HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Information & Imagination
494 Laurel Ave., Highland Park, IL • 847-432-0216
Published on *Highland Park Public Library* (http://www.hplibrary.org)

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

Queen of the Falls

by Chris Van Allsburg

Reading Level: Grades K-3

Retirement isn?t for everyone ? especially not sixty-two year old Annie Edson Taylor. Schoolteaching in the late 1800s was not a high paying job, and after retirement, Annie needed a way to earn some money so she could live out the rest of her days in comfort and happiness. She knew that stuntmen and daredevils often made good money from their bravado, and so she decided to become the first person ever to go over Niagara Falls? in a barrel. Chris Van

Allsburg?s typical old-timey illustrations are a perfect pairing with this biography.

Check availability of this book

More books by Chris Van Allsburg

Reading Level: Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade Subjects: Biographies
Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

The Last Little Blue Envelope

by Maureen Johnson

Reading Level: Grades 8+

When 17-year-old Ginny's eccentric aunt died she sent her niece $1,000 and some numbered envelopes with the instruction that Ginny fly to Europe by herself and follow the directions in the envelopes, never opening the next envelope until the tasks in the previous envelope were completed.

WARNING: If you have not read13 Little Blue Envelopes read no more!

It was a summer Ginny would never forget. She worked her way through twelve of the envelopes before her backpack (which held the thirteenth envelope) was stolen in Greece. Resigning herself to never finishing the adventure, Ginny returns home to New York.

Months later she receives an e-mail from someone she doesn't know. The e-mail contains the first page of the thirteenth letter. When she answers the e-mail, the sender tells her the rest of the e-mail contains clues to another of her aunt's paintings. Clues that only Ginny can solve. The sender will not share the instructions in the letter unless Ginny agrees to accompany him on the hunt for the pieces of the work, sell the painting and split the proceeds with him 50/50.

Check availability of this book

More books by Maureen Johnson

Other foreign adventures include:

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares

How to Ruin a Summer Vacation by Simone Elkeles and

Getting the Boot by Peggy Guthart Strauss

Reading Level: 8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Girls, Chick Lit, In Other Lands, Rebus Location: JY Fiction

Reviewer:
SJS

The Water Wars

by Cameron Stracher

Reading Level: Grade 6-8

Vera is too young to remember a time she wasn't thirsty. Since the polar ice caps melted and the rivers dried up, there is very little fresh water left. Almost all the northern hemisphere's fresh water is controlled by the Empire of Canada and the Republic of Minnesota. Vera lives in the Republic of Illinowa where she is lucky to get a drink a day.

One day Vera meets Kai a boy with a wonderful, powerful secret. When Kai is suddenly, violently kidnapped, Vera and her older brother Wil naively set out to save him. As they encounter dangerous water pirates, the People's Environmental Army and the sinister organization Bluewater, it becomes clear that the brother and sister probably won't even be able to save themselves.

Check availability of this book

More books by Cameron Stracher

Other tales of environmental disaster include:

The Tomorrow Code by Brian Falkner and

The Carbon Diaries 2015 by Saci Lloyd

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

Fatty Legs: A True Story

by Cristy Jordan-Fenton

Reading Level: Grades 3-6

Be careful what you wish for.

After her older half-sister reads her part of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland but refuses to tell why Alice followed the rabbit down the hole, nine-year-old Olemaun nags her parents to send her

to the school of the white outsiders. Even though her father warns her that they will cut her hair, give her a new name and not allow her to speak their language , Olemaun so desperately wants to read that she persists until she gets her way.

Once in the clutches of the dark-cloaked nuns, Olemaun realizes what a horrible mistake she has made. Somehow she must hold onto who she is until she can finally return to her people.

Check availability of this book

More books by Christy Jordan-Fenton

More narratives of Indian boarding schools include:

Sweetgrass Basket by Marlene Carvell and

Indian School: Teaching the White Man's Way by Michael Cooper

Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade Subjects: Biographies, Books for Girls, Non-Fiction Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Calli Be Gold

by Michele Weber Hurwitz

Reading Level: Grades 4-6

Quiet Calli Gold feels out of place in her family of achievers. Her older brother Alex is the star of his school's basketball team. Her older sister Becca is an ice skater. The family calender is loaded with post-it notes, blue for Alex's games and practices, pink for Becca. Calli's color is yellow. There only two yellow post-its up for the whole month, appointments for the dentist and a haircut.

