**After The Shot Drops**

Randy Ribay

Harcourt Mifflin Harcourt, 2018

325 pages

SUMMARY:

Teen friends, Nasir and Bunny grow up in a tough Philadelphia neighborhood with dreams of making it big using their basketball talents. When Bunny accepts an offer to attend a prestigious private school with a basketball scholarship, Nasir feels betrayed. Meanwhile, Nasir’s cousin, Wallace and his grandmother receive an eviction notice and risk being homeless. Wallace’s plan to raise money puts everyone in a dangerous position especially Bunny. Friendships, scholarships, and lives are on the line when risky decisions are made.

GENRE TAGS:

* African American Fiction
* Sports Fiction
* Friendship
* Social Issues
* Realistic Fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* Meaning and Context: Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.
* Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* Language, Craft, and Structure: Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.
* Standard 12: Analyze and critique how the author uses structures in print and multimedia texts to shape meaning and impact the reader.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Swing,* Kwame Alexander
* *Hooper,* Geoff Herbach
* *The Final Four,* Paul Valponi
* *All American Boys,* Jason Reynolds

WEBSITES:

Randy Ribay’s Official Website, <http://www.randyribay.com/>, Visit this website to learn more about the author.

Adventures in YA Publishing: Author Interview, [http://www.adventuresinyapublishing.com/2018/03/randy-ribay- author-of-after-shot-drops.html#.Xdb6kvZFxPY](http://www.adventuresinyapublishing.com/2018/03/randy-ribay-%20author-of-after-shot-drops.html#.Xdb6kvZFxPY), Read this interview to learn more about the author.

Colby Sharp’s Book Review of *After the Shot Drops*: <https://youtu.be/CZ6kRkcyyWQ>, Read this book review to learn more.

BOOKTALK:

Imagine being faced with the decision of living your dream or risk a friendship and possibly a life. Bunny is faced with this decision to win the state championship game for his team where he is on an academic scholarship or save his friendship with his best friend Nasir and save Wallace’s life. Wallace’s homeless plight has left him in a dangerous situation after betting against Bunny’s team to win money to pay for rent. Nasir is torn between asking his best friend to commit an unethical act to save his cousin’s life or allow Bunny’s team to win the championship. Decisions that are made are risky and life threatening. Who will come out on top after the shot drops?

Prepared by**:**

Laura Ward, Scranton Elementary STEAM Academy, [lward@fsd3.org](mailto:lward@fsd3.org)

**Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City**

Phillip Hoose

Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), 2018

224 pages

SUMMARY:

Basketball reigns supreme in this biography about how a basketball team in a racially segregated high school in the heart of Indianapolis exposed some ugly truths on their journey to a state basketball championship. While this book chronicles the years of developing basketball players from backyard ball to competitive high school players, it also exposes the ugliness of Midwest racism in the mid-1900s as the team raced toward a state championship bid. Led by Oscar Robertson, the Crispus Attucks basketball team gained notoriety within Hoosier Hysteria history, but they also taught valuable lessons that extended well beyond the court.

GENRE TAGS:

* Nonfiction
* Biography
* Teen and Young Adult United States State and Local History

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* C. Share - The school library facilitates opportunities to experience diverse ideas by: 1. Implementing solutions that address physical, social, cultural, linguistic, and intellectual barriers to equitable access to resources and services. 2. Promoting the use of high-quality and high-interest literature in formats that reflect the diverse developmental, cultural, social, and linguistic needs of all learners and their communities. 3. Constructing a learning environment that fosters the sharing of a wide range of viewpoints and ideas.
* D. Grow - The school library ensures an inquiry-based process for learners by: 1. Establishing and supporting a learning environment that builds critical-thinking and inquiry dispositions for all learners. 2. Reinforcing the role of the school library, information, and technology resources in maximizing learning and institutional effectiveness.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *After the Shot Drops*, Randy Ribay
* *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler*, John Hendrix
* *Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler’s Germany*, Andrew Maraniss
* *Boots on the Ground: America’s War in Vietnam*, Elizabeth Partridge

WEBSITES:

Oscar Robertson official website, <https://www.oscarrobertson.com/>, website with information about Robertson and the impact he made as a member of the Crispus Attucks High School basketball team.

*Indianapolis Monthly Magazine* “Why the Crispus Attucks Legend Lives On”, <https://www.indianapolismonthly.com/arts-and-culture/why-the-crispus-attucks-legend-lives-on>, interview with Phillip Hoose about his book*, Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City*

Phillip Hoose official author website, <https://www.philliphoose.com/>, information about the author and his work.

Oscar Robertson – ESPN Documentary, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HufCiwlRoYM>, interviews and highlights from the life of Oscar Robertson

BOOKTALK:

People say that basketball is just a game – or is it? The Crispus Attucks basketball team, led by Oscar Robertson, proved that basketball can be more than a game. In fact, while the road to a state championship was paved with racism and disbelief, the end of the road opened the door for conversation, fellowship, and healing when Indianapolis and Indiana may have needed it most.

Prepared by:

Rhonda Tiwari, H.E. McCracken Middle School, [rhonda.tiwari@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:rhonda.tiwari@beaufort.k12.sc.us)

**Contagion**Erin Bowman  
Harper Teen, 2018  
432 pages

SUMMARY:

Space is no longer a place to just be explored—it’s now the home to millions, spread across the light years and systems of the universe. Althea “Thea” Sadik, a seventeen year old student, gets the internship of a lifetime working with the most famous researcher in the universe, Dr. Lisbeth Tarlow. Thinking how the experience will help her get into the college fo her dreams, Thea assists Dr. Tarlow in her research of corrarium, the natural energy source that she has dedicated her life to understanding.

Then, a distress call is received from a team that is light years ways. Leader Dylan Lowe is made captain of a response team, and she assembles her crew: Nova, a pilot; Toby, a technician; Cleaver, a bodyguard; and Sullivan, a mechanic. Dr. Tarlow and Thea are added as well, as the team’s biochemists.

The team arrives to the Black Quarry base after two months of travel, only to find bloody trails and deserted bodies. Most disturbing is a note, left by a crewmember, written in his own blood: “It got in us and most are dead. Decklan flew for help. Don’t trust the kid.” Bewildered, the team starts to look for answers around the base, at the exploration site, and from Dr. Tarlow… who, as a child, was found as the lone survivor when her parents’ crew also faced an eerily similar fate on the very same planet.

Even with their special bodysuits, one of the team members becomes infected. Thea finds the sole survivor of Black Quarry, and the team has to extend a leery acceptance of him in order to survive, despite what the note said. What follows is a race against the contagion, as the victim numbers continue to climb and the survivors fight for freedom.

