manifests in women. Bargiela ensures that the medical information is understandable, and when potentially confusing terms arise, quick and concise footnotes are provided. She includes interviews with three autistic women, in which she asked each the same four questions about her life experiences. The responses are revealing; one woman says her assumption that her romantic partners are truthful makes her vulnerable to those who want to take advantage of her. Standing's art is subtle, enhancing the information being shared without distracting from the subject matter. The artwork is reminiscent of art deco, with distinct illustrations and a calming color palette. This informative work has insights for those familiar with or new to autism studies, and readers will feel the interviews add an important perspective. (Feb.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.		
Einstein	Ottaviani, Jim	AD		Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2022) This thoroughly researched comic-format account of the world's most well-known physicist is described by its author as "not so much a biography of Albert Einstein as it is a story about him." Storytelling liberties such as a nonlinear narrative, invented dialogue, fourth wall .breaking asides (identified by square word balloons), and scenes of a teenage Einstein visualizing his quintessential white-haired self as running along a beam of light are engagingly theatrical. Complicated scientific concepts, including relativity and space time, are imaginatively portrayed at length through a blend of words and pictures. Einstein's multifaceted personal life is equally examined -- including his involvement in geopolitics, experiences of antisemitic attacks, and numerous affairs. Relationships and rivalries with a large cast of world-renowned scientists, from Planck to Curie to Bohr, serve as a constant through line, underscoring the collaborative and competitive nature of early-twentieth-century scientific discourse. Strong cartooning across consistent three-tier page layouts is clear and effective. The hand-inked illustrations are rendered in an undulating black line and muted color palette, punctuated by ethereal blue thought bubbles and visual motifs representing Einstein's inner life. This nuanced portrayal of the individual behind many of the last century's greatest discoveries is complex and confounding, much like the man himself. Back matter includes a timeline and whimsical coda regarding Einstein's death. Patrick Gall November/December 2022 p.109	Publishers Weekly (January 2, 2023) Science comics veteran Ottaviani (Hawking) partners with Dye (Pigs Might Fly) on an inventive graphic biography of Albert Einstein (1879-1955) that effectively employs the comics medium to demonstrate the scientist's hallmark nonlinear perspectives of space and time. The narrative follows the beats of Einstein's life: his silent youth, his aptitude for mathematics and science, the Annus Mirabilis that introduced E=mc2 to the masses, his relationships with his wives (first wife fractious, second wife steady), colleagues (competitively genial), and admirers (bemusing), and his final years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Emulating theories of relativity, the scenes expand or contract, with time represented across shorter or longer panel lengths, or characters who converse across points of time across panels. Other clever visual devices include having a young Einstein dream up theories imagining his older Einstein self walking on a beam of light. The creators do an admirable job accentuating Einstein's intellectual feats while giving equal time to his human foibles, faithfully depicting someone who is a "lover of humanity, but detached from his environment and the people in it." This tension forms the heart of the book. It's an artful play on the "distinction between past, present, and future" and how these elements are only a "stubbornly persistent illusion." (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
Fitness and nutrition	Rozier, Kimber	YA		School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) HighSchool-An offering of titles that look at the exercise science based approach to being healthy, going beyond building up muscle and fad diets. Exploring concepts and practices in the fitness world today from high intensity interval training to the importance of mind and body connection. The inclusion of anatomy and physiology illustrations coupled with multimedia interactions helps bridge the home to school applications of the fitness content. The hidden gem of this series is its continued work across each topic to debunk myths and unhealthy habits, especially around exercise and eating. VERDICT A great addition for high school biology and physical education classes that would also be welcome on the bookshelves of students looking to build healthy habits at home. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Food & nutrition.		YA				
Food safety.		YA				
I could give you the moon	Liang, Ann	YA		Booklist (April 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 15)) Grades 9-12. Chanel Cao and Ares Yin don't seem to have anything in common except for a vision captured in moonlight on a lake, indicating they're entwined with each other's futures. Social media sensation Chanel is rich, gorgeous, famous, and fake: she doesn't trust anyone with her true self, and her mother has trained her not to fall in love because boys will only take. Reeling from a familial rupture, she's doing everything she can to keep it secret. Ares is brooding and dangerous, a fighter who spends his days looking for his younger brother, who disappeared three years prior. The two collide when the lake's vision shows them a shared future. Best-selling author Liang returns to the world of Beijing's elite featured in If You Could See the Sun (2022). With a darker story line including fight clubs, shady club owners, and attempted murder, this work is signature Liang: exemplary prose, a deep emotional core with a resonant romance, and characters that burrow into your heart.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Inheritance	Roberts, Nora	AD		Booklist starred (September 15, 2023 (Vol. 120, No. 2)) After kicking her cheating fiancé to the curb and subsequently leaving the Boston-based company for which they both worked, Sonya MacTavish is set to open her own graphic arts business when she receives a life-changing piece of news. Sonya's late father had a twin brother no one in their family knew about until now. Collin Poole has recently passed and left Sonya a sizable inheritance, including Lost Bride Manor, the Poole family mansion on the coast of Maine. However, upon arriving in Poole's Bay, Sonya discovers she is not only the new owner of an historic property but also of a house haunted by a legacy of seven lost brides, seven women who died on their wedding days. Romance queen Roberts takes all of the beloved elements of classic gothic romances, including a marvelously atmospheric old mansion as well as a spunky heroine starting over in life, then puts her own inventive spin on things. The first book in the Lost Bride trilogy, this features an incisively etched cast of characters and a spooktacular plot that will keep readers up long past their regular bedtimes.HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: A multiplatform, multimedia advertising campaign and a one-day million-copy laydown ensure a hot start for Roberts' latest.	Publishers Weekly (September 18, 2023) Bestseller Roberts (the Dragon Heart Legacy series) brings her talents to bear on a romantic ghost story-the first in the Lost Bride Trilogy-with more heartstring-tugs than scares. Boston graphic designer Sonya MacTavish is shocked to learn that a biological uncle she hadn't known existed left her the family manor in coastal Maine. There's a catch, however: the estate is "quite haunted," and though many of the spirits are benevolent, one very much isn't. Over the two centuries since the manor's construction, seven new brides have died tragically in the house-and somehow linked to them all is Hester Dobbs, the first bride's murderer. Along with her friends-including smoldering lawyer Trey-Sonya must piece together the full story and break the curse of the lost brides. While the plot mostly follows a standard haunted house template, Roberts's strengths, as usual, are in the details: robust characters, vivid prose, settings familiar enough to be cozy but distinct enough to be memorable, and loyal dogs. It might not break fresh ground, but this will hit the spot for Roberts's many fans. Agent: Amy Berkower, Writers House. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
iNSIDE	Gales, S. A	YA		School Library Journal Xpress (March 20, 2026) Gr 7 Up-This cleverly crafted dystopian debut introduces readers to Emas, an Orwellian city enclosed in volatiely changing walls and governed by the formidable organization known as NSDE. Under NSDE's watchful eye, children are conditioned to fear the outside and the Spiravits, the heinous creatures that threaten the very survival of humankind. Only the most daring and dedicated of cadets will be recruited from the Academy to join the ranks of NSDE and be tasked with protecting Emas against this monstrous foe. Naya, a strong-willed cadet, seems to constantly fall short of the Academy's expectations, as well as the expectations of the city's General-her mother. However, when the General presents Naya with a covert operation to infiltrate a Spiravit nest to observe and report back to Emas, Naya is determined to finally earn her mother's approval. What starts as a daunting mission quickly unravels as Naya discovers that everything she has been taught about the enemy might not be true. The world that Gales has crafted is compelling, in particular the claustrophobic atmosphere of Emas's shifting walls and omnipresent government. The presence of propaganda, fearmongering, and indoctrination feels timely without being overwhelming. Despite some of the characters presenting as one-dimensional, Naya's journey and development will resonate with a lot of readers. The pace moves slowly, and the ending might leave some unsatisfied, but its strong, opportune themes make this a contender for speculative fiction fans. Race and ethnicity of characters are undefined. VERDICT Consider purchasing for fans of Neal Shusterman's "Arc of a Scythe" series and Lois Lowry's The Giver.-Amanda Harding © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2026) A girl goes undercover to earn a place in her world's elite combat force—but what she learns could upend everything. Seventeen-year-old Naya Tambor was never a shoo-in for a spot in the Neo-Settlers Developers & Engineers: During her austere childhood, which was filled with military training, she struggled with combat. Because the aloof General was her mother, she also faced bullying and extra scrutiny. In the indoor city of Emas, the maze of corridors might suddenly "glitch" and change shape with lethal consequences. For her final test, Naya must infiltrate a nest of Spiravits, the creatures responsible for the glitches, who "shift and morph between human and monster" and threaten Emas' very existence. But as Naya, who has light skin and curly hair, departs for an unfamiliar outside world with a Spiravit named Zayn, she learns surprising things. The Spiravits grow and eat delicious food—a contrast to the chemical-tasting, lab-grown food she had back home. And in overcrowded Emas, people avoid touch, "a primary carrier of disease," unlike the Spiravits. Wondering if they're more humane than the residents of her violent, unfeeling city, Naya must decide which side she's on. After some clunky early exposition, debut author Gales' plot lifts off. The dichotomies are a bit too neat, the characters' feelings and motivations are baldly stated, and observant readers may guess the big reveals, but this is an otherwise gripping narrative set in an inventive world. A largely engrossing dystopian science-fiction story about standing up to injustice. (Science fiction. 12-18)	
Jack Kirby : the epic life of the king of comics	Scioli, Tom	AD		Booklist starred (September 15, 2023 (Vol. 120, No. 2)) Jack "King" Kirby is as important and influential a creator as ever worked in comics—the crackling energy and dynamic emotions of his visual storytelling is often paid homage, his inexhaustible innovation never equaled. Scioli's abundantly researched (and footnoted) bio offers the details behind the incomparable imagination: his mother's old country "wonder stories," his two-fisted Lower East Side childhood, the grim days of service in WWII. Necessarily, this is also a capsule history of the mainstream comic book industry itself, including people's names, painstakingly comprehensive mentions of nearly every property Kirby produced across multiple genres and media, and the often hideous treatment by management, more galling than usual given that Marvel has built a world-famous empire on the many characters he's responsible for. Scioli wisely doesn't "do" Kirby, artistically, but crowds his pages with densely captioned panels, rendering characters and colors with a vintage glow, conjuring a beloved, dog-eared Golden Age comic, bringing us into Kirby's milieu and era. And it's Kirby's voice telling us this story, illuminating the remarkable human behind the unforgettable heroes. Recommended for teens (YA) Dense with information and rendered in a vintage style, this will likely interest teens curious about the people and industry behind the characters that now rule their media.	Publishers Weekly (June 1, 2020) Scioli (the Godland series) injects oomph into the already-energetic life story of the "King of Comics" through sweeping narrative and Scioli's trademark detailed page layouts. Told from the point of view of Kirby (1917-1994), the biography also acts as a history of the comics industry, from early strips to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Beginning with Kirby's hardscrabble upbringing in Manhattan's Lower East Side (remarkably similar to the back history he later gave the Thing, one of his most endearing creations), Scioli extensively documents the artist's career and personal life through a chummy and casual first-person narrative. Scioli recreates many of Kirby's panels from superhero, war, crime, and romance comics-threaded through Kirby's own experiences as a soldier and in love, for example-while his pompadour-adorned, wide-eyed figure of Kirby seems to pop from the page among a more realistically drawn supporting cast, just as his own heroes stood out as larger than life. Fans of Kirby's most famous Marvel comics will especially enjoy recollections of his collaboration with Stan Lee, which established the Marvel Universe in the 1960s. This is a must-read for Kirby fans, and beyond-it captures the mythos of the of the 20th century comic industry's golden age. Agent: Bob Mecoy, Creative Book Services. (July) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Landing in Place A Graphic Novel	Hamdy, Sherine	YA		School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-As high school ends, Anisa wants to put some space between her and her parents' expectations. They immigrated to the United States from Egypt before her birth, have a complicated relationship with their own cultural expectations, and have passed those expectations onto their daughters. Arriving at college, Anisa is confused-she's supposed to pursue pre-med, even though she's shown little indication of scientific prowess, while in her social life, she feels too secular for the Muslim kids and too conservative for her non-religious American peers. So, when her older sister, Reem, heads to Egypt as part of her med school curriculum, Anisa tags along and builds a profound connection with the family, culture, and religious practices her parents had only given her glimpses of. To the surprise of her family in both the U.S. and Egypt, she decides to wear a hijab and details the repercussions and revelations that decision brings. Hamdy's narrative of culture complexity is powerful. Embracing religious practice as a young adult remains a somewhat exceptional decision and sharing that process with honesty makes for a riveting read. El Mir's illustrations are perfectly paired, full of free-flowing humor and occasional strokes of solemnity, especially powerful when characters pause to read or pray in Arabic Script. VERDICT An open-hearted coming-of-age story and excellent choice for YA cultural collection.-Emilia Packard © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (March 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 13)) Grades 7-12. Refreshing, timely, and well developed, this exploration of the idea of home reminds readers that the world is so much bigger than our living rooms. Anisa often feels caught in the middle—between her Egyptian and American identities, between her father's religion and her mother's resistance to it, and between her parents' expectations of medical school and her own passion for the arts. After struggling through her first semester of college, she travels to Cairo to reconnect with her family and, she hopes, herself. The richness of the language, the rituals in the mosque, and conversations with her family and neighbors, in which her voice is not only heard but valued, give Anisa the confidence to assert herself. Can she hang on to her self-assurance when tragedy strikes? El Mir's expressive black-and-white art mirrors Anisa's own illustrations, and Arabic is painted in loving strokes across the page, suggesting Anisa's adoration for the language. The narrative addresses the turbulence of multiple political views residing in one family and emphasizes the importance of choice, such as Anisa's choice to wear a hijab. Anisa's navigation of her identity confronts global issues of imperialism, misconceptions of Islam, and immigration through the familiar lens of a coming-of-age story featuring intergenerational relationships. A reminder that while we are always seeking to understand ourselves, our parents, and our world, hope is always available.	Kirkus Reviews starred (March 1, 2026) An Egyptian American Muslim teen navigates the transition from adolescence to early adulthood amid competing personal, familial, and cultural expectations. Anisa is a high school senior and aspiring artist from Long Island, caught between her creative ambitions and her immigrant parents' expectation that she follow her older sister, Reem, into medicine. After a discouraging first semester at college, Anisa accompanies Reem, who's completing a medical rotation, to Egypt, where she spends time with extended family and gains space to reflect and recalibrate. Immersed in a new environment, she deepens her relationship with Islam, experiments with wearing hijab, and begins to take her artistic ambitions more seriously. When a family health crisis draws her back to the U.S., Anisa must reconcile the growth she experienced abroad with the realities she left behind. Hamdy's storytelling centers on interior conflict, using Anisa's perspective to examine themes of diasporic identity, religious self-definition, and intergenerational tension. El Mir's black-and-white art conveys fluid motion, and her inventive layouts keep the narrative visually engaging, alternating between structured panels and looser, sketchlike sequences that reflect Anisa's point of view. A diverse supporting cast grounds the story in contemporary New York and Egypt, and Arabic text appears throughout the dialogue, contextualized through visuals, narration, and in the backmatter, reinforcing cultural specificity while remaining widely accessible. The result is a measured, thoughtful, and complex coming-of-age story. An emotionally resonant portrait of a young woman learning that home may be less a place than a process. (author's note) (Graphic fiction. 14-18)
Lock every door : a novel	Sager, Riley	AD		School Library Journal Xpress (July 17, 2020) For Jules, becoming an apartment sitter at the Bartholomew seems like the opportunity of a lifetime. That is, until other apartment sitters start to go missing. This novel is perfectly paced with a darkly fascinating conclusion. It features a young adult protagonist and is not as violent as many adult thrillers. VERDICT A good place for teens to start exploring the thriller genre.-Elliot Riley, Deerfield Academy, MA © Copyright 2020. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (May 1, 2019 (Vol. 115, No. 17)) The building manager's strange rules should have tipped Jules off that her new apartment-sitting gig was too good to be true: no visitors, no nights away from the apartment, and no speaking to the regular tenants unless spoken to. But, for the incredible pay and three months in NYC's legendary Bartholomew Building, Jules would agree to almost anything. She's between both jobs and apartments, so she isn't overcome with options, but doubt creeps in after she meets Ingrid, another Bartholomew apartment sitter, who confesses that the building scares her. That night, Jules hears a scream coming from Ingrid's apartment and is told the next morning that Ingrid secretly moved out in the night. Jules isn't buying it and searches for Ingrid, digging into the building's historic connection to a murderous cult. Through disoriented future interludes, Jules reveals that she's escaped the Bartholomew. But, escaped from what? Sager's third reinterpretation of iconic horror themes (following The Last Time I Lied, 2018) is an utterly riveting thriller that melds Rosemary's Baby with Sager's masterful storytelling.	Kirkus Reviews (May 1, 2019) Another homage to classic horror from a bestselling author. Sager's debut novel, Final Girls (2017), wasn't so much a horror novel as a commentary about horror movies in novel form. It was clever but also very well-crafted. The author tried to do something similar with The Last Time I Lied (2018), with significantly less satisfying results. This new novel is another attempt to make the model work. Whether or not it does depends on how invested one is in formula for the sake of formula. Jules Larsen is getting over a breakup and the loss of her job when she finds a gig that seems too good to be true: The Bartholomew, a storied Manhattan building, wants to pay her thousands of dollars to simply occupy a vacant—and luxurious—apartment. Jules soon gets the feeling that all is not as it seems at the Bartholomew, which is, of course, a perfect setup for some psychological suspense, but the problem is that there is little in the way of narrative tension because Jules' situation is so obviously not right from the very beginning. While interviewing for the job, she's asked about her health history. She's informed that she is not allowed to have guests in the apartment. She's warned that she must not interact with or talk to anyone else about the building's wealthy and famous inhabitants. And she learns that she will be paid under the table. While this might not be enough to deter someone who is broke and desperate, it does mean that Jules should be a bit more concerned than she is when the really scary stuff starts happening. It's possible to read this as a parody of the absurdly intrepid horror heroine, but, even as that, it's not a particularly entertaining parody. Jules' best friend makes a reference to American Horror Story, which feels less like a postmodern nod than a reminder that there are other, better examples of the genre that one could be enjoying instead. Lacking in both thrills and chills.
