

## **Between Shades of Gray**

Sepetys, Ruta  
Philomel Books, 2011  
344 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

*Between Shades of Gray* tells the story of Lina a fifteen year old Lithuanian girl. In 1941, Lina and her family are sent to Siberia to a Soviet work camp. Her father is separated from the rest of the family, Lina decides to document the rest of the families experience in hopes that she can use them to communicate with her father.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Run, Boy, Run: a Novel* by Uri Orlev  
*The Boy Thief* by Markus Zusak  
*Ashfall* by Mike Mullin

### **WEBSITES:**

Between Shades of Gray, <http://www.betweenshadesofgray.com/>- The link will take you to a website for the novel. It includes information about the book, a discussion guide, and dates for the author's tour.

Ruta Sepetys, <http://rutasepetys.com/books/between-shades-of-gray/>- This website may sound like that same as the one above, but it also has links for a Common Core Teacher's guides, school projects and book reports, and the other items.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005444>- This website has an article about Lithuania during the Holocaust and includes photographs, personal histories, maps, and historical film footage.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Lina is only fifteen years old in 1941 when Stalin begins sending former citizens of Baltic nations to work camps in Siberia. Lina's father has already been placed in a Soviet prisoner and one night the KGB comes to take the rest of her family to the trains to transport them to the work camps. Lina begins drawing as a way to help her father locate and rescue them. As she spends more time in the camp, Lina reveals to the reader more about her former life, hints about what is happening in Lithuania during World War II, and explores the complex nature of the different individuals she meets. Can Lina and the other prisoners maintain the will to survive in the face of all the obstacles that they face?

Prepared by:

Leigh Abee, Lugoff-Elgin High School, leigh.abee@kcsdschools.org

## **Bitter End**

Jennifer Brown

Little, Brown, and Company, 2011

359 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Alex's new relationship with Cole threatens her friendships and her life.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Breaking Beautiful* by Jennifer Shaw Wolf

*But I Love Him* by Amanda Grace (Mandy Hubbard)

*Inexcusable* by Chris Lynch

*Dreamland* by Sarah Dessen

*Breathing Underwater* by Alex Flinn

*Stay* by Deb Caletti

*In Love and in Danger: a Teen's Guide to Breaking Free of Abusive Relationships* by Barrie Levy

### **WEBSITES:**

National Domestic Violence Hotline: [www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/teens-and-dating-abuse/](http://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/teens-and-dating-abuse/)

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline: [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

Teen Dating Violence Facts: [www.clotheslineproject.org/teendatingviolencefacts.pdf](http://www.clotheslineproject.org/teendatingviolencefacts.pdf)

Love is Not Abuse: <http://loveisnotabuse.com/web/guest.home>

Jennifer Brown's website: [www.jenniferbrownya.com](http://www.jenniferbrownya.com)

### **BOOKTALK:**

Every girl wishes to be to be romanced, given gifts, taken on dates by the handsome guy at school. Alex is no different. Her life at home consists of a younger, bratty sister and a father who is grieving for his deceased wife. Bethany and Zack have been her best friends since birth and are her lifelines. When Cole, the new guy at school, starts showing interest in Alex, she begins heading down a path filled with lies, hurt, and fear. Cole is not what he seems to be, and Alex is often on the receiving end of his anger. If she breaks up with him, she will lose everything. If she stays with him, she could lose her life.

### **Prepared by:**

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# **Cinder: The Lunar Chronicles, Book 1**