The contagion spreads quickly, and does not kill its victim. Instead, it turns them into a possessed killer, whose only purpose is to infect others. The surviving members decide their best chance for survival is to take an escape pod, set the base to self-destruct, and to leave the planet to wait for the backup rescue team to arrive. They are successful in doing this, but it turns out that not everyone in their crew is free from the contagion. When they are rescued, their would-be rescuers are more interested in the non-lethal effects of the contagion than in actually saving them. They become the new focus of research… or that is the plan, unless the survivors can work together to escape.

GENRE TAGS:

* Science Fiction
* Space
* Mystery
* Thriller
* Horror

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

SC English 1-4 Standards

* Reading Literacy Standard 2: Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds.
* Reading Literacy Standard 3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
* Reading Literacy Standard 4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
* Reading Literacy Standard 5: Determine meaning and develop logical interpretations by making predictions, inferring, drawing conclusions, analyzing, synthesizing, providing evidence, and investigating multiple interpretations.
* Reading Literacy Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.
* Reading Literacy Standard 7: Analyze the relationship among ideas, themes, or topics in multiple media, formats, and in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic modalities.
* Reading Literacy Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context
* Reading Literacy Standard 9: Interpret and analyze the author’s use of words, phrases, and conventions, and how their relationships shape meaning and tone in print and multimedia texts.
* Reading Literacy Standard 10: Apply a range of strategies to determine and deepen the meaning of known, unknown, and multiple-meaning words, phrases, and jargon; acquire and use general academic and domain-specific vocabulary
* Reading Literacy Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.
* Reading Literacy Standard 13: Read independently and comprehend a variety of texts for the purposes of reading for enjoyment, acquiring new learning, and building stamina; reflect on and respond to increasingly complex text over time.

IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Immunity,* Erin Bowman (Sequel)
* *Cinder*, Marissa Meyer
* *Warcross*, Marie Lu
* *Aurora Rising*, Amie Kaufman
* *Invictus*, Ryan Graudin
* *Not Even Bones,* Rebecca Schaeffer
* *Sawkill Girls*, Claire Legrand
* *This Splintered Silence*, Kayla Olson

WEBSITES:

Author Chat: <https://www.yabookscentral.com/blog/author-of-the-week-chat-with-erin-bowman-contagion-plus-giveaway>, Learn more about the book!

Author’s site, <https://www.embowman.com/books/contagion/>, Learn more about the author.

Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXtNekYiBgM>, Book review with spoilers.

BOOKTALK:

Space. For everything we know, there is so much more to still be discovered. This is true for Dr. Lisbeth Tarlow. After being the sole survivor of her crew when she was a child, she has dedicated the last fifty years of her life to science and research of new planets and energy sources.

When the Black Quarry crew, located in The Fringe of the star system of the United Planetary Coalition, sends an SOS, a crew is assembled to respond. Dylan Lowe, the new captain with something to prove, builds her team of responders, including Dr. Tarlow and her intern, Thea, as well as a pilot, a mechanic, a technician, and a bodyguard.

Since the planet is light years away, it takes 2 months to get there. Upon arrival, Black Quarry seems empty except for blood and bodies. The rescue crew finds a note from a member, written before he killed himself: “It got in us and most are dead. Decklan flew for help. Don’t trust the kid.”

What is it, and who is the kid? Then one of their crewmembers gets infected. When they find the sole survivor of Black Quarry, the team must act, quickly deciding whom to trust or not. As soon as the first victim succumbs to the contagion, the crew then races to save themselves from the contaminated, now possessed bodies intent on infecting any living thing. Who will survive, and at what cost?

Prepared by:   
Allison Hall, Newberry High School, ahall@newberry.k12.sc.us

**A Curse So Dark and Lonely**

Brigid Kemmerer

Bloomsbury YA, 2019

496 pages

SUMMARY:

Harper Lacy, a strong-willed girl with cerebral palsy who lives in present-day Washington, DC, is whisked off to the land of Emberfall through a time warp by a hulk of a man Grey to save Prince Rhen. Rhen has relived the autumn of his 18th birthday over 300 times as he has been cursed by a powerful enchantress. Rhen turns into a vile creature and has killed almost everyone in his castle including his father the king. The only way to break the curse is for Rhen to get a woman to fall in love with him. Harper does not want anything to do with Rhen or Emberfall and wants to return to Washington, DC and her brother. Will Harper be the girl to end the curse?

GENRE TAGS:

* Classic Retelling
* Fantasy
* Disabilities and Special Needs

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* Meaning and Context: Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.
* Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* Language, Craft, and Structure: Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.
* Standard 12: Analyze and critique how the author uses structures in print and multimedia texts to shape meaning and impact the reader.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *An Enchantment of Ravens*, Margaret Rogerson
* *Caraval*, Stephanie Garber
* *The Cruel Prince*, Robin Black
* *The Gilded Wolves*, Roshana Chokski

WEBSITES:

Brigid Kemmerer’s Official Website, <https://brigidkemmerer.com/>, Learn more about the author and her books.

Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVhr0bMKDG0>, An Interview with Brigid Kemmerer.

BOOKTALK:

Imagine being in the hustle and bustle of Washington, DC. Your mother is dying, and your brother is involved in some not so legal activities to keep your family together. Oh! By the way, you have cerebral palsy which affects your walking. Now imagine a brute taking you away to a land where castles and swords are the norm. It is not modern times! You are not asleep, so how is all of this happening. Now in this strange land of Emberfall, this brute by the name of Grey introduces you to a prince. Not any ordinary prince, but a prince who turns into a wild beast. How are you supposed to save the day? Brigid Kemmerer’s tale is a cross between the classic tale of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Groundhog Day*. If you love adventure and fantasy, check out *A Curse So Dark and Lonely*.

Prepared by:

Michelle Greene, Lamar High School, [michelle.greene@darlington.k12.sc.us](mailto:michelle.greene@darlington.k12.sc.us)

**The Hazel Wood**

Melissa Albert

Flatiron Books, 2018

359 pages

SUMMARY:

“The Hazel Wood” is the name of the home owned by Althea Proserpine. Althea is a famous author and recluse, with one main book under her belt: “Tales from the Hinterland,” a collection of dark fairy tales that seem to captivate all that read them.

Alice, our seventeen year old protagonist, is the granddaughter of Althea. She has been kept away for the Hazel Wood, Althea, and “Tales from the Hinterland” her whole life. Alice does not understand why and becomes obsessed with her grandmother.

Alice and her mother, Ella have been on the move since Alice can remember. Moving from this place to that place trying to outrun the bad luck that always seems to follow them. However, when Ella receives a letter stating that her mother, Althea, has passed away she is sure that their luck is going to change and she decides to make a real home for her and her daughter.