Calli's parents are sure if Calli would just be willing to try she would find her place to shine. Calli HAS tried. So far she has tried and failed gymnastics, ballet, soccer, baton twirling, violin and origami. Now her father has signed her up for acting.

Can Calli ever be appreciated for who she is in this high octane family?

Check availability of this book

More books by Michele Weber Hurwitz

For other stories of a kid feeling out of place in their family try::

Our Only May Amelia by Jennifer Holm

The Total Tragedy of a Girl Named Hamlet by Erin Dionne and

A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban

Reading Level: 4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade Subjects: Books for Girls, Family, Friends, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, School Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Sassy: Little Sister is Not My Name!

by Sharon M. Draper

Reading Level: Grades 2-4

Sassy Simone Sanford feels invisible in her family. Her older brother, sister and her parents call her "Little Sister." Sassy hates that nickname. It sounds like she's a baby. Sassy is anything but a baby. She's a bubbly kid with a quirky fashion sense. Her friends appreciate her, she just needs her family to see her for who she is.

Check availability of this book

More books by Sharon M. Draper

If you enjoyed meeting Sassy you'd also enjoy.:

Keena Ford and the Second- Grade Mix-up by Melissa Thomson

Mallory on the Move by Laurie B. Friedman and

Ivy + Bean by Annie Barrows

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Books for Girls, Family, Friends, Realistic Fiction, Relationships, School Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Dogtag Summer

by Elizabeth Partridge

Reading Level: Grades 5-7

11-year-old Tracy has been in America for six years. She doesn't remember much about her years in Vietnam. Not until she and her friend Stargazer discover her father's old ammo box in the garage. Stargazer breaks off the lock and opens the box. Her father finds them just as they pull out the military dogtag. His cold, hard anger sends Stargazer running for home.

During that steamy summer of 1980, powerful memories come back to haunt both Tracy and her father, memories that may force them apart forever.

Check availability of this book

More books by Elizabeth Partridge

Other stories of the lingering effects of war include:

Drita My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard and

All the Broken Pieces: A Novel in Verse by Ann Burg

The Things a Brother Knows by Dana Reinhardt

Reading Level: 5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade Subjects: Family, Historical Fiction, In Other Lands, Realistic Fiction, Relationships Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Blank Confession

by Pete Hautman

Reading Level: Grades 8-10

If the kid had just waited five minutes Detective George Rawls wouldn't have caught the case. He was on his way out when he was told that a kid had just walked through the door and confessed to murder. Small, slight 16-year-old Shayne Blank isn't like any killer the detective has ever encountered.

Switching between the stark interview room and the memories of Shayne's friend Mikey, the author pulls the reader into a tantalizing mystery that is almost impossible to put down.

Check availability of this book

More books by Pete Hautman

Other tales of teens and the police include:

Kissing the Rain by Kevin Brooks and

Kick by Walter Dean Myers

Reading Level: 8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Boys, Friends, Misfits, Mysteries , Realistic Fiction, School Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Radiance

by Alyson Noël

Reading Level: Grade 6-8

Riley Bloom resisted for a long time. After she, her parents and her dog were killed in a traffic accident, Riley lingered on the earth plane spying on her sister and her friends as they continued living. When she finally crossed the bridge into Here and was reunited with her parents and dog, she still couldn't resist spying on the living.

On her first day of school (yes, they have school in Here) a nerdy boy brings her to a mysterious door. Inside she meets a group of angels who show her her life...all of it. Riley is horribly embarrassed. So embarrassed that she doesn't ask the right questions when the council of angels announces that Riley will train as a soul catcher. She should have asked.

Check availability of this book

More books by Alyson Noel

Other tales of the afterlife include:

No Passengers Beyond This Point by Gennifer Choldenko

The Everafter by Amy Huntley and

Everlost by Neal Shusterman

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Books for Girls, Fantasy, Relationships, Supernatural Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

The Fenway Foul-Up

by David A. Kelly

Reading Level: Grades 2-4

The first book in the Ballpark Mysteries series features the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox season is jeopardized when their star slugger's lucky bat is stolen right after batting practice. When no one else can find the bat cousins Mike and Kate decide to save the day.

Check availability of this book

More books by David A. Kelly

If you enjoyed this baseball mystery try:

Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball by David Adler and

The Missing Mitt by Franklin Dixon

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Mysteries, Sports Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Source URL: http://www.hplibrary.org/kids/kidreads?tid=All&tid_1=All&tid_2=All&tid_3=All&page=25