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Professor Franklin's Annotated Bibliography of Young Adult Literature, 2021–22

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Professor Franklin's Annotated Bibliography
of Young Adult Literature, 2021—22

including notes for
195 authors, editors & illustrators;

205 titles; and,
67, 454 pages of reading

by

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Guide to acronyms:

PF=Professor Franklin's recommended reading level

ELEM=elementary; MS=middle school; HS=high school; U=college

A companion list of authors/editors and titles may be found in Pittsburg State University's
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credited; and, so long as any new creations are also licensed under these identical terms.

Ahmadi, Arvin. *How It All Blew Up*. 2020. *Amir is gay. He's also deeply closeted. He's also the only son in a traditional (ie conservative) Iranian/Muslim family of immigrants. He's also being blackmailed by classmates at the high school where he's new. He's scared of his parents. So, on graduation day he runs away from new Jersey. To Rome. Where he stumbles upon a hip gay community whose members adopt him. Until his worried mom, dad and sister fly to bring him home. On the flight to the US there's a brouhaha between him and his parents. Upon landing, the family is detained. They tell their stories in three interrogation rooms.* [266 pages]

PF: HS

Alvarez, Jennifer Lynn. *Lies Like Wildfire*. 2021. *While spending a day at the local swimming hole/bottomless pit recent high school grads and best friends Mo, Luke, Violet, Drummer and Hannah ignite a California wildfire that—over time—kills ten people, burns thousands of acres of countryside, threatens Yosemite and cost tens of millions of dollars to extinguish. They lie to cover their crime. Then their friendships are tested.* [366 pages]

PF: HS

Anderson, Sophie. *The House with the Chicken Legs*. 2018. *Marinka is twelve. She lives with her adoptive grandmother who is a Yaga: a guide for dead people. They travel the world in a mobile home: a house with chicken legs that cares for them. Marinka loves her Baba Yaga, but doesn't want to follow in her footsteps: she longs for friendship with living—not dead—people.* [262 pages]

PF: MS

Anderson, Sophie. *The Girl Who Speaks Bear*. 2019. *Yanka is twelve. She lives with her adoptive grandmother who found her in the forest while gathering healing herbs. Yanka is also a bear. She goes to the forest to find out how she can be both. She gathers a young elk, a house with chicken legs, an owl, a weasel, a gray wolf, and a Yaga's daughter for a quest to find her grandmother bear, defeat a fire dragon and break a curse.* [286 pages]

PF: MS

Arnold, David. *The Electric Kingdom*. 2021. *Despondent.* [423 pages]

PF: HS

Arnold, Elena K. Illustrator Dung Go. *Just Harriett*. 2022. *Fourth-grader Harriett—who prefers “Just Harriett” to “Harriett the Spy”—is sent to Marble Island off the coast of California to spend the Summer with her paternal grandmother so that her pregnant mother can rest in bed. While in the B&B her grandmother owns, Harriett finds a key. It opens adventure, mystery and her father's boyhood.* [196 pages]

PF: ELEM

Asphyxia. *The Words in My Hands*. 2020. *Life couldn't be much tougher for 16-year-old Piper McBride. She lives in a near apocalyptic Australia where food and fuel shortages are routine. Natural edibles have been replaced by Biospore—yucky. Her mom loses her job. Her best friend is in an abusive relationship. And, she's Deaf. Luckily, she meets some Back-to-Earthers who teach her gardening and sign language. They appreciate her artistic talent. Together, they take on the government and an evil corporation. Useful Afterwords about Deaf culture.* [384 pages]

PF: HS

Ba, Juni. Djeliya. 2021. *West African folklore meets two modernish questors: Prince Mansour and his royal storyteller/faithful companion Awa in search of a mysterious wizard who left the world in ruins and then fled to his tower.* [176 pages]

PF: MS/HS GRAPHIC LIT

Bardugo, Leigh. *Rule of Wolves*. 2021. *Seventh installment of the most excellent fantasy known as Grishaverse, this one sees intrigue, combat, revelations and romance among General Brum of Fjerda (noted Grisha hater), his daughter Hanne and spying maid Nina; Nikolai, King of Ravka, with his general Zova; and, female royalty of Shu Han. Of course the Darkling makes an appearance as do other characters from the previous half-dozen volumes.* [588 pages]

PF: HS

Barnes, Jenifer Lynn. *Deadly Little Scandals*. 2019. *Sequel to Little White Lies as Sawyer and her friends and family unravel and reveal who's really who in a country club game of sexual musical chairs. As in the case with the previous one this one's about 100 pages longer than it needs to be.* [345 pages]

PF: HS

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. *The Hawthorne Legacy*. 2021. *Sequel to The Inheritance Games. Avery (A Very Risky Gamble) hangs on to her inheritance—both family and funds—as she demystifies her father's identity while unveiling her mother's secret and bonding with her siblings.* [352 pages]

PF: HS

Barry, Quan. *We Ride upon Sticks*. 2020. *The 1989 Danvers, MA, HS girls' field hockey team resonates with the witchery of their forbears, who initiated the Salem Witchcraft Trials, in order to get to State Finals. Where witches ride broomsticks, these athletes use field hockey sticks. Lots and lots and lots of 80s pop cult(ure) refs, lots and lots and lots of history and literature.* [360 pages]

PF: HS

Beasley, Kate. Gertie's Leap to Greatness. 2016. *Fifth-grader Gertie Foy is on a mission to prove to the mother who abandoned her that she doing just fine without her. To do so she sets the goal of being the greatest fifth grader ever, which means competing with seat-stealing newcomer Mary Sue Spivey.* [250 pages]

PF: ELEM

Berry, Julie. Lovely War. 2019. *During World War II Hephaestus catches his wife Aphrodite in a Manhattan hotel room with his brother Ares. He puts them on trial. As testimony, Aphrodite narrates two love stories with four people taking place in World War I Britain and France. Apollo and Hades appear to add their bits. Short, riveting chapters from the points-of-view of each of the gods help the novel march through five acts with entr'acts. The Historical Note is well worth reading. Settings are sumptuous.* [464 pages]

PF: HS

Blackwood, Lauren. Within these Wicked Walls. 2021. *Jane Eyre meets The Haunting of Hill House as young, unlicensed debtera (an exorcist) Andromeda (Andi) is hired to purge master Magnus Rochester's Thorne Manor of the Evil Eye.* [324 pages]

PF: HS

Blasco, Serena. An Enola Holmes Mystery: 2. The Case of the Left-Handed Lady. 2016. *The series continues as Sherlock Holmes's 14-year-old sister—in various disguises—investigates the disappearance of Lady Cecily Alistair. London and the rise of Marxism add to the setting.* [65 pages]

PF: MS (GRAPHIC LIT)

Blasco, Serena. An Enola Holmes Mystery: 3. The Case of the Bizarre Bouquet. 2016. *Dr. Watson's gone missing. Mrs. Watson receives bouquets of symbolic flowers. Enola searches a theatrical costume shop, a greenhouse and a mad house in search of him.* [64 pages]

PF: MS

Blume, Judy. Tiger Eyes. 1981. *After her father is murdered during a convenience store robbery, 15-year-old Davey Wexler, her mother and her younger brother move from Atlantic City to Los Alamos to live with her aunt and uncle for a school year.* [8-30-22; 222 pages]

PF: MS

Boswell, Thomas. Why Time Begins on Opening Day. 1984. *Essays about various aspects of baseball, including history, parks, players, positions and theories. Thoughtful and loving examination of the games by a great sportswriter. Lots of emphasis on the Baltimore Orioles.* [300 pages]

PF: HS

Booulley, Angeline. Firekeeper's Daughter. 2021. *Recent high school graduate Daunis Fontaine's tribe suffers from a meth invasion. She goes Confidential Informant, working with the FBI to uncover the perpetrators. Much Ojibwe culture is shared, including language, philosophy and rituals.* [488 pages]

PF: HS

Brandes, Nadine. Romanov. 2019. *Anastasia Romanov wants to be a spell master. But it's impossible when the Bolsheviks imprison—and then execute--your family. Beyond the execution of the Tsar, his wife, their children and loyal servants, the author conjures alternate history based on Anastasia and Alexei being buried separately. Until their grave was found, people speculated that they might have survived.* [338 pages]

PF: HS

Braswell, Liz. As Old As Time: A Twisted Tale. 2016. *The Beast's royal parents persecuted les charnants: creatures—including humans—capable of magic. So, Belle's maman curses their 11-year-old son. A decade later, familiar characters appear to lead the reader on a refreshingly different "once upon a time" trip.* [484 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Brown, Mahogany L. Chlorine Sky. 2021. *Betrays by a best friend and a boyfriend and a mean half-sister are replaced by a new best friend and new attitudes by a protagonist who dreams of a career in the WNBA. Novel in verse.* [175 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. Fighting Words. 2020. *Suki and younger sister Delicious (Della) are with their mom in a cheap hotel room when it blows up—the result of cooking meth. Mom goes to jail; the girls go to live with one of her boyfriends, a pedophile. They suffer but with the help of a sympathetic adult/foster mom confront their abuse and begin to adjust to the idea of hope.* [259 pages]

PF: MS/HS (the sisters are 17 and 10, so the age makes it accessible to younger readers, one of the audiences the author wants to reach as a warning)

Bunce, Elizabeth C. How to Get Away with Myrtle: A Myrtle Hardcastle Mystery. 2020. *In Victorian England, 12-year-old Myrtle unravels robbery and murder while on a railroad excursion and stayover at a seaside resort. Chockful of Capitalized Words and British Affectations.* [396 pages]

PF: MS

Bunce, Elizabeth C. *Cold-Blooded Myrtle*. 2021 *Victorian Christmas—Yuletide—is the backdrop this time as Myrtle is at home in Swinburne where one-time members of nearby Schofield College—including her beloved, deceased Mum—come to light as victims of a mysterious murderer. Loads of notes and refs to that period’s culture*. [355 pages]

