



Mississippi Library Commission's

# Book Club in a Box Kits

A Collection for Juvenile  
and Young Adults





# Book Club in a Box Kits for Children and Young Adults

- Each Book Club kit comes with 10 copies of the title and a discussion guide unless otherwise noted.
- Libraries, Schools, or Book Club Groups can sign up for book club kits for a three-month period. This includes the time to receive, distribute, discuss, and send the kits back.
- To sign up for a book club kit, your group/library will need to have an Institution Card with MLC, which is free to sign up for.
- Book Club Kits are free to check out. MLC will cover the cost of mailing the Book Club Kits to you. However, you will need to pay for the return shipping.

If you have questions or would like to schedule a Book Club in a Box Kit, contact Charlie Simpkins at

[csimpkins.mlc.lib.ms](mailto:csimpkins.mlc.lib.ms) or 601-432-4498



This publications and service is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grants to States Program as administrated by the Mississippi Library Commission

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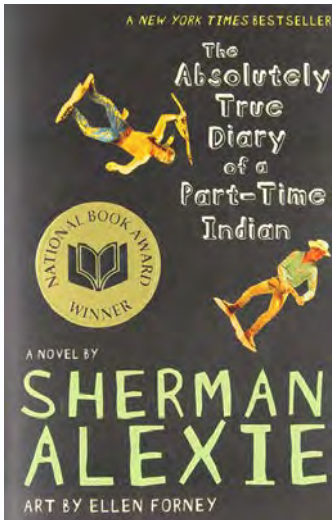
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# ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***



by Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

## **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Culturally diverse

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Own voices

**Tone:** Angst-filled; Atmospheric; Upbeat

## **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Coming-of-age stories; Diary novels; Illustrated books; Pacific Northwest fiction; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** Diaries; Emotions in teenagers; Friendship; High schools; Identity (Psychology); Indian reservations; Native American teenage boys; Race relations; Spokane Indians; Teenage cartoonists

## **Read-Alikes**



***If I Ever Get Out of Here*** by Eric L. Gansworth

***Character, Driven*** by David Lubar

***The Counterfeit Family Tree of Vee Crawford-Wong*** by L. Tam Holland

***Matthew meets the Man*** by Travis Nichols

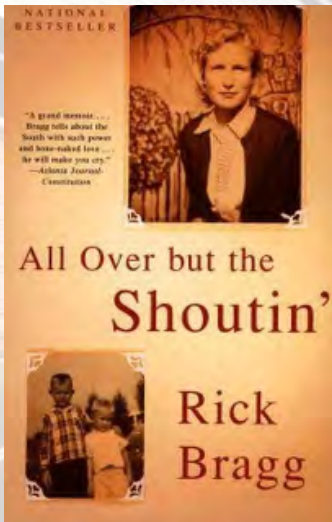


## ***All Over but the Shoutin'***

by Rick Bragg

A Pulitzer Prize-winning

correspondent for The New York Times recounts growing up in the Alabama hills, the son of a violent veteran and a mother who tried to insulate her children from poverty and ignorance.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Pace:** Leisurely paced

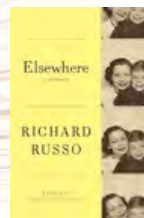
**Tone:** Atmospheric; Nostalgic; Reflective

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Arts and Entertainment; Autobiographies and memoirs; Family and Relationships; Life stories; Nonfiction that reads like fiction

**Subjects:** Alcoholic fathers; Bragg, Rick; Family relationships; Growing up; Journalists; Mothers and sons; Poor families

### **Read-Alikes**



***A Childhood: A Biography of a Place*** by Harry Crews

***Under Magnolia*** by Frances Mayes

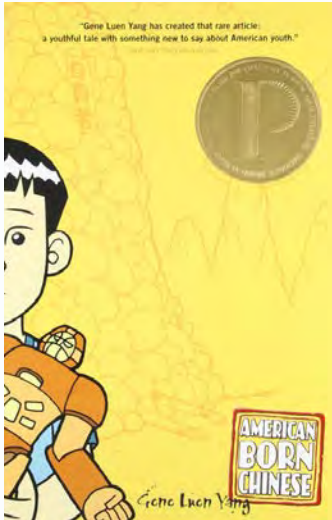
***Elsewhere*** by Richard Russo

***Take this Man*** by Brando Skyhorse

## ***American Born Chinese***

by Gene Luen Yang

Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Culturally diverse

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Intricately plotted; Own voices

**Tone:** Funny

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Comics and Graphic novels

**Subjects:** Chinese Americans; Identity (Psychology); Misfits (Persons); Racism; Schools; Social acceptance; Stereotypes (Social psychology); Teenagers

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Accidental Genius of Weasel High*** by Rick Detorie

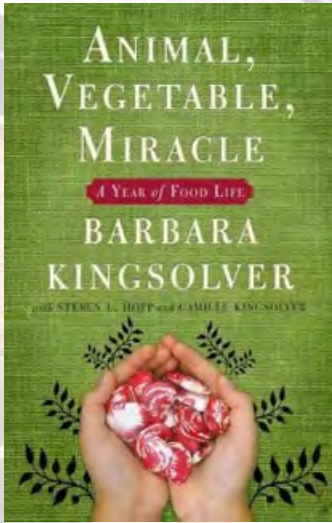
***The Counterfeit Family Tree of Vee Crawford-Wong*** by L. Tam Holland

***Almost American Girl*** by Robin Ha

***Awkward*** by Svetlana Chmakova



## ***Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life***



by Barbara Kingsolver  
Follows the author's family's efforts to live on locally- and home-grown foods, an endeavor through which they learned lighthearted truths about food production and the connection between health and diet.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Tone:** Thought-provoking

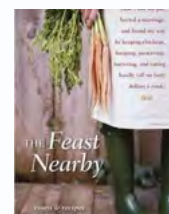
**Writing Style:** Descriptive

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Food writing; Life stories

**Subjects:** Agriculture; Diet; Farm life; Food habits; Hopp, Steven L., 1954-; Kingsolver, Barbara; Natural foods; Rural life

### **Read-Alikes**



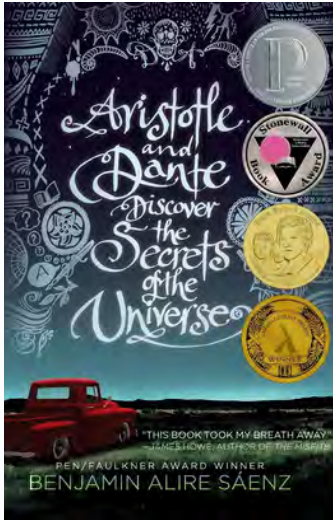
***Blessing the Hands that Feed Us*** by Vicki Robin

***The Gift of Good Land*** by Wendell Berry

***My Life in France*** by Julia Child

***The Feast Nearby*** by Robin Mather

## ***Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe***



by Benjamin Alire Sáenz  
Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Brooding; Culturally diverse; LGBTQIA diverse

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Own voices

**Tone:** Thought-provoking

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Coming-of-age stories; First person narratives; LGBTQIA fiction

**Subjects:** Families; Fifteen-year-old boys; Friendship; Gay teenagers; Homosexuality; Identity (Psychology); Loners; Mexican American teenage boys; Teenage boy/boy relations; Teenage boys

### **Read-Alikes**



***Like Water*** by Rebecca Podos



***The Black Flamingo*** by Dean Atta



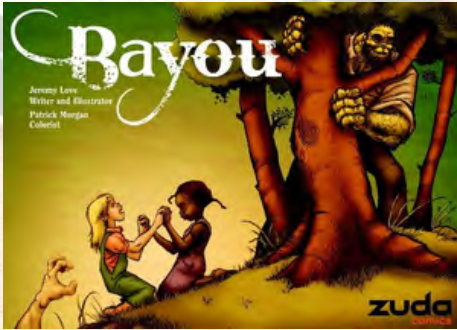
***Darius the Great Is Not Okay*** by Adib Khorram



***A Girl Like That*** by Tanaz Bhathena



## ***Bayou, Vol. 1***



by Jeremy Love  
Lee Wagstaff is the daughter of a black sharecropper in the depression-era town of Charon, Mississippi. When Lily Westmoreland, her white playmate, is snatched by

agents of an evil creature known as Bog, Lee's father is accused of kidnapping. Lee's only hope is to follow Lily's trail into this fantastic and frightening alternate world.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Culturally diverse

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Afrofuturism and Afrofantasy; Comics and Graphic novels; Historical fantasy

**Subjects:** African American girls; African Americans; Depressions; Interracial friendship; Lynching; Magic; Malicious accusation; Missing children; Monsters; Racism; Rescues

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Water Dancer*** by Ta-Nehisi Coates

