



Mississippi Library Commission's

Book Club in a Box Kits

A Collection for Juvenile
and Young Adults

Book Club in a Box Kits for Children and Young Adults

- Each Book Club kit comes with 10 copies of the title and a discussion guide unless otherwise noted.
- Libraries, Schools, or Book Club Groups can sign up for book club kits for a three-month period. This includes the time to receive, distribute, discuss, and send the kits back.
- To sign up for a book club kit, your group/library will need to have an Institution Card with MLC, which is free to sign up for.
- Book Club Kits are free to check out. MLC will cover the cost of mailing the Book Club Kits to you. However, you will need to pay for the return shipping.

If you have questions or would like to schedule a Book Club in a Box Kit, contact Charlie Simpkins at

csimpkins.mlc.lib.ms or 601-432-4498



This publications and service is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grants to States Program as administrated by the Mississippi Library Commission

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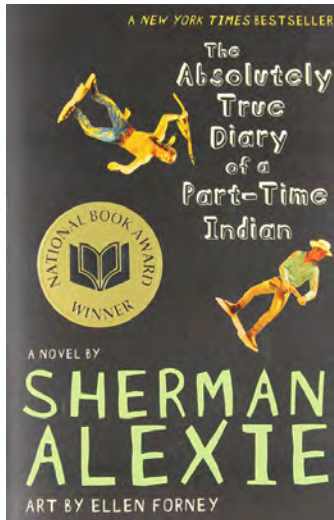
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The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian



by Sherman Alexie

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Appeal Factors

Character: Culturally diverse

Storyline: Character-driven; Own voices

Tone: Angst-filled; Atmospheric; Upbeat

Story Elements

Genres: Coming-of-age stories; Diary novels; Illustrated books; Pacific Northwest fiction; Realistic fiction

Subjects: Diaries; Emotions in teenagers; Friendship; High schools; Identity (Psychology); Indian reservations; Native American teenage boys; Race relations; Spokane Indians; Teenage cartoonists

Read-Alikes



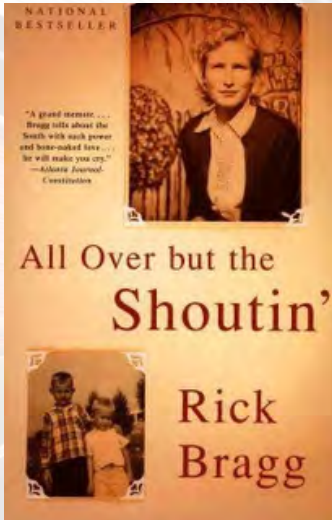
If I Ever Get Out of Here by Eric L. Gansworth

Character, Driven by David Lubar

The Counterfeit Family Tree of Vee Crawford-Wong by L. Tam Holland

Matthew meets the Man by Travis Nichols

All Over but the Shoutin'



by Rick Bragg

A Pulitzer Prize-winning

correspondent for The New York Times recounts growing up in the Alabama hills, the son of a violent veteran and a mother who tried to insulate her children from poverty and ignorance.

Appeal Factors

Pace: Leisurely paced

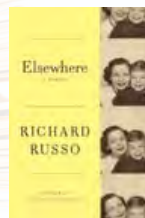
Tone: Atmospheric; Nostalgic; Reflective

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Arts and Entertainment; Autobiographies and memoirs; Family and Relationships; Life stories; Nonfiction that reads like fiction

Subjects: Alcoholic fathers; Bragg, Rick; Family relationships; Growing up; Journalists; Mothers and sons; Poor families

Read-Alikes



A Childhood: A Biography of a Place by Harry Crews

Under Magnolia by Frances Mayes

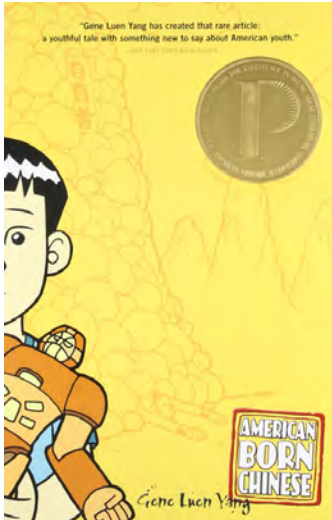
Elsewhere by Richard Russo

Take this Man by Brando Skyhorse

American Born Chinese

by Gene Luen Yang

Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.



Appeal Factors

Character: Culturally diverse

Storyline: Character-driven; Intricately plotted; Own voices

Tone: Funny

Story Elements

Genres: Comics and Graphic novels

Subjects: Chinese Americans; Identity (Psychology); Misfits (Persons); Racism; Schools; Social acceptance; Stereotypes (Social psychology); Teenagers

Read-Alikes



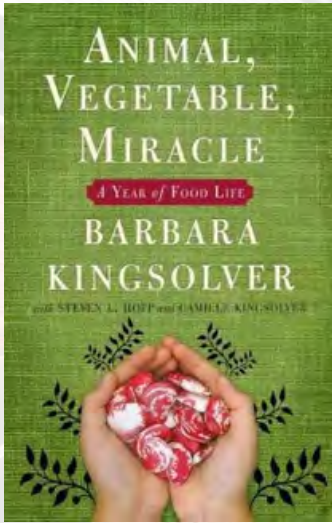
The Accidental Genius of Weasel High by Rick Detorie

The Counterfeit Family Tree of Vee Crawford-Wong by L. Tam Holland

Almost American Girl by Robin Ha

Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life



by Barbara Kingsolver
Follows the author's family's efforts to live on locally- and home-grown foods, an endeavor through which they learned lighthearted truths about food production and the connection between health and diet.

Appeal Factors

Tone: Thought-provoking

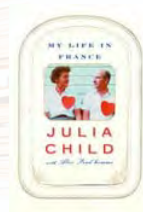
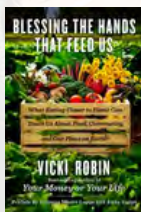
Writing Style: Descriptive

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; Food writing; Life stories

Subjects: Agriculture; Diet; Farm life; Food habits; Hopp, Steven L., 1954-; Kingsolver, Barbara; Natural foods; Rural life

Read-Alikes



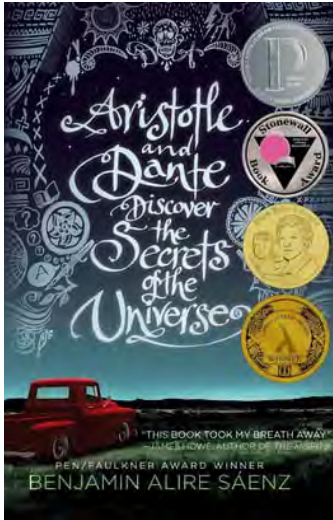
Blessing the Hands that Feed Us by Vicki Robin

The Gift of Good Land by Wendell Berry

My Life in France by Julia Child

The Feast Nearby by Robin Mather

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe



by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

Appeal Factors

Character: Brooding; Culturally diverse; LGBTQIA diverse

Storyline: Character-driven; Own voices

Tone: Thought-provoking

Story Elements

Genres: Coming-of-age stories; First person narratives; LGBTQIA fiction

Subjects: Families; Fifteen-year-old boys; Friendship; Gay teenagers; Homosexuality; Identity (Psychology); Loners; Mexican American teenage boys; Teenage boy/boy relations; Teenage boys

Read-Alikes



Like Water by Rebecca Podos

The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta

Darius the Great Is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

A Girl Like That by Tanaz Bhathena

Bayou, Vol. 1



by Jeremy Love
Lee Wagstaff is the daughter of a black sharecropper in the depression-era town of Charon, Mississippi. When Lily Westmoreland, her white playmate, is snatched by

agents of an evil creature known as Bog, Lee's father is accused of kidnapping. Lee's only hope is to follow Lily's trail into this fantastic and frightening alternate world.

Appeal Factors

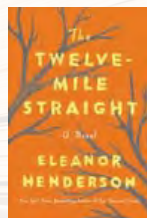
Character: Culturally diverse

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Afrofuturism and Afrofantasy; Comics and Graphic novels; Historical fantasy

Subjects: African American girls; African Americans; Depressions; Interracial friendship; Lynching; Magic; Malicious accusation; Missing children; Monsters; Racism; Rescues

Read-Alikes



The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Twelve-Mile Straight by Eleanor Henderson

Whistling Past the Graveyard by Susan Crandall

Lay that Trumpet in Our Hands by Susan Carol McCarthy

The BFG



by Roald Dahl

Kid snatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Slaying the dragon

Pace: Fast-paced

Tone: Funny; Whimsical

Story Elements

Genres: Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction

Subjects: Friendship; Giants; Orphans

Read-Alikes



Liesl & Po by Lauren Oliver

A Tale Dark & Grimm by Adam Gidwitz

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The Perilous Princess Plot by Sarah Courtauld

The Book of Unknown Americans



by Cristina Henríquez
Moving from Mexico to America when their daughter suffers a near-fatal accident, the Riveras confront cultural barriers, their daughter's difficult recovery and her developing relationship with a Panamanian boy.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Forbidden love