PF: MS

Cannell, Dorothy. *The Thin Woman: An Epicurean Mystery*. 1984. *First book in a series starring Giselle (Ellie) Simons, Englishwoman member of an eccentric family who relocates from the city to the country with a gigolo who becomes her fiancé, this novel exemplifies a “Cozy Mystery,” which is, according to the Pittsburg (KS) Public Library, a “subgenre of crime fiction in which violence occurs off stage, the detective is an amateur sleuth, and the crime and detection take place in a small, socially intimate community”: think Agatha Christie’s Miss Marple. Enough allusions to keep you hooked and snappy dialogue and tongue-in-cheek observations, this series will delight the Anglophile in you*. [242 pages]

PF: HS

Capetta, A. R. *The Heart-Break Bakery*. 2021. *Reminiscent of Like Water for Chocolate and With the Fire on High, the novel divides chapters with recipes reflecting the plot: a batch of brownies breaks relationships so that teen-aged baker/protagonist Sydney wields magic in the kitchen in an effort to repair her errors. The real (lone) star of the novel is Austin, Texas, particularly its alt gender culture and setting*. [338 pages]

PF: HS

Cervantes, J. C. *The Storm Runner*. 2018. *Rick Riordan Presents yet another mythology: in this case: that of the Mayas. Zane Obispo is a 13-year-old “godborn” who lives at the foot of a New Mexican volcano. His quest is to defeat Ah-Puch, the god of death, darkness and destruction*. [426 pages]

PF: MS

Cervantes, J. c. *The Firekeeper*. 2019. *Further adventures of Zane Obispo who leaves an idyllic island/prison to save his dad Hurakan’s life with the help of Ah-Puch and new friend Ren, herself a godborn*. [410 pages]

PF: MS

Cervantes, J. C. *The Shadow Crosser*. 2020. *Zane Obispo goes to school with his uncle, his dog and his godborn friends. They work together, using their various powers to save their parents. Of stylistic interest: chapters in this novel are shorter, more in keeping with Riordan’s structure*. [422 pages]

PF: MS

Chadda, Sarwat. City of the Plague God. 2021. *Rick Riordan Presents another adventure in global mythology as Muslim Sikander (“Sik”) battles Mesopotamian god of disease Nergal with the assistance of goddess-of-passion-and-death Ishtar and her war-orphan daughter Betel. Plenty of puns, irony and pop culture enliven the language as Sik saves the family deli –and Manhattan—by visiting his dead brother to pluck the flower of immortality at the behest of Gilgamesh. As with other titles in this series, much cultural knowledge is respectfully shared; and, a helpful glossary is included. Cat lovers rejoice: felines play a role, as do despicable henchmen and magic weapons.* [383 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Cho, Kate. Vicious Spirits. 2020. *Ghosts are showing up—lots and lots of ghosts are showing up where they’re not supposed to be. So Somin, Junu, Miyoung and Jihoon team up to repair the tear between their world and the ghosts’ world. A helpful glossary explains Korean culture. Overwritten.* [393 pages]

PF: HS

Clark, Eva. Created by Kobe Bryant. With illustrations by four artists. Geese Are Never Swans. 2020. *Gus has been bullied by his older siblings, neglected by his mom and his dad died before he was born. When he finds his brother hanging to death he copes by throwing himself into the world of competitive swimming. After a memorable nervous breakdown he admits he needs help.* [271 pages]

PF: HS

Clayton, Dhonielle, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk and Nicola Yoon. Whiteout. 2022. *Readers who appreciate the Gay/Lesbian sensibility will enjoy these intertwined narratives of Privileged Black kids teaming up to overcome Old Man Winter and reunite a broken couple of later-adolescent girl-artist-and-girl-scientists at Christmastime in contemporary Atlanta.* [291pages]

PF: HS

Cleary, Beverly. Illustrator Jacqueline Rogers. Henry Huggins. Originally 1950. *Rightfully revered Children’s Lit classic, well worth re-reading. Ribsy finds Henry who finds adventures with family, friends and neighbors on Klickitat Street.* [176 pages]

PF: ELEM

Cohen, Jon. Harry’s Trees. 2018. *Young widow and ER nurse Amanda and her precocious daughter Oriana rent their treehouse to widower Harry, a bureaucrat with the National Forest Service. Grief and magic inform their stories of faith and loneliness in a superbly plotted novel with interesting*

characters ranging from voyeuristic dairymen to steadfast librarians to villainous realtors. [448 pages]

PF: HS

Collins, Suzanne. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes. 2020. *Academy student Coriolanus Snow lives in genteel poverty in the Capitol of Panem. His ticket to escape is the 10th Hunger Games: if his partner/tribute Lucy Gray can win then he gets a free ride to college. As ever, however, mischievous adults wreak havoc on teen dreams of survival and success.* [8/9/22: 517 pages]

Cordurie, Sylvain, with art by Laci. Sherlock Holmes and the Vampires of London. 2014. *Declared dead to the world, Holmes returns to London to destroy vampires.* [94 pages]

PF: MS/HS (GRAPHIC LIT)

Dabos, Christelle. Translated by Hildegard Serle. The Mirror Visitor: Book 1: A Winter's Promise. 2013. *Ophelia can read objects such as books with her hands, finding meaning and memories from previous holders. Her ability prompts a marriage proposal, leading her to leave her family with a chaperone to navigate the courtly intrigues and plots of a cold, cold setting. A Bronte-esque, Gothic fantasy. Recommended by Hunter Adamson.* [491 pages]

PF: HS

Dabos, Christelle. Translated by Hildegard Serle. The Mirror Visitor: Book 2: the Missing of Clairdelune. 2015 (French); 2019 (English). *As wedding day for Ophelia and thorn approaches, chaos continues to simmer in Pole. Court intrigue, missing dissidents, the arrival of her family from anima, the birth of Berenilde's daughter, the attention of Farouk (the ancestral spirit of Pole) all initially confuse then ultimately focus Ophelia.* [512 pages]

PF: HS

Dabos, Christelle. Translated by Hildegard Serle. 2017 (French); 2020 (English). The Mirror Visitor: Book 3: The Memory of Babel. *Ophelia leaves boring Anima, ending up in babel where she becomes a student in search of a particular book, and her husband Thorn.* [447 pages]

PF: HS

Dabos, Christelle. Translated by Hildegard Serle. The Mirror Visitor: Book 4: The Storm of Echoes. 2019 (French); 2021 (English). *Reverberations of the Brontes, Madeleine L'Engle and Franz Kafka continue to irradiate this series as Ophelia, the Other and Eulalia Gonde/Elizabeth tussle at the edge of the Apocalypse. Satisfying ending to the initial quartet, with a great cliff hanger.* [537 pages]

PF: HS

Dessen Sarah. *That Summer*. 1996. *Fifteen-year-old Haven's summer is all gawky: she's grown way too tall; her sportscaster dad is all too happy to divorce his family and marry the weather girl he impregnated; sister Ashley is also getting married; her best friend Casey is in love; her job at Little feet children's shoe store sucks; and Sumner—her favorite of Ashley's serial boyfriends—is back in life, reminding her of that perfect summer vacation at the beach when the family was happy.* It's interesting to read this earlier work—you can see her developing as a writer leading to her later novels which are much better as she learns to control characters and conflicts to better effect. Here, details in setting are fantastic. [198 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Dessen, Sarah. *Someone Like You*. 1998. *Sixteen-year-old Halley is named for her grandmother, who was named for a comet, visible when she was born. Her mother—a hoverer--writes about her in parenting books. Her best friend Scarlett lives across the street. Her mother is often absent. They are only children (no siblings) whose lives change via Scarlett's pregnancy.* [281 pages]

PF: HS

Di Camillo, Kate. *Franklin Endicott and the Third Key*. 2021. *Frank Endicott is a worry wart of a boy. So much so that he keeps a book of worries. Up late one night worrying, he joins his insomniac neighbor Eugenia Lincoln who invites him to join her to get a duplicate key made in the morning. At buddy Lamp's Used goods store he is mysteriously given a third key. While learning that "stories are factual accounts of the human heart" (p. 65) he transforms misery into mystery and worry into wonder and.* [105 pages]

PF: ELEM/ MS

Di Camillo, Kate and illustrator Sophie Blackall. *The Beatrix Prophecy*. 2021. *Beautifully written, beautifully illustrated medievalesque tale of a wee lass with a progressive mother whose family is slaughtered by a usuperous king at the behest of a spurned tutor who illegally taught her to read and write. A willful nanny goat, a cowardly monk, an orphaned boy and a runaway king join her as they fulfill a prophecy, making the world right.* [247 pages]

PF: MS

Diaz, Alexandra. *Santiago's Road Home*. 2020. *While fleeing an abusive family, Santiago teams up with a mother and her young daughter to cross the border from Mexico to the US where he is interred for months. While in detention camp in New Mexico he witnesses its effects upon individuals and families. He also sees efforts to help immigrants.* [299 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Donnelly, Jennifer. *Poisoned*. 2020. *Sophie's stepmother—the Queen—considers her too soft-hearted to rule. So with her advisor Fear she plots to kill her stepdaughter and replace her with a more ruthless ruler. In the woods, a huntsman cuts out Sophie's heart. But, one of seven brothers from the Hollow makes her a new heart of clockworks. Sophie seeks her human heart so that she may reclaim it. This means going on a quest through the Darkwoods to the castle of the King of Crows. Along the way she makes friends and learns the meaning of love and leadership. A retelling of Snow White, the novel pays homage to the Brothers Grimm while imbuing the tale with a contemporary feminist sensibility.* [307 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Originally published 1901—2; this edition published 2001. *Classic Sherlock Holmes adventure that stands up will to re-reading, especially on gloomy days with a pot of tea at hand. There's murder in the Devonshire moors, luring Watson and Holmes to Baskerville Hall and the Grimpen Mire to face the diabolical hound.* [256 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *Round the Fire Mysteries*. 1985. *Eight nonSherlock Holmes stories published in The Strand magazine between July, 1898, and January, 1899. Doyle encouraged readers to enjoy them "round the fire" upon a winter's night. I enjoyed them during a cold spell in early January, 2022.* [207 pages]

