HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Information & Imagination
494 Laurel Ave., Highland Park, IL • 847-432-0216
Published on *Highland Park Public Library* (https://www.hplibrary.org)

New Book Reviews for Kids

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

Guys Read: Funny Business

by Jon Scieszka

A hilarious collection of stories from some of your favorite authors - don't miss out on this one. My personal favorite is the story by Kate DiCamillo and Jon Scieszka - a series of letters between a favorite author, and a kid looking to get his homework done quickly and easily.

Check availability of this book

More books by Jon Scieszka

More books by Mac Barnett

More books by Adam Rex

More books by Eoin Colfer

More books by David Lubar

More books by Kate DiCamillo

More books by David Yoo

More books by Jeff Kinney

More books by Christopher Paul Curtis

More books by Paul Feig

More books by Jack Gantos

Reading Level: 4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Books for Boys , Short Stories Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

The Gathering

by Kelley Armstrong

Reading Level: Grade 7-9

16-year-old Maya and her adoptive parents live on Vancouver Island in an isolated forested town owned by a medical research company. There are benefits, Maya's K-12 school features the best instructors, technology and materials, but the school only has an enrollment of sixty-eight students. Maya loves the deep forest around the "town" but there isn't much to the town, movies, shopping and restuarants are a long drive away. Best of all, Maya is accepted, even though she is Native American, has a mysterious paw birthmark and an eerie connection to wild cats, especially cougars.

But this past year a string of dark occurrences have Maya questioning her heritage and how safe

her isolated little town really is.

Check availability of this book

More books by Kelley Armstrong

Other brooding tales with mysterious settings include:

The Gardener by Stephanie Boodeen and

Beautiful Creatures by Kami Garcia

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Girls, Fantasy, Friends, Misfits, Relationships, Supernatural Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Small as an Elephant

by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

Reading Level: Grades 3 - 6

Jack and his mother go camping in Maine over Labor Day weekend, but when Jack wakes up on their first morning, his mother is gone, along with her tent and the car. Jack's mother has done this before, so he's worried... but knows she'll come back eventually. But the end of the weekend looms closer, and Jack's food money has long since run out.

Jack knows that if he tells anyone his mother has disappeared again, he'll be taken away from her, so he starts heading home, alone.

Small as an Elephant is a wonderful urban survival story about a boy who loves nothing more than his mother, and elephants.

Check availability of this book

More books by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

A few similar stories of kids in charge of themselves:

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron

Betti on the High Wire by Lisa Railsback

How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor

The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson

Afternoon of the Elves by Janet Taylor Lisle

One Square Inch by Claudia Mills

The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo

Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade Subjects: Books for Boys, Don't Miss These, Family, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Amelia Lost: the Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

by Candace Fleming

Reading Level: Grades 3-5

Amelia Earhart was one of the most formidable female pilots of her time, spurring her decision to be the first woman to fly around the world - alone. But a few hours into her flight, Amelia's plane lost radio contact with the ground and became lost. She was never found. Fleming's new biography of Earhart is great for younger readers interested in both the story and the time period.

Check availability of this book

More books by Candace Fleming

Other fascinating biographies:

The Great and Only Barnum by Candace Fleming

Sir Charlie: Chaplin, the Funniest Man in the World

Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice by Phillip M. Hoose

Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade Subjects: Biographies, Read-Alikes Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

I Survived: The Shark Attacks of 1916

by Lauren Tarshis

Reading Level: Grades 2-4

If one of your friends came up to you and told you there was a man-eating shark in Lake Michigan, right off the shore of Highland Park, you'd probably laugh at them. That's what happened when Chet, a ten year old boy living in New Jersey in 1916, sees a shark fin in the river near his house. But no one believes him. A few days later, Chet hears about a shark attacking a person just up the coast - but his friends don't believe that either - there's no *way* a shark would ever attack a person. But Chet knows what he saw in the river, and he believes the newspaper story. How can he stop his friends from continuing to swim in the river?

