

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

Vodník

by Bryce Moore



Reading Level: Grades 5 - 8

After Tomas' house burns down, his family moves back to Slovakia where they had lived until Tomas was five and where he had nearly died. Soon after his arrival in his mother's home town he begins to have strange encounters with Slovakian legendary characters. Everyone, from Death herself to a crazy water vampire, known as a vodnik, seems to remember him and want something from him.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Bryce Moore](#)

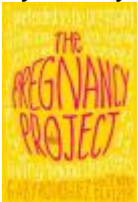
Reading Level: [5th Grade](#), [6th Grade](#), [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Folktales](#), [Horror](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Misfits](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Pregnancy Project: A Memoir

by Gaby Rodriguez with Jenna Glatzer



Reading Level: Grades 7 and up

Gaby's mother became pregnant with her first child at 14. All of Gaby's seven older brothers and sisters became teen parents as well, but Gaby, who was an unplanned, post-divorce child, is determined to not follow in her family's footsteps. When she needed to design her senior year research project she wondered, how would people react if a hardworking, determined student with a planned out future DID become a teen mother? Thus begins a six month long faked teen pregnancy and social experiment.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Gaby Rodriguez](#)

More books by Jenna Glatzer

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Biographies, Books for Girls, Family, Friends, Misfits, Non-Fiction, Relationships, School, Self Image, Social Issues

Location: JY Non-Fiction

Reviewer:

SH

Last Airlift: A Vietnamese Orphan's Rescue from War

by Marsha Forechuk Skrypuch

Reading Level: Grades 3-6

This is the true story of Tuyet, an eight-year-old orphan who didn't remember her life before the Saigon orphanage. There were the scars that she thought might have been from the war that still raged on, but she couldn't remember. When Saigon fell, she was one of 57 babies and children evacuated to Canada during "Operation Babylift."

Check availability of the book

Books by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch

Novels about war orphans:

Betti on the Highwire by Lisa Railsback

Dogtag Summer by Elizabeth Partridge

Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade Subjects: Biographies, Books for Girls, Non-Fiction Location: J Non-Fiction

Reviewer:

HG

Anna Dressed in Blood

by Kendare Blake

Grades 7+

Cas, teenage ghost killer, moves to a new town to pursue a tip he's gotten on a murderous ghost known as Anna Dressed in Blood. Cute, personable guy that he is, he quickly gets in with the

popular crowd - his plan is to learn as much as he can about Anna - and who tells urban legends better than high schoolers?

Cas doesn't really expect Anna to be any more formidable of a ghost than anything else he's thought. But, of course, Anna is different.

Creepy, spooky, gory... you won't soon forget Anna or her dress of blood.

[Find this book on our shelves.](#)

[More books by Kendare Blake.](#)

Similar titles you may enjoy:

[Beautiful Creatures](#) by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl

[Texas Gothic](#) by Rosemary Clement-Moore

[The Name of the Star](#) by Maureen Johnson

[The Summoning](#) by Kelley Armstrong

[Skeleton Creek](#) by Patrick Carman

For older readers:

[Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children](#) by Ransom Riggs

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Horror](#), [Read-Alikes](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

The One and Only Ivan

by Katherine Applegate

Grades 4+

Ivan (The Ape at Exit 8) is a downtrodden, has-been silverback gorilla living in a small, unkept domain within a shopping mall, occasionally accompanied by Bob, a stray dog who sneaks into Ivan's domain through a hole in the glass.

Stella, an aging elephant with a bad foot, dies from lack of treatment after Ruby, a baby elephant purchased from a defunct circus, arrives at the mall. The owner hopes Ruby will jumpstart visitor attendance again. Before Stella dies, she asks Ivan to promise that he will bring Ruby somewhere safe, knowing his devotion to protection of his friends is paramount.

Ivan's poetic narration is honest, painful, and heartbreaking; Applegate's insight into captive animal life is powerful. Don't miss this book, no matter how old you are.