PF: HS

Fipps, Lisa. *Starfish*. 2021. *Ellie is a plus-sized Texas middle-schooler who's bullied by her brother, by her classmates, but most of all by her mom. With the help of a therapist, she moves from shame to self-affirmation. Along the way she confronts her bullies, makes new friends and retains old ones. Novel in verse with well-written chapter titles.* [244 pages]

PF: MS

Fitzsimmons, Isaac. *The Passing Playbook*. 2021. *High school sophomore Spencer is new to Oakley High School. Spencer's first day the transgender teen—transitioning from girl to boy—bumps into closeted Justice, son of rock solid fundamentalists. Both play soccer with passion: Spencer to express his gender identity; Justice to escape poverty with an athletic scholarship. Authorial intrusions can be preachy at times.* [299 pages]

PF: HS

Frazier, Sundee Tucker. *Mighty Inside*. 2021. *Melvin is a freshman at Cleveland High School in 1950s segregated Spokane, WA. He is named for the first Negro casualty at Pearl Harbor. He really likes a Japanese girl whose family was interred in WWII. His best friend is Jewish. The two of them play jazz. A fire at the Harlem Club provides a revelation. Useful author's Note.* [236 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Fukuda, Andrew. *This Light between Us*. 2019. *A wonderful idea for a novel, born when the author discovered that: 1) Anne Frank had an American pen pal; and, 2) a Japanese-American U. S. military unit liberated part of Dachau during world War II. Alex Maki's strawberry-growing family is sent from Bainbridge Island near Seattle, WA, to Manzanar, an internment camp in the California desert. Charlie Levy's upper middle-class Jewish family lives in Paris. One reason Alex volunteers for the 442nd Regiment is to go to Europe and find her.* [377 pages]

PF: HS

Fuston, Margie. *Vampires, Hearts and other Dead Things*. 2021. *Victoria and her dad enjoy watching vampire movies together. When his cancer hits Stage 5 she goes to New Orleans with her friend Henry to find a vampire so that she can provide everlasting life to her dad.* [339 pages]

PF: HS

Gavin, Rohan. *Knightley & Son*. 2014. *Darkus Knightley's dad awakens from a four-year coma determined to solve the Case of the Combination. Young adolescent Darkus has memorized his dad's cases, making him an invaluable ally. London settings add local color.* [313 pages]

PF: MS

Gemeinhart, Dan. *Good Dog*. 2018. *Brodie dies protecting his boy Aiden from an abusive dad. He leaves a happy place with Tuck the pit bull to further protect Aiden. Back here they meet Patsy, a streetwise cat who's also dead. Together the three of them navigate hellhounds, spirit can-dos and can't-dos, memories and the living.* [290 pages]

PF: MS

Gemeinhart, Dan. *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*. 2019. *Twelve-year-old Coyote Sunrise is on a quest. A memory box buried by her deceased mother and two sisters and herself is in a park slated to be paved over. The problems? The box is in Poplar Springs, Washington, while she's in Florida; and, her dad Rodeo—with whom she has lived for five years in a renovated yellow school bus named Yager—doesn't want to relive the painful past. Coyote manipulates their routine (picking up new friends including Lester, Val,*

Salvador, his mom and his aunt along the way) to negotiate a return in time to find her memories at the mercy of back-hoes and bulldozers. [341 pages]

PF: MS

George, Jessica Day. 2011. Tuesdays at the Castle. *Eleven-year-old Celie has a special relationship with Castle Glower, her family's home. When a foreign prince with take-over aspirations sends assassins to waylay her travelling parents, then intrudes upon her-brother-the-heir-to-the-throne's hospitality, she and the Castle team up to defend their kingdom. [225 pages]*

PF: ELEM/MS

George, Jessica Day. Wednesdays in the Tower. 2013. *In Book 2 of the Castle Glower series Celie hatches and raises a griffin, providing a connection with the Castle's past. [225 pages]*

PF: ELEM/MS

Gerber, Alyson. Taking up Space. 2021. *Sarah's mom is an English professor who forgets to feed her 7th-grade basketball-playing daughter. Sarah's dad is often absent. Sarah develops an eating disorder. [259 pages]*

PF: MS

Ginzburg, Natalia. Translated by Lynne Sharon Schwartz. A Place to Live and Other Selected Essays. 2022. *In the manner of Franz Kafka, thought-provoking apparently simple writing on topics as excruciatingly insightful as social justice or being a writer and as simply arduous as finding a place to live. Recommended by Knox College first-year student Josie Franklin. [236 pages]*

PF: HS/COLLEGE

Golden, Christopher and Tim Lebbon. Illustrations by Greg Ruth. The Secret Journeys of Jack London: Book I: The Wild. 2011. *Young Jack London leaves California for the Yukon where he makes friends, is enslaved by murderous prospectors, is enchanted by a forest nymph (shades of Odysseus!) and battles a cannibalistic monster called a Wendigo. [348 pages]*

PF: HS

Goodman, Jessica. They'll Never Catch Us. 2021. *Cross country is the ticket out of small town Edgewater for high school runners Mila, Raven and Stella. Unfortunately, competition for college scholarships leads to bullying, social ostracism and murder. [330 pages]*

PF: HS

Gratz, Alan. Ground Zero. 2021. *Nine-year-old Brandon is suspended from school, so his single-parent dad takes him to work. On the 107th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. On September 11, 2001. Eighteen years later, in Afghanistan, Reshmina practices mercy toward a wounded American soldier. Her twin brother tells the Taliban.* [304 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Green, Holly. In the Same Boat. 2021. *Once upon a time Sadie and Cully were best friends. Then, during the Texas River Odyssey—a 265-mile canoe race—their dads fought, ending their friendship. This year Sadie wants to finish the Odyssey in a 2-person canoe, erasing the previous year’s failure. Abandoned by her uber-competitive brother, Sadie enters a new relationship with Cully as she teams with him.* [355 pages]

PF: HS

Green, Tim and Derek Jeter. Baseball Genius. 2017. *Jalen Deluca can predict pitches. Failing NY Yankee second baseman James Yager enlists him to salvage his career.* [344 pages]

PF: MS

Green, Tim and Derek Jeter. Baseball Genius: Double Play. *Jalen switches teams, joining one a more supportive group of boys and coaches. James Yager pays him well, including hiring a detective to find his mom.* [336 pages]

PF: MS

Green, Tim and Derek Jeter. Baseball Genius: Grand Slam. 2021. *Jalen’s playing well on his new team, his dad’s diner is being franchised and his mom is back in his life. They all go to Florida for a baseball tournament. Except for James Yager being traded from New York to Atlanta, life is good!* [311 pages]

PF: MS

Gregorio, I. W. This Is My Brain in Love. 2020. *Jos—who lives with depression—is a public high school junior living above her family’s Chinese restaurant in Utica. They are barely scraping by and may have to move to NYC to let big Uncle help them. Jos’s younger brother Alan is challenged by ADHD. Her best friend Priya loves films and wants to go to filmmaking school. She and Jos discuss life in terms of tropes. Will lives with anxiety and the fear of panic attacks; he attends a parochial school. His older sister is challenged by an eating disorder. Will’s friends play video games. Will answers an ad placed by Jos who looks for help to increase the restaurant’s business so she won’t have to move. They have to fulfill Jos’s father’s contract if they want to date. Chapters are organized by topic: This Is My Brain on _____ as the author shows the effects of depression and anxiety on her two protagonists. At times*

the book is overwritten, as when expository prose about these four conditions are presented. [367 pages]

PF: HS

Grey, Zane. Riders of the Purple Sage. 1912. *Classic western of escape from religious oppression in 19th century Utah. Surprise Valley stands in Edenic contrast to Cottonwoods, church elders bedevil a good woman, children mature and are replaced, the good people win. Lovers of horses will no doubt enjoy equine description of Wrangle, Black Star and Night and the way they run.* [280 pages]

PF: MS

Grisham, John. Camino Winds. 2020. *A major hurricane strikes Camino Island, masking a murder that is uncovered by the victim's friends and neighbors. Turns out the victim was writing a novel about massive Medicare fraud that struck close to corporate oligarchs.* [326 pages]

PF: HS

Gutman, Dan. Houdini and Me. 2021. *Eleven-year-old New York City resident Harry Mancini lives where Harry Houdini lived. After a freak accident trying to flatten coins on train tracks, Harry receives texts from Houdini, who wants to trade places.* [211 pages]

PF: ELEM/MS

Gyasi, Yaa. Homegoing. 2016. *The slave trade exposed through characters embodying two matriarchal lines: one remains in Africa, subject to the tribal and colonial exploitation of indigenous people; the other is transported to America, experiencing plantation servitude to beyond the Civil Rights movement. The narrative takes us from the 18th to the cusp of the 21st centuries. A "Books and Burrow Book Club" selection.* [300 pages]

PF: HS

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. Mysteries of Trash and Treasure: The Secret Letters. 2022. *Colin's mother loves order; Nevaeh's dad loves junk. Naturally, they compete for cleaning people's houses in Groveview. While working for his mom one summer, Colin finds some letters. Somehow Nevaeh gets involved as they track down the one-time twelve-year-olds who wrote one another back in the Seventies. Lots of pop culture references and a handy glossary add to the fun of the tale.* [356 pages]

PF: MS

Hand, Cynthia, Brodi Ashton, and Jodi Meadows. My Lady Jane. 2016. *Told by three authors from three points-of-view the novel reconstructs English history at the time of the Tudors, focusing on the intrigue surrounding Jane Grey, Edward the Sixth and Bloody Mary while substituting magic bits (Verities and Edian (eth-y-un)s for the Catholics and Protestants of religious persecution. Recognizable styles include William Shakespeare and Jane Austen.* [491 pages]

