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New Book Reviews for Kids

New Book Reviews

Reading Level:
BabiesPreschoolersKindergarteners1st Grade2nd Grade3rd Grade4th Grade5th Grade6th Grade7th Grade8th GradeHigh SchoolersAdults

Genre:
AdventureAnimals--RealAnimals--TalkingAward WinnersBiographiesBooks for BoysBooks for GirlsChick LitCrime and PunishmentDon't Miss TheseDystopiasFamilyFantasyFolktalesFriends Historical FictionThe HolocaustHorrorHumorIn Other LandsLGBTMisfitsMysteriesMythological Non-FictionNon-ProsePhoneticRead-AlikesRead-AloudsRealistic FictionRebusRelationships SchoolScience FictionSelf ImageShort StoriesSocial IssuesSpiesSportsSupernaturalSurvival Time TravelVampiresWerewolves

Collection:
J FictionJ Graphic NovelsJ Non-FictionJ SeriesJP FictionJP Non-FictionJP SeriesJY Fiction JY Graphic NovelsJY Non-FictionPicture BooksSpanish Picturebook

Reviewer:
CHDJEFHGJLLWPCRRSHSJSThe Gerbils

Giants Beware!

by Jorge Aguirre

Grades 3-5

Claudette, a spunky medieval girl with her heart set on giant-slaying, encounters some difficulty doing so because she is a girl. Accompanied by her cowardly brother, Gaston, and Marie, Claudette's polar opposite, determined Claudette sets out to slay a giant. Giants beware? More like anyone-who-crosses-the-main-character-Claudette Beware!

An action-packed graphic novel for adventure-lovers, *Giants Beware!* introduces a powerful main character and expertly blends comedy with fantasy.

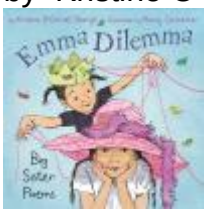
Find this book on our shelves.

More books by Jorge Aguirre.

Illustrator: Rafael Rosado Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Books for Girls, Family, Fantasy, Friends, Humor, Misfits, Social Issues Location: J Graphic Novels
Reviewer:
EF

Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems

by Kristine O'Connell George



Reading Level: Grades 2-4

These poems are for every big sister who has had to deal with an little sister who drives them crazy! Has your room been invaded? Does she want to join you and your friends? Do you parents always expect you to be the "role model?" But do you really, really love each other-most of the time? This is the book for you!

Check availability of this book

Books by Kristine O'Connell George

Illustrator: Nancy Carpenter Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Books for Girls, Family, Non-Fiction, Non-Prose, Relationships Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Mister Death's Blue-Eyed Girls

by Mary Downing Hahn

Reading Level: Ages 12 and up

Combining murder mystery, historical fiction, and a coming-of-age story, this chilling book is base on real life events in the author's past. The time is 1956 and Nora anticipates spending a the summer before her senior year with her group of friends. But two of her friends are shot to death on their way to the last day of school. Everyone but Nora is sure that the murderer is a jealous ex-boyfriend. Told from a number of perspectives, the story examines the effect this horrible event had on so many lives.

Check availability of this book

Books by Mary Downing Hahn

Another story of a shooting is

Give a Boy a Gun by Todd Strasser

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Boys, Books for Girls, Crime and Punishment, Historical Fiction Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

A Boy and a Bear in a Boat

by Dave Shelton

Grades 1-4

A boy, looking to go to the other side, hops into a bear's boat for what he is assured will not be

too long of a journey. Hours later, the bear continues to assure the boy that They. Are. Not. Lost. Sometimes unforseen anomalies arise, you know.

Days later the two have run out of sandwiches.

A simple, quiet adventure story perfectly tailored for a bedtime read-aloud, *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* recalls cozy, character-rich classics with plenty to think about, yet is one of a kind and quite quirky.

Find this book on our shelves.

More books by Dave Shelton.

Other good read-alouds for age 4 to 2nd grade and grades 3 and older.

Reading Level: 1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Animals--Talking, Fantasy, Friends, In Other Lands, Read-Alouds, Survival Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Justin Case: Shells, Smells, and the Horrible Flip-Flops of Doom

by Rachel Vail

Grades 2-5

If you thought Justin had a worrisome and difficult third-grade year, just *wait* until you read about his summer at Camp GoldenBrook.

After third-grade, Justin is determined to stop worrying so much - until he finds out he's going to a camp that is probably going to kill him - if his flip-flops don't do the job first.

