

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

Wanderville

by Wendy McClure



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 6

In 1904, 11-year-old Frances and her younger brother Harold are sent on an orphan train heading to Kansas from New York. On the train they meet Jack, whose family could not afford to keep him. When they hear rumors about horrible conditions that await them in Kansas, the three children jump the train. They meet up with Alexander, a boy who has escaped from a work farm and set up his own "kids-only" town called Wanderville. There they find happiness until the unthinkable happens.

This is the first in a series of historical fiction.

Meet author Wendy McClure at the iRead kick-off on January 10.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Wendy McClure](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#), [5th Grade](#), [6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Historical Fiction](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Nate the Great, Where Are You?

by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat



Reading Level: Grades K - 2

Nate the Great and Sludge his dog have five cases in one day. Nate the Great does not want to have five cases. He and Sludge would like to take a break from being detectives. Nate the Great and Sludge go to a costume shop to get disguises so they do not have to solve their cases or look like detectives. Nate the Great does not like any of the disguises so they do not get any. They go to the woods to be alone and quiet and everyone thinks they have been lost and come after them. The real mystery is: will Nate the Great and Sludge ever get some peace and quiet?

[Check availability of this book.](#)

[Other books in the Nate the Great series.](#)

Reading Level: [Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade](#) Subjects: [Mysteries](#) Location: [JP Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

Mister Bud Wears the Cone

by Carter Goodrich



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 7

Poor Mister Bud has a bad hot spot and has to wear a cone for the day, and his brother, Zorro, is not overly sympathetic.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Carter Goodrich](#)

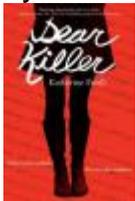
Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Family](#), [Humor](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Dear Killer

by Katherine Ewell



Reading Level: Grades 7 and up

Kit's mother was a serial killer before she married. She had a drop box in London where people

could request a murder and she marked each of her victims with a magic marker heart on their chest, but she never managed to reach the notoriety that most serial killers do. After "quitting" her mother uses her experience to train her only child to be a perfect killing machine. Kit takes over the drop box (with her mother's help) at age nine and, as she grows older and becomes independent, leaves her calling card, the letters cleaned of all DNA, with each of her victims. By the time she is seventeen she has reached Jack the Ripper status and is known to the public as The Perfect Killer. However, when she gets a request from a classmate to kill another classmate things begin to spiral out of control.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Katherine Ewell](#)

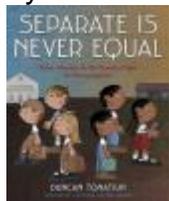
Reading Level: [7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#),[Adults](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Crime and Punishment](#), [Family](#), [Friends](#), [Misfits](#), [School](#), [Self Image](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation

by Duncan Tonatiuh



Reading Level: Grades 2 - 5

When Sylvia's family moved to a new town in California, her aunt took her and her brothers along with her cousins to register for school. The school secretary gave enrollment forms to her two light skinned, light haired cousins, but informed Sylvia and her brothers that they would have to attend the Mexican school. After getting the runaround from every branch of the local government in a town where it was not unusual to see signs that read, "No dogs or Mexicans allowed" Sylvia's father decided the only thing to do was sue the Westminster School District to prove that segregation was unfair; a point that had to be proven seven years later by the more famous Brown vs. The Board of Education case.

[Check availability of this book](#)

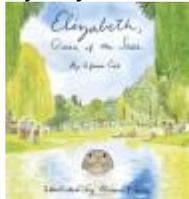
[More books by Duncan Tonatiuh](#)

Reading Level: [2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Family](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [School](#), [Self Image](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [JP Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:
SH

Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas

by Lynne Cox



Reading Level: Grades K - 4

Elizabeth the elephant seal lived in a park in the middle of a busy city. The residents all loved her, but drivers did not because she had a tendency to take naps in the middle of the road. Eventually the government decided that Elizabeth needed to be relocated to an elephant seal colony well away from the city where she would be happy. However, Elizabeth had a different opinion about what would make her happy.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Lynne Cox](#)

[More books by Brian Floca](#)

Illustrator: Brian Floca Reading Level: [2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Real, Biographies, In Other Lands, Non-Fiction](#) Location: [JP Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:
SH

Free to Fall

by Lauren Miller



Reading Level: Grades 8 - Adult

In the not-so-distant future almost everyone is always connected online, and every phone, tablet, app, search engine and social network is made by Gnosis. Rory, like everyone else, allows her

Lux app to decide everything, from what she should wear and eat to where she should go and when she should leave and then she posts her every move to Forum, after all, only those pitiful people with untreated APD listen to that tiny opinionated voice in their head (dubbed The Doubt by the drug companies). When she is accepted to a very exclusive college prep school, which guarantees she will get into the best college and find a high powered job, she is thrilled because the school is packed with all the latest Gnosis technology. But the more she learns about her family's past, Gnosis, and The Doubt the more she begins to wonder if Lux is really designed to help her lead the happiest life she can have or if The Doubt may be trying to tell people something important.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Lauren Miller](#)

Reading Level: [8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#),[Adults](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Dystopias](#), [Family](#), [Friends](#), [Mysteries](#), [School](#), [Science Fiction](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Haven

by Carol Lynch Williams



Reading Level: Grades 6 - 8

Shiloh is a Terminal. She has a terrible disease that sometimes requires operations to remove a lung or a kidney, maybe an arm or leg. That is why the Terminals live at Haven Hospital and Halls, so they can be protected and monitored by Dr. King who is the only one who knows when an amputation is necessary. If it wasn't for the Tonic which helps her sleep and remain calm, Shiloh doesn't know how she or the other Terminals would cope.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Carol Lynch Williams](#)

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

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress

by Christine Baldacchino



Reading Level: Ages 3-7

Morris Micklewhite likes Sundays when his mother makes him pancakes. He also loves Mondays because he gets to go to school, and there are lots of activities he likes there: painting, singing, snack time, the list goes on. The very best thing about school is the dress up box, where he always finds his favorite bright tangerine dress to put on. The other kids aren't very accepting of Morris wearing a dress, but he is able to find solace at home where he paints pictures inspired by his dreams and imagination.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Christine Baldacchino](#)

Illustrator: Isabelle Malenfant Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade](#)

Subjects: [Misfits](#), [School](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

JL

Uninvited

by Sophie Jordan



Reading Level: Grades 8 - 12

Davy's life is wonderful. She lives in a wealthy suburb far from the city which keeps getting more and more dangerous. She is a senior at a private school where she dates the hottest boy on campus, and she is a musical genius who will be going to Julliard next year. Everything is perfect until the results of a mandatory DNA test come in and it is discovered that she has HTS, Homicidal Tendency Syndrome. The Wainwright Institute has shown that the majority of violent

crimes have been committed by people with HTS and as an HTS carrier Davy is suddenly considered a danger to society, no longer welcome at her private school or Julliard, having to see a Wainwright Institute counselor (parole officer) on a regular basis, and worst still, being forced to finish her senior year in The Cage with other HTS carriers at the local public school. Her life couldn't get any worse, or so she thinks...

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Sophie Jordan](#)

Reading Level: [8th Grade](#), [High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Crime and Punishment](#), [Dystopias](#), [Family](#), [Friends](#), [Misfits](#), [Relationships](#), [School](#), [Science Fiction](#), [Self Image](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

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