Atrium School Summer 2016 Reading List

Welcome to Atrium's 2016 Summer Reading Suggestions! I hope you will find this a fun and useful resource as you look for great books to read this summer. The list is organized by categories, so that you can quickly and easily jump to your favorites:

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Picture Books/Early Readers: p.1
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Within each category, there is also some color-coding, to help with age/grade recommendations. Note that, of course, no age/grade recommendations apply to *everyone*, all the time. So, use this color-coding system simply as a helpful guideline when looking through the list:

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Blue = PreK - 2nd Grade
Green = 3rd - 6th Grades
Maroon = Middle School
Orange = Mature Middle School (Generally 8th Grade - High School)
Gray = The Gray Areas -- where a book may either appeal to a broader age span or otherwise not fit neatly into the above categories.
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Many people have contributed to this diverse list; Atrium kids are by far the largest group of contributors this year -- a huge thank you to all those kids who shared book reviews! In addition, several Atrium teachers have contributed reviews, and scattered among all the categories are my own summer picks (listed as "Susan Picks"!). Enjoy the list and PLEASE feel free to share feedback with me and all readers of this list by commenting on the Blog!

Happy Summer Reading!

Susan Jacoby Atrium School Librarian

Picture Books/Early Readers

Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten

It makes you laugh, especially at the end - Review by Blythe, 2nd Grade

(Susan adds, This is a bright, colorful, and fun series -- also try <u>Miss</u> <u>Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten!</u>)

The Thank You Book (Elephant and Piggie Series) by Mo Willems

Mo Willems is a hands-down favorite of our PK-1st Grade set, and this latest entry in his hilarious *Elephant and Piggy* early reader series is sure to please! (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan).

The Katie Woo Series by Fran Manushkin: Read a full review of this series, beloved by Atrium PK-2 students, in the *Realistic Fiction* section.

Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie

Thunder Boy Jr., loves his dad, Thunder Boy, Sr., but he wants his *own* name. Maybe he should name himself for his love of Grass Dancing or finding cool toys at garage sales? Maybe he should be called *Touch the Clouds* or *Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth?* Beautifully illustrated by Caldecott Honor Winner, Yuyi Morales, this is a touching story of how a young boy, with the help of his dad, finds a name of his very own. "Destined to be a modern classic," says School Library Journal, with appeal from PK-4th grade (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan).

The Philharmonic Gets Dressed, by Karla Kuskin

This is a read-aloud or read-alone book for pk-3rd grade that depicts the life of orchestra musicians as they get themselves ready to perform. It is both realistic and very funny, and the illustrations are hilarious.

Reviewed by Beatrice, Music Teacher

Rainbow Stew by Cathryn Falwell

"Splish, splash, puddle dash! It s a rainy summer day, but the vegetables in Grandpa's garden are just waiting to be picked. Yellow peppers, purple cabbage, red tomatoes, green zucchini, orange carrots, and more. So many colors! So many delicious ingredients to slice, chop, peel, and dice for a great big pot of

mouthwatering Rainbow Stew. Yum!" (PK - 1) (A Susan-Pick, Description by Indiebound)

Watch Me Grow: A Down-to-Earth Look at Growing Food in the City by Deborah Hodge, photographer Brian Harris

A charming introduction in words and photographs to growing food in the city.

This companion title to <u>Up We Grow!</u> is another informative and inspiring book about small-scale, local farming. This time the focus is on raising food in cities, where it can be grown anywhere - on windowsills, balconies, yards, boulevards and even rooftops.

Children follow the food, from planting and tending to harvesting and eating. Kids also read about sharing in community gardens and community kitchens and about the friendships and sense of caring that grow as people tend their city gardens. (PK- 2) (A "Susan-Pick," Description by Indiebound)

<u>Half a Moon and One Whole Star</u> by Crescent Dragonwagon, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

"Up above the earth so far/Hang half a moon and one whole star/Hang one whole star and half a moon: Nighttime will be coming soon." I love this book! Not *just* because the main character's name is Susan, either! Written in soothing, perfect-for-a-summer-evening poetry, and gorgeously illustrated by the amazing Jerry Pinkney, this Coretta Scott King Award winner is a wonderful book to share at bedtime and to read again and again (PK-2). (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan).

Cats, Cats! by Leslea Newman, illustrated by Erika Oller

"Black cats, white cats, gray cats, too/Eyes of brown and eyes of blue..." If you love cats, and books with humor, whimsical illustrations, and snappy rhymes, you will love this book! Also by the same author and illustrator: Dogs, Dogs, and Pigs, Pigs. Recommended for PK - 3rd grade (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan)

What Can You Do With a Paleta? by Carmen Taffola, illustrated by Margoly Morales

This brightly colored picture book "takes readers on a joyous stroll through the barrio while considering all the different things that may be done with a paleta—an icy, fresh-fruit treat. Tafolla's inventive and poetic writing, coupled with Morales' vibrant illustrations, work to portray the beauty of the barrio and the importance of community" (from the website of Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, of which this book is a 2010 winner!) (A Susan-Pick").

Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

When relief workers bring used clothing to a refugee camp in Pakistan, ten-yearold Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly - until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. The girls discover the true meaning of friendship and sacrifice. (A Susan-Pick, recommended for ages 7-10).

The Shell Woman and the King: A Chinese Folktale by Laurence Yep

First Grader, Oona, recommends this beautifully illustrated story: "Good Wu marries a young woman who can change herself into a shell. Because of this ability, a cruel ruler wishes to own her. In order to escape and save herself and her husband, she must perform three wonders." All ages!

Animal Stories

<u>Cats, Cats!</u> by Leslea Newman, illustrated by Erika Oller (See Picture Books Section for details!)

Mole Music by David McPhail

McPhail is a prolific author and illustrator, and I recommend his other books as well (<u>The Teddy Bear</u> is especially touching). <u>Mole Music</u> is about a creature that loves music and who works very hard to play beautifully. Little does he know how his efforts will affect the world above the tunnel he calls "home". Recommended for PK - 3rd grade.

