

9-12

Tails & TALES

Red Hood by Elana Arnold

Since her grandmother became her caretaker when she was four years old, Bisou Martel has lived a quiet life in a little house in Seattle. She's kept mostly to herself. She's been good. But then comes the night of homecoming, when she finds herself running for her life over roots and between trees, a fury of claws and teeth behind her.

House of Dragons by Jessica Clueless

When five royal families compete for the crown, it is five very unlikely dragon riders who respond to the call from the great dragon. Emilia has a deadly secret. Lucian is running from his father's expectations. Vespri is just a servant who should have never heard the call. Ajax is constantly overlooked, and Hyperia wasn't called in the first place, but will do anything for throne. | Lexile: HL690L

The Last Dog on Earth by Daniel Ehrenhaft

Logan is an outcast with nothing but his love of technology until he adopts his dog Jack. When a dangerous disease that turns beloved dogs into vicious canines emerges, Logan refuses to go into quarantine with Jack and they find themselves on the run from scientists and vigilantes. | Lexile: 620L

The Kinder Poison by Natalie Mae

Zahru has the ability to talk to animals, and as such, is resigned to work in the royal stables until her abilities are used up. When The Crossing, a daring race across the desert, is invoked, Zahru hopes to catch a glimpse of the excitement. With one deadly mistake, Zahru becomes dangerously entangled in The Crossing.

Unhooked by Lisa Maxwell

Gwen has just moved to London, and struggling to settle in, her only saving grace is having her best friend Olivia with her for the summer. Shortly after

their arrival, the girls are kidnapped and find themselves in Neverland. But this isn't the Neverland of fairytales. The girls find sea hags, dangerous Fey, a smooth talking fairy-tale hero, and a captivating pirate who promises to keep them safe. | Lexile: 880L

Some Kind of Animal by Maria Romasco-moore

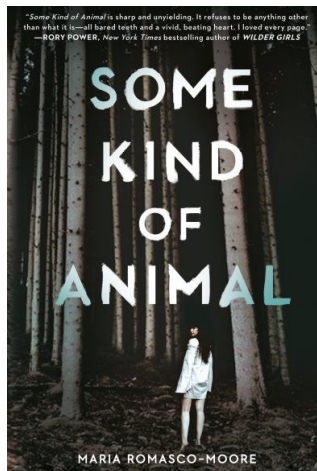
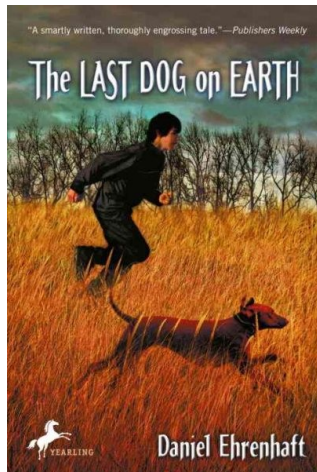
Jo lives in an Appalachian town where she's beginning to develop the same type of reputation as her mother, reckless and wild. Jo does have a secret, but not what they think. Jo has a twin sister who lives in the woods, catching rabbits with her bare hands and eating them raw. When Jo's twin sister attacks a boy from town, the townspeople think it's Jo. Jo has to decide—does she tell the world about her sister, or does she run? | Lexile: HL620L

The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater

Some race to win. Others race to survive. Sean Kendrick is the returning champion of The Scorpio Races. He is a young man of few words, with little or nothing to fear. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races, but she is the first girl ever to do so. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen. | Lexile: 840L

How We Became Wicked by Alexander Yates

A plague called wickedness is pulsing through the world dividing the population into thirds. First there are the Wicked, who've already been infected and are beyond saving. Then there are the True, contained in safety in isolated communities. Then there are the Vexed, who have survived the sting and are immune to it. The Vexed hold the key to the cure, and there are those who will do anything for it. | Lexile: HL700L



9-12

Tails & TALES

Fiction

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Camino Rios loves the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic.

On the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crying people. Meanwhile, in New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office at her school, and learns that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance and secrets, Camino and Yahaira are forced to face a new reality, and then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other. | Lexile: HL800L

The History of Jane Doe

by Michael Belanger

History buff Ray, knows everything about the peculiar legends and lore of his rural Connecticut hometown, but the most interesting thing about the present is the new girl--we'll call her Jane Doe. Inscrutable, cool, and above all mysterious, Jane seems as determined to hide her past as Ray is to uncover it. But when the unthinkable happens, Ray is forced to acknowledge that perhaps history can only tell us so much.

Lexile: HL770L

We Are Not Free by Traci Chee

The lives of fourteen teens who have grown up together in Japantown, San Francisco, and formed a community and a family, are turned upside down when they, along with over 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry are removed from their homes and forced into desolate incarceration camps. In a world that seems determined to hate them, these young Nisei must rally together as racism and injustice threaten to pull them apart. | Lexile: 810L - 1000L

Parachutes by Kelly Yang

Claire never thought she'd be sent to the U.S. to study. Suddenly, she finds herself living with new-found freedom. Dani, Claire's new host sister, couldn't be less thrilled. An academic and debate team star, Dani is determined to earn her way into Yale, even if it means competing with privileged kids who

are buying their way to the top. As they steer their own distinct paths, Dani and Claire keep crashing into one another, setting a course that will change their lives forever. | Lexile: 1010L - 1200L