Me and my PDA : a guide to pathological demand avoidance for young people	Dura-Vila, Gloria	5-8				
My brain is different : stories of ADHD and other developmental disorders	Monzusu	YA				
Nova. : Why bridges collapse		AD				
Nutrition and food safety	Smith, Terry L.	YA				

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Over my dead body Really Big Bridges (Mega Movers)	Boo, Sweeney	YA YA		School Library Journal Xpress (September 30, 2022) Gr 8 Up-Abigail, a student at the Younwitz Hidden Institute for Witchcraft, has woken up late for the morning's assembly. Upon arrival, she finds that one of her closest friends, Noreen, has vanished overnight, having last been seen heading into the Untamed Woods. While most students are able to leave the search in the hands of The Coven, the united group of teachers at the school, Abby knows she must intervene. Abigail works together with her friends Goldie, Enver, and Violet to try and solve this magical mystery-only to find that it goes deeper and has similar circumstances to the last time a student went missing. Award-winning French Canadian author and illustrator Boo uses a full palette of colors to show off her unique digital illustrative style, a strong comparison to modern animation. She puts the cast of characters to the forefront here, allowing both her expertly written dialogue and the vibrant diversity of the students to give off the true magic of this tale, rising over even the spells and rituals they perform. VERDICT This graphic novel about a witchy school will resonate with fans of spooky season and is a great story about the power of friendship helping to solve a mystery. A wonderful addition to Halloween collections that will continue to be checked out long after the season is over.-Adam Fisher © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2022) Foundling with Abigail risks everything to find her missing friend. Legend at the Younwitz Hidden Institute of Witchcraft says that 100 years ago, a monstrous demon took a student who had entered the Untamed Woods. Now Noreen, one of Abby's dearest friends, is believed to be missing in these same forbidden woods. With preparations for the Samhain festivities underway and the Coven supposedly looking for her, most students are quick to dismiss Noreen's disappearance save for Abby and a few of her close friends. After breaking curfew and doing unsupervised magic, the young witches get into trouble, prompting her friends to give up searching, but Abby is convinced Noreen can be saved and persists in her search. Her investigation reveals secrets and truths about the century-old legend that might help her find Noreen. Spooky, mysterious, and also full of heart, this graphic novel is an enchanting story of friendship and found family. Each witch has a familiar—an animal companion with its own personality—that adds to the depth and charm of the story. Seymour, Abby's familiar, is a Sphinx cat who suffers from anxiety. The luminous, full-color illustrations are striking and vibrant, adding to the magical, mystical feel. Abby presents as White, with pale, freckled skin and brown hair; her classmates and teachers are diverse in race as well as gender identity and sexual orientation. An exciting fantasy full of mystery and witchcraft. (Graphic fantasy. 13-18)	Publishers Weekly (June 27, 2022) Boo's bewitching debut celebrates found family via a fantastical mystery centering a teenage witch's troubling disappearance. Noreen, a student at the Younwitz Hidden Institute of Witchcraft, was last seen entering the demon-infested Untamed Woods that border the school days before Samhain, when the border between the living and the dead is weakest. When she's declared missing, white, freckled Abby recruits professor's daughter Goldie, who is Black; closest friend Enver, who is white; and Asian-cued roommate Violet, in her search for clues about Noreen's disappearance. But their inquiry leads to consistent dead ends, and classmates continue preparing for the institute's yearly Samhain celebration as if nothing has changed, tanking group morale. Though they encourage Abby to let the administration handle the case, she refuses to give up, especially when further investigation uncovers ancient and sinister school secrets. Atmospheric lighting renders hazy sunsets and mystical night skies, autumnal color palettes evoke an appropriately witchy aesthetic, and expert character design portrays a racially diverse cast featuring varied body types. Boo capably juggles the mystery's intrigue with interpersonal drama, such as previously antagonistic relationships revealing hidden romantic yearning, in this eerie mystery that sits well within the magic school canon. Ages 14-up. Agent: Britt Siess, Britt Siess Creative Management. (Aug.) ■ Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Red star rebels	Kaufman, Amie	YA		School Library Journal Xpress (January 16, 2026) Gr 8 Up-An action-packed space romance. Cleo is an interplanetary stowaway living illegally on Mars. Hunter is the estranged son of the corporation that settled Mars. When the United Nations Mars Base is evacuated, leaving them both behind, Hunter and Cleo team up to survive. They soon realize that the base is under attack by a mysterious force with connections to both of their pasts. They have eight hours before the base explodes. This is soft science fiction, extrapolating from current space technology and not addressing the hows and whys of humans living on Mars. The love story will be familiar for romance readers: two people on opposite sides of society realizing that they have love in common. It follows a theme found in other works by Kaufman: corporate greed leads to irreparable damage to society. Specific cultural markers are not mentioned, although Hunter is described as having "olive brown skin," and Cleo has pale skin and red hair. The novel has some swearing and making out but does not contain any closed-door sexual content. This book may have crossover appeal to new adults and adult readers. Hard to fans of romance-with-a-twist rather than to classic science fiction fans. VERDICT A solid purchase, especially where Kaufman's other books are popular.-Jeri Murphy © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 9-12. Hunter Graves really shouldn't be heading to Mars. Though he is an heir to a red-planet family fortune, his estranged mother and sister have no idea he is coming and honestly wouldn't be too happy if they did. But right before he arrives, the base is thrown into evacuation mode, and as the air around him depressurizes, Hunter is left at the mercy of the most unlikely savior: a sarcastic stowaway named Cleo. Together, they have to survive the next eight hours, battling time, mercenaries, dehumanizing corporate greed, and, worst of all, their growing feelings for each other. This hilarious, fast-paced romp will be perfect for reluctant teen readers with its Andy Weir meets Die Hard flair. While at points the dialogue and romance feel a touch forced, longtime best-selling author Kaufman expertly blends futuristic technology and engaging characters to create an accessible, teen-centered sci-fi adventure that anyone can escape into, especially if they're dreaming of being somewhere other than Earth.	Kirkus Reviews (February 1, 2026) Two teens are trapped on a hijacked Mars station in bestseller Kaufman's latest. Eighteen-year-old Hunter Graves is the heir to GravesUP Industries, the most powerful corporation in the solar system. His billionaire family is responsible for the colonization of Mars. Hunter is handsome, charming, and the embodiment of everything that scrappy 17-year-old hitcher Cleo thinks is wrong with the world. When Pax Station is suddenly evacuated and Cleo, who stowed away to get there, is left behind in the chaos with Hunter, they're forced to become a team. The stakes rise when a mysterious hostile force takes over Pax, and the teens realize that the evacuation was a setup. As Hunter and Cleo work together to thwart the invaders, their romantic chemistry builds and their bond becomes one of genuine connection. All the while, Cleo's criminal past becomes harder to keep secret. The story takes place over the course of eight hours, enhancing its tension and fast pace. The romance has a rocky start, thanks to sheltered Hunter's classist belief system, but it evolves into something that's grounded and believable. The futuristic setting allows for some pointed social commentary on the state of our capitalist, corporatist society. GravesUP Industries itself features some notable parallels to the contemporary privatization of space travel. Cleo, who's queer, is cued white, and Hunter has brown skin. This engaging Martian romance will keep readers glued to the page. (timeline) (Science fiction. 13-18)
Shut up, this is serious Ski skills : top tips for expert skiing techniques Skiing and boarding	Ixta, Carolina Peszek, Andrzej Oliver, Peter	YA YA AD		School Library Journal starred (January 1, 2024) Gr 9 Up-This novel explores the coming-of-age of two Latina girls during their senior year of high school in East Oakland. Both Leti and Belén navigate a terrain that is saturated in casual racism, belittlement, sexism, and daily toxicity, but for Belén, all of these plus her father's abandonment have sent her into an emotional tailspin. As related by Belén, everyone else's lives and upheavals function as distraction from the heaviness of her own depression. Ixta explores the shortcomings of underfunded public education and a higher education system that wants trauma porn to inform student applications. For Leti's college essay, she must divulge her teen pregnancy. But Ixta upends the notion that teen girls who get pregnant have thrown away their futures. Readers see that Leti, for all of her shrinking self-consciousness, is a fighter. This realistic novel lays bare the ways in which some of the most harmful damage a young girl can experience happens in the home. Belén witnesses the infidelity of her father and that of Leti's father, as well as the abuse visited upon Leti's body. Belén, the observant one, is belittled and treated with contempt for the behavior of the father. Yet she can still love deeply and begin the act of forgiving and healing. This novel explores the effects of family strife, the behaviors children learn from their own parents, and what catalysts spark their evolution and journey away from those damaging situations. VERDICT Readers will be inspired by Belén's path to healing but not before it makes them ugly cry.-Stephanie Creamer © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (March/April, 2024) It's senior year, and while Belén's classmates are focused on college applications, she's flunking school and struggling to cope with a shattered home life. Since her pa walked out on their family, her ma has been withdrawn, crying and seemingly overlooking the past-due bills piling up. Belén's best friend, Leti, is a straitlaced student determined to get into UC Berkeley, but now Leti is pregnant and worried that her boyfriend, who is Black, will be rejected by her racist parents. As Belén sinks into her loneliness, she seeks affection from a college guy to distract herself from the pain of her father's abandonment and the constant comparisons to him from unsympathetic relatives. Misogyny, racism, religion, and unjust expectations for girls like Belén and Leti are explored within their Mexican culture with sharp rebukes and meaningful introspection about identity and breaking out of toxic familial and cultural cycles. A cast of secondary characters bolsters Belén's development, though few (other than Leti) are given sufficient airtime to feel fully realized. The Oakland, California, setting is brought to life through rides on the BART and visits to the frutero that illustrate the city's diversity. The protagonist's strong narrative voice, the realistic emotional tone, and thematic touchstones will hook fans of Sanchez's I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter (rev. 3/18). Jessica Agudelo March/April 2024 p.93	Booklist starred (December 1, 2023 (Vol. 120, No. 7)) Grades 9-12. It's the last year of high school, and Belén avoids her worries by focusing on three things: train hopping, books, and her best friend, Leti's, unexpected pregnancy. Recently abandoned by her father, who absconded with his wife's savings, Belén, her mom, and her older sister all fall into depression. With little guidance from her mother and sister, Belén spirals into delinquency at school, to the point of almost not being able to graduate. Friendships become strained as Belén attempts to convince Leti to tell her terrifyingly pious parents about the approaching due date and have them meet her Black boyfriend. Feeling alone and despondent, Belén drowns her sorrows by rushing into a relationship with a college student, losing her virginity, and questioning her worth. It will take a class assignment and unexpected support systems to ease emotions and help Belén find her way. Ixta's debut will leave many shedding tears over this emotionally captivating tale about a tough, first-generation Mexican American who does her best to navigate life. Many readers will resonate with common themes, such as racism, machismo, financial instability, friendship drama, and high-school pregnancies. This story is a poignant reminder for young adults that resiliency doesn't mean being a pro at bottling up emotions; rather, it's knowing when to ask for help.

