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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

Grumpy Goat

by Brett Helquist

Ages 4+

Sunny Acres Farm is a happy, beautiful, friendly place, until Grumpy Goat arrives. He is grumpy and unfriendly - none of the animals on the farm can even get close to him, let alone become friends! All Grumpy Goat wants to do is eat and eat and eat and eat and eat... and as he does so, he makes a huge mess on the farm - kicking down fences & being mean to the other animals. Then, he sees something special in the field, and everything changes. What does Grumpy Goat see?

A beautifully illustrated and wonderful story about the power of friendship - and stopping to smell the flowers.

Find this book in our catalog.

More books by Brett Helquist.

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Don't Miss These, Friends, Read-Alouds, Social Issues Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

A Vacation for Pooch

by Maryanne Cocca-Leffler

Ages 4+

After Violet packs her bags for vacation in sunny, beautiful, warm Florida, she prepares a bag for her dog, Pooch. He can't go on vacation to Florida with her -- no dogs allowed -- so he is going to Grandpa's farm to play in the snow. Nothing could possibly go wrong -- except that Violet accidentally takes Pooch's bag with *her*!

Worried that Pooch's vacation is ruined without his Fluffy Cat, his favorite red ball, and his food, Violet frantically calls Grandpa. Will everything be okay?

This would be a great read for a beginning reader looking for something a little bit more complex than books from our JP collection.

Find this book in our catalog.

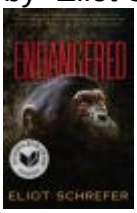
More books by Maryann Cocca-Leffler.

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Real, Friends
Location: Picture Books

Reviewer:
EF

Endangered

by Eliot Shrefer



Grades 7 & Up

Sophie's mother runs a sanctuary for bonobo chimpanzees in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Africa. While visiting from America for a few weeks, Sophie rescues a bonobo from a man in the markets of Kinshasa. Otto, the badly abused bonobo, quickly bonds with Sophie, but she knows she must leave him soon to return to her father in the United States.

When the Congolese president is assassinated, and armed revolution breaks out across the entire country, Sophie's status as U.S. citizen means she can safely be extracted and returned to her home in the States... but it also means she must leave her Congolese friends at the sanctuary... and she must leave Otto.

Forced into a UN rescue van against her will, to be returned home, Sophie makes a daring decision and jumps from the van to return and care for Otto. A dangerous choice... especially when the sanctuary is attacked. Sophie and Otto miraculously escape into the gated bonobo enclosure while everyone else there is brutally murdered. Sophie and Otto must survive both the wilds of the jungle enclosure and the wild anger of revolutionaries trying to destroy the country.

Gripping and beautifully written, this powerful novel about survival in the face of many types of danger may redefine your definitions of human and animal.

Find this book on our shelves.
Find more books by Eliot Schrefer.

Like Endangered? Try these similar books:
Half Brother by Kenneth Oppel
Lost in the River of Grass by Ginny Rorby
Eva by Peter Dickinson

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Animals--Real, Don't Miss These, Family, Friends, In Other Lands, Read-Alikes, Survival Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

The Dogs of Winter

by Bobbie Pyron

Reading Level: Grades 5 - 8

Truth can be much stranger than fiction and fiction based on truth can make a great story. Inspired by the life of Ivan Mishukov, Ivan Andreovich is a five-year-old boy who was orphaned in post-Soviet Russia, left on the streets to fend for himself, and adopted by a pack of wild dogs.

Life for street children is a battle to survive. Hunger, cold, roving gangs of both adults and older children make survival tenuous. Ivan finds his place with a family of dogs. Ivan and the dogs share what food they have and provide warmth and protection for each other. But more than that, the dogs love Ivan as he loves them. Ivan becomes more and more like his dog family. While humans can be uncaring or cruel, it is the dogs who show the most "humanity."

Ultimately, Ivan Andreovich , like the real Ivan, is rescued.

