AHISD Library Books Procurement for Consideration

November 2026

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9780756577940	10 Ways to Use Less Energy	Amstutz, Lisa	
Woodridge	9798217039999	A day off school	Jeffers, Oliver	School Library Journal starred (June 1, 2026) Gr 1-4-Herbie wakes up with the sniffles one morning, and his parents say he should stay home. Initially, Herbie is excited by the freedom of no school. He plays video games and builds forts while he's eating breakfast and watching TV, but by lunchtime, he's bored. He starts imagining what's happening at school without him. What if aliens invade? What if dinosaurs come? What if a dog runs down the corridor? Suddenly, school seems a lot more interesting! He even starts to miss his sister. When she gets home, he imagines that he sees a space helmet in her backpack, and then he's determined to go to school the next day. The vibrant artwork helps to bring Herbie's most far-fetched ideas to life and to clearly show the conundrum of a day off from school. The youngest readers may have trouble connecting to the text, but elementary-age students will be able to clearly identify with Herbie. Teachers might use this book as a mentor text for writing or drawing or talking about what readers would do on a day off school. VERDICT This is an enjoyable story to read and will resonate with young readers. An excellent choice for any picture book collection.-Debbie Tanner © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798368753133	A veces, yo soy todo lo que necesito	Perdomo, Juliana	
Woodridge	9798318906336	Alrededor del Araniverso : un coleccion original de novelas graficas		School Library Journal Xpress (February 13, 2026) Gr 6-10-In a graphic novel collection of three individual and original stories, originally published as Around the Spider-Verse, teen iterations of the Spider-Man from different alternate universes fight against crime and supervillains while also battling regular teen issues, such as grieving the death of parent, boring school trips, and friendship woes. Anya Corazon (Araña), who is Latina, struggles to connect with her father, who is still reeling from her mother's death while he tries to uncover a supervillain auction led by the Kraven Hunter. Araña's tale also touches upon the femicides that have plagued the U.S.-Mexico border for decades, anchoring it in reality. Miles Morales (Spider-Man), who is Afro Latino, visits the Museum of Natural History, where Mysterio steals a mysterious tablet that brings the exhibits back to life. Gwen Stacy (Ghost-Spider), who is white, fights off an obsessed fan turned villain called the Jackal, who aims to destroy Gwen's feminist punk band. Every entry features the action and humor that fans of the Spider-verse have come to expect; it will also ring true with newcomers. Each story, though only a few pages long, has a complete narrative arc and well-crafted characterization. The art is dynamic and fresh, with jewel tones and fluid action across the panels. The Spanish translation feels seamless and adds to the authenticity of the representation. VERDICT Purchase this entertaining, culturally rich comics anthology for all Spanish-language graphic novel collections.-Shelley Diaz © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798874510749	Austin FC	Gillespie, Katie	
Woodridge	9780329655679	Babymouse. 6,Camp Babymouse	Holm, Jennifer L	Booklist (August 2007 (Vol. 103, No. 22)) Grades 3-5. Babymouse is convinced she'll have a great time at summer camp, never mind that she doesn't like the great outdoors. Despite her daydreams of derring-do, she succeeds only in getting into trouble, racking up an impressive number of demerits for her team, the Buttercups. What is she to do? This charming series entry, illustrated as in the familiar black, white, and pink, continues to put Babymouse into situations that most children will immediately recognize. The book's small, square size will fit perfectly into young hands, and the story promises great fun for both new comics readers and avid ones.
Woodridge	9798318945793 (Follett). 9781546135401 (Scholastic PB)	Baby-sitter's Little Sister Karen's New Year	Yingst, DK	
Woodridge	9781546174363 (Scholastic PB)	Baby-sitter's Club Super Special Baby-sitters on Board	Telegemeier, Raina	
Woodridge	9798318950896	Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones and her big fat mouth : the graphic novel	Venable, Colleen A. F	School Library Journal Xpress starred (June 26, 2026) K-Gr 3-Junie B. Jones and her kindergarten classmates are gearing up for career day. Mrs., her kindergarten teacher, brings in a series of career speakers, but Junie B. feels defeated because none of the jobs spark her interest. When her classmates begin sharing their own ideas, Junie B. takes inspiration from her peers for her own vision: a superhero painter with a set of keys. Meanie Jim and the others tease Junie B. for being a copycat, and she is frustrated that she opened her "big fat mouth" to create an impossible job. This adaptation of Park's beloved novel delivers plenty of laughs and gives a fresh take to the story that readers of all ages will adore. Beam expertly brings Junie B.'s hilarious character and spirit to life with bright colors and a cartoon style that complements the plotline and tone of each scene. The varied panels and vibrant spreads will capture and maintain the attention of young readers, who will cackle with Junie B. on her adventure to discover her dream job. VERDICT This installment in the Junie B. Jones graphic novel series is full of heart and will keep readers howling with laughter.-Angie Jameson © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9780593645734	Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones and some sneaky peeky spying : the graphic novel	Venable, Colleen A. F	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) PreS-Gr 3-Junie B. Jones discovers the excitement of spying, but her mother quickly bans it after Junie nearly scares her grandfather to death and repeatedly wakes up her baby brother. Curious about how her kindergarten teacher, who simply goes by Mrs., spends her time outside of school, Junie devises a plan to find her house and spy on her. Later that week, Junie spots Mrs. entering the grocery store and decides the spying can officially commence. She barely believes her eyes when Mrs. starts smooching a strange man and steals grapes right out of the bag. Keeping the secret consumes Junie B., and it becomes all she can think about at school. With dynamic panels, vibrant illustrations, and hysterical storytelling, this installment of the graphic novel series keeps pace with the first three releases and stands out as another exceptional adaptation. Readers will laugh out loud at Junie B.'s spunky personality, which is on full display throughout this hilarious adventure. The illustrations and dialogue work seamlessly together to create a delightful reading experience, while the panels featuring Junie B.'s inner thoughts are both wonderfully outrageous and absolutely brilliant. Junie and her family have tan skin; Mrs. has brown skin. VERDICT A remarkable rendition that stays true to the spirit of the original text; a must-have for elementary collections.-Angie Jameson © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9798368776989	Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones and the stupid smelly bus : the graphic novel	Venable, Colleen A. F	School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2025) K-Gr 2-The beloved and imperfect Junie B. Jones returns in a dynamic new graphic novel series that stays true to the curious, energetic Junie of years past. It starts readers at the first tale from the original series, in which six-year-old Junie is excited about beginning kindergarten but worries about having to ride the school bus. When Junie's first bus ride and its accompanying "bus breath" become too much to handle, Junie makes a decision that will take her on an adventure filled with dramatic flair-true to her style. Junie is visually akin to the original, and Beam's illustrations emphasize her wide range of big emotions. Junie sounds and acts like just as a child would and views the world with wonder, curiosity, fear, and joy. Large, expressive eyes, facial expressions, and body language add to the nervous excitement and are emphasized in wonderful three-panel sets to display the quick changes in Junie's emotions- like a true kindergartner. The graphic novel elements are geared towards younger ages to show how pictures and words need to be "read" for full understanding in the comic format. Junie's school world is realistic and modern, and her peers and teachers represent a range of identities and abilities. There is a reason this character has stood the test of time and Venable does a wonderful job reminding readers why. VERDICT A must-buy for any collection, whether Junie is new to readers or an old friend. Park could not ask for a better representation of her classic.-Danielle Schwessinger © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781250417220	Be the acorn	Griffin, Jason	School Library Journal Xpress (September 4, 2026) PreS-Gr 2-When their tree is gone and the family sets out to find a new home, the smallest squirrel discovers his own way to make a lasting impact. Faced with scarcity, the squirrel family searches for a new tree to inhabit, but Choko Choko is too young to join. This exclusion prompts a storm cloud of anger, confusion, frustration, and sadness. Great Haha, the family elder, comforts Choko Choko with advice: "Be the acorn." Later, when Choko Choko discovers an enormous acorn, he weighs eating it, carrying it home, or planting it and trusting that today's small act might grow into tomorrow's home. Griffin uses spare text that balances humor and feeling; the story gives young readers a clear model for sitting with strong emotions and never feels heavy-handed. Loose pencil linework and smoky, spray-paint clouds sit against buttery cream backgrounds. The oversized acorn, rendered with a tactile, scaly cap, is a satisfying visual payoff. Griffin lets the emotional beats build before comfort arrives. Grandpa and Great Haha, both leaning on canes, round out a multigenerational cast that meets Choko Choko with equal parts fuss and tenderness. VERDICT A gentle and visually distinctive story about patience, emotional regulation, and growing into one's possibilities.-Rose Garrett © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781250409676	Bear hair	Mack, Jeff	School Library Journal Xpress (June 12, 2026) PreS-Gr 2-In this fun and zippy tongue-twister of a story, a brown bear and a bare hare tussle over who gets to wear a silly, bright blue hairpiece. With text limited almost entirely to two sets of homophones, bear and hare's antics are straightforward and goofy: bear admires his newfound wig, hare jumps on bear to snatch it away, bear steps on the hair to keep it from hare, and so on. While the rhyming, repeating language is fun to read, much of the story is carried by the energetic art. With simple compositions against white and solid-colored backdrops, Mack's textured illustrative style creates a tactile illusion where readers almost expect to feel real fur and hair when touching the page. To aid readers in keeping the homophones straight, each iteration appears in a different colored font that matches the color of the illustrated character or item. Although well intended, this feature may not be accessible to readers who are colorblind or have low vision. Despite these textual supports, homophones are a challenging language concept, and the twisting iterations of the same small group of words may perplex the earliest readers. As hare and bear eventually learn, some things are better shared; likewise, this book may be best facilitated as a read-aloud. VERDICT A first purchase for collections supporting story times and classroom sharing.-Kasey Swords © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798384961949	Boba Fett	Hansen, Grace	
Woodridge	9780823461141	Bored	Sala, Felicita	School Library Journal starred (November 1, 2025) PreS-Gr 3-Boredom can feel unbearable. And yet, riding its wave can be fuel for some of the most fantastic and creative adventures! Rita is so bored that even repeating the word "bored" out loud 100 times can't snap her out of it. Exhausted by her boredom, she retreats to Bored Island, a refuge for all the bored people in the world and a place where boredom can take many different forms, like playing with driftwood, performing in a band, or accidentally discovering new galaxies. Sala perfectly captures the intolerable nature of boredom and how, when left uninterrupted, it can be a portal to infinite possibilities. Her concise writing allows for soft, whimsical, watercolorlike illustrations to fill the page with effect. As Rita's imagination grows, so does Sala's palette, replacing the white space of boredom with rainbow colors and full-bleed spreads of unknown worlds. VERDICT A fantastic depiction of the upside of boredom-readers will easily relate to Rita's desperation while feeling bored and feel inspired by the places that the feeling takes her.-Sarah Pousty © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781611804690	Breathing makes it better : a book for sad days, mad days, glad days, and all the feelings in-between	Willard, Christopher	
Woodridge	9781464233067	Butt or face? Vol. 4,Ador-a-butts!	Lavelle, Kari	Kirkus Reviews (December 15, 2025) The fourth entry in a tail-wagging game for young animal lovers. With a fresh set of artfully angled and framed photos, Lavelle again challenges viewers to guess whether they're looking at the "fetching faces" or "beguiling butts" of 13 creatures, from a pink fairy armadillo to an emperor penguin. Turning the page reveals not only the answer, with a full-body photo, but boxes of pun-laden invitations to "Face the Facts" or go "Beyond the Backside" to learn a few basics about each animal's habits and habitat. "You can't spell 'repeat' without e-a-t," she writes, for example, about the quokka's habit of chowing down on food it has just barfed up, and thanks to coral-like tubercules on its skin that help it hide from predators, the reef-dwelling pygmy seahorse is "hard to sea!" "What a re-leaf!" she notes after describing how, once a week, sloths slowly travel to the forest floor to defecate. As usual, she ends with a clever kicker—a baby wombat peeking from its mom's backward facing pouch, so that both answers are correct—on the way to closing deposits of additional data. Fundament-ally sound approach to natural history, with built-in hilarity. (author's note, sources, map) (Informational picture book. 5-7)
Woodridge	9798886083767	Butt or face? Vol. 5,Rainbow butts	Lavelle, Kari	
Woodridge	9798384961956	C-3po & R2-D2	Hansen, Grace	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9798875210297	Can you escape a haunted museum? : an interactive paranormal adventure	Peterson, Megan Cooley	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 4-6-According to the publisher, these adventures are based on actual places "inspired by reports from real people." Thus, the venues, historical information, dates, phenomena, persons (except for story characters) are genuine. Each adventure begins with protagonists joining an organized "ghost tour" of a location and concludes with them having encountered paranormal phenomena. The text is designed to be read in short bursts to facilitate fast-paced, atmospheric reading-very suitable for this material and also appropriate for striving readers. Each volume's final chapter is a discussion of whether the locale's phenomena are real, and pits ghost hunters and their equipment (occasionally pictured) against skeptics. The narrative ultimately leaves matters open-ended, asking readers what they think. Some story conclusions are more satisfying than others. VERDICT Recommended for schools and public collections. Spooky but not too terrifying, and readers will glean a few historical tidbits as they go. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798875210341	Can you escape a haunted theater? : an interactive paranormal adventure	Peterson, Megan Cooley	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 4-6-According to the publisher, these adventures are based on actual places "inspired by reports from real people." Thus, the venues, historical information, dates, phenomena, persons (except for story characters) are genuine. Each adventure begins with protagonists joining an organized "ghost tour" of a location and concludes with them having encountered paranormal phenomena. The text is designed to be read in short bursts to facilitate fast-paced, atmospheric reading-very suitable for this material and also appropriate for striving readers. Each volume's final chapter is a discussion of whether the locale's phenomena are real, and pits ghost hunters and their equipment (occasionally pictured) against skeptics. The narrative ultimately leaves matters open-ended, asking readers what they think. Some story conclusions are more satisfying than others. VERDICT Recommended for schools and public collections. Spooky but not too terrifying, and readers will glean a few historical tidbits as they go. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781496696007	Can you stop a volcanic disaster?	Doeden, Matt	School Library Journal (April 1, 2021) Gr 4-6-This series is a collection of interactive adventures where the reader is a scientist on a mission to save the day and the planet. There are, of course, consequences for choices that can result in catastrophic losses, but there are also exhilarating moments of field action. Readers can experience the greatest joys of fieldwork from home with these updated choose-your-own-adventure style STEM titles. Each book includes an information section to teach more about the topics, from endangered species to tectonics and volcanoes, after the conclusion of the adventures. These titles can be solo adventures or even more fun in a group setting where cooperation is paired with critical thinking. VERDICT An interactive activity wrapped in the trappings of an adventure story that encourages students to think as scientists while problem-solving different fieldwork scenarios. © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798318912085	Cat Loaf adventures. Vol. 1	kat.ariyn	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 2-6-Kat.ariyn's humorous web comic will quickly become a favorite for established fans and those brand new to the work. Cat Loaf is an adorable combination of a cat and a loaf of bread. They live in a bakery with other food-shaped friends like Rye Loaf, Cinnabuns, and Mousses, and love to explore with a tendency toward ending up in silly and pun-filled situations. Readers of all ages who love adorable things and humor will enjoy this graphic novel. It combines slice-of-life entries with longer storylines that have an element of adventure and questing to keep the pages turning. There are strong themes of friendship, social skills, and breaking out of the expected alongside the silly joyful situations. Younger readers may have trouble understanding the puns and the unusual misspellings sprinkled throughout. The digitally rendered art is fitting in its adorable nature with excellent attention played to expression and movement, which could be challenging for bread-shaped characters, but is well done. VERDICT An easy and light read. Give this to fans of series like Georgia Dunn's "Breaking Cat News" and Konami Kanata's "Sue & Tai-chan."-Taylor Skorski © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798384961963	Chewbacca	Hansen, Grace	
Woodridge	9781665990646	Chicka chicka peep peep	Chung, Julien	Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2025) The classic picture book Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (1989) gets a makeover for Easter as the letters of the alphabet locate and decorate eggs. The mission is simple: "Chicka chicka peek peek. / Everybody seek seek! / Find all the eggs / in the pretty pink tree." The letters are making their way up the flowering tree in search of the hidden eggs when a "SNEEZE!" scatters everyone and the eggs fall and crack. Luckily, a bunny hops by with a haul of new ones, which the letters then paint and bedazzle, eventually sharing the newly decorated eggs with a group of bunnies. This picture book is a successfully Easter-fied version of the original: The letters go up; the letters fall down. Truly, though, that's all the preschool crowd needs. Chung's illustrations are simple and familiar, a direct echo of Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. The letters appear in colorful, bold, block form. The book has few added details, just focal images like the tree and its pink flowers, the colorful eggs, tufts of grass, and some friendly rabbits. The alphabet appears in order (both upper- and lowercase letters) at the book's open and close. The rhyming text follows the iconic cadence of the source material, making for a worthy read-aloud that will keep little hands turning pages. A sweet, springtime-themed reworking of a beloved tale. (Picture book. 3-5)
Woodridge	9798874532208	Coco Gauff	Cucini, Sara	
Woodridge	9780823457984	Como se come un mango	Santos, Paola	School Library Journal Xpress starred (September 13, 2024) PreS-Gr 2-Carmencita is not that excited to help her grandmother in cutting and picking up mangoes from the trees in their backyard. In the process of grabbing mangoes, Carmencita expresses that she doesn't even like mangoes. Her grandmother tells her that she doesn't like them because she doesn't know how to eat them; the girl then learns that it takes more than a bite to understand mangoes. Mango trees, in addition to offering a delicious fruit, provide leaves, roots, branches, and growth parallel to life changes and experiences. Food and crops connect families and lands through Earth's natural gifts. Digital, colorful illustrations capture the granddaughter and grandmother's love and bond as well as Caribbean countryside landscapes that move beyond the usual beaches and tourist perspectives. VERDICT A perfect addition to Spanish-language collections.-Sujei Lugo © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9781250417251	Curious capybara	Mello, Natali de	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2026) A capybara wants more out of life. How many recent kids' books have been narrated by a capybara? In this one, the bespectacled narrator explains that "my family and I live where the river bends. Where the grass stings our legs, and the warm sunlight is perfect for a nap." The trouble is, there isn't much to do. One day the capybara heads to the river and discovers a book that features interesting plants and animals, all of which can be found elsewhere. After setting off on foot to locate these specimens, the capybara is waylaid by a seemingly insurmountable obstacle but saved by—what luck!—a yellow kite. The capybara grabs the kite's string, and the journey leads to encounters with "all kinds of marvelous, friendly, and not-so-weird creatures, surrounded by crystal-blue water!" So much for boredom. But there's still a problem: "If only my family could see" this new world. "But how would I bring them here?" By this point, readers will have no doubt that the capybara, equally capable and curious, will figure something out. De Mello's subdued mixed-media art sticks with colors found in nature, which suits the book's mission to introduce readers to the natural world and highlight the importance of biodiversity—although the word is confined to an author's note (also included are tips on helping the environment). Happily, the capybara speaks the language of de Mello's target readership: curious littles. Readers should enjoy tagging along with the curious, capable, and supercute capybara. (Picture book. 3-6)
Woodridge	9798875255564	Cyclops vs. Ogre	Sautter, A.J.	
Woodridge	9798318950643	Dare you to dance	Mock, Rebecca	School Library Journal (June 1, 2026) Gr 5-8-Rivals in a ballet school hash it out for dance glory. Small town Ohioan Gracie is a star back home and has big dreams, but she is attending the Youth Dance Summer Workshop in New York and realizes the best in her state is average in NYC. Not only is she intimidated by the cutthroat vibes of everyone around her, but to make matters worse, she meets Sariah, a local prodigy with much fame but no friends. Gracie knows she has a lot to learn, but she chooses to challenge Sariah to be rivals to push herself to achieve the very most she can. But her competition is dealing with her own growth spurt pain and issues from past injuries, and it seems that Gracie is chasing a cloud of smoke. As the end of term showcase quickly approaches, Gracie will have to focus and ask herself if challenging Sariah at every turn is worth losing the coveted main role. This fast-paced graphic novel touches on a less-explored demographic of ballerinas and dancers. With expressive faces, bold colors, and dramatic sequences, readers are immersed in an intense story of competition, proving oneself, rivalry, and secrets. A glossary will help readers with the mostly French terms used in ballet. Gracie is white; Sariah is Black. VERDICT A great addition to collections where realistic fiction in graphic novel format is in high demand. A recommended purchase for middle school libraries.-Carolina Youssif © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798384961970	Darth Vader	Hansen, Grace	
Woodridge	9781489871862	Dawn	Hunter, Erin	Booklist (December 1, 2005 (Vol. 102, No. 7)) Gr. 6-9. The third book in Warriors: The New Prophecy series finds the four clans being driven from their territories as the "Twolegs"relentlessly denude the forest with their huge machines. The small band of cats that undertook a quest for the StarClan returns home with a new mission: to persuade all the clans to unify for a long, dangerous journey to a new home. The feline characters remain true to their natures, and, as expected, the danger level is high. Fans will relish this eminently satisfying episode in a series rooted in Hunter's first Warriors novel, Into the Wild (2002).
Woodridge	9798225030629	Dinosaur destruction	Pallotta, Jerry	
Woodridge	9798217316021	Dk Super Readers Level 3 Star Wars Beware Maul!		
Woodridge	9781546199359	Dog Man : a sprinkle in time	Pilkey, Dav	
Woodridge	9781489891457	Eclipse	Hunter, Erin	Horn Book Guide (Spring 2009) Jaypaw, Hollypaw, and Lionpaw return to the lake, stepping back into clan life and wrestling with their knowledge of the prophecy. Sol, a loner, brings warning of an eclipse, and his presence threatens to break up the clans. The familiar cats are as engaging as always, but without a concrete quest the story feels disconnected.
Woodridge	9798368789897	El brujo del invierno	Ostertag, Lee Knox	
Woodridge	9781546119722	El club de comics de Supergatito. Influencers	Pilkey, Dav	
Woodridge	9798318914652	El Gran Incendio de Chicago, 1871	Tarshis, Lauren	
Woodridge	9781536216417	Elena monta en bici	Medina, Juana	School Library Journal (June 1, 2023) Gr 1-3-Elena is a determined elephant with a faithful bird friend. She puts on her helmet, gets on her bike, and starts to ride. Unfortunately, Elena has a few falls and bumps along the way. She tries hard to ride her bike and her friend flies with her every step of the way. After one too many falls, she becomes equally determined never to ride that bike again. But her steadfast pal gives her the encouragement she needs. With a renewed confidence, and help from her friend, Elena rides up and down hills, she rides fast, she rides slow. She can ride a bike! This sweet story about doing difficult things will have children rooting for Elena to get back up again. Medina's simple text and liberal use of white space make this a helpful work for emerging readers. The bright illustrations and strong lines will keep kids engaged, while the friendship story will ring true. VERDICT This repeated and reassuring text will remind beginning readers that no matter how many times you may fall, you can always try again.-Melanie Ortega © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781614794424	Ezra's duel with danger	Kogge, Michael	
Woodridge	9780756574154	Facing Your Fear of Bugs	Biermann, Renee	
Woodridge	9788448854355	Felix y Calcita. 1	Laperla	
Woodridge	9788448854980	Felix y Calcita. 2,Nunca enfades a un gigante	Laperla	Kirkus Reviews (August 15, 2022) A kid and his purple friend reunite for another trip to the Land of the Trolls. Felix, a redheaded White boy, has a portal to a world of trolls in his bedroom toy box. As he searches his messy room for Robocan, his remote-controlled dog, he falls into the other world. But we've been here before. In this sequel, Felix is soon paired back up with Calcite the troll on a quest to find the robot. They meet Tourmaline, the great troll witch; ride a flying Rockadactyl (a pterodactyl made of stone), and escape the laser eye beams of Garganto, a giant guardian blocking the way through a gorge. Unsurprisingly, Robocan shows up to help, and Felix ends up back home with another this-happened-then-this-happened story under his belt. In its attempt to widen the world of Felix and Calcite from the first volume, this book instead repeats most of the beats and tries to make up for its thin story with fantasy elements that never feel particularly clever, original, or visually interesting. Felix has no personality, and in this book, at least, Calcite doesn't do much but tag along on Felix's quest. Games such as an invitation to search the cartoon artwork for a hidden spider begin and end the book. An uninspired installment in an equally uninteresting graphic-fantasy series. (Graphic early reader. 7-9)

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9788448856809	Felix y Calcita. 3,En busca de la piedra limosa	Laperla	
Woodridge	9798318950476	Fight or flight	Kinney, Jeff	
Woodridge	9781489864116	Fire and ice	Hunter, Erin	School Library Journal (September 1, 2003) Gr 5 Up-After having left his life as a kittypet, apprentice Firepaw of the ThunderClan has been given his warrior name of Fireheart and his first mission-to find the WindClan and assist them back to their traditional hunting grounds. While he and his friend Graystripe are successful in their quest, Fireheart knows that trouble is brewing, and he isn't sure that the ThunderClan's deputy can be trusted. As events escalate, a warrior from RiverClan is accidentally killed, an apprentice is injured, and Fireheart brings into the Clan a kittypet kitten-his nephew-without thinking of the consequences. Finally, he must decide who to trust and who to fight. Readers not familiar with the first book may find this one hard to follow. Hunter provides a directory that tells which cats are in which clans, but it is cumbersome to flip back and forth. The characterizations of the animals are somewhat flat, although it is possible to tell them apart, and the plot's twists and turns seem mapped out and predictable. Librarians with a readership for Into the Wild (HarperCollins, 2003) will probably want this volume; others can pass.-Lisa Prolman, Greenfield Public Library, MA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information.
Woodridge	9798318920509	Formula One racing	Wilson, Sierra	
Woodridge	9798318910647	Fox catches a wave	Tabor, Corey R	School Library Journal (January 1, 2026) K-Gr 2-This latest addition to the Fox-led "I Can Read" series sees the nonverbal vulpine protagonist embarking on a unique trip. How is Fox going to travel? By catching a bus, a train, or perhaps a plane? The answer is none of the above: he is going to catch a wave! Bright, pleasing artwork, done in pencil, watercolor, and colored pencil and assembled digitally, depicts the fearless fox "catching" increasingly humorous and impossible items as he attempts to reach his destination via surfboard. Catching a wave leads to catching a beach ball, which leads to a surprise trip down a waterfall. The adventurer even manages to catch a rainbow! Eventually, Fox catches his breath and catches a cold, deferring his intended trip to tomorrow. Youngsters will love the call-and-response style of the opening pages. "Is Fox going to catch a train? Nope." Sparse, legible text allows the gently playful illustrations to shine, provides room for giggle-inducing sound effects ("ACHOO"), and gives space for reader interaction and predictions about Fox's next catch. VERDICT Perfect for both one-on-one and read-aloud settings, this is a charming and age-appropriate foray into silliness.-Ashleigh Williams © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781536229684	Giant cuttlefish : chameleon of the sea	Alexander, Elaine M	Horn Book Magazine (May/June, 2026) Readers follow a male giant cuttlefish as he develops from a hatchling the size of a "plump raisin" to his fully grown form with a mantle the size of a football. Alexander and Orodan detail the dramatic life of this "chameleon of the sea" as he ventures away from his nursery. Both a predator and prey, Giant Cuttlefish camouflages himself with a "lightning-quick costume change," devours an opossum shrimp with a "crunch," and escapes from a dolphin in a "puff of ink." When it's time to find a mate, the cephalopod returns to the shallow Australian waters where he was born, identifies a mate, "flashes his chromatophores to impress her," and safeguards her eggs. Alexander's text then matter-of-factly informs readers that "soon he will fade, until all that is left of him is a buoyant cuttlebone, to be washed ashore like driftwood," and Orodan pays tribute with a noticeably paler, listless protagonist on the ocean floor. Throughout, the boldly colored, digitally rendered full-bleed illustrations draw readers into the underwater habitat. Close-up views of the creature, as well as varied perspectives of him attacking prey and hiding from predators, provide an eye-to-eye look at this mysterious being. Extensive illustrated back matter includes a glossary, a bibliography, and expanded information about the life cycle of the giant cuttlefish, as well as its adaptations, hunting and mating behaviors, and threats. Shelley Isaacson May/June 2026 p.97
Woodridge	9781338830996	Goodbye, koi	Wong, Jack	School Library Journal Xpress starred (September 4, 2026) K-Gr 3-A young boy and his father rehome their pet koi fish from an indoor tank to an outdoor pond before a move from Hong Kong to Canada. Wong uses two styles of Chinese brush painting: clear, precise linework for the boy and his family and flowing brushstrokes for the koi in their watery home. The boy serves as narrator, and he's full of quiet musings, wondering what the fish will think of their new home: "It's hard to tell with fish. They don't bark when they're upset or wag their tails when they're happy." After saying goodbye to the koi, the boy and his father make other preparations for their move, stopping by a thrift shop and a market before a final gathering with relatives. Spreads alternate between koi and people, and between full-bleed paintings and sequential illustrations. Wong employs a variety of perspectives-from above, from below, from the side-and expertly depicts different times of day, from bright daylight to long evening shadows to neon lights shining in a dark night. Interiors have a warm yellow tone, cozy and nostalgic. The final spread before the author's note shows an airplane in "the big blue sky," with white clouds floating koi-like in the sky. VERDICT This quiet stunner of a story centers a child's perspective about an important transition. A first purchase for all collections.-Jenny Arch © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798384961987	Han Solo	Hansen, Grace	
Woodridge	9798225030186	Hombre Perro. Juan el Grande cree	Pilkey, Dav	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 3-7-Dog Man and his fellow superhero friends come to the rescue once again in this Spanish-language translation of Dog Man: Big Jim Believes. Space Cuties from Space return to wreak havoc, and Dog Man (aka Scarlet Shedder), Commander Cupcake, and Sprinkles assemble to aid their city. Pilkey's iconic art and humor are on full display here, along with the signature bright palette and childlike illustrations; longtime fans will be pleased. The opening pages include a "Who's Who" section that will help readers new to the series, though familiarity with the previous volumes will enhance reading enjoyment. Threaded throughout are themes of self-belief, confidence, and trust that good will always win out in the end. Readers will be inspired by these thought-provoking ideas, all while laughing at the characters' high jinks and adventures. VERDICT Spanish readers will delight in the latest installment of the super-popular series.-Shelley Diaz © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9780823453887	How to eat a mango	Santos, Paola	School Library Journal Xpress starred (June 21, 2024) PreS-Gr 2-Lyrical and poetic, this book teaches children to slow down and engage with the world around them in a more meaningful way. A child named Carmencita learns to appreciate the sweet sensations of eating a mango as she bonds with Abuelita. Carmencita complains that she doesn't like eating mangoes while she helps her grandmother sort the ripe mangoes from a tree. "They are sticky and get stuck between my teeth!" Her grandmother gently teaches Carmencita to appreciate mangoes, guiding her to use her five senses to savor the sweet fruit. She learns to listen to the tree's whispers in the breeze, look at the tall branches and see how the mangoes hang like baubles, smell the sweetness of the fruit, touch the soft and firm skin of the fruit, and finally taste the juicy sweetness, which evokes a colorful explosion of her family dancing and playing music. Santos's semi-autobiographical picture book recounts the memories of picking up rancid, rotten mangoes that fell from the backyard trees from her childhood in Venezuela, before she emigrated to Canada and before she appreciated the abundance of the sweet fruit. Looking back, the mangoes evoke sublime memories of bonding with her family, culture, and Mother Earth. Perdomo's gorgeous illustrations bring fully to life the multitude of senses one can experience from picking and eating a sweet, plump mango on a warm day with a loved one. VERDICT A vibrant picture book that sets up a wonderful way for individual readers or an entire classroom to reflect on the natural wonders all around them.-Jane Huh © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798217026050	I'm so happy you're here : a celebration of library joy	Threets, Mychal	School Library Journal (May 1, 2026) K-Gr 3-Literacy advocate Threets invites young listeners into the library, celebrating all it must offer its youngest patrons. Former librarian, social media sensation, and, most recently, host of the rebooted Reading Rainbow, Threets opens with a warm, inviting tone, supported by upbeat music that enhances the audio experience. His energetic narration brings enthusiasm and immediacy. While his performance engages, it also draws attention to itself, shaping the listening experience and occasionally distracting from the story's arc. The book's inclusive message-welcoming everyone, including both housed and unhoused community members, and emphasizing how easy it is to get a library card-along with its encouragement to share the library with family and friends, adds meaningful warmth. A highlight of the audiobook is the use of sound effects when introducing the many things one can do at the library: each activity is paired with an appropriate, child-friendly sound and given time to unfold in a way that feels familiar and engaging to young listeners. VERDICT A joyful and inclusive introduction to the library, driven by strong production and Threets's genuine love for an institution that provides much more than just a space for books.-Amelia Kmiec © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781665971409	Incredibly fast and not at all fun	Bentley, Tadgh	Kirkus Reviews starred (March 1, 2026) A bear who just wants a bit of quiet accidentally comes up with the thrill seeker's favorite ride. Who knew that, as an omniscient narrator puts it, "the world's first roller coaster was invented almost entirely by mistake"? We learn that it was the work of a bear who wanted "a quick and easy way to get from the stillness of home…to the calm of his beehives." The Honey Runner, as Bear dubs his creation—a wooden cart on an elevated track—is faster and steeper than he'd like it to be, but it attracts the attention of an assortment of animals who clamor to ride it. The Honey Runner becomes a sensation, and Bear has no choice but to add more carts to satisfy the curious. The humor in this "different strokes" story stems from Bear's cluelessness regarding his invention's appeal. "Why would anyone want to be jostled around like that?" he wonders. He has a brainstorm: Surely if he builds a steeper slope, riders will be turned off? Bentley gives the bulbous-snouted inventor a hilariously skeptical expression throughout the book's digital art, created with a sun-kissed woodsy palette. The best gag is saved for last: In search of a peaceful life, Bear leaves the Honey Runner behind for a spot beside a waterfall, which readers won't fail to observe would make a fantastic waterslide. (It does.) Wheeeee! A great ride. (Picture book. 4-8)
Woodridge	9798318952838	Junie B. Jones tiene un hermano monisimo	Venable, Colleen A. F	School Library Journal Xpress (June 12, 2026) Gr 1-4-Fans of the Junie B. Jones series will enjoy this Spanish-language edition of the graphic novel adaptation of Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business, which portrays the moment that the irrepressible heroine learns that she is about to become a big sister. After realizing that her parents' "big surprise" can't be wrapped up in a box, Grandmother's startling comment about her baby brother feeds Junie B.'s imagination, and she decides he should come to show-and-tell at school. Filled with comics panels of classroom scenes and moments that depict Junie B.'s home life, this version is adeptly adapted by Venable and cleverly illustrated by Beam with colorist Byrd. This delightful account offers elementary readers ample opportunity to unpack emblematic Spanish vocabulary while also deciphering how Junie B.'s friendships will change as she welcomes a sibling into her life. Filled with the usual iconic moments that turn Junie B.'s life upside-down, this graphic novel for emerging and newly independent readers takes Junie B. and her classmates-Gloria, Lucy, and fleeting love-interest Ricardo-on another coming-of-age journey with hilarious results. Educators and parents alike will find this edition a useful text to address how taking on new responsibilities is a joyful part of growing up. VERDICT This is a Spanish-language must-purchase for graphic novel collections.-Sharon Sherman © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798318952845	Junie B. Jones y el autobus apestoso	Venable, Colleen A. F	
Woodridge	9780063324633	Just One Gift	Park, Linda Sue	Booklist starred (April 1, 2026 (Vol. 122, No. 15))Grades 3-7. Ms. Chang assigns her language arts students an intriguing task prompted by drawing slips of paper from a hat stating Family, Friends, or ?—referring to people in the students' personal circles, with ? being someone who is neither family nor friend (teacher, preacher, babysitter, etc.). The challenge begins: "If you could give someone special in your life just one gift, who would you choose, and what would it be?" It cannot be monetary or fantastical and must be something they have never asked for, to promote critical thinking. Park's story in verse is told via modified linked poems inspired by the Korean sijo poetry form. The diverse representation of characters lends itself to the variety of both tangible and intangible gift ideas, from a restaurant for Abuela to cook Honduran food in, drawing lessons for a brother, a cure for diabetes for mom, plane tickets for a teacher to visit their grandchild in Nepal, and more. The voices of the students are reflective, appreciative, and empathetic—as are their interactions with one another.