[Find this book on our shelves.](#)

[More books by Katherine Applegate.](#)

Illustrator: Patricia Castelao Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#),[Adults](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Non-Prose](#), [Read-Alouds](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

Giants Beware!

by Jorge Aguirre



Grades 3-5

Claudette, a spunky medieval girl with her heart set on giant-slaying, encounters some difficulty doing so because she is a girl. Accompanied by her cowardly brother, Gaston, and Marie, Claudette's polar opposite, determined Claudette sets out to slay a giant. Giants beware? More like anyone-who-crosses-the-main-character-Claudette Beware!

An action-packed graphic novel for adventure-lovers, *Giants Beware!* introduces a powerful main character and expertly blends comedy with fantasy.

[Find this book on our shelves.](#)

[More books by Jorge Aguirre.](#)

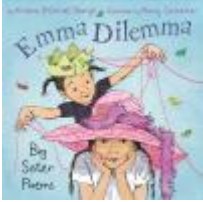
Illustrator: Rafael Rosado Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [Misfits](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [J Graphic Novels](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems

by Kristine O'Connell George



Reading Level: Grades 2-4

These poems are for every big sister who has had to deal with an little sister who drives them crazy! Has your room been invaded? Does she want to join you and your friends? Do you parents always expect you to be the "role model?" But do you really, really love each other-most of the time? This is the book for you!

[Check availability of this book](#)

Books by [Kristine O'Connell George](#)

Illustrator: Nancy Carpenter Reading Level: [2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Family](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [Non-Prose](#), [Relationships](#) Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Mister Death's Blue-Eyed Girls

by Mary Downing Hahn



Reading Level: Ages 12 and up

Combining murder mystery, historical fiction, and a coming-of-age story, this chilling book is based on real life events in the author's past. The time is 1956 and Nora anticipates spending the summer before her senior year with her group of friends. But two of her friends are shot to death on their way to the last day of school. Everyone but Nora is sure that the murderer is a jealous ex-boyfriend. Told from a number of perspectives, the story examines the effect this horrible event had on so many lives.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Books by Mary Downing Hahn](#)

Another story of a shooting is

[Give a Boy a Gun](#) by Todd Strasser

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#),
[Books for Girls](#), [Crime and Punishment](#), [Historical Fiction](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

A Boy and a Bear in a Boat

by Dave Shelton



Grades 1-4

A boy, looking to go to the other side, hops into a bear's boat for what he is assured will not be too long of a journey. Hours later, the bear continues to assure the boy that They. Are. Not. Lost. Sometimes unforeseen anomalies arise, you know.

Days later the two have run out of sandwiches.

A simple, quiet adventure story perfectly tailored for a bedtime read-aloud, *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* recalls cozy, character-rich classics with plenty to think about, yet is one of a kind and quite quirky.

[Find this book on our shelves.](#)

[More books by Dave Shelton.](#)

Other good read-alouds for [age 4 to 2nd grade](#) and [grades 3 and older](#).

Reading Level: [1st Grade](#),[2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Animals--Talking](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Read-Alouds](#), [Survival](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

Justin Case: Shells, Smells, and the Horrible Flip-Flops of Doom

by Rachel Vail



Grades 2-5

If you thought Justin had a worrisome and difficult third-grade year, just *wait* until you read about his summer at Camp GoldenBrook.

After third-grade, Justin is determined to stop worrying so much - until he finds out he's going to a camp that is probably going to kill him - if his flip-flops don't do the job first.

Fans of *Alvin Ho* or the *Wimpy Kid* series will love Justin's humorous attempts at bravery, and find Justin to be a welcome friend.

Find this book on our shelves.

More books by Rachel Vail.

Read the first book in the Justin Case series.

Other series about kids like Justin:

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Greg Kinney

Alvin Ho by Lenore Look

Big Nate by Lincoln Peirce

Mason Dixon by Claudia Mills

Stand-alone books you may enjoy:

Herbert's Wormhole by Peter Nelson

The Thing about Georgie by Lisa Graff

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Illustrator: Matthew Cordell Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade

Subjects: Books for Boys, Don't Miss These, Friends, Humor, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, Social Issues, Sports Location: J Fiction

Reviewer:

EF

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