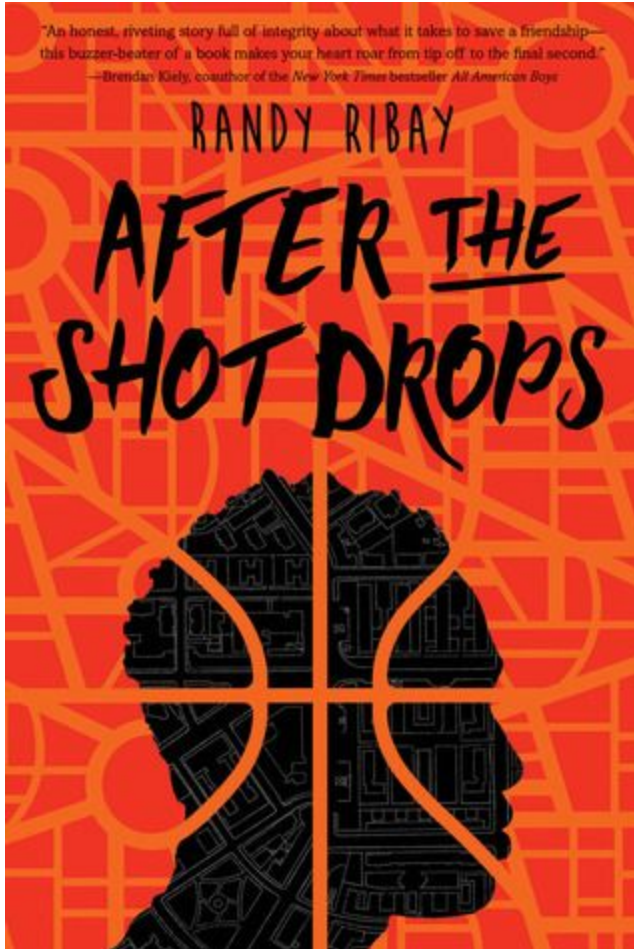


After the Shot Drops

Randy Ribay



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Attucks! Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team That Awakened a City* by Phillip Hoose
2. *Pounding the Rock: Basketball Dreams and Real Life in a Bronx High School* by Marc Skelton

Synopsis

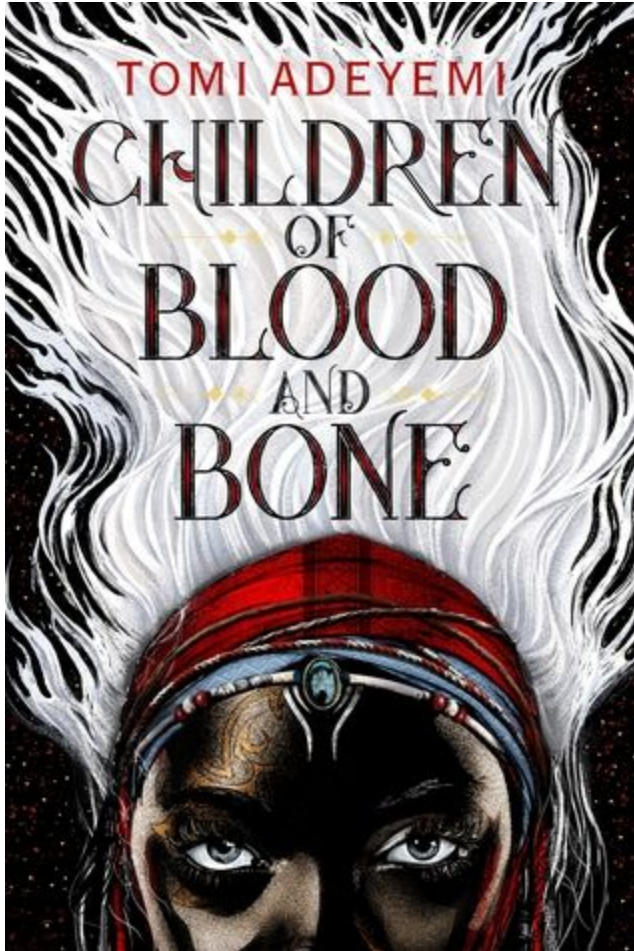
Bunny and Nasir were the best of friends until the pursuit of basketball dreams and a move to a new school placed them at odds with each other. Star basketball player Bunny leaves his neighborhood school Whitman High to attend the predominately white private school St. Sebastian's for access to better resources and more visibility in their elite basketball program. His decision leaves his best friend Nasir, as well as his other peers, feeling betrayed. Told in alternating point of views, the book follows the unique challenges these young men face. Nasir is trying desperately to save his cousin Wallace from succumbing to the socioeconomic pressures many of the youth in their inner city community face. His former friend Bunny must balance two realities. Though celebrated because of his athletic abilities, Bunny struggles to fit in as one of the few black students in a student body that is overwhelmingly white and wealthy. In addition, his family's growing financial problems and doubts about his relationship with Keyona threaten to throw the star athlete off his game. Can Nasir and Bunny rekindle their friendship and help each other overcome life's obstacles before it's too late?

Discussion Questions

1. In chapter 8, Nasir's frustration with Wallace's living arrangements becomes evident in the conversation with his parents. How is his anger and guilt similar to what Bunny feels when contrasting the inequities he notices between St. Sebastian's and Whitman High School?
2. Though Wallace and Nasir come from the same family, Wallace appears destined to follow a more destructive path. What was the difference in Nasir's upbringing that allowed him to successfully battle the odds that Wallace continues to face?
3. If Nasir transferred to St. Sebastian's instead of Bunny, do you believe Bunny's reaction to his friend's departure would be similar or different than how Nasir reacted? In what ways?

Children of Blood and Bone

Tomi Adeyemi



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin* by Sybrina Fulton & Tracy Martin
2. *The Handy Mythology Answer Book* by David A. Leeming

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/IEuXbnhxoqA>

Synopsis

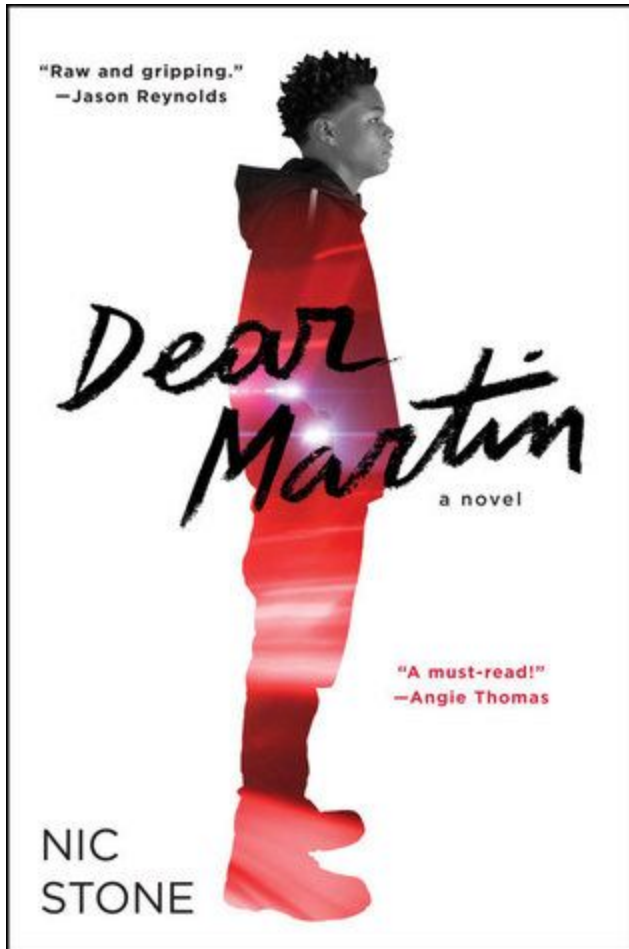
Before the banishing of magic, the land of Orisha had always been inhabited by two types of people: those with magic and those without it. After magic disappears, those who'd traditionally been known as Diviners, or magic carrying beings, are stripped of their powers and are brutally murdered. The remaining Diviners, those who were too young and had not come into their powers yet, are now second class citizens and are routinely beaten and killed, even for minor offenses. Zélie, a child of a murdered Diviner, is disgusted with the treatment of her people and the monarchy responsible for her people's oppression. When given the opportunity to bring back magic, she, her brother Tzain and an unexpected ally in the form of the King's daughter, Amari, embark on a journey with unexpected twists and turns. Pursued by Amari's brother, Prince Inan, the three journey to retrieve the artifacts that will return magic to the Diviners... which is the very thing that Amari and Inan's father, King Saran, does not want. Faced with the heavy task of returning magic to her people, will Zélie be able to overcome the self-doubt and fear caused by King Saran's oppressive reign in order to return magic to Orisha?

