

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:

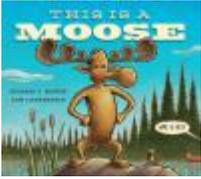
J FictionJ Graphic NovelsJ Non-FictionJ SeriesJP FictionJP Non-FictionJP SeriesJY Fiction
JY Graphic NovelsJY Non-FictionPicture BooksSpanish Picturebook

Reviewer:

The GerbilsSJSSHRRPCHGEFDJCHJLJSMBLWKFAB

This is a Moose

by Richard T. Morris



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 7

A director is trying to make a documentary about the mighty moose in his natural environment, but the moose wants to be an astronaut.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Richard T. Morris](#)

[More books by Tom Lichtenheld](#)

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

Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Humor](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Forbidden Library

by Django Wexler



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 6

Alice is up past her bedtime when she hears her father arguing with someone about her. Peeking through the crack in the door she sees that the person he is arguing with is not a person at all, but rather a large, ugly yellow and black fairy. Four days later Alice is orphaned and is informed that she is to go live with her Uncle Jerry. Alice knows she doesn't have an Uncle Jerry, but what can she do other than move to a spooky old mansion with scary servants she can see, mysterious servants she can't, and a gigantic library she is forbidden to enter without an escort.

If you liked the [Inkheart](#) series you will enjoy this book.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Django Wexler](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Animals--Talking](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:
SH

Silver People: Voices from the Panama Canal

by Margarita Engle



Reading Level: Grade 6 & up

Written in verse from alternating viewpoints, this book gives the reader many different perspectives on the creation of the Panama Canal over a hundred years ago. We hear from howler monkeys, Theodore Roosevelt, a Cuban immigrant named Mateo, the trees, and many others who played a role in this large undertaking that connected the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Margarita Engle](#)

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Historical Fiction](#)

Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

JL

Death's Academy

by Michael Bast



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 6

Midnight "Night" Smith is the son of the most infamous Death ever. Because of his father's bad reputation most other young hoodies (Deaths) are not allowed to associate with Night and he also cannot get a sponsor to help him practice for his entrance exams for Death's Academy. After being caught trying to illegally kill a chipmunk by a halo (Guardian Angel) Night ends up

grounded. While sneaking out one evening Night accidentally stumbles across evil unicorns and overhears their plan to attack the Death's headquarters, but who will believe the son of a disgraced criminal?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Michael Best](#)

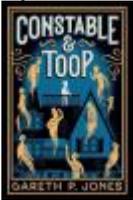
Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Humor](#), [Misfits](#), [Mythological](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Constable & Toop

by Gareth P. Jones



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 7

Sam Toop has lived all his life above Constable & Toop. His father builds caskets for Mr. Constable, the mortician. Perhaps his close association with death is the reason Sam is a Talker (someone who can see and hear ghosts). Meanwhile the ghost Lapsewood has worked for many years filling out forms in the bureaucratic monstrosity of the afterlife. Little do they know that Sam's life and Lapsewood's afterlife will be forever changed by a mysterious disappearing of ghosts from haunted houses.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Gareth P. Jones](#)

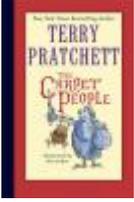
Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Fantasy](#), [Mysteries](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Carpet People

by Terry Pratchett



Reading Level: Grades 3 and older

When the mythical Fray returns and destroys the Munrung's village with its terrible winds the entire tribe must make a perilous journey across the Carpet, battling the mounds who are said to control Fray, as they search for a safe new place to live. If you liked the Borrowers or the Littles you will enjoy this book about the microscopic beings that live in the wild jungle beneath your feet. (and it will make you look at your vacuum cleaner differently too.).

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Terry Pratchett](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#),[Adults](#)

Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [Survival](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

[The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights](#)

by Steve Sheikin



Reading Level: Ages 10 - 14

On July 17, 1944, an explosion at the Port Chicago naval base in California killed over 300 people and sank two ships. All the men loading bombs and ammunition onto ships were black. All supervising officers were white. Black sailors who had never received proper training in the handling of munitions were afraid and refused to go back to work on the docks. Some gave in under pressure from the navy until only 50 men held fast. They were brought up on charges of mutiny, a charge that could mean the death penalty. Sheikin has crafted another book that brings history to life. You'll be outraged, but you'll cheer for 50 new heroes in the fight for equal rights.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Steve Sheinkin](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Crime and Punishment](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [Social Issues](#)

Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

HG

Nick and Tesla's High-Voltage Danger Lab: A Mystery With Eletromagnets, Burglar Alarms, and Other Gadgets You Can Build Yourself

by "Science Bob" Pflugfelder



Reading Level: Ages 9 - 12

Eleven-year-old twins, Nick and Tesla, are sent to spend the summer with their comical, mad scientist uncle while their parents are out of the country. Instead of the boring time they expect, they encounter a spooky deserted mansion guarded by ravenous dogs, a mysterious girl at the window holding a "GO AWAY" sign, ill-tempered construction workers, and black van that keeps following them. The twins are science geeks themselves who use everyday objects to build what they need to solve the mystery and survive. Interspersed in the book are great directions for building the gadgets. Have fun!

[Check availability of this book](#)

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Mysteries](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

HG

Nick and Tesla's High-Voltage Danger Lab: A Mystery With Eletromagnets, Burglar Alarms, and Other Gadgets You Can Build

Yourself

by Steve Hockensmith



Reading Level: Ages 9 - 12

Eleven-year-old twins, Nick and Tesla, are sent to spend the summer with their comical, mad scientist uncle while their parents are out of the country. Instead of the boring time they expect, they encounter a spooky deserted mansion guarded by ravenous dogs, a mysterious girl at the window holding a "GO AWAY" sign, ill-tempered construction workers, and black van that keeps following them. The twins are science geeks themselves who use everyday objects to build what they need to solve the mystery and survive. Interspersed in the book are great directions for building the gadgets. Have fun!

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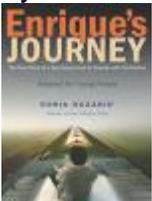
Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Mysteries](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Enrique's Journey: The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother

by Sonia Nazario



Reading Level: grade 7 & up

Pulitzer Prize winning author, Sonia Nazario had adapted her adult book for teens. It's the story of sixteen-year-old Enrique whose mother left her children in Honduras to come to the U.S. 12 years earlier with the promise she would return. When she doesn't, Enrique decides he will go to his mother. The journey is fraught with danger as he rides the tops of trains while hiding from the authorities, thugs, and bandits. Enrique's journeys across Central America and Mexico are a

study in determination and the strength of love. His story will give readers a new perspective on illegal immigration and some things to think about. WARNING; Nazario does not gloss over beatings, rapes, maimings, and even murder.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Books by Sonia Nazario](#)

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#), [High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Biographies](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [JY Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

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