Marissa Meyer

Feiwel and Friends, 2012

390 pages

## **SUMMARY:**

Cinder a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

## **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Scarlet: The Lunar Chronicles, Book 2*, Marissa Meyer

*Entwined*, Heather Dixon

*The Selection*, Kiera Cass

*Skinned* series, Robin Wasserman

## **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.marissameyer.com/> Author's official site

## **BOOKTALK:**

Cinderella meets Blade Runner! In this futuristic take on the age-old Cinderella story, Cinder is a teenage cyborg (half human/half machine) forced to work and support her evil stepmother and two stepsisters as a mechanic in a futuristic China. It's there in the shop that she first meets the handsome (and single!) Prince Kai, who requests she repair his servant robot. The Prince seems equally interested in Cinder, only she's too ashamed to let him know that a hovercraft accident that took her father's life and injured her has left her not wholly human – she has a mechanical leg and foot. When a deadly plague hits New Beijing and strikes down Cinder's stepsister, Peony, her stepmother blames Cinder and volunteers Cinder to be used for medical research to combat the plague. At the research facility, she meets a kind doctor who recognizes her and reveals an important secret about her past – one that could save Prince Kai's kingdom from the plague and win his heart – that is, if the evil lunar Queen Levana, who's just landed on earth to ensure the plague does its job, doesn't steal Prince Kai for herself first.

Prepared by:

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**Delirium**  
Oliver, Lauren  
Harper, 2011  
441 pages

**SUMMARY:**

Lena is seventeen years old and is awaiting the day that she can be cured. The government has made a law that upon their eighteenth birthday every citizen will have a treatment to eradicate love, the disease that causes deliria. Lena can hardly wait the ninety-five days until she can have the procedure until she catches the disease that is.

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Awaken* by Katie Kacvinsky

*The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater

*Every Day* by David Levithan

**WEBSITES:**

Lauren Oliver, <http://www.laurenoliverbooks.com/delirium.php>- This website includes the usual links to information about the book and the author. There are also links to a discussion guide and an interactive trailer provided.

Harper Teen, <http://www.harperteen.com/Author/Tour.aspx?authorID=35068>- Scroll to the bottom of the page to see links to short digital works that link to the Delirium series.

**BOOKTALK:**

Love is a disease. One that kills you no matter what you do. Why wouldn't anyone want a treatment that would cure that disease? This thought process is the basis for all that Lena has been told. Her world is one in which love causes deliria which eventually leads to death. At least, that is what she has always been told. So, at the age of seventeen, she is counting down the days to her eighteenth birthday when she will be cured. Unfortunately, Lena falls in love before her treatment. As she begins to question what she has been told, she must decide whether or not to join a group of people who are trying to stop the government's treatments. What could possibly go wrong?

Prepared by:

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**Die For Me**  
Amy Plum  
Harper Teen, 2011  
341 pages

**SUMMARY:**

In Paris, two star-crossed lovers battle a fate that is destined to tear them apart again and again for eternity. When Kate's parents die in a tragic car accident, she leaves her life (and memories) to lie with her grandparents in Paris. For Kate, the only way to survive her pain is by escaping into the world of books and Parisian art. Until she meets Vincent.

Mysterious, charming, and handsome, Vincent soon wins Kate's love, which he reciprocates. Then Kate discovers that he is a revenant—an undead being whose fate forces him to sacrifice himself over and over again to save the lives of others. He and his revenant friends are bound in a centuries-old war with evil revenants who exist only to murder and betray. Kate realizes that the battle will be her's too if she stays with Vincent. Can she take the risk?

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Revolution* by Jennifer Donnelly

*The Hollow Kingdom* by Claire Dunkle

*The Mortal Instruments* by Cassandra Claire

**WEBSITES:**

Sacrificing yourself for others at [forums.philosophyforums.com](http://forums.philosophyforums.com). This site explains how most people are not willing to sacrifice for others. Only a very few people accomplish this.

Is pure altruism possible? [Opinioator.blogs.nytimes.com](http://Opinioator.blogs.nytimes.com). This article explains that most people today do not possess altruism as much as people of the past did. It suggests ways to convince people to become more altruistic.

Self-Sacrifice. at [downwardspiralintothevortex.blogspot.com](http://downwardspiralintothevortex.blogspot.com). This site discusses that too much self-sacrifice is a personality disorder.