Discussion Questions

1. Adeyemi purposefully draws distinct similarities between the African American victims of police shootings and the treatment of the Diviner people. What are some of the ways that she illustrates these comparisons?
2. Colorism, or a form of prejudice or discrimination in which people are treated differently based on the social meanings attached to their skin color, is a recurrent theme. Describe some of the ways this theme is presented in the book and explain how the theme handles colorism inside of the fantasy world of Orisha compared to how colorism is handled in our world.
3. Zélie goes through very noticeable changes as she pursues the artifacts that will return magic to her people. One example is the transformation of her hair from straight to curly as the magic grows in her. What are some of the other physical and emotional changes that she experiences and what message is the author attempting to symbolically express to the reader?

Dear Martin

Nic Stone



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes what We See, Think, and Do* by Jennifer L. Eberhardt
2. *How I Resist: Activism and Hope for a New Generation* edited by Maureen Johnson

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/ticM7oVgC5w>

Synopsis

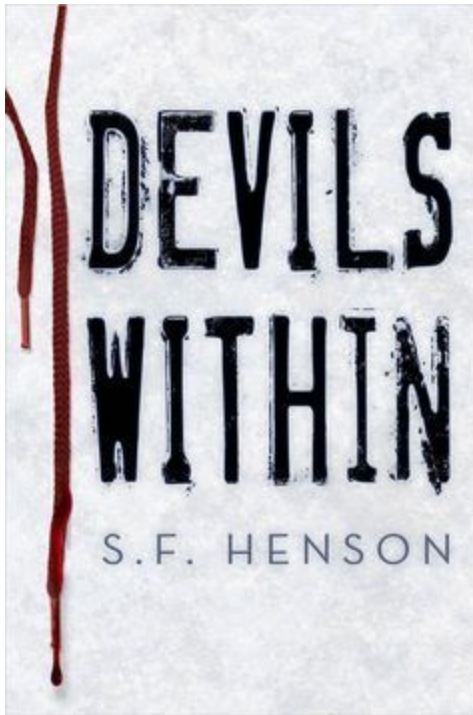
Justyce McAllister is a regular teenager who tries to find a route to success through his academics (top of his class) and relationships he builds. Relying on the writings and speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to guide his decisions and to help him make sense of his life, Justyce finds himself facing many dilemmas that will force him to find out who he truly is. A victim of stereotyping and being in the wrong place at the right time, Justyce begins to look at the world differently, finding out who his true friends are. He encounters gangs, drugs, and police prejudice. Moving on to college brings many changes and many new relationships. Will Justyce ever learn who he is and what he believes?

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Justyce McAllister feel connected to Martin Luther King Jr?
2. The Friedmans (SJ's parents) have an unusual relationship with Justyce. What are the factors that lead to their relationship and why does it work / not work?
3. There are several different types of prejudice mentioned throughout *Dear Martin*. What are they, and how would you respond differently to initiate change?

Devils Within

S.F. Henson



Synopsis

Devils Within by S. F. Henson begins with the heart-wrenching tale of Nate and his violent upbringing in a white-supremacist compound called “The Fort.” After killing The Fort’s brutal leader, who also happens to be his father, Nate is forced to escape his old life, adopt a new alias, and live with his estranged uncle. While attending his new school, Nate struggles with the nightmares of his past while hoping to develop some sense of normalcy with his new guardians. Nate gains a sincere friend in Brandon, an African-American classmate who is the complete representation of what his father and The Fort's henchman have groomed him to hate. Yet, Nate's ongoing psychological triggers and the looming threat of his identity being unmasked threaten to put his newfound friend, family, and entire community in danger.

Non Fiction Titles

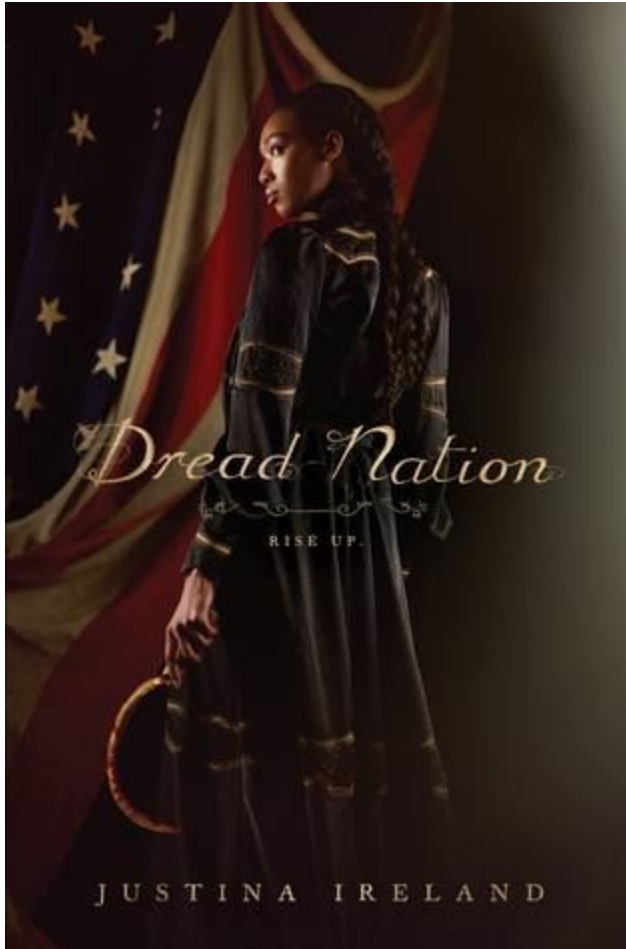
1. *The PTSD Workbook for Teens: Simple Effective Skills for Healing Trauma* by Libbi Palmer
2. *Coping with Hate Crimes* by Jill Robi

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways is writing an essential part of Nate's catharsis?
2. Nate and Brandon's friendship is a real-world illustration of the saying "opposites attract." How did Brandon's background and upbringing give Nate the resolve to mend the psychological bruises from his own family?
3. After reading the novel and hearing Nate's account of his time at The Fort, what are some ways communities can fight against the recruitment and indoctrination of teens by hate groups?

