

Air
Ryan Gattis
Adaptive Books, 2016
307 pages

SUMMARY:

Grey, whose black mother is murdered by his white father, is sent to live with his aunt in Baltimore. He is befriended by a bike enthusiast named Kurtis. Together, Grey and Kurtis break laws and attract attention with their bike tricks to spread their message. Can their friendship last all the turmoil?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY. . .

Black and White, Paul Volponi
Shooter, Walter Dean Myers
Whale Talk, Chris Crutcher
If You Come Softly, Jacqueline Woodson
Burning Up, Caroline B. Cooney
The Moves Make the Man, Bruce Brooks
Danger Zone, David Klass

WEBSITES:

Air Book Trailer, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFsb2nM85IU>, Youtube book trailer for the book.

Ryan Gattis, About Me, More Than You Will Ever Need, <http://ryangattis.com/author/>, official website of Ryan Gattis

TED Talk, TEDxChapmanU, <http://ryangattis.com/collaborations/tedxchapmanu/>, Ryan Gattis talks about getting published again and being understood.

BOOKTALK:

When Grey's black mother is murdered by his white father, he moves in with his aunt in another part of the country. He has trouble fitting in until he meets up with Kurtis. Kurtis rides bikes doing death-defying stunts. These stunts are in rebellion to the law and are geared toward getting the message of the underprivileged heard. Even though Kurtis and Grey have good intentions, they are repeatedly breaking the law with their stunts. Their stunts are making them famous on social media, but Grey's aunt forbids him to participate at first. Should Grey go with his heart and continue his bike antics, or listen to his aunt and curtail his activities? People know him as Air, but his aunt fears for his safety. For once, this biracial teenager fits in, and he has a mission to publicize the police brutality in Baltimore. What should he do?

Prepared by:

Donna Roberts, Rock Hill High School, droberts@rhmail.org

All We Have Left

Wendy Mills

Bloomsbury, 2016

272 pgs

SUMMARY:

Alia, a Muslim-American teen, has an argument with her father and decides to apologize and talk with him about an important decision by going to his workplace, the World Trade Center, on September 11, 2001. Fifteen years later, Jesse, whose brother Travis mysteriously died in the attacks, is caught writing an Islamophobic slur on the Islam Peace Center and must return to the center to serve her community service. The story alternates between Alia's valiant attempt to leave the Towers after the attacks and Jesse's attempt to grow up in a world of mixed signals, trying to learn compassion and understanding.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Memory of Things: A Novel, Gae Polisner

A World Without You, Beth Revis

The Sun Is Also a Star, Nicola Yoon

Gone, Gone, Gone, Hannah Moscowitz

WEBSITES:

Awesome Stories, America Attacked: 9/11,

<https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/America-Attacked-9-11>, This website provides detailed information about the 9/11 attacks as well as prior attacks.

Wendy Mills, <http://www.wendymillsbooks.com>, Visit the author's website!

BOOKTALK:

The lives of two teenage girls separated by 15 years are intertwined in this beautiful but sad tale revolving around the September 11 attacks. Alia is an aspiring comic book artist whose Muslim parents want her to have a more traditional life, while Jesse is a struggling teenager whose parents cannot overcome the death of their son Travis in the 9/11 attacks. Mills's description of the events of 9/11 are very realistic and heart-wrenching. Intertwining a search for faith with fears of Islamophobia, Mills teaches compassion and understanding. The depth of emotion expressed by Mills's characters will have the reader feeling like they are in the Towers trying to escape death and grabbing a box of tissues at the conclusion of what happens next.

Prepared by:

Michelle Greene, Lamar High School, michelle.greene@darlington.k12.sc.us

Blood, Bullets, and Bones: the story of forensic science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA

Bridget Heos
Balzer and Bray, 2016
264 pgs

SUMMARY:

Sherlock Holmes and the cast of CSI may be fictional, but the science they use is not. Science has been used for thousands of years in an effort to solve crimes. Follow the development of the art of forensic science, and learn about the detectives who use it.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Forensic Science of CSI, Katherine Ramsland

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle

Lincoln's Spymaster: Allan Pinkerton, America's First Private Eye, Samantha Seiple

The Muralist, B.A. Shapiro

Stalking Jack the Ripper, Kerri Maniscalco

WEBSITES:

American Academy of Forensic Scientists, <https://www.aafs.org/students/choosing-a-career/what-do-forensic-scientists-do/>, Learn more about the forensic science profession!

Bridget Heos, <http://www.authorbridgetheos.com>, Visit the author's website.

Explore Health Careers, <https://explorehealthcareers.org/field/forensic-science/>, Explore career options and requirements.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever watched a crime show like CSI and wondered how they were able to solve a complex mystery with a single hair? They did it by using forensic science! Forensic science can help prove the guilt or innocence of a person accused of a crime and much more by using different scientific methods. While some of the ways that forensic science is used are pretty new, like DNA analysis, examining physical evidence to solve a crime has been in use for thousands of years! This book addresses the development of forensic science through the ages. Heos goes into detail explaining how detectives worked real-life crimes like Jack the Ripper and other murderers as well as the science behind Arthur Conan Doyle's creation of Sherlock Holmes.