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Speak of the devil STEM in baseball & softball	Boo, Sweeney Clark, Aimee	YA YA		Kirkus Reviews (February 1, 2026) In this second series entry, Abigail tries to set things right, only to expose the school to a vengeful entity. One month after Samhain, Younwity Hidden Institute of Witchcraft is still afflicted by the dark spell Lilith cast on school grounds, and even the Coven can't fix things. The recently formed magical fissure is causing significant tremors and weird occurrences, like monsoons in the dining hall. Abigail and her friend Noreen continue to be bullied and blamed for what happened on Samhain, and Abigail is determined to clear their names. She and her friends sneak out to try a spell to close the fissure, but she's interrupted before she can complete it. Unfortunately, Abigail makes things worse; thanks to the unfinished spell, a student ends up lost in the gap in the ground. Abigail, who's been experiencing visions of the past, sets out to uncover the institute's history and secrets in hopes of finding a solution. This entertaining graphic novel explores relationships, identity, and the enduring legacy of the past. The pacing is strong until the end, which feels rushed. Boo's text offers important context about both Abigail's and the school's backgrounds, which is supported by the spooky world evoked by her dramatic, evocatively colored illustrations that make strong use of light and shadow. In this world, which is diverse across multiple dimensions, Abigail appears to be white. Eerie and thrilling. (Graphic fantasy. 13-18)		
Tested The all-mountain skier : the way to expert skiing The claw	Monders, Anna Elling, R. Mark Burns, Jason M		5-8	School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 5 Up-In this dystopian middle grade science fiction novel, Mikayla, 14, is determined to pass her exams and be accepted into the Genetic Institute's (GenIn) Elite Scholars Prep Program, until she discovers a shocking secret that jeopardizes her dream. In this cruel and unjust society, people's lives are determined by their genetic DNA score: 95s are Super Elites, but anyone with a 90 or below is labeled Defective and even lower, Expendable. Mikayla tests her DNA and her score is shockingly 88 when she thought she was a 94. Teacher's assistant Garith, Mikayla's best friend until they had a falling out three years ago, hacks into the official DNA database. It reveals Mikayla's DNA is registered to a girl named Grace, a Defective. Mikayla is determined to find out the truth and prove that genetics don't determine a person's worth. The plot is a bit derivative of other books about unequal social classes, but Mikayla, Garith, Grace, and her brother Bryce are sympathetic and relatable. Mikayla's feelings of betrayal by those she loves will resonate, as will her growing anger over the inequality in her society that she has been able to ignore until now. Most characters cue as white, but Garith has light brown skin; the secondary cast includes a same-sex couple. VERDICT This will appeal to fans of books centering strong, determined female characters who stand up against oppression, like Joelle Charbonneau's The Testing or Sylvia Liu's Hana Hsu and the Ghost Crab Nation. -Sharon Rawlins © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (February 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 11)) Grades 6-10. When resources are scarce and the world is contaminated, who deserves the best chance at survival? Forty years have passed since the Great Dying, and society has created a new framework for the distribution of limited resources: those with the highest genetic potential are given everything they need to rebuild the world. Mikayla Grebe sits near the top of the social hierarchy, and with her mother's coaching and an intense tutoring program, she plans to pass the test that will ensure her place among the Elites. But when Mikayla uncovers a secret in her DNA, it shakes what she knows about the world, her family, and herself. Monders' debut sets the classic argument of nature versus nurture against a backdrop of severe economic inequality. The world building is thin on details, with Mikayla's first-person narration instead focusing on her personal predicaments, yet the commentary on income disparity and parallels to the Holocaust are stark and timely. Sure to prompt thoughtful discussion; follow with Ellen Datlow and Teri Windling's anthology After (2012) for perspectives on how humanity might respond to its greatest challenges.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2026) In a society where a person's Genetic Report Card determines their future, one girl discovers that people are more than their numbers. Fourteen-year-old Mikayla Grebe is days away from taking the Fulfilled Genetic Potential test and proving she's worth society's investment. The fear of losing Elite status and becoming a Defective or an Expendable always looms. She knows that "you can lose everything in a moment"—like her friend Carmen, who vanished with her family one day. But shortly before the test, Mikayla learns her GRC is lower than she thought, sending her on a high-stakes journey, accompanied by her friend Garith Marquez, out of the Elite zone to see what's been hidden from her all her life. The more Mikayla learns and the more people she meets, the more she questions her society's priorities and starts to dismantle her own assumptions, many instilled in her by her brilliant and ambitious mother. The story's countdown structure, starting six days before the FGP, enhances the tension and makes readers aware of the stakes as Mikayla's test approaches, a beloved teacher disappears, and steely Dr. Ava, who runs the weekly lab assessment, targets her. Debut author Monders' detailed worldbuilding includes just enough hints about the past to create a convincing dystopian world. Mikayla develops a strong moral core and inwardly declares "I can make a difference, just by being me." Dark-haired Mikayla has "medium-light" skin, and Garith has light brown skin. A compelling, thought-provoking vision. (Dystopian. 10-14)
The Gravewood The history of bridges : spanning the world	Andrew, Kelly	YA YA		School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-A haunting YA horror novel that will leave teens racing to the next page. Shea Parker has spent her life hemmed in by her isolated town and the ominous forest known as the Gravewood, a place thick with secrets, where wandering too far means losing yourself for good. Shea, who reads as white and is hearing impaired, strikes an uneasy bargain with local vampire Oliver Lysander: batteries for her hearing aid in exchange for her blood. But when her best friend, Ellie, vanishes and Ellie's brother Asher returns to search for her, Shea and her loyal friend Poppy are pulled into a deeper, deadlier mystery, one that forces Shea to renegotiate her pact with Lysander. Andrew crafts an immersive, beautifully haunted world where humans and monsters coexist uneasily, and the tension between them crackles. Shea's grit and vulnerability, paired with Lysander's brooding allure, anchor a compelling love triangle that will keep readers hooked. Strong disability and LGBTQIA+ representation, along with thoughtful attention to themes of abuse and bullying, deepen the emotional resonance. VERDICT Addictive, atmospheric, and brimming with dark romance, this will leave readers craving more. Perfect for fans of Tracy Deonn's Legendborn and The Vampire Diaries TV show. -Shelby Newhouse © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (April 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 15)) Grades 8-12. Vampires continue making a comeback in Andrew's latest horror-adjacent tale. Shea Parker relishes that she can make it through the enticing Gravewood without being beckoned to doom by whispers, but she resents that her hearing loss is treated by others in her town as something to pity. She doesn't need pity though, and she proves it by striking a deal with Lysander, the Gravewood Devil, offering her blood in exchange for his expertise in retrieving hearing-aid batteries and for his connections to a powerful vampire gang. Only now, Lys can't stop thinking about the girl who struck a deal with him. As Shea and Lys' relationship becomes more tangled and less transactional, ghosts from both of their pasts emerge, forcing the pair (and two friends of Shea) to embark on a journey down a dilapidated U.S. coast to end what tortures them. Though the setting of a close dystopian world plagued by a vampiristic Rot lacks development, the mystery at the center of the story and juicy, dark romance will hold readers attention to the cliff-hanger end.	Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2026) In this duology opener set in the aftermath of a global apocalypse, a disease called the Rot has overtaken the world. Shea Parker's father is dead, and her mother has been debilitated by the Rot. Shea, who's Deaf, has struck a deal with vampire Oliver "Lys" Lysander: He drinks her blood in exchange for hard-to-obtain hearing aid batteries. Eighteen-year-old Lys rules over his gang, the Mercy Boys, in the mysterious Gravewood forest. When Shea's childhood sweetheart, Asher Thorley, returns to town—he's been granted special leave from basic training to search for his missing sister—the trio becomes entangled in a quest to find Camellia, defeat Lys' nemesis, and cure Shea's mother. They're joined by Poppy Zahar, Shea's friend and Camellia's girlfriend, and along the way, they discover secrets from Lys' past. Shea is largely comfortable with her deafness; her predicaments arise from her messy personal entanglements and the business of getting by. She needs the societal accessibility and safety her hearing aids provide to cope in a world that shuns disability, but her preference is for silence. The third-person, present-tense narration alternates between Shea's and Lys' perspectives, which sound similar and blend together, the post-apocalyptic New Hampshire setting is atmospheric, but the worldbuilding feels undercooked and difficult to follow. The love triangle among Shea, Lys, and Asher is realistically fraught. Most of the cast reads white, and Poppy has brown skin. Supernatural intrigue with a protagonist who provides much-needed representation. (Paranormal romance. 14-18)

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				Booklist (May 15, 2022 (Vol. 118, No. 18)) "The lake is darker than a coffin with the lid shut." So begins Sager's sixth thriller (following Survive the Night, 2021), an homage to Hitchcock's Rear Window that effectively uses the voyeur theme. Casey Fletcher, actress and recent widow, escapes to her family's lake house amid a slew of unflattering tabloid stories and in the wake of being fired from her latest role. With little to do but drink, she spends her days spying on the new couple across the lake, ex-model Katherine Royce and her husband, Tom. When Casey saves Katherine from drowning, a friendship blossoms, until Katherine goes missing and Casey suspects that Tom is involved. Sager is terrific at creating suspense within a confined, sometimes claustrophobic setting, and he makes the most of his unreliable narrator. Fans of stories that keep the heart pounding and the mind engaged will enjoy this one, although some may find a few of the twists hard to believe. Still, those willing to suspend disbelief will be happy to follow this wild ride from one of the genre's most entertaining authors.	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2022) Celebrity scandal and a haunted lake drive the narrative in this bestselling author's latest serving of subtly ironic suspense. Sager's debut, Final Girls (2017), was fun and beautifully crafted. His most recent novels—Home Before Dark (2020) and Survive the Night (2021)—have been fun and a bit rickety. His new novel fits that mold. Narrator Casey Fletcher grew up watching her mother dazzle audiences, and then she became an actor herself. While she never achieves the "America's sweetheart" status her mother enjoyed, Casey makes a career out of bit parts in movies and on TV and meatier parts onstage. Then the death of her husband sends her into an alcoholic spiral that ends with her getting fired from a Broadway play. When paparazzi document her substance abuse, her mother exiles her to the family retreat in Vermont. Casey has a dry, droll perspective that persists until circumstances overwhelm her, and if you're getting a Carrie Fisher vibe from Casey Fletcher, that is almost certainly not an accident. Once in Vermont, she passes the time drinking bourbon and watching the former supermodel and the tech mogul who live across the lake through a pair of binoculars. Casey befriends Katherine Royce after rescuing her when she almost drowns and soon concludes that all is not well in Katherine and Tom's marriage. Then Katherine disappears....It would be unfair to say too much about what happens next, but creepy coincidences start piling up, and eventually, Casey has to face the possibility that maybe some of the eerie legends about Lake Greene might have some truth to them. Sager certainly delivers a lot of twists, and he ventures into what is, for him, new territory. Are there some things that don't quite add up at the end? Maybe, but asking that question does nothing but spoil a highly entertaining read. A weird, wild ride.	Publishers Weekly starred (April 25, 2022) The setup of Rear Window serves as the framework for this outstanding novel of suspense from bestseller Sager (Survive the Night). Actor Casey Fletcher has become an alcoholic in the wake of the recent death of her screenwriter husband, who slipped out one morning to go fishing at their vacation home on Vermont's Lake Greene, fell into the water, and drowned. After Casey is fired from her latest Broadway role for showing up drunk for a performance, she returns to the Vermont house. One day, while on her third or maybe fourth bourbon, Casey spots someone who may be drowning in the middle of the lake. She jumps into her motorboat and rescues a neighbor, former supermodel Katherine Royce. The grateful celebrity befriends her savior, who soon becomes convinced that Katherine's life remains at risk. While spying on Katherine's home, Casey comes to suspect that Katherine's husband is plotting to murder her. Sager brilliantly misdirects readers while playing fair with them. Newcomers and fans both will be eager to see what he pulls off in his next book. Agent: Michelle Brower, Trellis Literary. (June) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The house across the lake : a novel	Sager, Riley	AD				
				Booklist (September 15, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 2)) Sonya MacTavish will do whatever it takes to make sure Hester Dobbs doesn't win the battle for Lost Bride Manor. Soon after moving into the beautiful Victorian mansion on the coast of Maine, Sonya discovers its tragic history. Over the years, seven Poole brides have died, all victims of a curse cast by the vengeful witch, Hester Dobbs. Recently a mirror has appeared in the mansion, which offers Sonya a glimpse into the past. Will this prove to be the key Sonya needs to shatter the curse? Picking the story up right where she left off in the first title in the Lost Bride trilogy, The Inheritance (2023), best-selling and magically creative and prolific Roberts continues to cast her own spell over readers with this bewitching story. With plenty of chills and thrills, this paranormal romantic suspense tale also brilliantly celebrates the importance of family, friends, and love.	Publishers Weekly (September 2, 2024) The suspenseful second installment of bestseller Roberts's Lost Bride Trilogy (after Inheritance) brings more cozy romance and heightened ghostly scares. Sonya MacTavish and her best friend, Cleo Fabares, have settled into a comfortable life in Lost Bride Manor, the haunted house Sonya inherited in coastal Maine in book one, despite increasing antipathy from one of the manor's many ghosts, the evil witch Hester Dobbs. Over the previous two centuries, Dobbs murdered seven brides who married into the Poole side of Sonya's family and it's on Sonya to find the brides' wedding rings and break the curse Dobbs placed on the manor. Along with her beau, Trey, and cousin Owen (who has strong chemistry with Cleo)-as well as their loyal pets-Sonya is determined to flourish in her new home. This volume digs deeper into the haunting of Lost Bride Manor, elucidating more of the players and expanding the worldbuilding through effective flashbacks that deliver necessary backstory without slowing the momentum. The result is quintessential Roberts: richly detailed wish fulfillment seasoned with the mounting tension of a carefully plotted mystery. Captivating characters and a cliffhanger ending will leave readers eager for more. Agent: Amy Berkower, Writers House. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
The mirror	Roberts, Nora	AD				
				Booklist (September 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 1)) After inheriting Lost Bride Manor in Poole's Bay from an uncle she never knew existed, Sonya MacTavish discovers the mansion is cursed. More than two centuries ago, jealous witch Hester Dobbs murdered Astrid Grandville Poole, the first of seven Poole brides she would eventually kill, in an attempt to make the mansion her own. Now, with the help of her true love, Trey Doyle; her best friend, Cleo Fabares; and a community of new friends, Sonya thinks that she has finally found the key to breaking Hester's curse. Sonya must use the mansion's special mirror to travel back in time and retrieve each of the seven brides' wedding rings before Hester can lay claim to them. Making effective use of her engaging brand of immersive storytelling, Roberts brings her Lost Brides trilogy, which began with Inheritance (2023) and continued with The Mirror (2024), to a marvelously entertaining conclusion with a supernaturally infused, romance-imbued, gothic-tinged story that is guaranteed to send shivers of delight up and down readers' spines. Recommended for teens (YA/S) Teen fans of Robert's won't want to miss the spellbinding conclusion of this splendidly spooky trilogy.	Publishers Weekly (September 8, 2025) This satisfying conclusion to bestseller Roberts's Lost Bride trilogy lovingly spotlights various kinds of family while slowly building to a thrilling finale. The story picks up where The Mirror left off, in the aftermath of a tragic vision showing the brutal deaths of the seven ghost brides of Lost Bride Manor, all of whom were murdered over the past two centuries by the evil witch Hester Dobbs. To free the spirits from Dobbs's continued torment, the house's living owner, Sonya MacTavish-supported by her lover, Trey; best friend, Cleo; cousin (and Cleo's lover) Owen; and their menagerie of pets-must find the seven brides' rings, break Dobbs's curse, and bring peace and renewal to the manor once and for all. Despite these seemingly high stakes, much of the novel focuses on the pleasant mundanities of summer in a picturesque coastal Maine town, with regular interruptions from Dobbs to keep the plot moving. With plenty of wish fulfillment and strong character work and relationship building on full display, Roberts once again showcases what she does best. Agent: Amy Berkower, Writers House. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	
The seven rings	Roberts, Nora	AD				
Theo of Golden : a novel	Levi, Allen	AD				

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				School Library Journal Xpress (February 13, 2026) Gr 9 Up-A delightful blend of humor, heart, and high school drama, this will keep readers turning pages with a smile. At its core, the story follows Madeline, a drama-loving girl from a wealthy family, and Cooper, the charming football quarterback from the wrong side of town. Their worlds couldn't be more different, and their ongoing feud, fueled by harmless pranks, adds a playful tension that sets the stage for an unforgettable romance. When one prank spirals out of control, their parents are summoned to the principal's office, and sparks fly-not between Madeline and Cooper, but between their divorced parents. Determined to prevent a potential family disaster, the teens hatch a plan to fake-date. What begins as a scheme quickly evolves into something real, as Madeline and Cooper discover unexpected depths in one another beyond stereotypes and social divides. Rallison masterfully weaves themes of school pressures, friendship drama, and the complexities of divorced families into a narrative that feels both relatable and refreshing. The addition of a cranky stray cat (whose antics inadvertently bring the pair closer) adds a quirky charm that fans of romantic comedies will adore. The dialogue is sharp and witty, the pacing brisk, and the chemistry between Madeline and Cooper undeniable. While her premise leans on familiar tropes, Rallison injects enough originality and warmth to make the story stand out. Readers who enjoy faux-dating plots, opposites-attract dynamics, and laugh-out-loud moments will find this book irresistible. This is more than just a teen romance-it's a heartfelt exploration of identity, family, and the unexpected ways love blooms. Race of the characters is not mentioned. VERDICT Perfect for fans of lighthearted YA fiction with a dash of drama and a whole lot of charm.-Haley Amendt © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (April 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 15)) Grades 9-12. Madeline and Cooper have been in an ever-escalating prank war since she beat his little sister out for a coveted role in the school play. There have been cling-wrapped cars (hers), missing clothes (his), and even 200 water balloons stuffed in a locker (her prank, his locker). Madeline is almost caught by their principal in her latest prank, and Cooper's friends on the football team make this social media news, resulting in both of them being assigned to after-school service. When their parents are called, they realize they know each other from the gym and have more in common than their teens do, and they promptly set up a date. Cooper and Madeline are desperate to stop their parents from getting together, so they hatch a plan to start fake dating and convince their parents not to get serious. The more they hang out, though, the more likely they'll have to admit they have more in common than they originally thought. A fun romp from a seasoned rom-com author.	Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2026) Two high school seniors begin fake dating in an attempt to keep their parents from dating each other. After Madeline Seibold got the lead in the school play in junior year, beating out Cooper Nash's sister, he retaliated, believing that her wealthy donor father "bought" her the part. This year, their pranks escalate, culminating in a disastrous incident that lands both of them—and their single parents—in principal Mrs. Tsuru's office. To the teens' consternation, a romantic spark ignites between Madeline's dad and Cooper's mom, who go out for a meal together under the pretext of discussing an appropriate punishment. Horrified by the prospect of becoming stepsiblings, Madeline and Cooper hatch a plan to fake date, hoping their own relationship will deter their parents' burgeoning romance. Their arrangement quickly becomes complex, requiring increasingly elaborate maintenance, especially with homecoming approaching. As they spend more time together, genuine feelings develop, leaving them both unsure whether the other person is still just pretending. The leads, who share the narration, are cued white. Rallison introduces themes of wealth and class differences, but the topic would have benefited from deeper exploration. Madeline is a lawyer's daughter, and Cooper, who works to help support his family, feels conflicted about dating someone of her means. He's banking on a college football scholarship and an NFL career to bring him financial security. The ending feels rushed, leaving some plot threads underexplored. An enemies-to-lovers romance that's a fun romp but ultimately lacks depth. (Romance. 13-18)