They are certainly wrong. When Alice’s mother is taken by a stranger from the Hinterland, Alice has no choice but to go to the one place she was specifically told to stay away from to rescue her mother.

Alice must partner up with Ellery Finch, a boy in her school and a super fan of Althea Proserpine, and venture into the world of the Hinterland. The two, unbeknown to each other, have hidden agendas for teaming up. Alice is betrayed by Ellery and Ellery almost dies. But, regardless, find themselves at the door to the Hinterland.

Once in Hinterland, Alice discovers that she is actually a character from a Hinterland tale and was rescued by Ella, years ago, so she would not have to relive a horrific fate over and over again. But now, she is back and her story can continue.

Alice must find a way to change her fate and escape Hinterland for good. She does this by slowing changing her story. With each change, she gets closer and closer to freedom. Until, finally, she is released, with the help of Ellery Finch.

GENRE TAGS:

* Fairytale
* Novel
* Fantasy Fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* RL Standard 4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
* RL Standard 5: Determine meaning and develop logical interpretations by making predictions, inferring, drawing conclusions, analyzing, synthesizing, providing evidence, and investigating multiple interpretations.
* RL Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* RL Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice

of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.

### RL Standard 13: Read independently and comprehend a variety of texts for the purposes of reading for enjoyment, acquiring new learning, and building stamina; reflect on and respond to increasingly complex text over time.

IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Caraval*, Stephanie Garber
* *Sky in the Deep*, Adrienne Young
* *Truly, Devious*, Maureen Johnson
* *The Belles*, Dhonielle Clayton

WEBSITES:

TeachingBooks, <https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=58460>, Classroom resources for *The Hazel Wood*

TeenReads, <https://www.teenreads.com/authors/melissa-albert>, Read more about the book and author and explore this great website!

BOOKTALK:

We have all wanted to escape into a story and drown out the world that we live in, if only for a few minutes. *The Hazel Wood* by Melissa Albert allows us not only to do that, but the characters actually go into a story.

“The Hazel Wood” is the name of the home owned by Althea Proserpine. Althea is a famous author and recluse, with one main book under her belt: “Tales from the Hinterland,” a collection of dark fairy tales that seem to captivate all that read them.

Alice, our seventeen-year-old protagonist, is the granddaughter of Althea. She has been kept away for the Hazel Wood, Althea, and “Tales from the Hinterland” her whole life. Alice does not understand why and becomes obsessed with her grandmother.

Alice and her mother, Ella have been on the move since Alice can remember. Moving from this place to that place trying to outrun the bad luck that always seems to follow them. However, when Ella receives a letter stating that her mother, Althea, has passed away she is sure that their luck is going to change and she decides to make a real home for her and her daughter.

They are certainly wrong. In this exciting book Alice must find a way to change her fate, save her mother, and escape Hinterland for good.

This is a story that left me clinging to my seat. I become enveloped in Alice’s world and found myself mesmerized by the idea of the Hinterland. I would recommend this book to anyone who is looking for an escape, as well as, those lovers of fantasy.

You are left with only one question at the end of this book: do you want to go to the Hinterland?

Prepared by:

Toni Anderson, Lamar High School, toni.anderson@darlington.k12.sc.us

**Here To Stay**

Sara Farizan

Algonquin Young Readers, 2018

262 pages

SUMMARY:

Bijan Majidi prefers to stay under the radar but when his performance on the basketball court gets him noticed, he soon finds himself on the receiving end of cyberbullying campaign. Will he continue to fly under the radar or will he stand up for himself and his friends?

GENRE TAGS:

* Fiction
* Basketball
* Iranian-Amerian
* Cyberbullying
* Racism
* Homophobia
* Islamophobia

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* II.B.2. Learners adjust their awareness of the global learning community by evaluating a variety of perspectives during learning activities.
* II.D.3. Learners demonstrate empathy and equity in knowledge building within the global learning community by reflecting on their own place within the global learning community.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

* *A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi
* *Twisted* by Laurie Halse Anderson
* *Swagger* by Carl Deuker
* *Black and White* by Paul Volponi
* *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* by Meg Medina
* *Hate List* by Jennifer Brown

WEBSITES:

Publisher’s website: <https://www.workman.com/products/here-to-stay>,

Publisher’s website with information about the book and its author.

Bullying and Bias: Addressing Islamophobia in Schools,

<http://www.islamophobia.org/research/bullying-and-bias-in-schools.html>,

Non-profit website which provides resources for addressing Islamophobia.

BOOKTALK:

Bijan is just your regular high school boy who gets good grades, likes reading comics, hanging with his friends, playing basketball, and secretly crushing on the most popular girl at school. But when he scores the winning point in the playoff games, he suddenly finds himself at the center of a bunch of attention that he really doesn’t want. Someone doesn’t like the fact that an Iranian-American is getting so much attention and emails the whole school a photoshopped image of Bijan as a terrorist. Bijan just wants his life to go back to normal, not become the poster boy for Islamophobia awareness. But if he doesn’t stand up for himself and other marginalized students at school, who will?

Prepared by:

Marti Brown, Westwood High School, [martbrown@richland2.org](mailto:martbrown@richland2.org)

**Heretics Anonymous**

Katie Henry

Katherine Tegen Books, 2018

329 pages

SUMMARY:

Michael is an atheist, and his parents have just enrolled him in St. Clare’s Catholic School. He decides he has to make a friend. Michael meets Lucy and believes she might be a good candidate; however, Lucy is not only a good Catholic but aspires to become a priest. Lucy introduces Michael to a secret group of heretics who also do not quite fit in the school. We meet Avi who is Jewish and gay, Max is also gay and marches to his own drum, and practicing paganist Eden. Thus Heretics Anonymous is born. Through a series of rebellious acts, the group is becoming the talk of the school. However, when Michael decides to take one act too far, he has to decide whether to put his friends in the line of fire or take on faith what will happen.

GENRE TAGS:

* Realistic Fiction
* Catholic Schools Fiction
* Family Problems Fiction
* Satire
* Coming of Age Fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* Meaning and Context: Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.
* Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* Language, Craft, and Structure: Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.
* Standard 12: Analyze and critique how the author uses structures in print and multimedia texts to shape meaning and impact the reader.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Leah on the Offbeat*, Becky Albertali
* *Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue*, McKenzi Lee
* *The Astonishing Color of After*, Emily X. R. Pan

WEBSITES:

Katie Henry’s Official Website, <https://katiehenrywrites.com/>, Learn more about the author.