Prepared by:

Jessica Nuckolls, Orangeburg County Library, Jnuckolls@orangeburgcounty.org

The Crown's Game

Evelyn Skye

Balzar + Bray, 2017

432 pages

SUMMARY:

In Imperial Russia, the Czar needs an Imperial Enchanter. There can be only one magic wielder in Russia, and whenever there are two, the Crown's Game determines the victor. Each sorcerer must try to prove that they are more powerful and eliminate their opponent. Nikolai is best friends with the heir of the Czar, Pasha, yet Pasha is unaware that Nikolai is a sorcerer. Vika is a charming and talented sorceress who intrigues both Nikolai and Pasha. Who will win the Crown's Game?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Crown's Fate, Evelyn Skye

Shadow and Bone, Leigh Bardugo

Girls Made of Snow and Glass, Melissa Bashardoust

Red Queen, Victoria Aveyard

The Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern

Three Dark Crowns, Kendare Blake

Legacy of Kings, Eleanor Herman

And I Darken, Kiersten White

The Winner's Curse, Marie Rutkoski

WEBSITES:

Evelyn Skye, <http://www.evelynskye.com>, Visit the author's official website for information on books, characters, events and contact information.

Memories of Imperial Russia, <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/hamilton.html>, Learn more about the history of Imperial Russia by reading histories, primary documents, and viewing images.

Book Trailer, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaxkoHjOA1s>, View the exciting book trailer!

BOOKTALK:

Two sorcerers. One Czar of Russia. An ancient competition of magical abilities. Only one sorcerer will serve as Imperial Enchanter. The other will die. In this magical duel to the death, Nikolai and Vika are given no choice but to compete using their magical abilities. Nikolai already has ties to the Czar, as a beloved friend of the heir to the throne, Pasha. To complicate matters, he finds himself drawn to the sorceress he must oppose. How can Nikolai destroy the only girl that he may love? Failing to win would mean to forfeit his own life.

Vika is a girl unlike any other, and has longed for the opportunity to unleash her magic where all can see. Vika's life on an isolated island is lonely, and she is jumping at the chance to wield her magic. Who will win the Crown's Game?

Prepared by:

Laura Bouknight, Newberry High School, laurabouknight@newberry.k12.sc.us

Girl in the Blue Coat

Monica Hesse

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

320 pages

SUMMARY:

Hanneke, a teenager in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, is asked to find a Jewish girl who was being hidden by one of her customers but has now vanished. All she knows is that the girl is wearing a blue coat. By accepting this mission, Hanneke joins the Dutch resistance during a time when all she'd rather do is survive.

IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY...

Code Name Verity, Elizabeth Wein

Winter's Bullet, William Osborne

Tamar, Mal Peet

Annexed, Sharon Dogar

A Time to Choose, Martha Attema

Salt to the Sea, Ruta Sepetys

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, John Boyne

WEBSITES:

Global Nonviolent Action Database, <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/dutch-citizens-resist-nazi-occupation-1940-1945>, Utilize this database to learn more about the Dutch resistance during World War II.

Monica Hesse, Journalist/Author, <http://www.monicahesse.com/>, official author's website.

BOOKTALK:

Hanneke Bakker helps to make money for her family during the Nazi occupation by delivering black market goods in her town of Amsterdam. One of her customers begs her to help find a young Jewish girl who had been hiding in the customer's home. The girl has disappeared, and this customer is very worried and upset. The missing Jewish girl is wearing a blue coat, but there are no legal ways to find out where she is or to find out what happened to her. Hanneke doesn't know who to trust as people aren't always who they appear to be. She finally joins a student resistance after asking for help from her dead boyfriend's brother in finding this missing person. Can she get over the death of Bas, who was killed on the Dutch front lines during a German invasion of the Netherlands? Follow Hanneke as she works to save the missing Jewish girl.

Prepared by:

Donna Roberts, Rock Hill High School, droberts@rhmail.org

Holding Up the Universe

Jennifer Niven

Alfred A. Knopf, 2016

391 pgs

SUMMARY:

Libby Strout has had her struggles. When she was ten years old, her mom died, she was bullied at school, and she had panic attacks when she left the house. She turned to food to comfort herself but it grew into her biggest problem: at 653 pounds, she had become known as “America’s Fattest Teen.” She gained so much weight that the paramedics had to cut a hole in her house to get her to the hospital. After surgery and a few years of recovery time, Libby is ready to live her life again as a strong, independent person. She enters school for the first time in years as a high school junior and meets Jack Masselin, a popular boy at her school who seems confident and full of himself. They meet under terrible circumstances, but through required community service and counseling together, they start to forge a friendship that will help them both come to terms with and accept who they really are. *Holding Up the Universe* is a story that has heart-breaking moments coupled with funny, light-hearted realizations that will have everyone pulling for the main characters.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

What to Say Next, Julie Buxbaum

Everything, Everything, Nicola Yoon

First Love, James Patterson

Once and For All, Sara Dessen

Hello, Goodbye, and Everything in Between, Jennifer E. Smith

Fangirl, Rainbow Rowell

Saving Hamlet, Molly Booth

WEBSITES:

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke,

<https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Prosopagnosia-Information-Page>.

