

## 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

## The Copper Gauntlet

by Cassandra Clare



### Reading Level: Grades 4-6

Despite his best attempts NOT to attend the Magisterium, Callum has managed to complete his first year and acquire a pet, Havoc a Chaos-ridden wolf. Call tries to enjoy his summer at home with his father but finds it difficult because 1) His father hates the Magisterium; 2) His father despises Havoc and 3) His father seems to be afraid of Call. When Call uncovers his father's plan to kill both Call and Havoc, Call flees back to the Magisterium. He isn't happy or safe there either because Call knows a secret about himself. A secret that will probably end in the death of Call or his best friend.

Be sure to read book #1 in the Magisterium series [The Iron Trial](#).

Check [availability](#) of this book

Other books by [Holly Black](#)

Other books by [Cassandra Clare](#)

### Stories set in schools of magic include:

[Witch Week](#) by Diana Wynne Jones

[The Hound of Rowan](#) by Henry Neff

[Hex Hall](#) by Rachel Hawkins and

[Midnight for Charlie Bone](#) by Jenny Nimmo

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Fantasy](#), [School](#)

Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

## Escape to the World's Fair

by Wendy McClure



**Reading Level:** Grades 3 - 7

The orphans are on the run again in this third book of the Wanderville series. Their dream is to make a permanent, safe home in California, but how will they get there? Fortune brings them a chance to earn a huge reward that would finance their journey if they can deliver a strange medallion to someone at the 1904 World's Fair in St.Louis. Can they make the trip without being found by the evil Miss DeHaven from the Children's Aid Society? Will everyone stay together in the new "family" they have found? Who can they trust? McClure has written another fast paced page turner.

**Meet author Wendy McClure at the library on January 9th.**

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Wendy McClure](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

## [The Tournament at Gorlan](#)

by John Flanagan



**Reading Level:** Grades 5-8

Attention *Ranger's Apprentices* fans! Adventures in the Kingdom of Araluen are back with this first volume of the *Early Years* prequel series which trace the adventures of two young rangers, Halt and Crowley, during one of the most dangerous times in the Kingdom of Araluen. Brilliant, lethal Baron Morgarath has isolated King Oswald and discredited the crown prince. As part of his plan Morgarath has corrupted the King's staunchest allies, the Ranger corps. Determined to save the kingdom Crowley and Halt embark on a desperate race to find and recruit the scattered loyal Rangers before it is too late.

**[Check availability of this book](#)**

**Other books by [John Flanagan](#)**

**Other books for action-lovers include:**

[The Merchant of Death](#) by D. J. MacHale

[The Warrior Heir](#) by Cinda Williams Chima

[Eon: Dragoneye Reborn](#) by Alison Goodman and

[Fall of a Kingdom](#) by Hilari Bell

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

Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

## **[Cakes in Space](#)**

by Philip Reeve



**Reading Level: Grades 2-5**

Astra and her family are migrating to Nova Mundi. The trip will take 199 years. But Astra won't see any scenery because all the humans will be put in a deep, deep frozen sleep until the ship reaches their new home. Everything WOULD have gone as planned if Astra hadn't slipped off to the dining hall and asked the Num-O-Tron to make a cake that "is so delicious it is scary." Astra doesn't get her cake because the Num-O-Tron is still computing when she is put in her pod. When she wakes up she discovers the ship is infested with giant, ferocious cupcakes. Worse Pibeam, a friendly robot, tells her there are still ninety-nine years left before anyone else wakes up. Can Astra evade the sharp toothed cupcakes long enough to save the ship??

**[Check availability of this book](#)**

**Other books by [Philip Reeve](#)**

**If you liked this wacky science fiction tale try:**

**Can of Worms by Kathy Mackel**

**Archie Takes Flight by Wendy Mass**

**Space Rocks! by Tom O'Donnell and**

**Escape from Planet Yastol by Pamela Service**

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Humor,  
Science Fiction Location: J Fiction

Reviewer:

SJS

## **Cakes in Space**

by Sarah McIntyre



**Reading Level: Grades 2-5**

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## Escape from Planet Yastol by Pamela Service

Reading Level: [2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Humor](#),  
[Science Fiction](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

# Summer Showers

by Kate Hannigan



**Reading level:** Grades 3 - 4

The entire Bumpus family is together again for their annual summer vacation. Cousins Delia and Willow are determined to carry on as chefs despite Willow's broken hand. There's lots to do. They hope to drum up business for the new Arts and Eats cafe with a winning entry at the county fair. They also plan to cater Aunt Rosie's baby shower and Delia really hopes she'll be able to find the heirloom ring that grandma gave her. Could it have fallen into some batter? The second entry in the Cupcake Cousins series has new Kate Hannigan tested recipes. Readers will relish this lively, sweet celebration of family.

