

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

Joshua Dread

by Lee Bacon



Reading Level: Grades 4-6

Starting a new school is never easy. It is even harder when you have to remember your new alias and make sure you never even hint at the fact that your parents are supervillians intent on destroying the world.

[Check availability of this book](#)

Books by [Lee Bacon](#)

Other villainous tales include:

[Artemis Fowl](#) by Eon Colfer

[Evil Genius](#) by Catherine Jinks an [The Cloak Society](#) by Jeremy Kraatz

Reading Level: [4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Fantasy](#)

Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Fairest of All

by Sarah Mlynowski



Reading Level: Grades 3-5

"Once upon a time my life was normal. Then the mirror in our basement ate us."

When a magic mirror transports 10-year-old Abby and her little brother Jonah to the forest next to the cottage of the seven dwarves, they stop Snow White from eating the poisoned apple. Now Snow White has two problems: 1) The evil queen keeps trying to kill her and 2) Since she didn't eat the apple, the prince didn't kiss her so she has lost her chance to live happily ever after.

It is up to Abby and Jonah to help the clueless Snow White stay alive AND get her happily ever

after. Then they can try to get back home.

[Check availability of this book](#)

Books by [Sarah Mlynowski](#)

For more fractured fairytales try:

[The Frog Princess](#) by E.D. Baker

[Into the Woods](#) by Lyn Gardner and

[Little Wolf's Book of Badness](#) by Ian Whybrow

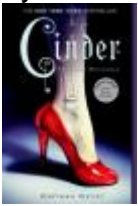
Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Fantasy](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Cinder

by Marissa Meyer



Reading Levels: Grades 6+

In a complicated post-WWIV world ravaged by a fatal, incurable disease, Earth is separated into independently ruled Commonwealths, completely separated from the Lunars, a somewhat new species spawned from previous moon colonization.

Cinder is a second-class citizen at best. She's indentured to her step-mother, and a gifted mechanic, but a cyborg. Over 36% robotic, Cinder relies on a robotic hand, foot, nervous system, and more - to stay alive. Despite this supposed (and mostly unknown) handicap, however, Cinder is the best mechanic in New Beijing, a reputation that brings the Royal Prince himself to her door with a broken android in need of quick - and quiet - repair.

When Cinder's younger step-sister Peony catches letumosis, the fatal disease that killed Cinder's father and ravaged Earth, everything changes. Furious, Cinder's step-mother sells her cyborg ward into voluntary testing for a letumosis cure - a grim fate, until Cinder's body rejects letumosis and it is discovered that she has a natural immunity. Dr. Erland, letumosis researcher in the royal palace, begins working with Cinder to develop a cure, but their testing reveals dangerous secrets about Cinder's past. In the meantime, Cinder's repairs on the Prince's android cause it to divulge another secret - relating to the relations between the Earth and the Lunars.

When the Emperor himself succumbs to letumosis, the Lunar Queen declares that she will visit the Earth herself to comfort the Prince during his time of mourning - but with recent information Cinder has learned from the Prince's android... it is clear the Queen's motives are anything but comforting.

In a creative, complex sci-fi retelling of the classic *Cinderella* story with a hint of *Anastasia*, Meyer creates memorable characters while simultaneously posing difficult questions - what does it mean to be human? What is the ultimate sacrifice for the greater good? *When is the sequel coming out?*

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

Three more books are planned in the series.

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Crime and Punishment](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Dystopias](#), [Family](#), [Friends](#), [Read-Alikes](#), [Relationships](#), [Science Fiction](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[EF](#)

[Snakes](#)

by Nic Bishop



Reading Level: Grades 1 and up. Not recommended for gerbilsssss or thosssssse sssensssssitive to sssssllithererssssss.

Nic Bishop, one of the most terrifying authors in children's literature today, has done it again with his new book, *Snakes*. Prepare for sleepless, terrified nights after these horrific photographs of larger-than-life serpents (*really*, Nic? Did they *have* to be *larger*? Actual size is horrifying enough!). We gerbils hear a lot of kids talk about how scary R.L. Stine's books are (they are located right next to our cage) but *clearly* these kids have never read anything by Nic Bishop.

He's the scariest there is!

