

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:

Babies Preschoolers Kindergarteners 1st Grade 2nd Grade 3rd Grade 4th Grade 5th Grade 6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade High Schoolers Adults

Genre:

Adventure Animals--Real Animals--Talking Award Winners Biographies Books for Boys Books for Girls Chick Lit Crime and Punishment Don't Miss These Dystopias Family Fantasy Folktales Friends Historical Fiction The Holocaust Horror Humor In Other Lands LGBT Misfits Mysteries Mythological Non-Fiction Non-Prose Phonetic Read-Alikes Read-Alouds Realistic Fiction Rebus Relationships School Science Fiction Self Image Short Stories Social Issues Spies Sports Supernatural Survival Time Travel Vampires Werewolves

Collection:

J Fiction J Graphic Novels J Non-Fiction J Series JP Fiction JP Non-Fiction JP Series JY Fiction JY Graphic Novels JY Non-Fiction Picture Books Spanish Picturebook

Reviewer:

The Gerbils SJS SHRRPCHGEFDJCHJLJSMBLWKFAB

Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert

by Marc Aronson

Grades 4+

In August of 2010, a Chilean mine collapsed suddenly, trapping thirty-three men in the dark mine over a mile beneath the earth with limited supplies. After the collapse, the men were able to get to a shelter point, but had no way to communicate with the ground above. All routes to the surface were blocked by the accident.

Initial rescue attempts did not prove successful - maps of the mine were not updated and were somewhat inaccurate; rescue drilling routes that were, on the maps, clear shots to the miners were unable to bypass the sediment.

A gripping and inspirational survival and rescue tale of teamwork and determination, *Trapped* may make you claustrophobic at times, but ultimately will fill you with optimism. A must-read non-fiction account of recent history for kids and adults alike.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Marc Aronson](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#), [5th Grade](#), [6th Grade](#), [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#), [High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Biographies](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [Survival](#) Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

Are You Going to Kiss Me Now?

by Sloane Tanen

Reading Level: Grade 7-10

When her father left her mother to live with an airhead, Fran understood. ANYONE would have trouble living with Fran's mother. But when her father told her the airhead was pregnant, Fran had to kill him...at least on paper. She submitted an essay entitled, "Good-bye Father: A Daughter's Loss" to Seventeen Magazine's "My Life" essay contest. She didn't expect to win.

When she got the phone call, Fran was astounded. Since she lied about her father's demise, she knows she can't keep the scholarship. But she just can't stand to lose the other part of the prize, touring Africa with A-list celebrities. So Fran accepts the prize, lies to her parents and boards the plane with her idols. She'll worry about repercussions when she gets home.

When the plane crashes on a remote island somewhere far off the coast of southern Africa, Fran is no longer worried about her parents or even Seventeen Magazine. She just hopes she and her famous fellow cast-a ways can survive.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Sloane Tanen](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Chick Lit](#), [Survival](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Jeremy Bender vs. the Cupcake Cadets

by Eric Luper

Reading Level: Grade 4-6

Jeremy Bender wants, wants, wants to drive his father's boat...the one he is not allowed to touch. Jeremy has been secretly working on the engine of the boat, an antique Chris-Craft, sure that once his father discovers the boat all ready to run in the spring he will let Jeremy take it out on the lake by himself.

Disaster strikes when a grape soda spill and an accidental green paint spray (his pal Slater's fault) ruins the engine. The boys have to raise \$470 so they can secretly repair the engine before spring. How can two 6th grade boys earn that kind of money in a couple of months? Jeremy finds the answer on the library bulletin board, the Cupcake Cadets annual model boat race. First prize is \$500.

There is one catch...only girls can be Cupcake Cadets. Armed with two of his older sister's used cadet uniforms and a wig for himself (Slater has long hair), Jeremy and Slater disguise themselves as home-schooled twin sisters and join the cadet troop. The \$500 is as good as theirs. How hard could it be to earn three merit badges (the entrance requirement) and beat a bunch of girls?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Eric Luper](#)

Additional tales of the view from the other side include:

[The day Joanie Frankenhauser Became a Boy by Francess Lin Lantz](#)

[Gender Blender by Blake Nelson and](#)

[Boy2Girl by Terence Blacker](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [Realistic Fiction](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

SJS

Drawing From Memory

by Allen Say

Reading Level: Grade 5-7

Caldecott Medal winner Allen Say 's memoir of his improbable childhood is told in an equally unique manner. The book is part graphic novel with sketches, classic Japanese comics and original photographs.