Nonfiction

The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh

by Candace Fleming

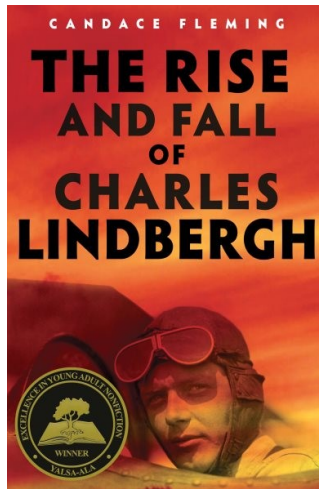
First human to cross the Atlantic via airplane; one of the first American media sensations; Nazi sympathizer; loner whose baby was kidnapped; champion of Eugenics; tireless environmentalist. Charles Lindbergh was all of the above and more. | Lexile: 980L

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Stamped traces the history of racism and the many political, literary, and philosophical narratives that have been used to justify oppression. This book is not a history book. This is a book about the here and now. A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.

Lexile: 1000L



Graphic Novels

Dragon Hoops: From Small Steps to Great Leaps

by Gene Luen Yang

Gene understands comic book stories, but Gene doesn't get sports. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, the men's varsity team, the Dragons, is all anyone can talk about. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. | Lexile: HL550L

Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel

by Jason Reynolds

As fifteen-year-old Will sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn, board the downward elevator with him and reveal truths Will needs to know in this gorgeous graphic adaptation of the award-winning novel. | Lexile: HL630L

9-12

Tails & TALES

Featured Authors



Michael Belanger

Michael Belanger is a debut young adult author and high school history teacher. He is a member of the Westport Writers' Workshop and faculty advisor to *Greenwich*, a high school literary magazine that has published talented young writers--including novelist Truman Capote--for over one hundred years. Michael currently lives in Connecticut.

Book Title:
The History of Jane Doe



Sheri J. Caplan

Sheri Caplan practiced law in New York City before shifting to editorial work. She earned her B.A. in history from Yale, and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law where she served as executive editor of the *Virginia Journal of International Law*. Her writing has been published by various prominent media outlets and entities, including American National Biography, American Banker, and the German Historical Institute.

Book Titles:
Old Enough: How 18-Year-Olds Won the Vote & Why it Matters
Petticoats and Pinstripes: Portraits of Women in Wall Street's History



Chandra Prasad

Chandra Prasad lives and works in Connecticut. A graduate of Yale, she is a fellow at Morse College, one of the fourteen residential colleges at Yale University. Currently, she is working on additional young adult novels, among other projects. Her newest young adult novel, *Mercury Boys*, has drawn comparisons to *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs and *The Fever* by Megan Abbott.

Book Titles:
Mercury Boys
Damselfly
On Borrowed Wings



Cindy Rodriguez

Before becoming a teacher in 2000, Cindy Rodriguez was an award-winning reporter for The Hartford Courant, and researcher for The Boston Globe's Spotlight Team. She has degrees from UConn and Central Connecticut State University, and two teaching certifications. Cindy is the founder of Latinxs in Kid Lit, which serves to promote literacy and the love of books within the Latinx community, and encourage interest in Latinx literature among non-Latin readers.

Book Titles:
When Reason Breaks
Volleyball Ace

9-12

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Nutmeg Award Winners

What is the Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award?

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in Grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite book from a list of ten nominated titles. There are four divisions: Elementary (Grades 2-3); Intermediate (Grades 4-6); Middle School (Grades 7-8); and High School (Grades 9-12). Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL), the selection committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of the sponsoring organizations, as well as students. For more information visit <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.

Solo

by Kwame Alexander

Grimoire Noir

by Vera Greentea & Yana Bogatch

A Curse So Dark and Lonely

by Brigid Kemmerer

Darius the Great is Not Okay

by Adib Khorram

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager

by Ben Philippe

The Fountains of Silence

by Ruta Sepetys

When My Heart Joins the Thousand

by A. J. Steiger

Sadie

by Courtney Summers

Cosmoknights, Vol. 1

by Hannah Templer

Eliza and Her Monsters

by Francesca Zappia



Classics and Popular Titles

Speak by Laurie Ralse Anderson

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school. | Lexile: 690L

Feed by M. T. Anderson

In a future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment, a boy meets an unusual girl who is in serious trouble. | Lexile: 770L

The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood

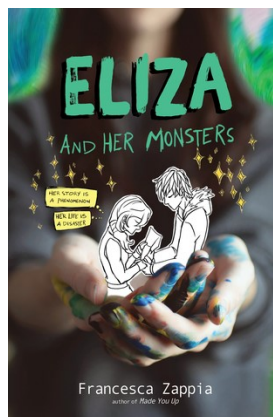
Set in the near future, Offred tells her story as one of the unfortunate Handmaids living under a new social order based on a monolithic theocracy. | Lexile: 750L

Love in the Time of Global Warming

by Francesca Lia Block

Penelope has lost her home, parents, and brother in an earthquake. She navigates a dark world, refusing to be defeated, holding hope and love in her hands.

Lexile: 850L



Kindred by Octavia Butler

A young African American woman is mysteriously transferred back in time, leading to an irresistible curiosity about her family's past.

Lexile: 580L

The House on Mango Street

by Sandra Cisneros

A Young girl living in a Latino neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment, and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.

Lexile: 870L

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Young Francie Nolan, having inherited both her father's romantic nature and her mother's practical nature, struggles to survive and thrive growing up in the slums of Brooklyn in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 810L