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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:
CHDJHGJLJSPCRRSHSJSThe GerbilsEFLW

A Confusion of Princes

by Nix, Garth

19-year-old Khemri is one of millions of princes. All were chosen as babies from across the vast empire. Khemri has been enhanced and trained all his life. He dreams of being the special one...THE prince who will become the one to control the mind of the vast empire.

On the day of his investiture Khemri learns it is much more likely that he will die. For on that day, the assassination attempts begin.

Reading Level: Grades 8+

Check availability of this book

More books by Garth Nix

Other fast paced space fiction include::

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

The Xenocide Mission by Ben Jeapes and

Dragon and Thief:A Dragonback Adventure by Timothy Zahn

Reading Level: 8th Grade Subjects: Science Fiction Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Also Known as Rowan Pohi

by Fletcher, Ralph

Reading Level: Grades 7+

Life is hard for 15-year-old Bobby Steele. Especially since he has the same name as his father...the man who made the newspapers when he attacked his wife with a hot iron. Bobby hates sharing his name. Bobby doesn't blame his mother when she walks out on them. He'd walk too if it wasn't for his little brother.

Bobby's name change started as a joke. When he and his friends find an application for a prestigious prep school at an IHop, they make up a kid and submit an application. When that pretend guy, Rowan Pohi, is accepted, the temptation is too great. Bobby decides he needs a new life, anything is better than the one he has.

Check availability of this book

More books by Ralph Fletcher

Other tales double identities include:

The Mark of Conte by Sonia Levitin

Secrets of My Hollywood Life by Jen Calonita and

Zen and the Art of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick

Reading Level: 7th Grade Subjects: Realistic Fiction Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Eye-Popping 3-D Bugs: Phantogram Bugs You Can Practically Touch!

by Barry and Betsy Rothstein

Reading Level: Ages 4 - 10

This 3-D insect book will either make you want to reach out and touch the bugs or run away screaming!

Check availability of this book

More books by Barry Rothstein

More books by Betsy Rothstein

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade Subjects: Animals--Real, Non-Fiction Location: JP Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

Question Boy Meets Little Miss Know-It-All

by Peter Catalanotto

Reading Level: Ages 3 - 8

Young superhero, Question Boy, asks non-stop questions to poor unsuspecting everyday superheroes like Garbage Man until he meets Little Miss Know-It-All in the park. Has he finally met his match?

Check availability of this book

More books by Peter Catalanotto

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade Subjects: Adventure, Friends, Humor, Read-Alouds Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:

SH

The Contender

by Robert Lipsyte

Reading Level: Grades 7+

"Boxing is a dying sport. People aren't much interested anymore. They want easy things, like television, bowling, car rides."

Alfred Brooks wants to be somebody special - a champion. Donatelli assures him that's impossible - first Alfred has to train - train so hard he'll start to feel like it's not worth it, that he should just quit - that he'll never be a fighter at all, let alone a contender. But Alfred is determined, and begins to train, hard. When he's boxing, Alfred doesn't have to think about all the bad stuff going on in his life, it's just him and the ring, nothing going on outside it matters at all. Inside the ring, Alfred can contend with his life.

Check availability of this book

More books by Robert Lipsyte

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Boys, Sports
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Marcelo in the Real World

by Francisco X. Stork

Reading Level: Grades 7+

Marcelo, a high school junior with a somewhat undefined precise location on the autism spectrum, is wildly looking forward to spending his summer working with the ponies at his school, Paterson. He will be the stable man for the school, and in the fall will be promoted to training the ponies to work with all types of disabled students. Marcelo is really looking forward to his summer and senior year at Paterson.

But his father, Arturo, has other plans. Arturo wants Marcelo to work at Arthuro's law firm, in the mail room - and Arturo wants Marcelo to switch to public school in the fall.

Marcelo is not given much choice about working at the law firm, but he is told that if he spends three summer months working at his father's law firm - in the "real world" - Arturo will let him choose whether to return to Paterson or continue at public school.