Character: Ability diverse; Authentic; Culturally diverse

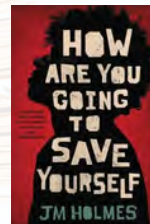
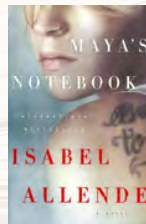
Storyline: Character-driven; Own voices

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories; Multiple perspectives

Subjects: Bereavement; Family relationships; Guilt; Hispanic Americans; Immigrant families; Learning disabilities; Neighbors; Teenage romance; Teenagers

Read-Alikes



Searching for Sylvie Lee by Jean Kwok

Maya's Notebook by Isabel Allende

How are You Going to Save Yourself by J. M. (Jeff M.) Holmes

We Never Asked for Wings by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Code Name Verity



by Elizabeth Wein

After crash-landing in France in 1943 and being captured by Nazis, a female wireless operator for the British (who goes by Queenie, Eva, Verity, and various other aliases) reveals bits of code in exchange for reprieve from torture...and to postpone her execution.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Unreliable narrator

Storyline: Character-driven

Tone: Haunting; Suspenseful

Story Elements

Genres: Historical fiction; War stories

Subjects: Courage in young women; Espionage; Friendship; Insurgency; Nazis; Pilots; S. S.; Torture; Women pilots; World War II

Read-Alikes



Front Lines by Michael Grant

Among the Red Stars by Gwen C. Katz

Flygirl by Sherri L. Smith

The Notorious Pagan Jones by Nina Berry

Counting by 7s



by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Coping with death; Misfits united

Character: Ability diverse

Storyline: Character-driven

Story Elements

Genres: Multiple perspectives; Realistic fiction

Subjects: Fatal traffic accidents; Genius; Girl misfits; Girl orphans; Parents; Preteen girls; Twelve-year-old girls

Read-Alikes



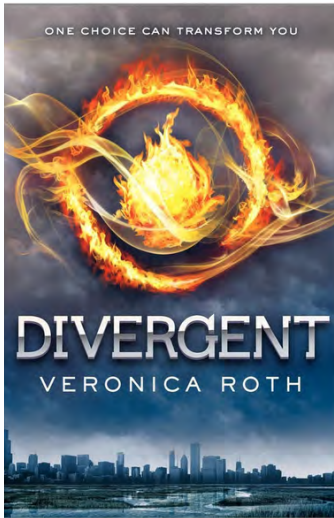
Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper (Sharon Mills)

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree by Lauren Tarshis

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Divergent



by Veronica Roth

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

Appeal Factors

Character: Courageous

Storyline: Intricately plotted; World-building

Tone: Bleak; Suspenseful

Story Elements

Genres: Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Dystopian fiction; First person narratives; Science fiction

Subjects: Courage; Dystopias; Families; Identity (Psychology); Options, alternatives, choices; Prior, Tris (Fictitious character); Sixteen-year-old girls; Social classes; Teenage girls

Read-Alikes



Delirium by Lauren Oliver

The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Pawn by Aimee Carter

Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine



by Gail Honeyman

A socially awkward, routine-oriented loner teams up with a bumbling IT guy from her office to assist an elderly accident victim, forging a friendship that saves all three from lives of isolation and secret unhappiness.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Dealing with mental illness; Fish out of water

Character: Awkward; Quirky; Sympathetic

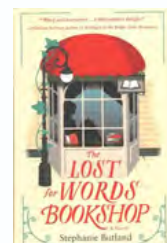
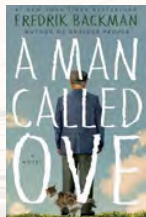
Storyline: Character-driven

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Relationship fiction

Subjects: Abused women; Accidents; Computer programmers; Consequences; Friendship; Interpersonal relations; Life change events; Loners; Misfits (Persons); Office workers; Senior men; Social isolation

Read-Alikes



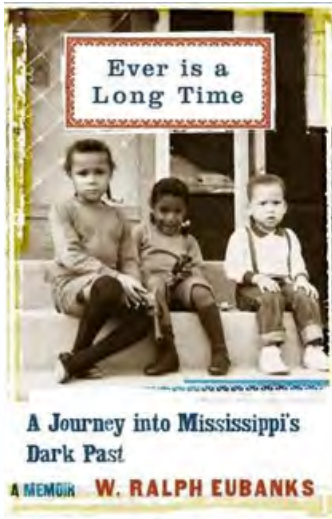
The Cactus by Sarah Haywood

A Man called Ove by Fedrik Backman

The Rosie Project by Graeme C. Simsion

The Lost for Words Bookshop by Stephanie Butland

Ever is a Long Time: a Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past, a Memoir



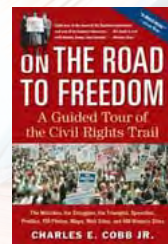
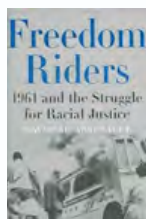
by W. Ralph Eubanks
A account of coming of age in Mississippi during the civil rights era describes growing up outside a small, racially divided town, the role of the State Sovereignty Commission, and the impact of forced integration and other events.

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Autobiographies and memoirs; History writing; Life stories

Subjects: African American children; African Americans; Eubanks, W. Ralph, 1957–; Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission; Racism; Segregation in education

Read-Alikes



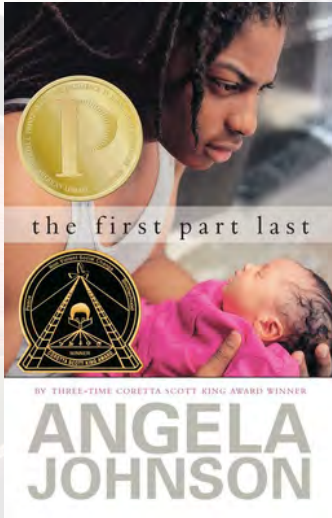
Carry Me Home by Diane McWhorter

Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice by Raymond Arsenault

Open Wide the Freedom Gates by Dorothy I. Height (Dorothy Irene)

On the Road to Freedom: A Guided Tour of the Civil Rights Trail by Charles E. Cobb, Jr.

The First Part Last



by Angela Johnson

When his girlfriend Nia announces that she is pregnant, sixteen-year-old Bobby, a typical urban New York City teenager, must cast aside his life of partying to visit obstetricians and social workers, who try to convince them to give their baby up for adoption, until tragedy strikes.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Teen pregnancy and parenting

Character: Culturally diverse; Well-developed

Storyline: Intricately plotted; Issue-oriented; Own voices

Story Elements

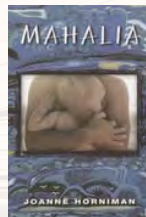
Genres: African American fiction; Books for reluctant readers; Coming-of-age stories; Realistic fiction

Subjects: African American teenage boys; African Americans; Father and child; Infants; Parental love; Parenthood; Single teenage fathers; Sixteen-year-old boys; Teenage fathers; Teenage parents; Teenagers in comas

Read-Alikes



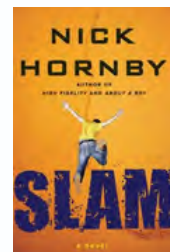
What You Left Behind by Jessica Verdi



Mahalia Joanne Horniman



My Book of Life by Angel by Martine Leavitt



Slam by Nick Hornby

Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic



by Alison Bechdel

An unusual memoir done in the form of a graphic novel by a cult favorite comic artist offers a darkly funny family portrait that details her relationship with her father, a historic preservation expert dedicated to restoring the family's Victorian home, funeral home director, high-school English teacher, and closeted homosexual.

Appeal Factors

Character: LGBTQIA diverse

Tone: Moving; Reflective

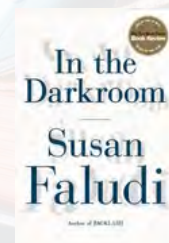
Writing Style: Conversational

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; Family and Relationships; LGBTQIA comics; Life stories

Subjects: Bechdel, Alison, 1960–; Brothers; Cartoonists; Children of divorced parents; Closeted gay men; Death; Divorce; Fathers and daughters; Funeral homes; Gay men; Historic preservation; Lesbian teenagers; Parent and child; Teachers; Teacher-student relationships; Undertakers

Read-Alikes



The Undertaker's Daughter by Katherine Mayfield

Stitches by David Small

Fairyland by Alysia Abbott

In the Darkroom by Susan Faludi

Ghost



by Jason Reynolds
Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.

Appeal Factors

Character: Culturally diverse; Sympathetic

Storyline: Character-driven; Own voices

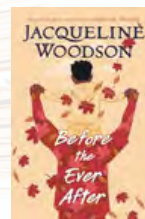
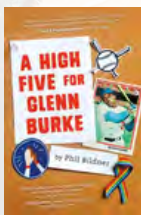
Tone: Emotionally intense

Story Elements

Genres: African American fiction; Realistic fiction

Subjects: African American boys; Children of prisoners; Fathers and sons; Middle schools; Runners; Schools; Sprinting; Track and field

Read-Alikes



A High Five for Glenn Burke by Phil Bildner

As Fast as I Can by Penny Tangey

Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson

Kinda Like Brothers by Coe Booth

Goldeline



by Jimmy Cajoleas

Traveling between camps in the magical forests of the Hinterlands, a young girl with gold-flecked eyes and hair as white as summer snow survives on items pillaged by her gang of bandits while being tracked by a witch hunter who wants to cleanse the forest of anyone who is different.