Woodridge	9781532140686	Kanan's Jedi training	Schaefer, Elizabeth	
Woodridge	9798318964374	Karen Se Corta El Pelo = Karen's Haircut	Farina, Katy	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9781547619641	Keep the Ghost Light On	Messner, Kate	School Library Journal starred (October 1, 2026) Gr 4-8-It's summer 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and Broadway is still dark, except for the ghost lights. Middle schoolers Daphne, Luna, and Felix take advantage of an empty theatre and use Luna's neighbor's key to break in and rehearse their own musical. Then strange things begin to happen. This theatre is haunted by the ghost of a wronged showgirl seeking justice. Drawn to Daphne, the ghost chooses her to help uncover the truth. With the help of Luna, Felix, and the ghost herself, Daphne sets out to decipher what the ghost wants and how she can help her. The book alternates between third-person prose chapters and chapters from the ghost's point of view, written as a script. Song lyrics and letters are also included. Wonderfully written and filled with characters who are likable and relatable, readers will enjoy solving the mystery with Daphne, Luna, and Felix. Incorporating themes of friendship and overcoming embarrassment rounds out this spooky mystery. Even though the story takes place during 2020, Messner skillfully incorporates the experiences of the time without allowing the pandemic to take over. While the theatres and ghosts mentioned in the book are fictional, Messner includes references to real theatres and their ghosts, and, in an author's note, shares her research and inspiration for the book. Daphne and Luna are described as white and Felix as Latine. VERDICT Part ghost story, part mystery, complete enjoyment; highly recommended for all collections.-Amanda Borgia © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798874534332	Kylian Mbappe	Cucini, Sara	
Woodridge	9798318948626	La Clase Del Sr. Lobo (Mr. Wolf's Class)	Steinke, Aron Nels	
Woodridge	9798368752624	La hermanita de las nineras. 5,La foto escolar de Karen	Farina, Katy	
Woodridge	9798318905940	La hermanita de las nineras. 6,El cumpleanos de Karen	Farina, Katy	
Woodridge	9798318975363	Las Gemelas De Sweet Valley Mejores Amigas (Libro 1) (The Sweet Valley TwinsB	Pascal, Francine	
Woodridge	9781536257847	Leon de biblioteca	Knudsen, Michelle	School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2026) PreS-Gr 3-A lion arrives at the library and changes everything in this picture book that will delight young readers. It is a normal day at the library when in walks a lion. Señor Mosquera lets the librarian, señora Plácida, know there is a lion in the library, but she reminds him that if he isn't breaking any rules, then she doesn't see any problem with that. The lion looks around and stays for storytime, but when the stories end for the day, he lets out a big roar, causing señora Plácida to let him know that he mustn't be so loud if he wants to enjoy the library. The lion visits every day, helping with tasks and staying for storytime. One day, as he is helping señora Plácida, she falls and, not knowing what else to do, the lion gets the attention of señor Mosquera with his big roar. After breaking the rules, he leaves the library, which just isn't the same without him. The acrylic and pencil illustrations exquisitely share the warmth and welcoming environment of the library, and the characters and their activities portray the wonder of everything a library provides. The Spanish text brings the characters to life and provides a feeling of calm and wonder. This picture book about an incredible lion is a beautiful appreciation of libraries, a message of acceptance of others, and a reminder that sometimes it is necessary to break the rules. The librarians have pale skin, and other characters have a variety of skin tones. VERDICT A must-have for Spanish picture book collections.-Selenia Paz © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798874534288	Lionel Messi	Cucini, Sara	
Woodridge	9781665974943	Loops	Awan, Jashar	School Library Journal Xpress starred (March 27, 2026) PreS-Gr 2-This story turns a small, everyday struggle of learning to tie shoelaces into a grand, emotionally resonant adventure. Awan, a Caldecott Honor and Geisel Honor winner, captures the exact frequency of a child's pride and the sudden, wobbling panic when things don't go as planned. The story follows a child with tan skin and dark hair who has finally graduated to "big-kid shoes." The only problem? They are a little too big, and the laces just won't stay tied. What follows is a fast-paced, "looping" narrative where the hero swings between the triumph of a successful knot and the frustration of a shoe slipping off again. The illustration uses a vibrant, vintage screen-print aesthetic-bold golds, turquoises, and reds pop off the page. The horizontal format is used brilliantly to mimic the energy of a playground. The character moves across the page with a frenetic, joyful energy that feels very much like a real five-year-old. The repetition in the text mirrors the way children actually learn. Awan's book doesn't lecture; it demonstrates that failing and re-tying are just parts of the same process. The magic of this story is its emotional calibration. It respects how monumental even a small setback feels to a child. When the shoe goes missing, the resulting meltdown feels understandable and realistic. It's a book about perseverance that feels like a conversation rather than a lesson. VERDICT A colorful, high-energy, and deeply empathetic book, perfect for children currently battling their own loops.-Tara Rollins © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798368752587	Los Tipos Malos en la elegida?!	Blabey, Aaron	
Woodridge	9798318907890	Los Tipos Malos en los tienes detrazzz	Blabey, Aaron	
Woodridge	9798384961994	Luke Skywalker	Hansen, Grace	
Woodridge	9798368751504	Magic tree house fact trackers graphic novel. Dinosaurs	Laird, Jenny	School Library Journal starred (February 1, 2025) Gr 1-5-There's a reason kids love "Magic Tree House," and this fact tracker on dinosaurs is a perfect example of why. In a very thorough introduction to dinosaurs of all kinds, readers will learn about flesh-eaters and plant-eaters, where they roamed, how they died, and how scientists have built a collection of information about the amazing beasts. For students yearning to understand the history of Earth yet struggling the grasp the huge expanse of time, this graphic novel helps simplify the concepts in clear and meaningful ways. Expert illustrations make the ancient beasts come alive for readers. One can almost feel the spikes on the ankylosaurus. Also included are explanations about tools and methods, famous scientists, and a few monumental mistakes. This book provides a thorough overview of all things dinosaur in a captivating manner. For pleasure reading or for information, this is a valuable reference tool for educators and students alike. Quick facts about dinosaur anatomy, geographic range, and extinction can aid class discussions about geology and Earth science. VERDICT Purchase several copies. Your dinosaur fans will hate returning this one.-Darby Wallace © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9798368792156	Magic tree house fact trackers graphic novel. Space	Nakamura, Mei	School Library Journal Xpress (August 2, 2025) Gr 1-5-Space is a perennially popular topic for elementary school nonfiction, and with the graphic novel format and the "Magic Tree House" characters Jack and Annie guiding the way, this book rises above the pack. This entry in the series covers a lot of ground in nine chapters, from the history of astronomy to the future of space travel. The conversational tone keeps things light, and the writing breaks concepts down in a way that is easy to comprehend. For example, the narrators help readers conceptualize big numbers by comparing how many marbles it would take to fill a small car (a million), versus a sports stadium (a trillion). The pages about the planets in our Solar System provide fun and unique facts on each one. The chapter on space travel notably gives equal credit to achievements by both the United States and the Soviet Union, concluding with the international cooperation of the ISS. For readers who are ready to do their own research, the back matter provides excellent guidance on how to use books, museums, and the internet for further fact tracking. VERDICT Strongly recommended for purchase for the nonfiction shelves; both space fanatics and "Magic Tree House" fans will be racing to read it.-Allison McLean © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798318944819	Magic tree house fact trackers graphic novel. Titanic	Hashimoto, Meika	
Woodridge	9798318912078	Max, a little axolotl: an original graphic novel. Breaking out!2	Spiotto, Joey	
Woodridge	9780525554943	Mi papi tiene una moto	Quintero, Isabel	Horn Book Magazine (May/June, 2019) Quintero
Woodridge	9781536229882	Mi perro solo habla espanol	Caceres, Andrea	Horn Book Magazine (May/June, 2023) Aurora learned English when she came to the United States, but Nena, her cute brown and white spaniel, onlyunderstands commands given in Spanish. "She doesn't know WAIT, but she knows ESPERA." At the dog park, when someone throws a ball and yells "'FETCH'...Nena joins in only when Aurora yells 'BUSCALA!'" While Aurora helps Nena navigate the English-speaking world outside, she communicates with Nena in Spanish at home. The illustrations show household objects tagged with yellow sticky notes displaying both English and Spanish words. This book gently explores the idea of second-language acquisition, children who translate for others, and code switching, suggesting patience with those who learn at different speeds. "Aurora is not concerned that Nena doesn't know English yet, because she will always be there to help." Colorful, happy digitally rendered illustrations show the closeness between girl and dog, and Nena's friendly, affectionate nature. Concurrently published in Spanish as Mi perro solo habla espanol. Julie Hakim Azzam May/June 2023 p.115
Woodridge	9798368752594	Miles Morales corrientes extranas : una novela grafrica de El Hombre Arana	Reynolds, Justin A	
Woodridge	9781546160182	Millie Fleur's worst day ever/	Mandin, Christy	Kirkus Reviews (July 15, 2026) A tough start turns into a good day. Millie Fleur, a goofy goth girl bearing a resemblance to Wednesday Addams, has finally settled into her new town, Garden Glen. This latest entry in the series finds her preparing for the Butterbloom Fest. She wants to make her "whizbang wonder cake" for the bake-off; in her eagerness to succeed, she sets herself up for failure. She stays up too late researching and wakes up with a case of the "morgenmuffels," a grouchy mood embodied by a crew of fluffy monsters sporting spiky purple horns and tiny purple pants. Millie's ill-fated pastry preparation produces a towering, teetering cake monster with drippy blue icing and googly eyes. Millie treks to the festival carrying the cake, the morgenmuffels, and an unwieldy assortment of household objects on her back. Utterly overwhelmed but refusing assistance, she topples over with a tremendous crash. Her friends swoop in to help and to share their own struggles. With their kind support, Millie's first festival soon becomes a happy one—enjoyably imperfect and perfectly enjoyable. Mandin's text is light and friendly, with ample alliteration. Fair festivities include the "Big Bubble Battle" and the "Perfect Pet Parade." Cartoonish illustrations highlight Garden Glen's quaint cuteness while also capturing the literal weight of Millie's frustration. Millie is pale-skinned; her friend group is diverse. A silly, sweet story about managing mess-ups and accepting support. (Picture book. 4-8)
Woodridge	9798318946363	Minecraft. 1,El dragon del fin	Monster, Sfe R	
Woodridge	9798368790169	Minecraft. 2,Aventuras en el reino eterno	Monster, Sfe R	
Woodridge	9786073135979	Minecraft Guía Combate	Milton, Stephanie	
Woodridge	9781665988599	Monsters are the worst!	Willan, Alex	School Library Journal (June 1, 2026) PreS-Gr 3-Gilbert the Goblin is back in this hilarious installment in the "The Worst!" series. Gilbert begins by addressing readers directly, informing them that goblins are outdoorsy and are great at reading maps, sculpting shrubs, tree climbing, and pickle roasting. When he arrives home, the cutest monster in the world is eating one of his pickles. Gilbert cannot take care of a monster for many hilarious and ridiculous reasons, ranging from their tendency to chow down on books to attracting gross children who may want to pet him. Over time, Gilbert softens toward the monster, enjoying the lap cuddles and feeling grief when he reunites the monster with his family. Willan offers a fun look at how adorable and cuddly monsters can be, and this text is perfectly suited for young readers who are not ready for a fright. The vivid illustrations and whimsical characters provide an adorable look into the mythical world of caring for a giant baby monster. Through Gilbert's story, the book emphasizes the importance of selflessness for young ones. VERDICT Add this title and the other books in the series to your library for elementary readers. © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781728285320	More cute animals that could kill you dead : another funny book of adorable attacker animals	Hartman, Brooke	School Library Journal Xpress (September 4, 2026) Gr 1-4-Back for round two, this book follows the first series installment with 17 additional deadly animals to discover. Each page features an illustrated animal along with facts about the creature, how it protects itself, and what happens to anything that gets in its way. Additional information includes the animal's scientific name, size, habitat, favorite food, and conservation status. Readers will also find an "aww-dorable level" and an "aaaah!-some level" assigned to each animal. A short paragraph accompanies humorous, cartoonlike illustrations created in Photoshop that depict each animal in action within its habitat. Two animals are featured in each of the following sections: "Itsy-Bitsy Gliders," "Climbing Cuties," "Weensy Wingers," "Baby Buggies," "Menacing Marsupials," "Brrr-ocious Beauties," "Deep Blue Squee," and "Fuzzy and Fur-ious," with the book concluding with the house cat. The back matter includes a photograph of each animal along with its label. The text is filled with clever puns that readers are sure to enjoy. There is also a touch of anthropomorphism through speech bubbles placed above the illustrated animals. This title is perfect for readers who enjoy fascinating animal books with a gently macabre twist. VERDICT A wonderful addition to elementary library collections where animal nonfiction and head-to-head comparison books circulate well.-Tracy Cronce © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9788426149091	Narval dulcediente	Clanton, Ben	
Woodridge	9798874534387	Neymar	Cucini, Sara	
Woodridge	9781250813473	Our Solar System: A Stellar Neighborhood	McAnulty, Stacy	School Library Journal (June 1, 2025)Gr 1-3-In a humorous blend of anthropomorphisms and solid nonfiction, this book is narrated by a comet who talks like a cowboy: "Well howdy, Partner!" This amusing look at the solar system combines a friendly perspective with a range of clearly presented facts about the planets, moons, asteroids, and comets that make up "the neighborhood." For example: Mercury takes 59 Earth days to circle the Sun; Venus spins backwards; it would take astronauts more than two years to travel to Mars. The friendly, upbeat text is complemented by colorful illustrations and funny comments from the planet, moon, or asteroid being discussed. When the comet tells readers that Venus is "the hottest one around these parts," she chimes in, "I'm also stinky and proud of it." These comments should get a smile from young readers who are always ready for a laugh. Useful back matter includes a note from the author, the answers to two questions ("What is a solar system?" and "What are comets?"), and a useful chart of the planets, with interesting data about each.
Woodridge	9781489891440	Outcast	Hunter, Erin	
Woodridge	9781338566017	Pangato. Soy yo	Benton, Jim	
Woodridge	9781725461031	Pangato. Soy yo, dos	Benton, Jim	
Woodridge	9781368108706	Penelope Rex Vs. The New Kid	Higgins, Ryan	
Woodridge	9798318916106	Pickleball	Ridge, Yolanda	
Woodridge	9798217118373	Pizza and Taco. 11,Scariest sleepover ever!	Shaskan, Stephen	
Woodridge	9798217124916	Pizza y Taco. Locos por la lucha libre!	Shaskan, Stephen	
Woodridge	9781546142447	Pokemon To Catch an UltraBeast	Whitehill, Simcha	
Woodridge	9798384962007	Princess Leia	Hansen, Grace	
Woodridge	9798368763507	Que fue el Titanic?	Sabol, Stephanie	
Woodridge	9798318919961	Shohei Ohtani	Cucini, Sara	
Woodridge	9780800011154 (Permabound)	Sisters	Telgemeier, Raina	School Library Journal Starred Review From 07/01/2014 Copyright 2014 © Library Journals 1 LLC. Used with Permission. Not for republication in any manner. Gr 4 Up&12; Telgemeier has returned with a must-have follow-up to Smile (Scholastic, 2010) that is as funny as it is poignant, and utterly relatable for anyone with siblings. This realistic graphic memoir tells the story of Raina; her sister, Amara; and her brother, Will, as they take a road trip with their mother from California to Colorado to join a family reunion. The author's narrative style is fresh and sharp, and the combination of well-paced and well-placed flashbacks pull the plot together, moving the story forward and helping readers understand the characters' point of view. The volume captures preadolescence in an effortless and uncanny way and turns tough subjects, such as parental marriage problems, into experiences with which readers can identify. This ability is what sets Telgemeier's work apart and makes her titles appealing to such a wide variety of readers. Not only does the story relay the road trip's hijinks, but it also touches on what happens with the advent of a new sibling and what it means to be truly sisters
Woodridge	9781668837689	Sobrevivi el ataque de los osos grizzlies, 1967	Ball, Georgia	
Woodridge	9798318948619	Sobrevivi la invasion Nazi, 1944	Ball, Georgia	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 2-6-The Spanish-language graphic novel edition of I Survived the Nazi Invasion, 1944 is an impressive adaptation by Georgia Ball with illustrator Sarraseca and colorist Juanma Aguilera. Fans of this format and the "I Survived" series will get wrapped up in Max and Zena Rosen's harrowing experiences as Jews are rounded up and forced to live in a ghetto. Aunt Hannah disappears and, shortly afterwards, their father is taken away. Neighbors who secretly assume the responsibility of harboring ghetto fugitives make it possible for Max and Zena to reunite with their family and become part of the Jewish resistance. Historical facts about World War II are provided at tale's end. This pictorial account of the events that led up to the deportation of Jews to Nazi concentration camps and the covert operations of Jewish resistance fighters through the war's end will captivate even those who aren't historical fiction fans. As a companion graphic novel to Tarshis's English original text, this translated work will bolster Spanish-speaking students' early investigative efforts into this dark piece of European history. Her material can better inform learners about the Holocaust and subsequent genocidal attempts made across the globe. VERDICT A must-read for series fans and readers of WWII history that will engage middle grade readers.-Sharon Sherman © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9780593651681	Sol goes for goal!	Anta, Julio	School Library Journal (May 1, 2026) Gr 4-7-Twelve-year-old Soledad, or Sol, is a model student who just made it on to her middle school's soccer team. She's also known as the dependable one, which means Sol wants to put all her focus toward being the best soccer player on her team, on top of being a good student and a reliable daughter. But when Sol develops a crush on her team captain Lily, she suddenly finds herself distracted by her budding feelings and by her mother's and her team's expectations of her. Can Sol find the balance between her goals and her first crush? The protagonist is Latine, and her diverse classmates and teammates are white, Black, Muslim, and Asian. Mendez's illustrations, done in vibrant colors and attractive panels, reflect the positive and the cheerful tone demonstrated in the narrative as Sol is met with patience and support from her family and friends. VERDICT A heartfelt graphic narrative about school life, soccer, and first crushes. © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9781713740414	Sonic the Hedgehog. 2,El destino del Dr. Eggman	Flynn, Ian	
Woodridge	9781684057498	Sonic the Hedgehog. Consecuencias!:1	Flynn, Ian	
Woodridge	9781532140532	Star Wars. At-At attack!	Glass, Calliope	
Woodridge	9780545621250	Star Wars Jedi Academy Return of the Padawan	Brown, Jeffrey	
Woodridge	9781489891471	Sunrise	Hunter, Erin	Horn Book Guide (Fall 2009) In these books, three young cats face revelations about their pasts in very different ways. Events move slowly in Long Shadows, but the pace picks up in Sunrise when the protagonists try to solve a murder. Fans who've been with the series from the beginning will enjoy these installments. [Review covers these Warriors: Power of Three titles: Long Shadows and Sunrise.]
Woodridge	9798368711850	Sweet Valley twins. 4,The haunted house	Andelfinger, Nicole	
Woodridge	9798368751962	Sweet Valley twins. 5,Sneaking out	Andelfinger, Nicole	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9798368777337	Sweet Valley twins. 6,The new girl	Andelfinger, Nicole	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 3-7-Twins Jessica and Elizabeth Wakefield are two of the most popular girls at Sweet Valley Middle School. Though they are different in several ways, both are known for their kindness to others. When new girl Brooke moves into town, Jessica is asked to show her around, but neither she nor her sister want anything to do with the meanest girl they've ever met. The twins must figure out if they and the rest of the student body are jumping to conclusions and not giving Brooke a chance. Originally started back in 1983, Francine Pascal's dramatic teen series has maintained relevance by adapting their stories to each generation that comes along. VERDICT This fun revamp shows young readers that the horrors of middle school can be navigated with a little patience and understanding. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798318950568	The Boxcar Children graphic novel	Hashimoto, Meika	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 1 Up-"The Boxcar Children" are back in an all-new comic adaptation. Siblings Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny are orphans on the run. In fear of having to live with their assumed-to-be unkind grandfather, the four set off to live on their own. From finding odd jobs to keep themselves fed, to discovering the actual boxcar that inspired their acclaimed nickname, readers can experience the origin story of one of literature's most famous quartets. The graphic novel works as a nice way to introduce young readers not only to the charms of the long-running franchise but also to comics in general. The story is immensely simple to follow, perhaps to a fault. While it may not offer enough breadth to hold middle grader attention in a crowded comics field, younger readers should appreciate the charm of the characters, plus the friendly, colorful artwork, making this perfect for early elementary students. Though the protagonists are famous for their knack at solving mysteries, there isn't much of that in this origin story. However, a sneak preview of another upcoming volume at the end teases that facet in future releases. This is a sweet gateway comic for those new to the franchise or to comics in general. Main characters are white. VERDICT Delightful with welcoming artwork and well-grounded lead characters. A lovely way to reintroduce this classic series to young readers.-Joe Pascullo © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9780316570596	The Gallaudet Eleven : the story of NASA's deaf bioastronauts	Cerra, Kerry O'Malley	School Library Journal Xpress (February 27, 2026) Gr 1-3-This nonfiction title highlights the under-told story of the Gallaudet Eleven, a group of deaf men from Gallaudet University whose work quietly shaped the space race. Recruited as bioastronaut test subjects, these men participated in extreme trials that helped NASA refine spacesuits, improve capsule safety, and enhance other critical space-travel equipment. Though none of them traveled to space themselves, the data they provided gave NASA a vital advantage in the race to explore the unknown. Placing particular emphasis on the unique strengths of others and that innovation thrives when all talents are valued, this title includes the details of how these individuals used their disability as an advantage. Young readers may be especially intrigued by descriptions of the many tests the bioastronauts went through, including flights aboard the aptly nicknamed "vomit comet," an Air Force plane used to simulate zero gravity. The layout is clean and predictable, with text consistently placed at the top or bottom of each spread, making it accessible for emerging readers. Straightforward language and digitally created illustrations work in tandem to provide clarity throughout. However, both can feel stiff at times. A note in the front matter from a member of the Gallaudet Eleven adds a personal touch to this story, as does the author's own note in the back matter. An important and necessary story that deserves recognition, though its occasionally stolid presentation may limit its appeal to a narrower range of readers. VERDICT Telling a mostly untold story, this title has a place in larger collections, especially if seeking to broaden representation in picture books or nonfiction.-Louie Lauer © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9780316464239	The girl who changed little league : the true story of Maria Pepe and her battle to play ball	Pepe, Maria	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 2-4-In 1972, young Maria Pepe loves playing baseball with friends but is hesitant to try out for the all-boy little league team. Encouraged by Coach Jimmy, she gives it a go and is successful. At practice and during her first game, she excels but is met with opposition when an official bluntly states that girls aren't allowed to play. Coach Jimmy is supportive, but when the league threatens to cut the team's funding, Pepe quits. Shortly after, a "group of strong, smart women" (an unnecessarily vague description, gleaned from the authors' various notes, of the National Organization for Women-NOW) calls Pepe's parents and offers to take her case to court. She becomes a media sensation and perseveres even when she's shouted at, teased, and a friend's daughter is forbidden to play with her anymore. Two years later, the New Jersey Supreme Court rules on the case, allowing girls to play little league. The artwork features a deep blue-black, inky color palette that anchors the story. It also includes a clever use of spacing, size, and perspective to communicate distance, mood, and various power structures, such as when readers must turn the book to view and read the frame-breaking vertical spreads. VERDICT A valuable work of nonfiction, this book will encourage girls and boys alike to treat all genders with equal dignity and respect.-Benjamin Ludwig © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9780525579076	The library of unruly treasures	Birdsall, Jeanne	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2025) Gr 4-6-Two wonderful surprises await 11-year-old Gwen when her neglectful, divorced parents ship her off to Massachusetts to stay with never-before-seen Great-Uncle Matthew for two weeks: one, it will be her first experience of living in a stable home with a loving adult devoted to her happiness. The second is the existence of the Lahdukan, small-winged creatures with blue hair, who only children can see and live in the local public library. Their ancient prophecies name Gwen as their next Qalba, a leader destined to find them a new home in Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and reunite two long-separated Lahdukan clans. Cautiously, Gwen accepts the challenge, and her magical hero's quest begins. Birdsall's writing, stellar as always, captivates with rich vocabulary, memorable characters, and sly humor as it weaves a convincing web between Gwen's real and enchanted worlds. The fantastical spell continues through the back matter that includes a pronunciation guide for Lahdukan terms but not their rituals as, "it would be dangerous for a regular person to say them correctly." An author's note uses the novel's characters to convey facts about the Gardner Museum, its history, and an infamous 1990 robbery. Phelan's illustrations add delicate charm and depict Gwen and Uncle Matthew as white. VERDICT Birdsall is so adept at magical realism that after finishing this book, readers will likely keep an eye out for fairylike creatures the next time they visit a museum or library. An essential purchase for all middle grade collections.-Marybeth Kozikowski © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Woodridge	9780063589834	The Toast of the Town	John, Jory	Kirkus Reviews (September 15, 2026) The latest title in this indefatigable food-centered series finds a piece of toast recounting a life-changing event. Before earning the nickname the Toast of the Town, this book's narrator is just one of many slices of bread at a diner, where life is dispiriting: "I may have been wheat bread, but I felt like sourdough." The protagonist doesn't have much going on—"I mostly just loafed around"—until the day our hero accidentally falls into a toaster: "I felt...different. I'd dropped into the appliance as ordinary bread...but when I popped out, I had become...toast." This development leads to a radical change in outlook, and the toast has since embarked on a crusade of helpfulness ("I try to pop up wherever help is needed. That's just how I roll"). The narrator's community-minded spiel does run long, but the verbal and visual gags arrive with slapstick-comedy frequency. If there exists a pun about bread or toast, John has used it here. Working digitally, Oswald takes all this silliness seriously, approaching scenes revolving around a range of common pantry and refrigerator items with uncommon care. In a coy touch, the narrator's flashback to the diner days is largely rendered in gray tones, calling to mind scenes from an old movie...if old movies starred foodstuffs with stick limbs and googly eyes. Umpteen books in, this punning series is still full of beans. (Picture book. 4-8)
Woodridge	9781544436005	Una bicicleta como la de Sergio	Boelts, Maribeth	
Woodridge	9798368711034	Warriors graphic novel. The prophecies begin.1	Riess, Natalie	School Library Journal starred (December 1, 2024) Gr 4 Up- Adapting the first two books in Erin Hunter's "Warriors" series, Into the Wild and Fire and Ice, we see the beginning of the journey of Fireheart, once a house cat for humans named Rusty, now a proud warrior of Thunderclan. This adventure is epic in scale and takes a child's love for cats and teaches the strong lessons of perseverance, teamwork, family, and courage. This new graphic novel series will be extremely popular, not only for readers of the original series but also for a new generation who can experience the adventure for the first time. VERDICT The Prophecies truly begin again in this phenomenal graphic novel adaptation of the "Warriors" series. The compelling story will make cat lovers of all readers. © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798368747095	Warriors graphic novel. The prophecies begin.2	Riess, Natalie	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 3-7-Fireheart has led Thunderclan to victory and a time of peace and rebuilding has settled in. With Bluestar now on her final life, and suspicion of treachery placed on Tigerclaw, the wild warrior cats and their clans have much to prepare for. Some rise in ranks, their bravery proving they are ready to be hunters, while others prepare to face fallout from their decisions. What lies in the immediate future for these clans is unclear, and readers will enjoy finding out. Fans will delight in seeing their favorite characters and early series plotlines shown in such unique and vibrant colors. VERDICT Graphic novels of this long-running series will help bring these stories to a new audience. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Woodridge	9798368789521	Warriors graphic novel. The prophecies begin.3	Riess, Natalie	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2025) Rising tensions culminate in a savage battle even as Tigerstar's bid for dominance over all the forest Clans fulfills the prophecy that "Lion and tiger will meet in battle...and blood will rule the forest." In this graphic novel, which adapts the events of the fifth and sixth novels in the Prophecies Begin series, Fireheart becomes Firestar, leader of ThunderClan, after Bluestar is killed while fighting off a pack of wild dogs. He then goes on to unite the Clans against threats from both within and without. The switch in format doesn't help readers much in keeping track of the teeming cast; there's no visual key, and so many of the cats differ so slightly in individual markings that even confirmed series fans may struggle to keep track of who's who. Name changes are another issue: Following an attack in which she has an eye torn out, Brightpaw is renamed Lostface, and finally Brightheart, and she spends much of the tale with medicinal leaves covering the healing wound, which at least makes her easy to identify. The art allows wordless montages to speed the plot along and also gives the artists license to depict tender moments of head bumping and anthropomorphic smiles and other expressions—not to mention lots of hideously vicious claws and teeth, and savage fights. Concept and character sketches at the end offer insights into the artists' process. Unwieldy as ever cast-wise, but the visual format suits the violent, dramatic storylines. (Graphic animal fantasy. 11-13)
Woodridge	9798318978852	What Are the Northern Lights?	Fabiny, Sarah	
Woodridge	9798318944925	What is American Sign Language?	Herman, Gail	
Woodridge	9798368739830	What is the story of Smokey Bear?	Korte, Steve	
Woodridge	9798217141678	Who Is Bethany Hamilton?	Labrecque, Ellen	
Woodridge	9781489821447	Who is George Lucas?	Pollack, Pam	
Woodridge	9798318978937	Who Is Ruby Bridges?	Hubbard, Crystal	
Woodridge	9798318907326	Who was Cleopatra?	Waterfield, Kathryn	
Woodridge	9781516080144	Who was Langston Hughes?	Merrell, Billy	
Woodridge	9781668880685	The Witch's Apprentice	Elliott, Zetta	Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2021) Jaxon and company return in this follow-up to The Dragon Thief (2019). Jax is frustrated with Ma, the witch he's apprenticed to. Instead of teaching him about magic, she's teaching him about plants. Then, mysterious ash starts falling from the sky and the adults of New York City start falling asleep all over the place, just as Ma, Jax, and Ma's coven leave Brooklyn for the annual convention in Chicago. Jax's first-person narration chronicles his frustrations with Ma, which go beyond her unwillingness to teach him magic to a deeper theme: adults who don't communicate thoroughly with children and don't allow children agency. When a face from the past shows up and challenges his assumptions, Jax begins questioning much of what he's been told—and believes. In the end, Jax must decide whether using his voice or following orders is more important, but the consequences may be steeper than he bargained for. While the themes are compelling, the plot unfortunately relies on the device of miscommunication to propel it. Apart from this, fans will be happy to return to Jax's story (and encounter a new magical creature).

