

Title	Author	Audience	Interest Level	Review	Review	Review
Alexander Ovechkin –NHL Star	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Animal jokes	Dahl, Michael	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Ariana Grande	Gagne, Tammy	Upper Elementary	3-6			
As you wish	Jones, Nashae	Middle School	5-8	Booklist (December 1, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 7)) Grades 6-8. When the trickster god of stories grants you three wishes, what's the worst that could happen? Birdie is on the lowest rung of the popularity ladder. While she has her best friends, Summer, Arlo, and Deve, she longs to be "normal." Cue her eighth-grade plan to find a boyfriend and gain the popularity she craves. When she tells Deve about this plan, it creates a rift in their friendship. All seems lost until new girl Nancy—Anansi, the Ghanaian trickster god of stories, in disguise—offers Birdie three wishes to get what she truly desires. Birdie quickly learns that no matter the wish, there are unexpected consequences. In this magic-flecked rom-com, it's clear the path that Birdie should take, but her humor and journey of self-discovery are what keep readers engaged. The diversity of the friend group (Birdie is Black, Deve is Indian, Summer and Arlo are a LGBTQIA+ couple who cue as white) naturally incorporates a variety of perspectives into the proceedings. This fun, middle-grade offering reminds readers that what you wish for is sometimes already there.	Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2024) A 13-year-old Ghanaian American girl's wish to go from weird to wonderful leads her through a web of relationship complications that she didn't bargain for. Bernadette "Birdie" Johnson-Nkrumah is a rising eighth grader with a laundry list of restrictions imposed by her overprotective mother. Her mom even used to make her wear latex gloves to school, but Birdie's father and her best friend, Deve Banerjee, offer support that helps her cope and understand her mother's anxiety. While Deve is her "crunchy-peanut-butter friend" (crunchy is far superior to creamy, if you ask Birdie), she worries that she's dragging him down socially. At a pool party, the friends are shocked by the sudden glow-up of the formerly dorky Ava, who's now dating a basketball player. Birdie decides that finding a boyfriend for herself and a girlfriend for Deve will help them become popular, too. But Birdie's desire to be "normal" causes a rift with Deve. Birdie is confused when Nancy, the new girl at school, claims that she's Anansi, the spider god of stories and knowledge, and that she owes Birdie three wishes. Birdie attempts to use them to heal her friendship with Deve, but each wish has unforeseen consequences. The appealing fantasy and humor elements drive the narrative, and the shifts and changes in Birdie and Deve's friendship over the course of the story are clever and satisfying. A delightful exploration of friendship, mental health, and first love with a touch of magic. (Fantasy. 10-14)	
At the edge of lost	Brockenbrough, Martha	Middle School	5-8	School Library Journal starred (October 1, 2025) Gr 4-7- Brockenbrough's second middle grade title delivers an emotionally charged survival tale centered on family, resilience, and an unbreakable human-animal bond between a teen and his beloved dog. Caleb wants nothing more than stability after years of moving for his parents' State Department postings. Staying with his grandfather Poppy in a senior living community with his best friend (and dog) Ronan, is comfortable if nontraditional-until a virulent avian flu outbreak upends everything. When Poppy falls ill, and Caleb is whisked into quarantine, circumstances require Ronan be left behind. Ronan will not be separated from Caleb in his time of need and escapes to find his boy, navigating a world full of human and natural hazards. Told in alternating perspectives-Caleb's anxious, determined voice and Ronan's soulful, perceptive one-the narrative explores loss, loyalty, and survival against a backdrop of isolation and uncertainty. The author's portrayal of pandemic anxiety feels authentic and timely without overwhelming the story's heart. Caleb has already lived through a pandemic and understands the threats are real. However, the dog's point of view is a standout feature, offering emotional immediacy and a poignant counterbalance to Caleb's turmoil. Themes of love, responsibility, and hope resonate deeply, making this an ideal pick for readers drawn to stories of animal loyalty or classics like White Fang. VERDICT A timely, heartfelt, and emotive adventure for fans of survival or dog narratives using a quick pace to grip readers -Jessica Bushore © Copyright 2025, Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2025) Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic, Caleb has been averse to change. So when his parents, who work for the State Department, get a new posting in Vietnam, Caleb successfully lobbies to stay in Seattle with his grandfather, Poppy, rather than be separated from his friends and, most essentially, his aging Irish wolfhound, Ronan. When a new strain of avian flu breaks out and Poppy gets sick, Caleb is sent to Bainbridge Island to live with a prickly great-aunt, who hates dogs. Consequently, Ronan is left alone to await Caleb's mom's imminent return -- but not for long. Desperate to reunite with Caleb, Ronan escapes, only to become injured and stranded in the woods. As a massive storm bears down, Caleb grows increasingly fearful about Ronan's whereabouts and takes matters into his own hands. Brockenbrough's (To Catch a Thief, rev. 5/23) latest is an adventure story with a big heart, told in two first-person voices: Caleb's (complete with text threads from his group chat) and Ronan's, which is both lyrical and wise: "To love as a dog is to let go of the small things, the false things, so that there is nothing left but the truth of you." The fast-paced narrative successfully weaves numerous strands about forgiveness, growth, and change -- but the overarching message is one of a love fierce enough to fight for. Animal lovers won't want to miss this canine-centered tale of loyalty and determination. Norah Piehl November/December 2025 p. 62	
Atlanta Dream	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Barbie : from doll to cultural icon	Sonneborn, Liz	Middle School	5-8			

Beyonce : singer, songwriter, and superstar	Rose, Rachel	Lower Elementary	K-3	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 2-5-Colorful photographs accompany the text in new additions to this series covering the careers of popular celebrities. The images especially shine in the volumes about Beyoncé, Ortega, and Jordan. Professional careers are emphasized, and their respective charitable endeavors are mentioned. There is little about their personal lives, no mention of Jay-Z in the biography on Beyoncé and Taylor Swift does not appear in the volume on Kelce. Still, the titles provide positive introductions to celebrities of note. They are suitable for school and public collections, and the draw in these volumes is their currency. VERDICT Recommended purchase based on demand. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Blood in the water	Jackson, Tiffany D	Middle School	5-8	School Library Journal starred (June 1, 2025) Gr 4-7- Jackson once again proves her brilliance at weaving suspense, heart, and truth into a story that refuses to let go. Twelve-year old Black girl and Brooklynite Kaylani's summer plans involve trying to fit into the elitist vibe of Martha's Vineyard, and clearing her incarcerated father's name. Then a boy turns up dead on the island and Kaylani is accused of stealing money. Her focus shifts to trying to clear her own name and finding out what happened to the teen. Was it really a shark attack-or was it murder? What makes this book shine isn't just the twists and turns of its plot, it's the voice. Jackson writes Kaylani with an ear so attuned to how preteens actually speak, think, and feel that every page feels authentic. Kaylani's voice is filled with the sharp wit, confusion, frustration, and hope of a contemporary 12-year-old. Her inflection and vulnerability are rendered with care and nuance, making her feel not just believable, but deeply relatable. This story deftly explores what it means to be "from the wrong side of the tracks" in a world that judges before it listens. Jackson doesn't shy away from tough topics-incarceration, classism, bullying, and how children carry burdens that aren't theirs-but she handles them with grace and empathy. The novel's emotional undercurrents are as powerful as the suspense that drives the plot. VERDICT A masterful middle-grade mystery that challenges, entertains, and lingers long after the final page. This one deserves a spot on every school and library shelf.- Jessica Clark © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2025) Twelve-year-old Kaylani can't understand why her incarcerated father wants her to go to Martha's Vineyard with family friends so badly. She'd planned to spend her summer at home in Brooklyn studying up on law so she can help get him out of prison; she knows her dad is innocent of his fraud and embezzlement charges. Though her hosts' granddaughter London is too snooty to attempt a relationship with her, Kaylani enjoys interacting with some of the kinder people on the island. Then, shockingly, a teen is found dead. The community is stunned to discover that authorities are looking into the death as a murder case, and Kaylani decides to put her investigative and legal skills to use. What she discovers could change the dynamic between her and London, expose hidden history of the island, and change her own future -- if she can survive the summer. Kaylani is a protagonist with whom readers will sympathize -- intelligent and determined without being two-dimensional. The history of African Americans on Martha's Vineyard is worked naturally into the story, as are issues of incarceration and classism. This debut middle-grade novel from acclaimed young adult author Jackson (The Weight of Blood, rev. 9/22) is immediately accessible to preteens but maintains the intensity for which Jackson is known. Eboni Njoku July/August 2025 p. 97	Booklist starred (May 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 17)) Grades 5-8. Kaylani McKinnon is not happy about spending the summer in Martha's Vineyard with friends of her grandmother, the Watsons. Their two granddaughters are stuck up, and she doesn't feel like she belongs in the bougie social scene of the African American Vineyard elite. All Kaylani wants to do is have her daily phone call with her dad and work on finding evidence to prove his innocence and get him out of jail. When a teenage boy she meets on her first day at the Vineyard winds up dead, Kaylani has to discover whether the sharks that supposedly killed him live in or out of the water. In her middle-grade debut, Jackson brings her trademark thrills and twists to a younger audience with riveting adeptness. Each character has unique problems and motives that will keep readers on their toes as they try to unravel the truth behind the teen's death. In addition to the mystery, the African American history and cultural significance of Martha's Vineyard are sprinkled throughout, adding further depth to the setting. This is a must-purchase mystery for all middle-grade collections and hopefully not the last we see from Jackson in this space.HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Though her large fan base is comprised of YA readers, award winner Jackson's sterling reputation ensures there will be considerable interest in her middle-grade debut.
Brock Purdy --NFL Star	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6			
BTS : K-pop's biggest headliners	Holleran, Leslie	Middle School	5-8			
Bull sharks	Kirkman, Marissa	Upper Elementary	3-6	School Library Journal (April 1, 2024) Gr 3-5-An opening chapter describes a predator or its group on the hunt, finishing with a large photo showing the hunter and its captured prey. A couple of other chapters provide broader information about the featured animal, describing physical features, habitats, and life cycles in text that is clearly written and keeps to an introductory level. Most spreads include an inset box that includes either basic data, like the life span of wolves (Gray Wolves), or more specific fun facts, like the hyena's ability to bite through a bowling ball (Spotted Hyenas). The predator theme returns with one more chapter that fills in some details about the animal's hunting methods. Layouts are nicely varied: some photos fill most of a spread, while smaller captioned images show the animals alone, in groups, and sometimes interacting with their prey. VERDICT Simple but appealing profiles of hunting animals. © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		

				<p>Booklist starred (March 1, 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 13)) Grades 4-6. Ike Carter is a genius among history fans and a logical thinker, while his twin sister, Iris, is a gifted athlete with a photographic memory. Fifth-graders at a Washington, DC, Montessori school, they are helping out at the small history museum run by their mother when they witness a crime. A girl removes a valuable miniature portrait from the wall and escapes. Iris gives chase, but the thief eludes her. To save the museum, which is important to their family, Ike and Iris team up with a staff member at the National Archives, who helps them with their historical research. Meanwhile, the twins and their parents meet with a lawyer, who helps them handle an FBI agent who seems to suspect the whole family of theft. Developments send the Carters to Philadelphia and Boston, where more historical artifacts disappear, before they return home for the conclusion. Meanwhile, an ominous antagonist lurks in the background. More original and entertaining than most mystery and adventure novels, the story is immediately involving. The fast-paced first-person narrative shifts, chapter by chapter, between Iris and Ike, setting the stage, introducing the intriguing characters, and laying the groundwork for upcoming volumes in this engaging book in the National Archive Hunters series.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (April 1, 2024) In Washington, D.C., twins Ike and Iris use their brains and athletic abilities to solve a string of thefts that baffle even the FBI Art Crime Team. Icarus "Ike" Carter is a genius who sometimes tunes out when it comes to reading emotions; Iris, his sister, is a superior athlete with a photographic memory and spatial awareness to spare. Together with their museum curator mom and former Army officer dad (who's now a Montessori school principal), they run and bike their way around D.C.'s monuments and historic sites every day. When an impressively acrobatic girl steals a miniature portrait of George Washington from their mom's cash-strapped museum, Ike and Iris hatch a plan: solve the crime and save the museum by making the recovered portrait the center of an attention-grabbing new exhibit, "The Stolen Washington." The FBI gets involved, the underage criminal pulls off heists in Philadelphia and Boston, and the twins even become suspects themselves. As this case wraps up, the family accepts an offer to consult with the FBI in the future. Ike and Iris alternate as narrators, allowing their strengths to complement each other (even if Iris thinks Ike's explanation of Occam's razor is a "snooze-fest"). The action is nonstop as these fifth graders outthink a seasoned FBI agent, sprint through crowded streets, and even shimmy down a marble porch column with aplomb. The Carters are cue white. A high-energy story that holds its own in the growing pantheon of middle-grade crime thrillers. (historical notes) (Thriller. 8-12)</p>
Capitol chase	Landis, Matthew	Upper Elementary	3-6		
Checks and balances	Kenney, Karen Latchana	Middle School	5-8	<p>School Library Journal (April 1, 2022) Gr 5 Up-This new hi-lo series from focuses on the branches of the United States government and how they interact together. Each title explores an aspect of the federal government, including how it works and its key players. The series successfully conveys very complicated concepts like checks and balances and how the Supreme Court works in a clear, concise way for striving readers. With the interconnected nature of governmental institutions, the books do a particularly effective job at showing how these concepts and governing bodies are dependent on each other. The books are written at a second grade reading level, and incorporate dyslexia-friendly fonts and designs for accessibility. The end of each title features several comprehension questions and prompts, as well as definitions of key words and additional resources. VERDICT Packed full of information, "US Government Need to Know" is recommended for collections seeking hi-lo civics materials. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist (April 1, 2022 (Vol. 118, No. 15)) Grades 3-5. This basic civics book presents a defining element of the U.S. federal government's structure: the balance of power through checks and balances. Giving a nod to ancient Rome's tripartite government as a model for the Founders, Kenney explains that they created the executive, the legislative, and the judicial branches in order to prevent any one part (or person) from ruling unchecked by the others. The text, printed in dyslexia-friendly font, explains how a decision by each branch of government can be overturned by one of the other two. The book's layout typically includes the main text and a related information box on the left-hand page, facing a well-chosen color photo on the right. A pertinent introductory volume from the U.S. Government: Need to Know series (6 titles).</p>
Chicago Sky	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6		
Coco Gauff	Abdo, Kenny	Middle School	5-8	<p>Booklist (January 1, 2021 (Vol. 117, No. 9)) Grades 2-5. In these entries in the Sports Biographies series (6 new titles), high/low readers are presented with basic introductions to the exploits of rising stars in a variety of popular sports. Coco Gauff covers the up-and-coming teenager's junior-tennis feats and the auspicious start to her professional career. Each volume concludes, somewhat jarringly, with a page on the subject's philanthropic work. Double-page spreads lean heavily on sharp, full-color photography of the athletes in action, incorporating only a few sentences into the attractive layout, and this minimal approach leaves room for only the most basic chronology of accomplishments for each subject. While pertinent vocabulary is highlighted in the text and defined in a glossary, the lack of context surrounding the given information means that readers will need to come to the subject with some understanding of the featured sport, fitting for a high/low readership but perhaps limiting for younger early readers who may find interest here. Back-matter links to online resources lead to more robust information.</p>	
Computer scientist	Quick, Megan	Upper Elementary	3-6		
Connecticut Sun	Hanlon, Luke	Upper Elementary	3-6		
Cooper Flagg : NBA star	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6		
Dad jokes : the cheesiest, corniest joke book ever!		Lower Elementary	K-3		
Dallas Wings	Hanlon, Luke	Upper Elementary	3-6		