BOOKTALK:

Your dad’s new job lands in you a new school in the eleventh grade. You are a practicing atheist, and your new school is St. Clare’s CATHOLIC School. Life cannot get worse. You have to find a friend. You are introduced to a secret society of heretics who also feel out of place at St. Clare’s, and the leader of the group is Lucy who wants to become a priest. Henry weaves a tale of comical stunts pulled by the group with each one more outrageous than the previous ones. When our atheist Michael pulls a stunt that could lead to the exposure of Heretics Anonymous, he must decide what path to take? Would you let your “faith” decide what to do? Check out Katie Henry’s tale of *Heretics Anonymous* to find out how an atheist and his “faith” collide.

Prepared by:

Michelle Greene, Lamar High School, [michelle.greene@darlington.k12.sc.us](mailto:michelle.greene@darlington.k12.sc.us)

**Hey, Kiddo: How I Lost My Mother, Found My Father, and Dealt with Family Addiction**Jarrett J. Krosoczka  
Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, Inc., 2018  
320 pages

SUMMARY:  
Krosoczka has written a graphic memoir about his colorful life. He was adopted by his grandparents who are interesting characters themselves. His mother is a frequent visitor to rehab due to a heroin addiction, and his father is not discussed. Krosoczka uses his drawing to create a normal life for himself. Understanding his mother’s problems and finding his father, Jarrett uses his art to help his cope with his history.

GENRE TAGS:

* Graphic
* Memoir
* Addiction (Drug use, alcoholism)
* Adoption
* Incarceration
* Art
* Coming of age

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):  
South Carolina English/language arts English 2 standards (informational texts and literary nonfiction):

* Meaning and context6.1 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.
* Language, craft, and structure8.2 Explain how the author’s meaning and tone are developed and refined by text features and structures.
* Language, craft, and structure11.1 Analyze in detail how the author’s ideas or claims are supported through the use of text features and structures

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian,* Sherman Alexie
* *Persepolis,* Marjane Satrapi
* *The Poet X,* Elizabeth Acevedo

WEBSITES:

*TED.com*, https://www.ted.com/talks/jarrett\_j\_krosoczka\_how\_a\_boy\_became\_an\_artist?language= en, Jarrett Krosoczka’s 18-minute speech " This talk paints the funny and touching story of a little boy who pursued a simple passion: to draw and write stories. With the help of a supporting cast of family and teachers, Jarrett J. Krosoczka tells how he grew up to create beloved children's books.”

*StudioJJK.com*, http://www.studiojjk.com/, The author’s personal web page.

BOOKTALK:  
Krosoczka is very honest and open about his memories and understanding of his family. His candor develops his struggle with accepting himself, his mother, his family. The artwork, coloring, and family album additions compliment the graphic story line and reinforce the awareness that this is a nonfiction text.

Prepared by:

Melissa Tucker, Rock Hill High School, mtucker@rhmail.org

**I Have the Right To**

Chessy Prout

Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2019

404 pages

SUMMARY:

When Chessy Prout was a freshman at the prestigious St. Paul’s boarding school, she was raped by a senior and the school administration tried to sweep it under the rug. The ensuing court case uncovered a pervasive culture of sexual harrassment, assualt, and bullying at the school. This is Chessy’s story about her experiences as a victim, a survivor, and finally, an activist.

GENRE TAGS:

* Non-fiction
* Memoir
* Autobiography
* Rape
* Rape culture
* Sexual assault
* Survivor
* Court
* Boarding School
* Activism

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* II.A.3. Learners contribute a balanced perspective when participating in a learning community by describing their understanding of cultural relevancy and placement within the global learning community.
* V.D.1. Learners develop through experience and reflection by iteratively responding to challenges.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

* *Shout*, Laurie Halse Anderson
* *Glimmer of Hope: How Tragedy Sparked a Movement*, The March for Our Lives Founders
* *Things We Haven’t Said: Sexual Violence Survivors Speak Out,* Erin Moulton
* *Honor Code* (fiction), Kiersi Burkhart
* *Some Boys* (fiction), Patty Blount
* *Speak* (fiction), Laurie Halse Anderson
* *The Way I Used to Be* (fiction), Amber Smith

WEBSITES:

Book website, [ihavetherighttobook.com](https://www.ihavetherightto.org/), This is the official website for the book which provides background information about the author’s experiences, video clips of interviews, resources for parents, educators, and survivors of assault, and how to get involved.

Teacher Guide, <http://ihavetherighttobook.com/IHaveTheRightTo_RGG.pdf>, This is a discussion and activity guide for the classroom and reading groups.

Non-profit website, [ihavetherightto.org](https://www.ihavetherightto.org/), This is a non-profit website associated with the book that provides resources for survivors of assault and bullying and tools for advocacy.

BOOKTALK:

Sexual assault. #MeToo. Rape. These are heavy topics that we generally try to shield our children and students from. Unfortunately, these are real issues that many of them have already faced or will face in the future. Rather than trying to pretend that these things don’t exist, the best thing we can do is educate our kids. After being raped at her boarding school when she was a freshman, Chessy Prout spoke out but rather than being supported by her school administration, she found herself vilified. During the ensuing legal trial, the school was exposed for allowing and even encouraging a culture of bullying, harassment, and assault. After all that she endured, Chessy decided that she would not be just another statistic or victim. She would be a survivor and activist and educate others so that they wouldn’t have to endure what she did.

Prepared by:

Marti Brown, Westwood High School, [martbrown@richland2.org](mailto:martbrown@richland2.org)

**The Silence Between Us**

Allison Gervais

Blink, 2019

320 pages

SUMMARY:

After a cross country move to Colorado, Deaf student Maya enrolls in a hearing school. Maya can lip read—she wasn’t born deaf; rather, she became Deaf when she was younger—but is having a hard time adjusting to hearing culture. Her classmates are unsure of how to behave around her and are generally unaware she can lip read, which leads to some hurtful situations for Maya. A couple of students to make the effort to get to know Maya, which she resists for a while. But as hard as she tries, she can’t ignore kind, ASL-learning Beau forever. Beau doesn’t understand Deaf culture and doesn’t understand why Maya wouldn’t want to reenter the world of the hearing. Maya must learn to stand up for herself and her Deafness and hopefully not lose her new friendships along the way.