PF: HS

Hand, Cynthia, Brodi Ashton and Jodi Meadows. My Contrary Mary. 2021. *Another novel like My Lady Jane (indeed, she makes an appearance in this one) by this trio of talespinners, this time focusing on Mary Queen of Scots at the center of plots involving her uncles, and her husband Francis's—he's the Dauphin first then the King of France—mother Catherine de Medici. Along with their two voices there is Ari(stotle), daughter of Nostradamus, who concocts potions and has visions. The Edians and Verities are back, along with John Knox. Lots of fun pop culture refs.*[496 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Haynes, Natalie. A Thousand Ships. 2019. *The Trojan war—and its aftermath—from the points-of-view of women both mortal and immortal. Various chapters provide voices for various characters, many marginalized in previous recounts such as The Iliad and The Odyssey. Selected for th December, 2021, Books and Burrow Book Club meeting in Pittsburg, KS.* [340 pages]

PF: HS

Huett, Caleb Zane. Buster. 2021. *Dogs have a HUGE secret: they can use computers, talk and they are smart. Buster gives up the secret to Tonio, the human boy he protects as a service dog. He does so to help Tonio overcome his anxiety attacks. So, he's put on trial in Dog Court.*]302 pages]

PF: MS

Jackson, Tiffany D. Grown. 2020. *Seventeen-year-old Enchanted is surrounded by Disney: she and younger her siblings watch the animated films, so it's natural that Rapunzel, Ariel and other princesses and characters come to mind. In this world of make believe, Enchanted has talent, but no venue for expression. Enter Korey Fields, music super star and faux prince. This novel is the story of what happens when a fairy tale goes bad.* [371 pages]

PF: HS

Jacobs, James V. No Ordinary Season. 2017. *In small-town Indiana, Cassie Garnet runs girls' cross- country, a sport totally overshadowed by boys' basketball. Then her Senior year a sympathetic adult comes into her life. Coach Simon riles and roils local stick-in-the-muds with her beauty, her brains, her idealism, her religion and her student-friendly winning ways. With plot climaxes both on-and-off the campus of River Bend High School, readers will find themselves rooting for both Cassie and Coach Simon. Written by a first-time novelist who should be encouraged to write some more.* [298 pages]

PF: HS

Jamieson, Victoria, and Omar Mohamed. When Stars Are Scattered. 2020. *Omar and Hassan flee Somalia as ersatz orphans, settling into a UN refugee camp in Kenya. Despite crushing boredom, and Hassan's disability, Omar goes to school, succeeds, meets a sympathetic adult who is a UN social worker and eventually he and his brother are resettled to the UDS where Omar becomes an international social worker emphasizing Dadaab, the camp he called home for a decade-and-a-half.* [284 pages, incl afterword and notes]

PF: MS/HS (GRAPHIC LIT)

Jantha, A. W. Illustrated by Gris Grimly. Hocus Pocus. 2022. *Based on the screenplay by Mick garris and Neil Cuthbert. The Sanderson sisters of Salem return on Halloween 300 years later on a mission: devour the townschildren as a means to achieve eternal youth. Transplanted Californians Max and Dani, along with local Allison, are in their way.* [231 pages]

PF: MS

Jarrow, Gail. Ambushed!: The Assassination Plot against President Garfield. 2021. *A better title might: Medical Malpractice: How the Doctor in Charge Killed the President. Indeed, this was one of the defenses for the assassin, who was eventually hanged. Overall, more medical history than American history.* {210 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Johnson, Kim. This Is My America. 2020. *Outraged @ injustice, this sermon-in-the-form-of-a-narrative drives home the criminality of white supremacy personified by law enforcement professionals and their rush to judgement as scapegoats (ie Black people) are prosecuted without regard for due process. This fact of life forces adolescents to speak up-and-out, no matter what age they may be. Like many novels of this length, I think it makes its point in such a way that it could easily be edited into a shorter, more effective novel.* [389 pages]

PF: HS

Jung, Jessica. Shine. 2020. *Eleven-year-old Rachel Kim's desire to perform K-pop professionally causes her family to uproot itself from New York City to Seoul where she spends six years training in the restrictive, cutthroat world of DB Entertainment's academy, where she prepares to make her debut and shine. Along the way she falls in love, reconciles with her mother, loses her best friend and becomes a role model to her younger sister while her father leaves a boxing gym for law school and a new career as an attorney. Ambitious and a bit overwritten.* [344 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Kalmar, Daphne. Stealing Mt. Rushmore. 2020. *It's the Summer of 1974. The impending impeachment of President Richard Nixon creates chaos on a national scale, while her mother's abandonment of her family creates chaos on a local scale for 13-year-old Nellie. Left with three brothers each named for a president on Mt. Rushmore, a depressed father and a best friend who has discovered boys, Nellie decides that the best way to confront chaos is by replacing the \$500 her mother took, money meant for a family trip to see Mt. Rushmore. With the help of Nancy Drew, Boston's swan boats, and a rescued dog Nellie pluckily restores justice to her family while Supreme Court justices restore order to the nation.* [245 pages]

PF: MS

Kamali, Marjan. The Stationery Shop. 2019. *Seventeen-year-olds Roya and Bahman meet at Mr. Fakhri's Tehranian stationery shop. He enables their love affair; they become engaged. On their planned day in 1953 pro-Shah forces—and his mother—seize control, thwarting their plans. Six decades later they meet at an Assisted Living Facility in Massachusetts. Despite having lived other lives, they still love one another.* [308 pages]

PF: HS (a “Books and Burrow Book Club” selection)

Kapit, Sarah. Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen. 2020. *Sixth-grader Vivy throws a knuckleball. She also idolizes big league knuckleballer VJ. She wants to overcome gender, neuro (she's autistic) and parental (her mom hovers) bias to play baseball with boys. Narrated as letters and email between Vivy and VJ.* [326 pages]

PF: ELEM/MS

Kelly, Jacqueline. Calpurnia Tate: Girl Vet: Goats for Christmas. 2021. *Calpurnia's brother Travis will portray a shepherd in cusp-of-the-20th-century Fentress, Texas's, Christmas pageant. Problem: no sheep! So, chaos-causing baby goats will have to do.* [110 pages]

PF: ELEM

Kelly, Lynne. Song for a Whale. 2019. *Middle-schooler Iris is deaf. And lonely. When she sees a video about a whale which sings above other cetaceans' hearing range, she puts her electronics skills to use creating a song for him. Then she joins her recently widowed grandmother—also deaf—on an Alaskan cruise to play her song for the whale: Blue 55.* [299 pages]

PF: MS

Kershaw, Alex. The Longest Winter. 2004. *The story of the end of World War II in Europe from December, 1944, to decades beyond when a platoon of American infantrymen thwart the German advance at Lanzerath, Belgium, in the forest of Ardennes, turning the tide of the Battle of the Bulge. Members were recognized decades after the war, making theirs the most decorated platoon of WWII.* [285 pages]

PF: HS

Khorram, Adib. Darius the Great Deserves Better. 2020. *Fractional (1/2 Caucasian; ½ Iranian) Darius is gay. And he suffers from depression. And he is bullied by a high school football player. And his boyfriend wants to have sex. And he has begun to hate his job at the teashop. And his sister is bullied at elementary school. And his best friend in Iran isn't communicating. And his grandfather dies. And his father's depression returns. And his emotionally distant lesbian grandmothers move in to help out.* [342 pages]

PF: HS

King, Laurie R. and Leslie S. Klinger, eds. Echoes of Sherlock Holmes: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon. 2016. *Readers both adolescent and otherwise who delight in tales of the Victorian detective will likewise delight in this collection. Readers who have read the stories more than once will easily recognize allusions, references and reverberations as character, conflict, plot and setting establish connections with A. C. Doyle's adventures of the consulting detective and his chronicler.* [337 pages]

PF: MS/HS

King, Laurie R. The Art of Detection. 2006. *A novel for fans of Sherlock Homes: a tale within a tale as San Francisco Police Department detective Kate Martinelli solves a murder that echoes a "lost" Sherlock Holmes story written by Arthur Conan Doyle when he visited San Francisco. His "story"—put forth in the novel--is set in San Francisco. Sherlockians and antiquarians figure in the mystery.* [492 pages]

PF: HS

Kingsbury, Karen and Tyler Russell. Best Family Ever. 2019. *The Baxters—an unabashedly Christian family--have four daughters ranging in age from 13 to 8 and a six-year-old son. Their problems include boys (who either ignore or annoy) and moving from Ann Arbor to Bloomington, Indiana.* [277 pages]

PF: ELEM/MS

Klune, T. J. The House in the Cerulean Sea. 2020. *Linus Baker is a caseworker working for the Department in Charge of Magical Youth who investigates orphanages to ensure that children are properly cared for. He longs to see the sea. When he is assigned to check into one on Marsyas his wish comes true. While there he meets a group of children and their caretakers, who are altogether reminiscent of Miss Peregrine and her peculiar brood.* [396 pages]

PF: HS A BOOKS AND BURROW BOOK CLUB SELECTION

Korman, Gordon. Linked. 2021. *The middle school in Chokecherry, CO, is vandalized and scandalized as a swastika appears on a wall. Then reappears in various renditions in various places. To combat the racist reputation associated with the Nazi symbol, students organize to create a paper chain with 6, 000, 000 links to represent the Jewish lives lost in the Holocaust. One student in particular—Lincoln Rowley—is affected as he discovers a hidden legacy.* [246 pages]

PF: MS

Krueger, William Kent. Ordinary Grace. 2013. *Thirteen-year-old Frank Drum is a preacher's son. So is his younger brother Jake. His older sister Ariel is a bit of a musical prodigy. Their dad is a WWII vet. Their unhappy mom thought he would be a lawyer. In 1961, in New Bremen, MN, five deaths span the summer, weaving a narrative with reverberations of To Kill a Mockingbird and A River Runs through It.* [307 pages]