Appeal Factors

Character: Relatable

Tone: Atmospheric

Writing Style: Attention-grabbing

Story Elements

Genres: Fantasy fiction

Subjects: Clergy; Eleven-year-old girls; Forests; Freedom; Friendship; Fugitives; Good and evil; Magic; Mythical creatures; Outlaws; Suspicion

Read-Alikes



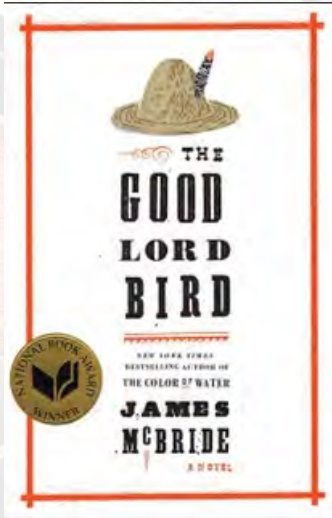
The Girl who Drank the Moon by Kelly Regan Bamhill

Snow & Rose Emily Winfield Martin

Igraine the Brave by Cornelia Funke

Jinx by Sage Blackwood

The Good Lord Bird



by James McBride

Mistaken for a girl on account of his curly hair, delicate features, and sackcloth smock, 12-year-old slave Henry Shackleford realizes that his accidental disguise affords

him greater safety and decides to remain female. Dubbed "Little Onion" by his liberator, abolitionist John Brown, Henry accompanies the increasingly fanatical

Brown on his crusade to end slavery -- a picaresque journey that takes them from Bloody Kansas to Rochester, New York, where they attempt to enlist the support of such notables as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman before embarking on the infamous, ill-fated 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry.

Appeal Factors

Character: Authentic; Flawed

Pace: Fast-paced

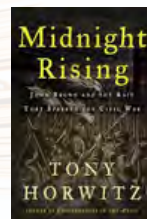
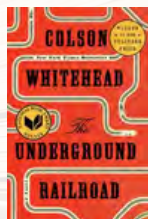
Storyline: Character-driven

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; African American fiction; Books to TV; Historical fiction; Literary fiction

Subjects: Abolitionists; Brown, John, 1800-1859; Children and adults; Extremists; False personation; Female impersonators; Fugitive slaves; Gender identity; Obsession; Self-perception in men; Twelve-year-olds

Read-Alikes



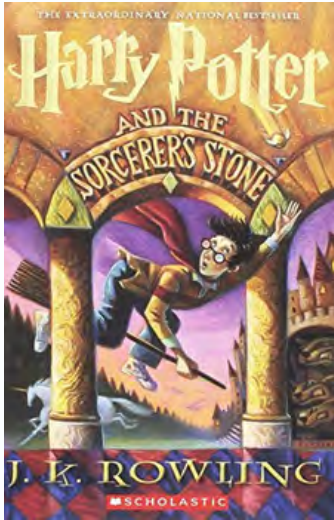
Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen by Sarah Bird

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

Midnight Rising by Tony Horwitz

Cloudsplitter Russell Banks

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone



by J.K. Rowling

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Appeal Factors

Character: Courageous; Well-developed

Storyline: Plot-driven; World-building

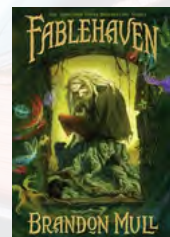
Tone: Suspenseful

Story Elements

Genres: Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction

Subjects: Boarding schools; Child wizards; Eleven-year-old boys; Magic; Potter, Harry (Fictitious character); Schools; Witches; Wizards; Wizards' apprentices

Read-Alikes



The Magic Thief by Sarah Prineas

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Midnight for Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo

Fablehaven by Brandon Mull

****The Hate U Give***



by Angie Thomas

After witnessing her friend's death at the hands of a police officer, Starr Carter's life is complicated when the police and a local drug lord try to intimidate her in an effort to learn what happened the night Kahlil died.

*Two sets available. One set of 10 copies. One set of 20 copies.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Facing racism

Character: Authentic; Culturally diverse

Storyline: Character-driven; Issue-oriented; Own voices

Story Elements

Genres: African American fiction; Books to movies; First person narratives; Realistic fiction

Subjects: African American teenage girls; Black Lives Matter movement; Friendship; Gangs; Interracial dating; Police shootings; Prep schools; Public relations; Racism; Schools; Sixteen-year-old girls; Teenage girls; Witnesses

Read-Alikes



I am Alfonso Jones by Tony Medina

Amelia Westlake Was Never Here by Erin Gough

The Truth of Right Now by Kara Lee Corthorn

The Rose that Grew from Concrete by Tupac Shakur

Hello, Universe



by Erin Entrada Kelly
Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

Appeal Factors

Character: Ability diverse; Culturally diverse

Storyline: Own voices

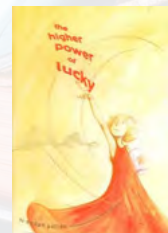
Tone: Hopeful; Suspenseful

Story Elements

Genres: Multiple perspectives; Realistic fiction

Subjects: Bullying and bullies; Filipino American boys; Filipino Americans; Friendship; Girl psychics; Girls who are deaf; Guinea pigs; Japanese American girls; Missing boys; Rescues; Resilience (Personal quality); Self-acceptance; Sixth-graders

Read-Alikes



Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor

It Wasn't Me by Dana Alison Levy

The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron

The House in the Cerulean Sea



by TJ Klune

A magical island. A dangerous task. A burning secret. Linus Baker leads a quiet, solitary life. At forty, he lives in a tiny house with a devious cat and his old records. As

a Case Worker at the Department in Charge Of Magical Youth, he spends his days overseeing the well-being of children in government-sanctioned orphanages. When Linus is unexpectedly summoned by

Extremely Upper Management he's given a curious and highly classified assignment: travel to Marsyas Island Orphanage, where six dangerous children reside: a gnome, a sprite, a wyvern, an unidentifiable green blob, a were-Pomeranian, and the Antichrist. Linus must set aside his fears and determine whether or not they're likely to bring about the end of days. But the children aren't the only secret the island keeps...

Appeal Factors

Themes: Chosen family

Character: LGBTQIA diverse; Likeable; Quirky

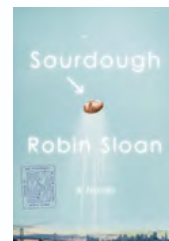
Tone: Heartwarming; Hopeful; Offbeat; Thought-provoking

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Contemporary fantasy

Subjects: Bureaucracy; Communities; Gay men; Imaginary creatures; Island life; Magic; Orphanages; Orphans; Prejudice; Secrets; Social workers; Suspicion

Read-Alikes



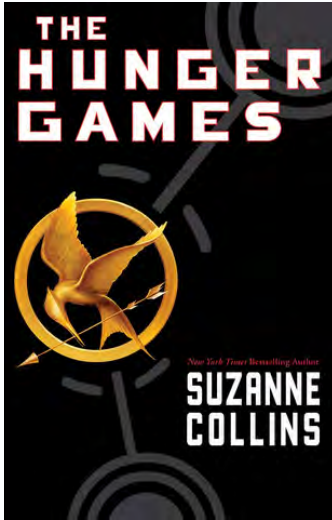
Every Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire

The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet by Becky Chambers

Light from Uncommon Stars by Ryka Aoki

Sourdough by Robin Sloan

The Hunger Games



by Suzanne Collins
In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss's skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister's place.

Appeal Factors

Character: Strong female

Storyline: Action-packed; Character-driven; World-building

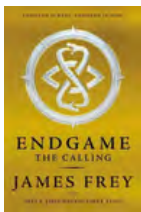
Tone: Bleak; Menacing; Strong sense of place; Suspenseful

Story Elements

Genres: Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Dystopian fiction; First person narratives; Science fiction

Subjects: Competition; Contests; Dystopias; Everdeen, Katniss (Fictitious character); Interpersonal relations; Sisters; Sixteen-year-old girls; Survival; Teenage boy/girl relations; Television programs

Read-Alikes



The Calling by James Frey

Divergent Veronica Roth

The Culling by Steven Dos Santos

Birthmarked by Caragh M. O'Brien

I am J



by Cris Beam

J, who feels like a boy mistakenly born as a girl, runs away from his best friend who has rejected him and the parents he thinks do not understand him when he finally decides that it is time to be who he really is.

