

New Book Reviews for Kids

Below are staff reviews of select new books in the Youth Services Department.
For a list of all the new and forthcoming Youth books, [click here](#).

New Book Reviews

Reading Level:

Babies Preschoolers Kindergarteners 1st Grade 2nd Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade 5th Grade 6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade High Schoolers Adults

Genre:

Adventure Animals--Real Animals--Talking Award Winners Biographies Books for Boys Books for Girls Chick Lit Crime and Punishment Don't Miss These Dystopias Family Fantasy Folktales Friends Historical Fiction The Holocaust Horror Humor In Other Lands LGBT Misfits Mysteries Mythological Non-Fiction Non-Prose Phonetic Read-Alikes Read-Alouds Realistic Fiction Rebus Relationships School Science Fiction Self Image Short Stories Social Issues Spies Sports Supernatural Survival Time Travel Vampires Werewolves

Collection:

J Fiction J Graphic Novels J Non-Fiction J Series JP Fiction JP Non-Fiction JP Series JY Fiction JY Graphic Novels JY Non-Fiction Picture Books Spanish Picturebook

Reviewer:

The Gerbils SJS SHRRP CHGEFDJCHJLJSMBLWK FAB

Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs

by Michaela Muntean

Reading Level: Grades 2 - 5

After he was seriously injured in a fall from a high wire, Luciano Anastasini needed to come up

with a new circus act for himself. That is when five, unwanted "problem" dogs on death row in the pound (and later five more) came along and together they found what their purpose in life was meant to be.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Michaela Muntean](#)

[More books by K.C. Bailey](#)

[More books by Stephen Kazmierski](#)

Illustrator: K.C. Bailey and Stephen Kazmierski Reading Level: [2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Real](#), [Biographies](#), [Misfits](#), [Non-Fiction](#) Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)
Reviewer:
SH

The Always War

by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Reading Level: Grades 5 - 8

For as long as anyone alive can remember Eastam and Westam have been at war; battling for control of The Center. Life is dreary in Waterford City. Everything revolves around the war effort. The best and brightest children are sent to military school at the age of eight. Everyone else's work somehow connects to the war too whether it is making weapons, delivering weapons, or recycling scrapped weapons. But when local war hero Gideon returns to town he and his former neighbor, Tessa, will accidentally discover the truth about the never-ending war.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Margaret Peterson Haddix](#)

Reading Level: [5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Dystopias](#), [Science Fiction](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)
Reviewer:
SH

Storybound

by Marissa Burt

Reading Level: Grades 4-6

12-year-old Una flits through her school days alone, barely noticed by her teachers or fellow students. Home is the same. Her foster mother never talks or even looks at her. Una's one pleasure is the library where she can sit for hours and lose herself in a book. She never meant to get lost for good.

[Check availability of this book](#)

Books by [Marissa Burt](#)

Other tales of stories come to life include:

[Inkheart](#) by Cornelia Caroline Funke

[Knights of the Kitchen Table](#) by Jon Scieszka and

[Magic By the Book](#) by Nina Berenstein

Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Zita the Spacegirl: Book 1: Far from Home

by Ben Hatke

Reading Level: Grades 3-5

If you found a hole out in the grass while exploring, and inside the hole was a meteoroid, and poking out of the meteoroid was a *button*, you'd probably push it, wouldn't you? (I would. Zita did.)

You'd probably freak out when your best friend Joseph got sucked into into this weird vortex thing after you pushed the botton... and then when you pushed the button again, YOU got sucked in, plopping out onto an alien planet. (I would. Zita kind of did.)

Zita's best friend Joseph has been kidnapped by a cult of aliens who believe the world is about to end... and the button that brought both her and Joseph to this alien world is crushed accidentally by a huge alien named Strong-Strong.

So now Zita's totally stuck on an alien planet that apparently is about to come to an end, her best friend has been kidnapped, AND she has no way to get home.