				<p>School Library Journal Xpress starred (August 29, 2025) Gr 4 Up-Vampires have been out of the coffin for decades; long enough for a cure to have been discovered by the organization Vampirism Sucks. Now, when vampire children turn 12, they can get "the procedure." It's Lux Priddy's 12th birthday, but he isn't sure that he wants to stop being a vampire. So when the opportunity arises, he runs away to the (potentially mythical) city of Nox Urbus to hide with the strange vampires who live there until he can make a choice about the cure for himself. Incorporated into this exciting adventure story is an important reminder to love yourself, even when the world is telling you that who you are is wrong. Lux's quest has him confronting societal pressure to fit into a specific mold and self-hate-inducing propaganda. With a cast of lovably odd characters, Edgmon has crafted a deliberate yet engaging look at the way society vilifies groups whom they consider different from the norm. Lux has clear (but unnamed) neurodivergence. VERDICT This vampire tale is a must-purchase for all middle school collections.-Mariah Smitala © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2025) Lux Priddy has always considered himself a good vampire who doesn't make trouble for others, unlike those scary, violent vampires rumored to live in an underground society called Nox Urbus. In theory, he should be fine with being Defanged, a procedure pioneered by the organization Vampirism Sucks to "cure" vampirism. However, right before his scheduled Defanging on his twelfth birthday, Lux makes an impulsive escape into the New York City sewer system in search of refuge. As it turns out, Nox Urbus is real, and the supportive community he finds there doesn't match up with what he's been told his entire life. When a major court ruling makes Defanging mandatory, Lux must choose whether he wants to resist or assimilate into a eugenicist, human-supremacist society. Edgmon makes deft use of the vampire as an allegory for the Other, telling the story of a fictional marginalized community trying to live on its own terms in the face of escalating systemic oppression. While the primary group alluded to is autistic people, the story also draws parallels between vampires and queer people and marginalized racial groups. The close third-person narration presents an emotionally rich insider's view of an autistic kid's subjective experience, complete with "infodumps" about special interests, sensory overstimulation and sensory joy (through stimming), the challenges of tripping over the invisible wires of unspoken social norms, and more. Suspenseful, timely, and thought-provoking. Shenwei Chang November/December 2025 p.66</p>	<p>Booklist (September 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 1)) Grades 4-7. Lux Priddy, 12, finds himself in the depths of the New York City sewer system after escaping from his defanging appointment, a standard procedure for all young, registered vampires that "cures" them by turning them human. Having fled on an anxiety-induced whim, Lux searches for Nox Urbus, a secret, underground vampire refuge. There, Lux discovers not only a colony of vampire outcasts but also a connection to his family. What begins as a traditional runaway story evolves into a unique narrative fueled by an ensemble cast fighting for vampire civil rights. Edgmon creates a well-conceived world whose damp, gritty setting feels like its own character and stands in marked contrast to Lux's warmth. Anxious middle-graders in particular will find a comrade in Lux as he manages his worries while exploring his beliefs and identity. Lux also shows characteristics of being on the autism spectrum, such as when he struggles with social cues and spouts facts when feeling stressed during social interactions. This thoughtfully crafted fantasy is rooted in social justice and relevant to many real-world situations.</p>
Defanged	Edgmon, H. E	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Dua Lipa	Bode, Heather L	Young Adult	YA			
				<p>School Library Journal (December 1, 2010) Gr 3-6-This lighthearted fantasy approaches the world of goblins, brownies, and demons with tongue planted firmly in cheek. On Halloween night, eight-year-old Elliot Penster saved a little girl from having her candy stolen by two bullies. Unbeknownst to our hero, she was a magical creature known as a brownie, and the bullies were beastly goblins. With his simple act, Elliot set off a war between these two factions in their Underworld home. Fast forward three years and the brownies are losing badly. When their queen passes away, Elliot, remembered for his former bravery, is chosen king. The first order of business? End the war with the goblins, and keep himself (and his family) alive. While Elliot succeeds in bringing peace, the "Book 1" on the cover ensures that the story will continue. The pacing is brisk, with short chapters to hold readers' interest. Main characters are well developed. The narrator has a gleefully odd (and occasionally sarcastic) sense of humor, opening the book with a warning to readers and sprinkling cheeky asides throughout the story. Themes of growing up and coming into one's own add depth. Occasional full-page illustrations in black and white are sometimes creepy and sometimes grotesque in a funny sort of way, adding to the story's tone. While the book doesn't stand out in a crowded fantasy landscape, it will likely please young fans of the genre looking for something with a lighter mood.-Travis Jonker, Dorr Elementary School, MI (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist (October 15, 2010 (Vol. 107, No. 4)) Grades 3-5. This opens with a warning: only seven children who have read this book lived to tell about it. In truth, this is more silly than scary, though kids might like that, too. Elliot is out trick-or-treating one Halloween night when he runs into a girl in an elf costume being chased by goblins. As it turns out, she really is an elf—well, actually a brownie—and the goblins are after her. For reasons that involve the delicious taste of brownies, the encounter leads to a war launched by the goblins against the brownies, into which the human Elliot finds himself dragged. In fact, he becomes king of the brownies and thus responsible for their welfare. Oh dear. Funny names (Fudd Fartwick, Tubs Lawless) and unexpected events (almost being scared to death) tumble through the pages, and Nielsen writes about them with tongue in cheek. Elliot and the goblin on the cover should draw 'em in.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2010) A strong warning from a now-familiar intrusive narrator cautions readers to be "very brave" and "willing to take...chances" because "this is the story that unfolds the mysteries of the Underworld." Book one of this new series begins Halloween night, when unsuspecting reluctant hero Elliot happens to save a real Brownie named Patches from a trio of real Goblins. Elliot's good deed results in his acclamation as King of the Brownies, and these spunky but weak creatures truly need a girl to help them end a three-year-long war with the evil Goblins. Nielsen ably draws readers into a tale chock-full of light adventure and humor, as each chapter details the somewhat over-the-top yet entertaining dilemmas Patches and Elliot face to outwit and uncover a traitor, foil the Goblins' attacks and keep it all a secret from Elliot's family. By the title's end, a bully has been confronted and Underworld peace negotiated. Recommended for those who avoid dark and serious fantasies, as it's sure to evoke more giggles than gasps, despite the introductory admonitions. (Fantasy. 9-12)</p>
Elliot and the Goblin War	Nielsen, Jennifer A	Middle School	5-8			
				<p>School Library Journal (April 1, 2010) Gr 3-6-In Emily's third adventure as a semi-mer-part human, part mermaid-she stumbles upon a cursed ring lost for hundreds of years. But now the ring is missing, and King Neptune wants it back. As punishment, Neptune put a curse on Emily that will make her either all human or all mermaid at the next full moon. Flung to a nameless place in the middle of the ocean, Emily discovers a castle shrouded in mist and the dark, green-eyed boy who lives there. Together, with help from her best friend, Shona, the trio unravel the clues to break the spell. This volume (Candlewick, 2007) continues the whimsical tone of Liz Kessler's previous books in the series, but she sacrifices real depth of character and relies on stereotypes. Finty Williams's British accent perfectly captures Emily's voice and the occasional Briticisms. Young girls will gladly be swept away by this light-hearted fantasy. Purchase where the previous volumes and fairy stories are popular.-Richelle Roth, Boone County Public Library, KY Copyright 2010 Reed Business Information.</p>	<p>Booklist (September 15, 2007 (Vol. 104, No. 2)) Grades 3-6. In the third Emily Windsnap adventure, lightly illustrated like its predecessors, the half-mermaid heroine finds that her idyllic existence is beginning to tarnish. First, it seems her recently reunited parents may separate; then, Emily's discovery of Neptune's discarded wedding ring leaves her struggling under a curse that could erase one of her identities. Kessler expands the mer-people's backstory here, providing greater perspective on Neptune's wrathful nature. As with the preceding books, though, what will most delight readers are the details of undersea life, from course work in hair brushing to scale polish for decorating tails.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (April 1, 2007) Back for a third adventure, Emily Windsnap, half-human/half-mermaid, has settled into life with both parents on and around Allpoints Island, where she's found a new best friend, Shona, a mermaid "all girly and sparkly, with shiny long blond hair." But her parents' arguments worry her. Perhaps they are planning to split up. On a class trip she finds a diamond ring King Neptune wants, but it won't come off her hand. Neptune's angry response is to send her far away where she finds a castle inhabited by a dark-haired, green-eyed boy, a semi-mer like herself. Together, the three young people find the ring's missing counterpart, undoing a 500-year-old curse and making possible peace between humans and merfolk—including her own parents. The improbable plot is told in first person, quickly paced and supported by plenty of descriptive detail about the appearance of the characters and the colorful underwater life. This should be an easy sell to girls looking for a friendship story with more than a touch of make believe. (Fiction. 9-12)</p>
Emily Windsnap and the castle in the mist	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6			

Emily Windsnap and the falls of Forgotten Island	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2018) Following her adventures in Emily Windsnap and the Ship of Souls (2015), part-mermaid Emily finds an idyllic island vacation disrupted by an ancient prophecy. Thirteen-year-old Emily's "an adventure magnet." After promising her mermaid best friend, Shona, she will "not be tempted by adventures, risks, or mysteries for at least one month," Emily arrives on a secluded island with Shona, her parents, and her "semi-mer" boyfriend and instantly stumbles onto another adventure. During a boat tour to nearby Forgotten Island, thought to be uninhabited and inaccessible, Emily and Shona explore behind the waterfall and are literally swept into a "whole new world" where Emily overhears people discussing a prophecy about an impending disastrous earthquake. On a second visit to Forgotten Island, Emily becomes lost in a maze of tunnels and encounters the same people, who convince her she's the answer to their prophecy about a girl with a fish tail finding a giant who saves the island. Conflicted by her promise to Shona and her desire to save the island's inhabitants, Emily enlists her boyfriend's help. Emily's fast-paced, first-person narration lends immediacy to her latest quixotic quest, one that tests the bonds of friendship and closes with a surprising twist. Spot art reinforces the maritime theme; friendship and relationship angst ground the story emotionally. Both humans and mer-people seem to be white. Exciting new adventures, risks, and mysteries for Emily Windsnap fans. (Fantasy. 8-12)		
Emily Windsnap and the land of the midnight sun	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6	Booklist (March 1, 2013 (Online)) Grades 4-7. Attention Emily Windsnap fans: another daunting task is about to be tackled! Sea king Neptune has tapped the intrepid semi-mer and her friend Aaron to uncover the source of his recent night terrors. Terrible memories are knocking at his consciousness and unleashing harbingers of doom. Can Emily and Aaron reach the Land of the Midnight Sun? They might find some answers there connected with Neptune's long-lost evil twin, Njord, who is beginning to waken and carry out his dastardly plot to overrun the land with a tsunami. Emily's dry wit enlivens the nonstop adventure in Kessler's fifth waterworld fantasy series title.	Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2013) Can half-mermaid Emily rely upon her friends to help her find the source of Neptune's nightmares? Will they be able to unravel the mystery of his memories before an evil threat takes over the waters? Kessler's fifth installment in this popular series continues with a successful mix of fantasy, mystery, adventure and a touch of romance. Emily and boyfriend Aaron are summoned by Neptune to embark on a quest that is "extremely important, extremely secret...and extremely dangerous." With only snippets of dreams as clues, they set off north to the Arctic in search of a lake surrounded by mountains and a glacier--"a place filled with secrets and magic...and fear." Soon they encounter underwater bubbles filled with memories, discover a frozen yet thawing twin brother of Neptune, meet a wise narwhal and confront their leader with the truth. The dialogue is quick and the action even quicker as the plot twists and turns in unexpected ways. Questions of trust dominate, as many characters are faced with difficult decisions. Can Millie trust the love of her life even though he has been acting oddly? Can Emily count on her best friend, whom she has neglected, to keep a secret? Can Neptune believe his brother Njord truly wants to reunite and rule the oceans together? The unexpected ending will surely satisfy as a fitting close to this light page turner. Past fans of the series should especially enjoy diving in. (Fantasy. 9-12)	Horn Book Guide (Spring 2014) In her fifth book, Emily is recruited by Neptune for a secret mission. According to Neptune's nightmares, "the land of the midnight sun" contains a threat to the survival of all creatures, and Emily and fellow half-merperson Aaron are charged with eliminating it. The setting is vividly depicted, but the pace of this adventure is slow and character development is flat.
Emily Windsnap and the monster from the deep	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6	School Library Journal (July 1, 2006) Gr 4-6-Emily is ecstatic. In The Tail of Emily Windsnap (Candlewick, 2004), she learns that she is a mermaid and reunites her human mother with her merman father. Now, the happy family is going to live together on an island smack dab in the center of the Bermuda Triangle. King Neptune himself has designated Allpoints Island as a safe place where humans and merfolk can coexist in peace. Even better, Emily's mermaid buddy Shona is moving to the island as well. Unfortunately, Emily is still feeling a little different as she is the only half-human/half-mermaid hybrid she knows. In an attempt to impress the others, she unwittingly unleashes a monster sleeping at the heart of the island. To put it to rest, she must now face not only her fears but also her old rival from middle school, Mandy Rushton. Constantly shying away from taking responsibility for her actions, Emily opts for the path of least resistance time and again, only stopping the murderous kraken when forced to do so. The book comes across as overly simplistic much of the time and relies too heavily on coincidence and some unbelievably cheery endings. Just the same, mermaid lovers everywhere will undoubtedly enjoy this story. Consider purchase if the first book is popular.-Elizabeth Bird, New York Public Library Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.	Booklist (June 1, 2006 (Vol. 102, No. 19)) cpg1252 Gr. 4-7. The daughter of a woman and a merman, Emily is a girl on land and a mermaid in the water. Now the family lives on Allpoints Island, safe from the curious inquiries of humans and accepted by the merpeople community. In this sequel to The Tail of Emily Windsnap0 (2004), 0 our heroine's insatiable curiosity lands her in hot water. While investigating a mysterious lagoon smack in the middle of the ocean, Emily inadvertently rouses the dreaded monster Kracken. A vengeful Neptune, king of the ocean realm, visits the merpeople to express outrage at this turn of events: the Kracken was not supposed to awaken for another eight years, and now destruction threatens the island colony. Emily needs to fess up to her deed and take on the responsibility of calming the creature, a task rife with complications. High-action adventure, a plucky protagonist, and whimsical illustrations enliven this sea fantasy, which will be most thoroughly appreciated by series followers.	Kirkus Reviews (April 1, 2006) When Emily Windsnap and her parents arrive at their new home in the middle of the Bermuda Triangle, she hopes she can fit in with the mermaids there better than she did with her classmates at Brightport High. Half-human, half-mermaid herself, she wants to make an impression on her new friends, but instead awakens a deadly kraken, angers King Neptune and endangers them all. Neptune hopes to put the kraken back to work sinking human ships; his first target carries Emily's long-time enemy, Mandy Rushton. Occasionally, Mandy interrupts Emily's story; the change of narrator is indicated by a new typeface, and a jarring shift to present tense. Neither Emily nor Mandy are developed enough to account for their change of heart at the end, but the action moves briskly, with a satisfying amount of underwater description and much attention to varied tail styles. The imaginative premise will intrigue readers and the suspense will be enough to keep them reading to the happy ending and perhaps send them back to Emily's first story, The Tail of Emily Windsnap (2004). (Fiction. 9-12)
Emily Windsnap and the pirate prince	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6			