PF: HS

Lackey, Mercedes. Briarheart. 2021. *The Sleeping Beauty fairy tale from the point-of-view of Aurora's older sister Miriam who vows to protect her infant sibling. To do so she assembles a group of squires: Aurora's Companions, with three males and three females, including herself. As she does so, she discovers she's magic, both Fae and human, allowing her to share a dragon, goblins, talking animals, trolls and a unicorn with her friends.* [354 pages]

PF: MS/HS

LaRocca, Rajani. Red, White and Whole. 2021. *Fourteen-year-old Reha is the American-born daughter of parents from India. She navigates the challenges of being an only child, of being different in an overwhelmingly white private school, of being Indian at home and “American” away from home, of seeing her beloved mother fall victim to leukemia.* [209 pages]

PF: MS/HS (A NOVEL IN VERSE)

Lee, Mackenzie. The Nobleman’s Guide to Scandal and Shipwrecks. 2021. *Final novel in the trilogy devoted to the Montague siblings as youngest child Adrian discovers older brother Henry and older sister Felicity while obsessively pursuing The Flying Dutchman and his mother’s legacy from 18th century London to northern Africa to Portugal to Amsterdam to Iceland. Dozens of pages are obsessively devoted to descriptions of Adrian’s interior and exterior state as he experiences debilitating mental illness. A useful Author’s Note explains bits, pieces and connections.* [577 pages]

PF: HS

Lee, Victoria. A Lesson in Vengeance. 2021. *17-year-old best-selling novelist loves witch girl at an expensive New England single-sex boarding school with overtones of Jackson’s Hill House and du Marnier’s Rebecca. A bit overwrought and a bit overwrit.* [369 pages]

PF: HS

Levy, Debbie. Illustrated by Whitney Gardner. Becoming RGB: Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s Journey to Justice. 2019. *Graphic biography of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Wonderfully balanced among family, academics, legal influences and cultural/social events from World War II to the 21st century.* [191 pages]

PF: MS/HS GRAPHIC LIT

Lewis, Jessica. Bad Witch Burning. 2021. *Katrell has a tough life: her mom’s boyfriend beats her, her hours at a fast food place are cut, and her mom is unemployed. She has one moneymaking skill: she can raise the dead, which she does for profit. But, it comes with a price.* [337 pages]

PF: HS

LeZotte, Ann Clare. *Show Me a Sign*. 2020. *Historical fiction about the Martha Vineyard's community in the early nineteenth century. Significant numbers of the community were born deaf. Mary Lambert is one of them. She reveals herself as a normal adolescent intelligent enough to be praised by her teacher as a potential teacher herself. An overzealous young man who gives scientists a bad name kidnaps Mary, bearing her to Boston to prove his theories about the deaf. Native Americans are also shown to be victims of cultural prejudice* [269 pages]

PF: MS

Linn, Deborah. *Just Daisy: A Gatsby Retelling*. 2021. *At East Eggerton Academy in Chicago, IL, it's Senior Year for Daisy, Tom, Jordan and Nick. Characters from Fitzgerald's novel populate the setting—both on and off campus—transplanted to the 21st century with 21st century technology and sensibilities. Readers of the original will recognize incidents from the plot and appreciate reverberations between the two works.* [216 pages]

PF: HS

Lippincott, Rachael. *The Lucky List*. 2021. *Emily's life is a mess. It's the summer before her Senior year of high school in smalltown Huckabee, PA. She publicly broke up with her perfect boyfriend at Junior Prom. Her Mom died three years ago. And, she and her Dad have to move out of her childhood home. Plus, her best friend is a camp counselor for the whole vacation. But, a childhood friend comes back into the picture. While packing up her clothes, they find her Mom's Perfect Summer Bucket List. By replicating it, Emily hopes to restore her life.* [294 pages]

PF: HS

Lockhart, E. *Family of Liars*. 2022. *The Sinclairs spend their summers on Beechwood Island off the coast of Massachusetts. Tragedies (youngest sister Rosemary drowned; the next year Lawrence Pfefferman is killed while attempting to rape one of the three surviving Sinclair sisters). Pill-addled Carrie sees her sister's ghost while solving one mystery (whose face is scratched off in the photo in her mother's jewelry case?) and creating another (who killed Pfeff?).* [8-12-22; 298 pages]

PF: HS

Lord, Emma. *When You Get the Chance*. 2021. *Millie is a wannabe stage actress determined to move from high school in NYC to an elite prep school in California for students like her who want to star in musicals. When her dweebish dad balks, she rebels by launching a search for her birth mother, who she's never met.* 304 pages]

PF: HS

Lu, Marie. *The Kingdom of Back*. 2020. *This novel was inspired by Marianne Mozart, older sister to Wolfgang, who was a role model as both composer and musician to her brother. As child prodigies who spent hours travelling from royal court to royal court across Europe, the siblings created The Kingdom of Back to pass the time.* [313 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Lyga, Barry. *Time Will Tell*. 2021. *In 1981, four teens bury a time capsule. Decades later, their teen-aged children unbury it. With the unburying come mysteries, with harmful, hurtful outcomes. What it means to be Black and/or gay, to suffer mental illness then versus now is a major theme of this novel.* [421 pages]

PF: HS

Mack, Katie. *The End of Everything (Astrophysically Speaking)*. 2020. *A theorist takes a stab at making her world accessible to the rest of us, taking on a topic of general interest. She succeeds.* [210 pages]

PF: HS

Magras, Diane. *The Hunt for the Mad Wolf's Daughter*. 2019. *The continued adventures of Drest—the Mad Wolf's Daughter—and her cohorts Emerick—Lord of Faintree Castle--and Tig, adopted son of the miller of Phearsham Ridge. After effecting the escape of her imprisoned father and brothers, Drest finds herself with a “wolf's head” around her neck: she's wanted dead or alive with a huge bounty to attract hunters: thirty pounds of silver pennies. The twelve-year-old warrior interacts with more royalty in this sequel. She also discovers her mother's identity; and, she once again confronts and vanquishes a villain. As before, the Glossary and Author's Notes are informative and entertaining.* [271 pages]

PF: MS

Martin, Jetta Grace, Joshua Bloom and Waldo E. Martin, jr. *Freedom!: The Story of the Black Panther Party*. 2022. *Powerful, revelatory recounting of a major agency for change in the politics of the 1960s. Well-illustrated with photographs. The Author's Note is well worth reading first.* [322 pages]

PF: HS

McBride, Amber. *Me (Moth)*. 2021. *A novel in verse about a boy (Sani) with a gift for music, burdened by something so powerful that it paralyzes him. Torn from his Native-American roots he is abused on the East Coast by his mother. Moth comes along with her tale of surviving a horrific car wreck that claims her parents and brother as victims. She haunts her Aunt Jack until she and Sani go on a road trip to reunite with his father in New Mexico where they discover that her Hoodoo gray-bearded grandfather has helped arrange their trip. Sani sings; she hovers like the ghost moth that she is. A dreamy, phantasmic narrative with points of interest on the road trip that include Monticello, the Bluebird Café, Cadillac Ranch and Four Corners. Lots of references to Hoodoo and Native-American creation stories.* [243 pages]

PF: HS

McGee, Katharine. *American Royals II: Majesty*. 2020. *Following the death of her father, Beatrice Washington becomes the first queen of America. Palace intrigue, fomented by a Lord chamberlain with outdated ideas of royalty and gender, nearly stunt her development as a leader. But, her fiancé and her sister support her.* 371 pages]

PF: HS

McGee, Katharine. *American Royals III: Rivals*. 2022. *Dastardly Daphne gets what she wants: a clear path to queen when boyfriend Prince Jeff becomes King Jefferson.* [394 pages]

PF: HS

McManus, Karen M. *The Cousins*. 2020. *The fabulously wealthy widow Mildred Story owns an island that's an artist resort. She forbids her sons and her daughter from contacting her. Roughly two-and-a-half decades earlier, her lawyer wrote them: "You know what you did." This summer three grandchildren are invited to work at the resort. Their parents seize this as the opportunity to reinherit family wealth. Told from four points-of-view, including the cousins and a younger version of one of their mothers, the Story unfolds with self-serving twists and turns.* [321 pages]

PF: MS/HS

McManus, Karen M. *One of Us Is Next*. 2020. *Bayview High—still reeling from One of Us Is Lying—had a new game: Truth or Dare, with revenge at its core. Returning characters (complete with cliques and crushes), new romances and the teen-tech setting make for compelling reading.* [372 pages]

PF: HS

McManus, Karen M. *You'll Be the Death of Me*. 2021. *Ivy, Cal and Mateo shared The Best Day Ever when they escaped a boring field trip to witness a Boston Red Sox Victory Parade. That was eighth grade. They drifted apart. In the twelfth grade they spontaneously reunite to skip a day of school. They drive to Boston with high hopes. But, uh oh!: instead of a parade they encounter opioids and murder. They spend The Worst Day Ever unravelling a caper.* [323 pages]

PF: HS

McNeil, Gretchen. *#murderfunding*. 2019. *Sequel to #MurderTrending, in this one Becca hooks up with Stef who wants to avenge her dad who was murdered by Becca's mom Molly Mauler a sociopath who wreaked havoc on the stage of a reality show, reprised with Stef and Becca as participants. Somewhere in there an America president gets impeached.* [326 pages]

PF: MS/HS

McQuiston, Casey. *I Kissed Shara Wheeler*. 2022. *Chloe and Shara are rivals at a faith-based high school in Alabama. Chloe—a transplant from California—and Shara—bred and born in 'Bama—both want to be valedictorian. Shara goes missing after "faux" prom (can't be real because of a dancing ban), leaving clues for boyfriend, neighbor and rival. Chapter is a bit of a rant that could easily be excised; Chapter 20 is a great lesson in friendship.* [351 pages]

