

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

Detective's Assistant

by Kate Hannigan



Reading Level: Ages 9 - 12

In 1859 an orphaned eleven-year-old girl arrives in Chicago hoping to stay with her only living relative, Aunt Kitty. Her aunt prefers that Nell reside at the Chicago Home for the Friendless. And no wonder. There's bad blood between Kitty and Nell's family and Aunt Kitty is busy being the first woman detective for the Pinkerton Agency. Her aunt uses elaborate disguises in her undercover work as she solves murders and thefts and attempts to thwart an assassination. If Nell proves to be an able assistant perhaps her aunt will let her stay. Hannigan's fast paced novel combines adventure, humor, and history along with codes for readers to solve.

Meet author Kate Hannigan at the library on January 9th.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[Other books by Kate Hannigan](#)

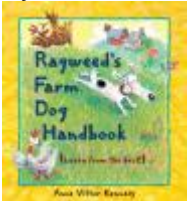
Reading Level: [4th Grade](#), [5th Grade](#), [6th Grade](#), [7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Crime and Punishment](#), [Don't Miss These](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [Spies](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook (Learn from the Best!)

by Anne Vittur Kennedy



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 8

Ragweed tells you everything you need to know about being a farmdog, such as don't chase sheep (unless the farmer is away) and eating grass has its downsides and benefits.

[Check availability of this book](#)

More books by Anne Vittur Kennedy

Reading Level: Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade,2nd Grade,3rd Grade Subjects: Animals--Talking, Humor Location: Picture Books

Reviewer:

SH

Deadly Design

by Debra Dockett



Reading Level: Grades 8+

Connor was two years old when the embryo for his identical twin was thawed and implanted. Kyle resents being Connor's younger brother instead of his contemporary. He can never measure up to Connor's perfectness. Their parents?everyone in town knows Connor is destined for greatness. The whole community mourns when Connor's heart stops beating one week before his high school graduation.

Grief-stricken and guilty, Kyle searches for a reason for his brother's death. Instead he finds other inexplicable deaths involving 18-year-olds conceived in vitro at the Genesis Innovations Laboratory. Kyle has two years before his 18th birthday. The day his heart will stop.

Check availability of this book

More books by Debra Dockett

If you liked this book, you may enjoy:

Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment by James Patterson

Subject Seven by James Moore and

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

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

Reviewer:

SJS

Seriously Wicked

by Tina Connolly



Reading Level: Grades 6+

Every morning, before she can go to school, Camille has to walk the puppy (which happens to be a werewolf) and clean out the garage (which houses a dragon.) In addition to her high school homework, she also has to memorize spells. Her ?mother? (the evil witch who kidnapped Camilla from her parents) insists on it. But Camille has no magic. And she has no desire to be a witch.

That all changes when her ?mother?s? spell backfires and Camille?s crush Devon is possessed by a demon. Camille has one week to figure out how to banish the demon before Devon is lost to her forever!

[Check availability of this book](#)

Didn?t know I was magical!

[The Lives of Christopher Chant](#) by Diana Wynne Jones

[Hold Me Closer Necromancer](#) by Lish McBride

[The Iron Trial](#) by Holly Black

Other demon tales include:

[Possess](#) by Gretchen McNeil

[The Devil?s Intern](#) by Donna Hosie

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Fantasy](#), [Humor](#) Location: [JY](#)
[Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SJS](#)

Becoming Maria: Love and Chaos in the South Bronx

by Sonia Manzano



Reading Level: Grades 8 and older

Sonia Manzano, otherwise known as Maria on Sesame Street, tells the story of her childhood in the Bronx. Detailing everything from her mysteriously appearing older sister, through her father's drunken rages, to her first roll on Broadway, Sonia's story is not for younger, or more sensitive readers.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Sonia Manzano](#)

Reading Level: [8th Grade](#), [High Schoolers](#), [Adults](#) Subjects: [Biographies](#), [Family](#), [Non-Fiction](#), [Relationships](#), [School](#), [Self Image](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [JY Non-Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

SH

Coco y Pio

by Alexis Deacon



Reading Level: Ages 2 - 6

Coco, a crocodile, and Pio, a bird, consider themselves brothers. Born next to each other at the same time, out of identical eggs, the two are inseparable. That is, until Pio finds a group of other birds and Coco finds a group of other crocodiles.

Coco, un cocodrilo, y Pio, un pajaró, se sienten como hermanos. Ellos nacieron juntos al mismo tiempo, de huevos idénticos, y ahora los dos son inseparables. Eso es, hasta que Pio encuentre

a un grupo de pajaros y Coco encuentra un grupo de otros cocodrilos.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Alexis Deacon](#)

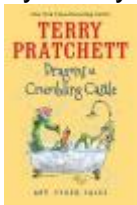
Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#) Location: [Spanish Picturebook](#)

Reviewer:

[JL](#)

Dragons at Crumbling Castle and Other Tales

by Terry Pratchett



Reading Level: Grades 4 - 7

These fourteen short stories, written when Terry Pratchett when he was a junior reporter for a local paper, were dug up and re-edited by the author and put into this fun collection of satirical fantasy which has truly stood the test of time.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Terry Pratchett](#)

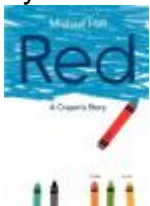
Reading Level: [4th Grade,5th Grade,6th Grade,7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Adventure](#), [Animals--Talking](#), [Family](#), [Fantasy](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [In Other Lands](#), [Read-Alouds](#), [Short Stories](#), [Time Travel](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Red: A Crayon's Story

by Michael Hall



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 7

Red just doesn't understand why, no matter how hard he tries he cannot do anything right. Stoplights are blue, when he and his friend Yellow try to draw an orange it comes out green. What is wrong with him?

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Michael Hall](#)

Reading Level: [Preschoolers](#), [Kindergarteners](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#), [3rd Grade](#) Subjects: [Friends](#), [Humor](#), [LGBT](#), [Misfits](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

New Shoes

by Susan Lynn Meyer



Reading Level: Grades K - 5

Ella Mae needs new shoes so her mother takes her to the town shoe store. After waiting while a white girl tries on pair after pair of shoes Ella May is shocked to learn that she is not allowed to touch any shoes until after she buys them. Although she likes her new shoes, the humiliation of the shopping trip gnaws at her until she and her sister come up with a plan to bring a true shoe store experience to all her neighbors.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Susan Meyer](#)

[More books by Eric Velasquez](#)

Illustrator: Eric Velasquez Reading Level: [Kindergarteners](#), [1st Grade](#), [2nd Grade](#), [3rd Grade](#), [4th Grade](#), [5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Historical Fiction](#), [Social Issues](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

A ver el mundo nos vamos!

by Margaret Wise Brown



Reading Level: Ages 3 - 7

Este libro pinta niños de todo el mundo y lleva al lector en un viaje a países diferentes del mundo. Se ve sitios conocidos del mundo como los Piramides y la Estatua de la Libertad. This Spanish picture book depicts children from all around the world and takes the reader on a journey through different countries. One sees famous landmarks along the way, like the Pyramids and the Statue of Liberty.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Margaret Wise Brown](#)

[More books by Christine Tappin](#)

Illustrator: Christine Tappin Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners,1st Grade](#)

Subjects: [Adventure](#) Location: [Spanish Picturebook](#)

Reviewer:

JL

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