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New Book Reviews for Kids

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

Whiteblack the Penguin Sees the World

by Margaret & H.A. Rey

Reading Level: Ages 4-9

Whiteblack the penguin is running out of stories to tell on his radio show - not a good thing to happen to the Chief Storyteller of Penguinland. Waving goodbye to his friends, Whiteblack sets off in a little boat, in search of new stories. His journey is fraught with mishaps and misadventures, and doesn't quite go as Whiteblack had planned - but the plucky little radio star takes it all in stride, planning to use everything as a new story!

Check availability of this book

More books by H.A.Rey

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

Tiny Little Fly

by Michael Rosen

Reading Level: Ages 3+

Tiny Little Fly lands on everyone he meets but no one wants him there at all! Everyone swats at Tiny Little Fly and tries to capture him, but he is too fast for them!

Little readers will enjoy the fly's-eye-view of each animal he bothers, and guessing what the animal will be!

Check availability of this book

More books by Michael Rosen

Illustrator: Kevin Waldron Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners Subjects: Animals--Talking, Don't Miss These, Humor, Phonetic Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

My Boyfriend is a Monster #1: I Love Him to Pieces: or My Date is Dead Weight: or He Only Loves Me For My Brains

by Evonne Tsang

Reading Level: Grades 6+

Athletic baseball star Dicey Bell and quiet, nerdy Jack Chen are assigned to a school project together - care for an egg as if it were a real baby. Over the course of the project, the two bond over the egg, finding that they have much more in common than they initially thought. At the conclusion of the project, Jack musters up the nerve to ask Dicey out on a date.

A typical, perky-yet-enjoyable realistic high school romance, right?

Wrong. While on their date, Jack and Dicey learn that a zombie outbreak has begun in their town.

Check availability of this book

More books by Evonne Tsang

Illustrator: Janina Gorrissen Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers
Subjects: Adventure, Family, Friends, Horror, Humor, Relationships, School, Supernatural
Location: JY Graphic Novels
Reviewer:
EF

Winnie the Witch

by Valerie Thomas

Reading Level: Ages 4-8

Winnie the witch has a problem. She lives in a biiiiiiiiig black house with black everything. The floors are black, the walls are black, the furniture is black, even her *bathtub* is black. Winnie **loves** the color black.

Like most witches, Winnie also has a black cat. His name is Wilbur. Winnie **loves** her cat Wilbur. There's just one problem...

When Wilbur is awake, she can see him just fine. When Wilbur is asleep and his eyes are closed, Winnie cannot... and she is always tripping over him.

So Winnie turns him green. But that doesn't work out at all either. Neither does the next color. Or the next. Finally, Winnie waves her wand at Wilbur and turns him into a five-colored rainbow cat! *Let's see him blend in to anything now!*, she thinks.

But poor Wilbur is miserable, embarrassed that he looks so absolutely ridiculous. And Winnie doesn't want her poor cat, her best friend who she loves more than anything in the whole world, to be sad. What on earth will she do in order to stop tripping over him?

Winnie the Witch is a delightful character, and the illustrations are simply wonderful.

Check availability of this book

More books by Valerie Thomas

Illustrator: Korky Paul Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade Subjects: Animals--Real, Don't Miss These, Friends, Humor, Read-Alouds Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie

by Julie Sternberg

Reading Level: Grades 1-3

When Eleanor's babysitter Bibi moves far away, Eleanor is devastated. Life without her favorite person is hard. Everything Eleanor used to like to do is now unpleasant and sad because it reminds her of Bibi. It's awful - way worse than pickle juice on a cookie. Things get even worse when Eleanor's parents hire a NEW babysitter.

Written in verse, this short, charming novel explores loss in a fresh way - no one dies; Bibi has only moved away and still cares very much about Eleanor. Eleanor learns to accept and even come to like her new babysitter, but no one can ever replace Bibi.

Check availability of this book

More books by Julie Sternberg

Illustrator: Matthew Cordell Reading Level: 1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade Subjects: Family , Friends, Non-Prose, Read-Alouds, Realistic Fiction, Relationships Location: J Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Square Cat

by Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Reading Level: Ages 3-7

Eulah is a square cat who wishes more than anything in the world that she was round like her friends. Then she would be able to have the same kind of fun that the other cats do. Poor Eulah.

Then her friends show her the things that are wonderful about a square cat -- all the great things she can do!

It is good to have friends who care.

Check availability of this book

More books by Elizabeth Schoonmaker

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners Subjects: Animals--Talking, Friends, Humor
Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

Okay For Now

by Gary D. Schmidt

Reading Level: Grades 6+

Doug Swieteck and his lousy older brother just moved to a brand-new town that will be probably just as lousy as the old one - and with less baseball. And, just like in his old town, everyone who's anyone (teachers, the police, his dad, Lil Spicer down the street) thinks that Doug's just a skinny good-for-nothing kid who won't ever amount to anything except for trouble.

Despite Lil and Doug's initial dislike of each other, they begin to bond nonetheless. In his friendship with Lil, Doug manages to deal with his lousy situation, including his abusive father and older brother just back from Vietnam. Doug also finds solace in the public library's Audubon bird plates, first tracing the shapes and feathers with his fingers and then learning to draw them, with the help of a kind librarian.

Part laugh-out-loud, part tear-jerker, all American coming of age story, Okay For Now is not one to miss.

Check availability of this book

More books by Gary D. Schmidt

Reading Level: 6th Grade,7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers,Adults Subjects: Don't Miss These, Family, Friends, Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Relationships, School, Self Image
Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

Where's Walrus

by Stephen Savage

Reading Level: Ages 4-8

Take a jaunt through famous scenes as you search for a goofy walrus. Great for kids & parents alike.

Check availability of this book

More books by Steven Savage

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

Ferret Fun

by Karen Rostoker-Gruber

Reading Level: Ages 4-8

What do two ferrets named Fudge and Einstein do when they meet a cat who thinks that they would be a perfect snack?

Convince him otherwise, that's what!

Check availability of this book

More books by Karen Rostoker-Gruber

Illustrator: Paul Ratz de Tagyos Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade
Subjects: Animals--Talking, Friends, Humor, Read-Alouds Location: Picture Books
Reviewer:
EF

Unlocked

by Ryan G. Van Cleave

Reading Level: Grades 7+

When you're the janitor's kid, you don't have many friends. You don't have any friends. Andy is no different, but when he hears a rumor that the school outcast, Blake, has a gun in his locker, he decides to make friends with Blake. When the boys do become friends, Andy must choose between protecting his only friend and protecting a school full of kids who could care less about him?

Check availability of this book

More books by Ryan G. Van Cleave

READ-ALIKES

Just Another Hero by Sharon Draper

Shooter by Walter Dean Myers

Jumped by Rita Williams-Garcia

Echo by Kate Morgenroth

Give a Boy a Gun by Todd Strasser

Where the Steps Were by Andrea Cheng

For older readers:

Hate List by Jennifer Brown

Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult

Reading Level: 7th Grade,8th Grade,High Schoolers Subjects: Family, Misfits, Non-Prose, Read-Alikes, Realistic Fiction, School, Social Issues Location: JY Fiction
Reviewer:
EF

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