GENRE TAGS:

* Realistic Fiction
* Romance
* #ownvoices

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* AASL D.3: Enacting new understanding through real-world connections.
* ELA I 3.2: Examine historical, social, cultural, or political context to broaden inquiry and create questions.
* ELA RL 8.1: Analyze how characters or a series of ideas or events is introduced, connected, and developed within a particular context.
* ELA RL 13.2: Read independently for sustained periods of time to build stamina.
* ELA RL 13.3: Read and respond to grade level text to become self-directed, critical readers and thinkers.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *You’re Welcome, Universe*, Whitney Gardner
* *Blind*, Rachel DeWoskin
* *Say What You Will*, Cammie McGovern
* *What to Say Next*, Jennifer Niven
* *The Love Letters of Abelard and Lily*, Laura Creedle

WEBSITES:

Allison Gervais, http://alisongervais.com/, Site contains information about the author and her

books. Also contains an educator’s guide for *The Silence Between Us*.

We Need Diverse Books, https://diversebooks.org/qa-alison-gervais-the-silence-between-us/,

Blog interview with the author about writing and publishing an Own Voices novel.

BOOKTALK:

Senior year Maya is forced to move cross country with her mom and younger brother. She’s unhappy enough to be moving senior year but she’s even madder there’s no Deaf school in her Colorado town. Maya’s new classmates slow talk and yell-speak at her, not realizing she can read lips. Understandably, she’s mad. Everything she thought her senior year would be is gone. She doesn’t want anything to do with the kids at this school—she’s going to just get it done and move onto college. But what she wants and what she gets are two very different things. Two students decide to befriend Maya and, hard as she tries, she can’t seem to stop or resist their offers of friendship, especially Beau’s. But when Beau starts pushing for Maya to consider cochlear implants, she starts to wonder if the divide between her Deaf world and his hearing world is more than they can overcome.

Prepared by:

Anna Webb, Riverside High School, [aswebb@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:aswebb@greenville.k12.sc.us)

**Sky in the Deep**

Adrienne Young

Wednesday Books, 2018

352 pages

SUMMARY:

Seventeen year old Eelyn knows how to be one thing really well: a warrior. It’s how she was raised and it’s how she lives. The warrior life is not easy; Eelyn watched her brother die in battle with their rival clan. Years later, as the clan’s clash, she sees her brother, fighting alongside her rival clan. Questions arise she can’t answer and she manages to get herself taken prisoner in the clans’ next battle. This puts her in even more danger. If her new “family” discovers her real identity, she will be murdered. Despite this, Eelyn is reluctantly settling into her new role and clan. Until another clan that was a nothing more than a horror story and myth attacks Eelyn’s new clan. She must ban together with her enemy to alert her family. If she can’t convince the clans to stand together against this stronger clan, everything she knows and everyone she loves will be destroyed.

GENRE TAGS:

* Fantasy
* Adventure

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* AASL D.3: Enacting new understanding through real-world connections.
* ELA I 3.2: Examine historical, social, cultural, or political context to broaden inquiry and create questions.
* ELA RL 8.1: Analyze how characters or a series of ideas or events is introduced, connected, and developed within a particular context.
* ELA RL 13.2: Read independently for sustained periods of time to build stamina.
* ELA RL 13.3: Read and respond to grade level text to become self-directed, critical readers and thinkers.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *The Girl the Sea Gave Back* (Sky & Sea book 2), Adrienne Young
* *Warrior of the Wild*, Tricia Levenseller
* *Beyond a Darkened Shore*, Jessica Leake
* *To Kill a Kingdom*, Alexandra Christo
* *House of Salt and Sorrows*, Erin A. Craig

WEBSITES:

Adrienne Young, https://www.adrienneyoungbooks.com/sitd, Book page on author’s website

includes cosplay information, a Pinterest inspiration board, pronunciation guide, official book trailer and more.

You Tube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALgXWJTz5os, Official trailer from publisher.

BOOKTALK:

Eelyn is a warrior. She’s not afraid of anything or anyone and don’t get in her way or she will strike you down. She was raised way— preparing for the next battle and roaring into it headfirst. But this life has taken a toll on her family: Eelyn watched her brother die at the hands of their enemy clan. So imagine her confusion when she sees her brother fighting for her enemy on the battlefield. She hatches a plan to try and speak with her brother the next time the clans clash but it backfires and she gets taken prisoner by the other clan. Eelyn must keep her identity a secret because if anyone finds out, she’ll be instantly killed. Just as she’s starting to settle into her new role and identity, another clan that no one seriously believed existed attacks her new village. And her home village is the next target.

Prepared by:

Anna Webb, Riverside High School, [aswebb@greenville.k12.sc.us](mailto:aswebb@greenville.k12.sc.us)

**Skyward**

Brandon Sanderson

Ember, 2018

513 pages

SUMMARY:

Spensa Nightshade is the daughter of a disgraced pilot in a mysterious world called Detritus. She has always wanted to be a pilot and decides she does not want to spear rats for her mother’s food stand anymore. She wants to go to the Defiant Defense Force flight school to become a pilot which will be difficult because of her father’s infamy. When Spensa makes it into flight school, Admiral Ironsides is determined to make sure she does not graduate. A lucky discovery helps Spensa to succeed in attending flight school. Will she achieve her dream of going skyward? She must help save Detritus from the Krell and may discover some secrets along the way.

GENRE TAGS:

* Science Fiction
* Alien Contact
* Military and Wars
* Survival Stories

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* Meaning and Context: Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.
* Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* Language, Craft, and Structure: Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.
* Standard 12: Analyze and critique how the author uses structures in print and multimedia texts to shape meaning and impact the reader.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Starsight*, Brandon Sanderson
* *The 5th Wave*, Richard Yancey
* *The Last 8*, Laura Pohl
* *Throne of Glass*, Sarah J. Maas
* *Scythe*, Neal Shusterman
* *The Fates Divide*, Veronica Roth

WEBSITES:

Brandon Sanderson, <https://www.brandonsanderson.com/>, Visit the Author’s Official Website.

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, https://www.aopa.org/, Learn about flight schools.

BOOKTALK:

Imagine living in a world where everyone has to live below the surface in a world called Detritus. The enemy is some alien group called the Krell. The only way to fight the Krell is to become a pilot. Spensa’s lifelong dream is to become a pilot which is going to be very difficult. Her father was a pilot who died after leaving his team. No one wants to see Spensa in flight school. Spensa gets a lucky break and makes it into flight school. Will she be able to succeed and become one of the pilots who fights against the Krell and helps to save Detritus? Spensa’s adventure is like living in the world of the video game Spaced Invaders. Check out Skyward and become a part of Spensa’s adventure.