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

[Look for more \[terrifying\] books by Nic Bishop.](#)

Reading Level: [Kindergarteners](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#), [3rd Grade](#), [4th Grade](#), [5th Grade](#)

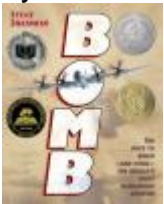
Subjects: [Animals--Real](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Non-Fiction](#) Location: [JP Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[The Gerbils](#)

Bomb: The Race to Build-and Steal-the World's Most Dangerous Weapon

by Steve Sheinkin



Reading Level: Grades 5 and up

Bomb reads like an edge-of-your-seat spy novel, but it's all true. It tells of the Herculean effort behind building the bomb, the desperate arms race with Germany that will decide WWII, the heroic efforts of Norwegian resistance fighters, and the spies determined to steal the plans for the Soviet Union. The story of the scientific genius behind the bomb, the politics, the military heroics, and the espionage make this a thrilling read where truth is far more exciting than fiction.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Steve Sheinkin](#)

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

Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [Spies](#)

Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Dark Lord, The Early Years

by Jamie Thomson



Reading Level: Grades 5-7

The Dark Lord, Master of the Legions of Dread, Sorcerer Supreme and Lord of the Darklands is confused. One moment he was leading his legions against the White Wizard Hasdruban the Pure and the next he is falling out of his world into a strange land where he is trapped in the body of a puny human.

The stunned Dark Lord can barely talk or move, he is whisked away in a strange screaming conveyance to a steel citadel where he is questioned by humans who, mistaking his clear answer that his name is "Dark Lord," dub him Dirk Lloyd and send him to a foster home.

Christopher Purejoie is perfectly happy as an only child. He certainly never asked for a foster brother, especially not a crazy one. Chris does have to admit that Dirk is funny, like when Dirk marches into 7th grade English and announces to Mrs. Batelakes, "I am the Great Lord Dirk, you may call me master!"

So who is Dirk Lloyd? A delusional child who needs intensive psychiatric treatment? A smart-mouthed trouble maker who needs to be straightened out by Principal Grousammer? A funny kid who disrupts classes every day? Or an exiled villain desperate to return to his powers?

[Check availability of this book](#)

Books by [Jamie Thomson](#)

For more reading on the dark side try:

[The Cloak Society](#) by Jeremy Kraatz

[The Vindico](#) by Wesley King and

[Evil Genius](#) by Catherine Jinks

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

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

The Great Race: An Indonesian Trickster Tale

by Nathan Kumar Scott



Reading Level: Grades k - 4

Kanchil the mouse deer knows he is the fastest animal in the jungle so when he challenges everyone to a race he is stunned to have his challenge taken up by Pelan the snail and even more shocked when he loses. How could that be?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Nathan Kumar Scott](#)

[More books by Jagdish Chitara](#)

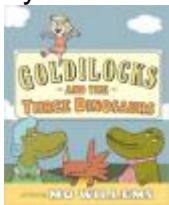
Illustrator: Jagdish Chitara Reading Level: [Kindergarteners](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#), [3rd Grade](#), [4th Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Folktales](#), [Humor](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Mythological](#)
Location: [J Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs

by Mo Willems



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 9

Three dinosaurs leave food on the table and the door unlocked, but they aren't doing it on purpose to try to lure a famous blonde lunch, um, girl into the house, honest.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Mo Willems](#)

Reading Level: [Kindergarteners](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#), [3rd Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Fantasy](#), [Folktales](#), [Humor](#), [Read-Alouds](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Scarlett Dedd

by Cathy Brett



Reading Level: Grades 6 -8

Scarlett cannot bear the idea of going on an weekend school retreat where she'll have to get dressed in front of the other girls who will see her secondhand store gray underwear. The perfect out seems to appear in the form of some mushrooms that, according to a book she glances at, will make her sick to her stomach. Unfortunately, a slight identification error winds up killing her and her entire family leaving her, a girl who only had four friends in life, an extremely lonely ghost. Then a boy on a ghostly chat room suggests that she kill one or two of her former friends so that she can have companions forever. That's not a terrible idea, is it?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Cathy Brett](#)

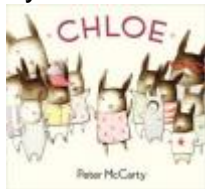
Reading Level: [6th Grade](#), [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Horror](#), [Humor](#), [Misfits](#), [Supernatural](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Chloe

by Peter McCarty



Reading Level: Ages 4 - 6

When Chloe's father brings home a new television the entire family gathers around to watch, except for Chloe and one of her little sisters who find the box, and especially the bubble wrap, much more entertaining.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Peter McCarty](#)

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

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

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