Allen knew from an early age that he wanted to become a cartoonist, but his father didn't think this was a profession for a proper Japanese boy. The war changed things for Allen and he was able to work at his art. At the age of twelve, he approached Noro Shinpei, the most famous cartoonist in Japan. Shinpei became his sensei, which means "teacher" or "master." It was a relationship that would change Allen's life.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Allen Say](#)

Reading Level: [5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Biographies](#) Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

HG

The Boy Who Bit Picasso

by Antony Penrose

Reading Level: Age 6 - 10

Most children bite someone when they are little. Tony Penrose bit the world famous artist, Pablo Picasso (who bit him back.) Now grown Antony shares his memories of a close family friend. Tony's parents are photographer, Lee Miller, and artist, Roland Penrose which explains the close connection between the Penrose and Picasso families. The book is filled with artworks by Picasso, old photographs by Tony's mother, and drawings by modern day children.

One of the great joys of this book is seeing the original subject and then Picasso's Interpretation of that subject. The reader can compare pictures of William, the Penrose family bull, Picasso's wife and his two youngest children, and, best of all, Tony's mother with the Picasso's paintings. See if you agree or disagree with Tony's friends at school.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Amy Axelrod](#)

Reading Level: [1st Grade](#),[2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Biographies](#),
[Non-Fiction](#) Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Addie on the Inside

by James Howe

Reading Level: Grades 6-8

This companion book to *The Misfits* and *Totally Joe* is a worthy addition to the story of the Gang of Five. Addie Carle is now thirteen and facing the "purgatory of the middle school years." Written entirely in verse, these poems show a softer, more vulnerable side of strong, brave Addie. While Addie isn't reluctant to voice her opinions about everything from gay rights to women's role in history, she also feels the appeal of popularity. She loves having a boyfriend, but finds he doesn't love some of the things she says or the way she says them. A former girlfriend moves back to town and joins her tormentors. While Addie understands that there are those who love her and value her for herself, the turmoil and the gossip are hard to take.

Readers will like Addie and the conclusion she reaches. The first poem is by the author directed to the reader. He asks, "open your eyes, your mind, your heart." Anyone who reads this book will.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by James Howe](#)

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Friends](#), [Misfits](#),
[Non-Prose](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Relationships](#), [Self Image](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

The Auslander

by Paul Dowswell

Reading Level: Grades 7 and up

When Piotr's parents are killed he is sent to an orphanage in Warsaw. But Peter is Volksdeutscher, of German blood, and with his blonde good looks he is the image of a Hitler Youth. Newly christened Peter, he is grateful to escape the misery of the orphanage and to be accepted into the home of a prominent Nazi family. The friendly, jovial father is involved with research into racial purity. While Peter is never a strong supporter of Nazi doctrine, he finds that he is expected to participate in Nazi Youth organizations. As time passes he questions doctrine and rebels in small ways. Finally, though terrified, he helps the resistance.

While many books have been written about The Holocaust and this period of history, this is one of the few that explains the appeal of National Socialism. The author has obviously done extensive research into the experiments dealing with racial purity. This is a compelling thought-provoking novel.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Paul Dowswell](#)

You might also find the following books interesting. Both are written by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. [The Boy Who Dared](#) and [Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow](#).

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [The Holocaust](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Should I Share My Ice Cream?

by Mo Willems

Reading Level: Grades K - 2

Elephant struggles with a terrible moral dilemma: should he share his ice cream with Piggie, which he knows is the right thing to do, or should he eat the whole thing himself, which is what he would really LIKE to do.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Mo Willems](#)

Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#) Location: [JP Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Memento Nora

by Angie Smibert

Reading Level: Grades 8 and up

"I'm about to forget everything I'm going to tell you." So begins the therapeutic statement of Nora James, age 15. Nora and her two friends Micah and Winter, are being held at the Detention Center for Therapeutic Forgetting. In a world filled with random bombings, the authorities find that the people usually want to take the pill that will make them forget all the ugliness. Nora and her friend will be forced to take The Big Pill that will erase all memory of their friendship and everything that happened.

When Nora witnesses the death of a bombing victim, her mother takes her to the TFC for her first pill. But after a chance encounter with Micah, Nora decides she'd rather keep her memories. An unlikely alliance is formed when artists Micah and Winter befriend Nora and the trio creates the comic "Memento." As the three learn more about the forces at work in their world, their rebellion becomes more dangerous.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Angie Smibert](#)

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

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Junonia

by Kevin Henkes

Reading Level: Grades 3 - 5

Only child Alice and her parents go to the same beach every winter, where they celebrate her

birthday and visit with the various vacationers, young and old, who have become their friends. This year is Alice's tenth birthday, but there are some disappointing changes: Some friends can't make it, others have aged, and some newcomers (interlopers?) are unexpectedly included, such as a motherless, annoying six year old. Alice is a sensitive, observant girl, and the various disappointments that arise from these changes are difficult for her, partly because they reveal to Alice unflattering things about herself. Throughout the less than ideal vacation, she relies on the knowledge that she is "alone together" with people who love her.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Kevin Henkes](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#), [4th Grade](#), [5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Family](#), [Realistic Fiction](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[CH](#)

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