Appeal Factors

Character: LGBTQIA diverse

Storyline: Character-driven; Issue-oriented

Tone: Emotionally intense

Story Elements

Genres: Books for reluctant readers; LGBTQIA fiction; Realistic fiction

Subjects: Emotional problems of teenagers; Friendship; Identity (Psychology); Rejection (Psychology); Seventeen-year-olds; Teenagers; Transgender teenage boys; Transgender teenagers

Read-Alikes



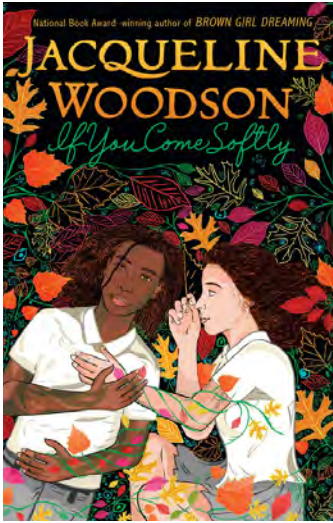
Beautiful Music for Ugly Children by Kristin Cronn-Mills

Parrotfish by Ellen Wittlinger

Alex as Well by Alyssa Brugman

Girl Mans Up by M-E Girard

If You Come Softly



by Jacqueline Woodson

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

Appeal Factors

Character: Culturally diverse

Storyline: Intricately plotted; Own voices

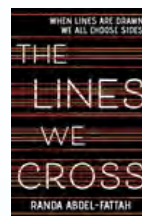
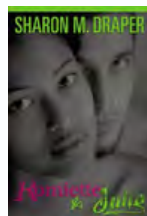
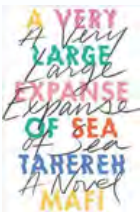
Tone: Angst-filled; Moving; Reflective; Romantic; Thought-provoking

Story Elements

Genres: African American fiction; Love stories; Realistic fiction

Subjects: African American teenage boys; Interracial romance; Jewish American teenage girls; Prep school students; Prep schools; Racism; Teenage romance

Read-Alikes



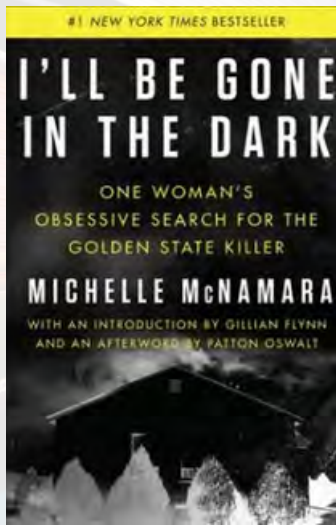
A Very Large Expanse of Sea by Tahereh Mafi

Romiette and Julio by Sharon M. Draper (Saron Mills)

The Lines We Cross by Randa Abdel-Fattah

All American Boys by Jason Reynolds

I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer



by Michelle McNamara
An account of the unsolved Golden State Killer case, written by the late author of the TrueCrimeDiary.com website traces the rapes and murders of dozens of victims and the author's determined efforts to help identify the killer and bring him to justice.

Appeal Factors

Tone: Haunting; Menacing

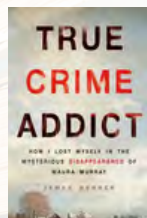
Writing Style: Accessible; Compelling; Well-researched

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Nonfiction that reads like fiction; True crime

Subjects: Cold cases (Criminal investigation); Crimes against women; Criminal investigation; Home invasions; McNamara, Michelle, 1970–2016; Searching; Serial murders; Serial rapists; Violence against women

Read-Alikes



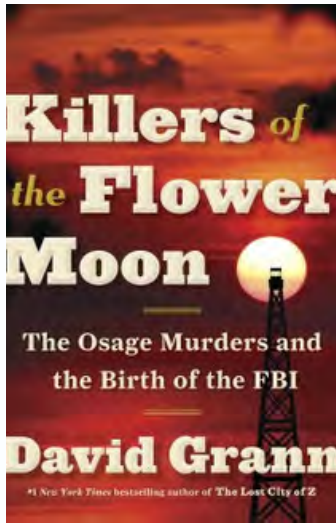
Chase Darkness with Me: How One True-Crime Writer started Solving Murders by Billy Bensen

True Crime Addict: How I Lost Myself in the Mysterious Disappearance of Maura Murray by James Renner

Lost Girls: An Unsolved American Mystery by Robert Kolker

The Fact of a Body: A Murder and a Memoir by Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI



by David Grann

Presents a true account of the early 20th-century murders of dozens of wealthy Osage and law-enforcement officials, citing the contributions and missteps of a fledgling FBI that eventually uncovered one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

Appeal Factors

Tone: Disturbing

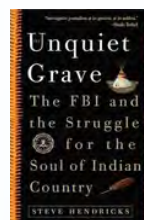
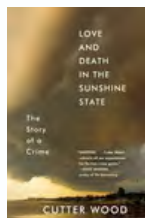
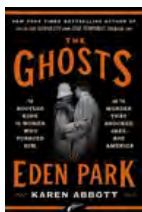
Writing Style: Compelling; Richly detailed

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; History writing; Nonfiction that reads like fiction; True Crime

Subjects: FBI; Indians of North America; Murder investigation; Oil wells; Osage Indians; Racism; Serial murders

Read-Alikes



The Ghosts of Eden Park by Karen Abbott

Love and Death in the Sunshine State by Cutter Wood

The Unquiet Grave by Steve Hendricks

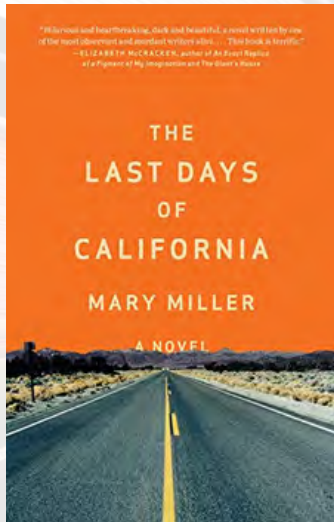
The World's Richest Indian by Tanis C. Thorne

The Last Days of California

by Mary Miller



Fourteen-year-old Jess' beliefs falter when her evangelical father packs up the family, including her secretly pregnant older sister and her long-suffering mother, to travel across the country and save souls ahead of the anticipated end of the world.



Appeal Factors

Themes: Road tripping

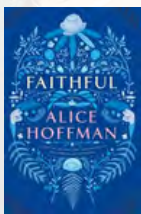
Tone: Atmospheric; Moving

Story Elements

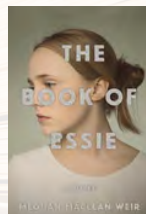
Genres: Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories

Subjects: Automobile travel; Christians; Cross-country automobile trips; Families; Family relationships; Partying; Rapture (Christian eschatology); Self-destructive behavior; Self-discovery; Teenage girls

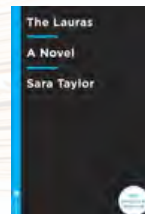
Read-Alikes



Faithful by Alice Hoffman



The Book of Essie by Meghan MacLean Weir



The Lauras by Sara Taylor



The Girl who Slept with God by Val Brelinski

Let the Right One In



by John Ajvide Lindqvist
Twelve-year-old Oskar is obsessed by the murder that's taken place in his neighborhood. Then he meets the new girl from next door. She's a bit weird, though. And she only comes out at night.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Childhood trauma; Vampire menace

Storyline: Character-driven

Tone: Bleak; Creepy; Disturbing; Menacing

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; Horror; Translations

Subjects: Curiosity in boys; Neighbors; Obsession; Overweight boys; Revenge; Suburban life; Teenage murder victims; Twelve-year-old boys; Vampires

Read-Alikes



The Lesser Dead by Christopher Buehlman

Hex by Thomas Olde Heuvelt

Locke and Key by Joe Hill

The Shadows by Alex North

Little Fires Everywhere



by Celeste Ng

Fighting an ugly custody battle with an artistic tenant who has little regard for the strict rules of their progressive Cleveland suburb, a straitlaced family woman who is seeking to adopt a baby becomes obsessed with exposing the tenant's past, only to trigger devastating consequences for both of their families.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Maybe baby; Suburban malaise

Character: Complex

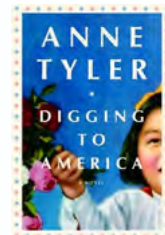
Storyline: Character-driven; Nonlinear

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Books to TV; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives

Subjects: Adoption; Artists; Child custody; Consequences; Interpersonal conflict; Interracial adoption; Landlord and tenant; Secrets; Single mothers

Read-Alikes



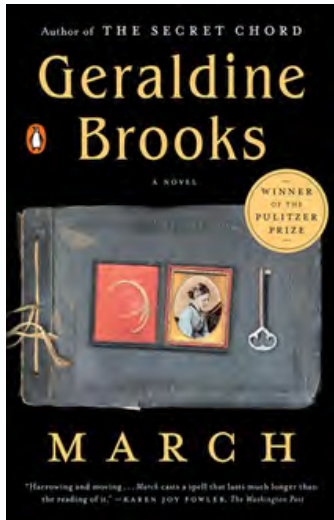
Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid

Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty

Commonwealth by Ann Patchett

Digging to America by Anne Tyler

March: A Novel



by Geraldine Brooks
Set during the American Civil War, March tells the story of John March, known to us as the father away from his family of girls in Little Women, Louisa May Alcott's classic American novel.