This website provides information about prosopagnosia.

Jennifer Niven, <http://www.jenniferniven.com/books/holdinguptheuniverse/>. Visit the author’s website to find out more!

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever felt like the whole world is against you and no matter what you do, you can’t seem to catch a break? Well, Libby Strout knows exactly what that feels like. Libby is a sassy, smart, quick-witted teenager who wants more than anything in the world just to be normal. While this may seem like an easy task for some, it isn’t as easy for Libby. You see, when she was ten years old, her whole world changed when her mother died. During this time she had to face bullying at school to the point she began to have panic attacks when she left her house. As a result, she became homeschooled, began to overeat for comfort, and eventually gained so much weight she became known as “America’s Fattest Teen.” After years of attending fat camps and

seeing counselors, psychologists, behavioral coaches, doctors and trainers, Libby is ready to stop being a statistic and live a normal life.

Jack, on the other hand, appears to have it all going for him: he is a popular, charming teenager who is the life of the party. But he has a secret no one knows: he has prosopagnosia, the inability to recognize people's faces. This secret is what drives many of Jack's actions to fit in and mask his true self from others.

Their paths cross when Jack accepts a cruel bet from one of his buddies and grabs Libby. In her new Libby fashion, she punches him in the face! The two of them get in trouble and are required to meet with their school counselor who assigns them community service and counseling every day for several weeks. Together. At first glance, these two teenagers seem to have nothing in common, but as they spend time talking, they realize they have more in common than they thought. Jack shares his secret with Libby and she teaches him the most important lesson of all: the importance of accepting yourself. *Holding Up the Universe* is a poignant, uplifting story about life, love, and true acceptance that will teach us all how to live our lives.

Prepared by:

Karen Rogers, Greenville Technical Charter High School, krogers@staff.gtchs.org

If I Was Your Girl

Meredith Russo

Flatiron Books, 2016

280 pgs

SUMMARY:

Amanda used to be Andrew. She's moved in with her father in another town after being beaten up in the bathroom at her old school. Her parents divorced because her Dad had a hard time accepting a son who liked girls' clothes and didn't like sports, so her mother left and took Andrew with her. After Andrew has transitioned and is living with her father as Amanda, the two of them are figuring out their relationship. Amanda makes new friends and attracts the eye of a popular boy, Grant Everett. Grant has his own issues, but as their relationship develops, Amanda knows that sooner or later she's going to have to tell Grant about her past life. This book is written by a transgender author.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

This Is How It Always Is, Laurie Frankel

Symptoms of Being Human, Jeff Garvin

Beautiful Music for Ugly Children, Kirstin Cronn-Mills

Parrotfish, Ellen Wittlinger

WEBSITES:

Pick My YA,

<http://www.pickmyya.com/single-post/2016/10/23/Beyond-The-Bio-Meredith-Russo>,
Interviews with YA authors and a really good one with Meredith Russo.

Human Rights Campaign website, <http://www.hrc.org/youth-report>, Includes many articles and links about the LGBTQ community.

Human Rights Campaign website, <http://www.hrc.org/explore/topic/transgender-children-youth>,
Resources for transgender children, families and other youth-serving professionals.

BOOKTALK:

Amanda is living with her Dad in a new town and attending a new school. She and her Dad haven't been very close since her parents separated. In fact, they weren't close even before the separation. That's because her Dad couldn't accept the fact that his son Andrew wanted to wear girls' clothes and hated sports. Amanda used to be Andrew. And now she's here with her Dad after being beaten up at her old school. She just wants to get on with her new life and bide her time until she can go to college in New York City, where she thinks she'll be more accepted. But then she catches the eye of one of the most popular guys at her new school. Grant Everett is interested in her and as their relationship develops, Amanda becomes more and more afraid. She knows she's going to have to tell him about her past sooner or later. What will happen when she does?

Prepared by:

Susan Henley, Academic Magnet HS, susan_henley@charleston.k12.sc.us

Learning to Swear in America

Katie Kennedy
Bloomsbury, 2016
340 pgs

SUMMARY:

Yuri Strelnikov is a Russian physics prodigy. He's on track to win the Nobel Prize, and at seventeen years old, that's not too shabby. A whole lifetime of recognition and fame awaits him. Except NASA has discovered an asteroid headed straight for southern California and recruits Yuri to help save an entire region of the planet. Who cares if he's socially awkward, doesn't speak English very well, and has no friends (not even a mother who likes him)? He knows in theory why he should care about saving southern California and possibly the planet, but with his new friends Dovie and her brother Lennon, he also discovers how to live outside of an equation. And possibly the useful skill of learning to swear in a foreign language. Full of sarcastic and witty explanations of American culture, this book will have the reader chuckling and rooting for Yuri to save it all.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Denton Little's Deathdate, Lance Rubin

Evil Genius, Catherine Jinks

Noggin, John Corey Whaley

Going Bovine, Libba Bray

Dark Energy, Robison Wells

WEBSITES:

European Council for Nuclear Research, <https://home.cern/topics/antimatter>, This website provides information about antimatter and nuclear energy.