**Meet author Kate Hannigan at the library on January 9th.**

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Kate Hannigan](#)

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

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

# The Sword of Summer

by Rick Riordan



### **Reading Level: Grades 6-9**

The author of the "Percy Jackson & the Olympians" series strikes gold again in this first episode of his new series "Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard."

Magnus Chase has been living on the streets ever since the wolves burst into the apartment and killed his mother. With her last breath she told him to hide and never go to his uncle for help. On his sixteenth birthday he can hide no more. Fate, in the form of his uncle, has found him. In moments Magnus recovers (and loses) a powerful, magical sword, fights a ferocious fire giant, dies and is taken to Valhalla, a paradise for warriors, where he discovers he is the son of the god of spring and summer.

[Check availability of this book](#)

### **More books by [Rick Riordan](#)**

**If you enjoyed this Norse mythological adventure try:**

[The Sea of Trolls](#) by Nancy Farmer

[Loki's Wolves](#) by Kelley Armstrong and

[Runemarks](#) by Joanne Harris

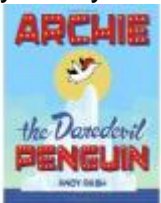
Reading Level: [6th Grade](#), [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#), [High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Fantasy](#), [Mythological](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

## **Archie the Daredevil Penguin**

by Andy Rash



**Reading Level:** Grades PreK - 3

All the other penguins know that Archie is fearless. He has climbed to the summit of Nosebleed Mountain among other exploits. But he's hiding a secret; he's afraid to swim and doesn't know how he'll get to Iceberg Nine for the fish fry. After various attempts to fly there, Archie learns to overcome his fear of the ocean and the creatures that live there. Rash's hilarious illustrations with sound bubbles will have you clapping for Archie along with his penguin friends!

**Meet author/illustrator Andy Rash at the library on January 9th.**

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books written or illustrated by Andy Rash](#)

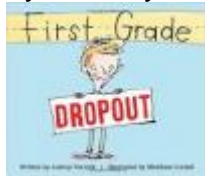
Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade](#) Location:  
[Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

## First Grade Dropout

by Audrey Vernick



**Reading Level:** Ages 4 - 8

Is there anyone who hasn't done something that is so embarrassing that they don't want to face the witnesses? In this book the boy's horrible blunder was, "I. Called. My. Teacher. MOMMY!!!" The class and laughed and now he sees no alternative but to drop out of school. The illustrations are Jules Feiffer-like. There's a great one that shows the image of the boy's class as a marching band all shouting "Ha Ha" and wearing caps that say "MOMMY." In the end the boy learns a little about laughing off mistakes and laughing at others.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Audrey Vernick](#)

[Other books written or illustrated by Matthew Cordell](#)

**Meet illustrator Matthew Cordell at the library on January 9th.**

Illustrator: Matthew Cordell Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade](#)

Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [School](#), [Self Image](#) Location:

[Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:



HG

# Detective's Assistant

by Kate Hannigan



**Reading Level:** Ages 9 - 12

In 1859 an orphaned eleven-year-old girl arrives in Chicago hoping to stay with her only living relative, Aunt Kitty. Her aunt prefers that Nell reside at the Chicago Home for the Friendless. And no wonder. There's bad blood between Kitty and Nell's family and Aunt Kitty is busy being the first woman detective for the Pinkerton Agency. Her aunt uses elaborate disguises in her undercover work as she solves murders and thefts and attempts to thwart an assassination. If Nell proves to be an able assistant perhaps her aunt will let her stay. Hannigan's fast paced novel combines adventure, humor, and history along with codes for readers to solve.

**Meet author Kate Hannigan at the library on January 9th.**

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Kate Hannigan](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Crime and Punishment](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [Spies](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

HG

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