Emily Windsnap and the ship of lost souls	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6	Booklist (August 2015 (Online)) Grades 4-7. What's next for our favorite mergirl? Certainly more than Emily bargains for when her eighth-grade class arrives at Fivebays Island for an excursion, only to learn their course leader, Lowenna, is missing. It turns out that Lowenna is trapped aboard a cruise ship that's been pulled into the magnetic field of the mysterious neverland Atlantis, threatening passengers with oblivion if they cannot escape. Leave it to Emily's unique mermaid genius to save the day. Kessler's sixth Emily Windsnap novel provides a fun fantasy with well-drawn characters and engaging suspense, as Emily works against time to pull off the rescue.	Horn Book Guide (Spring 2016) The sixth book features half-mermaid Emily on an island field trip when a ghostly ship appears. Caught between this world and mystical Atlantis, only Emily can rescue the passengers from disappearing forever. Imaginative details of human and mer worlds coexist with simplistic characterization and other narrative turnoffs that fans of the light series may overlook. Black-and-white spot art opens each chapter.	
Emily Windsnap and the siren's secret	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6	School Library Journal (December 1, 2011) Gr 4-6-Follow Emily, half-human/half-mermaid, as she embarks on another adventure in the fourth installment (Candlewick, 2011) of Liz Kessler's series. Emily, along with family and friends, is summoned back to her home town of Brightport where humans are bulldozing land and filling in the mer-people's underwater village of Shiprock. Emily sets about trying to unite mermaids and humans, while at the same time becoming interested in boys and discovering some lost sirens. British actress Finty Williams skillfully voices all the characters, drawing listeners in with her realistic pacing and excited timbre. A good choice where the series is popular.-Caitlyn Walsh, Fayetteville Public Library, AR (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (March 15, 2010 (Online)) Grades 4-7. Are merfolk and humans doomed to be enemies forever? Kessler's fourth Emily Windsnap tale pits Brightport against the underwater sea community of Shiprock, home to a mer community threatened by Brightport development. As a semi-mer, Emily is in a unique position to try to bring both worlds together. Along the way, she stumbles upon the secret of the lost sirens and cleverly works with her team to harness their strength, escape catastrophe, solve a mystery, and, yes, achieve world peace. Series fans will dive right into this rollicking sea fantasy-adventure.	Horn Book Guide (Fall 2010) In her fourth bland adventure, half-mermaid Emily must save Brightport—a place where mer-people and humans peacefully coexist—from developers. As usual, there are some clever details, but the let's-save-our-idyllic-home-from-greedy-people story line is overly familiar and the pace drags.
Emily Windsnap and the tides of time	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6	School Library Journal (February 1, 2020) Gr 4-7-In this newest iteration of the "Emily Windsnap" saga, the titular character is experiencing friendship problems. Just when she thinks she has fixed the problems in her life, the wishing stone leads her to a mysterious rift in the ocean floor and she is transported through time to see what effect her decisions have on her future self. Each time Emily travels through the tides of time, something always goes wrong to cause her future to be less than ideal. Emily must find the correct formula to ensure the best possible future for both herself and her friends and family. This book introduces the importance of recycling and keeping our oceans clean. While the book uses the classic premise of a Groundhog Day-esque theme, readers are able to directly see the results of Emily's actions. VERDICT Purchase where the "Emily Windsnap" series has been popular and for collections that need more hi-lo choices for tweens.-Sara Brunkhorst, Glenview Public Library, IL © Copyright 2020. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Emily Windsnap Crystal Caves	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Eternal Flame	Landis, Matthew	Upper Elementary	3-6	School Library Journal Xpress (December 12, 2025) Gr 4-7-This second volume in the "National Archive Hunters" series propels readers directly back into twins Ike and Iris Carter's high-stakes world of danger and intrigue. With their first case concluded, the siblings are now training in anticipation of retaliation from the mysterious Cincinnatus for their role in his apparent downfall. They do not know Cincinnatus's true identity, so the twins and their parents remain on constant alert. As Ike and Iris attempt to resume normal school life, it quickly becomes clear that "normal" no longer exists. This unease intensifies with the arrival of former adversary Luna Laurent, who has transferred to their school. A brief sense of stability emerges when Ike and Iris's family is called in for another case, but shifting alliances and the still-looming presence of Cincinnatus keep the tension high. The action-packed mystery maintains a brisk pace and delivers ample suspense for adventure-loving middle-grade readers. This outlandish novel featuring child spies also thoughtfully integrates discussion of mental health, offering a meaningful layer of emotional realism. Anxiety and panic attacks are addressed with sensitivity, and seeking a therapist's help is portrayed as necessary and normal. VERDICT A fast-paced sequel blending action-packed escapades and the emotional realities of growing up, this title will resonate with upper elementary and middle school readers.-Jennifer Seebauer © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Booklist (August 2025 (Online)) Grades 4-6. Question: What sort of parents would arrange for Dad's old army buddy to give their 12-year-old son and daughter, twins Ike and Iris, intensive training in survival skills, such as lock picking, martial arts, and the use of found objects as weapons? Answer: Parents who know that a dangerous criminal mastermind will never forgive their kids for undermining his plans to steal valuable American artifacts, as previously recorded in Capitol Chase (2024), volume 1 in the National Archive Hunters series. Luna, the French ambassador's daughter, who was a suspect in the twins' first adventure, joins them during their current search for the original torch held by the Statue of Liberty, a quest that takes them to Paris for research. Though both Ike and his sister seem older than their years, action-adventure fans intrigued by American history will appreciate the portrayal of Ike as a smart, courageous history nerd. The striking, colorful jacket art has broad appeal, and the well-paced narrative does a good job of weaving in background information as needed. A page-turner for middle-grade readers.	

				Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 5-8. This presents three historical topics that affected many people in the U.S. and Canada during the twentieth century, providing a useful framework for understanding this historical period. The first chapter discusses the surge of immigration on the East and West Coasts, from the late 1800s through the 1950s, despite resistance from many citizens. The second chapter traces the devastating effects of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and the widespread poverty that followed. The third chapter describes the civil rights movement's hard-won progress in its efforts to end racial prejudice and violence against African Americans. Offering interesting text, colorful sidebars, and many period photos, this appealing title in the What Do You Know! series (6 volumes) is publishing under Crabtree's new Canopy imprint, which seeks to support upper middle-grade and early high-school students.		
Events That Shaped America	Johnson, Molly Aloian, Robin	Middle School	5-8			
Freddie Freeman --Mlb Star	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6			
				School Library Journal Xpress starred (October 17, 2025) Gr 3-7-Almost 30 years after it was first published, Bloor's middle-grade novel Tangerine is still a favorite of teachers and students alike-and now it has a sequel. In late-1990s central Florida, Paul Fisher is ending his tumultuous seventh-grade year at a third school, St. Anthony's Prep. Only the summer stands in the way of Paul heading back to Tangerine Middle to rejoin his friends and championship soccer team for eighth grade. But Paul's luck hasn't changed, and the summer might not be just friends, video games, and soccer scrimmages-especially when it begins with Paul witnessing the robbery of a convenience store. What's more, Paul's brother Erik is on house arrest for various felonies, which means home is tense and eerie. Then a strange new family, the McCarthys, move into the neighborhood. Once again, Paul sees more than most people around him-only this time, Paul is using his voice to call out and take action against injustice from the start. Bloor's long-awaited sequel ties up some loose ends from its predecessor but introduces new conflicts in such a way that makes this book a suitable stand-alone too. Once again, Paul must be strategic and brave while keeping his wits about him in order to pull together the resources he needs to right wrongs. The book's '90s setting doesn't feel dated because, unfortunately, the same knots that Paul is unraveling are still issues in today's world. Fans of Bloor's novels will be lining up read this installment. VERDICT Fans of books with politically active protagonists, such as A.S. King's Attack of the Black Rectangles and any of Jewel Parker Rhodes's novels, will love the new and emboldened Paul Fisher.-Jennie Miskec © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2025) Twenty-eight years after Tangerine (rev. 7/97) was published, Bloor returns with a sequel to his classic debut that picks up after the first book ends. Having been expelled from public school, Paul Fisher is finishing up seventh grade at St. Anthony's Prep, but he cannot wait to return to Tangerine Middle School for eighth grade to rejoin their championship soccer team as goalie. Once again, his sociopathic older brother, Erik, has escaped the consequences of his actions -- his involvement in a series of robberies and in a boy's death -- and has been sentenced to house arrest rather than incarceration. As the summer wears on, Paul stays away from Erik, befriends a Jewish boy facing antisemitism, practices with the War Eagles, and avoids the new family who has moved into the community to open a sandwich franchise. The parents are soliciting investors, while the daughter aggressively pushes coupon sales, and Paul is convinced that the oldest boy robbed the local 7-Eleven. As a tropical storm passes through Tangerine, everything comes to a head, and Paul is named as the sole witness to an alleged crime. He'll need to weigh competing claims of truth, loyalty, justice, and mercy to find a path through the ethical dilemma. If Bloor's villains seem a bit over the top, they fit perfectly in Tangerine County with its sinkholes, underground fires, and frequent lightning strikes. A welcome reunion with a memorable character. Jonathan Hunt November/December 2025 p.62	
Goalkeeper	Bloor, Edward	Middle School	5-8			Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Online)) Grades 4-7. Bloor's Goalkeeper picks up where his 1997 book, Tangerine, leaves off. In this sequel, Paul Fisher is finishing the school year at a Catholic school, eager to attend his previous school again in the fall and rejoin their champion soccer team. Over the summer, he makes new friends and even dates a bit. Everything appears to be going well until a new family moves into town with big plans to make everyone a lot of money as sub sandwich franchise owners. Of course, this is a con, but Paul's dad buys into it. When the venture goes south, Paul finds himself in a dilemma, briefly landing himself in jail. The one-sentence resolution to his prison sentence doesn't seem like enough, but the overall message of the narrative proves heartwarming and worthwhile. The way Paul handles an eye injury and the need for glasses is particularly touching. Told in quick passages with dates for headings, the book is otherwise chapterless and a breeze to move through. Hand to fans of Kwame Alexander's Booked (2016) and Shifa Saltagi Safadi's Kareem Between (2024).
Harry Styles	Golusky, Jackie	Upper Elementary	3-6			

Hurricane heist	Ponti, James	Middle School	5-8	<p>School Library Journal Xpress (October 3, 2025) Gr 4-8- Ponti's sequel to The Sherlock Society reunites the eponymous gang of kids and two siblings' grandfather in another action-filled mystery with a touch of humor set in the Miami, FL, area. When a massive jewel theft occurs during Hurricane Cleo in 1964, the case goes unsolved for decades. Sixty years later, Pete Lassiter's grandson and his friends-the Sherlock Society-discover new clues linking the theft to a shadowy local resort with a missing staff member. As they follow the trail, their investigation plunges them into danger, from escaping guard dogs and navigating the Florida wilderness to uncovering secrets powerful people want to keep buried. The narrative shifts between the past and present, revealing how the massive storm set events in motion that rippled through time. Ponti's signature humor and well-drawn characters once again shine, balancing high-stakes suspense with warmth and wit. The intergenerational mystery adds depth, while hurricane lore and Florida history are seamlessly woven into the plot. Short, punchy chapters keep the pace brisk, making it accessible to a wide range of readers. With clever twists and a satisfying mix of heart and action, this is an engaging read perfect for fans of teamwork-driven mysteries and real-world intrigue. Society member Yadi is Cuban American; the rest of the crew are minimally described. VERDICT A winning mix of history, humor, and high-stakes sleuthing for returning fans of the series or new readers.-Jessica Bushore © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (July 1, 2025) Young sleuths tackle a decidedly cold case when a hurricane exposes remains that have been buried for over half a century in this sequel to The Sherlock Society (2024). Budding detectives Alex, Zoe, Lina, and Yadi embark on another investigation in Miami. After Hurricane Clyde makes landfall, devastating the area and causing widespread flooding, a mystery comes to light: The skeleton of bell captain Ignacio Gonzalez, who worked at the Moroccan Hotel, appears. He was the prime suspect in the disappearance of a trove of gems and art stolen from the hotel during Hurricane Cleo in 1964; no one had seen him since the theft. But now it's abundantly clear that the real culprit has yet to be identified—and the Sherlock Society, with help from the retired journalist grandpa of siblings Alex and Zoe, springs into action. Chapters set in 1964 and information on hurricanes and how to prepare for them set the stage. Various associates, including a newly recruited gaggle of retired federal agents from an assisted-living facility, participate in fascinating rounds of assembling evidence, reconstructing events, making logical connections, testing theories, and evaluating potential suspects. Once he gets readers past the long setup, Ponti tracks the case's twisting course with impressive speed and fluency before reaching a satisfying closure. Yadi is cued Latine, and the other members of the society read white. An engrossing caper with a cerebral tilt. (map) (Mystery. 9-13)</p>	
I will protect you : a true story of twins who survived Auschwitz Indiana Fever	Kor, Eva Mozes Hanlon, Luke	Upper Elementary Upper Elementary	3-6 3-6	<p>School Library Journal (April 1, 2022) Gr 3-7-In 1941, at the ages of seven, Eva Mozes Kor and her twin Miriam were already experiencing antisemitism. The small village of Portz on the border between Hungary and Romania was not beyond the grasp of the Third Reich. Kor remembers going to the picture show and watching a movie called, "How to Kill a Jew" where a Jewish father and son were running away from Germans with guns, hunting them for sport. In schools, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a fabricated document about the evils of the Jewish race, was being taught as truth. In 1943, the girls' father tried to take the family and flee into the night, but it was too late. They were made to be prisoners in their own home. The following year, the Nazis invaded Hungary, and the family was forced to wear the Star of David patches on their clothes. Later, they were transported to Auschwitz. The family was immediately separated, and the twins were taken to Dr. Mengele for experimentation. Eva and Miriam endured starvation, medical experiments, and countless other atrocities. They made it out of Auschwitz when the Soviets liberated their camp, but their lives would never be the same. Many Holocaust books make a passing reference to these twin experiments, but Kor gives readers a firsthand and disturbing account. The narrative flows well and is accessible for middle schoolers. Even though the memoirist is between the ages of seven and ten during most of the work, this is more appropriate for older readers. The gripping story and fast-paced chapters make this a valuable purchase for reluctant readers. VERDICT In a world where most people who lived the Holocaust are no longer with us, this book is a sincere and truthful reminder of this horrific event.-Jeni Tahaney © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist (December 15, 2021 (Vol. 118, No. 8)) Grades 3-5. In 1944, 10-year-old identical twins Eva and Miriam, along with their Jewish family, were taken by cattle car to the Nazi death camp Auschwitz. There the two girls were separated from their family by the notorious Dr. Josef Mengele, who was fascinated by twins and wished to conduct experiments on them. Indeed, one of those experiments left Eva deathly ill. Taken to the camp hospital to die, she managed to survive despite the monstrous Mengele's laughing assertion that she had only two weeks to live. Her survival was due in large part to her stubborn, indomitable will, even though, as she states, "We twins were his property now." Her reports of life in the camp are sobering and Kor charts the years of her life after Auschwitz's liberation and her dedication to sharing her story. An afterword by Davidson adds a modern perspective on the Holocaust and antisemitism in the U.S., as well as insight into her collaborative writing process with Kor, who died in 2019. A compelling story of survival.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2021) A Holocaust memoir that teaches young readers by sharing one woman's journey. "Your mind is like a garden. Plant flowers so weeds can't grow," read the embroidered message in the childhood kitchen of identical twins Eva and Miriam Mozes. Even after the Mozes family was imprisoned in Auschwitz, forced to leave the embroidery and most of their other possessions behind, fierce and determined Eva carried this piece of her mama's wisdom with her. Through the horrifying tribulations of the Holocaust, she held on to her desire for life and the strength of her love for her family, refusing to let the weeds of despair take root in her mind. Although unflinching in its treatment of the disturbing realities of the period, this work also emphasizes humanity's prevailing capacity for goodness and hope in the face of cruelty. Davidson, who worked with Kor to get her story down in print as well as doing additional research, situates Kor's life within a broader historical scope, detailing the social and political contexts that allowed the Nazi Party to gain power. Readers will be left not only with an understanding of the events of the Holocaust, but with insight into the long history of antisemitism and the dangers of dehumanizing language, propaganda, and unquestioning nationalism. Bright and compelling, Eva invites young readers to plant flowers of knowledge, love, and acceptance in their own minds. Moving and informative; a powerful resource for Holocaust education. (afterword, timeline, glossary) (Nonfiction. 8-12)</p>