PF: HS

Miller, Darcy. Illustrated by Brett Helquist. *Strangeville School is Totally Normal*. 2021. *Friendless fifth-grader Harvey Hill is in his fourth elementary school in as many years. So now he tries Strangeville, which is indeed strange: strange students, strange teachers, strange administrators, strange staff, strange rooms, strange animals, strange events, strange customs. Lots of information exposed in matter-of-fact ways as Harvey and new-found friend Stella Cho—school newspaper reporter—navigate the hallways.* [237 pages]

PF: ELEM

Moldovsky, Goldy. *The Mary Shelley Club*. 2021. *Rachel Chavez—New Girl at NYC Manchester Prep where her mom teaches history—was attacked during a home invasion/prank. To confront her fear, she embraces horror flicks. Then her only high school friend drags her to a party where she deduces M S Club members. She is invited to join. Lots of refs to Gothic lit + scary movies.* [466 pages]

PF: HS

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. Mexican Gothic. 2021. *Noemi's cousin Catalina writes for help. Her father sends her to a ghost mining town dominated by a rundown mansion: High Place, where Catalina is imprisoned by her husband and his family. A Gothic patriarch/transplanted Englishman presides over the secret to long life: mushrooms and fresh, mature bodies. Reverberations of The Haunting of Hill House, "The Yellow Wallpaper" and the Brontes make for fun reading.* [301 pages]

PF: HS

Morris, Brittney. The Cost of Knowing. 2021. *Interesting conceit: the protagonist knows the future of what and who he touches; however, I found the narrative to be monotonically told.* [323 pages]

PF: HS

Morrow, Bethany C. So Many Beginnings: A Little Women Remix. 2021. *The author's purpose is clear, as explicated in her note at the end: "History must be searched out, and the people that myths have omitted or misrepresented restored." Thus, a novel with the four March sisters imagined as recently emancipated slaves, living in and then beyond a freedmen's colony in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.* [291 pages]

PF: HS

Murphy, Julie. Faith: Taking Flight. 2020. *Julie Murphy takes on the origin story of comic book character Faith Herbert—superhero name Zephyr—a plus-size seventeen-year-old going through her senior year at Glenwood, MN, High School. Identified as a psiote at a summer camp, Faith is initially delighted when her favorite TV series—The Grove—shoots on location in her hometown. After all, she writes a widely-read, highly-influential blog: Faithfully Yours, that details the series in episodic fashion. Of course, everything is meta as Faith falls in love with Dakota—one of The Grove's hotties—and discovers that (analogy here) everything in the show's production is not as it seems.* [338 pages]

PF: HS

Murphy, Julie. Pumpkin. 2021. *Waylon Brewer joins the cast of Clover City High School as the author writes from the point-of-view of a gay teen/wannabe drag queen running for prom queen. I like Willow and Millie more.* [326 pages]

PF: HS

Myers, Alison Green. *A Bird Will Soar*. 2021. *A storm reveals ornithological similarities between eagles and humans as it damages structures constructed by both species. An adolescent raptor rescuer rescues an eagle and himself. This books begs to relieve its deliberate pedantic tone with color plates.* [392 pages]

PF: HS

Namey, Laura Taylor. *A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow*. 2020. *Fiercely-loyal-to-hometown-Miami Lila Reyes hits the trifecta of clusterf---s: her high-profile boyfriend dumps her right before Prom; her best friend takes off for Africa to do good works; and, her Abuela dies. Lila is the one who finds her body. Her parents' solution to her grief? Send her to spend the Summer with her Tia Cate in Winchester. A baker who learned at her Abuela's knees, Lila transforms her aunt's pub-and-inn into a culinary mashup of culinary masterpieces of pastries for breakfast and afternoon teas. When a British boy arrives with tea, the recipe for romance has all its ingredients! A page-turning romp that will leave you hungry/thirsty for the best of Cuba and England, this book whets my desire to visit Winchester.* [308 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Noone, Gabby. *Live, Laugh, Kidnap*. 2022. *Genesis has lived on a commune her entire life. Zoe's mom is fiscally irresponsible, betting her future on Christian con artists. Holly has been exiled to their town—Violet, MT—to spend the Summer with her dad. Dustin detests his parents' megachurch schemes. All these problems could be solved by starting over elsewhere. So, they hatch a plan to finance their escapes.* [330 pages]

PF: HS

Palacio, R. J. *Pony*. 2021. *In 1860 Ohio Silas's genius father Martin—bootmaker and photographer—is taken by a gang of counterfeiters. They leave on horseback. One horse—an Arabian named Pony by Silas—returns to the farmstead, provoking the 12-year-old to disobey and set out in search of him. Led by a ghost, Silas encounters spirits, lawmen and desperadoes on his quest. A really interesting Author's Note caps this fantastic novel.* [285 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Pan, Emily W. R. *The Astonishing Color of After*. 2018. *Gifted artist Leigh's Taiwanese-born mother—a gifted pianist plagued by depression and guilt, rejected by her parents for marrying an American—commits suicide. Leigh chases her mother's ghost to her grandparents' apartment in Taipei. She learns valuable truths. Recommended by Pittsburg State University Axe Library Outreach Librarian Ruth Monnier.* [462 pages]

PF: HS

Pasternak, Sofiya. Anya and the Dragon. 2019. *On the cusp of her bat mitzvah, Anya finds friends in the sons of a dragon and a tsar's fool.* [389 pages]

PF: MS

Patterson, James, with Gabrielle Charbonnet. The Fall of Crazy House. 2019. *The sequel to Crazy Horse sees twins Becca and Cassie participate in a rebellion determined to take down a totalitarian government guilty of unfairly restructuring the United States.* [352 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Penny, Louise. The Cruellest Month. 2008. *Third in a series of "Three Pines" mysteries featuring Surete Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, this who-dun-it will delight Senior High School readers who yearn for the sophistication of bilingual dialogue (English, with a smattering of French, cognitive enough to translate on the fly for well-read readers) and local customs with a sensitivity for indigenous people victimized by arrogant law enforcement officials. Literary, lively, and accessible this book does Canada justice.* [612 pages]

PF: HS

Penny, Louise. How the Light Gets In. 2013. *The ninth novel in the series concludes an arc pitting Chief Inspector Armand Gamache against a nefarious plot including nemesis Chief Superintendent Francouer. The entryway is a murder involving one of the Ouellet Quintuplets, modelled on the Dionne Quints.* [404 pages]

PF: HS

Penny, Louise. A Better Man. 2019. *A tale of abuse both parental and spousal cloaked as a mystery, this novel in the Armand Gamache series will appeal to sophisticated adolescents who do not grow squeamish at the hint of physical violence. Set in Three Pines, Quebec, Canada (the author's creation parallels such universes as Brigadoon and Shangri-la) the village is threatened by a "hundred year" flood. Literary references include Moby-Dick.* [433 pages]

PF: HS

Penny, Louise. A World of Curiosities. 2022. *The 18th book in the Armand Gamache series, this novel is inspired in part by The Paston Treasure, a 17th century painting. In the novelist's hands a 21st century version presents clues planted by a serial killer who has quietly escaped from a high security prison with vengeance on his mind. The Acknowledgements are quite insightful.* [390 pages]

PF: HS

Philbrick, Rodman. *Wild River*. 2021. *A group of 6th graders go on a whitewater rafting adventure as part of Project future Leaders. The original venue is dry. At the alternate river a dam breaks, sweeping away all adults. Can this small group survive a week in the Montana wilderness?* [189 pages]

PF: MS

Ponti, James. *City Spies*. 2020. *A global group of five young adolescent misfits with particular skill sets is recruited by British Intelligence's MI6 to thwart a deadly plot set in Paris. They are based in Scotland. A real page-turner that is sure to be a highly readable series.* [367 pages]

PF: ELEM/MS

Ponti, James. *City Spies: Golden Gate*. 2021. *The youngest spies in MI6 history continue their global adventures, uncovering a murderous mole while creating a family amongst themselves.* [413 pages]

PF: ELEM/MS

Price, Tirzah. *Pride and Premeditation: A Jane Austen Murder Mystery*. 2020. *Jane Austen meets Agatha Christie with all the beloved characters from Pride and Prejudice recast as barristers, pirates, solicitors and other social climbers.* [354 pages]

PF: HS

Quigley, Dawn. *Apple in the Middle*. 2018. *Minneapolis resident Apple's Native-American mom named her on her deathbed, in childbirth following a horrific car wreck. Her remarried white dad thinks it's a good idea for her to visit her maternal grandparents on the reservation in North Dakota. She spends the Summer between her sophomore and junior year there. It's good.* [231 pages]

PF: HS

Redgate, Riley. *Alone Out Here*. 2022. *Lord of the Flies in outer space.* [392 pages]

PF: HS

Reintgen, Scott. *Nyxia*. 2017. *Beyond the year 2036 Emmett Atwater—a citizen of Detroit descended from escaped slaves—leaves Earth for Eden, a planet with the desirable resource nyxia, whose inhabitants do not like adult Earthlings. However, Eden's Adamites do like children. So Babel—a corporation with an agenda—sends a group of adolescents on a year-long voyage through space. On the voyage they compete to determine who will descend to Eden.* [371 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Reintgen, Scott. *Nyxia Uprising*. 2019. *In the final book of the trilogy, Genesis 11 and 12 form an alliance with the Imago to defeat the forces of babel and escape to Earth.* [357 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Reynolds, Jason and Jason Griffin (artist). *Ain't Burned All the Bright*. 2022. *Collaborative narrative about a Black family quarantined during 2020. Text--at the levels of choice of words and representation of words--is another element in the toolbox of artistic expression. Beautiful in its own right, this book features heavy pages with lush colors and dynamic textures.* [384 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Richardson, Rhiannon. *The Meet Cute Project*. 2021. *Mia—Math Club nerd and swim team athlete—needs a date to her sister's December wedding. Her friends set her up with fail after fail. She makes things worse with bad decisions. Would probably be better if it was 25% shorter.* [8-24-22; 375 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Riley, James. *Once upon Another Time*. 2022. *Lena's parents are giants, so she figures she is, too. Only, the Giant King disagrees. So she tries to prove she is by going to Earth to drink from the Cauldron of Truth, owned by Mrs. Hubbard in Cursed City. Lots of magic and familiar characters add to the novel's charm.* [320 pages]