Katie Kennedy, <http://www.katiekennedybooks.com/>, Visit the author's website!

Neil deGrasse Tyson, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmFxQ6P_t9k, He explains matter vs. antimatter in this helpful video.

BOOKTALK:

Yuri is really good at math and physics. So good, in fact, that he's the only person on the planet who can stop the B1019 asteroid from destroying southern California and the chaotic effects on the rest of the planet. He's so close to winning the Nobel Prize that he can feel the medal around his neck. That's where the good news ends. Here are his problems:

- The other physicists won't take him seriously
- Probably because he's only 17
- And doesn't speak English well at all.
- (Look, he can't even shave, but you think he can save the planet?)
- Also, not everyone is familiar with his work on antimatter
- Which is how he plans to save them.
- His competitor in Russia, Fyodor Laskov, is about to steal Yuri's research

- So long Nobel Prize.
- Curious Yuri sneaks a look at a top-secret weapons document
- (because wouldn't you?! Be honest...)
- Now he's not sure he can ever return to Russia.
- His mother is distant (not just physically).
- When he's frustrated, he doesn't even know how to curse in English
- (you know that would annoy you, too).

But then one night he meets Dovie and her brother Lennon. They may not know anything about antimatter, but they will show Yuri what does matter in life. Will Yuri figure out a way to save millions of people, including Dovie and Lennon, and still reach his goals and dreams?

Prepared by:

Jamie Gregory, James F. Byrnes High School, Jamie.gregory@spart5.net

The Radius of Us
Marie Marquardt
St. Martin's Griffin, 2016
288 pgs

SUMMARY:

Gretchen and Phoenix are no strangers to trauma. Phoenix and his little brother Ari flee deadly gang violence in El Salvador, but are split apart once they cross the US border. Phoenix lucks out and is taken in by Sally and Amanda in Atlanta, GA; however, his little brother is sent to a group home in Texas, and Phoenix is trying not to be deported. Gretchen is also an innocent victim of gang violence, a witness to a horrible crime which is now affecting every part of her life. Her parents and boyfriend wish she could move on, but how can she forget? Finding freedom, acceptance, and safety isn't always easy, but maybe with a little help from each other, Gretchen and Phoenix can find ways to heal and to survive.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Dream Things True, Marie Marquardt

Eleanor & Park, Rainbow Rowell

Joyride, Anna Banks

Guantanamo Boy, Anna Perera

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie

Mexican WhiteBoy, Matt de la Pena

Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass, Meg Medina

WEBSITES:

Marie Marquardt, <http://www.mariemarquardt.com/?p=1>, Visit the author's website! Follow her on social media as well.

Center for Immigration Studies, <https://cis.org/>, Learn more about the facts of illegal immigration in the United States. Includes press releases, articles, op-eds, fact sheets, maps, and more.

InSight Crime, <https://www.insightcrime.org/el-salvador-organized-crime-news/>, Learn more about the dangers of organized crime in El Salvador.

BOOKTALK:

When people look at you, do they automatically make assumptions? That's what happens to Phoenix. He may be from El Salvador, have a gang-related tattoo, and not be a legal US citizen, but none of those things define who he is. Phoenix has real goals for his life, which is why he took his little brother Ari and fled from the gang violence. But it turns out that was the easy part. Detained once they crossed the US border, they are now separated and Phoenix is trying everything he can to reunite and stay in a country that promises more than they could ever imagine. Gretchen doesn't have an outward appearance that provokes unfair assumptions, but she struggles in the aftermath of witnessing gang-related violence. Phoenix finds a true ally and friend in Gretchen at a crucial time when they both need to rely on the support of others. Read

this book to find out if they can help each other overcome stereotypes and legal roadblocks to begin futures that they both deserve.

Prepared by:

Jamie Gregory, James F. Byrnes High School, Jamie.gregory@spart5.net

The Rains
Gregg Hurwitz
Tor Teen, 2016
352 pgs

SUMMARY:

Chance Rain and his brother Patrick live in rural America. Several days ago, debris fell from an asteroid and now strange plants are springing up. These plants explode and microscopic spores become airborne. These spores make all of the adults sick and they turn into inhuman creatures, who start hunting children. They are difficult to kill even after sustaining horrific injuries. Chance and Patrick quickly realize what's going on and try to find and save the children and young adults not yet killed. Can they save those not infected before it's too late?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Last Chance (sequel to *The Rains*), Gregg Hurwitz
Monster, Michael Grant
The Enemy (6 book series), Charlie Higson
Replica, Lauren Oliver
The Prey, Tom Isbell

WEBSITES:

Gregg Hurwitz, <http://gregghurwitz.net/>. Visit the author's website!

So You Want to Write a Zombie Apocalypse,

<http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/SoYouWantTo/WriteAZombieApocalypse>,
Creative writers should visit this link to learn more about how to write zombies!

BOOKTALK:

Chance Rain and his brother Patrick are working on their uncle's farm one evening when they're startled by a scream. They are shocked to find one of their neighbors walking around in a zombie state, trying to kill anyone in its way. As the night progresses, they find other adults in the same inhuman state, all of them looking for and attacking the town's young people. Chance comes to realize that the debris from an asteroid causes mysterious plants to pop up and spew microscopic spores into the air after exploding, transforming the adults. He and his brother race to find other kids in the town before they are killed. And then they realize something even more horrifying: once the kids turn 18, they too will turn into killers...and Patrick's 18th birthday is 1 week away.