Inkworld The Color of Revenge	Funke, Cornelia	Middle School	5-8	<p>Booklist (October 15, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 4)) Grades 4-7. It's been five years since Orpheus Gemelli disappeared up north, and Ombra has been in peacetime ever since. While Mortimer, Resa, Meggie, and the others have flourished and the troubles that began in Inkheart (2003) feel far away, Orpheus has spent the years scheming how to exact revenge. Dustfinger draws his greatest ire, and though Orpheus' power over words has deserted him, he discovers a dark magic that makes drawings just as powerful. With their loved ones' fates in the balance, Dustfinger, the Black Prince, and some newfound friends must band together to defeat Orpheus and this mysterious new brand of magic. This fascinating follow-up to the Inkheart trilogy shakes up the happily-ever-after formula, and though many familiar faces are sidelined, others finally get the chance to shine, and new characters slip in seamlessly. Split narrative duties give intriguing insights into Orpheus' misguided machinations, and a helpful recap and list of characters ease readers back into the delightful, if at times dark, world. A distinguished return to a compelling and complicated kingdom where love is the supreme form of power.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2024) Happily-ever-after isn't so easy to hang onto in the Inkworld. Sixteen years after Inkdeath, the blood-soaked conclusion to the trilogy that began with Inkheart (2003), author Funke brings forth another dismal installment. Where the first book balanced delight and darkness, here rage and revenge suffuse the pages. Orpheus, defanged villain of Inkdeath, has discovered a way to punish his former idol, Dustfinger: He will have those Dustfinger loves painted into a book and thereby lure the Fire-Dancer to his doom. However, the drunken troubadour who acts as Orpheus' stooge makes a mistake, losing the model for Dustfinger's best friend, Nyame, the Black Prince. Thus, when Dustfinger heads off alone to confront Orpheus, Nyame can follow in hopes of keeping him safe. This novel is slender compared to Funke's previous doorstoppers, but it still feels overlong, with arbitrary magic and plot twists that feel perfunctory rather than organic to the story. Adding to the dragging pace is the often-turgid prose. The late Anthea Bell's translations of the first three books were full of power and grace; Schmitt Funke's translation of her mother's German text is characterized by awkward phrasing and malapropisms. As sentence gives way to leaden sentence, readers will be hard pressed to keep the pages turning. The characters, who are almost all adults, are mostly implied white; Nyame is Black. A slog. (dramatis personae) (Fantasy. 13-18)</p>	
Isle of ever	Calonita, Jen	Middle School	5-8	<p>School Library Journal starred (March 1, 2025) Gr 5-7-The game is afoot! Can Benny, 12, solve the riddles left by her great-great-great-great-great grandmother before it's too late? Everly "Benny" Benedict, who is white, has always dreamed of a place to call home, and when a lawyer from Long Island explains her surprise inheritance from her successful ancestor Evelyn Terry, she jumps at the chance to claim it. But there's a catch: Benny must complete a series of riddles left by Evelyn and find a mysterious and seemingly magical island off the coast of Greenport before the Blood Orange Moon. Can she finish the game before the two-week deadline? Calonita's latest offers a page-turning mystery that will have readers on the edges of their seats. Throughout the game, Benny must reckon with Evelyn's past mistakes while trying to navigate newfound friendships, financial responsibility, and the road map to the utterly fantastical "Evelyn's Island." The fast-paced and satisfying collection of riddles through clues and diary entries are a feast for avid puzzle lovers. The stakes just get higher, and by the end, readers will be anxiously awaiting the sequel. The pacing is excellent, the character development enticing, and the finale positively nail-biting. VERDICT This thrilling adventure mystery will capture the spirit of play in every reader, making it a perfect addition to any library's middle grade collection.-Ashton Conley © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist (February 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 11)) Grades 4-7. Everly and her mother have always lived on the move and low on funds. Then Everly receives unexpected news of an incredible inheritance that could change their lives, but there's a catch: she'll inherit the family fortune only if she successfully locates a hidden island that's missing from every map. To make matters more mysterious, the documents guiding Everly in her quest were clearly written with her in mind, but they were composed more than a century earlier. Now Everly has two weeks to crack the case, claim the prize, and change her family's fortune forever. The suspenseful series opener immediately enthralls, and though there are plot points aplenty (pirate treasure! a pandemic! an immortal cat!), it all carefully connects in a dramatic cliff-hanger ending that will leave readers scrambling for a sequel. Clever clues embedded in journal entries, letters, and newspaper clippings fill in the backstory, making it particularly appealing to anyone with a penchant for puzzles. A nail-biter of a novel for readers who like their mysteries with a touch of magic.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2025) A tween enters into a high-stakes and high-rewards hunt for a life-changing treasure. After years of financial instability, and moving from place to place with her mother, Everly "Benny" Benedict, 12, is poised to come into a large inheritance from her great-great-great-great-great-grandmother, Evelyn "Sparrow" Terry of Greenport, Long Island—but only if Benny can solve Evelyn's riddles and find a mysterious island within the deadline, less than two weeks away. If she fails, Benny will lose the entire estate. As the pressure mounts, Benny and her newly acquired Greenport friends, Zara and Ryan, unravel clues tied to a rare Blood Orange Moon, a deadly 1825 Yellow Fever epidemic, and family connections spanning generations; in addition, events from Evelyn's timeline shed light on the present day. Incorporating text messages, the young detectives' notes, and 19th-century newspaper articles, journal entries, and letters, Calonita deftly transitions between the past and the present. Greenport is rich in magical elements that gradually play a larger and larger role in the plot, setting this book apart from other inheritance treasure-hunt stories and creating an added layer of interest. Severe weather phenomena and other challenges contribute to the building tension. The worldbuilding contains several unexplained developments, and the book ends on a frustratingly major cliffhanger, but this series opener is clearly setting up for a sequel in which more answers will hopefully be forthcoming. Main characters are cued white. An engaging, puzzle-centered page-turner. (Fantasy adventure. 8-12)</p>

				Booklist (September 1, 2024 (Online)) Grades 4-6. For Jenna, the outdoors is a second home, so it's with some resentment that she and her best friend, Reese, are made to feel like outsiders on the Cottontail Scouts' camping trip in Massachusetts' Sturbridge Pines Reservation—the very place where Jenna's grandfather worked as its first Black park ranger. On the final night of the trip, annoyance is replaced by terror when a hulking, hairy creature snatches Reese from her and Jenna's tent, leaving only screams and an unbelievable story in its wake. After the police stop searching for Reese, Jenna returns to the reservation as a newly minted Owlet Scout on a mission to bring her friend home. First-time author Russell cooks up a campfire-worthy tale that delivers chills (including a formidable cryptid) and is fortified by a strong emotional core. Jenna experiences heartbreak, guilt, and racial microaggressions, but she shows tremendous courage and determination in the face of it all. Russell adds texture to the narrative by interspersing newspaper articles, blog posts, and scout-handbook excerpts. A spirited story that positively centers Black and brown characters in the horror genre and in the outdoors.	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2024) After Jenna's best friend goes missing during a camping trip in the Massachusetts woods, she sets out to find her—and in the process heals some wounds. Jenna loves nature—her mom and Pap (her park ranger grandfather) have made camping and hiking a part of their family culture. So she jumped at the opportunity to join the Cottontail Scouts and brought her best friend, Reese, along for the ride. But the group, with its expensive membership fees, isn't all it's cracked up to be, and the white scout leader makes the two Black girls feel unwelcome. When a mysterious humanoid beast attacks their tent in the middle of the night, hauling Reese away, no one believes Jenna's report, not even her mom, and Reese is labeled a runaway. But Jenna's determined to find her friend, and the best way to do that is to return to the woods. Jenna persuades her mom to let her join the free and more welcoming Owlet Scouts, who are camping 10 miles from the site of Reese's abduction. Jenna must battle her anxieties and find ways to trust again in order to face down literal and metaphorical monsters. The thrilling, fast-paced plot will keep the pages flying, and several juicy endings are left untied, leaving readers hoping there might be more tales to come. Enticing campfire thrills and chills. (Horror. 10-14)	Publishers Weekly (April 15, 2024) A predator lurks in the woods in Russell's spine-chilling debut. Eleven-year-old Jenna Thomas enjoys camping in the woods near her Massachusetts home, a pastime nurtured by her Pap, who was the first Black park ranger at Sturbridge Pines Reservation. But her love for the outdoors wavers when her Cottontail Scouts troop encounters a large, hairy bipedal creature that snatches her best friend Reese from their tent in the night. Jenna saw, smelled, and heard every horrifying detail, yet her mother doubts her claims and the police dismiss her testimony before abruptly accusing Jenna of lying. Jenna determines to save Reese, joining another troop, the Owlet Scouts, and resolving to plant survival packs for Reese along the trail on her next outing. Blog posts, newspaper articles, and scouting guides appear between chapters, cutting the tension and contextualizing the creepy happenings around the reservation. While descriptions of the creature are menacing, the anti-Black attitudes perpetuated by white authority figures are perhaps more so in this adroitly crafted horror novel whose heroine perseveres in the face of malice both supernatural and man-made. Jenna and Reese are Black. Ages 10-up. Agent: Paige Terlip, Andrea Brown Literary. (July) © Copyright PWxly, LLC. All rights reserved.
It came from the trees	Russell, Ally	Middle School	5-8			
Jalen Brunson : NBA star	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Jane Goodall : primatologist and activist	Rose, Rachel	Lower Elementary	K-3	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 2-5-Colorful photographs accompany the text in new additions to this series covering the careers of popular celebrities. The images especially shine in the volumes about Beyoncé, Ortega, and Jordan. Professional careers are emphasized, and their respective charitable endeavors are mentioned. There is little about their personal lives, no mention of Jay-Z in the biography on Beyoncé and Taylor Swift does not appear in the volume on Kelce. Still, the titles provide positive introductions to celebrities of note. They are suitable for school and public collections, and the draw in these volumes is their currency. VERDICT Recommended purchase based on demand. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Jenna Ortega : actor and activist	Rose, Rachel	Lower Elementary	K-3	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 2-5-Colorful photographs accompany the text in new additions to this series covering the careers of popular celebrities. The images especially shine in the volumes about Beyoncé, Ortega, and Jordan. Professional careers are emphasized, and their respective charitable endeavors are mentioned. There is little about their personal lives, no mention of Jay-Z in the biography on Beyoncé and Taylor Swift does not appear in the volume on Kelce. Still, the titles provide positive introductions to celebrities of note. They are suitable for school and public collections, and the draw in these volumes is their currency. VERDICT Recommended purchase based on demand. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Joy Harjo --Poet Laureate	Phillips, Katrina M	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Judith Resnik : unsung astronaut	Brill, Marlene Targ	Middle School	5-8			
Kindness : the story of Fred Rogers	Larsen, Ib	Lower Elementary	K-3	Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 2-4. Beloved public-broadcast icon Fred Rogers is the star of this biography in the Value Biographies series (8 titles), which presents remarkable people in history through the lens of a defining character trait. The book begins with one of Rogers' greatest moments—his successful appeal to the Senate regarding the value of public educational TV and why it should maintain its funding. The next two chapters provide examples of how Rogers demonstrated kindness both on his public television show, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, and in the community around him. These include welcoming actors of different races and sexual orientations on his show as well as narrating his actions for blind fans. Large photographs and graphics support the clearly written text, and the work concludes with "Wonder More" questions, "Fast Facts," "Acts of Kindness" suggestions, and additional resources.		
Leaders Who Left Their Mark	Arthur, Martin	Middle School	5-8			