Prepared by:

Michelle Greene, Lamar High School, [michelle.greene@darlington.k12.sc.us](mailto:michelle.greene@darlington.k12.sc.us)

**Stay Sweet**

Siobhan Vivian

Simon & Schuster, 2018

359 pages

SUMMARY:

Sand Lake is the home of Meade Creamery—a summer hangout started by Molly Meade in 1944 to help her lovesick friends while their boys were serving in the World War II. The ice cream stand has been owned and managed by women who have become best friends over the years. Amelia and Cate have worked at Meade for three years, and Amelia is to be the Head Girl this summer. However, Molly dies unexpectedly, before Amelia has a chance to lead. Then Molly’s grandnephew Grady becomes the owner and decides he wants to make some changes. How will Amelia and Cate react to these new changes?

GENRE TAG(S):

* Realistic Fiction
* Romance

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* National School Library Standards
  + I.D.3 – Enacting new understanding through real-world connections.
* The National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education
  + A - Entrepreneurial Processes - Understands concepts and processes associated with successful entrepreneurial performance
  + B - Entrepreneurial Traits/Behaviors Understands the personal traits/behaviors associated with successful entrepreneurial performance

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *All of This is True: A Novel*, Lygia Day Peñaflor
* *Puddin’,* Julie Murphy
* *This Tiny Perfect World,* Lauren Gibaldi
* *The Moon and More,* Sarah Dessen

WEBSITES:

Author’s Website, <http://www.siobhanvivian.com/>, Learn more about the author.

Food Network, <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/ice-cream-in-a-bag-5233580>, Learn how to make Ice Cream in a bag and let students create their own flavors.

International Dairy Foods Association, https://www.idfa.org/news-views/media-kits/ice-cream/the-history-of-ice-cream, Learn about the history of ice cream and how it became the sweet treat it is today.

History.com, https://www.history.com/news/from-chuck-wagons-to-pushcarts-the-history-of-the-food-truck, Learn about the origins of food trucks, from chuck wagons to pushcarts. Find out what food was first sold out of automobiles.

BOOKTALK:

It’s summer in Sand Lake, which means it time to open up Meade Creamery, the best little ice cream shop in town. It also means that, for Amelia and Cate, this summer is supposed to be the best summer of their lives. They have worked at the stand for three years and now it’s their turn to run the stand. Amelia will be Head Girl and will be in charge of the creamery, just like it’s been done decades – an ice cream stand run by all girls since its founder, Molly Meade, started the ice cream stand during WWII.

But when Molly Meade passes away right before the stand is scheduled to open, it’s up to Amelia and Cate to find a way to get the ice cream shop up and running or cease to exist. The biggest challenge being that Molly never wrote down the recipe to her ice cream. More changes arrive when Molly’s grandnephew Grady shows up to take ownership of the business. After Grady asks Amelia to help him run the business, Amelia and Cate’s friendship is put to the test. Can she survive the summer with a new boss? Can she recreate Molly’s ice cream recipe? Can she save her friendship with Cate? Will she save Molly Meade Creamery?

Prepared by:

Mike LeRoy, Indian Land High School, [Michael.LeRoy@lcsd.k12.sc.us](mailto:Michael.LeRoy@lcsd.k12.sc.us)

**Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful**

Arwen Elys Dayton

Random House, 2018

358 pages

SUMMARY:

Dayton imagines a world where scientific advancements in genetic manipulation and human body modification change the definition of what it is to be human. The future is told in six interrelated stories where each main character’s evolution in time and technology brings them further and further from a normal body and mind. As the reader is led into the future, the characters become less recognizable and the technology becomes more important than a society that cares about its people.

GENRE TAG(S):

* Dystopian fiction
* Science fiction
* Short stories

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* AASL School Library Standard II.C.2: Promoting the use of high-quality and high-interest literature in formats that reflect the diverse developmental, cultural, social, and linguistic needs of all learners and their communities.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Anomaly*, Krista McGee
* *The Kingdom,* Jess Rothenberg
* *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, Patrick Ness
* *Partials*, Dan Wells
* *The Similars*, Rebecca Hanover
* *Uglies*, Scott Westerfeld

WEBSITES:

Youtube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0miqDkD4S8, Official Book Trailer for *Stronger, Faster, and More Beautiful.*

Arwen Elys Dayton, https://www.arwenelysdayton.com/, official author website.

Bookish, https://www.bookish.com/articles/arwen-elys-dayton-interview-stronger-faster-more-beautiful/, Interview with author Anwen Elys Dayton.

BOOKTALK:

Everyone wants to be perfect, and we now have the technology to achieve perfection. You can be stronger, faster, and more beautiful. But at what price? The future is told in six intertwining stories that highlight the world’s incredible advances in technology. We are brought into a future where anything is possible but the question is, should it be possible. Humans are transformed in ever more drastic ways and the line becomes blurred between human and scientific advances.

Prepared by:

Colette Schmidt, Ridge View High School, [cschmidt@richland2.org](mailto:cschmidt@richland2.org)

**Time Bomb**

Joelle Charbonneau

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

340 pages

SUMMARY:

Trapped in their school after a bomb goes off, six students fight to survive and when they discover that someone inside is the bomber, they are also looking for who among them is the culprit.

GENRE TAG(S):

* Thriller
* Suspense
* Multiple Perspectives

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* English I, II, III, IV (Standard 2: Transact with texts to formulate questions, propose explanations, and consider alternative views and multiple perspectives.2.1 Analyze ideas and information from text and multimedia by formulating questions, proposing interpretations and explanations, and considering alternative views and multiple perspectives) Include identifying features of standards)
* Health and Safety Education: M-HS.2.1 Categorize ways that family, peers, culture, and the media influence the mental, emotional, and social health of individuals (e.g., anxiety, depression, and suicidal behavior).
* STEM Students break problems into component parts, extract key information, and develop descriptive models to understand complex systems or facilitate problem-solving.
* Shared Foundation II. Include-Domain Create-Learners adjust their awareness of the global learning community by: evaluating a variety of perspectives during learning activities.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *One of Us Is Lying,* Karen McManus
* *The Loners*, Lex Thomas,
* *This Is Where It Ends*, Marieke Nijkamp,
* *How It Went Down*, Kekla Magoon,
* *Monument 14*, Emmy Laybourne*,*
* *Mercy Rule*, Tom Leveen

WEBSITES:

Joelle Charbonneau, http://www.joellecharbonneau.com/time-bomb, Summary of the book *Time*

*Bomb* and this website includes links to author information, reviews, etc.

Author Joelle Charbonneau Is the Master of YA Suspense, https://studybreaks.com/culture/reads/joelle-charbonneau-suspense-novels/, Summary of the book *Time Bomb* as well as information about Joelle Charbonneau’s other books and her writing style.

