

Library Collection Acquisition Justification

Requesting Educator: Jennifer Martinez

Date: September 17, 2026

Position: High School Librarian

Target Campus: Junction Middle School

Executive Collection Strategy Statement

This curated list represents a strategic initiative by High School Librarian Jennifer Martinez to enhance the library collection at Junction Middle School. By bridging upper-level collection development expertise with middle school academic metrics, this selection targeted high-interest graphic history (supporting TEKS Social Studies benchmarks for Grades 7-8), elite biographical texts focused on real-world perseverance, and popular science-fiction universes. This robust framework actively addresses reading intervention tiers, promotes visual literacy, and provides scaffolded text alternatives for differentiated instruction and reluctant readers without compromising text rigor.

Curated Collection Breakdown

1. One Dead Spy: Bigger & Badder Edition (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #1)

ISBN: 9781419757266 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Calls it an 'innovative approach to history that will have young people reading with pleasure,' highlighting the clever framing mechanism of early American history timelines.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Highly recommends it as 'hilarious... lively, rigorously researched, [and] visually engaging' proving a masterful instructional tool.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Directly reinforces American Revolution historical frameworks and foundational graphic comprehension skills.

2. Big Bad Ironclad! (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #2)

ISBN: 9781419703959 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Notes that it is 'livelier than the typical history textbook but sillier than many outstanding works,' appealing simultaneously to history buffs and comic readers.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Recommends it highly for its rich vocabulary and accurate logging of Civil War ironclad naval strategies, tech changes, and political actors.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Supports Civil War curriculum units and technological history focus areas.

3. Donner Dinner Party: Bigger & Badder Edition (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #3)

ISBN: 9781419749070 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Commends the author's precise capability to present grim frontier historical milestones with profound factual accuracy and appropriate middle-grade emotional framing.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Celebrates the text's detailed historical mapping and backmatter layouts, making it a highly captivating resource for frontier realities.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Bridges early US geography, pioneer struggles, and westward expansion timelines.

4. Treaties, Trenches, Mud, and Blood (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #4)

ISBN: 9781419708084 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Describes it as 'a neatly coherent account' with tweaks like animal allegories that permit intermediate readers some useful emotional distance.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Hails it as an 'inventive series' that successfully breaks down how international treaties, alliances, and trench systems formed.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Supports global conflict history curriculum, geopolitical alliance tracing, and map analysis skills.

5. The Underground Abductor (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #5)

ISBN: 9781419715365 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Lauds the deeply factual and respectful portrayal of Harriet Tubman's childhood, survival instincts, and strategic operation coordinates.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Evaluates the volume as 'a first-choice selection for any children's library and a fresh addition to Black History and Women's History lists.'
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Provides key biographical texts for abolitionist movement tracking and independent student research projects.

6. Alamo All-Stars (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #6)

ISBN: 9781419719028 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Highlights the text's seamless pacing, transforming complex regional border skirmishes into highly clear accounts for young readers.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Affirms collection value, noting it handles critical historical figures like Bowie and Crockett with equitable treatment and facts.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Directly supports Grade 7 Texas History classroom standards and regional expansion analysis.

7. Raid of No Return (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #7)

ISBN: 9781419725562 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Applauds the multi-perspective breakdown of secret aviation maneuvers following the Pearl Harbor attacks without overwhelming young lexiles.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Commends the tactical maps and technical engineering details integrated natively into the graphic layout format.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Enhances 20th-century American military history collections and historical sequencing metrics.

8. Lafayette!: A Revolutionary War Tale (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #8)

ISBN: 9781419731488 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Praises the lively pacing that captures the French noble's enthusiasm and financial investments backing early continental forces.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Starred Review: Highlights how Hale captures Lafayette's unique humility, strategic brilliance, and the expansive resource index.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Bridges early US history timelines with international diplomacy and revolution networks.

9. Major Impossible: A Grand Canyon Tale (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #9)

ISBN: 9781419737084 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Applauds this 'adrenaline-fueled narrative' capturing John Wesley Powell's naturalist background and river exploration feats.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Praises how it seamlessly links survival instincts from the Civil War into natural geographical cataloging.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Integrates Earth Science frameworks, river systems, and western expansion mapping activities.

10. Blades of Freedom: A Tale of Haiti, Napoleon, and the Louisiana Purchase (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #10)

ISBN: 9781419746918 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Highly rates the volume for treating the Haitian Revolution as a core hinge point for broader global empires and territorial shifting.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Commends the thorough documentation of Toussaint Louverture's uprising and the subsequent real estate mechanics behind the purchase.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Provides key cross-cultural links explaining the geopolitical motives for early US expansion boundaries.

