

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

Hank Finds an Egg

by Rebecca Dudley



Reading Level: Prek - PreK - Grade 2

In this stunning, wordless picture book, Hank, a cute stuffed animal (perhaps a bear or a monkey) finds an egg that has fallen from its nest. After several unsuccessful attempts to reach the nest, Hank cares for the egg at his campsite. With the help of mother hummingbird, there's a happy ending for all. Dudley built wonderfully detailed dioramas from paper, clay, fabric etc. and then photographed them. She created a world readers will want to visit again and again.

[Check availability of this book](#)

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

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Bedtime Monsters

by Josh Schneider



Reading Level: PreK - Grade 3

Josh Schneider hits the mark again as he reinvents the classic monster under the bed tale. Arnold is your average boy. He trashes an imaginary Fifth Avenue and bites off the heads of animal crackers. But Arnold doesn't want to go to bed for fear of bedtime monsters. Sure enough, they appear one by one. Some very silly monsters jump into bed with Arnold since it turns out that they are afraid other monsters. Readers will laugh aloud at the imaginative illustrations and love the surprise ending!

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Josh Schneider](#)

Reading Level: [Preschoolers](#), [Kindergarteners](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#), [3rd Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Humor](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

HG

Rump: The Story of Rumpelstiltskin

by Liesl Shurtliff



Reading Level: Grades 3 - 7

This is Rumpelstiltskin as never before. Instead of the nasty, baby stealing gnome, Rump is a young boy, small for his age, malnourished, and picked on by village bullies. His mother died when he was born and the last thing she uttered was his name. In a kingdom where your name is your fate, how much worse could it get than to be named Rump? But is it his full name?

The original story is here. There's the greedy miller, his beautiful daughter, a gold loving king, and a boy who can spin straw into gold. Add in messenger gnomes, gold crazed biting pixies, witches in woods, and smelly trolls and readers will agree that Shurtliff can spin some tale.

[Check availability of this book](#)

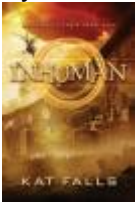
Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#),
[Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Fantasy](#), [Self Image](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

HG

Inhuman

by Kat Falls



Reading Level: Grades 7 & up

Set in a dystopian American, years ago before the story begins a new virus killed millions of people and turned others into half-human, half-animal mutants. The rest of humanity fled and built a wall along the Mississippi River to separate themselves from the "Feral Zone."

When 16-year-old Lane McEvoy learns her father has gone missing, she must enter the forbidden "Feral Zone" to complete a mission that could save his life. Everson, a handsome border guard, and bad boy Rafe accompany Lane her astonishing journey. The characters are multi-faceted and, like all good science fiction, Inhuman raises important questions, namely, what it is to be human or humane. Readers will eagerly await the next two books in the trilogy.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Kat Falls](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Dystopias](#), [Science Fiction](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

HG

33 Minutes

by Todd Hasak-Lowy



Reading Level: Grades 5 - 8

...until Morgan Sturtz kicks my butt

Sam Lewis and Morgan Sturtz were best friends all through elementary school, but by seventh grade Sam is the brainy, nerdy, small kid while Morgan is the popular football player who struggles in school. Readers know something has happened to warrant the promised "butt kicking," but don't find out until later in the book. Hasak-Lowy takes readers through a boring social studies class, a classic food fight, a fire drill and the cover "butt kicking." Sam is a smart, likeable narrator. "If you know someone was going to kick you someplace, would you not hope for that place to be your butt?"

There are so many books about the changing friendships among girls. Here's one about boys that girls will enjoy, too.

[Check availability of this book](#)

Reading Level: [5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Relationships](#), [School](#), [Self Image](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

HG

Asylum

by Madeleine Roux



Reading Level: Grades 6 - 8

Sixteen-year-old Dan is thrilled to be spending the summer on a real college campus taking college courses with a bunch of kids who actually CARE about school. When he arrives he learns that the summer students are all going to be housed in an old asylum which is being converted to dorms. Camp start off normal enough, but after Dan and his new friends explore an off limit area, things start getting strange. Dan begins to have strange dreams involving doctors experimenting on mental patients, and then the blackouts start.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Madeleine Roux](#)

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Fantasy](#), [Horror](#),
[Mysteries](#), [Social Issues](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

SH

Battle Bunny

by Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett



Reading Level: Grades 2-4

It was a sweet story when Gran Gran bought it. She wrote a loving inscription circled by a heart, "Happy Birthday, Alexander! To my little birthday bunny on his special day. Love, Gran Gran."

The saccharine book was more than Alexander could take. With pencil in hand he changes the

gentle story of a little birthday bunny into the wild, raucous adventures of the villainous Battle Bunny!!!

[Check availability of this book](#)

Books by [Jon Scieszka](#)

Books by [Mac Barnett](#)

Other subversive stories include:

[Chester](#) by Melanie Watt

[Killer Koalas From Outer Space](#) by Andy Griffiths and

[Tales for the Perfect Child](#) by Florence Parry Heide

Reading Level: [2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#) Subjects: [Humor](#) Location: [J Graphic Novels](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

The Screaming Staircase

by [Jonathan Stroud](#)



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 8

England has always had ghosts, but ever since The Problem began hauntings have become more frequent and much more dangerous, with ghosts being able to kill people with a touch. Most people are born with the ability to sense ghosts, but they lose this skill when they reach adulthood so now children are employed to watch for and hunt ghosts under the supervision of an adult leader. Thirteen-year-old Lucy, who can hear ghosts, joins the rogue pair of ghost hunters known as Lockwood & Co. which has no adult in charge. Needless to say, nobody is terribly surprised when she and Lockwood accidentally burn down a house on one of her first missions. This new supernatural adventure series by the author of the the Bartemaeus books will leave the reader hoping book two comes out soon.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Jonathan Stroud](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#),
[Fantasy](#), [Horror](#), [Misfits](#), [Supernatural](#)

Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi

by Neal Bascomb



Reading Level: Ages 12 & up

This nonfiction book reads like a fast paced spy thriller. Israeli Mossad agents, German and Israeli government officials, and private citizens worked together to abduct Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichman and bring him to justice. Eichman, responsible for the deaths of six million Jews, disappeared after the war ended. Then there came a report that he was living in Argentina.

All the elements of a spy novel are here: a dangerous mission, false identities, safe houses, and split second timing, but this is a true, well documented history.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Neal Bascomb](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#),[Adults](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Crime and Punishment](#), [The Holocaust](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [Spies](#) Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Fortunately, the Milk

by Neil Gaiman



Reading Level: Ages 8 - 12

Dad has been left in charge of the house in Mom's absence and there is no milk for his children's cereal. Not much of a plot unless the author is Neil Gaiman. In the ultimate "the dog ate my homework" story, Dad explains why it took so long to get the milk. The story involves alien aduction, pirates, a dinosaur professor in a hot-air balloon, "wumpires," the space-time continuum- oh, you get the idea. Illustrator Skottie Young 's illustrations manage to match the zaniness of the plot. I'd write more, but I think Bigfoot needs help finding a book and there's the spell cast on the Youth Services Department and . . .

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Youth titles books by Neil Gaiman](#)

[Neil Gaiman books, including books written for teens and adults](#)

[Books illustrated by Skottie Young](#)

Illustrator: [Skottie Young](#) Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#)

Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Fantasy](#), [Humor](#), [Read-Alouds](#), [Time Travel](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

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