Los Angeles Sparks	Hanlon, Luke	Upper Elementary	3-6	Booklist (April 1, 2016 (Online)) Grades 5-8. After being chosen for a free cruise in Canada searching for the lost Franklin Expedition, Sam and his friend Annabel find themselves in tricky circumstances, once again involving Humphrey Battleford, fiendish collector of stolen artifacts. In this third book featuring Sam and Annabel's archaeological adventures, the teens discover they are being set up by the villain—that free cruise really was too good to be true—and they decide to set out on their own, relying on local Inuit fishermen to guide them to a small island. There they make a significant discovery. Knowing they should leave their find alone, but also that Battleford will steal any valuable items he can get his hands on, the teens have to both outwit the criminal and keep the artifacts safe. While the setup for this story is somewhat far-fetched, this fast-paced novel will appeal to both strong and struggling readers, who will likely want to investigate the Franklin Expedition further. Other books on the infamous expedition by Wilson are listed at the end of the author's note.			
Lost	Wilson, John	Middle School	5-8				
Luka Doncic : NBA star	Beattit, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6				
Meet Sabrina Carpenter!	Daniels, Rachel	Lower Elementary	K-3				
				School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 8 Up-Colorful photos and diagrams explore inventions throughout history from drive belts on potter's wheels to maglev trains to space tourism. Many of the books are arranged chronologically with advances in various areas such as flight traced from early kites to the space age, or healthcare from the prehistoric trepanning of skulls to cloning and gene therapy. Along with the main text there are plentiful sidebars: "Society and Inventions" discusses trends like cycling lanes in urban environments, "Facts and Figures" shares details like how much the biggest crane in the world can lift, and "Science Words" defines key terms like atmospheric pressure. Back matter includes a glossary, suggested books and websites for further research, an index, and many of the titles also have a timeline. VERDICT This series covers a wide variety of STEM topics and teachers looking for materials to demonstrate the relationship between society and technology may find it very helpful. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.			
Military and security		Middle School	5-8				
Minnesota Lynx	Hanlon, Luke	Upper Elementary	3-6				
Navajo code talkers	Burbank, Danielle C	Upper Elementary	3-6				
New York Liberty	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6				
				School Library Journal starred (May 1, 2024) Gr 5 Up-This middle grade novel dives into tween relationships, family, and what it means to be a friend. Andrew and Eve have been best friends for as long as they can remember. When eighth grade starts, they realize it is against the unwritten rules for boys and girls to be friends-everyone decides they must be soulmates, instead. Through a funny turn of events, they inadvertently end up together, in a relationship that neither one of them really wants. Now the only way to save their friendship is to make the other one break up with them-but that is easier said than done! Miller authentically captures the awkwardness and high jinks of middle school. Each situation feels genuine, and readers will stay engaged while not knowing if they are cheering for Andrew and Eve to break up or stay together. These relatable characters value the friendship they have built but are influenced by a large cast of secondary characters. This coming-of-age story will stay with everyone who reads it. VERDICT The perfect book for middle school romance sections; a must-buy.-Heather Lassley © 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. Andrew and Eve have long been the very best of friends. But now they're entering a new era. Bodies are changing. Friends are changing. Everyone's dating. With Eve's home life newly in shambles, she caves in to peer pressure and asks Andrew to the school dance. Of course, Andrew says yes and the plot thickens as they become boyfriend and girlfriend and the relationship becomes the exact opposite of what they had before. The exact opposite of what worked so well. Neither one of them can break up with the other, of course, because they both want to go back to being best of friends and a break up would ruin everything. When Eve believes Andrew has a new adoration for a fellow drumline participant, things escalate into a glow-paint war and the whole school goes bananas. Eventually, Andrew's homemade brownies save the day. This is a fairly straightforward tale in many ways but will be funny and real for a whole lot of middle-schoolers. Includes references to body image, periods, and perhaps one too many references to armpit hair.		Kirkus Reviews (May 1, 2024) Lifelong best friends Eve and Andrew survive a "Category 5 emotional hurricane" in the first months of eighth grade. Eve is thrilled when Andrew returns from two months away with his family, but things are immediately weird. It seems to matter—to their families and friends, anyway—that Eve's a girl and Andrew's a boy, even though the two of them don't intend for anything to change. But when Eve's cross-country friends start talking about dates for the school dance, Eve worries she'll be "left out and left behind," so during his marching band practice, she asks Andrew to go with her. Their respective friend groups assume they're dating, ruining their friendship, which is especially unfortunate for Eve, whose parents have been fighting. Both kids receive tragically bad advice, and each ends up determined to make the other initiate the breakup—and each stubbornly refuses to be the one to break up with the other, leading to mean pranks, hurt feelings, and a huge fight at a school event. Eve struggles with the belief that her relationship with Andrew makes her mom happy; after the public disaster, Eve's parents reassure her that it's not her responsibility to hold the family together. Andrew's mom teaches him about sincere, heartfelt communication. Andrew and Eve ultimately break up, restoring their friendship in a messily honest, heartfelt, and satisfying denouement on the playground. Main characters read white. Perfectly captures the "actual disorder" of being 13. (Fiction. 10-14)
Not if you break up with me first	Miller, G. F	Middle School	5-8				
Olivia Rodrigo	Golusky, Jackie	Upper Elementary	3-6				

				<p>Booklist (July 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 21)) Grades 4-7. Life at the Refuge is strict, but that's exactly what keeps everyone alive. Since the Great Poisoning, exposed humans turned vicious and must be kept outside the compound walls at all costs. As a result, Razzi and the other children aren't allowed outdoors, but they make the most of the small, safe world their parents have made them. A pervasive sense of unease filters through the narrative as the kids move through their days and details are dropped that something is amiss with this whole setup. Razzi is known for being the responsible one, but after receiving a heart transplant, she begins pushing back on the rules and yearning to venture beyond the Refuge. Seen through Razzi's eyes, Holm's near-future world feels threatening and plausible, and when Razzi finally steps outside the Refuge's confines, her discoveries are viscerally shocking. The story's one questionable element is the supernatural connection Razzi feels with her heart donor—a greyhound named Wind. Whether or not readers buy into this part of the tale, they will find Razzi's journey thrilling and find comfort in its hopeful conclusion.HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Holm is a best-seller with more than one Newbery Honor under her belt for a reason. She brings the goods, and readers know it.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2025) A spirited 12-year-old contends with her cloistered life after an apocalypse. Over 10 years ago, the Great Poisoning killed most humans. Razzi lives in an old mansion named the Refuge with her parents, 7-year-old brother, Bing, and a handful of other adults and children. The kids are rarely allowed Outside, especially not since 12-year-old Ollie, a curious risk-taker, had a terrible accident and died while trying to explore. Razzi injures her knee during a game of Chase, which leads to a checkup and a serious diagnosis—she learns that she must have a heart transplant. Luckily, Refuge resident Saul is a Surgeon, and he successfully implants a greyhound's heart into Razzi. After the surgery, Razzi feels different: Her senses of hearing and smell are keener, and foods she used to love, like chocolate, now sicken her. When Razzi makes the momentous decision to run away, she learns that the world outside the Refuge is bigger than she could ever have imagined. Holm's adventure is riveting and appealing, featuring a relatable cast of characters and unfolding against a post-apocalyptic backdrop with zombie story vibes. Holm's mastery of pacing and her explorations of intergenerational trauma and forgiveness resonate, ensuring that they'll stay with readers long after the final pages. Razzi presents white, and names cue ethnic diversity in the supporting cast. An ambitious and thrilling examination of survival, trauma, and connection. (author's note) (Speculative thriller. 9-12)</p>	<p>Publishers Weekly starred (July 14, 2025) In this riveting survival novel by Newbery Honoree Holm, a white-cued 12-year-old ventures for the first time beyond her secluded doorstep. A decade before this book's start, "some stupid country decided to start a war" via venomous missile, prompting Razzi's parents to create an isolated compound called the Refuge. As the oldest, Razzi is expected to set an example for other kids, a responsibility she takes seriously. But the death of a peer, Ollie, a few months prior weighs heavy on her mind: desperate to see outside the Refuge's walls, Ollie scaled and fell from the building's roof. When a doctor's visit reveals that Razzi needs a heart transplant, she receives the heart of a greyhound named Wind, and she soon feels that the surgery has changed her, prompting her to forgo her typical rule-abiding tendencies. Upon stowing away on a Refuge truck bound for a supply run, she makes a discovery that changes everything. Fascinating, intimately detailed characterization and worldbuilding makes everything from Razzi's motivations and reactions to the children's carefree games to the community's fear of the outside world feel palpable across a white-knuckled adventure about autonomy and cultivating one's own inner strength. Ages 9-12. Agent: Jill Grinberg, Jill Grinberg Literary. (Oct.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.</p>
Outside	Holm, Jennifer L	Middle School	5-8			
Patrick Mahomes : MVP quarterback who gives back	Minyard, J.G	Middle School	5-8			
				<p>Kirkus Reviews starred (November 15, 2024) With graduation on the horizon, Percy faces new challenges in this second series entry. It's October, a month for relishing the crisp air, changing leaves, and "pumpkin-spice burritos," when high school senior Percy is summoned to the principal's office to meet his aunt—a mysterious request for someone who doesn't have an aunt (at least, "not on the human side" of his family). The visitor turns out to be Hecate, the triple goddess of magic, crossroads, and necromancy. She insists that Percy pet her hellhound and polecat while she's off enjoying Halloween festivities. Still needing two letters of recommendation if he's to join girlfriend Annabeth at New Rome University, Percy can't refuse. As always, Annabeth and Grover are happy to assist, and thus begins an autumnal adventure for the ages. Monstrous mayhem abounds, and characters from past adventures resurface. The localized focus of the action within New York City offers readers an insider's tour of locales such as Gramercy Park and the historically Greek enclave of Astoria. Reducing the geographical scale of the quests also allows Riordan to focus on Percy's maturation and introspection. This is arguably the most feminist novel of this universe: Percy reckons with several prominent women from ancient myth whose lives were ruined by men. One of the novel's most poignant vignettes involves Percy vicariously experiencing the anguish of the destruction of Troy through the psyche of one of its few female survivors. A superlative volume that combines strong characterization with thrilling action. (Fantasy. 9-14)</p>		
Percy Jackson and the Olympians Wrath of the Triple Goddess	Riordan, Rick	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Phoenix Mercury	Hanlon, Luke	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Python for kids : learn to code quickly with this beginner's guide to computer programming. Have fun with more than 40 awesome coding activities, games and projects, even if you are a novice	Morrison, Christian	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Raid of no return	Hale, Nathan	Upper Elementary	3-6			

Sole survivor	Ollestad, Norman	Middle School	<p>School Library Journal Xpress starred (October 10, 2025) Gr 5 Up-Ollestad survived a devastating plane crash in the San Gabriel Mountains as an 11-year-old boy. That harrowing survival story grounds this book, cowritten with Kiely. Adolescent readers are immediately swept into the intensity of Norman's world, from the high-stakes ski races during which he told himself, "Anything's possible, Boy Wonder. You just can't give up," to the terror of the storm-lashed mountainside where he must summon that mantra to endure. The authors balance riveting imagery, cinematic pacing, and reflective vulnerability, illuminating both adrenaline and emotion as Norman struggles with fear, exhaustion, and the weight of his father's expectations. The language is crisp and age appropriate, with short, urgent sentences that heighten suspense without overwhelming younger readers. Though the story includes harrowing moments, the depictions are honest rather than graphic, making the book accessible for tweens while respecting the gravity of real events. Themes of perseverance, family bonds, and identity will resonate with the older middle grade set, inviting meaningful discussion without straying beyond developmental appropriateness. Norman is white. VERDICT An unforgettable, fast-paced survival story written in language that is both accessible and authentic. A must-purchase for middle-grade collections where adventure, resilience, and true survival tales are in demand. Perfect for Hatchet fans looking for their next read.-Tracey Hodges © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist (September 1, 2025 (Online)) Grades 5-7. Recasting, with a coauthor's help, portions of his 2009 memoir, Crazy for the Storm, Ollestad recounts with moment-to-moment intensity his descent down a steep, slickly icy California mountain in the wake of a small plane crash at age 11 that killed his dad and two others. Cutting out the original's rough language and at least most of the explicit detail, he fills in the ordeal's background with a sketchy picture of his life with his birth mom and her drunken, abusive companion, Nick. Then, to close, he recounts heading out to Topanga Beach to surf the huge waves as a way of both paying tribute to his father's "Anything's possible, Boy Wonder" teaching and to mark his recovery from the trauma. Linked by a "beating the odds to survive" theme, the three are all scary in different ways and punctuated by exhilarating bits. An intense and unconventional survival story.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) In 1979, 11-year-old Norman was the only survivor of a plane crash in Southern California: This is his true story. This book for middle-grade readers, co-authored with Kiely, covers much of the same material as Ollestad's 2009 memoir for adults, Crazy for the Storm. Flying in a four-seater Cessna with his father, his father's girlfriend, Sandra, and the pilot, Norman was excited to reach Big Bear to receive his ski-racing trophy. (As a vivid example of his busy childhood, they'd driven the 300 miles there yesterday for Norman to compete—and then driven back to Topanga Canyon in the evening for his hockey game.) But the plane tragically crashed on a mountain in a blizzard. Nothing is sugarcoated; readers encounter graphic descriptions of the pilot and Norman's dad, who died, and Sandra, who suffered a gaping head wound. Eventually accepting that he had to figure things out on his own, Norman drew upon the extreme training his father had put his "Boy Wonder" through—training that had bullied Norman into facing difficult physical and mental challenges that he feared and resented. During his trek to safety, Norman performed incredible mental and physical feats and encouraged the barely functioning Sandra—until she fell to her death. Norman's conflicted feelings about the father he'd both idolized and resented are nuanced and satisfyingly resolved. Readers who enjoy nail-biting wilderness stories will be riveted. A tragic, gripping, and inspiring story. (Nonfiction. 10-14)</p>
Space Force	Conaghan, Bernard	Upper Elementary	<p>School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 4-6-These six volumes explore the various branches of the United States military. Each volume explains the purpose of the branch, provides examples of jobs and weapons and informs on requirements for entry. Facts such as the Air Force employs the fighter jet F-15 Eagle, the Army is responsible for military operations on land, and one of the Coast Guard jobs is Helicopter Rescue Swimmer are presented. The Marine Corps requires a 13 week boot camp and the Navy values honor, courage, and commitment. The Space Force is a new service branch and is part of the Air Force; it helps with the planning and launching of space flight. There is much overlap in information; all six mention the Medal of Honor and provide an example of a culinary specialist as a job in that branch. Color photographs complement the texts and show the diversity in today's armed forces. The narratives are far from exciting, but they are informative. VERDICT Browsers curious about the functions of the various United States military branches will find some useful information; purchase should be considered based on need. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>		

				<p>School Library Journal Xpress starred (August 29, 2025) Gr 5 Up-When a catastrophic wildfire strikes Redwood Hollows, eighth grader Finn and his best friend Rabbit are forced to evacuate, leaving behind their homes, their beloved forest, and a sense of safety they may never fully recover. Returning weeks later to scorched landscapes and a scattered community, Finn struggles with nightmares, anxiety, and a persistent question: how do you hold onto hope when everything has burned? Baron's verse novel is emotionally resonant and deeply grounded in lived experience. Inspired by the author's own loss to wildfire, the narrative is divided into Before, During, and After sections, mirroring Finn's psychological journey through displacement and healing. The poems are accessible yet nuanced, maintaining strong pacing across over 300 pages while tracing the characters' grief, guilt, and growing activism. Finn's field journal habits and Rabbit's fierce resolve offer a dual portrait of quiet courage and ecological awareness. Themes of environmental stewardship, PTSD, and community resilience are interwoven with subtle family tensions and ethical questions around development and responsibility. Jewish and Filipino family identities are woven in organically, adding depth to the novel's strong sense of place and purpose. While the subject matter addresses trauma and loss, Baron handles these topics with age-appropriate sensitivity. VERDICT A quietly powerful, compassionate exploration of environmental loss, friendship, and activism, this standout verse novel belongs in every middle grade collection.-Rose Garrett © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2025) Eighth grader Finn Katz's mother says that if a wildfire ever threatens their small California town, they should be sure to save the black-and-white photograph above the fireplace of Finn's great-grandfather Phineas Katz, a Jewish immigrant. It will "remind us of what is important / where we've come from, and what we've been through." Though readers learn little about Phineas beyond what he stands for, Mrs. Katz's words prove prophetic: a fire does come; the family must flee their house (with the photograph); and ordinary middle-school life quickly turns into a survival tale amidst an apocalypse. Baron's verse novel successfully takes readers into Finn's world, from daily life with family, friends, and school to their frantic escape from the "fires everywhere." As the fires gather power, so do the poems -- with active verbs, short lines, white space, and propulsive energy. When it's safe to return home, the poem "Hope" sets another tone in its elegant simplicity, speaking to the essential theme: finding hope "once everything in your life has changed." As Finn ultimately realizes, a spark can start a fire, but it can also ignite change. The novel ends with a return home and a commitment to roots, rebuilding, and the environment. An author's note describes Baron's real-life experiences with wildfires fueled by climate change and overdevelopment. Dean Schneider September/October 2025 p.57</p>	<p>Booklist starred (June 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 19)) Grades 4-8. This stunning novel in verse shows the impact of climate change and wildfires and the struggle of living on the border between the forest and urban areas. Finn lives in a small community, the kind where his tree house can be connected to his friends' houses by a string and pulley to allow for note-passing. Though their neighborhood seems idyllic, there is friction: Jonah's dad is behind a big development project that is bringing jobs but taking away part of the forest. Finn, whose dad needs one of those jobs, is pulled between what he believes to be right and his father's needs. Meanwhile, Finn's best friend, Rabbit, knows the dangers this development will cause—especially now, during the height of fire season, when plumes of smoke are visible all around. When the fires come too close to home, forcing evacuations in Finn's community, the people and their town may never be the same. Baron balances the emotional weight of trauma by showing characters healing in a variety of ways. Returning wildlife serves as a promise of regrowth and possibility for a different kind of future. Beginning before the fires, continuing through evacuation, and including the season of rebuilding, Spark highlights the impact of wildfires alongside the importance of healing, all while nourishing the brightest spark of all, hope.</p>
Spark	Baron, Chris	Middle School	5-8			
Spy special ops	Olson, Elsie	Middle School	5-8			
				<p>Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2025) A pithy panegyric for the planet's highest-paid and possibly most popular performing artist. Considering that Taylor Swift is still producing music, she may seem an odd choice for a biographical series titled Who Was? Still, for younger readers who can't get enough Taylor, Mayer lays out the oft-told essentials of her career from birth and early signs of talent to a few months beyond the end of the "Eras" tour in December of 2024—with some choice bits about friendship bracelets, baking cookies, "fairy godmother" charitable work, and how Swift color-codes outfits to match her albums. Further insight into her character is confined to repeated references to how she stays "true to herself" and insists on "saying what she want[s] to say." No mention is made of her dating life or (squeal!) recent engagement. With much use of pinks and purples, Mariana's illustrations depict the superstar winking up at readers from the title page, then go on to scenes of her performing in increasingly large venues after her public debut in 2004 at age 14, meeting fans of diverse skin color, and bustling about her kitchen at Christmas. She "has proven over and over again," the author concludes in a final line, "that a young woman should never be underestimated." Sweet, feel-good fare for young Swifties. (awards list, bibliography, website, discography, timeline) (Picture-book biography. 6-8)</p>		
Taylor Swift	Mayer, Kirsten	Lower Elementary	K-3			
Tech-knowledge : robotics, space exploration, tanks	Peppas, Lynn	Middle School	5-8			