Beyond the Bio: Joelle Charbonneau, https://www.storytimeteen.com/post/2018/03/11/beyond- the-bio-joelle-charbonneau, Interview with the author –includes information about the book *Time Bomb.*

BOOKTALK:

The school year hadn’t started yet but 6 students all had reasons to go to school before the first day (a new ID card, yearbook meeting, schedule changes, etc.) Little did they know that this day may be their last. Rashid, Z, Cas, Diana, Frankie and Tad are all stuck in the school when a bomb goes off. The bomber is still inside the school and may be one of the 6. Can these students work together to survive before another bomb goes off or will they turn on each other?

Prepared by:

Caitlin Creagan, Andrew Jackson High School, caitlin.creagan@lcsd.k12.sc.us

**Truly Devious**

Maureen Johnson

Katherine Tegen Books, 2018

420 pages

SUMMARY:

Tycoon Albert Ellingham founded Ellingham Academy in Vermont for intelligent youth who would enjoy a wonderful place full of riddles, twisting pathways, and gardens where they could learn by playing games. After the school was opened for a short time, Ellingham’s wife and daughter were kidnapped. The culprit only leaves a riddle listing ways to murder someone, signing the frightening list, “Truly, Devious.” No one was ever caught.   
Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, and she plans to solve the cold case. With a new cast of characters who Stevie must learn to live with, Devious has made a surprising return. Can Stevie find the murderer, before Devious strikes again?

GENRE TAG(S):

* Mystery/Suspense

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* AASL Shared Foundation V: Explore Discover and innovate in a growth mind-set developed through experience and reflections.
* AASL Domains and Competencies: A. Think Learners develop and satisfy personal curiosity by 1. Reading widely and deeply in multiple formats.
* SC ELA Standards English 1-4: Principles of Reading (P)
* Standard 4: Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

* *A Study in Charlotte*, Brittany Cavallaro
* *One of Us is Lying*, Karen McManus
* *The Name of the Rose,* Maureen Johnson
* *We are Liars*, E. Lockhart

WEBSITES:

Complete List: Top 10 Unsolved Crimes-*Time,*  <http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/completelist/0,29569,1867198,00.html>,

John Walsh founded America's Most Wanted after police failed to nab the person who killed his son, Adam. Police eventually revealed the killer's identity and officially closed the case. *TIME* looks at more than a century's worth of other mysterious cases.

The Top 50 Boarding Schools in New England for 2019,

<https://www.niche.com/blog/top-50-boarding-schools-in-new-england/>, Some of the best boarding schools in America are located in New England, but how do these New England boarding schools compare to each other? Here’s our ranking of the top 50 boarding schools in New England, based on our ranking.

America's Gilded Age: Robber Barons and Captains of Industry,

<https://online.maryville.edu/business-degrees/americas-gilded-age/>,

This site provides brief descriptions of the men considered the “Captains of Industry” during the Guided Age in American history.

Gilded Age- *History,*

<https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/gilded-age>,

An overview of the “Gilded Age”, a term used to define the tumultuous years between the Civil War and the turn of the twentieth century.

BOOKTALK: Stevie Bell has always felt like a misfit until she arrives at Ellingham Academy, an exclusive private school in Vermont filled with creative geniuses and great thinkers. Stevie wonders if she belongs, but she is determined to stay because she has come on a mission. She is going to finally solve a crime that has left everyone stumped for decades. In the 1930s, the founder’s wife and child were kidnapped and they were never seen again. The only clue was a cruel, taunting note signed by *Truly Devious*, and Stevie is determined to figure out what happened. While digging into the past in search of answers, she finds herself in the middle of a new investigation when *Truly Devious* returns. She must now look at everyone as a suspect while trying to stay alive. Will Stevie solve the crimes in time, or will she be *Truly Devious*’s latest victim?

Prepared by:

Kathy Carroll, Westwood High School, kacarroll@richland2.org

**A Very Large Expanse of Sea**

Tahareh Mafi

Harper Teen, 2018

310 pages

SUMMARY:

The year is 2002, a year after the tragedy of 9/11. It’s a difficult time for everyone but especially for Shirin, who is Iranian-American and the hijab she wears, which makes her a target for bullies. After starting over at a new school, she finds solace in break dancing and maybe even… a boyfriend?

GENRE TAGS:

* Fiction
* Realistic fiction
* Iranian-Amerian
* Bullying
* Racism
* Islamophobia
* 9/11
* Break dancing

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* II.B.2. Learners adjust their awareness of the global learning community by evaluating a variety of perspectives during learning activities.
* II.D.3. Learners demonstrate empathy and equity in knowledge building within the global learning community by reflecting on their own place within the global learning community.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

* *Here to Stay,* Sara Farizan
* *Hearts Unbroken*, Cynthia Leitch Smith
* *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter,* Erika L. Sanchez
* *Gabi, A Girl in Pieces,* Isabel Quintero
* *Saints and Misfits,* S.K. Ali,
* *Love, Hate, & Other Filters,* Samira Ahmed
* *If You Come Softly,* Jacqueline Woodson
* *The Lines We Cross,* Randel Abdel-Fattah

WEBSITES:

Author’s website: <https://www.taherehbooks.com/>

The author’s website with information about her, books she’s written, upcoming events,

contact information, and more.

Teen Vogue: <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/a-very-large-expanse-of-sea-tahereh-mafi>

An article in *Teen Vogue* about the need for diversity in teen romance books and

Muslim-American representation in media.

Bullying and Bias: Addressing Islamophobia in Schools:

<http://www.islamophobia.org/research/bullying-and-bias-in-schools.html>

Non-profit website which provides resources for addressing Islamophobia.

BOOKTALK:

Like every American, Shirin was absolutely horrified by what happened on September 11, 2001. But some of her middle school classmates didn’t believe that she was. In fact, they think she’s probably happy about it. Because she wears a hijab and her parents are from Iran. So naturally, they decide that she must be punished and only stop when the police are on the scene. She’s in a new town now and in high school but she’s not getting her hopes up about things being different. While her older brother seems to have no trouble fitting in wherever they go, her hijab just seems to make her a target. But when she finds her passion in being part of the school’s breakdancing team and a boy that she likes, she thinks that maybe this town, this school will be ok. While they may be able to handle a breakdancing girl in a hijab, the school community definitely can’t handle a Muslim girl dating their star basketball player and her nightmare starts all over again. Will this American girl in a hijab ever be able to fit in in America?