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781546198574	A secret escape	Gerber, Alyson	School Library Journal Xpress (February 13, 2026) Gr 5 Up-The third entry in "The Liars Society" series finally brings answers to Jack and Weatherby, who are studying abroad in the Swiss Alps. Readers last saw the Hunt cousins and their friends earning a spot in the secret society, Last Heir. Now, they are competing for a place in the inner circle. Their competitors are in it for the money and the power, but for Jack and Weatherby, winning also means answers to the family mystery that has been plaguing them for over a year (and two books). This fast-paced thrill is a hard-to-put-down addition to the series, though it stretches credulity much more than the first two. The characters also lose a lot of their depth in this story, and one character changes so starkly that, at times, it reads like a different group of characters altogether. Ending on a massive cliff-hanger, it is clear there is more to come for Gerber's dark academia series. That news might be a disappointing reveal to many readers as this entry felt like a conclusion until the last chapter. Jack and Weatherby are white; there is some diversity in their friend group. VERDICT Despite the caveats, this is a must-read for those waiting to uncover the truth about the Hunt family.-Mariah Smitala © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318945397	Absolutely no body parts	Sherrard, Valerie	School Library Journal Xpress starred (May 29, 2026) Gr 4-7-Fourteen-year-old Nick Yarrowby and Khenan Kimetto are determined to earn enough money to attend a real NHL game next winter. To make it happen, they start a summer business cleaning out junk-filled rooms and spaces for a fee. Khenan got the idea from a TV show about cleaning up after gruesome crimes-and to convince Nick to join, he promises, "Absolutely no body parts!" Calling themselves the Gross Busters, the business takes off. The boys become so busy that they hire an extra helper, Florrie Birdwhistle, who proves to be a valuable addition because she isn't afraid of the really gross jobs. Beneath the humor, however, runs a thread of sadness. Early in the story we learn that Nick's mom and Khenan's dad passed away not long ago. As the boys peel back layers of clutter in their clients' homes, the story reveals layers of secrets and struggles. Florrie has troubles of her own, including her brother's drug addiction and her mother's neglect. Then the Gross Busters stumble upon an incredible mystery while cleaning out a repurposed schoolhouse being converted into apartments: a hidden room containing a carefully concealed skeleton. Soon the entire town is on edge, desperate to uncover what really happened in that long-forgotten room. Nick and Florrie are cued white, Khenan is Black. VERDICT Two friends start a business, but as they sort through messy homes, they uncover personal struggles, surprising friendships, and a shocking mystery. Recommended for tween mystery fans.-Julie Shatterly © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781338325102	Adorable empire	Terry, Laura	School Library Journal (June 1, 2025) Gr 4-8-Middle schooler Jinx is having a rough time. Kids at school think she's a goth freak, her best friend left her for a bully, and her parents are divorcing, which means she and her mom have to move to a new apartment. After accidentally receiving a strange crystal from her neighbor, a bunch of magical, fluffy creatures-the Adorables-appear to Jinx and wreak havoc. In spite of Jinx's protests that she wants to be left alone, the Adorables have a way of bringing magic, however chaotic, to her life. Terry takes a sensitive look at divorce and navigating parental relationships, the evolving nature of friendships, and gender identity, with characters that have relatable appeal for middle graders. Illustrations have a manga influence, with equal parts bright and fluffy and tween goth. VERDICT With the Adorables to soften difficult issues, readers will enjoy Jinx's story and a sprinkling of magic in their own lives.-Rosemary Kiladitis © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318942532	Aguafiestas	Kinney, Jeff	
Junior School	9781665983563	Art attack	Ponti, James	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 3-7-Ponti's master storytelling skills are on display in the third episode of the "Sherlock Society" series. Alex, Yadi, Zoe, Lina, and Grandpa are back solving mysteries and taking readers places they didn't even know they wanted to go. Like the first two in the series, this tale is based in Miami, but this one is set in the city. The Sherlock Society has earned a reputation of being able to solve mysteries that others cannot and can now choose their next case. They are swayed by Grandpa to a case with a real estate developer who wants to find a locally famous graffiti artist called Funky Munky so that Funky Munky can be hired to paint a mural on the new building. Readers are treated to lots of action, plot twists, and red herrings along the way-as well as laugh-out-loud situations-before arriving at the satisfying conclusion. There are themes of family and friendship, the value of art in all its forms, change, and cultural appreciation. Though the book runs a bit long, this is nevertheless an excellent addition to the series, one that "Sherlock Society" fans are bound to be clamoring for. VERDICT A must-have where Ponti's works are popular, this series is an excellent addition to any library serving middle grade, middle school, and YA readers.-Debbie Tanner © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781250365323	Auntie Q's Golden Claws Nail Salon	Hoang, Van	School Library Journal starred (March 1, 2026) Gr 5-8-Rising seventh grader Dominique (Domi) Pham's hopes of a summer spent hanging with friends and making artwork are dashed by an unfortunate mix-up, and now she must spend her entire summer vacation working at Auntie Queyen's nail salon in Albuquerque to repay her parents. Earning any money proves next to impossible for Domi whose artistic talent doesn't extend to nail painting, and the salon's sparse clientele must be shared amongst many Vietnamese aunties and uncles, so Domi is lucky if she clears a few dollars a day. Auntie Q's once-bustling business is being carved away by a more technologically savvy, glitzy competitor; Domi convinces Q to update and rebrand. Domi makes a big misstep when she does some competitor reconnaissance, upsetting Auntie Q. In the aftermath, Domi's mom rushes to Albuquerque where old wounds between the estranged sisters prove difficult to heal. Hoangadds nuance and depth to the "summer away from home" trope with her description of the Vietnamese service industry in America as a cultural community defined by tireless work, entrepreneurship, and resilience. The characters are authentically imperfect, and some of the most significant growth happens for the adults of the story who are processing the trauma of immigrating as childhood refugees. Domi's story is a gentle reminder that everyone learns from one another in relationships-mothers from daughters, aunties from nieces, children from adults-and that the strength of community helps everyone. Sure, there are lessons to be learned here but the levity peppered throughout will draw in middle grade fans of Kelly Yang, Remi Lai, and Lily Lamotte. VERDICT A recommended purchase for middle grade collections.-Sarah Simpson © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318945793	Baby-sitters little sister. 13,Karen's New Year	Yingst, DK	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9780063285644	Besties. Crush it!	Miller, Kayla	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 3 Up-Best friends Trent and Sawyer are the featured players in this volume of "Besties," a spin-off of Miller's "Click" series. Both boys have been focused on winning prizes at the winter carnival, including the never-before-achieved Big Banana. But their plan gets derailed when Trent develops a crush on a new girl named Elena, and Sawyer gets angry and jealous about it. Soon, these inseparable best friends are drifting apart, putting both the quest for the Big Banana and their friendship at risk. Like the other titles in both series, this book features kids dealing with the kinds of conflicts that many face in middle school, including tensions among family members and friends. This volume is also about learning how to resolve those conflicts and gaining the maturity needed for relationships to evolve. The boys learn that there are ups and downs to any friendship, and that even if your best friend becomes interested in dating, it's not the end of the world. The story is realistic yet gentle, and readers will be rooting for the boys to learn how to communicate better with each other so that they can mend the rift between them. The cute and cartoony illustrations bring lots of energy and humor into this sweet story. Trent is depicted with brown skin, and Sawyer is white. VERDICT For fans of graphic novels, realistic fiction, and friendship stories with a lot of heart.-Andrea Lipinski © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668864579	Boston Bruins	Arthur, William	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9780593650783	Brittle Magic	O'Shaughnessy, Kate	School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2026) Gr 3-7-Shiloh is an ordinary 12-year-old in a family of extraordinary people. Her whole life, Shiloh has been surrounded by family members with great talents. Her older sister Judith grows award-winning pumpkins that are often the size of a house, and her twin, Sammy, is a plant whisperer. Her mother makes beautiful sugar sculptures, and her aunt Dalilah can tell fortunes with her magic pickles. Shiloh's mom says she doesn't need a talent to be special, but with the family reunion fast approaching, Shiloh is determined to find her talent and wow her relatives. Although aunt Dee usually doesn't do pickle readings for people until they're 18, she takes pity on Shiloh and reads her fortune. Shiloh learns that her talent is connected to her older brother who was murdered before she was born. Shiloh's fortune takes her on a journey where she makes a new friend, Isabel, learns the truth of how her brother died, cultivates new relationships with her parents and siblings, and finds her unique talent. Through her journey, Shiloh learns about the justice system, forgiveness, and the importance of telling the truth and working through grief. The Brittles are cued white; Isabel and her father are Puerto Rican. VERDICT Shiloh's honesty and quirkiness will engage readers in this poignant family-secrets novel with magical elements. © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668892176	Carolina Hurricanes	Coleman, Ted	
Junior School	9780329980498	Catching fire	Collins, Suzanne	School Library Journal (September 1, 2009) Gr 7 Up-Every year in Panem, the dystopic nation that exists where the U.S. used to be, the Capitol holds a televised tournament in which two teen "tributes" from each of the surrounding districts fight a gruesome battle to the death. In The Hunger Games (Scholastic, 2008), Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark, the tributes from impoverished District Twelve, thwarted the Gamemakers, forcing them to let both teens survive. In this rabidly anticipated sequel, Katniss, again the narrator, returns home to find herself more the center of attention than ever. The sinister President Snow surprises her with a visit, and Katniss's fear when Snow meets with her alone is both palpable and justified. Catching Fire is divided into three parts: Katniss and Peeta's mandatory Victory Tour through the districts, preparations for the 75th Annual Hunger Games, and a truncated version of the Games themselves. Slower paced than its predecessor, this sequel explores the nation of Panem: its power structure, rumors of a secret district, and a spreading rebellion, ignited by Katniss and Peeta's subversive victory. Katniss also deepens as a character. Though initially bewildered by the attention paid to her, she comes almost to embrace her status as the rebels' symbolic leader. Though more of the story takes place outside the arena than within, this sequel has enough action to please Hunger Games fans and leaves enough questions tantalizingly unanswered for readers to be desperate for the next installment.-Megan Honig, New York Public Library Copyright 2009 Reed Business Information.
Junior School	9798892008686	Cheesy noms : a cookbook for kids who love cheese	Eboch, M. M	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 4-7-This iteration of the publisher's new "Kids in the Kitchen" series focuses on deliciously cheesy recipes ranging from classic grilled cheese to tempting cheesecake. Geared toward tweens and teens, this short, colorful cookbook includes 17 cheese-centric recipes (10 primary and seven variations) ranging in difficulty and flavor. The mouthwatering photos complement the clearly delineated instructions and occasional fun cheese facts. However, the choice of a paler yellow color (perhaps cheese inspired) for certain text and shapes is not the most accessible choice against the various pastel backgrounds. Young cooks will find the "Before You Start" and "Host the Ultimate Cheesey Noms Party" sections helpful for prep and planning. VERDICT Suggested purchase for library cookbook collections targeting middle schoolers.-Pearl Derlaga © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781668864586	Chicago Blackhawks	Kortemeier, Todd	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798892008693	Chocolate delights : a cookbook for kids who love chocolate	Eboch, M. M	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 3-8-An engaging and accessible guide designed for young chefs. Part of the "Kids in the Kitchen" series, this book serves as an inspiring introduction for tweens and teens to experiment with dessert-making, including easy fudge, hot fudge dump cake, chocolate bark, and chocolate raspberry truffles. Beyond the recipes, the book is structured to ensure a safe and educational kitchen experience. It includes a "Before You Start" section that emphasizes safety tips, such as asking for adult help and tying back loose hair, alongside a comprehensive cooking glossary that defines terms like beat, blend, and preheat. Practical tools like a metric conversion chart are also provided to help young readers manage measurements. A standout feature is the inclusion of historical context and fun facts. Readers learn that people have loved chocolate for over 5,000 years, that cocoa beans were once used as money in Mexico, and that it takes approximately 400 cocoa beans to produce just one pound of chocolate. The book also touches on the origins of modern chocolate-making, such as the 500-year-old Jamaican tradition of adding milk to chocolate. VERDICT A well-rounded resource that combines clear, step-by-step instructions with educational tidbits, making it an excellent choice for young chocolate enthusiasts looking to impress friends and family with their culinary skills.-Jeni Tahaney © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668892183	Colorado Avalanche	Graves, Will	
Junior School	9798318957697	Como Ningun Lugar En El Mundo / No Place on Earth	Arango, Andrea Beatriz	
Junior School	9798368795782	Crescent moon marching. 1	Yamada, Hamachi	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 4-8-Mizuki is a first-year high school student in Tokyo who is overwhelmed by the academic and social pressures of high school. To shake free from her misery, she impulsively runs away to visit her aunt in the rural town of Akita. Once there, she stumbles upon the grumpy Akira and the other members of the high school marching band. Fascinated by the sound of the trumpet, she works up the courage to ask to join the band. When her father comes to take her home, she convinces him to allow her to stay with her aunt, join the marching band, and try to build her self-confidence. This volume is a beautiful little gem that goes into great detail not only about Mizuki and her struggles to balance her personal growth with learning to play the trumpet, but also the ins and outs of preparing for a marching band competition. The technical descriptions are woven seamlessly into the narrative and don't hamper the pace of the story. Coupled with the delicately drawn and elegantly colored illustrations, readers will find this an engaging journey of self-realization. This is a quiet, character driven volume that will leave readers impatient for the next step of Mizuki's journey. VERDICT A strong addition to middle school and upper elementary manga collections, particularly for readers who enjoy slice-of-life stories based on academia.-Elizabeth Gilbert © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798892008709	Cupcake-opedia : a cookbook for kids who love cupcakes	Klepinger, Teresa	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 5-7-What's not to love about cupcakes? Tweens and teens can master the basics and explore new flavors with this cupcake-centric edition of the "Kids in the Kitchen" series. Consisting of nine recipes and four variants, this short cookbook provides young bakers with the opportunity to branch out from basic vanilla cupcakes to interesting flavor profiles like pink lemonade, blueberry lemon, and gingersnap cheesecake. There's a good level of specificity for ingredients, such as the required temperature of butter or the level of ripeness of fruit. Bright photos are in keeping with the celebratory nature of the book. Some may quibble that certain recipes feel more like variants than originals since the first step is to "make cupcakes on page 8." In addition to the recipes, there is a chapter devoted to making vanilla buttercream frosting and decorating tips. The "Host a Birthday Party!" section at the end feels like a missed opportunity to spotlight a fun, more unique cupcake-themed event. VERDICT Solid purchase for dessert-obsessed young cooks ready to venture into baking.-Pearl Derlaga © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668864593	Dallas Stars	Cain, Harold P	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781536234398	David Atherton's Christmas cookbook for kids	Atherton, David	School Library Journal starred (May 1, 2024) Gr 2-5-Atherton's (The Great British Baking Show) latest leans heavily toward desserts. There are chapters for sweets and edible gifts, party food, Christmas cakes and cookies, and festive showstoppers, with a few savory recipes in the mix. Cottle's illustrations are warm and whimsical, depicting children with a variety of skin tones and physical abilities engaging in holiday fun. The choice to forgo photography in favor of illustrations feels fittingly quaint and cozy, and each recipe includes step-by-step drawings of the cooking process. Of the 30 recipes included, most require at least a passing familiarity with simple baking techniques like measuring ingredients and rolling out dough. Attention is paid to safety in the kitchen and readers are encouraged to ask for adult help when necessary. Ingredients called for are widely available and generally inexpensive. There is a certain elegant simplicity to this book that beautifully conveys the tastes and smells of a British Christmas. VERDICT A charming, approachable cookbook that evokes the spirit of the holiday season.-Kate Newcombe © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668864609	Detroit Red Wings	Flynn, Brendan	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318956560	Dog Man : a sprinkle in time	Pilkey, Dav	
Junior School	9798318956225	Don't be scared	Faruqi, Saadia	School Library Journal starred (June 1, 2026) Gr 4-7-Middle schooler Rizwan, "Riz," and his film club friends, Amy and Max, have an interest in the horror genre. Determined to help the local librarian save the Hollister Manor through their film submission, the three friends explore their town's lore and bond over stories from their own homelands: Korea, Mexico, and Pakistan. Riz and his father explore their mutual interest in spooky stories and folklore, bringing them closer together, which is helpful as they grieve the death of Riz's mother and while Riz carries the heavy weight of disappointing his father by pursuing his passion for films rather than preparing for medical school. In this must-read, Faruqi explores the power of friendship while unpacking hard topics, like the impact of hateful slurs. Riz's story of finding a place to fit in and helping his dad do the same will charm readers, and the cultural ghost tour is a spooky bonus. Amy and Max's storylines explore the burdens of some first-generation kids, including translating and being ashamed of not being able to speak their home language. Amin's vibrant art will appeal to middle grade readers and fans of friendship stories. The depictions of Gwisin, La Llorona, and the Churail of Karsaz Road are visually chilling and will impress horror fans. The readers asking for books like Stranger Things will be satisfied with this gem in their hands. VERDICT Horror fans will delight in this exceptional graphic novel about friendship, heritage, and fighting for what you believe in. © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668819678	Drama	Telgemeier, Raina	School Library Journal (November 1, 2012) Gr 5-8-Callie has ambitious plans for her school's production of Moon Over Mississippi. She has more to contend with than the logistics of building a working stage cannon, though, including the tension between stage crew and actors and her confusion about her new friend, Jesse. Does he like her, or is he gay like his twin brother? Telgemeier deftly portrays the ambiguity of sexual identity in the middle-school years in a story that simultaneously appeals to that audience. Callie is a strong character, confident in her ability as an artist and warm and friendly to her peers. She and her fellow students grin frequently, to the point of seeming unrealistically well adjusted. More often, however, Telgemeier is just showing the best side of teens. "Keep it professional," the stage crew head tells the group, and they do. The full-color cartoon-style illustrations are graceful, assured, and, along with the twists and turns of the plot, guarantee an entertaining and enlightening read.-Lisa Goldstein, Brooklyn Public Library, NY (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318909887	Dream big	Hale, Shannon	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) Gr 3-8-Cassie, Vali, and Stesha are back, and the trio continues navigating shifting friendships. Vali remains loyal to Cassie, ensuring her inclusion, but Cassie can't help but feel Stesha fighting to pull Vali away from her. When their town becomes a film set for an upcoming horror movie, Cassie offers her services as an extra and lands her and Vali roles as the "ugly kids," much to Stesha's surprise and disdain. Vali quits after one day on set, but Cassie sticks with it, despite her fear, and the director selects her for a close-up, building her confidence. This opportunity brings her closer to the movie's star, whom she befriends for the duration of her time on set. Hale puts the spotlight on fears and anxiety in this stand-out installment of the "Dream On" series. Cassie's experiences with friendship, jealousy, and shame offer middle-grade readers relatable situations and helpful opportunities for reflection. Her growth demonstrates how friendships can shift and evolve, providing a grounded and reassuring model for readers navigating similar social challenges. Cespedes's cartoon-style illustrations, paired with varied panel layouts, enhance pacing and reinforce emotional tone throughout the story. Cassie and Stesha are white, Vali has brown skin. VERDICT A timely and highly relatable addition to any middle grade collection, this will resonate with readers navigating friendship changes, self-confidence, and social anxiety, making it an essential purchase for school libraries.-Angie Jameson © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318945021	Escape from Vietnam	Marino, Andy	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9798318941610	Fast Break	Pryor, Shawn	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 3-6-As Mikayla navigates family and school life, she comes to understand the meaning of perfection, friendship, and teamwork in this sweet story for young readers. When Mikayla's family moves across town in the middle of the school year, she hopes to join the school's girls' basketball team but is rejected. When she is offered a spot on the new coed team, she hesitates but ultimately joins. She soon learns that playing hard and playing solo don't lead to wins-or friendships. The artwork is bold and vibrant, with a homey feel. The characters are illustrated with big, somewhat caricatured expressions that clearly convey emotion. Mikayla is Black. VERDICT Collections looking to bulk up their sport story offerings will want to add this to their collection.-Esther Keller © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9780593325551	Feeling like an ADHD alien	Varnel, Pina	School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-Kiki is a teenager who struggles with school, daily routines, and her connections with friends and family. She is disorganized, often late, and accused of being lazy. Kiki despairs of her perceived shortcomings and is depicted with alien antennae to signal her sense of feeling like an outsider. Slowly, she comes to the realization she might have ADHD and asks her mother to take her for testing. The chapters show Kiki's progress toward discovery and how her life unfolds after her diagnosis. The story ends with coping strategies and real-life resources for readers who want to further explore the subject. Kiki's tale is based on Varnel's own experiences and shares their hard-won wisdom. Illustrated in a manga-inspired style, the artwork is fun and appealing. Varnel utilizes a soft-hued palette throughout the chapters, and the colors effectively come together in the end as Kiki is shown more vividly with her new knowledge. While the book might be about one person's journey, the accessible narrative will comfort many YA readers. Some will relate to Kiki's life, while others will gain a better understanding and empathy toward people with ADHD. Kiki is Asian. VERDICT Expertly tackling the topic of ADHD in a straightforward yet whimsical way, this graphic novel is a must-buy for libraries.-Nancy McKay © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318936340	Firebred	Kagawa, Julie	Booklist (March 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 13)) Grades 3-7. The second book in the Storm Dragons saga, after Lightningborn (2024), continues neatly from where the first book left off, with Princess Gem continuing her mission to save the islands of her kingdom from falling into the maelstrom. She enlists the help of Remy and his dragon, Storm, as well as old Bart and Captain Cutlass with her pirate crew to figure out exactly how. On the way, she meets more dragons, discovers a city of elves long thought dead, and has another frightening encounter with the pirate mage Jhaeros, all while trying to master her magic. This is a true page-turner and adventure story, and Kagawa throws in plenty of plot twists and swashbuckling, as well as revealing the terrible truth of the crystals that hold up the islands. The cliff-hanger ending will leave readers eagerly anticipating an action-packed continuation. This book focuses on themes such as trusting your friends and comrades, having confidence in your abilities, and the meaning of true friendship as well as sacrifices. Fans of dragon-based fantasy adventures will be enchanted.