Appeal Factors

Character: Complex; Courageous; Flawed

Storyline: Character-driven

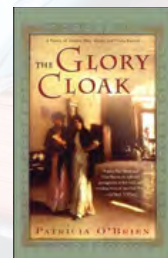
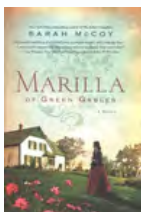
Tone: Bittersweet; Dramatic

Story Elements

Genres: Adaptations; Adult books for young adults; Australian fiction; Epistolary novels; First person narratives; Historical fiction; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives; War stories

Subjects: Abolitionists; Civil war; Families; Father-separated families; Freed slaves; Husband and wife; March family (Fictitious characters); Married men; Military chaplains; Plantation life; Racism; Separated friends, relatives, etc.; Slavery; Teachers; United States Civil War, 1861-1865

Read-Alikes



Marilla of Green Gables by Sarah McCoy

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

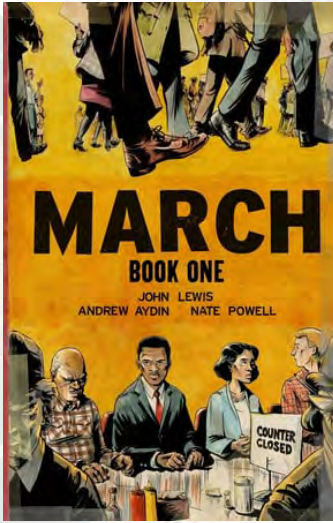
Twain and Stanley Enter Paradise by Oscar Hijuelos

The Glory Cloak by Patricia O'Brien

March: Book One

by John Lewis

A first-hand account of the author's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights spans his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.



Appeal Factors

Storyline: Own voices

Tone: Dramatic

Writing Style: Compelling

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Antiracist literature; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; History writing; Life stories; Society and culture

Subjects: African Americans; Civil rights; Civil Rights Movement; King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929–1968; Lewis, John, 1940–2020; Nonviolence; Politicians; Protests, demonstrations, vigils, etc.; Racism; Rural boys; Segregation; Student movements

Read-Alikes



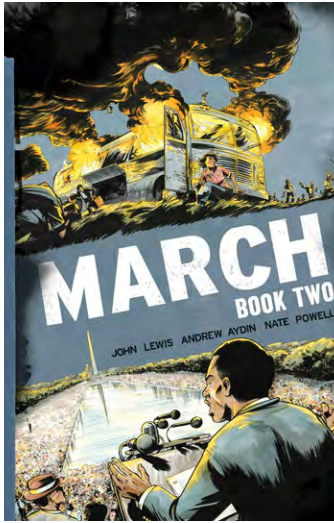
They called Us Enemy by George Takei

Grand Theft Horse by Greg Neri

King by Ho Che Anderson

The Silence of Our Friends by Mark Long

March: Book Two



by John Lewis

The award-winning, best-selling series returns, as John Lewis' story continues through Freedom Rides and the legendary 1963 March on Washington.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Own voices

Tone: Dramatic

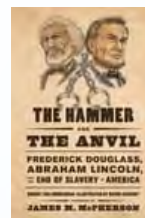
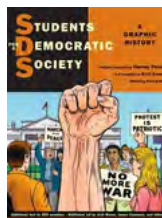
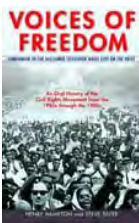
Writing Style: Compelling

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Antiracist literature; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; History writing; Life stories; Society and culture

Subjects: African Americans; Civil rights; Civil Rights Movement; Lewis, John, 1940–2020; Nonviolence; Politicians; Protests, demonstrations, vigils, etc.; Race relations; Racism; Segregation; Student movements; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)

Read-Alikes



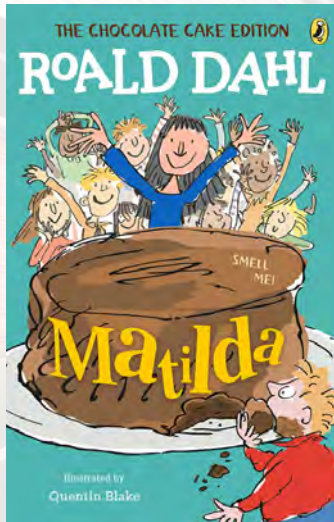
Voices of Freedom by Henry Hampton

Students for a Democratic Society by Harvey Pekar

The Hammer and the Anvil by Dwight Jon Zimmerman

The Ukrainian and Russian Notebooks by Igort

Matilda



by Roald Dahl

Child genius, Matilda, applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Character-driven

Tone: Funny; Whimsical

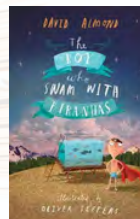
Writing Style: Attention-grabbing; Witty

Story Elements

Genres: Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction; Humorous stories; Low fantasy

Subjects: Assertiveness in girls; Elementary school teachers; Elementary schools; Gifted girls; Independence in girls; Magic; Practical jokes; Reading; Revenge; School children; Supernatural; Teachers; Teacher-student relationships; Women headmasters

Read-Alikes



The League of Beastly Dreadfuls by Holly Grant

The Fantastic Family Whipple by Matthew Ward

The Boy who Swam with Piranhas by David Almond

Operation Bunny by Sally Gardner

Maus: Books I and II

by Art Spiegelman

The author-illustrator traces his father's imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp through a series of disarming and unusual cartoons arranged to tell the story as a novel.



Appeal Factors

Character: Anthropomorphic

Tone: Haunting; Moving; Sobering

Story Elements

Genres: Autobiographies and memoirs; Comics and Graphic novels; History writing; Life stories

Subjects: Auschwitz (Concentration camp); Children of Holocaust survivors; Comic book illustrators; Comic book writers; Fathers and sons; Holocaust (1933-1945); Holocaust survivors; Jewish American men; Jewish Americans; Spiegelman, Vladek, 1906-1982; Spiegelman, Art; Spiegelman, Vladek, 1906-1982; Survival (in concentration camps, prisons, etc.)

Read-Alikes



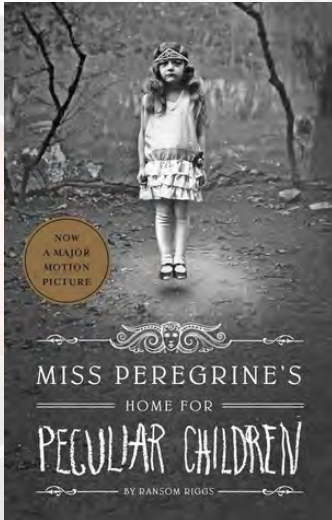
When Time Stopped by Ariana Neumann

Death March Escape by Jack J. Hersch

But You Did Not Come Back by Marceline Loridan

A Brief Stop on the Road from Auschwitz by Goran Rosenberg

****Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children***



by Ransom Riggs

After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering disturbing facts about the children who were kept there.

*A set of 6 copies in Spanish also available.

Appeal Factors

Theme: Time loop

Characters: Authentic; Well-developed

Tone: Atmospheric; Creepy

Story Elements

Genres: Books to movies; Fantasy fiction; Illustrated books

Subjects: Abandoned property; Grandfathers; Islands; Orphanages; Sixteen-year-old boys; Supernatural; Teenage boys; Time travel (Past)

Read-Alikes



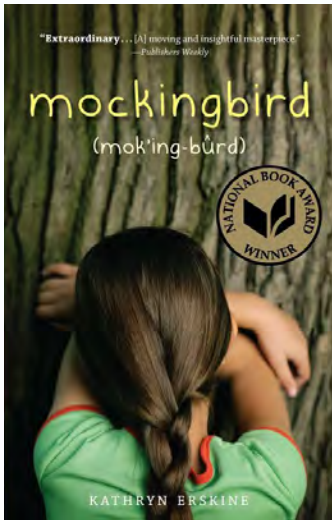
Asylum by Madeleine Roux

Anna Dressed in Blood by Kendare Blake

The Shrunk Head by Lauren Oliver

The Secret Hour by Scott Westerfeld

Mockingbird



by Kathryn Erskine

Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Living with invisible disability

Characters: Ability diverse

Storyline: Character-driven

Story Elements

Genres: Realistic fiction

Subjects: Asperger's syndrome; Brothers; Children with Asperger's syndrome; Emotions in girls; Empathy; Empathy in girls; Families; Grief in families; Mass shootings; School shootings; Schools; Ten-year-old girls

Read-Alikes



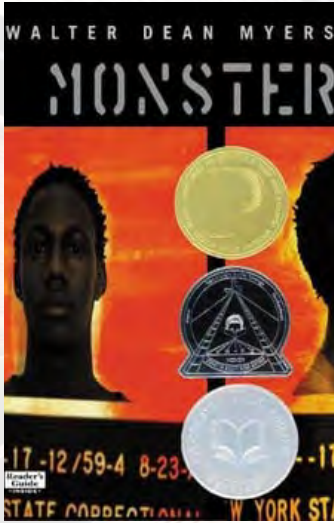
All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd

As Simple as It Seems by Sarah Weeks

A Summer to Die by Lois Lowry

Monster



by Walter Dean Myers
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Character-driven; Open-ended; Unconventional

Tone: Reflective; Suspenseful; Thought-provoking

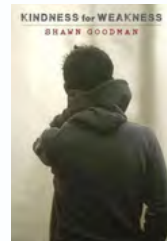
Writing Style: Compelling; Well-crafted dialogue

Story Elements

Genres: African American fiction; Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Realistic fiction

Subjects: African-American teenage prisoners; Prisons; Self-perception; Sixteen-year-old boys; Teenage murder suspects; Teenage prisoners; Trials (Murder)

Read-Alikes



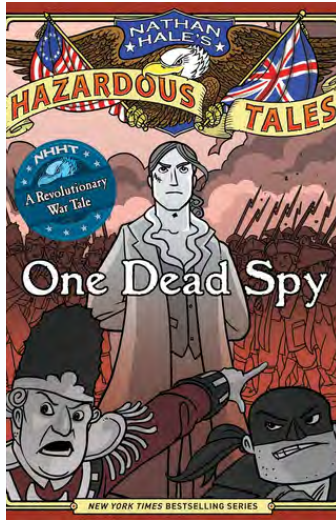
The Walls Around Us by Nova Ren Suma

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

Punching the Air by Ibi Aanu Zoboi

Kindness for Weakness by Shawn Goodman

***Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: One Dead Spy**



by Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale, the author's historical namesake, was America's first spy, a Revolutionary War hero who famously said "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country" before being hanged by the British. In the Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series, author Nathan Hale channels his namesake to present history's roughest, toughest, and craziest stories in the graphic novel format.