Prepared by:

Marti Brown, Westwood High School, martbrown@richland2.org

**The Waning Age**

S. E. Grove

Viking, 2019

333 pages

SUMMARY:

In current time, society is run by adults devoid of emotion because children begin to “wane” or lose their feelings around age eleven. The cause of waning is unknown and large pharmaceuticals are profiting by selling synthetic drugs that replicate the feeling of emotions for those that have money to spend on that lost luxury. RealCorp has a monopoly on this market. When RealCorp discovers that Cal exhibits unusually strong emotions despite being of the waning age, they kidnap him for research. His sister Natalia, Cal’s sister, who has already waned will stop at nothing to get him back. Nat’s martial arts skills and cunning intuition serve her well, but what drives her to rescue her brother is far more than what she learned in schools. Perhaps she is experiencing love once again.

GENRE TAGS:

* Science Fiction
* Dystopian

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.
* Standard 9: Interpret and analyze the author’s use of words, phrases, and conventions, and how their relationships shape meaning and tone in print and multimedia texts.
* Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *This Book Is Not Yet Rated*, Peter Bognanni
* *What We Buried*, Kate A. Boorman
* *We Rule the Night*, Claire Eliza Bartlett
* *Girls with Sharp Sticks*, Suzanne Young
* *The Hive*, Barry Lyga

WEBSITES:

Teenreads, https://www.teenreads.com/reviews/the-waning-age, This site

provides a platform to rank and blog about the book.

Goodreads, https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/40057886-the-waning-age, This site

provides a platform to rank and blog about the book.

S.E. Grove, http://segrovebooks.com/, This is the author’s site. You can see what other works

this author has published.

BOOKTALK:

This book has a little bit of everything: science fiction, mystery, adventure, revenge, and family ties. This book starts in present day where orphaned siblings Nat and Cal are surviving in a world where children “wane,” or lose their ability to experience true emotions. After an encounter with an affluent woman and her son, who has a bad reaction to a synthetic drug (synaff) designed to replicate emotion, a domino of events take place.

Cal is unique. Despite being waning age, he seems to be experiencing emotions in the same if not greater intensity as time goes on. His sister, Nat, has already waned, yet seems to be driven by strong emotions when the RealCorp Company essentially kidnaps her brother. Nat will not be fooled and she will not lose her brother. As plan after plan falls through, Nat must rely on her cunning intuition and martial art skills to get her brother back.

Prepared by:

Leslie McDuffie, Newberry High School, [lmcduffie@newberry.k12.sc.us](mailto:lmcduffie@newberry.k12.sc.us)

**We’ll Fly Away**

Bryan Bliss

GreenWillow Books, 2018

407 pages

SUMMARY**:**

*We’ll Fly Away* is the story of Luke and Toby. Neither boy has had an easy life, but they have always been there for each other. They dream of leaving their small North Carolina town as soon as they graduate high school, but choices they make have them taking a different path. Bryan Bliss utilizes letters that Luke writes (from death row) to Toby and third person narrative to bring Luke and Toby’s story to life. It’s a story of their friendship.

GENRE TAG(S):

* Epistolary
* Best friends fiction
* Physical & emotional abuse
* Death row fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS**:**

* Meaning and Context: Standard 6: Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.
* Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* Language, Craft, and Structure: Standard 11: Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, and purpose shape content, meaning, and style.
* Standard 12: Analyze and critique how the author uses structures in print and multimedia texts to shape meaning and impact the reader.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Burn*, Ellen Hopkins
* *Long Way Down*, Jason Reynolds
* *Devils Within* , S.F. Henson
* *The Serpent King*, Jeff Zentner
* *Moonrise*, Sarah Crossan
* *Deposing Nathan*, Zack Smedley
* *This is Where it Ends,* Marieke Nijkamp
* *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, Laurie Halse Anderson
* *Monday’s Not Coming*, Tiffany Jackson

WEBSITES**:**

Bryan Bliss, <http://www.bryanbliss.com>, official website of Bryan Bliss.

BOOKTALK:

*We’ll Fly Away* opens with a letter that Luke writes to his friend, Toby. Not that unusual, right? Wrong. Luke is in prison - on death row. Throughout the course of the book, the reader learns through Luke’s letters from prison and the events of their senior year in high school why Luke is in prison and what happened to Toby. *We’ll Fly Away* is compelling novel that is both tough to read yet impossible to put down.

Prepared by:

Kim Hudson, parent

**What You Hide**

Natalie Richards

Sourcebooks Fire, 2018

367 pages

SUMMARY:

Mallory didn't want to leave home, but it wasn't safe to stay. So she sleeps at her best friend's house and spends the rest of her time at the library, doing her online schoolwork and figuring out what comes next. Because she's not going live in fear like her mother.

Spencer volunteers at the library. Sure, it's community service for a stunt he pulled, but he likes the work. And it's the perfect escape from his parents' pressure to excel at school, at ice hockey, at everything. Especially after he meets Mallory.

Then there is a tragic death at the library. Suddenly, what was once a sanctuary turns sinister. Ghostly footprints, strange scratching sounds, scrawled messages on bulletin boards and walls... Mallory and Spencer don't know who or what is responsible, but one thing is for sure:

They are not as alone--or as safe--as they thought.

GENRE TAGS:

* Mystery/Suspense

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* II. Include, C Share - The school library facilitates opportunities to experience diverse ideas by:
  + Implementing solutions that address physical, social, cultural, linguistic, and intellectual barriers to equitable access to resources and services.
  + Promoting the use of high-quality and high-interest literature in formats that reflect the
  + Diverse developmental, cultural, social, and linguistic needs of all learners and their communities.
  + Constructing a learning environment that fosters the sharing of a wide range of viewpoints and ideas.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY....

* *The Lost,* Preston, Natasha
* *Even If I Fall,* Johnson, Abigail
* *Two Can Keep A Secret,* McManus, Karen

WEBSITES:

NatalieRichards.com, http://nataliedrichards.com, Author website with information about her, the books she’s written, appearances and visits.

Frolic.com, https://frolic.media/5-questions-with-author-natalie-d-richards-book-announcement/ Frolic is an entertainment media brand that brings together a community of diverse voices including authors, fans, bookstagrammers, and storytellers to deliver feel-good content and commerce to the voracious consumer who enjoys escaping into a great love story.

BOOKTALK:

Mallory is homeless after running away from her manipulative and cruel stepfather. She has nowhere to go and ends up at the library. Thinking this is a good spot to hide, she stays in the library after closing. Spencer, escaping the pressure in his house, climbs the outside of the library one night and gets caught and now has to do community service at the library. Their paths cross and Spencer, who is adopted and lives in a close and loving family, is drawn to her. Then one night, Mallory hears noises in the library and a body is discovered. She continues to hear noises even after the body has been removed, but she can’t tell anyone because no one knows she’s there at night. Is the library haunted? Or is there a murderer loose? Will Mallory find a place to live? Will she and Spencer become involved? Read this mystery to find out.

Prepared by:

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