Junior School	9781668892206	Florida Panthers	Scifo, Dan	
Junior School	9781668829721	Frio fatal	Kinney, Jeff	
Junior School	9798318945700	Front desk. The graphic novel	Yang, Kelly	School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2026) Gr 5-8-This meaningful, entertaining graphic adaptation of Yang's acclaimed novel, set in the early 1990s, is full of themes that remain sharply relevant today. Mia's parents, Chinese immigrants to California, manage a cheap motel. They staff the desk, clean rooms, manage problem clients, and are paid quite poorly, but they can live at the motel free of charge. Fifth grader Mia often helps, sharpening her math skills at the front desk and interacting positively with folks who live at the motel full-time. At school, Mia makes friends with kids from different backgrounds and discovers a new passion for writing in English. But hard times are ahead: Mr. Yao, the motel owner, financially exploits the family's labor; racial profiling affects a resident; and Mia's parents take a risk by creating a safe place for undocumented immigrants. Mia thinks she can fix things, and her youthful optimism gets her quite far. But she also possesses youthful bluntness about how little American reality resembles the American dream. Sober, cogent discussions of how money affects opportunity are uncommon in children's literature, and Yang raises the issue brilliantly while telling a great story. Obata's illustrations are deliberate yet lively, portraying a complex, diverse cast of characters easy to differentiate in appearance and attitude. VERDICT An excellent graphic adaptation of a compelling American story. A must-buy.-Emilia Packard © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798368795843	Fruitcake	Ogle, Rex	School Library Journal starred (February 1, 2026) Gr 6-8-In the third installment of the "Four Eyes" series, Rex is navigating crushes and self-image. Eight grade starts with all of Rex's friends paired off in couples, and he often feels like a third wheel. To make matters worse, he is confused about his own feelings for new student Charlotte and former BFF Drew. As his family struggles financially, Rex begins babysitting, which brings him a bit of cash, to be spent on clothes that fit him. Although bullies abound in his school, Rex is inspired by Nina, a confident classmate who shows him that others' opinions don't really matter. With fluctuating friendships, mistakes, secrets, and often bewildering thoughts, Rex learns who he is and what he's made of. Ogle and Valeza have added an astutely poignant exploration of identity and sexuality to their successful series. The loneliness of feeling different, of experiencing attraction that is not reciprocated, permeates this beautiful story, largely based on the author's own life. There is a list of LGBTQIA+ resources at the back of the book, as well as notes from both the author and the illustrator. This book will resonate with readers navigating the challenging life stage that is middle school. VERDICT A triumphant addition to an already excellent series, highly recommended for middle school collections and libraries.-Carolina Youssif © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9798225017422	Ghost light	Farizan, Sara	School Library Journal Xpress (June 26, 2026) Gr 3-7-The third installment in this intriguing supernatural series follows preteen friends Lila and Teddy, along with Lila's brother Caleb, as they successfully summon their deceased friend Rosteen back through the portal. Rosteen had previously sacrificed himself to save Lila after being deceived by the Fire Maiden's false promises. As he is pulled back into the world of the living, Rosteen brings with him the news that the Fire Maiden has returned. A vengeful ghost determined to punish anyone she believes has wronged her, she has set her sights squarely on Rosteen's friends. Farizan skillfully continues the story established by Erin Entrada Kelly in the first volume and Jasmine Warga in the second while seamlessly providing enough background information to orient those unfamiliar with the earlier installments. The characters are well developed and engaging, and the novel's spooky atmosphere will appeal to fans of Mary Downing Hahn. The relationships among the friends feel authentic, particularly Lila's lingering resentment over Rosteen's betrayal and Rosteen's own guilt for stopping to play video games instead of going straight home on his sister's birthday. These realistic emotional struggles add depth to an already suspenseful and satisfying supernatural adventure. Lila and Caleb are Filipino, Teddy is Jordanian, and Rosteen is Persian. VERDICT A suspenseful supernatural adventure that follows Lila, Teddy, Caleb, and the resurrected Rosteen as they confront the return of the vengeful Fire Maiden while navigating friendship, betrayal, guilt, and courage. Highly recommended for middle grade collections.-Julie Shatterly © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668844151	Ghosts	Telgemeier, Raina	School Library Journal (June 1, 2016) Gr 4-8-Catrina and her family have just moved to Northern California. Bahia de la Luna is different from Cat's hometown-for one thing, everyone is obsessed with ghosts-but the sea air makes it easier for Cat's younger sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis (CF), to breathe. Carlos, a new friend and neighbor, introduces the girls to a different perspective on the spiritual world. Ghosts, he says, aren't frightening; they're the spirits of loved ones. Cat has her doubts-especially after a ghostly encounter puts Maya in the hospital-but as Day of the Dead celebrations draw closer, she starts to reconsider. Readers will relate to these realistically flawed characters. Maya is frank about her illness and optimistic despite her awareness that her prognosis is poor, while Cat struggles, feeling intensely protective of her sister, anxious about her illness, and resentful about the limitations that Maya's condition places upon the whole family. Themes such as the sibling bond, death, and culture are expertly woven throughout. As Cat comes to terms with the existence of ghosts, she also navigates her background (her father is white, while her mother is Mexican). Telgemeier employs the cheerful cartoon artwork that fans of Smile, Drama, and Sisters know and love, but her palette is more muted in places, fitting the book's somewhat serious and somber themes. VERDICT A can't-miss addition to middle grade graphic novel shelves; hand to fans of the author and newcomers alike.-Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal © Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781806500253	Guinness World Records, 2027		
Junior School	9781725426139	Guts	Telgemeier, Raina	School Library Journal (August 1, 2019) Gr 3-6-Telgemeier presents a new story from her childhood, which takes place when she was in the fourth and fifth grades. After her little sister brought home a case of stomach flu, young Raina woke up one night with an upset stomach and had to vomit. Then a boy in her class was made fun of for throwing up at school, and Raina worried about getting sick again. Her anxiety only led to more stomach troubles, and she also dealt with a school bully and a friend moving away. Raina's parents stayed supportive throughout, and they got her into therapy; eventually, she was diagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome. The subject matter is conveyed realistically but with humor-anxiety can be taken seriously, and farts can still be funny. Telgemeier's art is incredibly expressive, and the green circles that surround Raina will have readers feeling nauseous along with her as her panic intensifies. Especially important is a scene in which Raina's therapist talks her through a grounding technique and deep breathing exercise, giving readers a coping technique that they can use. VERDICT A must. Fans of Smile and Sisters will adore this new story starring Raina and her family, but newcomers to Telgemeier's work will also love Guts.-Kacy Helwick, New Orleans Public Library © Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798217110964	Hijacked by goats	Braden, Ann	School Library Journal Xpress starred (August 7, 2026) Gr 5 Up-Josie Martinez has been dealing with mental health struggles. She checks into a psychiatric hospital after her father catches her in a self-harming act. After an incident and an obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) diagnosis, Jo finds herself unhealed and back home with her dad, where she must contend with Hal, a smelly goat who is a bully and an unwanted house guest. Josie's therapist works Hal into her healing process, likening her OCD to her very own internal bully. With the help of her therapist and a new friend, Josie works on standing up to the bully in her brain. Josie's story challenges many stereotypes of OCD and introduces the actual definition of the condition, as well as some examples of how an OCD brain works. Jo, her Dad, and some other characters are often shown trying to find humor in heavy situations, which is endearing and feels realistic. Award-winning author Braden succeeds at deftly handling a necessary story for tweens with difficult subject matter. Jo is cued Latine. VERDICT An original and effective story for all collections that delivers a nuanced perspective on OCD and highlights the relevant topic of young people's mental health; a must-buy for all collections.-Angela Warsinske © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781546141051	Hikaru in the light! 3	Matsuda, Mai	Kirkus Reviews (February 15, 2026) A seasoned performer attempts to find her footing as a team leader. The first installments of this manga series saw bright-eyed Hikaru and stoic Ran competing to join a new pop-star group, and things are getting increasingly challenging as eliminations begin. In this third volume, Hikaru, an amateur singer who cut her chops singing in her grandparents' Tokyo bathhouse, and Ran, her older friend who has already spent years performing with a popular Japanese girl group, have been assigned to teams of five and are set to be judged on song and dance performances they've prepared themselves. This book focuses primarily on Ran's internal struggle; her teammates choose her as group leader based on her professional experience. Though she's an industry veteran, she's always been in the background, and she struggles to speak up, take charge, and articulate what's needed to bring out the best in her fellow contestants. Searching her heart to determine why she still seeks stardom, Ran, a talented but somewhat stymied performer, remembers that it makes her truly happy to bring her audience joy. Like the previous entries, this tale emphasizes intense self-reflection and the complex alchemy that creates a skillful musical performance. Ran's highly focused mood gives the story a somewhat more sober tone and look than the earlier volumes and will bring readers closer to the series superstar cast. Sincere soul-searching set before a sparkling backdrop. (Graphic fiction. 9-15)
Junior School	9798318912160	Hikaru in the light! 4	Matsuda, Mai	
Junior School	9781646146987	Hometown	Tan, Shaun	School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2026) Gr 5-9-A girl spends her days with her adoptive family, community, and friends, enjoying the familiar rhythms of daily life until one day, the sky opens and something huge and strange crashes down from above. All life and living beings are thrown into disarray as the mysterious being wanders into the girl's home and, after a lot of effort, starts communicating with her. The stranger shocks the girl by telling her that they are both human, and she doesn't belong on the planet she's called home her entire life. The stranger insists that the girl return with him to her "real" home, leaving her confused and questioning what home truly means and whether she should leave behind everything and everyone she knows for a place that is entirely unfamiliar. Rendered in an almost picture book style, the illustrations capture the charm and bizarreness of the story harmoniously. The colors and shades represent the look and aesthetic of the planet as opposed to the tone of the narrative, visually reinforcing the idea that there is beauty everywhere. A sublimely illustrated story from start to finish. The girl is depicted with brown skin. VERDICT A stunningly visualized narrative that gracefully explores themes of home and family. An essential purchase.-Lois Young © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781544457956	I survived the attacks of September 11, 2001	Ball, Georgia	Kirkus Reviews (May 15, 2012) A terrified 11-year-old gets an "extremely loud and incredibly close" view of the World Trade Center attacks in this disaster series' latest entry. Thoroughly bummed at having to drop football in the wake of his third concussion, Lucas cuts school for the lower Manhattan firehouse where beloved "Uncle" Benny--his firefighter father's colleague and closest friend--is stationed. He arrives just as the first plane does, and hearing that all firefighters have been summoned to the scene, he sets out to find Benny and his dad. Supplemented by occasional staid but realistic scenes from Dawson, Tarshis effectively captures not only the sequence of events and the pervasive confusion and shock as the catastrophe develops, but also its gargantuan scale. Though the author plays with readers' sympathies in the final chapter with a needless red herring, in general she crafts a dramatic, emotionally intense tale that takes account of 9/11's physical and emotional costs--short- and long-term--while ending on an upward beat. Though not yet born in 2001, the intended audience will come away feeling more connected to the tragedy and aware of its historical significance. (afterword, timeline) (Historical fiction. 9-11)
Junior School	9781516077205	I survived the battle of D-Day, 1944	Ball, Georgia	
Junior School	9798318912153	I survived the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941	Ball, Georgia	School Library Journal Xpress (May 29, 2026) Gr 2-7-Danny and his mother relocate to the Pearl Harbor Naval Base after a brush with trouble in New York City. Lonely during his mother's long shifts as a nurse at the base hospital, a homesick Danny comes up with a plan to stow away on a ship in a bid to return home. After befriending a local Japanese American boy and forming a bond with his family, Danny becomes conflicted about leaving his mother behind. His planned escape is scuttled on the infamous morning of December 7, 1941. Danny must navigate surviving not only the chaos of the attack on the island but also find his way to the base hospital to be reunited with his mother. True to the "I Survived" brand, this graphic novel adaptation efficiently addresses and condenses a huge historical event. The authors use clear, concise language to communicate historical information to readers while allowing them to build an emotional bond with the protagonist. The graphic novel format allows this to happen without slowing the story's fast pace. The vivid illustrations flip between black-and-white and color to help readers delineate between past and current events, while dynamic page layouts help keep the story flowing. VERDICT A worthwhile addition to historical fiction or graphic novel collections, this title will be a sure hit with fans of the series.-Elizabeth Gilbert © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798368795867	I survived the California wildfires, 2018	Ball, Georgia	School Library Journal Xpress starred (January 16, 2026) Gr 4-7-Josh Wallace travels with his mother from New Jersey to Northern California for a tech-free getaway while his father deals with a "computer glitch" at his bank-which Josh later discovers is actually a criminal arrest. While Josh visits extended family at the reptile shelter they run in California, he and his cousin Holly are trapped in the path of the 2018 Carr Fire. The duo must navigate a maze of fire, outrun a terrified mountain lion, and utilize an old zip line to cross a river to safety. This graphic novel adaptation of a 2020 entry in Tarshis's "I Survived" series is relentlessly suspenseful, blending personal drama regarding family trust with the visceral terror of a natural disaster. The back matter is exceptionally robust, providing history on the deadliest U.S. wildfires, the science of controlled burns, and safety measures like fire shelters. Anderson's illustrations are essential to the storytelling, using light and vibrant hues to contrast the peaceful forest with the flaming wasps of the embers. The panels effectively convey motion and scale, from the towering trees to the claustrophobic, smoke-filled escape route. Real photos of the Carr Fire's aftermath ground the fictionalized survival story in historical reality. Josh appears to be mixed race, with tan skin and red hair; his mother and Holly have brown skin; and the firefighters and other characters reflect a diverse range of backgrounds. VERDICT An intense, educational, and visually striking addition to any school library. This is a must-have for fans of Tarshis's "I Survived" books and anyone who enjoys high-stakes, gritty graphic novels.-Richard Winters © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781516093434	I survived the destruction of Pompeii, AD 79	Ball, Georgia	Booklist (October 15, 2014 (Online)) Grades 2-4. Marcus is an 11-year-old slave in AD 79 who finds himself in Pompeii the day before Mount Vesuvius erupts. Although he has noticed the mini earthquakes that frequently disrupt the city's activities, he is more concerned with his miserable life with his cruel owner. A chance encounter on the street reunites Marcus with his father, who has been sold to gladiators. Marcus braves a daring rescue of his father, and the two race up Vesuvius to escape their captors only to return to warn the unbelieving citizens of the impeding disaster. Tarshis serves up another gripping adventure in the I Survived series, with the light-speed pacing and death-defying maneuvering fans have come to expect. The relationship between Marcus and his father softens the terror of the horrific eruption and the ensuing chaos and panic. The insights into Roman civilization and society will please readers with an interest in the time period. Back matter includes suggestions for further research and answers to frequently asked questions about Pompeii.
Junior School	9781725460959	I survived the sinking of the Titanic, 1912	Ball, Georgia	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 2-5-In this special edition of the first book in the wildly popular "I Survived" series, readers are treated to a new letter from the author, a tour of the Titanic's first-class decks, historical photos of the ships and passengers, the story of the race to find the Titanic wreckage, and a timeline of the technology used to study it. For those unfamiliar, this first survival story follows ten-year-old George as he struggles to survive that fateful night onboard the ship. Tarshis puts young readers directly into the action with her breathless prose, enhanced and expanded by the historical back matter. VERDICT Recommended for purchase in collections where it's time to replace a worn copy of the original, or where the series continues to fly off the shelves. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781665988964	Intergalactics	Slangerup, Erik Jon	School Library Journal starred (October 1, 2026) Gr 5-7-Some heroes are made, not born. Meet 13-year-old Brinx from the planet Grimulus. Brinx is a mostly human, bio-engineered hybrid, created in a lab from genes collected across multiple galaxies. He and his best friend Jang belong to a class called Featherbones: naturally buoyant, they can leap and defy gravity. Life in their lab base is part physical survival, facing one combat test after another, and part peer survival, as relations among different hybrids echo the social strife of a typical Earth high school. The two friends pass their last harrowing test, eager to be transferred to Havenport where they're told a higher purpose awaits. When their ship crashes en route, in an untamed, perilous sector of the planet, the friends are separated; Brinx joins a small group of survivors, all different hybrids. The novel's pace picks up, pivoting to an action-packed survival story as the group struggles to reach Havenport while battling mutual mistrust and otherworldly flora and fauna intent on killing them. Brinx evolves as team leader, accepting his own unique skills while encouraging cooperation among the group. Sci-fi fans will appreciate Slangerup's detailed worldbuilding, sly humor, and nods to classic genre tropes from gaining a local sidekick (a living boulder creature Brinx names Rocky) to the revelation that Havenport's "higher purpose" is more dystopian than promised. VERDICT The characters may be alien hybrids, but human teens and tweens will embrace them as friends and eagerly look for their next adventure. Highly recommended.–Marybeth Kozikowski © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781546158561	It came from the creek	King, A. S	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 4-6-In 1980, 10-year-old Katy's summer homework to write a report about the world "100 years from now" inspires some investigative journalism of her own when an illegal toxic waste dump in her town starts sickening people, including Katy's Grammie and her best friend Joel. In addition to toxic waste and plastic pollution, Katy battles sexism in school when two boys in her class declare that girls can't play kickball at recess. She and her friend Sabrina from the gifted program start a girls' team, and the boys challenge them to a Battle of the Sexes. Though Katy frequently feels overwhelmed-by pollution, climate change, sexism, and the onset of puberty-she'd rather "know something for real than pretend I didn't." She finds support from her mom, dad, and Grammie, her friendships with Joel and Sabrina, and the Philadelphia Phillies heading to the World Series. Katy's gratitude for the adults who do care is matched by her frustration with those who don't; her sentiment will likely resonate with climate-aware kids today. Excerpts from Katy's prescient "One Hundred Years from Now" report are interspersed throughout the novel. Katy's and Joel's families are cued white; Sabrina is Black. VERDICT Strong, important messages can inspire and encourage young activists to carry Katy's hope forward. Recommended, especially where King's Attack of the Black Rectangles and Me and Marvin Gardens are popular.–Jenny Arch © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318913877	Keeper of the lost cities, the graphic novel. Volume 1.Part 2	Frenn, Celina	
Junior School	9781534429901	La encrucijada	Diaz, Alexandra	
Junior School	9781516088607	La hermanita de las nineras. 1.La bruja de Karen	Farina, Katy	
Junior School	9798318905940	La hermanita de las nineras. 6.El cumpleanos de Karen	Farina, Katy	
Junior School	9781516087648	Land of dragons	McMullen, Beth	Booklist (March 1, 2023 (Vol. 119, No. 13)) Grades 4-7. This sequel to McMullen's Secret of the Storm (2022) follows Cassie's further adventures with Albert (the dragon that transforms into her cat) and Joe, her best friend. Her mother and the town's librarian, now aware of Albert's secret identity, become very supportive, helping Cassie and Joe take the dragon on a search for those who can help him. Soon Albert returns to the Land of Dragons through a magical portal, along with Cassie and Joe. But when it becomes clear that the cat-dragon has unexpectedly left alone on an important mission, Joe and Cassie undertake a perilous quest through the dragon realm, hoping to find and, if necessary, rescue their friend from the evil dragon king who intends to execute him. Throughout the book, a subplot quietly unfolds in interspersed third-person chapters that focus on two FBI agents who are secretly attempting to find Albert. Telling the main story, Cassie's first-person narrative has good pacing, an eye for detail, and a certain wry humor. A lively adventure tale within the Secret of the Storm series.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9798368751467	Lightningborn	Kagawa, Julie	School Library Journal (March 1, 2024) Gr 3-6-In a land made of floating islands, there is a 12-year-old princess, Gem, who flies on a beautiful white dragon and whose silver streak in her black hair marks her as a storm mage. In this same system of islands, floating over the dangerous, scary, unending Maelstrom, lives Remy, a "mud rat" with "mud-colored hair, mud-colored eyes" who has nothing in the world, not even parents, and who dreams of dragons. In alternating chapters, Gem and Remy's stories inch closer together as Remy discovers a baby dragon and Gem realizes that the only way to save her father's kingdom is to embark on a solo quest to find the Ancients. They both need the help of Crusty Bart, former sky knight and the only human alive to have interacted with the True Dragons-sentient dragons who possess infinite magic. Falling in with sky pirates might be a bad move, but Remy must save his dragon and Gem must save the sky knight so they have no choice but to trust Captain Cutlass and her crew as they go after the most dangerous captain and mage in the most dangerous part of their world: the Vortex. This fantasy series debut has everything that readers could want: magic, used for both good and ill; dragons; a quest; a rebellious and brave princess; life-and-death adventure; and a cliffhanger ending. The writing occasionally feels stilted, but is written at an age-appropriate level, and the worldbuilding creates a very clear picture of this land. The plot moves along at an exciting clip and will keep readers turning pages. VERDICT This is a sure hit for fantasy fans, specifically those who love dragons and rollicking adventure. Highly recommended.-Clare A. Dombrowski © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668864616	Minnesota Wild	McDougall, Chros	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9780374394387	Mischief and monsters	Cuevas, Adrianna	School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2026) Gr 4-7-Cuevas's new mystery revolves around cryptids and a small community in Texas where they live. Jordi is a sixth grader who is embarrassed by his large size and does everything he can to try to minimize his appearance and blend in, including never speaking up for himself. His mom asks him to spend the summer at the wildlife refuge where she works, but Yaupon Creek Wildlife Refuge has some pretty big secrets. At the same time, Harvest Sunrise natural gas company is trying to convince the community to allow their company to lease their land. This would give struggling farmers extra income but would also increase the pollution and environmental degradation. Jordi finds out that his mom is keeping cryptids safe in the wildlife refuge, but some odd things are happening as well: farm animals are being attacked and some of the cryptids are behaving strangely. Jordi and his friends figure out how to make the attacks stop, but the townspeople are so angry about their losses that it is going to take some pretty strong words to get them to listen. This is a wonderful story that deftly tackles larger social themes of capitalism and conservation as well as compassion, finding your own voice, judging things based on appearances, and fear of the unknown. For fans of speculative fiction, this one is a standout. VERDICT For libraries needing middle grade speculative fiction, this is a first-choice book.-Debbie Tanner © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781489820587	Mockingjay	Collins, Suzanne	School Library Journal (November 1, 2011) In the final installment of Suzanne Collins's blockbuster trilogy, Katniss is forced to return to the Hunger Games arena again. But this time, the fate of the world is riding on the outcome. Narrator Carolyn McCormick voices Katniss's despair over those she feels are responsible for killing innocent people and her own tangled motives and choices. This is an older, wiser, sadder, and very reluctant heroine, torn between revenge and compassion. McCormick captures these conflicts by changing the pitch and pacing of Katniss's voice. She also makes the secondary characters-some malevolent, others benevolent, and many confused-very real with distinct voices. (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9780063460805	More trouble than it's worth	Ramee, Lisa Moore	School Library Journal Xpress (August 7, 2026) Gr 4-7-Rising eighth grader Shayla may be allergic to trouble, but sometimes ruffling feathers is a good thing. It's summer, and Shayla has joined a track club; she ran track in school, but the club is way more competitive. Although the girls on her team are Black like Shayla, she's finding it hard to connect; they run faster and seem more sure of themselves. Desperate to fit in, she hides a teammate's beloved stuffed rabbit as a prank, but things don't work out as planned. When Shayla learns the toy's significance, she must right a wrong both on a personal level and to speak up for social justice. Ramée's novel examines sports, friendship, and how prejudice and racism affect a community. Diary entries give readers insight into Shayla's emotional conflicts; quotes by famous Black women are featured on each page of the journal that inform Shayla's actions. Going against her mom's strict policy about posting on social media, Shayla helps to bring an uninvestigated shooting in a Black neighborhood to light. In a powerful moment, the protagonist affirms how hard it is to be Black in America. Readers will wonder along with Shayla if beating your personal record is more important than winning the race. VERDICT A must-read realistic fiction title about the pressure of team sports and finding your voice.-Sarah Webb © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798874531492	Mrbeast	Meadows, Jenny Ann	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9780593896969	Mystery James returns from the grave	Russell, Ally	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 5 Up-Seven months after her epic battle with a vampire, Latine teenager Mystery James is looking forward to a relaxing spring break. But with a shifting energy effecting everyone in Garcia Graves & Funeral Home, overly persistent and strangely amphibianlike mortuary salesmen at the door daily, a possibly supernatural mold problem, and a strained relationship with her best friend, nothing in the teen's life is calm. So, Mystery decides to tackle the easiest problem first: convincing Sheriff Warner to speak with her about the unmarked grave in the cemetery. But as the sheriff dodges her at every turn, this task also becomes increasingly difficult. When Mystery begins to connect the dots that no one was ever supposed to link, it becomes increasingly dangerous, as well. Mystery James, new middle grade heroine, is back to wrap up this duology by doing what she does best: keep Ellis Town-especially the Olde Ellis Town Cemetery-safe. As with the first work in the series, the pacing is fast, the secrets are layered, and the chills are many. Readers will relate to the realistic character dynamics, including the angst of changing teen relationships and the vague worry over the health of a guardian, but also learn from the genuine introspection and growth that Mystery shows over time. As many moving pieces come together to tie up loose ends across the series, a breathless conclusion will leave readers hoping to see Mystery again. VERDICT A first choice for lovers of spooky middle grade.-Maggie Mason Smith © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781634946766	Nashville Predators	Hanlon, Luke	
Junior School	9781668864630	New York Rangers	Arthur, William	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798892008716	Noodle-mania : a cookbook for kids who love pasta	Klepinger, Teresa	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 3-8-An engaging and accessible entry in the series designed to turn young readers into confident beginner chefs. Focusing on a universal favorite, pasta, the book highlights that this versatile food comes in more than 350 different shapes, from wagon wheels to corkscrews, making the cooking process as fun as it is delicious. The cookbook features 10 easy-to-follow recipes that range from basic comfort foods, like macaroni and cheese, to international flavors, like rice noodles in peanut sauce, and viral trends, like baked feta pasta. What sets this book apart is its focus on kitchen literacy and safety. Before the first recipe begins, the book provides a Pasta Perfection guide that covers essential prep work, such as tying back loose hair, wearing an apron, and the importance of using a large pot. The inclusion of a Cooking Glossary helps kids master culinary terms like simmer, knead, and whisk, while a Metric Conversion Chart ensures they can handle different measurement systems. Furthermore, the book encourages creativity, reminding kids that they are the cooks and can add or subtract ingredients to suit their own tastes. There is also a bonus section that helps the young chef host a pasta party. VERDICT With its step-by-step instructions, helpful safety tips, and vibrant photography, this is an excellent resource for aspiring young chefs. A strong addition to any school or public library.-Jeni Tahaney © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318945007	Park Survival --Lost in Alaska	Starbard, Vera	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2026) A disgruntled 12-year-old struggles to settle down in his new home and connect with his mother's Tlingit heritage in this outdoorsy adventure from Alaska's State Writer Laureate. Having been raised in the Lower 48, Emmett arrives with his widowed mom in Hoonah, her small Alaskan hometown, feeling angry and ready to lash out. Even he recognizes that his attitude is unfair, but he can't seem to stop himself from snarling at his mom, her family, and even his amazingly patient cousin, Kaasteen, whose efforts to help him fit into the town and local school leave him feeling even more like an outsider. Eventually, though, he enrages even Kaasteen to the point that she goes stomping off alone into nearby Glacier Bay National Park's bear-haunted woods—and doesn't come back. Along with folding Lingit words, Tlingit culture, and awesome Alaskan landscapes and wildlife into her tale, Starbard engages with the long-standing friction between the National Park Service and the Indigenous residents, who have been barred from hunting and gathering on their ancient lands around Glacier Bay (Sit' Eeti Ǧeiyi)—for a time, they were even forbidden to enter the national park. A happy ending following a tense climactic scene will leave readers thanking the author (who has Tlingit and Dena'ina Athabascan heritage) with a "Gunalchéesh!" for leaving them relieved and with a deeper understanding of the area's history and culture. Engaging themes of wilderness survival and cultural acclimation, expertly woven together. (Adventure. 8-12)
Junior School	9781668864654	Pittsburgh Penguins	Arthur, William	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9798892008723	Pizza master : a cookbook for kids who love pizza	Eboch, M. M	School Library Journal Xpress (August 7, 2026) Gr 4-7-In this iteration of the "Kids in the Kitchen" series, the focus is on a small selection of pizza and pizza-inspired recipes. In the first half of this short cookbook, kitchen-savvy tweens and teens learn how to create the pizza of their dreams using homemade dough (plus alternative directions for a cheesy gluten-free crust) and a variety of sauces to choose from. Then the focus shifts to themed recipes like pull-apart pizza bread and breakfast pizza that utilize other bread products rather than pizza dough. The pages on holiday-themed crust shapes may interest some, but a section on different pizza-topping combinations would have enriched the cookbook more. Readers just getting started in the kitchen will appreciate the cooking glossary and tips in the "Before You Start" section toward the beginning. The food photography suffers from inconsistent lighting and focus, resulting in a mixture of appealing and less appetizing images. VERDICT Recommended for large collections.-Pearl Derlaga © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318923548	Please pay attention	Sumner, Jamie	School Library Journal Xpress starred (March 28, 2025) Gr 5-8-After a tragic event traumatizes her school community, sixth grader and wheelchair user Bea is racked with guilt, anxiety, and grief. Unable to sleep or speak to her mom about it, Bea is stuck in a cycle of reliving the tragedy, feeling that she could have done more to protect her classmates and her teacher. It isn't until Bea starts equine therapy, a program that uses horse care and riding as a path to working through emotional or behavioral problems, that she is able confront her trauma and begin the healing process. Written as a letter advocating for gun control, Bea frames her story as a journey from trauma to hope, as well as a plea for action. Drawn from Sumner's personal connection to the 2023 Covenant School shooting in Nashville, Bea's experience contains an emotional depth and authenticity that resonates deeply without feeling preachy. The verse novel format enhances the pacing, using line breaks and poem length to mirror Bea's fluctuating emotional state. The poems are raw and honest, yet never overly focused on the tragedy itself. The secondary characters are equally well developed, supporting Bea in her quest for courage and peace. VERDICT This heartfelt exploration of trauma, recovery, and the search for light in the darkest of times will resonate with middle school readers, offering a meaningful reflection on personal and societal healing. An excellent addition to middle grade verse novel collections.-Louie Lauer © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318906541	Princess academy, the graphic novel	Hale, Shannon	School Library Journal (November 1, 2025) Gr 5-8-Hale's graphic novel adaptation of the first installment in her bestselling book series "Princess Academy" offers the suspense, adventure, and whimsy of the original to a new generation of readers. Miri, a young girl from Mount Eskel, dreams of being able to help the people in her town with quarry work and trading from the lowlands. However, when the townspeople are told that the King's priests have divined Mount Eskel as the territory with the future princess, and the prince will arrive in the Spring to choose his future bride, every teenage girl in town-including Miri-is sent to a new academy to learn how to become a princess. Miri's new life at the academy is fraught with challenges as she faces a strict mistress, fierce competition from other students, and a being torn between achieving her dreams and leaving family and home forever. Readers will find in Miri a likable main character, and they may relate to the trials and tribulations she faces in her new school. Ying's illustrations are vivid, colorful, and detailed, bringing life to the story. This adventure is epic in scale and will appeal to fans of Kiera Cass's The Selection and Victoria Aveyard's Red Queen, as well as fans of the original series. Miri is depicted with fair skin, the prince is depicted with dark brown skin, and there is some skin tone and body diversity among the other girls at the academy. VERDICT A charming graphic novel adaptation of a beloved series perfect for fans and new readers alike.-Rachel Jussel © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318900020	Prisionero B-3087	Gratz, Alan	School Library Journal Xpress (February 13, 2026) This Spanish-language edition of Gratz's 2013 historical novel Prisoner B-3087 takes its middle-grade audience on a harrowing journey inspired by the life of coauthor Jack Gruener, who survived the Holocaust as a child. After Hitler invades Poland, the novel's Jewish protagonist Yanek loses his entire family and must make choices as best he can to survive 10 different concentration camps. At his fourth concentration camp, Birkenau, the boy's wrist is tattooed with the prisoner number B-3087. Yanek just barely makes it out of the Holocaust alive when Allied forces liberate Dachau in 1948. He eventually leaves Poland to reinvent himself in the U.S. This Holocaust survivor story is based on Gratz's deep research and interviews with Gruener, providing a clear understanding of the atrocities Nazis committed against Jews, among other groups, across Europe. Yanek's story serves as a first-person coming-of-age account that draws readers in with powerful, sometimes painful, imagery. It is a gripping must-read for historical fiction fans, who won't soon forget the protagonist's resolve to survive, at all costs. VERDICT Purchase the Spanish-language edition of this historical novel on a perennially important topic, along with Gratz's other historical fiction about kids who survived horrific events.-Sharon Sherman © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781537948812	Projekt 1065	Gratz, Alan	School Library Journal (August 1, 2016) Gr 7 Up-Michael O'Shaunessey may be the son of the Irish ambassador to Germany, but in 1943, with his flawless German and easy intelligence, he represents the perfect Hitler Youth, ambitiously climbing the organization's ranks. Michael is living a lie; he despises the Nazis and all they represent. He enlisted in the Hitler Youth in order to infiltrate Nazi hierarchy and access information that will assist his parents in spying for the Allies. When a friend shows him plans for the new jet airplane the Nazis are developing, his covert activities turn deadly serious. Gratz returns to the World War II era of his Prisoner B-3087 to illuminate a little-known aspect of the war. Although Ireland declared itself neutral, documents declassified decades after the war revealed its diplomats were actually collecting intelligence for the Allies. Gratz takes readers inside daily life in Germany as well as the Hitler Youth organization, deftly conveying the suspicion and fear that were the constant companions of German citizens. Michael grapples with deep moral dilemmas, including the painful choice to sacrifice one life for the greater good. An author's note offers supplemental information and background on the Hitler Youth. While the book is replete with fascinating historical insight, Gratz has also crafted a suspenseful mystery that will keep readers on the edge of their seats. With short, action-packed chapters, it is a great choice for reluctant readers as well. VERDICT A winning combination of action, suspense, and historical setting. Recommended for all collections.-Nancy Nadig, Penn Manor School District, Lancaster, PA © Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9798318957284	Rapunzel Rewoven	Rogers, Alexandria	School Library Journal (October 1, 2026) Gr 4-7-The lives of sisters Anastasie and Madalon fell apart when, on Anastasie's 13th birthday, their parents were killed and Anastasie was found to have the Rapunzelitis plague. Rapunzelitis affects a girl every century; they are forced to live in a magical tower to protect the rest of the town of Lossaires from the illness. Madalon is determined to free Anastasie, and teams up with Dorian, a mysterious troll boy, to try to find answers. But the sinister troll King Mathieu will not let Anastasie go without the tapestry for his son's coronation that Anastasie is obliged to weave. Anastasie and Madalon's perspectives alternate throughout the book, and each is a character that readers can root for. They are resourceful, emotionally honest, and brave, supporting each other and learning about themselves in distinct ways; their relationship is the core of the book despite their separate quests. There is a lot of plot here that is occasionally hard to keep track of; the storyline feels set up for a next book with the ending showing further missions for each sister. The race of characters is not mentioned; cover art suggests that the sisters are white. VERDICT A solid fairy tale with winning protagonists and strong sisterhood representation.-Grace Pickering © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9780063449589	Renegades #2 The Broken City	Hunter, Erin	
Junior School	9781665972086	Rising Thunder	Shusterman, Neal	
Junior School	9798318946127	Rodeo Hawkins and the Sons of Disaster	Bemis, John Claude	School Library Journal (May 1, 2026) Gr 4-7-Sidney Poblocki is back with Rodeo Hawkins and the rest of the Daughters of Mayhem. Picking up after the events in the previous book, Sidney is getting used to his new life as an interdimensional outlaw with his new friends. However, he hasn't forgotten about his old friend, Walt, who due to unfortunate circumstances, doesn't remember him. Meanwhile, a nemesis seeking revenge and glory decides to capture Rodeo Hawkins through Sidney by using Walt as bait. And since there's a multiverse, why lure only one Sidney? Now, these rambunctious outlaws must put aside their disagreements and save the multiverse from dubious warriors, again. Fans of the first installment will enjoy learning about the other worlds that exist across the multiverse. The characters' diverse appearances reflect the various worlds throughout, and the artwork maintains the same cheerful tone as in the previous entry. This sequel works best if readers are familiar with the first "Rodeo Hawkins" title. VERDICT Fans and readers of the first book should be ready to expect more high jinks and chaos as the multiverse is explored further.-Lois Young © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318944963	Rumor has it	Mlynowski, Sarah	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 5 Up-Members of a newly blended family learn about one another and themselves in this new series. Leela and Mia Luxenberg live in Brooklyn with their mother, Sadie. Alex, Annie, and Aidan Laksanadee have moved around with their father, Josh. Sadie and Josh come together at a book signing and begin a whirlwind romance resulting in an engagement, leaving them to determine where to live. Having just inherited a large country house in Lost Bluff, TN, from her estranged grandmother, Sadie and Josh decide to blend their families there. Although the move requires adjustment from all, it is most challenging for sophomores Leela, who wants to go back to New York, and Annie, who just wants a place to belong. After Annie agrees to help plan the school fundraiser, the girls learn there is much about Sadie's history in Lost Bluff they do not know. Full-color illustrations introduce each family member at the beginning, and black-and-white illustrations are scattered throughout the text. VERDICT This engaging story of forced family and self-discovery will speak to students who have experienced the blending of families or a life-altering move, making it an accessible and strong purchase for middle grade collections.-Misty Schattle © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781537998725	Scythe	Shusterman, Neal	School Library Journal (December 1, 2016) Gr 8 Up-In a world where humanity has conquered death and a fraternity called Scythes are the only ones allowed to kill people in order to curb overpopulation, Citra Terranova and Rowan Damisch must cope with their newfound and terrible responsibilities as apprentices in killing. A brilliant and gripping sci-fi thriller that acutely explores the consequences of worldwide immortality and asks readers to think critically about the nature of morality. © Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9780593465608	She came back different	Willing, Stephanie	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 4-8-Gemma, who is white, can't really understand how she got into The Stadler Ballet Conservatory. She knows very little about what awaits her there, but she is excited at the possibility of finally making some friends. Neve, on the other hand, knows exactly what to expect at Stadler; she is attending despite her low opinion of the school to find out what caused her sister to change so dramatically and to get her back. Written in alternating perspectives between the two girls, this novel tells the stories of Gemma, Neve, and four other new students as they uncover the horrifying truth about what happens to girls at Stadler and their attempts to save themselves from the same fate. As plant horror finds its way to middle grade, this title is an excellent addition. The focus on friendship and girls sticking together despite their differences make it an inspiring choice for female horror fans especially. Gemma and Neve are beautifully developed characters with flaws that lead to their victory in the end. The other girls create a diverse and interesting cast, filled with students of all kinds coming together and freeing themselves from the shackles of perfection. VERDICT Girl power beats flower power in this must-purchase plant horror for middle graders.-Mariah Smitala © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668822692	Sisters	Telgemeier, Raina	School Library Journal (July 1, 2014) Gr 4 Up-Telgemeier has returned with a must-have follow-up to Smile (Scholastic, 2010) that is as funny as it is poignant, and utterly relatable for anyone with siblings. This realistic graphic memoir tells the story of Raina; her sister, Amara; and her brother, Will, as they take a road trip with their mother from California to Colorado to join a family reunion. The author's narrative style is fresh and sharp, and the combination of well-paced and well-placed flashbacks pull the plot together, moving the story forward and helping readers understand the characters' point of view. The volume captures preadolescence in an effortless and uncanny way and turns tough subjects, such as parental marriage problems, into experiences with which readers can identify. This ability is what sets Telgemeier's work apart and makes her titles appealing to such a wide variety of readers. Not only does the story relay the road trip's hijinks, but it also touches on what happens with the advent of a new sibling and what it means to be truly sisters. Fans of the graphic novelist's work will be sure to delight in this return to the Telgemeier's family drama.-Krishna Grady, Darien Library, CT (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781713735182	Smile	Telgemeier, Raina	School Library Journal (October 1, 2013) Gr 5 Up-Sixth-grader Raina falls and severely damages her two front teeth. Through middle school and into high school, she struggles with peer relationships, discovering her own strengths while enduring painful orthodontia. The concluding pages reveal a self-assured high school student who can indeed smile. Full-color comic panels perfectly capture young adolescence. (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318970436	Socks & Secret Quests	Murphy, Triona	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 3-6-Twelve-year-old Peri's life is utterly unremarkable. A shopkeeper's apprentice with no magic skills, Peri spends her days knitting and dwelling in the shadow of her ten illustrious siblings. Meanwhile, her master, Hema, manages an enchanted shop that equips adventurers from across the Fourteen Kingdoms with weapons, clothing, and other items they'll need for their quests. When Hema is taken by the dark wizard Isric, Peri ventures from the cozy shop, knitting needles in hand, and joins a troupe of young adventurers: Hero Niam, Wayfinder Audra, and Wizard Bree. The team is dysfunctional, as their conflicting personalities clash spectacularly. At first, Peri keeps to herself, lacking the confidence to showcase her knitting skills. Over time, as the adventurers battle dragons, trolls, and Isric himself, Peri finds that even a shopkeeper can be a hero, and she might have some magic up her sleeve as well. Black-and-white manga-esque illustrations created using a blend of traditional and digital media are featured throughout the text. Peri's character arc is strong, and the themes of teamwork and bravery give depth to the other adventurers' personalities. Niam, Audra, and Bree have their own flaws, which they overcome in a satisfying way. The plot moves at a steady clip. Several chapter breaks occur mid-scene, adding to the tension. The closing scene reveals the troupe's adventuring days are far from over, bracing readers for a sequel. The final publication will include maps of the Fourteen Kingdoms. VERDICT An action-filled romp, perfect for young Dungeons & Dragons fans.-Hannah Grasse © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798893048537	Starbucks	Golkar, Golriz	
Junior School	9798368773629	Starbucks	Salas, Laura Purdie	
Junior School	9781668864661	Tampa Bay Lightning	Flynn, Brendan	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318948558	The Baby-sitters Club super special. 1,Baby-sitters on board!	Telgemeier, Raina	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2026) The Baby-sitters Club heads to the Bahamas and Florida on a cruise ship after Mallory's dad gets a vacation package in a work contest. Following Mr. Pike's win, the BSC come together for a trip that includes Kristy's first time on a plane, some romantic encounters, and several new friends, including the children of famous podcasters, 7-year-old wheelchair user Marc (who has a heart condition), an elderly widower, and a teen who's struggling to accept his blended family. Small cabins, personality clashes, and differing preferences for downtime keep the club members heading in different directions as they travel to the Bahamian island of New Providence, and then to the Florida theme park Wander World. The shifting perspectives over the course of the 21 chapters results in numerous concurrent subplots that attempt to follow over a dozen characters both old and new. The result is a cursory examination of relationships that would have felt more meaningful if more focus and deeper context had been given to fewer storylines. The artwork balances minimalism with enough detail to ground the cast members in their rotating locations, and Czap's heavy use of blues and greens pays an enchanting homage to the tropical destinations. Most characters appear white. Claudia is cued Japanese American. Jessi, who features minimally in the work, and Marc and his family are Black. Lively art and fond familiarity with the characters compensate for the absence of truly touching moments. (Graphic fiction. 8-12)
Junior School	9781725483439	The battle of the Labyrinth	Riordan, Rick	School Library Journal (September 1, 2008) Gr 5-9-The fourth book (Hyperion, 2008) in the series by Rick Riordan starts with a bang and rarely lets up until the end. Percy, son of Poseidon, must help his friends Grover and Annabeth complete quests that may influence whether the forces of evil triumph and Olympus is brought down. When they meet at Camp Half-Blood, they learn that a former classmate has turned evil. The Labyrinth has suddenly revealed an entrance near Camp Half-Blood, indicating that the camp is vulnerable to an attack by the evil Lord Kronos. Percy and his cohorts must try to find support for their compatriots by taking a dangerous trip through the ever-changing Labyrinth, a sprawling underground world. Jesse Bernstein does a good job voicing Percy and his Cyclops half-brother and successfully conveys Annabeth's emotions. He attempts a number of different accents for the gods, demigods, and mortals in the story with varying levels of success. Bernstein sets a good pace that reflects the non-stop action and peril in the story. Fans of the series will enjoy this installment and eagerly await the next volume.-B. Allison Gray, Palmdale City Library, CA Copyright 2008 Reed Business Information.