Reviewed by Beatrice, Music Teacher

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

It's both funny AND sad and exciting -- tells kids how animals are sometimes treated horribly and how some people try to rescue them. It teaches kids not to do that when they grow up. It sometimes makes you cry but it is really good. (Susan adds: It is based on a true story and it won a Newbery Award!)

Reviewed by the 2nd Grade Explorer Class

Thea and Geronimo Stilton series by Geronimo Stilton

The main characters are mice, and they are very adventurous.

Reviewed by Alec, 2nd Grade

<u>The Great Mouse Detective: Basil of Baker Street</u> By Eve Titus (See Mystery, Adventure, and Suspense section for details!)

The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White

This book made me feel good reading it. It's about a boy who meets a swan that can't trumpet; he tries to help the swan by buying it a trumpet. (Susan adds, "E.B. White is a wonderful writer and the author of Charlotte's Web).

Reviewed by Aidan A., 3rd Grade

The Tale of Desperaux by Kate DiCamillo

This book is about a mouse with giant ears named Desperaux who lives in a castle and is in love with a princess. However the mice see him as a threat and send him to the dungeon. But he escapes, and when the princess is captured by the rats in the dungeon, he tries to rescue her.

Reviewed by Wilder P., 8th Grade

Fantasy, Folk & Fairy Tales, and Science Fiction

The Shell Woman and the King: A Chinese Folktale by Laurence Yep (See Picture Book section).

The Amulet Series by Kazo Kibiushi (See Review by Campbell S. in Graphic Novel Section)

My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish by Mo O'Hara

This book is about a fish getting killed by an experiment and being reborn from a battery's zap that turns it into a Zombie Goldfish! It is exciting and funny and even for extra-fast readers it takes a long time to finish.

Reviewed by Gabe N., 3rd Grade

The Sisters Grimm, #2: The Unusual Suspects (part of a series) by Michael Buckley

Don't read this before bed! It is really scary but has a great story line. It is about the descendants of the Brothers' Grimm. They are sisters named Sabrina and Daphne. Daphne, the little sister, is playful and fun. Sabrina is on a mission to

find her kidnapped parents. On this adventure, they are at school and have evil classmates. People die in this book so I do not suggest it for PreK – Grade 1.

Reviewed by Sarah, 3rd Grade

<u>Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophesy</u> (First in a Series) by Tui T. Sutherland

"When the war has lasted twenty years...the dragonets will come...When the land is soaked in blood and tears, the dragonets will come..." (Quote from The Dragonet Prophesy). I like this book because it is scary but not too scary, and full of adventure. One example of an adventure would be escaping the Sky Kingdom prison. (Note from Susan: The main characters are all dragons and this wonderful author is local and has visited Atrium!)

Reviewed by Camilo, 3rd Grade

The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Forester

This book was exciting and funny. A girl who could fly is whisked off to a school for people of her kind.

(Susan adds: Just read another review of this, by author Stephanie Meyer, who calls it, "the oddest/sweetest mix of *Little House on the Prairie* and *X-Men*. I was smiling the whole time (except for the part where I cried)." Recommended for ages 9-12).

Reviewed by Saskia, 3rd Grade

Who Will Comfort Toffle?: A Tale of Moomin Valley by Tove Jannson

I like (this book) in its curious rhyme and characters, and in Toffle's adventurous spirit, and how he finds Smiffle. Quite a sweet book! (Susan adds: A newly reissued book in the classic *Moomin* series).

Reviewed by Alexandra M., 3rd grade

The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

They are different from other books because not many books have characters that are wizards and witches! (Susan notes: An all-time favorite of mine -- important to know that the seven book series gets darker and scarier as it goes along! Also, the "listening library" versions read by Jim Dale are excellent -- great for a long car trip!)

Reviewed by Alexandra N., 2nd Grade

The Fablehaven series by Brandon Mull

It's cool because there are different kinds of animals and it is sort of based on fairy tales.

Egg and Spoon by Gregory Maguire

In a Russia of the past Elena and what is left of her village are struggling to survive. Ekaterina (or Cat) is forced to meet the son of the Tzar, ruler of Russia, by her great aunt Sophie would give anything to get off that train to the capital. Baba Yaga, a witch from Russian folklore, travels the world with her walking house and a chicken named Dumb Doma. Until an egg is lost, two girls are mixed up and the life of all of Russia is at stake; these characters have never met each other. But who is the man that writes these adventures, locked in a tower imprisoned by the Tzar and what does he have to do with the other three?

This is a funny and eye-opening book. There are passages that you just can't stop laughing and there are others where you wonder why you've never thought of that before. Because of the fact it is rather long I would probably only recommend this for 4th grade and up but it really worth the 500 or so pages. With eggs and witches, dragons and prisoners all casting their shadow on the pages the only question is does the firebird, soul of Russia, cast a light cast a shadow at all and what happens if that shadow goes out...

Reviewed by Anna B., 6th grade

Rump: The True Story of Rumplestiltskin by Liesl Shurtliff

What do you do when you don't know your real name? And when your name connects to your destiny? And when everyone calls you...RUMP?! In this book you will learn what one kid, Rump, does about this problem. Many things go wrong on his journey to finding out his true name and destiny. If you like fairy tales, funny stories, and books that give another perspective on an old story, this book is for you! We hope you enjoy it. (Note from Susan: If you liked Rump, try the next book in the series, Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood!)

Reviewed by the Third Grade Trailblazer Class

<u>Hocus Pocus Hotel</u> by Michael Dahl (see MYSTERY section for review by Teddy S.)

<u>The Big, Big Book of Tashi</u> by Anna and Barbara Fienberg, and Kim Gamble

Tashi is a very mysterious child. He never tells where he comes from, but every new story gives a new clue. He befriends a boy named Jack, and he tells Jack about all the adventures he's gone on. Jack tells his parents, who are always a bit skeptical about Tashi's stories. Tashi's adventures go from tricking giants to escaping warlords!

The illustrations in the book are magnificent. They tell almost as much of the story as the words do. Both the words and the pictures are really funny. I recommend this book to anybody who likes adventure and fantasy. This book is good for first grade to fifth grade.