**BOOKTALK:**

This book succeeds because the main male character does sacrifice himself for others. Since it is unheard of in today's society, and is even thought of as a personality disorder, this character is amazing and new. Kate is actually more drawn to that part of Vincent than to his charm and good looks, and for that reason she aligns herself with him no matter how dangerous it is. If he were just handsome, she would never have been so brave. Have any of us ever met people in our society today who would do what either Vincent or Kate does? I haven't! The only person I know who actually did this was my great grandmother made the decision to have a baby (my grandmother) even though she knew it would kill her (she had tuberculosis). Our whole family reveres her, not only for giving all of us a chance at life, but for doing it willingly and gladly. What makes a person do this? That is at the center of *Die for Me*. It fascinates us. We want to be brave and to save people, and when we are reading this book, we are.

Prepared by:

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**Divergent**  
Veronica Roth  
Harper Collins Publishers, 2011  
496 pages

**SUMMARY:**

In an undisclosed future time in Chicago, all 16 year olds are forced to choose among five specific factions with which to identify for the rest of their lives. Beatrice feels conflicted by her choice and her decision is made further difficult when she discovers that she is a divergent who does not fit neatly into any one group, and that the faction system does not create the intended result in the society.

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins

*The Giver*, Lois Lowry

*Delirium*, Lauren Oliver

*Ender's Game*, Orson Scott Card

*Matched*, Ally Condie

**WEBSITES:**

Erudite, <http://thedivergenttrilogy.com/5-factions>, fansite defining the factions and providing other information of interest to fans

Veronica Roth, <http://veronicarothbooks.blogspot.com>, author's official blog site

Harper Collins Publishers,

[http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/37588/Veronica\\_Roth/index.aspx](http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/37588/Veronica_Roth/index.aspx), publisher's website featuring Veronica Roth and her books which includes videos of the author.

**BOOKTALK:**

Imagine you are 16 years old, and you have to make a decision that will change your life forever – a decision that could take you away from your family and friends and life as you know it. The society in *Divergent* forces all 16 year olds to do this. They must choose one of 5 factions to belong to and live with. The factions are based on personality. Candor is for honesty, Dauntless for bravery, Abnegation for selflessness, Amity for peacefulness, and Erudite for intelligence. Beatrice's family belongs to Abnegation, but she feels drawn to join Dauntless. Her simulation aptitude test reveals that she is divergent, meaning that she fits more than one faction's characteristics. This is so dangerous that it is hidden by those in power. Will she make a decision to leave her family behind for a group of strangers in an unfamiliar faction? Would she be able to pass the Dauntless tests and endure the fear simulations or fail and live a miserable fringe existence as a factionless person? This story will propel you through the pages as you find out her decision and its consequences.

## **The Fault in Our Stars**

John Green  
Dutton Books, 2012  
313 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Doctors diagnosed Hazel Lancaster with Stage 4 thyroid cancer when she was thirteen but a “miracle cure” shrank the tumors. Now 16, Hazel lives with the knowledge her cancer can return at any time. Tethered to an oxygen tank, she reluctantly attends a support group for children living with cancer where she meets Augustus "Gus" Waters, a former basketball star who has lost a leg to osteosarcoma.

Augustus is in remission, handsome and smitten with Hazel, leading her to examine her life in sickness and in health and to try to determine if she will one day be remembered or will pass into oblivion.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:**

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

*Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher

*Deadline* by Chris Crutcher

### **WEBSITES:**

John Green, <http://johngreenbooks.com/>, blog by *The Fault in Our Stars* author John Green  
YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4BCKLbRHTM>, Book trailer for *The Fault in Our Stars*

YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pw3MHbX-xYI>, Booklist interview with author John Green

Meet the Author: John Green, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJoBGmzGYTs>, John Green talks about books and reading

### **BOOKTALK:**

Hazel Lancaster, 16, is determined to live life to the fullest despite having tumors in her lungs and not knowing how much longer she will live. John Green's novel "The Fault in Our Stars" begins one summer day when Hazel Lancaster goes to her cancer support group and meets Augustus Waters, a 17-year-old who is missing a leg due to osteosarcoma.

Hazel's feelings for Augustus grow into love even though she tries not to involve him in her life. She is terminally ill and hates to add to the list of people who will have to deal with her death someday.