We are never getting together	Rallison, Janette	YA		School Library Journal Xpress starred (February 27, 2026) Gr 7 Up-In this quiet yet harrowing climate dystopia, rain has fallen steadily for a month, flooding communities inch by inch. Aurora, 17, enters yet another foster placement, still hoping to find a permanent home after eight previous families. Niko and Jada initially seem promising-kind, stable, and even connected to Aurora's favorite author, Lois Lowry-but their extreme devotion to "prepping" soon reveals a chilling philosophy: survival is solitary, and helping others is a liability. When Aurora awakens to find the couple gone, she sets out alone across the submerged landscape in search of "The Hill," a rumored safe haven whispered about among survivalists. Along the way, she rescues Kota, a younger boy who has lost his entire community to the floodwaters. Their fragile alliance grows into a tender sibling bond, offering emotional grounding amid the novel's bleak landscape. Kota's fear of the water, which is rooted in his grandmother's stories of shui gui (water ghosts), adds a layer of culture and unease to their journey. As they encounter starvation, violence, and ominous warnings about The Hill itself, Aurora must confront whether safety without compassion is worth the cost. Eicheldinger balances suspense with emotional depth, crafting a protagonist whose resilience never veers into implausibility. The spare, accessible prose and steady pacing will appeal to reluctant readers while still delivering thoughtful commentary on community, moral responsibility, and the meaning of family. Diverse characters and ethical complexity elevate the narrative beyond standard survival fiction; Aurora cues white, and Kota cues Chinese. VERDICT Fans of Soyoung Park's Snowglobe and Virginia Bergin's The Rain will find much to admire in this timely and unsettling exploration of belonging in a world literally and morally underwater.-Susan Catlett © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2026) Seventeen-year-old Aurora has been in foster care for years—and in eight foster homes (at least, that's how many she can remember)—but no one has felt like family until Niko and Jada. Aurora begins to hope that the eccentric doomsday preppers' mansion could be her forever home, but when the endless rains come, she begins to have doubts. Niko and Jada have BOBs, or "Bug-Out-Backpacks," stashed in different rooms, and they train Aurora in disaster survival techniques, all while repeatedly moving to higher floors in their home to avoid the rising water. Aurora hopes they'll take her with them when they finally leave—but one morning, she wakes up alone in the flooded mansion. Violent men break in, but Aurora escapes out a window with her BOB, taking off in a boat. She meets a younger boy, Kota, and the two try to find the rumored safe haven called The Hill. Based on various clues, it might be where Niko and Jada went when they abandoned Aurora. This fast-paced novel with dystopian elements will keep readers invested in its action-packed plot. A reoccurring mystery that's hinted at throughout the narrative leaves ample room for the sequel that's sure to be in high demand. Most main characters read white. Pale-skinned Kota, who has "sleek, jet-black hair," is cued as being of Japanese descent. A well-plotted survival series opener. (Adventure. 13-17)	
When the rain came	Eicheldinger, Matt	YA			Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2024) In tracing the battle for equal pay and equal treatment waged by the United States Women's National Team against the U.S. Soccer Federation, Rusch (The 21: The True Story of the Youth Who Sued the U.S. Government Over Climate Change, rev. 11/23) pulls off quite a feat: she keeps readers riveted by edge-of-their-seats descriptions of individual World Cup and Olympic games while educating them about gender bias, Title IX, the effects of concussion, contract negotiations, grass versus turf fields, class action lawsuits, and more. The book proceeds chronologically, from the Women's National Team's 1985 creation (with players like Julie Foudy and Mia Hamm, who were told that it was enough just to play for their country); through 1999 when the team won the World Cup (notorious for Brandi Chastain's post-win sports-bra celebration) but the women made about \$15,000 apiece; to the early 2000s with the entry of players like Abby Wambough, Megan Rapinoe, and Alex Morgan, fierce fighters both on and off the pitch; and ultimately to 2022 when, after protracted and brave efforts, pay parity between the men's and women's national teams was finally achieved. For such a thorough and comprehensive account, the telling is remarkably lively, peppered throughout with (uncensored) quotes and memorable descriptions (Rapinoe is the "firecracker forward with pink-dyed hair") and filled with drama, sheroes, and villains; even granular descriptions of legal proceedings are compelling. Impressive front and back matter include a list of major characters, a diagram of a soccer field outlining basic positions, an extensive bibliography, and twenty-six pages of source notes. Index unseen. Martha V. Parravano November/December 2024 p. 120	Booklist starred (July 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 21)) Grades 8-12. Rusch profiled a group of young people who sued the U.S. government over climate inaction in The Twenty-One (2023), and here she turns her attention to the gender wage gap, as crystallized in a suit filed by the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team over unequal pay and treatment in 2019. She begins with the foundation of women's soccer and Title IX before moving into more detail about the team's high-stakes struggle to find equality in their treatment compared to that of the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team. Rusch writes lucidly about the frustration, anger, and determination of the talented athletes who worked together in a fight that took approximately three decades, and readers will come away empowered by her presentation of the impact of collective action, especially in the closing section, "Penalty Kicks," which outlines general tactics young people can use when confronting unequal pay in their own careers. While at its heart, this is an engaging account of a legal battle, there's also plenty of soccer, and for readers less familiar with the sport or the athletes, Rusch includes lists of major players, association hierarchies, and positions, along with plenty of helpful context. This accessible look at a high-interest topic is highly recommended for school and public libraries.
A greater goal : the epic battle for equal pay in women's soccer--and beyond	Rusch, Elizabeth	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (December 20, 2024) Gr 10 Up-The topic of equality in sports between women and men, especially on pay, is the focus of Rusch's nonfiction book. Touching on the passage of Title IX and specific sporting events, such as the World Cup and the Olympics, the book profiles the contributions of women who not only sought equal pay but also to raise awareness that their games were advertised less, sponsored unequally, and that simple accommodations at home and abroad were subpar to men. The intention of showcasing the work done but also recognizing that there is much more that needs to be accomplished, is apparent. Rusch uses her research skills and passion for nonfiction texts for teens to bring awareness about advocacy to a younger generation, one that has reaped rewards but has yet to achieve true equality. Where this work doesn't reach its intended audience is in the writing that reads dryly with plenty of facts, names, and events, but without the necessary intensity to propel it. Extensive back matter, mined source notes, and quotes will prove helpful for teens conducting research, yet it lacks the excitement of a true narrative nonfiction that will leave teens eager to uncover the backstory. VERDICT This work profiles women's equality in sports like a book about women's suffrage or education and provides a perspective on the historical and contemporary vantage point of those topics: important to know.-Alicia Abdul © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
A walk in the park : the true story of a spectacular misadventure in the Grand Canyon	Fedarko, Kevin	Adult	AD	Booklist (April 1, 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 15)) In his first book (2013's The Emerald Mile), journalist Fedarko chronicled the fastest recorded boat ride through the Grand Canyon. Here, in his second book, he moves the action from boats to boots, centering Fedarko's own lifelong relationship with the canyon, from reading about it as a child through his time as a clumsy canoe guide. The thrust of the narrative follows the proposed canyon-spanning hike of Fedarko and photographer Pete McBride, his partner in many previous, mostly failed journalistic endeavors, along with a supporting cast of more seasoned canyon hikers. Readers will appreciate the buddy-comedy element throughout as Fedarko shares his and McBride's steps, missteps, and arguments along the way, all supplemented nicely by McBride's photographs. A Walk in the Park, though, particularly inspires when Fedarko shifts away from the tourist aspect of the canyon, detailing the ancestral history of the land and some of the Indigenous voices who continue to fight against overdevelopment today amid ever-booming visitor numbers.	Kirkus Reviews starred (April 1, 2024) An immersive account of the challenges of a grueling 750-mile hike through the Grand Canyon. In the autumn of 2015, Fedarko, author of The Emerald Mile, and his frequent associate, photojournalist Pete McBride, headed out, with very little preparation, on the first leg of their journey on foot through the canyon—"a thing that fewer than two dozen people had ever done." Fedarko, who had served as an unpaid apprentice on boat trips through the canyon for several seasons, knew the place from that point of view, but experiencing the dry and dangerous landscape and traveling without marked trails, on foot, was a different matter entirely, and the adventurous duo began the trip with "a conflation of wilful ignorance, shoddy discipline, and outrageous hubris"—as well as about twice as much weight as they should have been carrying in their backpacks. Luckily, a series of expert local hikers volunteered to accompany them on several of the legs of their expedition, but even so, they went through more than a few near-death experiences from illness, dehydration, infection, slides on ice, falling rocks, lack of food, and other calamities. Fedarko expansively describes the journey—"a misguided odyssey through the heart of perhaps the harshest and least forgiving, but also the most breathtakingly gorgeous, landscape feature on earth"—with a combination of dry humor and horror, and he pays tribute to the spare beauty, grandeur, and silence of a place that few have seen, resulting in a memorable reading experience. Integrated into the memoir are maps, photos, accounts of earlier and contemporary hikers, explorations of the geology and biology of the region, interviews with Native Americans whose lands are adjacent to the canyon, and examinations of the many pressures from tourism and economic development faced by the park. Vivid armchair travel through a haunting and forbidding landscape.	
Alternative, country, hip-hop, rap, and more : music from the 1980s to today		Young Adult	YA			
American life and music : from Elvis Presley to Lady Gaga	Mussari, Mark	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2013) Gr 7 Up-This compelling series details the evolution of popular culture in America. Each title spans a period of about 60 years, from the 1950s through the 2000s. Specific components of pop culture are described and placed within a broader historical context. For example, Television links the meteoric rise of TV's popularity with America's post-World War II prosperity, the nation's growing interest in world affairs, and a shift from reliance on the radio. Music makes a connection between singer Justin Bieber's recent rise to fame and the popularity of earlier teen sensations such as Stevie Wonder and the Hanson brothers. The dense texts are broken up by a wealth of high-quality photographs and reproductions and text boxes with additional facts. Informative and enjoyable. (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Ancient History Between Us	Hill, Kaitlyn	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (April 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-An engaging story about first love and self-discovery. Strong-willed and determined Camilla has always craved excitement. As the child of a renowned archaeologist, she has traveled extensively and knows what she wants for her future. But when she is rejected from a prestigious archaeology field school, her life is shaken. To cheer her up, Camilla's mother invites her to join her in Italy for the summer and participate in the creation of a documentary. Longing to learn about the father she has never known, Camilla hatches a plan to find him while she is there. In Italy, Camilla is reintroduced to her anxiety-riddled-childhood-best-friend-turned-love-interest, West, who is reeling from the recent divorce of his two dads. The air between them is tense, as they had parted on poor terms and have not spoken since, but the cold feelings thaw as West helps Camilla on her quest. The narration of Camilla and West's alternating voices strengthens the text by giving readers a glimpse into each character's feelings and insecurities. Adventure-seeking readers will relate to the redheaded, freckled Camilla, while those with crippling anxiety will relate to West, who also cues white. VERDICT This innocent and captivating story reminiscent of Jenna Evans Welch's Love and Gelato and Stephanie Perkins's Anna and the French Kiss is recommended as a first purchase for all young adult collections.-Misty Schattile © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2026) A college student spends the summer trying to discover herself—and a love she thought was long gone. Camilla Lovett was born on an archaeological dig site in Italy. Twenty years later, she returns to Villa di Bronzo to meet up with her mother and take part in a documentary about its discovery. But Cammie has an ulterior motive for going: She doesn't know who her father is, only that he was part of the same dig, had a fling with her mom, and "opted out of the very long-term commitment of raising the tiny human they accidentally created." Armed with her mother's journal, Cammie plans to retrace the events from two decades ago. But she didn't plan on facing her own past in the form of Weston Jacobs, former best friend and first love. West and Cammie spent the first 16 years of their lives together, traveling from one dig to another with their archaeologist parents, until the day the white-presenting teens shared their first kiss, and everything blew up. Now, for the first time in three years, they're in the same place. Initially, Cammie is snarky toward West, and he's dealing with spiraling anxiety, but they find themselves drawn together. The pacing is consistent, unfolding in a gentle, unhurried way. Hill's latest weaves adventurous moments into a sweet love story that explores identity, love, and family. A charming and accessible romance set against an appealing backdrop. (Romance. 14-18)	
Blitz motorcycles : a vision of custom motorcycles	Jezegabel, Hugo	Adult	AD			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Blue Beach	Parsons, Karyn	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (March 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-An excellent coming-of-age story of a young Black girl who discovers the many different complex and nuanced ways that racism can exist without being overtly displayed. In 1929, Blue Collins's parents own and operate Blue Beach, the only beach accessible to Black people in Santa Monica, CA. The Collinses, a light-skinned Black family, are aware that some of the white townspeople are racist, but Blue, 15, is more immediately concerned with her family's disapproval of her dark-skinned friend, Ben. When Blue and Ben discover the dead body of a popular white girl on Blue Beach, they relocate it to a white beach in a moment of panic; unfortunately, this leaves Ben without an alibi when he is named chief suspect. As Blue tries to solve the murder to save Ben, she uncovers a larger conspiracy that threatens her family and their way of life. Although the mystery itself is rather straightforward, Parsons's treatment of race and class brings the novel to a higher level. Characters are all initially described as either Black or white, but each is ultimately depicted as a unique and complex individual who cannot be so simply defined. For example, spoiled and privileged white teen Jack Curtiss secretly struggles to please his father. Meanwhile, the town drunkard, Rufus, is revealed to have once been a prominent Black businessman who'd considered Jack's father a friend. VERDICT An engaging period piece with an easy-to-follow mystery and highly compelling characters, this is especially relevant for its realistic depictions of race and class in American society.-Jennifer Taylor © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews starred (April 15, 2026) The mysterious death of a teen girl threatens the tenuous relationship between Black and white communities in a California beach town in 1929. Fifteen-year-old Blue Collins and her friend Ben Clark avoid the partying crowd the evening after the annual Poseidon's Trident Parade, instead taking a sunset stroll along Blue's family's property, a refuge for Black beachgoers in Santa Monica. There they discover the body of white teen Dottie Whitehouse. Knowing the trouble a dead white girl would cause for Blue's family as well as Black boys and men in the area, they take Dottie's body out into the ocean. When Dottie washes up on a neighboring white beach, the investigation focuses on Ben's earlier interactions with the dead girl, making him a suspect. And when he disappears, both Black and white folks become convinced of his guilt. Racial tensions mount, threatening Blue's family and highlighting local resentment over the existence of an African American-owned beach. A loyal Blue is frantic to find a way to prove Ben's innocence. This taut mystery successfully blends history, the complexities of life in a close-knit community, and issues within Black society (such as colorism, which affects Ben, who has a darker complexion). Blue is a fully realized protagonist who's surrounded by an intriguing, richly drawn supporting cast. Parsons' latest is a page-turning narrative bolstered by a strong sense of time and place. A riveting story of secrets, betrayal, racial struggle, and loyal bonds. (Historical mystery. 12-18)	Publishers Weekly (March 23, 2026) Actor Parsons (Clouds over California) makes her YA debut with an evocative, socially conscious murder mystery set against the racially charged backdrop of 1929 Santa Monica. Fifteen-year-old Blue, whose family owns Blue Beach-the only stretch of sand open to Black residents in Southern California-finds her summer upended when she and her friend Ben discover the body of white teen Dottie on the shore. Fearing violent retaliation from white neighbors, the pair move the body. When evidence reveals that Dottie had asked Ben to meet her at the beach prior to her death, Ben goes into hiding as suspicions and threats run rampant. Guilt by association jeopardizes Blue, her family, and their livelihood, which is further imperiled by a white-land developer's plot to take ownership of the beach. Determined to clear Ben's name and protect her community, Blue follows her sole clue-a ruby earring found in Dottie's mouth-into a web of secrets. Despite predictable plotting and an overly tidy resolution, anticipatory language and Blue's steadfast pursuit of truth lend the narrative momentum and heart, culminating in an appealing, worthwhile offering. Ages 12-up. (June) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Bronxwood	Booth, Coe	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (October 1, 2011) Gr 9 Up-In Tyrell (Scholastic, 2006), the teen dumped the girl who lied to him and left his mother to her own devices. He set up a new life in Bronxwood, crashing with two friends who are heavily involved in drug dealing. Now his father's out of prison and wants to reunite the family, but Tyrell finds the rules and posturing too much to handle and stays out on his own. He quickly realizes that without his own DJ equipment, he can't make the money he needs to support himself and take care of his girlfriend, Jasmine. When the decision comes down to what's best for his little brother, Troy, and what's best for Tyrell, the tough choice will change his life. Returning to the inner-city setting that is as much a character as any of the individuals, Booth builds up the conflict brought on by Tyrell's temptations-the drug dealers are more violent and persuasive, the girls are more enticing, and the family dynamics are more charged. Action scenes combine with interpersonal exchanges to keep the pace moving forward at a lightning speed, but Booth never sacrifices the street-infused dialogue and emotional authenticity that characterize her works. She has created a compelling tale of a teen still trying to make the right choices despite the painful consequences.-Chris Shoemaker, New York Public Library (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2011) Now that his father is out of prison, Tyrell (from Tyrell, rev. 1/07) has a whole new set of problems, especially since his pops gets right back into the kind of behavior that got him incarcerated in the first place, thus endangering Tyrell's wish to get his little brother Troy released from the foster care system. While his father causes him all kinds of trouble, Tyrell also finds himself inadvertently (at first) drawn into his friends' drug-dealing and finds his new romance with Adonna (also seen in Kendra, rev. 11/08) complicated by an old girlfriend's continued presence and by new feelings for Jasmine, a girl he befriended in the first book. It's a simultaneously busy and torpid story, reflective of Tyrell's day-to-day life in the Bronxwood projects, kept in line by Booth's uncompromising adherence to Tyrell's point of view in the vivid, forthrightly vulgar first-person, present-tense narration. While he can be a smooth talker with the females, inside he's smart but unsure and blundering, equally capable of self-delusion and self-awareness. "I don't know why guys do anything they do," complains Adonna, but this book goes a long way to offering some insight. roger sutton	Booklist (September 1, 2011 (Vol. 108, No. 1)) Grades 10-12. With the same heartbreak and honesty as the widely acclaimed Tyrell (2006), this fast-paced sequel continues the title teen's immediate first-person narrative of his struggle in the 'hood. Tyrell's dad has been released from prison, but having him at home does not make life easier; in fact, the two face off verbally and then in a brutal physical fight. It is hard to make enough money working as a DJ at parties, and Tyrell gets drawn into drug dealing on the violent streets. He finds escape with girls, and he has sex with more than one, although he loves gorgeous Latina Jasmine, whom he met in a motel for the homeless. Born in the Bronx, Booth has worked as a social worker there, and she is not easy on the system, offering no sweet resolution; in fact, things only get worse, and the realism continues in the characters' raw language (including the n- and f-words). Still, the hope rings true through Tyrell's sense of survival and responsibility ("I hafta") as he cares for his brother, his friends, and his girl.