***The Twelve-Mile Straight*** by Eleanor Henderson

***Whistling Past the Graveyard*** by Susan Crandall

***Lay that Trumpet in Our Hands*** by Susan Carol McCarthy

## ***The BFG***



by Roald Dahl

Kid snatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Slaying the dragon

**Pace:** Fast-paced

**Tone:** Funny; Whimsical

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction

**Subjects:** Friendship; Giants; Orphans

### **Read-Alikes**



***Liesl & Po*** by Lauren Oliver

***A Tale Dark & Grimm*** by Adam Gidwitz

***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*** by Lewis Carroll

***The Perilous Princess Plot*** by Sarah Courtault



## ***Code Name Verity***



by Elizabeth Wein

After crash-landing in France in 1943 and being captured by Nazis, a female wireless operator for the British (who goes by Queenie, Eva, Verity, and various other aliases) reveals bits of code in exchange for reprieve from torture...and to postpone her execution.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Unreliable narrator

**Storyline:** Character-driven

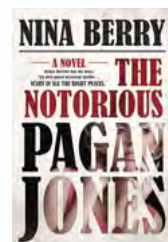
**Tone:** Haunting; Suspenseful

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Historical fiction; War stories

**Subjects:** Courage in young women; Espionage; Friendship; Insurgency; Nazis; Pilots; S. S.; Torture; Women pilots; World War II

### **Read-Alikes**



***Front Lines*** by Michael Grant

***Among the Red Stars*** by Gwen C. Katz

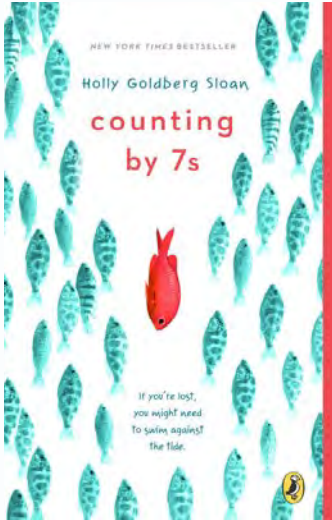
***Flygirl*** by Sherri L. Smith

***The Notorious Pagan Jones*** by Nina Berry

## ***Counting by 7s***

by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Coping with death; Misfits united

**Character:** Ability diverse

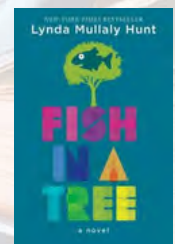
**Storyline:** Character-driven

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Multiple perspectives; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** Fatal traffic accidents; Genius; Girl misfits; Girl orphans; Parents; Preteen girls; Twelve-year-old girls

### **Read-Alikes**



***Out of My Mind*** by Sharon M. Draper (Sharon Mills)

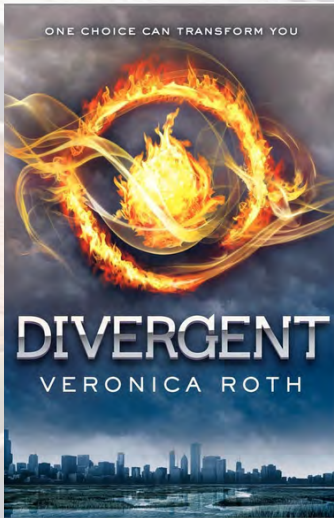
***Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree*** by Lauren Tarshis

***Mockingbird*** by Kathryn Erskine

***Fish in a Tree*** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt



## ***Divergent***



by Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Courageous

**Storyline:** Intricately plotted; World-building

**Tone:** Bleak; Suspenseful

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Dystopian fiction; First person narratives; Science fiction

**Subjects:** Courage; Dystopias; Families; Identity (Psychology); Options, alternatives, choices; Prior, Tris (Fictitious character); Sixteen-year-old girls; Social classes; Teenage girls

### **Read-Alikes**



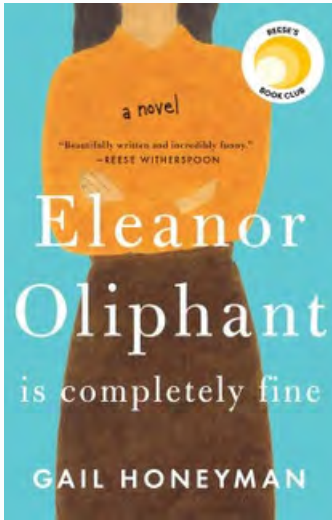
***Delirium*** by Lauren Oliver

***The Testing*** by Joelle Charbonneau

***Uglies*** by Scott Westerfeld

***Pawn*** by Aimee Carter

## ***Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine***



by Gail Honeyman

A socially awkward, routine-oriented loner teams up with a bumbling IT guy from her office to assist an elderly accident victim, forging a friendship that saves all three from lives of isolation and secret unhappiness.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Dealing with mental illness; Fish out of water

**Character:** Awkward; Quirky; Sympathetic

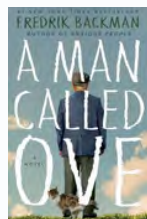
**Storyline:** Character-driven

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Relationship fiction

**Subjects:** Abused women; Accidents; Computer programmers; Consequences; Friendship; Interpersonal relations; Life change events; Loners; Misfits (Persons); Office workers; Senior men; Social isolation

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Cactus*** by Sarah Haywood

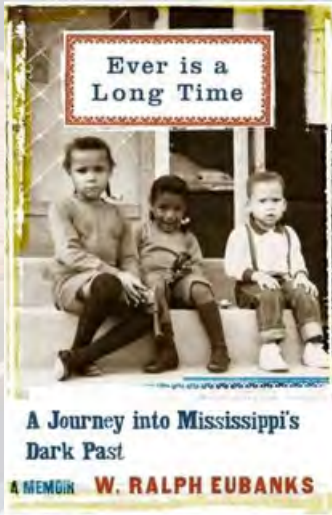
***A Man called Ove*** by Fedrik Backman

***The Rosie Project*** by Graeme C. Simsion

***The Lost for Words Bookshop*** by Stephanie Butland



## ***Ever is a Long Time: a Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past, a Memoir***



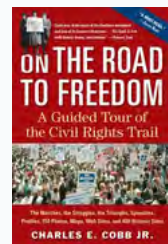
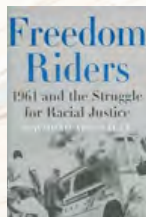
by W. Ralph Eubanks  
A account of coming of age in Mississippi during the civil rights era describes growing up outside a small, racially divided town, the role of the State Sovereignty Commission, and the impact of forced integration and other events.

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; History writing; Life stories

**Subjects:** African American children; African Americans; Eubanks, W. Ralph, 1957–; Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission; Racism; Segregation in education

### **Read-Alikes**



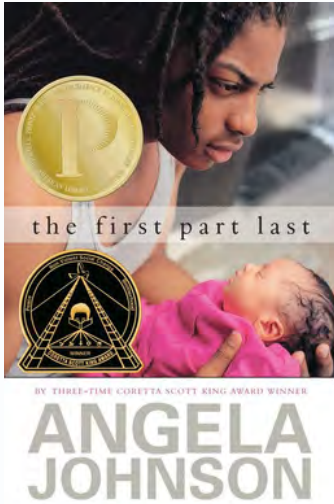
***Carry Me Home*** by Diane McWhorter

***Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*** by Raymond Arsenault

***Open Wide the Freedom Gates*** by Dorothy I. Height (Dorothy Irene)

***On the Road to Freedom: A Guided Tour of the Civil Rights Trail*** by Charles E. Cobb, Jr.

## ***The First Part Last***



by Angela Johnson

When his girlfriend Nia announces that she is pregnant, sixteen-year-old Bobby, a typical urban New York City teenager, must cast aside his life of partying to visit obstetricians and social workers, who try to convince them to give their baby up for adoption, until tragedy strikes.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Teen pregnancy and parenting

**Character:** Culturally diverse; Well-developed

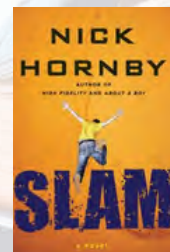
**Storyline:** Intricately plotted; Issue-oriented; Own voices

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** African American fiction; Books for reluctant readers; Coming-of-age stories; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** African American teenage boys; African Americans; Father and child; Infants; Parental love; Parenthood; Single teenage fathers; Sixteen-year-old boys; Teenage fathers; Teenage parents; Teenagers in comas

### **Read-Alikes**



***What You Left Behind*** by Jessica Verdi

***Mahalia*** Joanne Horniman

***My Book of Life by Angel*** by Martine Leavitt

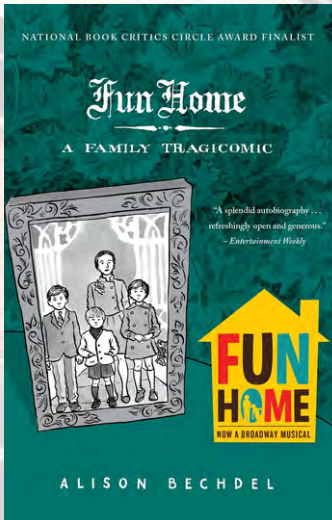
***Slam*** by Nick Hornby



## ***Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic***

by Alison Bechdel

An unusual memoir done in the form of a graphic novel by a cult favorite comic artist offers a darkly funny family portrait that details her relationship with her father, a historic preservation expert dedicated to restoring the family's Victorian home, funeral home director, high-school English teacher, and closeted homosexual.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** LGBTQIA diverse