Dread Nation

Justina Ireland



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Courageous Women on the Civil War: Soldiers, Spies, Medics, and More* by M.R. Cordell
2. *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives* by Kenneth C. Davis

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/4PEXBrjKP6c>

Synopsis

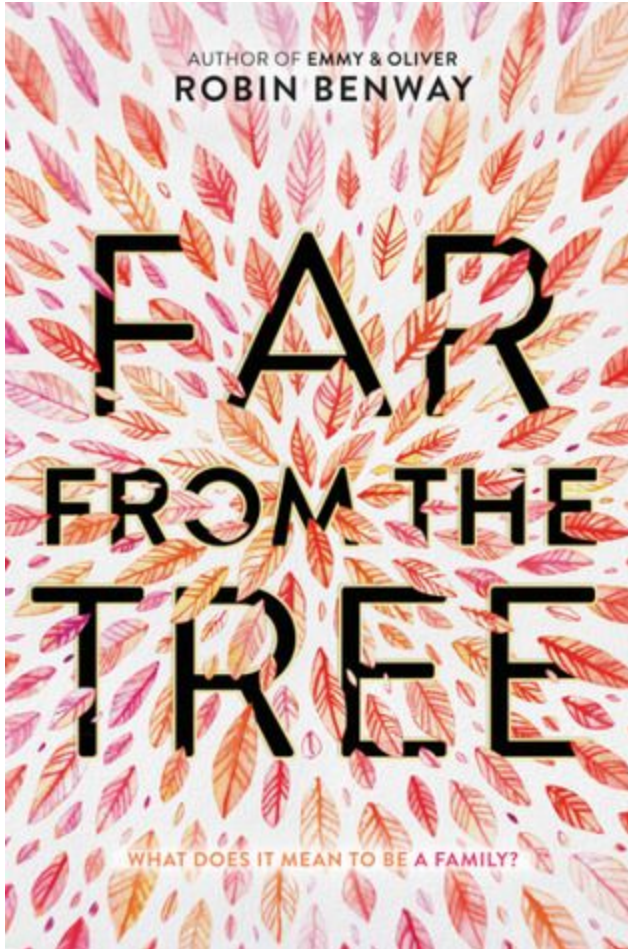
Slavery ceases when the dead start to rise again on the battlefields of the Civil War, but has it really ended? With the dead rising, the Native and Negro Education Act is enacted, requiring black and Native American youth to attend combat schools. There they learn to eliminate shamblers — the risen dead. At Miss Preston's School of Combat in Baltimore, Jane is training in both weaponry and etiquette in order to become an Attendant— someone who serves an affluent family against shamblers. Though she is a skilled fighter, Jane does not want the life she has been training for. Jane longs to return home to her mother and the plantation she grew up on in Kentucky, the only shelter she's ever had from an archaic world. In recognition of their bravery defending the people of Baltimore County, Jane and her schoolmate Katherine are invited to the mayor's house, where they stumble upon secrets that are more than they had bargained for. Fearing they know too much, the mayor sends Jane and Katherine to Summerland, a frontier outpost with grueling conditions, to work border patrol against shamblers. During her time at Summerland, Jane soon realizes that the shamblers aren't the only thing in this new world worth fighting against.

Discussion Questions

1. What parallels can you draw between our current society and the events in Dread Nation? What do you think Ireland is trying to say about our current society?
2. Examine how women are treated in comparison to men in Dread Nation. Are women trained to fight treated differently than affluent women?
3. What similarities can you draw between the combat schools Ireland creates in Dread Nation and the actual Indian Boarding schools Native Americans were forced to attend in US History?
4. What part does the violence in Dread Nation play in illustrating the feel of the story? Do you think it would have been as effective without it? Why or why not?

Far From the Tree

Robin Benway



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Three Little Words: A Memoir* by Ashley Rhodes-Courter
2. *The Blind Side* by Michael Lewis

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/d3BSpa8H9LO>

Synopsis

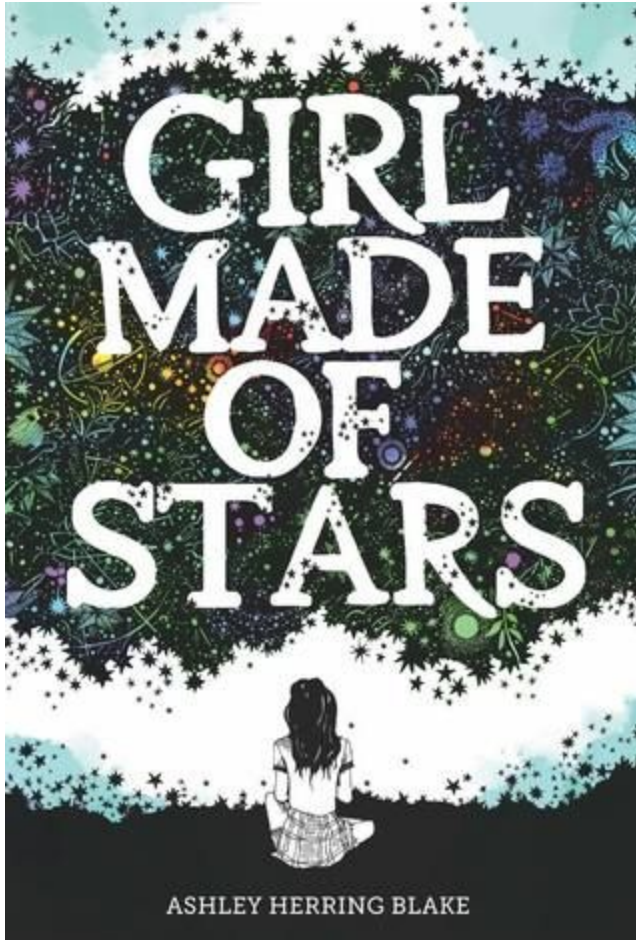
A National Book Award Finalist, Robin Benway writes a beautiful story about three teenagers who are all connected by the same mother but have never met. After adopted-at-birth Grace puts her own child up for adoption, she begins a search to find her biological mother. Grace discovers she has both an older and younger sibling. Grace's biological younger sister Maya is sassy and gay, and she loves her adopted family until secrets and addictions begin to consume. It is then that she becomes curious about her biological roots. Grace's biological older brother Joaquin is not the warm fuzzy type, and he has bounced all around the foster care system. He is living with a very caring and loving couple, but Joaquin does not have any interest in getting adopted. He keeps everyone at a distance until he meets his biological sisters, and then they slowly chip away at the wall he has built up. The chapters rotate between siblings exploring their connected stories. Robin Benway writes a remarkable book about family and all of the love, hurt, and hope that can come with it.

Discussion Questions

1. The book depicts teen pregnancy and adoption from different points of view. Do you think the portrayal of Grace's teen pregnancy is realistic and accurate? Why or why not?
2. Families can take many different forms. What do you think this book reveals about the definition of family?
3. The first few pages of the book are super intense as Grace put her own child up for adoption. Why do you think the author chose to begin the book specifically with this highly emotional scene?

Girl Made of Stars

Ashley Herring Blake



Non Fiction Titles

1. *I Have the Right To: A High School Survivor's Story of Sexual Assault, Justice, and Hope* by Chessy Prout & Jenn Abelson
2. *What Does Consent Really Mean?* written by Pete Wallis & Thalia Wallis, illustrated by Joseph Wilkins

Synopsis

Twins Mara and Owen sometimes feel like they're two halves of the same person. The constellation Gemini, personified. They're as close as two people can get... until Owen's girlfriend Hannah accuses Owen of rape. Mara is shaken: this doesn't feel like the Owen she knows. But the more Mara hears about that night, the more she's convinced Hannah is telling the truth. Less convinced: Mara's parents, who refuse to believe the allegations against their son are true. Defending Hannah may cause an irreparable rift in her family, but Mara has a personal connection with sexual assault that she hasn't told anyone, and this long-buried trauma is quickly rising to the surface.