Checking You Out	Chen, Jennifer	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (March 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Chen's book nerd romance told from the alternating perspectives of two Asian American teens is a wholesome love letter to fantasy novels and foster kittens. Lizzie is a recent high school graduate navigating her last summer with her best friends, fellow book enthusiasts who all prefer different genres. In between saving for their best friend road trip and reading fantasy novels, Lizzie volunteers at a local cat rescue where she meets Dylan, a hunky and sweet self-professed book hater. Sparks fly, but Lizzie is more interested in her secret book admirer, "Fellow Fantasy Reader," who is sending her anonymous messages with the help of her favorite nonbinary librarian. Readers who love cats will find the passages about fostering kittens adorable, although those who are not so feline-inclined might wish for more plot and less pontificating on the cuteness of food beards. Although the ending is comfortingly predictable for a romance novel, it takes long to get there, with the usual trope of an inevitable misunderstanding seeming especially unbelievable and manufactured. VERDICT For romance fans, a middling novel that hits all the right notes, even if it takes a few detours on the way. A wholesome romance for middle or high school libraries.-Amy Shaw © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (April 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 15)) Grades 8-12. Bookcore aesthetic is the name of Lizzie's game. Her friend group is called Book Besties Forever (BB4E), the librarian at the Central Library in Los Angeles holds books for her, and she even volunteers with cats in her spare time. Dylan also loves books, but after being bullied badly enough that he had to switch schools, he keeps that fact hidden. When Dylan starts volunteering with Lizzie, she thinks he's a dumb jock; meanwhile, unbeknownst to each other, the pair are exchanging notes via their favorite library books. Dylan's past with bullying being a primary obstacle is a solid, natural conflict for the relationship, despite its convenient resolution. The juxtaposition of the BB4E group with Dylan's prior experiences easily builds empathy for Dylan, who has an on-page panic attack when his best friend finds out that he likes books. Although the dual POVs often alternate within chapters to great narrative effect, Dylan is a much stronger character than Lizzie, whose personality is exclusively books and cats. Ultimately, a cute romance deeply steeped in both BookTok and LA culture.	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2026) Two Los Angeles high school seniors find a connection through books. Lizzie is content to hang out with a lychee boba tea, her three Book Besties, and a pile of books. While she's rereading Feline Forest: Zephyr's Quest, her favorite book since sixth grade, a library checkout receipt from the previous borrower falls out—it turns out they'd borrowed volumes from Lizzie's top three fantasy series. At her friends' insistence, Lizzie leaves a note for her reading soul mate in another book she wants to read, with instructions to leave a response "in the fantasy novel you'd take with you to a desert island," and so sparks a summerlong scavenger hunt. Lizzie doesn't suspect that her mystery correspondent might be "fun jock" Dylan, the cute boy who volunteers with her in the Best Friends Animal Society's kitten nursery. Although she can't deny she's attracted to him, Dylan's admission that he has "zero opinions on books" is a dealbreaker. In truth, Dylan is a huge fantasy reader—but bullying has led him to hide this fact. He's lying low until he leaves for New York University in the fall. Will the duo ever learn who their Fellow Fantasy Reader is? Told in the Taiwanese American teens' alternating points of view interspersed with text messages, this light rom-com champions reading—and being true to yourself. Both leads' voices feel younger than their ages. Dylan's growth is satisfying, but Lizzie's arc is less well developed. A breezy bookish love story. (Romance. 13-18)
Cross country	Troupe, Thomas Kingsley	Middle School	5-8			
Disco, punk, new wave, heavy metal, and more : music in the 1970s and 1980s		Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Game, Set, Matched	Bailey, Ivy	Young Adult	YA	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2026) Eighteen-year-old Billie finds an unexpected tennis mixed doubles partner and love interest during her run at the Wimbledon juniors tournament. Twins Tom and Billie Dawson are training for the first-ever Wimbledon junior mixed doubles event when Tom collapses and is out of contention for the tournament. After searching for a replacement partner, Billie reluctantly pairs with her coach's nephew, Harley Pierce. Despite her frustrations with the handsome Harley, which stem from a conflict when they were paired for a charity tournament at age 15, Billie can't deny that his style of play is a good match with hers. And once they start training together, Billie's feelings for Harley grow into something more than just on-court appreciation. Tennis is the perfect backdrop for this romance, which includes great shot-by-shot descriptions and palpable tension between Billie and Harley and their competitors. Bailey includes plenty of tennis details for fans of the sport to enjoy without veering into too much specialized terminology that would confuse those less familiar with the game. Though the romance forms a compelling thread that ties the story together, there's more to the novel: Billie struggles with feeling inferior to her brother in their father's eyes and Harley wrestles with a difficult family life, rounding out their characterization. Text exchanges among Billie and her friends feel authentic and add to the story's strong pacing and readability. Both Billie and Harley present white. A romantic smash. (Romance. 14-18)		
Hello beautiful : a novel	Napolitano, Ann	Adult	AD	Booklist starred (February 1, 2023 (Vol. 119, No. 11)) William had a solitary upbringing tinged with grief, so it was something of a relief to marry into Julia's large, boisterous Italian family. Her parents and three sisters were nearly always there for her, physically and emotionally. Julia and her sisters could communicate opinions with a single glance; they were each others' first phone calls in times of triumph or tragedy, and they all seemed to know one another better than they knew themselves. William tried to fit in quickly and absorb the Padavano family shorthand. When a depressive spell soured William and Julia's marriage, he decides that a solitary life may be the only way to keep the people he loves from harm. But when the cloud lifts, William is surprised to find the one Padavano who's still by his side, unable to let go of the strongest connection she's ever felt. Napolitano's (Dear Edward, 2020) sweeping, Chicago-set family saga echoes Cristina Alger's The Darlings, Jonathan Tropper's This is Where I Leave You, and Adam Langer's Crossing California. With the vibrant and close-knit Pilson neighborhood playing a supporting role, Napolitano's latest novel investigates the deep, maddeningly frustrating, and ever-present love of family, whether tied by genetics or by choice.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2023) Who do we deserve to love and be loved by? Drawn into the orbit of a tightknit family upon falling for Julia, the eldest of the four Padavano sisters, William Waters experiences the kind of family solidarity, affection, and sense of belonging he never had with his own dysfunctional parents. William developed an (initially) effective coping strategy during his lonely childhood and devotes his energies toward succeeding in the only place he feels comfortable: the basketball court. College sweethearts, Julia and William marry and begin a life together directed mostly by Julia's wishes for stability and status; the plan and relationship are derailed by William's gradual decline into a crippling depression. Julia and William divorce, and William distances himself from their infant daughter, Alice, too. Relationships between and among William and all of the Padavanos rupture and resign over the ensuing decades as Napolitano spins a saga of familial love, deception, and hope for healing while adeptly highlighting each family member's unique position in the narrative. Each of the Padavano girls is finely described—there's Julia, who's straightforward and driven; Sylvie, dreamy and romantic; and twins Cecelia (artistic) and Emeline (the sensitive moral compass of the group)—and it is entirely plausible that the girls envision themselves from time to time as the March sisters from Little Women. (Rounding out that parallel is the presence of a dreamy, poetic father and a hardworking, long-suffering mother.) More subtly, the influence of Walt Whitman is felt throughout the book, from epigraph to end, as characters come to terms with their roles in an evolving universe. As in Napolitano's recent Dear Edward (2020), heartbreaking circumstances shatter the lives of relatable human characters who are unprepared for the task of building a meaningful life. Napolitano's characters can break your heart as they work to mend their own.	Publishers Weekly (January 16, 2023) Napolitano (Dear Edward) explores the meaning of love and family with this striking story of four Chicago sisters and the young man who enters their lives. William Waters, a basketball player from outside Boston, enrolls at Northwestern in 1978 on an athletic scholarship. After he starts dating fellow student Julia Padavano, he's embraced by Julia's three younger sisters-Sylvie, a romantic searching for a great love affair; Cecelia, an aspiring artist; and Cecelia's earnest and quiet twin, Emeline-and is delighted to find a loving and loud family so different from his own, his parents having grown taciturn after his older sister's death years before. William and Julia marry, while the unmarried Cecelia gets pregnant at 17. Sylvie presses on with a job at a library, and Emeline works at a daycare where she fosters a crush on a coworker. After one character attempts suicide, the bonds of the expanding family are tested, and the Padavano women reexamine the limits of how much they're willing to sacrifice. The author breathes great life into her characters, and brings insight into their quiet moments as they gradually come into their own. This will move readers. Agent: Julie Barer, Book Group. (Mar.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
In the shadow of the fallen towers : the seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years after the 9/11 attacks	Brown, Don	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (May 1, 2021) Gr 7 Up-Brown's latest work of graphic nonfiction revisits September 11, 2001, and its aftermath in time for the tragedy's 20th anniversary. While filming a documentary about New York firefighters, French filmmaker Jules Naudet shifts his lens skyward as the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center are struck by airliners and, ultimately, collapse. Using vivid phrases like "debris-strewn whirlwind," "ocean of rubble," and "snowfall of papers," Brown captions emotional illustrations that depict the wreckage of the towers and, later, the Pentagon: Scenes of family members and first responders alike searching for survivors in the following days, weeks, and months are juxtaposed with depictions of the United States' response to the attacks, including war in the Middle East and a rise in Islamophobic incidents domestically. Alternating between war and recovery, the remaining pages end with a ceremony one year later where the names of the 2,753 victims are read aloud. Though for a different and more mature audience, Brown's second attempt at covering this topic (after 2011's America Is Under Attack) is a more comprehensive look at the tragedy for an older audience. With a palette of mostly cool or ashy watercolors, the red heat of the destruction abruptly and noticeably pops off the page. Varied panel layouts capture the frenetic pace of the emergency, while spreads offer powerful moments of pause. Detailed back matter includes an afterword, sobering statistics, source notes, and an extensive bibliography. Most of the subjects featured in the book are white. VERDICT A succinct and impactful look at one of America's worst tragedies, skillfully rendered by one of comics journalism's best.—Alec Chunn, Eugene P.L., OR © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2021) Brown's America Is Under Attack (rev. 11/11) offered a superb dramatic account of the events of September 11th for readers too young to have remembered it. Here he returns to the topic with a volume for teen readers and a twenty-year perspective on the tragedy. The book begins with the attack itself and its immediate aftermath, capturing the horror, heroism, and particular personal stories and details -- claustrophobic images of survivors entombed for hours until pulled from the rubble, exhausted firefighters and rescue dogs, stranded pets, and shoes "absent their owners" littering the ground. The story continues, as Brown depicts subsequent American attacks on Afghanistan and the Taliban, with graphic images of hooded prisoners, waterboarding, and confinement of captives in small boxes. Meanwhile, in the U.S., 108,342 truckloads of rubble are hauled away, a new Freedom Tower is erected, and hope arises from the ashes, a bright American flag dazzling against Brown's palette of browns and grays. A construction worker on a beam above the skyline delivers a patriotic note: "They hit the World Trade Center. They hit the Pentagon. But they missed America." Once again, Brown (Drowned City, rev. 9/15; The Unwanted, rev. 9/18; A Shot in the Arm!, rev. 5/21) shows his mastery of the graphic format for portraying humanity in the most trying of circumstances. Back matter includes an informative afterword, statistics, source notes, and an extensive bibliography. Dean Schneider July/August 2021 p.132	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2021) The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City in 2001 changed our world irrevocably. Now, 20 years later, the reverberations of this grievous assault on the United States can still be felt. Sibert Honor–winning graphic novelist Brown uses lyrical prose and powerful illustrations to revisit the horrific events of the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, and share with readers the profound and lasting effects they have had on the country and its residents. Based on the firsthand accounts of survivors, Brown chronicles some of the lesser-known stories of victims, first responders, and survivors in the days and years after the attacks. Readers will delve deeper into what they might already know about that morning as well as broaden their awareness of its harrowing aftermath. Brown's effective use of color adds yet another dimension to the story: The panels are illustrated in shades of brown and gray, re-creating the bleak smoke- and dust-filled landscape of ground zero. Sudden bursts of violent red flames perfectly symbolize the devastating shock of the disaster and the urgent fight for survival. Extensive source notes, statistics, and citations as well as a poignant afterword make this graphic nonfiction title an important, powerful book for teen and adult readers alike. A deeply moving account of the immediate aftermath and lasting effects of the largest terrorist attack on United States soil. (bibliography) (Graphic nonfiction. 14-adult)
Latin and Caribbean	Manetta, Lara Stewart	Young Adult	YA			
Medical robots	McHugh, Emerson C	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Neuroscience	Schlesinger, Emily	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (April 1, 2024) Gr 5 Up-This hi-lo nonfiction series covers a variety of topics, from popular pastimes like pickle ball to historical events such as the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Each title has about eight chapters with a full page of text beside colorful photographs. Larger paragraphs are written at a third grade level and pair with infographics or photos to encourage further reading. Each title highlights a person who is well-known or important to the topic, such as a man named Sequoyah who invented a writing system to preserve history and culture (The Trail of Tears). A glossary is included. While there is a lot of information that can be overwhelming for younger readers, chapters can be easily broken down for a shorter reading experience. Some aspects of the titles that cover Indigenous and Native history feel lacking and might leave readers wondering what is being glossed over. VERDICT A series that connects history to the present day and piques curiosity in older readers. © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
R&B, soul, and gospel	Benac, Eric	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (October 1, 2019 (Vol. 116, No. 3)) Grades 8-12. The rapid exploration of the history, developments, and many subgenres of gospel, R&B, and soul music can best be described as baptism by fire. The book, part of the Evolution & Cultural Influences of Music series (8 titles), begins by tracing gospel's roots to Christian church songs and African American spirituals. From here, the author teases out characteristics (soulful sound, vocal harmonies, rhythmic beats) that lead to the formation of R&B and soul, launching a thorough overview of the pioneering artists and labels that popularized these genres and work in them today. Throughout, care is taken to note African American musicians' monumental contributions and struggles due to slavery and prejudice. Text-dependent questions, suggested research projects, QR codes linking to relevant videos, a chronology, and source notes add further value to this comprehensive text.		