**Tone:** Moving; Reflective

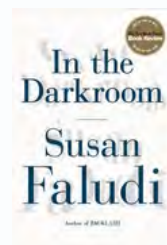
**Writing Style:** Conversational

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; Family and Relationships; LGBTQIA comics; Life stories

**Subjects:** Bechdel, Alison, 1960–; Brothers; Cartoonists; Children of divorced parents; Closeted gay men; Death; Divorce; Fathers and daughters; Funeral homes; Gay men; Historic preservation; Lesbian teenagers; Parent and child; Teachers; Teacher-student relationships; Undertakers

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Undertaker's Daughter*** by Katherine Mayfield

***Stitches*** by David Small

***Fairyland*** by Alysia Abbott

***In the Darkroom*** by Susan Faludi

## *Ghost*



by Jason Reynolds

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Culturally diverse; Sympathetic

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Own voices

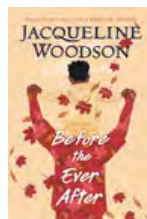
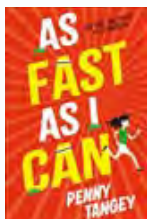
**Tone:** Emotionally intense

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** African American fiction; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** African American boys; Children of prisoners; Fathers and sons; Middle schools; Runners; Schools; Sprinting; Track and field

### **Read-Alikes**



***A High Five for Glenn Burke*** by Phil Bildner

***As Fast as I Can*** by Penny Tangey

***Before the Ever After*** by Jacqueline Woodson

***Kinda Like Brothers*** by Coe Booth



## Goldeline



by Jimmy Cajoleas

Traveling between camps in the magical forests of the Hinterlands, a young girl with gold-flecked eyes and hair as white as summer snow survives on items pillaged by her gang of bandits while being tracked by a witch hunter who wants to cleanse the forest of anyone who is different.

### Appeal Factors

**Character:** Relatable

**Tone:** Atmospheric

**Writing Style:** Attention-grabbing

### Story Elements

**Genres:** Fantasy fiction

**Subjects:** Clergy; Eleven-year-old girls; Forests; Freedom; Friendship; Fugitives; Good and evil; Magic; Mythical creatures; Outlaws; Suspicion

### Read-Alikes



***The Girl who Drank the Moon*** by Kelly Regan Bamhill



***Snow & Rose*** Emily Winfield Martin



***Igraine the Brave*** by Cornelia Funke



***Jinx*** by Sage Blackwood

## ***The Good Lord Bird***

by James McBride



Mistaken for a girl on account of his curly hair, delicate features, and sackcloth smock, 12-year-old slave Henry Shackleford realizes that his accidental disguise affords

him greater safety and decides to remain female. Dubbed "Little Onion" by his liberator, abolitionist John Brown, Henry accompanies the increasingly fanatical

Brown on his crusade to end slavery -- a picaresque journey that takes them from Bloody Kansas to Rochester, New York, where they attempt to enlist the support of such notables as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman before embarking on the infamous, ill-fated 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Authentic; Flawed

**Pace:** Fast-paced

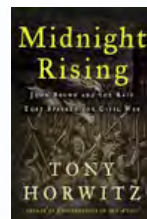
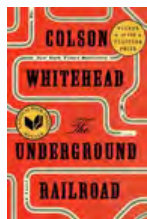
**Storyline:** Character-driven

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; African American fiction; Books to TV; Historical fiction; Literary fiction

**Subjects:** Abolitionists; Brown, John, 1800-1859; Children and adults; Extremists; False personation; Female impersonators; Fugitive slaves; Gender identity; Obsession; Self-perception in men; Twelve-year-olds

### **Read-Alikes**



***Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen*** by Sarah Bird

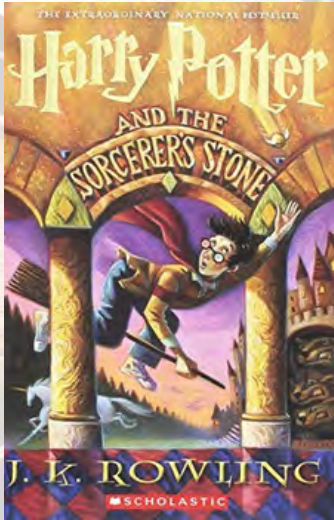
***The Underground Railroad*** by Colson Whitehead

***Midnight Rising*** by Tony Horwitz

***Cloudsplitter*** Russell Banks



## ***Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone***



by J.K. Rowling

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Courageous; Well-developed

**Storyline:** Plot-driven; World-building

**Tone:** Suspenseful

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction

**Subjects:** Boarding schools; Child wizards; Eleven-year-old boys; Magic; Potter, Harry (Fictitious character); Schools; Witches; Wizards; Wizards' apprentices

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Magic Thief*** by Sarah Prineas

***The Lightning Thief*** by Rick Riordan

***Midnight for Charlie Bone*** by Jenny Nimmo

***Fablehaven*** by Brandon Mull

## ***\*The Hate U Give***

by Angie Thomas

After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died.



\*Two sets available. One set of 10 copies. One set of 20 copies.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Facing racism

**Character:** Authentic; Culturally diverse

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Issue-oriented; Own voices

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** African American fiction; Books to movies; First person narratives; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** African American teenage girls; Black Lives Matter movement; Friendship; Gangs; Interracial dating; Police shootings; Prep schools; Public relations; Racism; Schools; Sixteen-year-old girls; Teenage girls; Witnesses

### **Read-Alikes**



***I am Alfonso Jones*** by Tony Medina

***Amelia Westlake was Never Here*** by Erin Gough

***The Truth of Right Now*** by Kara Lee Corthorn

***The Rose that Grew from Concrete*** by Tupac Shakur



## ***Hello, Universe***



by Erin Entrada Kelly  
Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Ability diverse; Culturally diverse

**Storyline:** Own voices

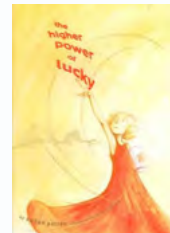
**Tone:** Hopeful; Suspenseful

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Multiple perspectives; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** Bullying and bullies; Filipino American boys; Filipino Americans; Friendship; Girl psychics; Girls who are deaf; Guinea pigs; Japanese American girls; Missing boys; Rescues; Resilience (Personal quality); Self-acceptance; Sixth-graders

### **Read-Alikes**



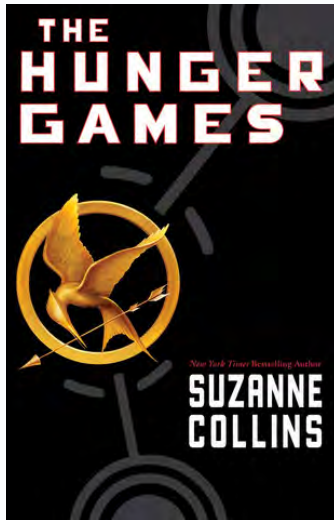
***Save Me a Seat*** by Sarah Weeks

***The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*** by Leslie Connor

***It Wasn't Me*** by Dana Alison Levy

***The Higher Power of Lucky*** by Susan Patron

## ***The Hunger Games***



by Suzanne Collins  
In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Strong female

**Storyline:** Action-packed; Character-driven; World-building

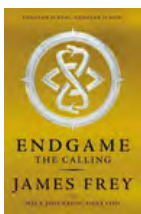
**Tone:** Bleak; Menacing; Strong sense of place; Suspenseful

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Dystopian fiction; First person narratives; Science fiction

**Subjects:** Competition; Contests; Dystopias; Everdeen, Katniss (Fictitious character); Interpersonal relations; Sisters; Sixteen-year-old girls; Survival; Teenage boy/girl relations; Television programs

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Calling*** by James Frey

***Divergent*** Veronica Roth

***The Culling*** by Steven Dos Santos

***Birthmarked*** by Caragh M. O'Brien



## *I am J*



by Cris Beam

J, who feels like a boy mistakenly born as a girl, runs away from his best friend who has rejected him and the parents he thinks do not understand him when he finally decides that it is time to be who he really is.