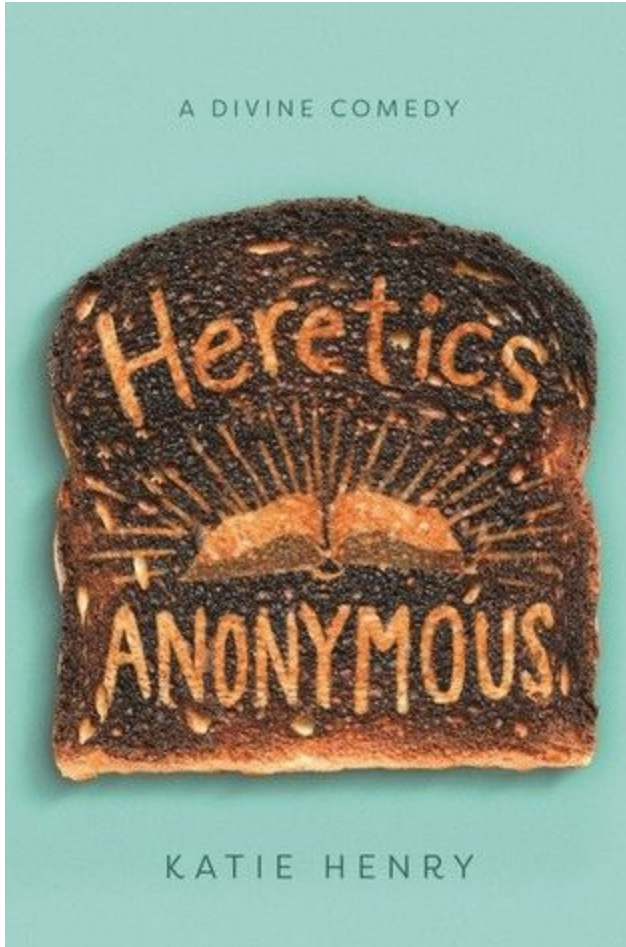
Discussion Questions

1. Read this [article](#) from rainn.org about consent. Discuss the instances of sexual assault in the book (both Hannah's assault and Mara's past). In what ways was consent lacking in each?
2. Think about a time when you've learned that someone you looked up to (a family member, celebrity, or other role model) had done something terrible. How did you reconcile your feelings given this new information? Was it difficult to believe they were guilty, and if so, why do you think that is?
3. Mara doesn't tell anyone about her assault until three years later. What are some textual reasons she gives for holding onto the secret for so long? Why might a sexual assault survivor find it difficult to come forward, even to friends and family?

Heretics

Anonymous

Katie Henry



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Comparative Religion: Investigate the World Through Religious Tradition* by Cara Mooney
2. *The Teen Guide to Global Action* by Barbara A. Lewis

Synopsis

Michael's family is constantly on the move for his father's job. This most recent move places him at St. Clare's Catholic school — which is unfortunate, since Michael is an atheist. It's at this school that he meets Lucy, a staunch Catholic with dreams of priesthood. But that doesn't stop her from disagreeing with her school and its rules.

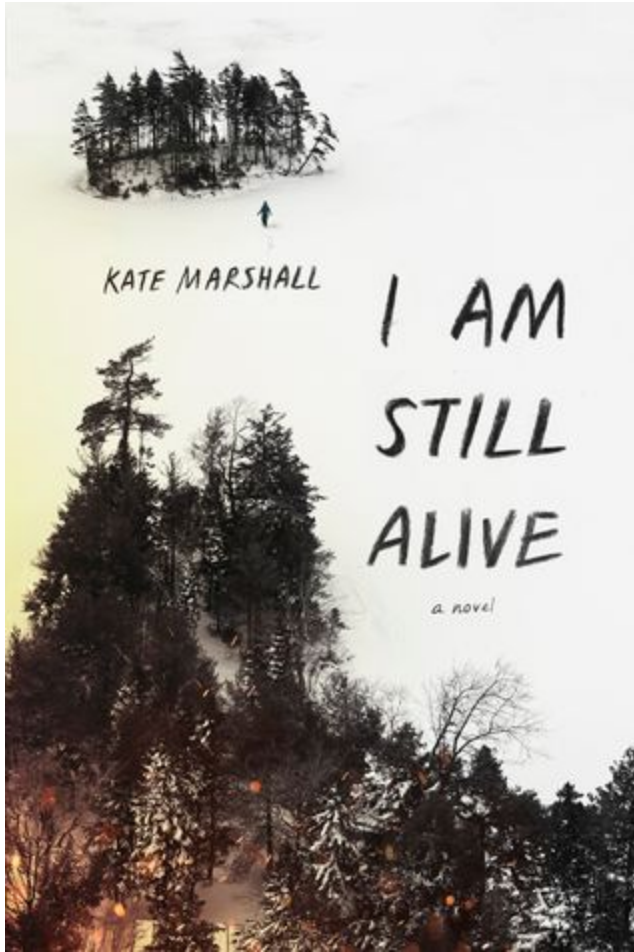
Lucy is a member of a secret society, Heretics Anonymous. They're a group of outcasts made up of Avi, a Jewish gay boy, Eden, a pagan, Max, an eccentric boy with a penchant for capes, and Lucy herself. It's more of a support group than anything — they mostly spend their meetings discussing how unfair administration is. Michael isn't satisfied with that, and convinces the group that they need to take a more active approach and take steps to expose the school's hypocrisies. But when one of his missions ends up being too extreme, he ends up putting all of the heretics in danger. Suddenly, Michael has to decide if he's going to save himself, or save friends that he never thought he'd make.

Discussion Questions

1. Michael spends a lot of the book angry. He's mad at his father and how often they have to move, mad at his school for their policies — he's angry at life. This leads him to make some pretty impulsive choices. Is Michael's anger a reasonable reaction to his current situation? Why or why not?
2. This book discuss several religions and religious viewpoints, not just Catholicism. Do you think they are depicted accurately and respectfully, or do they seem to be based on stereotypes? Give evidence to support your point of view.
3. Until Michael arrives, the Heretics just use their meetings to complain about the situations they face at school. It's only after his arrival that the group decides to take action against the administration. Would the Heretics have ever spoken up without Michael's prodding? Why do you feel this way?

I Am Still Alive

Kate Alice Marshall



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Cast Away: True Stories from Europe's Refugee Crisis* by Charlotte McDonald-Gibson
2. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

Synopsis

"I'm alone. I don't have much food. The temperature is dropping. No one is coming for me."

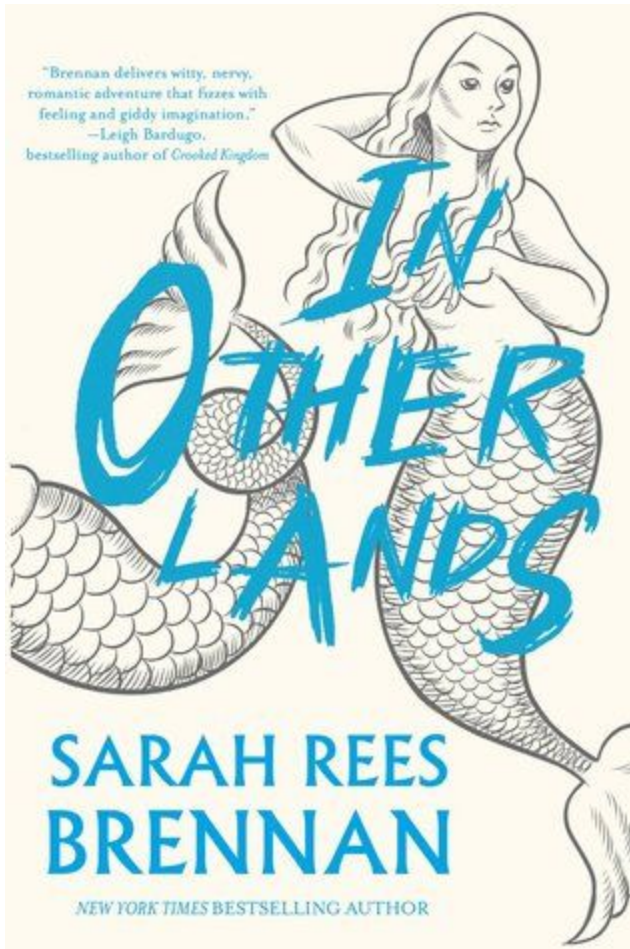
Before the fire, Jess is shipped to Alaska to live with a father she barely knows after her mother's death. As they start to get to know each other, a secret past visits her dad, leaving him murdered and their house burned to the ground. With just her dad's dog, Jess must now brave the wilderness by herself: find food, build shelter, and hope someone will eventually find her. After all, she was the only witness to her father's murder. With a survivalist tone, readers will root for Jess and her dog Bo every step of the way. Can Jess and Bo find enough supplies to make it just one more day?