Augustus and Hazel share their love of books and their fears of oblivion after death. Hazel introduces Augustus to her favorite book, the novel *An Imperial Affliction*, written by her favorite author, Peter Van Houten. Hazel writes Van Houten many times but he never replies to any of her letters. Augustus secretly emails Van Houten who responds with an invitation for Hazel and Augustus to visit Van Houten in his home city of Amsterdam. Augustus uses his Genie Foundation wish to take her to Amsterdam but Van Houten is rude and cuts their meeting off.



After the meeting with Van Houten, Augustus reveals that his cancer has returned and has metastasized to several other parts of his body. Even though he starts aggressive treatment when he returns home, he is not expected to survive long. Hazel spends every possible minute with Augustus. What happened during their trip and afterwards changes Hazel and Augustus forever.

Prepared by:

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## **The Final Four**

Volponi, Paul

Viking, 2012

244 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Crispin, Malcolm, M.J., and Roko are four players taking part in the NCAA basketball tournament. Each has his own hopes, but all four want to win. *The Final Four* tells the story of their struggle to reach the top.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Hoops* by Walter Dean Myers

*True Legend* by Mike Lupica

### **WEBSITES:**

Paul Volponi, [www.paulvolponibooks.com](http://www.paulvolponibooks.com)- The website is a good starting point. It has information about Paul Volponi as well as a link to information about the book including an excerpt and author's notes. For students who like Volponi's writing style, this website also links to his other works.

iHoops, [www.ihoops.com](http://www.ihoops.com)- This website is geared toward youth basketball players. It has basic information about necessary skills as well as information about getting involved in programs, being a good leader, and earning money for college through basketball. There are links to videos and other media as well.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Crispin, Malcolm, M.J., and Roko are all playing in the NCAA Final Four. The Michigan State Spartans and the Troy University Trojans, the undeniable underdogs, are playing each other in the tournament. Both teams want to win, but there is so much more going on besides basketball. Each boy has his own personal goals and obstacles behind the scenes. What influence will these have on the boys? What about the politics of the NCAA tournament? Which team will ultimately win? Only time will tell.

Prepared by:

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## **How to Save a Life**

Sara Zarr

Little, Brown, and Company, 2011

341 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

After Jill's father dies, her mother decides to adopt a baby from a nineteen year-old runaway who has lots of secrets.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Saving Zoe: A Novel* by Alyson Noel

*Blue Plate Special* by Michelle D. Kwasney

*For Keeps* by Natasha Friend

*Bleeding Violet* by Dia Reeves

*All We Know of Heaven* by Jacquelyn Mitchard

*The Truth about Forever* by Sarah Dessen

### **WEBSITES:**

[www.sarazarr.com](http://www.sarazarr.com)

### **BOOKTALK:**

Losing a parent is devastating for anyone, but for a high school student the death of a parent brings with it depression, fear, and even anger. One thing Jill never thought she would have to deal with after her father died was getting a baby brother or sister. Jill's mother, equally devastated, decides to adopt a baby, and she invites the mother, Mandy, to come live with them. Mandy has some secrets that she wants to keep hidden. Mandy's own mother did not want her, but she wants her baby to have a better life. Mandy found Jill and her mom through a website, and Jill can't help but think that there is more than meets the eye with Mandy. Told from alternating points-of-view (Jill and Mandy), you will quickly be immersed in this story and won't be able to put it down.

### **Prepared by:**

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**Legend**  
Lu Marie  
Putman, 2011  
320 pages

**SUMMARY:**

In a future when North America has split into two enemy nations, the Republic has the power. June is a 15 year old prodigy from a wealthy area of the Republic. She is being groomed for military success. The elusive Day, a 15 year old rebel from the slums, is the country's most wanted criminal. Thrown together through the event of the murder of June's brother, they cross paths and learn that the Republic has sinister secrets.