Reviewed by Axel Hardy

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

"I am coming to save your friend's life and my own." This book is about a girl, Miranda, who lives in New York City in 1979. Miranda is getting letters from a mysterious someone whom she calls "you." Meanwhile, Miranda's mom and her boyfriend, Richard, are preparing for the 20,000 pyramid game show, hoping to win big. Be prepared for time shifts of all kinds in this mysterious and imaginative book that keeps you guessing until the very end! (Note from Susan: If you enjoyed this book, try this compelling mystery by Stead, Liar and Spy, another story that will keep you guessing. If you enjoyed the story being set in the 1970's, try It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas -- see Realistic Fiction section for details!)

Reviewed by the 4/5 Innovator Class

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster, illustrated by Jules Feiffer

This book is about a kid named Milo who is always bored with everything. As a result he is given a tollbooth, which transports him to a place called, "The Lands Beyond." He then meets many characters including the Spelling Bee, the Mathemagician, and the Humbug. If you like wordplay and puns, read this book! If you don't, stay far away from it.

Reviewed by Wilder P., 8th Grade

Magnus Chase by Rick Riordan

I recommend this book to 3rd graders and up who like Norse mythology, and those who have read the <u>Percy Jackson</u> series. I chose to recommend this book because I thought it was really interesting and I was intrigued that the main character of this book, Magnus Chase, has a cousin Annabeth, who was featured in the Percy Jackson series. Throughout the book, Rick Riordan leaves the

reader in suspense with a cliffhanger at the end of every chapter, and some very **strange and unexpected** things happen. With adventure at every turn, this is one book you have to read! (Note from Susan: Also fun is the fact that the "real world" parts of it are set right here in Boston, where author Riordan now lives!)

Reviewed by Victoria Nassikas, 4th Grade

Three Reviews of Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

This book is amazing! The main characters of the story are Percy, Annabeth, Renna, Lester, Leo, Jason, and Piper. The fight attack monsters. I recommend this book to readers ages 8-108. I give it 1,000,000,000 stars.

Reviewed by Molly, 3rd Grade

Percy, a middle schooler, has just found out he's a demigod, while being chased by a Minotaur. After finding out who his father is he gets blamed for stealing Zeus's Master Bolt (talk about stealing someone's thunder). Percy must find the bolt and save his mom before Zeus and Hades kill him and his mom.

He is accompanied by Grover who is a Satyr, and Annabeth whi is a daughter of Athena. While on his quest he fights monsters, accomplishes quests for gods, and destroys a national monument or two. Once he gets to Hades's realm a mysterious force tries to pull him into Tartarus. This is just the first book in a big grand story because you will want to read more. I recommend this to people who like Greek mythology and funny characters.

Reviewed by Cian P., 6th Grade

This book is about a young boy named Percy Jackson who slowly discovers that all the Greek mythology stories are true and he himself is a demigod. Percy goes on a quest with new friends to find the stolen lighting bolt. This book does accurately recall the old Greek tales, and is a clever new way to continue them into modern day. It is meant for kids 10+, so some of the plot is a little straightforward but this book series will please almost anyone.

Reviewed by Ariella H., 8th Grade

The Odyssey by Gilliam Coss, illustrated by Neil Packer

I am recommending <u>The Odyssey</u>. Not the original though; this is a fun adaptation with cool illustrations and interesting characters. The book is, of course, written by Homer, but this adaptation is summarized by Gillian Coss and illustrated by Neil Packer. The drawings are not supposed to look perfectly accurate; they sort of look like what drawings would look like if Picasso was a

cartoonist. This book is sort of like historical fiction. If you love adaptations of Greek myths, you will love this. I am recommending this for 5th grade and up.

Reviewed by Miranda S., 7th Grade

The Wee Free Men by Terry Pratchett

Everyone knows that witches can't grow on chalk. Miss Tick should know since she is a witch, but nine-year-old Tiffany Aching who has lived on a dairy farm on chalk all her life doesn't seem to know that. From bashing monsters with frying pans to always having piece of string Tiffany is certainly a girl to watch. One day while Tiffany is at the river with her little candy-loving brother, Wentworth, a monster with eyes as big as soup plates (18 inches in diameter), rises out of the water to find itself being hit on the head with a iron skillet by Tiffany Aching. Though someone is keeping an eye on Tiffany, or should I say someones. They are the wee free men or Nac Mac Feegles, a group of the most rowdy, boisterous 6-inch blue men who have ever been expelled from fairyland, famous for drinking, fighting, and stealing. However when Wentworth gets kidnapped by the Queen of the fairies, Tiffany knows she has to get him back. So with the Nac Mac Feegles and a talking toad, Tiffany goes on a journey to find her little brother, but in a land of dreams and fantasies will Tiffany be able to stay awake long enough to get home?

This is a wonderful and extremely fun book! When reading it I was torn between reading slowly enough to catch every little detail and racing through the pages. When I finished <u>The Wee Free Men</u> the first time I immediately started reading from the beginning again. I recommend this book for 3rd grade and up.

Reviewed by Becca B., 6th Grade

The 21 Balloons by William Pene du Bois

Professor William Waterman Sherman, a former arithmetic teacher, wanted to fly across the Pacific ocean in his hot air balloon. But halfway across the Pacific his balloon crashes on the volcanic island of Krakatoa, and he discovers unimaginable wealth and inventions. Soon the Professor is found with 21 balloons in a whole other ocean, and the world is dying to know why. I recommend this book to all ages.

Reviewed by Emelia B., 6th grade

A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz

The book that stood out the most for me this year is a book called <u>A Tale Dark & Grimm</u>. The genre is definitely fantasy fiction. My recommended age range is from 9-13, fourth grade and up. This book starts with a story of a young prince who loved a very beautiful woman, but every man who tried to wed her died in

the process. The prince, however, was determined to have the hand of the princess. So one night he set sail to her, and smuggled her from her castle. There were a few mishaps before the wedding, and during it, but after all of them they settled down and became the king and queen. A little while later they had two children named Hansel and Gretel. They were born into a very loving family. At first it was all happy and joyous but then something happened, something so bad that it made Hansel and Gretel run far away from their own home.