### Appeal Factors

**Character:** LGBTQIA diverse

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Issue-oriented

**Tone:** Emotionally intense

### Story Elements

**Genres:** Books for reluctant readers; LGBTQIA fiction; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** Emotional problems of teenagers; Friendship; Identity (Psychology); Rejection (Psychology); Seventeen-year-olds; Teenagers; Transgender teenage boys; Transgender teenagers

### Read-Alikes



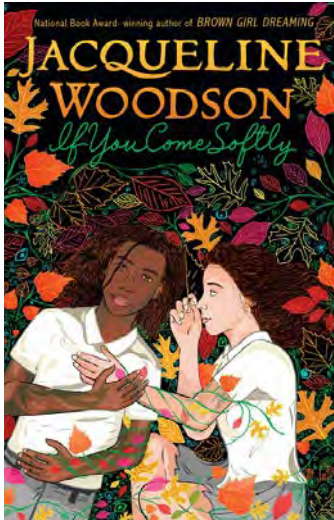
***Beautiful Music for Ugly Children*** by Kristin Cronn-Mills

***Parrotfish*** by Ellen Wittlinger

***Alex as Well*** by Alyssa Brugman

***Girl Mans Up*** by M-E Girard

## ***If You Come Softly***



by Jacqueline Woodson

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Culturally diverse

**Storyline:** Intricately plotted; Own voices

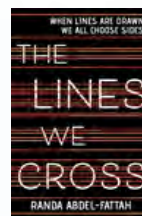
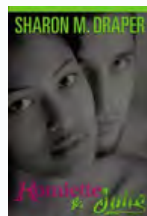
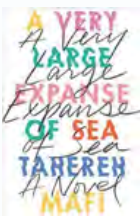
**Tone:** Angst-filled; Moving; Reflective; Romantic; Thought-provoking

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** African American fiction; Love stories; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** African American teenage boys; Interracial romance; Jewish American teenage girls; Prep school students; Prep schools; Racism; Teenage romance

### **Read-Alikes**



***A Very Large Expanse of Sea*** by Tahereh Mafi

***Romiette and Julio*** by Sharon M. Draper (Saron Mills)

***The Lines We Cross*** by Randa Abdel-Fattah

***All American Boys*** by Jason Reynolds



# ***I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer***



by Michelle McNamara  
An account of the unsolved Golden State Killer case, written by the late author of the TrueCrimeDiary.com website traces the rapes and murders of dozens of victims and the author's determined efforts to help identify the killer and bring him to justice.

## **Appeal Factors**

**Tone:** Haunting; Menacing

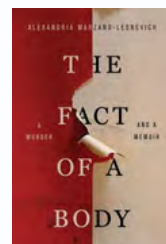
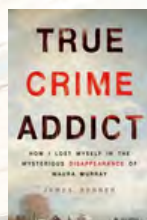
**Writing Style:** Accessible; Compelling; Well-researched

## **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Nonfiction that reads like fiction; True crime

**Subjects:** Cold cases (Criminal investigation); Crimes against women; Criminal investigation; Home invasions; McNamara, Michelle, 1970–2016; Searching; Serial murders; Serial rapists; Violence against women

## **Read-Alikes**



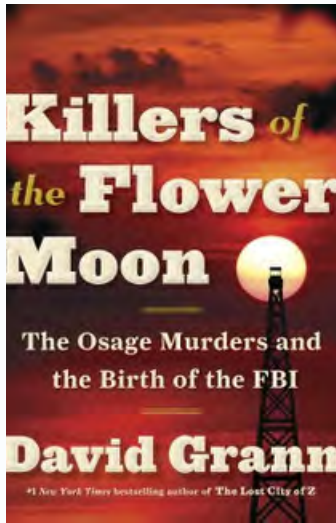
***Chase Darkness with Me: How One True-Crime Writer started Solving Murders*** by Billy Bensen

***True Crime Addict: How I Lost Myself in the Mysterious Disappearance of Maura Murray*** by James Renner

***Lost Girls: An Unsolved American Mystery*** by Robert Kolker

***The Fact of a Body: A Murder and a Memoir*** by Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich

# ***Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI***



by David Grann

Presents a true account of the early 20th-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

## **Appeal Factors**

**Tone:** Disturbing

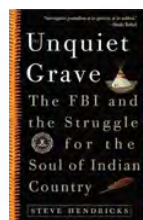
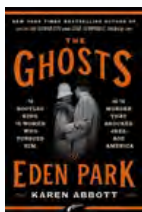
**Writing Style:** Compelling; Richly detailed

## **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; History writing; Nonfiction that reads like fiction; True Crime

**Subjects:** FBI; Indians of North America; Murder investigation; Oil wells; Osage Indians; Racism; Serial murders

## **Read-Alikes**



***The Ghosts of Eden Park*** by Karen Abbott

***Love and Death in the Sunshine State*** by Cutter Wood

***The Unquiet Grave*** by Steve Hendricks

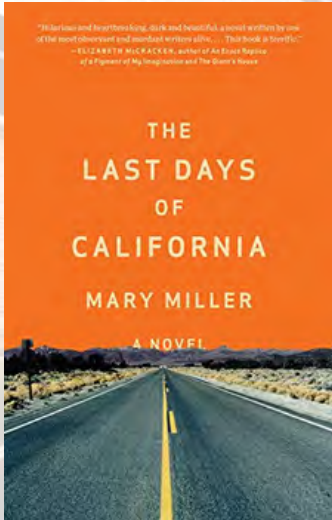
***The World's Richest Indian*** by Tanis C. Thorne



## ***The Last Days of California***

by Mary Miller

Fourteen-year-old Jess' beliefs falter when her evangelical father packs up the family, including her secretly pregnant older sister and her long-suffering mother, to travel across the country and save souls ahead of the anticipated end of the world.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Road tripping

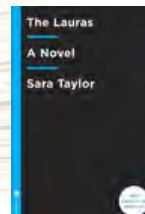
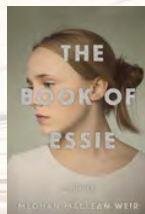
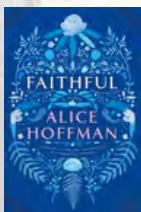
**Tone:** Atmospheric; Moving

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories

**Subjects:** Automobile travel; Christians; Cross-country automobile trips; Families; Family relationships; Partying; Rapture (Christian eschatology); Self-destructive behavior; Self-discovery; Teenage girls

### **Read-Alikes**



***Faithful*** by Alice Hoffman

***The Book of Essie*** by Meghan MacLean Weir

***The Lauras*** by Sara Taylor

***The Girl who Slept with God*** by Val Brelinski

## ***Let the Right One In***

by John Ajvide Lindqvist

Twelve-year-old Oskar is obsessed by the murder that's taken place in his neighborhood. Then he meets the new girl from next door. She's a bit weird, though. And she only comes out at night.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Childhood trauma; Vampire menace

**Storyline:** Character-driven

**Tone:** Bleak; Creepy; Disturbing; Menacing

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; Horror; Translations

**Subjects:** Curiosity in boys; Neighbors; Obsession; Overweight boys; Revenge; Suburban life; Teenage murder victims; Twelve-year-old boys; Vampires

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Lesser Dead*** by Christopher Buehlman

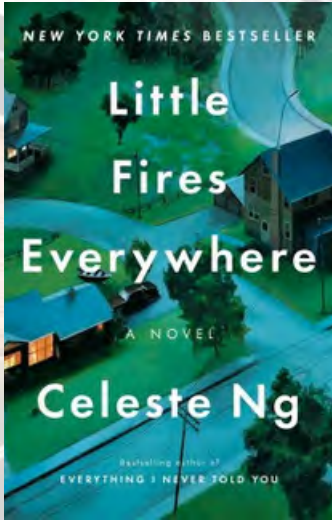
***Hex*** by Thomas Olde Heuvelt

***Locke and Key*** by Joe Hill

***The Shadows*** by Alex North



## ***Little Fires Everywhere***



by Celeste Ng

Fighting an ugly custody battle with an artistic tenant who has little regard for the strict rules of their progressive Cleveland suburb, a straitlaced family woman who is seeking to adopt a baby becomes obsessed with exposing the tenant's past, only to trigger devastating consequences for both of their families.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Maybe baby; Suburban malaise

**Character:** Complex

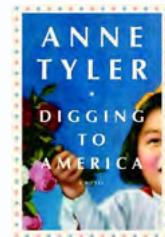
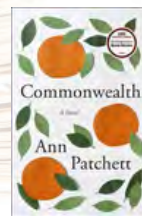
**Storyline:** Character-driven; Nonlinear

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Books to TV; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives

**Subjects:** Adoption; Artists; Child custody; Consequences; Interpersonal conflict; Interracial adoption; Landlord and tenant; Secrets; Single mothers

### **Read-Alikes**



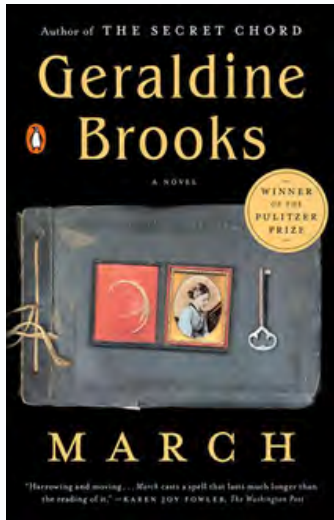
***Such a Fun Age*** by Kiley Reid

***Big Little Lies*** by Liane Moriarty

***Commonwealth*** by Ann Patchett

***Digging to America*** by Anne Tyler

## ***March: A Novel***



by Geraldine Brooks  
Set during the American Civil War, March tells the story of John March, known to us as the father away from his family of girls in Little Women, Louisa May Alcott's classic American novel.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Complex; Courageous; Flawed