Discussion Questions

1. Jess has to remain determined and resourceful to survive alone. What characteristics are absolutely imperative in order to survive such a life-threatening situation?
2. Jess's father lives off the grid with very little contact from anyone. Do you think you and your family could live off the grid? What would be the pros and cons?
3. The publisher recommends ages 12-18 for this title. Do you think 12 is too young for this survival story? Why or why not?

In Other Lands

Sarah Rees Brennan



Synopsis

What if you left your regular ordinary life to enter a world of fantasy and then discovered that magic kind of... sucks? Like sure, mythical beasts are cool but do you know how hard it is to write with a quill? And there isn't any electricity, not even toasters! Also, there's a lot of war, and the majority of people being sent to fight are just teenagers. This is what Elliot discovers when he crosses the wall into the borderlands of a magic realm and becomes a student at a training camp that prepares students to fight in the ongoing territory disputes between humans and magical creatures. Everyone else is either from the magical world and just accepts this reality, or is so excited about mermaids, trolls, and harpies being real that they don't care. So it's up to Elliot along with his two friends (and maybe more?), Serene Heart in the Chaos of Battle and Luke Sunborn, to figure out a way to end all of the magical in-fighting without more bloodshed and maybe even introduce sharpies and toasters to the borderlands while he's at it.

Non Fiction Titles

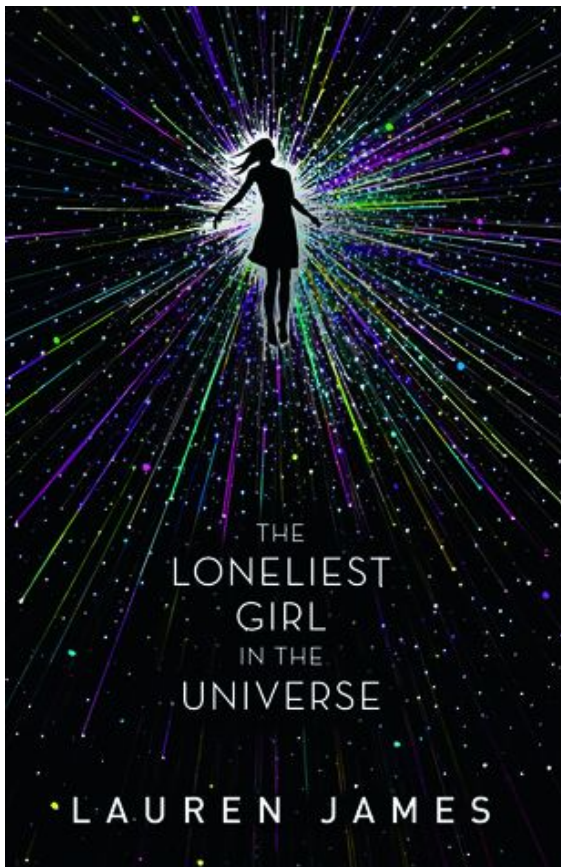
1. *Life Sucks* by Michael Bennett & Sarah Bennett
2. *Queer There and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World* by Sarah Prager

Discussion Questions

1. The elves believe that men are the weaker sex and often use sexist language and stereotypes that we associate with women to describe them. What point do you think the author is trying to make? And do you think it is effective?
2. How is Elliot able to broker treaties between feuding groups when no one else seems able to do so?
3. Elliot grows a lot as a person throughout the book, but always remains prickly and sarcastic. How is his growth shown without a complete personality change?

The Loneliest Girl in the Universe

Lauren James



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone
2. *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/hfqk27-BNU>

Synopsis

To say Romy Silvers has a unique life is putting it mildly. She is the only surviving crew member of a spaceship sent from Earth on a mission to establish a second home for humanity on a new planet. When she's not performing routine maintenance on the ship or responding to messages from Earth, she does school work, exercises, plays the piano, and writes fanfiction about her favorite tv show. But being the only crew member has its pitfalls.

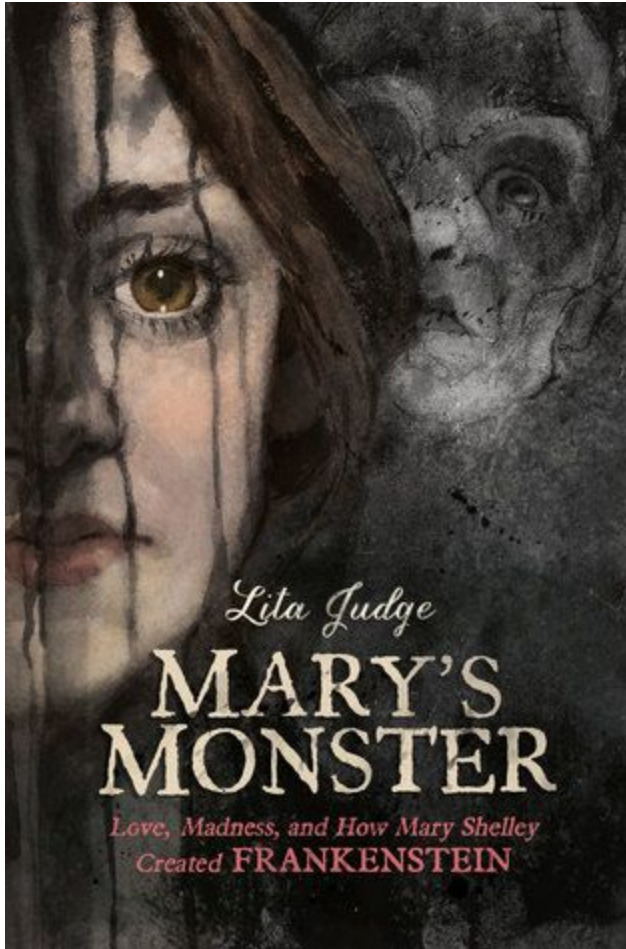
She is the loneliest girl in the universe; that is, until she learns that a new ship has left Earth with a boy called J on board. Their only way to communicate is through email; however, like her communications with Earth, they take months to transmit across space. But Romy finds herself drawn to J, excited that he seems to understand and care about her. But can you fall in love with someone you've never met or even spoken to? With a growing conflict on Earth putting the mission in jeopardy, will Romy solve the mystery behind the strange messages she receives from a home planet she's never known as well as solve the mystery of her heart before J's ship catches up to hers?

Discussion Questions

1. While Romy has a difficult task of making a new home in the universe for humanity, what are ways she tries to give herself a normal teenage life? What does this say about humanity's need for a sense of normalcy even under extreme circumstances? What would you do to find a sense of normalcy if you were in Romy's situation?
2. This book deals with important topics regarding mental health such as anxiety and psychological abuse. How does Romy's treatment of her mental health change over the course of the book? What does she learn about herself by the end of the story?
3. In what ways is Romy manipulated by J as they slowly catch up to one another? Why do you think he makes the choices that he does to cause her distress? How does his behavior relate to modern day concerns regarding internet safety?