Appeal Factors

Writing Style: Attention-grabbing

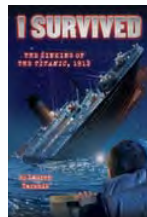
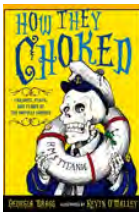
*Includes 1 copy of *Top Secret: a Handbook of Codes, Ciphers and Secret Writing* by Paul B. Janeczko and 24 secret message invisible ink pens with black light (various colors).

Story Elements

Genres: Biographies; Comics and Graphic novels; History books; Narrative nonfiction for kids and teens

Subjects: American Revolution, 1775-1783; Hale, Nathan, 1755-1776; Military intelligence officers; Revolutions; Soldiers; Spies

Read-Alikes



How They Choked by Georgia Bragg

The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912 by Lauren Tarshis

George Washington's Secret Six by Brian Kilmeade

Spies of the American Revolution by Elizabeth Raum

Nothing Can Possibly Go Wrong



by Prudence Shen
Charlie, the captain of the basketball team, and Nate, the president of the robotics club, are bestfriends. Their friendship is tested when the robotics club and the cheerleading squad--who use Charlie as their figurehead--compete for student group funding.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Plot-driven

Tone: Angst-filled; High-drama

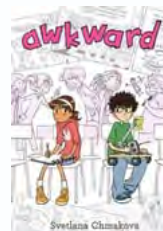
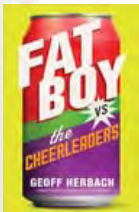
Writing Style: Compelling

Story Elements

Genres: Books for reluctant readers; Comics and Graphic novels; Realistic fiction

Subjects: Competition in teenagers; Divorce; Friendship; Geeks (Computer enthusiasts); High school athletes; High school basketball; High school students; Robotics; Robots; Teenage boy/girl relations

Read-Alikes



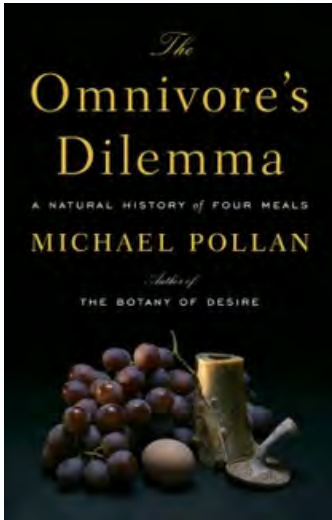
Fat Boy vs. the Cheerleaders by Geoff Herbach

The Plain Janes by Cecil Castellucci

SideScrollers by Matthew Loux

Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals



by Michael Pollan
Offers insight into food consumption in the twenty-first century, explaining how an abundance of unlimited food varieties reveals the responsibilities of consumers to protect their health and the environment.

Appeal Factors

Tone: Sobering; Thought-provoking

Writing Style: Accessible; Well-researched

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Food writing

Subjects: Corn; Diet; Food; Food consumption; Food habits; Natural foods; Omnivores

Read-Alikes



Gurb by Anna Lappe

The Mindful Carnivore by Tovar Cerulli

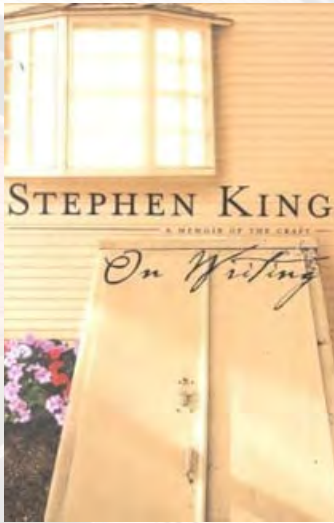
All Natural by Nathanael Johnson

The Way We Eat by Peter Singer

On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft

by Stephen King

The author shares his insights into the craft of writing and offers a humorous perspective on his own experience as a writer.



Appeal Factors

Tone: Darkly humorous; Reflective

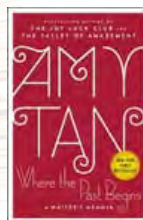
Writing Style: Conversational

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Arts and Entertainment; Autobiographies and memoirs; Life stories

Subjects: Authors, American; Horror story writing; King, Stephen, 1947-; Writing

Read-Alikes



Daemon Voices by Philip Pullman

Consider This by Chuck Palahniuk

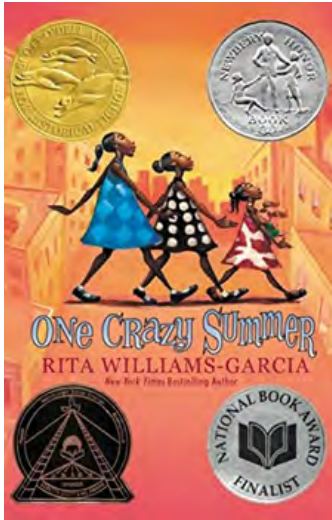
Where the Past Begins by Amy Tan

Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life by Anne Lamott

One Crazy Summer

by Rita Williamson-Garcia

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.



Appeal Factors

Themes: Meet the family

Character: Culturally diverse; Well-developed

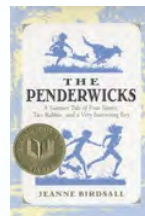
Storyline: Character-driven; Own voices

Story Elements

Genres: African American fiction; First person narratives; Historical fiction

Subjects: African American girls; Black Panther Party; Civil Rights Movement; Eleven-year-old girls; Girls; Mother-deserted children; Mothers; Poets; Sisters; Summer camps

Read-Alikes



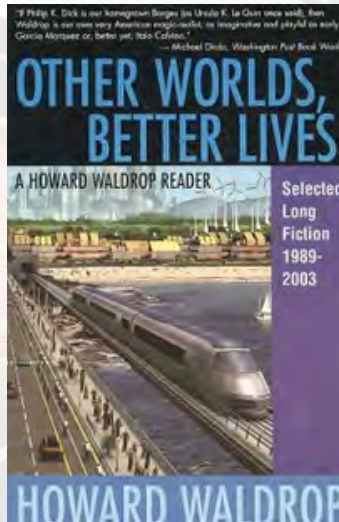
Keeping the Night Watch by Hope Anita Smith

The Perfect Place by Teresa E. Harris

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

Some Places More than Others by Renee Watson

Other Worlds, Better Lives, Selected Long Fiction, 1989-2003



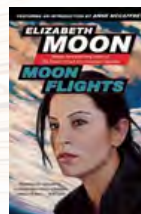
by Howard Waldrop
Presents a collection of science fiction novellas that describes alternate histories for places around the world throughout the twentieth century.

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Fantasy fiction; Science fiction; Short stories

Subjects: Social movements

Read-Alikes



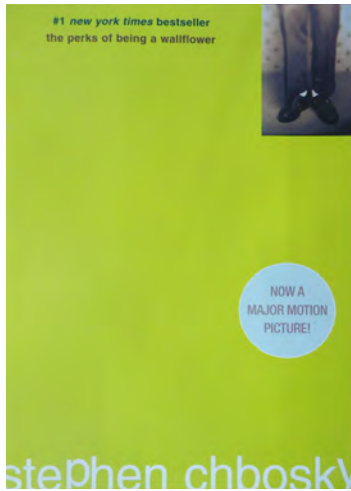
The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year, Vol. 6

Keeper of Dreams by Orson Scott Card

Moon Flights by Elizabeth Moon

Nebula Awards Showcase 2017

The Perks of Being a Wallflower



by Stephen Chbosky
Charlie is shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward; he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. Charlie attempts to navigate his way through the uncharted territory of high school: the world of first dates and mix-tapes, family dramas and new friends.

Standing on the fringes of life offers a unique perspective. But there comes a time to see what it looks like from the dance floor.