[Check availability of this book.](#)

[More books by Ben Hatke.](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Friends](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Science Fiction](#), [Survival](#) Location: [J Graphic Novels](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

Croak

by [Gina Damico](#)

Reading Level: Grades 8+

16-year-old Lex Bartleby was the perfect daughter, friend and student until she entered middle school. Almost over night she became an angry, disrespectful, violent teenager. Her desperate parents have tried everything...talking, grounding, counseling but nothing has worked. When she is finally expelled from high school, her parents make one desperate effort to save her. Lex is exiled to her mysterious Uncle Mort's farm where she will spend the summer milking cows and feeding pigs...or so her parents think.

When the terrifying biker guy accosts her at the isolated rural bus stop, Lex gets ready to fight for her life and then he calls her name. THIS is Uncle Mort? He is not a farmer but he is a harvester...a harvester of human souls. And he wants Lex to join the family business.

[Check availability of this book](#)

Books by [Gina Damico](#)

Other tales about death and reapers include:

[Meridian](#) by Amber Kizer

[Mort](#) by Terry Pratchett and

[Shadowland](#) by Meg Cabot

Reading Level: [8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Misfits](#), [Supernatural](#)
Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Bramble and Maggie

by Jessie Haas

Reading Level: Grades 2 - 3

Bramble is a horse at a riding school, but she finds going around in circles all the time boring so she starts to act up. Finally the owner of the school decides to sell Bramble, but a horse as clever as Bramble isn't going to accept just ANY new owner.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Jessie Haas](#)

[More books by Alison Friend](#)

Illustrator: Alison Friend Reading Level: [2nd Grade,3rd Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Real, Humor](#) Location: [JP Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Humming Room

by Ellen Potter

Reading Level: Grade 4-6

An unwanted orphan girl...an unhappy man...a forbidding estate...a secret...a neglected garden. Is this a description of Burnett's [Sercet Garden](#)? No, but it is a literary reflection of that beloved classic.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Ellen Potter](#)

Other tales of orphan girls include:

[A Little Princess](#) by Frances Hodgson Burnett

[Maggie & Oliver, or, A Bone of One's Own](#) by Valerie Hobbs

[Liesl & Po](#) by Lauren Oliver and

[Listening for Lions](#) by Gloria Whelan

Reading Level: [4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure, Family, Misfits, Mysteries, Realistic Fiction](#)

Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Bigger Than a Bread Box

by Laurel Snyder

Reading Level: Grades 4 - 6

Rebecca's life is turned upside down when her mother, without warning, takes Rebecca and her little brother away from their father and home and moves them in with their grandmother. Upset when she learns that this is not a short trip, but a permanent relocation Rebecca goes to the attic to sulk and finds a magic bread box. If she wishes for something that is real AND which will fit inside the bread box, the box will give it to her. But magic, no matter how harmless it seems at the time, always comes with a price.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Laurel Snyder](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Self Image](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Zombie Mommy: A Pals in Peril Tale

by M.T. Anderson

Reading Level: Grades 3 - 6

When Lily's mother realizes that the mothers in novels for children her daughter's age all die horrible deaths she becomes obsessed with avoiding that fate, especially since Lily has now been a main character in four Pals in Peril novels. Unfortunately in her desperate attempt to avoid anything that might endanger her life, she throws herself quite literally right into the arms of zombies, ghosts and vampires. Can the Pals rescue her before it is too late and she becomes just another fictional mother statistic?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by M.T. Anderson](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Horror](#), [Humor](#), [Mysteries](#), [Supernatural](#), [Vampires](#)
Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:
SH

Z is for Moose

by Kelly Bingham

Reading Level: Ages 3 - 6

Moose literally cannot wait for M to come up in this alphabet book so that he can have his turn to shine. Moose should meet Mo Willems' Pigeon.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Kelly Bingham](#)

[More books by Paul O. Zelinsky](#)

Illustrator: Paul O. Zelinsky Reading Level: [Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking, Humor](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:
SH

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