

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

Count the Monkeys

by Mac Barnett



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 6

All the author wants you to do is count the monkeys, but other things keep getting in the way in this amusingly chaotic counting book.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Mac Barnett](#)

[More books by Kevin Cornell](#)

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

Subjects: [Humor](#), [Read-Alouds](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too!)

by Leslie Kimmelman



Grades 1-3

Sam is excited about his new neighbors, especially when he overhears someone yelling "Charlie, don't forget your baseball mitt!"

Sam runs over to meet his new neighbors, Charlie (short for Charlene, but *never* call her that) and Sam Too, Charlie's little sister. The three new friends have a lot in common other than their names and their love of baseball and hamentaschen.

In this fun beginning chapter book, play baseball, celebrate Purim, sneeze on a sick day, and much more with new friends Sam and Charlie (and Sam Too!).

[Find this book in our library.](#)

More books by [Leslie Kimmelman](#) and [Stefano Tambellini](#).

For other early chapter books about good friends, try:

[Pinky and Rex](#) by James Howe (series)

[Iris and Walter](#) by Elissa Hadden Guest (series)

[Mimi and Mati to the Rescue: Roger the Rat is on the Loose!](#) by Brooke Smith

[Bink and Gollie](#) by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee

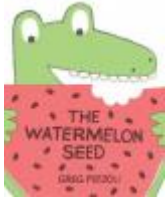
Illustrator: Stefano Tambellini Reading Level: [1st Grade](#),[2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Friends](#), [Read-Alouds](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Sports](#) Location: [JP Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

EF

The Watermelon Seed

by Greg Pizzoli



Ages 4+

There is almost nothing better during a hot summer than eating a slice of watermelon. Yum, yum, yum. Watermelon is Crocodile's favorite thing to eat. It's so juicy, and sweet, and -

Uh oh.

He swallowed a seed.

[Find this book in our library.](#)

Find other books by [Greg Pizzoli](#)

Reading Level: [1st Grade](#),[2nd Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Humor](#), [Read-Alouds](#), [Self Image](#)

Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

Nugget & Fang: Friends Forever - Or Snack Time?

by Tammi Sauer



Ages 4+

Nugget, a minnow, does *everything* with his best friend Fang. Everything except go to Minnow School. Sharks aren't allowed at Minnow School, and Fang is a shark.

At Minnow School, Nugget learns all about how terrible and horrible and awful and just plain **bad** sharks are. Nugget thought that his friend Fang, a shark, wasn't any of those things - he is a great friend... but his teachers and his homework wouldn't be *wrong*, would it?

[Find this book in our library.](#)

Other books by [Tammi Sauer](#) and [Michael Slack](#).

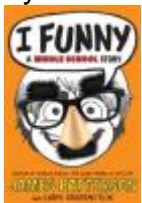
Illustrator: Michael Slack Reading Level: [1st Grade,2nd Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking, Friends, School, Social Issues](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

I Funny: A Middle School Story

by James Patterson



Grades 3+

Jamie Grimm, soon to be the world's greatest stand-up (actually sit-down-in-wheelchair)

comedian, lives with his aunt, uncle, and cousin - an extremely boring version of the Durlseys. He has an uncanny ability to make anyone (other than the aforementioned boring Durlsey-esque relatives) laugh. Jamie Grimm just *funny!*

When Uncle Frankie (not the boring one) suggests to Jamie that he compete in The Planet's Funniest Kid Comic contest, he knows he's got to try. His only problem is stage fright!

I Funny is a fabulously funny story about being brave enough to stand up for your own talents, even if you can't actually stand up. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* fans are sure to love Jamie Grimm.

[Find this book in our library.](#)

[Find other books in the Middle School series in our library.](#)

[Find more kids' books by James Patterson in our library.](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Family](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [Misfits](#), [Read-Alikes](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [School](#), [Self Image](#), [Social Issues](#)
Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

EF

The Wrap-Up List

by Steven Arntson



Reading Level: Grades 6 - 8

Gabriella is having a perfectly normal day, until she receives a letter from her Death, Hercule, informing her that she has been chosen for Departure. Now she has one week to wrap things up with her friends and family and to try to figure out what will force Hercule to give her a Pardon before he comes and makes her disappear.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Steven Arntson](#)

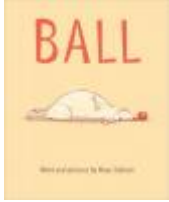
Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [LGBT](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

SH

Ball

by Mary Sullivan



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 7

This one word book cleverly tells the story of a ball obsessed dog who has nobody to play with him.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Mary Sullivan](#)

Reading Level: [Preschoolers](#), [Kindergarteners](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Real](#), [Family](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

When We Wuz Famous

by Greg Takoudes



Reading Level: Grades 9 and up

Franciso is a celebrity in his Spanish Harlem neighborhood. He is a top student, popular, and a gifted basketball player. He has a wonderful girlfriend and loving supportive parents. For his senior year he is offered a scholarship to a prestigious boarding school in upstate New York. Franciso knows this is his ticket out of the 'hood and into a better life for him and those he loves. But his best friend fears that Francisco will leave him behind. A visit home sets in motion events that lead to bad decisions, betrayals, and tested loyalties. This is a riveting book that readers will not want to put down.

[Check availability of this book](#)

Another book about a minority scholarship student is [Tequila Worm](#) by Viola Canales.

[Check availability of this book](#)

Reading Level: [High Schoolers,Adults](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Friends](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Relationships](#), [Self Image](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Graveyard Shift

by Chris Westwood



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 6

Ben Harvester meets a strange old man in a graveyard one day, and again at his aunt's funeral in another town, and again on the street by his house, where the man performs a very strange quick change act. Then, on his first day in his new school he sees two burned children holding the hand of a burned man at the back of the classroom and he hears scratching from an empty classroom and finds the words, "Welcome to Pandemonium, Ben." written on the blackboard. And things only get odder from there as he is drawn into the world of ghosts, demons and lost souls.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Chris Westwood](#)

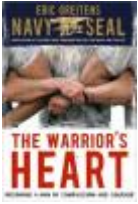
Reading Level: [4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Misfits](#), [Mysteries](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Warrior's Heart

by Eric Greitens



Reading Level: Grades 6 and up

What sort of person becomes a Rhodes Scholar (one of the most prestigious academic honors in the world) and then signs on to become a Navy SEAL? Eric Greitens will take you on his journey that led him from refugee camps in Rwanda and Bosnia, the slums of Bolivia, the rigors of Navy SEAL training to the battlefields of Iraq and then home. In this adaptation for teens of his best-selling novel you will meet an extraordinary person you will not soon forget.

Check availability of this book

Other books by Eric Greitens

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Biographies, Books for Boys Location: JY Non-Fiction

Reviewer:

HG

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