PF: MS

Riordan, Rick. *Daughter of the Deep*. 2021. *Rick Riordan turns his formidable tale-telling prowess to science fiction, initiating a new series by turning to a master's works: Jules Verne's 20,000 Leagues under the Sea and The Mysterious Island. The narrative structure—rivals schools; houses—and characters are familiar as are pop culture refs: e.g., Harding-Pencroft-Academy = HP = Harry Potter.* [336 pages]

PF: MS

Roanhorse, Rebecca. *Race to the Sun*. 2019. *Native-American seventh grader Nizhoni's missing mom is a monsterslayer. So is she. When a monster kidnaps her dad, she and her younger brother Mac and best friend Davery set off on a quest to the American Southwest—land of her heritage—to rescue him. A welcome addition to the Rick Riordan Presents series of global mythologies.* [298 pages]

PF: MS

Robertson, David A. *Black Water*. 2020. *Cultural autobiography of growing up Indigenous in Canada. Mostly a tribute to his dad.* [269 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Rosen, L. C. Camp. 2020. *Sixteen-year-old Randall returns to summer Camp Outland, themed for LGBTQ+ teens, changed from theater Randy to masc(uline) Del with a can't-fail plan to seduce crush Hudson, the camp Lothario-with-a-twist, who changes from uber masc to paint-my-nails theater. Each discovers it wasn't so much a change as a learning process. Lots of kissing, touching and eventual intercourse. As is the case with most 300+ page contemporary lit, I think this one could easily be 50 pages shorter.* [374 pages]
 PF: HS

Rowling, J. K. Illustrated by Jim Field. The Christmas Pig. 2021. *In England, only child Jack survives his family's break-up and a new elementary school with help from his cuddly toy DP. When his stepsister tosses his emotional-support-pig out the car window and onto the motorway, Jack is bereft. His replacement cuddly Christmas Pig isn't the same. . . until that Christmas Eve, when they go on a quest through the Land of the Lost in search of DP.* [271 pages]
 PF: ELEM

Ryan, Pam Munoz. Solimar: The Sword of the Monarchs. 2022. *On the eve of her quinceanera Solimar finds her kingdom held hostage by a neighboring despot who would harvest a local forest beloved by butterflies. Selected by the monarchs as protectress, enrobed with a magical rebozo, empowered by her abuela and a practicing witch, she sets out to bring her father and brother home from a mercantile-and-diplomatic mission to correct the situation, thus saving the forest and the butterflies and the kingdom.* [8-14-22; 190 pages]
 PF: MS/HS

Sanchez, Jenny Torres. We Are Not from Here. 2020. *Pulga, Chico and Pequena flee neighborhood Guatemalan gang violence, patching together a plan to ride La Bestia—the beast, the death train—to escape the Barrios. The author was inspired by images and stories of unaccompanied minors arriving in the U. S.* [344 pages]
 PF: HS

Savit, Gavriel. The Way Back. 2020. *Two Eastern Europe children live Jewish folk tales as they face down Death with the demons and folkloric creatures inhabiting Death's domain. Beautifully written, invoking a Brothers Grimm affect; I wish it was illustrated.* [357 pages]
 PF: MS/HS

Schmidt, Stephanie. *Bookish Boyfriends: A Date with Darcy*. 2018. *Fifteen-year-old middle sister Merilee is an avid reader who believes that boys are better in books. While attending a prestigious prep school, first she falls in love with a “bad boy Romeo” while reading Romeo and Juliet. When her English teacher introduces her to Jane Austen she falls in love with a “haughty Darcy” while reading Pride and Prejudice.* [382 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Schusterman, Michelle. *My Otter Half*. 2022. *After an oil spill near Seattle, a disobedient and a disobedient otter team up to return to their respective homes, becoming life-long friends—and learning life lessons--along the way.* [232 pages]

PF: MS

Sekaran, Shanthi. *The Samosa Rebellion*. 2021. *Twelve-year-old Muki was born on the Pacific Island nation of Mariposa. His parents are immigrants. His grandmother joins them from India. They own a convenience store in Oceanview, a vibrant culturally diverse neighborhood. Mariposa’s president wants to tear it down, replacing it with an upscale shopping district. Muki’s parents and their neighbors rebel.* [341 pages]

PF: MS

Selznick, Brian. *Kaleidoscope*. 2021. *A product of the pandemic. Artistic and verbal musings on a variety of topics stitched by an imagined friend named James, an interstellar innerconscious creation.* [192 pages]

PF: MS

Sepetys, Ruta. *I Must Betray You*. 2022. *Riveting, fast-paced historical fiction of the Romanian revolution of the late 1980s, led by students, told from the point-of-view of a high school student forced to become an informer. Excellent atmosphere, reminiscent of paranoid totalitarian societies in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia and YA dystopian literature. The bits past the novel include informative photos and notes.* [324 pages]

PF: HS

Shaara, Jeff. *The Last Full Measure*. 1998. *Sequel to his father’s The Killer Angels, the end of the Civil War to the death of its characters including Grant, Lee and Chamberlain. I daresay this would be of interest to students who read about war.* [560 pages]

PF: HS

Shaara, Michael. *The Killer Angels*. 1974. *Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the Battle of Gettysburg with chapters focused on men for both sides: Lee, Longstreet and Chamberlain receive a great deal of attention. Helpful maps. The battle is the plot.* [374 pages]

PF: HS

Shabazz, Ilyasah. Betty before X. 2018. *The childhood-into-adolescence life of the widow of Malcolm X, lovingly written by her third daughter.* [239 pages, including notes]

PF: MS/HS

Sheinkin, Steve. *Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race across America*. 2019. *In 1929 air travel was in its pioneering infancy: dangerous, deadly, head-capturing. Uber-expositionist Steve Sheinkin weaves the narratives of twenty pilots who raced from Santa Monica, CA, across Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana to Cleveland, Ohio. Among the record-and-gender-breaking women were Kansans Louise Thaden (winner) and Amelia Earhart.* [228 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Sheinkin, Steve. *Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown*. 2021. *The Cuban Missile Crisis written by an author who continues to skillfully present expository prose in the service of narrative: characters, plot and setting are all managed to good effect as the author explains the agencies, history and people involved in the showdown between post-World War II Soviet Union and the United States.* [303 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Silvera, Adam. *They Both Die at the End*. 2017. *Mateo receives a phone call informing him that he'll die that day. He's not the only one: Rufus does, too. Through an app—Last Friends—they spend their last day together.* [368 pages]

PF: HS

Snicket, Lemony. *Poison for Breakfast*. 2021. *After finishing his breakfast Lemony Snicket finds a scrap of paper with the book's title. The scrap leads him on a philosophical quest to solve its mystery and to ponder the mystery of creativity. Stops along the way include a teashop, an apiary, a supermarket, the sea, a park and a library.* [158 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Stiefvater, Maggie. Call Down the Hawk. (the First Book in the Dreamer Trilogy). 2019. *The Apocalypse is coming. Kill the Dreamers so it doesn't exist. Enlist Visionaries to find the Dreamers. Another great read from Stiefvater.* [469 pages]

PF: HS

Stiefvater, Maggie. Mister Impossible (the Second Book in the Dreamer Trilogy). 2021. *The Lynch brothers continue to argue about whether they are saving or destroying the world as the ley lines strengthen and weaken, distorting the differences between dreams and realities.* [340 pages]

PF: HS

Stiefvater, Maggie. Greywaren (the Third Book in the Dreamer Trilogy). 2022. *Family bonds endure and strengthen beyond dreams as the Lynch brothers (one actual, two real) collude to discover their selves and save the world. Friends help. An intensely satisfying conclusion to the trilogy!* [335 pages]

PF: HS

Stiefvater, Maggie. Bravely. 2022. *Princess Merida of DunBroch in Scotland strikes a bargain with the gods of life—Cailleach—and destruction—Feradach—to save her family, grown complacent to the point of stagnation. Her 4-season-long quest?: effect change in family members.* [8-16-22; 373 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Sutanto, Jesse Q. The New Girl. 2022. *Fifty pages too long, I believe, as it tries to touch so many bases: cyber bullying; crazy rich Asians; angry white male English teachers; varsity high school sports; police; private school prejudices; prejudice between Indonesians and Chino-Indonesians; . . . the list probably includes the author's desire to get even with those who slighted her as she rants while murdering students and teachers alike.* [8-19-22; 350 pages]

PF: HS

Tamaki, Mariko. Rosemary Valero-O'Connell (illust) Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me. 2019. *While Frederica—Freddy—Riley navigates the high school world of lesbians with a toxic girlfriend she manages to hurt her true friends. She seeks advice from an advice columnist and a mystic.* [289 pages]

PF: HS (GRAPHIC LIT)

Thor, Brad. Path of the Assassin. 2003. *Uber good guy Scot Harvath is a character created for heroic situations: former Navy SEAL, present Secret Service, terrorist tracker. He teams with Meg Cassidy, public relations firm owner, to bring hijackers to justice. Settings make for a geography lesson: Capri, Chicago, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Libya and Washington, DC.* [528 pages]

PF: HS

Tolstoy, Leo. 1878. *Anna Karenina*. Trans. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volohosky. *Anna travels from provincial Petersburg to metropolitan Moscow to save her brother's marriage. At the train station she meets her destiny. Committed to an adulterous liaison with Vronsky, her action affects Kitty (an ingenue dumped by the Count), Levin (who wants Kitty to join him on his farm), their families, her husband and her son. Meanwhile, Russia's aristocratic society hisses and heaps scorn upon her.* [817 pages]