Mary's Monster

Lita Judge



Non Fiction Titles

1. *She Made a Monster: How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein* by Lynn Fulton
2. *In Search of Mary Shelley: The Girl Who Wrote Frankenstein* by Fiona Sampson

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/cWUVGkzICj8>

Synopsis

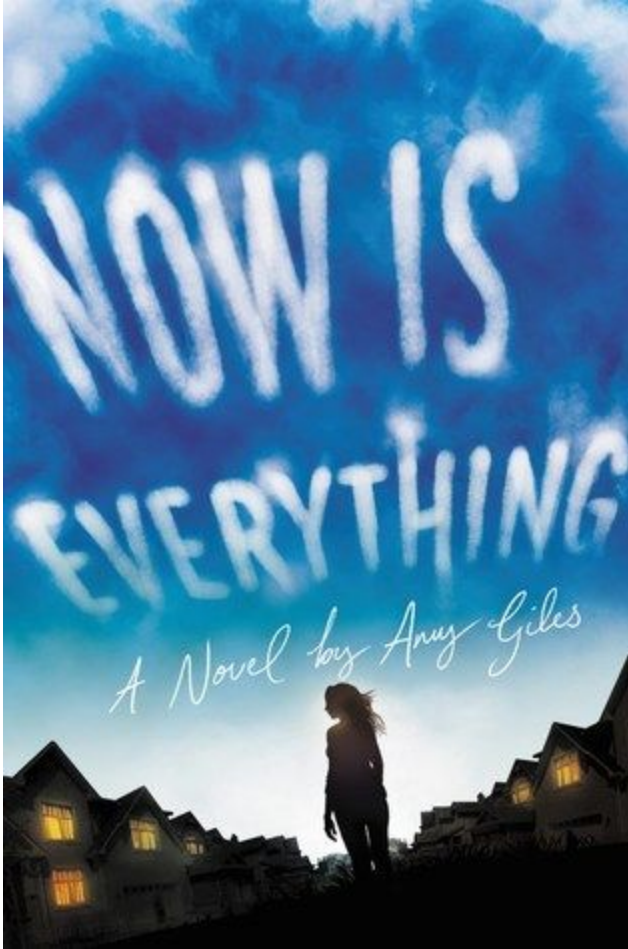
Get drawn into the world of Mary Shelley in this beautiful and dark tale which incorporates the visual imagery of a graphic novel, insightful background for history lovers, and a genuine look into her life in a biographical sketch through what we imagine her voice to be. Discover the many parallels between Shelley's life and the fictional life she created. A gothic fairytale of sorts, the book begins with a prologue from *The Creature*, "Most people didn't believe Mary Shelley, a teenage girl, unleashed me, a creature powerful and murderous enough to haunt their dreams." This ominous verse invites even the most squeamish reader to turn the page for a gripping reading journey with twists and turns. An excellent take on how *Frankenstein* was born, this novel definitely delivers with a raw and poignant look at the struggles in Mary Shelley's life of being disowned by her family and losing a baby a few days after birth, as well as the triumphs. Her persistence and grit creates a story in which she is victorious in bringing her magnum opus - *Frankenstein* - alive!

Discussion Questions

1. The introductory portion of the novel depicts Shelley's feelings while aboard a ship bound for Scotland alone at the will of her father. What 4-5 feelings plague her and how? Who is responsible for the feelings she encounters?
2. Upon arrival in Scotland, Shelley finds a loving family with a healthy respect for the history of Shelley's own mother. What might the purpose of this Scotland residence be for Shelley considering what you might already be anticipating about her future?
3. How does society perceive Shelley's book *Frankenstein*? How is that reception both literal and figurative?

Now Is Everything

Amy Giles



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Everything You Need to Know About Alcoholism* by Philip Wolny and Erin Pack
2. *Shattered by the Darkness: Putting the Pieces Back Together After Child Abuse* by Gregory Williams

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/afxKDg1tz-l>

Synopsis

Hadley protects her little sister, pities her alcoholic mother, and detests her abusive father. She hides her emotional and physical bruises from concerned friends, teachers, and other adults because she assumes that the words of her powerful, wealthy father will be believed over hers.

That is, until Hadley survives a plane crash that kills both of her parents. Placed in a psychiatric ward post-crash after a failed suicide attempt, Hadley is overcome by grief and ignores letters from her family, her friends, and her boyfriend Charlie.

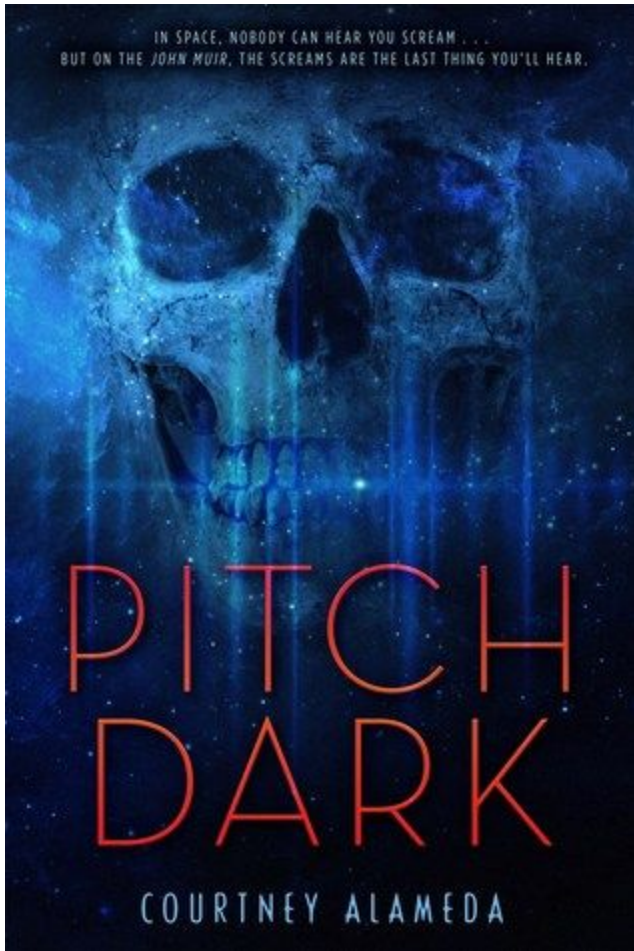
Can Hadley survive the torrent of guilt she feels when she thinks of the accident? Will Hadley take her counselor's advice, move on, and realize that "having thoughts of anger, of vengeance, is not a crime"?

Discussion Questions

1. Do Amy Giles's formatting choices, such as alternating chapters between NOW and THEN and including transcripts of the ongoing crash investigation, effectively relay the narrative? Why or why not?
2. Though Meaghan encourages Hadley to date Charlie alleging that "he would be perfect" for her, why do you believe Meaghan becomes jealous of the subsequent relationship?
3. Should friends and/or adults in Hadley's life share blame for failing to report their suspicions to Child Protective Services? Why or why not?
4. At what point in *Now is Everything* does Hadley realize her father must be stopped? Explain.

Pitch Dark

Courtney Alameda



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void* by Mary Roach
2. *Chasing New Horizons: Inside the Epic First Mission to Pluto Hardcover* by Alan Stern & David Grinspoon

Synopsis

A sci-fi read with monsters?!? Yes, please. You will be hooked from the the first page as Tuck awakes after 400 years and finds his ship, the John Muir, has been sent to a deep space and will likely never be found again. In the quest to colonize Mars, we find that there are other ships out there raiding lost ships to find surviving life. Laura Cruz is an apprentice archaeologist on the Conquistador, her family's ship. Her mission: find and mine ships carrying natural resources colonies desperately need to survive. However, an eco-terrorism group called Pitch Dark, the very group that sent the Muir into deep space, will do anything to keep humanity from salvation.