Prepared by:

Susan Henley, Academic Magnet HS, susan_henley@charleston.k12.sc.us

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story

Caren Stelson

Carolrhoda Books, 2016

144 pages

SUMMARY:

Sachiko Yasui was six years old when her hometown of Nagasaki, Japan was bombed by the United States at the end of World War II. In the days and months that followed, she lost her hair, most of her family members died, and her entire city was turned to piles of ash and rubble. Sachiko often found inspiration through the words of Gandhi, Helen Keller, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Her story was written by Caren Stelson, who was inspired by Sachiko's speech at the 60th anniversary of the bombing and knew she needed to write Sachiko's story. Stelson writes using personal interviews and historical information to create a personal remembrance that provides the reader insight about a time in our history that should never be repeated.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Uprooted: The Japanese Experience during World War II, Albert Marrin

Sadako and One Thousand Cranes, Eleanor Coerr

Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War, Susan Southard

WEBSITES:

After the Bomb: Survivors of the Atomic Blasts in Hiroshima and Nagasaki Share Their Stories, <http://time.com/after-the-bomb/>, This website give first-hand accounts of their survival of the atomic bombs.

Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, www.atomicheritage.org/history/survivors-hiroshima-and-nagasaki, This website is the part of the Atomic Heritage Foundation website and gives great historical information and current news about the Atomic industry.

Caren Stelson, <http://www.carenstelson.com>, Visit the author's website more information about this book.

BOOKTALK:

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story is a biographical memoir that captures the timeline of Sachiko's life during 10 different important times throughout her life, starting at age 6. This book gives the reader a glimpse of the culture and living conditions before and after the Nagasaki bombing near the end of World War II in 1945. The author Caren Stelson uses primary and secondary sources to tell Sachiko's story using family and historical photographs. Her story will inspire you to see how devastating atomic bombs are on a family, a city, and the world.

Prepared by:

Jennifer Gibson, North Central High School, jennifer.gibson@kcsdschools.net

The Safest Lies

Megan Miranda

Random House Children's Books, 2016

370 pgs

SUMMARY:

For Kelsey's entire life, she has lived with her mother's paranoia, a side effect of being kidnapped and then escaping many years ago. Her house feels like a prison with bars over windows and an extensive security system. Her mother won't even leave their house. So Kelsey knows that something is terribly wrong when she arrives home one day and her mother is not there. As she begins to search, she uncovers something more dangerous than she could have ever imagined.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Never Missing, Never Found, Amanda Panitch

This is Our Story, Ashley Elston

Beware That Girl, Teresa Toten

The Girl I Used to Be, April Henry

WEBSITES:

Megan Miranda, <http://www.meganmiranda.com/the-safest-lies/>, Visit the author's website!

Charles Bryant, <https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/living-off-the-grid.htm>, The article provides a look into how living "off the grid" actually works.

BOOK TALK:

Kelsey is good at living as normal of a life as she can, according to her mother's standards, until her wreck. It was a wreck that changed everything and opened the world to her off-grid living and opened her eyes to her fears; fears that are shared with her mother. The wreck threw Kelsey and her detail-oriented life into chaos by gaining media attention from none other than her classmate, Ryan Baker.

Once Kelsey discovers her mother is missing, she realizes that she can no longer live the protected life her mother once gave her. Kelsey, with the help of Ryan, will have to face her darkest fears and discover the truths that have been living within her off-grid neighborhood compound for as long as she can remember. Will Kelsey be able to face her biggest fears and figure out a way to bring her mother home safely?

Prepared by:

Lea Brandt, Newberry High School, lbrandt@newberry.k12.sc.us

Salt to the Sea

Ruta Sepetys
Philomel Books
2016
391 pgs.

SUMMARY:

In January of 1945, the Soviets are advancing on the Germans in East Prussia. Desperate to escape the advance, citizens are making their way to the coast to board the ship, the *Wilhelm Gustloff* for transport to Germany. In a story told in four voices, *Salt to the Sea* tells about the journey of these refugees as they make their way across the frozen land to the coast. Each person hopes to get passage on the *Wilhelm Gustloff* in order to escape the Russians, but also to escape the haunting memories from the past.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The boy in the striped pajamas, John Boyne
Between shades of gray, Ruta Sepetys
Flygirl, Sherri L. Smith
Rose under fire, Elizabeth Wein
The book thief, Markus Zusak

WEBSITES:

Ruta Sepetys, <http://rutasepetys.com/>, Author's website.

Wilhelm Gustloff <https://www.britannica.com/topic/MV-Wilhelm-Gustloff> Article by Nicki Peter Petrikowski. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Awesome Stories, <https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Wilhelm-Gustloff-Survivors-Tell-Their-Stories>, videos of survivors.