(Based on a True Story)

Check availability of this book

More books by Lauren Tarshis

More survival stories:

Black Star, Bright Dawn by Scott O'Dell

Shipwreck by Gordon Korman

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Animals--Real, Books for Boys, Friends, Historical Fiction, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Brain Jack

by Brian Falkner

Reading Level: Grades 6+

After accidentally crashing the country's online systems for three days, teenage hacker Sam finds himself recruited and working for Homeland Security - and all he intended to do was use Telecomerica's giant bank account to purchase new state-of-the-art laptops and neuroheadsets for him and his best friend. Suddenly, thrust into the world of *professional* hacking, Sam begins to unearth information about Telecomerica and the neuro-headsets that go against even *his*

unscrupulous view of privacy.

Check availability of this book

More books by Brian Falkner

A few other suspenseful digital adventures:

Little Brother by Cory Doctorow

Streams of Babel by Carol Plum-Ucci

Hacking Timbuktu by Stephen Davies

The Supernaturalist by Eoin Colfer

Hacking Harvard by Robin Wasserman

Trackers by Patrick Carman

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Friends, Misfits, Mysteries, Read-Alikes, Relationships, Science Fiction, Spies Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Delirium

by Lauren Oliver

Reading Level: Grades 7+

Love, aka *deleria* is the reason for all problems in the world, which is why upon every citizen's eighteenth birthday, a cure is administered, severing the receiver from potential infection. Boys and girls under the age of eighteen, of course, are separated, lest interaction between two uncureds causes an infection. 17 year-old Lena Haloway, like all other teens her age, can't wait to get the vaccine and be cured of the *deleria* - she hopes that becoming cured will finally sever her from the stigma of her uncured mother's suicide. Just a few months before her scheduled cure, Lena meets Alex, somewhat by accident, and becomes infected. Headstrong and in love, Lena begins to question the cure, as well as everything her society stands for and has taught her; yet her cure date looms ever-closer, promising to destroy herself and Alex.

Check availability of this book

More books by Lauren Oliver

A few other dystopian love stories:

Matched by Ally Condie

Divergent by Veronica Roth

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Older readers will also enjoy:

Wither by Lauren DeStefano

Bumped by Megan McCafferty

Across the Universe by Beth Revis

Girl Parts by John Cusick

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Books for Girls, Don't Miss These, Dystopias, Friends, Read-Alikes, Relationships, Science Fiction, Social Issues
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Bless This Mouse

by Lois Lowry

Reading Level: Grade 2-4

It is not easy for Hildegarde, the Mouse Mistress of Saint Bartholemew's Church, to keep the more than two hundred church mice who dwell in the church safe and away from human eyes. But try she must for each mouse sighting by a human increases the chances of the dreaded **GREAT X**

Check availability of this book

More books by Lois Lowry

Other tales of hidden creatures include:

The School Mouse by Dick King-Smith

The Doll People by Ann Martin

The Borrowers by Mary Norton

Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Say Hello to Zorro!

by Carter Goodrich

Reading Level: Ages 3 - 8

Bud the dog has a good life. He has his things and his routine and he likes it that way. Then Zorro comes along. Zorro is bossy and doesn't share (but Bud can be grumpy and selfish too). Can these two dogs find ANYTHING they have in common and become friends?

Check availability of this book

More books by Carter Goodrich

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade Subjects: Animals--Real, Family, Humor Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SH

No Passengers Beyond This Point

by Gennifer Choldenko

Reading Level: Grade 5-7

Six-year-old Mouse, twelve-year-old Finn and their unfriendly older sister India are sent to live with their uncle in Colorado after their mother loses the family home. Instead rendezvousing with their Uncle Red at the airport, they are met by a man driving a feather covered car who takes them to Falling Bird a world that seems, a first, much better than the life they left behind.

Check availability of this book

More books by Gennifer Choldenko

If you enjoyed this story try:

The Glitch in Sleep by John Hulme and

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin

Reading Level: 5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Family, Fantasy
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SJS

Source URL: https://www.hplibrary.org/kids/kidreads?page=30