**Storyline:** Character-driven

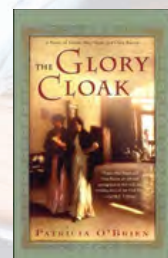
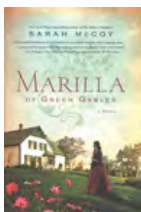
**Tone:** Bittersweet; Dramatic

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adaptations; Adult books for young adults; Australian fiction; Epistolary novels; First person narratives; Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives; War stories

**Subjects:** Abolitionists; Civil war; Families; Father-separated families; Freed slaves; Husband and wife; March family (Fictitious characters); Married men; Military chaplains; Plantation life; Racism; Separated friends, relatives, etc.; Slavery; Teachers; United States Civil War, 1861-1865

### **Read-Alikes**



***Marilla of Green Gables*** by Sarah McCoy

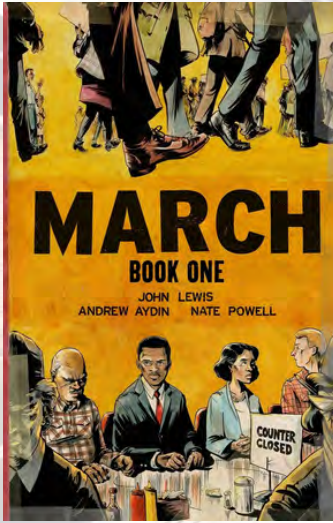
***Hamnet*** by Maggie O'Farrell

***Twain and Stanley Enter Paradise*** by Oscar Hijuelos

***The Glory Cloak*** by Patricia O'Brien



## ***March: Book One***



by John Lewis

A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Own voices

**Tone:** Dramatic

**Writing Style:** Compelling

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Antiracist literature; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; History writing; Life stories; Society and culture

**Subjects:** African Americans; Civil rights; Civil Rights Movement; King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929–1968; Lewis, John, 1940–2020; Nonviolence; Politicians; Protests, demonstrations, vigils, etc.; Racism; Rural boys; Segregation; Student movements

### **Read-Alikes**



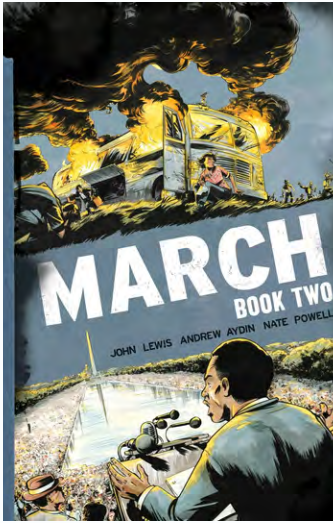
***They called Us Enemy*** by George Takei

***Grand Theft Horse*** by Greg Neri

***King*** by Ho Che Anderson

***The Silence of Our Friends*** by Mark Long

## ***March: Book Two***



by John Lewis

The award-winning, best-selling series returns, as John Lewis' story continues through Freedom Rides and the legendary 1963 March on Washington.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Own voices

**Tone:** Dramatic

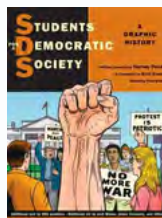
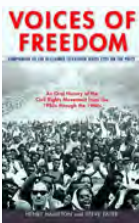
**Writing Style:** Compelling

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Antiracist literature; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; History writing; Life stories; Society and culture

**Subjects:** African Americans; Civil rights; Civil Rights Movement; Lewis, John, 1940-2020; Nonviolence; Politicians; Protests, demonstrations, vigils, etc.; Race relations; Racism; Segregation; Student movements; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)

### **Read-Alikes**



***Voices of Freedom*** by Henry Hampton

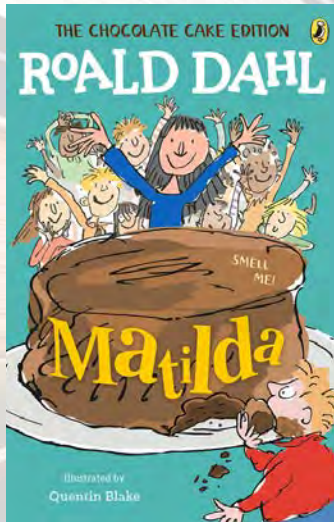
***Students for a Democratic Society*** by Harvey Pekar

***The Hammer and the Anvil*** by Dwight Jon Zimmerman

***The Ukrainian and Russian Notebooks*** by Igort



# Matilda



by Roald Dahl

Child genius, Matilda, applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

## Appeal Factors

**Storyline:** Character-driven

**Tone:** Funny; Whimsical

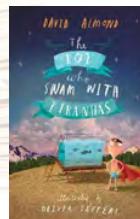
**Writing Style:** Attention-grabbing; Witty

## Story Elements

**Genres:** Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction; Humorous stories; Low fantasy

**Subjects:** Assertiveness in girls; Elementary school teachers; Elementary schools; Gifted girls; Independence in girls; Magic; Practical jokes; Reading; Revenge; School children; Supernatural; Teachers; Teacher-student relationships; Women headmasters

## Read-Alikes



***The League of Beastly Dreadfuls*** by Holly Grant

***The Fantastic Family Whipple*** by Matthew Ward

***The Boy who Swam with Piranhas*** by David Almond

***Operation Bunny*** by Sally Gardner

## ***Maus: Books I and II***



by Art Spiegelman

The author-illustrator traces his father's imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp through a series of disarming and unusual cartoons arranged to tell the story as a novel.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Anthropomorphic

**Tone:** Haunting; Moving; Sobering

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; History writing; Life stories

**Subjects:** Auschwitz (Concentration camp); Children of Holocaust survivors; Comic book illustrators; Comic book writers; Fathers and sons; Holocaust (1933-1945); Holocaust survivors; Jewish American men; Jewish Americans; Spiegelman, Vladek, 1906-1982; Spiegelman, Art; Spiegelman, Vladek, 1906-1982; Survival (in concentration camps, prisons, etc.)

### **Read-Alikes**



***When Time Stopped*** by Ariana Neumann

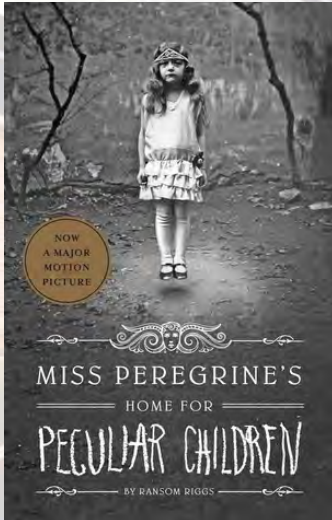
***Death March Escape*** by Jack J. Hersch

***But You Did Not Come Back*** by Marceline Loridan

***A Brief Stop on the Road from Auschwitz*** by Goran Rosenberg



## ***\*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children***



by Ransom Riggs

After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering disturbing facts about the children who were kept there.

\*A set of 6 copies in Spanish also available.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Theme:** Time loop

**Characters:** Authentic; Well-developed

**Tone:** Atmospheric; Creepy

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books to movies; Fantasy fiction; Illustrated books

**Subjects:** Abandoned property; Grandfathers; Islands; Orphanages; Sixteen-year-old boys; Supernatural; Teenage boys; Time travel (Past)

### **Read-Alikes**



***Asylum*** by Madeleine Roux

***Anna Dressed in Blood*** by Kendare Blake

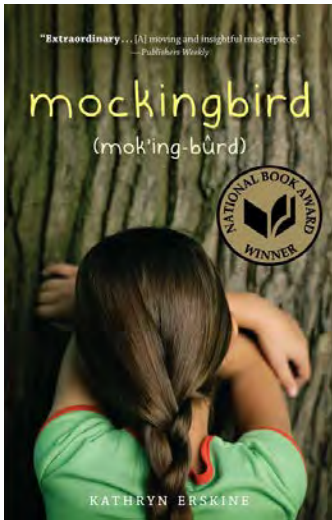
***The Shrunk Head*** by Lauren Oliver

***The Secret Hour*** by Scott Westerfeld

## ***Mockingbird***

by Kathryn Erskine

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Living with invisible disability

**Characters:** Ability diverse

**Storyline:** Character-driven

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** Asperger's syndrome; Brothers; Children with Asperger's syndrome; Emotions in girls; Empathy; Empathy in girls; Families; Grief in families; Mass shootings; School shootings; Schools; Ten-year-old girls

