

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

Survivor Diaries: Overboard!

by Terry Lynn Johnson



Reading Level: Grades 2-4

Travis and his family are on a whale watching cruise off the coast of Alaska when disaster strikes. Their ship is hit by a giant rogue wave throwing Travis and Marina, the captain's daughter, into the freezing water. They watch helplessly as the ship sinks and the life raft is pushed away by the current. Now it is up to Travis to find a way to save himself and his injured companion before the brutal sea claims their lives.

Check the [availability](#) of this book.

If you enjoyed this story of survival try:

[Stranded](#) by Jeff Probst

[Adrift](#) by Allan Ballie and

[Toughboy and Sister](#) by Kirkpatrick Hill

Illustrator: Jani Orban Reading Level: [2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure, Survival](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Waiting for Biblioburro/Esperando el Biblioburro

by Monica Brown



Una historia inspirado por el trabajo de Luis Soriano Bohorquez, un bibliotecario colombiano que tenia una biblioteca movil con sus burros. Viajaba con su biblioteca por montanas y valles para llevar libros a los lugares rurales de Colombia.

A story inspired by the work of Luis Soriano Bohorquez, a Colombian librarian who had a mobile library with the help of his donkeys. He traveled with his library through mountains and valleys to

bring books to rural parts of Colombia.

Illustrator: John Parra Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects:
In Other Lands Location: Spanish Picturebook

Reviewer:

JL

Star-crossed

by Barbara Dee



Reading Level: Grades 4 through 8

Eighth-grader Matilda, who goes by Mattie, is not used to being in the spotlight. She is perfectly happy playing the side character of Paris in her middle-school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. However, she finds herself becoming more and more interested in the language of Shakespeare, as well as the cute new girl from England. But when the lead playing Romeo drops out, she is asked to step in to replace him. The only problem is, her crush Gemma Braithwaite is playing Juliet!

[Check the availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Barbara Dee](#)

If you enjoy this book, try:

[Gracefully Grayson](#) by Ami Polonski

[Drama](#) by Raina Telgemeier

[Better Nate than Ever](#) by Tim Federle

Reading Level: 4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Friends, LGBT,
Realistic Fiction Location: JY Fiction

Reviewer:

KF

Hideout

by Watt Key



Reading Level: Ages 10-13

When 12-year-old Sam's father gave him his very own fishing boat, it came with rules. He had to wear a life jacket. He had to drive his boat carefully. And he was to stay on the Pascagoula River. But when Sam's school year ends with him being badly beaten by bullies, Sam feels the need to prove his courage. So he breaks his father's rule and steers his boat into the dangerous waterways of the nearby bayou where he finds a half-wild boy living in an abandoned fishing shack. The desperate boy begs Sam to keep him a secret. That promise launches Sam into a dangerous adventure...one that may cost him his life.

Check the [availability](#) of this book.

[Other books](#) by this author.

Other gripping survival adventures include:

[Lost in the River of Grass](#) by Ginny Rorby

[Take Me to the River](#) by Will Hobbs and

[The Wolf Keepers](#) by Elise Broach

Reading Level: [5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Survival](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Mr Pants: Slacks, Camera Action!

by Scott McCormick



Reading Level: Grades 1-4

The good news: There is a movie contest that will earn the winner \$1000 and a trip to Hawaii.

The bad news: The entry must be submitted in less than 24 hours.

Undeterred, Mr. Pants frantically navigates chores (his mom insists,) annoying little sisters and an obligatory tea party to create his masterpiece.