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*All These Things I've Done*, Gabrielle Zevin  
*Variant*, Robison E. Wells  
*Shade's Children*, Garth Nix  
*The Maze Runner*, James Dashner  
*Uglies, Pretties, Specials, and Extras*, Scott Westerfeld

**WEBSITES:**

Marie Lu, <http://marielu.org>, author's official website covers news, books, writing, media, FAQs, biographical information, blog, forums, and contact information  
Good Reads Best Young Adult Dystopian Novels,  
[http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/12408.Best\\_Young\\_Adult\\_Dystopian\\_Novels](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/12408.Best_Young_Adult_Dystopian_Novels), a list of rated young adult dystopian novels for further reading  
Explore the World of Legend on Facebook,  
[http://www.facebook.com/legendtheseries?sk=app\\_136231703146079](http://www.facebook.com/legendtheseries?sk=app_136231703146079), Facebook site for the Legend series

**BOOKTALK:**

North America in the future has become two enemy nations. The Republic has the power, and June is one of its stars who is destined to rise in the military, having made a perfect score in her Trials. Day is an elusive street hero who fights injustice and tries to keep a watch over his family while avoiding capture. Billboards have wanted posters of him, except the government doesn't even know what he looks like. After June's brother is killed, and Day is the suspect, she makes it her mission to get revenge. What happens as they cross paths and learn dark secrets of their government will keep you turning pages to the exciting and surprising conclusion and have you anxious for the sequel.

## Michael Vey Prisoner of Cell 25

Richard Paul Evans

Simon Pulse, 2011

336 pages

### SUMMARY:

To the other students at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old Michael Vey is known as the kid with Tourette's syndrome. Little do those students know that Michael is special in another way – he has electrical power. When Michael and school cheerleader Taylor discover that they both have this same special power, they enlist Michael's friend Ostin in helping them find out they got this power. The trio comes to the attention of a sinister group who want to control the teens and use them to control the world.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

*Gone* series, Michael Grant

*Variant*, Robison Wells

*Maze Runner*, James Dasher

### WEBSITES:

Michael Vey Rise of the Elgen, <http://www.michaelvey.com/>; offers brief character sketches, trivia quiz, blog posts, etc.

YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2LXPrgicHQ>, Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 Book Trailer

YouTube, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25LUGN5\\_0B8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25LUGN5_0B8), Richard Paul Evans on Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25

### BOOKTALK:

Michael Vey has been bullied at every school he has attended. As a skinny fourteen-year-old with Tourette's, he is used to it but, when Jack and his friends try to pants him after school, Michael has had enough. His anger out of control, Michael sends a surge of electricity that leaves the bullies writhing in pain. Taylor Ridley, a cheerleader at Meridian High School and the girl to whom Michael is secretly attracted, is watching.

It isn't just the fact that he has Tourette's that sets Michael apart from the other Meridian students -- he is electric! Michael and his mom have tried hard to keep his unusual ability secret. They have moved a lot and finally ended up in this small Idaho town. Only Michael's friend Ostin Liss is privy to this secret. Taylor reveals that she also has electrical powers -- she can reboot people's brains, making them temporarily forget what they were doing or saying. She can also read minds.

There are seventeen others who also have special powers and they are all gathered at the prestigious Elgen Academy. An evil corporation has tracked down all of these teens to use them for nefarious purposes. The corporation is headed up by a man named Hatch, who has a dark side -- he likes to use the teenagers' powers for his own benefit and pleasure.

Michael must use his wits, powers and friends if he is to outwit Dr. Hatch and his lieutenants and survive.

Prepared by:

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## **The Name of the Star**

Johnson, Maureen

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2011

372 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Rory is a teenager from Louisiana who is sent to a boarding school in London. On the day she arrives, someone begins committing murders in the style of Jack the Ripper. Rory and some of her friends begin investigating these murders, and Rory discovers some strange happenings both in the city and within herself.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Madness Underneath* by Maureen Johnson

*The Ghost and the Goth* by Stacey Kade

*Give up the Ghost* by Megan Crewe

*The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

### **WEBSITES:**

Maureen Johnson, [www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com](http://www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com)- This page is the author's website. There are links to the author's blog, to a community forum, and to information about her books. The page for *the Name of the Star* has a video trailer.