The Baby-sitters Club. 4.Claudia and mean Janine	Telgemeier, Raina	Upper Elementary	3-6	<p>School Library Journal (March 1, 2009) Gr 4-8-Seventh-grader Claudia Kishi is a talented artist and a dependable baby-sitter, but those things don't seem to matter to her parents, who keep comparing her to her brainiac older sister. When school ends for the summer, Claudia is looking forward to art classes and running a morning day camp for the neighborhood kids with her friends. Everything changes when her beloved grandmother has a stroke. Suddenly, Claudia finds herself taking on more and more responsibilities at home, while Janine gets to focus on her summer classes. Readers will relate to Claudia's struggle to understand her sister and cope with the changes in her family. This installment in the series adapts the seventh title in Martin's original sequence, and the story and characters still feel fresh nearly two decades later. Telgemeier's black-and-white illustrations are crisp and clear, while concise narrative passages keep the focus on the dialogue and action. Here and there, a wordless panel conveys much more than a simple description; if a picture is worth a thousand words, then the portrait of Louie the collie after the day-camp kids "make him look beautiful" must be worth a chapter or two alone. A concluding "Making of" chapter provides a peek into Telgemeier's process when adapting the original novels, which will be especially interesting to readers thinking of developing their own comics. The well-developed characters and familiar struggles with friends, family, and school will keep kids coming back to these books.-Beth Gallego, Los Angeles Public Library, Panorama City Copyright 2009 Reed Business Information.</p>	<p>Booklist (March 1, 2009 (Vol. 105, No. 13)) Grades 3-5. In this fourth volume of the graphic-novel adaptations of Ann M. Martin's Baby-Sitters Club books, Claudia and her older sister, Janine, must deal with the changes in their grandmother, Mimi, after she suffers a severe stroke. Creative Claudia doesn't get good grades in school the way her sister does, and she feels that her family values studious Janine more. However, Claudia doesn't notice that Janine isn't too happy when she keeps volunteering to do everything to help Mimi after their grandmother comes home from the hospital to recuperate and relearn how to speak. Meanwhile, the Baby-Sitters Club's new summer playgroup takes up lots of Claudia's spare time, and she tries to help her regular club charge, who feels jealous about all the attention his baby sister gets. Telgemeier's expressive black-and-white art plays a key role in the story here, as much of the interplay between Claudia and Janine is unspoken but clearly shown in their expressions and body language. A section at the end describes how Telgemeier approaches adapting the novels into a graphic format.</p>	<p>Horn Book Guide (Spring 2017) Color by Braden Lamb. The full-color graphic-novel adaptation of Martin's classic series continues. Volume four focuses on artistic daydreamer Claudia, whose frustration with "perfect" big sis Janine is exacerbated when their beloved grandmother has a stroke. Meanwhile, the entrepreneurial friends struggle with their latest venture: a playgroup. Telgemeier's art complements and updates the classic series, ably delineating the nuances of family relationships and friendships alongside babysitting hijinks.</p>
The Cartoonists Club	Telgemeier, Raina	Upper Elementary	3-6	<p>School Library Journal starred (February 1, 2025) Gr 5 Up-A powerful team of comics creators have joined forces to inspire and educate young people to better understand the medium and provide a base of sequential storytelling tools for readers to write their own comics. This informative graphic novel is fashioned around a group of students who gather for an afterschool cartooning club led by their school librarian. Through the framework of the students learning about how comics are made, the creative team provides a great and approachable interpretation of McCloud's previous book, Understanding Comics—a classic tome in graphic novel education—and get the same points across for a younger audience without dumbing things down. Telgemeier and McCloud cleverly use panels and an art style that pops to explain the depth of comics art, and make many sophisticated ideas accessible to young readers. VERDICT A powerhouse team-up from two of comic's very best creators. Young readers who have an interest in making comics or who love to read them will benefit from understanding the process behind the format.-Esther Keller © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Horn Book Magazine (May/June, 2025) In this clever graphic novel about comics and creative collaboration, story-loving middle-schooler Makayla makes a deal with classmate Howard, who would rather sketch caricatures than pay attention in class: Makayla will make up stories to accompany Howard's many funny drawings. The pair meets up in the school library, and when they learn that Ms. Fatima, the media specialist, adores comics, too, the Cartoonists Club is born. They are joined by two more classmates: Art, who is excited to bring their versatile creativity to writing and drawing comics, and Lynda, a constant presence in the library who eventually gains the courage to share a notebook full of detailed, realistic drawings. Each of the multilayered characters in this diverse group has a distinct personality and approach to their art. Cartoon-style illustrations in cool, pale hues with occasional splashes of canary yellow effectively portray the characters' quirks as well as the nuts and bolts of comics-making. Through Ms. Fatima as advisor and Art's dad, a professional animator, as mentor, the Cartoonists learn the "magic of comics" and pass that knowledge on to readers. Back matter includes an interview with the book's creators (where readers learn that Telgemeier was inspired by McCloud's Understanding Comics as a teenager), a glossary, descriptions of comics careers, details about this book's production, and suggested reading. Alicia Rogers May/June 2025 p.101</p>	<p>Booklist starred (March 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 13)) Grades 3-7. A collaboration between McCloud, the man who defined the art form of comics with Understanding Comics, and Telgemeier, the woman who redefined the format's audience and thus the industry itself with Smile (2010), might lead you to expect something overtly startling. Instead, by hewing closely to what made them luminaries to begin with, they have created something warmly comfortable in its presentation, quietly fascinating in its information, deeply accessible in its humanity, and excitingly perfect in its execution. Appropriately, it's both a primer on what comics are and do and the story of a group of burgeoning cartoonists coming together. The impossibly friendly roundness and profoundly expressive faces of Telgemeier's characters bring home the story of four kids and their distinct, heartfelt journeys, each actualized through the magic of creating together. McCloud's perspective-expanding acumen is delivered with total clarity, made hilarious by some fourth-wall-breaking high jinks and made exciting by the creative possibilities it opens for characters and readers. Lots of back matter supports this creative end as well. Remarkably, neither through line distracts from the other, but—like the unity of words and art that makes comics run—the parts become a seamless whole that offers readers more than a single experience. A real showpiece of what happens when two masters find a way to combine their mastery.</p>
The Civil War and society	Doak, Melissa J	Middle School	5-8			
The Curse Breaker	Calonita, Jen	Middle School	5-8			
The Fortnite encyclopedia	Herman, Miles	Middle School	5-8			
The jokiest joking puns book ever written. . . no jokes! : 1,001 brand-new wisecracks that will keep you laughing out loud	Boone, Brian	Upper Elementary	3-6			

				<p>School Library Journal Xpress starred (December 12, 2025) Gr 4-6-Dodd's series opener offers a suspenseful, fantastical plot filled with interconnecting stories of loss and hope while building the myth of the mysterious Aerimander dragon. Eva, a 12-year-old girl with brown skin, is a wealthy and privileged chemistry student at the Young Ladies' Royal Academy for Science and Mathematics, where her best friend, Myrmie, is an ecology student. Nearby, in the city of Porttown, Dusty, 13 with pale skin, is working at St. Ichabod's Dairy Production and Home for Delinquent Boys. His best friend, Calder Ore, survived the ongoing war and is part of a secret organization. The four characters' lives begin to intersect when Eva unknowingly chooses the last Aerimander egg at Bronsworth's department store for her birthday gift. The quest to either save the dragon or use it for personal gain enhances the complex character development. Readers will find Eva and Dusty incredibly reliable yet distinct. While Eva comes from wealth, Dusty never knew his parents and endures sorrow and pain with grace. Themes of trust and broken promises, war, poverty, and greed are developed on every page, while characters ponder the meanings of identity and friendship. Though the flashbacks and frequent plot jumps can create some confusion, the strong dialogue that reveals character motivations and the uncertainties behind a human's heart thicken the plot and add to the suspense. VERDICT A powerful novel that breathes a fantasy world of dragons to life while balancing the dark realities of greedy rulers and society's structural inequities; highly recommended for middle-grade collections.-Brianna Amoscatto © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist starred (November 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 5)) Grades 5-8. Miss Evangeline Alexander, a blossoming chemist, has a penchant for anything volatile. She does her best to keep her experiments under control, but when her father grants her a gift for her twelfth birthday, she acquires a strange piece from the back of a jeweler's office, certain to make her a famed scientist. Dusty, on the other hand, just wants to be free of the King's Navy. His induction into the Thieves' Union is his ticket out, as soon as he completes his first assignment: to steal a mysterious silver object from a certain Miss Eva. Meanwhile, Eoin Parnassus, Director of Kingdom Secrets, is leaving no stone unturned—including the mattresses of the Young Ladies' Royal Academy of Science and Mathematics—until he finds the missing egg of an aerimander, a supposedly extinct dragon-like creature. The most deadly, most powerful weapon on royal record, a living aerimander could finally put an end to the war with the Free Territories—unless it falls into the wrong hands. Wielding a brilliant and diverse cast of characters in this multi-POV story, Dodd offers a fresh and moving take on political hierarchies, with the pace of a thriller. The seamless integration of scientific principles and magical theory, reminiscent of The Golden Compass, will leave readers inspired to persevere in dark times. A fiery opening to what promises to be an epic series.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews starred (September 1, 2025) What do an orphan who delivers milk and a high-society science whiz have in common? Possibly the destruction of the entire Kingdom of Glaucus, if some are to be believed. When Eva Alexander turns 12, her wealthy father allows her to choose something from the upscale Bronsworth's Department Store. Although he was thinking of jewelry, Eva chooses what she thinks is an egg-shaped piece of rubidium, a "highly unstable explosive" substance that fascinates her chemistry-minded brain. In a less-savory part of Porttown, 13-year-old Dusty, who resides at St. Ichabod's Dairy Production and Home for Delinquent Boys, is tasked by the Thieves' Union with finding Eva's gift. The two are on a collision course that involves testing a friendship, traversing a secret dungeon, and nearly blowing up a cryptocologist (a scientist who believes that many legendary creatures are real). All that for a mineral? Of course not—it's all about the egg of an aerimander, a dragonlike creature that's supposed to be extinct. Dodd's debut novel is fantasy done right: Fans of The Princess Bride and Terry Pratchett's work will devour this series opener, thanks to the lush worldbuilding and wry humor permeating every page. And while the story will have readers grinning, it still explores difficult topics like poverty and war with grace and dignity. Eva is a queer girl with "deep copper-brown skin" and wavy black hair. "Spindly" Dusty is pale and freckled. Egg-cellent storytelling; readers will be eager for the second book. (Fantasy. 9-12)</p>
The Last Ember	Dodd, Lily Berlin	Middle School	5-8			
The Mario encyclopedia	Ringstad, Arnold	Middle School	5-8			
				<p>School Library Journal (April 1, 2023) Gr 3 Up-Trilobite and Amber are friends who should be extinct, but they're not. They'd like to be famous, but it's a while before they learn that they could become famous just by telling the world that they exist! When they discover how to become famous through internet videos, it seems like the answer to their problem. But the quest to create viral videos is just the beginning of a weird, hilarious, and surreal story. Trilobite and Amber become involved in a video-making competition for internet fame that becomes funnier and stranger the longer it goes on. The cast of characters is one of the most unique ever, including a trilobite who dreams of being rich and famous, an ambulocetus (or walking whale), a paleo-newscaster, an ape god, and many, many more. Hale uses only black, white, and pale blue colors, but each panel is packed with details. Plenty of squiggles and shading make the artwork look like it's vibrating off of the page. VERDICT For kids who enjoy zany, funny, and smart stories.-Andrea Lipinski © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist starred (April 15, 2023 (Vol. 119, No. 16)) Grades 3-6. Welcome to the Island of Losta Founda, where supposedly extinct creatures live on. Trilobite (a marine arthropod from the Cambrian era) sets out to be rich and famous but isn't sure how, until he meets Tiffany Timber, a paleo newscaster/vlogger with a ton of followers, who suggests they partner up. Since Trilobite and his pet Amber (an ambulocetus from the Eocene period) are a paleontology treasure, they're certain their video content will be so newsworthy it will break the internet. On their quest to create groundbreaking content, they come across a tiny spinosaurus, an ape god that is part of a violent pantheon, a crinoid, a woolly rhino, and the wise but tricky Opabinia, who becomes their archnemesis as they enter into a six-round video battle royale. Hale is mostly known for impressive and well-researched historical-nonfiction graphic novels, so this frantically paced fever-dream project of pure escapism is quite the stray, but not at all unwelcome. The hand-drawn pen-and-ink illustrations are deliciously detailed and painstakingly and lovingly stippled and crosshatched. The story is silly but moves along briskly with wonderful humor, and the cast of predominantly extinct characters is wholly original. The panels are wonderfully paced, with each shot as beautifully framed and expertly lit as the video battles described within, and the project overall is a mighty undertaking.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2023) In this quirky graphic offering, two extinct creatures team up with a human reporter. One morning, Trilobite (who goes by Bite) and BFF Amber (short for Ambulocetus, a prehistoric walking whale) find their cupboards and stomachs empty. After meeting Tiffany Timber, a paleo-newscaster, they decide they will become influencers like her in hopes of hitting it rich. However, when they are duped by the tricky Opabinia and his goons (a cactus named Cactus Annie and a crinoid named Ted), they find themselves unexpectedly paired with Tiffany in a wild video competition to save her reputation. As the rounds progress, it seems like the trio cannot catch a break, incurring mounting penalties from the bad-tempered anthropomorphized house. Will they be able to defeat Opabinia and win the video battle? Hale's tale, executed in blue and white with strong black linework, is unapologetically zany, replete with poop jokes, an adorable talking kitten head, a giant hair dryer, and a gorilla deity sporting a halo that is also a portal, making this a perfect choice for those who find joy in madcap comics in the vein of James Kolchalka. Backmatter includes facts about the creatures mentioned and Hale's inspiration behind such a kooky charmer. Tiffany reads White. An exuberantly goofy romp. (minicomics) (Graphic fantasy. 7-11)</p>
The mighty bite	Hale, Nathan	Upper Elementary	3-6			