### **Read-Alikes**



***All the Broken Pieces*** by Ann E. Burg

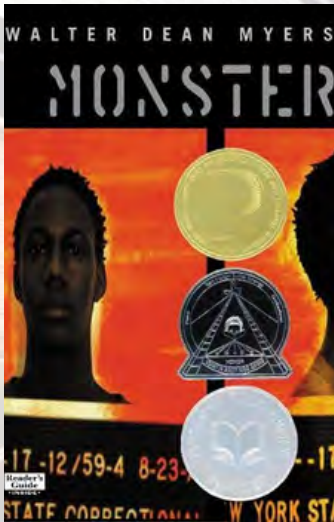
***The London Eye Mystery*** by Siobhan Dowd

***As Simple as It Seems*** by Sarah Weeks

***A Summer to Die*** by Lois Lowry



## ***Monster***



by Walter Dean Myers  
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Open-ended; Unconventional

**Tone:** Reflective; Suspenseful; Thought-provoking

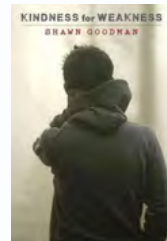
**Writing Style:** Compelling; Well-crafted dialogue

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** African American fiction; Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** African-American teenage prisoners; Prisons; Self-perception; Sixteen-year-old boys; Teenage murder suspects; Teenage prisoners; Trials (Murder)

### **Read-Alikes**



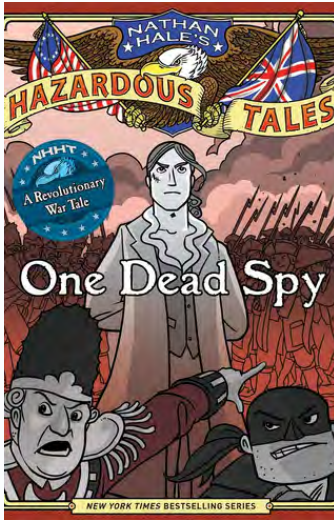
***The Walls Around Us*** by Nova Ren Suma

***Long Way Down*** by Jason Reynolds

***Punching the Air*** by Ibi Aanu Zoboi

***Kindness for Weakness*** by Shawn Goodman

## **\*Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: One Dead Spy**



by Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale, the author's historical namesake, was America's first spy, a Revolutionary War hero who famously said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before being hanged by the British. In the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, and craziest stories in the graphic novel format.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Writing Style:** Attention-grabbing

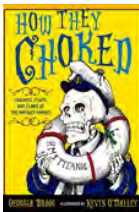
\*Includes 1 copy of *Top Secret: a Handbook of Codes, Ciphers and Secret Writing* by Paul B. Janeczko and 24 secret message invisible ink pens with black light (various colors).

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Biographies; Comics and Graphic novels; History books; Narrative nonfiction for kids and teens

**Subjects:** American Revolution, 1775-1783; Hale, Nathan, 1755-1776; Military intelligence officers; Revolutions; Soldiers; Spies

### **Read-Alikes**



***How They Choked*** by Georgia Bragg

***The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912*** by Lauren Tarshis

***George Washington's Secret Six*** by Brian Kilmeade

***Spies of the American Revolution*** by Elizabeth Raum



## ***Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong***



by Prudence Shen

Charlie, the captain of the basketball team, and Nate, the president of the robotics club, are bestfriends. Their friendship is tested when the robotics club and the cheerleading squad--who use Charlie as their figurehead--compete for student group funding.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Plot-driven

**Tone:** Angst-filled; High-drama

**Writing Style:** Compelling

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books for reluctant readers; Comics and Graphic novels; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** Competition in teenagers; Divorce; Friendship; Geeks (Computer enthusiasts); High school athletes; High school basketball; High school students; Robotics; Robots; Teenage boy/girl relations

### **Read-Alikes**



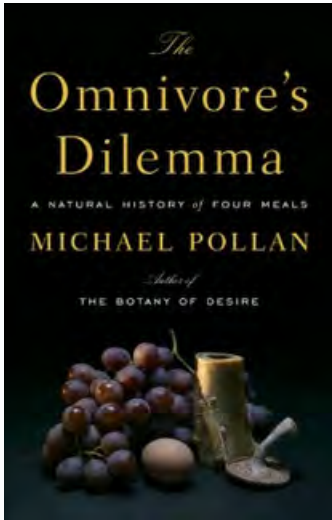
***Fat Boy vs. the Cheerleaders*** by Geoff Herbach

***The Plain Janes*** by Cecil Castellucci

***SideScrollers*** by Matthew Loux

***Awkward*** by Svetlana Chmakova

## ***The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals***



by Michael Pollan  
Offers insight into food consumption in the twenty-first century, explaining how an abundance of unlimited food varieties reveals the responsibilities of consumers to protect their health and the environment.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Tone:** Sobering; Thought-provoking

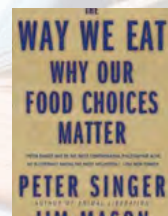
**Writing Style:** Accessible; Well-researched

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Food writing

**Subjects:** Corn; Diet; Food; Food consumption; Food habits; Natural foods; Omnivores

### **Read-Alikes**



***Gurb*** by Anna Lappe

***The Mindful Carnivore*** by Tovar Cerulli

***All Natural*** by Nathanael Johnson

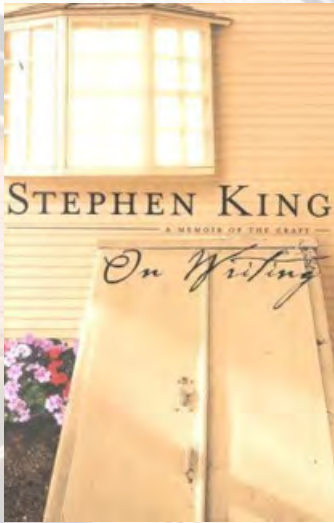
***The Way We Eat*** by Peter Singer



## ***On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft***

by Stephen King

The author shares his insights into the craft of writing and offers a humorous perspective on his own experience as a writer.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Tone:** Darkly humorous; Reflective

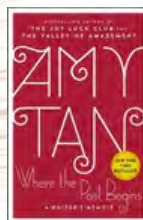
**Writing Style:** Conversational

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Arts and Entertainment; Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories

**Subjects:** Authors, American; Horror story writing; King, Stephen, 1947-; Writing

### **Read-Alikes**



***Daemon Voices*** by Philip Pullman

***Consider This*** by Chuck Palahniuk

***Where the Past Begins*** by Amy Tan

***Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*** by Anne Lamott

## ***One Crazy Summer***

by Rita Williamson-Garcia



In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Meet the family

**Character:** Culturally diverse; Well-developed

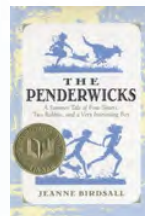
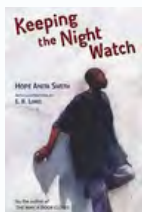
**Storyline:** Character-driven; Own voices

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** African American fiction; First person narratives; Historical fiction

**Subjects:** African American girls; Black Panther Party; Civil Rights Movement; Eleven-year-old girls; Girls; Mother-deserted children; Mothers; Poets; Sisters; Summer camps

### **Read-Alikes**



***Keeping the Night Watch*** by Hope Anita Smith

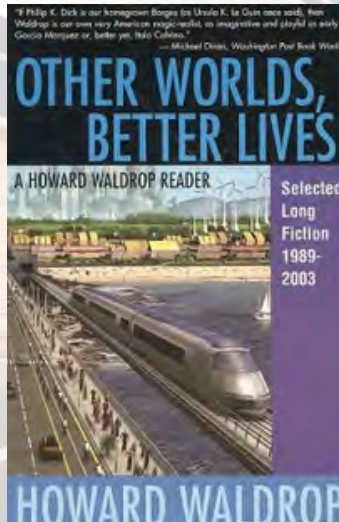
***The Perfect Place*** by Teresa E. Harris

***The Penderwicks*** by Jeanne Birdsall

***Some Places More than Others*** by Renee Watson



## ***Other Worlds, Better Lives, Selected Long Fiction, 1989-2003***



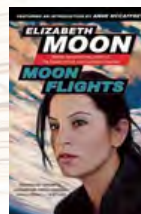
by Howard Waldrop  
Presents a collection of science fiction novellas that describes alternate histories for places around the world throughout the twentieth century.

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Fantasy fiction; Science fiction; Short stories

**Subjects:** Social movements

### **Read-Alikes**



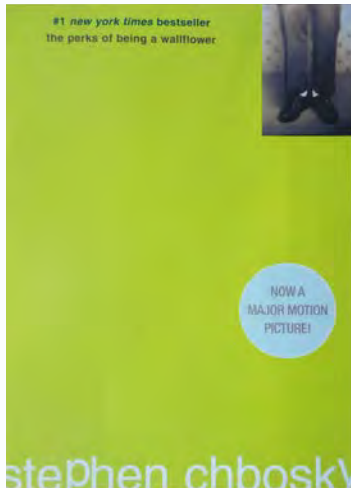
### ***The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year, Vol. 6***

***Keeper of Dreams*** by Orson Scott Card

***Moon Flights*** by Elizabeth Moon

***Nebula Awards Showcase 2017***

## ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***



by Stephen Chbosky  
Charlie is shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward; he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. Charlie attempts to navigate his way through the uncharted territory of high school: the world of first dates and mix-tapes, family dramas and new friends.