Casebook: Jack the Ripper, <http://www.casebook.org/>- This website has a large selection of information about Jack the Ripper, as well as, some interactive resources that might interest students. It is an interesting resource to see the truth behind the science fiction.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Jack the Ripper has returned to London, or has he? Rory is a modern day teenager sent from Louisiana to London to attend a boarding school. She just happens to arrive the same day that someone begins to copycat the 1888 Jack the Ripper murders. Rory is intrigued by what is happening, and in a strange turn of events seems to have developed the ability to see ghosts. With the help of others with the same skill, Rory investigates what is happening. Is the ghost of Jack the Ripper back to kill again? Or is there some other explanation for what is happening?

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## **The Queen of Water**

Resau, Laura

Delacorte Press, 2011

352 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Based on a true story, *The Queen of Water* tells of the life of an Quechua Indian girl from Ecuador who is sent to be a servant for an upper class family. Admit the struggle between the two different classes, Virginia attempts to find out who she really is.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Taken* by Edward Bloor

*Storm Catchers* by Tim Bowler

*No Shame, No Fear* by Ann Turnbull

### **WEBSITES:**

Laura Resau, <http://www.lauraresau.com/>- The website includes the standard author information, book review and excerpts as well as links to the author's blog and fan page. It also includes the links to images from the author's travels and ways to contact the author for her to do author visits.

Peoples of the World Foundation, <http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Quichua>- This website provides further information about the Quechua Indians. There are some references and further reading at the bottom of the webpage.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Virginia is caught between cultures. At age 7, her Quechua parents sent her to be a servant to a mestizo upper class family. She's treated poorly and called a stupid indian, but she is also able to learn to read and write. At age 12, she returns to her family only to learn that she no longer fits in there either. Based on a true story, this novel addresses not only the issues of growing up, but also the cultural influence of a class society. Virginia must struggle to become who she wants to be and not what is expected of her because of the class in which she was born.

Prepared by:

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## **The Running Dream**

Wendelin Van Draanen

Alfred A. Knopf, 2011

332 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb, and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Curveball: the Year I Lost My Grip*, Jordan Sonnenblick

*Shark Girl*, Kelly Bingham

### **WEBSITES:**

Randomhouse Publishers

<http://www.randomhouse.com/book/200415/the-running-dream-by-wendelin-van-draanen>

Read about the author, reviews, excerpts, and related videos.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Sixteen-year-old Jessica Carlisle is a runner at the top of her game. She has just posted one of the best times of her career. On the way home from the meet, the team van is involved in a terrible accident: one student is killed, and Jessica, whose entire life and dreams are based on her athletic abilities, loses a leg.

Jessica has lost her identity. She doesn't know what to do now, and her friends either pity her or ignore her completely. The doctors keep encouraging her, telling her that she can eventually have a prosthetic leg, which will enable her to walk. Walk?? Jessica only dreams of running again. As Jessica moves through the process of becoming herself again, she meets a girl in a wheelchair that will show her that her biggest victory is yet to come.

### **Prepared by:**

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**Shine**  
Myracle, Lauren  
Amulet Books, 2011  
359 pages

**SUMMARY:**

Cat is sixteen years old and lives in a small southern town. After her best friend is attacked, Cat tries to discover who is guilty of the hate crime. She struggles against issues present in her small North Carolina town to solve the mystery.

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Miseducation of Cameron Post* by Emily Danforth

*Exposed* by Kimberly Marcus

*Never Eighteen* by Megan Bostic

**WEBSITES:**

Lauren Myracle, [www.laurenmyracle.com](http://www.laurenmyracle.com)- This website would normally have information out the author and her books as well as a link to her blog. As of February 2013, it is on hold for a few months.

National Crime Prevention Council, <http://www.ncpc.org/>- This website has many links to information about crime prevention including information about tolerance and hate crimes.

Clear Choices, [www.clearchoices.org](http://www.clearchoices.org)- The website provides resources to help teens in crisis for a variety of reasons. It includes information about different issues, has stories of individuals who have been through these struggles, and allows teens to share their stories if they would like.

**BOOKTALK:**

Cat is a sixteen year old who lives in a small North Carolina town. After learning that her friend has been attacked and is in a coma, Cat feels compelled to find the culprit. Most people in the small town believe that his attack was a hate crime, but Cat discovers that there is more to the story than everyone thinks. This novel explores the many different layers beneath the surface even in a small town. Will Cat be able to solve the mystery? What will she uncover along the way?

