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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

Vampire Crush

by A.M. Robinson

Reading Level: Grades 8+

When Sophie is assigned to interview four new students for the "Welcome Back" issue of the school paper, her curiosity is piqued when Vlad rudely refuses to speak to her. Her concern intensifies when Vlad takes an obsessive interest in Sophie's half-sister. As Sophie's investigations continue, she finds herself treading a path of dangerous horror.

Check availability of this book

More books by A.M. Robinson

Other dark tales of supernatural creatures include:

Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia

Shiver by Maggie Stirfvater and

Tantalize by Cynthia Leitich

Reading Level: 8th Grade Subjects: Books for Girls, Vampires Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Karma

by Kathy Ostlere

Reading Level: Grades 7+

The year is 1984. Fifteen year old Maya packs a suitcase for a trip to India with her father. They are going to lay Maya's recently deceased Hindu mother to rest. Not long after they arrive, however, tumultuous religious differences between the Sikhs and Hindus explode into violence when prime minister Indira Gandhi is assassinated.

Maya and her father, a Sikh, are caught in the middle of the clash and separated when their hotel is attacked. Afraid for her safety because of her Hindu-Sikh parents and her sex, Maya quickly hacks off her long ponytail with a pair of scissors and runs, forgetting her mother's ashes in the hotel room.

The next hours are harrowing for Maya as the riots swell around her, Sikhs and Hindus fighting unrelentingly around her. When she finally emerges from the violence, rescued by a kind desert family but traumatized into muteness, it is only the 17-year old son, Sandeep, devoted to helping Maya find her father, that can save her again.

This historical fiction romance in diary-format free verse will have you turning pages back again and again to reread Maya and Sandeep's words and longing for more after the end. *Karma* is fraught with emotion, culture, violence, religion fear, but most importantly, family.

Check availability of this book

More books by Cathy Ostlere

Other novels you might like:

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Shine, Coconut Moon by Neesha Meminger

Keeping Corner by Kashmira Sheth

For older readers:

Sold by Patricia McCormick

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Don't Miss These, Family , Friends, Historical Fiction, In Other Lands, Non-Prose, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction, Relationships Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

I Broke My Trunk!

by Mo Willems

Reading Level: Ages 3-7

When Gerald breaks his trunk, Piggie wonders how it happened. But if you know Gerald at all, you'll know that isn't a simple story to tell!

Check availability of this book

More books by Mo Willems

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Don't Miss These, Friends, Humor, Read-Alouds Location: JP Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Cuddle Up, Goodnight

by Katie Cleminson

Reading Level: Ages 3-5

After a long day of fun activities, it's time for this young boy and his elephant friend to go to bed.

Check availability of this book

More books by Katie Cleminson

Reading Level: Preschoolers Subjects: Friends, Read-Alouds Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

Death Cloud

by Andrew Lane

Reading Level: Grades 6-9

14-year-old Sherlock Holmes is thrust into a deadly adventure when he is sent to live with eccentric relatives during the school holidays

Check availability of this book

More books by Andy Lane

Other engrossing Holmesian spin-offs include:

Eye of the Crow by Shane Peacock

The Case of the Missing Marquess: A Enola Holmes Mystery by Nancy Springer and

The Beekeepers Apprentice by Laurie King

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Historical Fiction, Mysteries Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

The Trouble With Chickens: A J.J. Tully Mystery

by Doreen Cronin

Reading Level: Grades 2-3

When J.J. Tully, a retired search and rescue dog, agrees to help a frantic mother hen find her missing chicks, he finds himself locked in a desperate struggle with an evil dachshund named "Vinnie the Funnel."

Check availability of this book

More books by Doreen Cronin

Other intrepid animal detective tales include:

Bunnicula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery by James Howe

The Buddy Files: The Case of the Lost Boy by Dori Hillestad Butler

The Postman Always Brings Mice by Holm & Hamel and

The Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye by Geronimo Stilton

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Fantasy, Humor, Mysteries
Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

The Things a Brother Knows

by Dana Reinhardt

Reading Level: Grade 7-9

Boaz Katznelson was a great athlete, talented student and all round high school golden boy. He was accepted to Cornell, Berkley, Tufts and Columbia Universities. His family was stunned when he announced he wasn?t going to college, he was enlisting in the Marines. Soon Boaz was overseas?after a few months, he stopped writing home. When Boaz finally came home, he walked straight upstairs and shut the door. He hasn?t been out in three weeks. Levi and his parents have waited three long years for Boaz's return. But he is no longer the brother Levi thought he knew. Even if nobody else wants to see it, Levi knows something is seriously wrong.

When Boaz announces he's off to hike the Appalachian Trail, Levi knows he's lying. So Levi follows, hoping to figure out how to save the brother he once adored.

Check availability of this book

More books by Dana Reinhardt

Other stories of difficult brothers include:

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

sleeping Freshmen Never Lie by David Lubar and

Fighting Ruben Wolfe by Marcus Zusak

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Family, Realistic Fiction, Relationships Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

After Ever After

by Jordan Sonnenblick

Reading Level: Grades 6-8

According to people in his hometown, Jeffrey Alper is a hero. The 8th grader knows he isn't a hero. He's just the local "cancer kid" who had managed to stay alive since he was four years old. He's alive...yes. But Jeffrey has not escaped unscathed. The poisonous chemotherapy he has received over the past decade has left him with a limp and a serious learning disability. Two things that make it even more difficult for Jeffrey to be a "normal kid." This school year is even harder because his big brother Steven, the guy who got him through all the years of cancer treatment and pain has taken off to join a "drumming circle" in Africa leaving Jeff alone to navigate the trials of school, first love and an irascible best friend.

Check availability of this book

More books by Jordan Sonnenblick

Other tales of kids dealing with cancer include:

Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nicholls

Notes From the Dog by Gary Paulsen and

The Last Summer of the Death Warriors by Francisco X. Stork

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Books for Boys, Friends, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, School, Self Image Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

The Ring of Solomon

by Jonathan Stroud

Reading Level: Grades 6-8

The Bartimeaus trilogy chronicled the demon's misadventures while under the control of an 11-year-old magician. In this prequel Stroud shares one of the djinni's earlier adventures as the very reluctant slave of the evil Khaba, an ambitions magician in the court of King Solomon who rules Jerusalem with the help of the powerful slave of the ring.

As usual Bartimeaus's intelligence and snarky attitude land him in a world of trouble after he rescues Asmira, a "hereditary guard" who was sent by the Queen of Sheba to assassinate Solomon, from desert bandits. Instead of eating her, he spares her life setting into motion a disastrous series of events which may well result in the end of the ancient world.

Check availability of this book

More books by Jonathan Stroud

For another entertaining djinn series try::

The Akhenaten Adventure by P.B. Kerr

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Fantasy, Humor, Supernatural Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

The Star Maker

by Laurence Yep

Reading Level: Grades 2-4

When Artie promises his mean cousin that he will give everyone firecrackers on the next Chinese New Year celebration, he immediately regrets it. How will he ever come up with enough money to buy all those firecrackers? Sympathetic to Artie's problem is Uncle Chester - a fun loving everyman who is wildly popular in Chinatown where Artie's family lives. Uncle Chester promises Artie that he will help - but when Uncle Chester's seemingly endless money starts to run out, Artie begins to worry.

Check availability of this book

More books by Laurence Yep

A few similar books:

The Skirt by Gary Soto

Year of the Dog by Grace Lin

Being Teddy Roosevelt by Claudia Mills

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Family, Friends, Read-Alikes, Read-Alouds, Realistic Fiction, Relationships, Social Issues Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

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