BOOKTALK:

Everyone has heard of the sinking of the *Titanic*, but have you heard about the *Wilhelm Gustloff*? It lost over 9,000 lives, making it the greatest tragedy in maritime history. In January of 1945, The German front is falling and the Russians are coming! German forces are marching to the coast in East Prussia towards their only access to escape – the sea. Citizens are not told to evacuate, but they have heard the news and they know to stay means death and destruction by the hands of the Russians. Joana, Florian, Emilia, and Alfred all want to escape. But is it just the Russians they are running from? All have a secret and all have a desire to board the *Wilhelm Gustloff* to escape, but from what? Told in four voices, *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys is a journey that tells of romance, mystery, sabotage, and death.

Prepared by:

Alison Carpenter, Silver Bluff High School, acarpenter@acpsd.net

Scythe
Neal Shusterman
Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016
435 pgs.

SUMMARY:

Humankind has conquered the world, ridding it of hunger, disease, war, and even death. However, even in this utopia, the size of the population must be kept under control. Scythes must perform the formidable task of ending lives through “gleaning.” Citra and Rowan are two teens chosen as apprentices to a Scythe—a role that neither wants. They must master the “art” of taking a life. Failure could mean a dire consequence: the loss of their own life.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Metaltown, Kristen Simmons

The Diabolic, S.J. Kincaid

Dreamfall, Amy Plum

Before She Ignites, Jodi Meadows

The Apocalypse Guard, Brandon Sanderson

WEBSITES:

Neal Shusterman, <http://www.storyman.com/>, Visit the author’s website!

How the Grim Reaper Works by William Harris,

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/science-vs-myth/strange-creatures/grim-reaper.htm>,

This website explains the myth of the grim reaper and its history.

Ancient Origins, <http://www.ancient-origins.net/grim-reaper>, Learn about the entity of death in many cultures around the world.

BOOKTALK:

A world without hunger, fighting, and disease is a world without limits. It is a world where even death is not a possibility. Unless, of course, you are visited by a Scythe. Scythes have the task of gleaning the population so the world does not overpopulate. People stiffen with fear in their presence. They often beg and try to bargain for their lives. Being a Scythe isn’t a pleasant job, and it’s certainly not one that Citra or Rowan ever considered. And yet, these two teenagers find themselves as apprentices, learning to be a Scythe.

What will their killing “style” be? Will they be careful and calculated, following patterns of death that were common in history? Or will they be random and relentless, wiping out entire groups of people in one mass murder-type gleaning? Just how far are they willing to take their training? After all, the success of one apprentice may depend on the failure or death of the other.

Prepared by:

Lori J. Rogers, Clearwater Elementary, lrogers@acpsd.net

The Serpent King

Jeff Zentner

Bloomsbury, 2016

340 pgs

SUMMARY:

Dill, Lydia, and Travis are about as different as friends come, which is why they are best friends. Trying to break free from the oppressive shackles of a small town in Tennessee, each faces their own personal struggles during their senior year. Dill's father, a former Pentecostal snake-handling preacher, is in prison, leaving Dill and his mother poverty-stricken and outcast. Dill's parents make sure he knows his place is at home, working, not rising above his station in life. Lydia maintains a famous fashion blog, aching to leave Forrestville for the freedom and possibilities of New York City. Travis is a shy, fantasy book-lover who is suffocated by his parents' pain of losing their older son in Afghanistan. When tragedy strikes, the bonds of friendship will be tested and the limits of forgiveness, survival, and perseverance will be pushed.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Goodbye Days, Jeff Zentner

Looking for Alaska, John Green

The Great American Whatever, Tim Federle

Don't Fail Me Now, Una LaMarche

We Are the Ants, Shaun David Hutchinson

I'll Give You the Sun, Jandy Nelson

WEBSITES:

Jeff Zentner, <http://www.jeffzentnerbooks.com/>, Visit the author's website! Follow him on social media as well.

I'm First, <http://www.imfirst.org/#!>, Visit this website if you are the first member of your family ever to attend college. Join a helpful community and view the resources available to you.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, <https://ncadv.org/>, View this website to learn more information about domestic violence including statistics, learning warning signs, and volunteering to help.

BOOKTALK:

It's hard to figure out your next step after high school, especially when you live in such a small, country town like Forrestville, Tennessee. Dill, Lydia, and Travis are best friends, which is helpful when you aren't very popular otherwise. Dill's father was a Pentecostal preacher who caused a scandal to rock their town when he went to prison. He wants to move on after high school, but his mother depends on him. Travis's older brother died in Afghanistan, and as a shy, fantasy book-lover, he feels like he can't do anything to fill that void in his parent's lives. And Lydia already has her ticket out of town through her popular fashion blog, her sights set on New York City. How will they make their own ways past the obstacles that seek to keep them stuck in

Forrestville? And more importantly, how can they live without each other in their lives if their dreams do come true?

Prepared by:

Jamie Gregory, James F. Byrnes High School, Jamie.gregory@spart5.net

The Smell of Other People's Houses

Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

Wendy Lamb Books, 2016

240 pgs

SUMMARY:

Smells can leave you with fond memories or can become bad memories. The smell of other people's houses takes us on a journey of the senses. Picture it: Alaska, 1970, four teenagers lives intertwined to give a glimpse into what it was like to grow up in the wilds of Alaska.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

My name is not easy, Debby Dahl Edwardson

Criss Cross, Lynne Rae Perkins

The Serpent King, Jeff Zentner

Eleanor & Park, Rainbow Rowell

Burn Baby Burn, Meg Medina

WEBSITES:

Alaska, <http://alaska.gov/>, learn more about Alaska on the official state website.

Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock, <https://hitchcockbs.com/>, Visit the author's website.

BOOKTALK:

From the beginning the cover and title grab you and make you want to dive into this book. Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock, the author, entices the reader with such vivid tales of Ruth, Dora, Alyce, and Hank. Four teenagers' lives become intertwined in 1970 Alaska. The stories are divided and each one tells their own story. You walk back in time with Ruth to when Alaska first became a state. Dora just wants a new life after being abused by her father. Alyce just wants out of Alaska and will find a way through her talent for dancing. Hank is running away from it all, but meets with tragic consequences of not thinking through what he is doing. The readers will feel like they are living in Alaska from the descriptions of the smells, sights, and sounds written.

Prepared by:

Tammy Gaskins McCarn, Cheraw High School, tmccarn@chesterfieldschools.org

Starflight
Melissa Landers
Hyperion, 2016
359 pgs

SUMMARY:

Solara Brooks has to get to the outer realm if she wants to start her new life. With her criminal history, that is the only place where she can be judged on her abilities and not her felony tattoos. The problem is she cannot afford the cost of off-world travel, and her job offer has an expiration date. Her only option is to indenture herself in exchange for safe passage on a ship.

Unfortunately, her worst nightmare from school, Doran Spaulding, is the only person willing to take her on for the trip. During a raid on the ship, Solara finds herself with a golden opportunity: she can make Doran think he is her servant! They escape onto a ship that is run by an eccentric group of misfits and find out that there is more to life than running.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Alienated, Melissa Landers

Unearthed, Amie Kaufman

Empress of A Thousand Skies, Rhoda Belleza

Spinning Starlight, R. C. Lewis

WEBSITES:

Melissa Landers, <http://melissa-landers.com/>, Visit the author's website!

Space Colonization,

<https://phys.org/news/2017-03-future-space-colonization-terraforming-habitats.html>,

How likely is space colonization?

BOOKTALK:

Solara Brooks hasn't had the easiest life. She has made a lot of mistakes and has the felony tattoos to prove it. When she turned 18, she was kicked out of the group home and now she has to take care of herself. Earth doesn't have any options for her, so she has to look off-world and luckily the outer rim doesn't care about criminal records. The problem is that the outer rim is far away and she doesn't have money for passage. The answer comes in taking a job as an indentured servant for her worst enemy: Doran Spaulding. He thinks he is the greatest thing in the world (and most other people agree). He tortured her in school and now she has to serve him on the journey. When things turn sideways, Solara cons Doran into posing as her servant and they find themselves on a ship that is practically falling apart with a crew that has their own secrets. Solara begins to realize that her feelings for Doran are not what they used to be but she does not have much time to figure them out when Doran is accused of conspiracy on Earth and they find themselves on the run from the government. Will she ever make it to the outer rim?

Prepared by:

Jessica Nuckolls, Orangeburg County Library, Jnuckolls@orangeburgcounty.org

Sun Is Also A Star

Nicola Yoon

Delacorte Press, 2016

384 pages

SUMMARY:

Natasha and Daniel are living in New York City. She is a kind, determined girl who is trying unsuccessfully to stop her family from being deported to Jamaica at 10:00 p.m. that night. Daniel is a bright, responsible boy who is headed unhappily to a college interview for Yale and the life that his parents have chosen for him. This chance meeting at the Second Chance store starts their journey with destiny. The story is written in the voices of different characters. This allows the reader to feel they are magically connected to the characters and can feel their emotions. You just never know what decisions made during this day could help both Natasha and Daniel to figure out together what their futures will be.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Everything, Everything, Nicola Yoon

Holding Up The Universe, Jennifer Niven

Tell Me Three Things, Julie Buxbaum

The Radius of Us, Marie Marquardt

WEBSITES:

USA.gov, <https://www.usa.gov/deportation>, The website provides information about deportation and immigration.

Nicola Yoon, <http://www.nicolayoon.com>, Visit the author's website!

BOOKTALK:

NATASHA: Today is my last chance to try to convince someone - or fate- to help me find my way to stop my deportation and stay in America.

DANIEL: Later this afternoon my life will hop on a train headed for Doctor Daniel Jae Ho Bae station, but until then the day is mine...I'm going to pretend my future's wide open, and that anything can happen.

IRENE: Today will be the last day of my life.

CONDUCTOR OF THE SUBWAY TRAIN: I yell "Everyone get off of my train and go find God. That, though your earthly life may be hard, there's a better place in your future."

JEREMY FITZGERALD: I can't tell Daniel that I can't stop Natasha's deportation because I missed her court appointment with the judge...because I'm in love with Hannah Winter and was with her.

DANIEL: We have 4 minutes left together. This day can't be all there is.

IRENE: I never forgot the moment - or the girl - that saved my life. 10 years later I am a flight attendant and I see the girl on my plane. "Miss... This is going to sound strange... You saved my life."