Told in alternating points of view from Tuck and Laura, we find that friendships are forged, secrets are revealed, and humanity is in grave danger. There are monsters out there in this space - Mourners, Weepers, and Grievers. These eerie creatures can only hear and cannot see. Broken ships, hackers, strange beings and sabotage! Come stay a while for an epic space adventure with mystery and a little horror to keep you on the edge of your seat!

Discussion Questions

1. How does the implanted subjugator hinder Laura's journey to highlight her abilities as a powerful female?
2. Tuck and Laura need to work together to survive. In what ways were they successful? Not so successful?
3. Once the power is back, describe the problems that are caused by the Pitch Black terrorists and the Smithsons.
4. What social commentary did you derive from this novel? Was it implemented in a realistic manner?

The Poet X

Elizabeth Acevedo



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Take the Mic: The Art of Performance Poetry, Slam, and the Spoken Word* by Marc Kelly Smith with Joe Kraynak
2. *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets* by Kwame Alexander

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/MIsma9GtJIU>

Synopsis

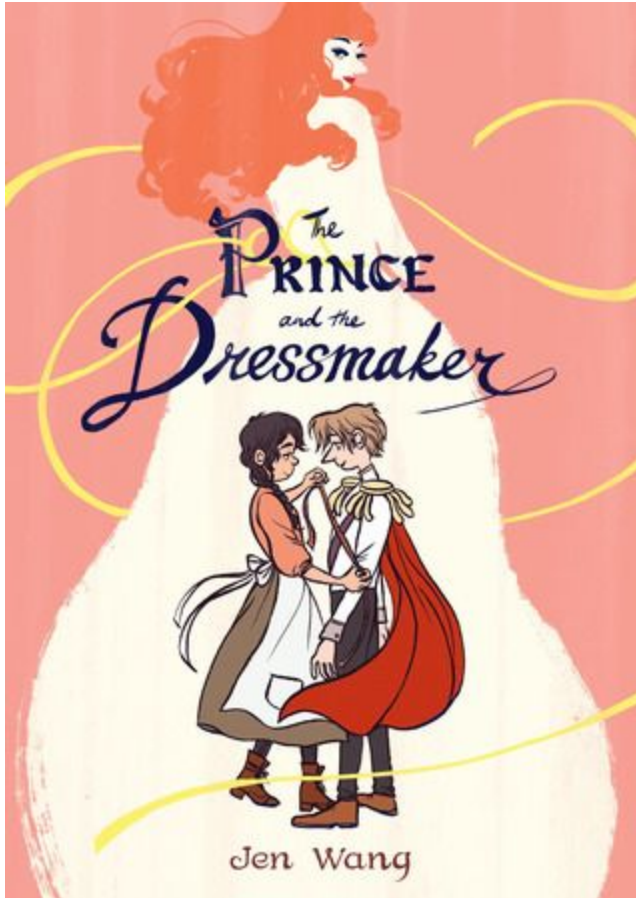
Xiomara Batista doesn't know where she belongs. She is more comfortable using her fists than her words. As she pushes against her mother and her religion, she finds escape in her writing. Xio fills her notebook with all of that she can't say to others. Then she recites her poems to herself until they become chants to help her survive. When a teacher invites her to join the school's slam poetry club and perform her poems, she doesn't know what she should do. Should she stay quiet or speak her truth?

Discussion Questions

1. How does Xiomara feel silenced? Have you ever felt silenced by others? How did you handle it?
2. Why does Xiomara struggle with her mother? What rules does her mother place on her that she feels are unjustified? Have you ever struggled with expectations from family members?
3. How does writing change Xiomara? Have you ever used writing to help you solve a problem?

The Prince and the Dressmaker

Jen Wang



Non Fiction Titles

1. *So You Want to be a Fashion Designer* by Lisa McGinnes
2. *A Quick and Easy Guide to Queer and Trans Identities* by Mady G and J.R. Zuckerberg

Synopsis

Prince Sebastian knows that he has a responsibility to his family and to his kingdom. When he comes of age, his parents start to push him to find a bride - but Sebastian isn't exactly interested in finding a princess to wed. He's interested in putting on beautiful gowns and transforming himself into Lady Crystallia, the fashion icon who has become all the rage in Paris.

A large part of Lady Crystallia's success? Frances, his seamstress and best friend. But being a seamstress for the prince means that she can never come forward as the dressmaker for the beautiful Lady Crystallia. Frances has always wanted recognition for her work, and begins to find herself resenting her place in the shadows.

Discussion Questions

1. Frances grows to resent the attention that Lady Crystallia receives. A large part of her fame is due to the beautiful gowns that she wears, gowns that Frances designs and sews. Is Frances' resentment valid? Why or Why not?
2. Sebastian feels happiest in his disguise as Lady Crystallia - why does he feel pressured to keep that part of himself a secret?
3. In your eyes - is there a specific character who is the antagonist? Or does the society that the characters live within seem to be the real source of conflict? Why?

Seafire

Natalie C. Parker



Non Fiction Titles

1. *We Are Displaced* by Malala Yousafzai
2. *A Thousand Sisters: The Heroic Airwomen of the Soviet Union in World War II* by Elizabeth Wein

Book Trailer

<https://youtu.be/8MHMmG97wPU>

Synopsis

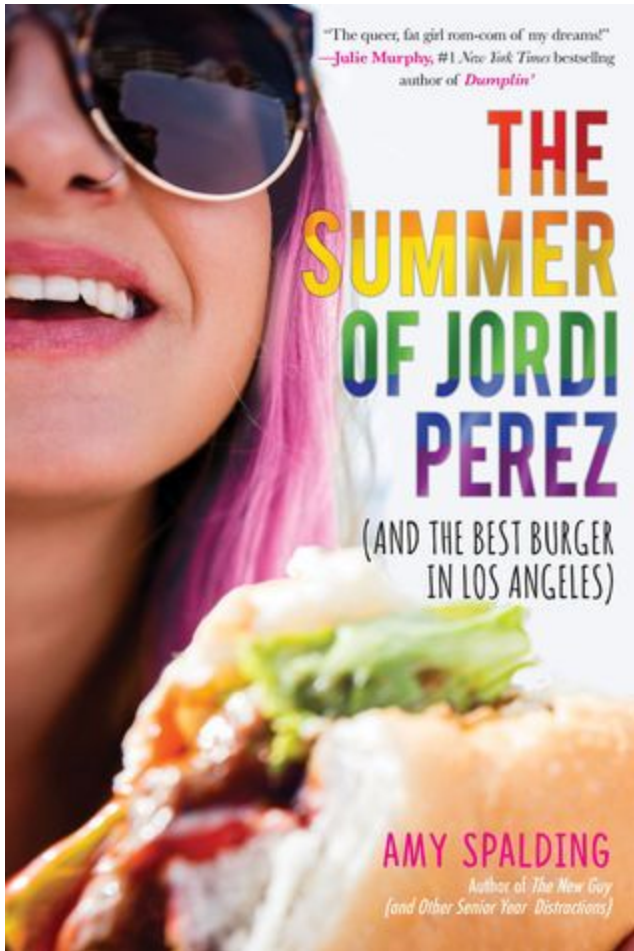
Caledonia Styx, captain of the Mors Navis, abides by simple rules to keep her all female crew alive: no Bullets, act together or not at all, and the captain's word is law. After her family is killed by the horrific warlord Aric Athair and his ruthless army of Bullets, Caledonia, along with her crew of women who have faced similar horrors, fight everyday to stay alive and take down Aric's fleet. They fight together, laugh together, and mourn together in an unbreakable bond of sisterhood. When her friend and second in command, Pisces, is helped by a Bullet during a brutal attack, Caledonia finds herself questioning whether or not to trust him. Is he their chance to take down Aric and return what has been taken from them? Or will he bring about the destruction of everything the fierce crew of the Mors Navis has fought for? A story of sisterhood, survival, and the open sea.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Caledonia captain the crew of the Mors Navis? What leadership traits does she possess? How does she handle challenges to the choices she has to make?
2. The crew of the Mors Navis all join Caledonia as a means to escape Aric's ruthless reign, where women's contributions are undervalued and men are encouraged to be in constant competition with one another. How have these narrowly defined roles played a part in our society throughout history?
3. Caledonia and Pisces were raised by one of many groups who chose to live life on the seas, displaced and on the run from Aric's armies, often unwelcome in ports and communities that fear the Bullets. How does this book reflect the experiences of immigrants and refugees in today's world?
4. The author, Natalie Parker, calls *Seafire* a "rebuttal and a challenge" to the "not like other girls" trope that is often used to place value on the choices women make in literature. In what ways does this book show women supporting women? While every woman on the Mors Navis crew are fierce and brave in the face and danger, what are examples of resourcefulness they show throughout the book that may not immediately be viewed as brave?