For Marcelo, three months in the "real world" sounds incredibly difficult as he does not know all the rules of living in that world. But working at the law firm is what Marcelo will have to do to ensure his return to Paterson, and so he accepts his father's offer.

As Marcelo's summer progresses, he begins to become more comfortable interacting with others, but when he uncovers a disturbing photograph relating to one of his father's big cases, Marcelo is unsure how to proceed.

Check availability of this book

More books by Francisco X. Stork

Other books about teens on the autism spectrum:

Mindblind by Jennifer Roy

Harmonic Feedback by Tara Kelly

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Books for Boys, Don't Miss These, Family, Friends, Misfits, Mysteries, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction, Relationships, School, Self Image, Social Issues Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Henrietta Hornbuckle's Circus of Life

by Michael De Guzman

Reading Level: Grades 3-6

Henrietta Hornbuckle is a clown in Filbert's Traveling Clown Circus, and has been her whole life. Used to the travelling life, loving to watch the world pass her by as she tumbles and exaggerates movements and brings cheer and laughter to each town the circus visits. To Henrietta, circus life is a fluid, dynamic constant in her life. Then suddenly everything changes - Henrietta learns that the circus is in danger of closing, financial problems having finally become insurmountable. Furthermore, her mother, Hortense, wants to reconnect with her estranged sister Carlotta - a woman with an enormous house (the first Henrietta had ever entered) and a butler - a lavish, expansive lifestyle absurdly foreign to the young clown. Then the unthinkable happens, and Henrietta's jolly life is thrust away from everything she loves.

Check availability of this book

More books by Michael De Guzman

Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade Subjects: Family, Friends, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, Social Issues Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

by Sherman Alexie

Reading Level: Grades 7+

Life on a reservation isn't great to begin with, but when Arnold (Junior) sees his mother's name written in *his* geometry textbook, it's the last straw. He flings the book angrily across the classroom... hitting the teacher square in the face.

Realizing that as long as he stayed on the reservation, he was doomed to live a depressing, boring reservation life with no opportunities, Arnold tells his parents he is going to transfer schools - to the all-white, all-rich high school twenty-two miles away.

And so it begins.

Cleverly written, amusingly illustrated, and with wholly rounded characters, Alexie's first young adult novel is deserving of its high praises.

Check availability of this book

More books by Sherman Alexie

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Award Winners, Books for Boys, Don't Miss These, Family, Friends, Humor, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, Relationships, School, Self Image, Social Issues

Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

My Rhinoceros

by Jon Agee

Reading Level: Ages 4 - 6

Rhinoceros isn't a very fun pet - he doesn't really do much. The rhinoceros expert says that rhinos only really do two things: pop balloons, and poke holes in kites.

Not very good activities for a boy and a rhinoceros who want to go to the park... where there is a balloon man (rhino doesn't pay him a glance) and a bunch of kids flying kites (rhino doesn't care).

On the way home from the park, the boy and the rhino see two bank robbers getting away... in a hot air balloon and by kite!

Check availability of this book

More books by Jon Agee

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Humor, Read-Alouds Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

Fat Kid Rules the World

by K. L. Going

Reading level: Grades 7+

Troy, a three hundred pound high school boy, is standing on the edge of a train platform, mock headlines running through his head (FAT KID MESSES UP) as he realizes he probably wouldn't even totally succeed at his own suicide, when a homeless drug addict legend from Troy's high school, saves his life. Obviously Troy owes Curt lunch after his rescue (according to Curt), and the odd pair strike up an awkward friendship. Curt, it seems, has decided that Troy is to be the new drummer for Curt's band. Only one problem.

Troy has never played the drums in his life.

Short, witty, laugh-out-loud chapters punctuated by Troy's FAT KID headlines and embodying a punk rock mentality, *Fat Kid* is sure to appeal.

Check availability of this book

More books by K.L. Going

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Books for Boys, Don't Miss These, Family, Friends, Humor, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, School, Self Image, Social Issues
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

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