Standing on the fringes of life offers a unique perspective. But there comes a time to see what it looks like from the dance floor.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Theme:** Unreliable narrator

**Character:** LGBTQIA diverse

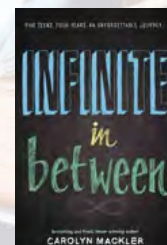
**Storyline:** Character-driven

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Classics; Coming-of-age stories; Diary novels; Epistolary novels; Realistic fiction

**Subjects:** Gay teenagers; High school students; Letter writing; Sexually abused children; Teenage boys; Teenagers

### **Read-Alikes**



***Our Chemical Hearts*** by Krystal Sutherland

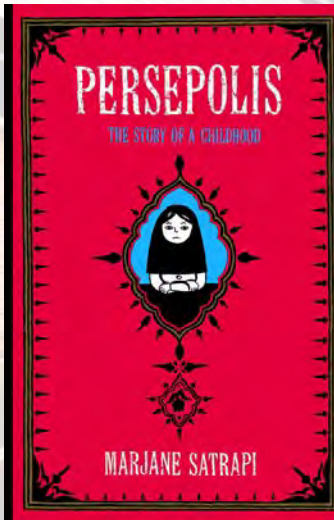
***Love Letters to the Dead*** by Ava Dellaira

***Eleanor and Park*** by Rainbow Rowell

***Infinite in Between*** by Carolyn



## *Persepolis*



by Marjane Satrapi  
The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Own voices

**Tone:** Reflective; Sobering; Strong sense of place; Thought-provoking

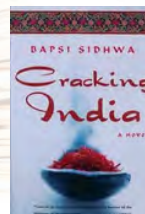
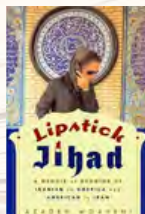
**Writing Style:** Spare

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Books to movies; Comics and Graphic novels; Family and Relationships; History writing; Life stories

**Subjects:** Children and war; Iran-Iraq War; Muslims; Nine-year-old girls; Satrapi, Marjane, 1969–

### **Read-Alikes**



***Maus*** by Art Spiegelman

***Lipstick Jihad*** by Azadeh Moaveni

***Cracking India*** by Bapsi Sidhwa

***Boxers*** by Gene Luen Yang

## ***Ready Player One***

by Ernest Cline

Immersing himself in a mid-twenty-first-century technological virtual utopia to escape an ugly real world of famine, poverty, and disease, Wade Watts joins an increasingly violent effort to solve a series of puzzles by the virtual world's creator.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Press play to start

**Character:** Likeable

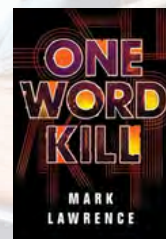
**Pace:** Fast-paced

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; Coming-of-age stories; First person narratives; Science fiction

**Subjects:** Avatars (Virtual reality); Dystopias; Geeks (Computer enthusiasts); Inheritance and succession; Locks and keys; Near future; Popular culture; Puzzles; Quests; Regression (Civilization); Social networks; Teenage boys; Virtual reality

### **Read-Alikes**



***Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts*** by Kate Racculia

***The Demi-Monde*** by Rod Rees

***An Absolutely Remarkable Thing*** by Hank Green

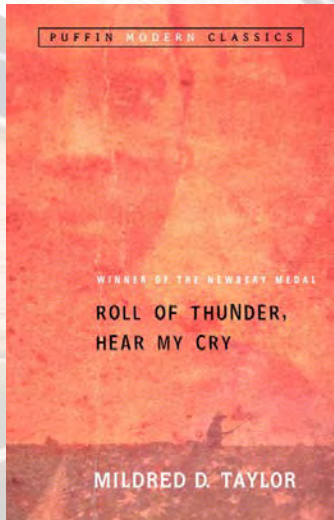
***One Word Kill*** by Mark Lawrence



## ***Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***

by Mildred D. Taylor

A Black family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Facing racism

**Spirited:** Spirited

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Issue-oriented; Own voices

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** African American fiction; Classics; Family sagas; Historical fiction

**Subjects:** African American children; African American families; African American girls; Determination (Personal quality); Discrimination; Familial love; Logan family (Fictitious characters : Taylor); Logan, Cassie (Fictitious character); Prejudice; Racism; Rural families

### **Read-Alikes**



***The Legend of Buddy Bush*** by Shelia P. Moses

***Stella by Starlight*** by Sharon M. Draper (Sharon Mills)

***Zora and Me*** by Victoria Bond

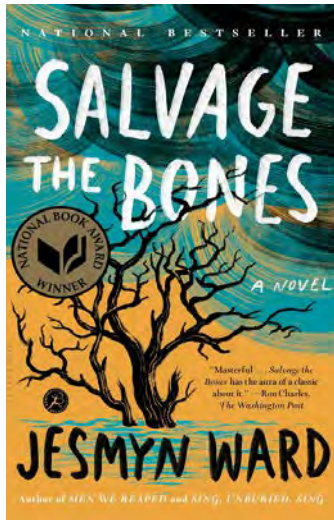
***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams-Garcia

## ***Salvage the Bones***

by Jesmyn Ward



Enduring a hardscrabble existence as the children of alcoholic and absent parents, four siblings from a coastal Mississippi town prepare their meager stores for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina while struggling with such challenges as a teen pregnancy and a dying litter of prize pups.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Complex; Culturally diverse; Sympathetic

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Own voices

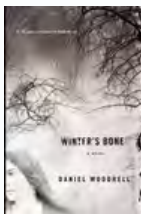
**Tone:** Bleak; Moving; Sobering

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; African American fiction; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction; Southern fiction

**Subjects:** African American families; African American teenage girls; Brothers and sisters; Hurricane Katrina, 2005; Mother-separated families; Rural poor; Teenage pregnancy

### **Read-Alikes**



***Winter's Bone*** by Daniel Woodrell



***The Bluest Eye*** by Toni Morrison



***Hurricane Song*** by Paul Volponi



***Sap Rising*** by Christine Lincoln



## Smile



by Raina Telgemeier  
An autobiography in graphic novel format describes how the author lost two of her front teeth in an accident when she was twelve, and her subsequent struggles with various corrective dental techniques throughout adolescence.

### Appeal Factors

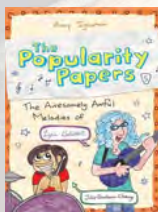
**Tone:** Angst-filled

### Story Elements

**Genres:** Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Biographies; Comics and Graphic novels; Coming-of-age stories; Narrative nonfiction for kids and teens

**Subjects:** Braces (Dentistry); Dental care; Self-esteem; Self-esteem in teenagers; Sixth-grade girls; Telgemeier, Raina

### Read-Alikes



***The Awesomely Awful Melodies of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang*** by Amy Ignatow

***The Dumbest Idea Ever!*** by Jimmy Gownley

***Roller Girl*** by Victoria Jamieson

***El Deafo*** by Cece Bell

## ***So You Want to Talk About Race***



by Ijeoma Oluo

A Seattle-based writer, editor and speaker tackles the sensitive, hyper-charged racial landscape in current America, discussing the issues of privilege, police brutality, intersectionality, micro-aggressions, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the "N" word.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Issue-oriented; Own voices

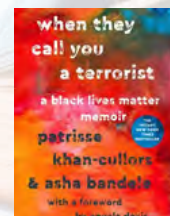
**Writing Style:** Conversational; Persuasive

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Antiracist literature; Society and culture

**Subjects:** African Americans; Black Lives Matter movement; Cultural appropriation; Intercultural communication; Intersectionality; Microaggressions; Prejudice; Race relations; Racism; Social justice

### **Read-Alikes**



***White Fragility*** by Robin J. DiAngelo

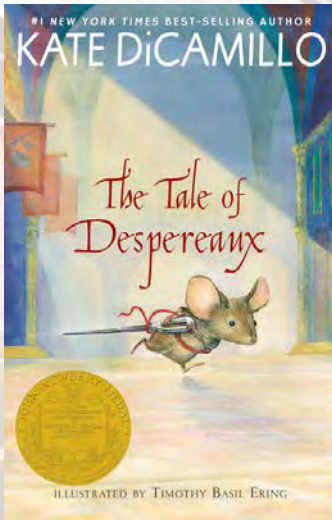
***This Will Be My Undoing*** by Morgan Jerkins

***Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*** by Emmanuel Acho

***When They Call You a Terrorist*** by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele



## ***The Tale of Despereaux***



by Kate DiCamillo

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Character:** Anthropomorphic

**Tone:** Suspenseful; Upbeat

**Writing Style:** Witty

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Animal fantasy; Books to movies; Fantasy fiction