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**Stay**  
Caletti, Deb  
Simon Pulse, 2011  
313 pages

**SUMMARY:**

Some relationships are too intense. Clara was in one of these relationships with a boy named Christian. *Stay* tells the story of Clara's journey toward dealing with and healing from the effects of an obsessive relationship.

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Breathing* by Cheryl Renee Herbsman

*Deadly Little Secret: A Touch Novel* by Laurie Faria Stolarz

*If I Tell* by Janet Gurtler

**WEBSITES:**

Deb Caletti, [debcaletti.com](http://debcaletti.com)- This website offers book reviews, author interviews, and links other material including excerpts of some of Caletti's books.

Simon & Schuster, <http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Deb-Caletti/16780997>- This webpage is the publisher's author page for Deb Caletti. The page offers insight into the author's life and personality, as well as excerpts of some of her novels.

Love is Respect, [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)- This website offers resources for teens to help understand the difference between healthy and abusive relationships. It is interactive and offers resources for parents and teens to help them deal with possible abuse.

**BOOKTALK:**

Girl meets boy. So many novels begin this way. Unfortunately, Clara's story doesn't follow the normal path. Christian, Clara's ex-boyfriend, does not want to let her go. Clara's father takes her to Washington state to spend some time in a small beach town where, hopefully, she can escape Christian's obsession. In Bishop Rock, Clara deals with the ever loaming threat of Christian appearing, ghosts from the past, and new friends and experiences. Can Clara overcome the past with the help of her supportive father and new friends?

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## **Then I Met My Sister**

Christine Hurley Deriso

Flux, 2011

269 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Summer Stetson has always lived in the shadow of her dead sister, knowing she can never measure up in any way, but on her seventeenth birthday her aunt gives her Shannon's diary, which reveals painful but liberating truths about Summer's family and herself.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Sky is Everywhere*, Jandy Nelson

### **WEBSITES:**

Christine Hurley Deriso

<http://christinehurleyderiso.com/>

The author's website contains reviews, news, photos and "fun stuff."

Flux

<http://www.fluxnow.com/product.php?ean=9780738725819>

On the publisher's site, browse a chapter and read reviews and the readers guide.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Summer Stetson can never do anything right. No matter what she does, it is never good enough. It certainly will never be good enough to measure up to her older sister Shannon, who has her own "Wall of Fame" in the family home. Shannon had it all: looks, grades, popularity, and talent. Unfortunately, Shannon died in a car accident going to school the first day of her senior year. Summer feels that her parents only had her in hopes of replacing their perfect daughter with another perfect one. That plan certainly didn't work out.

Now Summer is about to start her senior year, and on her seventeenth birthday she begins working in her Aunt Nicole's flower shop. During a quiet moment, Aunt Nic hands her something in a paper bag. It is the journal that Shannon wrote the summer before she died. Aunt Nic found it when she helped Summer's mother clean out the bedroom. She tells summer, "...it wasn't meant for my eyes. Shannon wouldn't have wanted me to read it. But I have the feeling she might have wanted to share it with her sister."

When Summer builds up her courage to start reading her sister's last words, she learns secrets that change everything she thought she knew about both Shannon and her family.

### **Prepared by:**

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## **Trafficked**

Kim Purcell  
Viking, 2012  
384 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

When a terrorist attack leaves her orphaned, 17-year-old Hannah decides to leave Moldova and work in the United States as a nanny for a Russian family in Los Angeles, but as she quickly learns upon her arrival, they don't want her to serve as their nanny...but as their slave.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Sold*, Patricia McKissick

*Charmed*, Carrie Mac

*Human Trafficking*, Joyce Hart

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://kimpurcell.com/home> Author's official site

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html> United Nation's Website on Human Trafficking

