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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

Jackie Robinson: American Hero

by Sharon Robinson

Reading Level: Grades 2 - 4

It's not that there's a lack of books about the racial barrier-breaking sports hero. This biography, written by his daughter Sharon, is different. Yes, this book about the racial divide in baseball and how Jackie Robinson was the first black man to play in the major leagues. It also gives a clear and interesting picture of his early years, his family life, his career in the military, and his life after baseball. Family photos throughout this short biography add that personal touch. Sharon Robinson has every reason to be proud of her father and her work.

Check availability of this book

Other books by Sharon Robinson

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Biographies, Books for Boys, Books for Girls, Non-Fiction, Social Issues Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

The Testing

by Joelle Charbonneau

Reading Level: Grades 6 - 9

A devastating world war has left the Earth ruined, nations destroyed, and survivors scattered in small colonies trying to restore the world. The United Commonwealth (formerly the U.S.A.) chooses the best and brightest to be tested for the University where they will be trained as scientists, educators and leaders. Cia lives in tiny Five Lakes Colony where nobody has been chosen for testing for years, until her graduation day when she and three other students are chosen. Although it is a great honor, being chosen means that Cia will never see her home again. If she passes all the tests she will go to the University and be assigned to a new colony upon graduation, and if she fails she will be removed from the testing and sent to a new colony to live. Or so the students are told...
Fans of the Hunger Games will not want to miss this new dystopian series.

Check availability of this book

More books by Joelle Charbonneau

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Dystopias, School, Science Fiction, Survival Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:

SH

Weight of Water

by Sarah Crossan

Reading Level: Grades 6 -9

Told in free verse, this is the story of Kasienka, who has just left her native Poland for a tenament in England. Her mother was determined to follow her father who left the family two years before and hasn't been heard from since. Kasienka is miserable in her new life. At her middle school the popular girls bully her and at home her mother is determined to continue the exhausting, fruitless search for her father. Only when she's swimming does Kasienka feel good and empowered.

Check availabliity of this book

Also by Sarah Crossan

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Girls, Non-Prose, Realistic Fiction, Self Image Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest Abolotionist

by Margarita Engle

Reading Level: Ages 12 and up

This inspiring free verse novel is the fictionalized story of the early teen years of Cuban poet/abollitionist Gertrudis Gomez de Avellaneda (1814-1873.) At thirteen, Tula uses her poetry

and plays to express her views about freedom, both for the slaves of Cuba and for the young girls who are sold into arranged marriages to the highest bidder. In defiance of her family's wishes Tula is determined to live a free life. Other poems give added dimension as the reader hear from her supportive brother, the nuns who nuture Tula, her disgusted mother, and the freed slave who has not had the courage to leave. Tula's is a beautiful and powerful story.

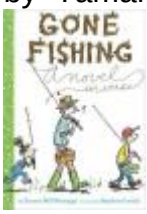
Check availability of this book

Other books by Margarita Engle

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Girls, Historical Fiction, In Other Lands, Non-Prose, Social Issues Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Gone Fishing: A Novel in Verse

by Tamara Will Wissinger



Reading Level: Grades 2-4

It's obvious just from the cover that this book is going to be fun to read. And it's all in poems so you can impress your teacher or your parents with your knowledge of different types of poems. (Each one is labeled with the type of poem and at the back there's an explanation of what each type is.) The story is simple. Sam has been looking forward to a father-son fishing trip, but then his pesky little sister horns in. Tamera Will Wissinger's first book will have you hooked.

Check availability

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Books for Boys, Books for Girls, Family, Humor, Non-Prose, Realistic Fiction Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Cameron and the Girls

by Edward Averett

Reading Level: Grades 7 - 10

Cameron has schiophreniform disorder, a form of schizophrenia. At fourteen, he decides he's old enough to make the decision to go off his meds. Without medication Cameron hears voices. He hears The Professor who gives good solid advice. Then there's The Girl who is everything Cameron could want in a relationship except that she's not real. Then a new voice called The Other Guy tells Cameron to be more macho and take risks. When a girl in his special ed class shows an interest in Cameron an unusual love triangle develops.

Check availability of this book

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Boys, Books for Girls , Misfits, Realistic Fiction, Self Image Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Golden Boy

by Tara Sullivan

Reading Level: Age 12 and up

In modern day Tanzania, the word for albino and nothing is the same. 13-year-old Habo is an albino who feels that he is nothing but a freak of nature that brings bad luck to his family. When the fatherless family loses their farm, they journey to a region where Habo learns that albinos are hunted and killed for their body parts. Albino's body parts are used by witch doctors to make good luck charms. Pursued by a bounty hunter Habo runs for his life. In the Dar Es Salaam, he meets a kind, blind sculptor who shows Habo the possibility of a new life.

In her riveting, realistic debut novel, Sullivan focuses on the treatment of albinos as she portrays the thoughts and feelings of a wonderful boy who comes to realize his worth. The appendix includes a list of organization who help albinos in East African countries.

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Books for Girls, In Other Lands, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, Self Image, Social Issues
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Absent

by Katie Williams

Reading Level: Grades 6 - 8

One minute Paige is up on the school roof getting ready to test her egg drop experiment and the next she is waking up a ghost in the basement of the school. Luckily there are two other dead students, Evan and Brooke to keep her company, but she can't stand that everyone alive at the school, including her best friend, is insisting that she killed herself. How can she clear her name when nobody knows she is there and she can't even leave school property?

Check availability of this book

More books by Katie Williams

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Friends, Misfits, Mysteries, Relationships, School, Supernatural Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

You're Wearing THAT to School?!

by Lynn Plourde

Reading Level: Ages 4 - 6

Penelope Hippo is very excited about her first day of school, until her older, jaded friend, Tiny Mouse, helps her pick out what to wear, bring and eat to make sure she conforms on that special day.

Check availability of this book

More books by Lynn Plourde

More books by Sue Cornelison

Illustrator: Sue Cornelison Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Friends, Humor, Misfits, School Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SH

Count the Monkeys

by Mac Barnett

Reading Level: Ages 3 - 6

All the author wants you to do is count the monkeys, but other things keep getting in the way in this amusingly chaotic counting book.

Check availability of this book

More books by Mac Barnett

More books by Kevin Cornell

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

SH

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