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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:
ABCHDJJLJSMBPCRRSHSJSThe GerbilsEFLWHG

The Warrior's Heart

by Eric Greitens

Reading Level: Grades 6 and up

What sort of person becomes a Rhodes Scholar (one of the most prestigious academic honors in the world) and then signs on to become a Navy SEAL? Eric Greitens will take you on his journey that led him from refugee camps in Rwanda and Bosnia, the slums of Bolivia, the rigors of Navy SEAL training to the battlefields of Iraq and then home. In this adaptation for teens of his best-selling novel you will meet an extraordinary person you will not soon forget.

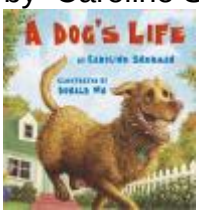
Check availability of this book

Other books by Eric Greitens

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Biographies, Books for Boys Location: JY Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

A Dog's Life

by Caroline Sherman



Reading Level: Ages 2 - 6

A dog talks about all the things he has to do each day, like make sure people don't oversleep and clean the dishes in this funny book for dog lovers.

Check availability of this book

More books by Caroline Sherman

More books by Donald Wu

Illustrator: Donald Wu Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Real, Humor, Read-Alouds Location: Picture Books

Reviewer:
SH

Fang Girl

by Helen Keeble

Reading Level: Grades 6 and up

Xanthe Jane (don't call her Xanthe) has always loved vampires, as stories, but she knows they aren't real. Then one night she is woken up by a cellphone playing the theme from Dracula and discovers that she is in a coffin, in her grave, and her vampire sire is exhuming her. When her sire is chased off before she can finish digging Jane up, Jane is left to figure out how she could be a vampire when she's never been bitten and what is she supposed to do now, in this tongue-in-cheek vampire novel.

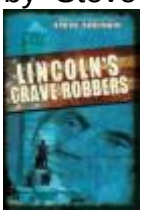
Check availability of this book

More books by Helen Keeble

Subjects: Adventure, Family, Fantasy, Folktales, Friends, Horror, Humor, Supernatural, Vampires
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

Lincoln's Grave Robbers

by Steve Sheinkin



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 9

Why would anyone want to steal the body of President Abraham Lincoln? The answer involves counterfeiters and the newly fledged Secret Service. Written like a heist caper, *Lincoln's Grave Robbers* details a little known part of history that really didn't have much impact, but it's sure fun

to read about.

Check availability of this book

Other books by Steve Sheinkin

Reading Level: 4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Boys, Crime and Punishment, Non-Fiction Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Don't Turn Around

by Michelle Gagnon

Reading Level: Grades 8 and up

This tense well crafted thriller opens with 16-year-old Noa waking up on a metal table in a warehouse with an incision in her chest. Much like a young Dragon Tattoo's Lisbeth Salander Noa is a tough, smart orphan who has been mistreated by the system and was able to use her considerable computer skills to establish a life on the border of society. After her escape, she meets up with wealthy, privileged Peter who has hacked his way into some files in his father's office. Both teens find themselves on the run. Will they elude capture long enough to get some answers? Who are these men who are chasing them and why are they after Noa and Peter? What has done to Noa? What is the connection to Peter's family?

WARNING: This is the first book in a trilogy. Book one leaves you hanging. You'll want to keep reading, but you can't.

Check availability of this book

Reading Level: 8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Books for Girls, Science Fiction Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Penny and Her Marble

by Kevin Henkes

Reading Level: Grades1 - 2

While taking a walk Penny finds a beautiful marble on Mrs. Goodwin's lawn and takes it home, but then her conscience begins to bother her. What if the marble belongs to Mrs. Goodwin and she wants it back?

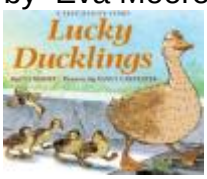
Check availability of this book

More books by Kevin Henkes

Reading Level: 1st Grade,2nd Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Crime and Punishment, Humor Location: JP Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

Lucky Ducklings

by Eva Moore



Reading Level: Ages 2 - 7

Mama duck takes her duckings for a walk through the park and into town where they encounter an unexpected sewer grate with holes just the right size to swallow up ducklings in this book reminiscent of Make Way for Ducklings and Ducks Disappearing.

Check availability of this book

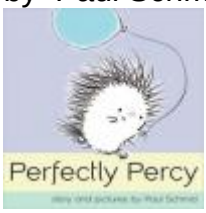
More books by Eva Moore

More books illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

Illustrator: Nancy Carpenter Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade Subjects: Adventure, Animals--Real Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SH

Perfectly Percy

by Paul Schmid



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 6

The thing that makes Percy the happiest is balloons. Unfortunately, because he is a porcupine, balloons also tend to make him the saddest as well. How can a little porcupine possibly play with a balloon without popping it?

Check availability of this book

More books by Paul Schmid

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Humor
Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SH

Not Your Typical Dragon

by Dan Bar-el

Ages 4+

On dragons' seventh birthdays, they get to breathe fire. But Crispin's seventh birthday doesn't go the way he thinks it will... as he takes a deep breath to light his birthday candles, *whipped cream* comes out, not fire! Every time Crispin tries to breathe fire, something completely wrong comes out!

Will Crispin ever be able to breathe **fire** like a normal dragon?

Find this book in our catalog.

More books written by Dan Bar-el.

More books illustrated by Tim Bowers.

Illustrator: Tim Bowers Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Fantasy, Humor, Self Image Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

Sylvia's Spinach

by Katherine Pryor

Ages 3+

Sylvia Spivens always said no to spinach. (I can empathize.) But when he class gardening project lands her with the spinach seeds... she doesn't have a choice! No one will trade seeds with her. She is stuck with spinach.

But when Sylvia's spinach begins to sprout and grow, she stops disliking it so much. Taking care of the plant is fun! Then Sylvia's teacher suggests everyone try eating what they have grown. Will Sylvia try her spinach?

A good book about encouraging new things couched in a great story about growing plants!

Find this book in our catalog.

More books written by Katherine Pryor.

More books illustrated by Anna Raff.

Illustrator: Anna Raff Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Realistic Fiction, School Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

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