

## 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:

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:

The GerbilsSJSSHRRPCHGEFDJCHJLJSMBLWKFAB

## Riding Invisible

by Sandra Alonzo

**Reading Level: Grade 7-9**

15-year-old Yancy is on the run, but not for the usual reasons. He does well in school, has

friends and his parents love him. Yancy is running because of his monster of a brother, 16-year-old Will. Will has a "conduct disorder." For Yancey that means Will can terrorize him with almost no consequences. Yancy's parents barely react after Will cuts the tail off of Yancy's beloved horse Sky. When Will tries to stab Sky Yancy knows it is time to for him and Sky to leave.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books Sandra Alonzo](#)

**Other tales of dangerous older brothers include:**

[Tangerine by Edward Bloor and](#)

[Vandal by Michael Simmons](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Family](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

## The Body Finder

by Kimberly Derting

**Reading Level: Grades 8-10**

All her life 16-year-old Violet Ambrose has heard the echoes of the dead. Not all dead people and animals. Just those who have died violently. When Maya is called when she and her best friend Jay are riding a wave runner, she finds the body of a recently murdered teen girl. It soon becomes apparent that the murder is not an isolated event but the work of a serial killer.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Kimberly Derting](#)

**Other murderous thrillers include:**

[The Christopher Killer: A Forensic Mystery by Alane Ferguson and](#)

[Acceleration by Graham McNamee and](#)

[Genesis Alpha by Rune Michaels](#)

Reading Level: [8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

# Guys Read: Funny Business

by Jon Scieszka

A hilarious collection of stories from some of your favorite authors - don't miss out on this one. My personal favorite is the story by Kate DiCamillo and Jon Scieszka - a series of letters between a favorite author, and a kid looking to get his homework done quickly and easily.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Jon Scieszka](#)

[More books by Mac Barnett](#)

[More books by Adam Rex](#)

[More books by Eoin Colfer](#)

[More books by David Lubar](#)

[More books by Kate DiCamillo](#)

[More books by David Yoo](#)

[More books by Jeff Kinney](#)

[More books by Christopher Paul Curtis](#)

[More books by Paul Feig](#)

[More books by Jack Gantos](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#)  
, [Short Stories](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

# The Gathering

by Kelley Armstrong

## **Reading Level: Grade 7-9**

16-year-old Maya and her adoptive parents live on Vancouver Island in an isolated forested town owned by a medical research company. There are benefits, Maya's K-12 school features the best instructors, technology and materials, but the school only has an enrollment of sixty-eight students. Maya loves the deep forest around the "town" but there isn't much to the town, movies, shopping and restaurants are a long drive away. Best of all, Maya is accepted, even though she is Native American, has a mysterious paw birthmark and an eerie connection to wild cats, especially cougars.

But this past year a string of dark occurrences have Maya questioning her heritage and how safe her isolated little town really is.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Kelley Armstrong](#)

### **Other brooding tales with mysterious settings include:**

[The Gardener by Stephanie Boodeen and](#)

[Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Misfits](#), [Relationships](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

## **Small as an Elephant**

by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

### **Reading Level:** Grades 3 - 6

Jack and his mother go camping in Maine over Labor Day weekend, but when Jack wakes up on their first morning, his mother is gone, along with her tent and the car. Jack's mother has done this before, so he's worried... but knows she'll come back eventually. But the end of the weekend looms closer, and Jack's food money has long since run out.

Jack knows that if he tells anyone his mother has disappeared again, he'll be taken away from her, so he starts heading home, alone.

*Small as an Elephant* is a wonderful urban survival story about a boy who loves nothing more than his mother, and elephants.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Jennifer Richard Jacobson](#)

**A few similar stories of kids in charge of themselves:**

[The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron](#)

[Betti on the High Wire by Lisa Railsback](#)

[How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor](#)

[The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson](#)

[Afternoon of the Elves by Janet Taylor Lisle](#)

[One Square Inch by Claudia Mills](#)

[The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Family](#), [Read-Alikes](#), [Realistic Fiction](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

## **Amelia Lost: the Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart**

by Candace Fleming

**Reading Level:** Grades 3-5

Amelia Earhart was one of the most formidable female pilots of her time, spurring her decision to be the first woman to fly around the world - alone. But a few hours into her flight, Amelia's plane lost radio contact with the ground and became lost. She was never found. Fleming's new biography of Earhart is great for younger readers interested in both the story and the time period.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Candace Fleming](#)