Rise up and sing! : power, protest, and activism in music	Warner, Andrea	Young Adult	YA	Booklist starred (October 15, 2023 (Vol. 120, No. 4)) Grades 7-10. This graphics-rich offering surveys protest movements and celebrates the songs and performances that publicized, evoked empathy, and inspired both activists and members of the general public to get up and get involved. Thoughtful, accessible essays provide social background while introducing songwriters and performers associated with eight areas of activism: climate justice, decolonization and Indigenous rights, civil rights and racial justice, disability accessibility and acceptance, pride and 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, gender equality and inclusive feminism, peace and anti-war movements, and basic human rights. Each section features "Hall of Fame" and "Spotlight" (biographical sketches of influential performers and activists), "Dance Break," "Viral Hits," and "Listen Up" (songs and videos that created public impact), and a "Top Ten Playlist," plus five additional tracks. Artists range from Woody Guthrie and Nina Simone to Marvin Gaye and Cyndi Lauper to Lil Nas X, Lizzo, and Billie Eilish. There's a lot of solid, balanced information, whether approached from a social movement, pop history, or music angle, and researchers will appreciate the international scope, chapter notes, and promised bibliography. Each section ends with open-ended, discussion-starting questions. Expect lots of interest, humming, and sing-alongs.	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2023) Illuminates the tremendous impact of activist artists and songs on individuals, communities, and social movements both past and present. As the global demand for social change expands, the need for protest music has only grown. The book's eight chapters focus on climate justice; gender equality; peace movements; and Indigenous, racial, disability, LGBTQ+, and general human rights. To signify that musicians often address multiple issues in their songs, the book uses symbols—a globe icon for climate justice and a sun symbol for Indigenous rights—which are introduced in the table of contents and repeated later, where relevant, next to each artist's name. Each chapter opens with an overview of the topic and goes on to include notable musicians, information about specific songs and videos that have made an impact, a suggested playlist, and three thought-provoking discussion questions. A broad range of talent is represented, from artists with decades of fame like Neil Young, Jimi Hendrix, and Aretha Franklin, to newer stars like Billie Eilish, Beyoncé, and Lizzo, and many others who are less commonly known. There is also significant racial, national, and ethnic diversity, notably many Indigenous voices. The colorful illustrations and photographs break up the heavy text. This volume would serve as an excellent resource for readers already deeply interested in the subject matter; due to the evocative song descriptions, it could also whet the appetite of casual browsers. An inspiring deep dive into the history of activist music. (further reading, endnotes, index) (Nonfiction. 12-18)	
Sea of Charms	Durst, Sarah Beth	Adult	AD	Library Journal (March 1, 2026) Marin's heart belongs to the wide-open sea; she refuses to confine herself to a smaller, wife-shaped life. She leaves her fiancé and gets a boat, making ends meet as a runner between islands, delivering mail, everyday goods, and the occasional sentient enchanted object, with a rescued sea serpent named Perri as her only companion. Arriving at Alyssium one day, Marin discovers the city on fire and people evacuating; among them is composer Dax, a prodigy in the middle of working on his magnum opus. Marin takes a number of fleeing Alyssians and magical objects onto her boat and brings them to safety. Even after the other refugees leave the boat, Dax stays onboard to be inspired by Marin's stories, as does an enchanted plant that feels it was meant to be a sailor. With her new passengers, Marin feels less alone. She has now contributed to so many rescues, but can she save herself? VERDICT The third entry in Durst's "Spellshop" series (after The Enchanted Greenhouse) connects characters, places, and events from the previous books, expanding the delightful world of the Crescent Islands.-Kristi Chadwick © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Special forces land vehicles : MRAPs, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles	Stilwell, Alexander	Young Adult	YA			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Spur of the moment	Smith, Juliana	Adult	AD	School Library Journal Xpress (March 20, 2026) Gr 9 Up-In this feel-good romance with a bit of angst, protagonist Lottie is spending the summer before her senior year as she always does since she was diagnosed with epilepsy-bored, as a restaurant hostess. It's a safe job where she can't put herself or anyone else in danger; one that her family and small town approve of. She used to be a bull rider, the very opposite of safe and boring. That, along with driving, boyfriends, and anything that hints at excitement, is now off limits. But when Walker returns to town after several years away, life suddenly becomes very interesting. Lottie fell in love with Walker years back, when he would visit her town every summer to learn about ranching. It turns out that Walker has come back to have one more chance with Lottie and to get away from his overbearing parents who want to dictate his future. Walker doesn't know about Lottie's epilepsy and treats her like he always did. Smith's full and interesting characters explore personal ambitions and emotional connections with dialogue that sparkles. The engaging book realistically and poignantly depicts a girl with epilepsy and her loving, if over-protective, family and friends. Most characters are white; Lottie's best friend has dark- skin. VERDICT An enjoyable and romantic story that might inspire readers to reflect on the choices they make that shape the paths they take in life.-Maria Ramusevic © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews starred (April 15, 2026) A young woman struggles to forge a new path after a life-changing diagnosis. Lottie Turner plans on making the most of the summer before senior year. Ever since a terrible head injury nearly two years ago resulted in post-traumatic epilepsy, she's struggled to find an identity outside of bull riding, which was her passion. Now Lottie just wants to let loose away from the overprotective eyes of the people who love her. But when Walker Lane, her first boyfriend, reappears after two years away, everything shifts. Walker is back at Willow Creek, the Turners' Alabama ranch. He just graduated from high school and has taken a job as a seasonal ranch hand, seeking to escape the pressures of an upcoming NASA internship that comes with strings attached to his father. Hoping to rekindle their relationship, Walker helps Lottie with her "Eighteen Before Eighteen" bucket list. As Lottie works her way through it, she learns to love her new self—and maybe even Walker too. In this series opener, the leads' alternating perspectives immerse readers in the world of Willow Creek, with intentionally layered moments that propel the narrative. Lottie and Walker, who are coded white, are well characterized, and this sweet romance includes heart-pounding yearning, witty banter, and a thoughtful exploration of navigating disability. As Lottie struggles with accepting her new reality, including frustration with being treated as fragile, Walker responds in supportive ways that highlight his emotional intelligence. A summer romance distinguished by complex characters, emotional depth, and poetic storytelling. (Romance. 14-18)	
Surfing	Schlesinger, Emily	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (November 1, 2023) Gr 6 Up-This new series covers compelling topics in science, technology, sports, and more. Each title features eight chapters and starts with a short narrative about the subject before diving into more detailed information.The content is extremely comprehensive and includes details about the historical context, present-day status, and future trends of each topic. Complicated subjects such as astrobiology and NFTs are explained in a way that is easy-to-understand and engaging. The text, which is at a second grade level, is written with readability in mind and features one-to-three short paragraphs per page. Fast facts, charts, and infographics are sprinkled throughout the text. Page layouts feature a modern and contemporary design, and are age-appropriate for readers at the secondary level. VERDICT Rich with information, this series is recommended for middle and high school collections seeking nonfiction for striving readers. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Tangled Roots & Wild Dreams	Velez, Angela	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (April 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Ezzie spends the summer before her senior year finding out more about her late father in this engaging young adult novel. Ezzie is a Peruvian senior (one of only two Latinas at her Catholic school) who needs to choose a summer fellowship site and waits until the very last minute. Inspiration hits when she finds a piece of paper in her late father's office that says he founded a community garden. Since both her parents have been college professors all her life, this is surprising. Ezzie signs up to volunteer at the garden to see what else she can find out about what her father was hiding, since her mother does not like to talk about him. The only problem is that one of the volunteers is her best friend's ex-boyfriend who Ezzie has vowed to hate for hurting her friend. However, she discovers a different side. Readers will be engaged with the story and characters. Ezzie and her Korean best friend Dora are typical teenage girls who are trying to make the most of their summer. Ezzie's mother is still grieving the loss of her husband but tries not to show it when talking to Ezzie. While some heavy issues, such as the loss of a loved one and mental health, are touched upon, this is still a fun read. Some Spanish words and phrases are included without translation, but reading in context helps. VERDICT This entertaining read about a Latine teenager learning about one of her late father's passions is a definite buy for young adult collections.-Margaret Puentes © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2026) A 17-year-old in Pittsburgh becomes entangled in thorny vines of secrecy and uncertainty. Esperanza "Ezzie" Ramos attends the prestigious "all girls and enbies" Western Catholic. During her summer honors class, she needs to pick the focus for her senior thesis project, but she's riddled with uncertainty over what topic she should choose, especially because she's the daughter of "a glass-ceiling-smashing geology professor (Mami) and an innovative plant biologist (Papi)." Everyone assumes Ezzie will do great things too. Papi died tragically eight years ago, and this summer Mami is doing research in Colombia, so Ezzie's old-fashioned Peruvian Abuelita is in charge. Ezzie unearths a secret of her father's that takes her to Sprout Pittsburgh, an urban garden, where she runs into Gabe McCallister, a Mexican American boy she's predisposed to loathe because he broke her Korean American best friend Dora's heart. Ezzie has the summer to dig up the truth about who her father was and who she wants to be. But what can she say to Dora about her changing feelings for Gabe when she can't even understand them herself? Ezzie's evenly paced journey is a highly relatable story of grief and first romance. Her interior monologue feels authentic, and her character growth will resonate with teens dealing with transitions and the decisions expected of them in their later high school years. A well-balanced story about personal growth that leaves room for a sweet romance to blossom. (Fiction. 12-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Tell me everything : a novel	Strout, Elizabeth	Adult	AD	Booklist starred (July 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 21)) It's a rare and special thing to have someone with whom to share one's deepest fears, profound joys, petty annoyances, and daily delights. Such is the relationship between Bob Burgess and Lucy Barton. As they meet to walk along the river (so Bob can sneak his daily cigarette), they recount life's quotidian events with the same sense of wonder and reverence as revelations of long-held secrets. Lucy confesses she talks to houseplants; Bob admits to watering down the gin in a neighbor's grocery delivery. But it's not all minutiae. Murder and suicide, alcoholism and assault also winnow their way into their stories. While Lucy and Bob are the mainstays, Strout has reunited much of the old Crosby, Maine, crowd: Olive Kitteridge, Isabelle Goodrow, Bob's ex, Pam, and his brother, Jim make stellar cameo appearances to tell their own tales. Through them all, Strout reminds us that storytelling can be powerful; that most people's lives go unrecorded; and that paying witness to everyday events is a gift. With tenderness, honesty, intimacy, and compassion, Strout uses her cunning powers of observation to draw readers beyond the mundane to the miraculous complexities where true friendship lies.HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: An absolute must-have; Strout fans are avid!	Publishers Weekly starred (June 17, 2024) The latest from Pulitzer winner Strout (Olive Kitteridge) brings together characters from her previous novels for a masterly meditation on storytelling. After 86-year-old Mainer Gloria Beach is found dead in a quarry, semi-retired lawyer Bob Burgess agrees to represent Gloria's son, Matthew, who is the prime suspect in her possible murder. Bob has grown close to author Lucy Barton, who moved to the area from New York City during the pandemic, and the duo spend hours walking together and chatting. After Bob takes Matthew's case, Lucy calls him a "sin eater," a term that came to her mind during a recent chat with Olive Kitteridge, who's been inviting Lucy over to her retirement community to gossip about their neighbors. As Bob works with Matthew on preparing his defense in the event of a murder charge, he begins to wonder if he's falling in love with Lucy. Though Olive doesn't say anything, she's been convinced all along that Lucy and Bob are developing feelings for each other. The narrative threads make for dishy small-town drama, but even more satisfying are the insights Strout weaves into the dialogue. Late in the novel, after Olive asks Lucy the point of writing stories, she responds, "People and the lives they lead. That's the point." Longtime fans and newcomers alike will relish this. Agent: Molly Friedrich, Friedrich Agency. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.	Library Journal - web only (September 13, 2024) In this book, Strout (Lucy by the Sea) returns to the fictitious town of Crosby, ME, and brings back characters from her previous works. The relationship of Bob Burgess, a lawyer in Crosby, and Lucy Barton, a famous author who moved to the town with her ex-husband, takes center stage. Readers will discover secrets, romantic longings, and grim histories. Olive Kitteridge makes a guest appearance and acts as a sounding board for Lucy. There are deaths by suicide, murder, child sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancies, a substance use disorder, abandonment, and unconsummated love. Strout describes her characters' battles, missteps, and failures with great compassion and sensitivity. Personal interactions demonstrate the importance of attending to and understanding one another. Maine itself provides more than just a setting for events, and people internalize its beauty. VERDICT Any new novel by Strout generates excitement, and fans will love this one, especially if they appreciate the author's return to a familiar and beloved setting and cast of characters. This book and reading experience is comfortable like a well-worn shirt.-Jacqueline Snider © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
The boy who followed his father into Auschwitz : a true story retold for young readers	Dronfield, Jeremy	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2023) Gr 7 Up-The young reader's edition of Dronfield's adult title of the same name is a heartrending and absolutely necessary read about the scope and depth of the Holocaust. Put together with meticulous research and interviews, this powerful work of narrative nonfiction follows the Viennese Kleinmann family and their many experiences before and during World War II. Most of the book focuses on Fritz, age 16 in 1939, and his father, Gustav, who are taken to the Buchenwald concentration camp and the many small and brave things they had to do to survive grueling, inhumane circumstances. For young people who only have an idea of what the Holocaust meant, Fritz's story will give them insight into how a father and son craftily and barely survived three concentration camps, including Auschwitz, until American liberation in 1945. The book also follows Fritz's brother Kurt, who at age 10 is sent to America and is taken care of by family friends. Dronfield met Kurt in 2013 when he was translating Fritz's book, which includes his father's secret journal. These shifts in point of view, between Fritz and Kurt, can be confusing, but the author's note and the time line at the end pull the stories together. Conversations are reconstructed, and readers will be absorbed by the life-or-death decisions Fritz and Gustav make together. VERDICT This essential work shows young readers how the Holocaust came to happen and how two amazing human beings survived its horrors.-Jamie Winchell © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist starred (December 1, 2022 (Vol. 119, No. 7)) Grades 6-8. This inspiring and riveting true story, adapted from Dronfield's adult book of the same name, tells of an Austrian Jewish family's father and two sons and how they survived the horrors of the Holocaust. Fritz was 16 in 1939 when he and his papa Gustav were arrested separately by SS officers. Neither knew where the other was until Fritz found Gustav at Buchenwald. In 1941, Fritz's younger brother, Kurt, 11, traveled to America by himself to escape the war. The brothers' stories are told in alternating chapters, with the main focus on gutsy and clever Fritz as he withstands backbreaking manual labor, torture, sickness, and starvation. He attempts daring escapes and even "dies" and takes another prisoner's identity to survive in numerous concentration camps. Though the third-person perspective somewhat mutes the emotional impact, Fritz and Gustav's bond is undeniable, and their determination to stay alive and together is moving and uplifting. Dronfield's book is based on diary entries Gustav secretly kept and firsthand interviews with Kurt and others. Dronfield states in his afterword that he did reconstruct some scenes based on the main characters' detailed recollections and made up some dialogue based on these individuals' knowledge of the events and circumstances. Nevertheless, this is a powerful addition to other books from the Holocaust and WWII period.	Kirkus Reviews starred (October 15, 2022) A family's experiences in the Holocaust told in heart-stopping, relentless detail. Dronfield emphasizes that the horrific events are true and the Jewish family at the center of the story is real. In 1938 Vienna, Gustav and Tini Kleinmann, daughters Edith and Herta, and sons Fritz and Kurt were living quiet lives in a small apartment above Papa's upholstery shop. When Hitler invaded Austria, the Nazis immediately enacted anti-Jewish laws. On Kristallnacht, synagogues and Jewish businesses and homes were looted, smashed, and burned. Former trusted friends betrayed them and were instrumental in what followed. Mutti filed applications, hoping the children might get limited spots in rescue programs—Edith eventually secured a British work permit; later, 10-year-old Kurt was allowed to go to America. While Kurt found a loving surrogate family, he always worried about his loved ones. Fritz and Papa endured yearlong nightmares in Buchenwald, Auschwitz, the Death March, and Mauthausen. The beatings, forced labor, starvation, illness, death, and brutal deprivation they witnessed and endured are meticulously described, interwoven with necessary historical background and sparing readers nothing. Nazis, collaborators, and fellow prisoners alike are identified by name, and grateful credit is given to those few who showed kindness. Dronfield informs readers of each character's fate, some surviving and reuniting and others murdered, lost in the horror that was the Holocaust. Reading with a knowledgeable adult would be invaluable and comforting. Difficult, gut-wrenching, terrifying, gruesome, and so very important: never again. (timeline, author's note, glossary, further reading, bibliography, source notes) (Nonfiction. 11-16)