Junior School	9781098298838	The college football encyclopedia	Beattie, Charlie	School Library Journal (April 1, 2026) Gr 3-7-These encyclopedias focus on college athletics, with each volume dedicated to a single sport. The books open with an overview and history of the sport before shifting to individual chapters on each college team. Chapters outline team history, notable players and coaches, major highlights, and championship wins. Each chapter concludes with a fact box that summarizes key information. Readers can go directly to information on their favorite teams without reading the books cover to cover. Pages are text heavy and packed with facts and statistics, appealing to committed sports fans. Photographs appear on most pages to add visual interest and break up the text. With approximately four pages devoted to each team, the writing moves quickly enough to keep enthusiastic readers engaged. Each book includes a table of contents, an all-time records section, a glossary, suggestions for further learning, and an index. VERDICT A solid choice for young sports fans seeking detailed team-based information. © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781516068357	The heroes of Olympus. Book three,The mark of Athena : the graphic novel	Venditti, Robert	School Library Journal (January 1, 2013) Gr 5-8-In the third book (Hyperion, 2012) in Riordan's "The Heroes of Olympus" series, Annabeth is finally reunited with Percy in Camp Jupiter, where the crew of the Argo II has arrived with the hope of convincing the Roman demigod community to join forces with them. Just as Annabeth seems to be making headway with the camp's Praetor, Leo, possessed by an Eidolon, opens fire on the camp. The crew of the Argo II, joined by Percy, Hazel, and Frank, must pursue their quest with the Romans in hot pursuit. Their peace mission failed, it's up to Annabeth to recover the Athena Parthenos in hopes of finally uniting the Greek and Roman gods. Meanwhile, the rest of the crew is racing to Rome to save Hazel's brother, Nico, who may know the location of the Doors of Death. The ultimate goal of the seven demigods is to prevent Gaea from rising and destroying humanity. The demigods are waylaid by gods and a myriad of mythological creatures, many in league with Gaea and intent on killing them. Joshua Swanson keeps up the frantic pace of this non-stop cliffhanger adventure, smoothly switching voices for the large and varied cast of characters. Fans will anxiously await the next installment.-Cary Frostick, Mary Riley Stiles Public Library, Falls Church, VA (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9780329789350	The Hunger Games	Collins, Suzanne	School Library Journal (September 1, 2008) Gr 7 Up-In a not-too-distant future, the United States of America has collapsed, weakened by drought, fire, famine, and war, to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Part entertainment, part brutal intimidation of the subjugated districts, the televised games are broadcasted throughout Panem as the 14 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors, literally, with all citizens required to watch. When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as the mining district's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart, Peeta, the son of the town baker who seems to have all the fighting skills of a lump of bread dough, will be pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives. Collins's characters are completely realistic and sympathetic as they form alliances and friendships in the face of overwhelming odds; the plot is tense, dramatic, and engrossing. This book will definitely resonate with the generation raised on reality shows like "Survivor" and "American Gladiator." Book one of a planned trilogy.-Jane Henriksen Baird, Anchorage Public Library, AK Copyright 2008 Reed Business Information.
Junior School	9798318956621	The Last Kids on Earth and the Zombie Parade	Brallier, Max	School Library Journal Xpress (October 1, 2016) Gr 3-6-Readers met 13-year-old abandoned foster kid-turned-monster slayer Jack Sullivan and his adolescent makeshift army in The Last Kids on Earth. In this excellent sequel, the zombies are mysteriously disappearing. As the zombies walk in droves toward a shrieking sound, their brains are being sucked out of their skulls. While no fan of the undead, Jack and his squad set out to solve the mystery. New alliances are formed and trusts are broken, culminating in an all-out monster brawl to save their world. The continuation of this hybrid series capitalizes on gross-out fun. The realistic writing style keeps the narrative moving at a fast pace, while the frenzied pencil artwork supports its humorous tone. But what distinguishes this adventure is the character development. The members work through their fears of loss, abandonment, and loneliness to unite as a family. The language is sophisticated, geared toward readers who enjoy rousing adventures. The open-ended conclusion allows for the possibility of more exciting exploits. A gallery highlighting various nefarious creatures is an added treat. VERDICT For fans of the first book, this sequel does not disappoint. This series is a must-have for middle grade collections.-Sada Mozer, Los Angeles Public Library © Copyright 2016. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781725483422	The last Olympian	Riordan, Rick	School Library Journal (September 1, 2009) Gr 5-8-Percy Jackson is back in another adventure and so is Jesse Bernstein, who masterfully voices all the characters. He captures their individual inflections and perfectly conveys their annoyance, arrogance, innocence, and even humor. In the final book (Hyperion/Disney, 2009) in Rick Riordan's series, Percy is pitted against his old nemesis Luke who has been transformed into Kronos, the Lord of Time. An attack on New York City is planned so that Kronos can destroy Mount Olympus. Percy ultimately gets all of the cabins from Camp Half-Blood to participate in the battle which is intense and deadly for both sides. There are a number of prophecies resolved in this tale (including what will happen when Percy turns 16) and new ones to ponder as the story closes. Romance is in Percy's life, with his relationships with Annabeth and Rachel, and much is disclosed about Luke's early life and his relationship with Annabeth. This is a more emotional journey than some of the earlier books, and Bernstein lingers over some of the moments of loss and grief, but picks up the pace during the many ferocious battle scenes. An exciting addition for Jackson fans.-Edie Ching, Washington Latin Public Charter School, DC Copyright 2009 Reed Business Information.
Junior School	9781725483446	The lightning thief	Riordan, Rick	School Library Journal (March 1, 2011) Gr 4 Up-Riordan's highly popular "Olympians" series (Hyperion/Disney) is now a graphic novel. Half-Blood Percy Jackson is the son of a mortal mother and the Greek god Poseidon, which explains why he has always felt out of place among his schoolmates. After learning of his paternity, he is charged with the dangerous mission of locating his Uncle Zeus's missing lightning bolt and returning this symbol of power to its rightful owner. Expert editing keeps the salient parts of the story intact while showcasing the additional storytelling capabilities that the graphic format allows. Excellent panel layout makes the story line easy to follow. The use of angled panels in highly dramatic action scenes is particularly effective. As readers follow Percy's adventures, they are also keenly aware of his personal struggles, as facial expressions help readers to relate to this boy "who doesn't fit in." Illustrations brilliantly illuminate the story, portraying seamless world-blending, from typical school drama and well-known U.S. landmarks to mythological elements. A man seated in one panel casually stands to reveal his true identity as a centaur, the eerie woman seated in the attic is an Oracle, and the Nereid of the undersea kingdom seems a natural part of Percy's world. This blend of mythology and magic with realistic action and adventure brings an added dimension and delightful nuances to this adaptation of the well-known novel. Both ardent followers of Riordan's books and those new to the series will not be disappointed.-Barbara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9798318956546	The Moonlit Spiral	Maihack, Mike	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 3-6-In the city of Dahl, treasure hunting was once a way of life. In fact, Rion's parents dedicated their lives to uncovering the long-lost treasure of Helixian adventurer Orion Flynn (Rion's namesake). But a tragic accident leaves Rion without his parents, after which he grows up in the care of foster parent Henry, forever wondering about their legacy. After his turbulent start, Rion's life is pretty unremarkable. All that changes when the once-in-a-lifetime silver lunar cycle starts and a fox girl named Quill ends up in his room needing help. Rion enlists his best friend Zyla, and the group sets out for the furthest reaches of Helix with Quill and his parents' cryptic treasure guide, in hopes of returning the fox girl home and finding the treasure that his parents so desperately sought. This graphic novel from Maihack will capture the hearts of K-Pop Demon Hunters fans. Beautiful artwork features a journey through secret passageways, into technicolor forests, and over rocky mountains. Helix is a world readers will be eager to revisit and to accompany Rion on many more adventures to come. Rion is depicted with brown skin. VERDICT An ideal blend of humor, adventure, and heart, this is a highly recommended read-alike for fans of K-Pop Demon Hunters who are eager to recreate those feels.-Sarah Simpson © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781725483460	The sea of monsters	Riordan, Rick	School Library Journal (November 1, 2013) Gr 4-8-In this adaptation of Riordan's novel (Hyperion, 2006), Camp Half-Blood's borders have been poisoned, and Percy is off on a quest to find the healing Golden Fleece. The detailed, realistic art in full, rich color will appeal to fans of superhero comics: it is perfectly suited to the story's many action and fight scenes, none of which depict graphic violence. Fans of George O'Connor's "Olympians" series (First Second) may enjoy this similarly irreverent, action-packed view of Greek mythology. The text is succinct and witty, and there are many wordless scenes, including a few stunning pages in which Percy's friend Annabeth encounters the Sirens. Both high in quality and sure to be popular, this is a first purchase.-Lisa Goldstein, Brooklyn Public Library, NY (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781725483453	The Titan's curse	Riordan, Rick	School Library Journal (December 1, 2007) Gr 6-9-In this third installment (Miramax, 2007) to the "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series, Rick Riordan continues the saga of the Greek gods and their half-human offspring. The story takes place in modern-day America where Percy, son of Poseidon, faces off with mythical monsters and other enemies of the gods. Accompanying him are his friends, Grover the satyr, Thalia, daughter of Zeus, and two Hunters. They set off to find the missing Artemis, goddess of the hunt, who has been kidnapped by Titan Kronos's cronies, and Annabeth, daughter of Athena, who has disappeared over the edge of a cliff. To make matters worse, the Oracle predicts that one of them will not survive the quest. Actor Jesse Bernstein does a first-rate job of narrating the story, seamlessly shifting between the voices of the various characters and rendering each of them a unique persona. A great addition to most junior high/middle school and public library audio collections.-Kathy Miller, Baldwin Junior High, Baldwin City, KS Copyright 2007 Reed Business Information.
Junior School	9780063589834	The Toast of the Town	John, Jory	Kirkus Reviews (September 15, 2026) The latest title in this indefatigable food-centered series finds a piece of toast recounting a life-changing event. Before earning the nickname the Toast of the Town, this book's narrator is just one of many slices of bread at a diner, where life is dispiriting: "I may have been wheat bread, but I felt like sourdough." The protagonist doesn't have much going on—"I mostly just loafed around"—until the day our hero accidentally falls into a toaster: "I felt...different. I'd dropped into the appliance as ordinary bread...but when I popped out, I had become...toast." This development leads to a radical change in outlook, and the toast has since embarked on a crusade of helpfulness ("I try to pop up wherever help is needed. That's just how I roll"). The narrator's community-minded spiel does run long, but the verbal and visual gags arrive with slapstick-comedy frequency. If there exists a pun about bread or toast, John has used it here. Working digitally, Oswald takes all this silliness seriously, approaching scenes revolving around a range of common pantry and refrigerator items with uncommon care. In a coy touch, the narrator's flashback to the diner days is largely rendered in gray tones, calling to mind scenes from an old movie...if old movies starred foodstuffs with stick limbs and googly eyes. Umpteen books in, this punning series is still full of beans. (Picture book. 4-8)
Junior School	9781713726692	The toll	Shusterman, Neal	School Library Journal (November 1, 2019) Gr 8 Up-Three years later. Scythe Goddard has risen to High Blade of MidMerica, and is quickly gripping all of North Merica in his iron fist with his radical new laws. The Thunderhead is still silent-except to Grayson Tolliver, who has reluctantly accepted his new role as the Tonist figurehead The Toll. Scythe Faraday and his librarian companion Munira fly toward a Pacific atoll that even the Thunderhead doesn't know about. And a vault containing the frozen bodies of two missing scythes is brought up from the depths of the wreckage of Endura. In this gripping conclusion to the series, Shusterman weaves together story lines of old and new characters to create an explosive series end. The depth of this immortal future is further plumbed, immersing readers in a world full of political intrigue, religious fervor, and questions about what it is to be human. The introduction of a gender-fluid character is a welcome addition to the diversity of the cast. VERDICT Fans of the first two books will be (and have been) clamoring for this finale. Get it to them as soon as possible. Highly recommended.-Tyler Hixson, Brooklyn Public Library © Copyright 2019. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9780316596275	The wild season : the true story of a remarkable rabbit rescue	Slater, Dashka	School Library Journal starred (June 1, 2026) Gr 5 Up-When domesticated rabbits were dumped at a park in San Francisco in 2023, their appearance charmed everyone, but many regular park users realized they would not survive long in the wild. Concerned citizens reached out to local "Rabbit Wrangler" Jessica Peters to help catch them, and as news and viewings of the rabbits spread, more people joined the rabbit rescue effort: retirees, families, kids who played in the park, and more. By sharing where the rabbits were seen, regularly setting traps, and organizing group search parties, the community was able to catch them all. The chapters vary between the viewpoints of the people involved, including text message threads between search group members, and nonfiction chapters on the history of the park, domestication of rabbits, and the impact imported rabbits had in Australia. The chapters are divided into seven sections, each beginning with a quote from a famous book featuring rabbits on a full-page drawing. Black-and-white illustrations of rabbits, people, animals, and the park are scattered throughout the pages, along with some quarter- and half-page illustrations, adding to the text's accessibility. A map of the park begins the book. The fate of all four rabbits is covered, including the passing of some from natural causes, which may be upsetting for some. An author's note, acknowledgements, and bibliography of both fiction and nonfiction titles are provided. VERDICT Animal lovers will relish this honest and inspiring story of a community that rallied to save dumped pets. This triumphant tale belongs on all shelves.-Tamara Saarinen © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798217004911	The Wump	DiTerlizzi, Tony	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 4-7-From the Caldecott-winning author and illustrator of "The Spiderwick Chronicles" comes a novel that explores bullying and monstrous emotions. Timmy Quibble greets each resident of his insect zoo with a daily affirmation and classic rock music. His mother doesn't understand his fascination with them, saying, "the only good bug is a dead bug." Mom is too busy being a mega realtor, and Timmy's dad died before he was three, leaving Timmy alone with Mom's nasty teacup terrier, Lady Elizabeth Fluffbottom. Timmy faces bullies at home and school and only finds solace with his bug companions. Timmy and his best friend, Alberto, are tired of being bullied at school and on the bus (Timmy is nicknamed "Grub" by said bullies), then a monstrous, shadowy, shape emerges from Timmy's silhouette. When Timmy gets anxious or mad, the Shadow Monster comes out, and Timmy comes to the realization the "Wump" may be coming from within. As the Wump starts to possess Timmy, he battles with potentially metamorphosing into a bully himself. Timmy's close relationship with his grandparents helps him understand and begin to control his emotions. DiTerlizzi's two-color drawings highlight features of the Wump and other characters with a hint of spooky green and add the perfect dark elements. Tommy is cued white. VERDICT A deliciously supernatural tale sure to delight not just fans of the "Spiderwick Chronicles" series; readers will see there's a bit of a Wump in most of us, and it just may come out if emotions aren't managed.-Michele Shaw © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781546171089	They will not save us	Arnold, Marie	Booklist (October 1, 2026 (Vol. 123, No. 3)) Grades 4-7. On the island of Hispaniola in Bonne Fin, Haiti, Lena (a Mambo-in-training) and her best friends, Luke and Jesula, search for the reasons behind the villagers' zombie-like trances. Using clues from Lena's late father, they discover his unfinished, thirteenth folktale about an eighteenth-century slave owner out seeking revenge. The friends investigate the rich, white inhabitants of Bonne Fin—Mr. Laurent and his chef, Louis—to see if there is a correlation with their recent move and the town's behavior. Lena must also learn to forgive the Loa—Haitian Vodou spirits—for passing her father into the afterlife and gain control of her powers before the upcoming lunar eclipse. Middle-grade and YA author Marie Arnold's first horror novel will leave readers' hearts pounding. Chilling moments are mixed with eye-opening experiences and the beauty of Haitian culture. Readers interested in exploring colonial history will be intrigued by this story that shows how racial segregation still permeates. Arnold's navigation of the emotional complexities of losing a loved one will also remind readers it is okay to experience sadness.