				<p>School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 3 Up-In the early pages of this book, they describe the Japanese term "wabi-sabi," which means "finding beauty in imperfection." This book not only exhibits that in its art style, which is completely hand drawn, but also in the chaos of its plot and characters. In this third title in the series, Trilobite and his crew are searching for an Entelodont, a prehistoric being resembling a large wild boar. They find him, but inadvertently create a creature of destruction from it. Combustion occurs and this creature becomes a Hog-Rocket, flying around destroying things with teeth and fire. All is presented with the humor, the author maximizing irony, odd situations, and exploiting typical disaster and action-movie tropes. VERDICT This book is a riot and a wild ride combined in one. Perfectly imperfect. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2025) Terwilliger Trilobite returns to battle a gas-powered prehistoric pig. In this third graphic novel installment following Walrus Brawl at the Mall (2024), Trilobite, paleo-newscaster Tiffany Timber, "fun-sized dinosaur" Tiny Spinosaurus, and Amber the Ambulocetus are on the job. They're trying to find and film an Entelodon (nicknamed "Heck Pig" by the group). True to form, events go humorously awry, leaving the Heck Pig—fueled by rage and fiery farts—consuming everything in its path. Trilobite and crew fall into financial hardship and are forced to find work to pay their debts. Trilobite is dismayed when all he can find is a job in a sewer, where he cleans up biosludge, formed by a mix of organic and inorganic waste that met an unfortunate AI smart sewer. When nemesis Opabinia offers \$25,000 to anyone who can stop Heck Pig, the group must come up with a plan to stop the pooting porker. Will Bite be able to help while he's busy scooping sentient sewage? Hale's newest installment is an utter delight, and the strongest in the series so far, skillfully blending prehistoric tidbits with knee-slapping potty humor. A sage introduction informs readers of the book's hand-drawn nature, encouraging them to embrace mistakes and assuring them that the volumes may be enjoyed out of sequence. Tiffany, the lone human among the cast, appears white in the purple-hued artwork. Facts and farts: always a winning combination. (Graphic fantasy, 8-12)</p>
The mighty bite. Hog-rocket ruckus	Hale, Nathan	Upper Elementary	3-6		
				<p>Booklist (August 2024 (Online)) Grades 3-6. Trilobite (The Mighty Bite), Amber the Ambulocetus (a mute, walking Eocene-era whale), Tiny Spinosaur, and human newscaster Tiffany Timber are back for another whirlwind adventure on the Island of Losta Founda. Yet again they are up against the five-eyed Opabinia as each team tries to create the most viral video. Tiffany aims for an educational video but is outvoted when Trilobite goes viral in a violent video. When Amber outrages the local pinniped (walrus and seal) army, they challenge her to an epic battle. Meanwhile, every move by the furious marine mammal mob is filmed by Team Opabinia for their Mammal Fights subscribers. Narrated by Radcliff, the all-seeing ape god from a previous title, the graphic novels in this boisterous and charmingly odd series are self-contained episodes. The artwork is hand-drawn with dramatic two-color spreads. The storytelling is a sparkling mash-up of hilarious lowbrow jokes and stunningly hyper-syllabic characters. A quick pace, terrific cast, and jokes that pour off the pages make for an adventure as silly and wild as the title.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (May 1, 2024) Extinct creatures gear up for the ultimate battle! In his newest adventure, Trilobite decides he wants to go viral by making a funny video. After uploading content showing himself getting hurt, Bite garners millions of views (and a paycheck!), and his rival, Opabinia, decides to join in on the action. Bite's reckless attention-seeking antics land him in the hospital, where best friend Amber, a nonspeaking walking whale from the Eocene Era, gets into an altercation with a surly walrus. As the competition for internet fame grows, Bite, Amber, and human friend Tiffany find their boat capsized after a confrontation with Opabinia, landing the motley crew at the Sea Mall Ball, a spherical floating shopping center. When a revenge-seeking baby walrus picks a fight with Amber, Bite and his friends must survive an all-out pinniped rumble to escape. This second series entry keeps the pages flying with its over-the-top zaniness and abundant silliness, but it has a slyly smart undercurrent throughout, with the author/illustrator offering quiet social commentary and deftly tying up seemingly unrelated narrative threads. His illustrations are singular and stylish, featuring hand-lettered and hand-drawn, two-toned art. Although this is a follow-up to The Mighty Bite (2023), a cheery introduction establishes that each volume is a self-contained episode and can be read in any order. A sensationally silly sugar rush of a read. (minicomics) (Graphic fantasy, 7-11)</p>
The mighty bite. Walrus brawl at the mall!	Hale, Nathan	Upper Elementary	3-6		
The Minecraft encyclopedia	Madsen, Riley	Middle School	5-8		
The Pokemon encyclopedia	Ringstad, Arnold	Middle School	5-8		

The rise of Neptune	Reintgen, Scott	Middle School	5-8	<p>School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 5 Up-Earth and Mars have renewed an alliance that allows 500 Earthers to begin a new life on the red planet. A shuttle arrives carrying one too many passengers and the story takes off from there. With an obvious connection and appeal to fans of mythology and science fiction, this title will please readers of diverse genres and offers an invitation to tackle such universal issues as war, colonization, and immigration. Scenes full of force fields, shape-shifters, and dragons that can manipulate time and space will take readers on a roller-coaster ride of interplanetary competition. Triton is an evil and crafty foe who makes keeping Mars safe from Neptune an exciting, extraterrestrial challenge. At over 400 pages, the action is plentiful, and the humor breaks up the tension to keep readers at ease. Those unfamiliar with the series may find the combination of dragon lore and science fiction a little tough to follow, but the relationship between Lunar and Dread will win them over. VERDICT This will be a hit with sci-fi and fantasy fans. At this installment's close, they'll be clamoring for more. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2025) In this sequel to The Last Dragon on Mars (rev. 1/25), Mars is under attack by aliens from Neptune's largest moon, Triton; and Dread, the newly recognized planetary dragon of Mars, must defend his planet along with his dragon, Lunar Jones. While Lunar's fighters are destroying the oddly flimsy enemy fleet, Neptune's moon dragon, Nereid, uses the commotion to stow away and request asylum, claiming that another of Neptune's moons, Proteus, was supposed to escape with her. Lunar locates Proteus -- shapeshifted into a human -- but Proteus's ability to see a range of probable futures upends their assumptions and completely reshapes the battlefield. Should Lunar trust Proteus's visions, especially when Triton knows them all as well and has stolen a memory from Proteus that may hold the key to success in battle? The original crew that bonded in the first book possesses a band-of-brothers (and sisters) charm that undergirds the situation with wry humor, each contributing particular strengths and modeling leadership as they encourage newcomers who must step up and prove themselves. In his search for Proteus's stolen memory, Lunar encounters a memory ripped from his first officer, Proctor, which creates awkward (and delightful) consequences. Each development that isn't resolved leads to another plot twist, keeping readers guessing, while the climax unveils a new threat strong enough to drive a potential third book. Anita L. Burkam November/December 2025 p.76</p>	<p>Booklist (October 1, 2025 (Vol. 122, No. 3)) Grades 4-7. "Neptune is coming." Lunar Jones may have befriended a dragon, led a group of young soldiers to victory, and revived the entire Martian ecosystem, but he finds it difficult to enjoy his success, haunted by the dying words of a captured enemy. Still, Lunar, his beloved dragon Dread, and his loyal Dread Knights have been busy managing the newly thriving planet, and it's not until they receive a fresh batch of settlers that things begin to go haywire. Neptunian forces do, in fact, arrive en masse, bringing new dragons, seemingly untouchable troops, and murky but malevolent intentions to contend with. Lunar will have to call on old friends, new allies, and his own compassionate heart to keep the galaxy from falling into ruin. The stellar sequel feels pleasantly familiar while fleshing out established characters and expanding the existing mythology, but the stakes are higher and relationships deeper. The excellent action scenes and suspense will keep readers absorbed, while moments of humor and friendship (and burgeoning crushes) lighten the load. A worthy return to a wonderfully fantastical world.</p>
The Sherlock Society	Ponti, James	Middle School	5-8	<p>School Library Journal Xpress starred (November 2, 2024) Gr 3-7-Twelve-year-old Alex and his older sister Zoe, along with Grandpa Sherlock, are floating in the ocean after a dramatic escape from an exploding boat. This gripping start sets the tone for a summer of twists and turns. What begins as a simple summer job quickly spirals into a quest for Al Capone's buried treasure, blending historical intrigue with contemporary adventure. Set against the vibrant backdrop of Miami, the narrative unfolds through Alex's first-person perspective, allowing readers to experience the thrill of the hunt alongside him. Joining Alex and Zoe on their quest are friends Yadi and Lina, who bring their unique skills and perspectives. Together, they form a dynamic team, showcasing the power of friendship and collaboration as they navigate challenges and unravel clues. The quest takes them all over the city, interviewing old acquaintances of Al Capone, each encounter revealing tidbits of history and adding depth to their investigation. Grandpa Sherlock's old journalist notes are a catalyst for their treasure hunt, connecting the past with the present. Ponti skillfully weaves humor and suspense; the characters are relatable and engaging. The pacing is brisk, while the rich descriptions of Miami's coastal landscape immerse readers in the setting. This story is particularly great for tweens interested in unsolved mysteries and digging into history, encouraging them to explore the past while enjoying a thrilling narrative. VERDICT A must-read; Ponti has crafted a delightful tale that combines humor, history, and heart into one captivating adventure.-Haley Amendt © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2024) Toxic waste dumped in the Everglades gives a quartet of middle school sleuths their first case. Leading Carl Hiaasen fans over familiar ground, Ponti pitches 12-year-old Alex Sherlock and his 13-year-old sister, Zoe, with school friends Lina and Yadi as sidekicks, into a summer caper. It all begins with the hunt for a supposed fortune buried decades ago by Al Capone, culminates in a narrow escape from an exploding yacht, and ultimately exposes a smooth-talking bad actor shady enough to bring in even federal authorities. As the kids' live-in Grandpa, a retired investigative reporter, delivers pointers on how to conduct interviews and sift evidence while grandly driving them around South Florida in his classic Cadillac, Roberta, the budding detectives display sharp wits, eyes, and negotiating skills. The last come in particularly useful when they're dealing with their lawyer...who's also their mom. Both the plot and the chain of evidence take logical courses, and since Dad is a marine biologist and Lina's a recent transplant from Wyoming, Ponti is able to use their dialogue to highlight the local culture and larger ecological issues. Main characters present white, apart from tech wiz Yadi, who is cued Latine. An environmental mystery featuring lots of clever detecting, a bit of danger, and real felonies to investigate. (Mystery. 9-13)</p>	<p>Publishers Weekly starred (June 17, 2024) Inspired in part by their last name, 12-year-old Alex Sherlock and his 13-year-old sister Zoe, joined by their retired reporter grandfather and friends Yadi and Lina, found the Sherlock Society detective agency in a bid to earn money over the summer. When their initial attempts to rustle up business fail, they pivot toward investigating one of Grandpa's cold cases surrounding Al Capone's legendary lost fortune "buried somewhere in south Florida." As they follow decades-old clues across Miami and into the Everglades, the Sherlock Society encounters contemporary crimes pertaining to illegal waste dumping, prompting them to seek out the culprits. While Grandpa instructs the Sherlock Society in the ways of reporting and investigation, Ponti (Mission Manhattan) keeps things authentic with the invocation of laws and proper procedure in their pursuit to take down a powerful, wealthy foe. With an eye for atmosphere, history, and lively humor, Ponti brings the South Florida setting, as well as its quick-witted inhabitants, to vivid life, making for a worthy successor to classic kid mysteries that's entertaining, educational, and exciting. Yadi cues as being of Cuban heritage; other characters read as white. Ages 8-12. Agent: Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary Studio. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.</p>

The tail of Emily Windsnap	Kessler, Liz	Upper Elementary	3-6	School Library Journal (November 1, 2004) Gr 3-6-Twelve-year-old Emily discovers her true self and uncovers family secrets in Liz Kessler's imaginative fantasy novel (Candlewick, 2004), which begins with Emily offering to share a secret with listeners. Emily discovered she was half-mermaid when she decided to conquer her fear of swimming and found that her legs transformed into a mermaid's tail when underwater. Exploring the waters around the houseboat on which she and her mother live, Emily finds an entire mermaid world underneath the surface. The wonders of this world are described in detail, from the colors of the mermaid tails to the glowing magic of the coral reef. Guided to the land of the merfolk by her new friend, Shona, Emily learns about the history of these people and their relationship with humans, especially the so-called "illegal marriages" between the two. When Emily realizes that her merman father, who supposedly abandoned their family when Emily was a baby, was imprisoned for having a relationship with her mother, Emily sets out to free her father and reunite their family. Narrator Finty Williams reads the story with a British accent and steady pacing, and provides an excellent interpretation of the characters. Slight variations in intonation give each character a unique identity. This audiobook will appeal to young girls who enjoy a good fantasy adventure.-Casey Rondini, Hartford Public Library, CT Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information.	Booklist (May 1, 2004 (Vol. 100, No. 17)) Gr. 4-7. This first novel opens with a classic teaser: "Can you keep a secret?" It turns out that the secret is a particularly juicy one. Though outwardly a normal seventh-grader, Emily Windsnap transforms into a mermaid when she goes swimming. The phenomenon worries her but thrills her, too, especially when she discovers an underwater "mer-city" not far from where she lives, and begins to learn the answers to nagging questions about her origins: Why did her father abandon her when she was a baby? Why can't her mother remember details about her husband? After a new mermaid friend mentions "illegal marriages" between mer-people and humans, readers will guess where things are headed--long before Emily herself does. Emily's eventual reunion with her merman father seems overly reliant on luck and coincidence, but her determination keeps things cruising along, and the premise of someone slipping easily into a shimmering underwater world has considerable allure. Light, imagination-tickling fare ideal for middle-grade girls, with charming ink-wash illustrations scattered throughout.	Publishers Weekly (May 8, 2006) The heroine discovers she is half-mermaid in her seventh-grade swim class. "Pre-teen girls will likely bite at this novel's tempting bait," in PW's words. Ages 8-12. (Apr.) Copyright 2006 Reed Business Information.
The unofficial Harry Potter joke book. Great guffaws for Gryffindor	Boone, Brian	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Travis Hunter --NFL Star	Beattie, Charlie	Upper Elementary	3-6			
Warriors graphic novel. The prophecies begin.1	Riess, Natalie	Middle School	5-8	School Library Journal starred (December 1, 2024) Gr 4 Up-Adapting the first two books in Erin Hunter's "Warriors" series, Into the Wild and Fire and Ice, we see the beginning of the journey of Fireheart, once a house cat for humans named Rusty, now a proud warrior of Thunderclan. This adventure is epic in scale and takes a child's love for cats and teaches the strong lessons of perseverance, teamwork, family, and courage. This new graphic novel series will be extremely popular, not only for readers of the original series but also for a new generation who can experience the adventure for the first time. VERDICT The Prophecies truly begin again in this phenomenal graphic novel adaptation of the "Warriors" series. The compelling story will make cat lovers of all readers. © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.	Kirkus Reviews (May 15, 2024) In this graphic adaptation of the original series' first two episodes, kittypet Rusty joins the feral cats of Thunderclan and earns a warrior's name. Making the switch from print to this tale that's told through dialogue and visual sequences containing very little exposition may relegate the complex dreams and visions to wordless montages and make it even harder to keep track of who's who in the large, furry cast, but the art really brings out the savagery that has distinguished Hunter's work and perhaps accounted for its enduring appeal. Here, as snarling cats flash cruelly sharp teeth and claws, pounce on prey with a crunching of bones, and engage in bloody melees with cats of rival clans (and even, once, with a swarm of vicious rats), the feline protagonist, an orange tabby more distinguishable than most due to an unusual mark on his forehead, displays heroic qualities aplenty. He serves an apprenticeship under his new name, Firepaw, but is at last named Fireheart, decisively turning from the easy, domesticated life to embrace a harder (but far more glorious) role as a warrior of Thunderclan. Along with a helpful aerial map of the clan's territory, the creators include an illustrated afterword in which they cast themselves as cute kitties to demonstrate their work process. The vivid colors, dramatic action sequences, and appealingly expressive feline faces will grab readers' attention. Skillfully catches the feral tone and spirit of the original. (alternate covers, character designs) (Graphic animal fantasy. 11-13)	