[Check the availability of this book](#)

[Other books by this author](#)

If you enjoyed this funny graphic novel try:

[Babymouse Queen of the World!](#) by Jennifer Holm

[Binky The Space Cat](#) by Ashley Spires

[The Flying Beaver Brothers and the Evil Penguin Plan](#) by Maxwell Eaton

Reading Level: [1st Grade](#),[2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Humor](#)

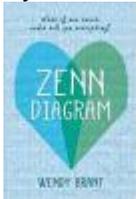
Location: [J Graphic Novels](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Zenn Diagram

by Wendy Brant



Reading Level: Ages 14-18

17-year-old Eva does not like human touch. She doesn't even like to touch someone else's personal items like cell phones or a favorite sweater. People think Eva is on the spectrum or a germaphobe she is neither but lets them think so. Only her parents know the real reason. Eva is a touch empath. One touch of a person or their important possession drops Eva down a hole of their emotions, secrets and desires. Eva has managed to get through high school without being overwhelmed by following her no touch rule. But then she meets Zenn a handsome, gentle funny boy. A boy that she would really like to touch.

Check the [availability](#) of this book.

Other engrossing novels featuring paranormal teens include:

Numbers by Rachel Ward

Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 by Richard Paul Evans and

Afterworlds by Scott Westerfeld

Reading Level: 8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Girls, Relationships,
Supernatural Location: JY Fiction

Reviewer:

SJS

The Wizard's Dog

by Eric Kahn Gale



Reading Level: Grades 3 through 5

Nosewise the dog thinks doors are a nuisance. Doors always keep him away from interesting things. Especially the door to the room of magic. One day, the door opens and Nosewise is allowed to enter a world of enchantment. When Merlin's apprentice Morgana playfully drapes her magic stone around his neck, Nosewise begins to talk. Morgana and Nosewise are delighted...Merlin is not. He decrees that Nosewise will never get to use the stone again. Or will he?

Check the availability of this book.

Some other great stories narrated by dogs include:

I, Jack by Patricia Finney

Bunnicula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery by James Howe and

Woof: A Bowser and Birdie Mystery by Spencer Quinn

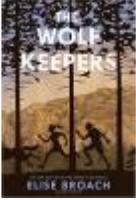
Reading Level: 3rd Grade,4th Grade,5th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Animals--Talking,
Fantasy Location: J Fiction

Reviewer:

SJS

The Wolf Keepers

by Elsie Broach



12-year-old Lizzie's dad is the head zookeeper at the John Muir wildlife park. Lizzie and her dad have a home right in the zoo! That gives Lizzie lots of chances to observe the animals. The newest exhibit is a wolf pack that lives in a wooded habitat on the zoo grounds. Lizzie spends hours observing the wolves. But all is not well in the pack. Wolves have begun falling ill. Once they get sick, they disappear. Lizzie is determined to save her wolves but what can the problem be? Is it a virus? Or something more sinister?

Check the [availability](#) of this book.

Other books by [Elsie Broach](#)

If you enjoy this zoo mystery try:

[Belly Up](#) by Stuart Gibbs

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Real](#), [Mysteries](#), [Survival](#)

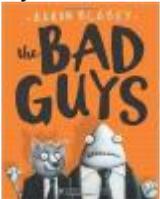
Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

The Bad Guys

by Aaron Blabey



Mr. Wolf has a bad reputation. None of it is his fault. No matter what the three pigs and Little Red Riding Hood (not to mention Grandma) say, Wolf is a good guy. He just has to show the world his good guy nature. So he forms the "Good Guys Club" and recruits Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake and Mr. Piranha as the other founding members. Despite their unfortunate instincts to attack and eat anything that comes their way, Mr. Wolf is sure all four of them can prove their goodness to

the world...they just need the right mission.

Check [availability](#) of this book.

Other books by [Aaron Blabey](#)

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

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Sea Otter Rescue

by [Suzi Eszterhas](#)



Learn about the amazing and difficult job of rescuing sea otters and see some adorable pictures of baby sea otters at the same time. Get a peek inside the secret wildlife hospital at the Alaska SeaLife Center. Baby sea otters look small, but an adult sea otter is the same size as a German Shepard and about 10 times more work to take care of! While this book would definitely help with a report on a marine mammal it is also interesting to read for fun - did I mention adorable sea otter babies?

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

Reviewer:

[AB](#)

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