

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

The Chaos

by Rachel Ward

Reading Level: Grades 7 - 9

In this sequel to [Numbers](#) Adam has inherited his mother's ability to see people's death dates

when he looks in their eyes. To make matters worse, when he and his grandmother move to London he discovers that most people he meets have the same date, 01/01/2027, and the girl he likes has been having nightmares about him, her baby and fire for months.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Rachel Ward](#)

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

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Notes from a Totally Lame Vampire: Because the Undead Have Feelings Too!

by Tim Collins

Reading Level: Grades 6 - 8

Nigel is about to turn 100 and he has yet to have a girlfriend. His problem is that, although he is a vampire, he does not have super strength, preternatural speed, or hypnotizing beauty. In fact he is weaker and slower than most of his classmates, and sunlight gives him a bad case of acne. In short, he is forever trapped in the body of a geeky 15 year old boy. How will he ever be able to impress the beautiful new girl and maybe, someday, get to bite someone?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Tim Collins](#)

[More books illustrated by Andrew Pinder](#)

Illustrator: Andrew Pinder Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Fantasy](#), [Humor](#), [Misfits](#), [Relationships](#), [School](#), [Self Image](#), [Supernatural](#), [Vampires](#)

Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

The Summer Before Boys

by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Reading Level: Grades 4-7

Julia and Eliza are best friends. They are also family. Even though they are the same age, Julia is Eliza's aunt. Of course, Eliza doesn't call her best friend "Aunt Julia" but still...they are more tied together in ways most friends are. That was never a problem...until the summer they turned twelve

Eliza still likes to pretend, just the way she and Julia have done all their lives. But Julia finds it harder and harder to enter that make-believe world. There are too many distractions in the real world. Some are terrible, like worrying about whether or not her mother will survive her tour of duty in Iraq. Others are much more pleasant, like a certain very cute boy named Michael.

Where do your loyalties lie when you find yourself changing, pulling away from a best friend who is so much more than just a friend?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Nora Raleigh Baskin](#)

For other tales of changing friendships try:

[The Secret Language of Girls by Frances O'Roark Dowell](#)

[Eleven by Lauren Myracle and](#)

[Gossip Times Three by Amy Koss](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Family](#), [Friends](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Relationships](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Tortall and Other Lands: A Collection of Tales

by Tamora Pierce

Reading Level: Grade 6+

Attention all Tortall lovers! This collection of short stories is an offering of further adventures in Pierce's world of [Tortall](#)

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books Tamora Pierce](#)

Other engrossing series set in fantasy worlds include:

The [Damar series](#) by Robin McKinley

The [Ranger's Apprentice Series](#) by John Flanagan and

The [Abhorsen Trilogy](#) by Garth Nix

Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Lark

by Tracey Porter

Reading Level: Grade 8+

He was the father of one of the younger kids on her gymnastics team. How was 16-year-old Lark supposed to know that he was a predator? Lark died of exposure after he assaulted her and left her tied to a tree in the winter woods.

Lark's ghost begins visiting Nyetta soon after. Lark needs Nyetta to do something for her, something Nyetta is afraid to do. If Nyetta does not do it, Lark will be condemned to a horrible fate for eternity.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books Tracey Porter](#)

Other ghostly tales include

[The Sledding Hill](#) by Chris Crutcher

[Elsewhere by Gabrielle by Zevin](#) and

[The Everafter](#) by Amy Huntley

Reading Level: [8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Fantasy](#), [Horror](#), [Relationships](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Press Here

by Herve Tullet

Reading Level: Ages 2 - 6

An analog version of a tablet computer, this clever book is perfect for anyone's digital era child.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Herve Tullet](#)

Reading Level: [Preschoolers](#),[Kindergarteners](#),[1st Grade](#) Subjects: [Read-Alikes](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Voyages of Dr. Dolittle

by Hugh Lofting

Reading Level: K-5

The second book in the wonderfully adventurous Dolittle series starts off by introducing us to Tommy Stubbins, future naturalist. To sate his curiosity about animals and their nature, Tommy asks Dr. Dolittle to apprentice him and teach him all he knows about animals and their languages - and so Dolittle, Stubbins and a few old friends set sail, hoping to learn the language of the Shellfish.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Hugh Lofting](#)

Reading Level: [Kindergarteners](#),[1st Grade](#),[2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#)
Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Animals--Talking](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Read-Alouds](#)
Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

How to Teach a Slug to Read

by Susan Pearson

Reading Level: Ages 4 - 6

Have you ever seen a slug in your backyard or garden? If so, you may have wondered -- "*how on earth would I go about teaching this slug to read, if it asked me? I don't know the first thing about teaching a slug to read!*" Well, never fear -- this wonderful, instructional book will tell

you everything you need to know about teaching slugs the wonderful art of reading. You might even learn some good tips for yourself!

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Susan Pearson](#)

Other great books about reading:

[How Do You Read to a Rabbit? by Andrea Wayne-von-Konigslow](#)

[Read to Tiger by S. J. Fore](#)

[Dog Loves Books by Louise Yates](#)

[We Are In a Book! by Mo Willems](#)

[Adios, Oscar!: a Butterfly Fable by Peter Elwell](#)

Illustrator: David Slonim Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [Read-Alouds](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

The Romeo and Juliet Code

by Phoebe Stone

Reading Level: Grades 4-6

Because of Hitler's unrelenting bombing of London, many families chose to move their children away from the city. When her parents decide to bring 11-year-old Felicity across the ocean to live with her father's extended family in Maine, Felicity finds herself thrust into the middle of a dark family secret.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books Phoebe Stone](#)

Other stories of children torn from their homes by war include:

[Good Night Mr. Tom by Michelle Magorian and](#)

[Is It Night or Day? by Fern Schumer Chapman](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Family](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [Realistic Fiction](#)

Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Riding Invisible

by Sandra Alonzo

Reading Level: Grade 7-9

15-year-old Yancy is on the run, but not for the usual reasons. He does well in school, has friends and his parents love him. Yancy is running because of his monster of a brother, 16-year-old Will. Will has a "conduct disorder." For Yancey that means Will can terrorize him with almost no consequences. Yancy's parents barely react after Will cuts the tail off of Yancy's beloved horse Sky. When Will tries to stab Sky Yancy knows it is time to for him and Sky to leave.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books Sandra Alonzo](#)

Other tales of dangerous older brothers include:

[Tangerine by Edward Bloor and](#)

[Vandal by Michael Simmons](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Family](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

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