Appeal Factors

Theme: Unreliable narrator

Character: LGBTQIA diverse

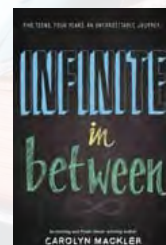
Storyline: Character-driven

Story Elements

Genres: Books for reluctant readers; Books to movies; Classics; Coming-of-age stories; Diary novels; Epistolary novels; Realistic fiction

Subjects: Gay teenagers; High school students; Letter writing; Sexually abused children; Teenage boys; Teenagers

Read-Alikes



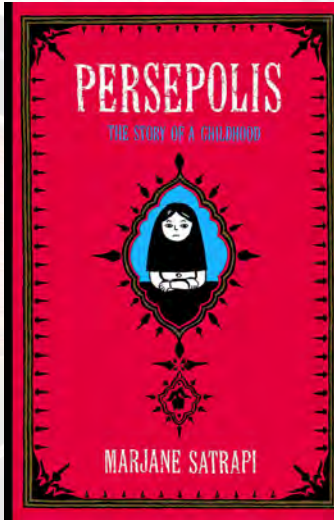
Our Chemical Hearts by Krystal Sutherland

Love Letters to the Dead by Ava Dellaira

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

Infinite in Between by Carolyn

Persepolis



by Marjane Satrapi
The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Own voices

Tone: Reflective; Sobering; Strong sense of place; Thought-provoking

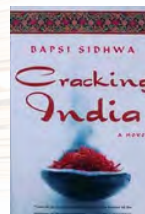
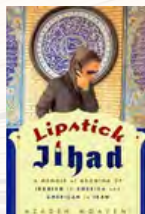
Writing Style: Spare

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Books to movies; Comics and Graphic novels; Family and Relationships; History writing; Life stories

Subjects: Children and war; Iran-Iraq War; Muslims; Nine-year-old girls; Satrapi, Marjane, 1969–

Read-Alikes



Maus by Art Spiegelman

Lipstick Jihad by Azadeh Moaveni

Cracking India by Bapsi Sidhwa

Boxers by Gene Luen Yang



Ready Player One



by Ernest Cline

Immersing himself in a mid-twenty-first-century technological virtual utopia to escape an ugly real world of famine, poverty, and disease, Wade Watts joins an increasingly violent effort to solve a series of puzzles by the virtual world's creator.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Press play to start

Character: Likeable

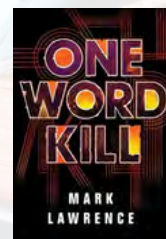
Pace: Fast-paced

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; Coming-of-age stories; First person narratives; Science fiction

Subjects: Avatars (Virtual reality); Dystopias; Geeks (Computer enthusiasts); Inheritance and succession; Locks and keys; Near future; Popular culture; Puzzles; Quests; Regression (Civilization); Social networks; Teenage boys; Virtual reality

Read-Alikes



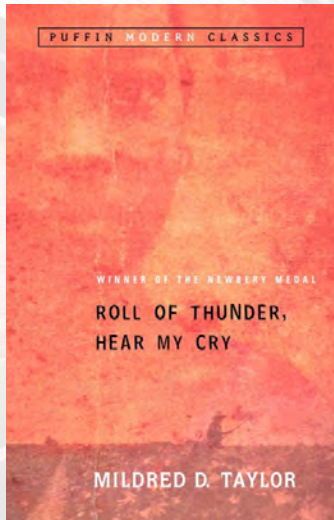
Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts by Kate Racculia

The Demi-Monde by Rod Rees

An Absolutely Remarkable Thing by Hank Green

One Word Kill by Mark Lawrence

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry



by Mildred D. Taylor
A Black family living in the South during the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which their children don't understand.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Facing racism

Spirited: Spirited

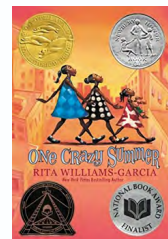
Storyline: Character-driven; Issue-oriented; Own voices

Story Elements

Genres: African American fiction; Classics; Family sagas; Historical fiction

Subjects: African American children; African American families; African American girls; Determination (Personal quality); Discrimination; Familial love; Logan family (Fictitious characters : Taylor); Logan, Cassie (Fictitious character); Prejudice; Racism; Rural families

Read-Alikes



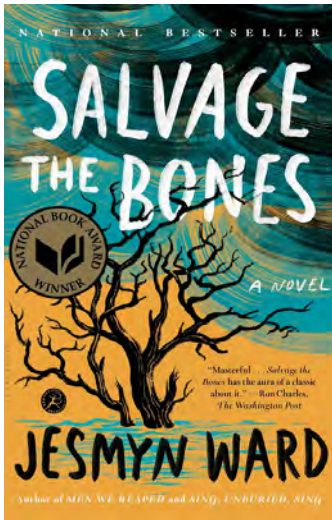
The Legend of Buddy Bush by Shelia P. Moses

Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper (Sharon Mills)

Zora and Me by Victoria Bond

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia

Salvage the Bones



by Jesmyn Ward

Enduring a hardscrabble existence as the children of alcoholic and absent parents, four siblings from a coastal Mississippi town prepare their meager stores for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina while struggling with such challenges as a teen pregnancy and a dying litter of prize pups.

Appeal Factors

Character: Complex; Culturally diverse; Sympathetic

Storyline: Character-driven; Own voices

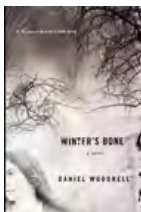
Tone: Bleak; Moving; Sobering

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; African American fiction; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction; Southern fiction

Subjects: African American families; African American teenage girls; Brothers and sisters; Hurricane Katrina, 2005; Mother-separated families; Rural poor; Teenage pregnancy

Read-Alikes



Winter's Bone by Daniel Woodrell



The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison



Hurricane Song by Paul Volponi



Sap Rising by Christine Lincoln

Smile



by Raina Telgemeier
An autobiography in graphic novel format describes how the author lost two of her front teeth in an accident when she was twelve, and her subsequent struggles with various corrective dental techniques throughout adolescence.

Appeal Factors

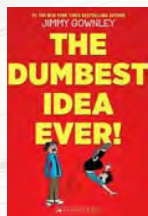
Tone: Angst-filled

Story Elements

Genres: Autobiographical comics; Autobiographies and memoirs; Biographies; Comics and Graphic novels; Coming-of-age stories; Narrative nonfiction for kids and teens

Subjects: Braces (Dentistry); Dental care; Self-esteem; Self-esteem in teenagers; Sixth-grade girls; Telgemeier, Raina

Read-Alikes



The Awesomely Awful Melodies of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang by Amy Ignatow

The Dumbest Idea Ever! by Jimmy Gownley

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson

El Deafo by Cece Bell

So You Want to Talk About Race



by Ijeoma Oluo

A Seattle-based writer, editor and speaker tackles the sensitive, hyper-charged racial landscape in current America, discussing the issues of privilege, police brutality, intersectionality, micro-aggressions, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the "N" word.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Issue-oriented; Own voices

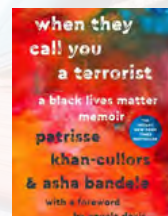
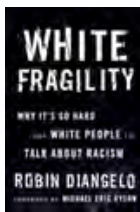
Writing Style: Conversational; Persuasive

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Antiracist literature; Society and culture

Subjects: African Americans; Black Lives Matter movement; Cultural appropriation; Intercultural communication; Intersectionality; Microaggressions; Prejudice; Race relations; Racism; Social justice

Read-Alikes



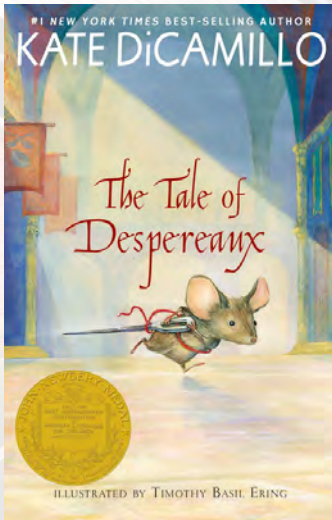
White Fragility by Robin J. DiAngelo

This Will Be My Undoing by Morgan Jerkins

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man by Emmanuel Acho

When They Call You a Terrorist by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele

The Tale of Despereaux



by Kate DiCamillo

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Appeal Factors

Character: Anthropomorphic

Tone: Suspenseful; Upbeat

Writing Style: Witty

Story Elements

Genres: Animal fantasy; Books to movies; Fantasy fiction

Subjects: Household employees; Housekeepers; Mice; Princesses; Rats

Read-Alikes



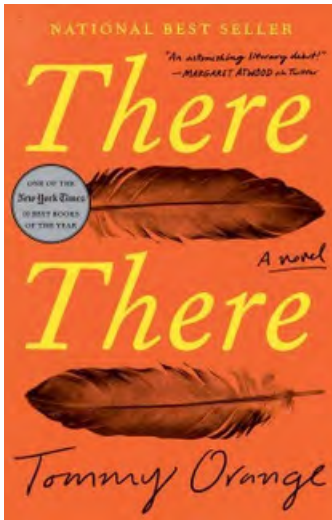
Edison by Torben Kuhlmann

Liesel and Po by Lauren Oliver

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert C. O'Brien

A Nest for Celeste by Henry Cole

There There



by Tommy Orange

A novel which grapples with the complex history of Native Americans; with an inheritance of profound spirituality; and with a plague of addiction, abuse and suicide, follows 12 characters, each of whom has private reasons for traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Ensemble casts

Character: Culturally diverse; Large cast of characters

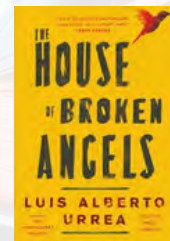
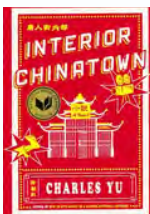
Pace: Fast-paced

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Literary fiction; Multiple perspectives

Subjects: Addiction; City life; Culture conflict; Family reunions; Indians of North America; Interpersonal relations; Multiracial persons; Native American families; Powwows; Prejudice

Read-Alikes



Interior Chinatown by Charles Yu

The Virgin of Flames by Christopher Abani

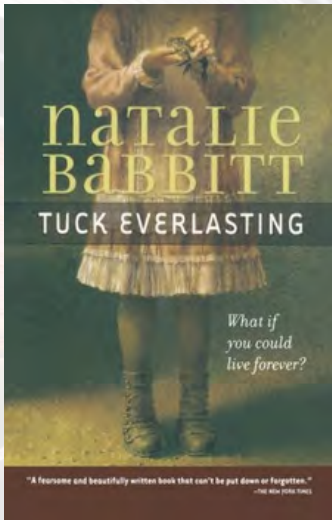
Where the Dead Sit Talking by Brandon Hobson

The House of Broken Angels by Luis Alberto Urrea

Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt

A family accidentally stumbles upon a spring with water endowing them with the gift of eternal life. Seventy years later, without having grown a day older, a young girl discovers them and learns their secret.