11. Cold War Correspondent: A Korean War Tale (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #11)

ISBN: 9781419749513 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Lauded for presenting mid-20th-century media, journalistic truth, and complex global proxy conflicts via digestible visuals.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Applauds the framing around a real-life reporter, delivering immediate grounding for historical events.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Supports mid-century political history units, global geography, and information/media parsing skills.

12. Above the Trenches: A World War I Flying Ace Tale (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #12)

ISBN: 9781419749520 | Category: Graphic Novel / Historical Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Highlights the text's focus on the massive technological pivot from entrenched ground infantry lines to volunteer air divisions.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Identifies it as a premier model of narrative non-fiction, prioritizing primary records, letters, and visual accuracy.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Reinforces technological development metrics in modern historical settings.

13. Shoe Dog: Young Readers Edition

ISBN: 9781534401198 | Category: Biography / Real-World Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Applauds the candid, high-interest presentation of corporate risk-taking, mistakes, and team dynamics.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Validates the text as an exceptional blueprint detailing global commerce logistics, branding mechanisms, and perseverance.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Enriches Economics, career path choices, and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) application targets.

14. The Mamba Mentality: How I Play

ISBN: 9780374201234 | Category: Biography / Technical Sports Nonfiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Acknowledges the beautiful photography and intense, candid focus detailing high-performance athletics and workflow routines.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Frequently marked as a premier high-interest bridge text to successfully anchor independent reading routines for reluctant demographics.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Satisfies interest-driven non-fiction requirements, reinforcing self-discipline and strategic practice methods.

15. Sunrise on the Reaping

ISBN: 9781546171461 | Category: Dystopian / Commercial Fiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Celebrated across national library panels for its sharp allegorical prose analyzing authority structures and collective community grit.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Highly anticipated core acquisition noted for its advanced narrative depth and strong tracking of character resilience factors.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Boosts independent literary stamina and builds textual analysis capability within advanced English classes.

16. Marvel: What If... Loki Was Worthy?

ISBN: 9780593724354 | Category: Science Fiction / Modern Mythology

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Praised for character-driven mechanics that investigate classical motifs of identity, choices, and accountability frameworks.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Commended as an engaging, high-interest fiction bridge that effectively drives text engagement among diverse learners.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Fosters comparative character analysis and explores speculative narrative structures.

17. Marvel: What If... Wanda Maximoff and Peter Parker Were Siblings?

ISBN: 9780593725702 | Category: Science Fiction / High-Interest Fiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Notes the strong translation of complex themes like loss, peer support, and family obligations into a fast-paced environment.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Identifies the author's strength in making internal character growth metrics highly visible and accessible to middle-grade levels.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Provides relatable character study foundations for student reading intervention and creative writing assignments.

18. Marvel: What If... Marc Spector Was Host to Venom?

ISBN: 9780593726877 | Category: Science Fiction / High-Interest Fiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Recognized for navigating multi-layered plot designs and complex internal dialogues seamlessly.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Highlights the book's value in building independent stamina for intermediate readers using familiar pop-culture structures.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Expands high-interest contemporary fiction blocks to cultivate regular reading routines.

19. Marvel: What If... Kitty Pryde Stole the Phoenix Force?

ISBN: 9780593598214 | Category: Science Fiction / Speculative Fiction

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Points out the intense structural emphasis highlighting individual agency, leadership paths, and loyalty markers under pressure.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Lauds the vibrant prose and clear sub-plots that make advanced multi-character pacing comprehensible.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Promotes vocabulary acceleration and expands text varieties for peer-led book discussion clubs.

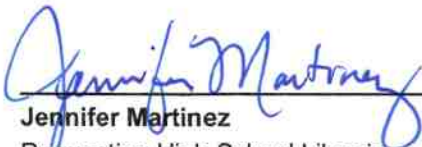
20. Marvel: What If... The Multiverse Was Doomed?

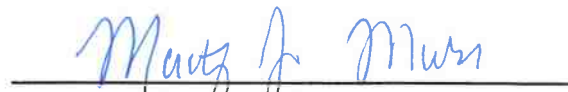
ISBN: 9780593598276 | Category: Science Fiction / Narrative Synthesis

- **Kirkus Reviews Summary:** Praised for a swift macro-level plot design that demonstrates how fragmented story elements unite under shared objectives.
- **School Library Journal Evaluation:** Notes the successful resolution of complex lore lines, driving synthesis skills across a connected book universe.
- **Middle School Curriculum Alignment:** Challenges intermediate readers to compile data strings from various books to form complete comprehension.

Administrative Review & Sign-Off

The signatures below verify that this collection has been reviewed against campus development priorities, pedagogical value, and specific curriculum metrics for Junction Middle School.


Jennifer Martinez
Requesting High School Librarian


Marty J. Murn
Campus Principal / Media Supervisor
Junction Middle School Approval