Junior School	9781725428874	Thunderhead	Shusterman, Neal	School Library Journal (January 1, 2018) Gr 9 Up-A year has passed since the events of Scythe and Scythe Anastasia, once known as Citra Terranova, lives with her mentor, Scythe Marie Curie, and performs her gleanings in relative peace despite causing a rift in the Scythedom by giving her subjects a month to choose how they want to be gleaned, aka killed. Anastasia argues that it is more humane this way which earns her the favor of the "old world" scythes, those who feel they perform their job with dignity and humility rather than with joy and pride, like the "new world" scythes. Still, she cannot escape the tidbits of news surrounding her fellow apprentice Rowan Damisch, who now goes by the name Scythe Lucifer. He is hunting down corrupt scythes as a vigilante who deals death to those whom he feels besmirch the title. Ruling over this world is the Thunderhead, an omniscient artificial intelligence. However, it has no jurisdiction over the Scythedom and therefore has done nothing to stop Rowan. When an old enemy resurfaces, throwing the Scythedom into chaos, and Rowan unable to stem the flow of corruption on his own, the world begins to wonder if the Thunderhead will break its own laws and intervene. Shusterman wields his magic once again in this continuation. The exploration of how the Thunderhead operates and thinks, told through "diary entries," gives the story an extra dimension: how would an all-knowing, all-powerful AI think, and how would it process a flawed humanity? The climax and twist ending will leave fans of the series begging for the next installment. VERDICT A rare sequel that is even better than the first book.-Tyler Hixson, Brooklyn Public Library © Copyright 2018. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
Junior School	9781665983112	To all the boys I've loved before the graphic novel. Volume one	Perez Marquez, Barbara	School Library Journal (April 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-The popular romantic comedy gets a pitch-perfect graphic novel treatment. The romantic Lara Jean Covey has written letters to every boy she's ever loved to exorcise any feelings she may still have. But when her letters are mysteriously mailed to her former crushes, including the most popular boy in school and her older sister's ex-boyfriend, drama ensues. What follows is a charming fake-relationship rom-com that will have readers falling in love with the characters, especially the Covey trio of sisters. Their Korean mom passed away a few years ago, and their white dad does his best to introduce her culture to them. The family dynamic's warmth radiates off the page. Teens will also be caught between two romantic leads, though they're not always visually distinct. Typical teen trials impact Lara Jean, such as learning how to drive and rumors, which will resonate with readers. Talk of sex and sporadic strong language feels organic to the story. The often cotton-candy palette complements the romance-filled plot, and the smile-inducing dialogue will win over new fans and please lovers of the print edition. The unresolved ending hints at future adaptations of the next installments in the series. VERDICT Purchase multiple copies of this graphic novel adaptation of Han's breakout trilogy opener.-Shelley Diaz © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668864678	Toronto Maple Leafs	Hanlon, Luke	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781665986809	Totally True Tales from World War Ii	Gibbs, Stuart	Publishers Weekly starred (September 14, 2026) History and espionage buffs will delight in this energetic nonfiction accounting of the origins of modern spy craft, a series-launching spin-off of Gibbs's Spy School books that features illustrations from Jenkins (Spaced Out the Graphic Novel). The volume opens with an introduction from young spy-in-training Ben Ripley; narrating with aplomb, he acknowledges spies in popular media (James Bond, Jason Bourne, Ethan Hunt) while asserting that actual spies from history were just as cool, if not cooler, than their contemporary amalgams. A brief timeline of espionage, "one of the world's oldest professions," follows, noting the earliest recording of secret intelligence reporting (2000 BCE Mesopotamia), naming George Washington as the United States's first spymaster, and chronicling the beginnings of the Office of Strategic Services, a U.S. intelligence agency formed during WWII. Subsequent chapters delve into select stories of individuals whose covert missions were essential in helping the Allied powers win WWII, including American photographer Thérèse Bonney, Spanish double agent Juan Pujol Garcia, and Czechoslovakian lawyer Barbara Lauwers. Inserts framed as files from declassified archives provide contextualizing information throughout and include digital b&w sketch portraits of the figures discussed. Accessible language, buoyant delivery, and crisp detail make this a fresh and exciting outing. Ages 8-12. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
Junior School	9781668864685	Vegas Golden Knights	Cain, Harold P	School Library Journal (November 1, 2022) Gr 3-5-This series continuation balances team history, evolution, and current day highlights to create a well-rounded look at some of NHL's biggest teams. Each book follows a similar format with the teams' histories preceding "Quick Stats" that summarize their pertinent championships, impactful coaches, and all-time record holders. "Superstar Profile" sections break up the narrative timeline, but do so pleasantly, managing not to jar readers out of the setting. Engaging play-by-play writing boils down each team's big games into exciting highlight reels that are fast-paced and fun, making readers in the off-season long for the smack of sticks against frozen pucks. With NHL expansion teams still popping up with some frequency, this sport is gaining traction in previously untapped markets, so it's worth it for libraries to at least pick up teams in their own regions. VERDICT Solid first purchases, especially if your hockey shelves are bare. © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9781668892237	Washington Capitals	Graves, Will	
Junior School	9798318907197	What are Taylor Swift's eras?	Catherine, Niki	
Junior School	9798217141678	Who Is Bethany Hamilton?	Labrecque, Ellen	
Junior School	9798318949760	Who is John Cena?	Van Cleave, Ryan G	
Junior School	9798318949777	Who was Lizzie Borden?	Belviso, Meg	
Junior School	9781665905749	Wish you well	Sumner, Jamie	School Library Journal Xpress starred (June 26, 2026) Gr 5 Up-Eighth-grader Violet is losing her sight due to macular degeneration. At a picnic for kids with difficult diseases, she meets Noor, a girl struggling with cancer, and Wyatt, a boy who had a heart transplant. Each of them copes with their illnesses in a different way but find that friendship helps lessen the load. Wyatt comes up with an idea that they should ask the Make-a-Wish Foundation for a wish for each of them, using the premise that three sick kids would be harder to turn down than one. They agree to a GoFundMe campaign that is very successful, but circumstances change. Violet's mom says no to her wish (to blow up a building); Wyatt changes his mind about his wish to go to a football game, which was really all about his family and not him; and Noor is not well enough to travel to New York to meet her favorite Indian chef. The unfolding of this narrative is wonderful, and as the characters develop their friendship, readers will feel increasingly connected to them until the very end, which feels like it comes lamentably soon. There are big themes of family, coping with a debilitating disease, grief, romance, pity, friendship, and joy. Middle grade readers who like realistic stories with interesting, complicated characters and difficult real-world problems are going to love this one. Noor is Indian American; Violet and Wyatt cue white. VERDICT Another heartrending home run for Sumner, and a must-have for all middle school and high school libraries.-Debbie Tanner © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
Junior School	9798318948602	Zona cero	Gratz, Alan	
High School	9781632369291	Witch Hat Atelier 5	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9781646510108	Witch Hat Atelier 6	Kamome Shirahama	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9781646510788	Witch Hat Atelier 7	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9781646512690	Witch Hat Atelier 8	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9781646514472	Witch Hat Atelier 9	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9781646516186	Witch Hat Atelier 10	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9781646517459	Witch Hat Atelier 11	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9798888770795	Witch Hat Atelier 12	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9798888773307	Witch Hat Atelier 13	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9798888776858	Witch Hat Atelier 14	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9798888779781	Witch Hat Atelier 15	Kamome Shirahama	
High School	9780998063614	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 1	Beth Brower	
High School	9780998063621	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 2	Beth Brower	
High School	9780593513866	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 3	Beth Brower	
High School	9780143139737	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 4	Beth Brower	
High School	9780593513880	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 5	Beth Brower	
High School	9780593513897	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 6	Beth Brower	
High School	9780593513903	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 7	Beth Brower	
High School	9781957492032	The Unselected Journals of Emma M. Lion: Vol. 8	Beth Brower	
High School	9781427867568	Alter Ego, Volume 1	Ana C. Sanchez	
High School	9781427876638	Alter Ego, Volume 2	Ana C. Sanchez	
High School	9781646514632	A Galaxy Next Door 1	Gigo Amagakure	
High School	9781646514649	A Galaxy Next Door 2	Gigo Amagakure	
High School	9781684916191	A Galaxy Next Door 3	Gigo Amagakure	
High School	9781646515646	A Galaxy Next Door 4	Gigo Amagakure	
High School	9781646516827	A Galaxy Next Door 5	Gigo Amagakure	
High School	9781646518845	A Galaxy Next Door 6	Gigo Amagakure	
High School	9780736448697	Suddenly Super: A Twisted Tale	Jen Calonita	
High School	9780545791441	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: The Illustrated Edition (Harry Potter, Book 6)	J.K. Rowling, Levi Pinfold	
High School	9780545791427	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: The Illustrated Edition (Harry Potter Series #4)		
High School	9780545791434	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix: The Illustrated Edition (Harry Potter, Book 5)	J.K. Rowling, Jim Kay, Neil Packer	
High School	9798217140718	A Taste of Somewhere Else	By Michael Ruhlman	Gr 9 Up—High school junior Miles is going through the motions. He's been uprooted from his life in NYC after his mother's sudden death. As he ruminates on his trauma, he doesn't let himself fully engage in his new life in Cleveland, OH, with his emotionally distant father, Jake. As his dad works to keep his arts movie theater afloat, Miles struggles silently. On a whim, Jake decides that he'll take Miles to Madrid with him on a search for a movie producer he's been trying to pursue for an upcoming film festival. What begins as a tame business trip turns into a whirlwind adventure. As Miles finally works to process his grief, he begins to connect to his father in unexpected ways. The plot takes readers through an international feast of taste and sight. From Madrid and Consuegra to Seville and Cádiz, the characters experience the magic of the Andalusia region of Spain, including Picasso's Guernica, cobblestone streets, the famous Restaurante Sobrino de Botín, jamón and pastries, and more. Though the writing is upbeat, the author also explores grief and relationships through honest conversations about love and loss. The protagonist is white; supporting characters are diverse. The narrative has some strong language. VERDICT An engaging novel that explores grief, family relationships, and friendship. Highly recommended for library collections looking for realistic travel fiction.—Karin Greenberg
High School	9781250424105	The Oxford Guide to Scandal and Lies	By Kate Westbury	
High School	9798225008260	Light Up My Life: A Holiday Novel	By Kasie West	Gr 8 Up—The town of Cherry Ridge, CO, is known for its dazzling neighborhood Christmas displays, and high schooler Jasmine loves participating in all of the festivities with her family. The only damper on her holiday mood is their next-door neighbors, the Morenos, whom her family has feuded with since her moms were in high school. But Ryan Moreno doesn't care about the feud as much as he cares for Jasmine, and he believes that they can be together despite the hard feelings between their families. When a lawsuit threatens Cherry Ridge's beloved Christmas displays, Ryan and Jasmine find themselves navigating a secret romance while trying to identify the "Scrooge" determined to end the neighborhood's festivities. Readers will root for Ryan and Jasmine's relationship, and the light mystery will keep them guessing who the culprit is until the end. A strong supporting cast of Jasmine's family and best friend add depth to the story. VERDICT A fun, cozy holiday story with romance that will appeal to readers of West's other works. Perfect for upper middle grade and high school collections.—Ashley Leffel
High School	9780228106319	NBA 80: The Seasons, The Players, The Greatest Moments	By Benoit Labis	
High School	9781464231940	Party Pony	By Claire Wrenn Bobrow	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9780593699546	Stealing Saint Nick: A Legendary Corpse, a Notorious Theft, and the Stories that Shape the World	By M. T. Anderson	Gr 9 Up-Most don't conjure body snatchers, miracle oil, and medieval relics when thinking of Santa Claus. Nicholas of Myra, living around the year 300, became a bishop unexpectedly. He was jailed for being a Christian in Roman times, released when Emperor Constantine saw a cross in the sky, then canonized for miracles involving sailors and ships. Nicholas's history takes a strange and winding path to today's version of Saint Nick. The book is divided into sections to make the dense information more understandable: a history of St. Nicholas himself, an account of how his body was stolen from Türkiye and moved to Italy, and connections to the modern story of Santa Claus. Anderson states upfront that he does not want to criticize or promote any religion; rather he is taking historical information related to religion and examining it as social history. Carefully detailing the contradictions and unknowns, Anderson draws in historical context to help readers consider why people wrote down particular stories and histories, and how the events of the time could influence these tales. Periodically addressing readers directly keeps the tone light and acknowledges the incredulous details being shared. The idea that two competing groups of Italian sailors decided to steal Nicholas's 700-year-old body seems preposterous, but Anderson relishes in the crime scene, returning to it repeatedly as the central image that forms against the broader backdrop. Older teens or adults may want to delve into Anderson's historical fiction Nicked, which takes the topic and builds it out into an imaginative world. VERDICT Demonstrating connections from history to current times makes this historical work relevant, and the elements of mystery and mysticism make for dramatic reading.-Lucinda Whitehurstα(c) Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781665989831	Falling Like Snow	By Misty Wilson	Gr 7 Up-Nothing is better than Christmastime in Bramble Falls. That's what 16-year-old Sloane Sullivan wants to believe. After the success of Bramble Falls's Falling Leaves Festival in November, Sloane is looking forward to joining her cousin Ellis in New York City for a magical winter break. But her mother, the mayor, insists on a Falling Snow Festival throughout the month of December, sending Sloane's dreams of finding the love of her life at the Empire State Building to smithereens. But never fear, Asher Yoshida is here! Sloane's lifelong best friend is determined to aid her through all of her event planning by providing hot chocolate, good vibes, and magical NYC moments. Will this Christmas be just like any other, or will Sloane's new complicated feelings toward Asher change the season forever? This book is a menagerie of wintertime activities, highlighted with an underlying friends-to-lovers and coming-of-age plotline. With a wide cast of friends and a potential love triangle, this novel is filled with tropes. However, Sloane's navigation of the grief of her father's passing adds another layer of emotional depth to the novel. Oppositely, some of the events of this novel seem decently far-fetched, like the involvement of teenagers in the planning and production of town events, making Sloane's life lean slightly unrealistic. Overall, readers will enjoy a mostly lighthearted romp through a holiday-centered rom-com. Sloane is white, and Asher is Asian American. VERDICT A festive addition to any library's young adult collection; for fans of Wilson's Falling Like Leaves and holiday romance readers.-Ashton Conleyα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781324130901	The Spirits	By Bonnie Jo Campbell	
High School	9780593855669	Huda F Would Love You?: A Graphic Novel	Written and illustrated by Huda Fahmy	Gr 8 Up—In the fourth and final book of the "Huda F" series, Huda is fresh out of high school and turns to the next items on her checklist: falling in love and getting married. As a romantic with high hopes, Huda makes her social debut and tries every trick she knows to present herself as elegant, witty, and charming to the aunties scouting marriage prospects for their sons. But Huda's efforts backfire, and when a flirtatious relationship with a cute boy in her summer class goes sour, she wonders if she will ever find love. With the support of her sisters and new friends in the Muslim Student Association, Huda is reminded of her self-worth and learns she doesn't need to fit anyone else's expectations to be happy. Huda's desperation to find a husband is often cringeworthy but effectively sets up the lessons she learns by the conclusion. The cartoon-style illustrations are simple, yet they perfectly convey characters' emotions and move the story forward. Panels are clearly sequenced and easy to navigate, even for less experienced graphic novel readers. VERDICT Sometimes awkward but always funny, this book will resonate with and appeal to teens who need to hear the message of being true to oneself.—Danielle Sachdeva
High School	9780063490376	A Knight Before Christmas	By Cara Stout	
High School	9781682638682	Devil's Advocate: The Anti-Divine Comedy	By Amanda DeWitt	Gr 9 Up-Seventeen-year-old Ada Faust's father is the Devil. Beneath his human form as Mark Faust, he's plotting to usher in what he calls the New Apocalypse. Step one? Ensure the election of presidential candidate Nelson Campbell. Ada's three siblings are on board and have already begun working on Campbell's campaign, but Ada has no idea how she can compete with them. After she discovers that her archenemy (and half-angel sometimes friend) Hasan has been recommended for an internship with the other presidential candidate, Perry Harlow, Ada recommends herself, thinking she can work as a spy and bring down the other campaign from within. Surprisingly, both students are selected. What ensues is a battle between good and evil, as the half-devil and half-angel teenagers work against each other in a quest to either save or end the world. Ada narrates a quickly developing plot, incorporating snappy, Gen Alpha lingo. Characters are diverse, representing different nationalities, ages, and family compositions, including the use of gender-neutral pronouns. The storyline exposes the dark side of political campaigns, including the pressures, the sound bites, the out-of-context images, and the outright lies that have become a regular part of modern campaigns. Most readers will recognize the evident bias of the story and its allegorical reference to real-life officials. Strong language and criminal behavior, such as stealing and cybercrime, are also featured prominently. VERDICT This book makes a powerful statement, while at the same time offering a glimmer of hope for a better future.-Anne Jung-Matthewsα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9781250381590	Mortal Things	By Marie Lu	Gr 9 Up-Rose serves Raven, the god of Death, as an extension of his power. Although she once dreamed of being a doctor, now she finds herself tasked with taking lives. When Raven selects Rose as his heir, she must pass a series of trials designed by her rival, Étienne, a harbinger for the god of Lies. But as unsanctioned deaths escalate, both Rose and Étienne suspect something more than Rose's role is at stake. With lies and illusion everywhere, however, Rose begins to doubt Étienne as an ally, her confidence in Raven's motives, and her role within the system she despises. Veteran Lu flexes her gift of respecting young readers' intelligence and maturity, not holding back from sophisticated concepts. Fans of the Chosen One trope as well as trial-based narratives will find much to savor and be pleasantly surprised by Lu's refreshing twists. Dreamy second-person interludes challenge readers to picture themselves there. With Rose's interest in medicine, there is an intriguing balance of medical and magical ways of knowing that will speak to both right- and left-brained readers. Rose has brown hair and eyes; Étienne has golden-brown hair and green eyes; supporting characters are diverse. VERDICT Lu's duology opener is a fast-paced, emotional story that will speak to repeat fans and easily welcome new ones.-Gina Collettα(c) Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780316608947	Styx: The River	By Nikita Gill	Gr 7 Up—Gill delights with this prequel to 2025's Hekate: The Witch. As in her previous work, Gill uses free verse and occasional prose; here, she tells a tale alternately through the eyes of two young women who would shape Hekate's life: her mother, the goddess Asteria; and her mentor, the nymph Styx. Readers meet the women early in their lives and follow them as they become friends and explore the limits of their spellwork and witchcraft. Though they grow stronger in their magical abilities and find loving husbands, Asteria and Styx struggle to find their place in a world of misogynistic and power-hungry Titans, who in turn struggle to exist under the reign of Kronos. The Titans have made a metaphorical deal with the devil, supporting Kronos despite his barbaric cannibalism of his infant children. There is hell to pay when one son of Kronos, Zeus, survives. Asteria and Styx have their lives torn apart in the ensuing war. Gill deftly weaves together differing and occasionally contradictory Greek myths. The various aspects, powers, and roles assigned to deities are organically blended, resulting in a surprisingly relatable story set in an underexplored early era in Greek mythology. VERDICT Strongly recommended for lovers of classical Greek and Roman mythology, particularly feminist retellings such as Jennifer Saint's Ariadne, Madeline Miller's Circe, or Gill's preceding Hekate.—Tammy Ivins
High School	9780593620410	The House of Gardenias	By Isabel CaÃ±as	Gr 9 Up—On the cusp of starvation, 16-year-old Minerva Treviño's last hope to escape from the Capital's slums is a torn, dirty flyer that reads, "Lady's maid wanted. No experience necessary. Inquire at Casa Azafrán, 18 Calle Jacaranda." Her determination helps her win over the cantankerous Encarnación del Valle, gaining both the position and the promise of refuge. However, the growing friction between the Valbuenista insurgents and the ousted Viceroy's troops soon boils over, and Minerva is forced to flee the city with Señora Encarnación to the familial estate, la Casa de las Gardenias, high upon a nearby mountain. Time passes gradually, with tension rising among the rest of the del Valle family, all of whom dislike or outright hate Señora Encarnación. Though she tries to just focus on her work, Minerva cannot shake the feeling that something nefarious lurks within the shadows and starts to wonder just what secrets haunt the House of Gardenias. And then, she meets Ygnacio, who is not what he appears to be. Thanks to the atmospheric prose and parallel narrative structure, readers will be hooked from the very beginning. As Minerva's and Ygnacio's paths intertwine and deepen, the plot gradually intensifies to a satisfying and explosive ending. The text implies some instances of sex off the page, and fear of rape is mentioned. Characters are presumed Latine with varying skin tones. The use of Spanish within the text is purposeful and easy to translate given context. VERDICT A gripping historical horror novel sure to please both teens and adults. Highly recommended for public libraries.—Pearl Derlaga
High School	9781464299292	If We Survive the Night	By Jo Salazar	Gr 9 Up—Twelve teenage girls in a residential treatment center in a Chicago suburb become victims when a break-in turns out to be a zombie apocalypse. Quinn and Keisha seem like opposites, but their street smarts and mutual admiration create a bond of trust and respect. Quinn, diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder, knows how to leverage weaknesses to gain the upper hand. Keisha has a history of using sex appeal to deceive and exploit. A chaotic bloodbath ensues as infected rioters, called carriers, storm the center. When the survivors escape, Quinn takes charge, ruthlessly eliminating anybody she considers a liability, cutting down those who stand in her way as well as carriers. She is thrilled by her newfound power and control and revels in each kill. But when Quinn faces off with Keisha, the realization she has been played and betrayed by a master manipulator forces her to break her only remaining connection to society and become the ultimate survivor. Readers may struggle with conflicted sympathies for strong female protagonist Quinn as an antihero and unreliable narrator, and a flawed, complex, and generally unlikable cast of characters who add to the grim landscape of the story. Quinn is white; Keisha has dark skin. Various psychological, social, and behavioral issues are addressed, and mature themes and language are present. VERDICT Readers who don't flinch at blood- and-guts horror and enjoy Justina Ireland's Dread Nation and the TV series The Walking Dead and Yellowjackets will relish this new take on zombie apocalypse with girl power themes.—Rebecca Jung
High School	9781250347831	But I Hate Him	By Page Powars	Gr 9 Up—Rory Prince has always planned on attending Harvard—he and his parents have built his life around making it happen. But when a PR crisis derails everything, his parents ship him off to a cutthroat academic summer camp where one competitor will win a full ride to any college of their choice. There's just one problem: his hockey-obsessed academic rival Luca Melendez (who has beaten him all 36 times they've faced off) is there, too. Determined to finally win, Rory devises a new strategy: make Luca fall for him, then break his heart before the final competition. What ensues makes for a pitch perfect rom-com. Powars blends sharp banter and summer camp high jinks with a thoughtful look at societal pressure, identity, and the need to be seen beyond parental expectations. Rory, a trans teen boxed in by his parents' ambitions, is sympathetic and spectacularly oblivious, especially about his own feelings. For someone so academically brilliant, he is hopeless when it comes to romance, and it's a joy to watch. The chemistry between Rory and Luca is immediate and electric; their rivalry turns into something much more tender with such a satisfying emotional payoff. The banter crackles, the tension builds, and the shift from enemies to something more completely sticks the landing. Rory is Irish American; Luca has dark brown hair, tan skin, and freckles. VERDICT A witty, heartfelt rivals-to-lovers story with plenty of spark and ample banter to make readers swoon.—Jacob Demlow

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9781250402035	It Looks Like You in the Dark	By Mathilda Zeller	
High School	9780063445147	Elf Unwrapped: Behind the Scenes of a Modern Christmas Classic	By Andy Richter,Aaron Karo	
High School	9781668005941	Situated: Find the People and Places That Bring Out Your Best	By Angela Duckworth	
High School	9781250348920	President of the Anime Club	Written and illustrated by Stephanie Evangelista Fukuda,Daigo Fukuda	Gr 7 Up-A crossover between a graphic novel and manga, this is a story of friendship and first love. Freshman Cherie starts going to a new school and quickly befriends Naomi. They have a shared interest in anime, manga, and all things Asian culture (Naomi is cued Japanese). The two also have a friend named Miro, and the trio decide to join the anime club run by the mega cool Jenny. It's clear Cherie has feelings for Naomi, but she is worried they are unrequited, and at the same time she is feeling something for Miro. This story follows the common slice-of-life trope found in manga where the plot deals with common occurrences and day-to-day affairs. No major adventures take place, and this is a simple story of a trio of friends with developing crushes and other social dynamics. This is a great entry point for those new to the manga format and even for returning fans looking for more. There is LGBTQIA+ representation with a lesbian relationship and the main character is cued bisexual. VERDICT This is a good choice for libraries hoping to bulk up their manga or graphic novel sections. A recommended purchase for middle and high school libraries.-Carolina Youssifα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781250851208	A curse for true love	Garber, Stephanie	School Library Journal Xpress (December 22, 2023) Gr 8 Up-In this highly anticipated finale to Garber's latest trilogy in the "Caraval" universe, Evangeline (who reads white) awakens with all of her memories from the past year erased. Her husband, the handsome Prince Apollo (who is Black), promises to keep her safe and whisks her back to a seemingly fairy-tale life. Her lack of memories leaves her unsure of whether she should trust Apollo, who is determined to kill the charming but villainous Lord Jacks who Apollo claims was responsible for a long list of heinous crimes. As she slowly pieces together her past, Evangeline rediscovers her love for Jacks and realizes she must stop him from making an irreversible mistake in a foolhardy attempt to keep her safe. As always, Garber's worldbuilding is lush and captivating. The beautiful prose make for a smooth, quick read, and the characters are witty and complex. The first half of the book leaves Jacks and Evangeline separated, but the second half of the book more than makes up for the lack of witty banter and forbidden romance in the first half. Garber has successfully crafted a love story that has left readers rooting for a villain from the "Caraval" series. The ending is predictable, but will give fans what they've been waiting for. VERDICT Readers will be on the edge of their seats to get to the stunning finale of this much-loved series.-Candyce Pruitt-Goddard © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9798217001989	A garden of vipers	Lincoln, Beth	School Library Journal Xpress (September 4, 2026) Gr 5-7-This third installment in "The Swifts" is a funny, exciting adventure with elegant illustrations and a diverse cast of potent characters that collide in hilarious, unexpected ways. After the discovery of Grand Uncle Vile's treasure hoard at the bottom of the lake, Shenanigan is plagued by the possibility of somehow bringing it to the surface. When Atrocious Swift calls in a favor, Shenanigan must get the crew back together and travel to New York to save Dandelion DeMille from being killed. With the help of a mysterious book she found in the library called The Swindler's Handbook, Shenanigan begins her journey. This book is beautifully reminiscent of Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events" and will appeal to fans of Trenton Lee Stewart's "The Mysterious Benedict Society." It keeps readers guessing until the end, and each of Powell's illustrations overflow with personality. The swirling line art is shaded in gray scale, giving the reader the feeling of a French novel. The large cast of characters can be cumbersome to keep track of, but it's worth it to embark on this thrilling new adventure and unravel the puzzles and mysteries. Shenanigan is cued white; secondary characters are diverse. VERDICT An exhilarating series addition for young readers interested in sabotage, thievery, and jet-setting adventures. Recommended for juvenile mystery collections.-Isla Jiang © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781368108263	Adventure is out there! : what if it was Ellie who went up to Paradise Falls?	Braswell, Liz	
High School	9781838743932	An illustrated history of magic	Boardman, Adam Allsuch	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 6 Up-Boardman continues his "Illustrated History" series with this installment dedicated to the history of magic. With multiple colorful illustrations on each spread, this book offers a wide variety of interesting facts split into five main sections covering ancient history, classical and medieval, modern-era, occult revival, and post modernity; however, many pages in the modern era section reference ancient beliefs and practices. While information is presented in short paragraphs or single sentences without great detail, Boardman does focus much of the discussion on cultural histories, folklore, and religions, and the often-blurry lines between these and what is contemporarily thought of as magic. Also mentioned are secret societies and ancient rituals. Boardman's signature style of illustrations is great fun. While this work may not be detailed enough for student researchers, this is a browsable, enjoyable introduction to the topic that gives readers a wide variety of interesting facts. Back matter includes a glossary, an index, and further reading. VERDICT This is a good addition for casual reading collections that trivia-loving teens will pore over. Recommended.-Karen Bilton © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781838744236	An Illustrated History of Ufos	Allsuch Boardman, Adam	
High School	9798384941675	Banana Ball League history	Beattie, Charlie	
High School	9798384941682	Banana Ball League rules	Streeter, Anthony	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9781640366008	Barbie: dreamscape	Aster, Alex	School Library Journal Xpress (August 7, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Barbie's life in the pink-hued paradise of Heartland seems perfectly planned. She has followed every rule, met every expectation, and believes that graduating from Swancrest Academy will provide clear instructions for her future. But when she is unexpectedly declared "Fateless," her sweet-as-candy world is turned upside down. Blending fantasy and dystopian elements with the hopeful, vibrant energy Barbie represents, Aster delivers a heartfelt story about finding yourself in a world that often expects perfection. Barbie's journey explores how our inner voices can become our greatest enemies, especially when we compare ourselves to others or believe our lives must follow a flawless map. As she steps beyond the safety of her cookie-cutter existence, Barbie learns that mistakes can lead to growth, following the crowd is not always right, and an uncertain future can hold wonderful possibilities. Beneath the novel's pink sparkle is an uplifting message about accepting every imperfect and still-evolving part of yourself. This imaginative coming-of-age adventure allows readers to see Barbie beyond her famous perfection, transforming her into a surprisingly relatable heroine for teens trying to discover who they are and where they belong. Most characters cue white with some diversity in the supporting cast. VERDICT A sweet, empowering fantasy for longtime Barbie fans and new readers alike. Recommended for collections seeking hopeful stories about identity, courage, and learning to step outside the box.-Aurora Dominguez © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9798347129461	Behind the Movies	Painter, Lynn	
High School	9780593707050	Blightfall	Sanderson, Brandon	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-This first novel in a new trilogy that takes place in Sanderson's "Cytoverse" continues the legacy of the "Skyward" series. It is an excellent starting point for readers new to the world, while staying true to the pacing and themes of the original books. Skyward Flight members Arturo and Sadie provide alternating points of view and detail a new mission: the humans on the planet Detritus have located a new colony seemingly still under the oppression of the alien alliance known as the Superiority. Skyward Flight is sent in to investigate and hopefully bring them in as allies in the continuing battle. But what they find will change everything in the universe as they know it. Sanderson and Patterson are a powerhouse duo. Sanderson fans will enjoy the pacing, new technologies, and joyful views of the lovable taynix space slugs, along with the feelings of hope and nostalgia that reading this new story brings. Themes of oppression, prejudice, and war are well balanced with those of romance, exploration, and triumph, and give this book something for everyone. Putting other members of Skyward Flight forward as main characters allows the universe to grow in new ways. Characters have a variety of skin tones and hair colors. VERDICT A wonderful sci-fi novel that will teleport off shelves faster than the speed of light.-Adam Fisher © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781678213305	Careers for people who learn by doing	Currie-McGhee, Leanne	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2026) Hands-on, or kinesthetic, learners will be reassured by this guide, which includes stories about and quotes from an array of successful people, all of whom report that they prefer learning by doing and working with their hands. The subjects range from an automotive technician to an engineer for NASA and a veterinary assistant, among others. In the early chapters, the author explains different learning styles, explaining that students may discover they prefer to use a mix of styles. The range of occupations mentioned provides readers with much to consider, as does the variety of career and technical education programs and apprenticeships—and even some universities with learning-by-doing philosophies—that can help them achieve their dreams. The third chapter, "Career Considerations," offers brief overviews of a few broad areas to explore: the skilled trades, culinary arts, renewable energy installation and maintenance, and health care. Each of the final three chapters focuses on a specific job—plumber, pastry chef, and wind turbine technician—describing typical salaries, required education, work settings, beneficial personal qualities, and more. Given the number of quotes from educators, the information Currie-McGhee presents is as useful to parents and counselors as it is to teens. Ample stock photos showing a diverse range of people, colorful page designs, and numerous text boxes add to the accessibility and appeal. This brief, highly readable introduction will leave teens feeling encouraged about alternate career paths. (source notes, resources, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 13-18)
High School	9781646145683	Children of Owl	Little Badger, Darcie	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Three Lipan Apache cousins, Maisie, Joel, and Verona, find their lives pulled together by grief, family history, and supernatural forces lurking just beneath the surface of everyday life. After Maisie encounters the son of Owl, a figure tied to death and bad omens, she becomes convinced tragedy is coming for one of her cousins. As the cousins navigate ghosts, monsters, and buried truths, they must also confront complicated family dynamics and the lasting impact of loss. Little Badger blends Indigenous storytelling, horror, and contemporary teen experiences into a quiet but emotionally resonant narrative. The multiple perspectives are well balanced, giving each cousin a distinct voice while building toward a larger interconnected story. Atmospheric prose and beautiful comic-style illustrations add depth and texture, creating an eerie tone that lingers throughout. Themes of grief, identity, justice, and belonging are thoughtfully woven into the story without slowing its emotional impact. Fans of Little Badger's Elatsoe and character-driven speculative fiction will appreciate the novel's layered storytelling and strong emotional core. While the pacing leans introspective rather than action-heavy, the richly developed relationships and supernatural elements will keep readers engaged. VERDICT A haunting and heartfelt exploration of family, grief, and Indigenous identity that is highly recommended for YA collections.-Shelby Newhouse © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781454961581	Crime and Punishment	Dostoevsky, Fyodor	
High School	9780785134794	Daredevil, the man without fear	Miller, Frank	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9781665960168	Deadlock	Gong, Chloe	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2026) A bot continues the battle against the evil mega corporation that created her in a world where the privileged escape into a virtual world while the rest struggle to survive. A year after the tumultuous events of Coldwire (2025), Eirale Ward, a sentient AI-powered bot, inhabits a brand-new 3D-printed body—her memory supposedly wiped clean—and continues to serve as a NileCorp soldier in the Federated States of Atahua. In reality, she retains memories from her former lives as she works undercover with the Coalition, a group seeking to destroy NileCorp and end the growing hostility between Atahua and neighboring Medaluo. Her struggle returns her to the orbit of her crush, fellow trainee turned Coalition fighter Kieren Murray, whose twin Hailey's avatar has been accidentally left trapped in NileCorp's AI-powered StrangeLoom system by Eirale. Joining them is Miz, Nile Military Academy trainee Lia's estranged best friend. With the clock ticking, the trio embarks on a desperate quest to save Hailey, expose NileCorp's nefarious plans, and prevent a war. Despite the assured worldbuilding, the narrative, which alternates among three different voices, makes for dizzying reading, especially as Eirale's chapters aren't labeled as such. The many expository passages about Atahuan politics, NileCorp's evilness, and the workings of AI, and Eirale's interminable ruminations on her unique existence, weaken the pace, but this is compensated for by the plot twists and audacious cliffhanger ending. The Atahuans read white, while the Medans are cued Asian. A worthy sequel hinting at greater thrills to come. (map) (Dystopian thriller. 14-18)