The code breaker : Jennifer Doudna and the race to understand our genetic code	Isaacson, Walter	Young Adult	YA	Booklist (April 15, 2022 (Vol. 118, No. 16)) Grades 7-10. This biography of Jennifer Doudna, a genetic researcher who won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Emmanuelle Charpentier for their work with CRISPR—a genome-editing system instrumental in the development of COVID-19 vaccines—is based on the 2021 adult title of the same name. This version covers Doudna's life and career, including technical explanations of her groundbreaking work in molecular biology and RNA research. Doudna's story serves as an inspirational model for young women who intend to pursue a career in science. Despite dealing with dismissive teachers, misogynistic discrimination, funding fights, patent feuds, restrictive government regulations, biohacking, and ethical challenges, Doudna has always persisted. The text refers repeatedly to her unwavering determination and her willingness to take risks, and maintains an upbeat, problem-solving tone. Coverage is current (Dr. Fauci makes an appearance), and readers will undoubtedly comprehend the urgency of developing new vaccines. It's also exciting to read about a contemporary scientist (Doudna was born in 1964). This offering should be promoted and prominently displayed on STEM-collection shelves.	Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2022) A trimmed—but still hefty—young readers' adaptation of Isaacson's much-admired 2021 original. Substantial discussions of gene tailoring's promise and thorny ethical quandaries expand this story of how researchers discovered a mechanism that bacteria use to "remember" and nullify attacking viruses and how they have leveraged it with maladies from sickle cell anemia to Covid-19. The work centers pioneering researcher Doudna—tracing her Nobel Prize–winning achievements but also situating her in a teeming international community of fellow researchers whose relationships are fueled by a fizzy mix of egos and altruism. Young readers may be more interested in Doudna's discoveries than the details of a midlife existential reckoning or a fence-mending web chat with a formerly close colleague. But along with some photos, there are vivid word portraits of her as well as fellow scientists, from James Watson ("difficult and complicated") to He Jiankui, whose "thirst for fame" led in 2018 to his inserting genomic alterations into viable human embryos. That episode demonstrated that we actually can "hack evolution," for better or worse: "It's good that some people have strong opinions about gene engineering in humans, but it's even better if you know what a gene actually is." If some passages read like acronymic word salad, the whole package offers a stimulating and topical case study in how rewarding science can be when it's "letting data dance with big ideas." An index and resource list would have been helpful. Ambitious in scope; a distinctively nuanced picture of modern science in action. (endnotes) (Nonfiction. 13-18)	

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				Booklist starred (March 15, 2023 (Vol. 119, No. 14)) Instantly and utterly absorbing is the so-worth-the-long-wait new novel by the author of Cutting for Stone (2009). Spanning 70 years, it opens with the 1900 marriage of a 12-year-old girl to a 40-year-old widower with a young child. The couple belong to India's Saint Thomas Christian community, descendants of St. Thomas' converts after his arrival in present-day Kerala almost two millennia prior. While toddler JoJo immediately accepts the bride as his mother, the groom maintains a watchful distance until she is ready for a husband. She matures into Big Ammachi, the beloved matriarch of Parambil, the family's 500-acre estate. She births two children, a daughter who never outgrows a five-year-old's delight and a son whose wanderings finally bring him home to stay. Always looming is "the Condition," a mysterious history of drowning that claims a victim in every generation. Meanwhile, in faraway Glasgow, orphaned Digby becomes a doctor against impossible odds and escapes his tragic past to become a privileged white man in British India. His trajectory as a promising surgeon, estate owner, and gentle caretaker inevitably overlaps with many of Parambil's inhabitants. Verghese—who gifts the matriarch his mother's name and even some of her stories—illuminates colonial history, challenges castes and classism, and exposes injustices, all while spectacularly spinning what will undoubtedly be one of the most lauded, awarded, best-selling novels of the year.	Kirkus Reviews starred (February 15, 2023) Three generations of a South Indian family are marked by passions and peccadillos, conditions and ambitions, interventions both medical and divine. "Where the sea meets white beach, it thrusts fingers inland to intertwine with the rivers snaking down the green canopied slopes of the Ghats. It is a child's fantasy world of rivulets and canals, a latticework of lakes and lagoons, a maze of backwaters and bottle-green lotus ponds; a vast circulatory system because, as her father used to say, all water is connected." Verghese's narrative mirrors the landscape it is set in, a maze of connecting storylines and biographies so complex and vast that it's almost a little crazy. But as one of the characters points out, "You can't set out to achieve your goals without a little madness." The madness begins in 1900, when a 12-year-old girl is married off to a widower with a young son. She will be known as Ammachi, "little mother," before she's even a teenager. Her life is the central stream that flows through the epic landscape of this story, in which drowning is only the most common of the disastrous fates Verghese visits on his beloved characters—burning, impaling, leprosy, opium addiction, hearing loss, smallpox, birth defects, political fanaticism, and so much more, though many will also receive outsized gifts in artistic ability, intellect, strength, and prophecy. As in the bestselling and equally weighty Cutting for Stone (2009), the fiction debut by Verghese (who's also a physician), the medical procedures and advances play a central role—scenes of hand surgery and brain surgery are narrated with the same enthusiastic detail as scenes of lovemaking. A few times along this very long journey one may briefly wonder, Is all this really necessary? What a joy to say it is, to experience the exquisite, uniquely literary delight of all the pieces falling into place in a way one really did not see coming. As Ammachi is well aware by the time she is a grandmother in the 1970s, "A good story goes beyond what a forgiving God cares to do: it reconciles families and unburdens them of secrets whose bond is stronger than blood." By God, he's done it again.	Publishers Weekly starred (March 27, 2023) Verghese's breathtaking latest (after Cutting for Stone) follows several generations of a South Indian family as they search for the roots of a curse. The watery setting of Travancore (later Kerala) is described in dreamlike terms, with "rivulets and canals, a latticework of lakes and lagoons, a maze of backwaters and bottle-green lotus ponds." There, a member of the Parambil family has drowned in each of the last three generations. The story begins in 1900 when a 12-year-old girl, who becomes known as Big Ammachi, marries a 40-year-old widower with a two-year-old son, JoJo. Big Ammachi sees the curse firsthand after discovering JoJo drowned at 10 in an irrigation ditch. At 16, she gives birth to Baby Mol, a daughter gifted with prophecy, and then to a son, Philipose, who becomes a newspaper columnist and marries Elsie, a beautiful and talented artist. They live in Big Ammachi's loving home with their son, Ninan, until an accident sends the couple reeling. Philipose becomes an opium addict and Elsie returns to her family, but they reunite briefly and have a daughter, Mariamma, until another tragedy leaves newborn Mariamma motherless. A parallel narrative involves Scottish surgeon Digby Kilgour, who runs a leprosarium, and by the end, Verghese perfectly connects the wandering threads. Along the way, Mariamma becomes a neurosurgeon and seeks the cause of the drownings, and the author handily depicts Mariamma's intricate brain surgeries and Kilgour's skin graft treatments, along with political turmoil when the Maoist Naxalite movement hits close to home. Verghese outdoes himself with this grand and stunning tribute to 20th-century India. Agent: Mary Evans, Mary Evans Inc. (May) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The covenant of water : a novel	Verghese, Abraham	Adult	AD	Library Journal (December 1, 2025) In an ill-advised attempt to combat her loneliness, Terlu Perna broke magical law and brought a spider plant to life. After serving a six-year sentence as a statue, she is mysteriously awakened on an island where the only other resident is a surly gardener struggling to maintain magical greenhouses that were abandoned by their creator. Terlu would be a fool to risk meddling with magic again, but she can't resist the feeling that she was meant to help save these plants and maybe the gardener too. Durst crafts a cozy fantasy full of humor, romance, and rich detail. Narrator Davies returns for Durst's sequel to The Spellshop. From a heavenly taste of soup to talking plants, Davies imbues each magical moment with dramatic flair and emotion. Her expressive delivery will enchant listeners and leave them smiling. VERDICT This audio will appeal to listeners seeking a whimsical romantasy. Recommended for fans of E. B. Asher, Travis Baldree, and Sydney J. Shields.-Lauren Hackert © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
The enchanted greenhouse	Durst, Sarah Beth	Adult	AD	School Library Journal (March 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-In a fantasy set in 1896 France, Falan is a member of le Cirque des Ombres, run by Jean-Pierre, who is famous for his ability as an Enchanteur. He brings out the best of anyone's natural talent by creating a contract with the person, a bond called "le Lien." He gets high-quality performers, and the performers get the rush that goes along with using their talent while enhanced by an Enchanteur. The performers are a mixed bunch, some from France (degradingly called Lillies), others from all over the world. All have joined the circus out of desperation. The annual Game of Oaths is usually won by a Lily, but last year an outsider won. Falan, an outsider, came by boat from India. She found a sister on the journey, but Lavanya died the previous year at the start of the Game, and Falan is sure she was murdered. She has spent the entire year plotting revenge to deal justice to the Enchanteur. As this year's Game begins, 12 performers will be pitted against one another in a high-stakes survival-of-the-fittest challenge, and Falan is ready to implement her plan. Bandreddi writes with flair and style, engaging readers with equal parts dialogue, action, and reflection. The pacing moves readers along the journey evenly, leaving open questions that get answered as the plot progresses. Phrases in French populate the book and are worth translating for connotation for those who are not familiar with romance languages. With an intriguing premise and beautifully written, this book is perfect for a teen library. VERDICT A must have for teen libraries where fantastical fiction is enjoyed.-Cathleen Ash © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews starred (April 15, 2026) In belle epoque Paris, the elite are entertained by a deadly underground tournament coated with magic. As night falls, the dazzling Cirque des Ombres comes to life beneath the luxury hotel le Palais Blanchet, led by ringmaster and Enchanteur Jean-Pierre. He preys on the young and vulnerable, making them his performers and binding them to himself with magical contracts. He also hosts the annual Game of Oaths, a battle royal starring 12 performers, for the Parisian upper class to gamble on. Teen trapeze artist Falan Sunkara, who's from India, is selected to participate this year, providing her with the opportunity to avenge her sister, Lavanya, who was one of the 11 who died last year. A string of deals boosts Falan's minuscule chances of winning: Casino dealer Bellamy Durand will help her cheat in exchange for a cut of her winnings; hotelier's son Jules Devereux Blanchet will provide information about the Game's rounds to keep his half-Enchanteur identity a secret; and Lucien Trichet, the previous winner, will share insider knowledge if Bellamy uses his connections to help him locate someone. Jean-Pierre's bloodthirsty competition favors his white performers, highlighting the brutal classism and racism. Bandreddi's debut, which features a diverse cast, is an impressive addition to its genre, enlivened with miraculous thrills and savagely unpredictable twists that will keep readers guessing. The author explores themes of allyship, survival, and colonization in this work that will appeal to fans of Squid Game and The Hunger Games. Utterly captivating. (map) (Historical fantasy. 14-18)	Publishers Weekly (March 23, 2026) A teenage circus performer enters a deadly competition seeking freedom and revenge in Bandreddi's ruthless debut, set in 19th-century Paris. Falan Sunkara, a trapeze artist from Yanaon, India, who is bound by a magical contract to the sinister le Cirque des Ombres, has spent the past year contemplating vengeance. Her closest friend, Lavanya, was killed in the Game of Oaths, a tournament engineered by the circus's calculating ringmaster, Jean-Pierre, who Falan is certain orchestrated her death. Aligning herself with others who have been disenfranchised by the Parisian elite and the reach of French imperialism, she navigates shifting alliances, moral compromise, and lethal spectacle. Falan proves a deliciously cutthroat heroine, unwavering in her ambition yet rendered with empathy-drawing vulnerability. While a crowded cast and lengthy exposition occasionally hamper narrative immersion, sharp twists restore momentum, culminating in a heart-pounding tournament finale. This intricately built and darkly sumptuous story of vengeance and liberation will appeal to fans of Roshani Chokshi's The Gilded Wolves. Ages 14-up. Agent: Catherine Cho, Paper Literary. (June) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
The Game of Oaths	Bandreddi, S. C	Young Adult	YA			
The Iphone Photography Book (2nd Edition)	Kelby, Scott	Adult	AD			

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
				School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 6 Up-In response to the anti-Semitism around us, Meltzer has written a World War II nonfiction work that does not shy away from describing the horrific atrocities committed against innocent Jews. While the work follows the timeline of WWII, the history of the meeting in Tehran and planning of Operation Overload uncovered by Meltzer will likely not be familiar. Readers may have seen the picture of The Big Three (FDR, Churchill, and Stalin) taken in Tehran, but most will not know the years of planning that went into the meeting and dangers both present and avoided. The text is broken up with black-and-white photos and front pages of newspapers with credit given to Library of Congress and stock-photo owners. While there are many quotes from letters and conversation in the text, there are no footnotes. A selected bibliography and source notes sorted by chapter conclude the work. While the writing style is similar to narrative nonfiction, the nature of the book's content makes for a difficult read at times. Chapters bounce between locations and fronts in a way that builds tension. VERDICT A good choice for large WWII collections.-Sarah Sieg © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (November 1, 2022 (Vol. 119, No. 5)) Meltzer, a bestselling novelist and author of history-based nonfiction, reunites with his frequent coauthor (and documentary filmmaker) Mensch for this thrilling account of a WWII German plan that, if it had succeeded—and if it really existed at all—could have changed the course of history in a massive way. In 1943, with the war turning against Germany, Adolf Hitler green-lighted a plot to assassinate all three of the Allied leaders (Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt) at a scheduled conference in Tehran. The elaborate plot was eventually discovered and foiled, and the story of how that happened is the kind of thing that would make a terrific historical thriller. Except it's all true—or is it? There is some skepticism about Operation Long Jump. The man who was supposedly the leader of the mission, Otto Skorzeny, denied the operation was ever launched, and there is evidence that the whole thing was a Russian fabrication (it was the Russians who informed the U.S. and England about the plot). The authors, however, address the naysayers' arguments and make a compelling case that Long Jump was real. A fascinating and potentially controversial book.	Kirkus Reviews (October 15, 2022) The Tehran Conference was a pivotal event of World War II, but there was danger lurking in the shadows. This is a strange—and strangely entertaining—book. Meltzer and Mensch, whose careers have included TV documentaries, nonfiction, thrillers, and comic books, acknowledge that the events they recount may not have happened, and they have obviously filled in some blank spaces with reasonable speculation. The authors focus on a possible plot by the Nazis to assassinate Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin—the “Big Three,” as they were called by the media of the time—when they met for a crucial conference in Tehran in 1943 to plan strategy. Several chapters of the book deal with the problems of setting up the conference, especially Stalin's insistence that it must be held in Tehran. The Nazis, who had a network of spies and sympathizers in the city as well as tapped communications line between Roosevelt and Churchill, were aware that the conference was going to happen and saw an opportunity to reshape the global order. There was a plan to send a squad of commandos into the Soviet Embassy, where the meetings were being held, through underground tunnels. But the NKVD, one of the Soviet intelligence agencies, discovered the plot and intercepted the group before they could do any damage. Much of this territory has already been covered, but Meltzer and Mensch dig up some new material. They admit that several researchers, pointing to contradictions in various firsthand accounts and a lack of documentation, have described the “plot” as a Soviet hoax. However, after sifting through the evidence, the authors conclude that there probably was a plot. As in the authors' previous two co-authored books, The First Conspiracy and The Lincoln Conspiracy, the narrative sometimes wanders away from the main story, but it makes for interesting reading. A colorful trek through a labyrinth of twists and turns that could have changed history.