Check the availability of this book

Other books by Bobbie Pyron

Reading Level: 5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade Subjects: Adventure, Animals--Real, Books for Boys, Books for Girls, Historical Fiction, In Other Lands, Misfits, Realistic Fiction, Social Issues, Survival Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

Daylight Saving

by Edward Hogan

Reading Level: Grades 7 - 10

Daniel, who hates all things sports, is taken to the Leisure World Holiday Complex, a family sports camp, by his father for autumn break. While trying to avoid another of his father's drunken episodes, Daniel bikes to a lake where he meets a girl named Lexi, who has a slight black eye and seems to be at the camp alone. Each time they meet she has more and worsening injuries, and, as he spends more time with her, Daniel begins to develop weird wounds of his own. What is happening and how can he help both of them before he has to leave at the end of the week?

Check availability of this book

More books by Edward Hogan

Subjects: Adventure, Crime and Punishment, Family, Fantasy, Friends, Horror, Misfits, Mysteries, Relationships, Self Image, Supernatural, Time Travel Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

Break My Heart 1,000 Times

by Daniel Waters

Reading Level: Grades 7 - 10

The biggest consequence of The Event (other than billions of people being killed at once) is that ghosts have become an everyday part of life. Veronica is used to her father's ghost showing up each morning at the kitchen table silently reading the same paper, drinking the same cup of coffee and smiling at the area by the sink right before he vanishes. Walking to school each morning means seeing a murdered girl show up on the creepy teacher's doorstep, and the ghost of an old woman hobbling down to get her mail. Then one February morning the ghost of a teenaged boy shows up in Veronica's bathroom, more ghosts start popping up all over town, and the creepy teacher starts paying a lot of attention to Veronica.

Check availability of this book

More books by Daniel Waters

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Adventure, Crime and Punishment, Fantasy, Horror, Mysteries, Relationships, School, Supernatural Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

Goldilocks and Just One Bear

by Leigh Hodgkinson

Reading Level: Ages 4 - 8

A bear wanders into the city and becomes lost, so he enters an apartment and makes himself comfortable in this silly fractured fairytale with a surprise ending.

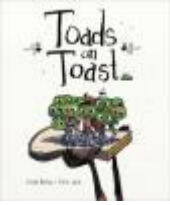
Check availability of this book

More books by Leigh Hodgkinson

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Folktales, Humor Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SH

Toads on Toast

by Linda Bailey



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 9

Fox was bored with his same old boiled toad meals day in and day out so he buys himself a cookbook and discovers most toad recipes call for YOUNG toads not old ones. After catching a bag full of young toads he gets ready to try a new recipe when the toads' mother suggests she teach him a secret toad family recipe instead.

Check availability of this book

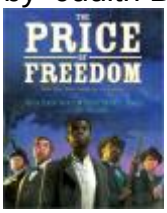
More books by Linda Bailey

More books by Colin Jack

Illustrator: Colin Jack Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade
Subjects: Adventure, Animals--Talking, Fantasy, Humor Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
SH

The Price of Freedom: How One Town Stood Up to Slavery

by Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin



Reading Level: Grades 2-4

This is the remarkable true story of John Price, former slave, and the citizens of Oberlin, Ohio. In 1856, Price and two others managed a daring escape from slavery, and settled in Oberlin, then home to many abolitionists and former slaves. Two years later, Price was snatched from the road by slave hunters. His cry for help was heard by an Oberlin college student. This is the inspiring story of the response to that cry.

Check availability of this book

Other books by Judith Bloom Fradin

Other books by Dennis Brindell Fradin

Other books illustrated by Eric Velasquez

Illustrator: Eric Velasquez Reading Level: 2nd Grade,3rd Grade,4th Grade Subjects: Non-Fiction

Location: J Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
HG

My First Day

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Reading Level: Ages 3 - 9

A bunch of baby animals tell what they do on their first day of life, such as fighting their way out of shells or being pushed up to the ocean's surface for his first breath in this cute science book.

Check availability of this book

More books by Steve Jenkins

More books by Robin Page

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade Subjects: Animals--Real, Non-Fiction Location: JP Non-Fiction
Reviewer:
SH

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