High School	9798893750447	Dive Into Love	Guevara, Michael Mendez	School Library Journal Xpress starred (August 21, 2026) Gr 9 Up-For fans of Benjamin Alire Saenz's Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, this contemporary novel explores what happens when young, gay love unfolds amid a family's cultural and religious expectations, racism, and homophobia, all with a good dose of hope. Set in Texas, the book opens with Mexican American high school senior Enrique, 17, meeting Jalen, a wealthy, 18-year-old Black college freshman from Vermont with a diving scholarship, after practice at the tennis clinic. The two form an instant connection despite their different socioeconomic, familial, racial, and ethnic backgrounds. As their relationship develops, Enrique spins seemingly harmless lies to his parents, teachers, and Jalen to keep their relationship and his gay identity secret. Eventually, innocuous social media photos of the boys are discovered by Enrique's teammate and childhood friend. He outs Enrique to school administrators while revealing that Enrique cheated on a paper with his boyfriend. The accusation jeopardizes Enrique's participation on the team, while the revelation exposes his parents' homophobic and racist convictions. The relationships are so intricately and beautifully developed that they evoke strong feelings of support and care for Enrique, who must make adult decisions earlier than many teens while discovering the love and care available through new and chosen family. VERDICT This story lays bare the profound impacts of racism and homophobia on teens while offering hope through its likable, realistic protagonists and a tender portrayal of love and found family.-Ruth Quiroa © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9798347102679	Dragon and the Dove	Doyle, Catherine	
High School	9798330914081	Embracing your ADHD brain : an actually helpful guide for teens	Sullivan, Danielle	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 6 Up-A cheerful and cerebral take on teen ADHD full of definitions, encouraging advice, and writing exercises. Sullivan self-identifies as "an autistic ADHDer and neurodiversity coach," and this positioning clarifies the text's strategy. Sullivan introduces the concept of neurodiversity before delving into ADHD, specifically. For example, using left-handedness as a case study for a form of neurodiversity that has lost its stigma and reframing ADHD within a larger cultural shift. Sullivan proposes a journal model as the primary way to engage with the reflective practice modeled by the guide. However, the advice of talking "with a friend of family member" gives the impression that the guidebook is best used within a preexisting caring and supportive relationship that will help teens follow through on the many activities and suggestions proposed to help navigate emotional dysregulation and support executive functioning. Upbeat and solutions-oriented, this text does not engage the competitive optimism of Grace Friedman and Sarah Cheyette's Winning with ADHD: A Playbook for Teens and Young Adults and sidesteps the emotional struggle that opens Mark Bertin and Karen Bluth's Mindfulness and Self-Compassion for Teen ADHD, both of which Sullivan lists in the resource section. This book includes references and resources, including a list of books, organizations, podcasts and apps. VERDICT By adding this to the roster of guides helping teens with ADHD, educators, families, and health care professionals have a greater chance of matching the right book to the right child.-Katherine Magyarody © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781547605835	Everything new again	Watson, Renee	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-A poignant novel exploring love, friendship, and loss through the lives of two teens whose growing bond guides them toward their futures. Bliss, 17, lives what others see as an unusual life in Larch Heights, a small town in eastern Oregon surrounded by larch trees. Her family, one of the few Black families in town, owns and lives above the local funeral home. Classmates, unable to understand her world, call her "death's daughter." Despite this, Bliss embraces her life, viewing death not with fear but as a natural part of existence. Still, she longs to leave her town and discover more. That desire deepens when she meets Solomon, a 17-year-old newcomer searching for the mother who left him. As a biracial (Black/white) teen, he understands what it means to feel different and misunderstood. Together, Bliss and Solomon find connection, comfort, and the possibility of truly being seen. Nature shapes the novel, especially the larch trees that symbolize rebirth, resilience, and a link between the physical and spiritual worlds. These themes mirror Bliss and Solomon's journeys as they navigate identity and being Black in predominantly white spaces. Historical elements highlight the resilience of Black settlers who shaped the community, adding depth to the story. As they face questions about identity, family, and the future, Bliss and Solomon support and challenge each other. VERDICT A powerful coming-of-age story rooted in nature, history, and self-discovery.-Margaret Auguste © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9798318951404	Eyes like stars	Poston, Ashley	School Library Journal Xpress starred (June 26, 2026) Gr 8 Up-Ardent Quay is the daughter of a legendary navigator, but she feels trapped on her family's tour ship, the Starfarer. Her life changes when she meets Sian, a mysterious Wild Spacer carrying a broken artifact that is revealed to be Luke Skywalker's lightsaber. Poston brings a fresh young adult slant to the galaxy, utilizing popular tropes like the Starlight nickname and high-tension closeness that will thrill romance enthusiasts. The narrative fits seamlessly into the sequel trilogy era, featuring visceral encounters with General Hux and a terrifying Kylo Ren, alongside delightful cameos from Maz Kanata and Naboo's Lady Sosha Soruna. The writing is evocative, especially concerning Ardent's wayfinding gift, a family intuition for navigating hyperspace, which mirrors the emotional pull of her burgeoning relationship with Sian. While "Star Wars" fans will relish the deep lore, from Geonosian massiffs to Coruscant's lower tiers, the story remains accessible to newcomers by focusing on universal themes of belonging and family legacy. Diversity is a significant strength as the cast includes a moss-skinned Twi'lek best friend, a tattooed Zabrak bosun, and Sian's own unique Lucem heritage. VERDICT This is a fun, romance-focused entry into the "Star Wars" canon that expertly utilizes modern YA tropes. It is a necessary addition for libraries with "Star Wars" fans and will likely draw romance readers into the galaxy far, far away for the first time.-Richard Winters © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781368114691	Fall of the coven	Shepard, Sara	School Library Journal Xpress (May 15, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Agatha Harkness's quest to find the Darkhold, a magical grimoire that grants users unspeakable power, leads her to 1690s Salem, MA. Stuck in a coven of talentless witches, Agatha bides her time until she can seize the book. When a young coven member goes missing, Agatha reluctantly plans to find her and then the Darkhold. But Agatha is thwarted by nosy, stuck-up Martha, who has her own plans for the book. Suddenly transported by portal to 2025, Agatha is now a teenager at the prestigious Conant Academy just outside modern Salem. Determined to blend in, she immerses herself as a student and quickly finds a new coven and a first crush, all while trying to recover the Darkhold, identify an incognito Martha, and discover if the mysterious disappearances on campus are related. She almost starts to feel like she's found her home until Martha reappears, with dire consequences for Agatha's new friends. Agatha must balance her desire for power with her newfound connections to others. Readers will find this version of Agatha intriguing and more likable than her evil portrayals in Marvel graphic novels, film, and television. Agatha crushes on handsome West and becomes quickly attached to her new roommate, Ursula, and the other members of the coven. The introduction of supporting characters to further the main plot strengthens the well-paced narrative. However, the story lacks the depth some readers may prefer; those looking for an intricate plot as part of the Marvel multiverse may be underwhelmed. The tease of future adventures at the end may be enough to entice readers to follow Agatha through her journey. Agatha is white; other characters cue similarly. VERDICT This novel will appeal to Marvel Universe fans, as well as those who enjoy time travel, magic, mysteries, and a dash of romance.-Linsey Mililo © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780593327104	Fangs and All A Graphic Novel	Mukanik, Tas	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-Sam has finally convinced her girlfriend Boots to take her home to meet her family. Readers meet this older teen couple-a cutely butch Sam and a punked-out Boots-on the drive there, with Boots worrying all the way that her family is just too terrible for her to expose Sam to. "Home," it's revealed, is a standard old monster-stuffed mansion, and the family, too, leans into the cartoony cast of an Addams Family archetype. The grandmother is the worst, forcing Boots into her "natural" vampire bat appearance. Meanwhile, Sam is bitten by the young and bratty Pav and starts to grow werewolf features of her own. The girlfriends lose track of each other and must trek across the junglelike setting and a house with too many doors to be reunited. It's a fun romp, in candy colors with bouncy figures, fast action, telling facial expressions, and lurid shadows. While the parallels to puberty and the awkward moments of coming-of-age might seem stark, they are also given a light touch with some good coping skills for handling fear. Everyone cues white. VERDICT A cute LGBTQIA+ romance paired with plenty of standard monsters make this both fun for cozy horror genre readers and a chuckle for teen graphic novel fans.-Francisca Goldsmith © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781250437013	Ghosted	Tucker, Talia	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Keziah Nam's best friend is her sleep paralysis demon, Steve. Unlike many people in her life, Steve is a constant. When Keziah is nominated for Homecoming Queen at her all-girls school, she knows she needs to find a date for the dance, but she is not impressed with any of the boys at the neighboring school. She would rather spend time with Mr. Kim who owns the food truck where she gets her beloved fried corn dogs. When Keziah meets Guy at Mr. Kim's truck, she thinks he may have potential. But when he ghosts her at the homecoming dance, Keziah decides to seek revenge. Keziah learns why Guy has transferred schools and meets Gigi, whom she starts to fall for-the two of them work together to haunt Guy. With her dark humor and a perfect mix of teen angst and desperation, Keziah is an entertaining protagonist throughout. She is attempting to navigate strained relationships with her friends and family. At times, the lack of depth and connection with other characters makes for a lopsided storyline. The strongest part of the book is Keziah working through her bisexuality and growing feelings for Gigi. Although humorous, Steve sometimes takes away from the larger narrative. Keziah is Asian American and Black, and other characters also cue Asian. VERDICT Readers who enjoy dark humor and a good paralysis demon will enjoy this LGBTQIA+ revenge fantasy.-Rebekah Buchanan © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9798217112555	Girls like us	Dugan, Jennifer	School Library Journal Xpress (March 20, 2026) Gr 9 Up-In this sequel to Some Girls Do, Morgan and Ruby's story picks up shortly after where the first book leaves off. The two are now in college-Morgan at a Division I school, running track, and Ruby at a local community college, training to be an auto mechanic. Things are going mostly smoothly for the pair as they navigate new terrain while also trying to stay committed to each other. But then enter Mac and Shiloh, potential new crushes whose presence tests the strength of Morgan's and Ruby's commitment to each other. Coupled with a four-hour drive separating them, plus the unnerving feeling each has that they are on different trajectories and holding each other back career-wise, the new distractions threaten to crumble the delicate world they crafted. While the plot can seem thin at times, Dugan writes believably about two likable characters navigating the transition to adulthood. She captures the highs and lows of this transformative time in life, which is replete with feelings of freedom, possibility, and excitement, but also self-doubt, resentment, and jealousy. Dugan's use of the first-person narrative in alternating chapters grants readers access to both characters' inner thoughts, which adds another level of immersion into the narrative. Also enhancing the story are the fully drawn secondary characters, many of whom are LGBTQIA+, who serve mostly as Morgan's and Ruby's sounding boards but are three-dimensional. Morgan's and Ruby's travails will resonate with many young adult readers, but especially with those who enjoyed their story in the first book. Morgan is cued as white; Ruby is white. VERDICT A recommended purchase where Some Girls Do circulated well.-Melissa Kazan © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780593622735	Good luck, babe!	Baldwin, Erin	School Library Journal (May 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-A lighthearted reality TV rom-com with two girls whose pretend dating may get them kicked off the show. Former besties Noelle and Yumi were once inseparable, but due to a romantic misunderstanding, they haven't spoken in a year. Now they are graduating from high school, and their past pops back up. As superfans of the reality series The Adventureverse, they submitted an audition tape together when they were still friends. Now, the producer wants to cast them in a couples season, but they aren't a couple. Noelle wants to go because her father needs a liver transplant and the prize money could help pay his medical expenses. She convinces Yumi to participate. The two must convince the viewers on national television that they are really a couple as they traverse across the globe in one adventure after another. Yumi and Noelle are very likable, and it is touching that Yumi's Filipino family agrees to be there for Noelle's dad when she is filming the show. The other couples competing add comic relief and tension. Noelle reads as white. VERDICT This LGBTQIA+ love story is easily accessible to any reader who enjoys fake dating romance tropes like in Jenn P. Nguyen's Fake It Till You Break It by or David Yoon's Frankly in Love.-Elizabeth Kahn © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9798217118137	Guard my heart	Fedel, Sabrina	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-A unique hockey romance that twists the fake dating trope on its head with surprising laughs and heartrending moments. Ryleigh is a senior goalie, and this is her last chance to prove she can be an asset to a D1 college hockey team. After a year of hardship fighting through her mother's cancer battle while listening to a bully coach who destroyed her self-esteem, she is struggling to prove herself to everyone, especially herself. Enter Jett Robitaille, hockey phenom. Everything is perfect for him: looks, popularity, already signed to Cornell, and even the NHL scouting him as a top draft pick. Jett asks Rye to help make her archnemesis, Peyton, jealous; when he entices her with free ice time and help with her goalie skills in return for pretending to be his girlfriend, Rye must say yes. Rye knows she can resist him and stay on course, but every day with Jett proves that her feelings may not be as fake as she's pretending. Fedel excels in accurate hockey-life portrayals and deeply authentic descriptions of young love. Jett is charming, and Rye's voice is witty and relatable. Their emotions run strong but true on and off the ice. Minor characters are so fully developed that readers will want their stories told, too. Jett is French Canadian; Ryleigh is white. VERDICT Romance readers will feel the emotional rush of teen love with the excitement of a good hockey game, making this a book guaranteed to stay off the shelves.-Maria Ramusevic © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781465468635	Heads up sociology	Yuill, Chris	
High School	9781536240368	Hearts on the table	Metallo, Susan	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-A captivating historical fiction and romance novel retelling of William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Violet Farris, a Sicilian 17-year-old English feminist runs away with her brother, Seb, to escape their abusive father. It is the midst of World War I, and the siblings are separated when a U-boat attacks their ship. Violet washes ashore and assumes a new identity as a man to protect herself from the harm that could come from traveling alone as a woman. On a journey to find her brother in an unfamiliar land, Violet finds friends, a community, and what she never thought she would experience: love. This story explores themes of identity, classism, sexism, ableism, loss, grief, love, and friendship. There is LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergent representation in the characters throughout, which Metallo honors in an author's note. Readers will also find a map, a cast of characters, and extensive historical notes that detail which elements of the story are real versus fiction. Violet and Seb have olive skin; Teo is fair skinned. VERDICT This fun, historical retelling of William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night will keep readers wanting more. This book is a must-have on YA shelves.-Jazmyne Baylor © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9798217040537	Her Rising Flame	O'Sullivan, Cliodhna	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-This sequel to Her Hidden Fire continues Éadha's story with the additional perspectives of Gry and Ionáin. It picks up where the first book left off with Éadha revealing her power as a Leah, someone who can channel magic from their own heart, fighting the oppressive ruling Masters then escaping on the back of a dragon. Éadha becomes a refugee and is hunted by the Masters, whose power and way of life is threatened by the implications of Éadha's ability and connection with dragons. Ionáin's inability to channel is exposed, threatening his family's security and home. He's now considered worthless, and to cover up Éadha's true nature, the Masters enslave him to be drained of life by the channelers. Gry has been revealed as a channeler but keeps his family's secret oath to protect Leahs and oppose the Masters. He returns home and hopes that Éadha seeks refuge at House Crioch. Éadha soon finds herself pulled apart by her love for Ionáin and her pull toward Gry, fighting against a world and system with no place for her and for which she is never good enough. Themes of power, patriarchy, abuse, discrimination, injustice, and privilege continue. The three main characters develop as what they have known is challenged, and the dramatic climax leads into a third installment. Éadha is described as having golden brown skin and a dark cloud of hair; Gry has dark skin, and Ionáin has tanned pale skin. VERDICT This fast-paced romantasy with an increasingly tense love triangle threads themes of feminism and justice throughout and will appeal to readers of Leigh Bardugo's "Shadow and Bone."-Christine Juedes © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9798318941498	Holy Terrors	Owen, Margaret	School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2025) Gr 9 Up-Left at a crossroads by the Wild Hunt, Vanja must decide to return West to Helligbrüke and Emeric or run East where she might once again take on the mantle of the Pfennigeist and haunt those who consider themselves above the law. Vanja and her ever-present commitment issues go East into a 16-month time skip, where readers find her robbing the corpse of the Prince-Elector. In the process, Vanja discovers the prince was murdered and that the Pfennigeist, her alter ego, has grown into a force of its own. Infiltrating the election for a new empress, friends and foes reunite as Owen puts Vanja to the test, tracing every major decision in the "Little Thieves" trilogy into branching realities that may threaten everything Vanja holds dear. Owen's writing will make readers laugh and cry within a single sentence, painting heartfelt nuance onto an intricate plot three books in the making. The worldbuilding cleverly integrates the Low Gods with the legal repercussions magic would bring to bear on a society, creating a delightful sandbox for the characters to sow justice with a side of chaos. Major characters are white, with a range of diversity in orientation and gender, and additional racial diversity in the supporting cast. VERDICT A tour de force trilogy for all collections. This final installment of the "Little Thieves" trilogy makes every page count as Vanja's character arc comes to a close, grappling with forgiveness and restitution.-Emmy Neal © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781454968894	How to Survive a Horror Sequel	Dunmore, Scarlett	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) Gr 8 Up-In this fast-paced sequel to How to Survive a Horror Movie, Charley and her mother settle in the eerie town of Glendale, only to find themselves targeted by a coven of immortal witches. The narrative follows Charley as she teams up with her former "slasher sister" Olive Montgomery to stop a ritualistic sacrifice before the clock strikes midnight on Halloween. Dunmore utilizes a unique chapter structure where each title serves as a survival rule, mirroring the metacommentary of the first installment. The writing is characterized by cheesy, self-aware humor and constant film references, ensuring the tone remains lighthearted despite visceral moments involving green blood and ghostly encounters. The core cast includes Flora, a local teen and Charley's love interest, who is described as "Jenna Ortega pretty" with an olive complexion, and Max, who provides vital transgender representation, highlighting Glendale's unexpected acceptance while navigating the supernatural chaos. Though internal illustrations are absent, the thematic cover design-featuring a movie ticket and film imagery-grounds the meta-horror premise. Dunmore's prose is highly visual, allowing readers to see and feel the claustrophobic, foggy atmosphere of the Devil's Punchbowl. VERDICT A clever, meta-horror romp that balances gore and comedy with heart. This inclusive thriller is a strong addition to any YA collection serving fans of self-aware horror and intense survival stories.-Richard Winters © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780735271555	It's not over yet	Hussain, Salma	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-David Wali Khan is a tenth grader and an aspiring filmmaker. He's, in his own words, "half Muslim and half Christian, full human," struggling to navigate his identity, his interfaith family, and the familial expectations of Pakistani parents when an acoustic neuroma is found in his brain. Wali finds out that the tumor is the root of all the symptoms, including headaches and vomiting, that he's been brushing off for years, and that it needs to be removed. While the tumor is slow growing and benign, when it is removed, he will also lose his hearing on that side. With the countdown set at 16 weeks, Wali has little time to process the upcoming changes in his life. Instead of leaning on his best friend K-Man, he pushes him away when he needs the support most. Hussain offers readers a refreshing male protagonist who must work through messy feelings and is held accountable to deal with the consequences. The process isn't clean nor linear; Wali lashes out at the people who care about him most to avoid confronting his own complicated feelings. Ultimately, he begins to accept help and reflect honestly on himself, showing that vulnerability and emotions are not weaknesses, but necessary parts of growth and healing. VERDICT An excellent addition to all collections.-Alicia Kalan © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9798892159029	Jem and the Holograms Book One	Thompson, Kelly	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2026) An up-and-coming band finds early success and rivalry after a science-fiction assist in this graphic novel set in the world of a franchise that originated with a 1980s animated series. Jerrica's band with her sisters, Kimber, Shana, and Aja, isn't doing so hot. She's the lead vocalist, but she chokes during a music video shoot, leading the group to bicker and feel uncertain about their prospects. Enter Synergy, a holographic computer built by Jerrica's late father that helps her find high-tech earrings—a birthday present from her dad. The earrings can project holograms that allow Jerrica to circumvent her stage fright by assuming a new identity. And so, Jem and the Holograms are born. Their audience votes rival those of the Misfits, an established girl group who have a sponsored battle of the bands, but the real consequence of their ascension is all the ensuing romance, both straight and Sapphic. Jerrica dates music journalist Rio while concealing her double identity, and Kimber develops a mutual crush on Misfit member Stormer. The vibe that emerges as the story expands across both bands' storylines is simultaneously high concept and slice of life. The musical scenes take on a visual life of their own, looking more like collages than a set of panels. The story is as colorful and playful as the multiracial bands' rainbow assortment of hair, costumes, and makeup. Readers will become roadies for the lively concerts that act as backdrops for behind-the-scenes dramedy romance. (bonus stories) (Graphic fiction. 13-16)
High School	9781678213480	Knowledge for all : the history and mission of the public library	Loonin, Meryl	School Library Journal Xpress (September 4, 2026) Gr 8 Up-Loonin offers a no-holds-barred brief history of the public library in the United States. The book is both fair and critical as it shows how American public libraries, as major forces of social change, have evolved to meet the needs of their users. It is notable that Loonin addresses the unsavory realities of a discriminatory, segregated society while also celebrating the people who shaped the trajectory of the nation's libraries. This title doesn't necessarily have a clear audience: it's too short to be a comprehensive and definitive reference point for essays, and its topic isn't one that most YA readers are clamoring for. However, the book does offer library enthusiasts a good jumping-off point for further research. VERDICT A secondary purchase for general collections, with appeal for communities interested in U.S. history and niche topics.-Carolina Youssif © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781623546373	Last to leave	Richards, Teresa	School Library Journal (April 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Fallon is a rising video gamer and content creator who applies to a murder-mystery-themed reality competition hoping to grow her audience and win a million-dollar prize. When she's selected, Fallon discovers the game is a fully immersive, live-streamed experience set in the 1920s, centered on the murder of Ms. Cherry. SleuthIt unfolds inside a sprawling mansion, where Fallon and seven other content creators compete by uncovering clues, forging alliances, and staying in character throughout the game, all while letting fans in on their every move. As the competition intensifies, Fallon begins to realize that there's far more at stake than solving a fictional crime. Caught among rival players, a demanding audience, and her drive to win, she unexpectedly discovers deeper truths about herself along the way. Richards has crafted a classic whodunit that immerses readers in a game of Clue reimagined through the eyes of modern content creators. This innovative blend of live-streaming culture with a fictional murder mystery set in the 1920s creates a fresh and compelling narrative. While the novel may particularly resonate with a younger YA audience, older mystery fans will find themselves eagerly solving the game alongside the characters. Beyond the competition itself, the story reveals unexpected emotional depth, exploring Fallon's personal struggles and the lingering ghosts of her past. Fallon is presumed white, while the supporting competitors of the game represent a range of diverse backgrounds. VERDICT Highly entertaining and immersive, this murder-mystery will captivate genre fans as well as readers drawn to influencer culture and gaming. Recommended.-Aliza Mangefrida © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781665942546	Legally Yours, Violet Lopez	Luz, Elba	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Violet has a lot on her shoulders. A scholarship student at her Connecticut high school, she works harder than everyone else to keep her spot. As a member of the school's Law Society, she also defends students facing disciplinary action in mock trials. Ambitious and dedicated, she worries about abandoning her widower father to pursue her Ivy League dreams. When Violet sets up a dating profile for him without his knowledge, she inadvertently catfishes the mother of her classmate Theo, a charming, lazy jock. Theo cuts a deal: he'll keep quiet if she represents him at a disciplinary hearing. Violet agrees, not only because of Theo, but also because another classmate bribes her to throw the case. The simple decision becomes more complicated as Violet starts falling for Theo. The plot hits the right beats for a typical enemies-to-lovers romance, as Violet's opinion of Theo slowly improves the more they spend time together. She has several damsel-in-distress moments where Theo comes to her rescue. Violet's case notes are featured throughout, pushing the mock trial subplot along as the romance develops. Neither Violet nor Theo are particularly likable at the outset. Theo comes across as arrogant, and Violet's single-minded approach to studying makes her abrasive to others. However, it is clear that Violet's behavior is motivated by her stresses, a relatable situation for teen readers. Violet is Puerto Rican; her classmates read white. VERDICT Well suited for middle and high school collections, especially where contemporary romance is popular.-Hannah Grasse © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781947808331	Manga Classics Journey to the West - the Beginning (Paperback)	Wu, Cheng'en	School Library Journal (October 1, 2026) Gr 6 Up-The original 16th-century Chinese novel, based on the travels of a Buddhist monk in search of sacred scriptures, is episodic and action-packed. Unsurprisingly, it has become not only a classic in its own right but also the basis for movies, TV shows, manga, anime, and even American comics. This adaptation takes a small slice of the story, following the monk Tang San-Zang and his companions Ba-Jie (a pig), Wu-Jing (a sand demon), Long Ma (a horse), and Wu-Kong, best known as the Monkey King. Smart but impulsive, Wu-Kong propels the story forward as the party visits a land devastated by heat and drought and finds the supernatural cause behind it, battling with interesting gods and demons and pulling sly tricks and double crosses along the way. Underlying it all is the tension between Buddhism and Daoism, and the characters frequently bring up the tenets of Buddhism, which guide their actions. The art is rendered in a classic shonen action manga style reminiscent of "One Piece" and "Fairy Tail," but in color, with a palette that enhances the kinetic feel and helps define the characters. VERDICT An engaging, action-filled story based on a classic that everyone should be familiar with. © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9798217032846	Marionetta. 1	Tur, Miriam Bonastre	Booklist (October 1, 2026 (Vol. 123, No. 3)) Grades 8-12. An evening at the circus goes awry when Julia's best friend, Kamille, fails to come home, leading Julia to search for her—only to die in the process. Infuriating! Julia awakes in a serene limbo, alone but for a podium with a contract to extend her time on Earth in exchange for killing the traveling circus' ringmaster. Seeing no other option, Julia signs the agreement and awakens as the newest member of Anthonn Gremminger's troupe of immortal performers, among whom she spots Kamille. This graphic novel, which began as a Webtoon series, is about mystique. Julia's rule-following, type-A personality is comically at odds with her new, unconventional surroundings. The towering red-and-white striped tent is mounted on enormous wheels, and Julia spends much of her time exploring her roving home and trying to figure out who to trust. Light magic and hints of something sinister comingle in Tur's carnival-esque artwork, mixing sun-kissed sparkles and eerie shadows. Romance is also in the air, but readers will have to wait for volume 2 to receive significant plot developments.
High School	9781368013833	Mirror, mirror	Calonita, Jen	
High School	9798887244532	Monster High House Haunters	Kahn, Ben	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2026) A fright-filled story set in the world of the Monster High franchise featuring high-fashion ghouls in a haunted cabin that harbors a terrifying secret. Monster High students Draculaura, Frankie, Clawdeen, Lagoona, and Cleo rent a haunted cabin for the weekend for a much-needed break from school. No stranger to hauntings, these ghouls can't wait for a weekend full of equal parts scares and relaxation. So they're disappointed to find a cabin that's remarkably ordinary: "It's giving shabby. Not spooky." Cleo and Clawdeen set about redecorating, adding mummy-cloth spiderwebs and ripping the curtains. While exploring, Draculaura and Frankie strike gold—a room full of skeletons, macabre books, and mysterious objects. The room even contains a combooter (a slim, silver laptop with a pumpkin silhouette logo) that's open to a video essay about Ekhidna, a rogue Titan with the ability to steal abilities from monsters and give them to wild animals. Ekhidna was imprisoned deep in the woods, and a cabin was built on top of the site—the same cabin, it turns out, where the teens are spending their weekend. Nalty's rich, autumnal color palette for the background scenes stand in stark contrast to the fashionable girls, who wear a range of vivid colors. All the characters are meticulously and distinctly rendered in Liao's illustrations, which include small accessories and highly detailed fabrics. The characters feature a variety of skin tones, both real-life and fantasy-world. A spooktacular Halloween comic for longtime fans and new readers alike. (additional art) (Graphic horror. 12-18)
High School	9781665990967	My killer family reunion	Thiru, Dinesh	School Library Journal Xpress (May 29, 2026) Gr 8 Up-A comedic mystery that centers on an Indian American family's secrets unraveling after an attempted murder, perfect for fans of Jennifer Lynn Barnes or Karen M. McManus. Jayshree, 16, a biracial (white and Indian) high schooler, is attending a high-stakes family reunion. Though her relatives frequently joke about how they'd kill Grand Mom to secure their inheritance, the mood shifts from playful to perilous when Grand Mom announces a change to her will-and is promptly left in a coma after a hit-and-run. Jayshree must step into the role of sleuth to identify the culprit, even though the primary suspects are her own flesh and blood. Though the mystery leans into some familiar tropes, the sharp humor and the chemistry of the extended family keep the pages turning. Beyond the laughs, Thiru offers a meaningful look at LGBTQIA+ relationships within traditional Hindu families through Jayshree's cousins, Prithi and Beks, and handles the heavy theme of domestic violence with care. This blend of wit and emotional depth makes the story feel grounded even amidst the chaotic whodunit plot. VERDICT A funny, endearing, and high-stakes mystery that will be a hit in collections where twisty thrillers are popular.-Rachel Jussel © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780063513358	New Year's Grieve	Foscue, Elizabeth	Publishers Weekly (August 3, 2026) A teen suspects foul play when her grandfather dies at a family gathering in Foscue's biting holiday mystery for fans of Knives Out. Eighteen-year-old Jojo plans to spend the last few days of her winter break soaking up the California sun-until her mother insists that she attend Jojo's "larger-than-life" grandfather's 90th birthday party on New Year's Eve. She'll have to travel to Grandad's snowy North Carolina estate and interact with privileged relatives Jojo dubs "the worst people in the world." Even worse is the shocking revelation that Jojo's ex-boyfriend Fritz, a family friend, is also attending the event, given that their dynamic has been hostile since their romance ended poorly the previous summer. Vicious yet routine familial infighting ratchets up tension, prompting Grandad to threaten disinheritance and isolate himself upstairs. But after the patriarch, who shares Jojo's lethal nut allergy, dies from probable anaphylaxis-and Jojo realizes that whiteout conditions would have prevented the group from seeking medical attention-she recruits Fritz to help find and outwit the killer. Acerbic first-person narration and palpable descriptions of the wintry locale handily set the stage for this whirlwind caper. Ages 13 and up. (Nov.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
High School	9781665983044	Night of madness	Douglass, Ryan	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Mara Jacobs knows what it takes to be the final girl. Before her father left six years ago, they bonded over Madness, a horror franchise by the once-legendary director Jack Stanley, who has since faded into obscurity. Now Jack is back with a reality show that offers young influencers a chance to win $100,000 by spending the night in his asylum movie set and competing in survival challenges inspired by the films. With her brother and best friend's help, Mara creates an online persona and secures a coveted spot in the competition. But the five teens are in for a night of surprises. The asylum isn't just a movie set: it's an extremely haunted house where participants can be tormented and tortured. To survive the night, Mara must draw on the grit and determination she has built over years of caring for her struggling family. While the unique setting will appeal to horror fans familiar with real-life extreme haunts, the plot is convoluted, and most characters are one-dimensional. Locations and memories are introduced without enough context, leaving readers uncertain of their purpose. Characters enter Mara's life as though they already know her, yet they are complete strangers. The cast is racially diverse. VERDICT A muddled but atmospheric horror novel filled with gory thrills.-Cathy DeCampli © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9798217039524	Out of the Clear Blue Sky	Blum, Isaac	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-A powerful coming-of-age story about grief and moving forward. Jonny Miller, who has just finished his freshman year of high school, defers to his sister Carmel for advice and opinions. One night, Jonny is forced into a double date at a baseball game by his brother, David. At the same baseball game, Trish Macon is supposed to throw the ceremonial first pitch alongside her dad, Senator Macon, who fails to show up. Trish later learns that her dad doesn't show because he gets into a tragic accident where his plane crashes into the Miller home, killing Carmel, Senator Macon, and the pilot. Bonding through this shared trauma, Trish and Jonny learn how to be confident in who they are without their father and sister, and to heal from their loss. Despite dealing with heavy topics, Jonny and Trish are surprisingly funny and relatable. Their character growth and developing friendship are also a joy to read. The themes of burnout, perfectionism, grief, and identity are handled expertly. Johnny and Trish are coded as white, and Johnny is coded as Jewish. VERDICT A stunning story about moving forward, finding yourself, and connecting with others in the face of tragedy; fans of Nina LaCour's We Are Okay or Adam Silvera's History Is All You Left Me will enjoy this.-Israt Abedin © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781665981835	Powerful	Roberts, Lauren	