**Subjects:** Household employees; Housekeepers; Mice; Princesses; Rats

### **Read-Alikes**



***Edison*** by Torben Kuhlmann

***Liesl and Po*** by Lauren Oliver

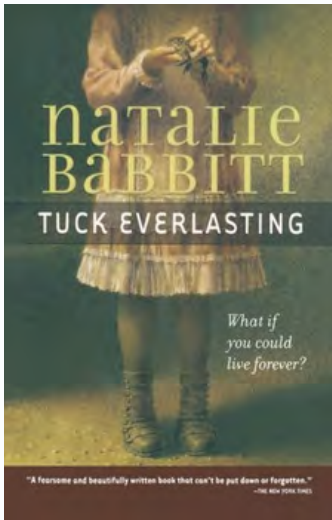
***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*** by Robert C. O'Brien

***A Nest for Celeste*** by Henry Cole

## ***Tuck Everlasting***

by Natalie Babbitt

A family accidentally stumbles upon a spring with water endowing them with the gift of eternal life. Seventy years later, without having grown a day older, a young girl discovers them and learns their secret.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Be careful what you wish for

**Pace:** Leisurely paced

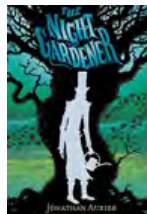
**Storyline:** Character-driven

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction; Low fantasy

**Subjects:** Aging; Boy/girl relations; Families; Fountains of youth (Legendary springs); Immortality; Secrets

### **Read-Alikes**



***Finally*** by Wendy Mass

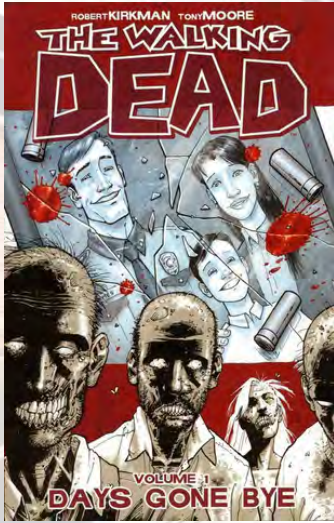
***The Night Gardener*** by Jonathan Auxier

***The Magician's Elephant*** by Kate DiCamillo

***Eventown*** by Corey Ann Haydu



## ***\*The Walking Dead, Vol. 1: Days Gone Bye***



by Robert Kirkman

Police officer Rick Grimes is shot on the job and wakes up a month later to find that the world that he knows is gone. Zombies have taken over and are killing and eating those who are still alive. He sets out toward Atlanta in the hope that his family is still alive and endures many horrors along the way.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Band of survivors; Zombie apocalypse

**Tone:** Bleak; Gruesome

**Writing Style:** Compelling

\*Includes 1 copy *The Walking Dead* AMC Original Soundtrack: Volume 1 and 1 set of The zombie Survival Guide Deck: Complete Protection from the Living Dead cards.

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Books to TV; Comics and Graphic novels; Horror comics

**Subjects:** End of the world; Epidemics; Missing persons; People in comas; Police; Survival (after epidemics); Zombies

### **Read-Alikes**

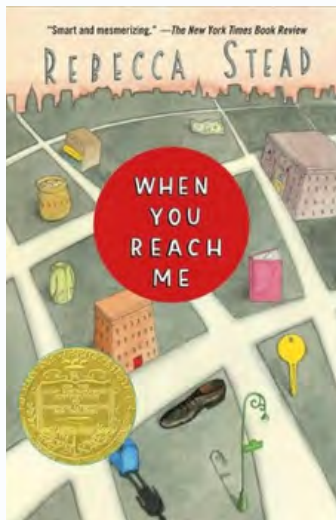


***Saga*** by Brian K. Vaughan

***Nailbiter*** by Joshua Williamson

***Hack/Slash, Vol. 1*** by Tim Seeley

***The Rage*** by Pierre Boissérie



## ***When You Reach Me***



by Rebecca Stead

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Character-driven; Intricately plotted

**Tone:** Moving; Suspenseful

**Writing Style:** Attention-grabbing

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** First person narratives; Science fiction

**Subjects:** Children of single parents; Friendship; Latchkey children; Preteen girls; Space and time; Television game shows; Twelve-year-old girls

### **Read-Alikes**



***Dreamer, Wisher, Liar*** by Charise Mericle Harper

***Harriet the Spy*** by Louise Fitzhugh

***The Riverman*** by Aaron Starmer

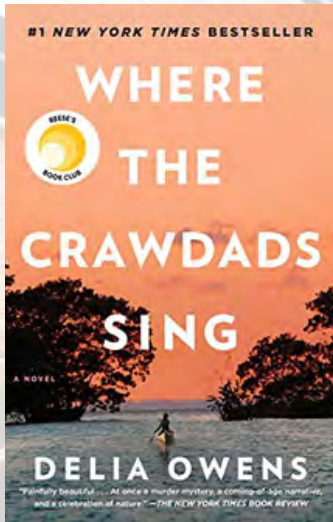
***Following Baxter*** by Barbara Kerley



## ***Where the Crawdads Sing***

by Delia Owens

Viewed with suspicion in the aftermath of a tragedy, a beautiful hermit who has survived for years in a marsh becomes targeted by unthinkable forces.



### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Green reads

**Character:** Quirky; Sympathetic

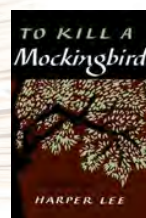
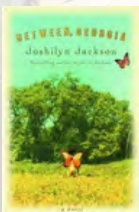
**Pace:** Leisurely paced

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction

**Subjects:** Coasts; Hermits; Loners; Marshes; Murder suspects; Prejudice; Rural women; Suspicion; Wilderness survival; Xenophobia

### **Read-Alikes**



***Between, Georgia*** by Joshilyn Jackson

***Tell the Wolves I'm Home*** by Carol Rifka Brunt

***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee

***My Absolute Darling*** by Gabriel Tallent

## ***Where'd You Go, Bernadette?***



by Marie Temple

When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Web of connections

**Character:** Quirky

**Storyline:** Intricately plotted

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; Humorous stories; Pacific Northwest fiction; Relationship fiction

**Subjects:** Agoraphobia in women; Missing persons investigation; Mothers and daughters; Phobias; Women architects

### **Read-Alikes**



***Saving CeeCee Honeycutt*** by Beth Hoffman

***Ally Hughes has Sex Sometimes*** by Jules Moulin

***The Family Fang: A Novel*** by Kevin Wilson

***South Pole Station: A Novel*** by Ashley Shelby



# ***With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote***



by Ann Bausum

Chronicles the final years of the struggle for women's voting rights, focusing on the activities of Alice Paul and the National Woman's

Party and their part in the successful passage of the 19th Amendment.

## **Appeal Factors**

**Storyline:** Issue-oriented

**Tone:** Inspiring

## **Story Elements**

**Genres:** History books; Narrative nonfiction for kids and teens

**Subjects:** Constitutional history; Determination (Personal quality); Determination in women; Gender role; Lobbying; Paul, Alice, 1885-1977; Protests, demonstrations, vigils, etc.; Sex discrimination; Sexism; Suffrage; Suffragist movement; Suffragists; Voting; Women; Women's rights; Women's role

## **Read-Alikes**



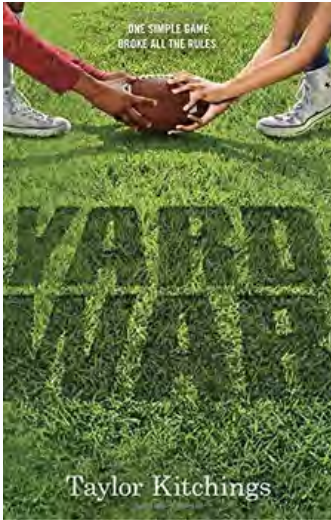
***Wheels of Change*** by Sue Macy

***Vote!*** by Coral Celeste Frazer

***Alice Paul and the Fight for Women's Rights*** by Deborah Kops

***Votes for Women!*** by Winifred Conkling

## ***Yard War***



by Taylor Kitchings  
Twelve-year-old Trip Westbrook lives in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964 and discovers the underlying racism in his family and neighborhood when he invites his maid's son Dee to play football in the yard.

### **Appeal Factors**

**Themes:** Facing racism

**Character:** Culturally diverse

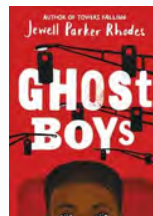
**Storyline:** Character-driven

### **Story Elements**

**Genres:** Coming-of-age stories; Historical fiction

**Subjects:** African American boys; Families; Football; Interracial friendship; Neighbors; Preteen boys; Race relations; Racism; Twelve-year-old boys

### **Read-Alikes**



***Remember as You Pass Me By*** by L. King Perez

***Glory Be*** by Augusta Scattergood

***Ghost Boys*** by Jewell Parker Rhodes

***The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*** by Kristine Levine (Kristin Sims)





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