Reviewed by Talya E., 5th Grade

Graceling by Kristin Cashore

<u>Graceling</u> is the first book in a fantasy series. I would recommend this series to grades 6 through 8.

Graceling is set in a world where some people are born with something called a Grace. These people, called Gracelings and identified by the two different colors of their eyes, have some kind of power. Some are uncommonly good at a skill, like cooking, fencing, or any other talent that it's possible to have. Others have magical Graces, like reading minds. No two graces are the same.

One day, a girl was born with an especially unusual Grace. Her name was Katsa, and her Grace was killing. When the king found this out, he used her to oppose his enemies. Everyone was afraid of Katsa. In the rare time that she wasn't being the king's slave, she founded the Council, an organization that worked against the five evil kings. The book starts with one of Katsa's missions for the Council, rescuing a prisoner from the dungeons of one of the kings' castles. The prisoner was the father of one of the only two kings who was considered good. Katsa believed that the king imprisoning him had been hired to do so. But who hired him? Why would anyone want to?

Reviewed by an anonymous Atrium Reader

The Martian by Andy Weir

My book is an amazing sci-fi novel about a man who is accidentally abandoned on Mars. The book is about how he struggles to keep a positive attitude (it sounds boring, but he does it by swearing at broken drills and making the point that 70s TV is the worst part of it (not that I hate 70s stuff, *he* hates it)). The book is also about how resourceful he is. He digs up old rovers (need... to... communicate... with... earth), grow potatoes in his own [poop] (all-natural, organic mars-[poop] grown potatoes) fires seats out of a spaceship (too heavy), and endures 70's music (all the entertainment that I have). It was really funny when Mark (the main character) got on the HERMES (mars-earth "conveyor" ship), and the first words he said were: "you have horrible taste in music." I recommend this book for ages 9 - 20, and people who liked *Apollo 13* will probably like it.

Reviewed by Douglas R., 4th Grade

The Unwanteds by Lisa McMann

Do you like magic? Do you like evil governments? Do you like rebellions? Do you like giant winged cheetahs? If you said yes <u>The Unwanteds</u> is the book for you. In Quill, creativity isn't a talent, it's a death sentence. Every year all the 13-year-old kids are purged. The intelligent Wanteds go to university, and the creative Unwanteds are sent to their death. Alex Stowe is an Unwanted, and his twin brother Aaron is a Wanted. Alex is sent to his death but is rescued by Marcus Today, and brought to the magic land of Artimé. There Alex learns to use his creative talents like, art, music, theater, and even magic! Artimé is a paradise but Alex misses his twin and wants to find a way to bring him to Artimé.

This series is an incredible magical adventure with an incredible original story. Some people have said it is a cross between Harry Potter and The Hunger Games. However this is just comparing it to other books when in reality it is its own unique story unlike both Harry Potter and The Hunger Games. Each book has more action, more magic, and more difficult situation. Join Alex and his friends on an adventure you will never forget. An adventure full of magical creatures, moments that will make your heart race, and moments that will make you cry. Overall The Unwanteds is an outstanding series that you've got to read!

Reviewed by Jared K., 6th Grade

Wereworld by Curtis Jobling

Wereworld is a book about a teen named Drew Ferran who runs a farm with his brother, father, and mother. One day when his brother and father go to town, he's with his mother. The animals are restless and in the middle of the night, he and his mother are attacked by some giant humanoid rat who kills his mom. But while his mother dies, something is triggered in him. He turns into a werewolf, and drives the rat. After he buries his mother, he goes to live in the forest. The rest of the book is about him finding about other werelords and his travels to try to overthrow the corrupt kings.

I recommend this book for people who like sword and sorcery books, with a little mystery, horror, and medieval politics. I would think that middle schoolers are at a good age, but mature fifth graders would also like it.

Recommended by Ethan H., 6th Grade

The Merchant of Death, Pendragon #1, by D. J. MacHale

"Come with me, Bobby. Some people need our help." When Bobby Pendragon's Uncle Press comes to his house, Bobby thinks everything is finally going his way. His school basketball team is going to go to the state semifinals. Then, everything changes.

They go to an abandoned subway station, and an evil being named Saint Dane is out to stop them. They travel through a portal, called a "flume", and end up on a snowy mountain, with vicious wolf-dog things called "quigs." At this point, it's become pretty obvious that Bobby isn't going to a basketball game. The find an enslaved race, called the "Milago", who are enslaved by a race called the "Bedoowan". But trouble is brewing, and Bobby Pendragon is about to end up on the journey of a lifetime. Recommended for Middle School Readers.

Reviewed by Fitch P., 6th Grade

Graphic Novels

Little Robot by Ben Hatke

The author of the wonderful <u>Zita the Spacegirl</u> series begins another great graphic novel series for ages 6 - 10.

When a little girl finds an adorable robot in the woods, she presses a button and accidentally activates him for the first time. Now, she finally has a friend. But the big, bad robots are coming to collect the little guy for nefarious purposes, and it's all up to a five-year-old armed only with a wrench and a fierce loyalty to her mechanical friend to save the day! (A "Susan-Pick," Review from Indie-Bound)

The Amulet Series by Kazo Kibuishi

It's very adventurous, and I really like Emily, one of the main characters. It's a graphic novel with really good pictures. (Susan adds: I am not a big graphic novel reader, but I love it, too -- it's very imaginative and suspenseful, with gorgeous illustrations!)

Reviewed By Campbell S., 2nd Grade

Phoebe and Her Unicorn by Dana Simpson (first in a series)

Lovers of <u>Calvin and Hobbes</u>, <u>Peanuts</u>, and <u>BabyMouse</u> should give this graphic series a try! It's been well-reviewed by kids ages 8 and up.

A boy and his dog . . . a girl and her . . . unicorn?