The Nazi conspiracy : the secret plot to kill Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill	Meltzer, Brad	Young Adult	YA			
The power of music : healing and health	Nardo, Don	Young Adult	YA			
				School Library Journal (March 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-This romantasy anthology features an assortment of magical stories from 17 middle grade and YA BIPOC authors, ranging from well known-Kwame Mbalia and Zoraida Córdova-to up and coming. The stories span a wide range of subgenres, from postapocalyptic demon hunters in “Meet Me at World's End” by Pennant to friends-to-lovers cozy fantasy “Chloe's Cat” by Sophie Li to action-packed life-or-death circumstances in “Sinkholes” by Cheryl Isaacs. Featured protagonists and their love interests come from a wide range of diverse cultural and economic backgrounds, and some stories feature LGBTQIA+ representation. This is a necessary anthology that not only successfully embraces diversity but is also further enhanced by it. VERDICT Highly recommended for libraries serving teens who enjoy their fantasy, magic, and romance in small doses.-Jessica Marie © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2026) Romance meets magic in this engaging collection of stories written by a variety of new and veteran YA authors. In an introductory letter to readers, editor Pennant describes her goal with this anthology: “to further highlight the voices and backgrounds that are so often overlooked in the genre of ‘romantasy.’” The 17 stories collected here, the spiciest of which offer closed door romance, span the gamut from a splash of fabulism to full-blown high fantasy. In Sophie Li's beautifully written, Studio Ghibli-esque “Chloe's Cat,” a girl confronts her low self-esteem and feelings for her best friend after her cat eats him. Jill Tew builds an enchanting world that will leave readers wanting more in the epistolary “Atrium,” which follows two young people who fall in love while attempting to solve a challenge for their Incantations class. Many of the stories shine for their fantasy elements, for example, Jennifer Helen's “A Feathered Omen” and Alexene Farol Follmuth's “Prophecy.” Some feature swoonworthy romances, like Brent Lambert's “Silent Death,” Nia Davenport's “A Fate Written in Stars,” and Kwame Mbalia's “The Heartfire Mask.” Other entries present romances set against slightly fantastical backdrops, as in Cheryl Isaacs' “Sinkholes.” The anthology includes an appealing range of representation among the leads and love interests, including characters with different cultural origins and sexualities, whose identities are authentically rendered, contributing to a fun and colorful reading experience. A well-written collection that shines in its creative magic systems and worldbuilding. (contributor bios) (Fantasy romance anthology. 14-18)	Publishers Weekly (April 6, 2026) Debut author Pennant gathers 17 authors-including Zoraida Córdova, Kwame Mbalia, and Maggie Tokuda-Hall-for a dreamy collection of fantastical tales about love's ability to defy magic, monsters, and the occasional apocalypse. Each story unfolds in a distinct fantasy setting, from a seaside town frequented by mysterious sirens to an infernal realm governed by an elaborate royal court. The contributors also span a wide range of styles and subgenres, creating an eclectic mix that moves comfortably between high fantasy adventure and lighter, more whimsical fare. Among the standouts is Sophie Li's “Chloe's Cat,” a darkly comedic tale in which a girl's beloved pet devours her longtime crush, forcing her to confront the awkward consequences. “Old Gods” by Chelsea Padilla offers a more tender romance, following a boy who falls for a shape-shifter-despite the inconvenient fact that his father makes a living hunting monsters. Stakes climb even higher in Pennant's “Meet Me at World's End,” in which a demon hunter and her crush must save the world from impending doom. Across the selections, intersectionally diverse teens grapple with difficult choices as love collides with loyalty to family, duty to community, or the risks of a dangerous world. Stories with varying voices and tones culminate in a beguiling offering about romances that challenge expectations and survive extraordinary obstacles. Ages 14-up. Agent: Vicky Weber, CMA. (June) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
These Kindred Hearts	Pennant, Shari B	Young Adult	YA		Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2026) Following the unexpected death of her father, a Bribrí American teen must confront family truths and secrets in award winner Tison's haunting sophomore work. When her estranged father, Andres Dominguez, unceremoniously arrives at the family farm in Wisconsin right before Christmas, Ulá expects another round of broken promises—a pattern that's part of their fraught relationship. Their attempt at reconciliation proves fleeting, and Andres soon returns home to Costa Rica. Two days later, he's found dead, and Ulá travels with her older brother, Kabék, to the Bribrí territory for the funeral. Worrisome questions around Andres' death and his activism on behalf of Bribrí liberation and land rights attract the attention of Ian Solera, an independent investigative journalist from Limón. Then Ulá finds a cryptic note from Andres that decidedly points to murder. As sister and brother investigate their father's death, and new and longtime friends alike come together to lend a hand, a fearsome network of people involved in illegal activities and corruption emerges. Though the work is structured like a murder mystery, Tison's first prose novel excels when it focuses upon the complex, bittersweet father-daughter relationship at its core, which resonates beyond the somewhat perfunctory whodunit that unfolds. Writing in the first-person for Ulá and ingeniously using omnipresent narration for other characters, Tison weaves in Bribrí folklore, reflections on the fight for Indigenous Costa Rican rights, and the weight of familial ties to great impact. Rich, complex, and powerful in matters of the heart. (author's note) (Fiction. 12-18)	Publishers Weekly (April 20, 2026) Tison (Saints of the Household) presents an ambitious dual-perspective mystery that interweaves family drama with themes of identity and belonging. After her parents' divorce, Bribrí teen Ulá finishes high school in Wisconsin while living with her mother; her older brother, Kabék, joins their land activist father in Costa Rica. Ulá frequently feels at odds with her dad, whom she believes is forsaking his familial responsibilities in favor of advocating for political reform. His sudden death brings the siblings back together on Bribrí land, where their grief quickly gives way to suspicion about the event's cause. As they prepare for the funeral, Ulá and Kabék launch an investigation, uncovering a tangled web of family secrets and bitter land disputes-conflicts sharp enough to suggest that their father may have been murdered. Time-stamped chapters alternate between Ulá's staccato first-person narration and an omniscient chorus of ancestral matriarchs, building tension and lending the story a lyrical cadence as the search for truth guides Ulá toward a more complex understanding of both her parent and herself. Tightly constructed and featuring thoughtful reflections on Indigenous identity, this resonant and rewarding novel will appeal to fans of Angeline Boulley. Ages 12-up. Agent: Sara Crowe, Sara Crowe Literary. (June) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Together We See	Tison, Ari	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-Ulá's father Andres has always seemed more interested in activism than parenting, and his pushiness about their native Bribrí (Indigenous Costa Rican) heritage has also pushed them apart. Despite the distance between them, his not-entirely-unexpected death still rocks Ulá. Even if she and her brother Kabék had very different relationships with their father, they're equally determined to honor him according to traditional Bribrí culture. In honor of his status in the community, his family is given four days to lay him to rest, and being reunited with Andres's sister Tía Paloma, Ulá's childhood friend Manuel, and her father's house is a comfort. As they begin the ritual of accompanying his body until the burial, Ulá can't shake the feeling that something isn't what it seems and makes a discovery that opens the door to more sinister possibilities surrounding his death. Though they may be placing themselves in danger, the siblings begin to draw connections to his work to undermine the forces destroying the environment, finding themselves in a race against time and the same threats their father feared. This explosive, layered mystery exposes an all-too-true web of corporate profit happening in the shadows and the danger to those who fight to see environmental justice done. A packed but delicately crafted plot keeps the pages turning, and shifting perspectives are braided together smoothly. Alongside an atmospheric Costa Rican setting and Bribrí cultural details, Tison explores the forces that govern sibling relationships across multiple generations, creating bonds that run deeper than disagreement. VERDICT An adrenaline rush-inducing must-read.-Allie Stevens © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		

Title	Author/Artist	Audience	Interest level	Review 1	Review 2	Review 3
Track and field	Schlesinger, Emily	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (April 1, 2024) Gr 5 Up-This hi-lo nonfiction series covers a variety of topics, from popular pastimes like pickle ball to historical events such as the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Each title has about eight chapters with a full page of text beside colorful photographs. Larger paragraphs are written at a third grade level and pair with infographics or photos to encourage further reading. Each title highlights a person who is well-known or important to the topic, such as a man named Sequoyah who invented a writing system to preserve history and culture (The Trail of Tears). A glossary is included. While there is a lot of information that can be overwhelming for younger readers, chapters can be easily broken down for a shorter reading experience. Some aspects of the titles that cover Indigenous and Native history feel lacking and might leave readers wondering what is being glossed over. VERDICT A series that connects history to the present day and piques curiosity in older readers. © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
When Dealing with Dragons	Swift, Dana	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal (March 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-In a world where social hierarchy is dictated by metal class, Farren Walsh is a copper-crafter nobody hiding a dangerous secret: she is actually an elite gold-crafter. While working at her family's rural dragon sanctuary, Farren saves her rival, the high-status silver-crafter James Murphy, from a catastrophic racing accident. When James becomes an intern at the sanctuary to escape his abusive father, the two must set aside years of animosity to protect a newly discovered nest of near-extinct golden Rimback dragons. Swift blends high-stakes action with a heartfelt romance, exploring the ethical implications of animal exploitation for economic gain. The worldbuilding is intricate, focusing on the bond between humans and dragons as a source of power. Diversity and class struggles are central themes; Farren's family faces intense prejudice due to their perceived lower metal status. Representation is clear, as Farren's friend Cara Moore's family and Mrs. Healy, the tailor, are described as having dark brown skin, while James has auburn hair and fair, freckled skin. The narrative effectively uses metal-crafting as an allegory for societal barriers and the courage required to dismantle them. VERDICT A thrilling and romantic YA fantasy that successfully tackles themes of abuse, classism, and conservation; this is a strong addition to any collection serving fans of dragon-centric fantasy or high-stakes character-driven narratives along with their romance.-Richard Winters © Copyright 2026, Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2026) Teenage rivals fall in love while trying to save an endangered species of dragon. Dragon rider James Murphy has had a crush on dragon veterinarian-in-training Farren Walsh since they were 12. But James is a silver-crafter and Farren is a copper-crafter, and their strictly hierarchical society makes relationships between people of different classes nearly impossible. Not to mention that they're rivals for a prestigious scholarship to Revers Academy. Farren and James each have their own secret reasons for needing this funding, which come to light when James is hired as the new intern at the Walsh family's dragon sanctuary. Forced to live and work together, the two uncover hidden knowledge that could change their society forever—and sparks fly. With its themes of found family, animal rights, parental abuse, and class divisions, there's never a dull moment in this novel, which reads like How To Train Your Dragon meets a high school enemies-to-lovers romance. The charming relationship between Farren and James, who share the narrative duties, propels the story, and the short chapters offer humorous moments as the 17-year-olds bumble through their first romance. The romantic elements are supported by an engaging plot and fascinating world. The subplots are well balanced and add to the worldbuilding without feeling overly complicated, and the plot elements and characters' motivations are fully developed and converge in a surprisingly twisty and action-packed finale. Main characters are cued white. A sweet, exciting, and well-executed romantasy. (Romantasy, 13-18)	
Who owns the moon? : and other conundrums of exploring and using space	Levinson, Cynthia	Young Adult	YA	School Library Journal Xpress (February 14, 2025) Gr 7-10-From the first lunar landing to modern satellite innovations, this book captures the exploration and occupation of space. It delves into the partnerships and conflicts between nations that have made space travel possible and complicated. Chapters about the recent rekindled fascination with the Moon and future space missions will have readers dreaming of the possibilities and their ability to participate. Details about satellites and space treaties will drive readers further into the narrative. Levinson and Swanson write with such excitement and expertise that space enthusiasts and students with obligatory nonfiction reading projects will find themselves captivated. While the book is text-heavy, which is appropriate for the target audience, color photos and drawings are scattered throughout and each chapter begins with a striking two-page color background image. The book concludes with photo credits, extensive source notes, further readings, a detailed bibliography, and a thorough index, making this not only an interesting read but a useful source for research. VERDICT A highly recommended addition to all YA nonfiction collections.-Kate Rao © Copyright 2025, Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (May/June, 2025) Approximately fifty years after Apollo 17, NASA's last mission to the moon in 1972, Americans are planning to return. This time the goals are different: landing a diverse crew of astronauts; establishing a base from which to launch deep-space exploration; and studying the moon's resources. But how will these goals be managed? Will the proposed base belong to a single nation or be constructed cooperatively by many nations? What about private companies that go to the moon -- would they operate under the same treaties and norms as nations? And then there is space junk -- approximately thirty-five thousand pieces of debris littering outer space. Should there be laws dealing with this problem? Beginning with a concise history of the space race, the authors outline the accomplishments and tensions inherent in occupying space. They also discuss the myriad definitions of space itself, asking the question: where does a nation's air space end and become outer space? A thoughtful discussion of the Outer Space Treaty, developed in 1967 to govern space law, and its modifications allows readers the background to consider these critical issues. Sidebars, diagrams, and photographs smartly break up and enhance the conversational text. Appended to this informative account is an authors' note, a list of acronyms, documentation, a select bibliography, and an index. Betty Carter May/June 2025 p.112	Booklist starred (November 1, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 5)) Grades 7-12. As NASA prepares to return humans to the moon with the Artemis program, Levinson and Swanson consider philosophical debates with extreme consequences well beyond the scientific logistics of traveling through space. In a comprehensive, direct, and engaging manner, the authors begin with the Space Race but diverge from most space books by concentrating on the Outer Space Treaty (OST), which forms the basis of international space law. However, established in 1967, the OST does not consider modern dilemmas of working and living on the moon. Systematic chapters that build on one another take readers through the science of Earth's atmospheric layers, the International Space Station, satellites, debris (aka "space junk"), space tourism, and more while also encouraging them to think about possible problematic outcomes. For instance, the OST is binding among countries, but what about private companies? No one can own the moon, but what about its natural resources? The integration of recent global events, like the high-altitude Chinese balloon over U.S. airspace, makes this book a timely and informative effort. A cumulative chapter dedicated to governance in space uses "sticky scenarios" with fictional astronauts from competing countries to guide readers to their own opinions. The authors conclude on a positive note with a roundup of space-related careers besides astronaut, such as opportunities in fashion, food chemistry, economics, and law.
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