High School	9798318941832	Rebel : the graphic novel	Vanderklugt, Kyla	School Library Journal Xpress (July 24, 2026) Gr 9 Up-An excellent companion to the other graphic novelizations of the hugely popular dystopian "Legend" series. Ten years have passed, and estranged brothers Day and Eden are in Antarctica on very different paths. Day is a high-ranking officer in the AIS, a security organization. Eden is a top engineering student but is also participating in illegal drone races. He is determined to help the woman he loves get medicine on the black market for her father, who is too low in their society's level system to receive medical care. Commander June Iparis, Day's lost love, is back on the scene for a diplomatic mission, where she and Day connect, reigniting their relationship. The appearance of sinister underworld figure Dominic Hann creates the catalyst that brings the foursome together to thwart Hann's plot to take control of the level system and run the city. Together, they create plans that involve breaking the rules, which is not unusual for this rebellious group. This series continues to have fast-paced action and deep emotions in the main characters. Twists and turns will keep readers engaged until the exciting and satisfying ending. Illustrator Kaari beautifully captures the action, the quiet moments, the dream sequences, and more. VERDICT A perfect mix of spy action and romance, fans of the previous titles will not be disappointed. Best enjoyed if read in order.-Elisabeth LeBris © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781368101042	Rootbound : a Tangled novel	Owen, Margaret	School Library Journal Xpress (June 26, 2026) Gr 7 Up-A month after the plot of the Tangled movie, Disney's Princess Rapunzel and Eugene Fitzherbert "Flynn Rider" must uproot the mysteries of a reclusive kingdom. Rapunzel is still getting settled into palace life, learning all the rules and expectations of a princess. Eugene, freshly pardoned, is worried that he is one wrong move away from ending up on the streets. When Rapunzel receives an unexpected invitation to the coming-of-age ceremony for Princess Verette of the isolationist Kingdom of Astera, Rapunzel is determined to prove her princess prowess to her parents by accepting the invitation and traveling there. In an action-packed plot full of secret societies, hidden magic, and tough princesses, Rapunzel and Eugene work to help Verette save her kingdom from her corrupt father King Enver. The alternating viewpoints of Rapunzel and Eugene give readers a rich look into the couple's chemistry and their individual development. The worldbuilding of Rapunzel's Kingdom of Corona and the new Kingdom of Astera is surprisingly detailed, diving into international policy and agriculture specifics. Rapunzel and Eugene are white; side characters are of different sexualities and races. VERDICT An engaging fantasy adventure perfect for fans of other Disney novels like Maggie Stiefvater's Bravely, this is a fun addition to middle and high school library shelves.-Sarah Varenhorst © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781665986076	Salt Water Blood	Heinrich, Manuia	School Library Journal starred (September 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Moe's visions from the sea have never been pleasant, but they are an inextricable part of her life as a daughter of Moana (a Polynesian name for the ocean). In the wake of their father's death and mother's abandonment, which were both foreseen by Moe, she and her brother Tao have depended on help from Dr. Auguste, at whose wildlife park Moe works and whose daughter Sabine is Tao's girlfriend. For the past year, Moe has been living under the shadow of fear caused by a prophecy she has seen in which Tao drowns; the only way she can be certain it doesn't come true is by accepting a scholarship and leaving the island forever. When Sabine goes missing after a night that Tao can't fully remember, the siblings' hard-won chance to leave is hanging on by a thread, and every piece of new evidence that comes to light seems to further cement Tao as the only suspect. As Moe and Temanea, Moe's shockingly smart, cute, and aggravating coworker, race against time to clear her brother's name before her nightmares catch up to them, they also begin to piece together a larger mystery, one that may threaten the entire island. Complex, emotionally resonant relationships heighten the well-paced suspense, and Heinrich achieves an excellent balance between informative and entertaining. VERDICT A gripping Polynesian mystery laced with Indigenous cultural knowledge, for fans of Angeline Boulley and Ari Tison.-Allie Stevens © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781683372653	Samantha The Next Chapter	Davis, Fiona	Booklist (October 1, 2026 (Vol. 123, No. 3)) Launching a new American Girl adult publishing imprint timed to the fortieth anniversary of the beloved historical dolls, this novel from historical fiction maven Davis (The Stolen Queen, 2025) introduces devoted suffragist Samantha Parkington in 1920 in Mount Bedford, New York. After spending the final months of her grandmother's life by her side, Samantha is shocked to learn that Grandmary changed her will shortly before she died, leaving nearly everything to a New York corporation. Suspecting foul play, Samantha travels to New York to uncover the truth. As Samantha follows a trail of deception, she encounters organized crime, unexpected romance, and difficult choices about whom she can trust. What begins as a search for justice for Grandmary soon places Samantha in increasingly dangerous circumstances as long-buried secrets come to light. Davis brings Samantha's grit and determination to the forefront as she challenges the expectations placed on women of her time. Rich historical details, engaging characters, and a steadily intensifying plot make this an appealing choice for readers who enjoy strong heroines, family intrigue, and high-stakes historical adventure. HIGH-DEMAND

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9780063479029	Snowed in at the Wildest dreams bookshop	Page, Gracie	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-This sequel will not disappoint. It's a standalone book that will entertain fans of the first book as well as new readers to the series. Ivy, a minor character in the first book, takes the stage as the protagonist who reluctantly returns home from college for the holidays. A moody artist, Ivy gets a job at the Wildest Dreams Bookshop. The owner, Josie, decides to rent out the rooms above the bookshop, and Ivy is in charge of tending to the boarders-a mysterious woman from California and her younger brother, Trip, who is about the same age as Ivy. She can't stand him at first, but Trip is everywhere in town, and his kind and cheerful demeanor starts to grow on her. The quirky townsfolk of Fox Bay give heart to the story. Readers will sympathize with Ivy's not-so-great first year at college. Her love for sketching throughout the story and the big primary school production that the whole town is invested in creates a vivid picture of the town and the people who live in it. As in the first book, the descriptions of the scenery are lovely and pull readers into the picturesque Fox Bay. Ivy is British, with long, red hair; Trip is American with chestnut hair and brown eyes. VERDICT This feel-good novel set in a small UK town is a first purchase for young adult collections.-Margaret Puentes © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781678213602	Stepping up : how next-gen leaders are transforming the future	Sheen, Barbara	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2026) An overview of the concerns and priorities of Generation Z, who have grown up with social media, are more racially diverse than previous generations, and face a plethora of local and global challenges that affect their immediate and long-term futures. The roughly 69 million Americans born between 1997 and 2012 make up about 20% of the U.S. population. In addition to demographic characteristics, Sheen draws on public survey results to describe them, sometimes presenting superficial generalizations: "As a group, Gen Z is pragmatic." She also asserts that they're future-focused and more concerned with addressing critical issues than party politics. The book features profiles of some young people who have won recent elections, including Florida Representative Maxwell Frost, Illinois State Representative Nabeela Syed, and Earle, Arkansas, mayor Jaylen Smith. Sheen sounds an alarm—"many Gen Zers are disillusioned with how lawmakers are addressing issues that concern them and the world they will inherit." As a result, while over 60% of them support democratic principles, 66% think this country is "headed in the wrong direction"; democracy, as they're experiencing it, isn't always working. Contextualizing their feelings, she explains, for example, that many Gen Zers attend college, become burdened with onerous student loan debt, and then face a rapidly changing job market shaped by AI and a weak social safety net. Ample photos and text boxes punctuate the accessible text. A concise overview of an influential generation. (source notes, for further research, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)
High School	9780316581851	Styx : the river	Gill, Nikita	School Library Journal Xpress (June 12, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Gill delights with this prequel to 2025's Hekate: The Witch. As in her previous work, Gill uses free verse and occasional prose; here, she tells a tale alternately through the eyes of two young women who would shape Hekate's life: her mother, the goddess Asteria; and her mentor, the nymph Styx. Readers meet the women early in their lives and follow them as they become friends and explore the limits of their spellwork and witchcraft. Though they grow stronger in their magical abilities and find loving husbands, Asteria and Styx struggle to find their place in a world of misogynistic and power-hungry Titans, who in turn struggle to exist under the reign of Kronos. The Titans have made a metaphorical deal with the devil, supporting Kronos despite his barbaric cannibalism of his infant children. There is hell to pay when one son of Kronos, Zeus, survives. Asteria and Styx have their lives torn apart in the ensuing war. Gill deftly weaves together differing and occasionally contradictory Greek myths. The various aspects, powers, and roles assigned to deities are organically blended, resulting in a surprisingly relatable story set in an underexplored early era in Greek mythology. VERDICT Strongly recommended for lovers of classical Greek and Roman mythology, particularly feminist retellings such as Jennifer Saint's Ariadne, Madeline Miller's Circe, or Gill's preceding Hekate.-Tammy Ivins © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781799501251	Teen Titans. Starfire	Garcia, Kami	
High School	9798368791500	Teen Titans. Together	Garcia, Kami	
High School	9781250268426	The ballad of never after	Garber, Stephanie	School Library Journal (August 1, 2022) Gr 9 Up-This sequel to Once Upon a Broken Heart jumps right back into the action with Evangeline willing to go to desperate lengths to save Apollo. The only person she believes can help her is Jacks. She agrees to open the Valory Arch for him, but it's not long before a new curse slows them down and puts Evangeline's life in danger. Again, she's faced with the decision-can she trust a Fate? And can they both get what they want? Nonstop adventure and multiple twists will keep fans turning pages, and the will-they-won't-they nature of Jacks and Evangeline's relationship will leave readers breathless. Unfortunately, Evangeline hasn't grown much as a character, and her decisions are often frustrating. However, those who have yearned to return to this world won't be disappointed. Another cliffhanger ending all but ensures more to come. Most characters cue white; a few have "olive" or darker skin. VERDICT Recommended for fans of romance and fantasy, and where the first book was popular.-Mandy Laferriere © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9798384941699	The best of banana ball	Riccardi, Noah	
High School	9781368092203	The book of Bill	Bill	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9780063330412	The Cuffing Game	Lee, Lyla	School Library Journal Xpress (October 10, 2025) Gr 9 Up-It's a simple premise for a college reality dating show: contestants are chosen because they either have a crush on someone, or they are the object of that crush. Couples who stay together through the week are voted on by the audience, and the winning pair walk away with $5,000-and each other. Against the vibrant backdrop of Los Angeles's K-pop college scene, readers meet Mia, a small-town Texas freshman, and Noah, a handsome and strikingly popular senior from Korea with a massive social media following. Both attend the same film school and are equally determined to master their craft. Noah, who was voted the most eligible guy on campus, quickly becomes Mia's classroom nemesis, consistently challenging her at every turn. Caught between attraction and major irritation, Mia is just as determined to never give in. When Mia creates a new dating show called The Cuffing Game, Noah is immediately cast, as he is the secret crush of Mia's roommate. More contestants are selected, a remote mountain location is secured, filming begins, and what starts as a lighthearted show becomes increasingly complicated. The story shines through its richly diverse cast, reflecting a wide spectrum of gender and racial identities. These are college students not just chasing romance and prize money but also learning who they are in the process. VERDICT High school readers drawn to the K-pop aesthetic and an inclusive cast will enjoy this homage to Pride and Prejudice.-Connie Williams © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780316593083	The gilded blade	Barnes, Jennifer Lynn	
High School	9798217053148	The hardest ones to fool	Li, Christina	School Library Journal Xpress (May 29, 2026) Gr 9 Up-A perfect match for students craving high-stakes drama. Amelia Wu is living a triple life. Alongside her best friend Ingrid, she crafted three distinct personas-Amy, Mia, and Ellie-to infiltrate the inner circles of three billionaire heirs. The goal? Extort their secrets and secure money for herself, Ingrid, and her mom. The scheme is working flawlessly until Ingrid is found dead. Suddenly, the game turns lethal. To solve her friend's murder and secure justice, Amelia must form an uneasy alliance with her academic rival, Jackie. Li masterfully peppers the plot with calculated reveals, ensuring the pacing never falters. Readers will revel in Amelia's sharp wit and humor as she uses her personas to navigate increasingly precarious situations. While some of the romantic subplots develop with lightning speed, the inclusion of authentic Asian American and LGBTQIA+ representation adds welcome depth to the cast. The polarizing twist ending may prove to be a "love it or hate it" moment for some, but it is guaranteed to keep readers talking long after the final page. VERDICT A high-octane must-buy for libraries where twisty mysteries are in high demand.-Rachel Jussel © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780063484009	The Last Love Story	Blair, Katharyn	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-In a future America impacted by climate disaster, coastal cities have been flooded, AI has replaced teachers, teens fear conscription into a never-ending war, and books are banned. Amid this, 17-year-old Ripley Hart finds solace in writing. When she joins the Lyceum, an underground group dedicated to preserving literature and opposing President Graves's authoritarian rule, she eagerly becomes a part of the resistance. Her world grows more complex when she learns that her classmate and rival, Huxley, is fighting against the regime through the Machs, a faction that favors violence over dialogue. Ripley is then thrust into the gleaming corridors of New Washington and into a politically calculated false engagement with Callum Graves, the President's son and her former best friend, as his father attempts to improve his image ahead of an upcoming vote. Caught between unexpected feelings for Huxley and rekindled emotions for Callum, Ripley must leverage her position to enact change before the Machs resort to more drastic actions. Readers will readily observe the similarities between contemporary American politics and themes in the book. Blair explores current issues, such as political corruption, the fragile state of democracy, and disinformation, but the story's rapid pace prevents a focus on any single aspect. The core strength lies in the love triangle and character growth. Most characters are cued white. VERDICT Hand this to fans of dystopian stories with a heavy dose of romance.-Cathy DeCampli © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780329549404	The left hand of darkness	Le Guin, Ursula K	
High School	9781250462039	The mirror of infinite endings : a once upon a broken heart companion	Garber, Stephanie	
High School	9781632064073	The necklace of seven souls	Qaddumi, Huda al-Shawwa	School Library Journal Xpress starred (July 10, 2026) Gr 8 Up-Farida, a young Palestinian artist living in France, is given the opportunity of a lifetime: recreating the works of artists she admires. But as the line between artistic recreation and forgery blurs, Farida struggles with feelings of inauthenticity. Her growing discomfort reflects her larger struggle to define herself as an immigrant living far from her homeland. Through her grandmother's stories, readers learn about the Nakba, the term Palestinians use to describe the mass displacement and loss of homes that occurred during the 1948 war surrounding the establishment of Israel. Farida and her family were forced to leave Syria because of the ongoing conflict. Although she feels safe in France, she experiences a sense of loss and disconnection. Farida finds a kindred spirit in Mazen, a fellow Palestinian living in Paris. Their shared experiences create an immediate connection, and they embark on a quest to uncover the mystery of a lost painting belonging to Mazen's grandmother. Their search reveals unexpected links between their families while helping Farida discover her own artistic voice and gain a deeper understanding of who she is. The book is beautifully illustrated, showcasing many of the paintings Farida describes and helping bring the art and the story to life. Vivid imagery and powerful descriptions of war help readers understand the fear, uncertainty, and emotional toll of displacement. This historical backdrop adds depth to Farida's personal journey and highlights the lasting impact of displacement across generations. VERDICT An inspirational book that blends art, mystery, and history in a moving story about identity and belonging.-Margaret Auguste © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9798228808522	The piano teacher of Montparnasse	Morris, Heather	Booklist starred (September 1, 2026 (Vol. 123, No. 1)) In this spellbinding, deeply moving WWII novel, Morris renders a gut-wrenching race for survival that stands right alongside her internationally best-selling debut, The Tattooist of Auschwitz (2018). Her brilliant and beautiful writing pulls readers straight into the terror of 1942 Paris. After witnessing her mother and older brother being violently taken by Nazis, 11-year-old Josie is left utterly shattered. She narrowly evades arrest herself before fleeing to her piano teacher, Andrée Levallois. Without hesitation, Andrée and her brave parents risk their own lives to shelter the child. Just as Tattooist was based on the lives of real people, this novel is inspired by the true story of composer Kara Talve's grandmother. (Astonishingly, Talve inherited her grandmother's piano and used it to score the television adaptation of Tattooist, for which she earned an Emmy nomination.) The tension builds quickly as the authorities close in, but the book always finds room for absolute strength and uplifting hope. Morris' writing shines brightly, capturing the extraordinary bravery of ordinary families. Her signature storytelling transforms this historical novel into a powerful and profoundly affecting story about resilience and the unifying power of music, building to a beautiful, lingering crescendo of human courage.
High School	9780063344433	The Queen's Command	Raughley, Sarah	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2026) In this companion to The Queen's Spade (2025), the daughter of famed African princess Sarah Forbes Bonetta attempts to thrive in 1880s England. In the wake of her mother's death and her father's bankruptcy, 17-year-old Victoria Davies petitions her godmother, Queen Victoria, for support. The queen arranges her placement at Cheltenham, but the school's prestige masks a sinister reality. Vicky is invited to join the secret Philosophers' Club, where students play the high-stakes game Questions and Commands. Determined to be bold and fearless, Vicky strives to tame Euphemia Pelham-Clinton, the "dragon" in charge, but she quickly finds out that nothing is as it seems. When her kind roommate Leah Manning suffers severe consequences for opting out, Vicky vows to expose the game and dismantle its cruel hierarchy. Vicky is a complicated protagonist, oscillating between astute awareness and naïve self-centeredness. While facing racism—she's Black—she also grapples with the school's rigid social structures. She and other students endure relentless bullying, which is conveyed in heartbreaking detail. Like its predecessor, the narrative blends history with fiction, but this volume feels less focused; the plot is heavily layered with twists, often to the detriment of the story's progression. Despite pacing issues, including a rushed ending, the book successfully explores the long-ranging effects of colonization and the complex nature of identity, especially when one tries to survive in a foreign land. An ambitious portrayal of the true cost of privilege, ambition, and the burden of inherited trauma. (Historical thriller. 14-18)
High School	9781644215708	The Rediscovery of America for Young People	Blackhawk, Ned	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2026) Stefoff's young readers' adaptation of Blackhawk's The Rediscovery of America (2023) explores Native nations' impact on the creation of today's America. "In 1492, when Columbus first landed in the Bahamas Islands, North America had seven or eight million Native inhabitants"; despite concerted attempts at genocide, Native people are still here. The book looks at key points in history from the 15th century to the present day, grouped into three broad sections: "Indians and Empires," "Revolution and Removal," and "Fighting for Rights." Readers learn about wars, legal battles, Indian boarding schools, and Native activism, among other topics, and the book fills in gaps left by other accounts of U.S. history and corrects oversimplifications and inaccuracies. The author also incorporates and explains the impact of events in Mexico and Canada. Maps, sidebars, and illustrations allow readers time to pause and digest, and support the main narrative, which moves across the continent. Blackhawk, a member of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, is a Yale scholar who has an authoritative voice, and the work is written in a manner that is easy to dip into and to digest. The text poses frequent questions ("How can a nation created on land that was taken from its original inhabitants be a shining example of democracy?"), encouraging readers to actively engage and to bring their knowledge and understanding to bear. Covers distressing and essential information; a strong, comprehensive guide to rediscovering American history. (glossary, notes) (Nonfiction. 12-18)
High School	9798384941705	The Savannah Bananas	Riccardi, Noah	
High School	9781250404756	The siren	Adeyemi, Tomi	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 10 Up-Emery arrives at Dartmouth shrouded in a mysterious and potentially dangerous past. She is shy and quiet, constantly writing poems in her notebook. Emery does her best to fit in with her roommate and friends by attending the requisite frat parties and socializing. However, when she stumbles upon Roux and her Sirens, Emery feels an inexplicable pull toward them, despite being warned by others, including her roommate, of the danger of getting too close. As Emery is drawn further into the world of the Sirens, she is also orbiting Roux and her stepbrother Eli, caught between her desire for Eli and her desire to become one of the Sirens. But at what cost-her mental well-being, relationship with her mother, or scholarship? These questions are the current running through Emery as she navigates her own motivation to be a part of the beguiling Sirens. Adeyemi weaves an alluring tale with underlying themes of mental health. The Sirens are seductive girls who seem to have it all. They are beautiful and exceptional, but readers will wonder how they became that way. There are scenes of implied sex, drug use, and descriptive hookups, all relevant to the plot. While this begins as a take on dark academia with overtones of cultlike tropes, Adeyemi takes readers to a much more sinister and interesting place, with a twist that will leave readers reeling. Emery is Black, Roux is white, and the Sirens are diverse. VERDICT An ominous dark academia tale of desire and ambition.-Tara Peace © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9781678213565	The solar system : new discoveries, new insights	Roland, James	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2026) Who would have guessed that there's ice on Mercury, that Saturn's rings are shrinking, and that the basic materials for life are abundantly available throughout our solar system? It may be over 50 years since anyone landed on the Moon, but as Roland demonstrates here, the pace of space exploration has never let up—or failed to deliver stimulating findings. He begins on Mars, where the Perseverance rover, using the innovative technology that made our tiny smartphone cameras possible, found tantalizing evidence of possible microbial life. The author goes on to highlight significant missions from New Horizons' flybys of Pluto (and later, the weird Kuiper Belt object dubbed "Arrokoth") to the Parker Solar Probe, sent in 2018 to "touch the Sun." Using probes like these, as well as orbiting and earthbound telescopes, astronomers have not only learned more about the history and composition of our planet and its fellows, but also found the solar system to be a populous neighborhood, strewn with chondrules, distinctive droplets from the solar system's formative stages; dark comets, which may contain water and could have helped life develop on Earth; and hundreds of previously unseen moons. The stingy assortment of stock photos is a weak feature, but the straightforward text and intriguing selection of facts in this overview will tantalize readers and encourage further exploration. Stimulating updates from the astronomical front. (source notes, resources, index, picture credits) (Nonfiction. 12-18)
High School	9781975390488	This monster wants to eat me. 1	Naekawa, Sai	Booklist (January 1, 2025 (Online)) Grades 9-12. An eerie girls' love fantasy, This Monster Wants to Eat Me is the tale of a grief-stricken, disillusioned girl meeting a monster who offers her an escape from a life she longs to depart. When Hinako is attacked by a monster, she is saved by the mysterious Shiori, a mermaid who declares that she wishes to eat Hinako one day. But Shiori doesn't want to eat Hinako yet; she only wants to eat her when she is perfectly ready to be eaten. Morbid and alluring, this unusual tale winds as intoxicatingly as a siren's song and leaves much to be unpacked. Why is Hinako so desperate to die? Why is Shiori so determined to eat Hinako? And will this bond between them really end in this horrifying promise? Ethereal and dark, this queer horror romance is a fantastic read for those who loved The Summer Hikaru Died and Kiss the Scars of the Girls series.
High School	9781975390501	This monster wants to eat me. 2	Naekawa, Sai	
High School	9781975390525	This monster wants to eat me. 3	Naekawa, Sai	
High School	9781975390549	This monster wants to eat me. 4	Naekawa, Sai	
High School	9781975390563	This monster wants to eat me. 5	Naekawa, Sai	
High School	9781419794148	Traitors' nest	Hardinge, Frances	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Fifteen-year-old Burr, his father, and his three younger sisters discover that the castle that has always stood beside their small farming community has suddenly disappeared. A new castle rests in its place. The villagers are disturbed by this strange occurrence, but not entirely surprised. In Burr's world, the Players control the castles and their movements, so the villagers have always known it was a possibility. They gather to discuss the changes and what they might mean. It is soon discovered that the new castle's ruler, Lord Stephen, has sinister intentions and plans to steal every ounce of seed and food from the villagers. Burr's father hatches a plan that costs him his life and sends Burr and two of his younger sisters on an adventure when yet another castle appears and whisks them away to a new area on the Players' board. As Burr is moved from place to place, he encounters both friend and foe while struggling to uncover the secrets of the castles and protect those he loves most. Written in third person from Burr's perspective, this fast-paced and original fantasy feels refreshing and entertaining. At times political in tone, the story highlights Burr's strong moral character and wisdom beyond his years. Race of the characters is not mentioned. VERDICT A first purchase for libraries seeking a fresh medieval fantasy.-Tracy Cronce © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781250330758	Tripping Over You, Book 3	Harcum, Suzana	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2026) Adulthood presents forks in the path of a young queer couple. In this third and final installment collecting a webcomic, Milo and Liam move in together, taking their relationship to the next level. Almost two years have passed since they started dating, and their lives are very different from when they started off as secret boyfriends at their boarding school. They're still in love, but everyone around them is changing. With a friend's wedding coming up, Liam, who quit law school, confronts his own feelings about adulthood and its responsibilities when he has to write the best man speech. Milo, who's at university, has just finished making an indie film. His pursuit of the arts is going well, but he still has the same impulsive tendencies that sometimes violate Liam's boundaries. The characters' ages are reflected in the new angularity of their faces. The pleasing full-color artwork evokes late 1990s and early 2000s aesthetics, highlighting the predominantly white-presenting cast. Although the couple's banter continues to hold up, this installment drags in comparison to the first two; with tensions resolved quickly, the work feels more like a slice-of-life story than one driven by an engaging plot. The portrayal of the British setting remains flimsy, detracting from a robust sense of place. A largely entertaining, if quieter and more introspective, series closer. (illustrator's note, additional art) (Graphic romance. 15-18)
High School	9781250330710	Tripping over you. 1	White, Owena	School Library Journal starred (June 1, 2025) Gr 10 Up-Theater kid Milo has been crushing on Liam for years. Liam is quiet, goes to weekly therapy, and has a father who is very strict about what Liam should and shouldn't do. Milo is outgoing, out, and would be happy for them to have a relationship for all to see. As they prepare to graduate from their boarding school, Milo finally gets the courage to make his move. What follows is a secret relationship that, as they grow closer, becomes harder to hide. Readers will root for Milo and Liam to make it and overcome every obstacle in their path. A colorful group of secondary characters will have readers just as invested in their relationship ups and downs. Full-color illustrations highlight the romantic tension between the main characters. Milo and Liam's first sexual encounter is portrayed realistically, handled with care, and shows the logistics of a couple navigating their first time having a safe sexual experience. VERDICT Fans of Alice Oseman's Heartstopper and Kevin Panetta and Savanna Ganucheau's Bloom will enjoy this LGBTQIA+ romantic graphic novel and anxiously await the next volume in the series.-Ashley Leffel © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9781250330741	Tripping over you. 2	White, Owena	Kirkus Reviews (December 1, 2025) In this second series installment, two young men, Liam Schwartz and Milo Dunstan, continue to grow up together. This volume opens with Liam and Milo as in love as ever, even though they're facing challenging issues, both individually and together. Milo, who's at university and studying theater and dance, has a new baby sister whose arrival makes him feel disconnected from his family; it's as if his mother is "starting her life over." Liam, who's back living at home, feels burdened by the weight of his father's expectations. Now they're no longer at boarding school, it's hard for them to spend as much time together, which opens up room for misunderstandings and mixed signals, putting a strain on their relationship. As they navigate early adulthood—including seeking employment and choosing career paths—their story arcs continue to develop the theme of the importance of clear, honest communication, something that plays a decisive role in the plot. The banter between Liam and Milo will engage readers and get them rooting for their relationship to succeed, and the inclusion of classic romance tropes helps lighten the mood even as they navigate some more serious coming-of-age topics. Unfortunately, the British setting is superficial and unconvincing in its portrayal. The full-color art, which has a retro style and slightly faded palette, accentuates the characters' angular features. A sweet and endearing queer romance. (Graphic romance. 14-18)
High School	9781547616633	Twelve Dark Hours	Hamilton, Amber	School Library Journal (September 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Vesper Fontaine and Lonan Duval are fierce rivals at Gossemort Academy, a school where students are trained in Light magic to battle the forces of Darkness. A dangerous secret they share threatens to destroy them, and their world is turned upside down by the arrival of a mysterious crown prince who binds Vesper to him as her bloodmate. Forced into a series of deadly trials known as the Ridding, Vesper and Lonan must set aside their rivalry and learn to trust each other if they hope to survive. A wide cast of strange and mysterious magical beings creates an intriguing backdrop as Vesper, Lonan, and their classmates navigate a labyrinth of secrets, trials, and betrayals. While the plot is engaging and filled with twists, the execution at times feels scattered. Character backgrounds and motivations are sometimes rushed to move the action forward. But despite their truncated backstories, the diverse characters are compelling. Readers will enjoy the enemies-to-lovers storyline, with a slow-building romance that adds tension. The lyrical prose will appeal to fans of poetry, while themes of defying fate and escaping one's destiny will resonate with readers who enjoy mythology, magic, and stories about challenging the roles they are given. VERDICT Blending romance, fantasy, and high-stakes adventure, this is recommended for fans of complex worlds, mysterious characters, and battles against forces beyond control.-Ashley Grillo © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781250423474	Until the Last Light Goes Out	Gould, Courtney	School Library Journal (August 1, 2026) Gr 10 Up-Twenty-five years ago, the senior class of Ripley Memorial High School spent the night before prom at a new luxury hotel. By morning, 183 students were dead-mysteriously murdered at the Kaleidoscope Key Resort. Only five survivors remained, and they never spoke about what truly happened that night. Paige Keller, the daughter of one of the survivors, has spent her life trying to move past the tragedy that shaped her family and ultimately destroyed her mother. Her best friend, KJ, however, has become obsessed with the mystery surrounding the Kaleidoscope Key Resort. When Paige discovers that KJ has gone missing, she knows there is only one place she could have gone: the now-abandoned resort. Told through alternating perspectives, the novel explores the parallels between Paige's attempt to rescue her best friend-and romantic interest-and the horrors her mother experienced at the same resort 25 years earlier. A supernatural thriller, the story is packed with twists and turns that may leave readers reeling as reality quickly shifts and distorts. Readers will likely be hooked from the moment the characters step into the hotel. While some scenes in the middle begin to feel slightly repetitive, the novel is overall well written. Characters are cued white. VERDICT Filled with gruesome murder scenes, high tension, and a compelling queer romance that will have readers rooting for the characters to make it out alive, this is a recommended purchase.-Ashley Grillo © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781546144618	Up from the ashes : based on an extraordinary true story of World War II	Cameron, Sharon	School Library Journal starred (August 1, 2026) Gr 7 Up-Based on the true story of Selma Wijnberg and Chaim Engel, this book brings to life people who found friendship, love, and even hope among the barracks and killing fields of the Sobibor death camp during the Holocaust. Selma, a Dutch Jew, has an optimism in the face of the Nazi soldiers that lasts just long enough for Chaim, a Polish Jew, to see her for who she is-and immediately worry about how she seems willing to be kind and caring in a world where none of that is wanted or expected. Unexpectedly, Chaim finds himself drawn to Selma's bright smile and unwillingness to be completely broken by her circumstances. When the prisoners plan a revolt, it's now or never for two young people who have already faced more death and destruction than any two people should. In a moment that blends fear and joy, flying bullets and intertwined hands, this will remind readers that love is always worth the risk and worth fighting for, and that there is always room for a second chance at love and at life. Sensitive readers should note the sometimes-graphic nature of the death camp descriptions. VERDICT Hopeful in spite of itself, this is a page-turner that readers will be tempted to get through in one sitting.-Emily Bedwell © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780736447614	Waiting on a miracle	Fajardo, Anika	

CAMPUS	ISBN	Title	Author	Review
High School	9780316594219	Wicked endeavors	Cole, Kamilah	School Library Journal (July 1, 2026) Gr 9 Up-Caya was raised as a ward to the royal family of Coventry, until they were killed by witches who sought to take power. Eventually, a mysterious benefactor comes looking for her, and the two form a dangerous pact of revenge against the witches who destroyed their families. Armed with a transformative potion and a carefully crafted identity, Caya becomes Marisol Vinyet, a noblewoman with the perfect cover to infiltrate the three ruling witch houses. As Marisol, she meets Prince Tómas of the neighboring kingdom of Domingo and his devoted protector, Bas. Tómas doesn't know that Marisol holds him and Bas responsible for Coventry's fall, believing they allowed the witches to rise. Caya begins to question everything she thought she knew. Cole thoughtfully constructs a world that is easy to become immersed in. The tension between those with magical power and those without drives a high-octane and suspenseful plot. Caya's stubbornness sometimes works against her, leading to choices that feel avoidable and occasionally slow the narrative's momentum, but it also fuels much of the conflict and plays a key role in shaping the story. At its core, this novel explores love and the lengths one is willing to go for those they care about. Readers will be ready for the next installment as these characters continue to evolve. Main characters are described as having mahogany, brown, or olive skin tones and dark hair. VERDICT Recommended for libraries where fantasy circulates well.-Aliza Mangefrida © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9780736447362	Wings of reverie	Bright, Anna	School Library Journal Xpress (May 29, 2026) Gr 7 Up-When Periwinkle travels too close to the forbidden border between the Winter Woods and Spring, the frost fairy discovers a small bit of magic that gives her the ability to dream. At first, the dreams are a delicious treat, but as they turn darker, she worries that her friends and all of Pixie Hollow may be in danger. When a particularly horrible nightmare causes her to sleepwalk, she runs into Weaver, a sparrow man who claims to be the last dream-talent. He confirms her worst fear: Pixie Hollow is in danger. Together, Periwinkle and Weaver set out on a dangerous quest to save their home. This series installment follows Allison Saft's Wings of Starlight by several centuries. Readers need not have read that one to enjoy this, although there are a few nods to the former that series fans will appreciate. This is somewhat darker than its predecessor, dealing with themes of grief, guilt, and secrets with the same effortlessly ethereal touch. The enemies-to-lovers trope runs throughout Periwinkle's interactions with Weaver. Slightly disorienting are the point-of-view shifts from Periwinkle to Weaver, though as the book progresses, readers will fall into the rhythm of the shifts much like the two characters fall into a rhythm of banter. This is a good choice for young readers interested in romantasy, as the spice level remains low. Fans who grew up with the Pixie Hollow franchise will find much to love here, as there are plenty of recognizable characters from the animated movies, including Periwinkle herself. Periwinkle and Weaver read as white, but the fairies of Pixie Hollow are described with various skin tones. VERDICT Hand this adventure to young readers looking for clean romantasy.-Mimi Powell © Copyright 2026. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
High School	9781368114561	Wondrous	Fawcett, Heather	Kirkus Reviews (September 15, 2026) Alice returns to Wonderland, only to find that she might not be as special as she thought. Now almost 18, blue-eyed Alice has run away to Wonderland for good, fleeing marriage to an old man in favor of joining the Mad Hatter, March Hare, and Dormouse at their tea parties. She sets up Alice's Traveling Tea Shop, but her new life is soon interrupted by the arrival of a variety of other Alices—one French, some brown-skinned—who had adventures in Wonderland as children and have now returned to save it from a new threat, as prophesied by the White Queen. Though Alice doubts she's the "true Alice" of the prophecy—the one who can slay three mock dragon invaders—she joins them in setting off on a new adventure. While the story centers on Alice, the strange, lovable, savage, and funny parts of Wonderland are ever present, including quirky utterances from familiar characters, unsettling insights from Alice, and whimsical descriptions of teacups, quests, and magic. The narrative doesn't linger too long on the plight of those who have returned from adventures, instead turning to what might happen next and examining what makes someone a hero. A sequel rather than a fractured tale or retelling, this Alice story maintains the spirit of the original, solidifying some aspects of Wonderland while leaving others as nonsensical and unexplained as ever. Good fun in a topsy-turvy world. (Fantasy. 12-18)
High School	9781974763382	One-Punch Man. 33,Power squared	ONE	
High School	9781974766529	One-Punch Man. 34,Dawn	ONE	
High School	9781368118071	Snow This is Love	Lauren Christina	