DANIEL: I am sitting in seat 7A on the plane. I hear her voice, "Natasha".

NATASHA: "Daniel"

Prepared by:

Jennifer Gibson, North Central High School, jennifer.gibson@kcsdschools.net

Tell Me Three Things

Julie Buxbaum

Publisher, year of publication

336 pages

SUMMARY:

Jessie feels like her life is out of control. Her mother died two years ago, and during a business trip her dad decides to elope with a woman living in L.A. They decide that that they are going to move in with her new mom and stepbrother. Jessie has to adapt not only to a new family, but also to a snobby prep school where Chicago vintage thrift store finds are not considered fashion. Jessie wants nothing more than to move back and stay with her best friend, when Somebody/Nobody starts messaging her advice about dealing with L.A. kids. Jessie isn't sure whether to trust someone who won't even tell her their name, but what does she have to lose?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Once and for All, Sarah Dessen

The Truth About Forever, Sarah Dessen

If I Stay, Gayle Forman

Always and Forever, Lara Jean, Jenny Han

Please Ignore Vera Dietz, Amy Sarig King

You Don't Know Me, David Klass

All the Bright Places, Jennifer Niven

Saving Zoe, Alyson Noel

One of those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies, Sonya Sones

WEBSITES:

Julie Buxbaum, <http://www.juliebuxbaum.com>, Author's official website.

Stay Safe Online, <https://staysafeonline.org/stay-safe-online/online-safety-basics/>, Read about how to stay safe from those you don't know online, and learn what information you should never give out to anyone.

BOOKTALK:

Three things- Number 1: It's hard to move to a new place- especially when the kids are privileged over-achievers in wealthy L.A.! Jessie still hasn't really figured out what to do since her mother's death two years ago, but she knows she is not looking forward to moving away from her best friend in Chicago to her new stepmother's house, which comes with a new stepbrother as well. Number 2: Jessie doesn't really know how to fit in at this new prep school, where designer brands are the norm, not her vintage clothes from thrift stores. Number 3: Even Jessie's father is too busy adjusting to life with his new wife and stepson to help her navigate this unknown territory. Enter Somebody/Nobody (S/N for short), an anonymous ally from school who emails Jessie and offers to give her advice about surviving in this snobby L.A. prep school. Who is S/N? Would you trust somebody/nobody to help you, when no one else seems willing?

Prepared by:

Laura Bouknight, Newberry High School, laurabouknight@newberry.k12.sc.us

Three Dark Crowns

Kendare Blake

HarperTeen, 2016

398 pgs

SUMMARY:

On the small island of Fennbirn, triplet queens are always born to the current ruling Queen. Each sister possesses one of three types of magic found in Fennbirn: Elemental, Natural, and Poison. Mirabella is a powerful elemental with the ability to control earth, wind, fire, and water. Arsinoe is the naturalist; their powers make them able to communicate with plants and animals, while little Katharine is marked as a poisoner with the ability to ingest toxic substances and suffer none of their dangerous effects.

Given in childhood to be trained by their respective magical faction, it is the duty of each of the young heirs to try to kill the other queens to take the crown and put her faction into power, at least until the next generation of triplets is born and the whole cycle begins anew. Generation after generation after generation that's how it has always been, but this time the only sister who has shown any power is Elementalist Mirabella, while her other sisters remain more or less powerless. And even though the three Queens are the only ones who officially compete, their respective factions have been working tirelessly behind the scenes, grooming them and making covert power moves to advance their faction's power. They are not going to let anything stand in their way, even the young Queens.

While years of training in their respective powers have brought the sisters to this moment, none of them are really prepared for what happens during the course of the competition when the ties that bind friendships, hearts, and loyalties may be broken.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Crown's Game, Evelyn Skye

Dividing Eden, Joelle Charbonneau

The Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern

And I Darken, Kiersten White

WEBSITES:

Kendare Blake's website: <http://kendareblake.com/>, Learn more about the author.

Kendare Blake's Three Dark Crowns Pronunciation Guide:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8O3qX6Ih0c>, Learn how to correctly pronounce the names in the book from the author.

Three Dark Crowns Queen Quiz: <http://www.epicreads.com/blog/three-dark-crowns-queen-support/>, Find out which Three Dark Crowns Queen you should support in this fun quiz!

BOOKTALK:

Once upon a time, on a faraway island named Fennbirn, there were three beautiful young queens: Mirabella, Katharine and Arsinoe. They were triplets and each was blessed with a special power. One was a Poisoner, one a Elementalist and one was a Naturalist. Sounds magical doesn't it?....

But this isn't your average princess story because on the island of Fennbirn the path to Queenhood is bloody and vicious, pitting sister against sister in a deadly game to determine who will be the Queen Crowned.

So who *will* be Queen when the dust settles? Strong Mirabella, clever Arsinoe or sweet little Katharine? Because whether these sisters they like it or not, in Fennbirn, there is One Crown, One Kingdom, and One Queen...

May the best sister win.

Prepared by:

Lori Willis-Richards, Union County High School, LwillisRichards@union.k12.sc.us