It all starts when Phoebe skips a rock across a pond and accidentally hits a unicorn in the face. This leads to Phoebe being granted one wish, which she uses to make the unicorn, Marigold Heavenly Nostrils, her best friend. "Sarcastic girl meets sarcastic unicorn," one reviewer writes, while another adds, "absolutely brilliant and very, very funny." (A "Susan-Pick," Review from Indie-Bound)

The Marvels by Brian Selznik

This book by the author of <u>The Invention of Hugo Cabret and Wonderstruck</u> is really part picture book, part novel, as the entire beginning of the story is told only in pictures, which then shifts to text. As in Selznik's previous books, the illustrations are gorgeous and the story very exciting and compelling. Here's a description from Indie-Bound:

"The journey begins at sea in 1766, with a boy named Billy Marvel. After surviving a shipwreck, he finds work in a London theatre. There, his family flourishes for generations as brilliant actors until 1900, when young Leontes Marvel is banished from the stage.

Nearly a century later, runaway Joseph Jervis seeks refuge with an uncle in London. Albert Nightingale's strange, beautiful house, with its mysterious portraits and ghostly presences, captivates Joseph and leads him on a search for clues about the house, his family, and the past." I recommend this one for grades 4-7. A "Susan-Pick," Review from Indie-Bound)

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: The Underground Abductor (An Abolitionist Tale about Harriet Tubman) by Nathan Hale

Araminta Ross was born a slave in Delaware in the early 19th century. Slavery meant that her family could be ripped apart at any time, and that she could be put to work in dangerous places and for abusive people. But north of the Mason-Dixon line, slavery was illegal. If she could run away and make it north without being caught or killed, she d be free. Facing enormous danger, Araminta made it, and once free, she changed her name to Harriet Tubman. Tubman spent the rest of her life helping slaves run away like she did, every time taking her life in her hands. Nathan Hale tells her incredible true-life story with the humor and sensitivity he's shown in every one of the Hazardous Tales. Recommended for grades 3-8. (A "Susan-Pick," Review from Indie-Bound)

The Shadow Hero by Gene Luen Yang, illustrated by Sonny Liew

In the comics boom of the 1940s, a legend was born: the Green Turtle. He solved crimes and fought injustice just like the other comics characters. But this mysterious masked crusader was hiding something more than your run-of-the-mill secret identity... The Green Turtle was the first Asian American super hero.

The comic had a short run before lapsing into obscurity, but the acclaimed author of "American Born Chinese," Gene Luen Yang, has finally revived this character in "Shadow Hero," a new graphic novel that creates an origin story for the Green Turtle.

With artwork by Sonny Liew, this gorgeous, funny comics adventure for teens is a new spin on the long, rich tradition of American comics lore. Gene Luen Yang is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. (A "Susan-Pick," Review from Indie-Bound)

Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier

Sadly, this one doesn't come out until September. However, if you are a Telgemeier fan (<u>Sisters</u>, <u>Smile</u>, <u>Drama</u>), you might enjoy watching this interview with her about the book, which sounds amazing, as a "preview": www.**pbs**.org/video/2365751635

Historical Fiction

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi

John Newbery Award and Golden Kite Award winning book <u>The True</u> <u>Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</u> by Avi is the story of a 13-year-old during the summer of 1832. During a voyage from Rhode Island to England, Charlotte is the only passenger on the *Seahawk*. During the journey Charlotte gets pulled into a terrible conflict, put on trial for murder, and figures out why she's the only passenger on board the boat. Readers who enjoy conflict and historical fiction will love this book.

Reviewed by Morgan C., 8th Grade

The Marvels by Brian Selznik (SEE GRAPHIC NOVEL section for details!)

<u>It Ain't So Awful, Falafel</u> by Firoozeh Dumas (SEE REALISTIC FICTION section for details!)

The Song of the Lark by Willa Cather (See Realistic Fiction Section for details!)

Girl in the Blue Coat by Monica Hesse

Girl in the Blue Coat is an amazing book. Henneke delivers black market goods to clients, and has to be very careful not to get caught. Henneke was a regular eighteen-year-old until one of her clients asks her for help finding a missing Jew. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes realistic/historic books and The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. My favorite part of the book Girl in the Blue Coat is when Ollie first comes to see Henneke and then brings her to the meeting

(to learn more read the book). If I had to choose one thing I didn't like, I would have to say that there wasn't enough background information about Bas and Henneke in the beginning of the book. The beginning of this book is a little similar to The Book Thief, but it branches off so much after, that it makes Girl in the Blue Coat its own book. (Note from Susan: My suggestion - for mature middle school readers and up).

Reviewed by C.J., 7th Grade

Mystery, Suspense, and Adventure

Hocus Pocus Hotel by Michael Dahl

This is a good mystery book for grades 2-4. It starts with the words, "Charlie Hitchcock needed a big angry dog. He needed a bodyguard. He needed guts. But unfortunately he didn't have any of those things." In this book two unlikely friends named Charlie Hitchcock (a target for bullying) and Tyler Yu (a school bully) have to team up because the hotel Tyler lives in has a weird vibe to it. Tyler needs Charlie and his photographic memory and detective skills to figure out the mysteries of the Hocus Pocus Hotel. Charlie ends up needing Tyler to help him feel brave. Together they solve many magical mysteries including a missing magician, an elevator that plays bizarre tricks, and haunted bathtubs. Also, Hocus Pocus Hotel is the first book in a series so you can read more books if you like this one. Read to find out if Charlie and Tyler will ever get to check out of the Hocus Pocus Hotel...

Reviewed by Teddy S., 4th Grade

The Great Mouse Detective: Basil of Baker Street By Eve Titus

Basil is no ordinary mouse; he is "the Sherlock Holmes of the mouse world"! In this first book in a newly reissued series, he sets out to solve the mystery of the missing twins, Angela and Agatha. The mouse illustrations are adorable, and it looks like a fun pick for mystery/mouse-lovers, grades 2-5 (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan)

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Brian is going to visit his dad but he has to fly there in a bush plane. On his way there the pilot has a heart attack leaving Brian to pilot the plane. His plane has flown off course and the plane is low on fuel leaving him no choice but to crash the plane somewhere in the Canadian woods. The only thing he has is a hatchet his mom gave him right before he left, and the plane is crashed in a lake with all the survival gear. Leaving Brian to try and survive alone in the Canadian woods.