Appeal Factors

Themes: Be careful what you wish for

Pace: Leisurely paced

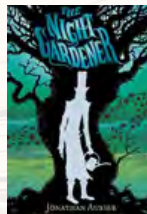
Storyline: Character-driven

Story Elements

Genres: Books to movies; Classics; Fantasy fiction; Low fantasy

Subjects: Aging; Boy/girl relations; Families; Fountains of youth (Legendary springs); Immortality; Secrets

Read-Alikes



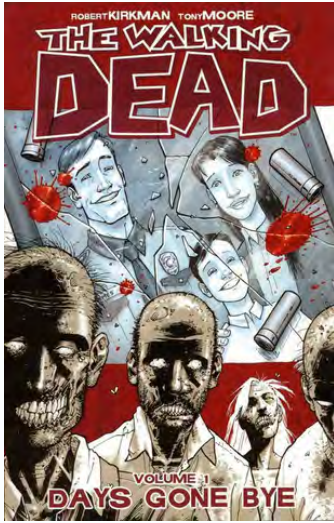
Finally by Wendy Mass

The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier

The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo

Eventown by Corey Ann Haydu

****The Walking Dead, Vol. 1: Days Gone Bye***



by Robert Kirkman

Police officer Rick Grimes is shot on the job and wakes up a month later to find that the world that he knows is gone. Zombies have taken over and are killing and eating those who are still alive. He sets out toward Atlanta in the hope that his family is still alive and endures many horrors along the way.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Band of survivors; Zombie apocalypse

Tone: Bleak; Gruesome

Writing Style: Compelling

*Includes 1 copy *The Walking Dead* AMC Original Soundtrack: Volume 1 and 1 set of The zombie Survival Guide Deck: Complete Protection from the Living Dead cards.

Story Elements

Genres: Books to TV; Comics and Graphic novels; Horror comics

Subjects: End of the world; Epidemics; Missing persons; People in comas; Police; Survival (after epidemics); Zombies

Read-Alikes



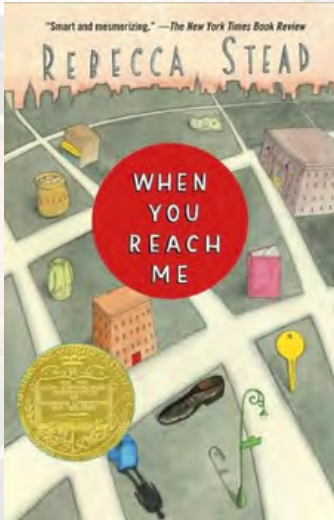
Saga by Brian K. Vaughan

Nailbiter by Joshua Williamson

Hack/Slash, Vol. 1 by Tim Seeley

The Rage by Pierre Boissérie

When You Reach Me



by Rebecca Stead

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Character-driven; Intricately plotted

Tone: Moving; Suspenseful

Writing Style: Attention-grabbing

Story Elements

Genres: First person narratives; Science fiction

Subjects: Children of single parents; Friendship; Latchkey children; Preteen girls; Space and time; Television game shows; Twelve-year-old girls

Read-Alikes



Dreamer, Wisher, Liar by Charise Mericle Harper

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

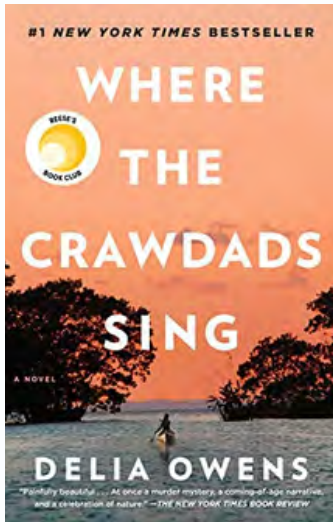
The Riverman by Aaron Starmer

Following Baxter by Barbara Kerley

Where the Crawdads Sing

by Delia Owens

Viewed with suspicion in the aftermath of a tragedy, a beautiful hermit who has survived for years in a marsh becomes targeted by unthinkable forces.



Appeal Factors

Themes: Green reads

Character: Quirky; Sympathetic

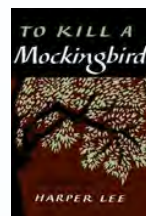
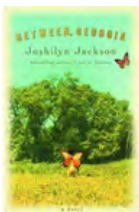
Pace: Leisurely paced

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Coming-of-age stories; Literary fiction

Subjects: Coasts; Hermits; Loners; Marshes; Murder suspects; Prejudice; Rural women; Suspicion; Wilderness survival; Xenophobia

Read-Alikes



Between, Georgia by Joshilyn Jackson

Tell the Wolves I'm Home by Carol Rifka Brunt

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

My Absolute Darling by Gabriel Tallent

Where'd You Go, Bernadette?



by Marie Temple

When her notorious, hilarious, volatile, talented, troubled and agoraphobic mother goes missing, teenage Bee begins a trip that takes her to the ends of the earth to find her.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Web of connections

Character: Quirky

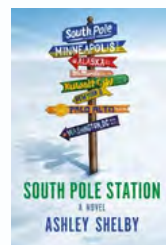
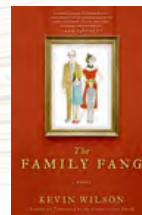
Storyline: Intricately plotted

Story Elements

Genres: Adult books for young adults; Books to movies; Humorous stories; Pacific Northwest fiction; Relationship fiction

Subjects: Agoraphobia in women; Missing persons investigation; Mothers and daughters; Phobias; Women architects

Read-Alikes



Saving CeeCee Honeycutt by Beth Hoffman

Ally Hughes has Sex Sometimes by Jules Moulin

The Family Fang: A Novel by Kevin Wilson

South Pole Station: A Novel by Ashley Shelby

With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote



by Ann Bausum

Chronicles the final years of the struggle for women's voting rights, focusing on the activities of Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party and their part in the successful passage of the 19th Amendment.

Appeal Factors

Storyline: Issue-oriented

Tone: Inspiring

Story Elements

Genres: History books; Narrative nonfiction for kids and teens

Subjects: Constitutional history; Determination (Personal quality); Determination in women; Gender role; Lobbying; Paul, Alice, 1885–1977; Protests, demonstrations, vigils, etc.; Sex discrimination; Sexism; Suffrage; Suffragist movement; Suffragists; Voting; Women; Women's rights; Women's role

Read-Alikes



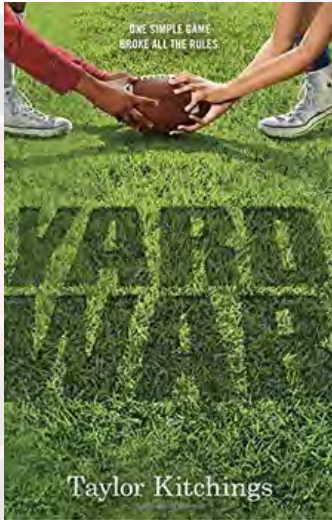
Wheels of Change by Sue Macy

Vote! by Coral Celeste Frazer

Alice Paul and the Fight for Women's Rights by Deborah Kops

Votes for Women! by Winifred Conkling

Yard War



by Taylor Kitchings
Twelve-year-old Trip Westbrook lives in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1964 and discovers the underlying racism in his family and neighborhood when he invites his maid's son Dee to play football in the yard.

Appeal Factors

Themes: Facing racism

Character: Culturally diverse

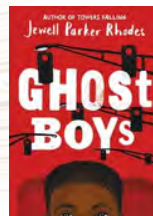
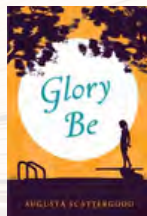
Storyline: Character-driven

Story Elements

Genres: Coming-of-age stories; Historical fiction

Subjects: African American boys; Families; Football; Interracial friendship; Neighbors; Preteen boys; Race relations; Racism; Twelve-year-old boys

Read-Alikes



Remember as You Pass Me By by L. King Perez

Glory Be by Augusta Scattergood

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had by Kristine Levine (Kristin Sims)



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