PF: HS

Townsend, Jessica. *Wundersmith: The Calling of Morrigan Crow*. 2018. *In this sequel to Nevermoor, Morrigan turns 12, learns to control her Wundersmith ability and practices loyalty as a classmate in Unit 919 of the Wundrous Society as she attends school at Proudfoot Hall.* [521 pages]

PF: MS

Townsend, Jessica. *Hollowpox: The Hunting for Morrigan Crow*. 2020. *Thirteen-year-old Morrigan—revealed as a Wundersmith—reaches out to exiled Wundersmith Ezra Squall to cure beloved Wunimals of Hollowpox.* [543 pages]

PF: MS

Turnage, Sheila. *Island of Spies*. 2022. *In 1942, the inhabitants of Hatteras Island, gateway to the Graveyard of the Atlantic, watch fearfully as U-boats sink merchant vessels. Three junior-high-school-aged friends—Stick, Rain and Neb—form a band to root out spies, attack prejudice—Rain is mixed race—and protect their island.* [372 pages]

PF: MS

Turton, Stuart. *The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle*. 2018. *Aiden Bishop is trapped in a recurring time-loop from which he can only be released if he solves a mystery. In order to do so, he inhabits “hosts”: bodies of people present at the scene of the crime. He has eight days to get ‘er done, all the while dodging a killer and falling in love.* [458 pages]

PF: HS

Uwiringiyimana, Sandra. With Abigail Pesta. *How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child*. 2017. *A survivor of the 2004 Gatumba Massacre mourns the death of her younger sister, six-year-old Deborah. Eventually, the author and her family manage to emigrate to the United States where she becomes a high-school-aged celebrity advocating for justice and remembrance. In college, she suffers a nervous breakdown and distances herself from her family. This memoir is her attempt to regain mental health and family unity. Reminiscent of I Am Malala, there are scenes of life in Africa, of war-bred fear, of leaving home, of matter-of-fact violence, of sexual exploitation and discrimination, of reaching across cultures to embrace common values, and of horrific events that lead to trauma.* [283 pages]

PF: HS

Vermette, Katherena. *The Break*. 2016. *Pregnant Phoenix busts out of juvie to talk to her baby's daddy. At a party in her gangster uncle's house she sees him with a girl. Enraged, she tracks her down and sexually assaults her. A witness calls the police, opening a portal to examine indigenous cultural, communal, gender and social relationships.* [8-28-22; 350 pages]

PF: HS This book, which won a Burt Award for First Nations Inuit and Metis Young Adult Literature, and is a Books and Burrow Book Club selection, contains a dozen or so pages of graphic violence.

De Villa, Loridee. *How to Be the Best Third Wheel*. 2022. *When you go away to stay with family in the Philippines and come back to see your life-long friends coupled up while the leftover guy is your enemy it's easy to understand why you would defend yourself with lightweight snark.* [317 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Wambach, Abby. *Wolfpack: How Young People Will find Their Voice, Unite Their Pack, and Change the World*. 2020. *Motivational tome for teens and preteens who feel the need to challenge the current hierarchy. I like the basic structure: eight new rules replacing eight old rules to begin each of eight chapters with paraphrases ("Call to the Wolfpack") at the end. This could easily be the stuff of locker room bulletin boards. Lots of anecdotes. What I like best is the way she uses quotes (for example, from Kipling's Second Jungle Book: "The strength of the Pack is the Wolf; and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack") and reverberations: her third new rule: "Lead now—from wherever you are" reminds me of one of my favorite translations of the Tao Teh Ching: "A journey of a thousand leagues starts from where your feet stand" (Chapter 64, Wu translation).* [98 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Wang, Andrea. The Many Meanings of Meilan. 2021. *When Third Aunt accuses first-born son of stealing money from the family bakery, the four siblings split, selling the bakery and sending seventh-grader Hua Meilan from Boston, Massachusetts, to Redbud, Ohio, so that life can begin anew. There, Meilan confronts smalltown prejudice by adapting characteristics suggested by variations of her name: Basket, Blue, and Mist among them. While preparing for a Veterans Day program, Meilan discovers friends and reveals family in ways that strengthen her cultural and personal identity.* [353 pages]

PF: MS

White, Kiersten. The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein. 2018. *Retelling of Mary W. Shelley's iconic tale from the point-of-view of the monster-maker's wife.* [287 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Williams, Alicia. Genesis Begins Again. 2019. *Genesis Anderson is very dark-skinned, like her dad, who drinks. A lot. To erase the pain of his mother's hatred. Who hated him because his brother died. "I wish it had been you," he learns.* [364 pages]

PF: MS

Wood, Maryrose. The Incurrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book 1: The Mysterious Howling. Illustrated by Jon Kassen. 2010. *Fifteen-year-old Penelope Lumley graduates from the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females and, at the urging of Headmistress Charlotte Mortimer applies for the position of Governess at Ashton Place. There, after accepting a generous offer, she discovers the three children were raised by wolves. Shades of Lemony Snicket and the Brontes add Gothic delight to her adventures.* [8-24-22; 267 pages]

PF: MS

Wood, Maryrose. The Incurrigible Children of Ashton Place: Book 2: The Hidden Gallery. Illustrated by Jon Kassen. 2011. *Governess extraordinaire Penelope Lumley and her incurrigible charges spend time in London with Lord and Lady Ashton educating themselves with outings to the theater and the British Museum—among other places—and by meeting Simon Harley-Dickinson, who makes Miss Lumley's heart throb.* [8-26-22; 313 pages]

PF: MS

Wood, Maryrose. Illustrated by Jon Kassen. The Incurrible children of Ashton Place: Book 3: The Unseen Guest. *The Incurrible children return to the woods in search of a missing ostrich, prominent character in a moneymaking scheme of admiral faucet, caddish suitor of Lord Ashton's mother, who has returned to the ancestral home. Penelope meets Mama Woof, an incredibly maternal being.* [8-27-22; 340 pages]

PF: MS

Wood, Maryrose. The Incurrible Children of Ashton Place: Book 4: The Interrupted Tale. Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler. 2013. *Penelope Lumley is an alum of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females in 19th century Britain. She is also governess to three children (Alexander, Beowulf and Cassiopeia) raised by wolves. Her employers are quite wealthy and a bit quirky. When her alma mater is threatened by a ne'er-do-well disguised as a Judge, she accepts an invitation to address the situation, bringing her charges and all the excellent qualities developed by her Headmistress and teachers at the Academy.* [8-22-22; 385 pages]

PF: MS

Wood, Maryrose. The Incurrible Children of Ashton Place: Book 5: The Unmapped Sea. Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler. 2015. *Who visits the beach at Brighton in January? The Ashtons, who meet Simon, his Uncle Pudge and the Babushkinovs, badly behaved Russian royalty with little money. Penelope Lumley learns family secrets and leaves her homeland.* [8-30-22; 404 pages]

PF: MS

Wood, Maryrose. The Incurrible Children of Ashton Place. Book 6: The Long-Lost Home. Illustrated by Eliza wheeler. 2018. *Penelope Lumley escapes Russian servitude as she tries to break the curse of the Ashtons. The series ends in England with characters reunited and mysteries resolved.* [441 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Wyatt, Merrill. Tangled up in Luck. 2021. *Seventh-grader Slayer Sloane is a killer volleyball player grieving her mother's death. Avant-garde classmate Amelia Miller-Poe irked her by babbling inconsiderately about death, earning the nickname "Yeti." Though they try to avoid one another they are forced to team up for a class project: discover the missing jewels. Along the way they confront bullies and criminals and embrace characters, family and friendship.* [239 pages]

PF: MS

Yoon, David. *Super Fake Love Song*. 2020. *Super nerd Sunny Dae enlists his fellow fantasy-loving, media-and-tech-savvy friends Jamal and Milo to project a Rockstar persona in order to impress new-to-school girl Cirrus Soh. How? By co-opting his brother Gray's clothes, music and band. Lots of hard-working Korean nouveau riche angst, pop refs, good music allusions and the world of Role-Playing Gamers. As is the case with Angie Thomas, this second novel is better than the first: Frankly in Love. It's great to read a writer improve.* [349 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Yoon, Nicola. *Instructions for Dancing*. 2021. *After her parents' divorce, Evie Thomas—who formerly adored romance novels—no longer believes in love. It takes a fairy godmother, visions of couples' futures and dance lessons, but she comes around.* [281 pages]

PF: MS/HS

Young, Alexandra Leigh. *Idol Gossip*. 2021. *Seventeen-year-old Alice Choy relocated from San Francisco to Seoul when her mother the diplomat was stationed overseas. Led by her fourteen-year-old sister Olivia into a karaoke establishment, she is discovered and recruited into K-pop prep school. She has five months to learn to dance, learn Korean, improve her singing, and join A-List, the girl group to which she is assigned. Vicious blogging and lack of cultural awareness stand in between her and stardom.* [321 pages]

PF: HS

Zentner, Jeff. *In the Wild Light*. 2021. *Outcast high school student Delaney Doyle caused a commotion when she discovered antibacterial mold in an Eastern Tennessean cave. The commotion settles into a scholarship to Middleford Academy in Connecticut. She brokers the offer into one for her best friend Cash Pruitt, too. Together they board a Greyhound, leaving behind drug-addicted mothers, but taking along the wisdom of Mamaw and Papaw.* [417 pages]

PF: HS

Zhang, C. Pam. *How Much of These Hills Is Gold*. 2020. *Lucy and Sam's mother abandoned them. Then, their dad dies. They look for the right place to bury him, searching California for "home." As they search, they tell the story of Chinese who come to America dreaming of gold, writing stories of capitalist success at the expense of Nature and Labor.* [320 pages]

PF: HS--a Books and Burrow Book Club selection