The Summer of Jordi Perez (and the Best Burger in Los Angeles)

Amy Spalding



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Selfie Made: Your Ultimate Guide to Social Media Stardom* by Meredith Valiando Rojas
2. *So You Want to be a Fashion Designer* by Lisa McGinnes

Synopsis

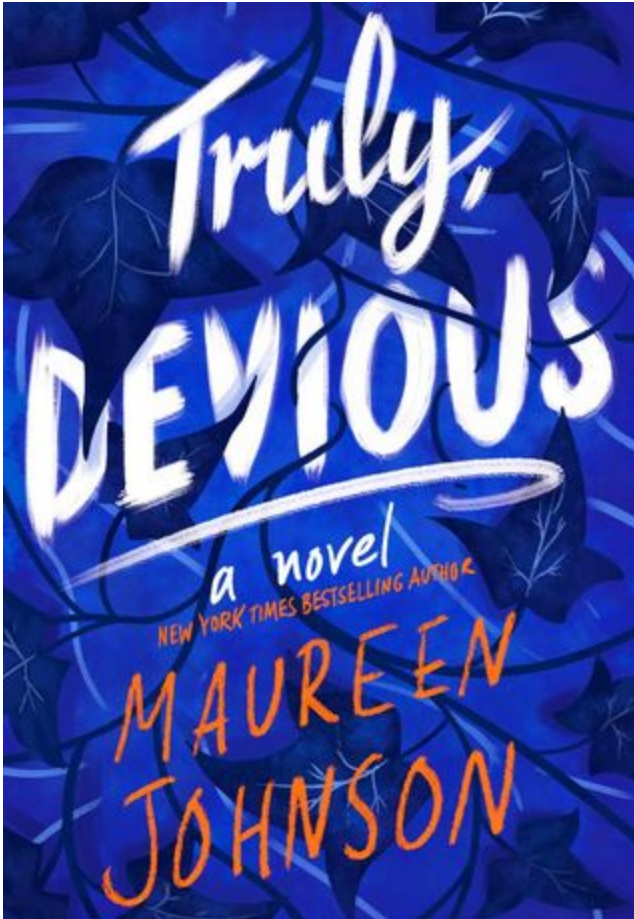
This was supposed to be teen fashion blogger Abby Ives' best summer ever. She landed the internship of a lifetime: working for Lemonberry, her favorite Los Angeles boutique, and it's nearly guaranteed to turn into a paid position in the Fall. Trouble is, there's another intern competing for the paid spot: photography phenom Jordi Perez who, Abby has to admit, is really REALLY cute. Suddenly, her sure-thing job doesn't seem like a done deal anymore. The plus side? Jordi likes her back. Add in an epic burger quest with her new friend Jax, and maybe this summer isn't so bad after all. But how do you compete with the girl you just can't stop kissing?

Discussion Questions

1. For Abby, getting an internship with Lemonberry is an important step toward a career in fashion. Discuss your dream jobs and the steps it would take to make them a reality. Consult the Occupational Outlook Handbook for more information: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>. What would your first move be toward making your dream come true?
2. Jordi betrays Abby's trust by displaying images of her without her consent. How would you have reacted to this situation? Discuss instances where you felt betrayed by a friend or family member. How did these instances impact your relationship? How do you regain trust once it's lost?
3. On page 33, Abby says to Jax "Being fat isn't bad. Acting like it's an insult is, though." Discuss this quote in the context of body positivity, a social movement that challenges the ways in which society views the physical body and asserts that all humans should have a positive body image. What is Abby saying about fatness here? How does she reinforce this statement through the content of her blog?

Truly Devious

Maureen Johnson



Non Fiction Titles

1. *Food, Bullets, and Bones: The Story of Forensic Science from Sherlock Holmes to DNA* by Bridget Heos
2. *Jack the Ripper* by Michael Burgan

Book Trailer

https://youtu.be/z4QpRux2q_E

Synopsis

True-crime buff Stevie Bell is starting her first year at the mysterious Ellingham Academy. The academy is an exclusive private school whose student body consists of creative geniuses, radical thinkers, and innovators. Soon after the school opened in the late 1930s, a devastating crime occurred. The founder's wife and small daughter were abducted and a student was found dead. The only clue discovered was a letter in the form of a riddle, signed "Truly, Devious." The case remains unsolved. Stevie would love to be the one to solve the case - in fact, it's the reason she applied to Ellingham. In a surprising turn of events, Stevie finds herself in the middle of a brand new murder investigation when Truly Devious returns to campus.

Discussion Questions

1. Stevie's parents run the local office for Senator Edward King, whom she despises. What would you do when your beliefs/opinions differ significantly from those of your parents?
2. Stevie meets with her advisor, who changes the focus of her school project. He instructs her to narrow its scope, and do "something that restores a human face to this tragedy." In your opinion, are we so desensitized as a society that we no longer put a human face on tragedy?
3. Like the character Hayes, do you ever feel so caught up in your social media presence that you lose your true self? In what ways?
4. Throughout most of the book Stevie and David have a difficult relationship. What do you do when you feel like something is "off" in your own relationships?

The Way You Make Me Feel

Maurene Goo



Non Fiction Titles

1. *20 Great Career-Building Activities Using Instagram and Snapchat* by Eduardo Lopez
2. *Eating Across America: A Foodie's Guide to Food Trucks, Street Food and the Best Dish in Each State* by Daymon Patterson

Synopsis

After she accepts a nomination of Prom Queen on a lark, recreates a scene from a famous horror movie during her acceptance speech, and participates in a fight that results in a cafeteria fire, Clara Shin spends the summer laboring on her Dad's food truck as punishment alongside her adversary, Rose.

Forced to take on the responsibilities of running the food truck and working closely with Rose daily, Clara develops a new appreciation for her classmate and finds a love interest in Hamlet, a martial-arts enthusiast and boxer, who works at a coffee kiosk. What will Clara discover about herself, and about her relationships with others, during this challenging season?

Discussion Questions

1. How are Clara's past actions, pranks, and romantic relationships colored by her relationship with her absentee mother?
2. What does Hamlet's bond with his "grandparents" say about what constitutes a family unit? How do other family dynamics portrayed in *The Way You Make Me Feel* compare to Clara's?
3. How does Clara's relationship with her parents and friends change throughout the novel?
4. What role do tech tools, particularly email, and social media play in the novel?