I recommend this book to 4th graders and up, and to people who like nature.

Reviewed by Brennan H., 6th Grade

Treasure Hunters: Peril at the Top of the World by James Patterson

If you were lost at sea, with your brother who was holding a spear-gun, a sister who had photographic memory, a twin who was your worst enemy/best friend, still wondering if your parents were alive, looking at a guy who was holding an AK-47, insisting that you see 'the big man'? Then you would be Bick Kid, treasure hunter.

A book about family values, life or death, secrets hidden, and the mysterious *Operation Al Capone*, with lot of art and humor.

Reviewed by Satchel S., 6th grade

A Study in Charlotte by Brittany Cavallaro

This mystery is meant for a more teenage audience. This book is meant to be about Sherlock Holmes's and John Watson's descendents, who are in the same private high school. When a murder takes place Charlotte and Watson both find themselves to be top suspects, leaving them no choice but to find the real murderer. It does include violence of many kinds. So if you are sensitive to that kind of stuff maybe this book is not for you. But the plot carries you through it all.

Reviewed by Ariella H., 8th Grade

Non-Fiction

Watch Me Grow: A Down-to-Earth Look at Growing Food in the City by Deborah Hodge, photographer Brian Harris (See Picture Book section for details!)

The Disgusting Creature Series by Elise Gravel

This series is humorous, full of both fun pictures and fun facts! It will appeal to fans of Mo Willems and anyone who loves to learn facts about creatures (like rats, worms, slugs, head lice, etc.), which *some people* find disgusting! (A Susan-Pick, review by Susan).

Any of the books published by National Geographic

They have lots of facts and so many things you can learn!

Any of the DK (Doring-Kindersley) Books

They also have a lot of facts - I like too many of them to choose one!

Reviewed by Danny, 2nd Grade

The Blues Singers: Ten Who Rocked the World by Julius Lester

This fabulously illustrated book explores the lives of singers such as Billie Holiday, B.B. King and Aretha Franklin. In January, we read the section devoted to Mahalia Jackson to help us in our study of the spiritual, "Steal Away". It would be fun for kids to find out more about the other nine musicians featured here. Recommended for grades 2 - 5.

Reviewed by Beatrice, Music Teacher

Small Scenes from a Big Galaxy by Vesa Lehtimaki

In <u>Small Scenes from a Big Galaxy</u>, Legos come to life. In this book you will find close-ups of Lego mini-figures that make them look real and alive. After reading this book I got so inspired that I made my own Lego scenes. I recommend this book to anyone who is creative and likes Lego, and anyone who enjoys photography. You will be amazed at what you will find! Read on!

Reviewed by Lukas D., 3rd grade

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: The Underground Abductor (An Abolitionist Tale about Harriet Tubman) by Nathan Hale (See Graphic Novel section for details!)

Three Books from the "For Kids" Series (recommended for ages 9-12):

The White House for Kids: A History of a Home, Office, and National Symbol, with 21 Activities (For Kids series)

Part of the "For Kids" book series, this intriguing book takes a look at everything you ever wanted to know about the White House. For instance, "Learn which president hosted T-ball games on the White House lawn; which mischievous first son was scolded for shooting spitballs at a portrait of President Andrew Jackson; which first daughter held her high school prom in the famous mansion." Fans of Liberty Porter, First Daughter may just want to check this one out!

Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights, with 21 Activities (For Kids series)

This newest entry in the series, "helps put recent events into context. After a brief history up to 1900, each chapter discusses an era in the struggle for LGBT civil rights from the 1920s to today. The history is told through personal stories and firsthand accounts of the movement's key events."

School Library Journal writes, "This vital and inclusive history fleshes out the LGBTQ education readers have long been denied, bringing it to light and giving it the attention it deserves... A necessary purchase for collections that serve middle grade and teenage patrons."

Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote, 21 Activities (For Kids series)

Travel back to the days, not so very long ago in the U.S., when women did not have the right to vote! "For better or worse, their lives were controlled by their husbands and fathers. Married women could not own property, and few girls were educated beyond reading and simple math. Women could not work as doctors, lawyers, or in the ministry. Not one woman could vote, but that would change with the tireless efforts of Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Jeannette Rankin, Alice Paul, and thousands of women across the nation."

The Autobiography of Charles Darwin by Charles Darwin

The Autobiography of Charles Darwin is an amazing book for anyone interested in not only Charles Darwin but anyone interested in the history of evolution. As you may know Charles Darwin came up with the theory of modern evolution by observing the position of fossils and animals, which led him to believe that animals came from the dinos and prehistoric animals. This proof showed scientists that evolution actually happened.

This book starts a little slowly but if you have the persistence to last through the first hundred pages the book will get moving when he starts his biology career on the Beagle. Once he is done exploring the arctic he will go back to his home of London, England. Once he is in London, England, he starts collecting beetles. His interest in beetles gets him into zoology, which in the long run moves into biology.

Reviewed by Ethan S., 6th Grade

Realistic Fiction

The Katie Woo Series by Fran Manushkin

Katie Woo loves having adventures with her friends Jo Jo and Pedro. These colorfully illustrated early-reader chapter books were beloved this year by many children from PK through 2nd grade. If you like *Katie Woo* and have read them all, try *The Anna Hibiscus series*, reviewed below.

The Anna Hibiscus Series by Atinuke

Anna Hibiscus lives in amazing Africa with her mother, her father, her baby twin brothers, and lots and lots of her family. Join her as she splashes in the sea, prepares for a party, sells oranges, and hopes to see sweet, sweet snow (A Susan-Pick, Review by Goodreads).

Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon

As the youngest in her family, Dory really wants attention, and more than anything she wants her brother and sister to play with her. But she's too much of a baby for them, so she's left to her own devices including her wild imagination and untiring energy. Her siblings may roll their eyes at her childish games, but Dory has lots of things to do: outsmarting the monsters all over the house, escaping from prison (aka time-out), and exacting revenge on her sister's favorite doll. And when they really need her, daring Dory will prove her bravery, and finally get exactly what she has been looking for.

With plenty of pictures bursting with charm and character, this hilarious book about an irresistible rascal is the new must-read for the chapter book set. (Recommended for ages 6-8) Try also the second book in the series, <u>Dory and</u> the Real True Friend (**Review from Indiebound**).

Recommended by K-1 Teachers and Students

Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

When relief workers bring used clothing to a refugee camp in Pakistan, ten-yearold Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly - until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. The girls discover the true meaning of friendship and sacrifice. (A Susan-Pick, recommended for ages 7-10).

Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie (author of The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian) For a full review of this lovely new picture book with appeal for all ages, see the *Picture Book/Early Reader section*.

Like Bug Juice on a Burger by Julie Sternberg

"I hate camp. I just hate it. I wish I didn't. But I do. Being here is worse than bug juice on a burger. Or homework on Thanksgiving. Or water seeping into my shoes," says main character Eleanor. This is the sequel to <u>Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie</u>, our fall read-aloud in third grade library. If you enjoyed that book, try this one, and follow Eleanor as she tries to find *something* to like about Camp Wallumwahpuck! Recommended for grades 2-5. (**A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan**).

The Chalk Box Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla

There was a kid named Gregory moving on his birthday. He was moving to a new town but he did not want to move. In his new neighborhood, he took a walk and found an old factory. Someone told him "this used to be a chalk factory and it burned down!" Gregory's parents didn't want him to go to the chalk factory, but he likes it so much, he just can't stay away...

Reviewed by Mitchell, 3rd Grade

Liberty Porter Series by Julia DeVillers

This great series begins with <u>Liberty Porter</u>, <u>First Daughter</u>. Join Liberty as her dad becomes President of the United States and *she* gets her first taste of the White House, causing a bit of mayhem along the way. Liberty is a fun, smart, energetic main character. Kids who enjoy the *Ramona*, *Beezus*, *and Henry Huggins* books by Beverly Cleary, and the *Judy Moody* and *Stink* series by Megan McDonald, should enjoy this series -- as well as kids who like learning interesting trivia about the White House, Washington D.C., and U.S. Presidents of the past. Second graders loved this book as a read-aloud in class this year! I recommend it for grades 2-5. (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan)

Annie Pitts, Burger Kid by Diane de Groat

This book is about a nine year old kid named Annie Pitts who loves a special burger. There's a poster contest for advertising the burger. The winning picture will be the real poster that gets hung up in the restaurant. Annie really wants to win! This book was a great adventure and I felt like I was in the book! I would recommend this book for 2nd - 5th grade readers. (Note from Susan: There are other books in the series: Annie Pitts, Artichoke and Annie Pitts, Swamp Monster).

Reviewed by Talia L., 3rd Grade

The Saturdays by Elizabeth Enright

This book is about four children, Mona, Rush, Randy, and Oliver Melendy, who are brothers and sisters and they have all kinds of adventures in New York City.

it makes you laugh and hooks you right in at the beginning! (Susan's Note: One of my favorite books growing up -- there are three more books in the *Melendy Quartet*, all good, too, but this one's my personal favorite! Recommended for grades 2-5).

Reviewed by Campbell, Maggie, Corrine, Adam, Jonathan, and Maria-Helen, 2nd Grade

Piper Reed, Navy Brat by Kimberly Willis Holt

Piper Reed is a five-book series. <u>Piper Reed, Navy Brat</u> is the first one in the series. It is all about a family of three girls (5. 9, and 12). Their dad is a Navy chief. The book is about Piper and her sisters and how they feel about being "Navy Brats." I love the book because it is entertaining and funny!

Reviewed by Jonah, 3rd Grade

Two Reviews of Wonder by R.J. Palacio

This is a good page-turner for 4th-6th grade readers. It is a funny and sad story. This story is about a 5th grader named August Pullman starting middle school, and the difference about this boy is that he has a birth defect on his face. This book has a lot of turning points and sad and happy points. I recommend this book for people who like uplifting books. People who enjoyed **Out of My Mind** by **Sharon Draper** will love this book. It might be just the book for you.

Reviewed by David E., 5th Grade

Review by Avery Mac., 3rd Grade

The Family Fletcher Takes Rock Island by Dana Alison Levy

Last summer, I recommended the first book in this series, <u>The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher</u>. This year (hurrah!) a second book is out, in which we get to follow the further misadventures of four boys (Sam, Jax, Eli, and Frog), their two Dads, Sir Puggleton the dog, and cats Zeus and Lily, as they take on summer vacation on Rock Island. Fans of <u>The Penderwicks</u> and <u>The Saturdays</u> will likely love getting to know "the family Fletcher." Personally, I can't wait to go on vacation with them! Recommended for ages 8-12. (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan).

Timmy Failure by Stephan Pastis

Main characters: Timmy, Corrina, Molly, Rolly

Perspective: Timmy

Problem: Timmy is a bad detective

Genre: Realistic fiction humor with pictures

Age 8-11

I am destined for greatness. I'm going to make sure everyone knows it. I, Timmy Failure, CEO and founder of Total Failure Inc am the best detective in town, perhaps even the nation. Along with my business partner Total the polar bear, I will achieve greatness, but greatness will not come overnight. I will have to overcome obstacles such as my mother, my idiot friend, and someone who's name I refuse to utter. The only question is what I will do when I am the best detective agency in the world.

Reviewed by Avery M., 6th Grade

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas

I just read an interview with the author and now can't wait to read this book! Here's a description from goodreads: "Zomorod (Cindy) Yousefzadeh is the new kid on the block . . . for the fourth time. California's Newport Beach is her family's latest perch, and she's determined to shuck her brainy loner persona and start afresh with a new Brady Bunch name—Cindy. It's the late 1970s, and fitting in becomes more difficult as Iran makes U.S. headlines with protests, revolution, and finally the taking of American hostages. Even mood rings and puka shell necklaces can't distract Cindy from the anti-Iran sentiments that creep way too close to home." Recommended for grades 4-7, (A Susan-Pick).

Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan

I liked this book because it was humorous and greatly written. The book is similar to the NY Times bestseller Wonder because it is written in different perspectives and takes place in school. It switches between Joe's and Ravi's, the two main characters, views. Ravi is just moving into town from India, and is having trouble in school. Joe is trying to be friends with Ravi, but the school bully and most popular kid in school, Dillon, is playing pranks on Ravi (ex. Tripping him in front of the entire class) and blaming it on Joe. Ravi looks up to Dillon and believes him when he blames Joe. I think this book would be great for the library or at home! Ages 8 - 13.

Reviewed by Nikko H., 4th Grade

The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond by Brenda Woods

Violet is a smart, funny, brown-eyed, brown-haired girl in a family of blonds. Her mom is white, and her dad, who died before she was born, was black. She attends a mostly white school where she sometimes feels like a brown leaf on a pile of snow. She's tired of people asking if she's adopted. Now that Violet's eleven, she decides it's time to learn about her African American heritage. And despite getting off to a rocky start trying to reclaim her dad's side of the family, she can feel her confidence growing as the puzzle pieces of her life finally start coming together. Readers will cheer for Violet, sharing her joy as she discovers her roots. Recommended for ages 10-12 (A "Susan-Pick" - Description from Indie Bound).

Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle

Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for *seeing* a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for *E.T.: The Musical*, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom.

Tim Federle's "hilarious and heartwarming debut novel" (*Publishers Weekly*) is full of broken curfews, second chances, and the adventure of growing up—because sometimes you have to get four hundred miles from your backyard to finally feel at home. (A "Susan Pick," description from Indie Bound)

Note from Susan: I recommend this book for 5th - 8th graders. If you love it as much as I did, you will want to check out the sequel – as I am planning to this summer – Five, Six, Seven, Nate!)

Family Tree series by Ann M. Martin

One series I really enjoy is the <u>Family Tree</u> series by Ann M. Martin. If you like sad books you would definitely like these. *Lots* of people die and there are other issues like drinking, mental abuse, and racism. It also covers some things that happened in history like the great depression, the assassination of president Kennedy, and the tragedy of 9/11. Taking this all into consideration, I would recommend it to people eleven and older.

In the first book you follow Abby Nichols from being eight to being twenty two. In the second it follows her daughter, Dana Burley, through *her* childhood. In the next, it follows Dana's daughter, Francie Goldberg, through her own set young trauma. Finally, we are led through Francie's daughter, Georgia Noble's, life. In this interesting book series we follow four very different people, in four very different generations.

- 1) Abby's story, Better to Wish
- 2) Dana's story, The long way home

- 3) Francie's story, Best Kept Secret
- 4) Georgia's story, Home Is the Place

Reviewed by Sofia W-M, 5th Grade

Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Life isn't always easy for high school freshman, Lupita: juggling classes, friendships, finding time for her acting, and being the oldest in her large, close-knit Mexican-American family. Lupita is used to being the one in the family who helps to keep things together, but when she finds out her Mami has been diagnosed with cancer, she faces a whole new set of challenges. This story is told in beautiful free-verse with Spanish words and phrases woven in effortlessly ("I sit down cautiously beside her/'Secretos should not be kept/from the oldest daughter," I tell her."). People who loved Brown Girl Dreaming or Love That Dog should give this multiple award winner a try! (A Susan- Pick, reviewed by Susan).

Paper Towns by John Green

This book is about a boy looking for a mysterious friend who keeps running away from her parents but who leaves certain clues every time. This book is realistic fiction and if you love <u>The Fault In Our Stars</u> or <u>Looking For Alaska</u>, you will definitely love this. Also, if you are just starting to read John Green books, start with this one. Recommended for older middle schoolers and above.

Reviewed by Miranda S., 7th Grade

You Know Me Well by Nina LaCour and David Levithan

This new release is especially recommended for older middle-schoolers and above, and fans of **John Green**. Told in alternating chapters by Mark, a high school junior, and Kate, a high school senior, the novel follows one eventful week in both teens' lives. It is both the last week of high school and Gay Pride Week. Both Mark and Kate are struggling with friendships and with romantic crushes. Though the two have sat next to one another in Calculus class all year long, they have never spoken a word to each other until they meet randomly at a Pride event, and befriend one another during a week that will be life-changing for both. I enjoyed this novel very much and read it in a day! "Both authors excel at writing smart, funny, and realistic dialogue. These are characters to whom readers will relate and want to get to know." -School Library Journal (A Susan-Pick, reviewed by Susan).

The Song of the Lark by Willa Cather

This is the story of an independent girl who grows up in a little town in Colorado in the 1890s. She decides she wants to be a musician and then experiences

adventures that are both compelling and real. The book is a terrific depiction of what it is like to become an artist. This book is recommended for Middle School and above

Reviewed by Beatrice, Music Teacher

First & Then by Emma Mills

In the book <u>First & Then</u> the main character is Devon. Devon is a senior at Temple Sterling High School. During the summer before her senior year her cousin (Foster) comes to live with Devon's family. I would recommend this book to people who are in sixth grade and up who don't mind some romance. My favorite part of the book is when Devon is interviewing Ezra (Temple Sterling's best football player). That is my favorite part because it's where the reader first learns more about Ezra. This book is different from other books I've read because there's more than three plot twists, where most books only have one. I would recommend this book to anyone who ventures to read it.

Reviewed by C.J., 7th Grade

In a Category All By Itself!!

The OMG Shakespeare Series by William Shakespeare and a Variety of Other Authors

This is a series of Shakespeare books that have been transformed into (phone) texts! They also have abbreviated it to be age-appropriate, with titles such as *SRSLY*, *Hamlet?* and *YOLO*, *Juliet!* I give these books five out of five stars!

Reviewed by Rosa, 3rd Grade