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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:
ABCHDJJLJSMBPCRRSHSJSThe GerbilsEFLWHG

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 availablity 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.

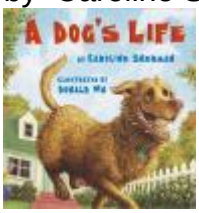
Check availability of this book

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

A Dog's Life

by Caroline Sherman



Reading Level: Ages 2 - 6

A dog talks about all the things he has to do each day, like make sure people don't oversleep and clean the dishes in this funny book for dog lovers.

Check availability of this book

More books by Caroline Sherman

More books by Donald Wu

Illustrator: Donald Wu Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Real, Humor, Read-Alouds Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SH

Fang Girl

by Helen Keeble

Reading Level: Grades 6 and up

Xanthe Jane (don't call her Xanthe) has always loved vampires, as stories, but she knows they aren't real. Then one night she is woken up by a cellphone playing the theme from Dracula and discovers that she is in a coffin, in her grave, and her vampire sire is exhuming her. When her sire is chased off before she can finish digging Jane up, Jane is left to figure out how she could be a vampire when she's never been bitten and what is she supposed to do now, in this tongue-in-cheek vampire novel.

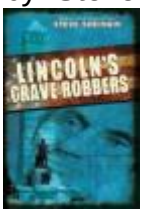
Check availability of this book

More books by Helen Keeble

Subjects: Adventure, Family, Fantasy, Folktales, Friends, Horror, Humor, Supernatural, Vampires
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

Lincoln's Grave Robbers

by Steve Sheinkin



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 9

Why would anyone want to steal the body of President Abraham Lincoln? The answer involves counterfeiters and the newly fledged Secret Service. Written like a heist caper, *Lincoln's Grave Robbers* details a little known part of history that really didn't have much impact, but it's sure fun to read about.

Check availability of this book

Other books by Steve Sheinkin

Reading Level: 4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Books for Boys, Crime and Punishment, Non-Fiction Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Don't Turn Around

by Michelle Gagnon

Reading Level: Grades 8 and up

This tense well crafted thriller opens with 16-year-old Noa waking up on a metal table in a warehouse with an incision in her chest. Much like a young Dragon Tattoo's Lisbeth Salander Noa is a tough, smart orphan who has been mistreated by the system and was able to use her considerable computer skills to establish a life on the border of society. After her escape, she meets up with wealthy, privileged Peter who has hacked his way into some files in his father's office. Both teens find themselves on the run. Will they elude capture long enough to get some answers? Who are these men who are chasing them and why are they after Noa and Peter? What has done to Noa? What is the connection to Peter's family?

WARNING: This is the first book in a trilogy. Book one leaves you hanging. You'll want to keep reading, but you can't.

Check availability of this book

Reading Level: 8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Adventure, Books for Boys, Books for Girls, Science Fiction Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Penny and Her Marble

by Kevin Henkes

Reading Level: Grades1 - 2

While taking a walk Penny finds a beautiful marble on Mrs. Goodwin's lawn and takes it home, but then her conscience begins to bother her. What if the marble belongs to Mrs. Goodwin and she wants it back?

Check availability of this book

More books by Kevin Henkes

Reading Level: 1st Grade,2nd Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Crime and Punishment, Humor Location: JP Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

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