### **BOOKTALK:**

America is the land of the free, right? Not if you're part of the human trafficking trade that exists here. Just ask Hannah. After losing both parents in a terrorist attack in Moldova, Hannah gets the opportunity to start a new life in America...or so she thinks. The agency that books her trip to the States tells her she'll be acting as a nanny for a Russian family now living in Los Angeles. Moreover, she'll have the chance to learn English and enroll in classes to learn a trade and possibly stay in the U.S permanently. No sooner does Hannah's plane drop down in L.A. and she meets her new family, though, than her dreams are dashed. The parents quickly inform her she will not have time to take any classes since she'll be working 16 hour days for them cooking, doing the laundry, cleaning the house, and taking care of their two children. They don't even allow her to sleep in a bed in their house - rather a cot in the garage - and refuse to pay her saying she must first pay them back the \$4000 expense to fly her over to work for them. Barely able to speak English and isolated from her friends and loved ones back home, who can Hannah turn to in a foreign place to help her?

Prepared by:

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**Variant**  
Robison Wells  
HarperTeen, c2011  
376 p.

**Summary:**

After years in foster homes, seventeen-year-old Benson Fisher applies to New Mexico's Maxfield Academy in hopes of securing a brighter future, but instead he finds that the school is a prison and no one is what he or she seems.

**If You Liked This Book, Try...**

*Feedback*, Robison Wells (sequel to *Variant*)

*Dark Inside*, Jeyn Roberts

Monument 14, Emmy Laybourne

**Websites:**

Robison Wells Official Site, <http://www.robisonwells.com/>, the author's official website which includes Well's bio, blog, and bonus features (chapters that didn't make it into the final edit, character pictures, etc.)

**Booktalk:**

Brenden Fisher has spent his entire life hopping from foster home to foster home - until he gets a scholarship and opportunity to attend Maxwell Academy. Finally, he can spend his final two years of high school in the same place and possibly receive scholarships to a good college. Once he steps inside the front doors of Maxwell, though, his life changes forever in an unexpected way. He quickly discovers Maxwell is not as advertised - there are no adults in the building but video cameras monitoring their every move. The school is run by three gangs of students - the Society (the play-by-the-rules kids), the Havocs (the rebel against-the-rules kids), and the V's or Varients (the kids who make their own rules). A sinister dude called Iceman periodically makes announcements over their P.A. system demanding the groups compete in competitions against each other, or he will punish certain students he deems in need of discipline. The other students seemed resigned to their fate of living like rats in this madman's cage, but Brenden refuses to play along. After aligning with the Varients, he plots a way to escape - but with the cameras watching and other students fighting for their own sanity and survival, can he do it?

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## **What Can't Wait**

Perez, Ashley  
Carolrhoda Lab, 2011  
234 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Set in Houston, this novel tells the story of Marissa. Marissa is very intelligent, but her home life is challenging. Because she belongs to a Mexican immigrant family, Marissa feels pressure to help provide for her family by working. She struggles to separate her individual identity from her family.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Latte Rebellion* by Sarah Jamila Stevenson

*The Secret Story of Sonia Rodriguez* by Alan Lawrence Sitomer

*A Good Long Way* by Rene Saldana

### **WEBSITES:**

AshleyPerez.com, [www.ashleyperez.com](http://www.ashleyperez.com)- This website is the author's webpage. There are many interesting links, including teacher resources for individual who want to teach the novel or have a novel discussion.

CarolrhodaLab, <https://www.lernerbooks.com/carolrhodalab/2011-Spring.html>, This website has review of the book, discussion questions, and printable bookmarks. It would be a good resources for anyone doing a discussion on this novel.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Marissa is under a lot of pressure. She takes advanced classes in school, babysits her niece, and works at grocery store to help earn money for her family. Like other 17 year-olds, Marissa tries to juggle all of those responsibilities and a boyfriend. Even though her family does not understand, Marissa wants to attend college. Unfortunately, money becomes tight and her family, especially her father, thinks that it is more important for her to work extra hours at the grocery even if it means her grades drop. Her boyfriend also does not understand her desire to go to college and have a life outside their neighborhood. During the course of the novel, Marissa struggles to find her voice and still fit in to her family. Eventually, she has to decide what she needs and what is so important it can't wait in her life.

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