Fans of *Alvin Ho* or the *Wimpy Kid* series will love Justin's humorous attempts at bravery, and find Justin to be a welcome friend.

Find this book on our shelves.
More books by Rachel Vail.
Read the first book in the Justin Case series.

Other series about kids like Justin:
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Greg Kinney
Alvin Ho by Lenore Look
Big Nate by Lincoln Peirce
Mason Dixon by Claudia Mills

Stand-alone books you may enjoy:
Herbert's Wormhole by Peter Nelson
The Thing about Georgie by Lisa Graff
Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Illustrator: Matthew Cordell Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade
Subjects: Books for Boys, Don't Miss These, Friends, Humor, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, Social Issues, Sports Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Magritte's Marvelous Hat

by D.B. Johnson

Reading Level: Ages 3 - 11

Magritte sees a hat in a shop window and, even though it refuses to stay on his head, he can't resist buying it. Then the adventures begin in this surreal picture book introduction to the surrealist painter's art.

Check availability of this book

More books by D.B. Johnson

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade Subjects: Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Humor Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SJS

Buried Alive! How 33 Miners Survived 69 Days Deep Under the Chilean Desert

by Elaine Scott

Reading Level: 5-8

Imagine that you are trapped way down in the earth in stifling heat with little light, air, food or water. Imagine that for the first 17 days you don't even know if anyone is searching for you. These are the personal stories of the trapped miners, their loved ones, and their rescuers. Throughout the books are photos of the families, the rescue equipment, and amazing pictures of the men while they are trapped deep within the earth.

Check availability of this book

Another book about the miners i**s**

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners From 2,000 feet Below the Chilean Desert

Reading Level: 5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Non-Fiction Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Cat Girl's Day Off

by Kimberly Pauley

Reading Level: Grades 7-9

The Ng family has a lot of status. Everyone in the family has at least one A or B level Talent (as rated by **BERM** - the **B**ureau of **E**xtra-Sensory **R**egulation and **M**anagement.) Everyone except Natalie, the family disappointment. She has one D level Talent...she speaks and understands cat. Natalie does her best to keep classmates from learning of her embarrassing talent, only using it to talk to the family cat in the privacy of her bedroom.

And that's how things remain until the day her friends Oscar and Melly shows her a video of a celebrity blogger being attacked by her own cat. The cat is screaming, ***" Help me! Hellllpppme! Kill the imposter!"***

Against her better judgement, Natalie allows her star-struck friends to drag her into a mystery that involves Chicago, a remake of ***Ferris Bueller's Day Off*** and one very cranky pink cat.

Check availability of this book

Books by Kimberly Pauley

Other humorous fantasy novels featuring harried heroines include:

Fairy Bad Day by Amanda Ashby

Don't Expect Magic by Kathy McCullough and

Devilish by Maureen Johnson

Other stories of humans who can talk to animals include:

What the Dog Said by Randi Reisfeld

The Exceptionals by Erin Cashman

The Boy Who Spoke Dog by Morgan Clay and

Wild Magic by Tamora Pierce

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Fantasy, Friends, Humor, Misfits, Mysteries Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Fake Mustache Or, How Jodie O'Rodeo and Her Wonder Horse (and Some Nerdy Kid) Saved the U.S. Presidential Election from A Mad Genius Criminal Mastermind

by Tom Angleberger

Reading Level: Grades 3-6

Lenny is pitchforked into a death defying race to save the world when best friend Casper purchases the Heidelberg Handlebar Number Seven mustache.

Check availability of this book

Books by Tom Angleberger

Other crazy adventures include:

Whales on Stilts by M.T. Anderson

We Are Not Eaten by Yaks by C. Alexander London and

The Brain Finds a Leg by Martin Chatteton

Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Fantasy, Humor Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Caddy's World

by Hilary McKay

Reading Level: Grades 4-6

Hilary McKay scores again in this prequel to the Casson Family series. Before her struggles with A level exams and her adventures with "Michael Darling" the beleaguered driving instructor, Caddy Casson was a 12-year-old girl facing the loss and challenges of changing friendships.

Check availability of this book

Books by Hilary McKay

If you enjoy Caddy and her eccentric family try:

Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie Tolan

Ordinary Jack by Helen Cresswell and

The Heroic Life of Al Capsella by Judith Clarke

Reading Level: 4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade Subjects: Family, Friends, Humor, Realistic Fiction Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:

SJS

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