### **Other fascinating biographies:**

The Great and Only Barnum by Candace Fleming

Sir Charlie: Chaplin, the Funniest Man in the World

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip M. Hoose

Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade Subjects: Biographies, Read-Alikes Location: J Non-Fiction

Reviewer:

EF

## **I Survived: The Shark Attacks of 1916**

by Lauren Tarshis

**Reading Level:** Grades 2-4

If one of your friends came up to you and told you there was a man-eating shark in Lake Michigan, right off the shore of Highland Park, you'd probably laugh at them. That's what happened when Chet, a ten year old boy living in New Jersey in 1916, sees a shark fin in the river near his house. But no one believes him. A few days later, Chet hears about a shark attacking a person just up the coast - but his friends don't believe that either - there's no way a shark would ever attack a person. But Chet knows what he saw in the river, and he believes the newspaper story. How can he stop his friends from continuing to swim in the river?

(Based on a True Story)

Check availability of this book

More books by Lauren Tarshis

### **More survival stories:**

Black Star, Bright Dawn by Scott O'Dell

Shipwreck by Gordon Korman

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Animals--Real, Books for Boys, Friends, Historical Fiction, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction Location: J Fiction

Reviewer:

EF

# Brain Jack

by Brian Falkner

**Reading Level:** Grades 6+

After accidentally crashing the country's online systems for three days, teenage hacker Sam finds himself recruited and working for Homeland Security - and all he intended to do was use Telecomerica's giant bank account to purchase new state-of-the-art laptops and neuroheadsets for him and his best friend. Suddenly, thrust into the world of *professional* hacking, Sam begins to unearth information about Telecomerica and the neuro-headsets that go against even *his* unscrupulous view of privacy.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Brian Falkner](#)

**A few other suspenseful digital adventures:**

[Little Brother by Cory Doctorow](#)

[Streams of Babel by Carol Plum-Ucci](#)

[Hacking Timbuktu by Stephen Davies](#)

[The Supernaturalist by Eoin Colfer](#)

[Hacking Harvard by Robin Wasserman](#)

[Trackers by Patrick Carman](#)

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Friends](#), [Misfits](#), [Mysteries](#), [Read-Alikes](#), [Relationships](#), [Science Fiction](#), [Spies](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

# Delirium

by Lauren Oliver

**Reading Level:** Grades 7+

Love, aka *deleria* is the reason for all problems in the world, which is why upon every citizen's eighteenth birthday, a cure is administered, severing the receiver from potential infection. Boys and girls under the age of eighteen, of course, are separated, lest interaction between two

uncureds causes an infection. 17 year-old Lena Haloway, like all other teens her age, can't wait to get the vaccine and be cured of the *deleria* - she hopes that becoming cured will finally sever her from the stigma of her uncured mother's suicide. Just a few months before her scheduled cure, Lena meets Alex, somewhat by accident, and becomes infected. Headstrong and in love, Lena begins to question the cure, as well as everything her society stands for and has taught her; yet her cure date looms ever-closer, promising to destroy herself and Alex.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Lauren Oliver](#)

### **A few other dystopian love stories:**

[Matched by Ally Condie](#)

[Divergent by Veronica Roth](#)

[Uglies by Scott Westerfeld](#)

### **Older readers will also enjoy:**

[Wither by Lauren DeStefano](#)

[Bumped by Megan McCafferty](#)

[Across the Universe by Beth Revis](#)

[Girl Parts by John Cusick](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#), [High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Dystopias](#), [Friends](#), [Read-Alikes](#), [Relationships](#), [Science Fiction](#), [Social Issues](#)

Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

## **Bless This Mouse**

by Lois Lowry

**Reading Level: Grade 2-4**

It is not easy for Hildegarde, the Mouse Mistress of Saint Bartholemew's Church, to keep the more than two hundred church mice who dwell in the church safe and away from human eyes. But try she must for each mouse sighting by a human increases the chances of the dreaded **GREAT X**

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Lois Lowry](#)

**Other tales of hidden creatures include:**

[The School Mouse by Dick King-Smith](#)

[The Doll People by Ann Martin](#)

[The Borrowers by Mary Norton](#)

Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

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