Warriors graphic novel. The prophecies begin.2	Riess, Natalie	Middle School	5-8	<p>School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 3-7-Fireheart has led Thunderclan to victory and a time of peace and rebuilding has settled in. With Bluestar now on her final life, and suspicion of treachery placed on Tigerclaw, the wild warrior cats and their clans have much to prepare for. Some rise in ranks, their bravery proving they are ready to be hunters, while others prepare to face fallout from their decisions. What lies in the immediate future for these clans is unclear, and readers will enjoy finding out. Fans will delight in seeing their favorite characters and early series plotlines shown in such unique and vibrant colors. VERDICT Graphic novels of this long-running series will help bring these stories to a new audience. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2025) Fireheart struggles with new responsibilities as treachery and natural disasters threaten ThunderClan in this second volume of the graphic recasting of the initial Warriors series. Encompassing events from middle volumes Forest of Secrets (2003) and Rising Storm (2004), this episode features flood, fire, learning opportunities, and a treacherous coup attempt as Fireheart advances up ThunderClan's hierarchy while taking his Kityypet sister Princess's first born, Cloudkit, away from the Twolegplace to train as a warrior. Fireheart is easy enough to pick out in the illustrations because he has a distinctive mark on his brow, but even readers who've read and reread the original novels may have trouble keeping the rest of the characters in the teeming feline cast apart—particularly since the illustrators admit to adding a few extras to fill out crowd scenes. Still, the switch to a graphic format from the original prose allows the wordless training and action sequences to speed the plot along. The artwork also offers vivid visual renditions of pouncing on crunchy fresh-kill and gory, savage battles with other cats that underscore the feral violence of life in the wild—not to mention packing cats, cats, and more cats into the panels. The fetching interplay between irrepressible Cloudkit and his patient, serious mentor stands out, as does the heroic protagonist's progress toward coming into his own. The expert, artful transition of the classic series to a new format continues. (map, character sheets, alternate cover sketches) (Graphic animal fantasy. 11-13)</p>	
Warriors graphic novel. The prophecies begin.3	Riess, Natalie	Middle School	5-8	<p>Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) Rising tensions culminate in a savage battle even as Tigerstar's bid for dominance over all the forest Clans fulfills the prophecy that "Lion and tiger will meet in battle...and blood will rule the forest." In this graphic novel, which adapts the events of the fifth and sixth novels in the Prophecies Begin series, Fireheart becomes Firestar, leader of ThunderClan, after Bluestar is killed while fighting off a pack of wild dogs. He then goes on to unite the Clans against threats from both within and without. The switch in format doesn't help readers much in keeping track of the teeming cast; there's no visual key, and so many of the cats differ so slightly in individual markings that even confirmed series fans may struggle to keep track of who's who. Name changes are another issue: Following an attack in which she has an eye torn out, Brightpaw is renamed Lostface, and finally Brightheart, and she spends much of the tale with medicinal leaves covering the healing wound, which at least makes her easy to identify. The art allows wordless montages to speed the plot along and also gives the artists license to depict tender moments of head bumping and anthropomorphic smiles and other expressions—not to mention lots of hideously vicious claws and teeth, and savage fights. Concept and character sketches at the end offer insights into the artists' process. Unwieldy as ever cast-wise, but the visual format suits the violent, dramatic storylines. (Graphic animal fantasy. 11-13)</p>		
What happened at Lexington and Concord?	Boutland, Craig	Middle School	5-8	<p>School Library Journal (November 1, 2023) Gr 5-8-The events surrounding major milestones in United States military history are presented in these five volumes. Readers learn about the Confederate capture of Fort Sumter, the specifics of the battles at Lexington and Concord, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Russian attempts to place nuclear weapons close to United States borders, and the World War II invasion of Normandy. Included background information provides context, for example, national divisions over slavery led to the attack on Fort Sumter. Resulting occurrences, such as how the success of D-Day was a determining factor in ending World War II, are outlined as well. Photographs accompany the narratives. Though comprehensive, the texts are dense and dry. An error in "What Happened during the Cuban Missile Crisis-"John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th U.S. President on January 19, 1961"-might confuse some readers. VERDICT These topics are covered by many other sources that provide more interesting reads. Selectors may consider individual volumes as supplemental to curriculum; browsers will pass. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>		

What happened at Pearl Harbor?	Boutland, Craig	Middle School	5-8 School Library Journal (November 1, 2023) Gr 5-8-The events surrounding major milestones in United States military history are presented in these five volumes. Readers learn about the Confederate capture of Fort Sumter, the specifics of the battles at Lexington and Concord, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Russian attempts to place nuclear weapons close to United States borders, and the World War II invasion of Normandy. Included background information provides context, for example, national divisions over slavery led to the attack on Fort Sumter. Resulting occurrences, such as how the success of D-Day was a determining factor in ending World War II, are outlined as well. Photographs accompany the narratives. Though comprehensive, the texts are dense and dry. An error in What Happened during the Cuban Missile Crisis-"John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th U.S. President on January 19, 1961"-might confuse some readers. VERDICT These topics are covered by many other sources that provide more interesting reads. Selectors may consider individual volumes as supplemental to curriculum; browsers will pass. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
What happened on D-Day?	Boutland, Craig	Middle School	5-8 School Library Journal (November 1, 2023) Gr 5-8-The events surrounding major milestones in United States military history are presented in these five volumes. Readers learn about the Confederate capture of Fort Sumter, the specifics of the battles at Lexington and Concord, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Russian attempts to place nuclear weapons close to United States borders, and the World War II invasion of Normandy. Included background information provides context, for example, national divisions over slavery led to the attack on Fort Sumter. Resulting occurrences, such as how the success of D-Day was a determining factor in ending World War II, are outlined as well. Photographs accompany the narratives. Though comprehensive, the texts are dense and dry. An error in What Happened during the Cuban Missile Crisis-"John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th U.S. President on January 19, 1961"-might confuse some readers. VERDICT These topics are covered by many other sources that provide more interesting reads. Selectors may consider individual volumes as supplemental to curriculum; browsers will pass. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.		
Written in the stars	Heart, Lee	Middle School	5-8 School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 3-7-Sweet romances for young readers. Meet Me at Sunset is a dramatic journey through Julie's "Love Plan" for her summer at the beach. It would help if she had a BFF, but that just isn't part of her blueprint. When her mom throws a wrench in the works by inviting her friend's daughter, Sophia, Julie's summer looks like it might go off the rails and her plan to win over James will be ruined. An honest look at the sensitive nature of young teens and tweens, squabbles, camaraderie, and first loves. Easy-to-digest chapters and a manageable length make this book a great fit for middle grade readers who want a light, entertaining, yet highly engaging read. Written in the Stars follows Olivia and Quinn at summer camp after the recent death of Quinn's dad. Camp Whispering Woods promises a time of normality and healing for Quinn, until Harry, the CBB (cute British boy) poses a bit of an obstacle to a "normal" summer at camp. Tender and touching, this gentle exploration of grief and first love will be an easy sell to young readers. VERDICT These titles offer a perfect opportunity for middle grade readers who want an innocent exploration of romance and crushes. © 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 4-8. Quinn has been going to Camp Whispering Woods for years. The girls' cabins are separated from the boys', and that's just fine with her. Only this year, she spots a boy with a delightful British accent whom she cannot ignore. Does she want Harry to be her boyfriend? And, if so, is one of her bunkmates trying to steal him away before she even has the chance? Throughout the six weeks of summer camp, Quinn's friends, old and new, support her as she tries to navigate her first summer since her dad passed away. The simple plot contains little conflict and will appeal to middle-graders who may themselves be contemplating their very first crushes. An easy read for early middle-schoolers with plenty of appeal for reluctant readers, this can be handed with confidence to fans of Shug (2006), by Jenny Han, and Sleepaway Girls (2009), by Jen Calonita. This short, stand-alone romance is part of the new Spotlight Sprinkles series dedicated to tween rom-coms; series title Meet Me at Sunset, also by Heart, publishes simultaneously.	

				<p>Booklist (June 1, 2025 (Online)) Grades 5-8. Magaziner begins a new academic-fantasy series in this tale of sorcerers versus resistance fighters, set in a not-too-distant future. When orphan Flora clashes with an elite group of malicious sorcerers, she is saved from harm by a pair of freedom fighters from the famous Incurruptibles Academy. Taken back to the safety of the academy, Flora is made a probationary student, causing much speculation. Soon, strategic security breaches lead to failed missions, with suspicions falling on all students but especially newcomers. Who is the mole? A final battle exposes all manner of feelings and truths, and it concludes with the promise of adventure and romance to come. Readers will appreciate the wide spectrum of abilities and gender identities represented in the book's characters. While the use of floral house names and some stereotypical characterizations seem incongruent with the reading level this book aspires to, upper-middle-grade readers looking for a fast-paced, suspenseful series will be on the hook for book 2.</p>	<p>Kirkus Reviews starred (April 15, 2025) A hundred years in the future, an orphaned tailor's apprentice joins the resistance to fight sorcerers who wield unchecked power over the former United States. Flora's parents were killed by sorcerers, but she doesn't believe that the resistance group known as the Incurruptibles are real until she meets one of them in person. After a fight against the Radiance, the "nameless, faceless group" that rules over the sorcerers, Captain Quinn whisks Flora and her uncle Randal to safety, but Flora begs to join Inc Academy and earns a place on a trial basis—until the results of her background check come in—to mixed reactions from her new squad, the Thistles. When problems begin plaguing the Incs, Flora promises herself that she'll find the spy in their midst. Readers will wonder, as Flora does, who she can trust, even as she builds relationships with the other Thistles, and her understanding of the world becomes more nuanced as she questions long-held ideas. The sorcerers and Incs ultimately clash in a high-intensity, fast-paced action battle that forces Flora into making a big decision and sets up for the sequel. Immersive worldbuilding, strong characters, and excellent pacing make for a breathless series opener with a big scope. Curly-haired Flora is "tall and plump," is attracted to girls, and has Jewish heritage. Other characters are diverse in skin tone, ability, sexuality, and gender identity. A lightning blast of a futuristic fantasy. (Fantasy. 10-14)</p>	<p>School Library Journal (June 1, 2025) Gr 5 Up-A magic school fantasy with strong themes of belonging and found family. Thirteen-year-old Flora hates any bully, and the sorcerers who rule Barrowburgh are the biggest bullies of them all. Flora confronts two of the Radiance, the most powerful sorcerers in the realm, and has to be rescued by Incurruptibles, the rebel fighters resisting sorcerer rule. Flora convinces them to take her to Inc Academy, the Incurruptibles' training school, is put on the Thistle squad on a trial basis, and spends her trial period trying to prove she belongs at the school. While she is attending, missions are constantly sabotaged, and Flora figures she can land a permanent spot on the squad if she can find the infiltrator. Flora becomes a Thistle through sheer grit, and readers will need the same grit to get through the book. The Incurruptibles are always one step behind the sorcerers and Flora's higgledy-piggledy attempts at uncovering the spy are ineffective with such a large cast of characters. Flora's desire to belong to a found family is relatable, but her relationships progress in fits and starts, and the plot feels more impulsive than deliberate. Queer representation is prominent in this book. Flora is attracted to girls, Captain June and squadmate Leo are trans, and Ringer, one of the Radiance sorcerers, is gender fluid. VERDICT A chaotic start to a new middle grade fantasy series.-Maria Martin © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>
The Incurruptibles	Magaziner, Lauren	Upper Elementary	5-8			
Crosswire	Enderle, Dotti	Middle School	5-8	Donated to BMSN library		
				<p>School Library Journal starred (February 1, 2026) Gr 2-6-At the start of The Poisoned King, Christopher, whom readers met in Impossible Creatures, is awoken by dragon Jacques and pulled back into the Archipelago. Christopher has been summoned to help Anya Argen, a young princess who would rather talk with birds than with courtiers. Anya is devastated when her gentle scientist father is falsely accused of the murder of his own father, the king, and she is forced to escape. After Christopher rescues her, they work to clear Anya's father's name and to help the Archipelago's dragons, which are mysteriously dying. The production of this audiobook is spare and effective, without music or effects. West's narration brings a quiet dignity to the story. He is not overly dramatic, and that style will pull readers in with its gravity. The narration has other notable strengths: the various magical creatures' voices are excellent and often very funny, Jacques above all. At the other end of the emotional spectrum, West effectively conveys with empathy Anya's impatient snarls and anger as she tries to find out who has killed her grandfather and framed her father. The book feels like a story that is meant to be read aloud with the whole family gathered around. VERDICT A comparison to His Dark Materials feels inevitable, particularly given Anya's feisty character, and this is similarly a charming and often grittier-than-expected audiobook for fantasy fans.-Grace Pickering © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.</p>	<p>Booklist starred (March 1, 2026 (Online)) Grades 4-7. Nearly a year has passed since Christopher returned from the Archipelago; it's been months of missing the mythical isles and creatures while mourning his best friend, Mal. He's understandably thrilled to wake up to a tiny dragon in his bedroom, but he's less enthused about the reason for Jacques' sudden appearance: nearly omnipotent dragons are dying off in droves, and Christopher has been tapped to solve the terrible mystery. Meanwhile, an intrepid Princess Anya is on the run from murderous kinfolk while looking to free her father from unjust imprisonment, and her path will cross with Christopher's in ways that will shape the Archipelago's future along with their own. It's a joy to drop back into this wonderful world, and the gorgeous writing and lush descriptions make it easy to find footing. It helps that familiar faces abound, though new characters and locations expand the realm with remarkable depth and detail. Readers worried about missing Mal will find a worthy addition in Anya, whose daring, cleverness, and compassion make for an ideal new ally. Rundell skillfully seats delight and horror in incredible proximity, and a growing awareness of humanity's capacity for evil is always countered by a strong conviction that life is still worthwhile. A stellar sequel that will arm readers with the courage to face an increasingly daunting world with hopeful eyes and a very full heart.</p>	
The poisoned king: Impossible Creatures	Rundell, Katherine	Middle School	5-8			